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## Role of Early Christian Missionaries in the Growth and Development of Kiswahili in Kenya

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#### Abstract

Most historical linguists argue that the Kiswahili is one of the widely spoken languages in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It is estimated that there are more than one million speakers of the language spread all over the world, but concentrated in the Eastern Africa region. Over the years, the language has attracted many scholars who have carried out an extensive research to determine its origin and usage globally. Many visitors who touched base in the East Coast of Africa beginning from the 8<sup>th</sup> century influenced Kiswahili in one way or other, more particularly its vocabulary, grammar, and lexicography studies. The visitors were categorised into three groups depending on their mission: colonialist, settlers, and missionaries. The focus of this paper is on missionaries and how they influenced Kiswahili. The paper therefore examines the role of early Christian missionaries in the spread, growth, and development of Kiswahili in Kenya during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## Assertion of Dravidian Identity and the Retellings of the *Ramayana* in South India

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### Abstract

The Dravidian Movement evolved in South India in the post-independent era as an anti-Aryan, anti-Brahmin, anti-Sanskrit, anti-Hindi, and anti-nationalist struggle to create a counter public. Leaders of the movement like Periyar retold the *Ramayana* from the antagonist's perspective, identifying Rama's conquest over Lanka as a distorted representation of the Aryan invasion over Dravidian land. The "demythologization" of the epic, as Richman calls it, valourised the Dravidian identity as the "other" of the Aryan-Brahmin-Hindu identity. The political implications of the act were far greater than the other modes of resistance. The paper is an attempt to review how the works of Malayalam writers like Vayalar Ramavarma, Sara Joseph, and V. N. Sreekandan Nair sprang from the same ideological premises.

## Emotional Trauma in the Selected Works of Timothy Findley

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### Abstract

Mental illness is a traumatic problem that occurs in some families. Everyone in the family is affected by mental sickness and the behaviour that results from it. The society views the issue of mental illness in a derogatory manner. A social taboo is placed on the family of a mentally ill person. No one offers a helping hand or pays heed to the problems of the family members of these people. The overall societal attitude towards mental illness makes the caregiver's burden much heavier. The problems that caregivers of people with mental illness face today are complex and profound. Mental illness is one of the recurring themes as seen in many works of Timothy Findley. This paper is a study on how different family members respond to the issue of the mental illness of their dear ones as seen in some of Findley's works.

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# Animating Childhood: Questions of Selfhood and Identity

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#### Abstract

The animation genre is well-suited for capturing the idiosyncrasies and fantasies of childhood. However, identity crises and quests for selfhood figure prominently in the animation of childhood. This paper compares the representation of childhood across a crosssection of animated films by mainstream American studios as well as by Studio Ghibli and other independent productions to study how ideology structures the above concerns. The child goes through a phase of maturation in a pseudo society where he/she must come to terms with the expectations and the socio-gender roles by the end of the process, or the film. While Ghibli highlights the child's identity quest as a process that never quite ends, the Western mainstream caters to a formulaic, traditional structure that represents childhood and identity struggles as phases easily terminated when the child reaches adulthood.

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## Mahasweta Devi's Story "Draupadi" in Subaltern Perspective

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#### Abstract

Subaltern historiography gives representation to politically, socially, and culturally marginalised groups who fall outside the periphery of hegemonic power structure. This paper is an attempt to read Mahasweta Devi's short story "Draupadi" in the light of subaltern historiography. Through Draupadi Mejhen's tale, Devi forces readers to listen to the voice of those landless peasants who rebelled against ruthless and suppressive political and social paradigm during the Naxalite movement. As member of a lower class Santal community and then as a woman, Draupadi's intervention in the political spectrum to undo class containment makes her culpable of state punishment. Hence, she is arrested and subjected to gang rape by officials in the process of her "making." Her reformulation is ordered by Senanayak who stands for patriarchy as well as state machinery in the tale. Instead of taking over the role of a hapless rape victim, Draupadi challenges authority with her undaunted spirit and maimed body. Draupadi, a tribal woman, rejects third world woman's portrayal as a "blank" and "empty" space in the epistemological narration of her time. With the help of Gayatri Spivak's translation, Devi intervenes in history to capture the voice of a subaltern woman who can speak not only for herself, but also on behalf of those innumerable females who remain silent in the face of their exploitation and forceful marginalisation in the pages of history.

