

Beauty cultural evidence found in *Sandesha Kavya*: Special reference to the *Kotte* Period

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Beauty is defined as a combination of shape, color or form that pleases the aesthetic senses. Beauty or good look is divided into two parts as internal beauty and external beauty. Healthy body parts and decorating those by using various things belong to external beauty. Maintaining good health is defined as internal beauty. This research is to find out how people kept beauty in *Kotte* era. The research is mainly based on literary sources. So, using *Paravi Sandesaya*, *Hansa Sandesaya*, *Gira Sandesaya*, *Salalihini Sandesaya* and *Kokila Sandesaya* as primary sources data is collected. And also secondary sources such as scholars' views and judgments are followed where necessary. Finally, data is analyzed with the help of qualitative methods. Sinhala literature was limited to Buddhist themes up to the *Gampola* Period. But this trend changed with the *Sandesha kavya*. *Kotte* is the golden era of *Sandesha* history. Five *Sandesha* have been written in this era. Having examined these books much beauty-cultural evidence can be found. Those can be categorized as follows:

Clothes	Jewelry	Perfume	Unguents
Benares Silk (<i>Kasīsaḷu</i>)	<i>Meuldama</i>	<i>Lathudiya</i>	<i>Kokkuma</i>
Silk cloth (<i>Patasaḷu</i>)	Jewelry used in foot (<i>Pādābharana</i>)	Perfume made from Sandal	Sandal
Fine cloth	Wrist-band		
Frill (<i>Neriyā</i>)	Pearl String		
	Flower decorations		

People have worn various clothes as mentioned above to make their appearance good. But most of those clothes have been worn by rich people. Women used to wear jewelry made by gold, gem, and pearl, in their lap, anklet, jingling, hands, neck. And also they have used a different kind of flower decoration, perfume and unguents in their body. Finally, in conclusion, it can be mentioned that people of *Kotte* era have kept their beauty in a standard way and have used different kinds of clothes, jewelry, perfume and unguents made by solid material such gem, pearl, diamond, gold, and silver as well as natural material to maintain their beauty.

Keywords: *Sandesha*, Beauty culture, Clothes, Jewelry, Perfume