Works Cited


Glossary

Adivasi - the tribal people who mainly live in the forest.

Antharjanam - Nambootiri woman.

Adiyan - the tenant who was like a slave by his master.

Channar - one of the lowest castes in the Hindu caste hierarchy.

Ezhava - a lower caste in the Hindu caste hierarchy.

Grahastha dharmam - duties and responsibilities associated with a man like providing for the family.

Grihini dharmam - the duties and obligations of a wife and mother like cooking, cleaning and washing.

Illam - the ancestral home of a Nambootiri, the highest caste in the Hindu caste hierarchy.

Janmi - one who owned vast acres of land in the feudal system.

Kanyadhanam - the gift given to a daughter at the time of marriage.

Karanavan - the senior most male member in a tharawad who was the mother’s brother. He was the custodian of all movable and immovable properties.

Kizhor - the people who belong to the lower castes

Kudiyan - the tenant in the feudal system.
**Kudumba charithram** - the record of the family lineage, its glorious past, and the different branches of the family.

**Kudumba Yogam** - the meeting of the members of the various branches of the family which sometimes takes place annually or once in two or three years.

**Melor** - the people who belong to the high caste.

**Makkathayam** - the patrilineal system of descent.

**Marumakkathayam** - the matrilineal system of descent.

**Namboottiri** - the highest caste in the caste system. He alone was endowed with the right to discharge religious rites.

**Padi adachu pindam vekkal** - the custom of permanently denying entry to a woman in her ancestral home for violating marital codes.

**Paraya, paravan/pelaya, pulaya** - the untouchable castes in the caste hierarchy.

**Pennarassunad** - the realm in which women ruled.

**Purusha dharmam** - the duties and responsibilities of a man.

**Sambandham** - the type of marriage prevalent among the Nairs for a long time which was not considered a legal marriage.

**Stridhanam** - the dowry given to the groom at the time of marriage.

**Stree dharmam** - the duties and responsibilities of a woman in a patriarchal set-up.
Tharawad - the ancestral home of Nairs.

Talikettukalyanam - a form of symbolic marriage performed when a woman becomes physically mature, pre-puberty rites.

Tirandukuli - puberty rites, rites performed to celebrate the attainment of puberty.