



SEUARS - 2014

South Eastern University Arts Research Session on “Promoting
Research and Development in Social Sciences and Humanities”

December 30, 2014

Faculty of Arts and Culture, South Eastern University of Sri Lanka



SEUARS - 2014

Conference Secretariat
South Eastern University Arts Research Session 2014
Faculty of Arts and Culture
South Eastern University of Sri Lanka
University Park
Olivil # 32360
Seuars2014@gmail.com

Proceedings of Abstracts: SEUARS - 2014

Published by : Faculty of Arts and Culture
South Eastern University of Sri Lanka
University Park, Olivil#32360

Copy Right : Faculty of Arts and Culture
South Eastern University of Sri Lanka

Pages : (i-x + 43)

Layout : M. Riswan

Cover Designed : MHM. Rinos

Printed By : New Rich Offset, Akkaraipattu

ISBN : 978-955-627-059-4

Price : LKR 500.00



The Cultural Differences of the Muslims of Jaffna Mainland and Island Region - A Historical Perspective

Kirishnarajah, S*
Sivakumar, S**
Arunthavarajah, K***

The history of the Sri Lankan Muslims is ancient one. Since they considered themselves as the descendants of the Arabs, the migrated Muslims from the different parts of the world also accumulated with them in later part of their history. The early history of the Muslims in Sri Lanka is not clear. Because, the early history has been read with the mythical evidences from cried de-toil. Since there were some contradictions related to the early settlements of the Muslims in Jaffna, there are strong evidences that prove the settlement of Muslims in Jaffna mainland formed in 13th century, and Island region during the period of Dutch. Jaffna mainland and the Island region are the two nearest locations in the district of Jaffna. However the Muslims are scattered in these two regions widely till now. There are considerable differences that we can observe among the activities related to their culture. Since they all observe the faith of Islam, we can identify the differences among their day-to-day activities and cultural aspects. Most of the practices of the Muslims in Jaffna mainland are most common and similar to the practices of the other regions of Sri Lanka. But, the practices of the Muslims in the Island region of Jaffna have more variations with the Muslims of Jaffna mainland and as well as the other regions of Sri Lanka. These cultural differences are rooted in the basis of the Social Economical and life styles of the people of the two regions of Jaffna. This research mainly concentrates on exploring the individual identity and the differences of the Muslims of Jaffna mainland and Island region which is the scope of this present research. It incorporates the historical approach with the primary and secondary sources related to the main theme of the research. Interviews, questionnaires, participatory observation and discussions have been done for collecting primary data. The books, research articles, magazines and newspapers related to the history of the Muslims in Sri Lanka and Jaffna are utilized for collecting secondary data. This research may have significance. Because, it is the first attempt to find the differences in the cultural practices of the Muslims in Jaffna Mainland and Island region. This research will emphasize the diverse cultural groups who are living in different geographical region.

Key Words: Muslims of island, Jaffna Muslims, Cultural differences, identity

To whom correspondence should be addressed: arum.msu@gmail.com

*Professor, Department of History, University of Jaffna

** Department of History, University of Jaffna

*** Senior Lecturer, Department of History, University of Jaffna