



## Impacts of Covid 19 Pandemic on The Functional and Structural Mechanism of Sri Lanka Police Service During the Lockdown Period (With Reference to Western Province Sri Lanka)

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### Abstract

Covid 19 pandemic raises a unique set of challenges for police services worldwide. Extraordinary functions and health risks caused by Covid 19 pandemic stressed the policing structure in Sri Lanka. The aim of this study was to investigate challenges faced by police services during the Covid 19 pandemic. This study used the Mixed method design to interpret the research problem Did Covid 19 impact on functional and structural policing process in Sri Lanka? 16 police stations from the Western province were selected for this study using stratified sampling as a representation of all police divisions and 64 police officers were entitled to the sample using the simple random sampling technique. 10 Focused group discussions, questionnaires presented for 64 police officers and 20 interviews were utilized to gather data. and qualitative and quantitative mixed analytical tools were applied to data analysis. Quantitative data analyzed using descriptive statistics and qualitative data analyzed through content analysis. The study found out that intra organizational challenges faced by police officers as lack of physical resources and human resources, increasing the demand for policing services by 20% during the pandemic as well as increasing pandemic specific crimes such as illegal production and consumption of local liquor, violent crimes, and property crimes increased by 10% than the year 2019 in 2020 lockdown period. The study elaborated that intra organizational challenges faced by police officers as poor communication among the police stations, lack of coordination between security forces as police and military forces for mitigating pandemic preventive mechanisms. additionally mental stress and health issues associated with pandemic were influenced directly on policing functions. The study implies the application of organized pandemic planning module to police services based on crisis-specific measures, implementing a technological approach to policing functions, and increasing physical and human resources adequately are the significant recommendations presented for policy addressing.

**Keywords:** Challenges Covid19, Functional, Impact, Police, Structural

