

Abstract Submission Guidelines

1. **Theme:** Abstracts will be collected under the specified theme.
2. **Language:** Abstracts can be submitted in Sinhala, Tamil, or English.
3. **Submission Limit:** Each applicant may submit only one abstract.
4. **Co-Authorship:** Co-authorship is permitted, with each abstract requiring a designated corresponding author.
5. **Word Limit:** Abstracts should not exceed 300 words.
6. **Keywords:** Provide a list of 5 keywords or phrases reflecting the main themes or concepts.
7. **Formatting Guidelines:**
 - **Font Size:** 12-point font.
 - **Line Spacing:** 1.5 line spacing.
 - **Margin:** Set a 1.5-inch margin from the left.
 - **Font Style:** Acceptable styles include Times New Roman, Kalaham, FM Abaya, or other widely used fonts.
 - **Reference Style:** Follow APA 7th edition format for references if included.
8. **Abstract Structure:**
 - **Title:** Clear and concise, reflecting the research content.
 - **Author Information:** Include names of all authors, with a designated corresponding author for communication.
 - **Abstract Body:** Organized into sections: background/context, objectives/purpose, methods, results/findings, conclusions/implications.
 - **Ethical Considerations:** Ensure adherence to ethical guidelines and standards.

Submission Instructions:

- Email abstracts to ecslars2024@gmail.com, adhering to formatting guidelines.
- Submit by the specified deadline.

Review Process:

- Abstracts reviewed for relevance, originality, clarity, and significance.
- Authors notified of acceptance status by June 10, 2024.

For questions about abstract format or submission, contact:

- Ms. A.N.N Nuzrath (Assistant Commissioner of Elections) at nazloonnuzrath@yahoo.com
- Mr. S. Achchudathan (Additional Commissioner of Elections) at achchthans@yahoo.com

Format of the Abstract

TITLE

Authors Name (Qualifications, if available)

Institute (if available)

Abstract (300 words)

Key Words: Maximum Five

Format of the Declaration Form

Declaration:

I/We, the undersigned author(s), hereby declare that:

1. The submitted abstract is original and has not been previously published or presented elsewhere.
2. All authors listed have contributed significantly to the research and agree to the submission of this abstract for consideration.
3. The research adheres to ethical guidelines and standards, including informed consent procedures, protection of participant confidentiality, and compliance with relevant regulatory requirements.
4. I/We understand that the acceptance of this abstract is contingent upon review by the symposium organizers, and I/we agree to abide by their decision.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Guidelines for Extended Abstracts

1. **Introduction**
 - Provide background information on the topic.
 - Clearly state the research problem in 1-2 paragraphs.
 - Define 2-3 research objectives and corresponding questions.
 - Outline the study's scope, limitations, and constraints.
2. **Literature Review**
 - Review relevant literature, theories, and methodologies.
 - Organize subsections based on available literature.
3. **Theory and Methodology**
 - Justify the selected theory and methodology.
 - Provide a conceptual framework.
 - Explain data sources, including secondary sources.
4. **Discussion and Findings**
 - Analyze research findings in relation to objectives.
 - Support discussion with evidence and data.
 - Structure subsections based on analysis.
5. **Conclusion**
 - Summarize main findings and insights.
 - Reinforce study's significance and contributions.
 - Keep concise, ideally limited to 3 pages.
6. **List of References**
 - Follow APA Style 7th edition for citations and references.
7. **Length of Extended Abstracts**
 - Limit body text to 2500 words, excluding appendices.
8. **Using Predefined Styles**
 - Font Type: Times New Roman/Kalaham/FM Abaya preferred.
 - Use predefined font sizes and styles for different sections.
 - Maintain 1-inch margins and single line spacing.
 - **Tables:** Include immediately after first reference, keep simple.
 - **Figures:** Embed in text, label clearly with legends.
9. **Submission Instructions**
 - Submit to ecslars2024@gmail.com.
 - Reviewed by professional panel for acceptance.

