



THE STORY OF TWO DEPARTMENTS: PHILOSOPHY AND PSYCHOLOGY

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ABSTRACT

Philosophy was among the subjects that were in the curriculum of the Faculty of Arts from the inception of the University in 1942. The present article attempts to capture a glimpse of the path of philosophy in the university during its seventy-five years of existence. To this end, observations on the general contribution of the Department as well as more specific contributions of some of its members are expected to illuminate the role of the Department.

Some papers in Psychology were included in the Philosophy, Sociology, and Education courses from early on, but psychology as a Special or General Degree course was not available in any university in Sri Lanka until 1990. Considering the need for such courses, the Philosophy Department (which was already functioning under the name of Department of Philosophy and Psychology) took measures to initiate fully fledged degree courses in Psychology, beginning in 1990/91 academic year. This article, for the first time, reports the birth pangs, the struggles, and the problems of this effort. It records the experience of installing a new course of study in a country, beginning with no fixed resources but successfully completing it, leading to the establishment, after twenty seven years, of a new Department of Psychology in the University of Peradeniya in 2017.

Keywords: philosophy, psychology, university of Peradeniya

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