

Gift giving

- In Sri Lanka gifts are usually given at special events of the life
- Flower wreath are given as a symbol of sympathy at funerals.
- At the time of receiving in the presence of the given.
- Hindus should not be given gifts made of leather.
- Gifts are generally not opened when received.

Special events of Life

Pregnancy

- During the pregnancy, when an expecting mother developed a craving for certain food it was called Dola Duka and special care was taken by family members of her own and others in their community to satisfy her craving as if it were their moral duty do so.
- Mother usually observed twice in one sitting in order to invoke blessing for her self and the baby in the womb.
- They are blessed by chanting Angulimala Sutra gave the pirith codes and holly water

- Christian, Hindu, Islam people also pray for blessing form the God and make a vow and drink the holly water.
- Father blessed the water on Aleluya Saturday for holly water.
- Iyer (Swami) blessed the water by preaching a mantra
- Sam Sam water from Mecca (Sam Sam well)

Child birth

- It is believed the time of the birth decides the destiny of a child and the horoscope is able to predict it.
- Cut the hair after two months
- Weaning ceremony is the first feeding of solid food. – Rankiri katagemma
- First reading of the alphabet

All these activities are done at auspicious times decided according to the child's horoscope.

- Naming a child is usually through the baptism ceremony in Christian culture. Give the name with surname and a name of a saint.
- Nominated foster parent as “Mañña Pañña’
- Katana (Sunna) – Circumcising of the foreskin of sexual organs.
- Within seven days of the birth, the new born baby is given a name, hair is cut and give the bath.
- Namakarana – After 30 days, saving hair, giving the name, washing and lighting the oil lamp etc.

Attainment of Puberty

- In Sinhala tradition – ritual bathing, giving gifts and advising to the puberty girl by the elders and socializing as respectable woman.
- In Hindu and Christian cultures, these are also practiced as in Sri Lanka.
- In Muslims, No highlighting is given to this event .

Marriage

- Under the astrological guidelines and Social communal rules Bride and Groom are nominated by the parents or Elders of the families.

Arranged Marriages and Love Marriages

- A Poruwa ceremony is a traditional Sinhalese wedding ceremony.
- From exchanging the rings to blessings and other rituals all take place when the bride and the groom are standing on the Poruwa.
- The Dowry offered by the Bride.
- A certain kind of polyandry marriage (Ekageikema) also accepted by the ancient period in SL

- In Hindu tradition, the bride and the groom usually walk around the fire 7 times while chanting holy verses.

Rules of cast, Dowry and Astrological beliefs are same as Hindu and Sinhala Buddhist.

- Christian weddings in Sri Lanka are not so different from the Western weddings. The couple gets married in the church which is attractively decorated with flowers and other wedding decorations.

- Marriage customs of Muslims in Sri Lanka The Malay community usually follow typical Malaysian and Indonesian customs.
- Borah and Mayman communities almost follows the Indian and Pakistani customs.
- The Moor wedding customs are significantly different from the above all.
- Couple nominated by the elders and cast or tribe is a important aspect of the ceremony.
- The dowry usually given by the Groom. But in some cases bride should also offer dowry.

Death and Funeral rights

- Religious ceremony (*Pansakula*)
- Arrange the Mala Batha after the funeral
- 7th day Dhamma sermon etc.

Some arrange the funeral activities at auspicious time according to Astrology. In ancient time coffin was not used. After wrapping a white cloth death body is kept in the Jungle.

prefer to cremate their dead and collect the ash to build tombs in memory of the departed.

- In Christianity, Death is a curse of creator God. Funeral customs are conducted by the Priests in house or church and bury the body to facilitate resurrection.
- The Muslims too bury the dead, and do not keep the corpse for more than a day.
- Sharia (Islamic religious law) calls for burial of the body, wash and wrapped the body in white clothes. Then it is buried to facilitate resurrection.
- Cremation of the body is prohibited.
- Some people light the oil lamp and read the Quran after the funeral.

- In ancient period Hindu People used a loft (Pada). But now Sri Lankan Hindus use the coffin.
- Religious activities conducted by the Iyer or Swami.
- Save the hair by elder son for Father
younger Son for Mother
- After five days of cremation, the ash is float in Sea or River.

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