

EFFECTS OF SOCIO- ECONOMIC FACTORS  
ON ARMY DESERTION:  
AN EMPIRICAL STUDY OF SOLDIERS IN SRI LANKA ARMY

By  
BUDDHIKA ATHUKORALA



*The Research Report Submitted to*

PERMANENT REFERENCE

GENERAL SIR JOHN KOTELAWALA DEFENCE  
UNIVERSITY  
SRI LANKA

*In partial fulfilment of the requirement for the award of the degree  
of*

Master of Science in Management

18<sup>th</sup> September 2021

## ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to identify the socio economic factors that could affect the Army desertion in Sri Lanka.

The research attempts to fill the gap of literature related to this topic by studying the situation of desertion in the Sri Lanka Army and to provide more empirical evidence on the socio economic factors influencing the desertion by investigating and measuring the possible relationships between the variables. It adopted an explanatory approach. The target population of this research was 640 and numbers of sample was 240 of soldiers from Vijayabahu Infantry Regiment were taken as a sample using the random sampling technique. The researcher tries to ascertain socio economic factors influencing the Army desertion. In order to achieve the above objectives, primary data was collected through questionnaire. The gathered data was analysed using descriptive and inferential statistics. Pearson Correlation and regression analysis were conducted to determine the relationship and the effect of two variables by using SPSS.

The research of the results reveals that factor such as Social Recognition (Beta= $-0.406$ ,  $p = .000 < 0.05$ ) Income (Beta= $-0.645$ ,  $p = .000 < 0.05$ ), have a negative impact and Perceived mortality (Beta= $0.521$ ,  $p = .000 < 0.05$ ), Superior Pressure (Beta= $0.843$ ,  $p = .000 < 0.05$ ) have a positive impact on army desertion. However, the most influencing factor among the four factors considered in this research is superior pressure (Correlation coefficient-  $0.912$ , Beta Value-  $0.843$ , R square value-  $0.711$ ). Hence, by implementing strict law and order, giving attractive salary, building good recognition in the society, changing present job description and implementing inspirable career path for soldiers lead to reduce the desertion, further conducting this type of research in other regiments in the Army, Government policies about Army desertion and Army recruitment are suggestions for future researches.

Key words: *Army desertion, socio economic factors, social recognition, income, perceived mortality, superior pressure.*