



Golden Jubilee Volume

1974 - 2024

Scale: 4 Chains to an Inch.

Fifty Years of Arts and Social Sciences

Compiled by
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Malathy Bakeerathan
Gayathree Srikandavel

Faculty of Arts
University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka
2024

From Jaffna

VADDUKODDAI

To Jaffna

To Pandeteruppu

Golden Jubilee Volume

1974 - 2024

**Faculty of Arts
University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka
2024**

Golden Jubilee Celebrations 1974 – 2024
Faculty of Arts
University of Jaffna

Golden Jubilee Event Chair

Professor. Subathini Ramesh

Faculty Volume

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Jaffna Campus Map in 1974

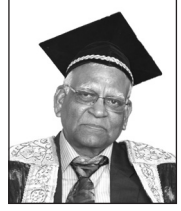
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I have pleasure and a sense of honour in sending my message of felicitations to the faculty of Arts, University of Jaffna, on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of this University.

I have a sentimental connection with this University and it goes beyond the establishment of the Jaffna Campus in 1974. I was associated with the late Prof. S. Selvanayagam on sending a memorandum to the Higher Education Commission in 1969 on the need for establishing a secular University in Jaffna.

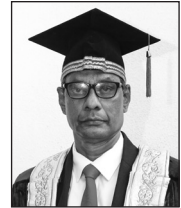
There was a movement for the establishment of separate University for the Tamils in the 50s of the last Century. It was led by leading intellectuals in society. Professors A.W. Mylvaganam, S. Sinnathampy (Faculty of Medicine), Rev. Fr. X.S. Thaninayagam, Justice Krishnasamy and Mr. Thiruchelvam QC were among founders. Their programme was stalled by a decision of Prime Minister Bandaranaike that was minuted after a meeting they had with him, “The Tamils shall have no University” was the decision that was recorded. Regardless of all these conflicting situations, the University of Jaffna was established by Prime Minister Mrs. Srimavo Bandaranaike in the historical year of 1974.

After my successful long academic career in the University, I was appointed unexpectedly as the Chancellor of the University of Jaffna in 2014. My consent was obtained before the appointment. I have attended all the Convocations except once when I was seriously ill. The post is an honorary and ceremonial one and the only responsibility as laid down by law is conducting the convocation and awarding degrees to the graduates. It was my endeavour to maintain the dignity of the post and refrained from any sort of interference on the administration and the institution.

The Faculty of Arts is confronted with the challenge of reawakening society and developing a deep concern for truth, liberty, Justice and enlightenment in public affairs. With its bravery in facing and rising above all difficult times, I wish Jaffna University the best.

Vice Chancellor

Professor.S.Srisatkunaraja
Vice Chancellor
University of Jaffna



It gives me immense pleasure to pen this message for the special volume to be published by the Faculty of Arts of the University of Jaffna to mark the Golden Jubilee of the founding of the Faculty. The Faculty of Humanities (which was later renamed the Faculty of Arts) was one of the two Faculties inaugurated with the establishment of the Jaffna Campus of the University of Sri Lanka in 1974. Ever since, the Faculty of Humanities/Arts has been central to the intellectual and cultural life of the University of Jaffna.

Since the inception of the faculty in October 1974, fifty years of academic pursuits in all spheres of teaching and learning, research and creative work and dissemination and community engagement have been rewarding to the region in particular and the nation in large. Especially the Faculty of Arts, consisting of seventeen departments in Humanities and Social Sciences has been the source of inspiration and beacon of light in setting the direction and guiding the society by preserving and modernizing the indigenous cultural treasures and social and economic growth. The Faculty of Sir Pon Ramanathan Faculty of Visual and Performing Arts originated as a separate faculty after being in the administration of the faculty of Arts for more than forty-six years with six departments catering the vision and ethos of Sir Pon Ramanathan and Madam Leelavathy Ramanathan. Further inclusion of degree programme in Law in the faculty fifteen years ago paved the way to the students and staff from diverse ethnic background to be part of the faculty community.

The scholarship offered by the Faculty of Arts focused on the social, economic, cultural and political lives of the people in the Northern region and beyond. The academics of the Faculty and their students showed a keen interest in studying the ancient history of the North, various social and cultural phenomena associated with the lives of the people in the region and the political struggles that took place here. The teachers attached to the Faculty did not confine their activities to classroom teaching but served as public intellectuals who played a key role in shaping public opinion on important matters.

The Faculty of Arts today teaches many disciplines and offers several degree programs. Students who graduated from this Faculty hold important positions in the public and private sectors of the country. Many of its alumni overseas show excellence in their chosen fields and have brought fame and honor to the University of Jaffna. I am delighted to note that this special volume will bear testimony to the work done by the Faculty of Arts for the past fifty years and inspire many generations to come to choose this Faculty for their higher studies. I extend my best wishes to all those who are involved in bringing out this volume.

Dean, Faculty of Arts

Professor.S.Raguram

Dean

Faculty of Arts

University of Jaffna



It is with immense pride and pleasure that I extend my heartfelt greetings as we mark a significant milestone, the Golden Jubilee of the Faculty of Arts and the University of Jaffna. This milestone is not just a celebration of the past fifty years but also a reflection of the unwavering dedication, academic excellence, and remarkable contributions of the Faculty of Arts towards knowledge development and societal advancement.

The release of the Faculty Volume is an integral part of these celebrations, serving as a documentation of the richness and academic pride of our esteemed Faculty. This compilation encapsulates our journey, from the inception of various departments to the remarkable growth of disciplines. It highlights the uniqueness of our curriculum, the pioneering individuals who have shaped our academic landscape, outstanding scholarly contributions, and the diverse research areas pursued by our dedicated faculty members. The Faculty Volume also sheds light on the avenues established by various departments for professional development and higher education, along with the faculty's dedicated efforts in disseminating knowledge and engaging in community outreach. This comprehensive record not only showcases our academic legacy but also serves as an inspiration for future generations.

Our Faculty of Arts has been the nerve center of producing graduates who have significantly contributed to the Tamil community, symbolizing the continuous development of knowledge. The curriculum we have crafted stands as a model for student-centered learning and outcome-based education, ensuring that our graduates are equipped with the necessary skills and competencies to excel in their respective fields.

We take great pride in our commitment to academic enhancement, fostering an environment where students are empowered with professional skills and talents to confidently navigate the ever-evolving world of work. The Faculty has proactively introduced systems to address contemporary challenges, guiding students towards higher education and professional development avenues.

Moreover, the Faculty of Arts has efficiently managed educational administration within a structured framework, ensuring that students complete their degree programs in a timely manner while receiving a holistic and enriching educational experience.

As we commemorate this Golden Jubilee, I am truly honoured to deliver this message in the Faculty Volume. I extend my sincere appreciation to all those who have contributed to the growth and success of the Faculty of Arts, and I look forward to witnessing its continued progress in the years to come.

Chair, Golden Jubilee Year

Professor. Subathini Ramesh

Chair
Golden Jubilee Year
Faculty of Arts



I write this message for the Golden Jubilee Volume of the Faculty of Arts, University of Jaffna with profound pride and deep gratitude. This milestone—celebrating 50 years of academic excellence—offers a unique opportunity to reflect upon the remarkable journey of this esteemed institution, its growth, its impact, and the challenges overcome to shape its present and future. As we mark this significant achievement, we do so, not only to honor the past but also to pave the way for an even brighter future of scholarship, innovation, and service to society.

The Importance of the Golden Jubilee

The Golden Jubilee of the Faculty of Arts is a celebration not just of five decades of existence, but of the tremendous contributions made to the intellectual, social, and cultural fabric of our region. This milestone gives us a moment to pause and reflect on our collective achievements, the individuals who have shaped this journey, and our broader impact, both locally and internationally. For the University of Jaffna, this occasion is not just a celebration of academic growth; it is a recognition of the resilience and determination of our community, particularly in the face of societal upheavals and challenges over the years.

This anniversary is also a moment to acknowledge the evolving role that the faculty has played in the transformation of higher education in Sri Lanka. The Faculty of Arts has not only contributed to the educational development of the Northern Province but has also played a pivotal role in shaping critical discourse on social, political, and cultural issues, positioning itself as an institution that responds to the needs of society while nurturing the next generation of scholars, leaders, and change-makers.

Growth of the Faculty: A Journey of Academic Excellence

The Faculty of Arts has evolved significantly since its establishment in 1974. From a modest academic unit, it has transformed into a dynamic, multi-disciplinary faculty that is recognized for its commitment to academic rigor, research, and social engagement. Initially, the Faculty offered limited programs and was focused primarily on undergraduate education. Over time, however, with the vision of dedicated faculty and the collective effort of staff and students, the Faculty has grown to offer a diverse range of undergraduate and postgraduate programs, contributing significantly to the region's higher education landscape.

Our growth has been driven by a constant striving for excellence. We have been able to build strong academic departments, attract a diverse pool of students, and develop a faculty that is both highly qualified and deeply committed to their fields. The journey from a small unit to a highly regarded faculty within the University of Jaffna reflects not only the progress of our institution but also the changing educational needs of the Northern Province and the country as a whole.

Pioneering Individuals and Academic Contributions

At the heart of this transformation has been the tireless efforts of pioneering individuals whose vision, dedication, and academic rigor laid the foundation for the success we enjoy today. The early members of the Faculty were visionaries who worked under challenging circumstances to create a thriving academic environment. Many of them, through their scholarship and leadership, have left an indelible mark on the faculty, and their contributions continue to influence our work today.

The legacy of these pioneering individuals is evident in the academic culture they established - one rooted in intellectual curiosity, social responsibility, and academic excellence. Their contributions were not limited to teaching and research; they were also instrumental in building partnerships with other institutions, developing new academic programs, and creating a supportive and inclusive environment for students.

Research Capacity and Scholarly Contributions

One of the most significant achievements of the Faculty over the past 50 years has been its growing research capacity. From its early days, the Faculty prioritized research as a cornerstone of academic excellence. Today, we are proud of the substantial body of original research that our staff has produced, which has not only contributed to the advancement of knowledge within specific disciplines but has also addressed pressing social issues. Our faculty members have engaged in research that spans a wide range of topics, from regional development to environmental sustainability, cultural heritage, and global issues.

The Faculty has built a reputation for fostering interdisciplinary research that bridges the gap between theory and practice. By engaging with local communities, policymakers, and international collaborators, our research has had a direct and tangible impact on society. We are proud to say that our scholars have produced work that not only meets academic standards but also has real-world relevance.

Dissemination of Knowledge and Global Engagement

Equally important to our research is the dissemination of knowledge. The Faculty has made significant strides in ensuring that our research reaches a global audience. Through academic publications, conferences, and public outreach, our faculty members have shared their findings with the broader academic community and the general public. We have consistently sought to engage in dialogue with scholars from around the world, participating in international conferences and collaborative research projects that enhance our global presence.

In addition to academic dissemination, we have also worked to ensure that our research is accessible and beneficial to our local communities. By organizing workshops, public lectures, and community-based research projects, the Faculty has maintained its commitment to social responsibility and community engagement. This dual focus on academic rigor and societal impact has defined our approach to knowledge dissemination over the years.

Contribution to Outreach and Community Engagement

Beyond the classroom and research laboratory, the Faculty of Arts has played an integral role in the broader community. Our outreach initiatives—whether in education, health, social development, or the arts—have allowed us to build strong, lasting relationships with various sectors of society. Through our community engagement, we have been able to bridge the gap between academic inquiry and real-world applications, making a tangible difference in the lives of many individuals and communities.

Our faculty members have contributed their expertise to addressing the challenges faced by the Northern Province and beyond. Whether through educational programs for underprivileged youth, health awareness campaigns, or initiatives aimed at preserving the region's rich cultural heritage, our outreach activities have been driven by a desire to make a positive impact.

Future Development: A Vision for the Next Fifty Years

As we look to the future, we are filled with a sense of optimism and determination. The next fifty years present exciting possibilities for the faculty. We are committed to continuing our tradition of academic excellence and innovation. Our goal is to remain at the forefront of higher education, continually adapting to the changing needs of society and the global landscape.

We envision expanding our academic programs, enhancing our research capabilities, and deepening our connections with the global academic community. Furthermore, we aim to strengthen our partnerships with local communities, ensuring that our work remains relevant, impactful, and accessible to those who need it most. The future holds great promise, and we are determined to ensure that the Faculty of Arts continues to thrive as an institution that serves not only our students but also the wider society.

The Importance of Documentation: A Volume for Future Generations

In celebrating this Golden Jubilee, we also recognize the importance of documenting our journey. The volume being launched today is not just a collection of historical milestones; it is a critical resource for future generations. By documenting our departments' history, growth, staff contributions, research advancements, and community engagement, this volume ensures that our achievements are preserved for future reference. It is an invaluable record that will serve as a guide for those who follow in our footsteps—helping them understand the challenges we faced, the successes we achieved, and the lessons we learned along the way.

This volume is not only a celebration of our past but also a treasure for the Faculty and the University of Jaffna. It captures the essence of our academic journey and provides a comprehensive record of our impact, which will serve as a source of inspiration and knowledge for future faculty members, students, and researchers. It is, quite simply, a legacy that will continue to enrich the intellectual and cultural heritage of our institution.

Final Remarks

As we reflect on the past 50 years and look forward to the next, we express our deepest gratitude to all who have contributed to the success of the Faculty. Our faculty members, staff, students, and alumni have each played a vital role in shaping the institution into what it is today. Together, we have built an academic community that is both resilient and forward-looking, committed to excellence and service.

Let us continue to draw inspiration from our past as we embrace the future with renewed energy and vision. Here's to the next fifty years of academic excellence, innovation, and service to society.

Since the time of the inception of this task, all the departments have supported us in completing this historical volume. Now, as the editors, it is time for us to acknowledge all the support extended to compile this volume to mark an important historical conjuncture of Arts and Social Sciences education in the Faculty of Arts, University of Jaffna. I would like to offer a big thanks to all the Heads and writers of the Departments, this would not have been materialized without their valuable contribution. A special thank should go to Professor.S.Raguram, Dean of the Faculty and the instrumental for the Golden Jubilee Celebrations, for coordinating this task with a strong sense of commitment and showing much enthusiasm in producing this volume. Dr. M. Thiruvarangan, Senior Lecturer attached to the Department of Linguistics and English, the Language Editor deserves a particular note of thanks for his editorial support in the final stages.

I am so pleased to see that, as a team, I was able to accomplish several activities including this Golden Jubilee event quite successfully with the guidance and support of Dr.Maithili Visagaruban, Deputy Librarian, the Person in Charge of the Photo Archive and her team. Our sincere thanks go to Mrs.Piratheepa Vipulan, Senior Lecturer attached to the Department of Geography and the Person in Charge of Staff Publications. Our Senior Assistant Registrar Mrs.K.Sumithra Faculty of Arts, and Mr.S.Niroshan, Senior Lecturer, Department of Philosophy gave their fullest support which is highly appreciated. Special thanks must go to Dr. P.Ahilan, Senior Lecturer, Department of fine Arts for designing. Mr. A. Pirasath did the layout of the volume. Finally, we would like to offer our thanks to the Mutthamil Printers.

முன்னாள் துணைவேந்தர்
(பூலை 1996 - மார்ச் 2003)

பேராசிரியர்.பொ.பாலகந்தரம்பிள்ளை
வாழ்நாள் பேராசிரியர்
யாழ்ப்பாணப் பல்கலைக்கழகம்



யாழ்ப்பாணப் பல்கலைக்கழகத்தின் பொன்விழாக் கொண்டாட்டத்தின் ஒரு பகுதியாக கலைப்பீடத்தினால் வெளியிடப்படவிருக்கும் பொன்விழா மலருக்கு இப்பீடத்தினைச் சேர்ந்த முன்னாள் துணைவேந்தர் என்னும் தகைமையில் செய்தி எழுதுவதில் மிக்க மகிழ்ச்சியடைகின்றேன்.

கலைப்பீடம் பல்கலைக்கழகத்தில் ஆரம்பிக்கப்பட்ட முதல் இரு பீடங்களில் ஒன்றாகும். எனினும் அது 1978 வரை மானிடவியல் பீடம் என அழைக்கப்பட்டு, 01.01.1979 இலிருந்து கலைப்பீடம் எனப் பெயர்மாற்றம் பெற்றது. இக்கலைப்பீடத்தில் ஆரம்பத்தில் தமிழ், இந்துநாகரிகம், வரலாறு, புவியியல், பொருளியல் ஆகியனவே கற்பிக்கப்பட்டன. கலைப்பீடக் கற்கைகள் எங்கள் பிரதேசம், மொழி, சமயங்கள், பண்பாடு, சுதேச மருத்துவம் என எங்கள் வாழ்வுடனும் வளமுடனும் தொடர்புபட்டதால் அவைகளை வளர்த்து எடுக்க வேண்டுமென்ற நிலைப் பாட்டைப் பல்கலைக்கழகச் சமூகமும், துணைவேந்தர்களும் கொண்டிருந்தனர். இலங்கையில் வேறு பல்கலைக்கழகங்களில் தமிழ்மொழி மூலம் இல்லாத கற்கைநெறிகளை யாழ்ப்பாணப் பல்கலைக்கழகத்திலேயே ஆரம்பிக்க முடியும் என்ற நிலை கருத்திற்கொள்ளப்பட்டதுடன், ஆரம்பத்தில் குறைகள் இருப்பினும் அவற்றைக் காலவோட்டத்தில் சீர்செய்ய முடியும் என்ற நிலைப்பாட்டையும் பீடம் கொண்டிருந்தது.

இந்நிலையில் பீடத்தில் பல புதிய பாடங்களை அறிமுகப்படுத்துவதற்குப் பாடங்களிற்குத் துறைசார் நிபுணர்கள் ஆரம்பத்தில் இல்லாதிருந்தபொழுதும் பல்வேறு நிறுவனங்களில் இருந்த துறைசார் நிபுணர்களைப் பயன்படுத்தி புதிய பாடத்துறைகள் ஆரம்பிக்கப்பட்டன. இப்புதிய துறைகள் கடின உழைப்பின் மூலம் குறுகிய காலத்தில் வளர்த்தெடுக்கப்பட்டு, இன்று நிலைபேறான வளர்ச்சியைப் பெற்றுள்ளன. உதாரணமாக இந்து நாகரிகம், இந்து தத்துவம், சமூகவியல், உளவியல், மானிடவியல், ஆங்கில இலக்கியம், மொழியியல், மொழிபெயர்ப்பியல், மனைப்பொருளியல், தொல்லியல், ஊடகக்கற்கை என அவை நீண்டுசெல்லும். மேலும் யாழ்ப்பாணக் கல்வியாளர்களின் கரிசனையும் உதவியும் கலைப்பீட வளர்ச்சிக்குப் பங்களித்தன.

தென்னிலங்கைப் பல்கலைக்கழகங்கள் பலவற்றில் கலைப்பீடப் பாடங்கள் பல ஆங்கிலம், சிங்கள மொழிகள் மூலம் மாத்திரம் கற்பிக்கப்பட்டு வந்ததால்,

தமிழ்மொழிமூலம் அங்கு கற்கும் மாணவர்களுக்கான பாடத்தெரிவுக்கான சந்தர்ப்பம் பெரிதும் மட்டுப்படுத்தப்பட்டிருந்தது. தமிழ்மொழி மூல மாணவர்களுக்குத் தமிழ்மொழி மூலம் பல பாடங்களைக் கற்கும் சந்தர்ப்பத்தை உருவாக்கவும் தமிழ்மொழிக் கல்விக்கு வலுச்சேர்க்கவும், பல பாடங்கள் கலைப்பீடக் கல்வி செயற்பாட்டில் படிப்படியாகச் சேர்க்கப்பட்டன. இச்செயற்பாட்டினால் தமிழ்மொழி மூலம் கற்கும் மாணவர்களும், தமிழ் மக்களும் நன்மை பெற்றதுடன் தமிழ்மொழியும் வளம்பெற்றது எனலாம். சமூகவியல், மானிடவியல், உளவியல், மொழியியல், சமுதாயப் பிராந்தியத் திட்டமிடல், மனைப்பொருளியல், மொழிபெயர்ப்பியல், தொல்லியல், ஊடகக்கற்கை, கலாசாரச் சுற்றுலாத் துறையியல் எனப் பல பாடநெறிகள் படிப்படியாக அறிமுகப்படுத்தப்பட்டு, கலைப்பீடம் பொலிவு பெற்றதுடன், அது இலங்கையில் இன்று எந்தவொரு கலைப்பீடத்திலும் பார்க்கக் கூடுதலான பாடநெறிகளை கற்பிக்கும் பீடமாகவும், பீடத்திற்கு அனுமதி பெறும் மாணவர்களில் நான்கு வருடச் சிறப்புக்கலை கற்கும் மாணவர்கள் விகிதம் மிக உயர்வாகவுள்ள பீடமாகவும் விளங்குகின்றது. பீடத்திற்கான வருடாந்த மாணவர் அனுமதி 650ஐத் தாண்டியுள்ளது. யுத்த காலப்பகுதியில் மிகப்பெரும்பான்மையான மாணவர்கள் வடமாகாணத்தைச் சேர்ந்தவர்களாக இருந்தனர்; இன்று நாட்டின் சகல மாவட்டங்களிலிருந்தும் மாணவர்கள் இங்குவந்து கற்பது, அவர்களது ஊடாட்டம், பரந்த புரிந்துணர்விற்கு வழிவகுத்துள்ளது என்பது குறிப்பிடத்தக்கது.

நீண்ட காலமாகக் கலைப்பீடத்திற்குள் இருந்த இந்துநாகரிகம், சமஸ்கிருதம், சைவசித்தாந்தம், ஆகிய துறைகள் சேர்ந்து இந்துக் கற்கைகள் பீடமாகவும், பரதநாட்டியம், கர்நாடக சங்கீதம், சித்திரமும் வடிவமைப்பும், வாத்திய சங்கீதம் ஆகியன நாடகமும் அரங்கியல் ஆகியவற்றை உள்ளடக்கி இன்று ஆறு துறைகளைக்கொண்ட சேர் பொன்னம்பலம் இராமநாதன் கட்டி அமைக்காற்றுப் பீடமாகவும் விளங்குகின்றன. மேலும் சித்தவைத்திய அலகானது இன்று எட்டுத் துறைகளைக்கொண்ட சித்த வைத்திய பீடமாகவும் தரம் உயர்ந்துள்ளது. இதேபோன்று கலைப்பீடத்திற்குள் இருந்த வணிக மற்றும் முகாமைத்துவத் துறைகள் இன்று ஐந்து துறைகள் கொண்ட முகாமைத்துவ கற்கைகள் மற்றும் வணிக பீடமாகத் தரமுயர்த்தப்பட்டுள்ளது.

கனடா சர்வதேச அபிவிருத்தி நிதி (CIDA) உதவியுடனும், கனேடிய பிரித்தானியப் பல்கலைக்கழகத்தின் ஒத்துழைப்புடனும் கலைப்பீடத்தில் புவியியற்றுறையினூடாக சமுதாய பிராந்திய திட்டமிடல் கற்கைநெறி முன்னெடுக்கப்பட்டது. யுனெஸ்கோ மற்றும் ஸ்கன்டிநேவியா நாடுகளான டென்மார்க், சுவீடன், நோர்வேயின் உதவியுடன் ஊடக வளங்களும் கற்கை மையமும் நிறுவப்பட்டதன் பின்புலத்திலேயே, கலைப்பீடத்தில் ஊடகக் கற்கைநெறி விருத்தி செய்யப்பட்டது. சுவீடன் உப்சாலா பல்கலைக்கழகத்திற்கும் யாழ்ப்பாணப் பல்கலைக்கழகத்திற்கும் இடையே ஏற்பட்ட புரிந்துணர்வின் மூலம் இந்துநாகரிகம், மெய்யியல் துறைகளைச் சேர்ந்த பேராசிரியர்கள் மற்றும் விரிவுரையாளர்கள் மேற்கல்வியைக் கற்கவும், கல்வியை வளம்படுத்தவும் சந்தர்ப்பம் கிடைத்தது. இதேபோல் கடந்த காலங்களில் பல வெளிநாட்டுப் பல்கலைக்கழகங்களுடன்

இணைந்த ஆராய்ச்சிகள், புரிந்துணர்வுகள் ஏற்படுத்தப்பட்டு, பீடம் பல வழிகளிலும் கற்றல் கற்பித்தல் செயற்பாடுகளில் முன்னேற்றமடைந்துள்ளது. வெளிநாட்டு உதவித்திட்டங்களில் ஒன்றான அமெரிக்க உதவித்திட்டத்தின் கீழ் தொல்லியல் நூதனசாலை எல்லா உதவித்திட்டங்களுக்குள் மகுடம் வைத்தது போல் அமைந்துள்ளது.

1974 - 1999 இற்கு இடைப்பட்ட காலத்தில் பல்கலைக்கழகத்தில் முன்னெடுக்கப்பட்ட மேற்படிப்புச் செயற்பாடுகளில், ஒருசிலவற்றைத் தவிர ஏனையவை யாவும் கலைப்பீடத்தினால் மேற்கொள்ளப்பட்டன. 1999இல் பட்டப்படிப்புகள் பீடம் உருவாக்கப்பட்ட பின்னர் பட்டப்படிப்புகள் யாவும் பட்டப்படிப்புப் பீடத்தின்கீழ் கொண்டுவரப்பட்டுள்ளன. நிர்வாகத்தை பட்டப்படிப்புகள்பீடம்மேற்கொண்டாலும்கற்பித்தல், ஆராய்ச்சி பட்டங்களுக்கான மேற்பார்வைகளை ஏனைய பீடங்களே மேற்கொள்கின்றன. பட்டப்படிப்பு மாணவர்களில் மிகப் பெரும்பான்மையினர் கலைப்பீடப் பாடங்கள் தொடர்பான ஆராய்ச்சி மாணவர்கள் என்பது குறிப்பிடத்தக்கது.

கலைப்பீடத்தின் கல்வித்துறை 1980களில் இருந்து கல்வியில் முழுநேர பட்டப்பின் டிப்ளோமா கற்கையையும், 1985இல் இருந்து கல்வியில் முழுநேர மற்றும் பகுதிநேர பட்டப்பின் டிப்ளோமா கற்கைகளையும் முன்னெடுத்ததுடன் முதுமாணி, முதுதத்துவமாணி, கலாநிதி ஆய்வுப்பட்ட செயற்பாடுகளையும் முன்னெடுத்தது. 1999இல் பட்டப்படிப்புப் பீடம் அமைக்கப்பட்ட பின், கல்வித்துறையில் முன்னெடுக்கப்பட்ட செயற்பாடுகள் யாவும் பட்டப்படிப்புப் பீடத்தின்கீழ் வந்துள்ளன. எனினும் கல்வியில் முழுநேர பட்டப்பின் டிப்ளோமா கற்கைநெறி இன்னமும் கலைப்பீடத்தின்கீழ் உள்ளது.

இன்றைய திறந்த தொலைக்கல்வி நிலைய செயற்பாடுகளுக்கு, முன்னோடியாக இருந்த வெளிவாரிக் கற்கை அலகு, 1991இல் கலைப்பீடத்தால் ஆரம்பிக்கப்பட்டது. 1991 - 1999 இற்கு இடைப்பட்ட காலத்தில் கல்வி கற்று வெளியேறிய வெளிவாரிப்பட்டதாரிகள் யாவரும் கலைப்பீடத்திற்குரியவர்கள். 1999க்குப் பின்னர் கலைப்பீடமும், வணிக மற்றும் முகாமைத்துவ பீடமும் வெளிவாரிக் கற்கைச் செயற்பாட்டிலும், இன்றைய திறந்த தொலைக்கல்விச் செயற்பாட்டிலும் ஈடுபட்டு வருகின்றன. இந்த அலகுகள் மூலம் 5000 இற்கும் மேற்பட்ட கலை, வர்த்தக பட்டதாரிகள் பட்டம் பெற்று வெளியேறியுள்ளனர். இவர்களில் மிகப்பெரும்பாலானவர்கள் கலைப்பட்டதாரிகள் என்பது குறிப்பிடத்தக்கது.

கலைப்பீடம் பல்கலைக்கழகத்தின் பிரதான பகுதியில், குறிப்பாகப் பரமேஸ்வரன் ஆலயச் சூழலில் அமைந்திருப்பது மன நிறைவைத் தருகின்றது. கலைப்பீடம் ஆரம்ப காலத்திலிருந்து இன்று வரைக்கும் தொடர்ச்சியாக இடநெருக்கடிக்கு உட்பட்டே செயற்பட்டு வருகின்றது. புதிய கட்டடத் தொகுதி அமைக்கப்பட்டபொழுதும், அது கலைப்பீடத்தின் ஒட்டுமொத்த வளர்ச்சிக்கு ஈடுகொடுக்கவில்லை. கலைப்பீடத்தின் விரிவுரை மண்டபமாக அமையப்பெற்ற

கைலாசபதி கலையரங்கத்தின் பயன்பாடு மிகவும் உயர்வாகவுள்ளது. இதன் சாதகமான இடவமைவினாலும், வசதிகளினாலும் மாணவர்களாலும், பொதுமக்களாலும் பெரிதும் பயன்படுத்தப்பட்டு வருகின்றதுடன், ஒரு அறிவுப் பகிர்வு மண்டபமாக விளங்கி கலைப்பீடத்திற்கு பெருமை சேர்க்கின்றது. 1987ஆம் ஆண்டு இந்திய அமைதிப்படைக்கும் விடுதலைப் புலிகளுக்கும் இடையே ஏற்பட்ட யுத்தத்தினால் கலைப்பீடக் கட்டடங்களுக்குப் பெரும் அழிவு ஏற்பட்டது. மேலும் 1995ஆம் ஆண்டு வலிகாமம் மக்களின் இடப்பெயர்வினாலும், பல்கலைக்கழகச் செயற்பாடுகள் சிலமாதங்கள் நடைபெறாதிருந்தமையாலும், கலைப்பீடச் சொத்துக்களுக்கு குறிப்பாக அசையும் சொத்துக்களுக்குச் சேதமேற்பட்டன. இத்தகைய இடர்மிகுந்த காலங்களிலும் அன்றைய பீடாதிபதிகள், பீட அங்கத்தவர்கள், துணைவேந்தர்களின் கட்டுக்கோப்பான கடின உழைப்பால் பீடம் குறுகிய காலத்தில் புனருத்தாரணம், புனர்நிர்மானம் செய்யப்பட்டு புதுப்பொலிவு பெற்றது. எத்தகைய இடர்ப்பாடு நிலைகளிலும் பீடத்தின் நாளாந்தக் கல்விச் செயற்பாடுகளோ, வளர்ச்சி நடவடிக்கைகளோ தடைப்படவில்லை என்பது பெருமைக்குரியது.

சமூகத்தில் கலை, இலக்கியம், சமயம், சமூகப்பணி எனப் பெரும் பணியாற்றியவர்களைக் கலைப்பீடம் காலத்திற்குக் காலம் இனங்கண்டு பட்டமளிப்பு விழாக்களிலும் மற்றும் முக்கிய நிகழ்வுகளிலும் அவர்களைக் கௌரவம் செய்துவருவது சமூகத்தின் உறவுக்கு வலுச்சேர்க்கின்றது.

பொன்விழா ஆண்டில் இப்பீடம் பல்வேறு நிலைகளில் வளர்ச்சி பெற்றிருப்பதுடன், மாணவர் எண்ணிக்கை அதிகரிப்பு, பேராசிரியர்கள் விரிவுரையாளர்கள் எண்ணிக்கை அதிகரிப்பு, அவர்கள் தகைமை அதிகரிப்பு, புதிய பாடவிதானம், புதிய பரீட்சை முறைகள் போன்றன மகிழ்ச்சிக்குரியனவாகும். எனினும் அடுத்தகட்டக் கல்வி விரிவாக்கம், தரமேம்பாடு, மாணவர்களின் ஆற்றல் மேம்பாடு மற்றும் உட்கட்டமைப்பு அதிகரிப்பு என்பன குறித்து எதிர்கால வளர்ச்சிக்கு, காலதாமதமின்றித் திட்டமிடப்பட வேண்டும் என்பது எனது கனிவான வேண்டுகோள்.

கலைப்பீடத்தினை வளர்த்தெடுத்த முன்னாள் பீடாதிபதிகள், துறைத்தலைவர்கள், பேராசிரியர்கள், விரிவுரையாளர்கள் கல்விசாரா ஊழியர்கள் யாவரும் பாராட்டிற்குரியவர்கள்.

கலைப்பீடம் பல்வேறு துறைகளிலும் பெரும் வளர்ச்சி காண எனது மனம் நிறைந்த வாழ்த்துக்கள்.

Former Vice Chancellor
(December 2007 - March 2011)

Professor.N.Shanmugalingam
Emeritus Professor in Sociology
University of Jaffna



I am delighted to pen this message of greetings to our faculty on this momentous golden jubilee. In fact, Faculty of Arts evolved as the core soul of the holistic development of our prestigious University of Jaffna. Our journey of achievements has been with a lot of courage and challenges from the time of our founder President, Prof .K.Kailasapathy and the first Vice Chancellor Prof .S.Vithiananthan of our faculty.

I am proud to be a part of this journey to cherish Sociology education of the faculty, a long awaited dream of the society, as founder head and first Professor of Sociology as well as its other innovative endeavors. I was also blessed to lead the university as Vice Chancellor in the foot prints of our pioneers in a very critical period. Further my engagement in the academic arena of the university and community continues.

At this juncture of joyous and proud occasion, my heartfelt best wishes to the faculty to continue its exemplary journey in nurturing the future generations in the fields of humanities and social sciences and to play the key role in the community engagement responsibilities of the university.

Former Dean

(October 1974 - May 1976 & December 1982 - July 1984)

Professor.K.Indrapala

Faculty of Arts (Originally Humanities)
University of Jaffna



It gives me great pleasure to write this message on the 50th anniversary of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Jaffna. As the first Dean of this faculty, I feel truly fortunate to have witnessed its remarkable transformation from its humble beginnings to its current status as a comprehensive academic institution.

When we first established this faculty, we started with just three departments, operating with scarce resources and big dreams. Today, I am filled with great joy and deep satisfaction to see how that initial seedling has grown into a magnificent, flourishing establishment. The journey has been nothing short of extraordinary.

The faculty's path has not been an easy one. It has traversed through immense difficulties, particularly during the long ethnic conflict. Yet, despite these challenges, the Faculty of Arts has managed to make commendable achievements that stand as a testament to the resilience and dedication of its faculty, staff, and students.

As a permanent student of history, I have learned that the past is neither for blind glorification nor for undue criticism. Instead, it is a rich repository of lessons. We must learn from our mistakes and build upon the things we did right. The present calls for careful stock-taking, continuous improvement, and an unwavering commitment to excellence. The future demands that we anticipate challenges and prepare ourselves to meet them head-on.

There is a profound wisdom in the Japanese saying (originally from Chinese), "Senri no michi mo ippon kara" – even a journey of a thousand miles begins with one step. In 1974, we took that first tentative step, journeying through what was then a muddy lane. Today, you find yourselves on a highway of academic excellence. My message to you is simple: keep going, keep growing.

Faculty of Arts University of Jaffna /xv

Today, there are discussions about the potential decline of the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (HASS) in the face of remarkable advances in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Medicine (STEM). Some wonder if we are in danger of losing our ‘humanness’. As a historian, I remain optimistic. For five millennia, great minds – philosophers and scientists alike – have attempted to change the human world, yet human nature remains fundamentally consistent. The Humanities will continue to be relevant and necessary, providing the critical context and understanding that technological advances require.

STEM and HASS are not competitors, but complementary disciplines. They will need each other to truly advance human knowledge and understanding. I am confident that the Faculty of Arts is well-positioned to face these challenges and continue its legacy of academic excellence.

To the Faculty of Arts, University of Jaffna: I wish you continued success, unwavering resilience, and the courage to keep exploring, learning, and growing.

முன்னாள் பீடாதிபதி
(மார்ச் 1991 - மார்ச் 1997)

பேராசிரியர்.பொ.பாலகந்தரம்பிள்ளை
வாழ்நாள் பேராசிரியர்
யாழ்ப்பாணப் பல்கலைக்கழகம்



யாழ்ப்பாணப் பல்கலைக்கழகத்தின் பொன்விழா நிகழ்வையொட்டி, கலைப்பீடம் வெளியிடவிருக்கும் பொன்விழா மலருக்கு வாழ்த்துச்செய்தி எழுதுவதில் பெருமகிழ்ச்சியடைகின்றேன்.

1980 இலிருந்து 2006 வரை புவியியல் பேராசிரியராகவும், கலைப்பீடத்தில் அங்கத்தவராகவும், 1985இல் இரு மாதங்கள் பதில் கலைப்பீடாதிபதியாகவும், 1991-1997 இற்கு இடைப்பட்ட ஆறு வருடங்கள் இரு தடவைகள் கலைப்பீடாதிபதியாகவும் கடமையாற்றி, பீடத்தின் செயற்பாட்டிற்கும் வளர்ச்சிக்கும் ஆக்கபூர்வமாகவும், அர்ப்பணிப்புடனும் செயலாற்றியுள்ளேன் என்ற மனநிறைவும் மகிழ்ச்சியும் எனக்கு உள்ளது.

நான் பீடாதிபதியாக இருந்த காலத்தில் பீடத்தின் செயற்பாடு திறம்பட அமைய வேண்டுமென்ற கொள்கையடிப்படையில் அபிவிருத்தி முயற்சிகள் மேற்கொள்ளப்பட்டன. இலங்கைப் பல்கலைக்கழகம் பேராதனையில் படித்த காலத்திலும், அங்கு விரிவுரையாளராக இருந்த காலத்திலும் தமிழ்மொழி மூலம் கற்ற மாணவர்கள் எதிர்கொண்ட பிரச்சினைகளை நன்கறிவேன். இச்சூழ்நிலையில் பின்வரும் கொள்கைகளின் அடிப்படையில் எனது பீட அபிவிருத்தி செயற்பாடுகள் இருந்தன. அவையாவன:

1. கலைப்பீடத்தில் பல பாடங்கள் சிறப்புக்கலை மட்டத்தில் கற்பிக்கப்பட வேண்டும். மேலும் கலைப்பீட மாணவர்களில் மிகப்பெரும்பான்மையினர் ஏதாவதொரு பாடத்தில் நான்கு வருட சிறப்புக்கலை பட்டப்படிப்பினை மேற்கொள்ளவேண்டும். இதன்வழியாக அவர்களது மேற்படிப்புக்கும் தொழில் தேடலுக்கும் இவை உதவியாக அமையும். இப்பின்புலத்தில் சமூகவியல், மானிடவியல். இந்துதத்துவம், உளவியல், தொல்லியல், மனைப்பொருளியல், ஊடகவியல், சமுதாயப் பிராந்தியத் திட்டமிடல் கற்கைகள் அறிமுகம் செய்யப்பட்டன. மேலும் மாணவர்கள் எல்லாப் பாடங்களிலும் நான்கு வருட சிறப்புக்கலை கற்குமாறு ஊக்குவிக்கப்பட்டார்கள். அத்துடன் பட்டதாரி மாணவர்கள் பட்டப்பின் டிப்ளோமா, முதுமாணி, கலாநிதிப் படிப்புகளுக்கும் ஊக்குவிக்கப்பட்டார்கள். குறிப்பாக தமிழ். இந்துநாகரிகம், புவியியல், பொருளியலில் குறிப்பிடத்தக்க எண்ணிக்கையினர் பட்டப்பின் மேற்படிப்புக்களை மேற்கொண்டார்கள் என்பது குறிப்பிடத்தக்கது.

கலைப்பீடத்தால் கல்வியில் பட்டப்பின் பகுதிநேர டிப்ளோமா கற்கையும் (1985), பொது நிர்வாகத்தில் பட்டப்பின் டிப்ளோமா கற்கைநெறியும் (1992) அறிமுகப்படுத்தப்பட்டது.

2.

i. பல்கலைக்கழக அனுமதிக்குத் தகுதி இருந்தும், அனுமதி கிடைக்காத மாணவர்களுக்கும் உயர்கல்வி கற்பதற்கு வாய்ப்புக்கொடுக்கும் நோக்குடன், யாழ்ப்பாணப் பல்கலைக்கழகம் கலைப்பிரிவில் வெளிவாரிப்பட்டப்படிப்பு பிரிவு ஒன்று உருவாக்கப்பட்டது. இச்செயற்பாட்டிற்கு ஆரம்பத்தில் உள்வாரி மாணவர்கள் கடும் எதிர்ப்பினை காட்டியபொழுதும், அதனைச் சமாளித்து இத்திட்டம் வெற்றிகரமாகச் செயற்படுத்தப்பட்டது.

ii. பல்கலைக்கழகச் சூழலில் வாழும் மக்கள் தங்கள் அறிவை விருத்தியாக்குவதற்கு உதவியாக பல்கலைக்கழக கலைப்பீடத்தில் புறநிலைக் கற்கை ஆரம்பிக்கப்பட்டுப் பல்வகையான விடயங்களில் குறுகியகால கற்கைகள் மேற்கொள்ளப்பட்டன. இவ்வலகு பல வருடங்கள் சிறப்பாகச் செயற்பட்டது.

iii. தொழிலாளர்கள் மற்றும் முறைசார்ந்த, முறைசாராத தொழிலாளர்கள் தங்கள் வாண்மையை விருத்திசெய்யவும், அவர்களது அறிவு ஆளுமையை மேம்படுத்தவும், தொழிலாளர் கல்வி அலகு உருவாக்கப்பட்டுச் சிலகாலம் சிறப்பாகச் செயற்பட்டது. மேற்குறிப்பிட்ட இம்மூன்று பிரிவுகளும் தற்போது திறந்த தொலைக்கல்வி நிறுவனத்தின் செயற்பாட்டிற்குள் உள்வாங்கப்பட்டுள்ளதுடன், அவை சிறப்பாகவும் செயற்பட்டுக்கொண்டிருக்கின்றன.

