

Legacy of Nila, Cultural Geography and Habitat of NILA river Valley.

[PART-II JANAPADA CHARITRA ADHANAM (Dicision17-3-995 See PREAMBLE OF THE

LEGACY OF NILA) Work related to peoples planning programme, Govt. of Kerala :- A Proiect proposed along with UGC proiect.]

A number of Research papers were published on the Zamorins palace records during 1978-

1987 and the collection of them was brought out in 1987 :the name of the book is "Saamuuthiri Charithrathile Kanaappurungal" or "Unseen pages of Zamorins history" .A good number of media reports were also brought out to bring the RE-DISCOVERY OF ZAMORINS ARCHIVAL RECORDS in the notice of PROFESSIONAL HISTORIANS OF

KERALA .Even though three decades has been elapsed no such people came forward to evaluate them only because of professional jealousy ,Personal interests and reluctance in changing Traditional Way Of Analysis. The analysis of Zamorins record was gradually taken

up in 1980 by NMN. A detailed study of Calicut City and Rajadhani was taken up under the

TOPONOMICAL studies. The Pattern ,important nodal points ,palace areas Etc were identified toponymically and early streets ,and royal road systems inside the rajadhani were

identified with the help of ZAMORINS records and Pymashi records of Mysoreans and British settlement records.later a paper on this was GEOGRAPHY MAPS . prepared with HISTORICAL It is given as the introduction of the Directory of CALICUT CORPORATION

in 1980.Another map showing the roads through Vasco De Gama entered the city is also given in the study. The toponymical reconstruction of the Capital and Vastu sastra basis is

also given in the map-these are the pioneering efforts.

Based on the studies of Zamorins records it was able to re construct the royal routs from Cranganur to Calicut crossing PONNANI. Another important outcome was the IDENTIFICATION OF ZAMORINS TERRITORY towards south up to CRANGANUR and

towards east up to PALGHAT GAP. It is very interesting to note that Zamorin"s STHANI

families were spread all over the land from PUTHUPATTANAM to CRANGANUR. A survey on Guruvayur and Zamorins relation to that important Temple Complex proves this

factor. Zamorins relations to temples, temple yogams, etc are also seen formulated on the basis of a political strategy. Maamaakam, Pattathanam, Krishnanattom etc. are all have some

political strategy as under current.

Analysis of Zamorins records under the category of Cherikal accounts helps us to identify villages under Cerikkals. Corresponding Revenue Villages were thus identified. There are 28 cheerikkals. Major Cherikkals and Powerful STHANIS are seen on the banks of Nila. They are totally ruled by powerful STHANI Families. Their part in the social

Dynamism is to be measured .It was the aim to select a study of this river valley in the model already formulated in the Calicut studies based on Toponomy and Zamorins records.

Oriental research center and Nila valley studies

Details of the theme and it's dimensions are given the UGC REPORT (submitted through the

Principal SNGS College Pattambi dt 28/7/1997 NoA5/1809/97P6-14) Later proposal was submitted to UGC to set up infra structural facilities in the College(ORC)

For BHARATHAPPUZHZA RIVER VALLEY STUDIES(27/4/98.) Later a proposal was submitted to the Govt of Kerala to study the Janakiiyasutrana Rekhakal (19/12/1996.) of

Peoples Planning Programme .It was approved by the Govt of Kerala and informations were

sent to the concerned departments by the director of PANCHAYATHS.(J1-2212/97/dt5/2/1997)

It is the FIRST ATTEMPT TO STUDY a River valley to understand the potential of it in the cultural evolution of Kerala. Bharatha puzha is the main Artery of Culture in Kerala.

Even from the beginning of Christian Era this river played its role as a catalyst in modulating

Kerala Culture as a whole. It is very important to understand this VITALIZER of KERALA

Culture Hence the Theme LEGACY OF NILA/BHARATHAPPUZHZA /PEERAR put forward attained the status of a PIONEERING attempt .As the H/Dof the PG dept and Oriental Research Center(Malayalam),SNGS college Pattambi, Palghat District Kerala state

,it was the responsibility of this researcher to impliment it through the SNGS COLLEGE ,an

institution of Great Tradition, Established by PUNNASSEERI SRI NEELAKANTA SARMA IN1888.He started research works in this institution and was the 1st Supervisor of

Research of this Institution under the Govt. of Madras. He started the publication of an inter

disciplinary RESEARCH JOURNAL in 1888 .In this context it was the right place to begin a

TREND SETTER RESEARCH PROJECT. The project and theme placed were before the department for approval. It was approved by ORIENTAL RESEARCH CENTER as its MAJOR investigation theme on 5/1/1995.On 27/1/95 the department approved the proposal to

conduct Endowments lectures on the contribution of renowned old students of the department.

