

Report of the Workshop on
“Consultation on Prospects, Challenges and Possibilities for
Community Media in Sri Lanka”

Organized by Sri Lanka Foundation Institute (SLFI) in Collaboration with
Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA) - New Delhi.

January, 2010

CONTENTS

1. Introduction.....	3
2. Welcome address.	4
3. Opening remarks.....	5
4. Launching of the of Tel radio	7
5. Key note address	8
<i>What is community and disintegration of village</i>	9
<i>Globalization</i>	9
<i>Role of alternative media and benefits</i>	10
<i>Negative aspects of the media</i>	11
<i>Opportunities for community media</i>	12
<i>Conclusion</i>	13
6. Discussion followed by the key note address	13
7. The Indian Experience of Blending Community Media with Education	15
8. Discussion followed by the presentation	16
9. Internet Radio as Community Media: what’s internet radio?.....	17
10. Policy consultation advocacy for community radio.....	17
Annex 1: List of Participants.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.

1. Introduction

The Sri Lanka Foundation Institute (SLFI) hosted the Consultation Workshop on Community Media in collaboration with the Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia, (CEMCA) New Delhi, a centre of promoting the meaningful information and communication technologies to serve the needs of commonwealth member states of Asia.

Objectives of the workshop were to identify;

- a. How different media tools could be used to enhance the effectiveness of education and social progress at the Community level
- b. How the university system could support and interact with communities as a source of knowledge
- c. How community radio models could be tested at the community level as a source of distance and continuation of learning; and to
- d. Discuss the use of new communication technologies in facilitating community centered learning

The Workshop was attended 39 participants which included Lecturers from all the Journalism/ Media Departments of the universities, representatives from government and private media Institutions, grassroots level community enthusiasts and development personnel in the field of media and communication. The workshop was conducted in Sinhala and English languages.

The workshop consisted of nine sessions: welcome speech, opening remarks, introduction to Tel-radio and launch of the website, key note address, discussion followed by the key note address. The Indian experience of blending community media with education, Policy Consultation on Advocacy for Community Radio, Group Discussions on Appropriate Strategy for Community Radio Advocacy, Internet Radio as Community Media: what's internet radio and? and Policy consultation for community radio.

“Consultation on Prospects, Challenges and Possibilities for Community Media in Sri Lanka”

Organized by SLFI in Collaboration with CEMCA-India



Mr. P.H.J. Arunasiri, Director of the SLFI welcomes the participants

2. Welcome address.

The workshop began with playing of the national anthem of Sri Lanka democratic republic. Then the welcome address of the workshop was delivered by Mr. P.H.J. Arunasiri, Director of the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute (SLFI). While he was warmly welcoming the participants briefed the aims and objectives of the SLFI as well. “The promotion of an understanding and belief in the democratic way of life and the protection of human rights” are the objectives and aims of the SLFI and SLFI is committed to capacity building for democratic development and social progress through adult education. Right for information is a concept that links with democratic rights and therefore, the theme of the workshop is compatible with the objectives of the SLFI. Similarly, one of the main objectives of the Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA) is dissemination of knowledge by using technology has a link with the objectives of the workshop.

Explaining the history of the workshop he reminded that the present workshop as an outcome of a process of two main initiatives done in 2008 and 2009 consecutively. In end of 2008, there was a workshop on “Digital Story Telling” in Kotmale Community Radio Station and in 2009, the second workshop held in SLFI in collaboration with CEMCA. The 2009 workshop was on “Educate the community via digital story telling and internet radio” was mainly based on the knowledge generated from the first workshop at Kotmale. Also, he expressed his pleasure over the workshop participants, majority of whom attended the previous workshop held in 2009 making the present workshop more a continuation of a process.

Further, he mentioned that this is an effort of finding alternative way of disseminating knowledge to the community via digital story telling and internet radio since the process of obtaining license for a community radio itself engage with lot of hassles.

