



# INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CREATIVE RESEARCH THOUGHTS (IJCRT)

An International Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

## ANCIENT TAMIL AND HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

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Ancient Tamil culture and Human environment

### Abstract

Human environmental law is the most emerging and ruling subject in the upcoming years. How ever when we focused on ancient life, they have the deep knowledge on the aforesaid subject which was later abandoned by the people. Now a days we are getting back the precious gold.

When we focusing on ancient Tamil literature, they divided land into 5 and later land was divided into 6 parts. It was named as Kurinji, Mullai, Marudham, Neithal and Palai. Then snow area also accepted as a land by modern Tamils.

Each land having its own characteristics, nature, style, occupation, music, goddess, leader, food, trees, peoples name, people nature, animals, birds, flowers, water system, musical instruments, music tone so on.

Water is the main source which determines the livelihood of the people. In kurinji, aruvi, sunai is the source. In mullai, kattaru is the base. Similarly other lands having the variety of water resource. Water is the basis for civilisation. Gangetic belt and another source are the base for Indus valley civilisation. Nile river role is to be notable for human evolution. Kaveri river is the base for chola empire and Vaigai for Pandiya.

Water which was the oldest source is essential for human life. Without water, there is no life in the world. Every government are taking appropriate steps to protect, save and utilise water. Still rainwater and undersea water is a treasure to humankind.

When we focused on fifth land structure, Paalai, it denotes dry desert land. All other lands are fertile land because of good source of water. Here there is water scarcity and poor availability of water.

Such land characteristics directly affect the lifestyle of the people living there. Peoples living there called as Eyinar, Eyitriyar. Food source denoted as foods got from theft. Even animals living there was so weak. Love faded there and breakup are common. Crime rate was shown high and theft, murder, robbery, rape shown common. Even birds eat the dead organism parts. War is the main occupation. Thudi is the fast music in land which creates arrogance among people. Such land was not eligible for cultivation and for life. It was called as dead land.

We are now a days using more fertilizers and killing our own land. If it converted into dead land and not fit for life, we will face all aforesaid consequences. War chances increased only due to the mental condition of human changed. Adam and Eve became greedy and lost many privileges. Similarly, human greediness kills beautiful nature, environment and later himself. Due to the human actions eco system will get affected, pollution killed life and soon man might follow cannibalism. In this condition prevails, a human can see other human as a tasty food. Then how can we expect human rights and humanity there?

Only if the nature lives, human will live as a human. If we focused on other lands, there is a beautiful love and humanity among humans. Human rights law and environmental law is one among another. It should be studied together. By considering the various correlation, Human environment subject was created in later 1960s.

United nation conference on the human environment was organised on 5 to 16<sup>th</sup> June in 1972, Stockholm. It was the first world conference on the environment. The Stockholm Declaration, which contained 26 principles, placed environmental issues at the forefront of international concerns and marked the start of a dialogue between industrialized and developing countries on the link between economic growth, the pollution of the air, water, and oceans and the well-Man is both creature and moulder of his environment, which gives him physical substance and opportunity for intellectual, moral, social and spiritual growth. In the long and tortuous evolution of the human race on this planet a stage has been reached when, through the rapid acceleration of science and technology, man has acquired the power to transform his environment in countless ways and on an unprecedented scale. Both aspects of man's environment, the natural and the man-made, are essential to his well-being and to the enjoyment of basic human rights - even the right to life itself. being of people around the world<sup>1</sup>.

Indian constitution focusing on environment protection in various articles and various laws are born from that principle. It gave responsibility to government to protect nature and also to every citizen and human.

Advancing technologies and science development destroys nature and create various negative effect in the environment. Science and technology, as part of their contribution to economic and social development, must be applied to the identification, avoidance and control of environmental risks and the solution of environmental problems and for the common good of mankind.<sup>2</sup> Doctrine of public trust, precautionary principle, preventive principle, polluter pay principle, integration principle, public participation principle, SD goals should be used effectively and accordingly. One can't develop without any exploitation. Human technological development is a needed one, should be used for the development of nature and to reduce exploitation. Nature should be bloom and alternative method to be found.

