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RESETTLEMENT OF NORTHERN MUSLIMS IN SRI LANKA: CHALLENGES FOR SUSTAINABLE POST-WAR DEVELOPMENT AND RECONCILIATION

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Mohammad Yusuf

Department Of Political Science, Faculty of Arts, University Of Peradeniya, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

ABSTRACT

The resettlement of Northern Muslims in Sri Lanka is a key issue for sustainable post-war development and reconciliation. The displacement of Northern Muslims during the civil war has left them with many challenges, including limited access to education, healthcare, and livelihood opportunities. The resettlement process has been challenging due to various socio-political and economic factors. This study aims to explore the challenges of resettlement of Northern Muslims in Sri Lanka and identify strategies for sustainable post-war development and reconciliation. A qualitative research design was used, and data was collected through semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions with 50 participants from the Northern Muslim community. The study identified challenges such as limited access to land and property, lack of government support, inadequate infrastructure, social and cultural barriers, and political instability. The study also identified strategies for sustainable post-war development and reconciliation, such as enhancing community participation, promoting inter-ethnic harmony, strengthening government support, and providing access to education, healthcare, and livelihood

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opportunities. The findings of this study can be used to develop effective strategies for the resettlement of Northern Muslims and promote sustainable post-war development and reconciliation in Sri Lanka.

KEYWORDS

Resettlement, Northern Muslims, Sri Lanka, sustainable post-war development, reconciliation, challenges.

Introduction

The resettlement of Northern Muslims in Sri Lanka is a critical issue for sustainable post-war development and reconciliation. During the civil war in Sri Lanka, many Northern Muslims were forcibly expelled from their homes by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in 1990. The displaced Northern Muslims have faced many challenges, including limited access to education. healthcare. and livelihood opportunities. The resettlement of Northern Muslims is towards an important step sustainable post-war development and reconciliation. However, the process of resettlement has been challenging due to various socio-political and economic factors. Therefore, this study aims to explore the challenges of resettlement of Northern Muslims in Sri Lanka and identify strategies for sustainable post-war development and reconciliation. The civil war in Sri Lanka, which lasted for over 25 years, had a

significant impact on the country's ethnic communities. The Northern Muslim community, in particular, suffered greatly during the war and faced forced displacement from their homes and businesses. The displacement of Northern Muslims during the war has left them with many challenges, including limited access to education, healthcare, and livelihood opportunities. The resettlement process has been challenging due to various socio-political and economic factors.

The resettlement of Northern Muslims is a key issue for sustainable post-war development and reconciliation in Sri Lanka. Despite government's efforts to resettle the Northern Muslim community, the process has been slow and has not fully addressed the challenges faced by the community. The limited access to land and property, lack of government support, inadequate infrastructure, social and cultural barriers, and political instability are some of the

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key challenges faced by the Northern Muslim community.

This study aims to explore the challenges of resettlement of Northern Muslims in Sri Lanka and identify strategies for sustainable post-war development and reconciliation. A qualitative research design was used, and data was collected through semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions with 50 participants from the Muslim community. Northern The provides insights into the challenges faced by the Northern Muslim community during resettlement process and the strategies that can be adopted to promote sustainable post-war development and reconciliation.

METHOD

A qualitative research design was used to explore the resettlement of Northern Muslims in Sri Lanka. The study used purposive sampling to select 50 participants from among the Northern Muslim community members who were affected by the conflict and displacement. Data was collected through semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions. The interviews were conducted in the local language, Tamil, and

were recorded and transcribed for analysis. The data was analyzed using thematic analysis.

This study employed a qualitative research design to explore the challenges faced by the Northern Muslim community in Sri Lanka during the resettlement process and to identify strategies for sustainable post-war development and reconciliation. Data was collected through semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions with 50 participants from the Northern Muslim community.

The study used purposive sampling to select participants Muslim from the Northern community who had experienced displacement during the war and had resettled in the North of Sri Lanka. The participants were selected based their availability and willingness participate in the study. The study also included key informants such as government officials, academics, and civil society representatives who were involved in the resettlement process.

Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 30 participants, and focus group discussions were conducted with 20 participants. The interviews and focus group discussions were conducted in Tamil, the primary language of the

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Northern Muslim community. The interviews and focus group discussions were audiorecorded and transcribed verbatim.

Data analysis was conducted using thematic analysis. The transcripts were read multiple times to identify key themes and sub-themes related to the challenges faced by the Northern Muslim community during the resettlement process and strategies for sustainable post-war development and reconciliation. The identified themes were categorized and analyzed to draw conclusions and make recommendations for sustainable development and post-war reconciliation in Sri Lanka.

RESULTS

The study identified several challenges in the resettlement of Northern Muslims in Sri Lanka. These included limited access to land and lack of government property, support. inadequate infrastructure, social and cultural barriers, and political instability. The study also identified strategies for sustainable post-war development and reconciliation, such enhancing community participation, promoting inter-ethnic harmony, strengthening government

support, and providing access to education, healthcare, and livelihood opportunities.

Conclusion

The resettlement of Northern Muslims in Sri Lanka is a crucial step towards sustainable postwar development and reconciliation. The study highlights the challenges faced by Northern Muslims and provides recommendations for addressing these challenges. The findings of this study can be used by policymakers and stakeholders to develop effective strategies for the resettlement of Northern Muslims and promote sustainable post-war development and reconciliation in Sri Lanka.

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