



The Science behind the Art of Making the Gataberaya

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There are video documentaries that show the process of Sri Lankan traditional drum manufacturing but research documentaries are rare to find. Adopting the Social Impact Evaluation Framework which contains 6 elements, an empirical exploration was conducted at a drum workshop. The process of 'Gataberaya' making was video recorded to investigate the reasons for applying those methods observed and why those approaches are used in order to address the gap in scholarship. Using this framework, the researchers (1) describe and (2) profile the process of drum making, (3) identify the issues and reasons behind using such practices, project (4), and evaluate (5) the relevant factors: Sustainable-S; Cultural-C; Ethical-E; Therapeutic-T; Aesthetic-A and Scientific-S (SCETAS) by synthesizing the collected data. The findings of this case study are communicated as feedback (6) with stakeholders for the preservation of the intangible cultural heritage of the Sinhalese. It was found that with the preferences for contemporary global trends as a result of using modern technology and techniques, traditional values embedded into the process of drum-making would gradually deteriorate. In the near future, with the commercialization of musical instrument making, the use of artificial materials such as fiberglass shells, and screw-tensioned drum heads made with plastic will possibly replace timber and leather material. It is predicted that the authentic considerations (SCETAS) and the methods of traditional drum-making might eventually fade away as a result of modernization.