

Clan System and Social Solidarity: A study Based on Arayampathy Village

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Abstract

The search of sociologists relating to social stratification is an ancient practice. Social structure is the organized pattern of social relationships and social institutions that together compose society. From functionalists to Feminists, critical thinkers of different schools of thinkers have different notions of social stratification. However, in the midst of today's globalization and Modernizing trends, social stratification is seen to be functioning as a system within the world's social structure. It includes diverse categories such as Caste, Class, Ethnicity, Gender, and Age group. In the South- Eastern societies, Indian society seems to be providing an extensive place for caste related researches up to date. In the Sri Lankan environment, Southern Sri Lanka, Metropolitan cities such as Colombo, including Hill country regions, caste systems reflections differ, and other differences vary. This study investigates the clan system, existing particularly exclusive of the caste system, in the Eastern part of Sri Lanka. The study was carried out in Arayampathy village which located in the Manmunai West DS Division. During the data collection process, open-ended questionnaire was administered among the selected village people. In addition, Focused Group Interview was held. For the purpose of this study, 150 individuals were selected from different divisions of the village. In the selection of process, consideration was given to gender, age group, indigenous resident area. Systematic random sampling technique was applied to selecting sample. In addition, Focus Group interview was held with GNN, senior citizens, village headmen, Educationists, religious dignitaries, as well as youth communities. The study found that the clan system was providing a firm contribution to social control, social cohesion, and social solidarity. At the same time, it was observed that among the contemporary youngsters, a certain amount of confusion or loss of earnestness is emerging.

Key words: Social Stratification, Clan System, Globalization, Social Cohesion

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