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# TAMIL NADU HISTORY CONGRESS PROCEEDINGS

# Proceedings of the 25th Silver Jubilee Session

5-70-1



CHENNAI - 2018

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE 25th SILVER JUBILEE SESSION

5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2018

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# Dr. T.S. Soundaram Ramachandiran – A Social Reformer in Tamil Nadu

#### C. Rouccoumany\*\*

Dr. T.S. Soundaram Ramachandran, Indian physician, social reformer and politician married Dr. Soundararjan at the age of 14 in 1918. Her husband encouraged her to study. But he died in her teens. By her parents' efforts, she had completed MBBS in Delhi in 1936, joined with Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy started the Avvai Home in Madras in 1930 for children and the villagers. In April 30, 1930, she accompanied C. Rajagopalachari, in the Vedaranyam Salt Satyagraha, sentenced to six months imprisonment. On 8 July 1939, under the leadership of Vaithiyanatha Iyer, a Congress leader, T.S. Soundaram entered into the Madurai Meenatchi Amman temple along with Harijans. Dr. Soundaram was appointed as Pratinidhi of the 'Kasturba

Trust' in Tamil Nadu, actually the Trust, started by Gandhi in 1945 in memory of his wife Kasturibai. She set up a Kasturbagram at Erode near Coimbatore in 1945 to serve women and children in health, education, welfare and building up self-confidence and awareness among the village women. In 1947, Dr Soundaram started the Kasturba Hospital in Chinnalapatti, Madurai, to provide the rural health and family welfare. Gandhigram was founded by Dr. Soundaram in a village in Madurai district on 15 August 1942 where she took up work for development of services for health, education and integrated rural development. Along with her husband, Dr. G. Ramachandran, Dr. Soundaram founded the Gandhigram Rural Institute in 1947 in

<sup>\*</sup>Assistant Professor of History, Mannar Thirumalai Naicker College, Madurai.

<sup>\*\*</sup>Assistant Professor, Department of History, Tagore Govt. Arts & Science College, Lawspet, Puducherry.

Authur block, Madurai, as a memorial to Kasturba Gandhi, became a deemed university in 1976. Family Planning is an outstanding contribution of the Gandhigram Rural Institute. Dr. Soundaram started a home for orphan children and another for women in distress at Gandhigram, got the National Award for the best cooperation and contributions in cash and kind made by the people for various development activities in 1955. In 1952 and 1957, Soundaram was elected to the Madras Legislative Assembly and the member of the Lok Sabha in Third General Elections of 1962, representing Congress Party in developing facilities for

education, health, bus transport and electricity, with the full cooperation of the people. Vinobaji went on his Padayatra to Madurai and Soundaram took active part in his Bhoodan movement in Madurai district. In 1956, Soundaram visited China as a delegate of the Indo-China Friendship Association and studied the rural development activities in China. Under Soundaram's leadership, 'gram sevaks' took active part in controlling communal riots in East Ramnad district and thus helped the police and district administration to ensure peace in the area.

#### Convicts' Education in the Jails of Tamil Nadu

### K. Lingappan\*

T.B. Macauley, shortly after his arrival in India as a Member, Council of India, suggested in 1835 for the first time the need to improve and reform prisons in India. But he didn't think that it was necessary to provide for the education of prisoners. "There is no man whom it would cost more to instruct than a criminal prisoner. There is none who would sooner forget instruction." While acknowledging Macaulay as a great

historian and statesman, one cannot subscribe to his view that education would be a waste on prisoners. Education helps to distinguish between right and wrong, good and evil, use and abuse, freedom and slavery, God and his angels and satan and his minions. To deny the acquisition of an asset like education to convicts is to deny them a basic human right.

# **Rights of Indian Women**

## J. Sadayamuthu\*\*

Women in rural and urban India often face abusive situations related to dowry, domestic violence, physical and metal torture, wife-beating, sexual abuse and so forth. Cases are filled and campaigns are initiated, but the impacts so far are mixed. Most of the time victims do not get justice, the accused are acquitted and these incidents slip out of public memory. Many victims face endless time-consuming litigation.