3. Opening Remarks

The opening remarks of the workshop was made by Dr Buddhi Weerasinghe, Ex. Director of the Institute of Educational Technology, Open University of Sri Lanka on “Sri Lanka a Hub of Knowledge: What Could Community Media do for Education?”. He started his lecture stating of his preference for sharing his experience he gained through working with the community for about last 10-15 years instead of discussing more theoretical matters.

Firstly, he tried to provide basic understanding for three key words coming out of his topic that: community, media and education. His idea was that the term community is frequently used in the society yet, there are certain questions arise. He explained that misconceived motions could be found in relation to the term community, such as that community is a term often goes with the poor segment or link with poverty. On the other hand, when the term link with community media, does it imply that other media do not have a community?

His view was that the present community is not a homogeneous group as was in the past. Present community is a diverse group with number of differentiation in both rural and urban setups. The traditional concept that community is a group which is linked to each other in different ways does not exist any more. Then he raised an issue what would be the community we refer in our efforts of building a community media.

In the general context, provision of education is basically categorizes into three sectors: informal, non formal and formal. In which if we really want to provide some output for the formal education in schools through media the key partners are the National Institute of Education and the Education Department. His experiences were not positive in the process of get on with them. Also, the efforts of integrating the media into the university educational system for past few years were not successful. But, presently there is a close relationship with internet for education.

“Consultation on Prospects, Challenges and Possibilities for Community Media in Sri Lanka”

Organized by SLFI in Collaboration with CEMCA-India



Dr Buddhi Weerasinghe, ex. Director of the Institute of Educational Technology, OUSL delivers the opening remarks of the work shop

With reference to media Dr. Weerasinghe emphasized two types of media: old media and new media. Whereas telephone, TV, computer are considered to be the old media and the combination of all these and digital media are called as the new media. Presently, internet is widely used even within the very rural context. He explained the enormous contribution made by the cellular phones; a modern media to overcome the communication barrier existed within rural community to obtaining information. Further to linking the village and the city for commercial interactions.

The next important point he highlighted was that how media could be integrated as an educational tool. If we try to use media for the formal education there are certain very important issues coming, since this process need certain other skills such as skills to use technology, computer literacy, synthesizing skills to extract what needs for the student and who is going to prepare the context of lessons in order make it more user-friendly with new method etc. On the other hand, there must be many difficulties when the information is going to be transmitted to a community who has no access to media. Also, the way of communication has changed from one to many situations to many to many situations owing to the digital revolution.

Further he added that presently, it's a challenge to provide education for the children with traditional supportive materials since children in the modern society is used much more sophisticated methods. As example, to what extent practically possible to teach using traditional educational tools to students who are exposed to channels like Discovery and National Geographer for their educational programmes. In this background, his emphasis was that look for more technology based methods are meaningful instead of traditional supportive materials.

Emphasizing the advantages brought forward by the technological advancement to create much more a democratic way of communicating pattern, he questioned about the future path of this particular process of establishing community media system. What would be the way of communication pattern going to be used: one to many or many to many? Further, communities who live in a same geographical boundary have the same needs? How could we identify them? etc.

The next point was that present trends of the developed countries in which more room to reduce the dependency on teacher and provide much freedom to study with alternative sources. But we as traditional thinkers still not ready to study deviating from a teacher. In Sri Lanka presently media is much more a supplementary source for the formal education and obviously it would take some more time to enter the media into formal education.

At the same time he highlighted that in remote areas where the teacher scarcity is acute could use media as a source of education. Here’s again the barrier would be our traditional notion of teacher centered education.

Finally, he highlighted the importance of having a proper policy level backup in order to make this process sustainable. Further, he suggested thinking about the demand driven approach as the way of implementing pattern.

4. Launching of the of Telradio

This session of the workshop was the launching of the Telradio by Mr. M J R David.

Mr. MJR David initiated the web launching process pointing out the objective of this efforts to bring people together as the whole society is highly polarized. Also, demonstrated some of the main features of the web site such as e-books, digital story telling.

