

## **Rani Velunachiyar- The Sprit of Narisakthi**

<sup>1</sup>**Dr. S. Santhi**, Teaching Assistant, Department of History, Alagappa University, Karaikudi-03,  
Tamil Nadu, India.

<sup>2</sup>**Dr. R. Radha**, Teaching Assistant, Department of History, Alagappa University, Karaikudi-03,  
Tamil Nadu, India

<sup>3</sup>**Dr. A. D. Padmasree**, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Jayaraj Annapackiam Colloge  
for Women (A), Periyakulam, Theni, Tamil Nadu, India.

<sup>4</sup>**M. Thirumalaichamy**, Ph.D. Research Scholar, PG&Research Department of History,  
Government Arts College, Melur, Madurai, Tamil Nadu, India.

<sup>5</sup>**Dr. P. Thangamuthu** Assistant Professor Department of History, PTMTM. College, Kamuthi.  
Tamil Nadu, India.

<sup>6</sup>**Dr. AR. Saravanakumar**, Assistant Professor, Head of the Department i/c, Department of  
History, Alagappa University Karaikudi-03 Tamil Nadu, India.

### **Introduction**

Sivaganga is a town and headquarters of the Sivaganga district in South India. It is also the headquarters of the Sivaganga Taluk. It was under Ramnad district until 1984 and subsequently a part of the newly formed Sivaganga district. The town is located at a distance of 48 km (30 mi) from Madurai and 449 km (279 mi) from the state capital Chennai. Sivaganga Kingdom was founded by Sasivarna Periya Oodayan Thevar in 1730. The town was subsequently ruled by his successors and ultimately by Velu Nachiyar under the stewardship of Marudhu Pandiyar. They were against the British Empire, but ultimately lost to them in 1790. The Company appointed Gowry Vallaba Periya Oodaya Thevar as the Zamindars of Sivaganga in 1801, whose successors continued with chaos until India's Independence in 1947.

The town is known for agriculture, metal working and weaving. The region around Sivaganga has considerable mineral deposits. Sivaganga is administered by a municipality established in 1965. As of 2011, the municipality covered an area of 6.97 km<sup>2</sup> (2.69 sq mi) and had a population of 40,403. Sivaganga comes under the Sivaganga assembly constituency which elects a member to the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly once every five years and it is a part of the Sivaganga Parliament constituency which elects its Member of Parliament (MP) once in five years. Roadways are the major mode of transportation to the town and it also has rail connectivity. The nearest seaport, Thoothukudi Port, is located 189 km (117 mi) from Sivaganga, while the nearest airport, Madurai International Airport, is located 53 km (33 mi) from the town.

## **Position the Queens of South India**

The queens of the Chalukyas of Badami issued royal records, administered some of the divisions of their empire and donated to charity. Vijaybhattarika was the senior queen of Chandraditya Prithivivallabha Maharaja who was the elder brother of Vikramaditya I and ruled over a part of the Chalukyan kingdom in the 7th century A.D. She was a talented poetess and has been identified by some scholars with Vijayanka, a great literary figure of those times. Another Chalukyan queen who deserves mention is Lokamahadevi, the queen of Vikramaditya II, who assisted her husband in the building of the Siva temple at Pattadakal in the 8th century A.D.

Queens of South India among the Pallava queens, the name of Charudevi stands out as she is mentioned as the wife of the heir - apparent (Tuva Maharaja) Buddhavarman and as having issued an inscription in her own name, recording the donation of land to a Vishnu temple in the 4th century A.D. There were many other Pallava queens like Rangapataka, the favourite consort of Rajasimha Pallava, who was associated with the construction the famous Kailasanatha temple in Kanchipuram in the 8th century A.D. The queens of the Chalukyas of Kalyani were also active in the sphere of administration. The names of Mailaladevi who was ruling in 1053 A.D., Ketaladevi II who was ruling in 1054 A.D. and several others were well-known.

The Chola queens did not participate in administration, but their involvement in the cultural arena was so great. Their names are forever remembered in this regard. Almost all the queens of this dynasty contributed wholeheartedly to the construction of temples in the Chola land and made generous contributions for daily worship and the organization of religious festivals. Their names and the donations which they made are inscribed on the walls of many of the temples. The names that stand out in this regard are Sembian Mahadevi (Madevi), the widow of Gandaraditya and Kundavai, the sister of Rajaraja Chola I. Rajaraja I named his daughter after his sister and she was married to the Eastern Chalukyan king Vimaladitya. Their son Rajaraja Narendra married his cousin Ammangadevi, the daughter of Rajendra Chola I and their son was the famous Chola king Kulottungal. The name of the brave Kakatiya queen, Rudramba, who ruled over a vast empire in medieval Andhra Pradesh, will ever be remembered by students of South Indian history. Some names of queens of the Vijayanagara monarchs are available from the inscriptions which they have left behind. Two of the queens of Krishnadeva Raya were Tirumala Devi and Chinna Devi. They accompanied him to the temple of Lord Venkateswara at Tirumala and presented many expensive gifts to this deity. The exquisite life size bronze images of the three of them can be seen even today inside this temple complex. One of the queens of Achyuta Raya, the successor of Krishnadeva

Raya, was Oduva Tirumalamba, a Sanskrit scholar and poetess who authored Varadambika Parinayam.

Veera Mangai Velunachiyar was one of the queens in the 18th century in South India. She rebelled against the British Empire and fought for the freedom of India. She was born in 1730 AD to the Mannar Sellamuthu Sethupathy and to Rani Sakandhimuthal of Ramnad Kingdom. She was the only daughter of this Royal family. The Royal couple had no male heir. The royal family brought up the Princess, Velunachiyar, like Prince of Ramnad due to this reason. She was trained in the skills of using weapons and also in martial arts like Valari, sticks fighting etc. She learnt horse riding and archery earlier. The Royal couple had engaged teachers to teach her many languages like French, English and Urdu. Thus this young brave Princess had excellent training in all war techniques. She was a scholar in many languages and was ready to rule the Ramnad Kingdom. She was married to Sivagangai Mannar Muthuvaduganathar at the age of sixteen. In the year 1772, the English invaded her kingdom. Velu Nachiyar heard that her husband Raja Muthu Vaduganathar and their daughter young Princess Gowri Nachiyar were killed in Kalaiyar Koil war. This war was held in Kalaiyar Koil palace. British troops attacked the palace under the command of Lt.Col. Bon Jour. She was very much worried and wanted to take revenge. Dalavay Thandavaraya Pillai and Maruthu brothers sustained injuries. They promised to recapture the Samasthanam by punishing the English. Dalavay Thandavaraya Pillai, an incredible and distinguished person was the most powerful administrator in Sivagangai Samasthanam. Thandavaraya Pillai, the loyalist served (1700-1773) as Palavay and also as Pirathani under the three rulers of Sivagangai Samasthanam. He was responsible for the development of Sivagangai Samasthanam.

