Documentation of Human Rights Collection - 2024

Project Title	Documentation of Human Rights Collection
Project Number	NF/PG/2023/0010
Project Place	Northern Province, Sri Lanka
Project Duration	Six Months
Executing Organization	Noolaham Foundation
Funding Organization	
Key Partners	
Project Budget	LKR 1,880,000

Introduction

The initiative is an attempt to digitize Northern Province human rights-related documents(M.C.M. Iqbal). With the support of field research, the Noolaham Foundation has located the collection of human rights materials. The M.C.M. Iqbal collection is an invaluable resource in the field of human-rights. M.C.M Iqbal is an human right intellectual who was lecturer at Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration and Institute of Human Rights in Sri Lanka. He retired from the Civil Service of Sri Lanka after over 40 years of service in various positions. Following retirement, he worked as a human rights consultant for a number of national and international organizations. He was involved in conducting inquiries and investigations into almost 30,000 reports of disappearances of people while sitting on presidential commissions of inquiry. He then worked as a human rights consultant for Sri Lanka's National Human Rights Commission and the Asia Foundation. Following that, he served as an adviser to the International Independent Group of Eminent Persons, which was tasked with overseeing the investigations undertaken by a Commission of Inquiry into high-profile human rights crimes. He had to leave Sri Lanka in 2007. He has a lot of documents and materials. This specific initiative will improve the field of documents pertaining to human rights in general. Over the course of six months, the Noolaham Foundation hopes to produce 794 documents totaling 73,256 pages.

M.C.M Iqbal is an human right intellectual who was lecturer at Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration and Institute of Human Rights in Sri Lanka

Noolaham Foundation

Noolaham Foundation is a non-profit, charitable organization (GA 2390) founded to provide enhanced access to information sources and foster knowledge-based development in Sri Lanka. It maintains an online digital library, facilitates information preservation programmes, provides financial assistance and technical guidance for digitization initiatives, and actively participates in awareness-raising campaigns. It also co-ordinates a range of fund-raising activities and collaborates with other organizations and individuals. The free Internet library [www.noolaham.org] and Archive [www.aavanaham.org] maintained by the Foundation serves as a learning center incorporating local knowledge and enabling social interaction with a view to achieving constructive social outcomes. It functions as a repository for various institutions, and fulfills the information needs of students, researchers, historians, activists and the public. Volunteers of Noolaham Foundation engage with Noolaham Activities globally and establish Noolaham chapters in their respective countries to achieve the mission of the Foundation.

Project background

Every individual of the society has the right to live with dignity and freedom. The significance of upholding human rights was made evident by the numerous global occurrences. particularly the two world wars. They illustrate what occurs when people disregard each other's rights as fellow members of society. In multiple events, people come together and emphasize to define and protect human rights. These events are known as declarations and conventions. They include the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (1948), the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1965), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006). These are a few of the most important human rights agreements and declarations. In any case, a ton of publications about human rights were released in addition to them. Since social structure and conventions greatly influence how people view human rights, some of them were quite specific to the nation or region.

Sri Lanka and Human Rights

Sri Lanka is a country that has a history of thirty years of civil war. The country has seen horrendous human rights violations throughout its history. The Human Rights Committee oversees the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), a global instrument Sri Lanka adopted in 2005. The study addresses long-standing injustices at a period of economic, governance, and human rights challenges in the country. Apart from UN agencies, there are several organizations and institutes that have conducted research and surveys in this field. Many books and articles have been written regarding human rights and the situations in which these fundamental rights are violated and result in unthinkable tragedies. These need to be digitalized since they will highlight the mistakes we made as a society and advise us on what to do in similar situations.

Objectives

The project's goal is to digitize a large amount of human rights-related documentation over the course of six months, which will advance the field.

- To preserve and achieve the human rights related documents.
- To establish a Portal on the Noolaham Foundation website with a specific human rights section
- To increase the number of human rights-related documents that are digitized.

Activities
- **Digitalize the identified documents**

The materials related to human rights have already been identified by the Noolaham Foundation. For a period of six months, the digital preservation officer will be digitizing those documents.
- **Quality Check**

A quality assurance officer will review the digital documents to make sure they meet the standards set by the Noolaham Foundation.
- **Create the Portal and Upload the documents**

The Noolaham Foundation will upload the digitized materials to a separate portal that it will create specifically for documents associated with human rights.

Outcomes of the project (Expected)
- Increase the number of readings materials on topics linked to human rights
- The initiative will digitize documents pertaining to human rights in order to raise awareness of their significance.
- The endeavor will improve students' e-learning. Students are more likely to learn via the internet in this modern age. These materials will be used to boost the knowledge of students studying social sciences and political-related courses.

Project budget

Details of Expenditure	Unit cost	Unit	Quantity	Total	Noolaham Contribution	Donor Contribution
Human Resource				**525,915**	**0**	**525,915**
Digital Preservation Officer 100%	40,000	Staff	6	240,000		240,000
Digital Library Officer - Quality Assurance 50%	25,000	Staff	6	150,000		150,000
Digital Library Officer - Metadata 50%	22,652.500	Staff	6	135,915		135,915
Equipment				**1,700,000**	**1,400,000**	**300,000**
A4 Scanner	225,000	Nos	1	225,000	225,000	
Sheet - fed scanner	300,000	Nos	1	300,000		300,000
Camera	325,000	Nos	1	325,000	325,000	
Hard disk	50,000	Nos	3	150,000	150,000	
Computer	350,000	Nos	2	700,000	700,000	
Grand Total				**2,225,915**	**1,400,000**	**825,915**

Risk and Mitigation

The project has minimal risk because the equipment and staff will be given by Noolaham Foundation. Noolaham Foundation will expertly manage the project's risk owing to its prior expertise.