Carbon tax is a good way to protect environment. Man has a special responsibility to safeguard and wisely manage the heritage of wildlife and its habitat which are now gravely imperilled by a combination of adverse factors. Nature conservation including wildlife must therefore receive importance in planning for economic development<sup>3</sup>.

The non-renewable resources of the earth must be employed in such a way as to guard against the danger of their future exhaustion and to ensure that benefits from such employment are shared by all mankind<sup>4</sup>.

Economic and social development is essential for ensuring a favourable living and working environment for man and for creating conditions on earth that are necessary for the improvement of the quality of life<sup>5</sup>

Rational planning constitutes an essential tool for reconciling any conflict between the needs of development and the need to protect and improve the environment.<sup>6</sup>

Education in environmental matters, for the younger generation as well as adults, giving due consideration to the under privileged, is essential in order to broaden the basis for an enlightened opinion and responsible conduct by individuals, enterprises and communities in protecting and improving environment in its full human dimension. It is also essential that mass media of communications avoid contributing to the deterioration of the environment, but, on the contrary, disseminate information of an educational nature, on the need to protect and improve the environment in order to enable man to develop in every respect<sup>7</sup>.

As a revolution in environmental education field, nature will get its protection shield. States shall ensure that international organizations play a coordinated, efficient and dynamic role for the protection and improvement of the environment.<sup>8</sup>

Men and his environment must be spared the effects of nuclear weapons and all other means of mass

destruction. States must strive to reach prompt agreement, in the relevant international organs, on the elimination and complete destruction of such weapons<sup>9</sup>.

Doctrine of *Parens patriae* should be applied in a wide manner. State and humans should protect nature. Nature is our mother, in her older and sickness days, it's the responsibility of her heir to protect adopted mother. One who do more than another who carry for 9 months. It is moral, legal and welfare in each form.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Human environment is an important part in law and in sociology. It is getting recognised by this unavoidable superior position in the future education background. Without law, there is no social science paper. Similarly, without human environment, there will be no humanity and nature. By considering its necessity, this paper focusing on ancient Tamil culture and how literature detailly focused on human environment.

We all know the knowledge of ancient people, indeed even though we are technologically advanced we can't compete with those people. Old is gold. Ancient Egypt, Tamils, Mayans, Aryans, Chinese, Hebrews marked their remarkable knowledge in each and every field in their unique way.

Their knowledge was reflected in architecture, medicine, law, policy, yoga, defence, martial arts, warfare, nature protection, agriculture, food, water, worship, astrology, astronomy and in every field.

This paper mostly focusing on Tamil people contribution to the human environment along with various civilisation. Tamil, one of the ancient languages in the world and still holding its superior position by its extraordinary Grammar and poetry culture.

In Tamil, literature is divided into *Agam* and *Puram*. *Agam* means inner part which includes love, family, marriage, reproduction, child development, discipline part. *Puram* means external focusing on warfare, braveness, bold, external disciplined. All are well organised and well structured in a proper way.

Madurai, Pandiya ruling zone having its sacred history. It's marked its remarkable position in the development of language. Earlier there are 2 Madurai which was eaten away by seawater. So hidden culture was peacefully sleeping in underwater.

Oldest book found was 'Tholkappiyam'. It is a grammar book. As rationally we can think, grammar evolved after language reached its boom. Books and poems wrote prior to aforesaid book was vanished when Kumari continent was droned. Prehistory of Dravidian language is not clearly found, it was a saddest part to the entire mankind.

Once a scholar said, Deep history are sleeping peacefully undersea. Not only Tamil, Mayans, Egypt are having their own style. Mayans are very good in

astrology and astronomy. They have their own calendar. They predicted future and nature events.

Egypt is famous for their architecture and they constructed various Pyramids. They believed that future technology might found life to death. Thus, they preserve body. Might be look superstitious but still some countries doing research on that.

Research was going on in the way of what is life? What is soul? What is life after death? What about second life after death? What is called Karma? What is known as good deed and bad deed? Now a days scientist trying to figure out issues. But ancient people are having clear answer for aforesaid questions in detail. We called them as scholars but they are Human rights activist and environmental protector.

