



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

NEWSLETTER 2025

ISSUE I - DECEMBER 2025

**FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES & HUMANITIES
RAJARATA UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA**

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ISSUE I - DECEMBER 2025

**FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES & HUMANITIES
RAJARATA UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA**

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Department of Social Sciences
Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities
Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

Message from the Dean of the Faculty



It is with great pride and pleasure that I extend my warm greetings to the Head and staff of the Department of Social Sciences on the occasion of publishing this newsletter. This publication clearly reflects the Department's academic excellence, commitment, and the remarkable achievements of both staff and students over the past year.

The Department of Social Science continues to uphold the mission of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka through its commitment to academic excellence, research, and community engagement. The workshops, guest lectures, field classes, research activities, and student development programs featured here reflect a vibrant and dynamic academic environment.

I sincerely appreciate the Head of the Department Dr. Prabash Siriwardhana, and all the other academic and non-academic staff, and students for their dedication and valuable contributions. It is encouraging to see the enthusiasm of our undergraduates in Sociology and Tourism Management, whose efforts strengthen both the Faculty and the University.

May this newsletter serve not only as a record of achievements but also as an inspiration for future endeavors. I wish the Department continued progress and success in its journey toward academic excellence and societal contribution.

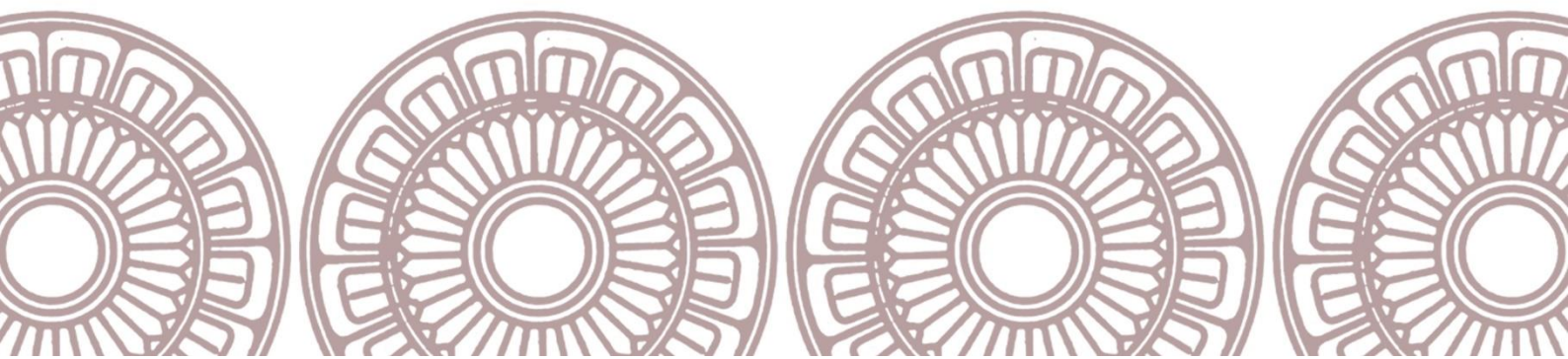
With best wishes for your continued achievements.

Prof. E. M. S. Ekanayake

Dean

Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities

Rajarata University of Sri Lanka



Message from the Head of the Department



It is with great pleasure that I present this year's edition of our Departmental Newsletter. This publication reflects the vibrant academic life of the Department of Social Sciences and highlights the collective achievements of our staff and students during the past year.

Over the year, the department has continued its commitment to academic excellence through teaching, research, and community engagement. Our undergraduate programs in Sociology and Tourism Management have been strengthened through updated curricula, student-centered learning approaches, and various academic activities. Over the last year, the department has organized various workshops, guest lectures, research activities, cultural events and performances, skill development programs for our students, and field classes that have enriched the learning experience of our students and strengthened our academic community.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all academic and non-academic staff members for their commitment and hard work, and to our students for their enthusiasm and dedication. Their collective efforts continue to strengthen the reputation and impact of our department. I hope this publication will serve as a meaningful record of our achievements and inspire us to pursue even greater accomplishments in the years ahead.

I wish all our readers success in their academic and professional endeavors.

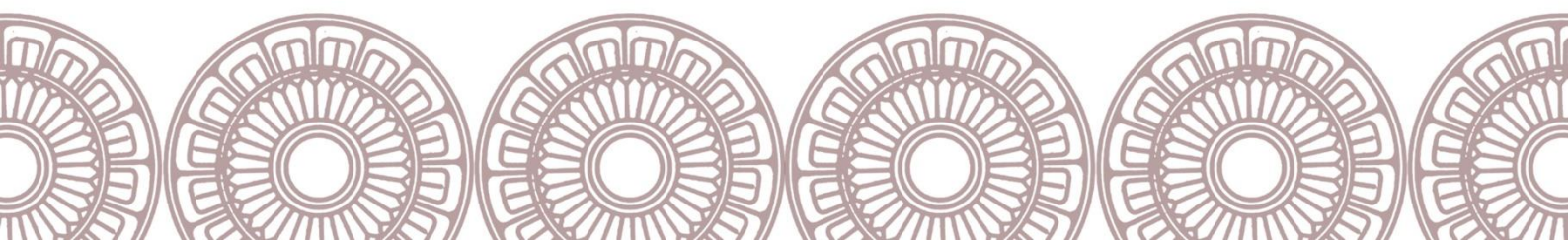
Dr. K.G.A. Prabash Siriwardhana
Head Of The Department,
Department of Social Sciences,
Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities
Rajarata University of Sri Lanka





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01. DEPARTMENT NEWS, NEW APPOINTMENTS & PROMOTIONS



The Department of Social Sciences proudly celebrated significant academic milestone achieved by Head of the Department Dr. Prabhash Siriwardhana, reflecting his dedication to teaching and academic leadership. He successfully completed his Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Peradeniya. This promotion is a testament to his sustained commitment to teaching, research, and service to the academic community. The Department extends its heartfelt congratulations on this remarkable accomplishment, which brings distinction to both the Department and the Faculty.



