An Analysis of Ancient Sri Lankan Female Clothing Details Depicted from Selected Sculptures from the Anuradhapura period to the end of the 19th Century

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Introduction

Dress is the symbol of our society. It reflects the mirror image of cultural and social inheritance in early Ceylon. Furthermore, dress is non-verbal literature of civilization. Since the past decades it convinced 'Dress as walking Sculpture' because it revealed the entire development process through social in addition to cultural transformation. Moreover Wickramasinghe (2003) explained that clothes are the symbols of cultural development of any civilization and it is a classification of the significant progress through human behaviours and attitudes. Female dress was formed by having an influence on environmental and physical conditions that were connected with the corpse of women in past scenario. Ancient Sri Lankan sculptures depict Sri Lankan attire of the ancient civilization as live object remains from past to present. Examination of historical sculptures should be beneficial to articulate earlier Ceylonese women's clothing patterns methodically, because those sculptures expressed facts of that period as well as that period's social or cultural legacy. Wickramasinghe (1935) mentioned when the public transformed their clothes, the artist or the sculptor altered the dress of their artefacts accordingly. The sculptures are the main source in this research has used. It is sparingly convenient to collect the details of past female clothing by using available female sculptures because of their details such as silhouette, style lines, textures and proportions.

Aims and Objectives

To examine historical Sri Lankan female clothing details and designs from particular sculptures from Anuradhapura era to end of 19th century.

Methodology

Sculptures should be the main evidence for the research rendering to research value. Many existing sculptures and museum collections of the past were the primary resources for the selected research study. The books, journals, magazines and electronic journals were the secondary resources have used. The qualitative method to analyse data was also used in order to gain the research value of the study. Further, analysis of above substances, through rationalization and synthesis to identify the designs and the concepts of ancient Ceylonese female's clothing styles.

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