

മലയാളം റിസേർച്ച് ജേണൽ MALAYALAM RESEARCH JOURNAL

Gendering the Spectres of Keralam's Many Modernities I



U.G.C.-CARE listed, Peer-reviewed, refereed Journal
Volume 14 ● Issue 2 ● May-August 2021

40

Malayalam Research Journal
U.G.C.-CARE listed
ISSN-0974 1984.
RNI No. KERBIL 2008/24527
LCCN 2013 318190
Vol. 14 Issue 2 May-August 2021

ഉള്ളടക്കം/ Contents

Return of the uncanny: Gendering the 'spectres' of Keralam's many modernities	5251	Meena T. Pillai
കേരളത്തിന്റെ ആധുനികതയുടെ സ്ത്രീചരിത്രം	5270	സി.എസ്. ചന്ദ്രിക
മുല്യസ്ഥലവും ഗൃഹഭാഷയും മലയാളനോവൽ നിർമ്മിച്ച അഭിരുചിയുടെ സ്ത്രീവ്യവഹാരങ്ങൾ	5300	ആര്യ കെ.
<i>Stree, Purushan, Napumsakan:</i> Shaping Femininities and Effeminacies in Early Nineteenth Century Keralam	5317	Maalavika Ajayakumar
Liminal Modernities: At the Intersections of Travel Discourses, Gender, and Keralam (1880s-1920s)	5337	Sucheta Sankar V.
Sartorial Morality and 'Modern' Domesticities: Sewing Malayali Christian Subjects in Travancore	5354	Arya A.
Between Modernity and Faith: Muslim Women and the Reform Movements in Keralam	5374	Sherin B.S.

Introduction
**Return of the uncanny: Gendering the
'spectres' of Keralam's many modernities**

Meena T. Pillai

കേരളത്തിന്റെ ആധുനികതയുടെ സ്ത്രീചരിത്രം

സി.എസ്. ചന്ദ്രിക

സംഗ്രഹം

കേരളത്തിന്റെ ആധുനികീകരണ പ്രക്രിയയിൽ സ്ത്രീജീവിതത്തിന്റെ ദൃശ്യതയും പൊതുമണ്ഡലത്തിലേക്കുള്ള കടന്നുവരവും വിവിധ സമരങ്ങളുടെയും നിരന്തരമായ പ്രതിരോധങ്ങളുടെയും ഫലമായി ഉണ്ടായതാണ്. മലയാളി എന്ന ആധുനിക കർത്തൃത്വസംബോധനയിൽ പൊതുവേ സ്ത്രൈണമായ അനുഭവങ്ങളെല്ലെ അഭിമുഖീകരിക്കപ്പെടുന്നത്. സാമൂഹികമായ മുന്നേറ്റങ്ങളിൽനിന്ന് ഇച്ഛാശക്തിയും സ്വാധികാരവുമുള്ള സ്ത്രീകർത്തൃത്വരൂപീകരണം കണ്ടെടുക്കുന്ന ഈ പഠനം കേരളീയ ആധുനികതയുടെ പുരുഷാധിപത്യപ്രവണതകളെ പ്രശ്നവൽക്കരിക്കുന്നു. ചാന്നാർ കലാപം, സ്വാർത്ഥവിചാരം, മാർയേജ് ആക്ട്, ദായക്രമം, സ്ത്രീവിദ്യാഭ്യാസം, തൊഴിൽ എന്നീ സാമൂഹിക ചലനങ്ങൾ സവിശേഷമായി പരിഗണിക്കുന്നു.

(Women's History in the Context of Kerala's Modernisation)

The visibility of women's life and their entrance into the public sector were a consequence of many protests and constant resistance. One does not often come across the term Malayali, in a feminine noun form, even in the modern context. Patriarchal tendencies in modernist Kerala are problematized by exploring the will power and self rule of femininity through social progress. The Channar revolt, 'smarthavicharam', Marriage Act, laws of inheritance, women's education and their profession are especially considered here.)

