



AN INVESTIGATIVE STUDY ON WHETHER BUDDHISM IS DECLINING IN THE FACE OF THE POLITICAL FRAMEWORK OF MODERNIZATION AND GLOBALIZATION

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Buddhism, which took root in Sri Lanka with the Mahindagamana, is claimed to have a history of approximately three thousand years. At present, Theravada is recognized as the centre of pure Buddhism in Sri Lanka and since the days of Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa, the love of the society towards Buddhism is at a high level. Buddhism has played a crucial role in the development of Sri Lanka's cultural, social, and political structure in terms of art, and ethics. The Constitution of the country also recognizes Sri Lanka as a Theravada Buddhist state. How is Buddhism declining in the face of modernizing Sri Lankan culture, globalization, and political framework? What problems have arisen in Theravada Buddhism? The problem of this research is to identify the Buddhist religious practices and beliefs that have disappeared among the people recently and identify and document the challenges faced by Buddhism in this country and the factors affecting its decline. Qualitative research methodology was used in this study. There, as the primary source of data collection, interviews were followed through participatory observation and under the secondary source, books, newspapers, magazines, and the library were used. In this way the data has been collected and analysed. Thus, a number of new facts were discovered by studying the decline of Sri Lankan Buddhism. There are social, economic changes and modernization. It can be recognized that it affects the decline of Buddhism, and it can be recognized that globalization and westernization have a direct effect on this. The lack of flow of religion and culture from generation to generation, strong political influence on religion, and the interweaving of political conflicts with religion have led to the decline of Buddhism. Also, the cultural fusion that takes place due to the influence of globalization, the sangha's clinging to mythical ideologies and the monks' love for worldly pleasures have caused people in the society to distance themselves from Buddhism. In view of this situation, it can be concluded that there is a tendency for Buddhism to decline in this country.

Keywords: decline of Buddhism, globalization, cultural fusion, mythic ideologies, political influence

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INTRODUCTION

The people of the present world have been subjected to religious divisions for their spiritual existence and mental health through various solutions. Among them, Buddhism is a religion that revolves around the basic teachings of Siddhartha Gautama. Also, at present, Theravada is recognized as the centre of pure Buddhism in Sri Lanka and Buddhism has played a crucial role in building the cultural, social and political structure of Sri Lanka. It can be seen that many crisis situations of Theravada Buddhism in Sri Lankan culture are emerging in modern times.

purpose

The primary purpose of this research is to study the challenges faced by Sri Lankan Buddhism in the face of modernization, globalization, and political framework. In addition to this, the purpose of this study is to identify the religious practices and beliefs that have disappeared among the people in recent times and also to study the various misconceptions that have been placed on Buddhism.

Research problem

How is Theravada Buddhism declining in the face of modernizing Sri Lankan culture, globalization and political framework? What are the problematic situations in Theravada Buddhism? The problem of this research is to study.

LITERATURE REVIEW

"Sri Lanka and the Challenges of Modernity: Contemporary Issues in Religion, Culture, and Politics" edited by Joanna Pfaff Rodi explores the impact of modernization on Sri Lankan society, including the challenges. In the face of globalization, international political ideologies have reduced the prominence of religion in some states, and this can be studied through scholarly research.

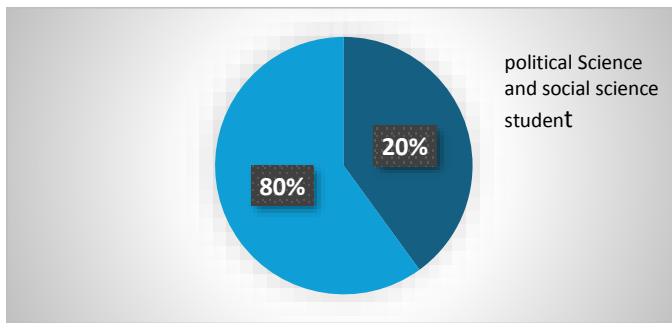
Nationalism and the Revival of Buddhism in Sri Lanka by Christopher John Baker This book explores the relationship between Sinhala nationalism and the revival of Buddhism in Sri Lanka. However, it also discusses the challenges that Buddhism has faced in recent times. He has indicated that there is a tendency to create and that there will be a decline in Buddhism.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

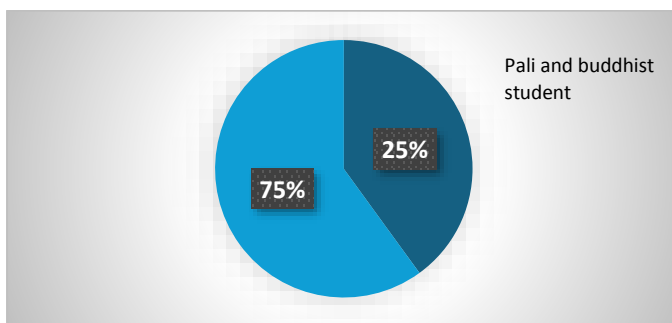
This study followed qualitative research methods. In the data collection, 10 students of Pali and Buddhist Department of Kelaniya University and 10 students of Sociology and Political Science of the Faculty of Social Sciences and 5 lecturers were followed through a sample of 25 people as the primary source through participant observation and the secondary source was books, newspapers, magazines etc. as well as library etc. were used.



RESULTS AND DISCUSSION



80 students of Political Science and Sociology said that Buddhism will be destroyed and 20 will not be destroyed.



75 Pali and Buddhist students said that Buddhism will be destroyed and 25 will not be destroyed

Unlike in the past, Sri Lanka is currently in a state of intense political conflict. Every aspect of the political crisis is affected educationally, economically and socially. The politicization of monks also led to the decline of Buddhism. In this way, a number of new facts about the decline of Sri Lankan Theravada Buddhism have been studied. Globalization has a direct impact on the decline of Buddhism through social, economic changes and modernization. The fact that the religion and culture did not flow from generation to generation and the politicization of the monk strongly affected Buddhism. Mixing with conflicting religions also strongly influenced the decline of Buddhism.

CONCLUSION

A cultural fusion due to the influence of globalization, Sangha's clinging to mythic ideologies and monks infatuated with worldly pleasures have led people in the society to distance themselves from Buddhism. In view of this situation, it can be concluded that there is a tendency for Buddhism to decline in this country. Also, it can be suggested that initiatives aimed at promoting inter-religious dialogues, preserving religious places and disciplined monastic discipline are necessary to solve the problems faced by Theravada Buddhism in Sri Lanka.