Politics and Sanga Community in Sri Lanka Shantha Kumara Gamlath Department of Political Science, University of Sri Jayewardenepura

The main objective of this paper is to explore how Buddhism was crucially influenced on change of the political regimes in the pre and post- independence politics in Sri Lanka. The trend of the politics in Sri Lankan society is becoming more complicity because Buddhism which is the main religion of the majority of the people in Sri Lankan society has crucial impact on practice of the general politics. Buddhism is very strongly called as a spiritual religion which has appeared for the ordinary people emancipation from the bad secular social practices and beliefs. Further, since Buddha's parinibbana (attain to spiritual world) it has been maintain and sustain by the Maha Sanga which are Buddha's Dharma school. Therefore, Sanga community, have strong ethical and spiritual objectives than secularize desires which base on Buddha's original teaching. Sri Lanka is one of the countries in South Asia which has been practicing Buddhism as a spiritual religion in terms of Theravada Buddhism through their Sanga Community. Therefore, Maha Sanga has strong spiritual objectives than secularizing their day to day social practices which base on original principles of Buddhism. There are some evidence in Buddha's teaching on Maha Sanga regarding political involvement on statehood or politics, yet rapid trends and evidence have been shown on power politics that religion has crucially influence and effect on politics by Sanga community than their spiritual objectives, Why? Many scholars have done researches on Buddhism and Politics in Sri Lanka however this research will try to find out the effects of basic social, economic and cultural factors that motivate Sanga community There are many scholars have done research on Buddhism and politics in Sri Lanka however this research, this research will try to find out the effects of basic social, economic and cultural factors that motivate Sanga community interfering to practical politics in pre and post Independence politics in Sri Lanka. Discourse analysis which is one of the post structural methods of scientific inquiry in social science research, will be applied as a major research method in this research. Therefore, previous discourses and argument will be critically re-interpret and re-produce in this research. Therefor, previous will benefit researchers who wants to do same research with utilizing discourse analysis.

Key words: Spiritual buddhism, Buddhas teaching, Secular practices, Statehood and sanga