

Journal of Insurance and Finance (JIF)

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EDITORIAL NOTE

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As the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Insurance and Finance (JIF), it is a great pleasure for me to launch the inaugural issue of the JIF. Although the Journal has a history of publishing a print version a couple of years earlier (Journal of Insurance), I am glad that as a Department of the Faculty of Business Studies & Finance, we could launch the Journal with parallel to the 20th Anniversary celebration of the Faculty of Business Studies & Finance (FBSF) of the Wayamba University of Sri Lanka (WUSL). As journals are an inevitable scientific communication channel for academic and research institutions, the JIF is a double-blind peer-reviewed open access bi-annual scholarly outlet published by the Department of Insurance and Valuation of WUSL. The Journal aims to provide a platform to publish new, high-quality and original research papers in Risk Management, Insurance, Management discipline in local and global contexts.

The JIF accommodates three types of papers: review papers, conceptual papers, and empirical papers that employ quantitative, qualitative and/or mixed methods approaches. Review papers provide a critical and concise yet comprehensive and contemporary review of a particular theme specific to Risk Management, Insurance, Finance, Economics, and Management. In contrast, conceptual and empirical papers are more common, demonstrate sound theoretical, practical, and/or methodological underpinning, and make a clear contribution to the Risk Management, Insurance, Finance, and Management disciplines.

The inaugural issue of JIF comprises six research papers that critically explore contemporary issues in insurance, finance, management, and economics in local and regional contexts. The first article investigates the impact of the economic, environmental, and social sustainability reporting framework on the financial performance of the banking and financial institutions in Sri Lanka. The second paper reports an empirical analysis carried out to explore whether the fiscal policy of Sri Lanka is sustainable or not and to determine the degree of fiscal sustainability in Sri Lanka using annual fiscal data from the year 1960 to 2018.

The third article investigates the impact of service quality on customer satisfaction, where the determinants of service quality were identified using the RSQS framework with some modifications. The research findings provide valuable insight into how supermarkets should improve service quality to enhance customer satisfaction ultimately.

The fourth article, titled “Financial Inclusion: An Integrative Review Of Its Antecedents And Consequences,” provided an integrative review of antecedents and consequences of financial inclusion and focused on a comprehensive review of work on financial inclusion. This paper contributes to the economics discipline by integrating a vast body of research on an important financial economics topic and offering broad avenues for further study.

The fifth article attempts to identify the impact of selected socioeconomic and institutional factors on the life insurance demand. Also, the study characterizes Sri Lankan life insurance market, compares it to emerging markets in the region, and constructs a multiple regression log-linear model to examine the effects of selected variables on demand for life insurance consumption by analyzing the annual data. The findings show that economic and institutional factors play a crucial role in determining the life insurance demand and provide practical policy implications for the development of life insurance markets in Sri Lanka.

The sixth article aims to identify the key drivers of the employment choice of persons with Functional Difficulties (FD) in Sri Lanka. The Binary Logistic Regression Model has been used for econometric modeling by using a sample of 10,470 persons with FD from the Sri Lanka Labour Force Survey in 2018. The study proposed occupation, education, self-employment, and workplace-related policies for empowering the abilities of those with FD in Sri Lanka.

On this momentous occasion, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to all the authors for their valuable contribution through research articles and the reviewers for their constructive comments that helped improve the papers' quality. In addition, the silent contribution of the editorial board and the academic staff of the Department of Insurance and Valuation effort in publishing a high-quality journal is appreciated.