

Report on “KAADAKAM” Three Day National Tribal Seminar

on

Social and Cultural Heritage of Tribes in Nilambur with Special Reference to Nilambur Paattu

Report by

The Coordinator

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Introduction to Purpose of the Seminar

1. Theme of the Seminar

The State shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and, in particular, of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation. – Article 46 - The Constitution of India

Nilambur valley in Malappuram district of Kerala is the abode of various tribal communities. The valley is also important due to the habitation of primitive hunter-food gathering tribal groups. They live in forest eco-system with subsistence economy and pre-agricultural level of technology. Indigenous peoples have deep spiritual, cultural, social and economic connection with their lands, territories and resources, which is basic to their identity and existence itself. Nilambur Paattu, a well-known local festival of Nilambur in Malappuram district of Kerala state, is found helpful as a source to depict the ethno-history of the tribes in Nilambur valley of Western Ghats, such as Aranadan, Cholanaicken, Kuruman, Mala Muthan, Mala Panichen, Paniyan and Pathi Naicken.

Three Day National Tribal Seminar held on the broader theme of “**Social and Cultural Heritage of Tribes in Nilambur with Special Reference to Nilambur Paattu**”, on 27, 28 & 29 January 2020. Nilambur Paattu is held in *Vettakkorumakan* Temple managed by Nilambur Kovilakom. It is celebrated to praise the Lord *Vettakkoprumakan or Kirathamoorthi*. The festival is famous for its *Kalamezhuthu Paattu* or ritual powder drawing the image of the Lord on floor. It provides various facts illuminating to the past and present of the tribes under study. The origin of Nilambur Paattu is unknown but the legends say that every year the tribal people, who used to live in and around the Nilambur forests, come to pay homage to the royal family of the Nilambur Kovilakam. In Nilambur Kovilakam records, this festival is also referred to as Paattu Atiyanthiram.

Tribal communities around the world have played a vital role in the preservation and management of natural resources within the frame of their indigenous knowledge system. About 80 per cent of the world's cultural and biological diversity is reported in their habitats. Despite this, the connections between tribes and their resources have emerged as critical issues, having interrelated internal and external dynamics. Adivasis today are in a dire situation faced with constant challenge of being uprooted from their land and resources. The traditional Adivasis knowledge system challenges the entrenched beliefs of neoliberal economics to its core; of land, water, forest, food-crops, animals and minerals as source of life rather than inanimate 'resources', waiting to be extracted and sold for profit.

Their tradition of collective rights to lands and resources mostly contrast with dominant models of individual ownership, privatization and development. The territorial framework of operationalisation of those rights may be the community, the region or the state depending on demographic facts, political traditions, etc., and aspirations of the peoples. The socio-cultural scenario of the tribal women in India has undergone drastic changes over the past few decades and many age-old features of their socio-cultural life has been lost owing to one or the other reasons. Their role and status as a member of family, clan and community has been changed and many a time they have to work hard to satisfy the livelihood needs of their family.

2. Objectives

This Conference will deal with the sense of *Angst* being felt by the tribal people of contemporary India. While this *Angst* is a direct result of exclusion from their traditional rights over resources, it is aggravated by their extreme deprivation and exploitation at various levels. In recent times, the tribal people have been involved in struggles relating to identity, resources and development. These have found expression through multiple voices ranging from the quiet introspection of poetry to the fiery sloganeering of politics. To examine the *Angst* of the tribal people and to delve deeper into their collective experience of loss and transition, this Conference will bring scholars of various disciplines together with social workers and tribal writers in an enriching polyphonic discourse. Besides panel discussions by scholars, translators and social workers, there will also be a Writers' Meet. It is hoped that the Conference will provide a much-needed balance between the "tribal in transition", the social workers and the larger world of academia.

3. Collaboration & Funding

The Conference is being organized under the aegis of the Department of History, MES Mampad College with the financial support from Kerala State Council for Historical Research (KCHR) and collaboration of Kerala Institute for Research, Training and Development Studies for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (KIRTADS), Tata Institute of Social Science (TISS) Kerala Lalita Kala Academy, Keystone Foundation, Ooty and several Centres of Anthropology and Tribal Research Institutes in Kerala.