3. இராமநாதன் நுண்கலைக்கழகம் 1960இல் ஆரம்பிக்கப்பட்டு, பின்னர் 1975இல் பல்கலைக்கழக வளாகம் அதனைப் பொறுப்பேற்றது. எனினும் 1990களிற்கு முன்பு பல நிலைகளில் இந்நிறுவனம் மிகவும் பின்தங்கியிருந்தது. இந்த நிறுவனத்தை மேம்படுத்துவது பல்கலைக்கழகத்தினது முக்கிய பொறுப்பு என சமூகம் எதிர்பார்த்தது. இந்நிலையில் 1993இல் இராமநாதன் நுண்கலை நிறுவனத்தில் பாரிய கல்வி நிர்வாக சீர்திருத்தம் மேற்கொள்ளப்பட்டது.

i. கர்நாடக சங்கீதம், பரத நாட்டியம் மற்றும் துறைகளுக்கும் பட்டப்படிப்பு மாணவர்கள் முதன்முறையாக அனுமதிக்கப்பட்டனர்.

ii. கட்டுரையாளர்கள் விரிவுரையாளர்களாகப் பதவி உயர்த்தப்பட்டார்கள். மேலும் ஆற்றுகைத் துறை உருவாக்கப்பட்டது, இத்துறை கலைப்பீடத்தின் முழு அங்கமாகச் செயற்பட்டது. பின்னர் ஆற்றுகைத் துறையானது சங்கீதத் துறை நடனத்துறை என இரண்டாகப் பிரிக்கப்பட்டது. மேலும் நடனத்துறைக்குள் சித்திரமும் வடிவமைப்பும் என்ற பட்டப்படிப்பு புதிதாக உருவாக்கப்பட்டது.

1991 - 1997 காலப்பகுதியில் நாட்டில் யுத்தம் நிலவிய சூழ்நிலையிலும், கலைப்பீடம் பல நிலைகளில் வளர்ச்சிப்பாதையில் சென்றது. அன்று கலைப்பீடத்திற்குள் இன்றைய முகாமைத்துவ, வர்த்தக, இந்து கற்கைகள், சேர் பொன் இராமநாதன் கட்டிட அமைகாற்று மற்றும் சித்த வைத்திய பீடங்கள் யாவும்

இருந்தன என்பது குறிப்பிடத்தக்கது. 1990களில் பல்கலைக்கழகத்தின் மாணவர் எண்ணிக்கையில் 2/3 பங்கினர் கலைப்பீடத்தினைச் சார்ந்தவர்களாக இருந்தனர். கலைப்பீடம் பல்வேறு பிரச்சினைகளை எதிர்நோக்கியபொழுதும் சிறந்த அனுபவம் வாய்ந்த உயர்தரமான பட்டதாரிகளை வெளியேற்றி பெருமை கொண்டது.

1991இல் நான் கலைப்பீடாதிபதியாக இருந்த காலத்தில் பேராசிரியர் அ.துரைராசா துணைவேந்தராக இருந்தார். இவரும் நானும் பேராதனைப் பல்கலைக்கழகத்தில் நீண்டகாலம் ஒன்றாகப் பணிபுரிந்ததால், நல்ல புரிந்துணர்வு இருந்தது. இவர் எனது பீட அபிவிருத்தி முயற்சிகளுக்கு மிகவும் ஒத்துழைப்பு வழங்கியமை பெரும் உதவியாகவிருந்தது. பீடத்தின் வளர்ச்சிக்கும், எனது அபிவிருத்தி முயற்சிகளுக்கும் மிகவும் ஒத்துழைப்பு வழங்கினார். இவர் துணைவேந்தராக இருந்த காலத்தில், மருத்துவ சிகிச்சைக்காகப் பலமுறை விடுப்பில் சென்றபொழுதெல்லாம் என்னை பதில் துணைவேந்தராகக் கடமையாற்றப் பணித்தார். மற்றும் பல்வேறு பொறுப்புக்களை எனக்கு வழங்கினார்.

1996ஆம் ஆண்டு மே மாதத்திலிருந்து 1997ஆம் ஆண்டு பெப்ரவரி இறுதிவரை கலைப்பீடாதிபதியாகவும், பதில் துணைவேந்தராகவும் கடமையாற்றியிருந்தேன். இரு பதவிகளிலும் மிகவும் கடினமான காலப்பகுதியில் சிறப்பான பணியை மேற்கொண்டிருந்ததால், தொடர்ந்தும் துணைவேந்தராகக் கடமையாற்ற நியமிக்கச் சந்தர்ப்பம் கிட்டியது.

பதில் பீடாதிபதியாக நான் செயற்பட்டபொழுது, அன்று துணைவேந்தராக இருந்த பேராசிரியர். சு.வித்தியானந்தன், பீடாதிபதியாக கடமையாற்றியபொழுது பேராசிரியர். அ. துரைராசா மற்றும் பேராசிரியர். க.குணரத்தினம் ஆகியோர் வழங்கிய ஆதரவுக்கும், அவர்கள் என்மேல் வைத்திருந்த நம்பிக்கைக்கும் நன்றியைத் தெரிவித்துக் கொள்கின்றேன்.

எனது விரிவுரையாளரும், பெருமதிப்புக்கும் அன்புக்குமுரிய முன்னாள் கலைப்பீடாதிபதியுமான பேராசிரியர். ந.பாலகிருஷ்ணன் என்றும் என்நினைவில் நீங்கா நிற்பர்.

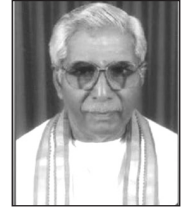
எனது பீடாதிபதி பதவிக்காலத்தில் நான் மேற்கொண்ட பல கல்வி அபிவிருத்தி முயற்சிகளும், பல்வேறு உட்கட்டுமானங்களும் இன்று பெருவளர்ச்சி பெற்று நன்மைகளைத் தந்துகொண்டு இருப்பதும், அதனை நேரடியாக நான் காண்பதும் எனக்கு பெரு மனநிறைவையும், மகிழ்ச்சியையும் தருகின்றது.

இன்றைய கலைப்பீட கட்டடத்தொகுதி, முதல் நிலையில் பீடாதிபதி கலாநிதி இந்திரபாலா அவர்களால் முன்னெடுக்கப்பட்டது. இரண்டாம் நிலைக் கட்டடத்தொகுதி என்னால் முன்னெடுக்கப்பட்டது.

கலைப்பீடம் நான்கு பீடங்களைப் புதிதாக உருவாக்கிக்கொடுத்தது மாத்திரமல்லாமல், கலைப்பீடமும் பெரு வளர்ச்சி கண்டுள்ளது. இப்பீடம் புதிய புதிய துறைகளை உருவாக்கியதில் குறிப்பாக குற்றவியல், சமூகப் பிரச்சினைகளும் சமூக சேவைகளும், செம்மொழித்தமிழ் போன்ற சிலவற்றைக் குறிப்பிடலாம். கலைப்பீடம் பல்துறைகளிலும் ஆராய்ச்சிகளிலும் வளர எனது வாழ்த்துக்கள்.

Former Dean
(March 1997 - June 1999)

Professor.A.Sanmugadas
Emeritus Professor in Tamil
Faculty of Arts
University of Jaffna



When the Jaffna Campus of the University of Sri Lanka was established in 1974, it had only two Faculties, namely, Faculty of Humanities and Faculty of Science. Professor K. Indrapala was the first Dean of the Faculty of Humanities. Later the Faculty was named as Faculty of Arts. I was elected as the 9th Dean of the Faculty of Arts in 1997. Department of Economics apart from its subject, had to house other subjects too, namely, Commerce, Political Science and Sociology. In other words, Department of Economics in the Faculty of Arts was overcrowded. The problem was taken up with the UGC. Vice Chancellor, Prof. P. Balasundarampillai took up this matter at the UGC and the first two subjects that said “good bye” to the Department of Economics were Commerce and Management. During my period as the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Political Science and Sociology left the Department of Economics to form a separate Department in 1998.

Several times we have been discussing the subject of bifurcating the Faculty of Arts into Faculty of Social Sciences and Faculty of Arts. When it comes to grouping the subjects in each Faculty, it was not possible to arrive at a unanimous decision. Our faculty has been affected by ‘managing with the available staff and infrastructure’ without any approved cadre and necessary grants. Sometimes when our administration submits a memo to start a new course in the Faculty, the UGC would usually say you could start it provided you ‘manage with the available staff and other facilities’.

We have reached the Golden Year. A number of young and energetic members are now in the Faculty. Apart from concentrating on teaching/learning/ research, they have to look into other necessary facilities for the staff and students. A teacher cannot take a class where junks and rubbish are stored at the backside of the classroom. At this stage I pray that the God Almighty will give you all wisdom and strength to bring up this Faculty to render its useful services to humanity and the nation.

Former Dean
(November 2001 - August 2004)

Professor.P.Gopalakrishna Iyer
Emeritus Professor
Faculty of Arts
University of Jaffna



It gives us great pleasure and we are proud to record this message to the Commemorative Faculty volume on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the University of Jaffna to mark the completion of 50 years (1974 - 2024).

The Jaffna Campus of the University of Sri Lanka was ceremonially inaugurated on the 06th October 1974 at the premises of Parameshwara College, Thirunelvely, a premier leading Hindu Educational Institution of the North, founded by the Great Educationist and Saivite Leader Sir Pon. Ramanathan. The University of Jaffna became well known as the autonomous seat of Higher Education in 1978.

The university of Jaffna evolved as full fledged university with the Motto;
“மெய்ப்பொருள் காண்பது அறிவு.” (Discernment is knowledge).

The University amidst various challenges during the past fifty years functioned successfully in all aspects to achieve the target of this famous saying.

The Faculty of Arts is the largest Faculty in the university comprising many Departments providing various courses for the larger number of students admitted to the Faculty by the UGC. During the period of fifty years (1974-2024) thousands of graduates passed out of the Faculty in different subject areas which is a great achievement of the Faculty of Arts and the University. At this juncture we are glad to express and appreciate the eminent contributions and guidance rendered by the Vice Chancellors, Deans of the Faculty of Arts, Academic Staff, and Administrative and Non-academic staff as well on the eve of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations, 2024 of the University of Jaffna. It was a heavy task for the Deans to steer the Faculty of Arts amidst various challenges. However the Faculty managed to the maximum to restore normally in teaching and research.

Really it is a memorable moment that the University of Jaffna celebrated the Silver Jubilee year (1974-1999) on a grand scale. Silver Jubilee Souvenir was published and I am glad to mention that I served as the Chairman of Silver-Jubilee Sub-Committee and with the cooperation of the members, the Souvenir was released successfully.

Further the Faculty of Arts took all relevant steps to achieve the goals of the Mission of the University of Jaffna through maximum contributions in all aspects.

The Co-Chair of the Faculty volume of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations - 2024 Prof Subathini Ramesh requested me to give a message for the Volume incorporating my experiences reflections and memorable moments to enrich the volume as I was one of the Former Deans of the Faculty of Arts during the period of 2001-2004. In fulfilling her request I have showed some of my experiences.

I am highly grateful to Prof Subathini Ramesh for providing me an opportunity to send a Message. I wish all success to the Co - Chair of the Golden Jubilee Faculty Volume and the committee for the successful release of the volume, which will be a valuable document in future.

On the eve of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations we are very glad to offer our best wishes and appreciation to our Vice-Chancellor Professor S. Srisatkunarajah and the Dean of the Faculty of Arts Professor S. Raguram and to the university community for every success in all future endeavours in steering the university and the Faculty of Arts to achieve the academic excellency by maintaining high quality of teaching, research and scholarship in advanced learning and shine well at National and International levels.

May Sri Parvati Sameta Parameswaran bestow his blessings for the Bright future of the University of Jaffna and the Faculty of Arts.

முன்னாள் பீடாதிபதி
(செப்ரெம்பர் 2004 - ஆகஸ்ட் 2007)

பேராசிரியர். இராசரத்தினம் சிவச்சந்திரன்
கலைப்பீடம்
யாழ் பல்கலைக்கழகம்



யாழ்ப்பாணப் பல்கலைக்கழகத்தின் கலைப்பீட முன்னாள் பீடாதிபதியாகிய நான் மிகுந்த பெருமிதத்துடன் அதன் பொன்விழா கொண்டாட்டத்திற்கான எனது மனமார்ந்த வாழ்த்துக்களைத் தெரிவித்துக் கொள்கின்றேன்.

எனது பதவிக்காலத்துக்கு அப்பாலும் பல்கலைக்கழகத்தின் கல்வி சார்ந்த சாதனைகளில் நானும் இணைந்தவனாகவே உணர்கின்றேன். மேலும் கடந்த 50 ஆண்டு காலத்தில் பல்கலைக்கழகம் பெற்றுள்ள அதீத முன்னேற்றத்தைப் பார்த்து பெருமிதம் அடைகின்றேன்

மெதுவாகவே ஆரம்பிக்கப்பட்ட யாழ்ப்பாணப் பல்கலைக்கழகம் 50 ஆண்டுகள் அதீத வளர்ச்சி உடன் பல்துறை சார் பட்டதாரிகளை உருவாக்கியுள்ளது, அவர்கள் உள்ளூர் மற்றும் சர்வதேச மட்டத்தில் பல உயர் பதவிகளில் தமது திறமைகளை வெளிப்படுத்தி வருகின்றனர்

கலைப்பீடத்தில் நான் பதவி வகித்த காலம் ஒரு பொற்காலம் என்றே கூறலாம், கலைப்பீடத்தின் பல்துறைசார் பிரிவுகளின் சமூகமட்ட செயற்பாடுகள், கலாசார நிகழ்வுகள் சமூக உறவை பேணும் நிகழ்வுகளாக அமைந்தன

எனது முயற்சியின் காரணமாகப் புறநிலை படிப்பு கற்கை நெறி மற்றும் ஊடகக் கற்கை நெறியாகியவை முதல் முறையாக யாழ்ப்பாணப் பல்கலைக்கழகத்தில் ஏற்பாடு செய்யப்பட்டுள்ளது

இவை கலைப்பீடத்தின் முன்னோக்கிய சிந்தனைக்கும், பல்கலைக்கழகத்தின் தொடர்ச்சியான மேம்பாட்டுக்கும் வழி வகுத்தமை குறிப்பிடத்தக்கது, இதனால் இன்றும் அரசியல் சமூக பொருளாதார துறைகளில் ஈடுபடும் பத்திரிகையாளர்கள், சமூக ஊடகத்துறை வல்லுனர்களை உருவாக்குவதில் யாழ்ப்பாணப் பல்கலைக்கழகம் பெரும் பங்காற்றி வருவதையிட்டு நான் பெருமிதம் அடைகின்றேன்.

நடைபெற உள்ள பொன் விழா, துணைவேந்தர், பீடாதிபதிகள், பேராசிரியர்கள், விரிவுரையாளர்கள் மற்றும் துணை சேவைகளை வழங்கும் பணியாளர்களின் அளப்பெரிய பங்களிப்பும், பல்கலைக்கழகத்தின் அடையு மட்ட உயர்வும் அவர்கள் வழங்கிய உழைப்பின் பெறுபேறே. இந்நிறுவனம் இலங்கையின் வடமாகாணத்தில் அறிவின் ஒளியாகவும், மாணவர்களுக்கு வழிகாட்டியாகவும் திகழ்ந்து, வெற்றியும் வளர்ச்சியும் அடைய, என் உளமார்ந்த வாழ்த்துக்களைத் தெரிவித்துக் கொள்கின்றேன்.

Former Dean
(July 2009 - June 2012 & July 2015 - December 2016)

Professor.N.Gnanakumaran
Emeritus Professor
Faculty of Arts
University of Jaffna



It is indeed a special pleasure to have the opportunity to write an appreciation for the publication in view of the Golden Jubilee Year of the University of Jaffna, especially on Arts Faculty. It is a privilege for me to mention something on the Faculty of Arts where I associated nearly forty-three years with the Faculty before retirement from the service in 2021. Faculty of Arts is the biggest Faculty among other Faculties in the University of Jaffna. Faculty of Arts has a larger number of students and a larger number of Departments in the University of Jaffna. Consequences of this, it creates more graduates and more employment opportunities among Tamilians in the society. It is proud to mention here that I served two times as the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and as the Head of the Departments for several years for Philosophy, Fine Arts and Law during my career.

Every Deans of the Faculty helps to develop the academic activities of the Faculty as well as other activities. In the early stages only few Departments were available in the Faculty of Arts. But little by little, it increases the number of Departments and disciplines. Like that, I also instrumentally contributed to the development of the Faculty during my period of administration. Anyhow, nowadays its activities are really appreciable level and I sincerely wish all the academic and non academic staff and administrative staff for their untiring service for the betterment of the Faculty of Arts and the University of Jaffna.

Former Dean
(July 2012 - June 2015)

Professor.V.P.Sivanathan
Faculty of Arts
University of Jaffna



It's a real pleasure to congratulate the University of Jaffna on reaching its Golden Jubilee - a milestone that speaks volumes about the University's commitment to academic excellence, resilience, and visionary leadership.

Looking back on my time as Dean of the Faculty of Arts from 2012 to 2015, I feel incredibly proud of all we accomplished together. Those years saw transformative growth, and I'm grateful to have been part of such an exciting chapter. Here are a few highlights that continue to shape the Faculty's future:

New Degree Programs

The University Grants Commission (UGC) approved two fresh degree programs: the Bachelor of Arts Honours in Media Studies and the Bachelor of Arts Honours in Translation Studies.

Enhancing IT Infrastructure

Thanks to the World Bank-funded Higher Education for the Twenty-First Century (HETC) project, we were able to propose the Innovative Development for Arts Studies (IDAS) project and secure 60 million rupees. This funding helped us enhance students' IT, English language, and soft skills, and establish three new IT labs, giving our students the support they need to develop these essential skills for today's world.

Upgraded Infrastructure

In 2013, the Ramanathan Academy of Fine Arts (RAFA) completed a new lecture hall valued at 33 million rupees. The following year, we added 24 million rupees for examination hall, bringing substantial improvements to our learning and examination facilities at both the Faculty of Arts and RAFA.

Reflecting on these achievements, I'm filled with pride and gratitude for the hard work and collaboration from our faculty, staff, and students. Together, we embraced challenges, seized opportunities, and set a strong foundation for the future. I'm confident that the University of Jaffna will keep growing, fostering academic excellence, innovation, and deeper ties with the community.

As the University steps into this next chapter, I wish continued success and resilience in reaching new heights.

Former Dean
(January 2017 - December 2019 &
January 2020 - December 2022)

Professor.K.Suthakar
Faculty of Arts
University of Jaffna



I am delighted to take this page to reflect on the remarkable and monumental milestones and achievements over the past five decades of the journey of our esteemed Faculty of Arts. Although I have moved on from my role as Dean, my heart remains deeply connected to this faculty and the incredible community that has shaped its journey. This commemorative volume is not merely a collection of memories and milestones but a testament to the enduring spirit of excellence and dedication that has defined our faculty.

The Faculty of Arts of the University of Jaffna has long been well-established as one of the most famous higher education institutions, continuously producing knowledge, conducting quality research, and delivering academic services to significant stakeholders and society. Fifty years of academic excellence, innovation, and dedication have witnessed transformative changes in education, research, student achievement, and community engagement. These changes have been driven by the relentless pursuit of knowledge and the unwavering commitment of our faculty members. Your tireless efforts have shaped the academic landscape and profoundly impacted the regional, national, and international arena. Over the past fifty years, the commitment and passion of our faculty members have been the cornerstone of our achievements. The Golden Jubilee is not only a celebration of our past but also a tribute to the enduring spirit that drives us forward.

During my tenure as Dean, I had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the remarkable progress and transformative impact that our faculty has had. Two new faculties were established from the Faculty of Arts and four new academic departments were created in the Faculty. In the history of the Faculty of Arts, we celebrated many international research conferences including Maanudam and Tamilology. We are excited to announce that we have initiated the first undergraduate symposium. The first issue of the Faculty of Arts' quarterly newsletter was launched as a way of communicating with our vital stakeholders and informing them of our achievements, accomplishments, and developments. Further, we expanded our building footprint, signed many collaborative agreements with national and international institutions, and fortified ourselves with additional academic administrative powers. A remarkable achievement was that the Faculty of Arts won a competitive grant of 100 million Sri Lankan Rupees under the Accelerating Higher Education Expansion and Development (AHEAD) project to train our students in 'well-qualified academically' and 'professionally for the world of work'. Under this project, we were able to establish several teaching and learning entities and skilled and knowledge enhancement programs. In addition to that we recruited more than 60 academically capable staff. We encountered unprecedented challenges due to the world pandemic and economic recession. However, we remained positive and fostered a positive work environment, set a new standard for excellence, greatly contributed to our collective success, and ultimately overcame most of the challenges.

As we celebrate this significant milestone, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of you. Your hard work, vision, and commitment have not only advanced our faculty's mission but have also made a lasting impact on students, colleagues, and the broader community.



President

Professor Kanakasabapathy Kailasapathy

October 1974 - July - 1977

University of Jaffna



President

Professor Subiramaniam Vithiananthan

August 1977 - December - 1978

Vice Chancellor

January 1979 - June 1988

University of Jaffna

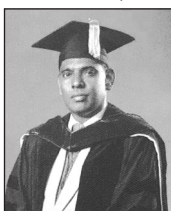
Deans of the Past



Professor K Indrapala
(October 1974 - May 1976 & December 1982 - July 1984)



Professor K Kailasanatha Kurukkal and Professor S Gemalath
(Co-Deans June 1976 - December 1978)



Professor W L Jeyasingham
December 1978 - January 1979)



Professor S Rajaratnam
(January 1979 - January 1981)



Professor K Kailsapathy
(January 1981 - December 1982)



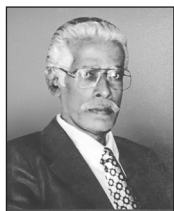
Professor N Balakrishnan
(July 1984 - March 1991)



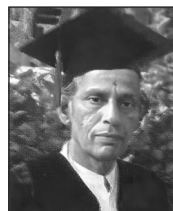
Professor P Balasundarampillai
(March 1991 - March 1997)



Professor A Sanmugadas
(March 1997 - June 1999)



Professor S Balachandiran
(June 1999 - October 2001)



Professor P Gopalakrishna Iyer
(November 2001 - August 2004)



Professor R Sivachandran
(September 2004 - August 2007)



Professor S Krishnaraja
(September 2007 - May 2009)



Professor N Gnanakumaran
(July 2009 - June 2012 &
July 2015 - December 2016)



Professor V P Sivanathan
(July 2012 - June 2015)



Professor K Suthakar
(January 2017 - December 2019 &
January 2020 - December 2022)



Professor S Raguram
(January 2023 - to date)

Tracing the footprints



History of Faculty of Arts

The vast complexity of the universe reflects the profound artistry of human existence, with the humanities and social sciences serving as the foundations of intellectual inquiry. Faculties of Arts in Universities worldwide have shaped higher education, and within this tradition, the Faculty of Arts (FoA) at the University of Jaffna (UoJ) holds a distinguished place in fostering scholarly excellence. As the largest faculty at UoJ, the FoA offers 27 disciplines, including General and Honours degrees and the Bachelor of Laws (LLB). Beyond academics, it upholds a social mission, providing equitable education to students from disadvantaged backgrounds and championing gender inclusivity, empowering women in intellectual and societal spheres. Integral to UoJ's evolution, the FoA has played a pivotal role in establishing autonomous faculties and remains deeply rooted in the cultural and intellectual heritage of Northern Sri Lanka. Internationally recognized for its contributions to Tamil and Arts Studies, it continues to advance cultural identity and academic discourse. As it celebrates its Golden Jubilee in 2024, the Faculty stands as a beacon of erudition, shaping scholars who enrich both regional and global intellectual landscapes.

Beginning

The Faculty of Arts at the UoJ has its roots in the broader history of higher education in Northern Sri Lanka. The Jaffna Campus of the University of Sri Lanka, established in 1974, was a response to limited university placements and aimed to provide equitable educational access to the Tamil-speaking population. The Jaffna campus was built upon the legacy of Jaffna College and Parameshwara College, institutions with origins dating back to the 19th century. Parameshwara College, founded in 1921 by Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan, and the earlier Batticotta Seminary (1823) laid the groundwork for a university in Jaffna. On July 15, 1974, Dr. Al-Haj Badi-Ud-

Din Mahmud, then Minister of Education, officially announced creation of the Jaffna Campus, which became the sixth constituent campus of the University of Sri Lanka.

The establishment was formally sanctioned through Extraordinary Gazette No. 121/15 on July 25, 1974, effective from August 1, 1974. Initially envisioned to include faculties of Science, Humanities, Law, and Physical Education, only Science and Humanities materialized at the start. On October 6, 1974, Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike inaugurated these faculties, with the Faculty of Humanities, the forerunner of today's Faculty of Arts, emerging as a pillar of academic excellence and cultural preservation.

Vision, Mission, and Objectives of the Faculty of Arts

The Faculty of Arts at the University of Jaffna reflects a deep commitment to shaping intellectual and cultural growth, not only within Sri Lanka but also on the global academic stage. The vision and mission statements of the Faculty, along with its well-defined objectives, guide its educational strategies and social contributions.

Vision: “To be a center of excellence in Humanities and Social Sciences, upholding values of social commitment.”

This vision emphasizes the Faculty's role as a beacon of scholarly excellence in the fields of Humanities and Social Sciences, coupled with a profound social responsibility to address issues affecting society.

Mission: “To produce competent graduates with the ability to critically assess received opinions, make independent decisions, and value the power of innovation in serving humankind.”

Objectives: The objectives of the Faculty of Arts align with the broader mission of the University of Jaffna to advance academic excellence, research, and societal engagement. These objectives aim to equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary to address contemporary issues while fostering global connections.

Salient Landmarks in the History of the Faculty of Arts

The FoA at the UoJ has undergone significant growth and transformation since its inception. Originally established as the Faculty of Humanities in 1974, it was renamed the Faculty of Arts in 1975, reflecting an expansion of academic disciplines and scholarly activities.

Early Expansion (1974 Onwards)

The FoA traces its origins to the Faculty of Humanities at the Jaffna Campus. Dr. K. Indrapala was appointed as its first Dean on October 1, 1974. During the same month, faculty members from Jaffna College were integrated, including Dr. W.L. Jeyasingham (Geography), Mr. V. Sivasamy (History), Mr. R. Mathanakaran (Geography), and Mrs. Y.

Ganeshalingan (Tamil). On November 28, 1974, the faculty enrolled its first 14 students, marking the formal commencement of Departments in Tamil, Economics, History, Geography, and Sanskrit. Recognizing the need for English proficiency, an English Language Unit was established, making Basic English compulsory for all students.

By early 1975, further faculty appointments were made, including temporary Assistant Lecturers in History and Economics. Professorial Chairs were established, leading to the recruitment of eminent scholars: Prof. K. Kailasapathy (Tamil), Dr. K. Indrapala (History), Dr. K. Kailasanatha Kurukkal (Hindu Civilization), Dr. S. Gamlath (Sinhala). On April 21, 1975, the first Probationary Assistant Lecturers were appointed through an open competition, further strengthening the academic foundation of the faculty.

Academic Progress and Institutional Development

The first academic term at the Jaffna Campus commenced on December 2, 1974, and concluded on February 7, 1975, with the first examination held from July 28 to 31, 1975. Initially, the FoA operated without formal academic committees, relying on informal faculty meetings to discuss academic matters, with eight meetings conducted throughout the year. The second academic year began on August 11, 1975, with 110 newly enrolled students, including both Tamil- and Sinhala-medium candidates, leading to the recruitment of Sinhala-medium lecturers.

Research and Academic Expansion

In late 1974, the Faculty launched the South Asian Studies research seminar, which became a distinguishing feature. It led to the creation of the Sri Lankan Journal of South Asian Studies and a dedicated section on South Asian literature in the library. In August 1975, new courses in English, Philosophy, Hindu Civilization, Sinhala, and Basic French expanded the faculty's offerings, and the number of departments grew to nine. Within its first decade, the Faculty also introduced PhD programs in History, Hindu Civilization, Tamil, and Education.

Integration of the Ramanathan Academy of Fine Arts (RAFA)

A significant milestone was the integration of the Ramanathan Academy of Fine Arts (RAFA) into the Jaffna Campus in 1974. Originally established as a private institution in 1960, RAFA was taken over by the Sri Lankan government in 1974 and incorporated into the Jaffna Campus. It later became part of the Department of Fine Arts within the Faculty of Arts and was renamed the Ramanathan Academy of Fine Arts (RAFA). Today, it functions as the Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan Faculty of Visual and Performing Arts, an autonomous institution.

Introduction of New Disciplines and Growth: 1977–1989

The late 1970s marked a period of significant academic growth and diversification for the Faculty of Arts (FoA) at the University of Jaffna. Key developments during this period include:

Sociology, Political Science, and Commerce were introduced as part of the Economics degree program under the Department of Economics. This multidisciplinary approach enriched the Faculty's academic offerings and laid the foundation for the future development of independent departments for these subjects.

The Jaffna Campus was officially elevated to the University of Jaffna on January 1, 1979, under the Universities Act, No. 16 of 1978. This transition marked a turning point, offering new opportunities for academic growth and institutional development.

In 1979, the Unit of Christian Civilization was established under the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, with Prof. S. Rajaratnam serving as the guiding figure. In 1981, the Department of Languages and Cultural Studies was established within the Faculty of Arts, housing the Christian Civilization Unit alongside Arabic and Islamic Civilizations. By 1989, the Department was divided into the Department of Linguistics and English, and the Department of Christian and Islamic Civilizations. These units functioned together under the Department of Languages and Cultural Studies until 1989.

The Department of Education was established in 1980, introducing postgraduate programs in education, including the Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE), Master of Education (MEd), Master of Philosophy in Education (MPhil), and Doctorate in Education (PhD). In 1981, The English Language Teaching Centre (ELTC) was founded to address the growing demand for English language instruction. It was later upgraded to the Department of English Language Teaching (DELT) in 2019.

The Commerce discipline, initially housed under the Department of Economics, was granted independent departmental status on July 31, 1982. This development set the stage for the creation of the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce in the future.

The Department of Fine Arts was formally established in 1982, incorporating the Ramanathan Academy of Fine Arts (RAFA). Over time, the department expanded its offerings.

On September 1, 1994, the Department of Commerce and Management Studies was bifurcated into two independent departments: Department of Commerce and Department of Management Studies. The restructuring allowed for more specialized academic programs in commerce and management.

In 1998, Hindu Philosophy was introduced under the Department of Hindu Civilization, offering both General and Honours degree programs. This move was crucial in preserving and promoting Hindu religious and philosophical studies. In the same year Psychology was introduced under the Department of Philosophy, responding to the growing importance of mental well-being and the need for psychological insight, especially in the post-conflict context of Jaffna.

In July 1998, the Faculty of Arts saw the creation of two new departments: Department of Sociology: Focused on understanding social structures and community

issues. Department of Political Science: Emphasized the study of political systems, governance, and public policy.

In July 1999, the disciplines of Commerce and Management Studies were separated from the Faculty of Arts to form the Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce (FMSC).

While initial permission to establish a Department of Law was granted in 1974, it was only in May 2005 that the department was officially created under the Faculty of Arts. The introduction of the Bachelor of Laws (LLB) program in Jaffna addressed the increasing demand for legal education in Northern Sri Lanka.

The Continuous Evolution of the Faculty of Arts

The Faculty of Arts has continually evolved to meet the needs of both academic advancements and societal demands. A notable development was the bifurcation of the Department of Sociology and Political Science in 2007, which led to the creation of two independent departments: Department of Sociology and Department of Political Science.

Between 2001 and 2017, the Faculty of Arts significantly expanded its academic offerings with the introduction of several new disciplines, reflecting the Faculty's response to emerging fields of study and the diverse interests of students. The newly introduced disciplines include: Home Economics (2001), Anthropology (2001), Planning (2002), Archaeology (2003), Media Studies (2008), Translation Studies (2010), Information Technology (IT) (2014), Cultural Tourism (2017)

In 2019, Media Studies and Translation Studies were upgraded to full-fledged departments. This move significantly enhanced the faculty's academic diversity, allowing for more focused research and specialization in these key areas. In 2022, the Department of Information Technology (IT) was established as a separate entity within the Faculty of Arts. .

On March 18, 2019, the Faculty of Hindu Studies was established through the reorganization of several key departments: Department of Hindu Civilization, Department of Sanskrit, Department of Saiva Siddhanta (formerly Hindu Philosophy).

Commitment to Humanities and Social Sciences

The Faculty of Arts has maintained its steadfast commitment to offering a comprehensive range of Humanities and Social Science degree programs. Beyond undergraduate education, many departments within the Faculty of Arts also contribute significantly to postgraduate education. Programs offered include: Postgraduate Diplomas, Master of Arts (MA), Master of Philosophy (MPhil), Doctor of Philosophy (PhD). These programs are administered through the Faculty of Graduate Studies at the University of Jaffna, further solidifying the Faculty's role in providing advanced education and research opportunities.

Deans of the Faculty of Arts (FoA)

The Faculty of Arts has had a distinguished line of Deans who have contributed significantly to its development. Here is the list of the Deans in chronological order: Prof. K. Indrapala (1974-1976), Prof. K. Kailasanatha Kurukkal & Sucharitha Gamlath (1976-1978), Prof. W.L. Jeyasingham (1978-1979), Prof. S.Rajaratnam (1979-1981), Prof.K.Kailasapathy (1981-1982), Prof. K. Indrapala (1982-1984), Prof.N.Balakrishnan (1984-1991), Prof.P.Balasundarampillai (1991-1997), Prof.A.Sanmugadas (1997-1999), Prof.S.Balachandiran (1999-2001), Prof.P.Gopalakrishna Iyer (2001-2004), Prof.R.Sivachandran (2004-2007), Prof.S.Krishnarajah (2007-2009), Prof.N.Gnanakumaran (2009-2012), Prof. V.P.Sivanathan (2012-2015), Prof.N.Gnanakumaran (second term) (2015-2017), Prof. K. Suthakar (2017-2023, two terms), Prof. S. Raguram (2023-present).

The Faculty of Arts at its Golden Jubilee: A Legacy of Academic Excellence

As the Faculty of Arts at the University of Jaffna celebrates its Golden Jubilee in 2024, it stands as a prominent institution of higher learning, committed to intellectual development and cultural preservation. The Golden Jubilee marks five decades of academic excellence and highlights the Faculty's continued growth. The Faculty now comprises 16 academic departments and one specialized unit. The Faculty of Arts offers an expansive curriculum with 27 study disciplines. Inter-faculty collaborations have further enriched academic offerings, particularly through the Drama and Theatre Arts program, which is jointly conducted with the Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan Faculty of Performing and Visual Arts (SPRVPA). Similarly, disciplines such as Hindu Civilization, Hindu Philosophy, and Sanskrit are offered in collaboration with the Faculty of Hindu Studies.

As the Faculty of Arts enters its Golden Jubilee year, it continues to reaffirm its commitment to academic innovation, research excellence, and the preservation of cultural heritage. It remains a dynamic force in shaping generations of scholars, educators, and leaders, contributing to both the local and global educational landscape.

Compiled by:
Rev. Prof. J.C. Paul Rohan
Courtesy to: Prof. T. Sanathanan

Department of Christian Civilization

Preamble

The University of Jaffna celebrates its Golden Jubilee in 2024, marking the completion of 50 years since its establishment (1974 - 2024). The inclusion of “Christian Studies” in the university’s academic curriculum began in 1979 under the name ‘Christian Civilization’ to ensure and enhance the pluralistic vision of the university.

In 1989, this initiative was elevated to the status of a newly formed Department of Christian Civilization, placing it on par with other departments within the Faculty of Arts. Over the past four decades, the department has excelled in teaching and research in Christian Studies and related disciplines, becoming a key contributor to the university’s academic excellence.

As the maternal institution, namely the University of Jaffna reflects on its fifty-year legacy, the Department of Christian Civilization proudly joins the celebration, cherishing its many achievements and contributions. Simultaneously, the department renews its commitment to the advancement of Christian Studies, embracing the challenges and opportunities it entails.

At this historic milestone, the Department of Christian Civilization which encompasses the larger vistas of ‘Christian Studies’ seeks to recapitulate its forty-five years of dedicated academic service to the University of Jaffna. This sustained contribution has firmly established the Department as a prominent centre for Christian Studies in Sri Lanka.

Subjects Covered and their Orientation

The Department of Christian Civilization offers a rich and multidisciplinary curriculum that delves into the diversified dimensions of Christianity, exploring it both as a religion and as a crucial fount in human civilization, thereby enabling the students to gain insights into Christianity’s significant and seamless contributions to science, culture, philosophy and history, heralding its enduring impact on global progress. The curriculum provides an in-depth examination of the origins, expansion, and core characteristics of Christianity, covering diverse areas such as scripture, theology, liturgy, history, art, literature, and moral philosophy. This wide-ranging framework equips students to grasp the contemporary trends in Christian thought, alongside Christianity’s dynamic interactions with other world religions and belief systems.

Moreover, the Department seeks to emphasize the practical and societal implications of Christian values, imparting their relevance in promoting social justice, environmental stewardship, and community well-being. By integrating academic rigor with an emphasis on moral and cultural applications, the programme endeavours to prepare students not merely as scholars but also as compassionate and informed citizens. In this way, the Department of Christian Civilization equips students to conduct and contribute meaningfully to an increasingly interconnected and pluralistic world.

Commencement and Growth of the Subject as a Discipline

The study of Christianity as an academic discipline was inaugurated in the University of Jaffna with the title 'Unit of Christian Civilization' in 1979. The University of Kelaniya, Eastern University of Sri Lanka and the University of Jaffna are the state universities in Sri Lanka which offer undergraduate programme in studies related to Christianity. In 1981, the Department of Languages and Cultural Studies was newly established in the Faculty of Arts and the Unit of Christian Civilization along with the Arabic and Islamic Civilizations were annexed to it. With the appointment of Rev. Fr. A.J.V. Chandrakanthan as the first tenured Lecturer in 1981, the General and Special Degree courses on Christian Civilization were introduced with the farsighted vision of Prof. K. Kailasapathy who was then the Dean of the Faculty of Arts.

In 1989, the Department of Languages and Cultural Studies was divided into the Department of Linguistics and English, and the Department of Christian and Islamic Civilizations. The establishment of the new department as the Department of Christian and Islamic Civilizations became an added impetus for students to follow BA Honours in Christian Civilization and to offer Christian Civilization as a BA General Degree subject. Students were also admitted by the UGC on a 'special intake' basis. This also led to an increase in the number of students pursuing Christian Civilization. From thence, the Department of Christian Civilization at the University of Jaffna has become one of the prominent and leading centres of teaching and research related to Christian Studies in Sri Lanka. The Roman Catholic Bishop of Jaffna, Most Rev. B. Deogupillai, and the Bishop of the Diocese of Jaffna of the Church of South India, Rev. Dr. D.J. Amabalavanar, helped in no small measure in promoting and fostering a healthy and positive academic spirit by encouraging their respective clergy and laity to support the Department in all its endeavours. The University of Jaffna was the first university in Sri Lanka to offer a Special Degree programme in Christian Civilization alongside its undergraduate General Degree.

In 1991, regrettably owing to the ethnic crisis and forced displacement, the students who followed the degree programme in Islamic Studies, had to leave the University of Jaffna, and continued their studies in the other State universities in the country. The Department of Christian and Islamic Civilizations of the University of Jaffna facilitated the continuation of their studies in the adopted universities and to complete their degree programmes. Since then, although there have not been Islamic students pursuing Islamic studies, the Department continues to be called the Department of Christian and Islamic Civilizations.

Curriculum of the Discipline

The curriculum of the BA (Hons) in Christian Civilization is designed keeping in mind the multidimensional nature of 'Christian Studies'. During its long history that surpasses two millennia, Christianity has assumed within it a multidimensional nature. In the contemporary world the term 'Christianity' refers to three principal segments, a religion, a civilization and an institution. Therefore it is essential that the Christian Studies as a scientific discipline must include all such dimensions.

The curriculum of Christian Civilization has evolved significantly since its inception in 1979 as a Unit. The initial curriculum was revised in 1981, focusing on the inclusion of Christian literature, history, and theology. Subsequent revisions in 1995 and 2005 broadened the scope to include interreligious dialogue, contemporary Christian thought, and Christianity's impact on global culture. The most recent revision, in 2017, aimed to impart comprehensive knowledge of Christian subjects, equip students with essential skills, foster teamwork, promote a harmonious society, and encourage lifelong learning.

Basing on the above described multidimensional aspects and its particular orientation of the discipline, the curriculum of the BA (Hons) in Christian Civilization aims to produce graduates with a critical and creative appreciation of Christian scriptures, history, doctrines, art, literature, morals and practices of Christian religion. Students will also be equipped with meta-cognitive skills, competency in English, proficiency in IT, and the desire for lifelong learning in order to be global citizens.

Based on the objectives of the disciplines, the graduate profile of the degree programme is designed. The curriculum of the BA (Hons) in Christian Civilization has the following objectives: (i) Imparting a comprehensive knowledge on the scriptures, history, doctrines, art, literature, morals and practices of Christian religion, (ii) Enabling the student to understand Christianity not merely as a religion but as a civilization that has contributed to the growth of humanity, (iii) Equipping the student with meta-cognitive skills, competency in English and proficiency in IT components, (iv) Facilitating the student to develop a team spirit based on Christian outlook and acquire soft skills needed to work together in their employed environment, (v) Empowering the student with a comparative understanding of the local religious traditions to promote a harmonious society with humanistic ethos in the local pluralistic milieu, (vi) Inculcating in the student self-esteem, sense of freedom, respect for human rights, gender sensitivity, responsibility, generosity, interest in society, sincerity, courage, cooperation, punctuality, resilience, open mindedness, assertiveness and eco-friendly attitudes and (vii) Creating in the student an interest for lifelong learning thereby enabling them to develop an open mindset that will keep them ever motivated for growth and progress and strengthening them to constantly challenge themselves and challenge those who are around them to work towards perfection.

The curriculum draws from the Outcome Based Education (OBE) and Student Centred Learning (SCL) models. It was designed with the help of national and international scholars and institutions. The students are also provided with opportunities to interact with local and international experts in pertinent fields and Guest Lectures are organized periodically, inviting local academics and experts from other countries to share their knowledge and wisdom with the students and the staff.

Development of the Academic Programmes to Date

Since its inception, Christian Civilization as a discipline has undergone significant development at the University of Jaffna. The Department has accommodated interdisciplinary approaches, integrating insights from Philosophy, Sociology, and Cultural Studies. This has enriched the study of Christian Civilization and made the subject one that has the ability to help students face contemporary social and ethical challenges.

