

Abstract

This research focuses on the perceptions of youth and the role of Church in supporting them to access peaceful life in the society. Sri Lanka is a land where multi-religious and multi-ethnic group people live together with the majority being Buddhist and the minority other religions. The percentage of Christians is estimated at 8%. But the church has been passed in the difficult situation of religious conflicts, Youth group represent the future society to Sri Lanka. The role of the church is not only preaching Gospel but also to make peace among people of Sri Lanka, fighting for Justice, and harmony life. The researcher decided to work on this research because the personal experience encountered in getting education because of the Christian faith. It almost twenty years ago, but this problem still persists and many children as well as adults are suffering because of religious background. This research is focused on particularly on youth. The benefits of this will be reaped in our youth who are the bridges between the present and the future generations. The research used methods of gathering information from academic textbooks, journals, newspapers, internet, and other documentaries, as well as group discussion with youth and literature review. The main objective of the research is to build peace so that everyone can be included in social activities without looking to their religious background based on the work of Methodist Church of Sri Lanka. The result of research is to use ABCD paradigm, which is Acknowledge their needs, Be with them, Collaborate with them and Deepen the relationship with them. This paradigm will change the interreligious relation or interreligious cooperation. In other words, this will not be only about education challenges but also genuine interaction, relationships and partnerships. Differences in religion do not make us separate and different human beings from each other, we are with the same identity and dignity.

This is My Vision and hope.