Ms. T. M. C. D. Senarathna of the Department of Social Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, has been promoted to the position of Senior Lecturer in Tourism Management. This promotion recognizes her academic service and professional contributions to the department and the faculty. The appointment marks an important milestone in her academic career and strengthens the teaching and academic capacity of the department.



The curriculum revision of the B.A. and B.A.(Hons) in Sociology degree programmes of the Department of Social Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka was carried out in 2025 through a structured stakeholder consultation process. A **stakeholder workshop** was successfully conducted on **10th October 2025** at the faculty premises with the participation of senior academics and subjects' experts from leading universities in Sri Lanka, including the **university of Sabaragamuwa and Universities of Peradeniya**, along with the academic staff of the Department of Social Sciences. The **external participants** included **Professor Sarath Ananda** (Department of Social Sciences, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka), **Professor Dhammika Herath** (Department of Sociology, University of Peradeniya), **Professor H. U. S. Pradeep** (Department of Social Sciences, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka), **Dr. Thushara Kamalathne** (Senior Lecturer, University of Peradeniya), and **Dr. Susantha Rasnayake** (Senior Lecturer, University of Peradeniya). The workshop was organized under the **coordination of Prof. Dilan Gunawardhana**, Programme Coordinator for Curriculum Revision, and was conducted **with the guidance and leadership of the Head of the Department, Dr. K. G. A. Prabash Siriwardana**. Overall, this curriculum revision initiative reflects the department's commitment to maintaining academic quality, responding to stakeholder expectations, and producing socially responsive, skilled, and employable sociology graduates.



03. WORKSHOPS & GUEST LECTURES





The Department of Social Sciences at the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka organized an engaging Valentine's Day program on February 13th, 2025, exploring the theme "Cinematic Love and University Love" for the undergraduates of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, in faculty premises. Guest speaker Mr. John Dinesh, acclaimed actor and former Temporary Assistant Lecturer at the University of Kelaniya, shared insightful reflections that enriched the audience's understanding of love in both artistic and academic settings. The session fostered meaningful dialogue and brought the university community together in the true spirit of Valentine's Day.





The department of social sciences at Rajarata University of Sri Lanka organized a two-day workshop for the undergraduates of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities to celebrate International Women's Day 2025 under the title of, "Gender, Prevention of gender-based Violence and Mental Health", with the great guidance of the Head, Dr. Prabash Siriwardhana. That was held on 11–12 March 2025, at Hall 20, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, collaborate with the National Committee on Women, Ministry of Women and Child Affairs. To that participated the, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Prof. E.M.S.Ekanayake and the Dean Faculty of Applied Sciences Dr. Manoj Fernando and the other Heads of the departments of the faculty.

The first day featured distinguished resource persons such as Dr. Asitha Kosala, Medical Officer of Health Kekirawa, addressed the audience about the topic of 'Sex and Gender'. Mrs. Jeewa Ranasinghe (Attorney at Law), Assistant Deputy Director, North Central Province Legal Aid Commission of Sri Lanka provided the insightful lecture on 'Gender base violence and Sri Lankan Law'. The Dean Faculty of Applied Sciences Dr. Manoj Fernando also delivered the lecture to the audience based on the workshop title. Day two focused on practical activities aimed at enhancing students' mental well-being. The sessions were conducted by Ms. Thushini Vithanage and Mr. Ruwan Hettiarachchi, Psychological Counselling Officers from the National Committee on Women. Across both days, undergraduates gained valuable knowledge, enjoyed meaningful discussions, and benefited from the refreshments and meals provided by the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs. The workshop concluded successfully, providing an enriching learning experience with for all participants with valuable participation certificate.



WORKSHOP
GENDER, PREVENTION OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE & MENTAL HEALTH
WOMEN'S DAY
 CELEBRATION

Day 1

Dr. Asitha Koshala
 Medical Officer of Health
 Kekirawa

Mrs. Joewa Ranasinghe,
 Attorney at Law
 Assistant Deputy Director- North
 Central Province, Legal Aid
 Commission of Sri Lanka

Day 2

Mr. Ruwan Hettilarachchi
 Psychological Counseling Officer
 National Committee on women
 Ministry of women and child affairs

Mr. Sushantha Vijayakumara
 Psychological Counseling Officer
 National Committee on women
 Ministry of women and child affairs

Ms. Thushini Vithanage
 Psychological Counseling Officer
 National Committee on women
 Ministry of women and child affairs

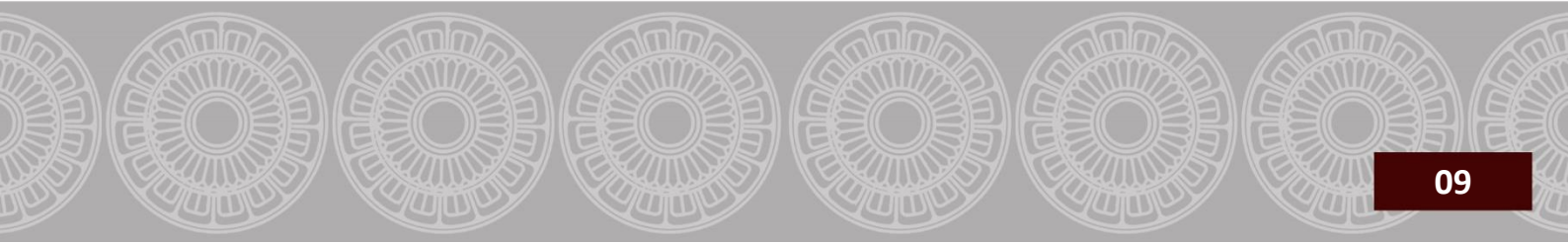
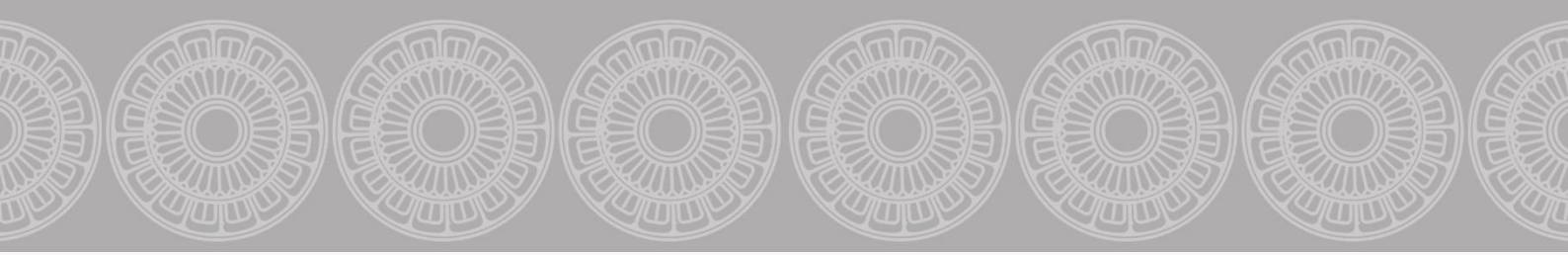




