

## Referential study of changing attitudes on cattle in the Sinhalese culture

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According to the classifications of zoology cattle is an animal belongs to the *Ruminantia* sub order of *Artiodactyla* order. The scientific term for Sri Lankan tamed cattle is *Bos Indicus*. According to Taylor, "Culture is that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, laws, customs and any capabilities and habits acquired by man as a member of society."

The Sinhalese culture is the collection of physical and non physical and entities of Sinhalese from the advent of Vijaya up to date.

The objective of this research is to analyze the attitude changes towards cattle the Sinhala culture from the advent of Vijaya to present time.

A cattle is regarded to be the most important domestic animal in Sinhalese culture as the provider of milk and as a laborer of agriculture and transportation.

1. The Sinhala Version of cattle "gaya" is used to introduce and honor great people.
2. Cattle are classified into different castes.
3. The most charitable and generous treatment towards cattle.
4. Cow, calf and cow milk are considered to be favorable (good) omen.
5. Disgust of beef.

In general there was a favorable attitude towards cattle in the ancient past.

There are two major reasons to the change of attitude on cattle in Sinhala society.

1. The custom of consuming beef rapidly increased due to the advent of Westerners.
2. Modern Technological Development.

The established culture, centered on cattle collapsed due to the advent of modern machineries in the use of transportation and agriculture instead of cattle.

**Key words:** Cattle, Sinhalese culture, Domestic animal, Attitudes, Technological development

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