



HOW TO PRESERVE INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE IN SRI LANKA: A STUDY

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Indigenous knowledge is one's own knowledge and heritage which belongs to one regional people or one country. It is called local knowledge, folk knowledge, and traditional wisdom. This knowledge is generated and transmitted by society. It is not legitimized, scientific and not written. Indigenous knowledge is included in agriculture, rituals, medicine, education, architecture, irrigation, witchcraft and folklore in Sri Lanka. Indigenous knowledge is passed generation to generation. Sri Lanka's local knowledge has been transferred time to time. This knowledge is being destroyed and challenged by the directions of misconceptions. What are they? They are legitimizing, lack of scientific basis, lack of immediate results, require more efforts, lack of economic value, not tallying with current methodology rural attribution and mysterious nature etc. Sri Lankans are underestimating their own heritage. Ex: goda veda and goda vedakama

We must make a decision on conservation and preservation of Sri Lankan cultural heritage with regard to indigenous knowledge. For example: Old farmers in Sri Lanka used "kema" to destroy the insects that damage to cultivation but today they use Pesticides for it. Therefore kidney diseases are spreading rapidly in Anuradapura and the related areas strongly. It is a tragedy of modern scientific development.

Sri Lankans can do conservation and preservation of ancient value of local knowledge and strategic sources. For the preservation of the indigenous knowledge, the following methods can be used. What are they? Documenting knowledge (example: witchcrafts and folklores), searching knowledge that has been eliminated by modern methods (Archaeological excavation), conducting tests on local knowledge (for example; using of kohoba spirits to destroy insects), conserving knowledge that comes through orally over generations using CD, DVD, recorders and books, digitalization of old Ola books. These may conserve our heritage and culture for future.

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