The Department of Social Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, successfully held a Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) Workshop on 22nd August 2025. The program aimed to strengthen the practical skills of Sociology undergraduates as amateurs' researchers in participatory development methods. The workshop blended with enriching activities, including insightful guest lectures about PRA methods, field visits and collaborative group assignments.

The sessions were conducted by two expert facilitators, Mr. Priyantha Kumara (T-Field Child Development Federation) and Mr. Naveen Dharmawardhana (Institute for Participatory Interaction in Development – IPID), who shared valuable insights and hands-on experiences. A practical field component at Mihinthale Village allowed students to apply PRA tools such as transect walks, community mapping, seasonal calendars, and focus group discussions. This real-world exposure helped bridge lecture room learning with community-based practice. The Department expresses its gratitude to the facilitators, and the Mihinthale community for their contribution to making the workshop a meaningful practical learning experiences for our undergraduates.







A guest lecture series led by Prof. HUS Pradeep Department of Social Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, was organized by Department of Social Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. The guest lectures provided Sociology undergraduates with insight for “Human Rights and Fundamental Rights in Sri Lanka” with overview to the principles of human rights, the structure of fundamental rights in the Sri Lankan Constitution, and their relevance to contemporary social issues. Students and the staff of the Department of Social Sciences actively participated in this guest lecture on 09th October 2025 from 9.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m.

The second guest lecture on the topic of “Skills for Effective Presentation” also led by Prof. HUS Pradeep, for the students of Department of Social Sciences, from 2.00 p.m. to 5. 00 p.m. on the same day. The department of Social Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities Rajarata University of Sri Lanka organized this guest lecture for, aimed at enhancing students’ ability to communicate ideas confidently and professionally when they deliver a presentation.







The Department of Social Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, successfully organized a research-oriented lecture series aimed at strengthening students' academic writing and research skills. The series included three insightful sessions: "How to Perform an Effective Literature Review" by Dr. Susantha Rasnayake, "How to Write a Research Proposal" by Prof. Dhammika Herath, and "Grounded Theory as an Approach to Qualitative Inquiry" by Dr. Thushara Kamalrathne, all from the Department of Sociology, Faculty of Arts, University of Peradeniya. Conducted on 10th October 2025 at Hall 20, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, the lectures provided our undergraduates to guidance on literature reviewing, proposal writing, and qualitative research methodologies, significantly enhancing their research competence and academic confidence.

Department of Social Sciences
Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities
Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

HOW TO WRITE A RESEARCH PROPOSAL

Prof. Dhammika Herath
PROFESSOR IN SOCIOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA,
SRI LANKA.

What You'll Learn

- What is a research proposal and why is it important?
- How to identify and justify your research problem
- Formulating research questions and objectives
- Structuring the proposal: from introduction to methodology
- Writing a brief literature review
- Common mistakes to avoid and tips for clarity and impact

DATE
10th of October 2025

TIME
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

VENUE
HALL 20, FHS5

Department of Social Sciences
Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities
Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

Grounded theory as an approach to qualitative inquiry

Guest Lecture

Are you a researcher, graduate student, or academic looking to master the art of systematic reviews? Join us for this comprehensive workshop that will transform your research methodology!

Dr. Thushara Kamalrathne
Senior Lecturer in Sociology
Department of Sociology, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

What you'll learn:

- Core principles of grounded theory approach
- Iterative process of data collection and data analysis
- Apply different GT strategies in qualitative studies

10 October 2025
2:00PM-4:00PM
Hall 20, FHS5

Department of Social Sciences
Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities
Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

How to Perform an effective Literature Review

Dr. Susantha Rasnayake
Senior Lecturer
Department of Sociology,
University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

Content

- Defining your research scope
- Conducting a comprehensive literature search
- Critically evaluating and analyzing the literature
- Identifying gaps and themes in the research
- Organizing and structuring your review

DATE
10th of October 2025

TIME
9:30 A.M. TO 11:00 A.M

VENUE
HALL 20, FHS5

Department of Social Sciences
Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities
Peradeniya University of Sri Lanka

HOW TO WRITE A RESEARCH PROPOSAL

DATE
19th October 2023

TIME
09:30 AM - 1:00 PM

VENUE
HALL 29, PHSD



Prof. Dhammika Herath
PROFESSOR IN SOCIOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF PERADENYA,
SRI LANKA.

What You'll Learn

- What is a research proposal and why is it important?
- How to identify and justify your research problem
- Formulating research questions and objectives
- Structuring the proposal: from introduction to methodology
- Writing a brief literature review
- Common mistakes to avoid and tips for clarity and impact

Department of Architecture
Faculty of Architecture
Peradeniya University of Sri Lanka

Grounded theory as an approach to qualitative inquiry

Guest Lecture

Are you a researcher, graduate student, or academic looking to master the art of 'grounded theory'? Join us for this comprehensive workshop that will transform your research methodology!

Dr. Thushara Kamalratne
Senior Lecturer in Sociology
Department of Sociology, University of Peradenya, Sri Lanka.

