

A sociological study on the murders in Sri Lanka: case study in Rathnapura Secretariat Division

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This study is an attempt to recognize the causes of murders and analyze them in a sociological aspect. Crimes exert a big impact on contravention of the collective conscious that helps to positive existence in the society. The crimes such as murders, rape, child abuse, hitting, robbery and illegal money printing have been expanding in Sri Lankan society rapidly. This study seeks to identify the reasons and the remedies for the murders in Sri Lanka. Rathnapura Divisional secretariat which included 53 Grama Niladhari divisions is selected for the study because of several reasons. It is one of the districts which recorded the highest number of crimes especially in rural sector. Non probability purposive sampling used for the study. 20 cases of murders are included in the sample. The sample is derived through the secondary source of police reports taken from the Rathnapura police station. Structural and non structural interviews and observations are further used. The study had several limitations. Although crime is a widespread issue, all areas in Sri Lanka are not covered through the study due to time and budgetary constraints. The study is only based on the cases from 2001 upto 2002 in Rathnapura District. The study concludes that the major causes for murders in Rathnapura DS division are informal sexual relations, alcoholism, poverty, illiteracy, family background, revenging, monitory, environmental and unexpected anger. Some short, medium, and long term suggestion are proposed by the study to minimize murders in Rathnapura district.

Key words: Crimes, Murders, Sri Lanka, Criminals, Rathnapura-Sri Lanka,

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