Yoga, Meditation, Martial arts are now a days getting popular but earlier it was developed by people who are quite intelligent. Yoga and Meditation is a medicine for psychological issues which current and upcoming generation are facing. Yoga divided our soul into 7, every point having its own importance. If we get meditated by concentrating on particular point, we get such knowledge and our brain get activated. Shiva, Tamil god

who having his eyes in between his eyes. That's called as Wisdom.

தென்னாடைய சிவனன னாற்றி! எந்நாடவைந்கும் இடவைவா னாற்றி! is a term by a poet shows shiva is a Tamil god. In addition to that it promoted human rights. It promoted brotherhood and secularism. Ennatavarkum iraiva potrim means poet first praised his lord then he shows his respect to all other god worshiped by all other people.

Thus ancient people are well developed and civilized in human rights. பிழைத்தாக்கும் எல்லா உயிர்க்கும் - is an ancient line denotes nature and earth is for every organism, man can't enjoy his absolute rights in nature.

யாதும் ஊனே யாவரும் னேளிர் means all humans are brothers and sisters

irrespective of race, sex, caste, religion, place of birth, place of residence, skin tone, body structure and language, food habit, dressing and educational background. It promoted fraternity, equality, no discrimination and various other human rights recognized by UN.

Humanity is the sphere can be talked and recognized by ancient people than our current generation. If we focused on past, we enlighten in present and shine in future. Ancient Tamil and Human environment | Ms. Abirami BA, LLB (Hons),

## **2. TAMIL CULTURE AND HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

Tamil, by the way of poem and language way they expressed their ideas and philosophy in Human rights. Various poems directly and indirectly promoted human rights. In Thirukural, various chapters clearly and detailly discussing about human rights and promoting environmental protection.

In this culture, they praised nature as goddess. Various ancient civilisation having this. They praise air, water, land, trees, forest, atmosphere, ozone, stars, planets, animals and birds as goddess. They were named as vayu, indiran, sivan, rahu, kethu, sani, sun, moon, aruntati, varaham and praised Navagraha as their protectors. They get afraid of them and they believed they will punish if we done wrong. Thus, humanity protected by goddess.

They have the belief of worshipping the people who protected them in hard times or who enlightened them or helping humanity. It was called as Nadukal vanakam, later called as Aasivaham. They built temple for kings, warriors, wisdom scholars. Interesting fact is in south Tamil nadu, having culture of dividing themselves into various groups based on goddess they praised. It is called as Kula deivam, goddess for family.

Every Kula deivam having real life stories, who promoted human rights in some way. There are various kula deivam in Tamilnadu and interestingly they never get married within same. It is like they belong to same family and all are brothers and sisters. Thus, it is a restricted relationship to get into marriage morally.

Most interestingly, one group named their goddess as Arunjunai kata Ayyanar. He is named after he built, protect and promote water source. Protecting water zone is called as goddess. Rivers are named after every woman and respect woman as waters. Without woman there is no future generation or love, similarly water is base for peaceful life. So Tamil people indirectly correlating woman and water alone gave love, knowledge and peace to humankind.

Water is the base for civilization and woman for humankind. Humanity born from women as proved by various scholars. Earlier women mostly engaging in household chores and art, crafts. Earning food, hunting, warfare is done by man. Psychologically and physically men are stronger than men, mentally and morally woman are strong. Thus, Ancient Tamil are well vested in Psychology and they acted based on that. Woman are mostly knowledge in poems, policy framing and planning. Avvaiyar is a Tamil poet, who is the best friend of Paari. King Paari is called as Vallal Paari. He is one among the 7 vallal. Vallal is the kind of people who donated everything irrespective of any kind of selfishness.

### **3. Kadaiezlu Vallalhal and Humanity**

7 great people are listed and praised by Tamil people. They are famous for their contribution in human rights field. Paari is a king who gave his chariot to a mullai kodi who was struggling to develop further. Helping a small plant is the base for environmental law. It was done by human, who promoted humanity.

Another one named as Began, gave his precious blanket to one of a peacock whom he taught it was danced due to rain chillness. This shows their innocent brilliant humanity people lived in ancient India. In one interesting phase, a king was roaming in his chariot with a bell in it. He removed his bell because he taught that sound affect small living organism at that time which affects its life. This is amazing and considering nature as a part of life is a great thing.

Manuneedhi Cholan is a chola king render justice to a cow which his son accident a calf now he gave justice by punishing his own son.