19 October 2023
09:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Hall 29, PHSD

What you'll learn:

- Core principles of grounded theory approach
- Iterative process of data collection and data analysis
- Apply different ICE examples for qualitative studies



Department of Social Sciences
Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities
Peradeniya University of Sri Lanka

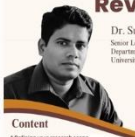
How to Perform an effective Literature Review

Dr. Susantha Rasnayake
Senior Lecturer
Department of Sociology,
University of Peradenya, Sri Lanka

19 October 2023
09:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Hall 29, PHSD

Content

- Defining your research purpose
- Identifying a conceptual framework/ theoretical model
- Critically evaluating and analysing the literature
- Identifying gaps and themes in the research
- Organising and structuring your review






The Department of Social Sciences successfully organized a workshop on “Research Methods, for Social Research” on 26th March 2025 at the Faculty Computer Laboratory, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. The workshop was designed to enhance undergraduates’ methodological skills essential for social research. The workshop was conducted by Mr. Sumithra Nandana, Lecturer and Research Coordinator, CINEC Maritime Campus focusing on research methods and fundamentals of social research. The program provided hands-on learning opportunities and valuable academic exposure for both Sociology (Hons) and Tourism Management students of the Department of Social Sciences, contributing significantly to their research competence.







The Department of Social Sciences of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, successfully organized a guest lecture titled “Bridging Tradition and Modern Care” on 16th October 2025 at Hall 20, FSSH, from 10.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. The session focused on “The Role of Traditional Medical Practitioners in Primary Healthcare and their Appeal to the Public,” highlighting how indigenous healing knowledge continues to influence modern healthcare systems and community trust. The lecture was delivered by Dr. W.R.K. Ranasinghe, Director of the Ayurvedic Research Hospital, Madawachchiya, who shared valuable insights on integrating traditional medical practices with contemporary healthcare approaches. The program provided an enriching learning experience for students and staff, fostering a deeper understanding of the relevance of traditional medicine in today’s healthcare landscape.


Bridging Tradition and Modern Care

guest LECTURE

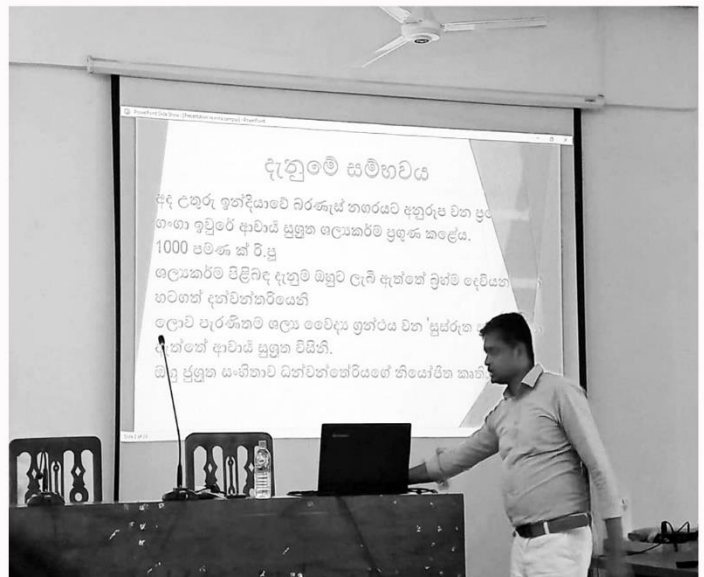
Join us for an insightful session on
 “The Role of Traditional Medical Practitioners
 in Primary Healthcare and their Appeal to the Public.”
 Discover how age-old healing wisdom continues
 to shape modern healthcare and community trust today.

Date : 16th october 2025
 Time : 10.30 a.m - 2.30 p.m
 Place : 20 Hall, FSSH

Guest speaker
 Dr. W.R.K Ranasinghe,
 Director,
 Ayurvedic Research Hospital Madawachchiya



Department of Social Sciences
 Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities
 Rajarata University of Sri Lanka



Bridging Tradition and Modern Care

guest LECTURE

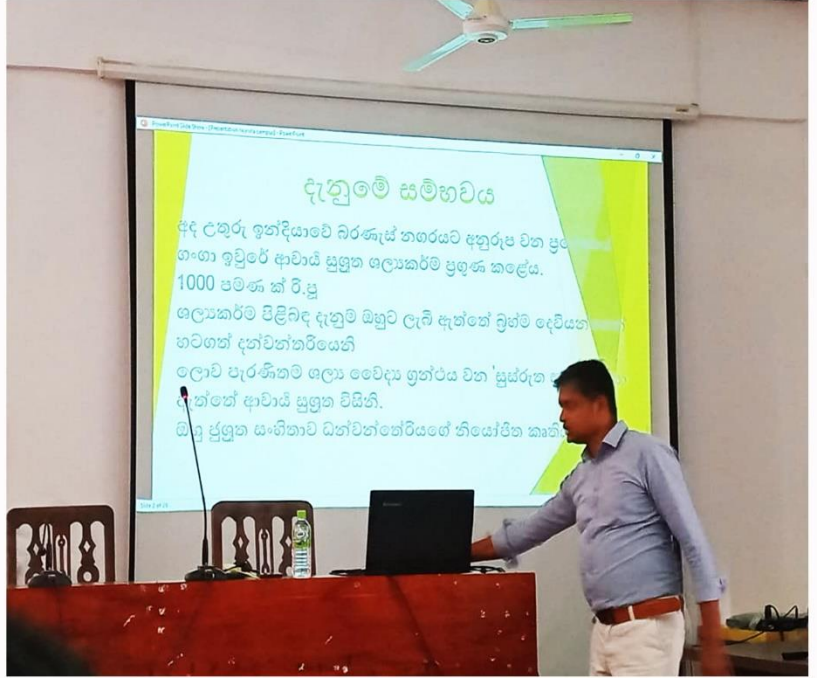
Join us for an insightful session on
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 Discover how age-old healing wisdom continues
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Date : 16th october 2025
Time : 10.30 a.m - 2.30 p.m
Place : 20 Hall, FSSH

Department of Social Sciences
 Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities
 Rajarata University of Sri Lanka



Guest speaker
 Dr. W.R.K. Ranasinghe,
 Director,
 Ayurvedic Research Hospital Madawachchiya



