Marga Institute

Centre for
Development Studies

2021-2022

2021-22 ANNUAL REPORT

PERFORMANCE -2021 TO 2022

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The message is being written in the worst of times Sri Lanka is passing through, calling upon the Institute to remain relevant to the crisis in governance challenging the established order and the ways in which it does its business of governance. There is a call for 'system" change, meaning different things to different people as pointed out by the Marga survey on people's expectations of change. The challenge is to bring clarity into the discourse so as to enable a better understanding of issues in charting the way through the conceptual confusion and unsustainable expectations.

The programme of Marga work offers the opportunity to rethink development and governance of development in reconceptualizing its practice so as to be relevant to the diversity of interests, differences in beliefs, as well as divergences in expectations. Fundamental to such reconceptualization is the recognition of the spatiality in the structures and processes of governance. Accordingly, the practice of the governance of development cannot be fragmented, whether vertically or horizontally, state or non-state, nor public or private.

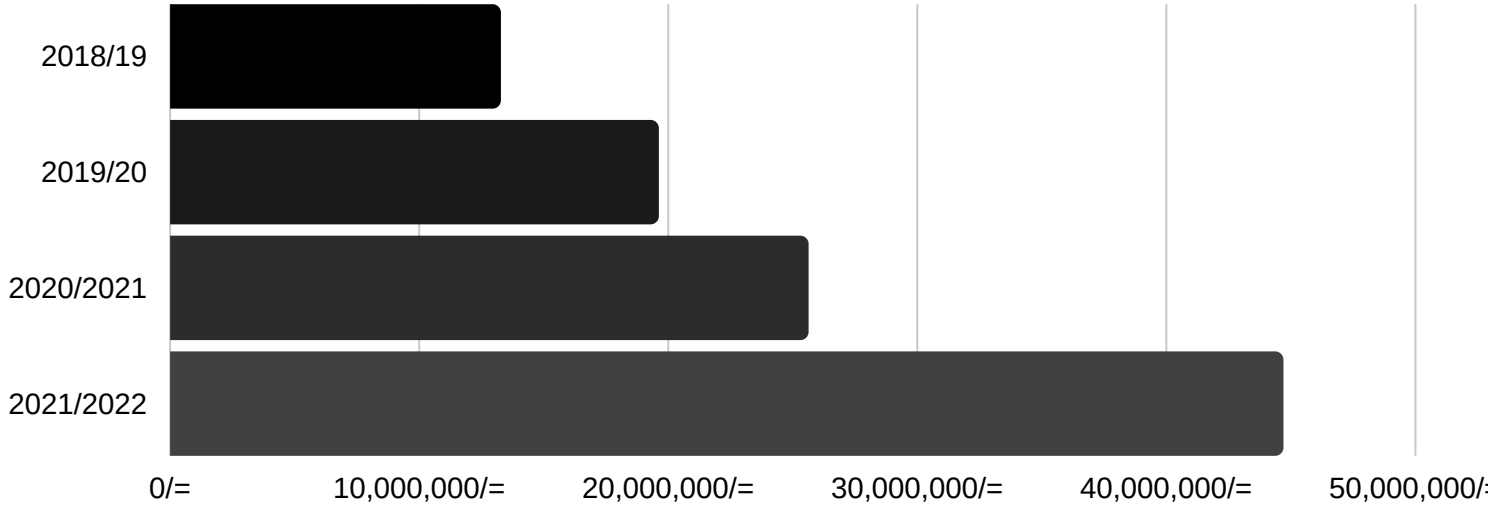
Marga, with its rich experience in multidimensional study, is well positioned to provide leadership in thought and practice in contributing towards bringing about the needed paradigm shift in steering the system.

Asoka Gunawardena

PERFORMANCE OVER THE YEARS

Over the last four years, Marga Institute has recorded steady growth despite immense challenges. Overall, the annual turnover has increased from Rs. 13.2 million to Rs. 44.6 million.

2018/2019 = 13,235,860/=
2019/2020 = 19,575,899/=
2020/2021 = 25,584,893/=
2021/2022 = 45,690,992/=



