



APPLICATION OF VIOLENT EXTREMIST RISK ASSESSMENT (VERA) FOR EX-POLITICAL RADICALISTS IN THE LOCAL SETTING

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ABSTRACT

The rise of terrorism globally have greatly highlighted the need for understanding the phenomenon of radicalization/terrorism and, most importantly the need to generate knowledge required to make early predictions possible and to prevent them. Different countries use a number of different risk assessment methodologies for the purpose of identifying vulnerable individuals or assessing the likelihood of those already on the path towards extremism to commit violence. The study sets out to investigate usefulness of VERA in risk assessment of political radicalists in the local setting. Case studies on 5 males were carried out and each factor rated by a Behavioral Psychologist. Attitude factors were observed to be present in the highest percentage (93%) whilst historical items were seen to be least significant among majority (22%). All other items scored a moderate rating. Most VERA factors are applicable for risk assessment of future violence among identified cohort of political radicals in the local setting.

Keywords: VERA, Sri Lanka, political radicalists