Folk Worship and Beliefs: A Study of Based on Lunugala Area

S. Shanthini

Department of Languages, Faculty of Social Sciences and Languages Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka, Belihuloya, Sri Lanka *shanthinilakshini@gmail.com

The deities worshiped by the folk people are the folk deities. The deities are understood to be past with the biological aspects of the folk people. In that sense, the importance given to the worship of folk deities can be seen in the context of the life of the hill country people who are south Indian inhabitants. Numerous texts have been written on the local deities being worshiped in the area as a part of the Lunugala area. Many parts of the mountains as a whole have been taken as study sites. However, no separate study has been carried out so far on the texts which are an administrative division of Badulla District and the local deities are worshiped so this study is included. Thus, the study, it has been carried out with the aim of examining the folk deities and beliefs in the case in the Lunugala Area. The information and interviews obtained from the field study serve as primary sources for study. Texts on folk worship, Research, Articles, Magazines, and Internet References are secondary sources. Methods such as field research analysis, descriptive interviews have been in this study as well as, historical approaches and sociological approaches. All the people living in the Lunugala area are included in a category of workers irrespective of caste. Due to the fact that the majority of the people living in the area are Hindus, many folk temples have been set up in all the villages. The male and female deities worshiped by these people are classified as household deity, tribal deity, guardian deity, professional deity can be classified as a non-professional deity are various types of deity. On this basis, the worship of the gods in carried out by these people. Although all the folk deities are generally worshiped, it can be seen that these people have given more importance to the professional deities of the hill country. In the tradition of worship among these people, they build temples to the deities and perform festivals, as well as perform various rituals based on faith. Worship very according to the attributes of the deities and the occupations in which they are performed. So the faith that emerges through this worship is an energy that emerges among the people. Through this it was possible to know that beliefs differ in terms of deities and that there is a close connection between worship and belief. Therefore, it is possible to see from the field study that the beliefs and deities of the deities are outdated despite some chronological changes in the worship of the local deities by the people of Lunugala.

Keywords: Folk Worship, Lunugala Area, Rituals, Sacrifice