

**IS THE ANCIENT BUDDHIST ECO-FRIENDLY TECHNOLOGY  
USED IN ARCHEOLOGICAL LANDSCAPING IN  
“MAHAMEWNA PARK”(ANURADAHAPURA) A CHALLENGE  
TO MODERN TECHNOLOGY?**

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**Introduction**

It was king Pandukabaya who made Anuradhapura a well structuralcity for the first time of the Sri Lankan history . In the period of king Mutashiva “Mahamegawana” was considered as the royal park. As a great cloud, gathering at an unwonted season , poured forth rain ; therefore they called the garden of “Mahamegawanya”. “Mahameghavana” means ' grove of the great cloud'. Similarly called as “Mahamewnauyana” or park . King Thissa( Dewanampiyathissa after the second ordination of kingship according to Mauryatradion by ArahatMahindathero) son of king Mutashiva had given this royal park to Mahasangha as the first donation of park in Sri lankan Buddhist history. Then “Mahavihara” first Buddhist monastery was built in “Mahamewnauyana” . Later “Mahavihara” and “Mahamewna” park was considered as same.

It was ArahatMahindaThero who marked the boundaries of Mahavihara with king Dewanampiyathissa. “Kalaprasada” first Buddhist construction was made in Mahavihara.Using the royal tusker and silver plough, king marked boundaries of ofmahamewna garden.

In the latter part of Anuradhapura period it spliced into Abayagiriya and Jethawanaya due to the interference of "Mahayana Tradition". But whole three sects of Buddhist monasteries were imaged in the same park. So both “Theravada and Mahayana” traditions can be seen in this Buddhist archeological site. But most important thing is the Eco–friendly archeological landscapes techniques used in this park. There are many archeological constructions like temples “Vihara”, pagodas “Sthupa” large

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and small , other construction of landscaping, guard stone “Mura gala”, moonstone “Sadakadapahana”, “Korawak gala” etc. Different types of ponds especially twin pond “Kuttanpokuna”, elephant pond “Athpokuna”, can be considered as extra ordinary creations of ancient hydrolic engineers, underground water supply systems, special driange systems , exess water removing systems, “Chantagara” steam bath system, statues like Samadhi Buddha statues are used inlandscaping with deep ideology. Archeological and landscaping techniques used in “Abayagiri” temple complex are extraordinary and environmental friendly.

### **Objectives**

The main objective of this study is to identify the special Buddhist Eco –friendly archeological landscapes techniques used in “Mahamewna” park and to show their significant. It is expected to examine to which extent they differ from modern techniques. Values of ancient Eco- friendly techniques and Are they still challenge to the modern era. Secondary objective is to highlight the imporatance of Eco- friendly technology used in this ancient park for present sustainable development concepts.

### **Methodology**

Primary sources and secondary sources were used for the research studies (written sources). And also observation was used as a method of collecting data. Field visit to the “Mahamewnapark” also was done.

### **Research problem**

To which extent the ancient Buddhist Eco-friendly technology used in archeological landscaping in “MAHAMEWNA park” (ANURADAHAPURA) challenges to the modern technology?

### **Discussion**

Here, the archeological and landscaping constructions in “Mahamewna” park classified into basic categorize. They are Stupas (pagodas) small and large , chapter houses ( lowamahapaya), Bodhigra ,

Chetiayagara, Padanagara , Asanagara, ponds (different categories), SannipathaShaala (meeting hall), ArogyaShaala (hospitals complex) , Mahapli Dana Shaala, statues, “Wahalkada”, “Sadakadapahana” ( moon stone) , “Muragala” ( guard stone ) , Korawakgala other important architectural constructions of the “Mahamewna” park, Gardening concept , concept of “Maluwa” “Welimaluwa, and SalapathalaMaluawa”. “Sakmanmaluwa” for meditation also can be seen.

It is expected to explain the ancient technology has been used for the above constructions and how it differs from the present technology. What is the importance of the Eco- friendly construction technology of ancient people? To which extent does it challenge the modern construction techniques? considering the ancient concept of the sustainable development. Based on Buddhist teachings how does the technology change to Eco-friendly nature? What was the impact? When man work co-operatively with nature? These the other fields which are to be investigated?

### **Findings and results**

An important Buddhist Eco- friendly technology has been used in this park and differs from the present constructional technology. There evidence that the concept of sustainable development has been used in ancient technology. Utilization of natural raw materials, constructions based on eco system and Ecology can be seen. Without usage of any kind of Slavery all the constructions were made out. Based on a specific objective, weather and climate, basic necessity and land space all the constructions are made by the ancient construction engineers.

### **Conclusion**

According to the analyze of the ancient Buddhist Eco - friendly archeological landscapes technology in “Mahamewna” park with the techniques of modern era, I was able to come to a conclusion that, archeological design of the constructions, engineering skills were used, especially water supply and drainage systems designed by ancient hydraulic engineers for ponds and water ways of this park is amazing. Water filtering methods are also extraordinary. Some of them are still a

mystery e.g. "elephant pond". Planting trees, environmental friendliness (eco-friendly) was in high percentage. All the constructions have been made using natural raw materials, so that the development is also in line with the concept of sustainable development. Even for large constructions, they have used same methods. So these constructions made on the basis of the Buddhist teachings, which is one of the fundamental characters in this park. All the constructions show us mundane and super mundane characteristics' according Buddhist teachings. So Buddhist archeological landscapes techniques used in "Mahamewna" park is a challenge for the modern technology, since modern people only pay attention to the (mundane goals only) luxury and comfort only, by working against the nature.

**Keywords :** ideology, ecology, hydrolic, super mundane, sustainable, raw materials, modern, slavery

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