

Summary

The main objective of this study was to investigate and describe the nature of trade unionism in the plantation sector in Sri Lanka with specific relevance to the political, socio-economic and legal aspects. Primary and secondary sources were utilized for the study. The methods of primary sources were in-depth interviews and a structured questionnaire.

To begin with some of the existing theories of trade unions were discussed to understand the types and behaviour of trade unions in the plantation sector. In order to examine the relevance and obsolescence of the legislation on Indian immigrant labour, they were assembled in a chapter. The industrial law of Sri Lanka was included in the same chapter as that law too applied to the plantation sector. A historical overview of the trade union behaviour was done to identify the success and setbacks of the trade unions in a hostile political, socio-economic and legal setting. Privatisation was discussed next as it brought about a major change in the ownership of plantations with mixed response from the trade unions. An investigation of the political, socio-economic and legal aspects of trade unionism in the plantation sector formed the specific area of this study.



**TRADE UNIONISM IN THE PLANTATION SECTOR OF
SRI LANKA : AN INVESTIGATION OF THE POLITICAL,
SOCIO - ECONOMIC AND LEGAL ASPECTS**

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