



## Rethinking Societal Values Based on Ancient Technological Heritage for an Industrialized Sri Lankan Society

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### Abstract

Within the dominance of free market system, Sri Lankan society needs to look at ways of transforming societal values to suit the current industrial requirements. For this, inspiration can be found in Sri Lankan ancient technological heritage. The purpose of this research is to identify values of ancient technological societies, which can be embedded to present day Sri Lankan society. Further, the research focuses on identifying the effect of those values in creating an industry-based culture for sustainable development in Sri Lanka. For this study, norms connected with ancient technologies like irrigation, architecture, iron smelting, martial arts and ayurvedic medicine are analyzed. The primary data were collected through interviews and literature survey. The internet was used to collect secondary data. Considering irrigation heritage and technology used in wind powered iron smelting furnace at Samanalawewa it is evident that, ancient civilizations managed natural resources for their benefit. In architectural wonders like Ruwanweliseya attention was given to build long-lasting structures to withstand disasters like lightning using tools like "Vajra Chumbata". It is essential to embed these values of natural resource management to the society to utilize alternative energies available for Sri Lanka. Other than that, early ayurvedic practices valued ethics over economic benefits and women were given equal opportunities even in fields like martial arts. Even in the present day, professionals must focus on upholding such ethical values to create a healthy work environment. According to the above, it is obvious that modern day Sri Lankan society needs to embed values gained from ancient technological heritage like natural resource management, gender equality and professional ethics in order to achieve the desired social transformation towards an industrialized Sri Lanka.

**Keywords:** Ancient technology, Social transformation, Sri Lanka, Ethics

