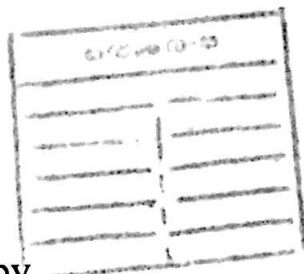


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A SOCIO-ANTHROPOLOGICAL STUDY ON THE DOMICILED CHINESE COMMUNITY IN SRI LANKA



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“The work described in this thesis was carried out by me under the supervision of Dr. Praneeth Abhayasundara, Senior Lecturer, Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Sri Jayewardenepura and Dr. Jayantha Jayasiri, Senior Lecturer, Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Sri Jayewardenepura and a report on this has not been submitted in whole or in part to any university or any other institution for another Degree/Diploma”.

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A Socio-anthropological study of the domiciled Chinese community in Sri Lanka

Abstract

Since time immemorial there has been a strong diplomatic relations between Sri Lanka and China. As the three decade long ethno-national conflict gained ground the West were trying to corner Sri Lanka in the International arena. During this catastrophic time it was China that fostered an international support with many other leading nations such as Russia and NAM members. As a new Cold War is being initiated in the South Asian region, mainly between the two sworn but seemingly diplomatic enemies - India and China - who are going to be the 'economic giants' in the new millennium, the role of China in Asia is being regularly discussed.

In such a context the age old Chinese influence cannot be overlooked. As no specific in depth sociological or anthropological ethnographic study has been conducted about this tiny minority it was of paramount importance to fill that gap in understanding. In such a context this study was conducted through an inter-generational approach to find out the type of cultural influence the Chinese had on mass Sri Lankan society. It was evident that two hundred to three hundred people cannot make a huge impact but the 'Chineseness' among the Sri Lankans; mainly among the Sinhalese Buddhists have been extremely strong.

All the available research tools were utilized to collect data to verify whether the cultural assimilation is made due to the domiciled ethnic Chinese in Sri Lanka or the mass Chinese culture. As the study progressed it was evident that the compression of the size of the Chinese community in Sri Lanka made them getting more and more assimilated to the mass Sri Lanka culture rather than making any specific impression on outside community. But the strong global influence of the mainland China has not lost its vigor throughout the ages. The domiciled Chinese community is in the process of losing their identity in the next few generations.

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Chapter 01

Introduction
