In recent years, women’s issues have received great attention. Empowerment of women, gender equality, women’s participation in economic activities and women’s involvement in public and community affairs are some interesting areas which have attracted the attention of scholars.

The history of the freedom movement in the princely state of Travancore is a saga of heroism and martyrdom. It is the story of resistance and repression. Men and women in hundreds participated in this epic struggle and sacrificed their life in the altar of freedom. However the heroic struggle led by the women community in the state and the role they played in its socio-cultural Renaissance has passed unnoticed by scholars.

Eventhough there are numerous books on the fascinating period of the Kerala’s freedom struggle, no serious study has so far been made on the process of the politicization of women in Travancore. There were a good number of women personalities in Travancore but were passed unnoticed. An attempt is made here to bring out the role played by Travancore women in Kerala’s Renaissance and freedom struggle. Some are alive now and this study includes some personal interviews made with them.

This paper entitled ‘Politicization of Women in Travancore State (1900 – 1947) – A Study, is an exposition of the history of the struggle of women to politicize themselves and the background which helped for this politicization.