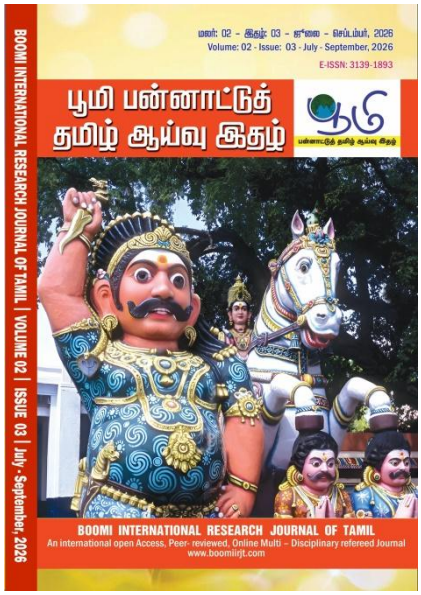
Political Ethics of Ancient Tamils
பண்டைய தமிழர் அரசியல் அறங்கள்



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முனைவர் து. கலைவாணி
உதவிப் பேராசிரியர், தமிழ்த்துறை, தட்சசீலா பல்கலைக் கழகம், ஓங்கூர், திண்டிவனம் வட்டம், தமிழ்நாடு-604305 E.mail: kalai25071980@gmail.com

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Abstract

Ethics ('Aram') served as the foundational principle in the social and governance structures of ancient Tamils. Ancient Tamils recognized that order, laws, and just governance are essential for human

progress and peaceful living. Based on textual evidence from Classical Tamil literature such as Purananuru, Maduraikanchi, Silappathikaram, and Kambaramayanam, this research paper comprehensively analyzes the political ethics of ancient Tamils. Ancient Tamil warfare was guided not only by valor but also by ethical codes that ensured the protection of civilians, women, the elderly, and the sick prior to combat. Furthermore, Tamil monarchs practiced ethical post-war conduct—refraining from torturing defeated enemies and working toward the restoration and development of conquered lands rather than their destruction. Literature emphasizes that a ruler must act as a protector of all living beings and govern with justice and compassion. This paper highlights how the governance and war ethics of ancient Tamils served as early precursors to modern democratic principles.

Keywords:

Ancient Tamils, Political Ethics, War Ethics, Just Governance (Sengonmai), Sangam Literature, Purananuru.

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