

Pre-Industrial Local Enterprise, Their History and the Future Challenges- A Case Study

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Abstract

This study focuses on the history and modern trends of *Pan* (grass), *Laksha* (Lac) and *Kammal* (Smithy) industries. These pre-industrial enterprises are seemed to be limited into several areas in the country at present. Furthermore, rather than using traditional techniques, modern techniques are being used for the industries in this day and age. Aims of this case study were to identify current trends of aforesaid industries and the challenges that they are being faced presently. For these research aims, three different areas in the country, *Induruwa* (Galle district) for *Pan* (grass) industry, *Hapuvinda* (Matale district) for *Laksha* (Lac) industry and *Matugama Bopitiya* area and *Baddegama* for *Kammal* (Smithy) were selected as research fields. Research methodology was observational and conducted open interviews with 05 craftsmen from each industry. Causatives for rapid decline of these industries such as, Lack of raw materials, using substitute artificial materials, lack of labor force, poor pricing affects, Lack of interest of young generation towards ancient industries were main issues as identified in the fields. Moreover, there is no proper system to sell traditional products to tourism market. That kind of selling methods should be implemented by the government. In addition, academic opportunities should be created to the archaeology and fine arts students to study these traditional fields for the betterment and survival of the industries.

Keywords: *Kammal* (Smithy), *Pan* (grass), *Laksha* (Lac), craftsmanship, Modernisation

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