At first he served the King Sasivarna Periya Udaiya Thevar during 1730-1750. Later he served under Muthu Vaduganatha Thevar, the King during 1750-1772. He also served as Pirathani to the Queen Rani Velu Nachiyar. Here Dalavay means Military Chief and the Pirathani means Chief Minister. Pirathani was responsible for the improvement of Foreign affairs. Thus the two charges were the most important and also powerful. Thandavaraya Pillai was the son of Kathavaraya Pillai who was an accountant and also as Karvar, in this samasthanam. He rendered his service with loyalty from the beginning of this Samasthanam. He administered well and helped in the development. The King Udaiya Thevar was very much pleased because of his good administration and granted him his hereditary management. It shows the significance of loyalty of Dalavay Thandavaraya Pillai. Velunachiyar to move to different places often in order to avoid British invaders. Meanwhile Dalavay Thandavarayan Pillai wrote a letter to Sultan Hyder Ali on behalf of Velu Nachiyar to provide 5000 infantry and 5000 cavalry to defeat the British army. But

unfortunately he passed away due to old age. She decided to meet Hyder Ali after the demise of Dalavay Thandavarayan Pillai at Mysore with the help of his son. She could explain in detail in Urdu all her problems with East India Company. She explained him her strong opposition of British regime. Hyder Ali was very much pleased and promised to help her in this conflict. He accepted her request with sympathy and provided the necessary military assistance.

He ordered Syed Karki of Dindugal fort gladar to provide the required military equipments to Rani Velu Nachiyar. He released 5000 infantry and 5000 cavalry to Rani Velu Nachiyar immediately. Her troops advanced to Sivaganga with the help provided by Maruthu brothers. The Nawab of Arcot put so many hindrances to avoid the advancement of Rani Velu Nachiyar's combined troops. The Queen and Maruthu brothers overcame all hurdles. They geared up the troops and entered Sivaganga. She defeated the Nawab of Arcot and took him as a captive. She re-captured her Sivaganga samasthanam. He with the help of Hyder Ali crowned as queen of the Sivagangai Seemai. Velu Nachiyar is the only first queen who raised the revolt against the British Empire. According to historians Prof. Sanjeevi mentioned in his 'Maruthiruvar' book that 'the bravery queen Velu Nachiyar raised revolt against English empire and fought for the freedom of India 85 years before Jhansi Rani's freedom struggle in North.

### **Objectives**

The present study aims with following objectives:

- To know about position of Queens of South India
- To study Arc-Veera Mangai Rani Velu Nachiyar as Indian Joan
- To know the Arc-Veera Mangai Rani Velu Nachiyar's history

To know the timeline of Sivagangai Empire.

### **Freedom Struggle against the British Rule**

The Kingdom of Ramnad originally comprised the territories of Ramnad, Sivagangai and Pudukkottai of today. Raghunatha Sethupathy alias Kilavan Sethupathy, the 7th King of Ramnad reigned between 1674 and 1710. Kilavan Sethupathy came to know of the bravery and valour of Peria Oodayan of Nalukottai, 4 kilometres from Sholapuram, near Sivagangai. The Carnatic Treaty of 1792 established a sort of dual control by the British East India Company as well as the Nawab over the Poligars. The British Company was slowly able to intrude into the political domain of the native Poligars. The tactics and diplomacy of the British enabled them to establish complete control

over Ramanathapuram. In course of time, the Sethupathy were reduced to the status of Zamindars. Sethupathies did not accept the British hegemony without any opposition. On different occasions, they tried to revolt against the British.

The Anti-British stand of the Sethupathies forms a significant part of their relation with the British. The valiant heroine of Sivagangai, Queen Velu Nachchiar occupies a pride of place in the annals of the Freedom Struggle of the country. She was in the forefront in many aspects of life. She can be compared with the Queen Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi who fought against the British in the northern part of India the only Tamil Queen who fought and drove away the British and ruled over her state as an Independent ruler for a period of ten years. Queen Velu Nachchiar was the First Tamil Queen and freedom fighter, able general, great warrior and benevolent ruler and adopted secularism, equality, fraternity, democracy and social justice in her administration. As the Tamil Queen fought the British much earlier than Rani Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi in north India, she was the First Woman Freedom Fighter in Indian History.

### **Vijaya Raghunatha Sethupathy**

The King assigned to Peria Oodaya Thevar of Nalukottai a portion of land sufficient to maintain 1000 armed men. Vijaya Raghunatha Sethupathy became the 8th King of Ramnad in 1710 after the death of Kilavan Sethupathy. The King gave in marriage his daughter Akilandeshwari Nachiyar, to Sasivarna Thevar, the son of Nalukottai Peria Oodaya Thevar. The King gave Sasivarna Thevar lands as dowry, free of taxation, sufficient to maintain 1,000 men. He placed him in charge of the fortresses of Piranmalai, Tiruppathur, Sholapuram and Tiruppuvanam as well as the harbour of Thondi. Meanwhile Bhavani Sankaran, the son of Kilavan Sethupathy conquered Ramnad territory and arrested Sundareswarar Raghunatha Sethupathy, the 9th King of Ramnad. Bhavani Sankaran proclaimed himself as the Rajah of Ramnad. He became the 10th king of Ramnad and he reigned from 1726 to 1729. He quarrelled with Sasivarna Peria Oodaya Thevar of Nalukottai and drove him out of his Nalukottai palayam. KattayaThevar, the brother of the late Sundareswarar Raghunatha Sethupathy fled from Ramnad and sought refuge with the Rajah of Tanjore Tuljaji. While Sasivarna Thevar was passing through the jungles of Kalaiyarkoil, he met a Gnani named Sattappiah, who was performing Thapas (meditation) under a jambool tree near a spring called Sivaganga. The deposed king prostrated himself before him and narrated all the previous incidents of his life. The Gnani whispered a certain mantra in his ears and advised him to

go to Tanjore<sup>1</sup> and kill a ferocious tiger; this was kept by the Rajah especially to test the bravery of men.