4. List of Participants of the Conference

Sl. No	Name	Designation & Address
1.	Prof. Y Chinna Rao Keynote speaker	Chairperson, Centre for the Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy (CSSEIP), School of Social Science, JNU New Delhi
2.	Prof. M Kunhaman Keynote speaker	Professor (Rtrd.), School of Rural Development, TISS
3.	Prof. R Ramdas Rupavth Keynote speaker	Centre for Human Rights, School of Social Sciences, University of Hyderabad
4.	Dr. K S Pradeep Kumar Keynote speaker	Deputy Director of KIRTADS
5.	Dr. PP Abdur Razak	Dean, University of Calicut
6.	Dr. Bindu Ramachandran Keynote speaker	Head, Dept. of Anthropology, Kannur university
7.	Mr. Geethanandhan KK	Secretary, Kerala Gothhra Maha Sabha
8.	Dr. Mammad N (Moderator)	Associate Professor, Dept. of English, Govt. College Malappuram
9.	Dr. Seetha Kakkkoth Keynote Speaker	Asst. Professor, Department of Rural and Tribal Sociology, Kannur University
10.	Mr. Rajendra Varma	Member of Nilambur Kovilakam
11.	Dr. Amithabachan K H Chair & Paper Presenter	Asst. Professor, research department of botany, MES Asmabi college
12.	Dr. Sivadasan TP Chair & Paper Presenter	Asst. professor, PG & Research department of history, MES Kalladi college
13.	Mr. Mujeeburahman Chair & Paper Presenter	Institute of tribal studies & research, Chithalayam
14.	Unnikrishnan Avla	Film Director & writer

P.S – Besides the above, documentary screening and cultural programmes were also performed in the three days seminar

5. Proceedings of the seminar (Programme Schedule)

Day One (27-01-2020)

Venue: College Seminar Hall

A- INAUGURAL SESSION - 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM



Prayer: Prayer Team Dept. of History

The seminar was inaugurated by Prof. Y Chinna Rao, Chairperson of Centre for the Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy (CSSEIP), JNU. College Principal Dr. P K Babu presided over the inaugural session. Dr. O P Salahudeen, Convenor and Head of the Department of History, welcomed the gathering. Guest, Prof. Y Chinna Rao inaugurated the function and presented his paper on 'Social Exclusion and Scheduled Tribes in India'. Dr. Sabik M.K (Co-Ordinator, IQAC) and Haskar (Secretary, Staff Association) felicitated the function. Mr. Andulnaser U (Joint Coordinator) gave the vote of thanks.



Welcome Speech by Dr. OP. Salahudheen (Coordinator, Kaadakam - National Tribal Seminar)



Inauguration - Prof. Y. Chinna Rao (Chairperson, CSSEIP, JNU, New Delhi)



Presidential Address- Dr. PK. Babu (Principal)



Address by President: Jb. EP Moyinkutty & Secretary: Prof. OP. Abdurahiman, College Managing Committee



B- Inaugurations of Three Exhibitions

Principal Dr. P K Babu inaugurated the Mobile Art Gallery of Kerala Lalitha Kala Academy. The photo exhibition of Pattanam Excavation by Kerala Council for Historical Research was inaugurated by Sri. E P Moinkutty, President, College

Management Committee and Prof. O P. Abdurahiman, Secretary, College Management Committee inaugurated the exhibition of KIRTADS- Tribes Around Us. The three exhibitions opened new vista in the cultural heritage of the tribes to the hundreds of visitors from nearby senior Secondary and Secondary Schools. The Heritage Museum maintained by the Department of History was another attraction of the programme. Mobile Art Gallery of Kerala Lalitha Kala Academy gave a different experience to the participant s and visitors.



