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**Social and Cultural Transition of Classical Dance-
with Special Reference to Kerala Performing Art Form
(Mohiniyattam)**

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**Study of Weightlifters' Attitudes towards New Technologies'
use in Sports Training and Education**

ABSTRACT

The paper is an attempt at understanding the specific features of Mohiniyattam, a desi lasya genre of the margi rendered in the Natyasastra, and an interpretation of their social origins. It traces the history of the desi lasya dance form from the times of old Tamil heroic poems and examines the subsequent changes in its rendition in alignment with the changing social system with the temple as the central institution. The Brahmin land lords and the temple that was also a big landed institution decided the character of the dance. How the women performers of devotional dances in the temple became temple courtesans and performers outside the temple for the gratification of the land lords and local rulers, are examined in the paper.

Keywords: Devadasi, Desi, Margi, Mohiniyattam, Natyasastra.

Introduction

Natyasastra, the very famous work in India is the basic reference text for classical performing arts. The performing art *Mohiniyattam* is choreographed and practiced on the basis of this text. *Thamilakam* is a unity in which many musical instruments and dance forms are choreographed in many ways. The dance forms based on this text is very lengthy and in series and there is a transmission through the ages which subsequently formed the art of *Mohiniyattam*¹. There are many dance forms practiced in ancient Kerala and *Mohiniyattam* was choreographed in the present style subsequently. It is indicated as ancient period, the period that of *Pazham Tamil* songs. In *pazham Tamil* songs especially in '*Pathittupathu*', the dancers, singers are described as *Panar, Kuthar, Padini, Virali, Vairiyar*². The dancers - female artists are mentioned *virali* in the period of *Pazham Tamil* songs. "Their hands are adorned with bangles and they have beautiful eyes as like in pictures and their breasts are very beautiful as flowers. Likewise their hips are beautiful by using unique silk of *Thamilakam* and their hairs are attracting bees." They are using gold ornaments and praising their Chieftain *Cheralathan*. In their songs they praised their king who provided very delicious food in various types and arranged newly composed music concert with *Madhala and Veena*.

Review of Literature

There are many *Pazham Tamil* songs describing the *virali*, their body structure, dance, art in which they were interested. These dances are mainly used to play for pleasing the village chieftains. They are *Urkizhanmar, Malirmannan, Vendan*. They had peculiar political structure for implementing their powers³. "Very powerful chieftains were emerged through war affairs and competitions between gothras for money and other things. These chieftains were known as *Muvendan*. Such *vendan* is namely *Cheran* whose power was established in middle Kerala which was extending to *Thrissinappilly*. Other *vendans* included *Pandya and Chola* have collected wealth through war affairs. They are known as *Velirkal*. Their functions include the distribution of wealth of *Maravar, Vettuvar and Panans* who led with wars and sang songs praising the king" (Rajan Gurukkal 319). As earlier stated, the *virali's* were interested to maintain their beauty of body structure and danced in presence of chieftains. The terms *viral* indicates the emotions which absorbed in mind and expressed thereafter. The chieftains always were making wars for gaining *Maruthu* which included paddy field.

In *Chilappathikaram*, there is a description with respect to the dance of *Madhavi* and her *Rangapravesam (Arangettukathai)*. That *Madhavi* used to dance for pleasing the king. There are two types of dance *Desi koothu and Marga koothu*. *Madhavi* was well expertised in 11 types of dance.

In *Chilappathikaram* the dance is divided and called as '*Eruvakaikoothu*'. Smt. Nirmala Paniker (39) analysed these and divided as *Margikoothu Desikoothu, Akakkoothu-Purakoothu, Kuravkoothu Varikoothu, Tamilkoothu*

Aryakoothu, Santhikoothu Vinodakoothu, Vasaikoothu Avinayakoothu. Koothu, koodiyattam had been has given prominence to devotions. On the other hand *Mohiniyattam* choreographed on the basis of desi style. Smt. Nirmala Paniker described “*the Mohiniyattam as a dance which was originated in ancient period of Kerala and influenced by deva dasis. In Thamil region devadasi system existed in the early centuries of AD. But in Kerala they reached only 7th or 8th century*”. *Thamilakam* is a region in which Kerala is included. The region in which Kerala not included is known as Tamilnadu. There is no sanskrit usage as 'devadasis' in Tamilnadu. The term 'devadasi' is used and spreaded in 6th or 8th century throughout Tamilnadu. But in Kerala there was no term used as *devadasi* even in 8th and 9th century. The term *Thevaradiyal* was used in Kerala. The usage of *devadasi* was stated in later period.

Thevaradiyal is a term denoting *devadasis* who included Brahmin land lords. It is not proper to mix it up with the period of *Pazhamtamil*, the period of temple and other period relates to Manipravalam. The period of *Pazhamtamil* was followed by temples and Manipravalam period.

It is a question when the term *Mohiniyattam* is used first. The earlier form of dance cannot be called as *Mohiniyattam*. In Tamil Nadu there were a group of *Thevaradiyar* who believed on Saiva culture and used to worship Shiva. So they absorbed the energy of *Thandavam* and choreographed very rhythmic speedy steps, actions in *Bharathanatyam*. Thevar as earlier stated Brahmin land lord and the 'Adiyar' of temple god were women who performed dance in later period which at *brahmin Illam* (House) theaters .The women were restricted to enter here. But some danseuse who performed dance in these theaters had gained dignity, power, positions through the wealth gifted by the *Naduvazhi's* (Land Lords).

