

EDITORIAL

The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the Open University of Sri Lanka celebrates the publication of Volume 10 of VISTAS, the peer-reviewed journal of the faculty. This volume once again exhibits the diversity of research conducted in the fields of humanities, social sciences, and in open and distance learning.

Volume 10 of VISTAS opens with the paper titled “The ‘Racecourse’ of Then and Now: Evolution of the Sri Lankan English Vocabulary over two Generations of SLE speakers”. This paper by Perera and Weerasooriya explores the semantic and lexical changes that have taken place in the vocabulary of two age groups. The findings suggest that there has been an evolution in Sri Lankan English (SLE) during the past six decades and they predict that SLE would continue to change in the years to come.

While Perera and Weerasooriya discuss about the changes in SLE over the years, Wickramasinghe’s paper probes into the changes that have taken place in the electoral systems in Sri Lanka. Wickramasinghe discusses the drawbacks in the present local government organizational culture and she argues that it is the prevalence of these system deficiencies that obstruct democratic practices.

The third paper in this volume analyses the demographics of two cohorts of graduates produced by the Open University of Sri Lanka. Based on the findings of her tracer study, Jayatileke depicts that OUSL provides education to a wide variety of learners keeping to the ODL principle, “open to people”. However, Jayatileke argues that OUSL is yet to be “open to places” and stresses the need of expansion of its programmes to regions utilizing the OUSL network.

The paper by Pathmanesan discusses the findings of a participatory study conducted in Tamil Nadu, India. This paper presents the communication strategies used in a development programme that focused on raising awareness of the Malayali tribal community in Tamil Nadu. Pathmenesan describes his first-hand experience in using a variety of communication tools to identify the practices of this tribal community and the problems faced by them, and suggests measures that could be taken to improve education opportunities and living conditions of this community.

The Volume 10 of VISTAS closes with another thought-provoking paper on the beliefs of Sri Lankan secondary school learners and undergraduates on fluency in English. Ratwatte, based on the findings of her empirical study, raises questions about the widely held opinion of English in Sri Lanka.

VISTAS continues to strive for quality with its stringent, blind peer-review process to select the best papers for publication and this process presents many challenges. Hence, I make this opportunity to thank all authors, reviewers, language editors, the editorial board, the advisory board, desktop publisher, and the Open University Press for their support in publishing Volume 10 of VISTAS. I thank the Open University of Sri Lanka for providing financial support. We hope this volume would fulfil your quest for reading new research and encourage you to engage in scholarly research.

Dr. Radhika De Silva
Editor-in- Chief