Inauguration of Mobile Art Gallery - Kerala Lalitha Kala Academy - Dr. P K Babu (Principal)

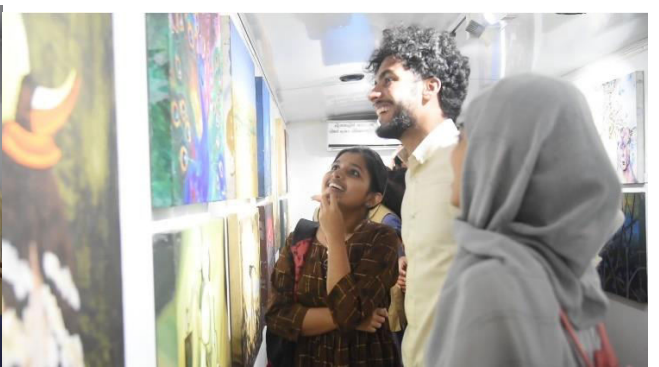


Inauguration of Photo Exhibition of Pattanam Excavation- KCHR by Sri. E P Moinkutty (President, College Management Committee)



Inauguration of KIRTADS 's Exhibition - Tribes Around Us by Prof. O P. Abdurahiman (Secretary, College Management Committee)





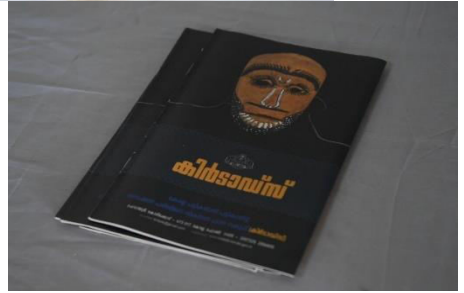
Mobile Art Gallery – Kerala Lalita Kala Academy





Pattanam Excavation Exhibition - Kerala Council for Historical Research (KCHR)





Exhibition by KIRTADS



Nerkazhcha- An Antique Exhibition



Nerkazhcha- An Antique Exhibition



Nerkazhcha- An Antique Exhibition





Visit of Students from Sainik Public School



Visit of Students from Rahmania School Meppadam



Visit of Students from Pee Vee's Model School Nilambur



Visit of Students from The Springs International School, Tana, Nilambur

C- TECHNICAL SESSION I: 11:30 PM to 01.15 PM

Dr. Abdurazak PP, Dean, Social Science, University of Calicut chaired the session. Prof. M Kunhaman, (Professor (Rtd), School of Rural Development, TISS, Tuljapur Campus, Osmanabad, MH), spoke on 'Exclusion Through 'Development': The Case of Adivasis and Prof. Ramdas Rupavath, (Head, Centre for Human Rights, School of Social Sciences, University of Hyderabad), delivered his presentation on 'Impact of Poverty on Education and Adivasis in India: A Perspective from Below'. The session set a break for lunch at 01:15 to 02:00.

D- TECHNICAL SESSION II: 2.00 PM to 4.00 PM

Considering the grave situation in the implementation of various welfare policies for tribes, the Technical session II was organised as a Panel discussion on "Contemporary Issues in Tribal Welfare Policies".

Dr. PP. Abdur Razak moderated the session. Prof. Y Chinna Rao (Chair Person, Centre for Study Social Exclusion and Inclusion Policy, JNU, New Delhi) Mr. Geethanathan KK, (Secretary, Kerala Gotra Maha Sabha) Prof. M Kunhaman, (Professor (Rtd), School of Rural Development, TISS, Tuljapur Campus, Osmanabad, MH), Prof. Ramdas Rupavath, (Head, Centre for Human Rights, School of Social Sciences, University of Hyderabad) Mr. Rajendra Varma, (Nilambur Kovilakam), Dr. Amithabachan K H, (Asst. Professor, Research Department of Botany, MES Asmabi College) and Dr. Sivadasan T P, (Asst. Professor, PG & Research Dept. of History, MES Kalladi College) participated in the panel and presented their concern on serious issues in implementing various welfare policies. Mr. Geethanathan KK, (Secretary, Kerala Gotra Maha Sabha) has criticised the land assignment policy of the Govt. and pointed out more than 40% of the Adivasis are still living landless. Even though Kerala has achieved substantial progress in different fields of life the socio-economic condition of the tribes did not achieve the expected progress. The panel has a consensus on the tribal land alienation and various welfare policies and programmes devised by the govt and other agencies are impractical.

