

TO REVIEW A DYING TRADITION OF *SESATH* CRAFT IN SRI LANKA

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Sesatha is a traditional craft in Sri Lanka and Sesatha work is very closely connected to lack work industry. It has a traditional and endurance history. This was used as a symbol of represent authority and as a shade for the priests, kings and the nobility. It was used as a decorative item and occasionally used for the earlier indented purposes too, at ceremonial functions weddings and even at funerals. This can be considered as a dying industry but it can be identified as a traditional craft that was continued from generation to generation, even though it is not continued as before. As the knowledge is not transferring to future generations; it will become a dilapidated craft in the craft milieu after three or four generations. It is needed to accompany for future generations to identify their tradition ethics, tools, equipment, decorations, manufacturing methods and market opportunities. This research tries to identify the key factors that can affect for drawback the sesath industry in Sri Lanka. Sesatha is a unique Sri Lankan artifacts favored by Sinhalese Buddhists as beautiful hand- made auspicious decorations. Still it continues in rural areas in Sri Lanka with a traditional identity specially in Unaweruwa in Mathale district. This research paper will be obliging to identify key factors affecting for endangered and upgrade sesath industry. This research followed the quantitative and qualitative research methods. The required data were collected through an extensive literature survey, case study use of different types of Sesathas and structured questionnaires given to the people who are engaging in sesath work in Unaweruwa to identify main key factors that are affecting to drawback the sesath craft. The result of the data analysis leads that there are five key factors affecting for decline the traditional sesath craft. The main findings of this research identified five key factors in the order of the importance as, lack of market opportunities, lack of man power, design and technology, people attitudes and lack of resources. These are the main key factors that should be considered to re-establish the dying tradition of sesath craft in Sri Lanka.