

# A STUDY OF INSCRIPTIONS REVEALING HOW FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND SECURITY IN THE ANURADHAPURA ERA CONTRIBUTED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AT THAT TIME

Madhushani W.A.D.V.

Department of Humanities, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

vasana.madushani@gmail.com

## Abstract

The concept of sustainable development can be summarized as carrying out development in a way that meets the needs of the present generation as well as the needs of future generations. The objective of this research was to understand through inscriptions how food self-sufficiency and security during the Anuradhapura period had contributed to the sustainable development of the state. This leads to the hypothesis that food self-sufficiency and security influenced the sustainable development of the state in that era. This research was based using primary and secondary sources. In the Thonigala inscription of King Sirimevan, crop rotation is mentioned as “Udi ica bayali dasa amana ica Me de hakada dasa”. Grains such as green gram were used as a secondary crop with paddy cultivation. These crops were stored securely in granaries and sometimes distributed at events such as the Ariyawansa festival. King Dappula IV's Kondawattawan Tam's letter reads, "sā lasa we siu waradat dada pas kalandak ganna kot isa”, which states the fines for not planting the crops properly at the right season. King Mahinda IV of the late Anuradhapura IV Vessagiriya No. 2 inscription of the late Anuradhapura period states that “dāna - vavākin diya tabā sihin -āti vapura (nu) misā muṅg – no vapu- ranu isā”, which describes the appropriate soil, water and weather for cultivation. Food self-sufficiency and security was also described in the inscription near the Anuradhapura Galoruwa. The three elements of sustainable development, namely economic, social and environmental sectors, have been achieved by the people of the Anuradhapura era through proper management of food self-sufficiency and security. These facts show that despite the various political upheavals of the Anuradhapura period, it can be concluded that the rulers took various measures to achieve food self-sufficiency and security for the sustainable development of the state.

**Keywords:** *Food, Grain, Inscription, Management, Sustainable Development*