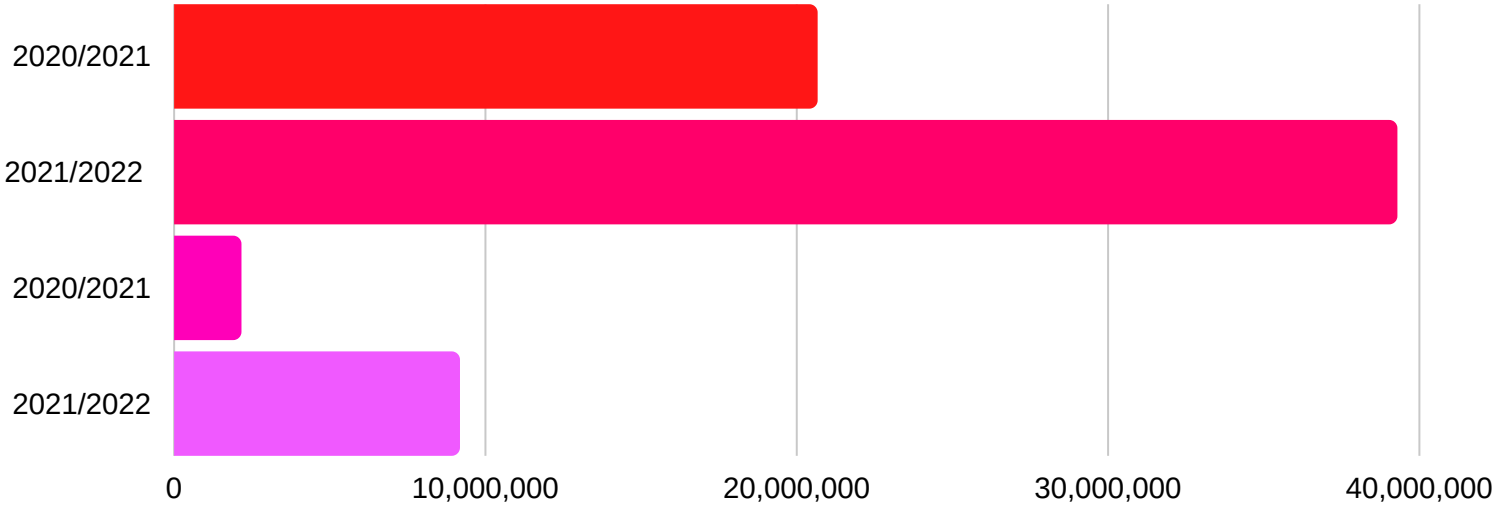
Research Income from 2018 to 2022

2018/2019 = Rs. 5,541,968/=
2019/2020 = Rs. 12, 792,736/=
2020/2021 = Rs. 20,632,838/=
2021/2022 = Rs. 39,250,611 /=

Our Clients during 2021/2022 were UNDP, NLEAP, Gamani Corea Foundation, Asia Foundation, Royal Dutch Embassy and The World Bank.

PROJECT INCOME

Project turnover for 2020/2021- Rs. 20,632,837.00
Project turnover for 2021/2022 - Rs. 39,250,611.00



Project net income (surplus) -for 2020/2021- Rs. 2,130,871
Project net income (surplus) for 2021/2022 - Rs. 9,147,547
70% of the administrative costs (staff salaries, CEO's salary & allowances, Chairman's and Vice-Chairperson's fee) have been allocated to indirect project expenses.
Furthermore, administrative costs increased during the year under review due to the following:-
a) Gratuity of a staff member - Rs. 750,000/=
b) Purchasing of computers, air conditioner and other equipment - Rs. 350,780/=
c) Refurbishment of rented areas -Rs. 492,850 /=

OTHER INCOME

Income through Fixed Deposit, Rent, Auditorium, and publications is shown below

Other income sources	2020/21	2021/22
Oncome from Fixed Deposits	Rs. 2,900,000.00	Rs. 1,833,285.00
Rent	Rs. 1,089,736.00	Rs. 2,859,105.00
Publications	Rs. 15,380.00	Rs. 45,219.00
Auditorium	Rs. 204,275.00	Rs. 158,250.00
Marga Coordination		Rs. 185,435.00

Project net income (surplus) -for 2020/2021- Rs. 2,130,871
Project net income (surplus) for 2021/2022 - Rs. 4,786,574
70% of the administrative costs (staff salaries, CEO's salary & allowances, Chairman's and Vice-Chairperson's fee) have been allocated to indirect project expenses.
Furthermore, administrative costs increased during the year under review due to the following:-
a) Gratuity of a staff member - Rs. 750,000/=
b) Purchasing of computers, air conditioner and other equipment - Rs. 350,780/=
c) Refurbishment of rented areas -Rs. 492,850/=/=

OUR TEAM

NEW GOVERNING COUNCIL MEMBERS

Dr Ahilan Kadiragama, Mr Indrajit Aponsu, Mr Sunil Hettiarachchi, Mr Kithsiri Wijesundera, Mr D.C. Dissanayaka and Dr Indrani Talagala joined the Governing Council of Marga Institute. They replaced Dr Ranee Jayamaha, Professor Sirimal Abeyratne, Ms Jezima Ismail, Ms Nelun Gunasekera, Professor Tudor Silva and Professor Susiruth Mendis.