It is said that *Pulavar* were academicians. They included Brahmins, Jainer, Budhist. Subsequently, the group of Brahmins were enhanced in numbers and started to cultivate the gifted land and they raised their positions to the level of king in parallel to the structure of powers existed then. In “*Manimekhala*” which written in continuation of *Chilappathikaram* included some Budha religious principles. “*Manimekhala*” who is the daughter of *danser Madhavi* and *Kovalan*. She was not belonging to the noble caste. *Manimekhala* is a *ganika* who expressed her beauty through dance and songs. The material fact is that the dancers expressed their beauties and performed their arts for pleasing the powerful land lords invokes sexual desires.

In 8 to 10 centuries the Brahmins reached in higher level of position and oriented to the temple. They had given prominence to devotion and encouraged the temple arts *Koothu, Koodiyattam*. At the same time these Brahmins, land lord and their feudals were used to get together and arranged the performance of other type of dance. Other temple arts except *Mohiniyattam* composed and choreographed through *Margi* style giving prominence to *Bhakthi* and *Mohiniyattam* was choreographed in a way to express *sringara on desi* style. There was no spiritual element and beauty in that dance and they only interested to achieve wealth. The dance changed social structure in later period and it was

performed for land lords other than the lord of temple. Subsequently the social structure was changed and devotion(*bhakthi*) was created by then social structure.

“There was literary creation centralising *Thirumaruthoot Unniyachi, Unnichiruthevi of Srinkapuram, Unniyadi, Unniyachi, Cheriyaichi, Mallinilavu*. Many poetics work were written *Suka Sandesam, Koka Sandesam, Uthara Chandrika, ShivaVilasam, Chandrolsavam, Unnichiruthevi Charitham*. Where are the brides of god who adorning the position of Adiyar, Adikal, Adichikal and following the path of purity. Where are the bride who played dance invoking sexual desires of landlords and received the rewards like *Manavimenaka, Manachemanthika Maralekha*. What a pitiable degradation ending in misery” (Kalyanikkuty Amma 66)

Mrs.Nirmala Panicker expressed her opinion that the art Mohiniyattam is a style followed by the tradition of temple danseues. Actually it is an art which is not deviated from the tradition of pazhamtamil dancers in such a period. These dancers had pleased the land lords and rulers physically, mentally and attained wealth and they handled the powerful position in that period

It cannot be considered that dancers were following the devotional path in the history of cultural aspect of kerala and simply they pleased the rulers through their art. In the other aspect they pleased the rulers through choreography of dance in the bhava of '*Sringara*' (Romance). In such a situation what is the meaning and relevancy of *jeevathma and paramathma* relation? In other words the temples are the powerful centres of devotion. The drama theatres are called as '*Koothambalam*' in which this art of *mohiniyattam* and dramas were performed. The dramas are originated and derived its style from *koothu and koodiyattam* performed in '*koothambalam*'. The temple culture got access in the history of kerala after a long period in the luxurious life of landlord but the dancers have no access to the personal life of wealthy section. The Dravida culture accepted the consequential life styles of these artists and it was spreaded there. These dancers designed *mohini* attire and adapted the life style of dancers of earlier period. In other words they have not followed music like *keerthans*, vision of spiritual life and communion to god. So that earlier Malayalam Poet *Kunjan Nambiar* expressed his opinion that, this art was pleasing some people only who had no serious outlook and inner vision. The main aim of dancers only to invoke '*kama*' in the actions of beauty and they used to play dance only for this purpose. That is why they followed '*Dravida nritham*' and '*bhasha*'. In the subsequent stage of *manipravala*, it derived its base from '*mukthakas*'. The main contents of *mukthakas* are related to *kama rasa*.

In 1930's Rani regent had prohibited *monhiniyattam* when she ruled over travancore. It can be understood that the position of these dancers were in a down trodden level.

Mohiniyattam is at present having very prominent place in cultural aspects of kerala history through Swathithirunal and Vallathol and also through Kalamandalam Kalyanikuttyamma. But it is to be understood that even though this art form is transitted through many changes, it is not deviated much from the social value of old dancers as *devadasis*. Before reaching the analysis of the term *Devadasi* it seeks more explanation. It is a sanskrit usage which originated in the

subsequent period. In the natyasastra, the dancers are called as '*Vilasini*' and '*Swamini*'. *Swamini* used to perform dance for pleasing gods and the songs were composed in the format of *keerthanam*. In *Natyasastra*, there is no such term as *Devadasi*. But the terms *Vilasini* and *Swamini* are used instead of dancers. *Vilasini* performed dance for pleasing landlord and upper strata of society. Anyway *Natyasastra* expressed these two terms for denoting the dancers by attributing a special hallow and a very peculiar poetic style.

- The seventh song on *Nalam Pathu*⁴
- The seventh song on *Moonnam Pathu*⁵
- The seventh song in *Ancham Pathu*⁶
- The seventh song on *Aaram Pathu*⁷
- The seventh song on *Ettam Pathu*⁸
- The First song on *Ancham Pathu*⁹

The First song on *Aaram Pathu*¹⁰. All in these songs *Koothar* (Dancers) are mentioned.