Key milestones in the development of the subject include the introduction of the Bachelor of Arts (General), Bachelor of Arts Honours in Christian Civilization, Bachelor of Arts (External), a general degree programme for the external students offered through the Centre for Open and Distant Learning. These developments have enabled the Department to attract a diverse student body and offer specialized training in various aspects of Christian Studies.

The introduction of the 'Master of Christian Studies' programme in 2022 represents another significant development in the discipline of Christian Civilization. This programme is the first - second cycle (according to the international nomenclature) taught course in Tamil medium offered for the first time in Sri Lanka and complies with the Sri Lanka Qualifications Framework (SLQF-2015) and meets the requirements for Level 9, 'Masters by Course Work.' This programme is another outlet to serve the needs of those who want to go for a higher-level of learning and to obtain a postgraduate degree up to PhD in Christian studies.

Since 1991, the Department of Christian Civilization offers the opportunity for postgraduate research leading to MPhil and PhD through the Faculty of Graduate Studies on both a full-time and part-time basis. Those who have completed the bachelor degrees with class eligibility in Christian studies in any university recognized by the UGC, locally and around the world, can enrol for research leading to MPhil and PhD.

Subsequent Expansion of the Discipline

The expansion of the discipline at the University of Jaffna has been driven by academic innovation, student demand, and external collaborations. The Department has expanded its academic programmes to meet the needs of both undergraduate and postgraduate students. The Department has also enhanced its research capabilities through collaborations with national and international institutions, by organizing international conferences and workshops, and by supporting the publication of research undertaken by both the staff and students. These efforts have positioned the Department as a leading centre for Christian Studies in Sri Lanka and contributed to its growing reputation in the academic community.

The honours degree curriculum of the Department of Christian Civilization includes an internship in the second semester of the final year. The internship guides the students to the world of work and the demands of professional engagement in employment. For the internship many institutions are willingly helping the Department.

‘Human Development Centre’ the branch of Caritas in the Diocese of Jaffna, Diocesan Centre for Religious Education, St. Patrick’s College, Holy Family Convent Jaffna, ‘Adaiyaalam’ Centre for Policy Research, ‘Shanthiham’ Association For Health & Counselling, ‘Ahavoli’ Family Welfare Centre, ‘Marai Nathi’ Jaffna Diocesan Media Centre and Student Christian Movement of Sri Lanka are some of them. Added to the internship, most of the course units require field visits as part of the Teaching and Activities (TLA). These visits enable exposure to the wider society, and engagement in community service.

Looking ahead, the Department is committed to continuing its expansion and development. This includes ongoing efforts to update the curriculum, enhance research output, and strengthen external collaborations. The emphasis on providing a comprehensive and interdisciplinary education has made the Department a popular choice for students interested in pursuing careers in academia, religious education, social work, and related fields.

Pioneering Individuals and Outstanding Academic Contributions

The development of the Department owes much to the efforts of several pioneering individuals who played crucial roles in shaping its academic and administrative foundations. Mr. S. Jebanesan (now Rt. Rev. Dr. S. Jebanesan, Bishop Emeritus of the Church of South India) was the first Coordinator and Visiting Lecturer when the Christian Civilization Unit was established in 1979. He served as Coordinator until 1981. Even after being appointed Bishop of the Jaffna Diocese in 1990, he continued to contribute to the growth of the discipline.

Rev. Prof. A.J.V. Chandrakanthan joined the Unit as the first tenured lecturer and Coordinator in 1981. Under his leadership, the Unit grew significantly, and he became the first Head of the newly established Department of Christian Civilization in 1989. He published numerous works that employed multidimensional and multidisciplinary approaches.

The mass exodus from the Jaffna Peninsula in 1995 disrupted academic life, but the University of Jaffna resumed its activities in 1996. At that time, Prof. S. Sivalingarajah, a scholar in Tamilology, was appointed Acting Head of the Department. He made significant contributions through his research on the role of Christian scholars in the development of Tamil language and literature.

Rev. Dr. Anton Matthias served as Head of the Department from 1997 to 2004. He focused on the history of Christianity in Northern Sri Lanka and the contributions of Swami Gnanapragasar to Tamil scholarship and missionary work.

Rev. Prof. G.V. Pilendran took over as Head in 2004, serving until early 2017. He focused on Christian literature and the local history of Christianity, with notable work on St. Joseph Vaz and the literary contributions of Jacome Gonzalves.

Since 2017, Rev. Prof. J.C. Paul Rohan has been serving as Head of the Department. He has authored several books and contributed numerous academic papers to national and international journals. He introduced the 'Master of Christian Studies', the first postgraduate taught course in Christian Studies in Tamil medium at a state university in Sri Lanka. During his tenure, the Department has successfully organized two international research conferences on Christian Studies.

Research Interests of the Staff

The research interests of the Department's staff have evolved over the years, reflecting shifts in academic priorities and emerging trends in Christian Studies. Initially, their research focused on Christian literature, history, and theology, particularly in the context of Northern Sri Lanka. This included studies on the history of Christianity in Sri Lanka, the contributions of Christian missionaries to Tamil literature, and the development of Christian theological and philosophical thought.

Rt. Rev. Dr. S. Jebanesan's research primarily covered Christian literature and the history of the American Mission in Northern Sri Lanka. Rev. Prof. A.J.V. Chandrakanthan expanded the Unit's academic offerings and established its reputation as a centre for Christian Studies. His research interests included Christian theology and contemporary trends in Christianity. Other notable contributors to the Department's growth include Rev. Dr. Anton Matthias and Rev. Prof. G.V. Pilendran, who focused on the history of Christianity in Northern Sri Lanka and Christian literature. Rev. Prof. J.C. Paul Rohan's research explores the intersection of Christian thought with issues such as human rights, social justice, and environmental ethics. The Department has also benefited from contributions by visiting lecturers, research guides, and external collaborators, including local clergy and international scholars, who have enhanced the Department's research output and teaching quality.

Staff and Students at Present

Currently, the Department is staffed by a dedicated team of academic and non-academic personnel, including full-time lecturers and visiting scholars with specialized expertise in various aspects of Christian Studies. The Department is headed by Rev. Prof. J.C. Paul Rohan, with support from Senior Lecturers Rev. Fr. M.V.E. Ravichandran and Miss M.W. Chandrasekar.

Rev. Prof. J.C. Paul Rohan is a scholar in Christian Studies. With a Doctor of Philosophy from Rome, he has made significant contributions to the field through his research, teaching and publications. His expertise lies in Christian philosophy, theology, and contemporary ethical and social issues such as human rights, social justice, and environmental ethics. He has authored numerous scholarly articles, books, and popular articles, and has served as a programme reviewer for the University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka. Beyond the academic pursuits, he is actively involved in community service. He has organized international conferences, contributed to the spiritual development of students, and served on various committees.

Rev. Fr. M.V.E.Ravichandran is a distinguished academic and researcher, currently serving as a Senior Lecturer. With a strong educational background, including a Bachelor of Theology (BTh), a Licentiate in Sacred Theology from Rome, and a Master of Philosophy from Jaffna, he is presently pursuing a PhD at Madras University. His academic expertise encompasses a wide range of subjects, including Scripture, Christology, Ecclesiology, Social Doctrines and Current Trends in Theology.

Beyond his academic pursuits, Fr. Ravichandran is deeply committed to social engagement. He conducts seminars for youth, students, teachers and social leaders, organizes online conferences, and participates in online discussions on socio-political and religious issues.

Miss M.W. Chandrasekar is a Senior Lecturer with a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) and a Master of Philosophy in Christian Civilization from the University of Jaffna. Her academic contributions include revising the curriculum for both general and honours degree programs, focusing on subjects like Christian Art, Architecture, Literature, Biblical Studies, Christian Beliefs and Practices and Christian Ethics. She has actively participated in various academic conferences, presenting research papers on topics such as the origin and development of Christian art and feminist theology. She is the author of two books: 'Gnanapallu: Literature - Theology - History' and 'Sculpture and Architecture in the Old Testament in the Bible', the latter of which was awarded the best research book of 2024 by the Cultural Department of the Jaffna Divisional Secretariat, Sri Lanka.

The non-academic staff members, Mrs. Kasthoory Nishanthan, with her extensive experience as a Management Assistant (Grade II), and Mr. V. Subakar, drawing from his experience as a Works Aide (Grade II) at the former Vavuniya Campus and later at the University of Jaffna, play an important role in the efficient functioning of the Department. Despite operating with limited facilities, their dedication ensures the smooth execution of the Department's day-to-day operations.

At this juncture, late Rev. Dr. J. Jebamohan is gratefully remembered, who served as a member of the Department of Christian and Islamic Civilization from 1999 until his passing on January 24, 2014. Late Rev. Dr. J. Jebamohan, a respected scholar and dedicated member of the Department, will be remembered for his significant contributions to Islamic studies. His untimely passing on January 24, 2014, was a profound loss to the academic community. The insightful research of late Dr. Jebamohan on the comparative study of Christianity and Islam made a valuable contribution to interfaith dialogue. His impact continues to inspire and guide future scholars in the field of Christian-Islamic studies.

Late Rev. Dr. Anton Matthias is also remembered gratefully here. As one of the former Heads of the Department, he made significant contributions to the field of Christian Studies, particularly focusing on the history of Christianity in Northern Sri Lanka and the legacy of Swami Gnanapragasar.

The student body comprises individuals from diverse backgrounds and Christian denominations across Sri Lanka. From the normal intake of the students for the Faculty of Arts by the UGC, those who want to study Christian Civilization enrol themselves in the Department of Christian Civilization. There are also students who are enrolled to study Christian Civilization by the UGC on a special intake basis. The students belonging to diverse Christian churches and denominations countrywide follow the Christian Civilization study programme.

The students enthusiastically take part in all the activities of the Department. A representative of the students from each batch is invited for the Meetings of the Department which is a forum for the students to come out with their shortcomings and seek solutions.

As a way of encouraging the students, the Department of Christian Civilization has established three prestigious gold medals to recognize outstanding student achievements in specific fields. The 'Pulavar Amuthu (Adaikalamuthu) Gold Medal' is awarded to the best student in Christian Civilization, honouring Chevalier Dr. S. Adaikalamuthu (1918 - 2010), a distinguished Tamil scholar, poet, and cultural contributor from Ilavalai, Jaffna. The 'Father S.J. Emmanuel Gold Medal' was created to acknowledge Rev. Dr.S.J.Emmanuel's significant contributions to global and local Christianity and his service to the Tamil community. This award is presented to the best student in the Master of Christian Studies program and was also first awarded during the same convocation. The 'Rev. Dr. Anton Matthias Memorial Gold Medal' honours the late Rev. Dr. Anton Matthias (1948 - 2022) for his contributions to the University of Jaffna, the Diocese of Jaffna, and the Tamil community. This medal is awarded to the best student researcher in Christian Civilization. These medals not only encourage academic excellence of the students but also celebrate the enduring legacy of individuals who have profoundly influenced Christian studies and Tamil culture.

The 'Christian Civilization Student Association' is vivacious in the Department. It is registered in the Welfare Centre of the University of Jaffna. Its constitution is accepted by the university and conducts mandatory meetings according to the constitution. Dr.(Mrs.) Suganthi Muraleetharan is the Senior Treasurer of the association. The 'Student Association' regularly organizes the general meetings and executive meetings to discuss about their community outreach activities, field visits and study tours. It organizes professionally the 'Welcome' for the first year students and 'Going Down' for the final year students. It functions as the right arm to carry out the activities of the Department efficiently.

The department also carries out an annual Christmas celebration with an ecumenical and interreligious spirit which provides opportunity for the students to express and develop their talents and skills and to motivate the university community towards religious harmony.

The graduates and the postgraduates who have completed their studies in this Department are serving in various capacities locally and globally. They are the pride and hope of the mission of the Department. An 'Alumni Association of the Department of Christian Civilization' is efficiently functioning to incorporate them also as the essential stakeholders of the Department.

The Department of Christian Civilization benefits greatly from the support of qualified priests and pastors in the region, who contribute as visiting lecturers, research guides, and facilitators of field visits. Notable collaborators include lecturers from St. Francis Xavier Institute of Theology in Jaffna, affiliated with the Pontifical Urban University in Rome, and the Christian Theological College at Chunnakam, affiliated with Serampore University in India. The Student Christian Movement of Sri Lanka also provides invaluable assistance, and the Department remains deeply grateful for their contributions.

Since 1986, the Department's efforts have been enriched by two University centres: the Good Shepherd Centre for Catholics and St. Thomas' Centre for Christians. These centres, led by resident chaplains, regularly organize seminars, retreats, religious services, and other activities, while also providing facilities for the Department's functions. Additionally, the Department collaborates with the Centre for Performing Arts, a well-established organization promoting various forms of artistic expression, and with centres like Ahavoli (a counselling centre) and Sangamam (an Oblate centre) that offer holistic well-being programmes. The Department also maintains strong ties with the Department of Christian Religious Affairs at the Jaffna Secretariat.

Students of the Department have access to a variety of libraries beyond the University library and the Department's own mini library. These include the Swamy Gnanapragasar Library at Thodarpaham, which houses an excellent collection of Christian studies in Tamil, the library at the Diocesan Religious Education Centre, and the libraries of St. Joseph Vaz Tamil Theological College and St. Francis Xavier Institute of Theology in Columbuthurai. Additionally, they are also permitted to use the library of Maruthanarmadam Theological College, located just 5 kilometres from the University.

This extensive external support from local, national, and international stakeholders significantly enhances the Department's ability to disseminate knowledge effectively and contributes to its ongoing progress.

Outreach Activities and Community Engagement

The Department of Christian Civilization plays a significant role in extending the university's reach beyond its academic walls, engaging with the community in promoting education, cultural preservation, and social responsibility.

The Department regularly organizes seminars and workshops on religious and educational topics, including Christian ethics, social justice, and inter-religious dialogue. These events are designed for university students, local school students, teachers and

community members. The Department has successfully organized two international research conferences on Christian Studies, the first in 2018 and the second in 2024. These events make academic knowledge accessible to a broader audience, helping community members engage with complex topics in a meaningful way.

The Department is also involved in the preservation of Christian cultural and religious heritage in the region, documenting and conserving historical sites, manuscripts, and artefacts. A key outreach activity is providing guidance to local schools on religious education. The Department collaborates with teachers to develop curricula that present Christian teachings accurately and sensitively. The Department is also committed to promoting inter-religious dialogue and organizing events that bring together representatives from various religious traditions. Be they conferences, workshops, seminars, or annual Christmas celebrations, the Department consistently organizes events that reflect the pluralistic nature of society. These gatherings bring together representatives from various religious traditions to discuss shared values, address common challenges, and explore collaborative approaches for the betterment of society. Such initiatives are instrumental in building bridges between communities and contributing to the peaceful coexistence of diverse religious groups.

The Department's outreach activities also include community programmes aimed at empowering youth, focusing on leadership skills, ethical values, and community service. Social justice is a central theme, with the Department collaborating with local organizations to address issues such as poverty, gender and social inequalities, and human rights.

The Department maintains strong ties with local churches and Christian communities, offering support through educational resources, theological training, and pastoral care. This ensures that the academic study of Christian Civilization remains relevant and connected to the lived experiences of believers.

Conclusion

The motto of the Department of Christian Civilization, 'Be a Lamp for a New Dawn', serves as a constant reminder of its mission of enlightening society through learning and facilitating a new beginning. The Department continues to advance its academic and formative mission, preparing students to navigate the complexities of modern life.

Graduates of the Department are well-equipped to pursue further studies and research. They become agents of inter-religious dialogue, fostering a comparative understanding of religions and contributing to the creation of a harmonious society with a humanistic ethos. In this way, they become global citizens, sensitive to gender and social issues, and equipped for careers in religious, humanitarian, and social entrepreneurship sectors focused on justice, peace, human rights, counselling and well-being. The Journey Continues...!

Department of Drama and Theatre Arts

Drama and Theatre Arts (DTA) encompass diverse global cultures, celebrating rich heritage and values. Reviving indigenous art forms nurtures cultural pride, preserves traditional knowledge, and challenges colonial narratives, fostering global diversity in artistic expression. Tamil society, with its vibrant theatre traditions spanning ritual, entertainment, and scientific skills, exemplifies this cultural integration.

Subjects Covered and Their Orientation

Drama Performances and the Rise of the Drama Degree Programme at the University of Jaffna. Prof. S. Vithyananthan pioneers the integration of traditional Tamil theatre into higher education institutions. Professor S. Vithyananthan introduced traditional Kuthu theatre to Peradeniya University, enriching its cultural landscape and challenging colonial educational perspectives through indigenous performances. As a Tamil activist, he actively promoted Tamil drama. When the University of Jaffna was established, he continued fostering these traditions as its first vice-chancellor, encouraging the development of Tamil drama and integrating local cultural forms into academic settings.

The Tamil nationalist spirit from Peradeniya transformed drama into a platform for addressing ethnic tensions and social challenges. At the University of Jaffna (UOJ), drama reflects local struggles and aspirations, rooted in indigenous traditions. In 1976, the *Muththamizh Vizha* organized a theatre festival that brought together artists from all genres. The following year, the student union at the University of Jaffna became actively involved in advocating for minority rights, particularly for the Tamil community, amid Sri Lanka's socio-political tensions. Using satire, they staged plays that critiqued political developments and highlighted injustices faced by Tamils. Notable

dramas from this period include *Puthiyathoor Vedu*, directed by Prof. S. Maunaguru and written by Mahakavi Uruthiramoorthy, performed in various locations across Jaffna. As the Sri Lankan Civil War intensified in the early 1980s, drama at UOJ became more political, addressing ethnic conflict and Tamil resistance. Remarkable productions like *Mansumantha Meniyar* (1985), written by Kuzhanthei M. Shanmugalingam and directed by Dr. K. Sithamparanathan, and *Mayamaan*, written by U. Cheran, performed 108 times, became crucial vehicles for political education and humanitarian aid. Even before drama became a degree program, performances at the University of Jaffna actively shaped its cultural landscape, addressing Tamil minority oppression and social issues, and uniting the university and community from its establishment.

Commencement of Discipline

The concept of drama education was already established with the founding of the Drama and Theatre College in 1976 in Thirunelveli, Jaffna, by Kuzhanthai M. Shanmugalingam, who came from the local amateur theatre tradition and was trained in modern theatre. This initiative brought together all Tamil theatre artists. A.C. Tharicius, the eminent Tamil theatre director from a traditional Kuthu tradition, was professionally trained in modern theatre and served as the resource person to provide integrated training at the Drama and Theatre College in Thirunelveli Jaffna.

In 1977, due to ethnic riots, many theatre artists who had been practicing modern theatre in Colombo were displaced and returned to Jaffna, where they continued to stage performances. The Performing Arts Society (அவைக்காற்றுக்கழகம்) became known for their work, the director of the society K. Balendra particularly in translating and adapting plays. Traditional theatre, often tied to rituals, was also performed throughout Tamil-speaking areas. Professional Isai Nadakam (musical drama) groups, such as those led by V.V. Vairamuthu, were especially active during this time. Additionally, the Thirumarai Kalamamtram (Centre for Performing Arts, Jaffna) presented a variety of dramatic genres, enriching the local theatre scene.

Growth of the Subject as a Discipline

History of Formation of the Discipline Drama and Theatre Arts, with this vibrant atmosphere, Tamil Department introduces course units' history of Tamil theatre and Folk Lore by Prof. K. Kailasapathy. The Department of Fine Arts was established in 1982 to accommodate the Ramanathan Academy of Fine Arts diploma programs in music and dance under the leadership of Prof. K. Indrapala, an eminent historian and archaeologist. Music and dance already belonged to the classical tradition, allowing the university to easily accommodate them. Professor Karthigesu Sivathamby, Head of the Department of Fine Arts (1984-1995), pioneered the introduction of the Fine Arts Degree program (Art History) in 1984 and the Drama and Theatre Arts Degree program in 1986 and honours degree in 1988 marked a turning point in the academic study of theatre in Sri Lanka. In 2023, the Department of Drama and Theatre Arts was officially established as a separate department within the newly formed Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan Faculty of Visual and Performing Arts. The Department of Fine Arts originally served as the parent department for both performing and visual arts disciplines. Over time, each discipline was gradually upgraded to its department. Now, all visual and performing arts

disciplines are unified under the new Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan Faculty of Visual and Performing Arts.

Curriculum of the Subject

Initially, the DTA curriculum crafted in 1986 by Prof. K. Sivathamby, supported by Prof. S. Maunaguru and Kuzhanthi Shanmugalingam, the DTA curriculum explored the global history of drama and theatre while integrating practical training. The first major revision was in 2000, Until 2001, annual exams were used, but this changed with the introduction of the semester system introduced the Theatre Project course unit, focusing on field-based applied theatre activities, along with elective units from other disciplines. Subsequent revisions in 2003 and 2012 added practical courses like acting, visual design, music, and dance. However, criticism remains that the Drama and Theatre Arts program needs more practical focus for better employability. The existing curriculum of Drama and Theatre Arts revised in 2020 at the university fully integrates Outcome-Based Education with Student-Centred Learning (OBE-SCL) requirements and Sri Lanka Qualifications Framework (SLQF) standards. The course necessitates students with practical efficiency potential. The Drama and Theatre Arts department faced challenges due to infrastructure issues.

Development of the Subject to date

In 2020, the Faculty of Arts implemented a major curriculum revision to address the current needs of the country. The entire curriculum underwent expert review, and their feedback was incorporated into the revisions

The curriculum reflects decolonial ideological thinking and integrates additional practical course units, with the entire concept centred around on theatre practicals. Notably, it included Tamil traditional performances, local knowledge of performing traditions, and training met HODs. The study of theatre history was restructured from a chronological approach to a more conceptual one. The curriculum expanded the practical course units in acting and visual design and introduced new subjects, including playwriting, theatre heritage, theatre management, children's theatre, Tamil traditional performances, and internships. To fully achieve the aims and objectives of the curriculum, further professional training is essential, along with the development of the necessary infrastructure. Addressing these needs is both urgent and critical. Academic staff recruitment faced significant gaps. It also affected the academic achievement of the department.

Subsequent Expansion of the Discipline

Dr. K. Sithampanathan became the head from 2001 to 2006, introduced the course unit Theatre Project. encourage and produce plays for the students to visit the relevant sites. Utilize the theatre to mobilize the public to social and political issues. Due to the political unrest and other restrictions of freedom of expression theatre activities were limited. Two permanent lectures were appointed during his headship; Dr. Kathiresu Rathitharan was appointed in 2001, followed by Dr. Navadharshani Karunaharan in 2006.

followed by Dr. A.N. Krishnaveni (2006–2018) under the Headship theatre activities expanded in many ways even with restrictions on performing dramas in public. Due to the release of travelling travel restrictions, there were opportunities to collaborate with international institutions like Gothe Institute and travel outside of Jaffna and perform dramas. She always encourages and travels along with the students. The young lecturers went for a PhD. It's again the discipline suffered by human resources. Justin Jelood and Ms. Vaidhehi Emil served as a visiting lecturer / visiting lecturer during this period. Dr. K. Rathitharan's PhD from the University of Hyderabad focuses on actor training and character development. Dr. Navadharshani Karunaharan earned her PhD from the University of Kelaniya with her dissertation, 'Enacting Histories on Stage: Contextualizing Sri Lankan Tamil Theatre'.

Prof. T. Sanathanan (2018–2021), introduced the Theatre Festival as a learning method, it create opportunities opportunities to collaborate outside the university system, other university also performs here, and students learnt traditional theatre forms and perform it them. There were two festivals conducted during his period. Earlier the students those already involved dramas chose as a DTA as subject later the UGC did made a special intake of DTA. Through the entry all catergy students entered. In At this time, there was a need to start practically from the basis. The Drama and Theatre Arts curriculum was part of this process, with Prof. Saumiya Lynake and the Theatre professional Mr. Alphone Tarcicius conducting the review. He reconnected with A.C. Tharcicius to conduct practical sessions for the probationary lecturers to methodologically develop teaching practical lesson. The practical sessions were assisted by Switzerland Theatre professional Anton Ponrasa. Prof. T. Sanathanan, who served as the Head of Fine Arts from 2018 to 2021 and chaired the Curriculum Evaluation and Monitoring Committee, also made significant contributions in to shaping the curriculum both structurally and in terms of content. Thavachelvi Rasan and Meiyanathan Keetheeswaran joined in 2019.

Dr. K. Rathitharan (2021–2023) served as the Head of the department for a very short period and resigned for personal reasons. Two permanent lectures and two permanent instructors were recruited in his period. Probationary lectures Arunthavanathan Prashanth and Mathysaliny Thurairasa, alongside new instructors Kirutharshan Nicholas John Mariyathas and T. Justin Jelood, were recruited in 2021

Followed by Dr. K. Navadharshani, who assumed the role in 2023 as head of Fine Arts in May 2023. In September 2023, the inauguration of the Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan Faculty of Performing and Visual Arts marked the transition of the Drama and Theatre Arts degree program into a department alongside Dance, Music, Instrumental, Sculpture, and Painting. Dr. Navadharshani Karunaharan became the founding head of the Department of Drama and Theatre Arts.

Pioneering Individuals and Outstanding Academic Contributions

After much effort by Prof. S.Vithyananthan effort and debate were introduced as a degree program in 1986. When the Drama and Theatre Arts (DTA) degree was established, it faced a lack of academics to run the degree program effectively. The first Vice Chancellor of the University of Jaffna, who introduced drama education, famously

said, “Those who teach drama at the department’s early stage can learn and teach.” This philosophy guided the department’s teaching and learning. Over time, the DTA became a centre for prominent Tamil theatre personalities, driving modern Tamil theatre forward across various fields. The Drama and Theatre Arts (DTA) department at the University of Jaffna brought together diverse resources in theatre and they all have their degrees in different disciplines, under one umbrella, guided by Prof. Sivathamby.

The introduction of a DTA degree program by Prof. Karthigesu Sivathamby reflected a concerted effort to institutionalize drama as a field of study. Prof. Sivathamby’s pioneering work, including his Ph.D. research on ancient drama in Tamil society, further rooted this field in the Tamil tradition while drawing comparisons and parallels with the world’s ancient theater traditions. His contributions gave a new identity to Tamil theatre and helped establish the academic study of theater from both local and global perspectives. Under his leadership, the department became the first in South Asia to offer a DTA program in the Tamil medium.

Throughout its history, the DTA department has been shaped by several key figures who contributed to its development through its research, teaching, and practical engagement with theatre. In the department’s early stages, a pivotal effort to unify lecturers with diverse ideologies led to the 1993 conference “Theatre as Education,” chaired by Prof. K. Sivathamby. The event facilitated discussions on contemporary education, highlighting the relevance of theatre education shortly after its introduction, making it highly significant. Prof. S. Maunaguru, an expert in Kuthu theatre, played a crucial role in blending traditional Tamil theatre with modern techniques. His Ph.D. work on traditional dramas in Batticaloa highlighted the enduring significance of indigenous performance forms, while his productions emphasized collaboration across diverse artistic disciplines. Dr. Kuzhalanthi Shanmugalingam, another eminent figure in Tamil theatre, introduced innovative practices. His efforts to establish DTA as a recognized academic field were instrumental in shaping the department’s curriculum and fostering a new generation of theatre artists. His workshops and school productions inspired students to pursue drama and theatre studies, ensuring the discipline’s continued growth. Other notable contributors include Dr. Karai Suntharampillai, who conducted extensive research on folk theatre in Northern Sri Lanka. N.Suntharalingam BSc graduate from Colombo University, director of Education, and visiting lecturer of DTA. He experienced modern theatre in Colombo by participating in workshops by the foreign mission. His scripted and trend-setting play productions. Dr. K. Sithamparanathan, focused on theatre as a tool for social and political activism. Their combined efforts helped create a rich and dynamic academic environment within the DTA department, and directed groundbreaking play productions, enabling it to become a leading center for Tamil theatre studies.

Prof. S. Maunaguru, an expert in Kuthu, united indigenous Kuthu traditions with modern theatre, emphasizing diversity as the department’s strength with traditions and taught collaborative production techniques and directed plays. Directed intergrated plays fuse with Bharathanatyam, Kandiyan Dance and Kuthu. Prof. S. Maunaguru’s PhD on the traditional dramas of Batticaloa. Further travel in search of Tamil identity and parraral to Nationalistic ideologies followed by Kuthu produced by Prof. S.Vithiyananthan at

Peradeniya University. He played a major role there. He has a long connection with theatre.

Eminent dramatist Dr. Kuzhanthi Shanmugalingam, was involved in university plays before becoming a lecturer, he came from Tamil amateur theatre tradition with modern theatre training. Who conducted workshops and produced dramas at schools to disseminate and inspire the students to study DTA as a subject. He worked at different levels to establish DTA as a study program.

Dr. Karai Suntharampillai research on M.Phil The history of Isai *Nadaka Varalaru* in Sri Lanka. Ph. D Folk Theatre in Northern Sri Lanka. He came from a traditional kuthu family and got training in modern theatre. Those are notable researches for the foundation of Theatre Education.

N.Suntharalingam BSc graduate from Colombo University, director of Education, and visiting lecturer of DTA. He experienced modern theatre in Colombo by participating in workshops by the foreign mission. His scripted and trend-setting play productions; are '*Villippu*', '*Abasuram*'.

Dr. K. Sithamparanathan practised alternative forms of theatre emphasizing theatre as a tool for political and social activism. He transforms his practical experience into research. His MPhil in Theatre for Social Change and PhD examines theatre as a tool for social transformation. He particularly practices and teach this particular theatre as he got interested. It is noted that the all researches are supervised by Professor.K.Sivathamby. Dr.K.Sithamparanathan conducted workshops and dramas at schools to inspire the students later the students entered the university where they studied or involved in the university dramas is noted. He worked with Tamil rebels and worked/ decimate political ideologies and voice for the self-determination of the Tamils through theatre.

Professor Suresh Kanagarajah is a distinguished Sri Lankan Tamil scholar specializing in sociolinguistics, literacy, and English language teaching. He is currently the Edwin Erle Sparks Professor at Pennsylvania State University. Previously, he served as the head and lecturer in the English Language Teaching Unit (ELTU) at the University of Jaffna, where he also taught drama literature. Dr. K.N. Krishnaveni, former Professor and Head of the Department of Fine Arts, taught Indian Classical Theatre.

Following Prof. Sivathamby's retirement, the academic staff left for PhD, and due to the hue Jaffna exodus in 1995, the lectures also left from Jaffna for various reasons instability of the political situation several other academics took the department's administration from 1996 to 2001 was guided by its successive heads: Prof. N.Gnanakumaran, Prof. S.Krishnarajah, Dr. Kailainathan, and Ms. Nachiyar Selvanayakam. Prof. T. Sanathanan and Dr. P. Ahilan supported the teaching and evaluation of various aspects of the discipline.

Research Interests of the Staff

At its inception, the department made a significant effort to bring together lecturers with diverse ideologies by organizing a unifying conference. In 1993, the department held a conference on theatre education titled “Theatre as Education,” chaired by Prof. K. Sivathamby. This event sparked discussions on various topics related to contemporary education, which were particularly timely as they occurred shortly after the formal introduction of theatre education. These discussions were of immense importance during that period.

The staff of the Drama and Theatre Arts department actively engaged in both research and artistic practice, contributing significantly to the field of drama. Prof. Sivathamby made notable contributions to research on ancient Tamil theatre and the theatre histories of the Tamil people. Prof. S. Maunaguru focused on Kuthu traditions, with special emphasis on Kuthu practices in Batticaloa. Dr. S. Suntharampillai concentrated on folk and traditional Tamil theatre forms, while Dr. K. Sithamparanathan explored theatre as a tool for social change and political activism. Furthermore, Dr. Kuzhanthai Shanmugalingam and K. Suntharaligam directed and wrote plays that reflected extensive research on society and theatre. Dr. K. Rathitharan developed a strong interest in acting, and Dr. K. Navadharshani focused on the study of theatre history.

Through their collective research and artistic endeavors, the department fostered a deeper understanding of Tamil theatre traditions, societal issues, and the evolving role of drama in education and activism.

Staff and Students at Present

The department initially began with a small team of academics and artists. Currently, it is staffed by two senior lecturers, four probationary lecturers, and two permanent instructors. The academic staff bring valuable international experience in postgraduate research and collaborative theatre work. Until 2021, the department had no permanent management assistant or clerk, requiring the academic staff to handle clerical duties in addition to their teaching and research responsibilities. However, a work aid has been appointed to provide support, particularly for practical classes.

Dissemination of Knowledge

The DTA program has employed various learning methods beyond lectures and demonstrations, such as theatre workshops, staging dramas, and theatre festivals, since its inception. Notably, in 1987, a month-long theatre workshop was jointly organized by the Jaffna District Secretariat and the Department of Fine Arts. Renowned professionals like Dr. Kuzhanthai M. Shanmugalingam, V. V. Vairamuthu, Arasiah, and Francis Jenam, and artists from traditional Tamil theatre served as resource persons for this event. The department also organized additional workshops for university students, providing opportunities to connect with professionals. The workshop method was also used to disseminate knowledge of theatre and drama.

Over the years, the department invited Tamil traditional theatre and international experts for workshops. Post-2009, international collaborations increased, overcoming

civil war travel restrictions to enhance teaching and learning. Students gradually gained exposure to local and global theatre through traditional village performances and workshops in Colombo, especially via Goethe-Institut collaborations, overcoming civil war travel restrictions within Jaffna. Ernest Thalayasingam Macentyre, a pioneer of modern theatre in Sri Lanka who now lives in Australia, conducted a notable workshop. The department expanded its international connections and reconnected with Tamil diaspora artists as communication facilities improved. During the COVID-19 pandemic, virtual meetings replaced physical ones, enabling students and faculty to engage with global theatre practices. Notable workshops/practicals were conducted by Swiss theatre professional Anton Ponrasa and renowned Tamil artist A.C. Tharcisious. In 2024, Professor Otto Huber from Switzerland led a 20-day intensive acting workshop, which provided valuable exposure for students and improved teaching theatre practicals through enhanced practical teaching methodologies for lecturers. The Drama and Theatre Arts department faced challenges due to infrastructure issues. Despite receiving a two-story building in Inuvil, the department still struggles with inadequate studio facilities and technical support.

Play production is both a method of learning and the dissemination of knowledge, serving as a bridge between the university and society. The academics in the Drama and Theatre Arts (DTA) department have not only directed and produced numerous plays within the department but also used play production as a way for students to integrate different theatre elements they've learned. By applying these skills in front of an audience, students gain real-world experience. Participation in play production is a mandatory part of the curriculum. Since the establishment of the Drama and Theatre Arts (DTA) degree, the department has consistently produced plays as a key part of its academic activities. Prof Maunaguru and Shantha Ponnuthurai jointly produced dramas of in collaboration of Kuthu and Bharathanatyam. The first play, Makakavi Urithiramoorthi's *Puthiyathor Vedu*, was jointly directed by Prof. S. Maunaguru and Kuzhanthai Shanmugalingam. Notably, the plays '*Annai Idda Thee*' (1992) were co-produced by the Department of Fine Arts and the Faculty of Medicine. '*Iru Thuyarangaal*', written by Murukaiyan, was directed by N. Suntharalingam. The Drama and Theatre Arts (DTA) department has directed and produced over forty plays in various genres, both within the department and in collaboration with other institutions. The play *Annai Idda Thee* (1992) was co-produced by the Department of Fine Arts and the Faculty of Medicine, Dr.K.Sithamparanathan also directed many groundbreaking plays for the society, including 'The Red Lantern' (2003), translated by M. Ponnampalam. This notable production reflected the realities of living through war. The department also initiated community theatre activities and therapeutic work in areas affected by war and the tsunami directed by Dr.K.Sithamparanathan.

When the opportunity to travel outside of Jaffna arose, plays began being performed in Colombo and other locations. A student production performed (2010) in Punchi Theatre, Colombo. Additionally, the department became open to international collaborations. In 2010 The play '1954' won first prize in the inter-university competition. The children's play '*Kadavuzhlum Kuddiyum*', directed by Dr. K. Rathitharan, was performed in various locations in Eastern and Northern Sri Lanka, supported by the

Goethe Institute Colombo. '*Abhigñānaśākuntala*', directed by Dr. K. Navadharshani, was staged at Tower Hall, Colombo. 'The Birds That Won't Fly', directed by Anna Klatt, was performed at the Colombo International Theatre Festival in 2018. In 2023, presented a demonstration on adapting traditional games into theatre practice and presented research on theatre pedagogy at the First International Festival of Theatre Schools 2023. In the same year the drama 'Berdan Legacy' was invited to perform at the University of Visual and Performing Arts in Colombo. With the reopening of the A 9 road and improvements in transportation, play productions from Jaffna began traveling to other parts of Sri Lanka, expanding their reach and audience. With the reopening of the A 9 road and transportation improvements, play productions from Jaffna began traveling to other parts of Sri Lanka, expanding their reach and audience.

Theatre festivals serve as a vital learning method for students, allowing them to develop multiple skills through participation. The Department of Theatre Studies has a rich tradition of hosting festivals, with key events occurring in 2018, 2019, and 2023. These festivals include discussions on contemporary theatre's challenges and practices.

The Empty Space Theatre Group was created for DTA students, hosting workshops, discussions, and theatre festivals in collaboration with the department. During the pandemic, it engaged the community through online talks and workshops. DTA students are actively involved in theatre productions before entering university. The curriculum encourages multidisciplinary activities, expert talks, international collaboration, professional training, theatre performances, and expanding practical units to enhance learning experiences.

Our alumni have excelled in education, with careers in universities, colleges, and schools. Many have earned advanced degrees like PhDs, MAs, or MEds, enhancing their professional standing. Those passionate about theatre contribute actively to productions, bridging academic and practical aspects, and inspiring current students and practitioners in the field.

Prospects of the Department

The department aims to foster a dynamic learning environment that nurtures creativity and innovation in theatre. By investing in modern resources and technical support, students and faculty can explore new dimensions of performing arts. Collaboration with industry professionals and cultural organizations will further enrich the department's offerings, making it a leading center for theatre education and research.

Department of Economics

Preamble

The Department of Economics at the University of Jaffna stands as a beacon of academic excellence, fostering critical economic thought and leadership in Sri Lanka, especially within the Northern Province. Established in 1974, the Department has nurtured generations of scholars and professionals, committed to addressing both regional and global economic challenges. Through an unwavering commitment to inclusivity and interdisciplinary research, the department continues to shape the discourse on economic development and policy-making.

Commencement of Discipline and the Factors Prompted

The introduction of Economics as a discipline at the University of Jaffna in 1974 was driven by a pressing need for economic expertise within the Northern Province. The socio-political context of post-independence Sri Lanka required localized economic knowledge to address issues of development, poverty alleviation, and the equitable distribution of resources. This, combined with the rising demand for economic scholars to contribute to policy making and development planning, prompted the establishment of the department. From the very beginning, it aimed to create a cadre of economists who understood both the local context and the global economic environment.

Growth of the Subject as a Discipline

Economics as a discipline flourished at the University of Jaffna, benefiting from both the national demand for economic expertise and the university's commitment to fostering intellectual diversity. The department grew steadily, introducing new courses and areas of study in response to changing economic realities. Over the years, it has expanded to include specialized areas, reflecting both academic advancements and societal needs.

Approaching Economics as both a social and behavioral science, the department blended normative inquiry with positive analysis, establishing itself as a dynamic hub

for critical thought. Initially known by various names, including the Department of Economics and Commerce and the Department of Economics, Sociology, and Political Science, it reflected a multidisciplinary approach that helped catalyze the development of disciplines like Commerce, Management, Political Science, and Sociology. In 1998, the department became a standalone entity, focusing solely on Economics after the creation of separate departments for Commerce and Management in 1983, and for Political Science and Sociology in 1998.

The Curriculum of the Subject

The curriculum has evolved significantly since the department's inception. Initially centered on core economic principles in line with the prevailing tradition, it has since evolved to incorporate contemporary issues such as sustainable development, globalization, and economic justice, all with a localized perspective. The curriculum is designed to develop students' analytical skills, critical thinking, and practical knowledge, ensuring they are well-equipped to analyze and solve complex economic problems. Key subjects such as Economic Theories, Econometrics, and Public Sector Economics are complemented by electives that cover topics like tourism economics, gender economics, rural economics, labor economics, and environmental economics, allowing students to tailor their education to specific interests.

The Department of Economics implemented key curriculum changes from time to time: in 2001 it introduced the semester system, followed by the inclusion of credit values for course units in 2005, and the adoption of Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) in 2009. In response to recommendations from the Quality Assurance Council (QAC) in 2017, the Faculty of Arts modernized its programs by incorporating Outcome-Based Education (OBE), Student-Centered Learning (SCL), and Learner-Centered Teaching (LCT) into all disciplines. The curriculum was aligned with the Sri Lanka Qualifications Framework (SLQF) standards to meet both academic and professional requirements across degree programs.

One key recommendation from the QAC was the introduction of a separate and specific curriculum for the Bachelor's Degree Programme, distinct from the Honors Degree Programme. This led to the most recent curriculum revision, which began in 2019 and was fully implemented by 2021. The overhaul brought the department in line with modern educational practices, addressing the need for a more tailored academic experience for Bachelor's degree students.

New initiatives were introduced to enhance the practical skills of students. These included the incorporation of Research Methods and Project Reports into the curriculum for Bachelor of Arts (General Degree) students, ensuring that even those in the three-year degree program gain valuable research exposure. For Honors Degree students, an internship program was introduced in the recent curriculum revision and implemented in 2024. This program allows final-year students to gain professional experience in government, private institutions, and economic think tanks in Colombo, bridging the gap between academic study and practical application.

These curriculum reforms have strengthened the department's commitment to producing well-rounded graduates equipped with both theoretical knowledge and practical skills, ensuring they are ready to face the challenges of the modern workforce. The Department of Economics has fully embraced these changes, aligning its programs and pedagogical practices with the Faculty's forward-thinking vision, while continuing to address regional, national, and global economic challenges.

