

An Investigative Study on the Chronological Changes Related to the Life expectancy (Dreams) of the Sri Lankan Youth Community from 1948-2024

H.K. Pabasara, R.M.N. Sandamali

Department of History and Archaeology, University of Ruhuna, Matara. kavinn178@gmail.com

1. Introduction

Life expectations, aspirations, or ambitions can be regarded as the fundamental forces that give meaning to an individual's existence. Nevertheless, these expectations can vary significantly and are susceptible to substantial fluctuations over time (Gunawardena, 2020). Additionally, they can occasionally alter the social, economic, and political landscape of a nation. This can also serve as a significant factor. A thorough exploration of this critical social phenomenon will prove more beneficial for the advancement of a nation's society. The hopes and dreams of contemporary youth in Sri Lanka are influenced by an intricate interplay of personal ambitions and external factors, within the social, economic, and political frameworks that have evolved throughout various historical epochs (De Silva, 2010). This research is conducted by posing inquiries such as how these expectations were established, whether these expectations align with our actual needs or can be realized, if our nation or society possesses the requisite foundation and potential, and whether the youth's aspirations within a nation or society are met or dashed. The objective of this study is to discern the impacts on the nation or society and foster a necessary dialogue to address them thoughtfully and critically, irrespective of the expectations formed by individuals at large. It seems that the dreams of today's youth in Sri Lanka are molded by a complicated interplay of personal desires and external factors. Numerous young individuals earnestly strive to achieve both personal and professional aspirations, and there exist elements that both support and hinder these goals (World Bank, 2020). Many young people genuinely seek success in careers that resonate with their passions and interests. The increasing enthusiasm for technology, innovation, and entrepreneurship signifies a true desire to make a meaningful contribution to the economy and society. However, when examining each decade since 1950, these expectations have shifted dramatically in relation to those time periods (Hettige, 2000). In these contexts, it can be inferred that social influences on personal expectations (dreams) have played a significant role. Factors such as social literacy, globalization, and modern technology have shown a pronounced impact. Essentially, there are both positive and negative trends in these circumstances. The research has endeavored to encompass all these dimensions as thoroughly as possible and conduct the investigation.

2. Materials and Methods

This research is fundamentally grounded in a qualitative research methodology, which prioritizes the exploration of complex phenomena through the collection of rich, descriptive data rather than relying solely on numerical metrics. The research strategically employed a library survey as the primary method for gathering essential data, ensuring a comprehensive approach to understanding the subject matter. This meticulous process involves the systematic gathering and thorough analysis of data derived from a diverse array of literary sources, which include not only traditional books and academic journal articles but also various reports, alongside the utilization of electronic databases such as Google Scholar and JSTOR, which provide a wealth of scholarly information at our fingertips. Additionally, insights gleaned from various social media platforms will be intricately woven into the research to effectively capture and reflect contemporary discussions, as well as emerging trends regarding youth aspirations in today's rapidly evolving society. Through the application of both content analysis and thematic analysis, the collected data will be rigorously examined for identifiable patterns and

recurring themes, allowing for a deeper understanding of the underlying motivations and desires that shape the aspirations of young individuals.

