

**Was there a Direct Link between Spread of Alcohol Intake and
Violence during British Colonial Period in Sri Lanka?: An Analysis
Based on Poetry Written in the 19th Century in Sri Lanka**

Olaganwatte Chandasiri Thera
Rajarata University of Sri Lanka
Chandrasirihimi@hotmail.com

Campaign to spread the use of alcohol was seen by the Colonial rulers as the path to enrichment, who strove to popularize it at every opportunity. This approach resulted in increasing number of workers wanting more and more alcohol to drink. The profit from these ventures enriched a section of the indigenous population. Whilst fleecing the last penny seemed to be the foundation on which the colonials based their economic policy. As was traditional amongst the colonial elite, alcohol, beer and the substances were served at celebratory functions. Some groups in society and social workers were opposed to the increasing use of alcohol amongst the population and made public protests. The government however, saw this as a source of increased revenue. Spread in popularity of alcohol would lead steadily to disastrous social consequences. The objective of the study is to find whether there is a straight link between alcoholism and violence and to prove that, for this research primary and secondary sources have been used from original booklets written on the subject in Sri Lankan Museum Library, National Archives in Sri Lanka and London British library. Data analysis and the other information collected revealed that there was a direct link between expansion in alcohol use and violence, which led to a radical change in society.

Key words: *Alcohol, Violence, Printing, poet*