

**ROLE OF A POST MODERN UNIVERSITY AND SOCIAL CHANGE**  
***A STUDY OF THE IMPACTS OF EASTERN UNIVERSITY ON THE SOCIETY OF***  
***VANTHARUMOLAI IN ITS 25 YEARS OF EXISTENCE***

V. Alagaratnam<sup>1</sup>

The concept that the university is the Ivory Tower, is dead in the globalizing context. The notion that a university is a place where the destination and fate of the society is determined is being changed. The Eastern University, Sri Lanka which is one of the fifteen conventional universities of Sri Lanka, is located in Vantarumoolai, Batticaloa of the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka. This university consists of seven faculties including Trincomalee campus. In addition, the Swamy Vipulanda Institute Aesthetic Studies has been affiliated to the University. However, the place where the main campus is located is Vantharumoolai which is a village, 18 kilometers away from Batticaloa city in the south. Vantharumoolai and the villages near Vantharumoolai have been considered for the research.

Ten years ago, this was the one and only university in the Eastern province and one and only university which offered English medium degrees in Sri Lanka. At present, the medium of instruction is both English and Tamil. Thousands of students are presently offering courses at the Eastern University. Beyond the formal education services and confined routines, it has been giving its fullest contributions to the society. Due to the existence and impact of the University, it has been the root cause for the social change in the Vantharumoolai region.

Social change is a theory which analyses many aspects of social change. There are many theories such as Grand theories; Classical Theories and so on which express the nature of social change. Based on these theories, the impacts of Eastern University are researched and social change is measured with Post Modern Condition.

The objective of the study is to explore and reveal the contribution of the University and theorizing the nature of impact and theorizing the social change. Although this would be a qualitative study, qualitative research methodology is used. Data collection will be made under the qualitative methods. FGD (Focus Group Discussion), In-depth interviews, KIM (Key Informant Method) have been used to do this research.

The data will be qualitatively analyzed and results would be derived accordingly. Based on the results, the contributions of the university have been assessed on the basis of the said theories. According to the revealed results, suggestions and recommendations have been given for further contribution of the university to the society in the global and post modern condition.

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<sup>1</sup>Department of Social Sciences, Eastern University, Vantharumoolai, Chenkalady, Sri Lanka