

How to conserve *Væddā* in Sri Lanka?

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Væddās are the indigenous people of Sri Lanka. According to archaeological evidences, the modern *Væddā*'s Neolithic ancestors inhabited Sri Lanka. These indigenous communities are living human treasures. At present, they are facing various kinds of threats. The main objective of this research was to identify the threats that they face and to introduce a plan to protect them for future generations. The research problem of this study was the following: 'How to conserve *Væddā* people in Sri Lanka?' The methodology of this research was unstructured interviews and participative observations. The sample includes 25 *Væddās* and they were selected randomly at the site. The research indicates that *Væddā* people are willing to move with contemporary and modern community. They are trying to escape from their traditional way of life and create mutual relationships between major community groups. Creating a museum based on *Væddā* community, establishing a folk village for them and conserving folklore through audio and visual media are some recommendations to protect this living human treasures in Sri Lanka.

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