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IRCHSS 2016

**INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE
ON
HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
(IRCHSS-2016)**

PROCEEDINGS

"Transformation for Empowerment: Moving beyond Buzzwords"

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
University of Sri Jayewardenepura
Sri Lanka

**A study on the relationship between sub-cultural factors and criminality:
A case study**

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The estate Tamil community migrated to Sri Lanka from India in the 19th century as labourers in rubber, coffee and tea plantation fields. Some also migrated as merchants and as other service providers. At present, the majority of them are working as plantation labourers in Central, Uva, Sabaragamuwa and Southern provinces with their own sub-culture. The primary objective of this study was to explore and explain the particular relationship between sub-cultural factors and the criminality in the estate sub-culture. A sample of 80 estate Tamil families out of 120 was selected through random sampling from Deniyaya and Handford estates, Matara district in the Southern province. For more information, in-depth interviews and police records were used. Data was analysed using the SPSS software. This study identified a special living style among estate Tamil communities, which depends on their routine activities. Murders, tumults, abduction and robberies were identified as the most common crimes among the estate Tamil people. The conclusion is that most of those crimes were directly related to the sub-cultural factor called "short term delightment". The usage of illegal drugs, hardworking lifestyle, limited consumption of holdings and lack of education were identified as ancillary factors of "short term delightment" which have led to the increased rate of crimes among them. Establishing a new mediation board for estate workers, development of the infrastructures, and inspiration for the education can be recommended to control and prevent crimes among the estate Tamil community.

Keywords: *Crimes, Estate Tamils, Routine activities, Short-term delightment*