Evolution and Expansion of the Economics Discipline

The Department of Economics has continually expanded its academic offerings and research focus to adapt to the evolving economic landscape. By introducing postgraduate programs, research seminars, and fostering collaborations with local and international institutions, the department ensures it remains a leader in economic education. Continuous curriculum revisions integrate disciplines such as econometrics, mathematics, statistics, project planning, and entrepreneurship, alongside enhancement crash courses in accounting and management skills, with core economic theories, economic history, and applied economics. This comprehensive approach is reflected in a broad range of course units, including Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Development Economics, International Economics, History of Economic Thought, Environmental Economics, Comparative Economics, Regional Economics and Sri Lankan Economy, which address both theoretical and practical aspects. The curriculum is designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary for impactful contributions in public policy, research, and academia, while addressing the unique socio-economic needs of the region and the nation.

In response to evolving economic challenges, the department has expanded its focus to include interdisciplinary studies and applied research. Collaborative efforts with other departments such as the Department of English Language Teaching have enriched the language competency of economic students, adding a multidisciplinary approach. The expansion of research areas has further strengthened the department's role in addressing the unique socio-economic issues faced by the Northern Province.

Over the years, the department expanded its academic offerings to include both internal and external degree programs, offering Honors and General degrees to its undergraduates. It has also introduced new courses and research initiatives that reflect its commitment to addressing both local and global economic challenges. Curriculum changes embraced theoretical developments, historical perspectives, and applied economics, ensuring the department remains at the forefront of contemporary economic discourses. In addition, the department has offered postgraduate qualifications, including M.A., Master of Development Studies, M.Phil., Ph.D., and a PG Diploma in Public Administration. Currently, it provides guidance and supervision for M.Phil. and Ph.D. degrees and has produced 06 PhDs and 12 M.Phils to date.

Pioneering Individuals and Outstanding Academic Contributions

Initially, the Department of Economics operated without a formal Head or Lecturer-in-Charge, with Prof. K. Indrapala, Dean of the Faculty, overseeing its affairs. On December 2, 1974, Mr. E. Muthuthamby was appointed as a contract lecturer. He was

the department's sole staff member until 1975. The team expanded in April 1975 with the appointments of Mr. K. Anandanadarajah and Mr. N. Perinpanathan, followed by Mr.V.P.Sivanathan in 1977. This small but dedicated group, along with representatives from the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, formed the Departmental Committee. Prof. W. L. Jeyasingam, Head of the Department of Geography, also contributed as a coordinating Head during the initial years.

In the late 1970s, several Tamil academics from the University of Peradeniya, including Prof. N. Balakrishnan, who was a distinguished economist with deep expertise in economic theories and a sharp analytical mind for policy evaluation and Prof. S. Rajaratnam, an economic historian, joined the department, bringing expertise in teaching Economics in English and Tamil. Prof. N. Balakrishnan, the department's most distinguished scholar, pioneered the teaching of Economics in Tamil and published extensively in prestigious journals such as Asian Survey, while also contributing to books on Sri Lanka's economy and society. With these veterans, Prof. V. Nithiyanathan joined in 1980 (author of Sahitya Award winning publication, The Political Economy of Sri Lanka 1948 - 1956: Class and Ethnic Perspectives and another book Economic History of Sri Lanka: The North-East Dimension) from University of Colombo. The contributions of lecturers from commerce backgrounds are also fondly remembered and deeply honored, as they strengthened the department in its formative years. Additionally, Dr. S.K.S. Nathan (Political Science) and Prof. N. Shanmugalingam (Sociology) played significant roles in fostering the department's multidisciplinary nature until their respective disciplines were separated.

Despite financial and resource constraints, the department remained steadfast in its mission to deliver world-class education while responding to the unique needs of the Northern region. The foundational contributions of scholars from Vaddukoddai Jaffna College, along with the unwavering leadership of Prof. N. Balakrishnan, Prof.S.Rajaratnam, Prof. V. Nithiyanathan, Retired Prof. V.P. Sivanathan, and Mr.Perinpanathan, were instrumental in shaping the department's academic trajectory. These five veterans, true academics in every sense, not only served as Heads of the department but also steered it through the turbulent war years, navigating immense challenges with resilience and dedication, ensuring its survival and growth during some of the most difficult times.

Their contribution to Economics in Tamil, such as Poruliyalalan (Economist), appearing in 1987, followed by Apiviruththip Poruliyal (Development Economics), Ilam Poruliyalalan (Young Economist), and Chamuga Arivu were noteworthy- however, they were discontinued due to the deteriorating political conditions during that time. Their intellectual contribution and vision continue to inspire the department's pursuit of academic excellence, guiding it through challenging times. Retired professors N.Balakrishnan and V. P. Sivanathan (a longstanding member who rendered uninterrupted service until his retirement in 2016) also served as Deans of the Faculty of Arts, extending their service beyond the Department. Prof. N. Balakrishnan additionally served as the Rector of the Vavuniya Campus at the time of his retirement. Another retired professor,

R. Nanthakumaran, also from the Department of Economics, similarly served as the Rector of the Vavuniya Campus of the University of Jaffna.

Academic Staff Who Have Served and Left

Several academic staff members have also made lasting contributions to the Department of Economics before leaving for other pursuits. Among them, Mr. Kandiah, Ms. Ambikadevi, Mr. Anthonymuthu, Ms. Kalaichelvi, Mr. Joseph Francis and Mr. Losan Reginald each played significant roles in academia. Their commitment to the students and their passion for economics laid a strong foundation for future scholars. Their departure is remembered fondly, and the positive influence they left behind continues to resonate within the department.

Research Interests of the Staff

The department's academic staff are engaged in a wide range of research projects, reflecting both global economic trends and local issues. Key areas of focus include development economics, environmental sustainability, public policy, and poverty alleviation. Research on the impact of post-war economic policies, the role of tourism in regional development, and the challenges of sustainable development in Sri Lanka have garnered national and international recognition. The staff's commitment to producing policy-relevant research has made significant contributions to the region's socio-economic development.

The current academic cadre includes Prof. S. Santhirasegaram (specializing in Macro Economics and Development Economics), Prof. S. Vijayakumar (Macroeconomics and Monetary Economics), and Prof. C. Elankumaran (Mathematics and Statistics) as Professors. Senior Lecturers include Dr. (Ms.) K. Karunaanithy (Historical and Environmental Economics), Mr. S.S. Uthayakumar (Microeconomics and Development Economics), Mrs. V. Ravishankar (International Economics and Microfinance), and Dr.M. Sarvananthan (Development Economics and Planning). Additionally, Mrs. M.D.A.Christian (Monetary and Financial Economics) serves as a Lecturer (unconfirmed), while Miss N. Narenthiran (Econometrics and Project Planning) and Mrs. S. Piratheeban (Rural Economics and Gender Economics) serve as Probationary Lecturers. The department also employs visiting and temporary lecturers to complement its teaching staff as needed.

Staff and Students at Present

The department owes much of its success to the pioneering efforts of early scholars like Prof. N. Balakrishnan, Prof. S. Rajaratnam, Prof. V. Nithiananthan, Retired Prof. V.P. Sivanathan, and Mr. Perinpanathan. These individuals laid the groundwork for the department's academic excellence through their visionary leadership, research contributions, and dedication to student mentorship. Their contributions to economic thought, particularly in the areas of development economics and socio-economic policy, have left an enduring legacy that continues to inspire both students and faculty. As the department continues to evolve, it remains rooted in the tradition of leadership and academic excellence established by its pioneers. Successive heads of the department,

including Prof. C. Elankumaran, Mr. S. S. Uthayakumar, Mrs. V. Ravishankar, and Prof.S.Santhirasegaram, have upheld this legacy, guiding both academic and institutional growth while fostering a forward-thinking environment. The current Head of the Department, Dr. (Ms.) K. Karunaanithy, continues to uphold this legacy of excellence in Economics.

The department boasts a highly qualified team of academic staff at present, many of whom hold PhDs and have international research experience. The student body is diverse, drawing students from various parts of Sri Lanka. The department's commitment to providing world-class education is reflected in its student-centered teaching methods, research opportunities, and active participation in national and international economic forums.

Currently, the department operates with a total of 10 academic staff members, including three professors, four senior lecturers, one lecturer (unconfirmed), and two probationary lecturers. The team includes Prof. S. Santhirasegaram, Prof.S.Vijayakumar, and Prof. C. Elankumaran as Professors; Dr. (Ms.) K. Karunaanithy, Mr.S. S.Uthayakumar, Mrs. V. Ravishankar, and Dr. M. Sarvananthan as Senior Lecturers; Mrs. M. D.A.Christian as Lecturer (unconfirmed), and Miss N. Narenthiran, Mrs. S. Piratheeban as Probationary Lecturers. The department also utilizes visiting and temporary lecturers to supplement its teaching staff as needed.

From its early days, the department has focused on producing graduates with the skills and knowledge to excel in various fields. Its dissemination of knowledge through seminars, webinars, publications, guest lectures, and media presentations is timely and impactful. Many Tamil-speaking professors in Economics, currently serving at universities across Sri Lanka, including the University of Colombo (Prof.K.Amirthalingam), Open University (Prof. S. N. Morais), Eastern (Prof.T.Bhavan), South Eastern (Prof.A.M.M.Mustafa), and Jaffna (Prof. S. Santhirasekaram and Prof.S.Vijayakumar) trace their academic roots to this department, highlighting its significant role in shaping the field of Economics in Sri Lanka. In addition, past students of the department serve in reputable positions (former DGs- V. A. Vimalenthirarajah & G. Malarmathy are now serving as secretaries to ministries in 2025) in Government and Non-Government organizations within and outside Sri Lanka.

Dissemination of Knowledge

Knowledge dissemination remains a core priority for the department, with faculty regularly publishing in national and international journals, as well as presenting at conferences. The department also plays a critical role in advising local government agencies, NGOs, and the private sector on economic policy and development strategies. Workshops, seminars, popular talks in media, write-ups in newspapers and guest lectures are frequently organized to keep students and the wider community engaged with the latest developments in economics.

Outreach Activities and Community Engagement

The Department of Economics places a strong emphasis on community engagement, reflecting its commitment to addressing local economic issues. In collaboration with government institutions and NGOs, the department regularly conducts outreach activities such as economic literacy programs, workshops, and community-based research projects. It organized a seminar during the economic crisis which received wider acceptance at that time. The department also organizes seminars for school teachers, aiming to improve the teaching of economics at the secondary level.

The department actively engages in student-focused activities through the Young Economic Association (YEA), which showcases the academic and outreach activities of students by organizing educational tours, workshops and seminars, Welfare activities such as Shramadhana and Blood donation Campaigns organized annually through the Association aim to strengthen the Department's bond with society. . The Association's magazine serves as a platform for students and faculty to share insights.

Contribution of Non-Academic Staff

The Department of Economics has benefited immensely from the unwavering dedication and support of its non-academic staff over the years. Individuals like Mr. Sellathurai, Mr. Alagathurai, Mr. Sayanthanathan, Mr. Koventhan, and Mr.Chanthirakumar, played crucial roles in ensuring the smooth functioning of daily operations. Currently, Ms. G. Vethika continues this tradition of service, contributing to the department's administration and student support.

Additionally, the contribution of Office Equipment Supervisors (OES) cannot be overlooked. Mr. Balasubramaniam served the department diligently as an OES, and his efforts have been carried forward by Mr. Arunmaran, who presently serves in the department. Their work has been vital in allowing academic and administrative processes to function seamlessly.

Conclusion

The Department of Economics at the University of Jaffna has grown into a hub of academic excellence, research, and community engagement over its five-decade history. Rooted in a deep commitment to the Northern Province, the department continues to contribute to the intellectual and socio-economic development of the region while maintaining a global outlook. As it moves forward, the department remains dedicated to preparing the next generation of economists to tackle the most pressing economic challenges of the 21st century, both locally and globally.

Department of Education

Preamble

The Department of Education, is one of the senior departments of the Faculty of Arts of University of Jaffna which aims to produce competent and energetic teachers and Education administrators to make school education productive and relevant to society. By promoting educational excellence, supporting professional development of educators, and fostering community involvement, the Department contributes to the holistic development of the region in education and reinforces the university's role as the 'Knowledge Shrine' of the North province of Sri Lanka.

Subjects Covered and their Orientation

The Department of Education offers diverse course units related to education, under three main streams: Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, and Humanities especially for the benefit of the teachers and education administrators who work in schools and education administration offices.

Factors prompted the Establishment of the Department of Education

The need for educating and training teachers was felt necessary during the 70s and the teacher education programmes were initiated in the universities in Sri Lanka, and subsequently the Postgraduate Diploma in Education programme was started in the University of Jaffna to educate Tamil medium teachers. Thus the Department of Education was established within the Faculty of Arts on the 15th of October 1980, the teaching activities were initiated with the transfer of 45 PGDE Tamil medium students and five academics from the Faculty of Education of the University of Colombo. Some Academics who were appointed as lecturers in the University of Colombo were transferred to the University of Jaffna and commenced the full-time post-graduate diploma program through the Department of Education.

Evolution of the Curricula of the Department of Education

The Department of Education has been instrumental in offering various courses aimed at enhancing educational standards in the region. The first programme of study offered by the Department was the Postgraduate Diploma in Education programme, which was started as a full-time course, with the selected students through a rigorous process by the Ministry of Education, involving both an examination and an interview. Recognizing the need for flexibility, the Department introduced a part-time PGDE course in 1981, with student selection directly by the Department.

Secondly the MA in Education program, which was equivalent to the current MPhil in Education degree, was another milestone. The student selection was made through interviews as the programme had a high demand. In 2000, the Department initiated the Bachelor of Education (BEd) programme, specifically designed for science students and conducted in English medium, in collaboration with the Faculty of Science. However, this programme was not continued after four batches. The Department also launched the Master of Education (MEd) programme in 2000, which was taken over by the Faculty of Graduate Studies after a few years. The MPhil and PhD in Education programmes were also initially managed by the Department before being transferred to the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

The Department has consistently focused on curriculum revision to meet the evolving educational needs, with the latest updates to the PGDE and MEd programmes. The latest revisions curricula were completed in 2019. The PGDE curriculum was revised according to the SLQF and the courses in English language and ICT have been incorporated.

Further, some new course units such as Teacher Education and Inclusive Education have been incorporated in the MEd curriculum. It is to be noted that the new Units introduced in the MED curriculum, the Internship and the Personal and Professional Development (PPD) offer educational administrative professionals, school principals, and teachers practical exposure to develop their skills and attitudes.

Expansion in the Disciplines

As a milestone in the progress of development of the Department, New programmes have been initiated including the Diploma in Preschool Education. While proposals have been made to incorporate Education as a core subject at the undergraduate curriculum of Bachelor of Arts Programme. The preparation of the curriculum for starting Postgraduate Diploma in Education Management is presently reaching the final stage. We look forward to initiating more programmes in the near future.

Pioneering Individuals and Outstanding Academic Contributions

The department proudly hails the achievements of its past with cherished memories of the former academics for their valuable contributions. The pioneering academics who laid the foundation for the department were the late Prof. P.Chandrasegaram, late

Prof.V.Arumugam, Dr. T. Velautham, late Dr. A. Karunanathan and Mr. K. Sinnathamby. In the years that followed, they were joined by other notable educators including Dr.S.Jeyarasah, late Miss S. Arulanantham, Mr. M. Sinnathamby, the late Dr.T.Kalamany, Dr. (Mrs.) A. Sathiyaseelan, and Prof. (Mrs.) J. Rasanayagam, all of whom contributed significantly to the growth and development of the Department. Dr.Anton Gunasingarajah and the Late Mrs. G. Pararsasingam who served the Department with dedication had to migrate later. Late Mr. Gunasingarajh was an academic member who passed away while in service.

The leadership of the Department of Education has seen a succession of distinguished Heads over the years, including Prof. P. Chandrasegaram, Dr. T. Velautham, Prof. V. Arumugam, Prof. K. Sinnathamby, Prof. S. Jeyarasah, Miss S. Arulanantham, Prof. M. Sinnathamby, Prof. (Mrs.) A. Sathiyaseelan, and Prof. (Mrs.) J. Rasanayagam. Presently the head of the Department is Dr. A. Nithlavarnan, who continues to uphold the Department's legacy of excellence in Education.

Currently, the Department operates with a total academic staff of five, three senior lecturers, one lecturer, and one probationary lecturer. The team comprises Dr.A.Nithlavarnan as Senior Lecturer Grade I, Dr. V. Vijayabaskar and Mr. M. Sathiyakumar as Senior Lecturers Grade II, Mr. R. Sharveswara as Lecturer, and Mr. K. Piratheeban as Lecturer Probationary. Three academic positions remain vacant and are yet to be filled. The Department also utilizes the expertise of visiting and temporary lecturers as needed to supplement its teaching staff.

Research Interests of the Staff

Dr. A. Nithlavarnan focuses on Measurement & Evaluation in Education, Education for Sustainable Development and Educational Psychology. Mr.M.Sathiyakumar is interested in Historical Development of Education, Contemporary Issues in Education, Methodology of Teaching, Preschool Education, Primary Education, and Guidance and counseling. Dr. V. Vijayabaskar's research focuses on Historical Development of Education, Contemporary Issues in Education, Methodology of Teaching, Preschool Education, Primary Education, Guidance and counseling. Mr.R.Sharveswara is interested in Educational Psychology and Measurement & Evaluation in Education. Mr.K.Piratheeban has been working on Lifelong Learning, Teacher Education, Assessment of Evaluation and Science & Mathematics Teaching.

Dissemination of Knowledge

Beyond academic endeavours, the Department actively engages in various other related activities through the 'Education Society' (கல்விக் கழகம்), established in 1980. This society plays a vital role in the academic and social life of students, organizing educational tours, workshops, seminars, and welfare activities. It also publishes an annual magazine, "கலைஞானம்" which serves as a platform for students and faculty to share their insights and research.

Since 2024 the Department has started to organize the International Research Conference in Education every year with the collaboration of the Faculty of Graduate studies. The first Conference was held on 20th and 21st of April 2024.

The Department of Education at the University of Jaffna plays a pivotal role in extending the university's impact beyond its academic confines through a variety of outreach activities and community engagement initiatives.

Outreach Activities and Community Engagement

Our Staff members engage in Organizing educational workshops and seminars. These events target not only university students but also school teachers, principals, and community educators. By addressing contemporary educational challenges and sharing best practices, the Department helps to uplift the quality of education in the region. These workshops often focus on enhancing teaching methodologies, integrating technology into the classroom, and addressing the unique educational needs of rural communities.

In addition to workshops, the Department actively engages in curriculum development for local schools. The members of the Department collaborate with educators to create and revise curricula that meet the evolving needs of students. This collaboration ensures that educational content remains relevant and aligned with national standards, while also catering to the specific cultural and linguistic needs of the Northern Province. The journey of the Department of Education continues on towards the achievements of its stakeholders.

Department of English Language Teaching

Preamble

The Department of English Language Teaching was established as the English Language Teaching Centre in 1984 with a mission to enhance the English language proficiency of learners. From its inception, the department has been dedicated to empower the growing demand of English as a Second Language (ESL) among all the faculties of the University of Jaffna. It was elevated as the Department of English Language Teaching in 2019. Recently the Department has introduced a special degree program in English Language Teaching (ELT) with the scope of meeting the urgent need for qualified English language educators. Over the years, it has played a pivotal role in moulding the learners across the country, offering specialized courses, teacher training programs, and innovative resources for learners and educators alike. Its contributions have significantly raised the standards of English language education, making it a leading department.

Subjects Covered and their Orientation

The Department of English Language Teaching (DELT), mainly offers an auxiliary course/enhancement course in English as a Second Language which is a compulsory component to all undergraduates of the different faculties attached to the University of Jaffna. The course orients students to enhance their English Language competencies with a view to facilitating them excel in their academic discipline and professional career.

In addition to the auxiliary course/enhancement course in English as a Second Language (ESL), it offers a General Degree programme in English Language Teaching (ELT) and has commenced a special degree programme in ELT during this golden jubilee era. The course aims to produce English Language teaching professionals who can seek employment in educational institutions (state/private/self-employed) locally and internationally.

Commencement of the Discipline and the Factors Prompted its Establishment

Having recognized the importance of the English language proficiency of the undergraduates, irrespective of their academic specialization, the University of Jaffna has initiated the English Language teaching programme since 1974 intending to enhance the communicative competence of the undergraduates in ESL for their academic excellence in different fields of their studies as well as their career prospective in the world of work. English language teaching was one of the disciplines under the Department of Cultural and Language Studies. A coordinator from the instructors in English attached to the above Department was appointed to conduct the ESL programme.

In order to implement the English language teaching programme effectively, a separate unit called the English Language Teaching Centre (ELTC) was established in the Faculty of Arts in 1984. This unit mainly focused on imparting English language skills. The Head of the Unit who was a senior academic member holding the position Senior Lecturer/Instructor Grade II or above was appointed by the Vice-Chancellor with the pending approval of the council. His/her tenure of office was three years. The ELTC functioned successfully under the Faculty of Arts since its inception in 1984. With the endless effort of fostering global connections through excellent English language education, the ELTC of University of Jaffna was upgraded as the Department of English Language Teaching on 23rd March 2019.

Growth of the Subject

The growth of English language as a discipline at the Faculty of Arts reflects its dynamic nature and its ability to adapt to changing intellectual and cultural landscapes. It continues to evolve, incorporating new theories, methodologies, and technologies while remaining grounded in the study of language, literature, and culture. As the discipline evolved, there was a growing interest in the structure and use of the English language itself. Linguistics became an integral part of English studies, exploring phonology, grammar, syntax, semantics, and the usefulness of major theories of Psycholinguistics, Neurolinguistics, Applied Linguistics and Sociolinguistics in the field of teaching and learning the English language.

Curriculum of the Discipline

DELT has been very dynamic in designing and implementing a new ESL curriculum depending on the learners' needs for English Language in their field of study and the global demand for English Language proficiency. The curriculum helps students to adapt themselves to the conditions of the world of work after graduation. As a result, ESP courses are designed in such a way that they cater to learners' needs, focusing on the language and skills that they will actually use in their professional or academic environments. This may include specialized vocabulary, technical terminology, communication strategies, and writing conventions specific to their field. ESP courses often adopt a task-based approach, where learners engage in activities and assignments that simulate real-world tasks they are likely to encounter in their professional or academic settings.

ESP, being an umbrella term, encompasses various subfields, such as English for Academic Purposes (EAP), English for Business Purposes (EBP), English for Medical Purposes (EMP), English for Engineering Purposes (EEP), English for Technology, English for Agriculture, English for Humanities, English for Social Sciences, English for General Purposes and many others. Each subfield focuses on the language skills and communication strategies relevant to a particular profession or academic discipline.

Development of the Subject to date

DELT, then ELTC, pledges to make its optimum contribution via rendering service fused with efficiency and commitment, to promote the language proficiency of the undergraduates. In its endeavour, DELT, in consideration of undergraduates specializing in various fields of study, is committed to producing a coherent ESL curricular framework and contextually relevant well-structured course units.

DELT offers two programmes simultaneously. The first one comprises the auxiliary course units or enhancement course units which are compulsory for all the undergraduates of the faculties. The second one is the special degree programme which includes ELT course units. A gradual development can be noticed in both disciplines offered by DELT.

Promoting English as a Second Language (ESL) with the goal of improving undergraduates' English language skills is the primary task of DELT. As a result, it has tremendous development in ESL teaching and learning up to now by revising the curricula according to the needs of the disciplines offered by undergraduates. Since its inception in 1974, it has offered a foundation course in English for the first-year undergraduates. English for general purposes was offered in the second and third years respectively. At the beginning, teaching ESL was restricted only to few faculties of the university. Now DELT provides its services to all the faculties of the University of Jaffna. However, the ESL course units for each faculty differ according to the needs of each faculty.

In this regard, DELT of the University of Jaffna offers a well-focused ESL course units, EGP (English for General Purposes) in the first year, ESP (English for Specific Purposes E.g., Business English, English for Social Sciences, English for Humanities, English for Science, English for Medical purposes, Legal English, etc.) and EAP (English for Academic Purposes). Having considered the national goals identified by the authorities of Higher Educational Institutions of Sri Lanka, DELT engages in revising the existing ESL syllabus. Recently it has revised the ESL syllabus as English for Communication, English for Social Sciences, English for Humanities, English for General Purposes, English for Academic Purposes, and English for Career Development under the AHEAD project in the first, second, and third years respectively.

In addition to the above auxiliary course units, DELT offers ELT (English Language Teaching) as a general degree programme. The subject comprises 16 core units and 4 elective units. Graduates possessing a general degree with an ELT component

are found to have immediate access to career opportunities in both the state and private sectors. DELT has commenced the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree in English Language Teaching this year which is an interdisciplinary study program which includes courses in the areas of Applied Linguistics, Sociolinguistics, Structural linguistics and Psycholinguistics, English Literature, Education and Educational Technology. These courses have been designed with the aim of helping the students develop a deeper understanding of English Language Teaching and preparing them to make constructive and innovative contributions to the field of English Language Teaching by way of theoretical, practical, and explorative studies informed by the developments in the national and global contexts.

Subsequent Expansion of the Discipline

Having considered the dynamic changes in the field of language teaching and learning, there is a need for the expansion of curriculum for teaching ESL as an auxiliary /enhancement course unit from foundation to advanced courses considering academic and professional context absorbing the current trend in language teaching and demand for English Language proficiency of the learners and in addition, as the need for the language teaching practitioners with latest knowledge and skills in ELT is highly realized, the expansion of ELT curriculum has to be made in the general degree programme incorporating the latest trend in English language teaching locally and internationally. This expansion is based on the national goals for language proficiency and the expectations of the job market. As a result, DELT has designed the curricula of the ESL/ESP programme in line with the national benchmarks and the curricula for general and special degree in ELT courses have been revised with the latest trend in language teaching. In addition to these, it has also designed curricula for self-financing Certificate and Diploma courses and Postgraduate Diploma programmes in TESL. On the whole, there have been tremendous expansions in implementing ESL, EAP, ELT (General, Honours and Postgraduate courses) and funding courses in diploma and certificate courses in English.

Pioneering Individuals and Outstanding Academic Contributions

The University of Jaffna was established in 1974 as the Jaffna Campus of the University of Ceylon with two faculties: the Faculty of Science at Jaffna College in Vaddukoddai and the Faculty of Humanities at Parameswara College in Thirunelvely. Before the inception of the ELTC, there were four disciplines – English language teaching and English literature, Linguistics, and Christian Civilization Studies – housed in the Department of Cultural and Language Studies. The Head of the Department was Prof. S.Suseendrarajah, a Senior Lecturer in Linguistics. But the status of the academic staff was a different one. Mr. Kanaganayagam and Mr.Nihal Fernando who were the pioneering academic staff who served as assistant lecturers to teach English literature and at the same time, as pioneering staff to teach ESL programme, Mr.S.Sivagurunathan (later, Dr.S.Sivagurunathan), an Instructor in English served as the coordinator to conduct the ESL programme. There were a few more Instructors in English – Mr.S.Vinayagamoorthy, Mr. A. J. Canagaratna and later Mrs. S.Vignarajah appointed to carry out teaching English as a Second Language. All of them had bachelor's degree at

the time of their appointment as Instructors in English. In 1984, a separate unit, called the English Language Teaching Centre, was formed to conduct the ESL programme, as teaching ESL was expanded to some other faculties attached to the University of Jaffna. Dr. Suresh Canagarajah (Prof. Suresh Canagarajah at present) was appointed as the first Head of ELTC in 1984. Since the inception of ELTC in 1984, the number of Instructors in English holding Bachelor's degrees appointed to ELTC has increased in keeping with the increase in number of students admitted to the University of Jaffna. Following Dr. Suresh Canagarajah (Prof. Suresh Canagarajah, Evan Pugh Professor at present) was succeeded by Dr. S. Sivagurunathan, Mrs. Shanthi Vignarajah, Dr. (Mrs.) S. Ravindran, Mr. S. Sunthareswaran, Dr. V. Suntharesan, Dr. A. Rasakumaran, Dr. T. Karunakaran (Acting Head), and Dr. (Mrs.) K. Sivaji as Heads of the Department. They contributed towards uplifting the Department. At present, Dr. K. Sanmuganathan is serving as Head of the Department.

Research Interests of the Staff

Since the Department has been facilitated with a good number of staff who have specialized in the diverse sub-fields of ESL and ELT, the research interests of the staff focus on a wide range of topics that aim to enhance English language teaching and learning. These include second language acquisition, curriculum development, language assessment, and instructional strategies for diverse learner populations. The academics are particularly engaged in exploring innovative methods of teaching English as a Second Language (ESL), such as Communicative Language Teaching (CLT), Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL), Task-Based Language Teaching (TBLT), and technology integration in classrooms. The use of literature in language teaching, Bilingual Education, Technology in language teaching, learner autonomy, and multilingual approaches are also some of the areas that the academics of the Department are interested in. Their research also delves into sociolinguistic aspects, including the role of culture in language learning and the challenges faced by non-native English speakers. This commitment to advancing ESL research helps drive effective language teaching practices and enriches the field.

Staff and Students at Present

The Department of English Language Teaching, which is the biggest Department in the Faculty of Arts, is currently well-equipped with a diverse and highly qualified team of educators and a vibrant student community. The Department includes ten highly qualified and experienced senior lecturers, two skilful confirmed lecturers, and six dedicated instructors who bring expertise and innovative teaching practices to the Department. Supporting the core team are two temporary staff members who assist in various academic and administrative tasks. Under the headship of Dr. K. Sanmuganathan, the department flourishes with a Professor, Senior Lecturers, Lecturers and Instructors. There are four Ph.D. holders and fifteen Master's degree holders. Professor K. Shriganeshan, Dr. T. Karunakaran, Dr. S. K. Kannathas, Mr. V. Paranthaman, Mrs. S. Rajashanthan, Mr. J. J. D. Patrick, Mrs. M. Bakeerathan, Mr. K. L. Ramanan, Mrs. A. Hensman, Mrs. T. Krishanthan and Mrs. R. Luckson serve as senior lecturers. Meanwhile, Mrs. A. Thanushan and Mrs. V. Rajaram hold the position of lecturers at DELT.

Mrs I. P. Dhanushiyan, Mr T. Arunakirinathan, Mr. V. Jokeswaran, Mrs L. Raguram, Mrs C. T. Joe Inparaj and Mrs S. Sutharshan also contribute to the smooth functioning of DELT.

The Department serves a dynamic and growing student body, with over 7,000 students enrolled from all faculties across the university. These students benefit from the comprehensive English language programs run by the Department. This team works collaboratively to provide high-quality English language education, fostering academic growth and language proficiency among students from various disciplines.

Dissemination of Knowledge

The Department of English Language Teaching is actively involved in the dissemination of knowledge through various scholarly and community-based initiatives. The Department engages in extensive research activities, contributing to the field of English language teaching. The academics attached to the Department have published research papers and books that explore innovative methodologies, language acquisition, and teaching strategies. To further the exchange of ideas, the Department organizes symposia and workshops, providing a platform for educators, researchers, and students to share insights and best practices. Additionally, the Department plays a vital role in community outreach by offering language courses, helping individuals beyond the university enhance their English language skills and improve their career prospects. Through these efforts, the Department continues to advance the study and teaching of English, benefiting both the academic and wider communities.

Outreach Activities and Community Engagement

The Department of English Language Education (DELT) has taken continuous efforts to build up its strength in teaching, research and community engagement. The Department's research output has appeared in the most respected international academic journals. The members of the DELT actively engage in moulding the local community with various ESL workshops, symposia and school-based activities. Courses such as Certificate Course in English for school leavers, Diploma in Professional English course and Post Graduate Diploma in Teaching English as a Second Language are conducted to meet the demands of the community. It has also signed an MOU with Kandiah Foundation, Australia to conduct short courses for English teachers at the primary level. A course titled Teaching Phonological Awareness and Phonics for English in Schools has been introduced as the first part of this collaboration.

Conclusion

Since English proficiency dominates global demands, DELT is crucial in shaping skilled and confident users of the English language. The Department of English Language Teaching works towards its goals in a progressive manner. It has taken efforts to empower learners. The innovative language teaching methods that have been adopted by the Department inspire critical thinking among its students while enhancing their English language proficiency.

Department of Fine Arts

Preamble

The Department of Fine Arts was established at the University of Jaffna in 1982, under the Headship of Professor. Karthikesu Indrapala, an eminent historian and archaeologist, to accommodate the Ramanathan Academy of Fine Arts (RAFA - A private institution that offered training in Carnatic Music and Bharatanatyam through a four-years diploma programme) into the University system. In 1991, with the creation of the Department of Music and Department of Dance, RAFA was separated from the Department of Fine Arts. Since then, the study of local cultures and promotion of local artistic traditions have been one of the priorities of Jaffna University and the aspirations of the local community on the socio historical and political context of the Tamils especially in the 1980s historical condition in Sri Lanka. The Department began to offer course units for the Bachelor of Arts General Degree in Fine Arts (Art History) from 1985. In 1991 a full-fledged Honours degree programme in Fine Arts became a reality. The Fine Arts programme, while being responsive to the disciplinary changes that occurred globally in the field of visual studies and art history, has actively engaged with the study of local visual culture as well as traditional and contemporary art practices of South Asia. In 2017, the Fine Arts (Art History) undergraduate study programme of the Department of Fine Arts was the only study programme that obtained an 'A' grade in the Faculty of Arts, University of Jaffna in the programme review conducted by the University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka.

Subject Covered and their Orientation

Art history as a multifaceted discipline encompasses Art History, Art Theory, Heritage Studies curational practices and allied areas of Visual Studies.

Growth of the Subject as a Discipline

The curriculum of the Art History programme encourages its students to adopt an interdisciplinary approach to understand and appreciate Visual Arts (painting, sculpture, architecture, photography and film) from local and global contexts. The programme places special emphasis on the ways in which in the light of contemporary critical theory can enrich and illuminate the conversations in the area of Art Histories.

Curriculum of the Subject

Professor. Karthikesu Sivathamby's decade-long headship, sensitivity and ideological inclination towards Marxism and cultural studies has a lasting impact on the approaches of the Art History Study programme at Jaffna University. The first curriculum of the Art History (Fine Arts) undergraduate degree programme was developed by Professor. Karthikesu Sivathamby with the consultation of Eminent Archaeologist and Art historian Professor Senaka Bandaranayake. Later the curriculum underwent a major revision in 2000 with the introduction of the credit-based semester system at the Faculty level.

Teaching the Art history programme and a theory-based course units of the Art and Design Unit which offers a studio-based degree programme in Visual Arts the main responsibilities of the Department of Fine Arts during in the period between 2006 and 2019. The present curriculum was developed by Dr. Thamotharpillai Shanthanan, Chair Professor of Art History.

Development of the Subject to date

The curriculum was revised 2005, 2011, and 2018/2019. During the 2011 revision, course units on curational practices and internship training were accommodated to train the students towards the opportunities in the wider art world and heritage industry. The curriculum also provides room for minor specialization in Heritage Management or Art Practice via a combination of elective courses. Further, with the introduction of four-course units in Sri Lankan Art, the curriculum increased the weightage of Sri Lankan Art. In this context Art History (Fine Arts) was the first of the study programme. Faculty of Arts of the University of Jaffna and other similar study programmes in the national university system of Sri Lanka to introduce internship within the curriculum. With the 2018 / 2019 curriculum revision, the study programme took a more learner-centric approach. With the lessons learned from the art worlds and heritage industry, the study programme introduced courses like art management and art writing to enhance the skills of the students.

In addition to offering courses for the BA (Gen) and BA (Hons) degree in Fine Arts, the academics attached to the Department of Fine Arts have been involved in the research supervision for M.Phil. and Ph.D. degree programmes, conducted by the Faculty of Graduate studies. They also serve as resource persons for the MA in Cultural Studies programme conducted by the same Faculty.

Subsequent Expansion of the Discipline

The Undergraduate study programme in Art History (Fine Arts) at the University of Jaffna was started with limited infrastructure facilities and human resources. However in the last three decades, the situation has slightly improved. The Art History programme currently has five permanent academic cadres with one chair professor position. It is equipped today with, an art gallery, and an audio-visual archive, apart from a permanent administrative office for the department and lecture halls. The number of books in the library has also increased significantly. Many Universities of abroad that offer courses in Art History have their own art museums, visual archives, and art galleries or utilize such places available outside the university for as a space for their curational initiatives and outreach activities. At the beginning, in the absence of such spaces within the University and in Jaffna, temporary exhibitions were mounted at outside venues. When Professor. Sivakollunthu Krishnarajah was the Dean of the Faculty, he had allocated an additional space for the Department Utilizing the new allocated space. Dr. Packiyathan Ahilan (Senior Lecturer in Art History at the same department) took the made initial steps to organize a museum and an archive for the department in 2008. Now the department can boast of having an art gallery with basic facilities.

The Department of Fine Arts contributes to the External Degree Programme in Arts conducted via the Centre for Open and Distance Learning. School teachers involved in art education and pupils with special interests and needs benefit from this degree programme.

Pioneering Individuals and Outstanding Academic Contributions

The first Head of the Department of Fine Arts was Professor Karthigesu Indrapala. His writings and scholarship are extensively used as foundations in many discussions on history.

Professor. Karthigesu Sivathamby was one of the pioneers in establishing, Art History as a discipline in the Faculty of Arts a world-reputed scholar in Tamil studies from the Marxist tradition who showed immense interest in Cultural Studies, Prof Sivathamby wrote extensively on matters related to art, theatre and cultural productions that shaped socio-political discourses in the Tamil-speaking world. His outstanding work in field of Art History includes publications such as 'The Tamil Film as a Medium of Political Communication' and 'Drama in Ancient Tamil Society'.

Dr. A. N. Krishnaverny's research focuses on Indian and Tamil aesthetics and includes a comparative analysis of Indian aesthetic theory. Her notable works include 'Aesthetics of the Tamils' 'The Concept of Bhakti and Art', and 'Indian Aesthetics'.

Research Interests of the Staff

At present four permanent academics serve the Department. Their research focuses on different dimensions of visual art, visual culture and theories of art as follows:

Professor. Thamothersampillai Sanathanan: Modern & Contemporary Art of Sri Lanka, Modernism, Colonial art, Craft practices, Art of Memory, Popular Visual Culture

Dr. Packiyathan Ahilan: Early modern Sri Lankan Art, Art of Tamil Buddhism, cultural politics of art and visual art practices, expressive culture of Tamils, Art and Psychoanalysis, Dark heritage and politics of heritage, Histories of Sri Lankan Tamil theatre, Vernacular architectures, and Literary representations.

Ms. Kirubalini Stephan: Contemporary art of Sri Lanka, Craft studies, South Asian art and visual culture.

Ms. Pirintha Kulasingam: Colonial architecture, South Asian modern art, contemporary art, visual culture, and heritage management.

Staff and Students at Present

Although the undergraduate study programme in Fine Arts was inaugurated in 1985, Ms. A.N. Krishnaverny, the first permanent lecturer in the field was appointed only in 1990. During the period between 1985 to 1995, Ms. Indra Sitampalam, Ms. Ammankili Murugathas, and Ms. Nithiyavathi Nithiyathanam rendered their services on a contract basis and contributed to teaching under the headship of Prof. K. Sivathamby. Architect Mallika Rajaratnam served as a resource person for all the course units with a focus on architecture history. Dr. K. Krishnarajah of the Department of Philosophy taught all the courses on art theory. The photography course unit was conducted with the assistance of Mr. V. P. Sivanathan from the Department of Economics. The Fine Arts study programme organized community-based projects and field visits as part of its educational activities with a view to overcoming the shortcomings in classroom-based lectures.

In the year 2000, Mr. T. Shanathanan with a Master's degree in Fine Arts degree in painting from Delhi University was appointed as a Probationary Lecturer. Five years later, Mr. P. Ahilan was appointed as a Probationary Lecturer upon completion of his Master's degree in Art Criticism from the MS University of Baroda. Ms. Kirubalini Stephen and Ms. Piruntha Kulasingam joined the Department in 2018 and 2021 respectively as Probationary Lecturers in Fine Arts.

The current students of the art History programme comprise undergraduates of the Faculty of Arts and students who choose Art History as a subject in the external degree program in Arts.

Dissemination of Knowledge

The graduates of the Department have a clear knowledge in Art History with creative, critical and analytical and problem-solving proficiencies and skills. Even after graduation, they engage in activities that can help their professional/ career advancement. They possess the ability to examine and understand the full breadth of issues concerning social, cultural, environmental, regulatory and ethical aspects associated in the area of their study. Having thorough knowledge in the chosen core subjects and possessing the specific skills of the discipline, they are able to contribute to the world of art, visual studies and Art History in interesting and meaningful ways. They apply numerical and analytical skills to gather and analyse data and information scientifically, draw inferences and arrive at appropriate conclusions.

It is to be noted that with ICT skills and the ability to use new technological tools, the students of the Department are able to engage in new creative and critical activities. Through the learning activities, we promote abilities in communication with trilingualism (English, Tamil, and Sinhala); interpersonal skills, teamwork, time management, social responsibility, and ethical behavior; and lifelong learning skills, which include the capacity to participate in activities for ongoing professional/career advancement and meeting stakeholder expectations.

The students possess the research and analytical background to receive and interpret information, express ideas and share knowledge with diverse parties in a range of different formats.

The discipline imparts comprehensive contemporary knowledge in the area of study, trains students in problem solving and transferable skills and develops among them positive attitudes towards life and a sense of social responsibility

The Art History study programme at the Department of Fine Arts enables the students to follow either a visual arts related career or obtain jobs available for graduates with a degree in Art History. The graduates of this programme have the foundations to work in the following capacities in fields and areas related to visual arts such as Art Historian, Curator, Curatorial assistant, Museum educator, Gallery Assistant, Researcher/ Research Assistant, Artist, Cultural officer/ Cultural relation officer, Art teacher/ Lecturer, Heritage Manager, Conservator, Archivist, Event Manager/ Art Manager, Creative writer/ Art critic, Art Publisher, Art Librarian, Historic preservationist and Art dealer.

Outreach Activities and Community Engagement

As one of the pioneer departments in Sri Lanka that engages in teaching and researching visual art, the department has organized major conferences in specific areas that fall within the ambit of Art History. These conferences played a major role in strengthening the research environment of the Department and shaping its objectives and the research methods adopted in the discipline in the local context. In order to encourage Sri Lankan or South Asia related Art history research, the Department of Fine Arts of the University of Jaffna have organized four conferences within the last twenty years: 1) Contextualizing Jaffna Architecture: Styles and Aspects (2001), Rethinking Sri Lankan Art History: Objects, Methods and Politics (2011), Female Deities & Devotion in Sri Lanka: Ritual, Representation & Resilience (2014) and Trans/Formation: Craft, Practice & Discourse (International conference 2018).

