

## An Investigation of Sri Lankan Kings' Contribution to Physical Health of General Public

Pushpamali Perera ALN<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Sinhala & Modern Languages, Faculty of Language Studies, Buddhist and Pali University of Sri Lanka

### Abstract

Even though the history of Sri Lanka starts with king *Vijaya's* arrival, it has been proved by archaeological studies that there was a developed civilization in pre-historical period. *Ramayana*, *Mahabharathaya*, *Skandhapuranaya* and some very ancient Indian chronicles are the sources which can be taken into account in order to prove the developed pre-historical civilization in Sri Lanka. The *Mahavansa* says; when *Vijaya* was living with *Kuweni*, they heard sort of music with singing from a wedding which took place in *Siriwastupura*, Sri Lanka. Even this story enunciates that there was a civilized country before *Vijaya's* arrival. The folk low in Sri Lanka reveals that *Rawana* was a great king who succeeded both the earth and sky. It is said that he was an expert not only in arts but also in medical practice. These proven sources force us to accept that there was a developed civilization and good sanitary method as a prominent part of that civilization in pre-historical Sri Lanka. But it has become quite difficult to find wide range of information about the pre-historic period as the Sri Lankan written history starts with king *Vijaya's* arrival. Therefore, in this research, our attention goes to the efforts of other kings after king *Vijaya's* period who paid the attention for physical health of the general public through available inscriptions, chronicles and literary sources.

**Keywords:** Historical sources, physical health, inscriptions, *Mahawansa*

**e-mail:** pushpamaliperera@yahoo.com