Sasivarna Thevar in Tanjore there he became acquainted with Kattaya Thevar a refugee like himself. Satisfied with the good behaviour of Sasivarna Thevar and Kattaya Thevar, the Rajah of Tanjore wanted to help them to regain the States again, ordered his Dalavoy to go with a large army to invade Bhavani Sankarathevar. Sasivarna Thevar and Kattaya Thevar at once proceeded to Ramnad with a large army furnished by the king of Tanjore, they defeated Bhavani Sankara Thevar at the battle of Uraiyur and captured Ramnad in 1730.

Thus kattaya Thevar became the 11<sup>th</sup> king of Ramnad She was the princess of Ramanathapuram and daughter of Chellamuthu Sethupathy. She married the king of Sivagangai and they had a daughter - Vellachi Nachiyar. When her husband Muthuvaduganatha Periya Udaiya Thevar was killed, she was drawn into battle. Her husband and his second wife were killed by a few British soldiers and the son of the Nawab of Arcot. She escaped with her daughter, lived under the protection of Hyder Ali at Virupachi near Dindugal for eight years. During this period she formed an army and sought an alliance with Gopala Nayaker and Hyder Ali with the aim of attacking the British.

In 1780 Rani Velu Nachiyar fought the British and won the battle. When Velu Nachiyar found the place where the British stock their ammunition, she built the first human bomb. A faithful follower, Kuyili doused herself in oil, lighted herself and walked into the storehouse. Rani Velu Nachiyar formed a woman's army named "Udaiyal" in honour of her adopted daughter Udaiyal, who died detonating a British arsenal. Nachiyar was one of the few rulers who regained her kingdom and ruled it for 10 more years. Velu Nachiyar is the first queen who fought for the freedom against British in India and gave them a free run for their life.<sup>2</sup> Revolutionary who opposed the rule of British in Tamil Nadu even before the Sepoy mutiny which is considered as the first war against the British rule in India. The Queen Velu Nachiyar granted powers to Marudu brothers to administer the country in 1780. Velu Nachiyar died a few years later, but the exact date of her death is not known (it was about 1790). Marudu brothers are the sons of Udayar Servai alias Mookiah Palaniappan Servai and Anandayer alias Ponnathal.

---

<sup>1</sup> Maruthamohan.K.V.S., Sasivarna Thevar- An Architect an Sivaganga Seemai in proceedings of Annual session, Mayiladuthurai,2005,p.71.

<sup>2</sup> Military Consultation,26 June 1772, vol.42, p.63

**Raja Sasivarna Thevar (1730–1750)**

Kattaya Thevar divided Ramnad into five parts and retained three for him. He granted the two parts to Sasivarna Thevar of Nalukottai by conferring on him the title of "Rajah Muthu Vijaya Regunatha Peria Oodaya Thevar".

**Raja Muthu Vaduganatha Thevar (1750–1772)**

Sasivarna Peria Oodaya Thevar died in or about the year 1750. He was succeeded by his only son Muthu Vaduganatha Thevar. He was the second Rajah of Sivagangai. His wife Rani Velu Nachiyar acted as "friend, philosopher and guide" to him. Tandavaraya Pillai was the able minister of Sivagangai. Muthu Vaduganatha Thevar granted commercial facilities to the Dutch only after the British rejected a similar offer, made to Colonel Heron. Further the aim of the British was to oblige the ruler of Sivaganga to serve the Nawab or to pay tribute to him or to dissuade them from establishing relations with foreign powers like the Dutch.

A two pronged offensive was made by the British. Joseph Smith from the East and Benjour from the West invaded Sivaganga Palayam in June 1772. The country was full of bushes of cockspur thorn, though there were villages and open spaces here and there. Rajah Muthu Vaduganatha Thevar, in anticipation of the invasion erected barriers on the Roads, dug trenches and established posts in the woods of Kalaiyarkoil. On the 21st of June 1772 the detachment of Smith and Benjour joined forces and occupied the town of Sivaganga. The next day, the British forces marched to Kalaiyarkoil and captured the posts of Keeranoor and Sholapuram. Now, Benjour continuing the operations came into conflict with the main body of the troops of Sivaganga on the 25th June 1772. Muthu Vaduganatha Rajah with many of his followers fell dead in that heroic battle. The heroic activities shown in the battle field by Velu Nachiyar is praised by the historians. The widow queen Velu Nachiyar and daughter Vellachi Nachiyar with Tandavaraya Pillai fled to Virupakshi in Dindugal. Later they were joined by the two able Servaigarars Vellai Marudhu and Chinna Marudhu.

**Rani Velu Nachiyar (1772–1780)**

Rani Velu Nachiyar and her daughter Vellachi Nachiyar lived under the protection of Hyder Ali at Virupakshi near Dindugal. Frustrated by the joining of forces against him, the Nawab ordered that Velu Nachiyar and the Marudhu brothers were permitted to return to Sivaganga to rule the country subject to payment of Kist to the Nawab. Abiding by this Order, Rani Velu Nachiyar accompanied by the Marudhu brothers and Vellachi Nachiyar entered Sivaganga. An agreement

was reached whereby Rani Velu Nachiyar was permitted to govern the Sivaganga Country and Chinna Marudhu; the younger was appointed the minister and the elder Vellai Marudhu as the Commander-in-chief. Thus the widow Queen Velu Nachiyar succeeded her husband in 1780

### **Marudhu Brothers (1748–1801)**

The Queen Velu Nachiyar granted powers to the Marudhu brothers to administer the country in 1780. Velu Nachiyar died a few years later, but the exact date of her death is not known (it was about 1790). The Marudhu brothers were the sons of Udayar Servai alias Mookiah Palaniappan Servai and Anandayer alias Ponnathal. They were from Kongulu Street of Ramnad. They belonged neither to the family of the ancient poligars nor to their division of the caste. Servaikaran was the caste title and Marudhu the family name. The Marudhu brothers served under Muthu Vaduganathan. Later they were elevated to the position of commanders. Two forms of the boomerang were used in India. These weapons were commonly made of wood. It was crescent-shaped, one end being heavier than the other, and the outer edge was sharpened. Their name in Tamil is 'valari' stick. It is said that the Marudhu brothers were experts in the art of throwing the valari stick. It is said that Marudhus used the valari in the Poligar wars against the British. The Marudhu brothers with 12,000 armed men surrounded Sivaganga and plundered the Nawab's territories. The Nawab on the 10th of March 1789 appealed to the Madras Council for aid. On 29 April 1789, the British forces attacked Kollangudi.

