
Extended Abstract

International Symposium of Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka (ICSUSL) - 2017

**<< An Examination of the possibility of pulling Sri Lankans together at the crossroad of
“Green Political Party”>>**

D. W. C. P. Dambugolla, Research Officer,

Ministry of Foreign Affairs,

²W. D. L. Supeshala, Development Officer,

Ministry of Foreign Affairs,

<<¹dambugolladw@yahoo.comand ²lahirusupe@yahoo.com>>

1. Abstract

Include abstract with maximum of 300 words

English: Times New Roman, 12pt.

Green politics aim to achieve through social, economic and political norms to create a fair and a sustainable society based on cooperation and democracy rather than the present inequality and exploitation. The common misunderstanding held by majority is that Green Politics is about the environmentalism; but there are four pillars: **ecological wisdom, social justice, grassroots democracy and non-violence**. Still Sri Lanka is not drawn into building Green Political Party, even though there are ample opportunities available. The main objective of this study is to review the general public's awareness about the "Green Political Party" concept and readiness of Sri Lankans to nominate Green Party members to the Parliament. For this study qualitative and quantitative data were collected and primary data were collected from general public, through questionnaires. The sample consists of 1105 persons from Western Province. Descriptive statistics were used to analyze the data. Graphs and charts were utilized to presenting the results. According to the results **84.25%** are less **aware of Green Political Party** and **83.26%** were **willing to welcome such party**. 24.71% known this concept through educational institutions, 37.36% through internet, 21.84% from their peer groups and 16.09% from other sources. 32% of the people mentioned that internet is the best method to give publicity, 22% and 16% respectively said that television and radio are good. 12% and 14% were respectively mentioned that educational institutions and newspapers are the best modes. Lowest percentage is from the other sources (Seminar) (1%) and the second lowest (3%) is from peer groups. Therefore, it was concluded that there is a **high possibility of pulling majority Sri**

Lankans towards the crossroad of "Green Political Party" which could pave better Sri Lanka through achieving sustainable goals to become middle income country. It is therefore recommended to form a **Green Political Party**, through a vigorous public campaign with the collaboration of interested parties either through public private partnerships or result oriented political entities.

Keywords: Ecology, Grassroots democracy, Green Political Party, Non-violence, Social justice, Sustainable development.

2. Introduction and research problem/issue

Include introduction with maximum of 300 words

English: Times New Roman, 12pt.

For a long period of time many people have observed that Green Political Party as a single-issue party. The main rule of Green Politics is that people cannot separate the economic system and human values from the health of the planet (Barnett P, 2015). Green politics is a political ideology and that has four pillars: Ecology, Nonviolence, Social justice, and Grassroots Democracy (Irfan M.I.M., 2015, Gold P,

1988). Green Politics is basically different from other political ideologies because it is concerned with the relations between people and the world, as well as people and people (Barnett P, 2015). Few people were aware that the party has a comprehensive set of detailed policies covering every aspect of life, a radical programme advocating a total transformation of the social, economic and political systems that currently prevail. According to the political arena, Sri Lanka has a multi-party system, but only two political parties dominated the political power over the time and it was difficult for anybody to achieve electoral success under the banner of any other party. During the last decades, the United National Party and the Sri Lanka Freedom Party have been operating as the largest parties in Sri Lanka, however, lately turned into a coalition politics, neither SLFP nor UNP were able to gather parliamentary majorities. Tamil areas were generally dominated by Tamil parties. With the above cited literature it is interesting to study Sri Lankans awareness about the concept of “Green Political Party”, whether they are ready to welcome green political party and nominate the green political party members to the parliament. And the ability of green politics to salvage the Sri Lankan environment on a more local level, and if the Sri Lankans’ political and social context can actually cater to the requirements of a green political environment.

3. Research Methodology

Include research methodology with maximum of 200 words

English: Times New Roman, 12pt.

Both Qualitative and quantitative methods were used to gather information. Mainly qualitative data were collected from secondary sources such as published and

unpublished records, books, journals, newspapers, internet articles and other relevant documents.

