

An Investigation Based on Sannas and Seettu About Land Cases and Methods Used in Resolving Them during the Kingdom of Kandy

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Abstract

This research was carried out by examining the land cases and how they were solved during the Udarata kingdom. The research demonstrates the traditional strategies adopted in solving land cases and their effect during the aforesaid time. The research method used here is the historical research method. In comparison to the period of Rajarata Civilization, an increase in land cases could be seen during the Udarata period, and the main reason for this was to declare the ownership by preparing fake documents related to hereditary lands. A case in 1978 AD has given evidences how it raised as a case due to submitting fake documents about land quantities. According to King Sri Vikrama Rajasingha's Thaba Sannasasa, when Suriyakumara Vanasingha Mudaliar tried to change the boundaries of some village lands and capture them, that problem had been resolved by a panel of officials appointed by the House of the Place. Owing to the rapid development of this situation, the palace even considered confiscation of the property as a state crime and implemented a punishment system. In Punchirala's life Sannasa, it is mentioned that Waladure Punchirala swore in front of God for the fake statement of Etana claiming rights to the paddy land owned by Punchirala. As a result of the increase of land cases, the protection provided by law may have been delayed in solving the case and it is possible to see a way of securing Bukti protection through the five-fold oath system. In case of Securing the future of the land, conscience and faith in God have also been a reason to limit state expenses as well. Therefore, it can be concluded that the Kingdom of Kandy used five-fold oaths to solve land cases, thereby only doing justice.

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