They were defeated by a large body of Marudhu's troops. He was in close association with Veera Pandiya Kattabomman of Panchalankurichi. Kattabomman held frequent consultations with Marudhus. After the execution of Kattabomman in 17 October 1799 at Kayattar, Chinna Marudhu gave asylum to Kattabomman's brother Oomadurai (dumb brother). He issued an epoch-making Jumboo Deweepa proclamation to the people in the island of Jamboo to fight against the British whether they were Hindus, Mussalamans or Christians. At last the Marudhu Pandiyars fell victim to the cause of liberating the motherland from the British Supremacy. Maruthu Pandyan the popular leader of the rebels, together with his gallant brother Vellai Marudhu was executed on the ruins of the fort at Tiruppathur in Sivaganga District on 24 October 1801. They showed their determination and spirit at the outset of the final struggle of 1801 by setting their handsome village Siruvayal on fire to prevent its being made use of by the British forces.

The Marudhu brothers were not only warriors noted for bravery, but were great administrators. During the period from 1783 to 1801, they worked for the welfare of the people and the Sivaganga Seemai was reported to be fertile. They constructed many notable temples and



churches in the area of Sivagangai and also at a few notable places like Kalayar Kovil Marudhu Temple, Pallithammam Moovarasar Church with many Ooranis and Tanks. After so many successions of legal heirs had ruled the estate, lastly Sri D. S. Karthikeya Venkatachalapathy Rajah succeeded to the estate of the late Sri. D. Shanmuga Rajah and he was the Hereditary Trustee of Sivaganga Devasthanam and Chatrams consisted of 108 Temples, 22 kattalais and 20 Chatrams.<sup>3</sup>

Sri. D.S. Karthikeya Venkatachalapathy Rajah died on 30 August 1986 leaving a daughter named Tmt.. Maduranthagi Nachiyar as his heir. At present, Maduranthagi Nachiyar administers the Sivaganga Estate, Sivaganga Devasthanam and Chatram of Sivaganga Royal Family. Based on the "District Gazette" 1990 of Ramanathapuram, and the history of Sivaganga maintained by Samasthanam, Sivaganga District has been formed mostly with an area of entire Sivaganga Zamin and part of Ramnad Zamin. The nearest towns include Ilaiyankudi, Ramanathapuram, and Sivagangai.

### **Period of Transition**

Sivagangai State came under the rule of the Nawab of Arcot with his flag fluttering over the palace of Sivagangai. His son Ameer- ul- Umara ruled the State for a period of eight years as the representative of the Nawab of Arcot. The name Sivagangai was changed as 'Hussain Nagar.' The revolutionary force of Sivagangai was observing all that was happening in Sivagangai staying in the border areas of Sivagangai. The leaders of these revolutionary forces who were giving a lot of troubles to the rule of the Nawab were the Marudhu Brothers who were instrumental to bring Sivagangai back to freedom in later days

### **Cordial Relations with HyderAli**

After completing the last rites of the king, further course of action was planned. Velu Nachchiyar along with some bodyguards went to Virupakshi Palayam and sought asylum with Gopala Nayak. At the proper time, Velu Nachchiyar along with a group of youngsters of Sivagangai left the place and proceeded to meet Hyder Ali to seek his help in order to wreak vengeance on the enemies who had harmed them. The meeting of Velu Nachchiyar with Hyder Ali took place in Dindugal. Hyder Ali was wondering struck and was highly impressed by the remarkable capacity of a woman. He was amazed when Velu Nachchiyar conversed with him in Urdu language and promised her that he would help her. The rule of Nawab of Arcot over Sivagangai which has already been weakened by the problems created by the revolutionary forces fumbled further on

---

<sup>3</sup> Kamal.SM., Sethupathigal Charithiram, p.237

hearing about the assurance given by Hyder Ali to help Velunachiyar. Through the Nawab tried to protect this interests with the help of the army of the East India Company, all his efforts were defeated by the patriotic and loyal people of Sivagangai. After a period of eight years the flag of Nawab of Arcot was lowered from the flag post of Sivagangai palace and the Hanuman flag of Sivagangai was hoisted again under the reign of Velu Nachiyar.<sup>4</sup>

### **Organiser of Women Force**

It was formed by Queen Velu Nachiyar that she their as a trainer for that force. When she and her daughter Vellachi Nachiyar accompanied by the loyal servants narrowly escaped near Kalaiyarkoil (at Ariyakkurichi Ayyanar Koil) which was known only to a herd girl Udaiyal. The royal family was chased by Benjour and an enquiry made by Udaiyal. But she refused to answer to the cruel British force. Immediately, he ordered his soldiers to slaughter the Young Martyr Udaiyal in the same place. In order to honour her, Queen Velu Nachiyar named her force as Udaiyal Padai.<sup>5</sup> Moreover, she erected Veera Kal (Hero Stone) where she sacrificed her life for the country and offered her Diamond Sacred Tie as first offering of the Vettudaiyal Kalamman temple at Ariyakkurichi and granted many villages<sup>6</sup> for performing daily pooja. Still people of that area worship her as Goddess Udaiyal (or) Vettudaiyal Kalamman. It shows Velu Nachiyar's gratitude and practice of honorary to the Martyr of Sivagangai kingdom.

### **Achievements of Udaiyal Padai**

Captain Quili and Adappakari Irrulayei and Kottai Priya Nangai Nachi were the important members of that force. They followed the method Guerrilla Warfare to attack their enemies. In 1780, (6th Iyppasi, seventh Tamil month] on Friday, Udaiyal Padai started their attempt to restore Sivagangai. The previous day of Vijayadasamy, Velu Nachiyar made a plot against the British because there was no restriction on the particular day to worship Goddess Rajarajeshwari by the women, which is located inside the Sivaganga Palace. British on the other hand made a plot against the people. But fortunately, Captain Quili came to know the plot against them just a few minutes earlier. Within the fraction of the moment, she decided to save the Queen and restore Sivagangai by sacrificing life. She burnt herself and acted as Human Bomb to destroy the arsenals kept inside the temple. It was unexpected by British force, which led them inactive on the moment. The British

---

<sup>4</sup> Muthuswamy .M., (ed.), Southern Great Patriots, Chennai, 2000, pp.36-38.

<sup>5</sup> Natarajan,N, Incomplete sculpture seen in front of the Kalaiyarkoil Temple; p.64.

<sup>6</sup> . Rasaiah, N., Maaveeran Pulidthevan, p.65.

soldiers were ravaged by Udaiyal Padai under Velu Nachiyar, who came out into the front and gallantly played the role of a defender to restore Sivagangai with the help of Udaiyal Padai.