Sibi chakrawarthy is a king also to be notable. Apart from other kings, People also placed a various contribution to human rights.

### **4. TAMIL PEOPLE AND HUMANITY**

Tamil people are equally contributing to the field of human rights and environment. Peoples are loveable and kind in nature. It was written down by various poets. Idihasam is a long literature story. In 5 big kaapiyam, Silapatiharam is a legendry document describing various principles which was written by Illangovadigal, a chera prince.

Story started by praising Nature as goddess. It mostly talked about humanity, good deeds. Story was focused on normal citizens who was son and daughter of a rich business people get married. Both are leading their family life in loveable way. But a second love changed their story and she felt bad for people seeing her in poor role and unable to chariot. It was expressed by her at one point. Later king render injustice and she was seeking for justice from scholars, nature. Nature supported her when she burnt the place which destroyed her. King also died by attack as soon as he realized he committed wrong. She later destroyed Madurai, by praying to goddess that such fire should not destroy nature, women, children, aged, sicked, cow, and all animals in any form. Later she moved to chera kingdom, there prince came to know about the story and make it as a beautiful literature.

Her step daughter Manimegalai is notable for her kindness and humanity. Her story was written by seetalai saatanar. It promoted Buddhism and love. In the story she was having a vessel known as akshayapatram, which means it multiplies everything what we deposited. It was with Draupathy in Mahabharat, woman belonging to various periods. Both supply foods with that vessel. Thus, woman is capable to protect humanism. Foods are properly cooked and supplied by women.

Might be that vessel also sleep peacefully in underwater, if nature found a capable person it will go into their hands accordingly as per belief.

Additionally, Ramayanam described the beauty of Sri Lanka and Tamil people culture. Story narrating a powerful king even destroyed when he act against the consent of women. Woman are energy source and a Pattini woman told sky to shower rain, it will. It showed feminism and Indian culture how they respected woman.

Mahabharatam, Kandari, Kunti, Draupathy, Rukmani and other females played a dominating role and taking the story into moral path. Draupathy, heroine of the story, punished the people who insulted and affected her dignity. Dignity is the basis for human rights, was talked detailly by Ancient Indians. Moral of the story was even though a man was well knowledge, brave, brilliant, powerful, good, blessed or in any way, if they render injustice or support injustice, they will surely get vanished.

Thus, woman contribution in human rights is typical role. In one of the Agam Kaapiyam, A girl called a tree as her sister. She explaining her story to her husband stating that when she was toddler, she and her mom played a game by hiding something under sand and to find out. One day they played with a seed, that was this tree and she used to feed her milk and water because its her sibling. No beautiful love story glowed in front of nature love. She called Nature as her own sister. If we consider Nature as living brother, we never exploit it.

Similarly, a story in Aryan, stating a women cried after she leaving her mother house after marriage, that she will miss the plants she feed and grow. This shows the well-developed civilisation.

## **5. TAMIL LAND DIVISION AND HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

Tamil People divided their land into 5 parts, namely Kurinji, Mullai, Marutham, Neithal, Paalai. Each land having its own characteristics, nature, style, occupation, music, goddess, leader, food, trees, peoples name, people nature, animals, birds, flowers, water system, musical instruments, music tone so on. Such division was classified based on Nature.

Kurinji, Hills and Mountains are very fertile, beautiful and peaceful life. Love starts there, it reached its highest point in Marutham and died in Paalai. As man focused on development, he lost love and his knowledge killed humanity. Mind should over rule the brain in some way.

Kurinji is a land called its goddess as Murugan and who famous for love marriage. Its place for love. *Punarthal Punarthal Nimitham* is the base for Kurinji love, which means Lovers stays together and shower love each and every day. As Nature was flourished love and humanity will glow as like sun.

In Mullai, its Forest land, they show *Iruthal Iruthal Nimitham*, which means Waiting for short period with love for their lovers to get back to home who went for hunting and to collect food.

