

## **The Nationality exposed through photography during the British period**

UG. Gunasekara<sup>1</sup>

Photography was born in France in 1826 but came into use in society after 1839. The first acceptable written evidence to the use of Photography in Ceylon was the first studio established in 1844.

The object of this study is to identify the application of Photography commercially and how it was established as a social usage. Further it explores the intensions of the usage of Photography and the extent of government influence on that. This study expects to clarify the communicational requirements based on the things happening in this country, environment, rural life, social activities and the nature of visible specialties and to explain what it exposed internationally.

I expect to pay special attention on twelve ways to elaborate on this.

1. The books which contains photographs on Ceylon
2. Periodicals of the government and other Institutions
3. Foreign newspapers
4. Encyclopedias
5. Tour guide publications
6. Sessional records and lecture notes
7. Souvenirs
8. Picture postcards
9. Documentary films
10. Stamps
11. Wrappers and containers
12. Personal and Institutional collections of photographs

At the end of this study the reflection of the social reality and the physical environment would be revealed to. We can also have a critical evaluation of the written interpretation and the photographs taken in the colonial era comparatively. The final outcome will be an overall evaluation of photography during the British rule.

**Key words:** Photography, Visual arts, Sri Lanka, Social life, British period

<sup>1</sup> Department of Fine Arts, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka