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**SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION PATTERNS OF ANCIENT AND MODERN EDUCATION COMPLEXES IN SRI LANKA****K. K. D. C. Ranaweera<sup>1</sup>, D. M. L. Dissanayake<sup>2</sup>***<sup>1</sup>Department of Archaeology, <sup>2</sup>Department of Geography,  
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Historically, some of the most significant Buddhist education complexes include the Mahavihara, Abhayagiri, Jethawana, and Mirisaweti Vihara complexes all situated in the ancient city of Anuradhapura. Some of the more significant modern education complexes or higher education centres in Sri Lanka include Peradeniya, Colombo, Ruhuna and Sabaragamuwa universities.

The objective of this study is to identify spatial distribution patterns of Sri Lankan educational complexes both ancient and modern. It explains how the spatial distribution patterns in those complexes have become key factors for structural features. The data for this research comes from archaeological excavation as well as existing university buildings. A number of historical sources and research papers were used for information regarding ancient buildings used as education complexes while master plans, areal images and topographical maps were used to explain modern educational complexes.

The ancient building complexes consist of three areas, which were considered essential. This threefold division of structure can be found in all monastic complexes in historical Anuradhapura. The architecture of these complexes is a reflection of the spatial division. Modern universities have buildings for academic activities as well as for residential purposes. Shrines and sanctuaries are located in the central part of the complexes. The ecclesiastical buildings were built in the second circle area as well as in its periphery and residential buildings are situated at the periphery of these building complexes. This study affirms that the structure and form of historical educational complexes are different from the modern university complexes due to the changes in the environment and in the demography of Sri Lanka.