

## **Identification of Factors for the Success of Independent Inventors, a Case of Sri Lanka**

S. W. S. B. Dasanayaka and H. G. G. K. Rangajeewa

Department of Management of Technology, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka;  
sarath.iba07@gmail.com

Sri Lanka has produced many independent inventors with high technical merits and most have won awards and recognition in prestigious local and international competitions and exhibitions. However, the country is still heavily dependent on imported technologies, and has a very low level of annual patent registration and low level of innovation culture. There is a great potential for improvement of the national innovative system to achieve higher level of commercial success for these emerging local inventors.

The scope of the present study was limited to the annual award winners of the competition conducted by the Sri Lanka Inventors Commission (SLIC), the “Presidential award” winners and “Dassis award” winners for the period 2004-2014, who have a greater potential to commercialize their inventions. The study has conducted a detailed survey on these inventors’ demography, inventive and commercialization aspects and supplemented it with a comprehensive literature review and interviews with key stakeholders in Science and Technology, and Research and Development in Sri Lanka.

The findings of this study suggest that around 75% of the local independent inventors have not achieved commercial success due to very many constraints. Overall, the support received from authorities and external parties were not at a satisfactory level. The study makes recommendations for inventors to use proper commercialization avenues and for policy makers and the SLIC to facilitate the commercialization process through the development of an appropriate commercialization mechanism taking into consideration many local factors to create a culture of innovation in each and every field in the country. The methodology employed and the policies recommended can be of use to other emerging countries as well.