OUR TEAM

TEAM MEMBERS

Our Team (Top row) Asoka Gunawardena (Chairman), Ms Myrtle Perera (Vice Chairperson), Amar Gunatilleke (CEO), Ms Anjali Wickremasinghe (Information Officer), Ms Deepani Chathurika, Hasitha Jayasinghe, Enaakshi Adhikari (Research Officers) Saman Amarasinghe, Senior Executive Operations, Chandrika Warnakulasuriya (Research Officer on contract) Bottom Row- Loganathan Mathan (Research Officer), A.M.C. Gothami (Administration Executive) Chathuri Fernando (Finance Executive) and Janaka Kumara (Operations Assistant)

OUR WORK (2021-2022)

COMPLETED ASSIGNMENTS AND PROJECTS

1. Political Economy and Gender Analysis of Community and Policy Interventions and Community Assessments of Spread of Hate Speech, Social Cohesion and Preventing Violent Extremism- UNDP
2. The Marga study on Female Participation in the Labour Force in Sri Lanka-It's Impact on the Household- Gamani Corea Foundation
3. Marga Study on Secondary Education – Gamani Corea Foundation
4. Training of Official Languages Commission Staff on research methodologies and Survey of 30 Public Institutions- NLEAP

NEW ASSIGNMENTS

1. Partnership Mapping and Gap Analysis with Key Stakeholders on Preventing Violent Extremism and Social Cohesion Related Policy Environments in Sri Lanka- UNDP
2. Phone survey to ascertain the impact of COVID-19 on Early Childhood Development Centres (Pre-schools)- World Bank
3. Survey on the Drivers and Barriers faced by Small and Medium enterprises in aligning with the Responsible Business Practices in the COVID 19 Context – UNDP
4. Developing case studies on the provision of Seed Grants to Promote Inter-Community Collaboration and Social Cohesion- Asia Foundation
5. Survey to measure and track the progress of compliance of Public authorities on the Official Languages Policy and Advocacy Programme- UNDP
6. Formulation of SDG Mainstreamed Mid-Term Development Plans for selected 6 Municipal Councils and 6 Urban Councils in North, North Central, Eastern and Uva Provinces- UNDP

ONGOING ASSIGNMENTS

1. Marga study on Urbanization- Gamani Corea Foundation
2. Language Rights through cultural traditions- NLEAP
3. Formulation of SDG Mainstreamed Mid-Term Development Plans for selected 6 Municipal Councils and 6 Urban Councils in North, North Central, Eastern and Uva Provinces- UNDP
4. Survey on the Drivers and Barriers faced by Small and Medium enterprises in aligning with the Responsible Business Practices in the COVID 19 Context – UNDP

KEY EVENTS

WE LAUNCHED THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGES POLICY MONITORING CENTRE

With the support of UNDP, we launched the official Languages Monitoring Centre on the 30th of March with an event at the BMICH. Representatives of UNDP, NLEAP, Chairman of Official Languages Commission, and members of Civil Society attended the launch event

Objectives of the Centre

- To create awareness among the public concerning the official languages policy and make them more involved in insisting that public institutions comply with OLP.
- Enlist the public to monitor and measure the level of compliance systematically.
- To monitor and record public issues and errors in public notices, name boards etc.
- To conduct periodic research (secondary and primary data collection) to understand the context and informed situational analysis of the supply side. (to strengthen the supply side)

OUR WORK PROMOTING OFFICIAL LANGUAGES POLICY

We had three rounds of training organised at Colombo, Kandy, Puttalam, Vavuniya and Ampara, where we trained 820 participants from CBOs on Mystery Customer Research Methodology, management skills and PR skills to promote Official Languages Policy.

The training programme was carried out under the NLEAP programme (Supported by the National Languages Fund)

We had a webinar on "Ideas to make the Official Languages Policy Work". Leaders of Language Societies in Colombo, Kandy, Puttalam, Vavuniya and Ampara joined us online and discussed public issues related to language when obtaining services from a public institution. We thank Mr Kalansooriya, Chairman of the Official Languages Commission. He was present throughout the webinar and offered to intervene on every issue and problem raised at the meeting. I especially thank National Languages Equality Advancement Project (NLEAP), Alinea International, and the Government of Canada for the financial and technical support extended to the Marga Institute in promoting language rights in Sri Lanka. The webinar was organised with the support- of - the National Languages Equality Advancement Project.

OUR WORK PROMOTING OFFICIAL LANGUAGES POLICY

We produced five videos with grant funding from NLEAP to promote language rights and second language learning. Our social media campaigns reached over 500,000 people. We also produced a training video and three other videos for advocacy purposes with the support of UNDP.