In Marutham, Agricultural land which love reached its highest point and some kind of illegal relationship started here. Discipline get disturbed because people took leisure time and they started to enjoy and develop music, art, crafts, dance, fun, drama, policy for development, research, invention, production, promotion, language development, dressing and all kind of new things are formed there. Martial arts are used as defence in other land, but here it was used as sports, fun timepass. Warfare started here. Civilization born here. Greediness and development formed here. Foods are produced, cooked and tasty method of cooking was started. Makeup reached its good position. Studies and education developed here. Love here is *Oodal Oodal Nimitham* which means they have love fights in Marutham.

In Neithal, its seashore and land near to sea. Now land and peoples are moving towards recession and Trade reached its boom here. Here love is *Irangal Irangal Nimitham*, means woman was waiting with sad in seashore for her lover return. He might get return or may not because of unpredictable nature of sea. Due to nature depletion, Humanity started to get damaged. Caste started its route here. Salt sellers were noted as lower and fishers are higher.

## **6. PAALAI AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION**

In Paalai, desert dry land, where Nature died, Humanity died, Love died and all crimes inhumane condition prevailed. Injustice is common everywhere. Paalai goddess is Kotravai, a lady kaali. She was worshipped by the people who is doing war. She is arrogant and bearing human shell in her neck. She looks brave and anger. She was worshipped in Bharani, before war. War and crime are common in that land. Theft is their base. Rape, Murdered, robbery are common. Blood strains and Pali is common rituals. Love here is *Pirithal Pirithal Nimitham*, which means lovers get separated and broke up in common. Humans lost their Humanity, love and brain started to act brave and killed mind.

Even music here is Fast beat and it even never shown mercy. These people living here lost their humanity. They are simply called as Animals living in the name of Human skin. They mostly have animals character domination. They never study and they are arrogant. When peoples are struggling to get food, how they are focusing on other things which makes human as a human. Kalingatubharani and other various poems describing the lifestyle of people. They are strongest and bravest. Fortunately, Tamil culture doesn't see that condition much.

Thus, it is very clear that humanity and nature makes a human as a human, if not its just a knowledge animal hide behind human skin.

## **7. WARFARE AND TAMIL CULTURE**

War is a game which determined superiority. It's a serious game and a deadly game. Life was hugely sacrificed and who killed more won more policy. Earlier it was related to brave then to Smart. It showed evolution in war.

Then they framed rules, policy and principles to war. As similar to how games have rules. Ancient Tamil followed it strictly and if anyone disobey it, they will get punished and not have capacity to enter into warfare.

In Bharani, a grammar and rules book for war. It celebrates a person who is capable to victory and brave. A person who killed 1000 elephants in a brave way eligible to celebrate. Thus, only bravest are get celebrated. War like now-a-days are inhuman, unacceptable way.

They are listing out various steps in warfare. Separate music, flowers are listed along with that. It is called Pura thinai. Thinai means discipline. War discipline is listed by Ancient Tamils in their literature. It was 12 steps. Each part is sequential and came one after another. They are named after flowers. *Vetchi, Karantai, Vanji, Kanchi, Notchi, Uzhingai, Thumbai, Vaagai, Paadan, Potuviyal and kaikilai and peruntinai*. War announcement started by stealing cows from a kingdom. Cow is praised as goddess, health, wealth, food and everything. If a person steals cow and domestic animals, it is declared as war.

Then, that king retrieve back the stolen wealth to country. Then war started by occupying place or announced in a common place. Mostly, war name was remarked by the place where it was done. Then king who won the war, get celebrated. Then most beautiful part is listed in Potuviyal part. So even in war, they showed bravery, mercy, smart, humanity, love, care. Mostly in this aforesaid culture, Never Women were used as a gift for a man who won war. Woman are having full privileged in selecting their life partner irrespective of gender. Woman if she liked she can marry a man who won brave games. Thus, Woman in ancient times having more freedom, respect and independence. They have equality and freedom in everything as like man. Woman are equally brave as like man, in one warfare a old lady came to know about her son died as a coward. She rushed

herself to the spot and found his dead body with severe wounds, she got relaxed by praising her son died bravely.

Another one incident noted was in a first day war a woman lost her father, then brother, then husband in series of days. Then she wants to render service to the country so she send her small single baby son to war. It is quite surprising how bold they are!