දැනුමේ සම්භවය

අද ලකුරු ඉන්දියාවේ බරණැස් නගරයට අනුරූප වන ප්‍රදේශයේ 1000 පමණක් වැඩෙන ලොකරම් පිළිබඳ දැනුම ඔහුට ලැබී ඇත්තේ බ්‍රිතාන්‍ය රටේ සිටින අතරින් දැනටත් දැනටත් වැඩෙන ලොකරම් වෙබ්ස ඉන්ටර්නෙට් වෙබ්ස මගින් දැනටත් ආවර්ණ සුලු වී ඇත. ඔහු පුද්ගල සංගීතාව ධනවත්තේරියෙන් නියෝජිත කාර්යයන්



දැනුමේ සම්භවය

අද ලකුරු ඉන්දියාවේ බරණැස් නගරයට අනුරූප වන ප්‍රදේශයේ 1000 පමණක් වැඩෙන ලොකරම් පිළිබඳ දැනුම ඔහුට ලැබී ඇත්තේ බ්‍රිතාන්‍ය රටේ සිටින අතරින් දැනටත් දැනටත් වැඩෙන ලොකරම් වෙබ්ස ඉන්ටර්නෙට් වෙබ්ස මගින් දැනටත් ආවර්ණ සුලු වී ඇත. ඔහු පුද්ගල සංගීතාව ධනවත්තේරියෙන් නියෝජිත කාර්යයන්



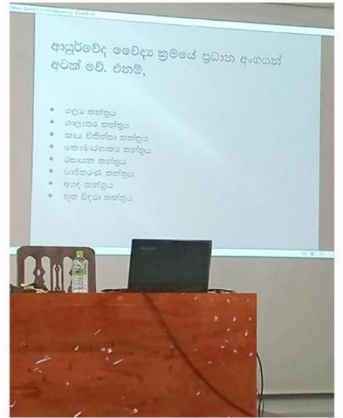
ප්‍රධාන මතවාදය

Primary Healing

The Trust will be behind the fact I depend on a better future

A case of High grade sinus treated by Kanna's with Ayurveda

Following the case after healing



ආයුර්වේද වෛද්‍ය ක්‍රමයේ ප්‍රධාන අංගයන් අටක් වේ. එනම්,

- ඖෂධ භාවිතය
- ඖෂධ සාදන ක්‍රම
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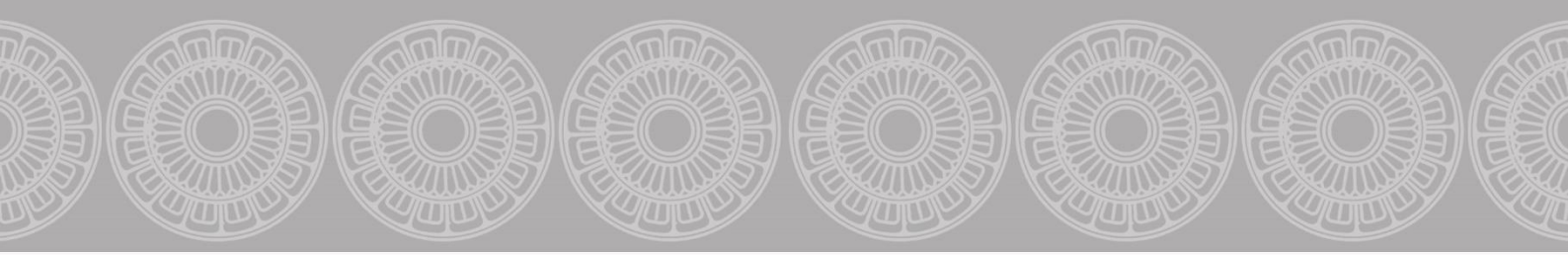
04. DEPARTMENT EVENTS





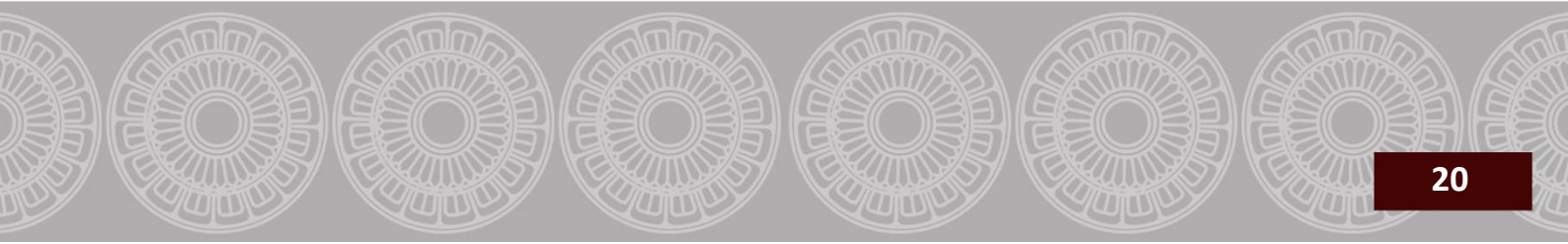
The Department of Social Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, successfully organized “Salaniya”(සලනියා) – Cultural Show 2025’ on 15th October 2025 at the ‘Epiphany Auditorium of the Faculty of Technology, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. This vibrant cultural event was graced by the Dean of the Faculty, Heads of Departments, Senior Assistant Registrar (SAR), along with all academic and non-academic staff, and was opened to all undergraduates of the University. Introduced as a pioneering initiative by the Head of the Department, Dr. Prabash Siriwardana, “Salaniya” marked the first cultural talent show of its kind organized by the Department of Social Sciences. The successful execution of the event was made possible through the generous support of local and foreign sponsors, whose contributions played a vital role in enhancing the quality and scale of the programme. Beyond entertainment, the event integrated sociological and tourism perspectives, highlighting themes of cultural identity, diversity, tradition, modernity, globalization, and social transformation. Through music, dance, drama, and artistic performances, “Salaniya” provided a meaningful platform for undergraduates to express creativity while reflecting a “Society in Transition,” fostering unity, cultural appreciation, and intellectual engagement within the university community.





