

**RESPONSE OF GOVERNMENTS TOWARDS DISAPPEARANCES IN THE  
HAMBANTOTA DISTRICT: A CASE STUDY APPROACH**

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Involuntary removal or disappearance has been a vital issue in the sphere of political violence in Sri Lanka since the early 1970s. Although much has been written on the causes and pattern of political violence, there is a dearth of serious study probing into the disappearances and its' consequences in relation to such violence.

The main objective of this study is to examine and analyze the nature of the disappearances and the response of successive governments. The study will focus on disappearances due to political violence perpetrated by the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) as well as the counter violence of the government. Furthermore, the study seeks to analyze the responses of the government before and after 1994. The study location was selected because secondary data has revealed that the highest number of female headed households is (male households being eliminated by violence) in the Southern Province, a significant number being in the Hambantota district. The, Hambantota district is also a strong base area of the JVP.

This study is not a theoretical analysis but an empirical inquiry based on the collection and analysis of primary and secondary data to arrive at general trends involved therein. The primary data will be collected through a questionnaire, focus group discussions and case studies. Secondary data will be collected from the relevant government departments and Non Governmental Organizations operating in the area.

This study will comprise of five major parts:

1. Introduction.
2. Nature and patterns of Disappearances in Hambantota District.
3. Socio-economic background of the families of the disappearances.
4. Responses of the successive governments.
5. Summary, suggestions and the conclusion.