



# REVIEW OF RESEARCH

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## SOCIAL CUSTOMS OF MUSLIM FISHERMEN IN PUDUKKOTTAI DISTRICT

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### ABSTRACT:

In this Pudukkottai District large number of Muslims are living especially in the coastal area. The Muslims of this district are the descendants of the early colonists from Arabia<sup>1</sup>. They first settled along the Sea-Coasts chiefly in Arasangarai Pattinam, Gopalapattinam, Kottaipattinam, Ammapattinam, Adhipattinam, gradually extended their colonies in to the interior parts of the districts.<sup>2</sup> From the fifteenth century onwards Hindus are converted to Islam<sup>3</sup>. They are divided into two major sections as Hanafi and Safi. Hanafi children call their father as "Aththa", and sefi as "Vappa". This is the major difference between the two sections. Polygamy is practiced. Their dead body is called "Myyath".



**KEYWORDS:** Gopalapattinam, Kottaipattinam, Ammapattinam.

### INTRODUCTION:-

The practical duties of Islam, five principal acts based on the kuran are called the pillars of the Kuran. They are kalimasulat, Roza, Zakat and Haji.

There are five famous Dargas located in this coastal region such as Seyad Mohamed Puhari Voliyullah Darga at Kottaipattinam, Abu Backer Voliyullah Darga at Jegathapattinam and Al

Arasulah Hilaru Nayagam Voliyullah Darga at Arasankaraippattinam the tomb of the Muslim pilgrims is called Darga.

### MARRIAGE

Marriage celebration in the Muslim community is different from others. The marriage is called "Nikah". There is a register kept for this purpose called "Jamadh" in which the names of the bride and groom

entered. The date of marriage along with two witnesses is also entered. The witnesses who sign should necessarily be Muslims. In those days the bridegroom was brought to the place of marriage in Procession on well-decorated horsebacks. Nowadays the brother-in-law welcomes the groom. The marriage function was celebrated only during the night but now they are conducted during day time also because they calculated their religious

<sup>1</sup>Venkatarama Ayyar, "A Manual of the Pudukkottai State, PP. 95-96.

<sup>2</sup>Heming way FR OP, Cit, PP 160-161.

<sup>3</sup>Personal interview with Sekar Devasthana office on 21.09.2018.

functions based on the lunar calendar.<sup>4</sup>

### Tali

The bride does not wear 'Tali' but wears only black beads. In Muslim marriages, the black beads are tied to the bride by an elderly woman and not by the groom. Even after the function is over, the bride and groom do not sit together. Now changes are introduced in their customs<sup>5</sup>.

### Feast

The marriage feast consisting of non-vegetarian items is very important. An important person in place is respected by giving a special invitation. No presents were allowed to descendants to the couple but nowadays they are allowed<sup>6</sup>.

### Astrology

Islam strictly forbids horoscope, omens, auspicious days, etc. The Muslims who were strictly following this custom has now begun to change their attitude. Perhaps it may be due to the impact of the Hindus.

### Kanyasulkam

The bridegroom should give an amount like the present dowry to the bride, which is called 'Mahar'. This is entered in the register in practices no amount is given<sup>7</sup>.

### Widow remarriage

This is allowed in Islam. When the husband dies, the woman is put in a dark room for 4 months. The brothers and sisters of the woman, children and other widows can see her. Ladies of other religious faith should not see her. Ladies of other religious faith should not see her. This practice is to know as 'Iktha'.

### Worship of God

There are two methods of worship. People go to the mosque and pray. Others pray in Dargas.

### Mosque

A mosque is a holy place of Muslims, usually, mosques are facing the east. There is no idol form of worship. All should stand in rows and pray facing west, because Mecca their holy place is situated in the west. Special prayers are offered during Friday. The Friday prayers are compulsory for all Muslims and fines are imposed on the absents. The palanquin in which dead bodies are carried is placed in the mosque. Ladies are strictly forbidden from entering the mosque. A true Muslims should offer prayers five times a day they are Bujjar, Luhar, Asar Mahrif, and Isha. The morning prayer is offered between 5.30 and 6.00 AM, the second between 1 and 3.00 PM, the third at 4.30 to 5.30 PM, the fourth before sunset and the last between 7.30 and 8.30 PM.

### Darga

The second type of worship is the worship at Dargas, which are built in memory of a virtuous and poor life according to Islamic laws. It amounts to more or less worship of tombs. The entrance to a Darga may face any direction. The methods of worship are similar to Hindu temples. Holding processions and special worship called 'Santhanakoodu' are held. Ladies are allowed to worship and

<sup>4</sup>Gopalakrishnan Gandhi, Tamil Nadu District Gazetteers Pudukkottai 1983 P-277.

<sup>5</sup>Personal interview with Ameenammal on 18.01.2019 at Kattumavadi.

<sup>6</sup>Personal observation by the research scholar on 20.01.2019 at Ammapattinam.

<sup>7</sup>Personal interview with Shaik Abdullkhan on 23.09.2018, Kottaipattinam.

people belonging to other religions are also found to worship here. Though I do worship in forbidden photos of Dargas are found in Islam families.

### Divorce

Divorce is an important matter in Islam. The chief persons called panchayatdars assemble and try to reconcile. If it ends in failure divorce is allowed the word "Talak" is said thrice and divorce is granted<sup>8</sup>.

### Education

Education was not popular among the Muslim community. Now even ladies get education and are employed. There is no matharsa the exclusive educational institution of the Muslims, in this coastal region. The Muslims learn in the Public school located in this coastal area.

### CONCLUSION

Every Muslim is bound to visit the holy place of Mecca at least once in this lifetime. This is called Haj pilgrimage. For this pilgrimage now, one has to spend Rs.1,00,000/- only one person has to spend such huge amount and so some Muslims decided to stop the pilgrimage and to spend the amount in useful ways like helping poor brides for their marriage. They have a faith that solace and blessing as a god by helping the poor people.

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<sup>8</sup>.Data's collected by the Research scholar on this basis of his field study from September 19.09.2018 to 25.09.2018 at Ammapattinam and Kottaipattinam.