

# **The Research Study of Social Cultural Ecological Management System of the Irrigation Systems and Rituals: A Case Study from North Central Province, Sri Lanka**

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## **1. Introduction**

This study explores the intricate relationship between Irrigation systems and Rituals in the North Central Province of Sri Lanka. It examines decision-making and Social Cultural organization in Irrigation system and Rituals among the people in the Tank village. Rituals hold religious significance and serve as a framework for managing water resources and fostering community Cohesion. The paper begins with a discussion on the cultural anthropological understanding of rituals, drawing on the works of Durkheim, Leach, and Boocock. It then delves into specific rituals practised by communities in the village, including the worship of deities like, Ayyanayaka (AYYANA) Pullear (Gannesh) Sadun kumara, Minneri (Mahasen) associated with the Mutti Mangallaya, Hurulu Mangallaya as an annual agricultural festival cycle. These rituals, often held under sacred trees (Panhinda) near village tanks (WAVA), involve offerings and prayers for a bountiful supply of fresh harvest.

## **2. Research Methodology**

This research utilizes a comprehensive approach drawing on both primary and secondary sources, which were systematically collected through extensive library use. Methodologically, participant observation and interviews with Village communities were integral to data collection. A qualitative research approach was utilized, specifically employing human species data analysis techniques.

It examines how water festivals create shared experiences, transmit indigenous knowledge across generations, and promote cooperation, social communication, and a connection with nature.

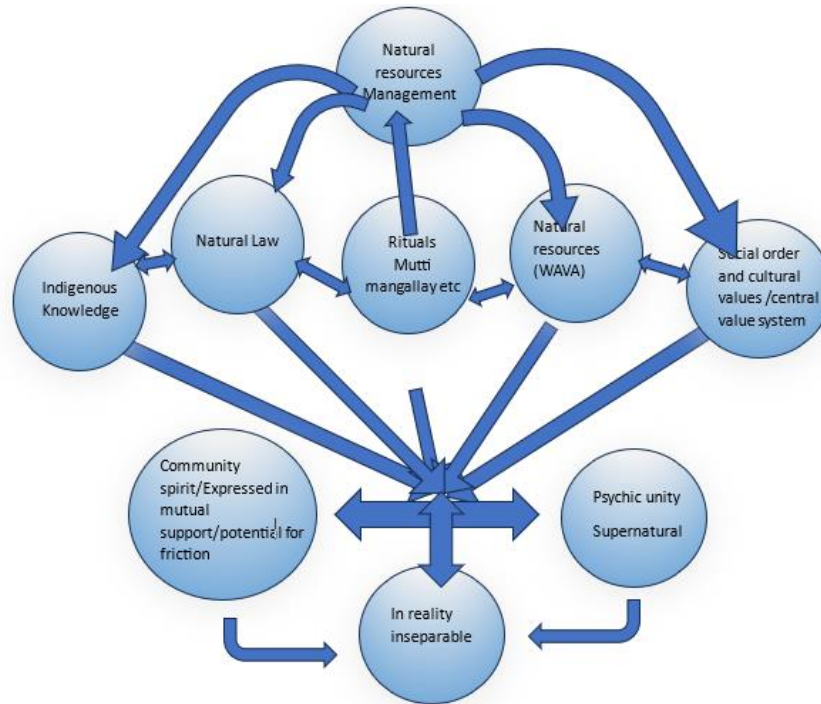
## **3. Result and Discussion**

The findings highlight the Rituals festivals in shaping irrigation communities decision-making processes and organizational structures. These practices foster strong social networks built on shared values, traditions, and customs. The Nagatambiran Dewalaya case study exemplifies how religious centers play a crucial role in maintaining social cultural ecological management order and responsible resource management.

This research study consists of emphasizing these rituals' ethical and moral dimensions. They are not only merely religious practices but are deeply intertwined with the biological and psychological sustainability of water resources and the well-being of village society. Importantly, these rituals act as a time and resources management tool, marking the commencement of cultivation cycles and facilitating coordinated agricultural activities. Ritual activities are present in all areas of social and cultural life and are key means of resolving the problems encountered by individuals and groups in both sacred and profane aspects of social existence.

It appears to be a practice with ritual activities within the Village people to tie three-coin knots in a piece of cloth every tank bound to one tree is spared from the general clearing to serve for the worship of Ayyana Deviyo.

Figure1: The Traditional Irrigation Systems and Social Cultural Ecological Management System



#### 4. Conclusion

Irrigation rituals strengthen social, cultural, and ecological management systems in North Central Province. According to Radcliff-Brown, functional explanations of certain ritual institutions show that their rites are expressed symbolically and help to sustain certain social attitudes and values conducive to the smooth functioning of community life.

#### 5. Keywords

Rituals, Irrigation Management system, Paddy Cultivation, Community Organization, Time Management, cultural activities.

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