In *Pazhamtamil pattu*, the terms used as '*Kondimakilar*', '*Viralier*', '*Parathiar*', '*Kuthiar*'. These artists used a special drum and hanged one musical instrument in the neck. From the *Pazhamtamilpattu*, it can be noted that there are some sections such as '*Koothar*' and '*Panar*'. The dancers are also mentioned as '*Vayariyar*', '*Virali*' and '*Padini*'. In *Pathittupathu* the body structure of dancers was praised by then poets.

Devadasi traditions developed subsequently from the *Ganika Sambradayam* and later stage this culture was developed from *gothra* style to urban way of life with the spread of buddha religion. It is narrated in pali literature also. The archeology emphasized that urban culture established with the rise of third century BC. The wealthy class included *Dhalapathy* and *Varthakapramanis* and they protected those artists apart from king and queens. This culture later changed into a peculiar style considering the beauty of ladies as significant and accepted them as a public wealth. The impact of this attitude caused the origin of *Ganikas*. These *Ganikas* were very much knowledgeable persons in artistic cultural level and they were well trained in sexual play also. They led a life with the interest of upper caste and satisfied the desires of wealthy people. The wealthy people included the family members of royal class and Brahmins. They also included *vysya* community of that period and the pattern of life styles of *Devadasis* and *Ganikas* are graded up. The division of labour based on caste system and temple oriented administration are considered the kinetic channels of energy of this powerful class. The said temple later developed as centres of these powers and established their social religious supremacy with dancers and wealthy people. Their spiritual and devotional music are used only to carve out the religious consiousness and lastly *Devadasi sambradayam* developed (Rajan Gurukkal ., 2009, 340)

As per the temple culture from 7th century onwards '*Thevaratiyar*' with the development of temple became famous. Out of this temple culture 32 *gramas* became established and they settled temple with peculiar structure in culture

and Architecture. The Aalvar who are following *Vyshnava* and *Nayanars* used to follow saiva culture had developed *Bhakthiprasthanam*. The *thevaratiyar* earlier mentioned lived in the period of *Periyazhwar* and *Aandavar*. They are mentioned in literature such as *Jeevakachindhamani* and *Nalayiram Prabandham*. The meaning of these terms are used lately in *Aagamas* and sometimes they would called as *Ganikas*, *Dasi* and *Narthaki*. In some rock inscription it is seen that the *Ganikas* are exempted from taxes. In Chokkur inscription one *Nangai* is mentioned in AD 932. This was the first inscription mentioning about *Devadasi*. In *Chitalar* inscription some terms are used to denote *Nangaiar* as *Thevadichi* and *Nangachi*¹¹. In one inscription of 70th year *Indu Kotha Varma*, *Nangachi* is mentioned as *Menthelipurath Changaram Nangachi*. In Nedumpuram Thali inscription AD 934, it is mentioned that *Thripura Mahadevi* or *Sreedhara Nangachi* on 18th year of their reign of Baskara Ravi Varma donated landed property¹². In *Thiruvalla* temple Cheppedu (some terms are used *Uppachiar* (*marar*), *Nangaiyyamar* (*Thevadichimar*) after the terms of Bhatta. In some inscription of temple there are terms with respect to *Kantharpiyar*, *Nattuvarar* who used to play musical instruments and dance. The dancers performed arts for festival in temple and daily evening *poojas*. But they are considered as middle class and other working section in temple were belonging to lower class¹³.

In Karnataka, *Dasis* are divided into four types. The person who played dance in temple are *Devadasis* who are well to do class and other division who played dance for marriage purpose are called as "*Maledavaru*" and *Kazhakam* people are considered as *Ganikas* and the lowest class is *Sulaiyavaru*¹⁴.

As per description of Cholas Sasana in Tamilnadu, the Siva temple divided this section of *Devadasi* as *Devadasi* dancers of palace and dancers for festival occasions. The dance is derived into many aspects based on *Natyasastra* and it is based on *Bhava* and *Keerthana*¹⁵. In temple inscriptions of *Thrikkakara*, it is seen that on *Thiruvonam* there is a ritual to perform Ten *Koothu* (dance) to *Vyshnava*¹⁶. In *Kollam Rameswarathkoyil* temple, *Thirukuthu* and *Kalyanam koothu* were conducted. It is performed even at present by *Chakyar* on rohini day of *Vrischika* month. In 7th Century, it is written by *Dhandi* a poet that a lady *Kanthukavathi* danced for getting a suitable husband rightly. The dance accepted the style of Mohiniyattam such as offering prayers to *Bhagavathy* and playing ball. In *Kandiyur Subramanya* temple the sculpture expressed the unique style of *Karanas* used by dancers in 11th Century. In Kannada Taluk region, *Devadasis* are known as *Basavi*. The *Grama* in which the *Devadasis* are lived is known as *Basendraru*. It is a very ordinary ritual there to conduct marriage symbolically by giving the dancers and unmarried spinsters to god. This is called *Penkettu by Ilamkulam*¹⁷.

