
Extended Abstract

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Resettlement and Rehabilitation in Post-War Sri Lanka and Non-State Actors

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1. Abstract
Sri Lanka witnessed the end of the protracted civil war in 2009, in which the root causes and implications are complex and multiple. This study mainly examines the impact of non-state actors in resettlement and

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rehabilitation in post-war Sri Lanka. The core objective of this study is to find out whether the influence and effects of the non-state actors functioning in Sri Lanka has an impact on resettlement and rehabilitation process. On the other hand, this study scrutinizes what are the strategies and tactics that have been utilized by the non-state actors. The study has been conducted using both primary and secondary data. The primary data was collected through questionnaire method and the secondary data was gathered through articles, journals, research papers and etc. The results and findings of the study stipulate that the non-state actors have a significant impact on resettlement and rehabilitation in post-war Sri Lanka. The qualitative analysis shows that United Nations and its affiliated agencies like UNDP, UNICEF, and UNHCR, local and international NGOs, MNCs and local sub-state agencies have immensely contributed for the fulfilment of better resettlement and rehabilitation mechanism. Moreover, these non-state actors have the capacity to pressure the public opinion as well as international community to make the Government authorities accountable for such mechanisms. The study found that non-state actors should further facilitate the resettlement and rehabilitation. Moreover the non-state actors could build collective mechanisms to minimize the Government indirect control in North-East areas and reduce military presence as well.

Keywords: Non-state actors, Post-war, Resettlement, Rehabilitation

2. Introduction and research problem/issue

Non-state actors have become largely influential actors in the field of international politics and national and international policy making structures. Non-state actors are defined as non-sovereign entities that exercise significant economic, political, or social power and influence national and international cases. Moreover the category of non-state actors consists of sub-state actors, intergovernmental organizations,

transnational co-operations, multinational co-operations, NGOs and super empowered individuals. The influence of non-state actors in this globalized world is unquestionably stronger than at any point since the Westphalia system of state sovereignty was established in 1648. Most of international relations theories have illustrated significant views regarding the actions and implication of non-state actors. Realist theorists argue that nation states always strategically think to maintain their sovereignty for their survival and largely ignore non-state actors have no real power in international politics. The state-centric theory states remake the rules that other non-state actors operate. Neo-liberal transnationalists addressed that non-state actors contribute to international politics. Constructivists and institutionalists have spawned a variety of theories that have explanative power with regard to nonstate actor's roles in international relations which will be considered more fully. The functioning of non-state actors in Sri Lanka primarily began after the independence and a handful of non-state actors have attracted many fields of Sri Lanka due to the Civil conflict. Since the 1980s, multinational co-operations, NGOs and super empowered individuals. The major issue which severely concerns is that non-state actors which operating in Sri

Lanka influence the national security, integrity and sovereignty. Therefore this study mainly relates how in practice non-state actors influence the resettlement and rehabilitation and the impact of non-state actors on post-war period of Sri Lanka.

3. Research Methodology

As the core objective of this study is to examine the impact of non-state actors in the field of resettlement and rehabilitation in post-war Sri Lanka, it adopts a prolonged qualitative approach. This study is based on both primary and secondary data. The primary is gathered through

questionnaire method. Convenience sampling method was used to identify the sample for survey and data were collected from Government officers, NGO personals, military officers, academia and graduates. The secondary data were gathered through books, articles, journals, research papers and etc. The analysis was conducted through mixed method while it involves both qualitative and quantitative natured data. The quantitative data was analyzed through quantitative data simple statistical methodology with statistical package for social sciences (SPSS). Furthermore two working hypotheses have been constructed for the convenience of the study to specify the impact of non-state actors on resettlement and rehabilitation.

H_1 = Non-state actors have a significant impact on resettlement and rehabilitation process of post-war Sri Lanka.

H_0 = Non-state actors do not have any significant impact on resettlement and rehabilitation process of post-war Sri Lanka

4. Results and findings

As this study concentrate on identifying the impact of non-state actors on the resettlement and rehabilitation on post war period, the study concludes that the acceptance of the alternative hypothesis. In other words, the survey implies that non-state actors have a significant impact on the resettlement and rehabilitation process of Sri Lanka in the postwar era. 68% of the respondents stated that non-state actors have an influence on resettlement and rehabilitation on post-war Sri Lanka while 29% argued that there is no such influence form non-state actors on the post-war programs of Sri Lanka. Majority of the respondents stated that

NGOs contributed immensely rather than other non-state actors on

building resettlement and rehabilitation process a success. Furthermore majority of the respondents affirmed that locally based non-state actors are contributing much more

than the international non-state actors while international non-state actors have the capacity to meet with the financial support for resettlement and rehabilitation. Moreover 74% of the respondents confirmed that without the contribution of international non-state actors Sri Lanka would not be able to achieve such accomplishment in resettlement and rehabilitation. Basically the durability of the peace process in Sri Lanka on resettlement and rehabilitation has been underlined with the growing involvement of nonstate actors in the former ridden areas. Most of the non-state actors have influenced the micro level policy making in both resettlement and rehabilitation. They have initiated combined rehabilitation programs with the government units as well. One of the former administrative officer in Sarvodaya Sramadhana campaign stated that “even though severe criticisms were aroused against the non-state actors in Sri Lanka, the post-war resettlement and rehabilitation process was highly encouraged by the non-state actor groups”.

Furthermore majority of the respondents noted that United Nations and its affiliated agencies monitor the policies and practices of the local ministries and the Government and pressure the relevant units to carry out the tasks properly. International Crisis Group has noted in a report that people from different ethnic groups claiming for the same land and the lands have been handed down informally without any clear deeds. In the resettlement process UNICEF, UNDP and UNHRC had a greater influence. Rehabilitation mechanisms of post-war Sri Lanka embraced the restorative justice method with a legal framework. It is estimated

that approximately 11,500 LTTE cadres were rehabilitated in rehabilitation camps under the supervision of both internal and external actors. One of the respondent clearly mentioned that “Rehabilitation of post-war period is more fruitful than the resettlement, most of the LTTE cadres are rehabilitated to overcome their economic and social obstacles and the role of the non-state actors on rehabilitation cannot be ignored”.

One of the Tamil respondent stated that “Still the presence of military camps and security forces sponsored agriculture activities should be minimized and non-state actors can play an effective role in this situation”.

5. Conclusions, implications and significance

According to the findings of the study, it concludes that non-state actors have a significant impact on resettlement and rehabilitation of post-war Sri Lanka. Especially the United Nations and the affiliated agencies, international and national NGOs, local sub-state actors, MNCs have mainly influenced for the advancement of resettlement and rehabilitation in post-war Sri Lanka. Non-state actors have utilized several strategies like agenda setting, organize campaigns and rallies, publishing reports and media campaigns, interact with other international institutions, perform duties as a

demand side of the government, pressing for better public services and pushing political leadership to improve the performance of the state. However non-state actors have the capacity to further improve the smooth functioning of post-war mechanisms in the present. It can be facilitated through collective Government and non-state actor dialogues regarding the resettlement and rehabilitation.

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