

24SS811 The Influence of Rituals on Local Communities: A Study Based on 'Thookkam'

4-0-0-4

Course Outcomes:

CO1: Gain an understanding of the historical origins, cultural significance, and regional variations of the 'Thookkam' ritual in Kerala.

CO2: Develop the ability to analyze the impact of 'Thookkam' on the social structures and lifestyle of local communities.

CO3: Acquire insights into the symbolic meanings and theological interpretations associated with the 'Thookkam' ritual.

CO4: Learn to conduct a comparative study of 'Thookkam' rituals across different regions, examining variations in practices and beliefs.

CO5: Understand the role of 'Thookkam' in shaping community identity and its potential implications for cultural continuity.

Course Structure:

Unit I: Introduction to Rituals in Kerala

- Definition and significance of rituals in Kerala's cultural landscape.
- Overview of key rituals in Kerala, with a focus on 'Thookkam'.
- Historical development of 'Thookkam' and its cultural context.

Unit II: Social and Cultural Impact of 'Thookkam'

- Analysis of 'Thookkam' and its influence on local community structures.
- Examination of the role of 'Thookkam' in reinforcing social hierarchies and community bonds.
- Case studies on the societal changes attributed to 'Thookkam' practices.

Unit III: Symbolism and Theological Perspectives

- Exploration of symbolic representations in 'Thookkam'.
- Study of theological interpretations associated with 'Thookkam' rituals.
- Discussion on the religious and spiritual significance of 'Thookkam'.

Unit IV: Comparative Analysis of 'Thookkam'

- Comparative study of 'Thookkam' rituals across different regions of Kerala.

- Identification of common themes, motifs, and regional variations in 'Thookkam' practices.
- Analysis of differences in the interpretation and execution of 'Thookkam' based on local traditions.

Unit V: Ritual Practices and Community Identity

- Exploration of the role of 'Thookkam' in shaping and sustaining community identity.
- Discussion on the continuity and transformation of 'Thookkam' in modern times.
- Practical insights into preserving the cultural heritage of 'Thookkam'.

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