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A Study on Human Life and Conflicts with Nature (with Special Reference to the Human-Elephant Conflict in Wayamba)

When studying the conflicts with nature relating to humans, the conflict between humans and elephants is a timely topic to be discussed. Accordingly, this was studied in several aspects. The impact of human beings on elephants and the impact of elephants on human beings were paid attention to. Topics such as the historical background of the human-elephant conflict and the media behaviour regarding the human-elephant conflict are discussed in this study. Several villages in the Kaluwaragaswewa GN division in the Puttlam district, Wayamba were selected. The data was gathered from the literature review, questionnaires, field visits and interviews with scholars. A content analysis is done using electronic and print media. The study revealed that the relationship between elephants and humans in the early ages was that of respect and closeness. The present conflict is caused by not realizing nature. The human-elephant conflict has today become a national issue which causes conflicts not only in nature, but also in the social, economic and political fields. The reason is not having interpersonal communication. The study finds that the reason for the human-elephant conflict is the change of thought and behavior of human beings.

Key words: Human-Elephant Conflict, Nature