



A Study on Criminal Activities Against Archaeological Property (With Reference To 2014-2017)

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Abstract

Crimes against property are distinct from other types of crimes. Crimes committed against properties with Archaeological value can be expressly mentioned. An object listed in the Antiquities Ordinance and any property, whether movable or immovable, older than 100 years can be classified as archaeological properties. In Sri Lanka, crimes against archaeological property are currently steadily rising. The problem of this research was to determine the nature of crimes committed against archaeological property. The purpose of this research was to identify the nature of crime against archaeological property and to make recommendations for its control and prevention. Out of 706 crime cases reported to the Department of Archaeology between 2014 and 2017, 106 were randomly selected for this study. According to this study, crimes against archaeological property include illegal excavation, illegal smuggling, theft, and destruction of antiquities. Illegal excavations are the most basic type of crime against archaeological properties. As a fact highlighted here, it was revealed that there is an indirect connection of people in high positions of the society to the occurrence of many crimes of this nature. As suggestions to prevent these crimes, the village's voluntary organizations will focus on protecting the village's archaeological property at the local level. And, organizing a series of grassroots workshops and seminars to educate the public about the value of archaeological property and how to protect it. As well as, the subjects related to history of schools should be streamlined, and a course called Antiquities Management should be introduced. School cadets and scout teams should be deployed to protect the archaeological property in the school premises.

Keywords: Crime, Property crimes, Antiquates, Antiquities ordinance

