

An analysis of recent trends in tourist attraction to Kelani Vihāraya in Sri Lanka

Ven. Irudeniya Nanda Thero
Department of History, University of Kelaniya,
Kelaniya, Sri Lanka
nanda91619@gmail.com

Abstract

Tourism is one of the most significant economic activities in the world. It is also one of the major foreign exchange generating sources in Sri Lanka. According to the chronicles of Sri Lanka, it is said that the Lord Buddha visited Kelaniya Vihāraya during his final visit to Sri Lanka. Its history thus goes back to before 500 BC. It is thus clear that the Kelaniya Viharaya is one of the most famous historical places. However, now a days, there is immense trend for tourists to Kālani Vihāraya for its annual Perahāra, more than its historical facts. Therefore the main objective of this research was to find out the factors that influenced to tourism attraction to Kālani Vihāraya. The question of this research was, “What are the recent trends in tourist attraction of Kelani Viharaya?” Primary data were collected by using a questionnaire. For this purpose questionnaires were given to 50 tourists with 15 questions to collect necessary information. As the nature of the study, the data were presented with percent values. Data presentation was done by using column charts and pie charts. The study revealed several factors that attracted tourists to visit this holy place. One is, it is one of the places which the Buddha visited. The most significant factor the questionnaire clearly confirms is, most of the tourists who visit the Vihāraya are from Buddhist countries such as Thailand, Burma, China and Japan. The study also revealed that the most of the foreigners who come to see this grand pageant are not Buddhists but just keen to watch it for their entertainment since such religious pageants are not to be seen in their countries. It is concluded that there are several factors that influence to tourism attraction to this holy place.

Keywords: *Durutu Perahāra, Kālani Vihāraya, Lord Buddha, tourist attraction,*