



CONSEQUENCES OF WAR TOWARDS THE STANDARD OF HEALTH AMONGST THE PEOPLE AFFECTED BY THE CIVIL WAR IN NORTHERN PROVINCE SRI LANKA

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ABSTRACT

The Northern population faced disastrous tribulations due to the civil war between government and LTTE for 26 years and it is crucial to understand and explore the effect on the health standards of the people. The objective of this study was to understand the psychological issue and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and identify the access they have to healthcare organizations. The study also focuses on identifying any health issues and changes in their quality of life during the post war period. The Methodology of the study was a one-to-one, in-depth interview-based phenomenological qualitative study with a study population of 20 who were chosen by purposive sampling from Northern Province between ages 18-65. The results are that the people of the Northern Province have been suffering with psychological issues and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) since the end of the war. In addition to that, they have faced variety of injuries especially musculoskeletal injuries and brain trauma and still carry bomb residues. There is a scarcity of facilities in majority within the hospitals in the Northern Province. Moreover, their quality of life after the war is severely depleted and they struggle to sustain their daily needs. When discussing the results, the scarcity of the health facilities including trained human resources could have an impact on the quality of health service. Majority of the Healthcare professionals are not well versed in Tamil language which prevents them from understanding the psychological disorders of the people living in the Northern Province. The ineffective communication could have led to the negligence cases thus causing a mistrust amongst the people of the Northern Province. The study concludes that the Northern population had suffered from both psychological and physical harm along with the underdeveloped resources and trained staff as the consequence of war which has affected their standard of health.

Keywords: Civil war, Sri Lanka, Northern Province, Consequence, Standard of Health