



A Sociological Study on Challenge of a Female Soldier in the field of Army

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Abstract

Focusing on the military, the career role of the soldier in the face of a thirty-year war on terror is unique. But during the post-war period, Sri Lankan society paid more attention to studying the role of male soldiers, and neglected women who played the same role. For this study, the women's military professional role was studied with the intention of filling the lack of attention regarding the challenges they faced. In order to study the challenges faced by a woman who is socialized based on gender stereotypes, in a male-centered professional environment in the military, analyzing the response data covering five chapters from the areas of military membership, marriage and family, sexuality and everyday life. The central focus of this thesis is on identifying the challenging situations faced by women in trying to overcome such stereotypes in a patriarchal society, where social stereotypes are deeply rooted. A sample consisting of 25 sampling units centered at Borella Headquarters of the Sri Lanka Army Women's Corps, under the non-random method of 'Quota sampling', representing the dual categories of officers and other-officers, collected relevant data through semi-structured interviews and analyzed through thematic analysis. (Here everyone in the Women's Corps do not have an equal opportunity to participate in the sample for security reasons). The idea of a military woman has been debated concerning her ability to face challenges as a result of her femininity. Especially based on the factor of power, the military woman faces most of the challenges and the power structures of disciplinary power, patriarchal power and bureaucracy power are prominent factors. The right to control their lives is lost to those who serve in the military, which is a bureaucratic institution, and the right to control their lives has been assigned to the institution under a strict disciplinary framework and security system. In such a situation, the female soldier faces challenges to her self-identity in maintaining normal life and professional life in harmony, where the form of interaction between "me" and "I" and the challenging space in the influence of "special other" have been discussed through the study.

Keywords: Challenges, Female Soldier, Gender stereotypes, Power, Self-identity