3. Results and Discussion

Although one can argue that the life expectations (dreams) that people have or are expected to have are purely personal things, it is seen that the influences based on external factors play a powerful role in creating those expectations. Through the socio-cultural potential of 1948, the expectations of the youth community at that time have experienced significant transformations to the present day. Many things such as employment, living conditions, marriage, education, social attitudes, etc. The study provides a comprehensive understanding of how the life aspirations (dreams) of young people have evolved over time (Gunawardena, 2020). It will reveal the pattern of change from nationalistic goals to globalized technology-based aspirations (dreams) and the factors that led to these changes. It will mainly identify the influences and study what social, political and economic factors have shaped youth aspirations over the decades (Hettige, 2017). Revealed by This includes understanding the impact of major events such as economic liberalization, civil unrest, globalization, technological advancements, and political reforms, while examining how personal desires interact with social forces. It will highlight the extent to which dreams are shaped. Thus, the study contributes to the understanding of the youth's ability to shape their own future. Impact on national development The study seeks to uncover the role that youth aspirations play in shaping the social, economic and political direction of the country (National Youth Services Council, 2021). Linking the changing life aspirations of young people with broader national trends provides an understanding of how these aspirations both facilitate and hinder Sri Lanka's progress. By identifying such challenges, today's youth are able to gain an understanding of the systemic problems that prevent them from realizing their dreams. These challenges may include unemployment, economic inequality, political corruption and inadequate access to education (Jayawardena, 2000). Highlighting these barriers can inform policymakers about areas in need of reform. By comparing historical and modern aspirations, the study clearly contrasts the dissonance between the aspirations of young people in different eras. This ranges from economic factors such as shifts from government jobs and stable careers to priorities such as entrepreneurship, innovation and moving towards global opportunities in the modern era (Kariyawasam, 2018). Assessing the feasibility of youth aspirations in the current socio-economic environment. The conditions extend to whether our society owns them. Assessments of how these goals can be achieved and whether there are infrastructural opportunities and support systems in place for young people to succeed, and recommendations for policy and social change based on findings to better support young people's changing, evolving aspirations, aspirations (dreams) The study is thus able to help propose recommendations for policy makers and educators on how to deliver. The study emphasizes that reforms in education, job creation, empowerment of socio-cultural programs and development of technological infrastructure will go a long way in creating the necessary environment to meet the needs of the youth and realize their dreams (Sarvodaya, 2020). It will help identify ways to balance personal ambitions with the collective good of society. The research will contribute to a historical understanding of how cultural values, social norms and expectations have changed in Sri Lanka with the impact of globalisation, media and technology (United Nations Development Programme, 2014). Overall, the study provides resources for academics, policy makers and social leaders to better understand the life aspirations (dreams) of Sri Lanka's youth community and support the conditions to achieve them.

4. Conclusion

This study seeks to provide a deeper understanding of how the life aspirations (dreams) of the Sri Lankan youth community have evolved over time, shaped by the interaction of individual aspirations and external social factors. These highlight the complex dynamics of how aspirations change in response to political, economic and social forces and how these affect the

course of the nation. Early youth aspirations were more local and traditional and focused on the development and security of social, cultural and religious foundations nationally. Away from the stable government jobs, today's youth are globally connected and able to create job opportunities through real and virtual platforms. Thus, the desire for success is no longer confined to national boundaries and can be experienced in conjunction with global trends in technology, entrepreneurship and innovation. However, the study also identifies persistent challenges such as economic instability, social inequality and political corruption. Achieving these aspirations and managing these expectations calls for a more critical and self-reflective approach and also addresses the dual nature of their potential to create social progress and the risk of disillusionment when these expectations (dreams) cannot be realized in the current environment. Thus, the background of Sri Lankan youth experiencing significant changes in their life expectations from 1948 to 2024 and the fact that these changes are deeply influenced by the changing social, economic and political landscapes as well as external factors such as globalization and technological advancement is also highlighted. In the post-independence era, youth dreams have largely been shaped by nationalistic fervor, desire for education and upward social mobility. Many young men aspired to join the civil service or traditional professions such as law, medicine and teaching, reflecting the nation-building ethos of the era. The liberalization of the Sri Lankan economy and the introduction of open market policies in 1977 saw a drastic change in youth aspirations. There was an increased focus on entrepreneurship, private sector employment and international migration, and with financial stability and personal success becoming a priority, economic opportunities abroad influenced many to shape their dreams. The rapid advancement of technology and globalization in the 21st century has had a transformative effect on youth expectations. Careers in technology, innovation and entrepreneurship are increasingly sought after, with a strong focus on contributing to the digital economy. However, alongside this, there is an increasing awareness of social issues, climate change and global citizenship, on which more holistic and globally aware aspirations have been shaped. Over the decades, political instability, economic crises and social changes have been significant in changing youth expectations. Has played a role. For example, periods of civil unrest and economic downturns have led to increased frustration and increased emigration as a means of achieving personal success. Conversely, periods of stability have experienced greater optimism and opportunities for local engagement. However, many young people today aspire to achieve personal and professional success, and their ability to realize these dreams is often limited by systemic issues such as unemployment, economic and socio-political issues. Corruption and economic inequality. Despite technological advances and improved literacy rates, many young people still face challenges in accessing quality education, stable employment and social mobility.

5. Keywords

Challenges, Job, life aspirations, Youth.

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