

## **Land Issues of Post-War Ampara District: A preliminary observation**

**Ahmed, AN\***

### **Abstract**

The objective of this research paper is to discuss regarding the land issues of the Ampara district. The economy of this district mainly depends on land / agricultural lands. Land use patterns of this district has changed significantly in the recent past particularly after the independence of the country. And also this paper is looking at the land disputes that emerged and observes after the end of civil war in the Eastern province which was in 2007. The paper points out the preliminary observation of a major study on the theme of the paper. The research poses a question as to why district of Ampara is found to be a home of numerous land disputes. The study is with objectives of observing, understanding and explaining the causes and the consequences of the land disputes of the district. While the overall study is aimed at investigating the question of the research using a comprehensive research methodology and data collection, this paper draws its observations to preliminary observations that comes from an intensive field visits and observations of all parts of the district. At this stage, the study observed that land disputes are numerous, widespread, complex and dangerous from the perceptive of return of normalcy and peace of country which underwent more than 3 decades of war and conflict. Preliminary observations point that disputes are found between on private land as well as on the state lands. It was also found that the land disputes occur between different stakeholders such as between individuals, between communities, between state and individuals and communities. Land disputes are found among the people as well as within the different departments of the government. The preliminary observations assert that there is urgent need of understanding of the complexity of the land issues and disputes of the district of Ampara which would be a great benefit the policy makers to draw their attention in addressing those issues for resolution. The paper is divided into three sections. First section spells about the overall research project. Second section dealt with preliminary findings of the study and third section outline the needs of doing an in-depth study on the theme of the paper.

**Key words:** Land, Disputes, Land Use, Conflict

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To whom correspondence should be addressed: nahmed312@yahoo.com

\*Department of Biological Sciences, South Eastern University of Sri Lanka.