

Contribution of pirivena libraries to the education of Buddhist priests in Polonnaruwa district

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Polonnaruwa colony system was commenced by Honorable D.S.Senanayake in 1948. At that time the area was a dense forest with large trees and wild animals.

After the commencement of the colony system in the area, temples and Pirivenas were gradually established. Today there are 700 temples and 12 pirivenas. Every Pirivena has its own library.

The main objective of these libraries are to provide religious and social knowledge to the communities. However, it was found that this has not happened.

Books stored in these libraries are mainly restricted to academic disciplines and 25% of books represent school text books. There is a lack of books on general subjects in all these libraries. This is a one of drawbacks to achieve the expected goals.

The researcher proposes following to develop the libraries related to Pirivenas in Polonnaruwa District.

1. Introducing functional library building
2. Providing educational and library resources in all formats.
3. The tasks and duty of the Piriven secretary must be transferred to relevant heads of the Pirivenas and appoint a full time librarians
4. Promote the use libraries with the help of extension services
5. Useful strategic plans must be activated throughout the year

Key words: Colony system, Temple libraries, Pirivena libraries, Libraries-Sri Lanka, Polonnaruwa - Sri Lanka

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