

Professor U.G.Samudrika Wijayapala, Ph.D. (Moratuwa) is the first lady Professor of Textiles at the Department of Textile & Clothing Technology, University of Moratuwa. She is a qualified chartered engineer and author of Exploration of newer natural dye-yielding plants to Sri Lankan textile industry and History of natural dyes in Sri Lanka which were published by S. Godage & Brothers in 2013. She presented and published more than 25 research papers in journals as well as prestigious research conferences too. Recently she delivered the Key Note Speech at the 3rd International Conference on Apparel Textiles and Fashion Design (ATAFD) titled "Going all the way and coming back to Natural Dyes" on 27th September 2018 @ Galle Face Hotel, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Dr. Gayathri Madubhani Ranathunga is a senior lecturer in the Fashion Design and Product Development Degree Course, Department of Textile and Clothing Technology, Faculty of Engineering, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka. Her Ph.D. was based on studying the process that influenced fashion in the Kandyan Kingdom of Sri Lanka. She obtained Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Fine Arts from the University of Kelaniya in 2003. Dr. Gayathri is an author of two books which were published recently by S. Godage & Brothers titled "Fashions of Royalty: The Kandyan Kingdom of Sri Lanka" and "Art and Tradition of Sri Lanka Volume - 01 Music of Sri Lanka."

Dr. Priyanka Virajini Medagedara Karunaratne shows an exemplary academic record from her Bachelor's Degree studies. Having graduated with a first class Honours Bachelors Degree in Fine Arts from the University of Peradeniya, 2000, she awarded the first Gold medal for the most outstanding graduand in Fine Arts. Dr. Virajini is an author of two books which were published recently by S. Godage & Brothers titled "Fashion of Royalty: Kotte Kingdom of Sri Lanka" and "Art and Tradition of Sri Lanka Volume - 02 Dance of Sri Lanka."

Both **Dr. Gayathri and Dr. Virajini** obtained Post-graduate certificate in Learning and Teaching in Art, Design, and Communication (cltd) from the University of Arts London, London in 2006. They were awarded the first Doctor of Philosophy in Sri Lanka in Integrated Design (Fashion Design) at the University of Moratuwa in 2012. They have many publications to their credit and all addressed the aspects of fashion in a scholarly way.

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THE BUDDHIST ROBE

The path pointing to natural dyes and possible establishment of a natural dyeing industry in the apparel sector of Sri Lanka with special reference on the Buddhist robe

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Dr. Gayathri Madubhani Ranathunga
Dr. Priyanka Virajini Medagedara Karunaratne