

SURVEY ON CLOSED TEMPLES IN ANURADHAPURA DISTRICT

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Introduction

In Sri Lanka, Buddhism is considered the major core of the culture. The Buddhist temple is the main cultural place in this Sri Lankan society based on Agriculture. Closing of Buddhist temple is a nightmare of Sri Lankan society. In present Buddhism in Sri Lanka is facing two main problems. One is disrobing of Bhiksus and other is closing of temples.

In this survey project, it is expected to gather data about closed Buddhist temples in past ten years (From 2004) & statistically interpret collected data. In addition to that, researchers have planned to produce suitable remedies for overcome this problem.

Method

To collect relevant data about closed Buddhist temples, it is required to contact relevant "Grama Niladari" division of each AGA divisions (There are 22 AGA divisions in Anuradhapura District). Therefore, it is necessary to travel each AGA division and collect data.

At the first level researchers prepared a form (fig.1) to collect data from relevant "Grama Niladari" division of each AGA divisions. After preparing these forms were distributed among all 22 AGA offices. Researchers mainly distributed forms via Buddhist affair officer of AGA office.

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Nachchadoowa	01
Nochchiyagama	00
Rajanganaya	00
Thambuttegama	01
Thalawa	00
Thirappane	02
Kekirawa	00
Palugaswewa	02
Ipalogama	01
Galnewa	02
Palagala	00
Total	36

Fig 02

In addition to that, researchers asked Buddhist affairs officer of district secretariat of Anuradhapura updated details about closed temples in the district. It is come up with under mentioned table. (fig.3)

Name of the Division	No of Closed Temples
Padaviya	00
Kebithigollewa	08
Mahavilachchiya	00
Medawachchiya	00
Nuwaragam Palatha Central	00
Rambewa	00
Kahatagasdigiliya	01
Horowpothana	00
Galenbindunuwewa	00
Mihinthale	00
Nuwaragam Palatha East	00
Nachchadoowa	02
Nochchiyagama	01

Rajanganaya	00
Thambuttegama	00
Thalawa	00
Thirappane	00
Kekirawa	00
Palugaswewa	00
Ipalogama	00
Galnewa	00
Palagala	00
Total	12

Fig 03

Discussion:

There are several deviations collected data of researchers & provided details of district secretariat of Anuradhapura. It is found that possible reasons for these deviations are;

1. District secretariat of Anuradhapura has not collected data in very basic level like "Grama Niladari" divisions
2. Some closed temples are now reopened.
3. Some Buddhist monks do not provide true data of closed temples that they aware.

Therefore it is very clear that there are many closed temples in Anuradhapura district especially in rural areas. It is no doubt that there are much more closed and abounded temples in all over Sri Lanka. Therefore researchers suggest following remedies for this problem.

1. Accommodate Buddhist monks for closed temples via Ministry of Buddha Sasana.
2. Establish a special institute and a fund to provide facilities for closed temples under Ministry of Buddha Sasana.
3. Provide special allowance and food essentials for a certain period of time to newly accommodate Buddhist monks.

Keywords: closing of temples, survey project, Anuradhapura District

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