The culture of *Devadasi* system is known to us from *Manipravala Kavyam* of 13th and 14th century. Before that in the reign of *perumakkan* temples reached the zenith of its glory and upgraded to a social centre. The daughter of *Kulasekharaperumal* who wrote the *Koodiyattam* such as *Thapathi samvarana* and *subhadra dhananjayam* was a *Thevadichi*. From this, it can be understood '*Devadasi*' system was in existence from 9-10- centuries onwards. From *Thrikodithanam* script, it is evident that there was a prominent place for dance,

music, and musical instrument. It is mentioned in '*Oruvayil*' that *Panchamahasabdam* (great sound of 5 instrument) was performed in Neerattupalli by *Nanturai Natuvazhi*. Likewise, in the script of *Thirunelli*, it is seen that there was an instruction from *Naduvazhi* to perform *Panchamahasabdam* with *Sreebali* which includes 4 drums, 1-*Thimila*, 1-*Chengila*, 1-*Ilathalam*, and also performed by *Kuzhal*. *Thevadichies* are considered as part of temple culture. *Manipravalam Krithi* reflects the social atmosphere in the age of 13 and 14 centuries. *Unniyachi*, *Unniyadi*, *Unnichirudevi* etc., were the famous *devadasies* in that period. *Kandiyoor Thevidichi Unnithirukoottathi* was the wives of King. It is believed that the heroine *Uthara Chandrika* in *Manipravalam* was a member of *Chirava* royal family.

The ancient form of *Mohiniyattam* is specially mentioned in the analyzing part of '*Vyavaharamala*' which was written in 1704 probably. In the later period it can be seen in the '*Thullal Krithies*' of *Kunchan Nambiar*¹⁸. The origin of *Mohiniyattam* was closely communicated with the story of Vishnu, who impersonalized as *Mohini* at the time of '*Palazhi Madanam*'.

The other story is of *Parvathi Devi*, who tried to invoke *Shiva* for the creation through the performance of *Mohini Nandanam*. Subsequently, *Shiva* was attracted and created universe. *Parvathi* is the first artist who performed *Mohiniyattam* in *Kaisika Vrithi*. Likewise, many stories are in existence with respect to the origin or *Mohiniyattam*. These stories are indicating the devotional circumstances of *Mohiniyattam* and its sanctity.

Devadasies were used to perform '*Kottipadi Seva*' in the lower step of *Sopanam* out side of temple. In that phase, these *Devadasies* analyzed given the highest position in society, and they knew about 64 types of arts and their performance also. In the inner side of temple these *Devadasies* were taken place in the performance of *Koodiyattam*. The main object of these arts and its formation was the expression of *Bhakthi* and the dance was performed with the background of devotional songs. When this form was performed it superseded the devotional aspect and attained a special aesthetic sense and happened to achieve pleasure. The real devotion of these *Devadasies* towards god was not simply invoked in the creation or performance of *Mohiniyattam*. The social influence of *Mohiniyattam* can be seen in the inner layer of this art. The division to got was not an important element to that society. In the interpretation, it finally comes out in *Vyavaharamala* of 16th century also. This term '*Mohiniyattam*' was used to denote the authentic style of *Mohiniyattam* which is followed by contemporary art of Kerala. It is mentioned in *Vyavaharamala* that *Guru* (teacher) had given vocal support sitting in the back stage. When this art form gained the name *Mohiniyattam* from that date onwards. It was not performed in the temple.

In such a period these *Devadasies* were not belonging to the lower strata of society. But, it is to be noted that they were the wives of Kings and their *Samanthas*. They were very famous in their beauty and their performance in the arts. It can be seen obviously in *Achi Charitham* and other *Sandesa Kavyam*.

Ilamkulam indicates in his works about '*Thevadichi Sthaanam*' in his work, which presented in *Vadakumnathan Temple*, *Kandiyoor Mahadeva Temple* and *Sucheendra*. These *Devadasies* got special nick name also *Datha*, *Vikritha*,

Bhrithya, Bhaktha, Haritha, Alankara, Rudra Gathika and Gopika etc¹⁹. These names are used to denote their position in the temple, and specifying their particular work in the temple. It is applicable to the *Thevadichies* of Kerala. It is obviously clear that these *Devadasies* were in existence before 50 years back in Kochi and Travancore and it is known as *Thevadikal, Dasi and Kudikkal*²⁰. These are two types of *Devadasies* in *Keralapuram* Temple. Usually, serving to god and offering were performed by 'Murakhudi' section and special services were done in the festival times by *Chirappukudi*²¹. *Balarama Bhartham* written by Karthika Thirunal Balaramavarma in 18th century is a book in which '*Mohininadanam*' is mentioned. He also expressed his opinion about '*Lasya Thanthra*'.

The *Devadasies* of Travancore belonged to *Nanchinattu, Vellala* cast. These were '*Kovils*' (Sanctum) in the house of *Devadasies*. In these houses Bhajans and festivals were performed as like in the temple. These festivals were known as '*Vasantholsavam*'. The names of *Devadasies* houses were availed in the Maniavalam Krithies, such as, Kandiyoore Cherukara Veedu, Puthoor *Bhavanam* at *Chittilappilly, Parakkattu and also Thachappily*. In the opinion of K.T. Ramavarmma (Kama Pooja, 2017-p 42) there were many divisions among *Devadasies*²². It is also be considered that *Medini Vennilavu in Chandrolsavam* was a Brahmin lady and the member of *Kounothara* are *Samantha* family. The leniency of *Devadasies* were devolved in their other cast as expressed by M.G.S. Narayanan. They followed the studying of dance and immoral life and lastly devolved in the sub castes of Nair.

