

The Role of Women in Post Sangam Period – A Study Based on Nālaṭiyār

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07 Nov.
SSH63

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The Post Sangam period was seen as a priority for morality. In this period, the Jains of Tamilnadu created many kinds of literature. Among them, Nālaṭiyār is still popular which is capable of manipulating people. Nālaṭiyār places emphasis on revealing many details about women. However, most details seem to be discrediting them. Hence, this study aims to critically examine the role of women in post Sangam period and the purpose of degradation of women under the title “The role of women in post Sangam period – A study based on Nālaṭiyār.” This analysis is carried out with analytical and descriptive research methodologies and socio, cultural and historical approaches by using Nālaṭiyār as the primary resource. In Nālaṭiyār, the women and their body has been shown as impediment for charity. In chapters karṇpuṭaiyamakaṭṭir and kāmanutaliyal women are raised by the character but they are discredited by the Jains as a barrier to men’s emotions. According to the chapter potumakaṭṭir, the woman who lives beyond family structure was excluded from the society as a prostitute and she is also depicted in the joy of men. However, Nālaṭiyār expressed, whatever the woman she is, born as a woman is in degradation and she can only give a sense of humiliation. This does not only cause women to be hated by men but also encourages them to be abandoned. Therefore, the purpose of the Jains is revealed by the way that woman gives her the only means of suffering for the male.

Keywords: women in Nālaṭiyār, degradation of women, role of women