Initiation of establishing Telradio was appreciated as splendid way of dissemination of information. Further, it was highlighted as a brilliant work done solely using the technology without spending one single cent. Yet, it could yield enormous benefits to the society. It was revealed that the possibility of building up even a global TV with less expenses.

Further, it was considered the practical implementation of this web site in this workshop as a great success following the idea of the previous workshop. The website launching session ended with emphasizing that the initiation is much easier owing to the

“Consultation on Prospects, Challenges and Possibilities for Community Media in Sri Lanka”

Organized by SLFI in Collaboration with CEMCA-India

technological advancement and availability of facilities. Yet the challenge is how to bringing it up to the level of community project.



This session of the workshop was to launching of the Telradio by. Mr. MJR David.

5. Key-note Address

The keynote address of the workshop was delivered by Prof. Kalinga Tudor Silva, Department of Sociology, University of Peradeniya on “Community and the Role of Media in the Globalization”. As a whole, this lecture tried to provide vast understanding from the basic features of the concept of community, disintegration of the community and nature of it within the present context, what would be the opportunities available for community media to educate, empower, network building among the communities in Sri Lanka?.

“Consultation on Prospects, Challenges and Possibilities for Community Media in Sri Lanka”

Organized by SLFI in Collaboration with CEMCA-India



Prof. Kalinga Tudor Silva, Department of Sociology, University of Peradeniya delivers the key note address

What is community and disintegration of village

Community is a very important aspect of social life and also the foundation for identity. In anthropology and sociology, community is the basic unit of research and surveys. There are numerous studies which use the community as the unit of analysis could be found from Sri Lanka as well as in India. “Pul Eliya” (Leach 1961) an anthropological study done in the North Central Province of Sri Lanka discusses the social organization and the community aspects of Sri Lanka. In this study, even Leach made some comments in relation to the whole setup of the social organization in Sri Lanka. However there is disintegration within the community setup and the rural economy of Sri Lanka. This change discusses in several anthropological and sociological studies as well as in numerous literature in the recent past.

“Disintegrating village” an anthropological research of Sarkar and Tambiah (1958) and Martin Wickramasinghe in his novel ‘Gamperaliya’ discussed the disintegration of the rural village. There are number of reasons contribute to this change, people moving out for jobs, migration etc. On the other hand, the family unit also has disintegrated. Since 1960s, the number of children of a family unit has been reducing obviously and the nuclear family unit is becoming prominent. The North East war as well as the natural disasters like tsunami contributed to social disintegration. Isolation, loneliness and conflicts: some of the consequences of disintegration are obvious in the present social setup. This suffers due to destruction of the social network leading to very serious problems. This was the background of the community to which community media is trying to be serving.

Globalization

Presently, people are part of the global community within the process of globalization. According to Dr. Arjun Appadorei (2004) “globalization is cross border fast movement

of ideas, messages, people and products”. In Sri Lanka, large number of families both in the North as well in the South depends on foreign remittances. Radios, TV, internet, mobile phone etc are some of the key tools contribute to globalization process by linking community each other.

In this diverse backdrop alternatives assist to build up social network even though the community not lives in the same geographical boundary. Also, groups with different ideologies could meet other groups with different ideologies through this tools and instruments. As such, now there is a new type of community is being emerged. The term used for this community is ‘virtual community’. These new communication methods brought the community and individuals to new type of network in which “you need not be in the same place but you can be in regular contacts”.

Role of alternative media and benefits

In traditional society, women meet and chat, share information near the village well. The present day, using of Face book is more similar to that traditional **“Linda langa sagamaya”**. Now the younger generation use Face book for getting information and not having a Face book may reason to feel that no identity without a Face book. Without an email address it may like no name. Blogs, skypes also can be included into this new way of building of network. This is the new identity similar to the identity existed in the village setup. These types of new media, in this manner provide new avenues to rebuild the social networks that have been gradually declined or weakened. Therefore, these methods would propose as an important solution for the loss of community. Also, he emphasized that people who involve with this process would develop the concept further in order to get more benefits to community by using those media.

