



## A Comparative Study on the Heterogeneity in Ritual Performance by Fishermen in 'Dewundara' and 'Negombo' Areas

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### Abstract

The 'Dewundara' area of Matara district and the 'Negombo' area of Gampaha district can be identified as two main areas of Sri Lanka's fishing industry. Especially in these two areas, fishermen perform more or less rituals. According to that, how can there be a discrepancy between Dewundara and Negombo fishermen in performing rituals? is the problem of the study. Especially for this study, field study method and literature study method were used. Accordingly, in the field observations, Dewundara area and Negombo area were subjected to study. Data collection was done through participant observations, interviews and random sampling from both areas. During data collection, interviews were conducted and to select them, the time spent in the fishing profession was based on the factors of being multi day fishermen and residing in the relevant area. In the methodology of literature study, primary, secondary and electronic sources were consulted. The main objectives of this study are to point out the difference in rituals in different areas, to identify the religious attitudes of fishermen in different areas, and to identify the reasons that affect the increase or decrease in fishing rituals from area to area. Thus, it was confirmed that Dewundara fishermen perform more religious rituals than Negombo fishermen. Especially the religious background of the fishermen in the two areas has directly affected to this situation. The majority of fishermen in Dewundara are Buddhists and the majority of fishermen in Negombo are Roman Catholics. Especially Buddhists perform more rituals and Catholics do not perform such rituals. Further, the geographical locations of the two areas, urbanization, technology, development of transport and road systems, religious impact of the area and differences in people's attitudes also have influenced the increase or decrease in the rituals of these two areas. Thus, it could be concluded that fishermen in Negombo area have been freed from traditional conservative ideas with the globalization and Dewundara fishermen also have started to reach that level. Thus, it was possible to identify how the more or less existing rituals in these two regions were created. Accordingly, it can be further concluded that there is a clear difference in the rituals performed by the fishermen in these two areas and it is due to the aforementioned factors.

**Keywords:** Dewandara, Field, Fishermen, Negombo, Rituals