

“Divide and rule” policy and its impact on economic development in Sri Lanka

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Sri Lanka is a country with a well recognized history of more than 2500. This island nation is well-known for its historical hydraulic civilization. Even during the colonial period Ceylon had been popular as a trade partner among other countries. Ceylon became popular in the world for tea during British period. Yet, after 60 years of independence, Sri Lanka is still struggling for the *take off* of her development. This paper will focus on frictional syndrome as one of the non economic factors that have affected on economic development of Sri Lanka through mimpathical contextual review of the chronological paradigms of development of the post independent period.

The divided nation that is rooted to the period of colonial administration has been the major among other factors that prevent in creating the necessary conditions to mobilize the prospects of the economy. The factor utilization including technology has been inhibited by the frictional syndrome as one of the non economic factors which in essence is an out come of contextual reasons rather than general factors. Empirically these non economic factors are crucial in the determination economic development just as general factors like capital, labour and technology explain in economic development.

The democratic system in the country after the independence has also failed to recognize the factors that aligned with a vision and make check and balance in the socioeconomic and political economy leading to the necessary conditions for development. Instead the country has been trapped firstly with politically motivated *welfare syndrome* and secondly with socio economic political and racial divisions which are the out comes of colonial exploitation. Because of the former the economic growth rate was inhibited and because of the latter the racial issue has been developed to the current North and East war that cost to the nation with unrecoverable socio economic and political loss. More than that the current minority issue with respect to the Muslim community would also become a critical issue if there is no proper address is made.

In order to get rid of the welfare syndrome and the racially cultured characteristics of the nation and to make necessary condition for development there is a need of elimination of *the Frictional chronicle* inherited from the historical roots of the colonial period and need to cultivate a homogeneously thinking society in which individuals mutually respect each other in the society. In this purpose there is a need of revolutionary vision for a Sri Lankan identity and working mechanisms to get rid of the frictional chronicle and build up the Sri Lankan identity that lead to necessary conditions for development.

Key words: Economic development, Economic growth, Hydraulic civilization, Take off of development, Welfare syndrome

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