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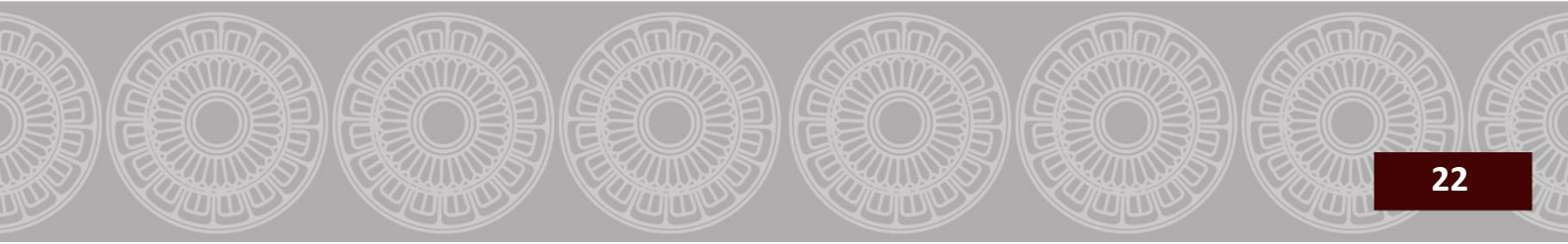
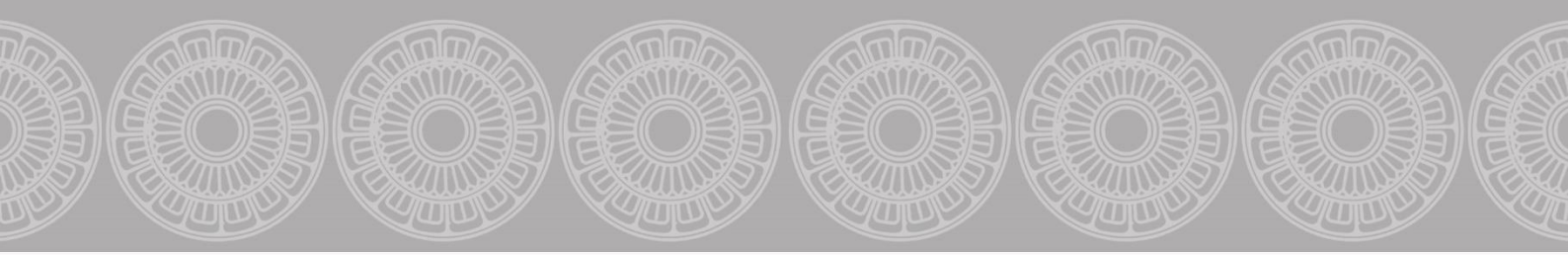
ඔක්තෝබර් මස 15 වන බදාදා දින
සවස 4.00 - 6.00
නාක්ෂත්ර පීඨ ශ්‍රවණාගාරයේ දී





The Department of Social Sciences successfully organized an evening get-together with Sociological Association of the Department of Social Sciences for Sociology undergraduates, known as the “Paduru Party” (පැදුරු පාටිය), on 13th of February 2025 with the objective of fostering unity, friendship, and active engagement among students and academic staff of the department. The event hold with the main participation of Department head Dr. Prabash Siriwardana and other departmental academic staff with the students who were undergraduates in Sociology Honors degree programme. The event provided a warm and inclusive space for meaningful discussions reflecting on students’ academic journeys, experiences, and shared memories within the department. The evening was enriched with entertaining moments, including song performances, dances, and creative role plays, which highlighted the talents and enthusiasm of the both undergraduates and academic staff. A special feature of the gathering was the open and friendly interaction among students from all batches and the academic staff, strengthening inter-batch relationships and staff–student bonds. Traditional hospitality added charm to the event, with participants enjoying Pol roti and a variety of delicious plenty made by our students, creating a relaxed and tasted rooted atmosphere. Overall, the ‘Paduru Party’ stood as a memorable social event that reinforced solidarity, cultural appreciation, and a strong sense of belonging within the Sociology academic community.





05. RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS

RESEARCH



‘Revisit to Pul Eliya after Seven Decades’ is a major departmental research project undertaken by the **Department of Social Sciences, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka**, focusing on the **‘Pul Eliya’ rural village** in the **North Central Province**. Building upon the classical sociological study conducted seven decades ago, this project aims to re-examine the village under **contemporary social, economic, cultural, and institutional transformations**. The research was carried out by the academic staff of the department, with the active contribution of the 2020/2021 Sociology Special Degree batch, who served as trained data collectors. A pilot study was first conducted to refine research tools and methodology, followed by a systematic data collection process in the field and data collections were done several days in the field. The project provides valuable experiential learning for students while contributing to the revival of longitudinal rural sociological research in Sri Lanka. At present, data analysis and academic writing are in progress, and research publications based on the findings are expected to be published as a book in the near future.



PUBLICATIONS : Migration and Social Transformation in ‘Pul Eliya Village’ in Sri Lanka: A Sociological Analysis



Ms. Achini Shashikala, Assistant Lecturer (Temp) of the Department of Social Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, successfully represented the department at the **50th All India Sociological Conference (AISC)** organized by the Indian Sociological Society. The conference, held at **SRM University-AP, Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh, India, from December 28–30, 2025**, was conducted under the theme *“Mobilities and Inequalities: Shifting Contexts; Changing Paradigms.”*

She contributed to the conference proceedings through her research publication titled ***“Migration and Social Transformation in ‘Pul Eliya Village’ in Sri Lanka: A Sociological Analysis,”*** which is part of the ongoing departmental research project “Revisit to Pul Eliya after Seven Decades.”

The study examines how internal and external migration have transformed rural social structures, livelihoods, and cultural identities in Pul Eliya village. Using qualitative methods such as interviews and observations, it highlights changes in family dynamics, social roles, and economic practices, while also revealing challenges like weakened kinship ties.

This achievement reflects the department’s continued commitment to advancing sociological research and contributing to international academic discourse on rural transformation and migration.