താക്കോൽവാക്കുകൾ

കേരളീയ ആധുനികത (Kerala Modernity), ലിംഗപദവി (Gender), ലൈംഗികത (Sexuality), സദാചാരം (Morality)

**മൂല്യസ്ഥലവും ഗൂഢഭാഷയും
മലയാളനോവൽ നിർമ്മിച്ച അഭിരുചിയുടെ സ്ത്രീവ്യവഹാരങ്ങൾ**

ആര്യ കെ.

സംഗ്രഹം

നവോത്ഥാനം പുനഃക്രമീകരണങ്ങൾക്കുള്ള ശ്രമമായിരുന്നു. കേരളത്തെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് സംസ്കൃതീകരണവും മിഷനറി പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളും ഈസ്റ്റ് ഇൻഡ്യാ കമ്പനിയുടെ ഭാഗമായി പിടിച്ചുപറ്റിയ ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് വ്യവഹാരങ്ങളും ഇവയോടൊന്നും തദ്ദേശീയമായി രൂപപ്പെട്ട സമരവും പൊരുത്തപ്പെടലും എല്ലാം ചേർന്ന പലമാതിരിയുള്ള സ്വര

സംസ്കാരങ്ങളെയാണ് നവോത്ഥാനം, ആധുനികീകരണം എന്നീ പദങ്ങൾകൊണ്ട്, ഇന്ന് സൂചിപ്പിക്കുന്നത്. പൊതുവേ സംഭവകേന്ദ്രിതമാണ് നവോത്ഥാനം, ആധുനികീകരണ പ്രക്രിയകൾ വിശദീകരിക്കുന്ന സാമാന്യരീതി. സംഭവങ്ങൾക്കകത്തെ സൂക്ഷ്മമായ പെരുമാറ്റങ്ങൾ, ശരീരപ്രക്രിയകൾ എന്നിവയുടെ പരിശോധനയിലൂടെയാണ് സംഭവങ്ങളുടെ പ്രക്രിയാപരതയും അവയ്ക്കകത്തെ സംഘർഷങ്ങളും വ്യക്തമാകുക. *ഇന്ദുലേഖയെ* നോവൽസന്ദർഭമായി പരിഗണിച്ച് സ്ത്രീവ്യവഹാരങ്ങളുടെ പെരുമാറ്റങ്ങളെ മുൻനിറുത്തി നവോത്ഥാനം, ആധുനികീകരണ പ്രക്രിയയെ വിമർശനാത്മകമായി നോക്കിക്കാണാനാണ്, ഈ പഠനം ശ്രമിക്കുന്നത്.

(Value Place and Cryptic Language: influence of Malayalam Novel on Women's Movement

Renaissance was an effort towards modernization. In the context of Kerala, Renaissance and modernization are implied by various cultural voices such as Sanskritization, missionary works, British regulations that tightened as a consequence of the establishment of the East India Company, and the local strikes and adaptations that ensued as a part of such concerns. The process of Renaissance and modernization is generally understood through an analysis of particular incidents. These incidents are closely examined for their behavioural characteristics and their body languages to understand the proclivity and conflict inherent in them. This study aims to critically examine the process of modernization and Renaissance by placing in the forefront female practices and concerns as represented in the novel *Indhulekha*.

താക്കോൽവാക്കുകൾ

സാഹിത്യത (Literariness), മൂല്യസ്ഥലം (Value space), ഗൂഢഭാഷ (Cryptic language), അഭിരുചി (Aptitude), സ്നേഹാധികാരം (Pastoral power)

Stree, Purushan, Napumsakan: Shaping Femininities and Effeminacies in Early Nineteenth Century Keralam

