

**Consolidation of Economic Reconciliation in Post-War Sri Lanka:
From a Case Study of the Northern Province**

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In contemporary discourse, the most important operation in post-war reconciliation is addressing the root causes of conflict and removing them from the conflict-affected society and ensuring justice, accountability and transparency through truth-telling and forgiveness. Some leading scholars such as Van der Merwe and Johan Galtung have provided a conceptual and theoretical framework to this argument. According to the arguments of scholars such as Barbara Walter, Collier and Hoeffler, economic development too has its significance in post-war reconciliation. In this context, the paper focused on the following research problem: how does Sri Lankan civil society consolidate economic development, in the process of post-war reconciliation? This research adopted a pluralistic research methodology. Therefore, both primary and secondary data were used. A survey was conducted in three districts in the Northern Province including Kilinochchi, Mulathiv and Vavuniya with a total sample of 80. According to the key findings of this research, 5% of the respondents did not have a clear idea about reconciliation. Of the respondents, 3.75% defined reconciliation as addressing the root causes of the civil war. Reconciliation is considered as nothing but truth-telling and keeping justice by 3.75% of the respondents. 11.5% of the respondents consider reconciliation as building cultural relationships among the divided ethnic groups. Only 13.75% of the respondents consider reconciliation as economic development. Among the respondents 16.75% define reconciliation as the establishment of sustainable peace. The majority or 46.25% think that reconciliation is a collection of all the above definitions. According to the opinion of the majority, economic development is consolidated only as a part of reconciliation. Therefore, economic activities must work out conjointly with the other aspects of reconciliation.

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