### **Succession option for Throne serious**

Problem arose on the matter of succession to the throne of Sivagangai State. Whether her successor should be her adopted son Gowri vallaba Thevar or her son – in – law Vengan Periya Udaya Thevar was the problem to take a decision on this sensitive and important matter. Vengan Periya Udaya Thevar had the support of the Marudhu Brothers. However, Velu Nachchiyar had affection for Gowri Vallaba Udayana Thevar. This competition for the Ruler ship of Sivagangai created a lot of problems in the political scenario of Sivagangai State. Velu Nachchiyar had to undergo tremendous mental agony. To strengthen his claim to the throne, Vengan Periya Udaya Thevar married the daughter of Periya Marudhu as his second wife which intensified the already complicated problem. This situation attracted the attention of the enemies of Sivagangai who were all out to exploit the situation to the best of their advantage. The British started enacting a drama with a dual role as though they were on the side of Velu Nachchiyar for some time and on the other side for some time. As a result of that, Vengan Periya Udaya Thevar became King of Sivagangai as per the compromise formula suggested by the British. The adopted son of Velu Nachiyar Padamathur Gowri Vallaba Thevar escaped to Arantangi to protect his life

### **First Human Bomb**

In 1780 Rani Velu Nachiyar attacked the British settlements in a lightning speed. She developed a separate well trained women's army whose members were equally brave, patriotic and disciplined. In the battle, upon finding the ammunition depot, Velu Nachiyar had her first human bomb, a dedicated woman warrior by the name "Kuyili," to carry out the difficult job. That brave, young woman, after dousing herself with inflammable oil, walked into the arsenal and lit herself. Seconds later the entire place was ablaze. There was nothing but destruction and chaos all around. After this humiliating defeat by an army led by a dynamic, woman warrior, the British left the place for good, never to turn back. This patriotic young woman, who was a human bomb, sacrificed her precious life for the freedom of her mother land from foreign rulers. Velu Nachiyar, as a ruler kept the woman's army and named it "Udaiyal" in honour of her adopted daughter Udaiyal, who died detonating a British arsenal at the battle. Her courageous exploits against the British company took place long before the Sepoy mutiny of 1857. Queen Velu Nachiyar found successors in Marudu brothers who were equally competent to administer the country in 1780. Velu Nachiyar died after a few years later. Her date of death was not well recorded.

## History of Early Life

Thus the proclamations of Edward Clive contain certain facts about the royal family of Eighteenth Century Sivagangai State. It also gives information about the history of the valiant woman, Queen Velu Nachchiyar. Muthuvaduganatha Thevar was the son of Sasivarna Periya Udaya Thevar, the first independent King of Sivagangai State. The newly created Sivagangai State had to meet a number of wars. Both the Maravar States in cooperation with each other met the challenges based to them successfully. The effort of the forces of Marathas of Tanjore in the year 1732 to capture it and bring it under its control was defeated. When Bangaru Tirumalai Nayak and his son Vijaya Kumara Nayak were driven out of their State Madurai in the year 1736 by Chandha Sahib, the two Marava States gave them asylum and provided them with all facilities to stay comfortably in Vellikkuruchi belonging to Sivagangai State in a manner fitting to their royal dignity. In the year 1745, the Marathas of Tanjore started giving trouble to the Marava States again. As these two states had to pay full attention to repulse the attacks of the Marathas they could not find any solution for the problem of Vijaya Kumara Nayak.

At this time, the Sethupathi of Ramanathapuram State expired which added another difficult dimension to the problems. In the years 1747-1748, these two states had to face a severe famine. Muthuvaduganatha Thevar was not deterred by any of the incidents and adverse circumstances described above. He was in charge of the administration of Sivagangai State from the year 1730 to 1750, though his father Sasivarna Thevar was the King. History has bestowed on him the distinction of being the Ruler of Sivagangai state for the longest period from the year 1750 till he was killed in Kalaiyarkoil in the year 1772. His death in the battle with the forces of Col. Smith in the year 1772 was the most grief-stricken incident in history. In the slaughter in Kalaiyarkoil, men, women and children were killed without any distinction. The wife of Muthuvaduganathar, Gowri Nachchiyar was also not an exception to this inhuman tragedy. After the completion of this cruel slaughter, robbery and plunder started there. The Englishmen got 50,000 pagodas. Only people who escaped from this inhuman slaughter were those who were away from that place. It was only an act of providence that minister Thandavaraya Pillai, Queen Velu Nachchiyar and the most dependable and trustworthy Marudhu brothers escaped this slaughter.<sup>7</sup> The death of her husband Muthuvaduganathar was informed to Queen Velu Nachchiyar who was staying at that time in Kollangudi and she rushed to Kalaiyarkovil fort. The ghostly scene which she saw there shocked her mind and body together. She had not even heard of such a beastly, dastardly, inhuman and cruel act before she actually saw it and she had the misfortune to see it.

<sup>7</sup> Henry Davison Love, Vestiges of Old Madras (1640-1800), Vol .III, London, 1913, p.71

## **Multi-Linguist Queen**

Queen Velu Nachchiyar was the daughter of king Sellamuthu Sethupathi of Ramanathapuram and Sakkandhi Muththaththathal Nachchiyar. Sakkandhi was one of the auxiliary Palayams of Sivagangai State adjoining Sivagangai. Queen Velu Nachchiyar was very active and talented when she was young. She wanted to learn many languages and accordingly she learnt Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Urdu, English and French languages. The person who taught her the French language was a priest by name Jose-de-pray

## **Literary Genius**

She had studied the Sangam literary works, Silappadhikaram and Manimegalai and also epics like Ramayanam and Mahabharata. It was customary that any boy or girl born in a Royal family should not only be well in literary works and epics, but also be well versed in the art of warfare. This was the tradition followed by the family of Sethupathies, and accordingly Velunachiyar was well versed in all these aspects.

## **Family Tradition**

Velu Nachiyar was married to Muthuvaduganathar and the couple was blessed with only one daughter. As Muthuvaduganathar who was to have brought up the girl Vellachchi according to the requirements and traditions of the royal family, was killed by the Englishmen in the most ghastly, inhuman and brutal manner and so the responsibility fell on Velu Nachiyar. Minister Thandavaraya Pillai consoled the grief stricken Queen placing her in the place of her father. Thandavaraya Pillai who served under Sasivarna Thevar and Muthuvaduganathar as minister were the persons with a lot of experience in various aspects of life in the art of governance of a State. Therefore, when the king was fell in the battlefield, his mind made a very quick calculation and came to the conclusion that he should obtain the help of Hyder Ali of Mysore and bring back the shattered Sivagangai State to its normal eminent position.<sup>8</sup>

## **Two Options**

There were only two options before Velu Nachiyar who was immersed in deep grief due to the demise of her husband. One option was self-immolation as per the customs and traditions. The other option was to wreak vengeance against the British and the Nawab for the unjustifiable killing of her husband and capturing Sivagangai State. The question before her was whether to emulate

