

The Attitudes of Villagers on New Zoo Development in *Pinnawala*

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Open zoo concept is an amateur concept for Sri Lanka. It makes a free environment for animals other than putting them in cages and display for visitors. *Pinnawala* zoo is the very first open zoo of the country which develops according to this method and also the second zoo of Sri Lanka. The main objective of this research has focused to identify attitudes of the vicinity villagers about the new zoo. The research was based on data collected by a field survey where randomly selected 50 villagers were interviewed with structured questioners. The 78% of the villagers had a positive attitude about the new zoo. Generating job opportunities, enhancement in living standards, revival of handicrafts and other self-employments are the reasons for the positive attitudes for the new zoo. Acquisition of lands and environmental pollution are the main negative views for the new zoo. Providing adequate compensations, managing carrying capacity, proper wastage management system and introducing community based management system are some suggestions to minimize the negative attitude of villagers.

Key words: *Open Zoo Concept, Pinnawala, community, suggestions*

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