



**A STUDY ON MARGINALIZATION OF  
INDIGENOUS MINORITIES:  
EVIDENCE FROM VEDDA COMMUNITY IN  
SRI LANKA  
(WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO DAMBANA AND  
RATHUGALA)**

This dissertation is submitted as a partial fulfillment of the degree of  
Bachelor of Business Management in Hospitality, Tourism, and Events  
Management

August 2018

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UWU/EX/14/0282

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## ABSTRACT

Tourism is one of the massive industries contribute significantly to the global economy. Indigenous tourism has been identified as one of the promising sector in Sri Lankan tourism industry. This research study designed based on the concept indicator model reflecting three research objectives. The study strives to uncover whether the marginalization of *Vedda* community by enforced mean or voluntarily occurred. Qualitative research approach was entrusted through in depth interviews covering 18 personnel including both *Vedda* people and other stakeholders at Dambana and Rathugala areas. The study assesses the determinants of marginalizing areas in public life, is the *Vedda* Marginalized or not and the role of tourism in the *Vedda* life in the above context. Qualitative data collected were analyzed using thematic analysis. Findings of the study revealed that, social, economic and political aspect as the marginalization areas of the *Vedda* community by enforcing or voluntary means. Self-esteem and tourism dependence are determinants of the degree of marginalization where both enforced and voluntary means are in action the process of marginalization *Vedda* community. Consequently, the current study concluded that among the majority of selected participants among the *Vedda* community and stakeholders, the *Vedda* community has been marginalized mainly by voluntarily in Sri Lanka. Based on the in-depth data collected, it is identified that they are playing major role in the Sri Lankan tourism industry within their own socio-cultural framework. Finally, this study suggests the government and other authorities to pay more attention on the indigenous minority to promote the Sri Lankan tourism industry by taking necessary steps and actions while focusing on the preservation of their vanishing cultural values.

**Keywords:** Voluntarily Marginalization, Enforced means, *Vedda* Community, Stakeholders, Cultural and heritage tourism