The origin of *Mohiniyattam*, its transitions were indicated in the above period. They have roots in Dravida region especially in the state of Kerala. The '*Viralies*' followed the above mentioned art form of dance. This style was later developed as per the *Margi* style of '*Natyasastra*', such Bharatha Muni divided all the actions, movements, expressions, their rendition in *Margi* style in his work '*Natyasastra*'. The song of dance were mainly used to praise Hindu Gods and mainly communicated to their stories.

The '*Viralies*' were the first division of dance heritage of Dravida Kerala. Their style was developed later as per the *Margi* style of '*Natyasastra*'. The style followed by '*Viralies*' was not having the peculiar structure. But, later the theories helped a lot to create a strong foundation and theoretical form to *Mohiniyattam*. The *Lasya* form of dance in *Natyasastra* was emerged without any change. The '*Rasa of Shringara*' was unavoidable element in '*Mohiniyattam*' for its completion of work and perfection also. They tried to invoke '*Kama*' esthetically in this art form and it was reflected in the Karana and the movement, which are used to support for perfection to the beauty of lady dancers. The sculpture of *Mohiniyattam* be seen in *Thrikodithanam* Temple and support this theory likewise, '*Karanam*' were reflected in these sculpture and in the poses of dancers. There is a prominent place for these movements and expressions for fulfilling the perfection of esthetics of sense of society. That is why *Mohiniyattam* survives with other form of dance in the aspect of beauty rendition and expression.

Methodology

The main issue which is to be analyzed in the context that all the forms of classical dance are choreographed and their structure is framed within the strict rules of rhythm, expression and its synchronization. There is a possibility when analyzing on historical aspect that the dance form is the natural reflection of human emotions then the technicalities and its essence are developed upon the physical actions linked with each other which varies with each region. The thought in that aspect based on the expressive implementations of language and its various methods. Then the method *Desi* is in existence throughout all the ages of the historical development of dance. That means *Desi* is only the deviating style of *Margi*. The dance form of India and its performing style are originated with deviation in each region varies with the language. Why it is told that the *Natyasastra* is the basic text of dance? The basic text of language would not be the reference text of Grammar.

Style and rendition of performance of Mohiniyattom.

The art form Mohiniyattam includes the element of *Nritha*²³, *Nrithya* and *Natya*.

The term *Nritham* is based on *Sudha Nritham* or dance which only includes *Adavu* or steps.

The other division is *Thala Vadyanusari Nritham*, which denotes the performance of *Nritha* accompanying with orchestra.

The last one is *Geethakathi Abhinaya* which makes the *Nritham* giving prominent for acting or *Abhinaya*.

'*Natyam*' is the expression of *Mudra* giving support to *Abhinaya* according to the lyrics of song.

The '*Angas*' (Head, Hands, Chest, Sides, Hips, feet)

'*Prathyangas*' (Shoulders, hands, Back, Stomach, Thighs and Ankle)

'*Upangas*'- Eye, Eyebrow, Pupil, Cheek, Nose, Lips, Teeth, Tongue and Face.

These parts are used in 4 types of *Abhinaya*.

The movements of body parts to perform *Nritha* is technically known as '*Adavu*' or steps. It is divided into many sections, such as,

Alolitham, *Nimnonnatha*, *Dhamda Bhramari*, *Thi Thi Thai*.

Alolitha- Includes *Adavu* of subtle movement and in this movement *Adavu* body gently move in a round form to both sides.

Nimnonnatha- Denotes the high and low position of movements between sitting form and straight structure.

Dhamba- The term '*Dhamba*' used to express the '*Veerabhava*' which is the expression of the hero.

Bhramari – is the circle movement of body used to take *Adavu* – swirls

Thi Thi Thai- used to conclude one set of *Adavu*. Apart from it, *Theerumanam* is also used to play.

The other part of *Adavu* are known as *Chari*. The 11th chapter of *Nataya Sasthra* mentioned about *Chari*, There are different types of *Charies* for expressing

Nritha (Adavu), *Vyayama* (exercise) *Yudha* (war). They are known as 'Bhramachari' and 'Akasachari'. But, in Mohiniyattam, the term used as in the 'moving part'.

In Mohiniyatam, there is not much importance for exercise and war like steps. So that, these 'Charies' are used to move either side and front and back. 'Charies' are divided into many sections, they are:-

Valayam, Nimnatha, Dakshina Parswa, Unnatha, Alolitha, Drutha, Mridula, Tharumi, Pravana, Nagabandham, Dwiparswa, Smera, Sama Parswa.

Mandalam are divided into 10 in number- *Sthanakam, Mandalam, Vysakhm, Ayatham, Aleedam, Prathyaleedam, Artha Soochi, Parswa Soochi, Aswa Krantham, Roditham*

According to famous dancer Kala Vijayan in 18th 'Pada Bhedas' based on *Natya Sasthra, Abhinaya Darpanam, Samgeetha Rathnakaram*. They are mentioned as below:-

Samam, Vaishnavam, Anchitham, Kunchitham, Swasthikam, Parswa Soochi, Puro Soochi, Pushta Soochi, Agrathala Sancharam, Parshinikam, Udkhaditham, Khadithosedham, Thaditham, Marditham, Agragam, Khaditham, Parswagam etc..