This new type of relationships building with new media is less hierarchical and more egalitarian type of relationships. Also these methods are more identically help to communicate with less hierarchical way and more egalitarian information sharing. As an example people can express their idea and views, disseminate their knowledge for other parties over Tel radio freely. In the traditional village setup mostly people went to get information for the people who knew thing. That process of knowledge dissemination was more hierarchical. But now people can extract information from the sources like Wikipedia and other type of sources which are more often updated. So the hierarchy existing in the knowledge is eroded in this fast moving knowledge based society since this new media have the capacity to generate information on the basis of egalitarian type of knowledge sharing. It needs to further develop this particular quality by this type of efforts.

When we consider the knowledge required for farming, farmers need some sort of scientific knowledge up to certain level. It may be knowledge about plants, pests,

pesticide etc. Of course, they have the traditional knowledge that alone is not sufficient for farming in this global context. This type of knowledge could be provided via TV, radio as well as through internet. The language barrier comes up when it refers to the internet. So the facilitators of these services should look at this point and do some thing to make them more compatible for this languages issue in the knowledge sharing process. The ideology of that knowledge is the power. Generating knowledge and producing knowledge are the power for all sectors. Where media have to play an important role for disseminate knowledge.

The next factor is that when the people are mobilized as social actors, knowledge is the key factor. According to Paulo Freire (1997) a Latin American philosopher who initially expressed a view that people should educate or if not people should be aware about their situation or pass the correct ideologies to them in order to eradicate poverty. For this purpose, media can play an important role by educating people. In Sri Lanka, within the present context, no any sharing of knowledge through media is taking place. Prominence has been given only to commercials, teledramas, political talks and so forth. There is no any democratic backdrop. But media could be used to provide knowledge to building up a knowledgeable society thereby empowering people to a great extent. Truly this aspect is lacking in Sri lankan media.

Negative aspects of the media

Despite the enormous benefits that could be gained from the media, it can be harmful to the society in numerous ways. Digital divide limits the community access to media in some communities who do not have IT resources while some other communities have easy access to media through computers, internet, mobiles etc. Therefore, media is divided the society.

Secondly, there is a huge impact on the attitudes of consumption culture as the media promote the fast food culture, soft drinks, oily, greasy and salty foods etc. Also, the way of preparing foods and even some unhealthy products also get wide publicity through advertisements. This situations lead to increase non-communicable diseases like diabetes, cardio vascular problems etc. Another negative impact is promotion of tobacco smoking.

In this global context this media can be used to spread wrong ideas, also communal ideas instead of respecting other communities. Particularly for younger generation, wrong ideas are transmitted e.g., about employment, what should be done, what shouldn't be done etc. so, media is like a knife in which both sides are sharpened. If it is used for the betterment it is benefited while the wrong usage gives negative results. The main emphasis here is to use community media to get the positive benefits.

Anthony Giddens (1999) says that people should not extract the information as it is and -

should use some analytical review and get what they want. This skill may acquire through any subject knowledge, but necessary to use that capacity.

There is a difference between information and wisdom. Every information does not enhance the wisdom. Though the school education, university education etc. should be the facilitator of this type of skill provider, in Sri Lanka it has not integrated sufficiently. So, here rarely find any constructive criticisms or positive criticisms that contribute towards the social progress. Reason is that our society follows much more a one way communication pattern which always has provider and receiver. This is an area where community media should provide inputs to create community with wisdom and constructive thinkers.

Opportunities for community media

In the final part of his lecture, he highlighted the opportunities available for community radio in Sri Lanka. In one hand, community media could be used for the people who have not attended school, open university etc.

Community media can be a facilitator in the process of distance and continuous education since the tyranny of distance is a great barrier for transaction of ideas in Sri Lanka. Especially for the university community which are located each other in long distance would be benefited to conduct research, knowledge dissemination etc.