## Legal Empowerment of Women

Legal empowerment is both a process and a goal to improve the material situation and/or to give women and the poor greater control over the lives. The success of legal empowerment work will be measured by looking for indicators of change that demonstrate improvements in the lives or position of women or the poor in some way.

<sup>\*</sup>Assistant Professor, P.G. & Research Department of Historical Studies, Sir Theagaraya College, Chennai. \*\*Assistant Professor of History, Govt. Arts College for Men (A), Nadhanam, Chennai.

Quit India Movement: Remembering the Role of Tamil Nadu

Editor

S.S. Sundaram



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CHEPAUK ..

Prof. P. DURAISAMY Ph.D., D. Econ.Sc. (Paris) Vice-Chancellor

Forewore

I am happy that the proceedings of the historic N. year of "Quit India Movement: Remembering the n of Madras during January 4-5th 2018 has come inaugurated by His Excellency the Hon'ble Govern inspirational speech. The book contains the best of presented in the two-day seminar.

We recall with pride the sacrifices made by our fe general and Quit India Movement in Tamil Nadu in the crucible of nationalism and had played a sign provided the intellectual ambience for critical think among the youth who at various stages challenged trained and nurtured many men and women who remained as the intellectual platform from which ma.

Notable alumni of the University of Madras who struggle include Thiru Sundara Sastri Satyamurti, Paramsivan Subbarayan, Thiru M. Bakthavatchalam. of India Tmt. Sarojini Naidu, Tmt. Durgabhai Deshr Thomas, and Ms. 'Arya' K. Bhashyam.

I am sure the book will provide valuable informa congratulate the Department of Indian History for or of the book, Professor S.S. Sundaram, for his pain volume.

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ndia Na Post - Centenary Diamond Jubilee National Seminar

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The 75th Anniversary of the Quit India Movement: Remembering the Role of Tamil Nadu

#### Participation of Tamil Nadu Women in the Quit India Movement

#### C. Royccoumany

Woman is the supreme inspiration for man's onward-march. The Quit India Movement which broke out in the year 1942, was the last All India Satyagraha conducted by Gandhi in India. In Tamil Nadu, numerous women joined the agitation, courted arrest and were willing to undergo all sorts of punishments. In his stirring message to the nation on the morning of 9 August 1942, Mahatma Gandhi exhorted the Satyagrahis to seek and face death and then only the nation would survive. In Tamil Nadu, the prominent Congress leaders such as Satyamurthi, Sivagnam, Kala Venkat Rao, T. Prakasam, Nageswara Arya, Kamala Devi Arva and Kamarai Nadar were arrested. The Quit India Movement was thus practically leaderless as all senior members of the Congress had been put in jail. However, when the news of their arrests spread, spontaneous hartals, protest meetings and strikes took place all over the country. Women joined in taking out processions, holding meetings, demonstrations and organizing strikes. In Tamil Nadu when the leaders were arrested, Rukmini Lakshmipathi became the acting President of the Tamil Nadu Congress Committee and took the initiative to keep the organization alive. In Madras City, the students both from schools and colleges played a spirited role in accelerating the national struggle. Students from Queen Mary's College, Women's Christian College, Presidency College, Law College, Pachaiyappa College, abstained from classes and organized hartals, processions and picketing.3 Apart from the students, a number of prominent women leaders had participated in Quit India Movement, 1942. They were Manjubashini Subramaniam, Ammu Swaminathan, Mahalakshmi Bharathi, N.N. Thulasiammal, Thanu Amma, T. Anushuya, P. Sushila, Nagarajamma, Muniammal and Meenakshi. Manjubashini Subramaniam (b.1906), Madras, Advocate, took part in Quit India Movement, 1942, was arrested for one year and kept in Vellore Jail. Ammu Swaminathan (b.1895), Madras, actively participated in this Movement in 1942, was convicted for imprisonment for one year in Presidency jail for women, Vellore. She was Councillor of Corporation and was elected in 1946 to the Provisional

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# SOUTH INDIAN HISTORY CONGRESS

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#### **END NOTES**

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# RUKMANI LAKSHMIPATHY - A VIGOROUS FREEDOM FIGHTER AND A STRONG POLITICIAN IN TAMIL NADU

