

ABSTRACT

The notion of devolution of power has become a serious topic of discussion among political communities in Sri Lanka today. Especially the Tamil minority seeks power devolution arrangements to give autonomy to the 'traditional Tamil regions' in the North and East of the island. Devolution must address to the need of the people. Effective governance is at the very heart of successful devolution. Power devolution is essentially be people-centric in nature and it should promote unity, harmony, national integrity and nation's security while achieving rapid economic development. The present devolution mechanism has not met the people's aspirations and devolved power has not reached to grass-root level.

Cardinal objective of this research is to examine the viability of the minority Tamil demand for broad base power devolution on the ground of Ethnicity. In addition to that the researcher evaluates the effectiveness of the present devolution mechanism under the Provincial Councils System and examines its weaknesses. The research findings of this study recommends the best possible power devolution mechanism ideally suitable to Sri Lanka considering its Geopolitics and multiethnic demographic factors while protecting the unitary character and national security of the country. Furthermore, this dissertation would be a practical guide for policy makers on devolution debate in Sri Lanka.