



## An Investigation of the Future of Heritage in the Face of Crises Between Parties Involved in the Management of Cultural Heritage

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### Abstract

Sri Lanka is a state that shows a wide spread of archaeological heritage and the monuments and temples can be identified all over the island. Most of those archaeological heritages are those with religious values created during the historical period. Some practical and theoretical problems that arise in the process of excavation and conservation of these archaeological heritages can be identified. In this research, the nature of the problems and the background of the crisis between the groups involved in the management of cultural heritage in this country will be studied. Here the objectives are to propose solutions for the theoretical and practical problems created between the clergy and the people connected to it through an academic approach and a heritage management approach. Case studies, field studies, and interviews were used as research methods. The cultural heritages of this country are archaeologically important and the associated social and religious values can also be identified. In the aggravation of this crisis, it can be seen that the corporate officers take them as archeological contexts and preserve them and religious leaders only highlight their religious values. The creation of this crisis between institutions such as the Department of Archaeology, the Central Cultural Fund, and religious corporations involved in this with an academic approach could be identified in the past period. The seriousness of the problems related to heritage management was revealed in the face of the situations that arose about places such as Kuragala, Mihintale, Dambulla, and Daliwala Kotavehera with such archaeological and religious values, and for that the lack of understanding of cultural heritage, extreme political objectives and power, and religious cultural issues. And it was identified that the improper activities of the responsible parties were the cause. For this, a legal system with formal discourses, awareness, and a practical program should be prepared and a regulation of cultural heritage should be made. The result of these crises is the demise of cultural heritage, which can be described as a national crime. To solve this problem, it is necessary to implement a flexible heritage management plan that is acceptable to both parties.

**Keywords:** Cultural heritage, Archaeology, Heritage management, Crises, Mediators