#### Dr. C. Rouccoumany

#### 1. Introduction

This research articles endeavours to make an in-depth study about Rukmani Lakshmipathy (1892-1951), an Indian independence activist, politician belonged to Indian National Congress in Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu, the southern-most state of India, nestles in the Indian Peninsular between the Bay of Bengal in the east, the Indian Ocean in the south and the Western Ghats and the Arabian Sea on the west. In the north and the west, the state adjoins Karnataka,

Andhra Pradesh and Kerala. Tamil Nadu was an asylum for the eminent politicians and the great personalities. Rukmani Lakshmipathy was one among them. She was excelled as speaker, marcher, campaigner and a tireless volunteer.

#### 2. Early Life

Rukmani Lakshmipathy, born on 6th December 1892 in Madras, belonged to a family of social reformers deeply interested in women's education. Her father H. Srinivasa Rao,

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BV) is m and ranges rysical, an and girls, including death. It negatively affects women's general well-being and prevents women from fully participating in society. Violence not only has negative consequences for women but also their families, the community and the country at large. It has tremendous costs, from greater health care and legal expenses and losses in productivity, impacting national budgets and overall development.

Like most parts of the world, in India too there is continued control of women's lives by patriarchy, continued discrimination and violence against women caused by traditional patriarchal institutions like, caste, family, religion, and state

institutions and new economic and cultural institutions, such as global markets, global media, etc. generated by globalization. Despute some progressive legislative measures due to pressure from women's rights activists and movements, the media and public campaigns, many continue to experience discrimination and violence both within homes and in the society.

In this paper, an attempt has been made to bring out incidences of violence against women in the state of Tamil Nadu from the period between 2010 and 2015 and the responses of the government to solve them.

# LEGACY OF ALUMMOOTTIL CHANNARS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO ALUMMOOTTIL KOCHUKUNJU CHANNARIII M. Skidharth & Priya Soman

Alummoottil family is an aristocratic Ezhava family hailed from Muttam near Haripad of Karthikapally Taluk of Kerala State. The title 'Channar' indicates not a caste or community, but it is a titular honor conferred to the prominent ezhava families by the Raja of Kayamkulam and the female usage of Channar was 'Channathy'. Matrilineal system or Marumakkathayam was existed in Alummoottil Kochukunju ChannarIII,

who was a member of Sree Moolam PrajaSabha was the most prominent member of the family. Valiya Kunju Sankaran Channar and Kuthakakaaran Sankaran Channar were the other prominent Karanavars of the family. Kochukunju Channar was an n unsung hero of the modern central Travancore Who was a subaltern who overcome his subalternity by using economic prosperity.

#### POLITY AND CULTURE OF NORTH MALABAR: A STUDY ON KOODALI GRANDHAVARI Roshna Suresh

Granthavaris shows the social, political and cultural system of medieval Kerala. The grant havars are the document of ruling families or big tharavad us. It provides more accurate information than any other texts. Granthavari depict a shift from traditional oral source to that of written records. Granthavaris are helpful to know about the Kerala society and culture.

Grandhavari is a prominent one. The koodali Granthavari is an important source for reconstructing the history of Northem Malabar. It gave informations about Koodali Thazhathu Veedu their economic condition, agricultural system, occupations, land grants, rituals, beliefs etc. This paper analyses the polity and culture of North Malabar through the manuscripts of Koodali grandhavari.

# CONTRIBUTIONS OF SISTER R.S. SUBBALAKSHMI TOWARDS WOMEN'S EDUCATION IN TAMIL NADU

C. Rouccournarry

The contributions of Sister R.S. Subbalakshmi towards women's education, is truly remarkable and is difficult to define in words. To know her services to the society, the study is taken. 'A Child Widows Story', by Felton Monica, 'Sister

Among the Grandhavaris of Kerala Koodali

Subbalakshmi-A Biography, by C. Krishnaveni, Dr. Sister Subbalakshmi Social Reformer and Educationalist, by Malathi Ramanathan, and Tamizhaga Varalatru Thadathil Mahalir, by P.N. Premalatha, etc., explains about the contributions