Glossary

Adhivedanam : Marrying an additional wife.

Antharjanam : Namboothiri Woman.

Charka : Spinning Wheel.

Chunri Festival : The festival to proclaim the girl who committed Sati as Sati Mata.

Devadasi : A female member of a community of temple dancers.

Dharna : A form of mass strike by squatting.

Ghosha : Umbrella-like covering used by Namboothiri women in front of others.

Grama Sevakan : A male worker at village level appointed by government.

Illum : Family of Namboothiri in Kerala.

Jathi vyavasthithi : Caste system.

Kalari : Place where formal education was given to children in the olden days.

Kalian : Type of coin in olden days.

1 Kalian=10 Chakrams: 28 Chakrams = One rupee.

Karanavan : The seniormost male member of Nair family in Kerala who govern the family.

Kulinism : Practice by which it was socially possible for even a hundred women to be given in marriage to a Brahmin by reason of his high status.

Karshaka thozhilali : Agricultural labourer.

Kuppayam : Jacket wore by women to cover the upper part of the body.

Lahala : Riot.
Lesbianism: The term used for female homo-sexuality.
Mahila Samajam: Women's organisation.
Mahila vidyalaya: Educational institution for girls.
Marumakkathayam: The law of inheritance in the female line.
Marumarakkal: Wearing cloth above the loins.
Makkathayam: The law of inheritance in the male line.
Mopans (Moopan): A chief or head man of a gang of labourers.
Mukkuvan: Person of fishermen community.
Onam: National festival of Kerala.
Poojari: The priest who performs pujas or sacrificial rites in temple.
Pulikudi: A customary ceremony of drinking the juice of sour fruits by women in their first pregnancy.
Purohita: A clergy women.
Pynkili novel: Colloquial term used to denote sub-standard novels appear regularly in Malayalam magazines.
Raja: King of a state or country.
Samaram: Strike.
Sambandham: The term used by Nairs of Kerala to denote marriage.
Satyagraha: A kind of resistance movement against the unjust laws.
Sastras: Pertaining to science or the science.
Sati: Self immolation of a widow on her husband's pyre.
Smartha: A person appointed by the Raja to perform the Smarthavicharam.
Smartha Vicharam: The punishment for women who accused of adultery.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sudra</td>
<td>Servant caste.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tali</td>
<td>A chain or string tied by the bridegroom round the neck of the bride at the time of marriage as a token of wed-lock.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thavazhi</td>
<td>Inheritance along the mother’s line.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thakli</td>
<td>A top like apparatus for spinning yarn.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tharavadu</td>
<td>Family organisation of Nairs in Kerala.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thirandukuli</td>
<td>A ceremony among certain castes when a girl attains puberty.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Varadakshina</td>
<td>Present given to the bridegroom by father of the bride at the time of wedding.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Veli</td>
<td>A Brahmin marriage; married woman of a Namboothiri community.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yogam</td>
<td>Council.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yuvajana sangham</td>
<td>Youth league.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>