

A REVIEW ON SRI LANKAN INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE FOR TACKLING ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

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Knowledge is facts, information, and skills acquired through experience or education; the theoretical or practical understanding of a subject. Indigenous knowledge is a unique knowledge confined to a particular culture or society. The knowledge possessed by the ancients in various fields in Sri Lanka has at times been astonishing. In all of these areas, the visible and invisible ruins bear witnesses to the fact that the ancients carried out their activities while minimizing the damage and maintain sound to the natural environment that have lived in harmony with the environment. Their knowledge of the environment, in fields of agriculture, irrigation, architecture, medicine, as well as in day today life, beliefs and convictions are far superior. The literature survey was conducted to identify the use of indigenous knowledge to tackle the environmental issues. They had created administrative system and all decisions related to agriculture were collectively taken by the community under leadership of village chief. Eco-friendly crop protection measures, performing Kems, ritual and use of plants or plant extracts (botanicals) were practiced. Kem method such as Irima Pideema and Alu Saaththuwa to control leaf eating caterpillars in paddy fields are used as biological pest management method. There has tank cascade System (TCS) is still functioning in dry zone is connecting small tanks to large reservoirs while recycling and reuse of water through a network of small to large scale tanks. Even today, this indigenous knowledge is still exist some part of society. Locals are used pest control methods such as Kems. Sri Lanka has been facing a catastrophic environmental threat since the 20th century with the Green Revolution and industrialization have caused a number of environmental Crisis in Sri Lanka. Although indigenous knowledge can be used to solve these problems. But there is a need for an adequate study of the use of this indigenous knowledge because environmental conditions and the nature of the problems has changed comparing to the past. As a result of the review, knowledge gaps in this field can also be fact that this valuable knowledge was not recorded or digitalized before it was lost in previous generations. Due to the recent social changes in Sri Lanka, there is no proper transfer of indigenous knowledge to the next generation. Therefore, Sri Lanka has not yet focused on adopting a proper methodology for the exchange of that knowledge and its use in Education field. The colonial education system replaced the practical everyday life aspects of indigenous knowledge and ways of learning with Western ideas of theoretical knowledge and academic ways of learning. Today, there is a grave risk that much indigenous knowledge is being lost and, along with it, valuable knowledge about ways of living sustainably both ecologically and socially. The research is recommended that suitable method has to apply for passing the indigenous knowledge of ancient society to future generations.

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