From the year 2000, the department has been conducting many events and research activities related to documenting local tangible heritage, especially in the aftermath of the civil war. It also arranged, time to time, workshops on identification, conservation and preservation of heritage property in association with local government and non-governmental organizations.

To imbibe a vibrant research culture within the community of students and graduates, the Department disseminate research findings by way of events. The study programme accommodates new research findings in day-to-day teaching and learning activities. The Department has been publishing an Art History Research Journal at the department level since 2020.

The Department has a student body called 'Arts Circle' which comprises all the students of the Art History discipline. This is one of the most active students' bodies at the University. It also functions as the Department's main arm of community outreach. The Arts Circle organizes guest lectures on topics related to the discipline, discussions, film screenings, exhibitions and undergraduate seminars.

The academics of the Fine Arts study programme closely work with the National Institute of Education as resource persons for the designing of curriculum and teachers' resource book for the subject of Art at the school level.

The Department of Fine Arts oversees the Film Society, which comprises students from all social science and humanities disciplines. The society's primary focus is on advancing screen cultures. It has host discussions and movie screenings for the past few years, primarily as part of the Jaffna International Cinema Festival.

Exhibitions play a major role in art education as an effective mode of content delivery and dissemination of new research findings and ideas. Since the year 2000, exhibitions have been an integral part of the teaching and learning exercises carried out by the study programme. Art works of local and foreign artists, local craft traditions and studio photographs have been exhibited at the department art gallery to create a debating culture within the Department in particular and the Faculty in general.

In the past, the study programme organized a mobile library, cultural events and international film festivals, exhibitions and conferences with the collaboration of institutions like Asian Art Archive (Hong Kong), Alliance Francaise, German Cultural Centre (Colombo), Agenda 14 (Colombo), Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (Colombo), American institute for Sri Lankan Studies (Colombo), Lanka Decorative Arts (Colombo), and Sri Lanka Archive for Contemporary Art, and Architecture and Design (Jaffna).

Conclusion

The department has made a significant contribution by establishing art history as a discipline in Tamil. Using theories from a variety of disciplines, including the humanities and sociological sciences, it develops the visual interpretation of things as an investigative tool. Additionally, it advances the glossarial terminology in Tamil used in art history and adds to and enhances Tamil scholarship on a broader level.

Department of Geography

Introduction

The Geography program at the University of Jaffna bears a rich and illustrious history that traces back to 1974. Geography emerged as one of the inaugural subjects offered within the Faculty of Arts at Jaffna Campus which later became the University of Jaffna. As a pioneering department of the Jaffna Campus, over the past five decades, the Department of Geography has contributed significantly to the socio-economic and physical development of the Northern Region of Sri Lanka and the nation. It serves as a central hub for learning geography and its associated disciplines and offering academic expertise to the region and the society.

Degrees Offered

The Department offers two degree programs within the Faculty of Arts: namely Bachelor of Arts in Geography and Bachelor of Arts in Community and Regional Planning. Geography stands as one of the foundational subjects in the Faculty of Arts and has incorporated various subjects over the past fifty years. In February 2003, a new bachelor's degree program in Community and Regional Planning was started under the Geography department. This initiative was undertaken by the Canadian Government under the project entitled 'Education for Democratic Planning' funded through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). With the advisory collaboration of the University of British Columbia, a similar program was planned to start in the Universities of Peradeniya, Ruhuna, and Jaffna in Sri Lanka but with the painstaking efforts of Emeritus Professor P. Balasundarampillai (the then Coordinator of the project, University of Jaffna) this degree program was successfully started in the Department of Geography, University of Jaffna only.

Historical Account and Growth of the Subject:

Geography is a longstanding academic discipline that has been imparted in Sri Lanka since 1921. Consequently, when the Jaffna Campus was inaugurated in 1974, there emerged a substantial demand for the introduction of a degree program in Geography. Before the establishment of this program at the Jaffna Campus, Geography was taught at the Jaffna College at Vaddukoddai, where students were prepared for the Bachelor of Arts program of the University of London and the external degree program of the University of Ceylon. Following the discontinuation of the graduate program at the Jaffna College, all human resources and library materials were transferred to the Jaffna Campus, facilitating the seamless commencement of a Geography degree program. The renowned Associate Professor Dr. W. L. Jeyasingam, together with another Assistant Lecturer, was appointed as the pioneering faculty for the Geography degree program. Upon the formation of the Department of Geography, several lecturers and professors from other campuses across Sri Lanka opted to transfer to the Jaffna Campus of their own volition. As a result, the geography degree program at the Jaffna Campus experienced significant advancements in both human and physical resources, as well as in the quality of education provided. The Department of Geography established Geography as a subject within the Faculty of Humanities, which later evolved into the Faculty of Arts. The discipline of Geography encompasses all essential subfields, solidifying its status as a vital component of the social sciences.

The Bachelor's degree in Community and Regional Planning was inaugurated under the Department of Geography, University of Jaffna in 2003 and this degree was offered as the Bachelor of Arts in Planning until 2024. With the new curriculum approved by the university in 2022, the degree name was changed to the Bachelor of Arts in Community and Regional Planning and became one of the growing fields in terms of number of students and demands of the community.

Growth of the Subject and the Department

The geography department of the University of Jaffna has a long and proud history. This history dates back to 1974 when Geography became one of the first subjects offered in the Faculty of Arts at the Jaffna Campus and what was eventually to become the University of Jaffna. The Jaffna Campus of the University of Sri Lanka started functioning in October 1974 with two faculties: the Faculty of Humanities and the Faculty of Science. In 1974, the Faculty of Humanities was renamed the Faculty of Arts. The Department of Geography was established under the Faculty of Arts in 1974 by two pioneers who were teaching Geography to external graduates at the Graduate Division of the Jaffna College. During the early years of the Department of Geography at the University of Jaffna, the curriculum of Geography and teaching and assessment methods adopted were closely related to those followed at the Department of Geography of the Peradeniya Campus. All the academics of the Geography Department were graduates of the Peradeniya Campus. However, some sub-disciplines of Geography, such as urban geography, agricultural geography, climatology, population geography, and geomorphology took root in the Department.

The present curriculum of Geography is designed to offer students distinctive knowledge and understanding of human and environmental interaction in changing spatial and temporal contexts. The techniques included in the curriculum provide graduates with a range of transferable skills applicable to the present-day world of work. The main areas of academic subjects include Human and Physical Geography. The physical area covers sub-fields namely climate, biogeography, geomorphology, geology, hydrology, marine and fisheries geography, agriculture and food, environmental system and management, water resource management, disaster management, and land use and Human area covers the following subfields urban, rural settlements, globalization studies, economic geography, tourism, population and demography, political geography, and regional planning and development. Further, the Department of Geography offers lab and field-oriented technical knowledge, practical skills, and hands-on training through the subjects namely Cartography, Surveying, Quantitative Analysis, Research Methodology, Field Methods, Remote Sensing, and GIS.

The curriculum of the Bachelor of Arts in Community and Regional Planning is a multi-disciplinary model which aims to produce graduates who can view and approach the problems of the society in a holistic manner and find a solution. Necessity of the planning graduates has increased the demand for this field of study, and as a result, the department receives a high number of applications annually. Even though the department finds it difficult to get enough human resources, the department has managed to train two academic staff in the planning field to teach the students. Additionally, academic staff of the geography and external resource persons share the knowledge in their respective fields. Community and regional planning curricula are designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary to address complex societal issues related to land use, urban design, environmental sustainability, and social equity. Their alignment with societal needs covers several key areas such as sustainable development, social equity and inclusion, economic development, community engagement, technology and innovation, policy and governance, and interdisciplinary approach.

The Department of Geography does not edge with B.A. and B.A. Honours programs. It offers postgraduate research degrees such as Master of Arts (M.A.), Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.), and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in areas of Geography through the Faculty of Graduate Studies. The Department of Geography has offered quite a number of PhD and M.Phil. degrees so far. Further, the Department of Geography took the leading initiatives in the curriculum design, conducting and coordinating the two one-year (two semesters) Master of Arts postgraduate degree programs in 'Regional Planning' and 'Population and Development' from 2007 to 2010 under the Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS). Currently, the department took the same initiative and responsibility in restarting the third Batch of Master of Regional Planning in 2024 and was involved in restarting the Master's degree program in Population Development Studies under FGS.

Pioneering Scholars and Academics of the Past

Professor W. Luther Jeyasingam, B.Sc. (Lond.), M.A., Ph.D. (Clark, USA) who was the inaugural Head of the Department of Geography, played a pivotal role

in establishing the Department as a prominent entity within the Faculty of Arts at the University of Jaffna. His scholarly work on “Urban Geography of Jaffna,” is a remarkable research which he submitted to Clark University of the USA.

Dr. R. Mathanakaran, B.A. Hons. (Cey), M.A., D.D.P, Ph.D. (Mysore, India), is also among the pioneering faculty members of the Department of Geography. He completed his Ph.D. with a special focus on the Hydrology of the Jaffna Peninsula. His thesis submitted to the University of Mysore serves as an important resource for the study of water resource management in the Northern part of Sri Lanka.

Professor S. Selvanayagam, B.A. Hons. (Cey.), M.A., Ph.D. (London, UK), was a distinguished geographer whose contributions significantly impacted the fields of Agricultural Geography and land use planning. His exemplary academic work has garnered appreciation from numerous esteemed scholars. He completed his Ph.D. at the London School of Economics and Political Science. Notable among his works are “Dry Zone Colonization of Sri Lanka” and “The Land Use of the Jaffna Peninsula.”

Dr. K. Kanapathippilai (Agricultural Geography), Dr. Mrs. Pathma Puvaneswaran (Pedology), Dr. M. Puvaneswaran (Climatology), Dr. K. Arumugam (Urban Geography), Dr. K. Roopamoorthi (Fisheries Geography), Prof. S. Balachandran (Climatology and Hydrology), Prof. K. Kugabalan (Population Geography, Regional Geography), Prof.R.Sivachandran (Agricultural Geography, Rural Geography), Prof.S.T.B.Rajeswaran (Geomorphology and Cartography), Prof. K. Rajendram (Climatology, Geographical Information Systems, and Prof. A.S. Soosai (Fisheries Geography).

Throughout the past five decades, numerous academic staff members have led the Department of Geography, contributing to its development and growth. Each individual has played a significant role in elevating the department to its current stature. The following academic staff have held the position of Head of the Department of Geography:

Prof. W.L. Jayasingam, 1974-1977, 1979-1980
Prof. S. Selvanayagam, 1977-1979
Prof. P. Balasundarampillai, 1981-1992
Prof. S. Balachandran, 1992-1997
Prof. R. Sivachandran, 1991-2001, 2004
Prof. K. Kugabalan, 1997-2002, 2004-2010
Prof. S.T.B. Rajeswaran, 2010-2013
Prof. K. Suthakar, 2013-2017
Dr. A.S. Soosai, 2018-2019
Dr. (Mrs.) S. Uthayarasa, 2019-2021
Dr. A. Antonyrajan, 2021-2024
Dr. N. Piratheeparajah, 2024 to Present

The Department’s academic staff have served as Deans of the Faculty of Arts:

Prof.W.L. Jayasingam, 1979-1980
Prof.P. Balasundarampillai, 1992-1998

Prof.S. Balachandran, 1999-2001

Prof.R. Sivachandran, 2004-2007

Prof.K. Suthakar, 2017-2023

Professor P. Balasundarampillai - Vice Chancellor for six years and ten months.

Academic Staff and their Research Interests

The department presently boasts its most comprehensive academic faculty, though it includes one vacant Chair Professor position in Geography. The department has thirteen permanent academic staff members alongside four temporary assistant lecturers. The Department holds a high number of doctoral degree holders within the Faculty of Arts. Furthermore, the academic staff of the department demonstrates considerable expertise in their respective fields and contributes their knowledge for development and planning at regional and national levels.

Professor Emeritus P. Balasundarampillai's work focuses on Urban Geography, Regional Planning, and Development Studies. Professor K. Suthakar obtained training in land use, land use planning, geographical information systems, and remote sensing. Dr. Ms. L. D. Rajasooriar obtained training in Groundwater Hydrology, Water Resource Management, and Environmental Epidemiology. Dr. Mrs. S. Uthayarasa obtained training in Agriculture and Livelihood Studies, as well as Poverty and Rural Analysis. Mr. S. Raveendran obtained training in Town and Country Planning, Community and Regional Planning, Spatial Planning and Design, and Spatial Management Techniques. Dr.A.Antonyrajan obtained training in Regional Development Planning, Urban Dynamics, and GIS and Remote Sensing. Dr. Mrs. P. Vipulan obtained training in Environmental Management, Sustainable Tourism, and Population studies. Dr. N.Piratheeparajah obtained training in Climate Change, Surface Water Resources, Applied Climatology, Disaster Management, and Hydrometeorology. Mr. S. Kabilan obtained training in Spaces of Conflict, Community Planning, Regional Planning, Spatial Design and Management, Geo-Informatics, and Water and Society. Mr. N. Thasarathan obtained training in Geomorphology, Geo-Informatics, Estuarine Morphological study, and Geo-Tourism. Mrs. C. Thiliepan obtained training in Urban Development, Planning, and Management, Economic Geography, and Social Geography. Miss P. Bharathi obtained training on Population Geography and Demography, Human-Wildlife Conflict Analysis, and Geography Education. Additionally, Mr. R. Thanushan obtained training in Pedology and Disaster Management while Mr. S. Ravi obtained training in Marine and Fisheries Geography, Disaster Management, and Geographical Information Systems.

Non-Academic Staff

Due to the unique nature of its subject matter, the Department has been allocated a range of non-academic staff members to support its operations. Currently, we have five dedicated non-academic personnel contributing to the development of Geography: Mr.P.Pathmanathan (Senior Staff Technician), Mrs. M. Nisanthini (Management Assistant), Mrs. T. Janani (Technical Officer), Mr. T. Yasotharan (Lab Attendant), and Mr. T. Thieleep (Works Aid). These individuals have been instrumental in facilitating the Department's growth and success.

Students at Present

The Department annually gets a substantial number of students to the first year (more than 200), and the department tries its best to accommodate the majority of the students for an honours degree. Currently, the department's total enrolment is 1013 students across all years in Geography and Planning including special and general Degrees. To date, the Department has proudly produced 1735 geography special degree graduates and 538 planning special degree graduates. Additionally, we have successfully offered to society 1130 geography and planning general students.

Dissemination of Knowledge

The dissemination of knowledge from the Geography Department at the University of Jaffna involves a variety of methods and activities aimed at sharing research findings, educational resources, and geographical information with students, the academic community, and the wider public. While specific initiatives may vary over time, here are some common approaches typically employed by academic departments, including Geography:

1. **Academic Publications:** Faculty and researchers often publish their findings in academic journals, books, and conference proceedings, contributing to the broader field of geography.
2. **Conferences and Seminars:** The department organizes and participates in conferences, workshops, and seminars where faculty and students present their research and engage with others in the field.
3. **Public Lectures and Talks:** Hosting public lectures that address current geographical issues - such as climate change, urban planning, and sustainable development - helps disseminate knowledge beyond the university.
4. **Community Engagement:** Collaborating with local communities and organizations to address geographical concerns, share knowledge, and promote awareness about local geography and environmental issues.
5. **Educational Materials and Resources:** Developing and distributing educational materials, including maps, atlases, and digital resources, to enhance learning for students and the general public.
6. **Field Studies and Research Projects:** Engaging students in fieldwork and research projects to help disseminate knowledge through hands-on experience and practical application of geography concepts.
7. **Collaboration with Other Departments and Institutions:** Partnering with other academic departments, governmental agencies, and NGOs to conduct interdisciplinary research and educational outreach.
8. **Online Platforms and Social Media:** Utilizing websites, blogs, and social media to share departmental news, research outcomes, educational resources, and events can reach a broader audience.
9. **Student Engagement:** Encouraging student participation in research, teaching assistantships, and organizing student-led initiatives to foster a culture of knowledge sharing.

For the latest specific initiatives undertaken by the Geography Department at the University of Jaffna, it's best to consult their official website or contact the Department directly.

Outreach Activities and Community Engagement

The University of Jaffna's Department of Geography engages in various outreach activities to promote geographical knowledge, address local issues, and foster community collaboration, varying in scope over time.

1. **Workshops and Seminars:** Organizing workshops and seminars to educate the community on various geographical topics, such as climate change, urban planning, natural resource management, and sustainable development.
2. **Field Surveys and Research:** Engaging students and faculty in field surveys to gather data on local environmental issues, land use, or socio-economic conditions, which can benefit community planning and policy-making.
3. **Collaborations with Local Government:** Partnering with local government authorities to provide geographical insights and GIS (Geographic Information Systems) support for urban planning, disaster management, and environmental conservation projects.
4. **Educational Programs in Schools:** Conduct outreach programs in schools to promote geography education and raise awareness about environmental issues and the importance of geography in everyday life.
5. **Volunteering and Service Projects:** Involvement in community service projects, such as clean-up drives, tree planting initiatives, and awareness campaigns on environmental sustainability.
6. **Conferences and Public Lectures:** Hosting conferences or public lectures that invite experts to discuss pressing geographical issues relevant to the community, thus fostering a dialogue between academia and the public.
7. **Community Mapping Projects:** Engaging in community mapping initiatives where students and faculty work with residents to create maps that reflect community resources, challenges, and needs.
8. **Publications and Reports:** Produce accessible reports, articles, or guidelines based on research findings that can be shared with the community and local decision-makers.
9. **Capacity Building:** Offering training programs for local organizations or community leaders to strengthen their capacity in geographic analysis, data interpretation, and project management.
10. **Engagement with Policymakers:** Policy Advocacy: Engage with local, regional, and national policymakers to inform and influence policy decisions related to geography and planning.

The University of Jaffna is implementing activities that not only enhance students' educational experience but also positively impact the local community by addressing real-world challenges.

The Geographical Society is one of the most powerful and dynamic societies in the Faculty. It is a student-based society; however, the Executive Committee of the Society has representation of the senior academics. The Geographical Society annually publishes a magazine under the name of "Jaffna Geographers." Students and staff disseminate geographic knowledge through this platform. Further, the Geographical

Society regularly invites scholars from various institutions and industries to deliver guest speeches. Several outreach activities have been carried out by the society for the school students and the public.

Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department has efficiently and successfully switched to online teaching and learning activities. One full academic year has been completed, conducting some face-to-face hours with some batches of students whenever there were possibilities, and the rest of the academic activities were carried out for all the batches online using multi-modal platforms. Lecture materials, including notes, slides, recorded videos, audio, references, and weblinks, are uploaded through LMS. Mostly, the Zoom online platform was used for the delivery of lectures and students' presentations. A special mention is worthwhile about the students. Even the first-year students in their first semester performed their presentations live very efficiently online.

Conclusion

The Department of Geography stands as one of the most venerable divisions within both the Faculty of Arts and the University itself. Over the past five decades, the Department has evolved in multifarious ways, incorporating comprehensive developments within the fields of Geography and Community and Regional Planning. Presently, it offers exemplary services to students, communities, regions, and nations through its teaching, research, consultancy, and implementation of various development projects. The Department has cultivated numerous distinguished alumni in Geography and Planning, many of whom occupy prominent positions at both national and international levels.

Moreover, the Department has strategically planned to enhance the technical acumen of its students in the realms of Geography and Community Planning, equipping them to adeptly confront any challenges within these disciplines. In the future, the Department aspires to expand its laboratory facilities. Having achieved academic excellence over the past fifty years, it has garnered a significant reputation for its contributions and is firmly committed to extending its services while preserving its esteemed legacy for years to come.

Department of History

Preamble

The Department of History was inaugurated in 1974 at the Jaffna campus of the University of Ceylon. Initially established as part of the Faculty of Humanities under the leadership of Dr. K. Indrabala, the first Dean of the Faculty, the department was envisioned as a centre for studying the complex historical narratives of Sri Lanka's Northern and Eastern regions. Over the years, the department has expanded its academic scope by introducing Archaeology as a discipline in 2003 and Cultural Tourism as a special degree program in 2017.

Uniquely, the University of Jaffna is the only institution in Sri Lanka to offer History, Archaeology, and Cultural Tourism under one department. Furthermore, it stands out as the sole department in the country to teach Archaeology in Tamil and to offer Cultural Tourism at both the special and general degree programmes. The department plays a vital role in exploring Sri Lanka's ancient civilizations, contributing significantly to archaeological research through its dedicated museum and laboratory facilities, which support the scientific study and preservation of cultural artefacts.

The department's mission reflects a dual focus: "Unveiling the Past" through historical research and exploration, and "Shaping the Future" by fostering societal contributions and heritage preservation.

Its vision aspires to establish the department as a "leading centre" for the study of history, archaeology, and cultural tourism, with a particular emphasis on the unique heritage of Northern Sri Lanka. Additionally, it underscores the department's broader commitment to promoting an inclusive and global understanding of Sri Lanka's diverse cultural legacy.

Subjects Covered and their Orientation

At the core of our mission lies the belief that history is not merely a record of the past but a vital tool for understanding the present and shaping the future. The Department of History equips students to become leaders in research, cultural preservation, and education. With a strong focus on understanding the region's past, the department emphasizes the study of political, social, cultural, and intellectual developments, while also exploring the interconnected local and global dimensions of history.

Archaeology, as a scientific discipline, examines the material and cultural remains of communities, including tools, pottery, stones, coins, inscriptions, artifacts, and monuments, to uncover the narratives of the past. Meanwhile, Cultural Tourism has gained significant importance in generating national income, creating employment opportunities, and fostering awareness about a country or community's cultural heritage. In an era of globalization, the rapid growth of cultural tourism has profoundly influenced the culture and traditions of developing nations, underscoring the need for thoughtful preservation and promotion of heritage.

Growth of the Subject as a Discipline

The discipline of History was introduced in 1974, marking the beginning of the department's journey. Archaeology was initially incorporated as a first-year course unit within the History curriculum and later, in 2003, was developed into an independent discipline under the Department of History. This transformation was largely due to the dedicated efforts of Prof. P. Pushparatnam, who is regarded as the founding figure for teaching Archaeology at the University. He also pioneered the teaching of Archaeology in the Tamil medium at universities in Sri Lanka. Dr. K. Indrabala recognized the integral role of Archaeology within the study of History and actively promoted various initiatives in the field.

In 2009, the Quality Assurance Committee evaluated the Archaeology curriculum and recommended expanding the inclusion of Cultural Tourism within the program. As a result, Cultural Tourism was introduced as a specialization option in the Archaeology curriculum in 2011. Subsequently, in 2017, it was established as a standalone Honours degree program under the Department of History.

The Archaeology Museum, established in 1990 under the department's purview, has been progressively upgraded to support teaching and research. Today, the museum houses a collection of invaluable and historically significant artefacts from ancient and medieval periods, including cultural evidence, ruins of monuments, and other archaeological treasures.

Curriculum of the Subject to date

The first curriculum of the Department of History was designed by Dr. K. Indrapala, who served as the first Head of the discipline at the University of Jaffna. Scholars from the University of Peradeniya contributed significantly to the initial stages

of syllabus development. Professor S. Sitrampalam, Professor S. Sathiyaseelan, Dr. V. Sivasamy, and other faculty members played pivotal roles in enhancing the curriculum.

The Bachelor of Arts in History degree program at the University of Jaffna was designed to provide graduates with a comprehensive understanding of various subfields of history. The curriculum was later revised to include Archaeology course units, reflecting its growing importance and alignment with the department's objectives. While Archaeology operates as an independent discipline within the Department of History, its course units remain an integral part of the History curriculum.

During the tenure of Prof. S. K. Sitrampalam, a syllabus for an external degree program in History was developed to expand students' knowledge in Archaeology and enhance their employability. The program also incorporated theoretical and practical aspects of Archaeology, including excavation techniques, fieldwork, laboratory methods, and cultural heritage preservation. The curriculum underwent further updates with the introduction of the semester system in the Faculty of Arts.

In 2011, the History and Archaeology curriculum was revised again, achieving alignment with international standards for the first time. The updated Archaeology curriculum included visiting lectures and integrated course units on Cultural Tourism to meet future academic and professional objectives. By 2017, Cultural Tourism was introduced as a specialized discipline within the department, with its curriculum developed under the guidance of Prof. P. Pushparatnam. The external degree curriculum was also adapted to the semester-based system.

A major curriculum revision in 2021 resulted in the current framework for History, Archaeology, and Cultural Tourism programs. This process ensured that the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in History, B.A. in History, Archaeology, and Cultural Tourism programs meet both national and international academic standards. The introduction of Archaeology and Cultural Tourism as distinct disciplines has significantly enriched the department's offerings and attracted students interested in these specialized fields.

The 2021 revisions further enhanced the academic rigor and relevance of these programs, keeping them competitive within the global academic landscape. Internship training for final-year students was introduced to improve employability, while the submission of project reports was implemented for general degree students. Similarly, project reports and oral examinations were incorporated into the External Degree Program, equipping students with practical skills and research experience essential for their professional growth.

Subsequent Expansion of the Discipline

The Department of History faces several developmental challenges, including the need to recruit permanent staff for the museum, laboratory, and specialized roles in Archaeology. The continued expansion of Archaeology and Cultural Tourism as academic disciplines requires sustained investment in resources, infrastructure, and

human capital. Addressing these needs will strengthen the department's position as a leading centre for historical, archaeological, and cultural tourism education, benefiting students, Sri Lankan society, and the global academic community.

Efforts have been made to enhance research activities and foster collaboration with international institutions, providing new learning opportunities for both staff and students. A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed between Jeyaraj Annapackiam College in Tamil Nadu and the Department of History to promote advancements in History education. Additionally, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was established between the German Archaeological Institute and the University of Jaffna's Department of History to support Archaeology research and education.

The Archaeology Museum now operates under the supervision of a Management Committee and continues to play a critical role in academic and research activities. The department also invites national and international scholars to conduct workshops for students specializing in Archaeology and Cultural Tourism, further enhancing their practical skills and global exposure.

Pioneering Individual and Outstanding Academic Contribution

Since its establishment in 1974, numerous scholars have contributed to the development and expansion of the Department of History at the University of Jaffna. Dr. Karthigesu Indrabala laid a strong foundation for the department and introduced new knowledge across multiple components of the History discipline. Having joined the Department of History at the University of Ceylon, Peradeniya in 1960, he began researching the history of Tamils on the island, focusing on Tamil inscriptions. Dr. Indrabala explored northern, north-central, and eastern Sri Lanka, uncovering new Tamil inscriptions and Hindu temples. He served as the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities at the Jaffna Campus of the University of Sri Lanka and later became the founding Professor of History at the newly established University of Jaffna. He introduced archaeology and epigraphy courses, established an archaeology museum, and conducted excavations in the Jaffna peninsula. His pioneering contributions to archaeology and historical studies have cemented his legacy as a foundational figure in the department.

Prof. S. K. Sitrampalam, appointed as a permanent lecturer in 1981, served twice as the Head of the Department and as the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies. He has highlighted the connections between Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka through prehistoric archaeological evidence and has published extensively on Hindu religious history in the *Cinathanai* research journal. Known for his interest in Tamil nationalism, he remains a prominent scholar in his field.

Professor S. Pathmanathan served as a professor of history at the University of Jaffna before becoming a professor at the University of Peradeniya. He now serves as the Chancellor of the University of Jaffna. Similarly, Mr. S. Kadirgamar, Head of the Department from 1982 to 1983, contributed significantly to studies on Tamil politics and human rights in Sri Lanka.

Prof. S. Sathiyaseelan served twice as the Head of the Department and also as the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies. He pioneered studies on modern history,

showcasing expertise in modern Europe, Sri Lanka, and the history of Malaysian Tamils. The late Mrs. Krishnakumar, a member of the first batch of students at the Jaffna campus and the department's first female staff member, underwent specialized training in women's studies before her untimely passing during her tenure.

Prof. V. Sivasamy D.Litt., a Visiting Lecturer in Archaeology and History, served as the secretary of the Jaffna Archaeological Society and contributed to the early design of the Archaeology curriculum. Dr. P. Ragupathy, a lecturer during the Annaikoddai excavation, authored the influential book *Early Settlements of Jaffna*, which provides archaeological evidence of early human settlements in the region.

Prof. S. Krishnarajah actively participated in archaeological excavations and surveys to highlight the history and culture of Sri Lankan Tamils. Prof. P. Pushparatnam made significant contributions through publications in epigraphy, history, art, architecture, religion, language, and literature, and conducted archaeological work across Northern Sri Lanka.

Professor Arunthavarajah, Head of the Department from 2021 to 2023, played a key role in creating a history curriculum for both internal and external students, organizing seminars for G.C.E. Ordinary and Advanced Level students, and serving as a resource person for history teachers' seminars. Mrs. Shanthini Arulanantham has served as the Head of the Department since 2023.

In addition to the academic staff, the non-academic staff have played a vital role in the department's growth. Clerks, Staff Assistants, Management Trainees, Laborers, and Trainees have provided invaluable administrative support at every stage of the department's development, contributing to its success and sustainability.

Research Interest of the Staff

Professor K. Arunthavarajah has written extensively on modern Sri Lankan, Indian, and European history. His publications include several books and articles, with a particular focus on the history of Muslims and the upcountry communities. Mrs. Shanthini Arulanantham's research interests lie in ancient history, as well as the religious and social history of South Asia.

The department is enriched by the expertise of its lecturers, including Mrs. Aniththa Sasikaran and Mrs. Ushanty Arunpirasath, who specialize in ancient Sri Lankan and Indian history. Ms. Sanchika Partheepan focuses her research on modern history, with a specific interest in the British Colonial History of Sri Lanka. Mrs. Dinoshia Sujinder is engaged in the study of modern history, with a special emphasis on historical documents related to Dutch rule in Sri Lanka.

Ms. Sivaruby Sajitharan specializes in field archaeology, museum studies, heritage management, and conservation. Ms. Ajiththa Suganthan and Ms. Thulasika Dinesan are actively involved in research in the fields of archaeology, particularly in

excavations, museum studies, and heritage preservation. Additionally, Ms. Ajiththa Suganthan focuses on South Asian art and religious history, while Ms. Thulasika Dinesan's research emphasizes art and architecture, excavation work, and the study of Brahmi inscriptions.

Staff and Students at Present

The Department of History comprises nine staff members, three of whom are attached to the archaeology discipline. Currently, two staff members are on study leave. Mrs. Suganthan, a recipient of the prestigious Fulbright Scholarship, is pursuing her PhD at the University of California, Florida, and USA. Mrs. Sajitharan has the opportunity to further her studies in Kerala, India. Another staff member, Mrs. Sujintha, is pursuing a Master of Philosophy (MPhil) at the University of Colombo. Mrs. Dineshan and Mrs. Partheepan are working towards their MPhil degrees at the University of Peradeniya. Mrs. A. Sasitharan has completed her postgraduate degree at the University of Jaffna, while Mrs. U. Arunpirasath is currently seeking placement for her MPhil program.

The department includes an Associate Professor, a Senior Lecturer (Grade I), and two Senior Lecturers (Grade II), along with five probationary lecturers. At present, the department serves a total of 545 students, with 161 specializing in Cultural Tourism, 233 in History, and 148 in Archaeology.

Over the years, the Department of History has produced nearly 80 graduates. In the past two years, approximately 50 students have enrolled in Special Degree programs, while 35 students have pursued General Degrees. The department actively fosters student engagement and knowledge through societies such as the Historical Society and the Archaeological Study Circle, both remain active and vibrant.

Outreach Activities and Community Engagement

The Department of History actively engages in archaeological exploration and excavation in collaboration with the Regional Archaeology Department, the Central Cultural Fund, and foreign universities. These activities are conducted at significant sites such as Mannar, Jaffna Fort, Kantharodai, Chaddi, Sigiriya, Polonnaruwa, and Aanaikottai. Additionally, the department organizes annual workshops on chemical conservation of archaeological monuments and artifacts, enabling both staff and students of archaeology to develop specialized skills.

Each year, workshops covering a range of topics—including epigraphy, history, art, architecture, religion, languages, and literature—are conducted with the support of the Ministry of Hindu Religious and Cultural Affairs, the Ministry of National Heritage in Colombo, and the Ministry of Resettlement and Rehabilitation for Northern Development. Collaborative “History and Community” workshops are also held in partnership with the History Department of the University of Colombo under a GIZ program.

The Department of History conducts seminars for Advanced-Level school students, while its students regularly participate in international and national conferences, exhibitions, debates, sports events, competitions, and workshops. These activities enhance student learning and foster meaningful interactions with external institutions.

The department also plays a pivotal role in disseminating knowledge to the broader community, extending its efforts to educational institutions, government organizations, and the general public in Sri Lanka. Staff members contribute as resource persons for training and professional development programs for school teachers, thereby enriching history education across the country. Moreover, the Archaeology staff actively promote awareness of cultural heritage, contributing to a deeper understanding and appreciation of the nation's historical and cultural identity.

The department takes pride in its significant contributions, including the discovery of archaeological sites and inscriptions at buried temples. Students and staff have conducted numerous excavations and explorations in Northern Sri Lanka, unearthing invaluable objects and insights. Collaborative efforts with national and international scholars have also led to important findings at sites such as Jaffna Fort and Kantharodai. These achievements underscore the department's commitment to advancing historical and archaeological knowledge for the benefit of the wider community.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Department of History at the University of Jaffna has experienced substantial growth and transformation since its inception in 1974. What began as a modest academic unit has evolved into a dynamic centre for the study of History, Archaeology, and Cultural Tourism. Throughout the years, the department has expanded its academic offerings, introduced new disciplines, and continually adapted its curriculum to meet international standards. At the same time, it has developed a strong research agenda dedicated to exploring the rich historical and cultural heritage of Northern and Eastern Sri Lanka.

The establishment of the Archaeology Museum and Museum Laboratory has further enhanced the department's research environment, promoting the preservation and study of Sri Lanka's diverse cultural heritage. As the department continues to build on its successes while addressing existing challenges, it is well-positioned to thrive in the coming years. By advancing knowledge, fostering cultural understanding, and preparing the next generation of scholars, researchers, and professionals, the department will continue to make significant contributions in the fields of History, Archaeology, and Cultural Tourism.

Home Economics Unit

Preamble

Home Economics Unit at the Faculty of Arts, University of Jaffna, is a specialized academic division dedicated to the study and teaching of Home Economics. Established in 2002, the unit has played a pivotal role in offering education and training in various sub-disciplines of Home Economics including Home Management, Food and Nutrition, Textile and Clothing, and Human Development. The Faculty of Arts at the University of Jaffna is the only institution in Sri Lanka that offers a Bachelor of Arts degree in Home Economics in the Tamil medium and makes higher education in Home Economics accessible to Tamil-speaking students.

Subjects Covered and their Orientation

Home Economics is a multifaceted discipline aimed at improving the quality of life by applying principles from various sciences and arts to everyday living. It encompasses a wide range of topics that aim to foster healthier, more efficient, and more enjoyable home environments. The Home Economics programme at the University of Jaffna is an interdisciplinary one that encompasses key areas such as Home Management, Food and Nutrition, Textile and Clothing, and Human Development. This collective approach equips students with a broad understanding of the various aspects of managing and improving the household and family life. Each component of the course offers specialized knowledge and skills, empowering students to effectively manage resources, promote health and nutrition, understand human growth and development, and engage in the creation and maintenance of textiles and clothing.

Commencement of Discipline and the Factors Prompted

Home Economics has been part of the curriculum for the GCE Ordinary level and GCE Advanced level examinations in schools since 1970. However, there were no university programs available in the Tamil medium for students aspiring to pursue a degree in Home Economics. In response to an existing admission challenge, the University Grants Commission (UGC) approached the University of Jaffna with a proposal to admit students into a Home Economics program. Having considered the importance of addressing this issue, the university decided to admit the students, despite the difficulties it faced at that time. This initiative led to the absorption of the Home Economics as a degree programme at the University of Jaffna, creating an academic pathway for students eager to advance their education in the field. This decision underscores the university's commitment to supporting the broader educational system, prioritizing students' needs and responding effectively to the UGC's request.

The establishment of the Home Economics Unit was spearheaded by the former Vice Chancellor Prof. P. Balasundarampillai, who recognized the importance of equipping students with the skills and knowledge to manage households effectively and contribute meaningfully to society. His unwavering dedication led to the creation of this unique academic unit, which has since become a cornerstone of the Faculty of Arts. His commitment to this vision led to the approval of the program by the University Senate

and the University Grants Commission (UGC) respectively. In March 2001, the UGC admitted four students into the newly established Home Economics program as part of the BA General Degree course. This marked the official beginning of Home Economics as an academic discipline at the University of Jaffna, making it the first of its kind in Sri Lanka. The same year, the University Senate formally approved the establishment of a four-year Special Degree course in Home Economics. This decision, documented as S/344/09(03), was a significant milestone, expanding the scope of the program and offering students the opportunity to pursue a more in-depth and specialized study in the field. Initially, only one student selected this option, reflecting the pioneering nature of the program at the time.

Growth of the Subject as a Discipline

The Home Economics discipline at the Faculty of Arts began under the Department of Linguistics and English before being transferred to the Department of Economics. Over time, it evolved into an autonomous unit, operating under the direct supervision of the Dean of the Faculty of Arts with a designated coordinator. This structure has ensured that the unit remains aligned with the Faculty's academic goals and standards while allowing focused leadership to guide its development and daily operations.

Prof. (Ms) S. Ramesh was the first Coordinator of the Home Economics Special Degree Course. She played a critical role in laying the foundation for the program, ensuring that it was well-structured and aligned with the academic standards of the university. Her leadership during these formative years was instrumental in establishing the credibility and relevance of the course within the Faculty of Arts. In the following years (from 2003 to 2004), Dr. (Mrs.) V. Sivachandran took over the coordination and continued the efforts taken by Prof. (Ms) S. Ramesh to strengthen the course. Her tenure was succeeded by other notable academicians, including Prof (Ms) S. Sivasubramaniam (2004-2005), Mrs. V. Ravishankar (2005-2007), and Dr. (Ms.) A. Sathiyaseelan, who coordinated the course from 2007 to 2011. In 2011, Ms. Pathmasany Kularajasingam assumed the role of Coordinator, a position she held with distinction until October 2024. Her tenure was marked by a commitment to excellence, innovation, and responsiveness to educational trends, enabling the program to expand its scope and better serve the needs of students and the broader community. In October 2024, Mrs. Menaka Sivakaran was appointed as the Coordinator of the Home Economics Unit and took over the responsibility of managing and overseeing the Unit's activities.

Curriculum of the Subject

The curriculum of the discipline, Home Economics at the University of Jaffna is carefully and regularly revised to ensure that it remains relevant and effective. This ongoing process is guided by a curriculum development committee within the unit, supported by a designated writer. The existing curriculum was revised in 2017 after careful consideration of stakeholder analysis. The committee conducts comprehensive analyses, including need analysis, expert analysis, stakeholder analysis, and an assessment of employment opportunities, to align the curriculum with current trends in the various branches of Home Economics.

To enrich the curriculum and provide a well-rounded educational experience, the committee seeks advice from experts across multiple disciplines related to Home Economics. Additionally, academics from other departments within the Faculty of Arts such as Economics, Psychology, Sociology, and Education contribute to the process of curriculum development process. Experts from the Faculties of Medicine, Management, Science, and Agriculture also play a role, both in shaping the curriculum and delivering specialized knowledge as visiting lecturers. This collaborative approach ensures that students receive a diverse and comprehensive education that prepares them for various professional opportunities in the field of Home Economics.

Development of the Subject to date

The Home Economics curriculum at the University of Jaffna is designed to provide a comprehensive education through a combination of theory and practical modules across the four branches of Home Economics: Home Management, Food and Nutrition, Textile and Clothing, and Human Development. The program employs blended learning methods, integrating traditional classroom instruction with practical, hands-on experiences. The curriculum aims to offer a comprehensive education through a blend of theory and practical modules across its four main branches. This integrated approach can enhance student engagement and understanding. In addition to theoretical coursework, students participate in hands-on practical sessions and field visits, which allow them to experience real working environments and apply their knowledge in practical settings. The curriculum also includes training and research components that are essential for fulfilling the requirements of the degree. The curriculum is included with core and elective course units in Home Economics. These elements ensure that students not only gain academic knowledge but also develop practical skills and research capabilities, effectively in order to prepare them for professional roles in the field of Home Economics.

Subsequent of Expansion of the Discipline

Home Economics is often misunderstood as merely a subject focused on “cooking,” primarily due to a lack of awareness about its broad scope. In reality, Home Economics is a valuable interdisciplinary field that encompasses much more than just food preparation.

Since its inception in 2002, twenty batches of students have successfully graduated from the Home Economics Unit at the University of Jaffna. During this time, a total of 343 students have enrolled in the program. Out of these, 73 students have earned a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Home Economics, while 75 students have completed a Bachelor of Arts General Degree with Home Economics as one of their subjects.

Pioneering Individuals and Outstanding Academic Contributions

Ms. Pathmasani Kularajasingam is recognized as the first academic staff member of the Home Economics Unit at the University of Jaffna, recruited in 2002. Her pioneering work has been instrumental in establishing and developing the program, making her a key figure in the discipline’s history. Beyond her role in academia, she has

authored books related to Home Economics and serves as an examiner for evaluating Home Economics papers at the GCE Advanced Level. She is a key figure in the Home Economics Unit at the University of Jaffna.

Research Interests of the Staff

Ms. Pathmasani Kularajasingam's research interest in traditional food preparation aligns with her broader expertise in Home Economics. Traditional food preparation plays a vital role in preserving cultural heritage, promoting sustainable practices, and improving nutritional values in diets. Her work involves exploring the preparation methods, ingredients, and cultural significance of traditional foods, as well as how these can be adapted or enhanced to meet contemporary health and nutritional standards. This research could contribute to the documentation and promotion of traditional Sri Lankan cuisines while encouraging their integration into modern diets for better health outcomes.

Mrs. Radhika Vimalkumar is currently pursuing her PhD at the Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science & Higher Education for Women in India. Her research focuses on designing and developing eco-friendly home furnishings, with a particular interest in handloom products. Her study explores the potential of handloom home furnishings for interior decoration, emphasizing sustainable and traditional materials. Additionally, her work investigates how these natural fibers can be repurposed for innovative and environmentally conscious interior decoration solutions. This research aims to merge aesthetics with sustainability in home design.

