

THE RODIA WOMEN AND THE CHANGES OF THEIR ECONOMICAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE FAMILY IN THE PRESENCE OF MODERNIZATION PROCESS: WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO KURULUBEDDA VILLAGE

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Abstract

In the presence of modernization, the adoption of new lifestyles can be seen not only in the major society but also in the small groups of people. The main objective of this study was to identify how Rodia woman's contribution to the family economy has changed in the presence of modernization process. This is basically a qualitative study which was conducted in Kurulubedda village, a village belongs to Polpithigama divisional secretariat in Kurunegala district and mixed method was used. In the past Rodia women collected money by dancing and saying poems. Poems have been saying in praise of their legendary ancestress Rathnawalli. And also, brass plates have been spined by the Rodia women while a side drum called Bummendiya has been played by men in front of the public. Waving reed mats (Pan Padura), making cane goods, making rattan goods, cane cutting, engaging in paddy and Kurakkan cultivation related works such as planting sapling, harvesting and threshing paddy, cutting Kurakkan were among the occupations pursued by them. According to the research findings, Rodia women are employed in garment factories and private firms. Some are followed self-employment ventures such as business, retail shops. Some have migrated for abroad as housemaid. Being prepared carpets and tents supplied by the outsiders is also among the works they engage in. Crops such as lime, papaya and banana are cultivated in the home gardens and animal husbandry such as chickens, goats and cattle are also maintained. It can be concluded that the Rodia women is contributing to the family economy by engaging in various occupations in conjunction with the modern society which has been transformed with modernity away from the economic pattern which was traditionally inherited.

Keywords: *Bummendiya, Economic, modernization, Rathnawalli, Rodia*