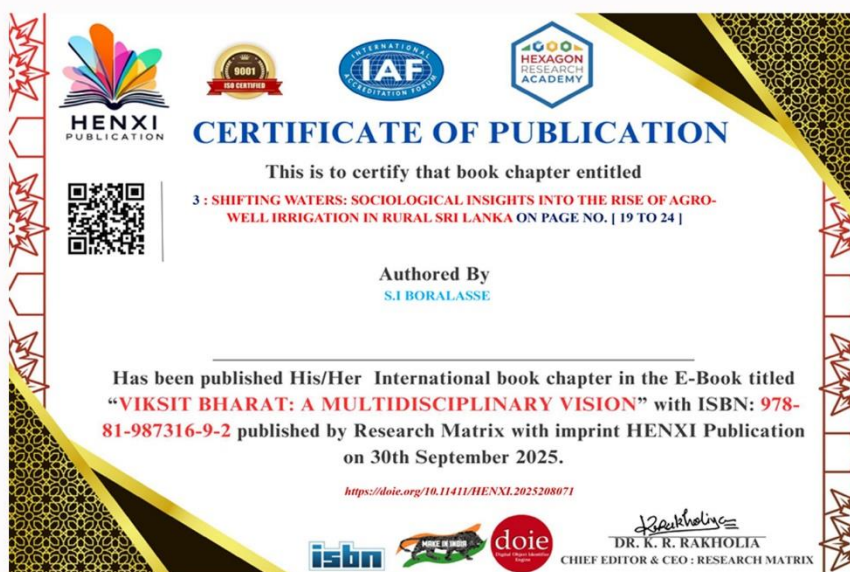


PUBLICATIONS : “Shifting Waters: Sociological Insights into the Rise of Agro-Well Irrigation in Rural Sri Lanka”

The Department of Social Sciences proudly highlights a scholarly contribution produced under the “Revisit to Pul Eliya after Seven Decades” research project. A book chapter titled **“Shifting Waters: Sociological Insights into the Rise of Agro-Well Irrigation in Rural Sri Lanka”** was authored by **Ms. S.I. Boralasse**, former Assistant Lecturer of the Department of Social Sciences, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.

This study explores the shift from traditional irrigation systems to Agro-well irrigation in rural Sri Lanka, focusing on dry-zone areas like Pul Eliya. It highlights the socio-economic and environmental impacts, particularly changes in livelihoods, water access, and the decline of collective water-sharing practices.

The chapter was published as part of an international conference proceeding (ISBN: 978-81-987316-9-2) under the theme “Viksit Bharat: A Multidisciplinary Vision,” organized in India. It is available as an online publication and included in the e-version of the conference book, which brings together multidisciplinary research contributions from across the region. This publication reflects the department’s ongoing commitment to advancing research on rural transformation and contributes significantly to the academic outputs of the Pul Eliya longitudinal study.



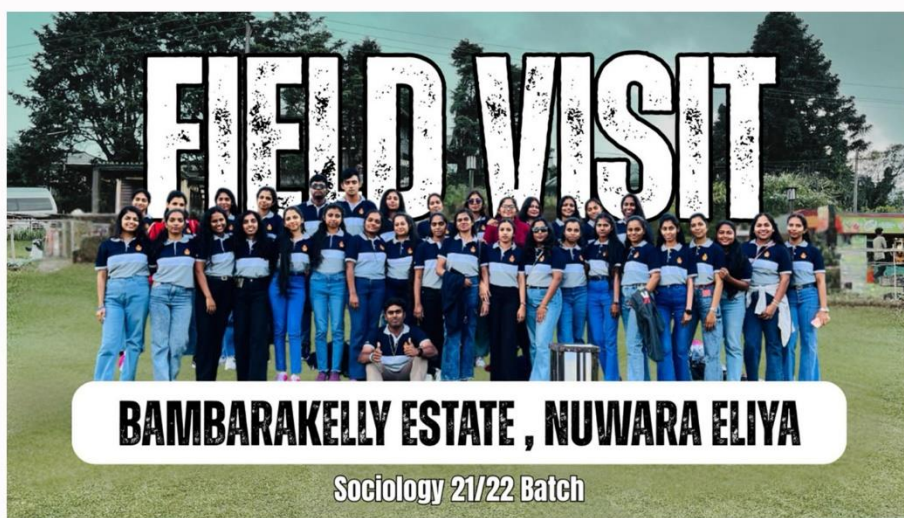
06. DEPARTMENT FIELD CLASSES & PRACTICAL LEARNINGS





The Department of Social Sciences conducted a departmental field class to the **Bambarakalley Tea Estate, Nuwara Eliya**, on 13 March 2025, with the participation of **Second Year, Second Semester undergraduate students**. The field visit was organized as part of the students' academic training to enhance their practical understanding of sociological concepts through direct field exposure.

The field visit focused on examining the **socio-demographic effects of low wages on tea plantation workers**, with students observing workers' living conditions, household structures, employment patterns, and access to education and health services. Particular emphasis was placed on how low-income influences **family wellbeing, child education, nutrition, social mobility, and intergenerational poverty** within plantation communities. The field visit provided students with valuable insights into the **structural inequalities and labor issues** faced by plantation workers, enabling them to link theoretical perspectives with real-life social realities.





The Department of Social Sciences organized a two-day field classes to **Hikkaduwa** on **21st and 22nd March 2025** with fourth-year, first-semester (final-year) Sociology students as part of the Urban Sociology curriculum. The visit aimed to provide practical exposure to urban planning processes within a rapidly developing **coastal urban area**. During the field study, students examined key aspects of urban planning such as land use patterns, tourism-driven urban development, housing and infrastructure expansion, environmental management, transportation networks, and the interactions between local communities, commercial activities, and state institutions. Through field observations, informal discussions with residents and stakeholders, and site-based analysis, students were able to critically understand the social consequences of urbanization, planning challenges, and sustainable development practices in Hikkaduwa. This field visit enhanced student's applied sociological skills by linking theoretical knowledge with real-world urban planning issues in Sri Lanka.





The Department of Social Sciences organized a two day departmental field class to ‘Meemure’ village situated between Kandy and Mathale district, on **2025.04.03** with the participation of **3rd year, 1st semester students** to study the village’s historical background, present socio-economic conditions, and ongoing processes of social transformation. The visit enabled students to explore Meemure’s unique history and traditional social structure while examining changes influenced by the economy, religious practices, infrastructure development, and environmental factors. Through direct observation and interactions with villagers, students gained insights into livelihood patterns, shifting cultural values, emerging tourism-related economic activities, improvements and limitations in infrastructure, and growing environmental concerns. Overall, the field visit provided valuable experiential learning and enhanced students’ understanding of rural transformation within a culturally and ecologically sensitive village context.





