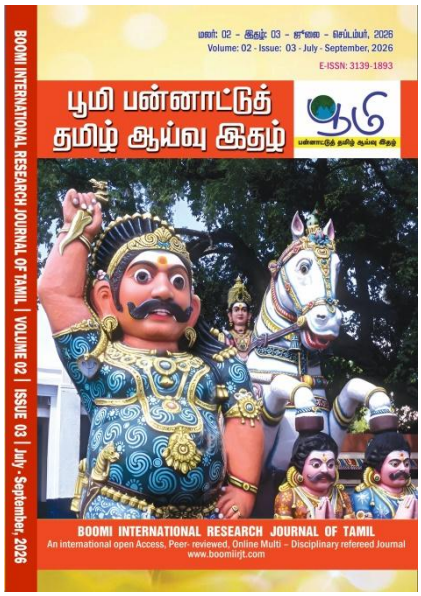
Social structure and life beliefs of the Malayali tribal people of Dharmapuri district

தருமபுரி வட்டார மலையாளி திணைக்குடி மக்களின் சமூக அமைப்பும் வாழ்வியல் நம்பிக்கைகளும்



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Abstract

This article focuses on the history, social structure and beliefs of the Malayali people. The origin, migration history and life background of the Malayali people living in the hilly areas of Tamil Nadu such as Kolli Hills, Pachai Hills, Yelagiri Hills, Jawvadumalai, Kalvarayan Hills, Servarayan Hills and Sittheri Hills are first discussed. The origin of the name 'Malayali', the origin of the three sections namely Periya Malayali, Nadu Malayali, and Pachai Malayali, and the clans and sub-clans associated with them are explained. In particular, the oral story passed down among the people regarding the origin of the three sections is recorded. It is also pointed out that these oral traditions are disappearing over time. The social structure and administrative system of the Malayali people are examined. The social leadership roles of Pattakaran, Nattar, Kariyakarar, Urkoondar, Kangani, Moopan and their respective functions are explained. It is evident that these roles play an Beliefs associated with the lives of the Malayali people are recorded in detail. Beliefs based on the day of birth, days, gods, and time, as well as rituals such as fortune-telling and exorcism, are explored.

Keywords: Malayali, culture, society, beliefs

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