Mrs. Menaka Sivakaran is currently pursuing an MPhil at the University of Jaffna, where her research is dedicated to assessing the nutritional status of adolescents in the Jaffna district. With the strong interest in community nutrition, her work focuses on a critical age group, examining how nutrition affects young individuals at a pivotal stage in their development. By identifying any nutritional deficiencies or imbalances, the research seeks to inform intervention strategies that can improve the health and well-being of a future generation. These findings will be invaluable in shaping public health policies and community-based nutrition programs, ensuring that young people in the region receive the necessary dietary support to grow into healthy adults.

Mrs. Aroosiya Shareef Banu is focused on advancing her knowledge in textiles, a field that encompasses various aspects such as fabric development, design, and sustainability. By pursuing a research degree in textiles, she aims to deepen her expertise and contribute more significantly to innovations in this area. Her participation in research conferences indicates her active engagement with current trends and challenges in the textile industry, which may include production methods, and new technologies that enhance fabric quality.

Staff and Students at Present

Ms. Pathmasani Kularajasingam, with her strong educational background including a B.Sc in Home Science and an M.Sc in Human Development and Family Studies demonstrates a deep commitment to advancing the field of Home Economics. Her extensive involvement spans teaching multiple modules, supervising final-year research

projects, and contributing to curriculum development. She actively participates in various educational and professional activities, such as workshops and exam evaluations, further strengthening her role in the discipline.

Mrs. Radhika Vimalkumar, a Lecturer (Confirmed), specializes in Textile and Clothing and Home Management. She completed her MSc in Interior Design and Resource Management, focusing on the use of coir waste products in interior decoration. Her expertise spans Textile and Clothing, Interior Decoration, Food Service Management, Catering and Hospitality, Hotel Housekeeping, and Home Management.

Mrs. Menaka Sivakaran, a Lecturer (Confirmed), brings a wealth of expertise in Food Science and Nutrition. She completed her BSc in Food and Nutrition and her Master's in Food Science. She is actively involved in various workshops and training programs, contributing to the development of the Unit. Additionally, she is part of the syllabus review committee and contributes to the review of undergraduate study programs for Sri Lankan universities. Her specialized areas include Food Science and Nutrition modules.

Mrs. Aroosiya Shareef Banu, Lecturer (Probationary), specializes in Textile and Clothing. A Home Economics graduate, she is involved in teaching textile and clothing both theory and practical modules and conducting cookery practical.

Mrs. Radhika Vimalkumar and Mrs. Aroosiya Shareef Banu are both alumni of the Home Economics program in the Faculty of Arts at the University of Jaffna.

Each year, an Assistant Lecturer is assigned to support academic work and practical sessions within the Home Economics Unit. Graduates of the program have the opportunity to serve as Assistant Lecturers for a designated period, allowing them to contribute to the academic environment while gaining valuable teaching experience. This system not only supports the educational activities of the Unit but also provides recent graduates with a pathway to further their careers in academia.

Mrs. Srirangani Niroshan plays a crucial role as the Management Assistant of the Home Economics Unit. Her responsibilities in record-keeping ensure that essential departmental documentation, student records, and administrative data are well-organized and maintained. Beyond administrative duties, she supports academic activities by coordinating with faculty and students, assisting the Unit in organizing the events and ensuring the smooth functioning of day-to-day operations. Her role is vital in facilitating the academic mission of the Unit.

The Work Aide in the Home Economics Unit plays a supportive role in ensuring the daily departmental activities run smoothly. This assistance may involve tasks such as delivering documents, setting up classrooms or practical areas for lectures and demonstrations, helping with event organization, and maintaining the cleanliness and orderliness of the Unit's facilities.

Since its inception in 2002, the program continues to succeed, attracting around 40 Tamil-speaking students annually from different regions of the country.

Dissemination of Knowledge

The dissemination of knowledge in the Home Economics program involves several key activities aimed at sharing and applying information to benefit individuals and communities. Continuous updates and revisions of the curriculum ensure that students receive the most current and relevant knowledge. This involves input from experts and stakeholders to address emerging trends and needs. Staff and students writing and publishing textbooks, research papers, and articles in academic journals help in disseminating their scholarly knowledge to a wider audience. Such publications also contribute to the academic discourse in Home Economics. Students benefit from field visits to industries, such as food and textile sectors, where they can observe real-world applications of their knowledge and gain practical experience.

Outreach Activities and Community Engagement

Engaging with the community through educational programs, exhibitions, and outreach activities helps to raise awareness and applies the principles of Home Economics in everyday life. Participation in diverse events such as agriculture exhibitions, Elders' Day programs, traditional food festivals, the exhibitions in Home Economics and entrepreneurship provide students with invaluable opportunities for community engagement and knowledge sharing. Through these events, students not only apply their academic learning to real-world contexts but also gain practical experience that enhances their career prospects. For instance, involvement in entrepreneurship exhibitions allows students to translate their theoretical knowledge into tangible business ideas, fostering practical skills and entrepreneurial spirit. Additionally, participating in Elders' Day programs and traditional food festivals helps students appreciate and address the needs of various demographic groups, while also promoting cultural and nutritional awareness. Visits to schools for children with special needs further extend their impact by raising awareness among parents and offering tailored educational support, thereby demonstrating the relevance and applicability of Home Economics in diverse settings. Overall, these activities contribute significantly to students' professional development, community outreach, and the practical application of their studies.

Conclusion

The history of Home Economics at Faculty of Arts, University of Jaffna reflects a commitment to providing comprehensive education and practical experience in this vital field. Since its establishment in 2002, the Home Economics Unit has made significant strides, graduating twenty batches of students and contributing to their professional and personal development. Through continuous curriculum updates, community engagement, and practical training, the program has evolved to meet the changing needs of students and society. By integrating academic knowledge with real-world applications and fostering opportunities for graduates, the unit has established itself as a cornerstone for advancing Home Economics in Sri Lanka.

Department of Information Technology

The Faculty of Arts has been offering Computer Literacy as a three-credit compulsory course unit for first-year students since 2004. This course aims to develop undergraduates' knowledge and skills in IT. The Faculty started to offer IT as a core subject for the General degree programme (Bachelor of Arts) in 2014.

Information technology plays a vital role in a country's economic development and social progress. Many job providers in today's world expect graduates to possess at least basic skills in Information Technology. In the current competitive world, enhancing students' knowledge and skills in IT would increase their employability upon graduation. In order to strengthen IT education in the Arts stream of the University of Jaffna, the UGC has created six cadres, inclusive of one academic cadre, four Temporary Lecturer cadres, and one Instructor cadre.

The UGC has taken measures to establish a Department of IT and IT laboratories in the Faculties of Arts and Humanities at all the state universities since the latter part of 2019. At the University of Jaffna, the Department of Information Technology (IT) was established as the 18th Department in the Faculty of Arts on the 01st of April 2022.

Prof. S. Santhirasegaram served as the first Coordinator of the ICT Unit and Dr. (Mrs.) K. Kamalakumari succeeded him. Thereafter, Prof. S. Vijayakumar served as Coordinator from June 2018 to June 2022. Mr. M. Ramanan, who joined the staff of the Faculty of Arts from the Eastern University of Sri Lanka in July 2022, was instantly made the first Head of the Department of IT.

Currently, the Department of IT has one permanent academic staff member, namely Mr. M. Ramanan. He obtained his MPhil in Computer Science from the University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka, and is currently serving as a Senior Lecturer (Grade I) in Information Technology.

The Department of IT offers one course unit in IT each semester in the Bachelor of Arts (General) three-year degree programme for students who select IT as one of their core subjects. The curriculum covers areas such as computer systems, computer programming, database management system, web application development, information system management and team software projects. The undergraduate programme tries to cultivate among students skills in problem-solving & analytical thinking, teamwork and communication, project management and multitasking. It encourages continuous learning and helps students stay updated about current trends in technology. Those who graduated with a BA (General Degree) with IT as a subject have been employed as software developers, web developers, business analysts, IT project managers, and IT teachers at schools and universities.

Furthermore, the departmental status accorded to the programme has opened up new avenues for IT studies, creating new teaching and research opportunities. This, in turn, involves younger students gaining professional skills, knowledge, and principles that could help them adapt to the world of work across all sectors, both nationally and internationally.

Department of Law

Preamble

Law permeates all of social life, and hence law, as a discipline, does not exist in a vacuum; instead, it is inextricably connected with various disciplines, particularly the social sciences. The Bachelor of Laws degree programme offered by the University of Jaffna provides an opportunity for students to take a multi-disciplinary approach to the study of law. It also grounds them in the foundations of policies, principles and theories that make law a distinct discipline. It aims to teach, study and research law as an academic discipline in its own right with a particular emphasis on the socio-economic needs of Sri Lankan society.

Commencement of Discipline and the Factors Prompted

The Jaffna Campus of the University of Sri Lanka – the forerunner of the University of Jaffna – was established in 1974 with approval for three faculties and one department. These were the faculties of the Humanities, Law and Science, and a Department of Physical Education. Despite this, it was nearly three decades later that law was introduced as a discipline at the University.

The LLB programme commenced through a Department under the Faculty of Arts in 2005, drawing on the guidance of an advisory committee appointed by Prof. S.Mohanadas, then-Vice Chancellor of the University of Jaffna. The committee consisted of Mr. N. Selvakkumaran (Dean/Faculty of Law, University of Colombo), Mr.K.P. S.Varatharajah (High Court Judge), Dr. Deepika Udagama (Head/Department of Law, University of Colombo), Mr. V.T. Thamilmaran (Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Law, University of Colombo), Dr. H. J. F. Silva (Principal, Law College of Sri Lanka), Ms.Shantha Abimanasingam P.C. (President, Bar Association of Jaffna), Mr.A.Gnanathan (Deputy Solicitor General) and Prof. N. Gnanakumaran. They provided advice and direction towards the establishment of the department and the development of its curriculum.

Subjects Covered and Expansion of the Discipline

The curriculum of the Department of Law, most recently revised in 2024, covers several traditional areas of law including family, land, property, contract, delict and constitutional law. But it also has several innovations. To promote inter-ethnic understanding and learning, students are given courses in the two national languages in

their first semester. For a firm grasp of English, the Department of Law, in collaboration with the Department of English Language Teaching, offers a specialized course in English for Legal Studies. For students to see law as an object in society the Department offers a course on Law and Society. Students also have the option of clinical legal education and their degree includes an internship – both of which allow them to familiarize themselves with the legal practice. Together, these are directed towards the Department's aim: to produce graduates who have a grasp of the basic principles of law, are aware of its impact on society, are conscious of the law's connection to justice, are multi-ethnically competent, and are ready to begin careers in the legal field.

Pioneering Individuals and Outstanding Academic Contributions

The Department's first batch had twenty-two students from various parts of the North and East. It has now grown to an intake of one hundred students each year, with fourteen batches of students having graduated so far. This growth is due to the dedication of a number of Heads of Department and staff who served at the Law Department over the years, as well as the support received from various quarters, most importantly the Faculty of Law at the University of Colombo.

Prof. N. Gnanakumaran served as the first Head from 2005 to 2007. Among the many first of his tenure was the establishment of the Law Students' Association, now known as the Law Students' Society, on the 6th of July 2006. A later, notable student activity was the launch in 2009 of a magazine called "Neetham". Subsequent batches have undertaken the responsibility to publish this magazine annually.

The Department was not unaffected by Sri Lanka's civil war. Due to the armed conflict, academic activities were interrupted from 2006; the students were shifted to Colombo and followed their Degree programme at the Colombo Tamil Sangam from 2007. The second and third batches, which were registered in 2006 and 2007 respectively, were combined and followed their degree programme together in Colombo. The students were supported, guided and taught by the staff attached to the Faculty of Law, University of Colombo. Mr. B. N. Thamboo, Attorney-at-Law, served as Academic Coordinator for the Colombo Branch of the Department of Law from 2008-2017.

Subsequently, the first, second and third-year academic programmes in law were brought back to Jaffna, with the fourth-year academic programme continuing to be held in Colombo. Finally, the fourth year of study was also brought to the main premises of the University of Jaffna from the second semester of the academic year of 2016/2017.

Following Prof. N. Gnanakumaran's tenure, Prof. V.P. Sivanathan (2008-2010), Prof. M. Sinnathamby (2010-2011), Dr. T. Kalamany (2011-2013), Prof. (Mrs). S.Ramesh (2014-2016), Dr. K. Guruparan (2017–2019), and Mrs. Thushani Sayanthan (2019-2023) served as Heads of Department. Mrs. Kosalai Mathan is the present Head, having taken up the position in 2023. Special mention must be made of Mrs. Vijayatharsini Pakeerathan, Management Assistant, who has ably managed the Department since its

inception in 2005, as well as of Mr P. Mahendran and Mr T. Premachandran, Office Assistants Grade I, who have maintained it and kept it running over the years.

Staff Research Interests and Present Students

Currently, the Department of Law has four hundred students from various ethnic, geographical, religious and socio-economic backgrounds.

It also has seven permanent academic staff. Their names and research interests, according to the order of their appointment, are as follows: Mrs Kosalai Mathan, with research interests in Constitutional Law, Administrative Law and Public Law in general; Mrs Thushani Shayanthan, with research interests in Intellectual Property Law, Public International Law and the Law of the Sea; Mrs Purathani Mathanaranjan, with research interests in Family Law, the Law of Property, Labour Law and the broader area of Private Law; Mrs Supasini Rumanan, with research interests in Information Technology Law and Public Law; Mrs Nirogini Vichvaneadhiran, with research interests in Contract Law, the Law of Evidence and Procedure and Public International Law; Ms. Sujatha Samarathiwakara with research interests in Commercial Law and Corporate Law; and Dr. Sanjayan Rajasingham, with research interests in Constitutional Law and Law and Religion. The Department also presently employs two temporary lecturers, Mr. Hasitha Perera with research interests in Constitutional Law and Constitutional Theory; and Mrs. Sathya Chandrasekeran with research interests in Public International Law and Commercial Law.

Apart from this, the following formerly served as permanent staff at the Department: Mr M. Sutharshan; S. Vigneswary; Dr. Kumaravadivel Guruparan; Mrs.Dianarthy Suthakar; Dr. Vishakha Wijenayake; Mr. Sivanesan Pradinath; and Mr.Srinagaruban Pathujan.

Dissemination of Knowledge, Outreach Activities and Community Engagement

The Department continues to serve the university and the wider community in a number of capacities. Its staff have acted as chairpersons and members of centres and units, as legal consultants, as members of think tanks and civil society groups, and as resource persons for government and non-governmental organizations. In 2024, the Department, in partnership with Surana and Surana International Attorneys of Chennai, India, organized the first-ever Jaffna Law Conference. This event served to disseminate and promote legal knowledge in the broader community, and was graced by legal luminaries, such as the then-Attorney General Sanjay Rajaratnam; Supreme Court Justice Yasantha Kodagoda; Dr. K. Kanag-Isvaran; and emeritus Professor M.Sornarajah.

Conclusion

In its nearly 20 years of existence, the Department has made significant contributions to the vision and mission of the Faculty of Arts, and of the University of Jaffna. It will, no doubt, continue to grow from strength to strength in the years to come.

Department of Linguistics & English

The Department of Linguistics & English at the University of Jaffna has its roots in the Unit of Language & Cultural Studies established in 1975. This Unit was upgraded into a fully-fledged Department in 1981. With the bifurcation of this Department in 1989, the Department of Linguistics & English was created as a separate entity within the Faculty of Arts.

The Department of Linguistics & English at present offers two special degree undergraduate programs, one in Linguistics and the other in English Literature. Undergraduates who read for BA General and Special Degrees in other subjects are also given opportunities to take courses in Linguistics and English Literature. In addition, the Department offers undergraduate-level enhancement courses in French with the assistance of Visiting Lecturers.

Commencement of the Disciplines and the Factors Prompted

English (English Literature) was taught at the Jaffna Campus of the University of Sri Lanka (later known as the University of Jaffna) as a subject for the General Arts Degree Program between 1975 and 2001. A special degree program in English Literature was inaugurated in 2001. Linguistics was introduced as a subject for the General Arts Degree and the BA Special Degree programs simultaneously in the year 1979.

Languages and literatures play a vital role in creating a world that cherishes diversity, equality and humanism. While creating empathy and compassion among human beings, disciplines such as Linguistics and Literature kindle in them a critical consciousness that challenges dominant social, political and economic systems. A key reason for the decision to offer courses and degree programs in Linguistics and English Literature at the University of Jaffna was to create citizens who uphold and sustain these values within their communities and beyond.

When the Jaffna Campus was established, there was a widespread sentiment in the North that this Campus, as an educational institute located in a Tamil-speaking region, should contribute to the study of Tamil language, its dialects (especially within Sri Lanka) and their socio-cultural dimensions. The administrators of the University at the time responded to this societal expectation by introducing a separate study program in Linguistics which offered a central place to the study of Tamil. Prof. Suseendrarajah, who moved to the Jaffna Campus from the University of Kelaniya, had already completed his PhD in Linguistics with specialization in Ceylon Tamil and was recognized as the most appropriate person to give leadership to this new degree program. Under his guidance, a special degree program in Linguistics was inaugurated.

The Department of Linguistics, from its early years, has had a pluralistic linguistic outlook even though its focus was primarily on Tamil language. It encouraged the study of Tamil, not as a language that exists in isolation, but in comparative and contrastive

terms by placing it alongside and in relation to other languages such as Sinhala and English.

Another reason for the introduction of academic programs in Linguistics and English was to create a pool of teachers who could teach subjects such as Tamil, Sinhala, English and Literature at the school level. The need for qualified teachers in these subjects encouraged the University of Jaffna to invest in the development of these two disciplines over the decades.

Since the inception of the Jaffna Campus, many undergraduates have shown interest in studying and specializing these subjects. This interest has contributed significantly to the steady growth of these two disciplines at the University.

The Evolution of the Curriculum

The curriculum taught by the Department frames language and literature, the Department's major academic focus, as dynamic and historical, shaped by broader social, political, economic and cultural discourses. While taking efforts to incorporate cutting-edge scholarship in these two areas into its curriculum, the Department also encourages inter-disciplinary conversations and collaborations.

The academic programs offered by the Department are socially relevant to its students and the communities from which they come. At the same time, they are on par with similar programs on offer at other state universities in Sri Lanka and reputed universities abroad. The Department continues to work towards improving the quality and social appropriateness of its academic programs by reviewing them regularly with the help of scholars and experts in the field.

Linguistics

The academic discipline of Linguistics traces its origins to long-term grammatical traditions of both the Eastern and Western worlds. Followers of these traditions developed language studies as an independent area of study when both traditions were combined. As a result, the subject was further expanded. With the rise of new methods of language analysis and new ideas about language and communication, Modern Linguistics came into being as an autonomous discipline.

In Sri Lanka, Linguistics has evolved as an academic discipline within the state university system. It remains a popular subject in the BA degree programs conducted at the Humanities and Arts Faculties of the University of Kelaniya and University of Jaffna. Various branches of Linguistics are taught across the universities in Sri Lanka under different disciplines such as Tamil, Sinhala, English, English Language Teaching, Translation Studies, Anthropology, to name a few.

Prof. Sugathapala De Silva is considered a pioneering figure in modern Linguistics in Sri Lanka. In 1968, the University of Colombo introduced Linguistics in their curriculum. As a result of the re-organization of the university system in Sri

Lanka in 1973, the Linguistics discipline of the University of Colombo was shifted to the University of Kelaniya. During this period, the Department of Linguistics and Modern Languages was established at the University of Kelaniya. Linguistics was taught under this Department. At present, the Department of Linguistics & English at the University of Jaffna and the Department of Linguistics at the University of Kelaniya offer BA Hons degree programs in Linguistics.

The Linguistics curriculum initially taught at the University of Jaffna included course units in Phonetics, Phonology, Morphology, Syntax, Semantics, History of Linguistics, Applied Linguistics and Historical Linguistics. Elective units with a focus on Sinhala Language were incorporated into the curriculum in 1998. When the curriculum was revised in 2010 and 2020, the Department introduced new course units informed by the latest developments in Linguistics within the Tamil-speaking world and globally. Such course units include Nannool and Tolkaappiyam in eluttu and sol from a linguistic point of view, Psycholinguistics, Clinical Linguistics, Language Planning in Multilingual Society (with special focus on Sri Lanka), Computational Linguistics, Translation Studies, Stylistics, Language and Gender, and Lexicography. Some of these courses were introduced with the aim of helping the country meet the growing need for translators and teachers of second language.

The present curriculum is informed by the principles of Outcome Based Education (OBE) and Student-Centered Learning (SCL). It was designed with input by experts in Linguistics from Sri Lanka and abroad.

In the recent years, the Linguistics program has emphasized interdisciplinary approaches, integrating into its curriculum insights drawn from disciplines such as Anthropology, Computer Science and Psychology and Translation studies. This move has enriched the study of Linguistics and made the Linguistics program at the University of Jaffna one that is relevant to the changing world.

The special degree program in Linguistics is conducted in Tamil medium at present. However, the Department has taken necessary steps to revive the curriculum in English medium. It is to be noted that students are now given the option to study Linguistics either in English or Tamil in their first year at our university.

English Literature

Generally known as English in Sri Lanka and elsewhere, the academic programs in English Literature all over the world focus primarily on the study of literatures written in English from various parts of the world. However, the field of English studies in both the global north and the postcolonial world is becoming increasingly diverse and inter-disciplinary. It now embraces and intersects with areas like Language Studies, Comparative Literature, Cultural Studies, and Translation Studies.

English as a discipline was introduced to the tertiary education system in Sri Lanka in 1921 with the establishment of Ceylon University College. Leigh Smith, Lynn

Ludowyk, Doric de Souza, and Hector Passé are considered the pioneering figures in English Studies in Ceylon/Sri Lanka. Within Sri Lanka, special degree programs in English are currently offered at the Universities of Peradeniya, Colombo, Kelaniya, Sri Jayewardenepura and Jaffna.

The first special degree curriculum in English Literature at the University of Jaffna laid emphasis on literary studies. The areas taught under this program included canonical literatures from the UK (previously Britain), postcolonial writings from India, Sri Lanka, Africa, and the Caribbean, American Literature and Critical Theory. A few courses with a focus on English language studies were also taught. The program's special focus on literary studies was retained when the curriculum was revised in 2010 and 2020.

The present curriculum, introduced in 2020, aims to take the discipline in the direction of combining literary studies with language studies as done in the Departments of English at the Universities of Colombo, Peradeniya and Kelaniya. For the first time, the English curriculum cross-lists some of the undergraduate courses in Linguistics taught by the Linguistics section of the Department of Linguistics & English. This decision was made because in a postcolonial context like Sri Lanka where English language has historically caused divisions and exclusions, English literature cannot be taught without an understanding of the politics of English as a medium of communication and creativity. With the inclusion of theme-specific courses in literary studies focusing on areas such as nationalism, labour and globalization, language and gender and caste, the program today gives a special place to critical theory and interdisciplinarity. The current curriculum also includes courses in Translation Studies and Teaching English and English Literature. These courses have been included keeping in mind the increasing need for translators and teachers of English and English Literature in the country.

These changes done in line with the Subject Benchmark Statement for English developed by the Quality Assurance and Accreditation Council of the University Grants Commission place the academic program in English Literature on par with undergraduate programs in English offered by other universities in Sri Lanka and abroad.

The English Literature program expects to rename itself as 'English', as the latter term, commonly used to refer to the discipline all over the world, better represents the breadth of the discipline and does not isolate literary studies in English from language studies and linguistics. The Faculty Board has already approved a proposal submitted by the Department in this regard.

The assessment methods adopted by Department went through three turning points. At the beginning, assessment was done via annual examinations. With new reforms to the curriculum and assessment at the Faculty of Arts, a semester-based system was adopted and course units were incorporated into the curriculum. Another notable change was the introduction of in-course assessment. This shift provided students with opportunities to develop their critical thinking, research abilities and writing skills.

As the third turning point, separate curricula for the three-year BA (General) and four-year BA (Hons) degree programs in Linguistics and English Literature were introduced recently. Special degree students in both disciplines are required to submit a dissertation in their final year. Under the latest revision of the curriculum, those who specialize these subjects are required undergo an internship program at an institution relevant to their field and those who offer these subjects for the General Arts Degree are given the option to submit a report based on a project they undertake.

French

The Department offers undergraduate-level enhancement courses in French with the assistance of visiting lecturers for the benefit of undergraduates who study English Literature, English Language Teaching and Translation Studies as a subject. Initially, these courses were conducted by Mr. E. Ratnam and Mrs. S. Ramanathan. Subsequently, Mr. M. N. L. Perera, Mr. Jerard Robouchan, Ms. Riophila Alfred (Department of English Language Teaching), and Ms. Hemanjini helped the Department with teaching French.

Sinhala

Sinhala was introduced in the Department with the appointment of Mr. J. A. Abeysinghe from 1981. He taught for a period of five years. Then Mr. S. Wimal was appointed as a Permanent Lecturer to teach the Sinhala language. He has been teaching courses in Sinhala in the Faculty of Arts since 2000.

Academic Staff – Past and Present

The growth of the Department of Linguistics and English would not have been possible without the efforts of several pioneering individuals who laid the Department's academic and administrative foundations and shaped the directions the Department and its academic work subsequently took. Currently, seven permanent lecturers with postgraduate qualifications are attached to the Department. They are engaged in teaching, research, and supervision of undergraduates. Senior academics attached to the Department serve as supervisors for the MPhil. and PhD programmes in Linguistics and English conducted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies. All full-time academics contribute to the BA (External Degree) program conducted by the Centre for Open and Distance Learning (CODL) as resource persons and examiners.

There are four vacancies at present, two in English Literature and two in Linguistics, including the post of Professor of Linguistics (Chair). Based on the needs of the Department, Temporary Lecturers and Visiting Lecturers are recruited every year to support the teaching activities of the Department.

Past Academic Staff in Linguistics

Prof. Suseendirajah, along with the Tamil section of the Department of Linguistics, was transferred to the University of Jaffna in 1981 from the University of Kelaniya. He was the first Head and the first Professor of Linguistics at Jaffna. He contributed to the development of the Department by way teaching a wide variety of

courses in Linguistics, supervising research undertaken by postgraduate students and conducting pathbreaking research on the Tamil language used in Sri Lanka.

Prof. S. Suseendrarajah's academic interests spanned across areas such as phonetics, phonology, dialectal studies, historical linguistics, and lexicography, sociolinguistics, contrastive studies in Tamil and Sinhala. He obtained his PhD for his research titled 'A Descriptive Study of Ceylon Tamil (with special reference to Jaffna Tamil Phonology)' conducted at Annamalai University in 1967. He authored many books, most of which are prescribed as university text books both in Sri Lanka and India. His key publications include Jaffna Tamil: Phonology and Morphology, An Introduction to Spoken Tamil, and An Introduction to Literary Tamil, 1998 coauthored with W. S. Karunatileke and James W. Gair. These books became popular among students who learn Tamil as a second language locally as well as internationally. Prof. Suseendrarajah continued to publish even after his retirement.

Prof. Suseendrarajah played a central role in shaping the intellect and outlook of a large number of students who studied Linguistics at the University of Jaffna and University of Kelaniya, of whom some have served and continue to serve as academics in the Department. Prof. M. A. Nuhman, Prof. Ratnamalar Kailainathan, Dr. Parvathy Kandasamy, Mrs. Kirupananthy Kesavan, Mrs. Kamalasany Skandarajah, Prof. Subathini. Ramesh, Mrs. Sivarani Srisatkunarajah and Mrs. Pushpathevi Sritharan are among those who were taught by him.

Dr. Ratnamalar Kailainathan joined the Department from the University of Kelaniya. She obtained her PhD from the University of Jaffna for her research 'A contrastive Study of Sinhala and Tamil Auxiliaries' (2009). Prof. Kailainathan also has a BPhil degree and an MA degree from the University of Kelaniya. Her research mainly focused on contrastive linguistics with special reference to Tamil and Sinhala. She published A Contrastive Study of Tamil and Sinhala Auxiliaries (2009) and A Contrastive Study of Tamil and Sinhala Phonology.

Dr. Parvathy Kanthasamy obtained her MA degree from the University of Jaffna and PhD from the University of Monash, Australia. Prof. M. A. Nuhman received his MA and PhD from Annamalai University, India. One of his key publications in the area of Linguistics is A Contrastive Analysis of Tamil and Sinhala Noun Phrase (1988).

Prof. Subathini Ramesh obtained her PhD (India) in 1999 for her research 'A Contrastive Study of Nominalization in Tamil and Sinhala'. She later did her post-doctoral work in the USA in 2014. She co-authored The Sri Lankans' Views on English in the Colonial and Post-Colonial Eras with Prof. Mitali Wong (USA) (2020). She also published A Contrastive Study of Nominalization in Tamil and Sinhala (2009) and Peculiar Words in Ceylon Tamil (2005). Prof. Ramesh's academic interests encompass syntax, lexicography, stylistics, translation, transformational grammar, computational linguistics and postcolonial studies.

Present Academics in Linguistics

Mrs. Sivarani Srisatkunarajah obtained her MPhil in Linguistics for her research on Kinship Terms in Jaffna Society in 1996. She works in the areas of morphological studies, dialectology, Dravidian linguistics, lexicology, stylistics and sociolinguistics.

Mrs. Kavitha Navakulan (MA) is interested in psycholinguistics, clinical linguistics, language disorders, first and second language teaching and learning (English, Tamil, Sinhala, and Foreign Languages) and semantics. Mr. Saminathan Wimal's (MPhil) research focuses on Sinhala Tamil comparative studies, Sinhala language and grammar, historical linguistics of Sinhala and Sinhala - Tamil mutual translation. Mrs. Sivagnanavathy Senthuran's (MPhil) work focuses on morphological studies, syntax, contrastive linguistics, and lexicography. Ms. Shiromi Mohan's (MA) areas of scholarship include phonology, applied linguistics, sociolinguistics, language and gender, psycholinguistics, language planning, and Traditional Tamil grammar. Mrs. Sujitha Karthikeyan (MA) focuses on fields such as historical linguistics, language and linguistics in South Asia, translation and computational linguistics.

Academic Staff in English Literature

Ms. Shanthini Santhanam was the first permanent academic staff in English (English Literature) to serve the University of Jaffna. Unfortunately, information about her postgraduate education and research is not available. Prof. Chelva Kanaganayakam joined the University of British Columbia on a Commonwealth scholarship and received his PhD in 1985. His PhD dissertation was on the writings of Zulfikar Ghose. Prof. Kanaganayakam, however, did not return to the Department of Linguistics & English and found an academic position in Canada. With many illustrious publications to his credit, Prof. Kanaganayakam was well-known internationally for his contribution to postcolonial literary studies. Dr. Nihal Fernando, who served briefly at the Jaffna Campus, later joined the University of Kelaniya and University of Peradeniya. He obtained his MA degree from University of Hawaii, USA and PhD from Flinders University, Australia. His research focused on South Asian writings in English and post-colonialism.

Rev. Fr. Dr. J. E. Jeyaseelan taught English for nearly three decades starting from the early 1980s to the late 2000s including during the height of the civil war when the Department suffered from shortage of staff to teach the English Literature program. He wrote his PhD dissertation on the writings of R. K. Narayan. He obtained his PhD from the University of Mysore, India.

Others who contributed to English literary studies at the University of Jaffna until the mid-1980s include Mr. V. L. Raveendran and Ms. P. Thanjaratnam. Many scholars from the Southern part of the country conducted visiting classes. They included Prof. Thiru Kandiah and the late Mr. Reggie Siriwardane. Prof. Sivamohan Sumathy taught as a Temporary Lecturer in the late 1980s before she moved to the Department of English at the University of Peradeniya. Prof. Suresh Canagarajah, who was attached to the English Language Teaching Center, taught several courses in English Literature till the early 1990s. In the 2000s, Mr. Sivarajasingam and Mr. S. Pathmanathan and several others contributed to the teaching of English Literature.

Dr (Mrs). Amirthanjali Sivapalan, who served the Department between the 1980s and 2019, was interested in Sri Lankan writers and comparative literature. Dr.(Mrs).V. M. S. Yoharatnam's research focuses on feminism and postcolonial writings. Dr. Mahendran Thiruvarangan is interested in nationalism and postcolonial literatures. Ms. Erandika de Silva who served as a Lecturer (Probationary) is currently reading for a PhD in English at the University of Missouri, USA.

Many academic staff from the Departments of English Language Teaching, Sociology, Family & Community Medicine, Tamil and Christian & Islamic Civilizations at the University of Jaffna and academics and graduates from the Universities of Peradeniya, Colombo and Kelaniya have contributed on a voluntary basis to the teaching of English Literature since 2019. As a program faced with shortage of teachers, the Department of Linguistics & English finds their contribution vital and valuable in carrying out its teaching responsibilities in an effective manner.

Heads of Department

Following the retirement of Prof. Suseendrarajah, Dr. Ratnamalar Kailainathan served as the Head of the Department from 1998 to 2000. Prof. Subathini Ramesh took over as Head in 2001 serving until early 2010 and then from 2018 to 2019. Mrs.S.Srisatkunarajah served as Head from 2011 to 2017. Dr. C. C. Amirthanjali Sivapalan was appointed as Head in 2018. Following her demise in 2019, Mr. S. Wimal served as Head for a period of three years. Since 2022, Mrs. Kavitha Navakulan has been serving as the Head of the Department.

Non-Academic Staff

All the activities conducted by the Department have been ably and efficiently supported by many individuals who served on the non-academic staff of the Department. Initially the Department has benefited immensely from the unwavering dedication and support of Ms. Jeyagowry Sivagnanasundaram (Staff Assistant, 1985 – 2006). At present Ms. Mary Jenova Kajendran serves as Management Assistant (Grade I, 2009 -to date), Her responsibilities in record-keeping ensure that essential departmental documentation, student records, and administrative data are well-organized and maintained. Beyond administrative duties, she supports academic activities by coordinating with faculty and students, assisting the Department in organizing the events and ensuring the smooth functioning of day-to-day operations. Her role is vital in facilitating the academic mission of the Department and Mr. Sivakumar as Works Aid. They and their predecessors have contributed in numerous ways from keeping the classrooms clean to preparing the time tables to help the Department run its affairs smoothly. These individuals have been instrumental in facilitating the Department's growth and success.

Students

Students in their first year are admitted to the Linguistics and English Literature programs both under the normal admission system and under special intake. Based on the availability of staff, the Department admits a maximum of six students to specialize English Literature and a maximum of twenty-four students to specialize Linguistics.

The curriculum helps students develop a broad understanding of the fundamentals of the disciplines, the various sub-areas and their relevance to the wider world.

Students who specialize in Linguistics and English Literature at the University of Jaffna possess the skills and abilities required for a diverse array of jobs. Our graduates serve as academics, teachers, journalists, editors, translators, creative writers, cultural officers and development officers today. Many of our students have had the opportunity to work in the Official Language Commission, District Secretariats, government hospitals and the foreign services sector of Sri Lanka. The academic programs offered by the Department helps students hone their language abilities in more than one language. Our graduates are much sought-after by state-run institutions, the private sector and non-governmental organizations for their bilingual and trilingual and multilingual abilities.

Many alumni of the Department have obtained postgraduate qualifications in English, Linguistics, English Language Teaching and related fields from universities within and outside Sri Lanka. Besides taking steps to improve students' academic work and employability, the Department gives importance to preparing its students to make constructive societal contribution as citizens who value and advocate for progressive social transformation, cultural and gender diversity, social justice and ethnic and linguistic pluralism and coexistence.

The students of the Department organize various cultural and social events via the Linguistics & English Society of the Department. These events aim to create among students leadership abilities, team spirit, a sense of social responsibility and an interest in extra-curricular activities. Our students also attend workshops and seminars conducted by organizations based in Jaffna and outside on creative writing, translation, gender and sexuality, to name a few topics.

Dissemination of Knowledge and Outreach Activities

The academic staff of the Department regularly present their work at academic conferences held in Sri Lanka and abroad. Many of them have published their research in reputed journals. Some write regularly in the media. Some have been invited to give talks and guest lectures and teach courses by universities within and outside Sri Lanka. Their writings and scholarship have been cited by academics and scholars across the world. The Department is proud of the mark they have made in the wider academia.

The staff members of the Department have served as resource persons at various seminars and workshops. The Late Prof. S. Suseendrarajah and Prof. M. A. Nuhman served as consultants to the committees responsible for designing school text books. The Late Prof. S. Suseendrarajah was invited by the Ministry of Hindu Cultural Affairs to serve as Convenor of their conferences. Dr. Mrs. Ratnamalar Kailainathan served as Convenor of the workshops organized by the Official Language Commission. Prof. S. Ramesh, Mr. S. Wimal, and Mrs. N. Kavitha engage as resource persons at various institutions including schools and universities.

The Department organized awareness seminars on the GCE AL subject English (73) and organized online classes for students who study this subject in the Northern Province with the help of academics from other universities. It organizes guest lectures and cultural events to mark the International Mother Language Day annually. The students and staff have collaboratively conducted exhibitions. The Department hosts public lectures on topics that are of social, political and economic significance. Scholars and activists from all over the world present their research and reflect on their activism at these events which are open to not just the university community but also the wider public.

In their long journey spanning nearly five decades, the academic programs in English Literature and Linguistics have faced numerous challenges. The civil war and the migration of eminent academics in these fields from Jaffna has had an adverse impact on the Department. Academic sessions were disrupted on many occasions due to the volatile political climate in the North and students had to spend additional years to complete their degree programs.

As a Department located on the periphery, we have faced shortage of teaching staff. The English Literature program, in particular, continues to function with only three permanent academic positions. Due to increased teaching load, the academics attached to the Department face difficulties in undertaking new research. Larger problems that bedevil Sri Lanka's free public education sector such as lack of funding for higher education, lack of support for research and postgraduate training and brain drain have impeded the Department's growth. Despite these challenges, the academics and students of the Department work hard and collaborate with other universities and academics to maintain high academic standards and engage in quality research and meaningful outreach activities.

The government and the administration of the University of Jaffna should take swift measures to help the Department overcome its current challenges. With increased support, the Department will be able to build on the achievements it has made so far and climb greater heights in the future.

Department of Media Studies

Preamble

The Department of Media Studies is a dynamic space for exploring and analyzing the various facets of media, culture, and communication in the contemporary world. The Department is committed to exploring the media's profound role in shaping culture, society, and human experiences. In an age of rapid technological advancements and shifting communication landscapes, the Department serves as a hub for critical inquiry and creative expression by engaging with questions related to the media and deploying appropriate theoretical frameworks. It also fosters practical skills and critical thinking among its students. The Department strives to cultivate effective students/citizens equipped with media literacy and creative professionals who can contribute to the creation of ethically conscious and equitable media landscapes.

Scope of the Stream

The Department of Media Studies covers various course units that focus on various theoretical and practical methods to understand, interpret and examine the place and role of the media, from diverse critical points of view. Accordingly, the curriculum engages with print, electronic, and new media. Under the sub-area print media, students learn about reporting techniques and skills necessary for the newspaper industry and editing. In studying print media, students learn about page layout and preparing designs for magazines and newspapers. Under electronic media, students focus on theories and practical aspects of photography, television programmes, creative processes and technologies related to cinema and, documentary and short filmmaking. Those who specialize in new media learn about contemporary media and its technologies and the world of social media. In addition, students gain knowledge about advertising, managing media institutions, a variety of specialized reporting such as investigative and environmental reporting and coverage of societal issues. With regard to the latest technologies, students learn animation techniques and digital visual effects for 2D and 3D projects.

Commencement of Discipline and the Factors Prompted

Media Studies at the University of Jaffna has a very modest beginning. However, its history is rich and inspiring. At the very early stage, media education was introduced as a subject at the Faculty of Arts, as part of literary studies to promote creative writing among the students. However, it is noteworthy that some leading figures in the University and some well-wishers from the wider society, especially from the world of media, showed a keen interest in introducing media education from a critical sociological perspective. As a result, the University organized a society for film appreciation with support from interested parties. This initiative was made mainly to promote the evaluation and appreciation of visual media.

The Extra-Mural Studies Unit of the University conducted a Certificate Course in Journalism, which was one of the pioneering courses in the area of media education in the Northern Province. The Certificate Course in Journalism, when it was introduced, did not solely depend on academics attached to the University. Further help was acquired from local journalists who were either professionals or working journalists. All those who were connected to journalism - chief editors, news editors, reporters, photojournalists, printers, and distributors - were invited to give their input and share their experiences as guest lecturers. This approach paved the way for the professionals in the field to shape the nature of media education. This course catered to not only the students of the University of Jaffna but also different categories of media personnel. In the early 2000s, the University of Jaffna established a Media Resources and Training Centre (MRTC), a project supported by UNESCO, with the aim of promoting professional media practices in the Tamil media landscape.

The Media Resources and Training Centre acted as a platform for the formation of professional journalists in the Tamil medium. Further, it served as a centre for capacity building, creating awareness and understanding of the role of the media among the citizens in Northern Sri Lanka.

At the Completion of foreign funding, MRTC ended its activities on the 31st of December 2016. It was later converted into a media lab which is currently under the purview of the Department of Media Studies, Faculty of Arts.

The Bachelor of Arts Degree in Media Studies offered by the Faculty of Arts, University of Jaffna is a pioneering effort and a response to the need for creating critical scholarship and providing professional training in the various aspects of media and communication.

Growth of the Subject

In 2007, at the Faculty of Arts, the Media Studies curriculum was drafted with the collaboration of the University of Linnaeus, Sweden. The curriculum laid special emphasis on practical skills as well as the theories of communication.

This was recommended by the Faculty Board and later the Senate and the Council as a subject of the Arts Degree. Later, on 10th October 2013, the University Grants Commission approved the proposed Bachelor of Arts in Media Studies Programme which was the first and is, to date, the only degree programme in Media Studies in Tamil medium offered in Sri Lanka. The program attracts students from various regions.

Having considered the recommendations of its Management and Standing Committee of the Humanities and Social Sciences, the University Grants Commission at its 997th meeting held on 18th October 2018, granted approval for the establishment of the Department of Media Studies at the University of Jaffna. The Honourable Minister of Higher Education declared the establishment of the Department as the 18th Department under the Faculty of Arts by an extraordinary gazette notification (number 2116/43) dated 27th of March 2019.