---

<sup>8</sup> Thiruvargarajan, V., 'Velu Nachchiyar (1750-1796)- The Valiant Queen of the South' in M. Muthuswami,(ed.),Southern Great Patriots, Chennai 2000,pp.36-38

Kopperundevi, wife of Pandyan Nedunchezian king of Madurai, who died the moment her husband died when pointed out by Kannagi and proved in his court that he ordered the killing of her husband Kovalan unjustifiably without thoroughly and properly enquiring the case of the theft of the anklet of his queen and realizing what he did was wrong or to emulate Kannagi wife of Kovalan who was falsely accused of stealing the anklet of the Queen of the Pandya King of Madurai and ordered to be killed by him for which wrongful act Kannagi burnt the city of Madurai in a fit of rage as a revenge for the unjustifiable killing of her husband Kovalan. Velu Nachiyar opted to emulate Kannagi and Thandavaraya Pillai gave her proper advice.

### Three Decisions

After ascending the throne, Velu Nachchiyar made three important decisions. She appointed Chinna Marudhu who was trained by Thandavaraya Pillai as her advisor and Periya Marudhu who was with her husband when they were young, accompanied him when he went for hunting and also to battle fields as his shadow and was well versed about the intricacies of the usage of weapons as Commander. Further, she adopted Padamathur Gowri Vallaba Thevar who came of the lineage of her husband and who enjoyed the love and affection of her husband, as her son.

### Forerunner of secularism

Velu Nachiyar was a learned scholar as she was well versed in indigenous and foreign language.<sup>9</sup> Without any language disparities she learnt many languages and when she took refuge in the court of Hyder Ali, he admired her courage and language efficiency and rendered help to restore Sivagangai.<sup>10</sup> Moreover, Hyder Ali granted her permission to stay at Virupakshi or Dindugal Fort where she was respected and treated as a Royal Queen until she decided to leave and financially supported by granting 400 pound (gold) for her monthly expenses.<sup>11</sup> In order to fulfill her desire, Hyder Ali ordered to build Rajarajeswari temple and install goddess Rajarajeswari, an idol made up of gold, within the fort of Dindugal<sup>12</sup> for her worship. It is clear that they followed religious toleration, respect the refugees without any discrimination and set an example for secularism in Indian History. After the restoration of Sivagangai, Velu Nachiyar also built a mosque and a Church at Sarugani.<sup>13</sup> Moreover; she gave gift to the Muslim soldiers, who were helpful at the time of

<sup>9</sup> Rasaiah., Maaveeran Pulidthevan,p.36

<sup>10</sup> . M.C.C, 12 December, 1772 Vol. 21, pp.282-283; Military Despatches to England, Vo1.10, pp.85-86.

<sup>11</sup> Natarajan.M., Marudhu Pandiyar,p.47

<sup>12</sup> Ibid., p.48.

<sup>13</sup> Major F. Martins, a Portuguese in the Service of East India Company, undated letter to Serugani Priest (Unpublished)

restoration. She had sent a golden tiger to Tipu Sultan as a gift<sup>14</sup> to show her gratitude and considered him as her brother. Still we can have a witness of the golden tiger at Mysore palace.

She showed her gratitude by giving gift to Gopala Nayak of Dindugal who sent his forces at the time of war. In later days, when Marudhus acted against her will, she sought the help of Hyder Ali who warned the Marudhu Brothers.<sup>15</sup> She had maintained cordial relations with Hyder Ali till her last days. He also considered her as his sister. Though both belonged to different religion, community, language, culture they were bound by brotherhood and helped each other in times of need without any hesitation. In such a way she promoted Secularism, Brotherhood and Social Justice in Sivagangai Kingdom and set an example for others after her.

### **Marriage option of Vellachi Nachiyar**

Velu Nachchiyar who tried to bring peace and begin rule of the State by such of her decisions as these, could not enjoy a peaceful life at home. She had problems as to whom she should entrust her daughter who had attained maturity and also to whom she should entrust the ruler ship of the State after her. Regarding the marriage of her daughter two persons were proposed, one was king Muthuramalinga Sethupathy of Ramanathapuram and the other was a relative in the lineage of her mother Sanganthi Vengan Periya Udaya Thevar. Velu Nachchiyar preferred the latter and her daughter was married to Periya Udaya Thevar. The interest of her State was foremost in her mind while taking such a decision.

Succession Option for Throne Serious problem arose on the matter of succession to the throne of Sivagangai State. Whether her successor should be her adopted son Gowri Vallaba Thevar or her son-in-law Vengan Periya Udaya Thevar was the problem. She had to take a decision on this sensitive and important matter. Vengan Periya Udaya Thevar had the support of the Marudhu Brothers. However, Velu Nachchiyar had affection for Gowri Vallaba Udayana Thevar. This competition for the Ruler ship of Sivagangai created a lot of problems in the political scenario of Sivagangai State. Velu Nachchiyar had to undergo tremendous mental agony. To strengthen his claim to the throne, Vengan Periya Udaya Thevar married the daughter of Periya Marudhu as his second wife which intensified the already complicated problem. This situation attracted the attention of the enemies of Sivagangai who were all out to exploit the situation to the best of their advantage. The British started enacting a drama with a dual role as though they were on the side of Velu Nachchiyar for some time and on the other side for some time. As a result of that, Vengan

---

<sup>14</sup> Natarajan, M., op. cit., p.73; At present we can see the Golden Tiger at Mysore palace.

<sup>15</sup> John Holland in Council, 5 May 1789, p.1345; Military Consultations, Vol. 129, p. 1336

Periya Udaya Thevar became King of Sivagangai as per the compromise formula suggested by the British. The adopted son of Velu Nachiyar Padamathur Gowri Vallaba Thevar escaped to Arantangi to protect his life.

### **Greatness of Velu Nachiyar**

In 1788, Queen Velu Nachiyar was relegated to the background by the Marudhu Brothers. She felt insulted and wanted to reassert herself and control the administration. In 1788, the rift widened and the Queen sought to curtail the authority of the Marudhu Brothers. The Nawab came forward to assist the Queen Velu Nachiyar in her conflict with the Marudhu Brothers and promised assistance.<sup>16</sup> This precipitated a clash between the supporters of the Queen Velu Nachiyar and the Marudhus, in consequence of which the Queen was forced to seek shelter in the fort of Sivaganga.<sup>17</sup> Ultimately Mohammed Ali with the help of the British force defeated Marudhu Brothers. It shows that the people who were against the sovereign were suppressed by the Royal Order.

