

Analyzing the Role of Sri Lankan Defense Forces in Response to COVID-19

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Abstract

The outbreak of COVID-19 in Sri Lanka posed many challenges to Sri Lankan healthcare and administrative infrastructure. The defense forces visibly played a vital role in managing the outburst of the pandemic while keeping the outcome within manageable limits. While the country had a hard time with mitigating the spread, the role of the Sri Lankan defense forces emerged as pivotal in addressing the pandemic's multi-faceted impact. The study aims to assess the involvement and effectiveness of the Sri Lankan defense forces in managing the COVID-19 pandemic. It highlights the collaborative approach of Sri Lanka in managing a global health crisis, emphasizing the importance of defense forces in supplementing national responses beyond their traditional roles. The study employed a qualitative approach, using Secondary data from existing research papers, official documents, reports, and media briefings. The data gathered through the research are analyzed in order to identify the effectiveness of the role played by the defense forces. Defense forces played a pivotal role in logistical support, quarantine facilities establishment, and contact tracing. Also, public trust in the defense forces was instrumental in ensuring compliance with health guidelines. It can be seen that the Sri Lankan defense forces played a significant role in effectively responding to COVID-19. Their involvement showcased a collective approach to crisis management, demonstrating the adaptability of defense institutions. To further enhance readiness for future health crises, formal training modules can be introduced in the defense curriculum focusing on pandemic response.

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