

The Safety of Ancient Human Skeletal Remains of Sri Lanka

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Osteoarchaeology is an inter discipline which helps archaeologists in study of human skeleton findings. The evolutionary lineage, dietary patterns, nutrition conditions, settlement patterns, mortuary practice as well as ancient diseases comprehends through the human bone remains. The excavation history of Sri Lankan passed back to 20th century. The ancient human skeletal remains are very important in Sri Lankan Archaeology. There were lot of skeletal remains unearthed from Sri Lanka comparing to Indian subcontinent including the oldest evidence of modern human in South Asia. Owing to that those specimens must conserve. Therefore the main objective of this study is to propose a plan to conserve human bone findings of Sri Lanka. The subjected site were the Nilgala, Beligalge, Jahinge Angilia, Balahapuva, Ravanaella, Batadobalena, Bellanbendi pellessa, Belilena, Fa Hien-Lena, Pomparippu, Alahana Piriwena, Pallemalala, Mini- athiliya, Godawaya and Kuragala. Skeletal remains were found either as small fragments or full skeletons. It was identify that some of the materials are housed in Sri Lanka, whereas some had been sent to overseas, and also it was found some materials were missing. The materials from Fa Hien-lena, Gadawaya and Kuragala had been sent overseas. Among the materials housed in Sri Lanka, properly labeled materials were found in Alahana Pirivena, Sigiriya Pothana, Cobra Hood cave and Mini-athiliya. It was noted that problems in labeling of the materials from Pallemalala and Bellanbandi Pelessa. Good storage conditions could be identified in Cobrahood cave, Alahana Pirivena Sigiriya Pothana, Bellanbendi Pelessa and Mini-athiliya whereas Pallemalala were mixed. These skeletal remains should protect as well as available for the researchers for the betterment of Archaeology in Sri Lanka.

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