A few references say that the Sivagangai ruling house was gradually slipping from the Maravas to the Agamudaiyars.<sup>18</sup> When Velu Nachiyar became old, she proclaimed her daughter Vellachi Nachiyar as legal heir for Sivagangai Samasthanam in 1790.<sup>19</sup> As Vellachi Nachiyar was inefficient and inexperienced in administration of Sivagangai, Marudhu Brothers were appointed as Chief Ministers of Sivagangai by Queen Velu Nachiyar. When they implemented the royal orders, they were familiar and famous among the people of Sivagangai.

Thus, Sivagangai had come completely under the control of the two Agamudaiyars, after the reign of Queen Velu Nachiyar. At this juncture, Marudhu Brothers acted as defacto rulers of Sivagangai. It is clear that, efficient persons can rule the country without any royal background. Thus, she paved the way for the formation of democracy in India. Thus Velu Nachiyar was the only royal woman, who restored her Kingdom from the British by open war and ruled for a decade. She was known for the policies of secularism, equality, fraternity, recognition for social acceptance and democracy during her reign in Sivagangai. She was one of the forerunners of a women Force even before Neataji Subash Chandra organizes women Force under Laxmi Shegal in the name of Jhansi Women Force. She followed the policy of Secular State, equal Status to all efficient persons without any discrimination, to develop brotherly relationship with (Hyder Ali and Gopala Naik) neighbouring countries and promote brotherhood, to install Veera kal and build a temple to the

<sup>16</sup> Correspondent on the Permanent Settlement of the Southern Pollams and Ramnad and Sivagangai Zamindaries , 1799-1803,p.28

<sup>17</sup> John Holland in Council, 28 May 1789, Military Consultations, Vol.129, p.1459

<sup>18</sup> Military Consultations, Vol. I, 185, 10 May 1794, pp. 1762-68.

<sup>19</sup> William Medows in Council, 24 January 1792, M.C., Vol.158, pp.474-75.



young Martyr, Udaiyal and honour the patriot, to build Mosque, Church, and Temple in order to promote communal harmony. She gave respect to royal tradition, culture and convention. She never remarried. She was very careful that no legal problem should arise at the time of successor.

### **Medical Treatment in France**

In the year 1790, Vellachchi Nachiyar, the daughter of Velu Nachiyar was married to Vengan Periya Udaya Thevar and the latter became the king of Sivagangai State due to the compromise formula of the British died under my sterious circumstances. Velu Nachiyar became broken-hearted because of this and she became physically weak and sick because of the tremendous mental stress and strain to which she was subjected to for quite some time. A bishop by name Jose-de-pray arranged for the treatment of her heart ailment in France. It is presumed, but not confirmed that she would have gone to Paris in the year 1791. After a gap of three years Velu Nachiyar appeared again in Sivagangai. When Velu Nachiyar came to Sivagangai, her only daughter Vellachchi Nachiyar expired earlier.<sup>20</sup>

### **Final Days**

As the situation was not continuously conducive for her in Sivagangai, Velu Nachiyar went to Virupakshi Palayam and stayed there. She died there on 25th December 1796. Her mortal remains were sent to Sivagangai with all the honour and respect to a Queen. Her son-in-law Vengan Periya Udaya Thevar performed her last rites.

### **End of Patriots**

The British who noticed certain changes in the behaviour of Vengan Periya Udaya Thevar and the Marudhu Brothers after of Velu Nachchiyar convened a meeting in Sivagangai. In this meeting it was decided to make Padamathur Gowri Vallabha Thevar as King of Sivagangai State. As a result of this the Marudhu Brothers were hanged to death and Vengan Periya Udaya Thevar was banished from Sivagangai State.<sup>21</sup> To conclude, French Father Chechool-De- Breys' Dairy says that Velu Nachiyar suffered from Heart problem in her last days. She took treatment in France for more than a month where she attended many official functions and taught Vallari (Native Warfare) to the daughter of French Ruler. It may be true that in her last days, she was unhappy due to the death of her daughter and granddaughter.

---

<sup>20</sup> Kadhivel.s.,History of Maravas, Madurai,1977,p.177

<sup>21</sup> Stalin Gunasegaram, T., Viduthalai Velviyil Tamizhagam, (Tamil), Part. I, Erode, 2000, p.48

## **Memorial planned for Velu Nachiyar**

The government built a Memorial for freedom fighter and queen of Sivaganga, Velu Nachiyar and a commemorative stamp was released in her name on December 31, 2008. A Grand Dance Ballet presented by OVM Dance Academy of Chennai titled 'Velu Nachiyar' narrates the epic story of Nachiyar. Former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, late Jayaram Jayalalithaa on July 18, 2014, inaugurated the Veeramangai Velu Nachiyar Memorial in Sivagangai through video conferencing. A six-foot bronze statue of the queen was also unveiled by Jayalalithaa, who also announced that January 3 will be commemorated annually as the birth anniversary of the courageous queen. Tamil-American hip-hop artist Professor A.L.I. dedicated a song titled 'Our Queen' to her as part of the artist's album called 'Tamilmatic'. The life of Nachiyar, the first queen of India who fought the British decades before the celebrated Rani of Jhansi, Lakshmibai, was depicted in a grand dance ballet. The director of the ballet Sriram Sharma researched on the epic life of this brave queen for about a decade. It was performed in Naradha Gana Sabha in Chennai on August 21, 2017, and then in Mumbai on September 9 and in Delhi on September 21,

## **Conclusion**

It is not common knowledge that Velu Nachiyar (1730-96), the Queen of Sivagangai, was the first ruler in the Indian history to wage a war against the British colonisers in 1780, about seventy-seven years before what we believed to be the First War of Independence took place. What is perhaps even lesser known is that the strategy that helped her win was devised and played out by Kuyili, her Commander-in-Chief. Though hardly ever recognised or acknowledged for it, Kuyili has played an important role in shaping the history of India.

Kuyili, fondly addressed by some as Veerthalapathy (The Brave Commander) or Veeramangai (The Brave Woman), was a valiant warrior who belonged to the scheduled caste of Arunthathiyar. Kuyili was born to Periyamuthan and Raku, who worked in the fields. Her mother Raku, who was well-known for her bravery, died in an attempt to save the fields from being destroyed by a wild bull. Devastated, Periyamuthan then moved near Sivagangai with Kuyili, where he worked as a cobbler. It is said that he raised Kuyili by telling her of the many courageous acts of her mother, which inspired her. He was soon employed as a spy for Velu Nachiyar, who was then in hiding. He also fought alongside his daughter and the Queen during the war.

