

Status Of Women During The Sangam Period And Modern Period

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Abstract :

Bravery and love were the two eyes of the Sangam period culture. With the Social background that gave life to Hard work and discipline, women lived a happy life with their parents and girlfriends in their youth. The status of women in the Sangam period, and the status of women in the Modern period can be seen in the following article.

Keywords:

Sangam Period, Modern Period, Women Poetess, Education, Marriage.

I. INTRODUCTION

During the Sangam Period, women were happy Playing, Singing, Running and Dancing facilities like taking bath together in the rivers, playing Coat of arms, Vattadal, playing Varipandhadal and they did not fail to learn numbers, Words, Learning, Singing, Dancing and Grammar, there is no place to say that all got this facility.

Sangam literature displays young girls singing and dancing and guarding the millets on the hilly lands, young girls in the coasts chasing after sea crabs as a feast as she blossoms into a flower situation changes. Chance to mingle freely with men is not fully stopped unmarried virgins will conduct fast to get best husbands.

Rights of Women in Sangam Period:

Mastering education and arts to great heights like men:

Though men are the life for married women, unlike the Greek married women, and Aryan women they were not locked inside their homes. As house wives, mastering in, decorating the house and bringing praises to husband by making feasts. Sangam period Women had the right to rebuke their husbands when they do wrong, participate in recreation and in games¹.

Rights of Women in Modern Period:

Women rights movements are becoming stronger, they are proving that women can be equal in all fields like men. Women are present in many fields and are performing well in various fields like Police Department, army and politics. It is notable that in Tamil Nadu local bodies, 30% place has been allotted to women. Today's society is more concerned about women empowerment through women police stations, women Universities and women colleges but still it cannot be said that women has achieved an equal position to men².

Sangam Period Women Poetess:

Women excelled in education. Songs of women poetess are examples of this. Women poetess like Narcholiar, Nagaiyar, Nanmulaiyar, Adhimandhiyar, Elaveiniyar, Nappasalayar, Mudaathamak kanniyar, Ponmudiyar, Kakaipadiniyar, Mulaiyar, Velivithiyar have written many poems. They were also incomparable in formulating grammar. Kakaikalpadiniyam, Sirukakaipadiniyam, are the two prosody books sung by the women poetess kakaipadiniyar³.

Modern Period Poetess:

Lalithanandhini is excellent in music with violin, M. S. Chandaribai, a traditional actress, world famous boxer, Mohamed Ali's daughter Lila Ali, leader of Sathiyavanimuthudraavidar movement, NirupamaVaithiyathan, tennis sportswoman, Miss world AiswaryaRai⁴, tennis sportswoman SaniaMirza, Indian woman writer JhumpaLahiri⁵, lashmi, Indra, Indumathi, and Rajamkrishnan.

Sangam Period Marriages:

Love marriage was considered as a theft wedding. As it was considered as a social discipline, it is called as kalavozhukam. therefore it was acceptable when young men and women of same age group loved each other and got married.

At the same time it was also objected. When objected, running away or the girlfriend being locked up in house. In inevitable circumstances, villagers coming together to join them in marriage., expressing their love to the lover through their friends also happened .

There were instances were lovers had sexual union prior to their marriages, there were instances were the lover left her girlfriend after such union. That's why Tholkapiar "poiyumvazhvumthondriyapinnar" forest land people had a practice of giving in marriage only after being successful in agriculture. parents deciding about marriages were also in practice ,the practice was to give dowry (jewels, things, money and so) for the bride to get in marriage. When the wife was barren, there were practices of remarriage also¹. Kings used to win battles and get brides for their marriages to happen, parents will see ten unisen between them. Tholkappiar (mei-25) will explain this clearly³, it is known to us through Agapattu, that to begin a family life, true love is essential and only when that is understood, they were united in family life. In those days, only after love, marriage took place⁶.

Todays Wedding Practices :

The situation were brokers were used to look for bride changed to looking at the Marriage columns and internet to look for brides has come. Tamil people follow rituals related to their religion in Hindu Marriages, Christian Marriages, Muslim Marriages, Register Marriages and reformed Marriages without any rituals but with the blessings of the elders alone belong to this period. Tamil weddings in olden days took place at the brides home. Now a days Weddings are conducted in wedding malls⁷.

