

## **Extents and Restraints of Industrial Implications; Vernacular Pottery Practices of Sri Lanka**

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After losing the royal and elite patronage that prevailed during the mediaeval period, vernacular pottery production in Sri Lanka gradually developed as a commercial venture. This occurred as a result of the prevailing governments' attempt in absorbing potters into the country's economic mainstream. With the help of non-governmental organizations, many industrial applications were introduced to the potters to improve production. Most controversial of these is the adoption of iron moulds to produce practically and commercially viable vessel forms.

This study attempts to understand why industrialised practices were popular among some potters, while some totally abstain from it. Objective of this study is to identify issues that influence potters to adopt these practices and to see how different they are from those adopting traditional practices. In the process of adapting to these industrial implications, the extent it has affected the potters' economic stability, ethical issues and the product quality is looked into. The questions are treated via case study design. Data collection methods via selected samples involved semi-structured interviews, and opinion surveys.

Although from an external perspective, abandoning the long standing hand making tradition appear as a harmful outcome, viewing it internally reveal certain ethical and practical issues that justify the adoption of industrialised practices. Multiple factors are considered by potters prior to the adoption of a system to produce pots. These factors vary based on gender, age, household economies, attitudes and values. Expansion of the national economic sphere exposed potters to a wider market for which they cater via adoption of industrial applications. Although use of these practices has marred the quality of products, they have reasons for not attempting on improving it. It is also noteworthy that majority of potters still continue the traditional practices. Thus, many

factors yet remain to be considered before justifying potters' preference for industrial implications.

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