Maalavika Ajayakumar

Abstract

The paper attempts an investigation into the terms of gendered references as deployed in Keralam’s pre-nascent public sphere. Anchored on the conceptualisation of language as a potent site of struggle, gendered and otherwise, such an analysis could throw light on the lexical implications of these referential terms while visibilising how, at this juncture, individuals were interpellated to comprehend themselves as gendered subjects. The paper makes use of two crucial archives-Benjamin Bailey’s ‘A Dictionary of High and Colloquial Malayalam and English’ published in 1846 and his ‘A Dictionary, English and Malayalam’ published in 1849-both of which were printed at the Church Missionary Press, Kottayam. Bailey’s Dictionaries will be posited within the paper as surface texts that evince a certain nomos that positioned gendered social actors within the socio-symbolic terrain of Keralam. With a significant number of entries on gender categories alongside trite definitions of their constitutive and assumed ‘essentialist’ features, Bailey’s dictionary makes visible the rhetorical locus of early gender debates discernible. This paper hopes to uncover the ideational filters through which ‘new’ ‘modern’ possibilities of Malayali femininities, masculinities and effeminacies began to be conceived in Keralam and the ensuing assumptions that continue to inform public sphere discourses even in its contemporary digital registers.

Keywords

Malayali public sphere, modernity, lexicography, gender, masculinities, femininities, effeminacies

Liminal Modernities: At the Intersections of Travel Discourses, Gender, and Keralam (1880s-1920s)

Sucheta Sankar V.

Abstract

This paper studies discourses on travel and mobilities as a crucial springboard for interrogating the paradoxical relationship between gender and modernity in Keralam between the 1880s and 1920s. It submits that within the framework of travel, particular 're-formations' of gendered self-identity and agency, as made visible in social rites, cultural motifs, literary genres, and mediated performances of mobility, may be critically emplaced. In analysing these, the research delves into the fraught cultural economy through which the gendered traveller is fashioned. Specifically, it teases out the ways in which the travelling bodies, mobility paradigms, and travel texts of women pluralise the experience of modernity in the region, opening out new possibilities and strategies for being modern and doing modernity-work. Across three sections, the paper theorises the burgeoning of liminal modernities across sites of gendered travel and mobilities, marking complicated assemblages of "in-betweenness" that reimagines the repertoire of gender in the backdrop of modernity in Keralam.

Keywords

Kerala modernity, travel writing, gender, mobility, liminality

Sartorial Morality and 'Modern' Domesticities: Sewing Malayali Christian Subjects in Travancore

Arya A.

Abstract

Nineteenth century was a remarkable period in history owing to its anticipation and engagement with shifting assemblages of individual identity in Keralam. The age witnessed 'mass conversions' resulting in a visible demography of newly converted Christians in the region. The salvation offered by the missionaries sought to produce a unique category of 'Malayalee Christians' through apposition and opposition of regional and colonial conventions. Central to their mission were discourses on modesty and respectability regulated on to the sartorial conventions of women's bodies. The paper assumes that works published by Christian authors, in the last decades of the nineteenth century and early twentieth century, mediated sartorial practices that reveal embodied materialities crucial to the production of a category of 'Malayalee Christian Women'. By focusing on the anxieties and practices rendered on to the sartorial body of caste-women in Mrs. Collin's *The Slayer Slain* (1864-65) and Variath Chori Peter's *Parishkaravijayam* (1906), the paper attempts to discuss the project of re-sartorialisation and gendering negotiated through 'sewing' cultures engendered by the Mission. It also looks at the changing social consolidations of labour, gender, domesticity and conjugal economy ensuing from such re-socialising endeavours in Travancore.

Keywords

Sartorial politics, Sartorial morality, Modernity, domesticity

Between Modernity and Faith: Muslim Women and the Reform Movements in Keralam

Sherin B.S.

Abstract

The recasting of women in the context of colonial modernity in India invariably projected the upper caste Hindu woman as the ideal Indian woman. Historians over the years have engaged with this problematic domesticating of women. However, there are very few studies that engage with the complex terrain of gender among communities imagined outside the contours of the mainstream 'national'. Women's movement in these communities had to engage with both the phantasm of othered masculinities as threat to the ideal Hindu women and also the alienation they felt from the image of a nation that was imagined in the form of a goddess least resembling her selfhood. This essay attempts to trace the engagement of Muslim women with modernity in Keralam, with reference to Muslim reform movements. I argue that the exclusion of Muslim women's engagement with modernity from nationalist histories presages the predicament of Muslims in the postcolonial nation as antithesis to the 'national modern' and from feminist histories as victims without subjecthood.

Keywords

Kerala modernity, Muslim women, reform movements, nation, minority