

# **A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY OF MILITARY DISABLES AT THE SALAWA RANAVIRU VILLAGE IN AVISSAWELLA.**

**N.S. PATHIRANA**

Postgraduate Institute of Science (PGIS) University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

The internal conflict of Sri Lanka has left many personnel from the tri-forces disabled. Establishment of Ranaviru Villages is one of the major service which offered by the Sri Lankan government for these soldiers as well as their families. The objective of the study was to describe socio-economical and cultural patterns and problems of the Military Disabled Families at Salawa Ranaviru Village in Avissawella and to assess the adherence in the built environment to the standards prescribed for the disabled. This community based study used a pre-tested questionnaire on socio-economic variables, key informant interviews on infrastructural situation, social network and cultural aspects, review of secondary data from relevant authorities and observations by the principal investigator. The study found that socially unacceptable sexual behaviours, disrupted social and administrative networks and psycho-social disruptions in the second generation in the village. The village civil administration operations are poor and unauthorised leaderships were rising up. It was found that the built environment was unsatisfactory for the disabled persons while no attention has been paid to disability level in the allocation of households to disabled families. It is concluded that, this nature of Ranaviru Villages was not a satisfactory model to provide welfare for disabled soldiers. To overcome this situation, it is highly recommended to address welfare activities and associated problems of these disables. In addition to that, to obtaining maximum benefit from the concept of Ranaviru Villages, it is need to be paid attention on social consequences of disabled soldiers.

Policy makers should respect the guidelines and recommendations for the built environment for disabled persons and the allocation of facilities need to be done in a rational manner.

It is researcher's firm belief that villages for war heroes of this nature should not be established in future and the better way of settle-down them by mixing with their relatives.