In 2016 and 2017, the curriculum of Media Studies was revisited in order to ensure that it aligns with the Sri Lanka Quality Framework. During the revision process, the curriculum was modified in line with the principles of Outcome-Based Education (OBE) and Students Centered Learning (SCL). Further, in 2020 and 2021, the curriculum of Media Studies was revised in such a way as to improve students' practical exposure to the fields of media and communication.

The Department of Media Studies provides a four-year Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Degree Programme in Media Studies. Undergraduates also have the option of offering Media Studies as one of the core subjects for the three-year Bachelor of Arts (General) Degree programme conducted by the Faculty of Arts.

The new curriculum included course units related to traditional, print, electronic, and new media at each level of the study programme. These courses specifically focus on Mass Communication and Society, Folk Media, Film Script Writing, Digital Storytelling: Documentary Filmmaking, Introduction to Animation Techniques, English for Media, Sinhala for Media, Digital Storytelling: Short Filmmaking, Digital Visual Effects, and Media Internship.

Further, streams within the curriculum such as Conflict Sensitive Journalism, Media, Democracy, Law and Ethics, and Media Culture can help young journalists to make use of media platforms in envisioning and bringing about social harmony. The programme seeks to facilitate the creation of graduates with professional skills, knowledge, and a social outlook necessary to find employment as journalists, press officers, information officers, advertisers, documentary and feature film-makers, digital animation creators, and public relations officers at the regional and national levels. The programme also prepares its students towards self-employment in addition to training them to become small-scale entrepreneurs and teachers of Media Studies in schools and universities.

The long-standing civil conflict and the unsettled conditions in the Northern Province affected the media environment severely and created an adverse impact on the quality of professional journalism and its ethical norms. The Media Studies Degree Programme strives towards rejuvenating an inclusive and democratic media culture that brings to the center the voices of those who are on the peripheries of our communities. It also aims to provide increased opportunities for youngsters to enter the field with an appropriate educational background.

In addition, there is an increasing need and demand in the media sector of Sri Lanka for professional journalism. This has happened with the rise of new newspapers, radio and television channels and the growth of online journalism. Schools have already addressed this need by including Communication and Media Studies as one of the subjects in their Ordinary and Advanced Level curricula.

In keeping the above in mind, the following are set as objectives of the Bachelor's Degree in Media Studies:

To educate students to think critically, communicate clearly, and collaborate effectively as they apply the fundamental principles of communication in their day-to-day encounters and in their personal, social, and professional lives.

- To train students to become journalists the print, electronic, and new media sectors
- To create an intellectual reservoir to meet the growing demands of the media field
- To provide students strong education in communication and media
- To produce competent, creative, and responsible professionals
- To promote a spirit of free and objective enquiry in the media sector.

Contributions towards the Development of the Study Stream

The Department of Media Studies has gone through significant stages of growth. During the early period, Mr. S. S. Uthayakumar, Senior Lecturer, Department of Economics served as the Coordinator of the Degree Programme under the purview of the Dean's Office of the Faculty of Arts. Prof. K. Visakaruban, Department of Tamil, held this position for a period of one year till the early part of 2016.

Afterwards, Prof. S. Raguram was made the first Head of the Department of the Department of Media Studies. He held this position until he was elected as Dean of the Faculty of Arts, University of Jaffna in 2023.

Prof. S. Raguram is a Commonwealth Fellow who obtained his PhD from Gandhigram Rural University, India in the field of Development Communication and a Master's degree in Journalism and Mass Communication. Before entering academia, he was a versatile journalist holding key positions in print and electronic media for nearly ten years. Prof. Raguram's strong background in journalism adds a unique flavor to academic profile. .

In addition to his responsibilities as academic, Prof. Raguram serves as consultant and resource person in many areas of his specialization. He also holds membership in various national and regional level committees in the areas of media and communication, while being involved in research related to national development.

Ms. Poongulaly Srisangeerthan, Senior Lecturer, is the present Head of the Department. In 2017, Ms. Srisangeerthan was appointed as Lecturer (Probationary). Poongulaly completed her B.A. Hons degree in Communication Studies at the Trincomalee Campus, Eastern University, Sri Lanka in 2013. She obtained a Master of Arts degree in Mass Media Studies from the Sri Palee Campus, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka, in 2018.

Mr. Dinesh Koduthor was recruited as a Lecturer (Probationary). He completed his BA (Hons) in Media Studies at the University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka, in 2015. He obtained an MA degree in Journalism and Mass Communication from Bharathiar University, India, in 2017 and another MA degree in Mass Media Studies from the Sri Palee Campus, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka, in 2020. Presently he is a Senior Lecturer. He is on study leave pursuing his PhD at Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick, Ireland.

In 2018, Ms. Anutharsi Gabilan joined the Department as Lecturer (Probationary). She completed her BA in Communication Studies, at the Trincomalee Campus, Eastern University, Sri Lanka, in 2015. Afterwards, she obtained a Diploma in Journalism from the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka, in 2015. At present, she has completed a Master of Arts degree in Mass Media Studies at the Sri Palee Campus, University of Colombo.

Research Interests of the Staff

The research interests of the staff have had a strong bearing on the academic landscape of the Department of Media Studies. The curriculum and the academic sessions organized by the Department are linked in interesting ways to the research carried out by its academics. Prof. S. Raguram's PhD dissertation was on the topic 'Using Tamil Folk Media in Development Communication. Development Communication (Dev. Comm.) is a vital part of media studies. This area focuses specifically on finding different media strategies to make the larger public, especially those on the margins of society, take part in development-oriented activities in the areas of public health, education, infrastructure development, eliminating poverty, strengthening local enterprises, and awareness building with regard to socio-cultural issues. In the Sri Lankan context, appropriate communication strategies are not deployed in planning and implementing development. Prof. Raguram's research on how people-friendly communication strategies can be devised to take forward development initiatives is a novel and unique inter-disciplinary contribution to both Media Studies and Development Studies.

Ms. Poongulaly Srisangeerthan's research pays attention to theories of communication, non-verbal communication, gender and media, media portrayals, contemporary media trends, and cyber security. Mr. Dinesh Koduthor works on

advertising, broadcasting production and presentation, political communication, minority representation, and new media trends. Ms. Anutharsi Gabilan's academic interests include reporting techniques, newspaper editing, gender and communication, print media technologies, contemporary media trends, and cyber security.

Staff and Students at Present

The Department of Media Studies at the University of Jaffna presently has four permanent academic staff: Prof. S. Raguram, Ms. Poongulaly Srisangeerthan, Mr. Dinesh Koduthor, and Ms. Anutharsi Gabilan. They cater to more than two hundred fifty students in the Honors and general degree programs in an effective and inspiring manner.

Mr. T. Sivanesan (Technical Officer (AV)), Mr. K. Vijiharan (Management Assistant) and Mr. S. Sivasubramaniam (Lab Attendant) have contributed to the smooth functioning of the Department throughout its growth.

Dissemination of Knowledge

The Department of Media Studies conducts various activities to share knowledge in the fields of media and technology with different social groups and communities. Prof. S. Raguram continuously contributes as a Resource Person in many community outreach and professional development programs. He also leads seminars for school teachers and students, awareness programmes for community leaders and training sessions for professional journalists. He has also been involved in developing course modules for other universities and institutions at the regional and national levels. Prof. Raguram also offers his services for the national exams and serves on national level committees and review committees for the Communication and Media curriculum taught at the school-level.

The Staff members of the Department are involved in seminars and workshops for students in Ordinary Level and Advanced Level who study Communication and Media Studies. They also conduct workshops for the benefit of those who teach this subject at schools.

Outreach Activities and Community Engagement

The Department of Media Studies conducts community outreach activities by way of workshops, seminars, field surveys and print and electronic documentation. The Department partners with various stakeholders such as Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), and the Government Sector including departments and schools in running these activities.

The Department has started a self-financing course Higher Diploma in Media Studies from the year 2020/2021 to provide opportunities for people who could not find admission to the university system but have aspirations to become journalists, and working journalists who do not possess academic or professional qualifications. This course has been designed in line with the Sri Lanka Qualifications Framework (SLQF).

The Department has also provided opportunities for those interested, to conduct post-graduate level research in Media Studies and related fields under the MPhil and PhD programs run by the Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Jaffna since 2018. Students have the option of choosing either Tamil or English as medium of education for these degree programs. .

The 'Media Club', the Students' Society of the Department of Media Studies, provides training to school students and school media clubs in camera and video handling, filmmaking, and mobile journalism. The Department of Media Studies entered into Memoranda of Agreements and Memoranda of Understandings with various entities and organizations such as HELVETAS Sri Lanka, the Alcohol and Drug Information Center (ADIC), and the Centre for Media and Information Literacy (CMIL).

Apart from these activities and initiatives, students from the Department of Media Studies have been involved in community engagement by way of producing documentaries and short films which can be used as platforms to foster dialogue, raise awareness, and inspire collective action. Students select important issues that need to be given prominence and create awareness about those issues by presenting them from the perspective of the people and the communities concerned. These initiatives have triggered conversations about social change at the local and regional levels.

Conclusion

The Department of Media Studies cultivates accomplished graduates who are well-versed in communication and have a passion for lifelong education. They also show interest in providing entertainment while working for social change. The Department's journey will continue to fulfil the needs and aspirations of its students and the larger public.

Department of Philosophy

Preamble

The Department of Philosophy at the University of Jaffna has long been a cornerstone of intellectual inquiry and academic rigor in northern Sri Lanka. Established with a mission to foster critical thinking and ethical reflection, the Department has evolved over the years to address the complex needs of both individual and societal growth. Initially focused on the classical study of philosophy, the department gradually expanded its academic offerings to include the field of Psychology, recognizing the complementary nature of these two disciplines in understanding the human mind, behavior, and moral questions.

Today, the Department of Philosophy offers two distinct degree programs: one in Philosophy and the other in Psychology. While philosophy students engage in the exploration of fundamental questions about existence, knowledge, and ethics, psychology students delve into the scientific study of behavior, cognition, and emotional well-being. These programs stand independently, yet they reflect the department's overarching commitment to exploring the depths of human thought, consciousness, and the search for meaning.

With a distinguished staff and a rich tradition of scholarly excellence, the Department of Philosophy continues to serve as a dynamic academic hub, fostering analytical thinkers and empathetic leaders who are well-prepared to address the complexities of a constantly changing world.

Commencement and Factors Prompted

Founded in August 1975, the Department of Philosophy was one of the earliest departments established at the University of Jaffna. The creation of the department highlighted the importance of philosophy as a foundational discipline that supports all other academic fields. Its establishment reflects the university's commitment to integrating philosophical inquiry as a core part of its academic mission. A significant milestone for the department was reached in 1998 with the launch of a new undergraduate degree programme in Psychology.

Growth of the Subject as a Discipline

Philosophy - The Department of Philosophy at the University of Jaffna was established in August 1975 with the appointment of two assistant lecturers, Mr.V. Kulasene and Mr. S. Krishnarajah, both of whom played key roles in its early development. The department benefitted from the contributions of visiting scholars such as Dr. A. D. Kalansuriya, Dr. V. Ramakrishnan, and Mr. S. V. Kasynathan, marking the beginning of a long-standing academic collaboration with the University of Peradeniya.

As the department evolved, its curriculum expanded to include a focus on Saiva Siddhanta, positioning it as a center for Indian philosophical thought. By 1990, under the leadership of Dr. Krishnarajah and Dr. Gnanakumaran, the curriculum was revised, allowing students to specialize in either Saiva Siddhanta or General Philosophy. This period also saw the University Grants Commission (UGC) introduce Hindu Philosophy as a discipline, leading to the revision of the existing syllabus and the development of the Saiva Siddhanta program under the Faculty of Hindu Studies.

Psychology - A pivotal moment in the Department of Philosophy's history came in 1998 with the introduction of the undergraduate degree program in Psychology, in response to the growing need for mental health services during the civil war. This marked a major expansion in the department's academic scope, integrating both philosophical and psychological studies, and addressing contemporary issues in society. This initiative was championed by then-Vice Chancellor Prof. P. Balasundarampillai, with the program developed under the leadership of Prof. S. Krishnarajah. Prof. N. Gnanakumaran played a key role in drafting the curriculum, while both he and Prof. K. Sivananthamoorthy taught the initial cohort of psychology students.

The programme received significant support from visiting lecturers such as Rev. Fr. S.J. Rajanayagam, Rev. Fr. Francis Daniel, and Rev. Fr. R. Stalin, along with contributions from Mr. K. Anton Dias and Prof. S. Jeyarasa from the Department of Education. This collaborative effort laid a strong foundation for psychology as a growing discipline within the department, with the first cohort of students graduating in 2002.

Development of the Subject up to now

Philosophy - Over the decades, the Department of Philosophy has seen significant contributions from dedicated academics, with many being promoted to higher positions. Prof. Krishnarajah and Prof. Gnanakumaran led the department's growth, revising and expanding the curriculum, and guiding students through postgraduate studies. Both supervised numerous M.Phil. and Ph.D. candidates.

Despite challenges, such as the suspension of department activities in 1995 due to the mass exodus and the loss of assets, the department persisted in its academic mission. Key appointments, including that of Mr. K. Anton Dias and the promotion of Prof. K. Sivananthamoorthy, sustained its progress. Department members like Prof. Gnanakumaran, who received a Fulbright Fellowship and conducted research internationally, contributed to the department's growing reputation.

Recent years have seen the department continue its legacy of scholarly excellence, with the appointments of new lecturers such as Mr. N. Sivakaran, Mr.S.Nirosan, Mrs.G.Tharsiga, and Mr. T. Thileepan. The department continues to offer undergraduate degrees in Philosophy and Psychology, while also guiding postgraduate students in advanced research. Leadership roles have passed through various hands, with Mr. N.Sivakaran and Mrs. A. Rajkumar serving as recent heads of the department. Through its sustained commitment to both tradition and innovation, the department has cemented itself as a vital part of the academic landscape of University of Jaffna academic landscape.

Psychology - Since its inception, the Psychology program has expanded steadily, offering both General and Honours Degree programmes. The Honours programme, in particular, has seen rising popularity due to increasing career opportunities in mental health and related fields. Currently, more than 100 students are enrolled in the Honours degree programme, reflecting its success and growing demand.

The department also provides opportunities for advanced research, guiding and supervising postgraduate studies, including M.Phil. and Ph.D. programs. The consistent growth of both undergraduate and postgraduate programs in Psychology highlights the department's ongoing commitment to meeting societal needs through academic excellence and professional development in the field of mental health.

Curriculum

Philosophy - Initially, the curriculum for the Philosophy programme at the University of Jaffna was adapted from the University of Peradeniya. However, under the leadership of Dr. V. Ramakrishnan, the curriculum underwent significant transformation to emphasize Indian philosophical traditions. His efforts introduced a rich exploration of Indian thought, aligning the curriculum with the region's cultural and intellectual heritage. In 1978, the curriculum for the Honours Degree programme was introduced.

Later, Prof. N. Gnanakumaran and Prof. K. Sivanathamoorthy further refined the curriculum by placing a stronger emphasis on Hindu philosophical traditions, such as Vedanta and Saiva Siddhanta, establishing the department as a center for the study of Indian philosophy. Simultaneously, Prof. S. Krishnarajah expanded the curriculum to include a strong focus on Western philosophical traditions, creating a balanced and comprehensive educational framework.

In recent years, the department has shifted its focus primarily towards Western philosophy while maintaining some emphasis on Eastern philosophy. This change is driven by two factors: the job market's demands and the fact that the newly established Faculty of Hindu Studies now focuses on Hindu philosophical traditions.

With the adoption of the semester system, a revised curriculum was introduced for the 1999/2000 academic year, and further updates were made in 2014. The curriculum was initially designed for the annual examination system but adapted to the semester structure.

The philosophy curriculum was revised to comply with the Sri Lanka Qualification Framework and has included several new course units since the 2018/2019 academic year. A stakeholder needs assessment conducted in 2018 led to the incorporation of elements designed to enhance opportunities in an increasingly competitive landscape. Key components of the revised curriculum include internships, coursework in critical thinking and decision-making, modern logic, philosophy of human rights: issues and debate, data analysis in social research, philosophy of conflict and peace, and social policy analysis. In recent years, the number of first-year students enrolling in Philosophy has increased.

Psychology - In 1998, the initial curriculum for the General Degree in Psychology was developed and subsequently upgraded to include an Honours Degree in Psychology in Tamil medium. This curriculum initially applied to the annual examination system. Following the introduction of the semester system, a revised curriculum was implemented for the 1999/2000 academic year. This curriculum was further revised in 2014. The Psychology curriculum has been updated to align with the Sri Lanka Qualification Framework, incorporating several new course units. This revised curriculum has been in effect since the 2018/2019 academic year. Based on a stakeholder needs assessment conducted in 2018, the updated curriculum integrates key elements essential for enhancing opportunities in a competitive environment. Major components of this revised curriculum include internship, coursework in forensic psychology, applied counseling psychology in the Sri Lankan context, multicultural psychology, rehabilitation psychology, and school psychology.

Subsequent Expansion of the Discipline

The Department of Philosophy is a close-knit academic community, comprising dedicated staff, and students who thrive in a supportive and collegial atmosphere. Our staff members have excelled in various fields and pursued postgraduate studies at prestigious universities worldwide.

The department's infrastructure is well-maintained, with lecture halls recently upgraded to include modern technology such as smart classrooms introduced through the AHEAD project. These upgrades have significantly improved the teaching and learning environment.

Additionally, the department has recently established a new Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) lab, named AHAM, which is dedicated to providing counselling and mental health services. This initiative was made possible through funding from the USAID/SCORE project, following a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed in 2022. Currently, two counsellors are employed in the lab on a contractual basis, providing vital mental health support to the community.

Pioneering People and Outstanding Academic Work

In the Philosophy discipline, Professor S. Krishnarajah is renowned for his exceptional work on Karl Popper's Methodology of Social Knowledge. He received a State University award from 1978 to 1983 to pursue his PhD at Moscow State University, Russia. He authored eleven influential books on 20th-century art theories, postmodernism, philosophy of criticism, and Sangam society and social philosophical thoughts. His book on the philosophy of criticism won the Sri Lankan Sahithya Academy Award for Best Book in 1989.

Professor N. Gnanakumaran is noted for his significant academic contribution, *Maya: Fact or Fiction* in the context of Advaita Vedanta. He was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to teach at Arizona State University and Pima Community College. He has published seventeen acclaimed books on Indian Philosophy, Indian Psychology, Morality, and Hindu Philosophy. Three of his books - *Saiva Siddhanta Thelivu*, *Vedanta Meiyiyal*, and *Hindu Epistemology* - received awards from the Sri Lankan Sahithya Academy for Best Book.

In the discipline of Psychology, Mr. K. Sivananthamoorthy, in collaboration with Mr. K. Anton Dias, authored a two-part textbook titled Introduction to Psychology.

Interested Research Areas of Staff

At the early stages of the department, the staff members primarily focused on Eastern Philosophy, especially Indian Philosophy. The late Prof. K. Krishnarajah initially concentrated on Western philosophy, including Marxist philosophy, Postmodernism, Rationalism, and Empiricism. Later, he sought to trace the origins of Western thought through Eastern philosophical traditions. Emeritus Professor N. Gnanakumaran explored Vedanta philosophical traditions alongside Saiva Siddhanta, while Mr. K. Sivananthamoorthy focused on Tamil Philosophy, incorporating other aspects of philosophy. Mr. K. Anton Dias specialized in Logic, the Scientific Method, and General Psychology.

Currently, the academic staff of the department have diverse research interests that align with the emerging global trends and societal needs:

Dr. K. Kajavintan: Clinical Psychology, Counselling Psychology, Psychopathology, Psychotherapy, Developmental Psychology, and Indian Psychology - focusing on mental health, which is a rising concern globally, particularly in post-conflict societies.

Mrs. A. Rajkumar: Personality, Social Psychology, Schools of Psychology, Criminal Psychology, Multicultural Psychology, Psychological Testing, Educational Psychology, and Child Psychology—reflecting the growing importance of addressing diversity, criminal behavior, and educational development in a globalized world.

Mr. N. Sivakaran: Ethics, Political Philosophy, Philosophy of Law, Environmental Philosophy, Feminist Philosophy, Philosophy of Human Rights, Conflict and Peace, and Analytical Philosophy—covering topics central to today's global challenges, such as human rights, environmental issues, and social justice.

Mrs. M. Sivakaran: Counselling Psychology, Health Psychology, Gender Psychology, Industrial Psychology, Applied Counselling, Psychopathology, Research Methodology, Clinical Psychology, and Psychotherapy—focusing on issues of health, gender, and workplace psychology, which are critical in today’s fast-paced, inclusive, and diverse professional environments.

Mr. S. Nirosan: Epistemology, Logic, Modern Philosophy, Analytical Philosophy, Postmodernism, Aesthetics, Language Philosophy, Neo-Marxism, and Philosophy in Literature—highlighting the relevance of understanding knowledge systems, critical thinking, and contemporary ideological movements in today’s information-driven world.

Mrs. T. Gorden: Vedanta Philosophy, Saiva Siddhanta Philosophy, Contemporary Indian Philosophy, Hindu Epistemology, and Hindu Psychology—keeping the focus on Eastern thought while addressing its growing significance in global philosophical discourse.

Mr. T. Thileepan: Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Religion, Philosophy of Mind, and General Psychology—exploring the philosophical implications of science and religion, and the nature of consciousness, which are key to current philosophical and scientific debates.

Any Other Useful Information

In 1990, the establishment of the Philosophical Society marked a significant milestone for the Department of Philosophy. Since its inception, the society has remained active, organizing numerous impactful activities. These include workshops for school students, fundraising events, and the publication of a book titled ***Dharshanam*** in 2002. The society continues to conduct workshops aimed at enhancing student learning and well-being. In 2018, it hosted an undergraduate research symposium with support from the Department of Philosophy. The society also celebrates International Philosophy Day each year, while the department observes International Mental Health Day annually.

The Department of Philosophy has been a consistent supporter of the B.A. Degree programme offered through the Center for Open and Distance Learning at the University of Jaffna. The department’s staff have played a crucial role in ensuring the successful operation and delivery of this programme.

Dissemination of knowledge

The department’s staff have made significant contributions to academic literature. Especially in Philosophy, the late Dr. V. Ramakrishnan authored one book, while the late Prof. S. Krishnarajah published eleven. Prof. N. Gnanakumaran has written seventeen books, and Prof. K. Sivananthamoorthy has published five. Additionally, Mr. S. Nirosan and Mr. T. Thileepan have each published one book.

In Psychology, Dr. K. Kajavinthan authored five books titled Psychology, Abnormal Psychology, Guidance and Counselling, Introduction to Counselling, and Psycho-Social Glossary.

The academics in Philosophy and Psychology at the University of Jaffna regularly publish their research in peer-reviewed journals and present their work at national and international conferences. Students are also actively engaged in publishing their research in these venues, reflecting the department's strong culture of academic inquiry.

The academics in Psychology organize mental health awareness programs for different segments of the community, including schools, divisional secretariats, and local NGOs. They also regularly contribute articles to local and national newspapers, magazines, and media programs on topics related to mental health and psychology. Additionally, psychology students are eager to write and raise awareness about mental health issues.

Outreach Activities

The staff of the Department of Philosophy are actively engaged in a variety of outreach activities, sharing their expertise beyond the university setting.

One of their key initiatives includes organizing seminars and workshops for G.C.E. (A/L) students to enhance their understanding of philosophy and logic. Additionally, they provide specialized seminars and workshops for teachers of Logic, offering tools and methodologies to improve teaching practices.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the department staff launched a webinar series titled Youth Truth: The Meaning of Life, initiated by Mr. N. Sivakaran. This series aimed to engage young people in philosophical discussions during a time of global uncertainty, focusing on existential and meaningful life questions.

The staff also coordinate educational videos on Logic and the Scientific Method through the Guru Gedara series, organized by the National Institute of Education (NIE). This initiative is led by Mr. T. Thileepan. These videos are accessible to the public on Channel NIE via YouTube.

With regard to Psychology, the department regularly organizes awareness programs to mark the Mental Health Day, Children's Day, and Autism Day. The students and staff in the Psychology programme conduct workshops on topics such as child abuse, drug and alcohol abuse, mental health, personality development, and motivational programs for school students and at-risk communities. Under the USAID project alone, 13 full-day awareness programs were held. Additionally, students produced short films titled ***Onan*** and performed awareness dramas for school audiences.

Furthermore, the department staff conduct mental health awareness programs targeting various groups, including school students. These programs aim to promote mental health literacy, resilience, and well-being, addressing the unique challenges faced by different age groups. In addition, the staff offer regular public talks on a range of topics that fall under the ambit of philosophy and psychology, fostering community engagement and promoting philosophical discourse outside of the academic environment.

Conclusion

The Department of Philosophy at the University of Jaffna has grown into a diverse and dynamic academic institution, playing a pivotal role in shaping both philosophical and psychological education in northern Sri Lanka. Since its founding in 1975, the department has made significant strides in expanding its curriculum and addressing societal needs, particularly with the introduction of the Psychology programme in 1998, which responded to the pressing mental health demands caused by the civil war. Today, the department stands as a leader in both disciplines, fostering critical thinking, ethical reflection, and mental health awareness.

With a rich history of scholarly excellence, the department offers comprehensive undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in both Philosophy and Psychology. Its staff, with expertise in a wide range of fields, have contributed to academic knowledge and societal well-being through teaching, research, and outreach initiatives. The department's engagement in mental health programmes and community services, coupled with its focus on intellectual inquiry, highlights its ongoing commitment to serving both students and society. Through its legacy of academic rigor and societal engagement, the Department of Philosophy continues to offer enlightening pathways to individual and social well-being with wisdom.

Department of Political Science

Preamble

The Political Science discipline is one of the oldest fields of study at the University of Jaffna. Since its establishment as a full-fledged department on February 7, 2007, it has grown into one of the largest undergraduate programs at the university. The department offers four main streams in its undergraduate academic programs: Political Ideology, Public Administration, International Politics, and Constitutional Studies with a focus on Sri Lankan Politics. Through these thematic areas, the department upholds national, regional, and international academic standards.

Subjects Covered and Their Orientation:

The Department of Political Science offers both a three-year general degree and a four-year special degree at the undergraduate level. These programs are designed to enhance students' knowledge across various subfields and related disciplines, including public administration, international relations, public international law, human rights, political sociology, political economy, Sri Lankan politics, constitutional studies, political ideology, and research methodology.

Commencement of Discipline and the Factors Prompted

Political Science was first introduced at the Jaffna Campus in 1974 as part of the undergraduate degree program in Economics. Initially, graduates from the undergraduate section of Jaffna College were integrated into the newly established university campus. In 1977, the Jaffna Campus began offering Political Science as a Special Degree Program, which remained under the Department of Economics.

In 1992, Political Science and Sociology were separated from the Department of Economics, resulting in the formation of the Department of Political Science and Sociology. Eventually, Political Science was further distinguished from Sociology, leading to the establishment of an independent Department of Political Science.

Growth of the subject as a discipline

The curriculum of the Department of Political Science has evolved steadily over time, becoming both comprehensive and robust. Initially, the Political Science curriculum was conceived as a general and specialized course within the Department of Economics, structured as an inter-departmental, multidisciplinary program. This multidisciplinary approach continued during the collaboration with the Department of Sociology and was further refined after the establishment of an independent Department of Political Science, drawing from these foundational experiences.

While the early curriculum was modeled on those of Sri Lankan universities, it later incorporated elements from Political Science programs at international universities. In 2020, the syllabus underwent significant refinement, supported financially by the World Bank. Renowned academics, including Professor Jayadeva Uyangoda from the University of Colombo and Professor Upul Abeyrathne from the University of Peradeniya, were instrumental in evaluating and redesigning the curriculum.

The curriculum's development was further propelled by the academic advancements of the department's faculty. Many lecturers pursued master's and doctoral degrees at Indian universities, while others completed their higher studies at leading European institutions. This diverse academic expertise contributed to the transformation of the Department of Political Science's curriculum into a globally relevant and universally comprehensive program.

Subsequent Expansion of the Discipline

Since becoming an independent department, the curriculum and teaching methodologies have undergone significant transformations. Notably, students have shown increased enthusiasm for choosing and engaging with this program. They have become highly influential, not only within the University of Jaffna but also within the broader community.

The department has introduced programs such as the Diploma in Public Administration and the Postgraduate Master of Public Administration. Additionally, it has plans to launch a Master's program in Peace and Conflict Resolution in 2025, further expanding its academic offerings.

Pioneering Academics and their Outstanding Academic Work

Several renowned academics have made invaluable contributions to the field of Political Science. The late Professor N. Balakrishnan (Department of Economics), the late Dr. S.K.S. Nathan, Professor N. Shanmugalingan (Department of Sociology), and Professor A.V. Manivasagar played pivotal roles in advancing the discipline. The late Mr. K. Ranjakumar also made significant contributions to the development of Political Science. Additionally, Dr. K. Ragunathan and Mr. S. Sakayaseelan served as senior lecturers and dedicated educators in the Department of Political Science, further enriching the academic environment.

Dr. S.K.S. Nathan made remarkable academic contributions to the Department

of Political Science through his extensive writing, research publications, and effective teaching. He pursued an M.A. in Political Science at Mainland College, India, and completed his Ph.D. under the supervision of Professor Sirsikar from 1965 to 1970, earning his doctorate from the University of Poona, India, in 1970. Dr. Nathan served as a postgraduate lecturer at M.S.G. College, Nashik, affiliated with Poona University, where he displayed a strong aptitude for research, undertaking independent research projects. Notably, Professor Sirsikar published two of Dr. Nathan's election studies: *DMK and Politics in Tamil Nadu* and *Elections in the Bentong District of Malaysia*.

From 1963 to 1970, Dr. Nathan worked as a lecturer in Political Science at Mainland College of Arts, earning widespread recognition and popularity among colleagues and students for his teaching abilities and skills. He was a regular contributor to esteemed journals such as *Modern Review*, *Maharashtra University Journal*, and *Economic and Political Weekly*. Upon returning to Sri Lanka, Dr. Nathan joined the University of Jaffna as a lecturer in 1980. He authored *Political Communication* in 1992, followed by two more books in 1994: *Public Administration* and *International Politics and Political Sociology*. These works significantly contributed to the dissemination of knowledge in the field.

Professor A.V. Manivasagar joined the Department of Political Science as a lecturer on November 32, 1982. He played a crucial role in developing the department through contributions to curriculum design, teaching, and research activities. He authored several influential books that remain essential reading for Political Science students at both bachelor's and master's levels. His notable works include *Essence of Advanced Political Analysis* (1996), *Current Political Models* (1998), *The Sum and Substance of Modern Political Thought: The Views of Western Pioneers* (2001), and *Aspects of Public Administration* (2001).

Professor Manivasagar also established the South Asian Study Centre at the University of Jaffna, serving as its coordinator, and directed the South Asian Social Science Trust. He successfully initiated publication activities, secured financial assistance, implemented publicity measures, and facilitated the distribution of publications during the late 1990s. In 1999, when the semester system was introduced, he played a key role in drafting the entire Political Science curriculum, a contribution that was recognized and honored by San Jose State University, USA, during his visit there in 1997.

Interested Research Areas of the Staff Then and Now

Political Science has always been a globally oriented discipline, and the Department of Political Science at the University of Jaffna reflects this tradition in its research and teaching. Former and contemporary academicians have significantly contributed to various specialized areas of the field.

Dr. S.K.S. Nathan conducted research and taught in Public Administration and Political Sociology, while Professor A.V. Manivasagar focused on Political Ideology and Public Administration. Dr. K. Ragunathan, who earned his Ph.D. from Jawaharlal

Nehru University in India, specialized in the Electoral System, Political Concepts, and Forms of Government. Mr. S. Sakayaseelan contributed by teaching and researching topics related to Political Parties, Pressure Groups, and Constitutional Development in Sri Lanka.

Currently, Professor K.T. Ganeshalingam is engaged in teaching and research in the fields of International Politics, International Political Economy, Political Sociology, and Regional Studies. Senior Lecturer Mr. S. Thiruchchanthuran focuses on Sri Lankan Politics, Electoral Systems, and Human Rights. Dr. T. Vigneswaran, also a Senior Lecturer, specializes in Public Administration, Peace and Conflict Studies, Political Concepts and Ideologies, as well as Research Methods and Methodology in Political Science.

Lecturer (Probationary) Ms. Tharmini Naranthiranathan teaches and conducts research in International Law and E-Governance, while Mrs. Jesmiya Kugathanan, also a Lecturer (Probationary), focuses on Religious-Based Politics and Gender-Based Politics. Dissemination of knowledge

The discipline of Political Science plays a significant role in the intellectual dissemination of knowledge to students, communities, and society at large. Professors and lecturers in the Department of Political Science are deeply committed to research and publications that address the needs of students and the broader community. Academics such as Professor K.T. Ganeshalingam, Senior Lecturer Mr. S. Thiruchchanthuran, Dr.T.Vigneswaran, and probationary lecturers Ms. Tharmini Naranthiranathan and Mrs.Jesmiya Kugathanan contribute to this intellectual mission through books, research publications, and articles.

The following books have been authored by academics of the Department of Political Science:

Prof. K.T. Ganeshalingam:

Corona Politics (2020)

Foreign Policy of Sri Lanka (2nd Edition, 1948-2010) (2019)

Israel: Political History (2018)

Palestine: Political History (2018)

China and the Indian Ocean (2017)

Geo-Politics: Changing New World Order (2015)

Sethusamudram Canal Project: Political, Economic, and Military Views (2015)

Foreign Policy of Sri Lanka (1948-2010) (2015)

Focuses of Contemporary Political Culture (2013)

Palestine: A Contemporary View (2011)

South Asian Political Culture (2010)

International Politics: Some Perspectives (2010)

Sethusamudram Canal Project: Politico-Military, Economic, and Environmental Views (2006)

Contemporary International Politics (2005)

Public Administration (2nd Edition) (2003)
Changing New World Order: Geo-Political Perspectives (2002)

Mr. S.Thiruchchanthuran - *Second Republic Constitution in 1978 and Political Problems: A Study of Political Sociology*, (2021), *Sri Lankan Politics: Vistas and Views*, (2020), *Fundamental Rights in Sri Lanka: An introduction*, (2011).

Dr.T.Vigneshwaran - *Politics and Civil Society*, (2011).

Outreach Activities and Community Engagement

The Department of Political Science has made significant contributions to Tamil society and regional politics, fostering sustainable development at both the regional and national levels from 1974 to 2024. Through knowledge production, debates on key issues, discussions, and the dissemination of ideas via research articles, books, printed media, online writings, and orations on current political issues, the department has played a crucial role in sharing knowledge with Tamil society about internal, regional, geopolitical, global, and international politics.

In addition to these contributions, many of our alumni have secured key administrative positions, particularly within the Sri Lankan Administrative Service, Sri Lankan Educational Service, and academic roles at both national and international levels. A considerable number of Political Science graduates have committed to the teaching profession, working in both the government and private sectors in Sri Lanka. Furthermore, several alumni are actively involved in local politics, holding various positions in local government and provincial councils.

Conclusion

Political Science has been one of the oldest disciplines in the Social Sciences at the University of Jaffna. Initially, it produced undergraduates through the Department of Economics and Sociology with limited manpower and physical facilities. In 2007, it was established as a full-fledged department. Since then, the Department of Political Science has operated with limited infrastructure but has grown to accommodate over 400 undergraduate students, making it one of the largest departments in the Faculty of Arts.

The academic programs in Political Science integrate theoretical, practical, and philosophical dimensions, encompassing mainstream, scientific, comparative, institutional, and feminist approaches to the study of politics. The department adopts a multidisciplinary approach, collaborating with disciplines such as economics, history, sociology, and geography. Currently, the department's five academic and non-academic staff members work diligently to generate knowledge and serve the community.

Department of Sociology

Preamble

The Department of Sociology is a center of excellence for mastering sociology and related disciplines. The Department aims to educate and empower students to become informed, effective, and responsible citizens who promote diversity in their communities, countries and the worldwide.

The Department of Sociology is located on the ground floor of the Selvanayakam Block and enrolls a substantial number of students annually. The Department takes pride in its long and thriving heritage of teaching and research in the fields related disciplines that fall under the ambit of Sociology. The Department has been a hub for the study of sociology since 1980 and anthropology since 2001, either independently or in conjunction with other subjects. Its research contributions have garnered recognition and acclaim both locally and internationally. The research output of the Department has won accolades both locally and globally.

Perspective

The Department of Sociology, as a leading center for the study of sociology and related fields, fosters students' knowledge, skills, and values necessary to become responsible, informed, and engaged citizens who appreciate and embrace diversity within their local communities and the global society.

Mission

The Department aims to provide inventive instruction, efficient preparation for self-directed learning, and capstone projects that enhance students' learning and offers students valuable chances to engage with the wider community by way of independent studies, internships, and volunteer work.

Subjects Covered and their Orientation

The Department of Sociology offers two academic streams: Sociology and Anthropology. The Sociology General Degree Program was introduced in 1980, followed by the successful launch of both Special and General Degree programs in Sociology in 1990. In 2001, the Department expanded its offerings to include Special and General Degree programs in Anthropology. Currently, the Department provides only a General Degree program in Anthropology.

Commencement of Discipline and the Factors Prompted

Sociology is the study of social life, social change, and the social phenomena that arise from human behavior. Given that all human behavior is inherently social, few fields possess the broad scope and relevance of Sociology for research, theory, and practical application. In the latter half of the 19th century, renowned universities in Europe and the United States established Sociology departments, solidifying it as an academic discipline.

In Sri Lanka, the establishment of the Ceylon University College in January 1921 marked the beginning of university education in the social sciences and humanities. The courses offered were aligned with the curricula of the University of London. Over time, the University of Ceylon began to develop Sociology as an independent academic discipline, culminating in the establishment of the first Department of Sociology in 1947.

The teaching of Sociology at the University of Jaffna began in 1980 within the Faculty of Arts, introduced as a General Degree program under the leadership of Prof. Kailasapathy, the Founder President and then Dean of the Faculty of Arts. Prof.N.Shanmugalingam was appointed as the first lecturer in Sociology. In 1982, the program was placed adjacent to the Department of Economics, reflecting its close relationship with this sibling field. Subsequently, Mr. G. M. Sebastiampillai joined the department as a lecturer in Sociology.

Recognizing the importance of Anthropology as a discipline, the Department of Sociology introduced an Anthropology Special Degree program in 2001. However, due to staff shortages, only a General Degree program in Anthropology has been offered since 2015. The Department is actively working toward reinstating the Special Degree program in Anthropology.

Growth of the Subject as a Discipline

In 1990, a Special Degree program in Sociology was initiated by Prof.N.Shanmugalingam, widely regarded as the father of Sociology education in the Tamil medium within the Sri Lankan university system. The launch of this program fulfilled a long-standing aspiration of the community. In 1998, the Department of Political Science and Sociology was established under the leadership of Prof. Shanmugalingam, separating these disciplines from the Department of Economics.

Sociology gained significant popularity among the social sciences, eventually leading to its establishment as an independent Department in February, 2007, following the bifurcation of the Department of Political Science and Sociology. Prof.Shanmugalingam was appointed the founding Head of the Department of Sociology, a position he held until his appointment as Vice Chancellor of the University in December 2007.

Since then, the department has been led by several esteemed academics: Prof. R. Sivachchandran (January 2008 – June 2009), Prof. K.T. Ganesalingam (July 2009 – October 2011), Dr. Bahirathy Rasanen (November 2011 – November 2013), Prof.N.Shanmugalingam (November 2013 – December 2015), Dr. Bahirathy Rasanen (December 2015 – December 2018), Mr. R. Rajeshkanan (December 2018 – June 2020), Dr. S. Jeevasuthan (July 2020 – June 2023), Dr. S. Srikanthan (July 2023 – present).

Since its inception, the Department has earned a strong reputation, with its graduates excelling in academic careers at Sri Lankan universities and contributing significantly to research in Sociology in both Tamil and English mediums. Additionally, many Sociology graduates have served in key administrative roles within Sri Lanka's public sector, while others have pursued successful careers abroad.

The Curriculum of the Subject

The first Sociology curriculum was developed through consultation with eminent sociologists and drew upon the reflective experiences of other universities in Sri Lanka. This curriculum was recognized as unique and holistic, addressing diverse socio-cultural sensibilities with great care.

The first Anthropology curriculum was designed by Prof. N. Shanmugalingam, then Head of the Department of Sociology, with guidance from distinguished experts, including Prof. Nandasena Ratnapala of the University of Sri Jayewardenepura and Prof. Gananath Obeyesekere of Princeton University, USA. Multidisciplinary in nature, the Anthropology curriculum represented a significant enhancement of the social sciences and humanities programs that preceded it, offering students a comprehensive and enriched academic foundation.

Development of the Subject to date

With the introduction of the semester system, the Sociology syllabus was expanded to include new course units. Supported by interdisciplinary, transnational, and comparative perspectives and with funding from the World Bank, the updated Sociology curriculum incorporated courses such as Advanced Sociological Theories, Peace Studies, Medical Sociology, Environmental Sociology, Policy Analysis, Sociology of Public Administration, Sociology of Organization, Sociology of Youth, Population and Society, Sociology of Law, and Criminology etc. Additionally, innovative courses were introduced in Anthropology, including Community Development and Mobilization, Anthropology of Folklore, Contemporary Human Problems, Political Anthropology, Economic Anthropology, Visual Anthropology, Cultural Tourism, and Heritage Management etc.

The existing Sociology curriculum was further revised under the guidance of Prof. Kalinga Tudor Silva, while the Anthropology curriculum underwent significant updates with the invaluable support of Indian scholar Prof. Bhakthavatsala Bharathi. These revisions, made possible through funding from the AHEAD Project, aligned the curricula with evolving international trends in Sociology and Anthropology.

The revised Sociology curriculum now offers students opportunities to participate in internships with various government and non-governmental organizations, enabling them to gain practical knowledge and skills relevant to their discipline.

