

AN INVESTIGATIVE STUDY ON HUMAN CHARACTER WEAKNESSES PORTRAYED IN SRI LANKAN KOLAM DRAMAS

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In this study, human character flaws that are shown in Sri Lankan kolam operas are investigated. The Research Problem in this study is how making fun of the character flaws shown in Sri Lankan kolam dramas will affect the development of a just and moral society. The main objectives of this research is to examine the character flaws that ancient Kolam theatre characters portray. The study approach was qualitative research, and the main findings focused on the co-variations between the bowl type character features in a few chosen Kolam dramas and everyday human behaviors. The data thus obtained were examined comparatively and analytically and conclusions were reached. In the study, Kolam dramas belonging to Galle, Matara and Kalutara districts were selected as the research limit and special attention was paid to royal characters and conceptual characters contained in those Kolam dramas. According to the reference of the police kolam in the Kolam play, 'Manisun Dutukalata-Sarasin Balai Vatapita-Sandu Saruval Kota-Polis Sivdena A Sabayata', the prejudiced character displayed by the police officers in front of the common people has been humorously highlighted. This has given some blow to the contemporary and current public service and thus the audience has received some support in shaping their official character. In the Arachchi Kolam Character weaknesses are highlighted in the way the helpless are oppressed by those in the social hierarchy. Heva Kolam's also shows the monopoly in the administration and how the people are oppressed by it. According to all these facts, it is clear that the Sri Lankan Kolam drama is not only for entertainment and comedy but also for social reformation. It can be concluded that Kolam drama can be used as a current social reforming art form through the ironic presentation of individual character weaknesses.

Keywords: Kolam, Drama, Society, Arachchi Kolam, Weaknesses

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