In the context of which though the war is ended the process of achieving peace is not completely happen, community media can create facilities to share ideas of different communities.

Another aspect is that the role can be played by community media specially using all three languages (Sinhala/Tamil/English) to bringing social capital by linking of the community which is living in one end of the country to other end.

Also community media can be a stage to bringing up social groups which are working towards achieving some progressive ideas for the social wellbeing, e.g., environmental organizations, women’s organizations etc. in which they would be able to share their ideologies as well as gather people around those ideologies.

As a researcher he identifies that community media, which has an ability of connecting various groups as a useful tool to conduct research such as action research. Also this has not been explored so far and potentiality is there.

Also another opportunity highlighted was that the avenues to strengthening and nurturing of different cultural identities by giving some opportunities for various community groups to share their knowledge and identities. As such community media can help to

sustain some cultural identities of our country.

Finally he expressed confidence over the enormous contribution could be made for new social innovations and social change towards betterment of the society. Further, he urged that the importance of working with different partners such as: people who have better understanding about this media, researchers, intellectuals, artists, civil social workers etc. in order to make the process more fruitful and sustainable.

Conclusion

Basically the key note address included key features of community within the traditional context and factors effected to change this traditional community setup and outcome of these changes. Further, some of the literature sources which are being discussed the disintegration of the rural setup of Sri Lanka and factors behind that change was highlighted. Secondly, key features of the globalization and its impacts on community and contribution towards the rebuilding of the loss identities via new social network. As the third point, what would be the role of alternative media as a basis for social networking highlighted.

Fourth point included the ways in which the media is harmful for the community and fifth, why its necessity for a reflective modernization to create a society with wisdom. Finally, the opportunities available for community media in Sri Lanka to retrieve some of the identities which are possibly recapture and integrate. Further, as new avenue for exploring information and dissemination in two way communication pattern and bringing up different actors to work together to the betterment of the society.

6. Discussion followed by the key note address

Dr. Harindra Vidanage was invited to open the session and he started to make comments stating that initial output for the discussion was extracted from the key note address.

His idea was that the concept ‘community’ is eroded even within the electronic community. Though the concept ‘community’ was highly discussed topic during 1993-96, the concept tend to disappear after 1999 and from 2000, it was totally disappeared.

His idea was that concept ‘community’ does not exist any more. Alternatively, people buildup network via internet and other facilities but no any expectation of long term existence as was in the traditional society. He highlighted the electronic network features such as Face book, is more like the “*Linda langa sangamaya*” in the traditional setup. He highlighted that the Sapatista movement of Mexico for using of internet for political struggle at the first time of the world history.

Another participant of the workshop raised the question that would this effort going to be limited to a particular community?, since the present internet literacy rate of Sri Lanka remains at about 30 percent.

Mr. Mayadunne who represented the Ministry of Media explained the aims and objectives of the government regarding the media. The main focus of the government is to provide infrastructure facilities for the people from north to south in order to access to any media as they wish.

Another comment made by a participant on their experience of establishing youth groups from Kalutata to Hambantota explained the interest shown for expansion and possibility of creating forums in such basis.

Further it was pointed out that in the objectives of the community radio in the past was to create awareness among farmers and assist for social development. How could access to the community in the present context in which more liberally media is available and widespread use.

Sri Lanka still have only government and private sector owned media and no any media for community but still huge restrictions are to be overcome.

The usefulness of using of about 600 ‘*Nanasalas*’, located in the island for this effort from the community side highlighted.

Mr. Jayantha Amarasinghe explained that Sri Lanka as a country which has a considerable percentage of people with poverty do not have a community radio to make them more strengthen and empower. The difficult tasks involve in the process of applying for radio station involves lot of hassles. In Sri Lanka giving license for selling arrack and establishing a radio both go for preferred groups rather than the necessity to a particular community.

