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### **The Impact of Colonization, Urbanization, and Trans-Cultural Diffusion on Vedda People's Music and Dance from the 17th to 21st Centuries in Sri Lanka**

Vedda people are considered the earliest inhabitants of the Island of Sri Lanka. Historical records from the 17th century disclose that the Vedda community has been subjected to rapid transformation during the past three centuries, most notably from the 20th century onwards. Originally living a hunters and gatherers lifestyle, Vedda's music and dance were integral to their life. Records from 1681 demonstrate their communal cultural activities such as rituals. As a result of colonization and geo-political dynamics, Veddas' lifestyle was transforming from hunting and gathering to farming. Under the circumstances of deforestation and urbanization they had to be relocated from their hunting lands to settle down in villages among the Sinhalese and Tamil communities. While intermarriages and cultural integration slowly took part in initiating this transformation within the Vedda culture, the involvement of modern-day technology such as the radio, television, internet, smartphone, and social media in their day-to-day life play a huge role in the processes affecting their hereditary musical and dance traditions.

#### **Bio**

As a prominent and popular musician of Sri Lankan pop culture, **Nadeeka Guruge** is a thriving independent researcher in the academic field and also a leading music composer in Sri Lanka who currently serves as the Head of the School of music at the SLTC Research University of Sri Lanka. He is a singer, songwriter, and guitarist, considered a trend setter in Sri Lankan music for the past two decades. His research interests include popular culture, media, nature of capital in pop music, music of minorities, and Sri Lankan music history. He has also published several books on Sri Lankan pop music culture and the music of the minorities. With a passion for music composition, he has composed music for many locally and internationally recognized films such as *The Forsaken Land*, which won Camera D'or in Cannes International film festival in 2005. He is a pioneer of Sri Lankan political folk song tradition and a political activist who has been collaborating with international political folk and traditional folk musicians since 1999. He has been collaborating with Bolivian, Kenyan, Swiss, and Norwegian folk musicians. Beyond performing and lecturing, Nadeeka Guruge is also a highlighted public personality as a judge on Sri Lankan pop music reality contests.