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AVMK Ankumbura

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A Study on the Cultural Heritage of the Sri Lankan Rodi Society

Sri Lanka is rich in unexplored cultural heritage. The ‘untouched’ (or unexplored) culture reveals the usage, statements, knowledge and talents that come along with the cultural heritage, belonging to a certain person or a society. The aim of this study is to identify the ‘untouched’ cultural heritage of the Rodi society; to gather relevant information, to report in a systematic manner and recommend strategies for preservation for future. The Rodi people live in 3 provinces in Sri Lanka. Seven Rodi villages in Wayamba were selected, for the study by the, sampling method. Information was gathered by interviewing people, those who still preserve the untrodden culture. More data was gathered by participant observation. The knowledge related to areas such as social behaviour, rituals, ceremonies, nature and universe and familiar language, literature, performing art and traditional art, craft were identified and 13 subcategories which fall under them were also identified. The study revealed that with the passing away of the people who created the cultures, the unique cultural aspects too are subject to decay. The reason for the decay of cultural aspects was the deficiencies in utilizing, conveying and preserving. However, it is vital to collect and record data on Rodi culture and to use it in a way that could improve the culture and use it as preservation methods.

Keywords: Cultural Heritage, Indigenous Knowledge, Sri Lanka,