



Preface

This collection of scholarly articles presents a multidimensional inquiry into the socio-cultural, historical, and political fabric of Kerala, while also engaging with broader theoretical and interdisciplinary frameworks. The volume reflects a wide spectrum of critical concerns—ranging from grassroots empowerment and anti-caste movements to literary resistance, ecological thought, and neoliberal governance—each offering distinct insights that contribute to an enriched academic discourse.

The paper *“Social Empowerment of Owner-Members of Women Micro-Enterprises in the Malabar Region of Kerala State”* provides compelling empirical evidence that women’s engagement in Kudumbashree-linked enterprises fosters social empowerment by enhancing mobility, self-confidence, and community visibility. Similarly, *“Historicity of Freedom Movement in Irinjalakuda”* captures localized contributions to India’s national struggle, revealing underexplored narratives and pivotal events.

In *“Development of Environmental Consciousness in Contemporary Hindi Literature,”* the authors trace how literary interventions foreground ecological awareness, emphasizing the role of key writers in articulating *environmental critique*. *Thaikalam: A Creative Resistance* offers a powerful re-reading of the Ramayana, addressing intersecting axes of caste and gender through innovative linguistic strategies.

“Colonial Modernity and the Struggle against Untouchability in Central Kerala” unpacks historical anti-caste movements and their enduring impact on



social restructuring. Usha Priyamvada's literary voice is critically examined in "*Women's History in Usha Priyamvada's Novels*," which traces evolving female identities and social agency across her narrative corpus.

Dr. Anilkumar N and Prof. (Dr.) Vinubhaskar's study offers a valuable contribution to chronobiology and sports science by highlighting the significant influence of chronotype on right-hand grip strength in collegiate female shuttle badminton players. Its methodical approach and use of validated tools strengthen the reliability of findings and open avenues for performance optimization based on individual biological rhythms.

"Kalpathy Issues and Beyond: Socio-Political Realignment in Malabar in the Post-1921 Period" investigates the shifting caste and religious configurations in the wake of the 1921 upheaval, while *"Private Spaces and Personal Spaces in Dalit Autobiographies"* interrogates the intersection of space, caste, and identity in Dalit lived experiences. Kumaranasan's editorials, explored in *"Politics of Editorials"*, are shown to reflect a sophisticated engagement with the social and political discourses of his time.

The paper *"Patterns and Influences of Migration for Higher Education Among Students in Kerala"* analyzes migration trends, revealing their socio-economic motivations and implications for educational policy. Dr. Augustine N. J.'s study adds a crucial empirical dimension to the discourse on youth sports, linking early specialization in athletics with higher dropout rates, and offering evidence-based policy recommendations.

Rajesh K.'s paper presents a compelling theoretical investigation into the psychological governance mechanisms in the neoliberal era, drawing on Byung-Chul Han's framework to analyze how power operates through self-discipline and optimization. His work advances critical political theory by interrogating the subtle dynamics of biopolitics and mental conformity.

Ratnakumari K.A. and Dr. Babu C.C. significantly enhance the understanding of caste-based economic inequality through their detailed analysis of intra-caste disparities in income and consumption among Scheduled Castes in Kerala. Their data-driven approach and policy-relevant conclusions



address gaps often neglected in conventional social welfare frameworks.

Dr. Suresh Kumar K. A. offers a nuanced comparison of multicultural integration paradigms—specifically the Melting Pot and Salad Bowl models—situated within India’s complex socio-political context. His findings illuminate the tensions and transformative possibilities inherent in managing cultural plurality within democratic systems.

Tara Paul contributes a vibrant range of interdisciplinary scholarship—from feminist reinterpretations of ancient texts to critiques of caste, gender, and environmental politics. Her research not only amplifies underrepresented voices but also strengthens the dialogic intersections between literature, policy, and cultural studies.

Finally, Sanjaykumar’s study provides a penetrating look into the political aesthetics of Malayalam theatre, underscoring its role in Kerala’s progressive history. Through close readings of key plays and dramatists, he reveals how theatre has served as both a mirror and catalyst for social transformation.

Together, these papers form a valuable intellectual resource that bridges academic theory and regional praxis, while deepening our understanding of the complex dynamics shaping Kerala and beyond.

Sincerely

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