

**CREATING AWARENESS FOR HERITAGE CONSERVATION IN THE
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Abstract

This research on “Creating Awareness for Heritage Conservation in the Jaffna Municipal Council area”, was carried out with the objectives, of marking out the heritage assets located at the Jaffna Municipal Council area, finding out the reasons for extinction of these heritage assets, evaluating the current management plan by considering difficulties faced in their maintenance and identifying strategies for their protection. Besides, the sustainability of heritage assets is important to keep up the aesthetic, cultural and traditional aspects of the Jaffna Municipal Council area. Thereby the importance of this research is to pay attention on the aspects which are relative to heritage assets and to protect them. We could view the problems related to Heritage sites found in the research area as follows The Heritage sites in the research are not being identified completely, Large number of Heritage sites being destroyed partially or fully by war activities, Impacts of plants and animals, Shortages of Archeological experts etc. are the problems for the Study. This Study had been undertaken by obtaining , data relevant to the distribution of heritage signs, classification of Heritage related assets, the impacts of Development projects on the Heritage signs of the Peninsula, Management activities, data on laws, data obtained through the methodologies of direct visits to study related areas, direct observations, and field study , the data regarding the History and importance of heritage, institutionalized activities and Laws, the data obtained through interviews with people and officers of the Departments of Archeology, Rda, Rdd, Mc and Buildings and data obtained from Reports of Archeological Department, Feasibility Study Reports, literature and Magazines, and by Organizing them and analyzing them through Tables and maps. On the basis of the conclusions obtained from this Study, it had been found a situation is prevailing where that 15 % of the Heritage related assets in the said area are without anyone to take care of them and the Heritage related assets which could reveal the traditional identity of the Tamil Nation are in a state of deterioration. It was observed that the reasons for this are, the climate, being affected by war activities, the in-efficiency of Institutional structure, uncontrolled Development, and occupation. The overall Study conclusions show that the identities of the nation are being hidden by inducing adverse impacts on the heritage related assets. Hence it is found that solutions should be identified for protecting the Heritage related assets so as to ensure their survival. While creating sustainable Development, this study will take into consideration the endangered Heritage signs within the town and protecting and handing over of the affected or destroyed signs to the future generation.

Keywords:-Heritage, Jaffna, Culture, Tamil, Development

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