



A Comparative Study of ‘Devadana’ Homogeneity in Haldummulla ‘Medawela’ Village and Medavachchiya ‘Kanadarawa’ Village

R.M.B.S.S. Rathnayake
buddhikasalinda980@gmail.com

Abstract

There are many customs, traditions, rituals and norms performed for God in Sri Lankan society. Especially among the sacrifices performed for the gods at the regional level, there may be two forms of sacrifice in two regions with the same name. Accordingly, a comparative study of the ‘Devadana’ offering in the ‘Medawela’ village of Haldummulla area and the ‘Devadana’ offering in the ‘Kanadarawa’ village of Medavachchi will be done here. What are the differences between Devadana in Medawela village and Devadana Puja in Kanadarawa village? is the primary problem of this study. Both field and literature study methods were used for this study. In the field study method, information was collected through interviews and telephone calls and the villages of Medawela and Kanadarawa were subjected to field study. Accordingly, people in each area were selected as a random sample based on their age and knowledge of customs and collection data. Primary and secondary sources were used in the literature review methodology. The purpose of this study is to educate the society about the differences in the offerings with the same name depending on the area and also to provide awareness about the faiths and beliefs of the area. Devadana, which is held especially in Kandarawa region, is held for Lord Pattini. The Devadana held in Medawela area is held for the God of Kataragama. The differences between these two sacrifices include the commitment, the purpose of giving the alms, the way of giving the alms, the food given, the dedication of the mats, the people who participate, the rituals performed, the time it is performed, the mantras for consecrating the offering, the manner of preparing the alms, etc. is special. Also, there are similarities in the Buddha Puja before the donation, the time of giving the donation, rituals of benefaction, Pirikara Pooja, etc. Thus, many similarities can be experienced in the Devadana Pooja, which exists under the same name. It can be concluded that even the rituals with the same name even been subject to various regional differences and those rituals have an unlimited relationship with human life.

Keywords: Area, Devadana, God, Pooja, Village

