

24SS819 Cultural History of Kerala with Special Reference to Thookkam Ritual

4-0-0-4

Course Outcome:

CO1: Gain an in-depth understanding of the historical evolution and cultural significance of the Thookkam ritual within Kerala's cultural landscape.

CO2: Analyze the socio-cultural impact of Thookkam on local communities and its role in shaping social structures and identity.

CO3: Explore the symbolic and theological interpretations of the Thookkam ritual, emphasizing its religious relevance.

CO4: Develop the ability to conduct comparative studies on the variations of Thookkam rituals across different regions of Kerala and assess the influence of local customs.

CO5: Understand the role of Thookkam in preserving cultural heritage and its implications for community identity in contemporary times.

Unit I: Introduction to Kerala's Cultural History

- Overview of Kerala's cultural history, focusing on key rituals and their role in society.
- Significance of rituals in maintaining social harmony and religious practices in Kerala.
- Introduction to the Thookkam ritual: origins, evolution, and its placement in Kerala's cultural context.

Unit II: Social and Cultural Influence of Thookkam

- Exploration of how Thookkam influences local community life and social hierarchies.
- Case studies of Thookkam's role in reinforcing community bonds and its participation in local festivals.
- Analysis of the socio-economic impact of Thookkam on Kerala's local communities.

Unit III: Symbolism and Theological Significance

- Study of the symbolic meanings behind the Thookkam ritual and its representations in folklore and mythology.
- Examination of theological interpretations of Thookkam, focusing on the religious devotion to goddess Devi.
- Discussion on the role of Thookkam in Kerala's temple culture and spiritual traditions.

Unit IV: Comparative Study of Thookkam in Various Regions

- Comparative analysis of Thookkam rituals in different regions of Kerala.
- Identification of common themes and regional variations in the performance of Thookkam.
- Examination of the ritual's adaptation across communities and its regional differences in execution and beliefs.

Unit V: Thookkam and Community Identity

- Study of the role of Thookkam in shaping and sustaining community identity over generations.
- Exploration of the changes and continuities in the practice of Thookkam in modern times.
- Insights into the preservation of Thookkam as a cultural and religious heritage in contemporary Kerala.

Textbooks/References:

1. Krishnan, K. G. Thookkam: A Traditional Ritual of Kerala. Kerala Historical Society, 2005.
2. Nair, M. K. Traditional Rituals and Festivals of Kerala. Kerala State Publications, 2010.
3. Menon, P. R. Folk Traditions of Kerala: An Ethnographic Study. South Indian Cultural Studies, 2012.
4. John, A. P. Rituals of Kerala: An Anthropological Perspective. Indian Anthropological Society, 2014.
5. Pillai, V. K. Kerala's Cultural Heritage: Rituals and Religion. Heritage Publications, 2016.

Evaluation Pattern:

Category	Marks
Continuous Assessment	20
Mid-Term	30
End Semester	50
Total	100