The nature of Periyamuthan's profession brought Kuyili and Velu Nachiyar close together. Kuyili and her father were unrestrictedly allowed access to Velu Nachiyar at all times, which is

when Kuyili found a special place in the heart of the exiled Queen. Kuyili saved the Queen's life on more than one occasion. When an intruder tried to murder Velu Nachiyar in her sleep, Kuyili saved her life and was badly injured in the process. On witnessing this, Velu Nachiyar immediately tore a piece of her saree to bandage Kuyili's wounds.

On another instance, Kuyili discovered that her own *Silambam* teacher was a spy working against the Queen. She immediately ended his life, sensing the danger he could cause Velu Nachiyar. This led to the Queen making Kuyili her personal bodyguard. When the British tried to coerce Kuyili into revealing Velu Nachiyar's plans, she refused. As a result of which they tormented her community by committing various atrocities on Dalits. To aid Kuyili's resistance, Velu Nachiyar made her the Commander-in-Chief of the women's army. After the successful formation of alliances with Maruthu Pandiyar, Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan, Velu Nachiyar entered into war with the British in order to reclaim her kingdom. Though her armies were well-trained and had won a few battles, they faced a lot of difficulties due to the advanced weapons used by the British army.

This is when Kuyili formulated her strategy. She gathered information about women being allowed into the Sivagangai *kottai*, which was against the norm. As it was the 10<sup>th</sup> day of *Navaratri*, women across the kingdom were allowed inside in order to celebrate the *Vijayadasimi* festival which was celebrated in the temple of *Rajarajeswari Amman*. Kuyili took use of this golden opportunity and planned a surprise attack on the British. She led her army who were dressed as civilians and were unnoticed by the British army who were swarming around the fort. Having hidden the weapons inside the flower and the fruit-baskets, the women entered the fort and on the Queen's cue, attacked the British.

The British army, taken by surprise, were forced into a battle they were unprepared for. Kuyili, who had already made note of the location of the storage area where the weapons were kept, formulated another plan. She made use of the chaotic surroundings and made her comrades pour ghee and oil all over her that were kept for the burning of the lamps. She then went inside the storage area and set herself on fire. She destroyed all the weapons and left the British army completely vulnerable. Her bravery and brilliance allowed Velu Nachiyar to not only win the battle, but also reclaim her fort and her kingdom. Though our history has failed in recognising Kuyili's selfless act, her actions had nevertheless helped in restoring the people of Sivagangai their identity. The Government of Tamil Nadu, after almost a decade of promising to do so, finally

commemorated a memorial to glorify the bravery of Kuyili. This is located in the Sivagangai district in Tamil Nadu.

## References

- [1] Correspondent on the Permanent Settlement of the Southern Pollams and Ramnad and Sivagangai Zamindaries , 1799-1803,p.28
- [2] Henry Davison Love, Vestiges of Old Madras (1640-1800), Vol .III, London, 1913, p.71
- [3] John Holland in Council, 28 May 1789, Military Consultations, Vol.129, p.1459
- [4] John Holland in Council, 5 May 1789, p.1345; Military Consultations, Vol. 129, p. 1336
- [5] Kadhivel.s.,History of Maravas, Madurai,1977,p.177
- [6] Kamal.SM. Sethupathigal Charithiram, p.237
- [7] M.C.C, 12 December, 1772 Vol. 21, pp.282-283; Military Despatches to England, Vo1.10, pp.85-86.
- [8] Major F. Martins, a Portuguese in the Service of East India Company, undated letter to Serugani Priest (Unpublished)
- [9] Maruthamohan.K.V.S., Sasivarna Thevar- An Architect an Sivaganga Seemai in proceedings of Annual session, Mayiladuthurai,2005,p.71.
- [10] Military Consultation,26 June 1772, vol.42, p.63
- [11] Military Consultations, Vol. I, 185, 10 May 1794, pp. 1762-68.
- [12] Muthuswamy .M., (ed.), Southern Great Patriots, Chennai, 2000, pp.36-38.
- [13] Natarajan, M., op. cit., p.73; At present we can see the Golden Tiger at Mysore palace.
- [14] Natarajan,N, Incomplete sculpture seen in front of the Kalaiyarkoil Temple; p.64.
- [15] Natarajan.M., Marudhu Pandiyar,p.47
- [16] Rasaiah, N., Maaveeran Pulidthevan, p.65.
- [17] R. Radha. (2019). Violence Against Women In India With A Special Reference to Pudukkottai District- A Reality Check. *Review of Research*, 8(7). 47-50. UGC Journal No.48514,ISSN 2249-894X, Impact Factor:5.7631(UIF).
- [18] Rajapandian, Radha.,Dhanapal, Bharathi., and Iyyanar, Sivakumar. (2021). "Representation of Caste and Class in Modern Tamil Films."*Am J Econ Sociol*, 80(3): 915-929. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ajes.12411>
- [19] Rajapandian, Radha, and Iyathurai.(2019). "MahilaPanchayat (Women's Court) Alternative Dispute Resolution Body in India with Special Reference to Pudukkottai District."*Infokara Research* 8(12): 1053–1065. [DOI:16.10089.IR.2019.V8I12.285311.3258](https://doi.org/10.1111/ajes.12411)

- [20] Rajapandian, Radha.(2020). *Malala: The Crusader of Fearless Freedom*. United States. LuLu Publications.
- [21] Santhi, S., and A. R. Saravanakumar. "Contribution of Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy to Women Empowerment-A Historical Study." *International Journal of Scientific and Technology Research* 9.3 (2020): 1244-1253.
- [22] Santhi, S. "Swami Vivekananda's Perspective on Education." *JETIR* 6.5 (2019): 598-602.
- [23] Shoma, A. Chatterji. (1998). *Subject--cinema, object--woman: a study of the portrayal of women in Indian cinema*. Calcutta: Parumita Publications.
- [24] Stalin Gunasegaram, T., Viduthalai Velviyil Tamizhagam, (Tamil), Part. I, Erode, 2000, p.48
- [25] Thiruvarangarajan, V., 'Velu Nachchiar (1750-1796) - The Valiant Queen of the South' in
- [26] M. Muthuswami,(ed.),Southern Great Patriots, Chennai 2000,pp.36-38
- [27] Thangamuthu, P. "CONTRIBUTION OF RAJA RAM MOHAN ROY" S TO LITERATURE AND JOURNALISM." *Int. J. Adv. Res* 4.12 (2016): 2610-2616.
- [28] William Medows in Council, 24 January 1792, M.C., Vol.158, pp.474-75.