

Role of the Saiva Paribalana Sabha in Religious Renaissance of Northern Sri Lanka in the 19th Century

Sanchika P¹, Arunthavarajah K²

^{1,2}Department of History, University of Jaffna
Sanchi2118@gmail.com

The advent of Europeans following the Portuguese and Dutch has an influence on Sri Lanka, especially in Saiva cultural sphere. Saivism has been oppressed since the Portuguese era more than Dutch rule, and even during British regime. However, during the British rule, the Missionaries who came to Northern Sri Lanka were engaged in promoting their religion through English education and destroying several Saiva institutions. Instead, they built churches in their places. Since the middle part of British era with the courage of several Saiva legends and the favorable organizations it emerges vigorously. At this juncture of Christian Missionary propaganda, the Saiva Paribalana Sabha was established, and the Saivitees strained their every nerve to cultivate saivism and rehabilitate it through various means and activities. Since it emerges a religious renaissance through the Saiva Paribalana Sabha, this study aims at studying its duties, challenges and its impact in enhancing the socio-cultural heritage of the people in the Northern part of Sri Lanka. The study will apply a historical approach along with interviews, discussions, reports and the contemporary studies on the particular subject.

Key words: *British, Saiva, Missionaries, Saiva Paribalana Sabha, Northern Sri Lanka*