In the movements of foot, there are different types of *Padagathies* are used.

Hamsa Padam (Foot of Swan), *Mayoora Padam* (Foot of Peacock), *Kukkuda Padam* (Foot of coke), *Mandooka Padam* (foot of Frog), *Naga Bandham*, (which is used as body circle of snakes)

There are 108 'Karana' mentioned in the *Natyasastra of Bharatha Muni*. The terms 'Karana' denotes the interim stage or duration between the use of *Anga and Prathyanga*. As per the opinion of Mrs. Kala Vijayan, it is impossible to express 108 'Karana' in practice of *Mohiniyattam*. So that, only 15 'Karana' is included in *Mohiniyattam*. They are mentioned as below:-

Anthollithat, Mrigangi, Adharva, Prabhulla, Chankranika, Salabha, Urdhwamukhi, Khadangi, Lolitha, Mrigekshna, Vilamba, Bhamda, Bhramara, Suchana, Uddhwasitha in practice.

There are many *Vrithies* in 22nd chapter of *Natyasastra* mentioned by Bharatha Muni.

Bharathi Vrith

It gives prominent towards the dance of Indian male section and does not include women and in this 'Vrithi', the words are used in Sanskrit language.

Kaisika Vrithi

The costumes of dancers are very beautiful and it is adorned by women naturally. *Kaisika Vrithi* includes *Nritha* form which is pure dance and also *Geetham*(songs). It gives prominence to *Sringara Rasa* which is expression of romance and usually played to invoke *Kamarasa*(sexual indication) .

Arabhadi Vrithi

It includes Krodha (violence). As mentioned earlier, *Kaisika Vrithi* applied in the form of dance and its aspects of romance and used in pleasing situation between the course.

Sathwathi Vrithi

It gives prominent to purity of mind sacrifice, pleasure and the expression of 'Sokarasa', which is used in a male foot. This 'Vrithi' is played by males. It expresses the *Rasa* of *Veeram*, *Albhutham*, *Roudram*.

Arabhadi Vrithi is applicable to *Roudram* (violence) *Bhayanakam*(fear), and *Bharathi Vrithi* is used in expressing *Karunam* (sympathy and pity) also.

In *Bharathanatyam*, all these four Vrithies are expressed. The basic *Rasa* of *Kaisika Vrithi* is *Sringara* (romance). The sexual pleasing and suppression emotion of couples are the main theme when these *Vrithi* is used in the art form.

The *Sringara Nayika*, the heroine expressed romance is performed when they are started to play the characters of *Mohiniyattam*. These *Nayikas* are considered as *Ashta Nayikas*.

Vasaka Sajjika, *Viraholkhanditha*, *Swadeena Bharthrika*, *Kalahantharitha*, *Khanditha*, *Vipralabdha*

Proshitha Bharthrika, *Abhisarika*²⁴

On the basis of *Bhava*, heroines are divided into 3 types mentioned as follows:

- They are, 1. *Swakeeya*
2. *Parakeeya*
3. *Samanya*.

1. *Swakeeya* type of heroine find pleasure with the sexual activities involved with her own husband.
2. *Parakeeya*, this type of *Nayikas* or heroine for attaining pleasure depends upon other person except husband without his knowledge.
3. The type of *Samanya Nayika*, achieving money accepts other person and other husband.

On the basis of age *Nayikas* are divided into three types.

1. *Bala*, who is very innocent girl till her attainment of 15 years age.
2. *Tharuni*, who enjoys life till her 16 to 30 years.
3. *Prouda*, which is the section of women who receive the bitter in sweeter aspect of life till the women of the age 30 to 35 years. (Kalavijayan 300)

On the basis of nature heroines are divided such as,

- *Dheera* (bold)
- *Adheera* (not bold)
- *Dheera Dheera* (verybold)

The women, namely, Mandodari wife of Ravana is an example of not bold women and helpless in front of the the image of Ravana. On the other hand, Sathyabhama and Kaikeyi are very bold women.

The dance '*Mohiniyattam*', is differentiated from other classical form by creating such system, method and structure.

'*Natyasastra*' differentiated the manners, characteristic of noble women and prostitutes.

The emotion which invoke sexual pleasure, the looks, attitude, touching manner of ornaments, ears, portraying imaginary pictures with leg, showing breasts and naval, hair styles are etc., for denoting the lady who are intending in sexuality or pleasure derived from it.

The noble women is different from this type of lady. The prostitutes often used to walk solely with a sexual outlook adorning peculiar ornaments. On the other hand, noble lady walks with a fear in mind wearing Purdah and bowing her head.

The *Nayikas of Manipravala* having similarity with the expression of prostitutes. The slokas are praising the lady and their feature. These literary creation help to form the indication and expression of manners of these ladies. The '*Nayikas*' are well versed and expertised in dance. So that they are the extreme beautiful women in the imaginary and aesthetic concept.

The dancers of *Mohiniyattam* is described as who achieved excellence in dance which is the wealth and *Dharma* of her own family who achieved the matured *Bhava* and efficiency through practice and who are having good and well body structure, beauty like 'Rathidevi' and the male dancers are handsome like '*Kamadeva*' respectively. They followed the rhythmic pattern of *Thaka Thaka Thaka* (Nirmala Panicker ,2017,P 91).