While the commercially driven segment of the society who does not represent the whole setup of the society acquiring the radio, an amazing product and we are moving for alternative methods. His idea is that why should we move for alternative methods such as internet based radio leaving the radio channels for small segment of the society.

Mr. M J R David commented on this aspect, specially paying gratitude for raising this issue and taking the discussion toward another important direction. His idea was that this time periods provide enough room to put forward such requirements to the political group during this election time instead of responding to their requests

Another important comment of a participant was that of course, there is an authority exists for the knowledge. But the internet could be creating new space since it does not

have a certainly defined space.

7. The Indian Experience of Blending Community Media with Education

The afternoon session lecture delivered by Ms. Rukmini Vemraju, Commonwealth Educational Media Centre, India. She started her lecture stating the objectives of the CEMCA and the working areas. Mainly, it works on two subject areas: education and learning for livelihoods and health. While the educational theme most of the time work with the formal educational setups like schools, college level higher educational institutes, vocational training institutes the second theme: learning for livelihood and health is extremely with a learning process with communities or the non formal sector, which is the subject area she mainly engages with it.

Also she mentioned about the Malaysian Open University community radio which works in excellent way. And also, some of the community media related work done with the Open University of Sri Lanka (OUSL).



Dr. Rukmini Vemraju CEMCA sharing Indian experience with the participants

Ms. Rukmini shared the experience of experimental study done with 10 community radios under a scientific project on “how can we use community radio” that conducted by Dr. Sridhar of University of Anna. The project was under the mandate of the National Council for Science and Technology functions under the Department of Science and Technology of India.

The project named as “Science for women, health and nutrition” selection of the audience

based on certain criteria, such as living within the transmitting range, a woman from the marginalized segment. They drew lessons from 1000 households since one woman is selected from every single household.

First exercise was to conduct social, demographic mapping in order to understand vast segment of information related to social, economy, cultural aspects and resources availability etc. Secondly, try to understand health and nutrition related issues for which different methods were used to collect data. Thirdly, the diseases prevalence in the area using different techniques of collecting data.

Main output was that investing of 1000 talented women in various aspects. Some are very articulated, some are resourceful and some ended with acquiring skills of programme production etc.

The most important contribution she made to the session was that revealing of the identities of a community radio. Her emphasis was that community radio is a completely a different from other radios and community participation for the process is the key. Certain heights for the antenna of the radio, community living with 10 radius of the transmission station etc. are the some of the other key features.

With regard to the situation of India in relation to process of obtaining licenses for community radio, still it is a long term process of obtaining a licenses for a community radio in India even though the legal provisions are available for supporting to establish community media in India.

Despite the legal provisions, still the process of obtaining a licenses involve longer time periods and a lot of paper works. At that point she pointed out that whether we wait for same process or going for alternatives?.

The important factor highlighted by the speaker was that technology is something that needs to be introduced, demonstrated and make available the opportunities to get use to it and have the experience. Before getting use to some technological equipment and features generally it's just an alien thing.

Further, she stated the satisfaction over the institutional, organizational and societal sustainability of the radio. Sharing of her experience of community radio in India supplemented with a video on how community radio can be used to educate community?

8. Discussion followed by the presentation

Mr. M J R. David highly appreciated the key points highlighted by the presenter in order to identify a community radio. He emphasized that the height of the antenna, distance of the audience link to the radio station, community participation etc. It was stated that

achievements of India during this time as a great motivation for Sri Lanka.

On the other hand, although, both Sri Lanka and India started together India was able to define exactly the features of the community radio that Sri Lanka was unable to do so far.

Dr. Tudor Weerasinghe of the Sripalee Campus of the University of Colombo pointed out that the idea of community radio remains even with some financial capital and equipment. But the legal rights are not possible.

Another participant raised the issue that to what extent this type of media is viable to a society which is much more attached to visuals.

Mr. Jayantha Amarasinghe from Ruhuna University, stated that a proposal to setup a community radio has been submitted and not approved yet. Presently, the frequency is vested with the commercial sector though it's truly a public property. Hence, his emphasis was that there should be a strong voice for this matter.