The Department of Social Sciences organized a field class to **Delft Island** on **27th September 2025** for the **3rd Year, 2nd Semester Sociology Honors students** as part of their academic activities. The visit aimed to enhance students' practical understanding of the **socio-economic and cultural background** of Delft Island through direct field exposure.

During the visit, students observed the island's livelihood patterns, which mainly include fishing, animal husbandry, and small-scale economic activities, while also examining issues related to infrastructure, transportation, and access to basic services. The field class further provided insights into the island's social organization, family structures, religious practices, and cultural traditions shaped by its geographical isolation and historical influences.

Students actively engaged in field observations and informal discussions with community members, allowing them to apply sociological concepts and basic research techniques learned in the classroom. Overall, the Delft Island field class offered valuable experiential learning, strengthening students' analytical skills and understanding of rural and island-based communities in Sri Lanka.





The Department of Social Sciences organized a field class to the **Manthottam** fishery village in **Trincomalee** on **22nd and 23rd of October 2025** for the **2nd year, 1st semester** Sociology students as their very first field class in their university journey. The visit aimed to introduce students to basic field exposure while studying the **socio-economic** background of a coastal fishing community. During the visit, students observed and gathered information on livelihoods centered on fishing activities, household income patterns, living conditions, education, access to basic services, and community organization within the village. The field class provided students with a valuable opportunity to connect theoretical knowledge with real-life social settings, enhancing their understanding of rural–coastal socio-economic structures and fostering early interest in applied social science research.





The Department of Social Sciences arranged the field class for final year Tourism management students of the Department of Social Sciences visited to the ‘**Araliya Green Hotel, Nuwara Eliya**’ as their final field class as an undergraduate on **10th and 11th of March 2025**. That offered students practical insights into city and resort hotel operations within a popular hill -country destination. Students engaged in a guided property tour covering **front office, housekeeping, food and beverage services, banquet facilities and back of house operations**. The visit further enhanced students’ understanding of destination-based hospitality management, sustainability practices and human resource management in the hotel sector. Students learnt how the hotel integrates comfort, cultural elements and environmental responsibility while catering to diverse tourist segments. Overall, the experience strengthened their ability to link theoretical knowledge with the real- world hotel operations and professional expectations in Sri Lanka’s tourism industry.





Department of Social Sciences organized a field class for **second year Tourism Management students** of the department, a luxurious hotel field class to 'Hotel Water Garden Sigiriya' on **30th September 2025**. It provided students with valuable exposure to luxury resort operations in a nature-based settings. Particular emphasis was placed on **sustainable practices, architectural design and the integration of the hotel with its natural surroundings**. Interactive discussions with hotel staff helped students understand service quality management, guest expectations, and operational coordination in a high- end resort environment.





Tourism Management students of the 3rd year 1st semester of Department of Social Sciences went to the field class to **'Golden Ridge Hotel, Nuwara Eliya'** in the first semester of the academic year 2025. It provided the valuable practical exposure to boutique and city hotel operations in a major hill-country tourist destination. The visit also helped students understand operational challenges in a seasonal destination like Nuwara Eliya and strengthen the link between classroom learning and real-world hospitality practices.





The department of Social Sciences organized a field class to 'Aliya Resort & Spa', Sigiriya for the **3rd Year 1st semester students** in **Tourism Management** of Department of Social Sciences on **07th October 2025** to enhance students' understanding of how cultural heritage, location, and service excellence contribute to guest satisfaction and long-term destination development. This field class gave the opportunity for the students to learned about sustainability initiatives, human resource practices, and marketing strategies aimed both domestic and international markets. The visit included an overview of departmental functions, recreational and wellness facilities and food beverage outlets.



07. DEPARTMENT SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES



POSON AWARENESS PROGRAMME & CLEANUP PROJECT

As part of its departmental association activities, the **Sociological Association of the Department of Social Sciences** successfully conducted a **'Poson Awareness Programme and Cleanup Project'** in collaboration with **Zero Plastic – Rajarata University of Sri Lanka**. This initiative was organized in line with the 'Poson Poya' celebration on **08th June 2025** around the **Mihinthale sacred area** in Anuradhapura District, emphasizing environmental responsibility, social awareness, and sustainable practices. The programme brought together enthusiastic student volunteers who actively participated in awareness creation and environmental cleanup activities, promoting the importance of minimizing plastic usage and protecting natural surroundings. The collaboration with Zero Plastic strengthened the department's commitment to **eco-friendly values** and **community-oriented social work**, while also encouraging students to engage in practical actions that reflect sociological responsibility towards society and the environment.





The Sociological Association of the Department of Social Sciences organized an “Ice Cream Dansal” in celebration of ‘Poson Poya’ on 10th June 2025 at the university premises in Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. This meritorious activity was conducted with the active participation of department **students and staff**, reflecting the spirit of generosity, sharing, and Buddhist cultural values associated with ‘Poson Poya’. The Ice Cream Dansal provided an opportunity for students to engage in **collective social service** while strengthening **unity and mutual understanding** within the university community. Through this event, the Sociological Association successfully promoted social harmony, cultural appreciation, and volunteerism among undergraduates and academic staff.





As part of its commitment to community engagement and social responsibility, the **Sociological Association of the Department of Social Sciences** successfully implemented the first step of the “අත්තලු” CSR project as a social work initiative on **29th August 2025**. This project was carried out for the benefit of students of **Mihinthale ‘Ukkulankulama Rural School’** in the **Anuradhapura District**, with the guidance and supervision of the **Head of the Department** and the **Senior Treasurer of Sociological Association**. Under this initiative, the Association mobilized contributions from well-wishers and collected essential school accessories to support students from rural backgrounds. In addition, a **Ceiling fan was donated to the school’s main hall**, contributing to the improvement of the learning environment. This initiative reflects the Sociological Association’s dedication to applying sociological values in practice and fostering meaningful connections between the university and surrounding rural communities.





DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

NEWSLETTER

2025