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## Temporal Changes of Traditional Practices in Beach Seine Industry of Southern Sri Lanka

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Beach Seine identified as one of the ancient traditional fishing methods in Sri Lanka used to catch fish and small pelagic in the shallow sea water. Historically it was as a migratory capital asset from Madras in 1860s and became a well-established economic activity in the coastal region. This differs from other fishing techniques owing to one major trait as it consists of a unique series of traditional methods. Over the time, the typical traditions, customs, dress style and language have been changed due to several reasons. Since this has become an influential transformation, the focus of this study has set been up to investigate the temporal changes of the traditional beach seine industry in terms of customs and methods, technology and marketing system. Four research sites from Southern Province where traditional beach seine has been functioned seasonally were selected by using cluster sampling method. A mixed method of quantitative and qualitative was adopted for analyzing data collected through two techniques; PRA and Observation. The research results revealed that checking auspicious times, alms giving, providing grants to the god and conducting *thovil* rites have still been practicing abundantly. However, some traditional characteristics such as Seine language and *Amba Gee* no longer practiced more and some of them are with significant modifications. Moreover, the typical dressing pattern like wearing a hat made from *Idi* leaves, a piece of cloth and a shirt woven from raw materials during the working time has been disappeared. An important finding is that the level of change is totally differed among the selected research sites. The paper has widely discussed the way in which the traditions and customs have been changed over the time due to the socio-economic and environmental factors.

*Keywords: Beach Seine, Convention, Temporal Changes, Traditions, Sri Lanka*

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