



Abstract

The maritime transportation sector in Sri Lanka has grown due to the rapid development of the foreign trade industry. This industry fuels the need for maritime activities such as shipping, sea freight and port operation. This has in turn created ample business opportunities for entrepreneurs and investors interested in this sector. This thesis examines the relationship between Human Element and Modern Technology in Maritime Transportation. The main objective of this study is to discuss the existing problems between human element and modern technology in maritime transportation sector. An in-depth verification of existing documentation is carried out in order to avoid the errors committed in previous researches and avoid duplication of information from past researches. Questionnaires were distributed among 214 randomly selected employed seafarers from different parts of the world. The existing strategies that are recommended by previous researchers are evaluated on the basis of its implementability, viability and cost effectiveness. Graphical method and some statistical tools were used for the purpose of analysis. New technology in the maritime industry is to be welcome; however this also brings an element of change and risk. The expansion of the maritime industry also brings with it an element of change and risk and some serious issues, notably a lack of experienced and up-to-date qualified crew. The introduction of new technology on board ships is brought about by a number of different causes. Sometimes it is driven by new regulations, as in the case of Automatic Identification System (AIS). Increased technology on the bridge can in some instances result in a reduction of safe navigation. Some are not sensitive enough in this regards, perhaps because they do not feel confident in the face of technology they do not really understand and have not received any training. There is a global shortage of experienced seafarers. Maritime educational institutes in the world also face this shortage in lecturers and demonstrators. The demand is most certainly exceeding the supply at present.