Subsequent Expansion of the Discipline

The Department has played a pivotal role in planning and delivering postgraduate programs within the Faculty of Graduate Studies, including the Master of Arts in Cultural Studies since 2004 and the Master of Cultural Studies (MCST) since 2021. Additionally, the Department has made significant contributions to inter-faculty and intra-faculty teaching initiatives. These include Medical Sociology for the Faculty of Medicine, Sociology for Nurses for the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, Social Psychology for the Faculty of Management and Commerce, Professional Ethics for the Faculty of

Technology, Sociology of Hinduism for students of Hindu Civilization, Sociology of Law for Law students, Research Methodology for Cultural Tourism students, Family Characteristics and Dynamics for Home Economics students, Ethno-Archaeology for Archaeology students respectively.

The Department has also benefited from the expertise of two distinguished international scholars in Sociology and Anthropology. In 2009, under the IRQ project, Prof. Bhakthavatsala Bharathi, a renowned anthropologist and Director of the Puducherry Institute of Linguistics and Culture in India, joined the Department for a short-term attachment. During his tenure, he contributed to teaching Social Anthropology and facilitated field studies with students and academics. From 2013 to 2014, Prof. Kamala Visweswaran, a faculty member in Anthropology at the University of Texas, Austin, USA, was affiliated with the Department as a Fulbright Fellow. She focused on teaching the Sociology of Gender during her time with the Department. These initiatives and collaborations underscore the Department's commitment to advancing education and research in Sociology and Anthropology.

Pioneering Individuals and Outstanding Academic Contributions

Prof. N. Shanmugalingam (since 1981) and the late Mr. G. M. Sebastiampillai (since 1982) were instrumental in establishing and developing the Department. Prof. Shanmugalingam has authored numerous books in Sociology, contributing significantly to the growth of the discipline in Sri Lanka, particularly in Tamil. He is widely regarded as a pioneer in elevating Tamil to an intellectual language capable of disseminating new sociological knowledge.

Prof. Shanmugalingam's doctoral thesis, supervised by the eminent Prof. Gananath Obeyesekere, was published in English by a renowned Delhi-based publisher and later translated into Tamil by the distinguished anthropologist Prof. Bhakthavatsala Bharathi in 2012. His collaboration with Prof. Bharathi also resulted in co-authored works, earning them the prestigious Professor Vanamamalai Memorial Award for the best research in India. As a respected consultant and advisor, Prof. Shanmugalingam has contributed to numerous international research initiatives and redevelopment programs both in Sri Lanka and abroad.

Currently serving as a professor emeritus, Prof. Shanmugalingam specializes in Sociology of Religion, Sociology of Development, Ethnomusicology, and Cultural Studies. He has been a visiting professor in the Department for many years, enriching its academic programs. Since 2017, he has also served as Chairperson and a key member of Institutional and Program Reviews for the Quality Assurance and Accreditation Council of the University Grants Commission under the Ministry of Higher Education, Sri Lanka.

Mr. G. M. Sebastiampillai completed his Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) at the University of Mysore and his Master of Arts (M.A.) at Annamalai University, becoming the first lecturer in the Department to earn a foreign degree, a significant academic milestone. His extensive research culminated in his Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.) thesis, *"An Analysis*

of *Social Change in Jaffna after Independence*,” submitted to the University of Jaffna in 1991. This work provided an in-depth exploration of the complex transformations in post-independence Jaffna.

Mr. Sebastiampillai was a dedicated academic known for his intellectual rigor and insightful analyses, always grounded in context and continuity. A staunch advocate of Marxism, he passionately supported the marginalized and underprivileged. Following his retirement, he joined the South Eastern University of Sri Lanka as a lecturer from 1999 to 2004, where he played a key role in establishing the Department of Sociology and rendering valuable service to the institution.

Research Interests of the Staff

The members of the Department are dedicated to maintaining the tradition of excellence in teaching, course design, and scholarship that has defined the distinguished history of sociological education at the University of Jaffna for over 30 years.

	Name	Interested Research Areas
01	Dr. (Mrs.) Bahirathy Rasanen (Since 2002) B.A (Jaffna), Licentiate Degree in Peace and Development (Gothenburg), PhD in Peace and Development (Gothenburg University, Sweden)	Gender & Family Studies, Peace and Conflict Studies, Policy Studies
02	Mr. R. Rajeshkannan (Since 2008) B.A (Jaffna), M.A in Sociology (India), PGDE (Jaffna), M.Phil. in Sociology (University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka)	Educational Sociology, Social Inequality and Exclusion, Youth Sociology, Cultural Sociology
03	Dr. S. Srikanthan (Since 2008) B.A. (Jaffna), M.A. Population Development Studies (Jaffna), PhD. in Anthropology (Puducherry Institute of Linguistics and Culture, India)	Cultural Anthropology, Folklore Studies, Tamil Cultural Studies, Religious Studies
04	Mr. S. Sivakanthan (Since 2010) B.A. (Peradeniya), M.Phil. in Sociology (University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka)	Applied Sociology, Medical Sociology, Criminology, Social Research Methods
05	Dr. S. Jeevasuthan (Since 2015) B.A. (Jaffna), MSW (Madras), PhD in Social Work (University of Science, Malaysia)	Social Work & Community Development, Women & Children, Policy Studies

06	Dr. Ahilan Kadirgamar (Since 2018) B.Sc. in Electrical Engineering (Georgia Institute of Technology), MA in Economics (New School for Social Research), PhD in Anthropology (City University of New York, USA)	Economic Sociology, Political Economy
07	Mr. N. Baskaran (Since 2020) B.A. (Jaffna), M.A. in Sociology (SAU, New Delhi), M.Phil. in Sociology (SAU, New Delhi, India)	Sociological Theory, Rural-Urban Studies, Digital Sociology, Environmental Studies, South Asian Studies

Staff and Students at Present

The Department of Sociology currently employs seven permanent senior academics, two temporary lecturers, and a dedicated administrative and support staff, forming a highly capable and resourceful team. Although Mr. A.E. Richard and Ms. Dorine Arulanadam were appointed as probationary lecturers in 2000 and 2002, respectively, they did not resume their duties after taking study leave abroad.

The academic staff members are committed professionals with a wide range of specializations, contributing to various sectors through their research initiatives. Four out of the seven lecturers hold PhD degrees in different fields, while one staff member is currently enrolled in a PhD program, and two others are seeking opportunities abroad. Following the retirement of Mr. Alagathurai, Mr. K. Sasikumar has served as a Management Assistant in the Department since 2014, and Mr. Antony Janspaul has been working as a work aid since 2020.

A significant number of students choose Sociology or Anthropology as one of their core subjects in the first year, with over 150 students enrolling in Sociology annually. The Department's average enrollment for the Special Degree program is 25 students each year. Additionally, more than 10 recent graduates from the Department are currently pursuing Master's degrees abroad through various scholarship programs.

Dissemination of Knowledge

The lecturers in the Department actively participate in and present their research at both national and international conferences. They have also served as resource persons and keynote speakers at various seminars and conferences, both locally and internationally. Numerous research papers authored by the Department's academics have been published in peer-reviewed and indexed journals. Additionally, they have published several textbooks and research-based books with recognized publishers in both Tamil and English. The faculty members have also edited books as part of various projects and contributed chapters to numerous edited volumes published by national and international academic organizations.

Outreach Activities and Community Engagement

The Department has actively collaborated with both national and international organizations on research and community development projects. Several initiatives have been successfully completed through partnerships with renowned institutions. Currently, the Department is engaged in various projects with regional and national organizations.

In 1995, the Department established the Sociological Society to encourage students' involvement in social and community outreach activities. The Sociological Society has carried out numerous social work initiatives, and its magazine, *Manudam*, published its first issue in 1995. To date, seven issues of *Manudam* have been released.

The Department of Sociology remains a dynamic academic entity, serving hundreds of students each year. It fosters critical and creative thinking among undergraduates, encouraging them to engage thoughtfully with societal issues. The Department takes great pride in its graduates, who hold diverse positions in government, non-governmental organizations, and the commercial sector both in Sri Lanka and abroad.

Conclusion

The Department of Sociology at the University of Jaffna has established a strong presence within the Sri Lankan university system by demonstrating unwavering commitment to cultivating sociological and anthropological knowledge and skills among students in Tamil. Currently, on average, 100 students enroll in the four-year Special Degree program in Sociology, while nearly 30 students pursue the three-year undergraduate program in Anthropology.

The Department's teaching and research programs have maintained a strong academic focus. The current academic staff members work diligently and with dedication to build upon the foundations laid by the pioneers of the Department. The research activities of both staff and students reflect a deep interest in addressing high-priority national issues, such as contemporary social problems, community development, conflict resolution, the rehabilitation of displaced populations, health, and cultural issues.

The Department continues to engage in research and community outreach activities which are recognized locally, nationally, and internationally. The journey ahead remains filled with optimism, as the Department explores new areas of inquiry and contributes to the broader academic and societal landscape.

Department of Tamil

Preamble

When the Jaffna Campus was established in 1974, it was announced that this institution of higher learning would be the centre of excellence for Tamil and Hindu Studies. The pioneers strived hard to make this goal a reality. Thus, from the inception of the Jaffna Campus, the Department of Tamil functioned as a fully – fledged Department. Now it is being a centre of excellence in mastering Tamil and Tamilology Studies.

Tamil is a classical language that has a continuous history. It holds a significant position among the world's languages and has been recognized by UNESCO as a classical language. The language has a rich tradition of literature, with literary works dating back over two thousand years. These works encompass various aspects of life, including moral teachings, ethics, governance, and human values, contributing to the enrichment of Tamil culture and civilization.

Perspective

The Department of Tamil, as a leading centre for the studies of Tamil and Tamilology, aims to educate and empower students to become informed, effective and responsible citizens who promote diversity in their communities, countries and world-wide.

Mission

By providing inventive instruction and efficient preparation for self-directed learning to enhance the knowledge, skills and learning to master themselves in the Tamil language, literature and the political, social and cultural milieu in which they originated and develop critical and creative thinking to preserve and develop them.

The aims of the Department are to analyze and interpret Tamil literary texts with critical insight, conduct independent research in Tamil studies, engage with contemporary issues in Tamil studies, communicate effectively in both written and oral forms, contribute to the preservation and promotion of Tamil language and literature, engage with the Tamil-speaking community in meaningful and impactful ways, develop a deep understanding of the cultural and historical contexts in which Tamil literature has been produced, demonstrate creativity, critical thinking, and adaptability in the study of Tamil literature and language, cultivate robust linguistic skills that affirm Tamil literature, gain proficient in communication, analysis, execution, and operations and competent in advancing the process.

Subjects Covered and their Orientation

B.A General Degree (03 Years) and B.A Honours Degree (04 years) are offered by the Department of Tamil. These programmes emphasise the development of strong communication skills, with students encouraged to engage with Tamil literature and language in a variety of contexts. This includes both written and oral communication, with students given opportunities to present their work in a range of academic and professional settings. Students will also be encouraged to engage with contemporary

issues in Tamil studies, and to develop their perspectives on these challenges. This will help them to become confident and articulate communicators, capable of making meaningful contributions to the field of Tamil studies.

This curriculum is designed to foster an understanding and appreciation of Tamil language and literature, while also encouraging students to engage with the language in both its classical and contemporary forms. It emphasizes the importance of Tamil literature in shaping the ethical and cultural perspectives of the Tamil-speaking community. Orientation of the Tamil studies are follows:

To provide students with a deep understanding of Tamil language and literature.

To develop students' ability to analyze and interpret Tamil literary texts.

To foster critical thinking and creativity in the study of Tamil literature and language.

To prepare students for careers in teaching, research, and other fields related to Tamil studies.

To encourage students to engage with contemporary issues in Tamil studies, and to develop their own research agendas in response to these challenges.

Commencement of Discipline and the Factors Prompted

Following Dr. K. Kailasapathy, the first President of the Jaffna Campus was appointed as the first Professor of Tamil and the responsibility to lead the Department of Tamil was entrusted to him. He planned the syllabus and the research programmes of the Department of Tamil in the Jaffna Campus. Under his guidance, the Department gained recognition as a centre of excellence in Tamil Studies in Sri Lanka. Professor Kailathapathy groomed the Department so efficiently that it gained international reputation in no time.

Growth of the Subject as a Discipline

Following Prof. K. Kaliasapathy. Mrs. Y. Ganeshalingam who was teaching at Jaffna College, Vaddukoddai was one of the first to be appointed to the Department as an assistant lecturer. In August of 1975, Dr. A. Sanmugas was transferred from Peradeniya Campus as a Lecturer Grade II. In February 1976, he was appointed the lecturer in charge of the Department of Tamil. Later, Mrs. S. Maunaguru and Mr. M. A. Nuhuman were appointed as assistant lecturers. Subsequently, Mrs. Y. Ganeshalingam migrated to the United States of America and Mrs. S. Maunaguru and Mr. M. A. Nuhuman joined the Eastern University of Sri Lanka and University of Peradeniya respectively.

Professor A. Sanmugas was Lecturer in Charge of the Department of Tamil (1976). When the University of Jaffna was established, Professor K. Sivathamby became the Head of the Department of Tamil. Dr. A. Velupillai was appointed the Professor of Tamil from 1984, Dr. E. Balasundaram (who later migrated to Canada) functioned as the Head of the Department from 1990 to 1992 March. Professor A. Sanmugas succeeded him. When Professor A. Sanmugas was elected the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Professor N. Subramaniam (who later migrated to Canada) was appointed the Head of the Department. Subsequently, Professor S. Sivalingarajah and Professor M. Rangunathan

served as Head of the Department. Currently, Senior Professor K. Visakaruban functions as the Head of the Department. Now the department has seven academic staff members, Senior Professor K. Visakaruban, Professor (Miss) S. Sivasubramaniam, Mr. E. Cumarar, Mrs. N. Selva Ambigai, Mr. K. Arundaharan, Mr. T. Ajanthakumar and Mr. S. Seransan, and serves 340 undergraduate and 4 postgraduate students.

Curriculum of the Subject

Since its inception in 1974, the Tamil Department has played a pivotal role in promoting Tamil language and literature. Under the leadership of various dedicated scholars, the department has developed a comprehensive curriculum that includes classical, medieval, and modern Tamil literature. The curriculum also includes the study of Tamil grammar, linguistics, and the history of the Tamil language, thereby providing students with a well-rounded education in Tamil studies.

Professor K. Kailasapathy, who was the former Head of the Department of Tamil and Hindu Studies of the Vidyalankara Campus of the University of Sri Lanka, had ample experience in managing a Department. He had also been involved in drafting the Tamil courses as well as designing the syllabi at the Colombo and Vidyalankara Campuses. Based on that experience, he planned the syllabus and the research programmes of the Department of Tamil in the Jaffna Campus. The curriculum prepared by the Professor. K. Kailasapathy has been modified from time to time by Professor. S. Viththiyananthan, Prof. A. Sanmugadas, Prof. A. Velupillai, Prof. M. Rangunathan, Prof. (Miss).S.Sivasubramaniam and Mr. E. Cumarar in the following years 1974, 1983, 1995, 2005, 2010, 2017, 2021.

In 1976, the Department was further strengthened by the appointment of Prof. Arunasalam Sanmugadas as the Head of the Department. Under his leadership, the Department expanded its academic offerings and research activities, establishing itself as a leading center for Tamil studies. Prof. A. Sanmugadas, Senior Professor of Tamil, along with other members of the staff has helped to modify the curriculum in order to meet the present needs of the community. The latest revision was made in the year 2017 following the University Reforms at the national level.

Now our course structures conform to the Arts Faculty's course unit semester system. Course Units are organized at two levels. The Department of Tamil revised the curriculum again in 2021 in keeping with the Sri Lankan Qualification Framework (SLQF).

This curriculum is designed to foster an understanding and appreciation of Tamil language and literature, while also encouraging students to engage with the language in both its classical and contemporary forms. It emphasizes the importance of Tamil literature in shaping the ethical and cultural perspectives of the Tamil-speaking community.

Graduates of this program will be proficient in both classical and modern Tamil literature, with a deep understanding of the cultural and historical contexts in which these works were produced. They will be able to analyze and interpret Tamil literary

texts with critical insight, and will have the skills to engage with the language in a variety of professional settings.

Graduates will also be well-prepared to contribute to the preservation and promotion of Tamil language and literature, whether through teaching, research, or other forms of cultural engagement. They will be equipped to take on leadership roles in the Tamil-speaking community and to advocate for the continued relevance and importance of Tamil in a globalized world.

The program aims to cultivate academic excellence in both classical and modern Tamil studies. Students will develop a deep understanding of Tamil literature and language, and will be trained to conduct independent research in these fields. The program also emphasizes the development of critical thinking skills, with students encouraged to engage with complex literary and linguistic questions.

Students will be exposed to a wide range of Tamil literary works, from classical epics to modern poetry, and will learn to appreciate the richness and diversity of Tamil literary traditions. The program also includes the study of Tamil grammar, linguistics, and history, providing students with a comprehensive understanding of the language and its development over time.

The program emphasizes the development of strong communication skills, with students encouraged to engage with Tamil literature and language in a variety of contexts. This includes both written and oral communication, with students given opportunities to present their work in a range of academic and professional settings. Students will also be encouraged to engage with contemporary issues in Tamil studies, and to develop their own perspectives on these challenges. This will help them to become confident and articulate communicators, capable of making meaningful contributions to the field of Tamil studies.

Development of the Subject to date

Most of our graduates opt for teaching. Some join administrative jobs in both governmental and non-government institutions. Only a few prefer research and academic careers. Therefore our curricula are designed to provide students a thorough understanding of the ancient, middle age and the modern Tamil language and literature.

Our Course structures conform to the Arts Faculty's course unit semester system. Course Units are organized at two levels:

All permanent academic staff are members of the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Arts. Senior Professors, Professors and the Heads of the Departments are members of the Senate of University of Jaffna

One or two assistant lecturers are appointed on contract basis every year to be involved mainly in academic teaching. The Department has a Grade II Management Assistant who has become secretarial administrative staff and has knowledge in Computer Applications There is no permanent attendant in the Department.

Subsequent Expansion of the Discipline

At the beginning of the Tamil Department the syllabus includes Old Tamil Literature, Modern Tamil Literature, History of Tamil Literature, Sri Lankan Tamil Literature, Linguistics, Tamil Literary Criticism. The Department is also flexible to review and revise their curriculum and syllabi from time to time. First revised that curriculum in 1999 to make it relevant to the newly introduced semester course unit system. It was again revised in 2003. The existing curriculum was revised in 2005. The Department of Tamil revised Its curriculum and introduced Old Tamil Literature and literary criticism, History of Tamil literature, An introduction to traditional and modern Tamil Grammar, Ethical Literature in Tamil, History of Tamil Grammar. Tradition on Tamil commentaries, Tamil Media studies. History of Tamil Research. Dravidian Linguistics Tamil Literary criticism. An orientation in linguistics with special reference to Tamil, Apolitical literature in Tamil, Tamil Folklore, Introduction to Indian Language – Malayalam (or any other Dravidian Language)

Currently, the Department teaches Tamil for the General and Special Degree courses and as a subject for the third – year students in the Department of Music and Dance (Ramanathan Academy of Fine Arts). The Department has produced a large number of graduates who have offered Tamil as a subject. The syllabus of the Department of Tamil has been subjected to changes, accommodating the reforms proposed by the UGC. B.A Honours students in their first year would have spent only fifty per cent of the time in studying Tamil. “The other half is spent on studying another subject in the Faculty of Arts.

Pioneering Individuals and Outstanding Academic Contributions

The Department was guided by renowned Professors such as Prof. K.Kailasapathy, Prof. K. Sivathamby, Prof. A. Veluppillai and Prof. A. Sanmugadas. Let us briefly spell out their contribution to pioneering peoples and outstanding academic work.

K. Kailasapathy graduated from the University of Ceylon, Preadeniya obtaining his BA Honours in Tamil with a First Class. In 1961, he joined the University of Ceylon – Peradeniya as a probationary lecturer, and obtained his MA in Tamil from the same University. Next, he joined the University of Birmingham for his doctoral studies. He studied Tamil heroic poems under the supervision of Professor George D. Thomson. His was a pioneering study that compared Tamil poetry with similar European classical poetry. In Indian, Malaysian, Singaporean and other foreign Universities where Tamil is taught and researched, his books are used either as textbooks or reference material. With Prof. A. Sanmugadas, he co – authored the book *National Language of Sri Lanka – Tamil* which was published by the Department of Cultural Affairs in 1976 to mark the Summit Conference of the Non – Aligned Countries held in Colombo that year. It was unfortunate that this first Professor of Tamil of Jaffna University suffered a premature death in 1983.

Prof.S. Vithiyananthan graduated with an Honours Degree in 1944 from the University of Ceylon. He studied for two years under Professor Swamy Vipulananda

for his Master's degree which he completed in 1946 and was appointed as a lecturer in the same year. He joined the School of Oriental and African Studies of the University of London for his doctoral studies, and in 1950, earned the PhD for his thesis titled *Pattupāṭṇu - a Historical, Social and Linguistic Study*. Vithiananthan became a Professor of Tamil in 1967. He served as Professor and Head of the Department of Tamil until 1977 at the University of Ceylon - Peradeniya and the University of Sri Lanka, Peradeniya Campus. Professor S. Vithiananthan served as the President of the Jaffna Campus of the University of Sri Lanka between August 1977 and December 1978. When the Jaffna Campus gained University status on 1st January 1979, Vithiananthan was appointed its first Vice-Chancellor, a position he held until July 1988. He has researched on Tamil folklore in Ceylon and has written a book on Tamil folk drama. He has been teaching Tamil to the students of the Tamil Department when he was in the position of Vice Chancellor and he never failed to lecture despite his busy schedule. It shows the Professor's passion for teaching.

In 1956, Prof. K. Sivathamby graduated from the University of Ceylon, Peradeniya, obtaining a BA Degree with History, Economics and Tamil as his subjects. Later, he obtained his MA in Tamil from the same University. He joined the Vidyodaya University in 1965 and proceeded to the University of Birmingham to conduct his doctoral research under the supervision of Professor George D. Thomson. In 1970, he was awarded the PhD for his thesis on *Drama in Ancient Tamil Society*. In 1978, he was transferred from Vidyodaya University to the University of Jaffna as Senior Lecturer in Tamil and was later appointed Professor of Tamil (on merit). He has authored around 70 books and many research papers. Sivathamby was a Visiting Professor of Tamil at Eastern University of Sri Lanka, Uppsala University (1992), University of Madras (1998) and the Institute of International Tamil Studies, Madras (1999). He was a Senior Visiting Fellow at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi (1982), Tamil University Thanjavur (1982) and the University of Cambridge (1983 – 1984). Along with other staff members, Sivathamby strived to uplift the standards of learning, teaching and research of the Department of Tamil. He retired from the University of Jaffna in 1996 but continued to serve as an Emeritus Professor of the University until his death on 06th July 2011.

Prof. Dr. A. Velupillai was a linguist who continued the work started by Professor K. Kanapathipillai. He earned a PhD from the University of Ceylon and the University of Oxford. He studied the Tamil inscriptions of the Chola period and published two volumes on the Tamil inscriptions of Ceylon. He wrote several books and articles on Sri Lankan Tamil literature, history, and social history. He was a Visiting Professor at the University of Kerala's Department of Linguistics (1973 - 1974), a Visiting International Senior Professor at the International Institute of Tamil Studies in Madras (1980), and a Commonwealth Academic Fellow at the University of Edinburgh's Department of Linguistics (1982 - 1983). Velupillai joined the University of Jaffna in 1984 as a Professor of Tamil. He was the Head of the Department of Tamil from 1984 to 1990. He was a guest Professor at Uppsala University's Department of History of Religions between 1990 and 2000 and received an honorary degree from the same University in 1996.

Prof. A. Sanmugadas graduated from the University of Ceylon, Peradeniya in 1963 with a BA Honours Degree in Tamil. From 1963 to 1965, he worked as a temporary assistant lecturer in Tamil. He re – Joined the University of Ceylon, Peradeniya in 1968 as a probationary assistant lecturer in 1969. He proceeded to the University of Edinburgh for his doctoral studies in Linguistics and earned his Phd in 1971 for his thesis *A study of Phonology of the Verbal Forms in the Colloquial of the Tamil of Ceylon*. His research was supervised by Professor Asher. On his return to Sri Lanka, he continued to teach at the University of Ceylon, Peradeniya until 1975. After the Jaffna Campus of the University of Sri Lanka was established in 1974, he was transferred there in 1975 and became the Lecturer in Charge of the Department of Tamil (1976 – 1978). He was appointed a Senior Professor in Tamil in 1995. He served as Head of the following departments: Language and Cultural Studies (1982), Tamil (1992 – 1995, 1996 – 1997) and Music (1995 – 1996). He headed the Unit of Siddha Medicine in 1995, was appointed as the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies by the UGC (1999 – 2002). He was also a member of the UGC standing committee on Postgraduate Studies and Research (2000 – 2002).

A Senior Research Fellowship was awarded to Professor Sanmugadas by the Japan Foundation to research on the “Tamil – Japanese Relationship”. The research was conducted with Professor Susumu Ohno from Gakushuin University, Tokyo, Japan (1983 – 1984). It continues to date and has made possible the publication of a number of books and papers in English, Tamil and Japanese. Two of them are: *Tamil – Japanese Relationship* (2011) which Professor Sanmugadas co – authored with Manonmani Sanmugadas from the Institute of Asian Studies, Chennai and worldview and Rituals among the Japanese and Tamils (1985) which he co – authored with Auaumu Ohno and Manonmani Sanmugadas from the Gakushuin University, Tokyo.

He received the following Awards and Prizes: Tamil Grammar Prize awarded by the Tamil Nadu Government – World Tamil Sangam (2019), Sahitya Ratna awarded by the Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka (2008), a grant awarded by the UNESCO, New Delhi to visit Media Studies Institutions in Indian and the Danish School of Journalism in Arhus, Denmark (2005), Abe Fellowship awarded by the Gakushuin University to participate in the research project “Asian Gods” conducted by the Institute of Oriental Culture (1991), and the North Eastern Provincial Award for his book *Tamil Metrical Forms* (2001). He taught ancient Tamil grammar, Linguistics, ancient literature, modern literature and translation studies. He published many books and many research articles in Tamil and English. He was a pioneer scholar who wrote on language and literature. He participated in various workshops and conferences. He retired from the University of Jaffna on 02nd May 2005. He was awarded the D.Litt. (Honoris Causa) Degree by the University and he continues to serve the University as an Emeritus Professor in Tamil.

Professor. S. Sivalingarajah graduated from the University of Jaffna. Obtaining a Bachelor Degree in Tamil with first class honours. Master of Arts Degree in Tamil awarded by the University of Jaffna 1986. He earned Ph.D from the University of Jaffna

1995. He was a pioneer scholar who wrote on the culture of the Sri Lankan Tamils and history of Tamil Literature. He is well versed in Sri Lankan literary history and is a prominent writer in Sri Lanka. He taught ancient Tamil Literature and he participated in various workshops and conferences. He published many books and many research articles.

Research Interests of the Staff

Serial No	Name	Area of specialization
01	Prof. K. Kailasapathy	Literature and Criticism
02	Prof. S. Viththiyananthan	Grammar, Literature and Folklore
03	Prof. A. Sanmugadas	Grammar, Literature and Linguistics
04	Professor. K. Sivathamby	Literature and Drama
05	Mrs. Kalaiyarasi Sinnaiah	Literature
06	Mrs. Yogeswary Ganeshalingam	Grammar and Literature
07	Mrs. S. Mounaguru	Criticism & Literature
08	Prof. N. Subramaniam	Novels, Criticism & Literature
09	Professor. A. Velupillai	Grammar, Literature, Inscriptions and Linguistics
10	Professor. E. Balasundaram	Literature and Folklore
11	Prof. S. Sivalingarajah	Literature and Commentaries
12	Prof. M. Ragunathan	Culture, folklore, Novels and Criticism
13	Mr. P. Senkathirchelvan	Tamil Grammar
14	Prof. K. Visakaruban	Tamil Literature, Tamil folklore
15	Prof. (Miss). S. Sivasubramaniam	Scientific Tamil, Tamil Grammar & Paleography
16	Mr. K. Arundaharan	Literature Criticism and folklore
17	Mr. E. Cumarar	Comparative Literature, criticism. Culture and Modern literature
18	Mrs. N. Selva Ambigai	Tamil Literature, Commentaries & Comparative Literature
19	Mr. T. Ajanthakumar	Literature, Grammar & Criticism
20	Mr. S. Seransan	Grammar & Literature

Staff and Students at Present

Students at Present

Programme	Duration	Current Student Number
1st Year		376
BA General Degree	3 years	135
BA General Degree	4 years	170

Staff at present (Academic)

Prof..K. Visakaruban	Senior Professor and Head
Prof. (Ms.) S. Sivasubramaniam	Professor
Mr. E. Cumarar	Senior Lecturer Gr. I
Mrs. S. Nandakumaran	Senior Lecturer Gr. I
Mr. K. Arunthakaran	Senior Lecturer Gr. II
Mr. T. Ajanthakumar	Lecturer
Mr. S. Seransan	Lecturer

Non- Academic

Mr. T. Thananjeyan	Management Assistant Gr. II
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Dissemination of Knowledge/ Outreach Activities and Community Engagement

Organizing seminars and workshops for the School level student to promote their creative talents and knowledge, Honouring the Senior folk artists, Honouring the Senior creative authors, Honouring the Retired Professors for their valuable contributions to Tamilology, Assisting the inter Faculty student's activities, Organizing Seminars for the Advance Level Tamil teachers to enhance their skill and knowledge in teaching, Contributing to the National level examinations (A/L, O/L, Comparative exams), Publishing and republishing rare and important Tamil works, Assisting for the inter University teaching programmes, Tamilology conference and seminars, Contributing to the preservation of folk dramas and folk songs, Organizing book launchings and books reviews, Contributing to prepare Teaching and Learning modules for Advance level and University students Guiding and assisting to prepare the text books for the school children.

Conclusion

The Department of Tamil is one of the pioneering study programmes in the history of university education in Jaffna. When the Faculty of Humanities was established as one of the faculties of the Jaffna Campus of the University of Sri Lanka in 1974, Department of Tamil was included as one of the four Departments. One of the vociferous demands of the 'Tamil University Movement' which was started by the Tamil philanthropists and scholars by the early 20th century was that university education in Tamil is necessary to study Tamil language in the tertiary level in order to preserve its classical and ancient characters. The seminars, conferences and celebrations related to Tamil studies organized by the Department of Tamil from its inception in 1974 have evolved down through the decades and got a new dimension lately as international Tamilology research conferences.

Department of Translation Studies

Preamble

Translation fosters global communication, disseminates knowledge, preserves cultural heritage, and is vital for a connected economy. Since 2011, the Department of Translation Studies at the Faculty of Arts, University of Jaffna, has offered a Bachelor of Arts Honours degree program in Translation Studies, equipping students with essential translation and interpretation skills. Addressing the shortage of Tamil–English translators in Sri Lanka, the Department’s curriculum blends theory with practical training, preparing graduates to confidently meet professional challenges and enhance their career and service performance. Guided by the motto ‘Connecting Languages and Promoting Unity’, the department is committed to producing skilled translators aligned with Sri Lanka’s Official Language Policy. Its mission is to foster proficiency in Tamil, Sinhala, and English, promoting clear communication and cultural preservation, while its vision is to become a leading translation centre that bridges language divides and unites Sri Lanka’s diverse heritages.

Subjects Covered and their Orientation

In Sri Lanka, four Universities offer Bachelor of Arts Honours degrees in Translation Studies. The University of Jaffna has been a pioneer in producing English-Tamil Translators with adequate knowledge of Sinhala since 2011.

Commencement of Discipline and the Factors Prompted

The foundation for the Translation Studies Unit at the University of Jaffna was laid in 2011 when the university began offering a Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree in Translation Studies within the Faculty of Arts. Then the unit was upgraded into a fully-fledged Department of Translation Studies on 19-02-2020 via a Gazette notification. The need for this department arose from a high demand for qualified translators and interpreters in Sri Lanka, especially in government offices such as courts and parliament, where effective communication in Tamil, Sinhala, and English is crucial. The programme was designed to address the shortage of professional translators in the country and to promote translation as a professional field by incorporating new technologies, theories and practical training in language abilities.

Growth of the Subject as a Discipline

The establishment and success of the B.A. Honours degree program in Translation Studies at the University of Jaffna can be attributed to the pioneering efforts of several key figures at the university, in collaboration with Prof. Luise von Flotow, Professor, Ottawa University, Canada. Notably, Prof. N. Ganakumaran, former Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Prof. P. Balasuntharampillai, former Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Subathini Ramesh, Department of Linguistics and English, and Prof. M. Saravanapava Iyer from the Department of English Language Teaching were instrumental in commencing the degree programme. Prof. M. Saravanapava Iyer became the first coordinator of the Translation Studies Unit in 2011 and he held the office for a short period.

Later, Prof. K. Shriganeshan, Department of English Language Teaching, became the second coordinator of the Translation Studies Unit, and played a crucial role in the early development of the department, particularly in designing its first curriculum. He, along with staff from the University of Sabaragamuwa and the University of Kelaniya, visited the Ottawa University in Canada and had an official meeting with Prof. Luise von Flotow, University of Ottawa to commence the degree programme and design the curriculum for the three Universities.

From 2017 to 2020, Dr S. K. Kannathas, from the Department of English Language Teaching, served as the last coordinator of the Translation Studies Unit before it was upgraded to a department. He became the first Head of the Department in 2020 and continues to guide it towards success.

Curriculum of the Subject

The department offers a comprehensive curriculum that includes course units based on the following areas: theories of translation, language-oriented course units in English, Tamil, and Sinhala, course units with a focus on translation and Linguistics, course units on translation and technology, and course units on translation practice. Further, the present curriculum gives importance to language and gender since translators should work towards eliminating gender stereotypes and using a gender-inclusive style in their writings. In 2019, Dr. S. K. Kannathas initiated an internship programme for Translation Studies students, marking a significant academic development in the department. Notably, during the final year, the department offers opportunities to students to serve as “Trainee Translators” in the government sector for about three months. This experience enables students to get exposure to the professional environment. The department has also encouraged research in Translation Studies since its commencement. The department’s curriculum is updated every five years. The present curriculum was drawn up with the assistance of Prof. Luise Von Flotow and Prof. Malcolm Williams, Ottawa University, Canada.

Development of the Subject to date

The B.A Honours Degree Programme in Translation Studies Degree at the University of Jaffna has progressed significantly since its commencement. Earlier from 2011 to 2014, students were allowed to select Translation Studies as Honours Degree Programme based on their interest and the degree was provided with the title ‘Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree Programme’. Later from 2015 onwards, UGC with the Collaboration of NLEAP and Ottawa University, Canada, selected students through separate windows via a competitive process. The Degree was renamed as B.A Honours in Translation Studies. This degree program opened an avenue for students from multiple streams from all 25 administrative districts to specialize in Translation Studies. Under the new curriculum introduced in 2021, the Sinhala course units were increased to six and new course units were introduced to align the program with modern trends in the world of translation and Translation Studies.

An official visit to Canada with the Technical Exchange Mission (TEM) was organized by NLEAP in collaboration with Ottawa University, Canada and Glendon College (York University) Toronto, Canada for two weeks in 2022. On behalf of the University of Jaffna, Dr. S. K. Kannathas, Head of the Department of Translation Studies, joined the TEM. At the official meeting, the curriculum of the present degree programmes was analysed. Experts at Ottawa University commended the Degree programme and even suggested to the Department to commence a diploma program in Community Interpretation. In addition, the staff of the department Completed TTPP I (Training in Translation Pedagogy Programme I) conducted by the University of Ottawa, Canada, via Zoom. This program was conducted from May to December 2021. The second phase of the program was conducted from January to June 2023.

Subsequent Expansion of the Discipline:

The discipline of Translation Studies has continued to expand, with recent developments marking significant growth. Approval has been granted to commence a Diploma in Community Interpretation in Sinhala-Tamil, aimed at further enhancing the skills and qualifications of interpreters in community settings. Additionally, efforts are underway to introduce a Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree in Translation Studies (Sinhala-Tamil), which will provide comprehensive and specialized exposure in translation between these two languages. These initiatives reflect the Department's ongoing commitment to advancing the field and meeting the increasing demand for proficient translators and interpreters in Sri Lanka.

Pioneering Individuals and Outstanding Academic Contributions

The staff of the Department of Translation Studies have undertaken significant postgraduate studies to advance their expertise in the field. Dr. (Mrs). Mathura Sivakumaran has been awarded a Ph.D. in Translation from Tamil University, Thanjavur, India. Her area of specialization is Technical Translation. She has completed an M.A. in Linguistics at the University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka with Syntax and Semantics in Translation as her area of specialization. Miss Gayathree Srikandavel is a Ph.D. scholar in Translation Studies at English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad, India. She completed an M.A. in Applied Linguistics from the University of Hyderabad, India, Miss. Sheliyna Sivanesan is currently reading for her Ph.D. in Translation at Tamil University, Thanjavur, India and her area of specialization is Academic Translation. She has completed an M.A in Linguistics at the University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka with Cultural Translation as her area of specialization. Mrs. Priyanadhi Kapilthev was awarded with M.A. in Sinhala with a specialization in Literary Translation. She has applied for an M.Phil program in Translation. These academic achievements of the staff highlight their commitment to academic and professional excellence in translation.

Research Interests of the Staff

The research interests of the staff have evolved to encompass a diverse range of fields within Translation Studies, translation and interpretation. Dr. (Mrs). Mathura Sivakumaran's research focuses on literary translation, evaluation of translation, and semantic translation. She also specializes in document translation within technical fields.

Miss. Gayathree Srikandavel's research interests include intersemiotic translation, audio-visual translation, textual studies, and machine translation. Miss. Sheliyna Sivanesan's research engages with theories of translation, bilingual lexicography, and technical and scientific translation, with a particular focus on medical translation within academic contexts. Mrs. Priyanadhi Kapilthév's research interests lie in translation and interpretation across Sinhala, Tamil, and English. She specializes in translation between Sinhala and Tamil.

Staff and Students at Present

The Department of Translation Studies at the University of Jaffna has a dedicated team of academics that ensures the effective functioning of the Department. The members of this team are always available to provide the academic support necessary for the students' success. The academic staff comprises four experienced members, along with the Head of the Department from the Department of English Language Teaching, who bring specialized knowledge in translation and interpretation across Tamil, English, and Sinhala, reflecting the department's commitment to developing expertise in multilingual communication. With a current enrollment of more than hundred and fifty undergraduate students, the department is actively addressing the demand for qualified translators and interpreters in Sri Lanka. The small but efficient team of two non-academic staff namely Miss. V. Vithusha, the Management Assistant and Mr. S. Arulanantharaja, work aid, support administrative tasks, assisting the faculty and students alike, thus enabling the smooth operation of academic and extracurricular activities within the department. This focused team has the ability to support the anticipated growth of the programme.

Dissemination of Knowledge

The Department of Translation Studies at the University of Jaffna is a dynamic hub for future translators. It is dedicated to bridging language gaps, promoting unity, and producing skilled professionals equipped to support Sri Lanka's official language policy. Since its establishment in 2011 as a unit, the department has pioneered curriculum development, integrating advanced courses in translation technology, gender sensitivity, and linguistic accuracy. The staff, including distinguished educators and translation scholars, actively contribute to the field through research and collaboration with international institutions. In addition to a high employment rate among graduates, the department is expanding to offer a diploma in community interpretation. This growth highlights the department's significant role in fostering a multilingual society and advancing translation as a vital profession for a harmonious Sri Lanka. Graduates from this department enjoy high employability, working in diverse roles such as lecturers, translators in various government sectors, and development officers, reflecting the increasing demand for skilled translators in the country.

Outreach Activities and Community Engagement

Dr. S. K. Kannathas inaugurated the Annual Translation Day with an exhibition at the Translation Studies Unit in 2017 and encouraged the students to publish their translations as a volume at the Annual Translation Day celebration. Up to now, the department has successfully released eight translated books from different fields:

Medical Translation (03), Legal Translation (01), Agricultural Text Translation (01) and Literary Translation (03). In addition, magazines are released annually by the department. Seven magazines have been published by the department to date. The department ensures a hundred percent of employability and graduates are employed as Lecturers at the University of Jaffna and translators at the Central Bank of Ceylon, the University Grants Commission, the Ministry of Education of the Northern Province, Jaffna Municipal Council, and the Chief Secretary's Secretariat of Northern Province and in several other government institutions. A certain number of graduates serve as English Teachers and other Graduates are employed as Development Officers. It is noteworthy that the number of students enrolled in the program has steadily increased every year. It shows the increasing demand for this field in our country. Currently, over hundred and fifty students are enrolled in the Degree Programme, nine batches of students have successfully graduated from the department so far.

The subsequent development of the discipline has been marked by a series of significant academic and professional activities that have enriched the field of Translation Studies. These include monthly forums, guest lectures and seminars organized in collaboration with foreign universities and the Department of Official Languages (DOL). Notable events include a series of workshops conducted in collaboration with the Department of Official Languages as well as a workshop organized in collaboration with the Department of Translation, Tamil University, Thanjavur, India. The official visit of the High Commissioner for Canada in Sri Lanka in February 2023 to the University of Jaffna further aimed to enhance the Translation Studies degree programme. The staff of the department has actively participated in various national and international conferences, workshops, and seminars, including the GEWE online workshops for universities conducted by NLEAP (National Languages Equality Advancement Project) in 2021. The staff of the Department also contributed to the Curriculum Development Committee for the Diploma in Community Interpretation in 2023 and have participated in a series of professional learning community (PTILC) meetings organized by NLEAP since 2018. Another key engagement was the meeting on "Building up a Generation of Gender Sensitive Translators" organized by NLEAP at the University of Jaffna in 2022. These efforts collectively underscore the dynamic growth and continued expansion of the discipline.

Conclusion

The Department of Translation Studies at the University of Jaffna has become a centre for producing scholars in Translation Studies in Sri Lanka, promoting unity through linguistic proficiency in Tamil, Sinhala, and English and focusing on nurturing skilled translators who uphold Sri Lanka's official language policy while preserving cultural heritage. Since its commencement in 2011, the department has evolved to offer comprehensive, professionally focused training and has expanded the discipline through an innovative curriculum. Today, the department positions itself as a leader in bridging language barriers for a more harmonious future within and beyond Sri Lanka.



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