OUR WORK WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES IN 12 DISTRICTS

Our path-breaking work with UNDP

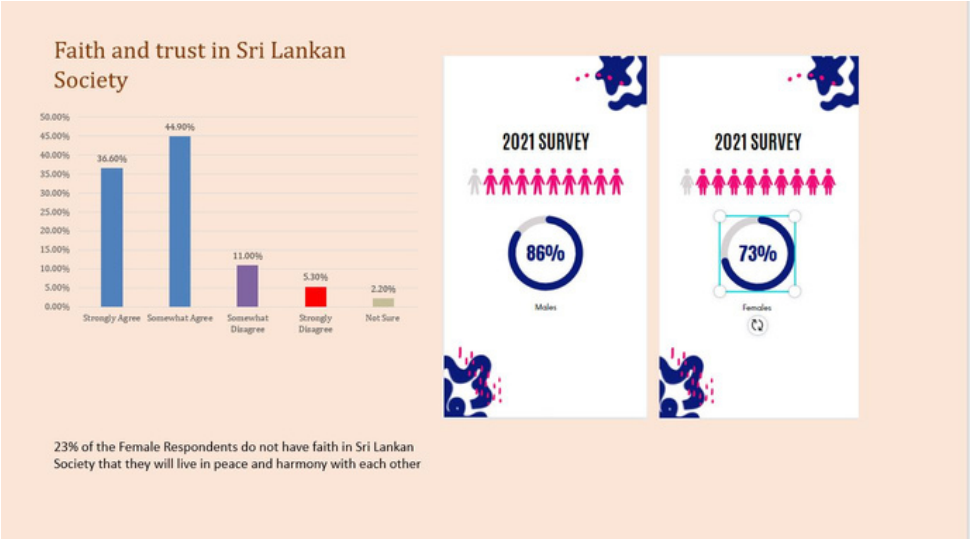
- SDG Mainstreamed Mid-Term Development Plans for selected Municipal Councils and Urban Councils in North, North Central, Eastern and Uva Provinces

We had consultative workshops with citizens at the ward level to identify issues. We also had workshops with stakeholders of the Councils to identify problems, set objectives, and develop a vision and thrust areas for six programme areas covering the protection and promotion of the people's comfort, convenience, and welfare.

OUR RESEARCH WORK CONCERNING HATE SPEECH & SOCIAL COHESION

During the year under review, we conducted community assessments in Anuradhapura, Batticaloa, Colombo, Jaffna, Kandy, Kegalle, Kurunegala, Kalutara, and Matara, to assess the spread of hate speech and role of community members in peacebuilding.

Marga Researchers interviewed Members of the Clergy, Grama Niladhari's, University students, Teachers, Nurses, Traders, Shopkeepers, Three-wheel drivers, Waiters, Drivers, Farmers, Public Officials, Private Sector Employees, and Journalists during the two rounds of Community Assessments in 2021. An online survey was also conducted during the year under review to determine faith and trust in society as a whole as well as in individual communities concerning the willingness to live in peace and harmony with each other.



OUR RESEARCH PROGRAMME WITH GAMANI COREA FOUNDATION

Research on Female Labour Participation

We completed the research project on "Female Participation in the Labour Force in Sri Lanka-It's Impact on the Household for Gamani Corea Foundation. The picture shows Ms Myrtle Perera, Lead Researcher (Right), handing the final report to Professor Tilak Abeysinghe, Research Director of GCF.

Contribution of Education towards a Vision of Sri Lanka 2025/2030- Providing the Pre-Requisites of Very High Human Development.

- Trends in participation in secondary & tertiary education in Sri Lanka (Comparison with selected Asian Countries- South Korea, Thailand, Singapore).

Our research team (Mr. Sterling Perera and Thilani Kaushalya), who worked on the research project, presented their first literature survey report on the 5th of May to a group of Academics and Experts on Education.

.

WEBINARS & TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Webinar on Impacts of Sand Mining on Water Security.

We had a webinar on the Impact of Sand Mining on Water Security on the 11th of March 2022. The main speakers were Professor Champa Navaratne from the University of Ruhuna, Ms Muditha Priyanwada from the Construction Industry Development Authority, Kusum Athukorale –Chairperson of Global Water Partnership South Asia, and member of the Marga Consulting Team and Kanchana Karunaratne of Marsden Jacob Associates

Training of UNDP staff on Results Based Management

We conducted an online training programme on Results-Based Management for UNDP staff on the 6th and 7th of May. Dr Charika Marasinghe conducted the programme