For questions, contact:

- Mr. S. Achchudathan (Additional Commissioner of Elections) at achchthans@yahoo.com
- Ms. A.N.N Nuzrath (Assistant Commissioner of Elections) at nazloonnuzrath@yahoo.com

Empowering Democratic Processes: Strategies for Enhancing Voter Participation and Electoral Integrity in Sri Lanka

Introduction:

As Sri Lanka continues its journey towards democratic governance, ensuring the integrity of electoral processes and fostering active participation among its citizens stands as a cornerstone of a vibrant democracy. The Election Commission of Sri Lanka shoulders the pivotal responsibility of upholding these principles, safeguarding the rights of voters, and preserving the sanctity of elections. In light of the evolving landscape of electoral dynamics and the emerging challenges therein, it is imperative for the Election Commission to spearhead initiatives aimed at enhancing voter participation and fortifying electoral integrity.

Against this backdrop, the commission recognizes the pressing need to convene a research symposium that delves into the multifaceted aspects of voter participation and electoral integrity. This symposium serves as a platform for scholars, researchers, and practitioners to converge, exchange insights, and collaboratively explore strategies to address the myriad challenges faced in Sri Lanka's electoral landscape.

The symposium's significance lies in its potential to generate evidence-based recommendations, informed by scholarly research and practical expertise, which can guide policy formulation and institutional reforms. By drawing together a diverse array of stakeholders, including academia, civil society, media, and governmental bodies, the symposium facilitates a holistic examination of the issues at hand and fosters collaborative efforts towards sustainable solutions.

Moreover, by actively engaging with interested researchers, the Election Commission underscores its commitment to transparency, accountability, and inclusivity in the electoral process. Through rigorous research and informed discourse, the symposium aims to catalyze positive change, bolster public trust in elections, and reinforce Sri Lanka's democratic foundations.

In essence, this research symposium serves as a crucial step towards realizing the shared vision of a vibrant and resilient electoral system in Sri Lanka, one that empowers citizens, upholds democratic values, and ensures the integrity and credibility of the electoral process.

Themes:

1. **Voter Education, Awareness, and Participation:** Delving into approaches to educate and enlighten voters on their rights, the electoral process, and the significance of active involvement, while also emphasizing the importance of increased voter participation in strengthening democracy.
2. **Election Technology and Innovation:** Investigating the utilization of technological advancements in elections, including electronic voting mechanisms, voter registration systems, and digital platforms for disseminating voter information.

3. Preventing Electoral Fraud and Ensuring Transparency: Examining strategies to identify and thwart electoral fraud, encompassing transparent vote counting methods, monitoring of polling stations, and safeguarding the electoral process against manipulation.
4. Inclusivity and Accessibility: Addressing obstacles hindering voter participation, such as accessibility for individuals with disabilities, language barriers, and geographical challenges, and proposing solutions to foster inclusivity in elections.
5. Fostering Trust and Confidence in Elections: Analyzing factors influencing public trust in the electoral process and exploring means to instill confidence among voters, political entities, and other stakeholders.
6. Role of Civil Society and Media: Assessing the contributions of civil society organizations, media channels, and independent observers in championing free and fair elections, ensuring accountability, and overseeing electoral procedures.
7. Legal and Regulatory Frameworks: Evaluating existing electoral laws and regulations in Sri Lanka and pinpointing areas necessitating reform to fortify electoral integrity and safeguard voters' rights.
8. Promoting Gender Equity in Elections: Exploring methods to advance gender equity within electoral processes and advocating for equal representation and participation of women.
9. Engaging Youth in Democratic Processes: Encouraging the active involvement of youth in elections through tailored engagement strategies and initiatives.
10. Advocating Disability Rights in Electoral Settings: Advocating for the rights and inclusion of individuals with disabilities in electoral processes, addressing barriers, and implementing measures to ensure their full participation.