

Panel of Experts - Education

Prof. Marie Perera - Theme Lead



Emeritus Professor of Humanities Education, University of Colombo

Professor Marie Perera is the Professor Emeritus of Humanities Education of the University of Colombo.

She has held the positions as the Director of the National Education Research and Evaluation Centre, Dean of the Faculty of Education, Head of the Department of Humanities Education, and Director of the Staff Development Centre of the University of Colombo.

Professor Perera has contributed to many areas in education such as teaching of English as a second language, teaching the second national language, bilingual education, and on student learning outcomes. She has over seventy research publications and several book chapters in internationally recognized publications. Latest publication was as a co-author of the Sri Lanka Country Report (2023) of the midterm review of the Sustainable Development Goal 4 - Education. She also delivered the thirty third J. E. Jayasuriya Memorial oration on the 14th of February 2024 on the theme “Reimagining of the Humanities: Towards a new panorama in Humanities Education”.

Prof. Siri Hettige



Emeritus Professor of Sociology, University of Colombo

Professor Siri Hettige is an Emeritus Professor of Sociology at the University of Colombo. He holds a BA (Hons) and BPhil in Sociology from the University of Colombo and a PhD in Sociology from Monash University, Australia. He was a Fulbright Senior Scholar at the University of Pennsylvania and has held visiting academic appointments in the USA, Australia, Germany, the UK, Finland, and Switzerland.

Prof. Hettige has served as Professor and Head of the Department of Sociology, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, and Senior Student Counselor at the University of Colombo. He was also the founding Chair of Sri Lanka Studies at the South Asia Institute, Heidelberg University, Germany (2016-17) and was an Adjunct Professor at RMIT University, Melbourne. Prof. Hettige also served as the Honorary President of the Association of Sri Lankan Sociologists. He has chaired the Steering Committee on Social Innovations and currently chairs the Working Committee on Social Sciences at the National Science Foundation, Sri Lanka.

Prof. Hettige has an extensive publication record, focusing on themes such as youth, education, social and political conflict, social policy, governance, and development.

Ms Dileepa M. Endagamage

Senior Lecturer, Department of Decision Sciences,



University of Sri Jayewardenepura

Ms Dileepa M. Endagamage is a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Decision Sciences, Faculty of Management Studies and Commerce, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka. She graduated from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura in 1994 with a Second Class Upper Division in BSc (Special) in Mathematics. She completed her MSc in Applied Statistics in 2001 and is currently reading for her doctoral degree at the IIC University of Technology, Cambodia. Since 1995, she works as an academic in the fields of Business Mathematics, Business Statistics, Operations Research, Computer Based Data Analysis, and Research Methodology. She has sound knowledge in using various statistical software. She has served for many government and private sector educational and other institutions as a lecturer and as a resource person for their training and development programmes. Further, she has rendered her service to the Department, Faculty and the University by holding several administrative positions in the institution.