It is titled as KUTTIKRISHNA MARAR LECTURE, which will be an awareness programmed to focus the attention of people in the region of Nila river valley. It started on 16/3/1995. The 1st Lecture was delivered by Prof: Thomas Mathew .On

17/3/1995, the 1st

Conference of THE PROJECT LEGACY OF NILA was conducted the theme was presented

to the institution by well known poet of Kerala Prof: O.N V. Kurup. On 22/8/1995 a working

pattern for the PROJECT is formulated and approved by the department. The synopsis of the

theme was put forward by NMN under the title The preamble of the legacy of Nila(

Prepared

on 15/2/1995). An important decision to promote local participation and awareness in the region about the degeneration of the river system was to conduct a poets meet and Environment seminar once in every year under the title NILA KAVYOTSAVAM .The

1st

NILA KAVYOTSAVAM was conducted on 22/3/96 and Kerala Sahitya Academy extended

all helps in conducting it.

LEGACY OF NILA

1. Infra structural planning 2. Academic Planning 3. Seminars, questionnaires, Man power training. 5. Publication 6. Study of habitat, Habitat protection and Sand Mining.

1. Infra structural planning.

(i) RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC COUNCIL: RAC: The committee which consists of all H/D's of Post Graduate departments BY Name RAC WAS for monitoring the RESEARCHES in the ORC.

(ii) All the 16 faculties were apart of the RAC and their presence is for monitoring Interdisciplinary studies

2 Academic Planning

(i) Major intention was to analyze the cultural Evolution of the river valley.

Toponymical studies, folklore studies, Archaeological and anthropological investigations survey of manuscripts, Village history analysis Etc were also important aims. In this venture all kinds of help were offered by University of Calicut Dept of Archaeology and UGC

(ii) The traditional way of research was to be Re-structured to study the cultural segments .MSS study and toponymical study proved that village history is a

major area avoided by all scholars. Thus a programmed to prepare an

exhaustive historiography also was included in the Project. Only the sharing of

local knowledge can effectively do this. The interaction between LITTLE

CULTURE and GREAT CULTURE is to be analyzed on segmental basis

FIELDS, FAMILIES, TATTAKAMS, TARA, KARA, VILLAGE etc. are such

segments. History and culture etc are to be viewed as some resultant force related

to Centripetal and Centrifugal forces of various factors.

(iii) FOR SHARING OF KNOWLEDGE it was necessary to avoid the existing under evaluation of local knowledge shared by common villagers .As noted earlier the scientific understanding of habitat, fertility and nature of soil, knowledge about seasons ,and such enormous field of areas of knowledge related to LIFE is seen highly neglected by the UNIVERSITY RESEARCHERS .Only thing done by ACCADEMISIANS is that they usually accept villagers as INFORMANTS. This is not the way of sharing knowledge. The local people are to be given space to participate in discussions with the academicians and they are to be given proper training in fieldwork systematically .The are to be given proper input to understand details of cultural factors in MICRO level. A Common forum for such discussions was also envisaged in the FUNCTIONING OF ORC. Monthly or weekly discussions were planned .All those who are ready to do collection of data through field work were supplied with model Questionnaire and they were given work shop training in collecting source materials for studying cultural factors. The questionnaire was "MALAYALANTE VAZHIYATAYALANGAL". This was released and more than 50 delegates were given the training to prepare CULTURAL REGISTERS OF THEIR NATIVE VILLAGE . Questionnaire was a book let. This was also submitted to The State gazetteers for publication in 2002.AS already pointed out "A working model System for village study -"was also submitted to The State gazetteers on 20/10/1999.A model summary Questionnaire was also included in it. STATE GAZETTEERS was re- structured as KERALA COUNCIL OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH and they conducted a Work shop to prepare PANCHAYATH GAZETTEERS on 8th and 9th of FEB:2000 and this researcher was also participated in the workshop .However KCHR Presented this type of village history investigation as their own intellectual innovation .Later when they published VANIYAMKULAM VIJNANIYAM they failed to acknowledge the work conducted as a part of LEGACY OF NILA (1995-2001) or TOPONOMICAL STUDY OF VILLAGES in CALICUT .As noted earlier the work on CALICUT is the pioneering one and trendsetter in the study of local history. It brought out micro cultural study of more than 200 villages in the taluk. (1975-1988) The preparation of Vaaniyam kulam Vijnaniiyam was a project of the Vaaniyam kulam Panchayath. The work was monitored by the NMN in the lines of Legacy of NILA and CALICUT Studies The work was headed in the Academic side by UGC NILA PROJECT. The infra structural modulation was done by P.K.Sivadas. All assistance and support was given by the Panchayat. VANIYAMKULAM PANCHAYAT Started the work in 1997.The major impact of NILA RIVER VALLEY STUDIES was reflected at Vaniyamkulam. The Panchayath Started their work on 9/8/97. KCHR planned the Panchayath Gazetteer only on 20/10/99 when this researcher presented a proposal. They conducted a workshop only on 8/2/2000.The seminars, distribution of questionnaire for field work and man power training, NILA poets meet, Endowment lectures Etc produced great DYNAMISM in Focusing studies based on VILLAGES. KCHR was the publisher of VANIYAMKULAM VIJNANIYAM. The details of methodology in cultural studies of villages with special reference to Vaniyamkulam given in the MSS as the introductory to the volume was not included in it by KCHR.At any rate KCHR was bound to give the reason for eliminating

