

**ARE FAMILIES ADOPTING DEMOCRATIC VALUES?
A CASE STUDY FROM MATTAKKULIYA AND HENDALA
SRI LANKA**

**ANBALAHAN PAUL
REG. NO. 50799508**

**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL COMPLETION
OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR
THE MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES AND
PUBLIC POLICY OF THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA**

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL STUDIES
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES OF
THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRILANKA
NAWALA, NEGEGODA**

September 2011



70841

ABSTRACT

This study investigates the extent to which the concept of Democracy is practiced by the families in the Mattakkuliya and Hendala regions of Western Province in Sri Lanka. Parents of families in Mattakkuliya were born in areas out of Colombo but children were born in Colombo or suburbs and belong to middle income groups. Parents and children of families in Hendala were born in suburbs or Colombo and majority of them are from low income groups. The research uses the qualitative research methods; interviewing, observation during the interviews and forums to discuss family issues and case study analysis to solicit data on the practice of democratic values. It uses the theoretical framework of democratic values expressed in the works of Nancy Cott, Dennis Papini, XU Rui and Ana Cristina who have researched on the democratic practices in families and schools with emphasis on equality and negotiation.

This study reveals that the families who are open with each other and have healthy discussions have potential and positive energy. Those who are unable to communicate with each other struggle with lack of trust and fear. This study recommends that in order to get the benefit of a full democracy, the society should understand, accept and practice it in totality, so that the 'democratic system' would serve the society to create a better citizenship and governance. If not, the society has to sustain democracy at the expense of its own freedom. Therefore it is the duty of all those who wish fair governance to encourage the practice of democratic values in families.