Since the study is essentially an in-depth study to explore unique insights of the Sri Lankan’s awareness about green politics, a qualitative approach is chosen. Primary data were collected using the simple random method. Sample is consisted of 1105 people and were selected from Politicians(5), Government Policy Makers/High Officials(10), Professionals (Lawyers) (10), Lectures (10), Environmentalists (10), Media Personnel (10), University Students (100), Postgraduates(50), General Community(900)?. Questionnaire from the general community were collected from Fort station, near passport office and Petta bus stand; 300 questionnaires from each place. Also in depth discussions were carried out done with Policy Makers & Environmentalists to investigate for their opinion about sending Green Political Party Members to the Parliament. Descriptive statistics were used to analyze the data. Graphs and charts were used to present the data.

4. Results and findings

Include results and discussion with maximum of 500 words English: Times New

Roman, 12pt.

Findings

Main objective of this research was to find out the awareness of the green political party concept. Therefore research question was formulated as how far Sri Lankan community knows about the concept of green political party. Accordingly, the result shows that 60% of the politicians and government policy makers know about the said concept. Also 80% professionals, 70% of lecturers, 100% of the environmentalist and 70% of media personnel know about this concept. Undergraduates and postgraduates, 49% and 62% respectively know about the concept. Vast majority among general community have no knowledge about the concept of green political party; that is 94.11%. Also from them, 6.2% didn't even answer among them. Considering the total sample; **174** of them were **aware** about the concept and **931** were **not**, that is 15.75% and 84.25% respectively.

Second research question was whether Sri Lankans were ready to nominate green political party members to the parliament. Among the politicians and government policy makers 80% and 70% respectively said that green political party nominations are necessary within the parliament. 70% of both professionals and lecturers expected necessity of such nominations within the parliament. Very interestingly, 100% of the Environmentalist expected necessity of such nominations whereas among Media personnel 90% were expected necessity of such nominations and 10% didn't answer. Among the Undergraduates and Postgraduates 73% and 82% expected nominations respectively. On the other hand, 15% and 6% of them respectively said irrelevant and 12% of both parties were didn't answer. Among general community

84.56% expected such nominations where as 9.22% said no and 6.2% didn't answer.

It was also expected to find out how people got to know about this concept. According to the survey results, 24.71% got to know from their educational institutions, 37.36% from internet and social media network, 21.84% from their peer groups and 16.09% from other sources not specified in the questionnaire. Eg. Seminars, Conferences etc (Local & International), Government policy papers, Magazines (International), Dialogue, Peo-TV - International documentary programs, Migrated people (Germany, Canada, Australia). Even though internet and social media have the highest percentage for methods from which people got to know about the concept, rest of the other sources have the majority than the highest. Therefore it is difficult to conclude that internet and social media as the most attractive modes to get information.

Also the best strategy was measured to create an awareness among general community. For this question 32% of the people mentioned that internet or social media is the best, which was the highest. Secondly 22% said that television is the best mode where as 16% mentioned that radio is good. 12% and 14% were respectively mentioned that through educational institutions and news papers are the best modes. Lowest percentage was from other sources (Seminar) that is 1% and the second lowest was (3%) through peer groups. Considering the most attractive publicity media of people; internet and social media was the highest. But majority which is 68% represent other sources.

5. Conclusions, implications and significance

Include conclusion with maximum of 100 words English: Times New

Roman, 12pt.

Conclusion

Results showed that majority are less aware of GPP however, once explain the concept majority of them were supported for such a party. It is interesting to note that many were frustrated about current political scenario and support to the progress of sustainable development achievements of the country. All the media method are attractive when considering giving the publicity, therefore it is necessary to use different media sources to cater different groups of people to make them aware. Hence finally researchers concluded that there is a high possibility of pulling Sri Lankans together at the crossroad of “Green Political Party” for the betterment of Sri Lanka’s future in achieving sustainable goals and becoming a middle income country within the region. Also suggested that, opening places for dialogue, combined actions between different networks of political and social, vast publicity campaign, including the concept in the school curricular will create a better awareness of ‘Green Political Party’ among general public.

6. References

Irfan, M. I. (2015). The Demand for Green Poitics in Sri Lanka: A Critical Analysis. *South Eastern University Arts Research Sessions*. South Eastern University.

Barnett, P. (2015, January 16). *What is Green Politics?* Retrieved January 9, 2017, from www.greenworld.org.uk: <http://www.greenworld.org.uk/article/what-greenpolitics>

Gould, P. (1988). *Eraly Green Politics*. Harvester Press.

Use APA style for references and citations.

English: Times New Roman, 12pt.

*Corresponding Author, [Tel:0718243200/ 0771111923](tel:0718243200), Fax: 0000-00-0000000

E-mail Address: dambugolladw@yahoo.com