### Shifting Paradigms in Haryana: An Overview

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#### Abstract

Haryana is one of the most prosperous states not only in India but also among the countries of South Asia. The state has a glorified past and a bright future. This paper is an effort to pen down the glory of the state, being the cradle of Indian culture and civilisation. With the recognition of Haryana on 1 November, 1966, it has carved out a special niche of distinction for itself, whether it is agricultural or industrial sector, rural electrification or canal based irrigation. Haryana keeps marching towards modernity, that brings a social and cultural change in the state. But behind this forefront, there is a hidden face which is always neglected, and no one is ready to expose it. This paper discusses many recent issues of the state such as cultural and political division, social division on the basis of caste, role of local social judiciary, land acquisition, unequal distribution of property, increasing gender ratio, and uplifting status of women.

# Condition of Women Workers in Tea Plantation: A Case Study on Harrisons Malayalam Plantation, Arappetta Estate, Kerala

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### Abstract

The agro-based, low mechanisation of tea plantation industry suits the physical strength of women. So majority of the workers in tea plantations are women. They are not provided with enough facilities in the workplace as well as in the settlements as per Plantation Labour Act recommendations. Working and living conditions of women workers in tea plantations raise questions of human rights and give a clear picture about the violation of Constitutional provisions and Labour Acts. The article tries to study the working and living conditions of women in Harrisons Malayalam plantation, Arappetta Estate, Wayanad, Kerala.

## **Emerging Issues of Political Empowerment of Women**

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#### Abstract

India heralded the new millennium by pronouncing the year 2001 as women's empowerment year. In terms of political empowerment, nearly seven lakh women occupy positions as member and chairpersons of grassroots democratic institutions in India, following the reservation clause in 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> amendments of the Constitution. Providing one-third seats at district, taluk, village and municipal elections has enabled substantial entry of women in public life and large numbers of women have come forward to tackle the challenge of leadership at all levels of panchayats. In fact, right from the days of freedom struggle, Indian women have been consistently encouraged to take part in active politics. But the political milieu, resulting from increasing politicisation and criminalisation of politics, has vitiated the level of political participation of women. It is recognised that the goals of poverty alleviation are difficult to achieve without the full and active participation of women, who constitute a large section of the work force in the process of development of the community, and therefore bringing them into the mainstream of development has been a major concern of the government.

### **Relevance of SAARC in the New Millennium**

#### **Ashutosh Pandey**

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### Abstract

In the face of increasing importance of regionalism, SAARC stands as an unavoidable and significant organisation in South Asia. Since its formation in 1985, it has played an important role by bringing the member countries closer together by holding many meetings and summits at various levels. Though overall development of this organisation is marred by internal disputes and several other factors, its establishment and the sense to develop regional integration have created hope for its future progress. This paper analyses the role of SAARC in the new millennium.

# National Rural Employment Guarantee Act and Women's Empowerment: An Overview

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#### Abstract

National Rural Employment Guarantee Act is a unique employment opportunity for rural women. It is the first expression of the right to work as an enforceable legal entitlement in India. This act says that "priority" should be given to women in the allocation of work in such a way that "at least one-third of the beneficiaries shall be women." Women's participation in the *gramsabha* might change the male-dominated character of decision making process at the grass root democratic institutions. The analysis is to discuss how the women are empowered by this act and its the effects on the society. Moreover this act gives "dignity" to the rural women and right to work, as their right and not as the favours done to them by the state, gives them an independent voice.

# Recent Trends in Administrative Practices in Indirect Taxation:An Analytical Review on Kerala Value Added Tax (KVAT)

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#### Abstract

In a time of global economic uncertainty, business is increasingly paying close attention to the challenges posed by tax regimes all over the world. Tax regimes are rarely, if ever, popular with taxpayers. Yet, the Indian tax system did not fare too well with only one perent of respondents viewing it as being very conducive to economic growth. Several respondents identified the lack of certainty in both tax policy as well as administration as contributing to this perception. The proposed reforms in the tax system also drew a mixed response, with the GST generating more optimism than the DTC. However, the consultative approach of the Government in pursuing this reform agenda was appreciated. While e-governance initiatives in the tax system were lauded, several respondents felt that the benefit of improved systems had not yet resulted in quick processing of refunds. The Indian Government has been working on replacing the current indirect tax regime with a comprehensive GST. In its current form the GST proposes to be a "dual" GST, consisting of Central GST (CGST) and State GST (SGST). The current proposed date for introduction is April 2017. The introduction of GST requires amendment to the Constitution of India.