

A Study of the Drag-net Fishing (*Mā Dal*) Industry and the Village Lifestyle in Sri Lanka

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The fishing industry is one of the most important industries in Sri Lanka which is classified into two categories, Traditional and Industrial Fishing. Drag-net fishing is considered to be a very important process of Traditional Fishing.

This is a qualitative research and with judgment sampling, the research area is focused on the *Beruwala* area in the *Kalutara* district. Informal interviews, observation and analysis using audio video devices were the main techniques used here.

There are a few goals of this research. Understanding the nature of the fishing industry based lifestyle and acquiring a further knowledge about the customs and traditions of fishermen is one such goal. Another goal is to get information on the rather unique songs and singing styles of the songs sung by the fishermen of the Drag-net industry.

Drag-net fishing which operates in one season only, requires a special coastal and sea area. *Dal Ampanna*, *Paruwa* and the *Oruwa* are traditionally used here. Drag-net fishing is a group activity involving 25-30 people.

Presently the Drag-net fishing industry faces a considerable number of issues such as the lack of equipment, interest and support as well as illegal fishing methods. The methods to avoid such issues are also discussed here.

Keywords: Fishing industry, Drag-net fishing, Village life, Traditional vocation, Folklore.

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