According to Smt. Nirmala Panicker, the dancers are called *Mohini* who used to play dance according to rhythm, lyrical beauty of song with pleasing face and having unique look in their eyes. They have to achieve the flow of action of hand. The '*Uthshiptha padam*' is used in looking right side and expressing insult and avoidance. These types of expressing are used in '*Jaggani*' *Nritham* and '*Yachana Vicharam*'. On the other hand dancers who were the custom for invoking romance and breaking the Rasa use as '*Paryaya Rechitham*'. There are different types of postures in the movements of foot *Sama padam*, *Hamsa padam*, *Kukkuda padam*, *Mandooka padam*, *Mayoora padam*, *Sarppa padam*²⁵. It is written in the *Balarama Bharatham* that these dancers have to be shown and performed in palaces and royal court for achieving harmony in life. Hence, it can be considered *Mohiniyattam* achieved more popularity in that age. This art form developed through variety of 'Desies'. In the northern region there emerged (Kerala), *Poli*, *Chandanam*, *Esal*, *Mukoothi*, *Kurathi* having folk culture. Earlier stated after getting the name as *Mohiniyattam*, this art form was not allowed to perform in inner side of temple. But, Maharaja Swathi Thirunal contributed much to the development of *Mohiniyattam* by writing *Padam*, *Varnnam*, *Javalies*. So that this art developed into a unique level on the strong basis, method and system of '*Karnatic Katcheri Sampradayam*'. As part of *Navarathri* festival in *Padmanabha Swami* temple with performed with a new

style of choreography. The *Uthsava Prabandham* written by Swathi Thirunal were began to be performed. He has composed about more than 80 *Padam*, *Varnam*, *Tillana*. The poet in his royal court also created about 25 *Padam* and composed 5 *Varnam*. *Maharaja* also appointed a group of dancers in palace to perform *Mohiniyattam*. In northern Kerala, *Mohiniyattam* has got a folk touch while southern Kerala, it was choreographed in aesthetic classical Karnatic style. In the year 1900' Max B Fuller published his book 'The wrong of Indian Womanhood'. In that book he represented the temple dance in a indecent method and its presentation was not in a modest level. In his opinion the expression of face *Mudra* of hand poses to invoke sexual pleasure only. This victorial outlook based the disintegration of *Mohiniyattam*. Subsequently, Rani Regent prohibited *Mohiniyattam* as per law in 1930. But, dancers' submitted petition and the law were amended. In 1940, it was declared that the performance of *Mohiniyattam* without remuneration was a very sacramental performs.

Kerala *Kalamandalam* established in 1930. This *Mohiniyattam* has achieved its own unique classical style in Margi method avoiding differences of region. The basic foundation was given to *Pdam*, *Varnam*, *Thillana* under the guidance of Guru Krishna Panicker. His disciples Kalyani Amma, Madhavi Amma provided expertised training to this act and *Ilathalam*, *Maddalam* were used in that period for orchestra.

Later other renowned artist Kalyanikutty Amma has choreographed in a peculiar style for the performance and she has given a special identity to the art. It is choreographed as '*Aattaprakaram*' and her student tried to give a new life to *Mohiniyattam*.

Findings

There is no dance form in India which can be called as Indian dance form. All the dance forms are framed within the structure of *Desi* style. Then the *Natysastra* is the best reference text with respect to all the dance forms which follow different *Desi* styles. Certainly *Desi* is not a subsection of Margi. It is only the mixture of different *Desies* and finally called Margi. The origin and former form of *Mohiniyattam* is started from artistic performance of *Virali*. This performance of *Viralies* is based on *lasya bhava* (the expression which is so subtle and soft with romantic attitude). It was performed in the economic system which absorbed the elements of agro pastoral society. The main aim was pleasing the royal category especially rulers.

Subsequently it was performed with the aim to please land lords and subordinates of kings or rulers. In the age of temple culture usually the lady artists performed the dance which related to devotion. At the same time, this dance form was performed in temple and side of temple for spiritual pleasures.

Kerala *Kalamandalam* at present the Deemed institution has provided authentic classic methods, practice, and theory for *Mohiniyattam* performance. This institution has refined and imparted refined style the costume, music, style of performance. The final output in the present style of *Mohiniyattam*

It is crystal clear that the transition stage of *Mohiniyattam* was highly influenced by the social, political structure of Kerala. The art form subjected to chance due to its feeble structure and application of misguided rules. The *Mohiniyattam* is even now also subjected to changes undoubtedly by the efforts and creativity of many artists.

Conclusion

Natyastra is a prescriptive text and theory of all dances and dramatic performances. Based on the Natyastra theory a *Margi* form has been conceived by many scholars. They identify dance forms in the regional culture as its desi form. Mohiniyattam as a desi form is expressive of contemporary social system, its passions and values. Dance became a rendition for the gratification the most influential in society. Their gratification became central. A classical dance thus got transformed into one that gave importance to gratifying body movements. It marked a shift from the genre of higher aesthetic performance to that of *lasya* and sensual gratification.