The session generally pointed out objective oriented plans and programmes with a broader outlook by both governments and by the agencies and a periodic monitoring mechanism would yield desired output. This type of deliberations would contribute for the better dissemination of the knowledge related to the indigenous people. The panel urged to continue the academic exercise to explore the knowledge related to the Tribes of the area.

Day Second (28-01-2020) venue: College Seminar Hall

E- TECHNICAL SESSION III: 9.30 AM to 11.30 AM

IIIrd Technical session was chaired by Mr. Abdul Naser. U (Asst. Professor, Dept. of History, MES Mampad College) and Dr. Seetha Kakkoth, Asst. Professor, Department of Rural and Tribal Sociology, Kannur University presented Keynote address on '**Paradoxes and Alternatives: Listening to Ashram School Dropouts of Nilambur Valley of Kerala, South India**' and Mr. Mujeeburahman, Institute of Tribal Studies & Research, Chithalayam presented paper on '**Displacement as Cultural Genocide: Interrogating the Case of Kerala Tribes**',



F- TECHNICAL SESSION IV: 11.30 AM to 12.30 PM

After the tea break the Technical session IV was started by the opening comments of the Chair, Mr. Mujeeburahman, Institute of Tribal Studies & Research, Chithalayam.

Key speakers, Dr. K S Pradeep Kumar, Deputy Director (Training), KIRTADS, deliberated on **'Contemporary Scenario of Tribal Communities in Kerala: Challenges and Prospects'**, Dr. Joshey Mathew, Pazhassi Raja College, Pulpally, Wayanad, delivered on **'Customary Laws and Indigenous Knowledge of Tribal People in Malabar with Special Reference to Kurichiyas of Wayanad'**.







G- TECHNICAL SESSION V: 12.30 PM to 01.15 PM

The session was chaired by Dr. OP. Salahudheen, Head, Department of History, MES Mampad College. Dr. Amithabachan K H, Assistant Professor at Research Department of Botany, MES Asmabi College, Kodungallore has presented a paper on **‘Social and Political Exclusion of Indigenous Identity in Kerala Historic and Current Perspective’** and the session took a break for the Lunch.





H- TECHNICAL SESSION VI: 02.00 PM to 04.30 PM

This session was exclusively kept for paper presentations of faculties and Research scholars from outside, so as to promote the young buds in academia. It was started with the opening remarks of Mr. Shahrudheen, Asst. Professor, Dept. of Political Science. Dr. Amithabachan K H, Assistant Professor at Research Department of Botany, MES Asmabi College, Kodungallore, chaired the session. The following papers were presented by faculties and research scholars from outside the college.

