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THE CONTRIBUTION OF SOUTH INDIA TO INDIAN CULTURE

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Abstract: South India is broadly defined in historical writings as covering the present day linguistic states of Karnataka, Andrapradesh, Kerala & Tamilnadu., where the four major languages of the Dravidian family are spoken. It is believed that the Indus valley civilization was the creation of the Dravidians. The Dravidians had developed not only city life but also international trade and thus had developed superior culture as compared to their predecessors. As your culture provides the base to modern Indian culture but it is also accepted that the Aryan culture has gained much from the culture of the Dravidian from whom they captured the political power of India.

Index Terms - Component, formatting, style, styling, insert.

As your Dravidian cultures were closely mixed up even the far south. The Gupta emperor Samudra Gupta attacked parts of South India & extended the influence of the north Indian culture. After wards not only the Vakatakas but also the Pallavas, the chalukyias, the Rastrakutas & the Cholas of the South on the one hand helped in increasing the influence of the culture of the north in the south on the other hand helped in increasing the influence by patronizing fine arts & literature helped in the enrichment of Indian culture in different fields.

Mostly the south remained an integral part of the Indian culture as a whole & pursued all those values & traditions in polity, society & religion. In polity like the north, the south also pursued the system of hereditary, monarchy & the acceptance of Rajya -Dharma by the monarchs. As in the north the monarchs of the south mostly left untouched the territory, administrative system & social set up of the conquered. Ruling dynasties of the south fought wars on the principles of Dharma Yudha. In society the system of four varnas & sub Caste also accepted in the south. The Sanskrit language's remained the literary language of the south & influenced the literature of regional languages like Tamil, Kannada, Telugu etc. The Hindu religion became the predominant religion in the south. Image worship particularly those of Shiva & Vishnu religious festivals, ceremonies & observance of pilgrimages remained equally popular in the South. The same way religious toleration was observed by the rulers.

The credit of maintaining trade with foreign countries both in the east & the west through sea- routes went to South India. Many south Indian dynasties, particularly the Cholas, utilised their sea coast for the purpose of foreign trade & sometimes for extending their political influence beyond the frontiers of India. South India carried on basic trade for a long time with chin, South East Asia, Western Asia & upto Europe. As the trade was favourable, it brought about economic prosperity in India. This foreign trade created a prosperous business class with a morality & values of life that were district from the rest of the Indian people. The values of this class brought about their influence on contemporary literature & art. Tantrika philosophy helped in the growth of corruption in society & also influenced the literature & the fine arts particularly the sculpture of its time, but it is also certain that, the temples & the images constructed under the influence of Tantrism & the literature full of romance & sex could not be attempted even in the absence

of prosperity & a powerful rich business class for whose creation South India had been largely responsible. Thus South India affected the morality, religion, literature & fine arts of India because of its favourable foreign trade & enrichment of India.

The Satavahanas, The Vakatakas, The Cholas, The Chalukyas, The Pallavas, The Gangas & the rest helped in the growth of literature & learning. Many of the emperors were scholars themselves, they patronized scholars & educational institutions. Kanchi became the culture of learning under the patronage of the Pallavas. In South India literary works were produced in different languages of south like Tamil, Kannada & Telugu. Thus South India enriched Indian literature.

South India Contributed richly towards Hindu religion & philosophy as well. It popularized Saivism, branches of Saivism like lingayata, The Pashupathi, Kapalika originated in south. Hindu temples became religious institutions Shakaracharya propagated monism, Ramanuja & Madhavacharya propagated dualism & prepared the way for the popularity of Bhakimarga.

South India has contributed in the growth & enrichment of Indian fine arts. The frescoes of Ajanta & Sittannvasal caves and in the temple at Tadjore are the best contributions of South India to art of painting. Caves & monastries are glorious contribution of the south to art of architecture & sculpture of India. The Buddhist stupa at Amaravati, The Minakshi temple, The Sangamesvara temple, The Vishnu temple at Aihole, The Kailash temple at Ellora, The Rath temple at Mammallapuram & Vaikunta temple at Kanchi. The Cholesvara temple, Rajarajeshvara temple at Tanjore & many other such temples & their images are the greatest heritage of the south as part of Indian culture. Besides, the image of Jaina Tirthankara, Gomateshvara, The bronze statue of nataraja, Shiva from the extreme south & similar images have been considered the best specimens of the Indian art of sculpture. One of the ancient & popular schools of sculpture viz, the Amaravati school grew & developed in the south. Thus South India has contributed considerably to Indian culture in the fields of painting, architecture & sculpture.

South India also played an important role in extending Indian culture beyond its frontiers, particularly in South-East-Asia & thereby in the formation of what has been described as greater India. The Hindus from the south established their colonial empire at Fu-nan (Cambodia or Kambuja). The first ruling dynasty of Champa also belonged to them & the south maintained political, cultural & trade relations with the Hindu colonies in Indo-China & Indonesia for a long time & thus helped in the propagation of Indian culture there.

Besides, while the Muslims succeeded in influencing the Hindu culture in the north & put it on defence, it was in the south that it found security and successfully safeguarded its basic features. Thus contribution of South India to Indian culture involves a systematic politics, culture & ideology. South India has not only enriched Indian culture in different fields but has also succeeded in preserving it. Therefore, the contribution of South India to Indian culture is remarkable.

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