Education in Sangam Period:

It was a period were men and women were scholars, matured in numerology and filled with astronomical resources as women had the right to education, men and women learned together. As the women had right to have more than the basic education, men and women learned together after basic education women had separate educational training in music, drama and manaiyial¹. Evidence is found in olden literature that women excelled with men in drawing, writing, dancing and singing⁶.

More than 30 poetess like Avaiyar, Marokathu Napasalar, Otthur Masathiyar, Nakkannaiyar have written songs in Sangam literature. Therefore there is no harm in calculating that education in Sangam Period was at its best².

Education in Modern Period:

Due to growth in modern education, education has been made as common to all. Women has to work only at homes are now getting educated, going to office for work, they have started to act by beginning to take part in the financial life, taking jobs at office and factories are considered as a life way⁸.

Sangam Period Rituals, Ceremonies and Festivals:

They found lack of cleanliness in childbirth. So they had a cleansing ritual after childbirth, similarly when a girl child attains puberty, they had a bathing ritual called pupunithaneeratu. "thaithingal thankayam pola" is for girls who attain puberty. Young girls in the month of Thai, gets up early in the morning, take bath, keep flowers and pray for the welfare of the family to God¹.

Modern period Rituals , Ceremonies and Festivals:

Ear piercing, worshipping family God is noted. Seating the child in uncles lap and ear piercing, garlanding the child by uncle, bringing uncle seer are some of the practices mentioned⁹ in folk lullaby in the month of Chittirai, 12 days chittirai Festival is celebrated with pulling of chariots in a grand way¹⁰.

Sangam Period Hobbies:

Not only men, but even women were brave⁶. Playing with cows, having mulai flower in their heads, mulaipanpadi, looking after the oxen, calves and cows that return home, in their ways looking for their life partner on their way without an eye blink are the speciality of the women¹¹.

Among the games of the Sangam period women, playing with flowers, punal game, ball game, kazhangu game are few to be mentioned. Sangam period women play with dolls forgetting about themselves. They keep bindhi for the beautiful dolls that they made, keep flowers, wear silk garments for that doll, name it, and even conduct marriage for those dolls. (puram 36)¹¹. Kazhangu is another type of game. playing kazhangu is a main hobby of women. A poet in Natrinai has warned that such games are not acceptable³.

Ornaments and Dresses:

Men and women liked ornaments. Gold ornaments, silver ornaments shell ornaments were present. Various kinds of shell ornaments were worn by women, they wore studs on their ears, maalai for their neck, breastplate with stones for their chest, rings for their shoulder, megalaiyumnodigalum, anklets, and bracelets¹. They say women wear saree at their hips and did not have the habit of covering their breasts with clothes. We can realise from mullaikali 11-16-19 that they covered their breasts with sandalwood paste and flowers. The only stitched garment that women wore was the blouse.

Hospitality in Sangam Period:

Women worked along with men and made their living. Guarding the grains and hospitality are the main works of women. Providing milk and curd for the guest promoting good relationship is a wonderful deed³. Sangam period tamil people considered hospitality as their life purpose. Yes! Women in those period had the quality to feast for the guests even at midnight. (natrinai 142). To say in short, the quality of women in that period is to feed any guest who comes hungry to their homes¹¹.

Hospitality in Modern Period:

As soon as the guests come, getting and keeping their luggages and baggages, giving water to those who have come from travelling to refresh themselves, putting chairs for the men to sit, spreading mats for the women to sit, providing mattress and pillows for a comfortable sleep, providing snacks to eat, providing beetle leaves and nuts, providing suitable literature to read, moral books, News paper, were done by women, before they went to cook. It is notable that tamil families treat their guests like this even today¹².

Conclusion:

Women were praised by men in Sangam Period. In this paper we have seen about Womens Social rights, Education, marriage life and Sports. By seeing this we came to know that they had lived equally as Modern period.

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