1. Ms. NM. Manumol, '**Dalit Feminism: Reactions of Suppressed Women Through their Writings: Focusing the Work "Karukku" by the Dalit Feminist Bama**' (Asst, Professor, St. Terrassa's Ernakulam)
2. Ms. Ganga Gopinathan, '**From Indigenous Healing Methods to Modern Medicine with Special Reference to Bhil Tribes**' (St. Teressa's College, Ernakulam)
3. Ms. Haseena, '**Tribals under Landlords Suzerainty: The case of Nilambur Thirumulpad,**' (Research Scholar, University of Calicut)
4. Dr. Sivadasan, '**Social and Cultural Heritage of Tribes in Nilambur with Special Reference to Nilambur Paattu**', (Assistant Professor, PG & Research Dept. of History, MES Kalladi College, Mannarkkad)
5. Ms. Gouthami V & Dr. Amithabachan KH. '**Forest Right Act 2006 Implementation Progress and Violations with Special Reference to Nilambur Area**', (Research Department of Botany, MES Asmabi College, Kodungallore, Kerala)
6. Ms. Anila KT & Dr. Amithabachan KH, '**Minor Forest Produce Dependence and Sustainability: A Case Study of Paniya Community in Nilambur Area**' (Research Department of Botany, MES Asmabi College, Kodungallore, Kerala)
7. Ms. Deepika V & Dr. Amithabachan KH, '**Sustainable Traditional Protocol on Minor Forest Produce Harvesting - Kattunaikka Community in Nilambur Area**', (Research Department of Botany, MES Asmabi College, Kodungallore, Kerala)
8. Ms. Fidha P & Dr. Amithabachan KH, '**Forest Degradation History and Land Resource Alienation of Paniya and Kattunaikka in Nilambur Area**', (Research Department of Botany, MES Asmabi College, Kodungallore, Kerala)
9. Mr. Sidhardh AS Kumar & Dr. Amithabachan KH, '**Fish Resource Dependence of Kadars and Kattunaikka Community**', (Research Department of Botany, MES Asmabi College, Kodungallore, Kerala)
10. Ms. Devika M. Anilkumar & Dr. Amithabachan KH, '**Inclusive Indigenous Territories and Indigenous Way of Resource Management**', (Research Department of Botany, MES Asmabi College, Kodungallore, Kerala)
11. Haseena, '**Tribals under Landlords Suzerainty: The case of Nilambur Thirumulpad,**' Research Scholar, University of Calicut
12. Sreedevi VM & Murshida Beegum, '**Cate Marriages and Notions of Excommunications among the Tribes**', Dept. of History, MES Mampad College
13. Ameera Thasni T, '**Social Life of Cholanaikker**', Dept. of History, MES Mampad College
14. Geethu PS & Drishya T, '**Tribal Empowerment: A Case Study of Ashram School**', Dept. of History, MES Mampad College
15. Ms. Shincy PS, Anusree T & Pranav PR, '**Attitude of Tribes towards Contemporary Educational and Social Changes with Special Reference to IGMMR Nilambur**', Dept. of History, MES Mampad College

16. Althaf Hussain, 'Challenges and Problems of Marginalised: Historicity of Paniyan Education Milieu', PSMO College Tirurangadi

The session has come to an end by the vote of thanks of Mr. Semeerkhan, Assistant Professor, MES Mampad College.





Third Day (29-01-2020) Venue: College Seminar Hall

I- TECHNICAL SESSION VII: 09:30 AM to 12:00 PM

The session started with the introduction of student coordinator, Arwa Ishaq and chaired by Mr. Semeerkhan, Assistant Professor, MES Mampad College. Key Speaker Dr. Bindu Ramachandran, Head, Dept. of Anthropology, Kannur University spoke on '**Tribal Development in Kerala: Current Challenges**'. Second Key speaker Adv. Ramachandran, Additional Project Coordinator, Keystone

Foundation, Ooty delivered his speech on **'Role of NGOs in Tribal Development'**. Dr. Myna Umaiban, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Malayalam, MES Mampad College, had presented his paper on **'The Last Page of the Tribes in Nilambur with Special Reference to Chola Naikkar, Alar and Aranadar'**. Dr. OP. Salahudheen, Head, Dept. of History, DG MES Mampad College, had a presentation on **'Destination Branding: The Heritage and Culture of Tribes in Nilambur'**, Ms. Shamla Banu AK, from NSS College Manjeri had a paper on **'Search of Identity of Paniya Tribe of Chungathara Panchayath during 20th Century'** and youngsters, Ms. Sisira O and Arwa Ishaq, from the Department of History, MES Mampad College had their paper on **'Nilambur Pattu and Tribal Society'**. The session concluded with the vote of thanks of Dr. Sivadasan. TP.





Adv. Ramachandran, Additional Project Coordinator, Keystone Foundation, Ooty



J- TECHNICAL SESSION VIII: 12:00 PM to 12:45 PM

The two sessions followed was organised with different perspective to introduce the culture and heritage, and challenges faced by the tribal communities in Kerala to the participants. After screening of *'Thanalukal Nashtapedunna Gotrabhoomi'* a documentary on Arnadan Community of Wayanad prepared by Leela Santhosh, the first Tribal Documentary Director in India and a discussion on the same was conducted.

