

Social grooming in chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*)W S P Y N Kanthilatha^{1*} and M M Pathmalal²¹*Department of Sociology & Anthropology, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Gangodawila, Nugegoda*²*Department of Zoology, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Gangodawila, Nugegoda*

One of the most frequent natural social activities is grooming. Almost all primates groom one another. Grooming occurs in other species but social grooming is a unique primate activity and plays an important role in the life of most primates.

The present study was carried out at the National Zoological Gardens, Dehiwala and the sample consisted of troop of seven chimpanzees (3 males and 4 females) living in captive conditions. Data were collected using focal animal sampling method. In accordance with social bonding, females, as the long-term residents of this matrifocal group, groomed each other and juveniles more often than males groomed one another or juveniles. On the other hand, males groomed females (mean duration 5.20min) more often and for longer durations than females groomed males (mean duration 4.85min) and, whereas both males and females groomed juveniles (mean duration 1.29min, 5.86min) more often than juveniles groomed them (mean duration 1.31min, 4.30min), juveniles groomed their elders for longer durations. Although both sexes groomed subordinate females more than vice versa, males groomed dominant males more than females groomed subordinate males more than they receive grooming from them. Grooming was concluded to function to establish and maintain affiliative social bonds rather than as a specific mechanism to obtain matings or any other specific reciprocation in terms of services or favors.

* nelum@sjp.ac.lk

Tel: 011-2802207