End Notes

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- Kalamandalam Sathyabhama, Kalamandalam Lathika and MohanDas. *Mohiniyattam Charithram Sidhantham Prayogam*.Kozhikode:Mathrubhumi Books, 2014. pp17-25
- Nirmalapanikkar.*Keralaththinte Lasya Peruma*. Thrissur: Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Academy.p59
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- Raghava Varier, M.R.*Brahmanic Temple Institutions and their influence on Kerala Society*.Term Paper submitted at Jawaharlal Nehru University 1977, p14-15
- Netumpuram Tali inscription of Kota Ravi's 17th regnal year, 900 AD (P. Parameswaran Pillai, Pracheena Likhitangal, pp.159-162). Elamkulam, Chila keralacharithra Prashnangal, pp.57-58. MGS Narayanan, Perumals of Kerala, Appendix, Index No.A.9
- Nirmalapanikkar.*Keralaththinte Lasya Peruma*.Thrissur:Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Academy.pp 76-77

- V S Sharma dance and music of south India – A study in relation to the Sanskrit tradition – International School Of Dravidian Linguistics TVM, 2007,p 29
- Thrukkakkara Likhitham(P. Parameswaran Pillai, Pracheena Likhithangal, pp.159-162). Elamkulam, Chila keralacharithra Prashnangal, pp.57-58. MGS Narayanan, Perumals of Kerala, Appendix, Index No.A.9
- Nirmalapanikkar.*Keralaththinte Lasya Peruma*.Thrissur:Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Academy.p71
- Parameswara Aiyer, Ulloor. *Vyavaharamala*. Govt.of Travancore,1925
- Motichandra.*The world of Courtesans*.Vikas,1973.pp289-290
- Edgar Thuston and Rangachari, K. *Castes and Tribes of South India*, Madras, 1909. pp125-153
- Ramavarma, K.T.*Kamapooja*.Kozhikode: MATHrubhumi,2017.p24
- Aspects of Aryanization in Kerala*.Kerala Historical Society,1973.p45-46
- Pure dance -There is no literature, *swaram*, *geetham*. Only '*chollu*' are used according to rhythms and play by moving *anga*, *upanga* and *Prathyanga* beautifully. The examples are poorva..ranga. Of Kathakali in Koodiyattam.
- Thala Vadya Ansari Nritham*.-The swaras are taken by the dancer for singing in any *raga* (tune) and dancing according to the rhythm. *Angakaries* are used to express *Nritham*.
- Jathi Swaram*
- Swara Jathi is example Leefkakathi, Abhinayathunka Nritham.
- Much importance is given to Nritha- for that special '*chollu*' are used in a systematic tune through classical form and choreographed including sahithya (lyrics) in the end. *Thillana-Cholkettu* Kalavijayan,M.*Mohiniyaatom Ariyendathellam*.pp97-98
- Vasakasajja*- The heroine who is using wake-up with ornaments in the suitable day on which her hero is coming for attaining pleasure of sex.
- Viraholkhunditha*-The heroine who involves in many matters and becomes depressed due to the reason that her *Nayaka* is not coming to see her.
- Swadheena Bharthruka*-The *Nayaka* is residing with her. For the pleasure of foreplay and this *Nayika* enjoys the presence of *Nayaka*.
- Kalahantharitha*-The heroine become furious on the *Nayaka* is not coming near to her.
- Khanditha*-The *Nayaka* is more interested in other lady and not interested in coming near to the real heroine. So that heroine becomes sad.
- Vipralambha*-Who sent lady messenger and decided the place for union, but she was cheated as he has not arrived.
- Proshitha Bharthruka*-The hero is going to another places intending to do many matters. She has carelessly done the hair style and curbs.
- Kala Vijayan-*MohiniyatamAriyendathellam*.pp298-300
- Hamsa Padam*- The foot of swan- The front portion of foot touches the floor very gently and after that whole portion of foot has to be pressed on the floor and moving forward through *Hamsapada*. It is to be repeated alternatively. When front portion of leg touches the floor the body is to be raised with the level of *Kalmandalam*. When the foot touches the floor body has to be lowerd to the level of *aramandalam*. With these movements the dancer has to inhale and exhale and move the body very softly. This step is used oftenly in *Mohiniyattom*. Which is as like as the movement of swan
- Mayoora Padam*- The Foot of peacock- The front portion of foot has to touch on the floor and twisting the body speedily to the sides. It likes as the dance of peacock moving the feathers in rhythmic pattern.

Kukkuda Padam- The Foot of Cock- It almost like as the movement of cock in pattern of gentle rhythm and adavu(steps) used to move for this padam as 'thithithai'. When the (thithi) is used body moves forward and on the time of 'thai' body stop the rhythm in Sama (equalization)

Mandooka Padam- The Foot of Frog- One foot has to touch the floor gently and bending the body in a subtle form. Suddenly the same leg has to move forward and the body has to be straightening up. The other leg has to put in a equal position of the leg which is put forward earlier. This step is almost similar to the jumping pattern of frog.

Sarppa Padam- The foot of Serpentine- Using the thump of foot for picturing the half circles on the floor alternatively. With the movement of the foot the body and eyes are to be used in the same direction. it denotes the movement of serpentine.

Apart from these movements there are *Gajagathi*- imitating the walking style elephant, *Mruga gathi*- imitating the movements of deer. *Khaga gathi*- The flying style of birds. *Malsya gathi*- the swimming style of fish.

Kalavijayan.*Mohinitattom Ariyendathellam*,Kottayam:DC Books, 2014.pp 211-212

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