

Lifestyle of Vedda's community and environmental change

Extended Abstract

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Background

Sri Lanka's Aborigines', or the Vedda's meaning "people of the forest" of Sri Lanka has a history much older than prince Vijaya's landing in 5th century BC and the origins of the Sinhala race. Archaeological evidence suggests that modern Vedda's Neolithic ancestors inhabited this island as far back as 10,000 BC with. Once roaming the Great Plains' of the north central region to the central mountains, today the remaining Vedda population are confined to Dambana which is close to Maduru Oya forest (Wanigasekara 2004). According to the Seligmans, Bintenne Veddas lived both in permanent villages of up to 40 families and in temporary settlements, near their cultivation plots, which contained Between 1 and 5 families of varying size (www.encyclopedia.com). Present vadda's people lifestyle changed than past years. Between 1977 and 1983 under the Accelerated Mahaweli Development Project and colonization schemes, approximately 51468 hectares were turned into a gigantic hydroelectric and irrigation project. These problems began with Maduru Oya irrigation project. Then they lost their natural settlements. Today they have to face many problems..

Objective

Vedda's community is a very important tribe in Sri Lanka. However, it seems that they are gradually deviate from their original cultural settings. This research hoped to study about Sri Lankan traditional people's change with environmental change and make recommendations to ensure their continuous existence, to study about the causes to reduce Vadda's population and explore about impacts to the environment by reducing Vadda's community.

Methodology

This research was conducted in Dambana village in Mahiyangana town area. Basically used primary and secondary data for this research. As a primary data, collection method field survey, interview, and questionnaires used to collect data. Filled 25 questionnaires from the villagers and interviewed the Vedda's people in the village. Then, used analyzed the data and used charts, tables to present data. Books, Newspapers, Magazines Existent reports, Internet were used as a secondary data collection method. Those were the houses to study Vedda's people lifestyle and environmental change.

Results

This study attempted to explore the relationship between the lifestyle of Vedda's community and environmental change. This study found many reasons to reduce their community. 18 households are living inside the Maduru Oya forest. 7 households are living outside of the Maduru Oya forest. Mainly, they lived from Chena cultivation. Still, 8% people live from hunting. In this study, Vedda's people community, people said many reasons to reduce their community. Because of these reasons it reduces rethe Vedda's tribe and changes their lifestyle. Better as environment also had changed than previous years.

Conclusion & Recommendations

They want to have their independent to live freely in the forest. As well as, limit the tourist people and establish manners to control the tourist people's bad behavior. Apply rules and regulations to who cheat the other people acting as a Veddas people. It is better to want create an awareness program for changing the Attitudes of young vedda's people. As well as carry out awareness programs to educate the general public about ancient people and the environment. Their lifestyle is changing. Subsequently, the creation of the Maduru Oya National Park deprived the Vedddhas their last hunting grounds.

Keywords: Vadda's people, Environmental Change, community

Reference

Wanigasekara, L.B.M. 2004, Vadda's people in Sri Lanka.

www.encyclopedia.com

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