Similarly, various Tamil queen, people render various brave activities. They are focusing on more than beauty. They acted as Ministers. They are policy makers, policy framers. They are well discipline. They strongly believe,

ஒழுக்கமே விழுவாய்மெலோன் ஒழுக்கமே உயிரினும் ஓம்பாடும்

Kural, thus discipline is most important than a life. This principle is common for all.

They also believed king can do no wrong, but if a king done wrong, he also getting punished. Thus, law is supreme in Ancient Tamil culture. They have voting in election, organising Panchayat system to reach policy at grassroot level, language scholars and woman are involving in War. Kuyili is the notable warrior among Velu Natchiyar Padai.

They also knowledge and constructed dams, schools, temples with various surprising factors. Their construction holding a beautiful structure, Tanjore temple is the best one. They are using temple as school for teaching morality, arts and culture.

## 8. CONCLUSION

So far author research was focusing on Tamil literature, Culture and other developed civilisation in the world. Most of the civilisation get vanished and disappeared due to Nature depletion and destruction. Tamil and Chinese are the oldest civilisation who stills prevails because they are focusing on environmental conservation. As time flies, they also suffered a lot, they get back their wealth. They strongly believed Nature is the wealth. By nature, we can achieve anything.

வாடியாயிடே ணைனா தெல்லாம் வாடினன் !

The aforesaid lines showed the rich heritage of Tamils. It means he get upset because he saw a plant suffered due to shortage of water. But we might think why he was simply suffering can pour some water and move on. But he broadly thought by considering each and every plant and all living beings.

A Famous Tamil poet named Bharatiyar boldly expressed,

஁னி ஒருவனுக்கு உணவு இல்லாததயனிவந்தெத்திடன அழித்திடுனவாம் ஁ என் ஁ர் ஁ தே ஁

No hunger was among the SDG 2030 goals. All the goals were discussed and achieved by Ancient Tamils. Even those days Peoples are able to and gave the Goals which was fixed as a Target to be achieved in 2030s.

Thus, Author concluding it by saying, Human environment is not a new emerging subject. It is as old as water to earth. If nature live happily, Humanity and human rights prevail peacefully. Author citing the famous lines clearly describing Tamil culture which they are the leaders in Human Environment field.

஁மிழன் ஁ன்தை ஁ரு இனம் உண்டு ஁மிழன் ஁ன்தை ஁ரு இனம் உண்டு

஁னினய அவர்க்தை ஁ரு ஁ணம் உண்டு ஁னினய அவர்க்தை ஁ரு ஁ணம் உண்டு அமிழ்஁ம் அவனது த ஁ழியாகும் ஁ன்னா அவனது வழியாகும் ஁ன்னா அவனது வழியாகும்



ேடலளே யாவினும் வல்லவனாம் ேர்வைவர் எவர்க்கும் நல்லவனாம்

ேடலளே யாவினும் வல்லவனாம் ேர்வைவர் எவர்க்கும் நல்லவனாம் நீடலதோள் ற்றல அடயாளம் நின்னை இன்னும் உடனையானாம்

மேமிழன் என்தைதாரு இனம் உண்டு

ஊானம் தாரிதென உயிர் விடுவான் ஊர்வைவர்க்கோ துயர்ப்படுவான் ஊானம் தாரிதென உயிர் விடுவான் ஊர்வைவர்க்கோ துயர்ப்படுவான்

னானம் வாங்கிக் கூசிடுவான் னானம் வாங்கிக் கூசிடுவான்

ரெுவது னை தலனப் னாசிடுவான் ரெுவது னை தலனப் னாசிடுவான்

மேமிழன் என்தைதாரு இனம் உண்டு

னாதிளே தனாழிலால் உண்தைனினும் சசேசம் நாட்டினில் ேண்வைவனாம் சசேசம் நாட்டினில் ேண்வைவனாம்

நீதியும் உரிடையும் அந்நியர்க்கும் நீடை கூடயாஊல் னண்ணினவன்

மேமிழன் என்தைதாரு இனம் உண்டு ெனினய அவர்க்தோரு கூணம் உண்டு கூணம் உண்டு

These lines expressing the life of Tamil which includes Ancient, modern and all Tamils who are living in Any corners of the world. Tamil are the people who are exclusively born with care, live with love, stand and enforce humanity, Ensuring human rights, Promote Discipline, protect Nature and live as a human.