such an introduction .They were bound to intimate the matter to the Panchayath or to the Co-Ordinator or to the Chief Investigator.No intimation was given .

3. Seminars, Questionnaires, Manpower training

It was necessary to evaluate earlier works done to make further investigations. Thus a National seminar on various aspects was conducted with the Financial assistance of Govt. of

Kerala was conducted in FEB 1997.The seminar and the Oriental Research Center was inaugurated by sri K.R.Narayanan, Hon'ble Vice President of India. More than 80 research

papers were presented .The details are given in NILA Studies.

This seminar generated POPULAR AWARE NESS. Thus it was able to do the river valley studies with the PEOPLES PARTICIPATION. An exhaustive Questionnaire was published and libraries, etc conducted Seminars/workshops Etc. The Unique outcome was

VAANIYAMKULAM PANCHAYATH GAZETTEERS and RESEARCH Training attained by VILLAGERS. Thus it is proved beyond doubt that CULTURAL RESEARCH is

a kind of SOCIAL ACTIVISM.

4.Habitat study-Impact of habitat on cultural Evolution-Protection of habitat- Sand Mining.

Habitat and Culture are inter-related. Thus CULTURAL STUDY IS to BE STARTED FROM A THOROUGH UNDERSTANDING of HABITAT. This principle is clearly proved

in the study of Calicut .The Equation TOPOGRAPHY/GEOGRAPHY ∩ RESOURCES- ∩ EVOLUTION OF SETTLEMENTS ∩ URBANISATION is the basic nature observed.

The habitat of a river valley is thus studied for the 1st time based on cultural evolution. The study was conducted with the help of a professional Hydrologist Sri.K.K.NAIR. A Project for SAND MINING IS also prepared to protect the River System.

This is the 1st of it's kind in India. It is eco friendly and will never damage the natural situations of the River System.

MALAYALAM PROSE AND TRIKKAVU::VELLA YUTE CARITRAM (Ist Historical

Writing in Malayalam,Ist Indegenous record on Haider's attack on Malabar) APPATH ATIIRI (First Autobiography in MALAYALAM)

Unniciruthetheviicaritham the 1st Village history and description of local market was written by its author projecting the *Poyilam Angadi* were the heroine of the poem lived.

It is very important to note that VELLA NAMPOOTHIRI and APPATH ATIIRI who lived on the southern bank of NILA River wrote these two books. A poetic pure

MALAYALAM

of Vella seen in the description of HAIDER ALI as the Ist PORTRAIT in Malayalam. It is a

posture of Haider who was standing inside the Trikkavu temple. Thus the location is to be considered as the birth place of Malayalam Prose.Vellaillom was in TAVANUR Village.

Atiiri

lived near a place Patinjarangadi. Near a place in Koottanadu the poyilam Angadi (Market) existed. The 1st Malayalam CHAMPU (a literary form) was written in a place called Poyilam .
This is the 1st Village history written in Malayalam. Thus all these places must get importance in the history of Malayalam Culture.
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