Importance of radio as a media that could disseminate information to many compare to other sources of media was highlighted. Further, the popularity of radio with the arrival of the private radio channels also pointed out.

9. Internet Radio as Community Media: What's Internet Radio?

This session consisted with a lecture delivered by Mr. Harsha Wijewardana.

Initially, he explained the key features of the certain ways of broadcasting thing via internet. He highlighted internet as a multi-task media with certain most sophisticated features can be integrated with it like videos.

Further he summarized the history of establishing internet radio. At the same time he expressed that how can we move forward with technology.

10. Policy Consultation and Advocacy for Community Radio

This session led by Fr. Dr. Theodore Warnakulasooriya and Dr. Tudor Weerasinghe

Mr. M J R. David emphasized the importance of initiating action by the university community since they have a certain autonomy.

It was stated that the requirement of having an initial document and then the opportunity is there to act accordingly and the Open University can play a big role.

Majority agree to go for developing the initial document.

In terms of legal backing, it was stated that since there is no specific law the basic human right law is applicable.

The potential of the Non Governmental organizations (NGOs) also could be used for this purposes since they have acquired considerable success in several subject areas such as environment, women’s right etc.

It was proposed to setting up of two initiative committees, one group representing the university community and the other committee with all other actors outside the university.

Dr. Tudor Weerasinghe, Sripalee campus of the University of Colombo, Dr. Ajantha Hapurarachchi from the University of Colombo and Mr. Jayantha Amarasinghe from the University of Ruhuna were selected for the committee on behalf of the university community initially, however, it was expressed the ideas of having representatives from other universities as well, specially the University of Peradeniya and the University of Kelaniya.

Mr. P.H.J. Arunasiri, Director of the SLFI assigned the task of calling for the most important intellectuals in the subject area. The object of this effort is to provide more opportunities for the other important contributors who are not in the today’s session. It was urged that the numbers should be limited for the most important figures.

Also, stated that to see the possibilities of issuing press release as it would be helpful to make aware the relevant sectors during this election time period.

The workshop was ended without forming the second proposed committee with the intellectuals out side the university community, yet leaving hopes for further integration after three days training session in Kandy.

“Consultation on Prospects, Challenges and Possibilities for Community Media in Sri Lanka”

Organized by SLFI in Collaboration with CEMCA-India

Annex 1: List of Participants

**Workshop on Consultation on Prospects, Challenges and Possibilities For Community Media In
Sri Lanka**

Sri Lanka Foundation Institute -Auditorium

9th January 2010- List of Participants

	Name	Organization
1.	Ms. D G Ridma Tharangani Thilakaratna	Sripalee Campus University of Colombo
2.	Ms. M V Praba Kumari Meegoda	Sripalee Campus University of Colombo
3.	Mr. Charitha Priyankara Hettiarachchi	Nuwara Eliya Agricultural Co-operative Society 31/B/26, Keerthisinha Mw, Kandy
4.	Mr. B Danesh Maduranga Edirisooriya	Sarvodaya ,726, 2 nd Floor, Athul-Kotte, Kotte
5.	Mr. Kalinga Atulathmudali	SBU / Techkatha West Tower, World Center, Colombo 1
6.	Mr. R M Samanmalee Swarnalatha	Gamidiriya Foundation
7.	Mr. M S S Fernandopulle	(I CT A) Information & Communication Agency of Sri Lanka 160/24, Kirimandala Mw, Colombo 5
8.	Ms. H Sajeewika Manohari Dayananda	Boondi.lk
9.	Mr. H Rohana Saman Kumara	Ministry of Science & Technology, Kegalle

“Consultation on Prospects, Challenges and Possibilities for Community Media in Sri Lanka”