Discussants:

Dr. Myna Umaiban, Head, Dept. of Malayalam, MES Mampad College

Dr. Rajesh Mohanji, Asst. Professor, Dept. of Malayalam, MES Mampad College

Mr. Saharudheen, Asst. Professor, Dept. of Political Science, MES Mampad College

K- TECHNICAL SESSION IX – 01:30 PM– 03:00 PM**Documentary Screening & Discussion**

The documentary screening “The Last Page” started with a short introduction about that film by Dr. Rajesh Mohanji, Asst. Professor, Dept. of Malayalam. After the documentary screening held discussion with Unnikrishnan Avala director of “The Last Page” and Mr. Suresh, Graduate from Aranadan Community. Dr. N. Mammed, Associate Professor, Dept. of English, Govt. College Malappuram was the Moderator of the Session. As envisaged the screening and discussion on the documentary “The Last Page” had offered a different experience of the real-life situation of the Aranadan community of Nilambur to the delegates.



Discussion by Unnikrishnan Avala (Director & Writer) on “The Last Page” and Dr. N. Mammed, Associate Professor, Dept. of English, Govt. College Malappuram as the Moderator







L- VALEDICTORY SESSION: 1.30 PM to 2.30 PM

“Kaadakam” Three Day National Seminar concluded with its valedictory session. Mr. Semeerkham P, Asst. Professor, Dept. of History had welcomed the gathering. College Principal Dr. P K Babu, presided over the function and followed by distribution of certificate by the guest Prof. Y. Chinna Rao, Unnikrishnan Avala and the Principal. Mr. Abdul Nasar U, Asst. Professor, Dept. of History had proposed the vote of thanks. The session came to an end by the national anthem.

As part of the “Kaadakam” Three Day National Seminar students from the department had staged cultural programmes with a special focus to tribal performing arts.



VALEDICTORY SESSION-Welcome Speech- Mr. Semeerkhan P (Asst. Professor, Dept. of History)



VALEDICTORY SESSION- Presidential Remarks- Dr. PK. Babu (Principal)



Dr. N. Mammed, Associate Professor, Dept. of English, Govt. College Malappuram



Certificate Distribution - Prof. Y. Chinna Rao



Memento Distribution – Dr. PK. Babu (Principal)

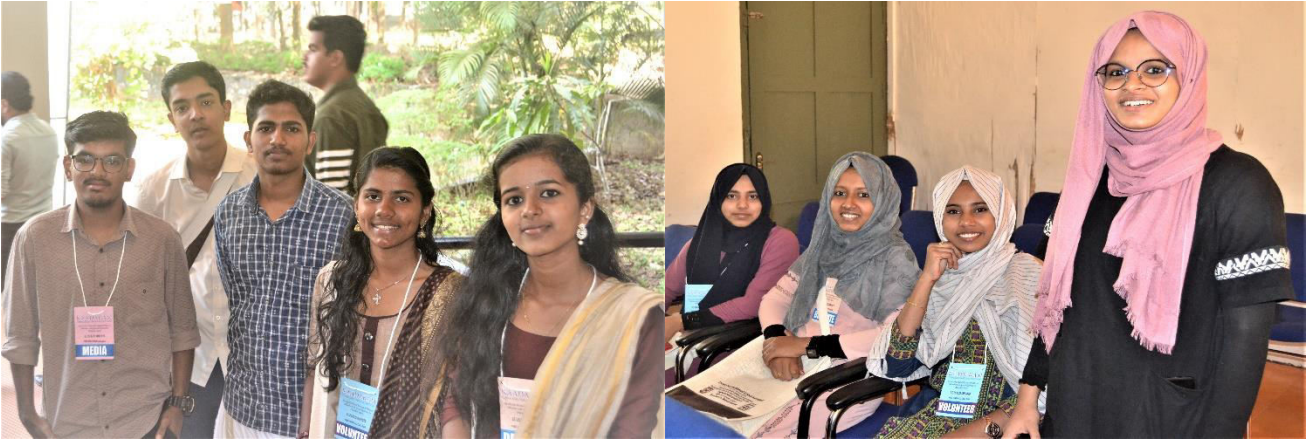


Certificate Distribution – Unnikrishnan Avala (Film Director & Writer)



Vote of Thanks- Mr. Abdul Naser U, Joint Coordinator





Reception Team