Organized by SLFI in Collaboration with CEMCA-India

10	Mr. Priyantha Mayadunne	Additional Secretary, Ministry of Mass Media & Information
11	Mr. Sugath Nandana Weerasinghe	SLBC - Kandurata Sevaya, Pushpadada Mw. Kandy
12	Mr. E Ajith Wasantha Epa	Uva Community Radio -Bandarawela
13	Mr. Jayantha Amarasinghe	Senior Lecturer, University of Ruhuna
14	Ms. K M Lakmali Alwis	University of Ruhuna
15	Mr. P Wijesinghe	SLBC - Kandurata Sevaya, Kandy
16	Mr. W M Sarath Amunugama	Health Education Bureau
17	Ms. S A Fathima Shanaz	University of Colombo, Journalism Unit
18	Mr. W M Anura Kumara Wickramasinghe Bandara	District Secretariat
19	Mr. M N Mohomed Faslan	Irukkiram Magazine, No. 3, Torrington Avenue, Colombo 7
20	Mr. N P Mohomed Sakeer	SLBC – Colombo
21	Mr. Niranjan Gamini Udumalagala	Sri Lanka Community Radio Organization
22	Dr. Ajantha Hapuarachchi	Journalism Unit, University of Colombo
23	Dr. Harinda R Vidanage	Director, Bandaranayake Center International Studies (BCIS)
24	Dr. Pradeep Weerasinghe	University of Colombo
25	Mr. Mahinda Rubasinghe	Neth FM -Radio
26	Mr. Gayan Gamage	Neth FM

“Consultation on Prospects, Challenges and Possibilities for Community Media in Sri Lanka”

Organized by SLFI in Collaboration with CEMCA-India

27	Mr. K B Buddika Sampath	Tel-radio
28	Mr. Kosala Keerthirathne	Kotmale Community Radio
29	Mr. P Pavithran	Internews Sri Lanka
30	Mr. S Dhananjaya Sooriyaarachchi	Sath FM 441, Galle Road, Colombo 3
31	Ms. J D Harshini Jeewanthi	SLBC – Matara
32	Mr. R Ravichandren	Centre for Development Alternatives, 582/10, Peradeniya Road, Kandy
33	Ms. Bisomenike Grero	W B C ,61, Mulgampala Road, Kandy
34	Mr. Udes R K Mallikaratne	Ransara IP Radio
35	Mr. Mr. Chandrarathne Perumbadage	SLBC – Rajarata Sevaya
36	Mr. Wijayantha Ukwatte	SLFI
37	Mr. M Fouze Fazl-UI Hapue	SLBC
38	Mr. D Ashanka Kuruppu	UNIVOTEC
39	Mr. Mervyn Senanayake	Aquinas University College
40	Ms. Pramoda Sarojini	Programme Coordinator & Lecturer -SLFI

“Consultation on Prospects, Challenges and Possibilities for Community Media in Sri Lanka”

Organized by SLFI in Collaboration with CEMCA-India

List of Resource Persons and Workshop Staff

1.	Mr. Sunil Jayaratna	Legal Professional, Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL)
2.	Dr. Buddhi Weerasinghe	Ex Director, Institute of Educational Technology, OUSL
3.	Prof. Kalinga Tudor Silva	Department of Sociology, University of Peradeniya
4.	Ms. Rukmini Vemraju,	Programme Officer, Commonwealth, Education Media Centre for Asia - New Delhi
5.	Dr. Theodore Warnakulasooriya	Senior Lecturer, Dept of Social Studies Open University of Sri Lanka, Nawala Nugegoda
6.	Dr. Tudor Weerasinghe	Rector, Sri Pali Campus, University of Colombo
7.	Mr. Harsha Wijewardana	Director, School of Computing, University of Colombo
8.	Mr. P.H.J. Arunasiri	Director – SLFI No. 100, Independence Square Colombo 7
9.	Mr. M J R David	Community Media Consultant
10.	Ms. Pramoda Sarojini	Programme Coordinator & Lecturer -SLFI
11.	Ms. Malika Ekanayake	Secretary – SLFI