



ISSN :2456-821X
Peer-Reviewed Journal
PUTHIYA AVAIYAM
புதிய அவையம்
UGC Care Listed Journal
(2023 onwards)
(Sacred Heart Research Publication, Sacred Heart College,
Tirupattur-635601. Tamilnadu. India)



AGRICULTURE AND BARTER SYSTEM DURING SANGAM AGE

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ABSTRACT

Agriculture was their main source of income. During sangam period led self-sufficient life. Their life style was so simple. The authology of sagam age are state that the people of kurinji exchanged their product goods, from this me learnt that the goods transferred played a vital role throught the sangam age the prominebt barter system.

KEY WORDS

Agriculture - Barter system - Sangam age – marudham – Neidhal – Kurinji –Palai - Mullai - Irrigation – evolution – Merchants – cultivated – etc.

INTRODUCTION

The sangam people led self-sufficient life. Their life style was so simple. There was no evidence for the word poverty. In the sangam age they paid the most

stable attention to agriculture and commercial activities. The fiscal prosperity should be considered the main basis their supremacy. The economic aspects of the society must be related to the exchange from the Sangam Classics details accounts used to learn about the origin of Barter system and their evolution as coins. Besides the chola inscriptions were able to give us a clear picture about the local trade of the sangam Age.

AGRICULTURE

As Agriculture was their main source of income, about all the people did cultivation with the help of Kavery, south panner, palar and tamiraparani. Apart from these rivers were many ponds and lakhs too yield was so good because, the land was so fertile. The cultivated, Paddy, Thaimai, Cotton, Turmeric, Plantain, Sugarcane. Ginger, Coconut etc., Farmers were always busy with their work as sowing, irrigating harvesting etc. Cattle rearing were also done by side those who did agriculture were called as “Uzhavar”.

Like in agriculture sangam people prospered in commerce too, some people did engaged in trade and commerce from generations some had started newly, Great importance was given to textile business, plam leaves, Gotal etc. Salt Production, Betal leaf production, was in the peak got sellers, Fish sellers, Carpenters, Painters, Sculptor, Sold their products there was a great demand for these goods too.

Generally they sold the good at the place of production itself sometimes they transported on the donkey’s back and forced round the village and town. Measurement was so accurate explains.

SAMGAM COIN

In the beginning man was roaming from place to place and finally settles in a permanent place to fulfil his need. The requirements of man like food, dress and shelter at the time depended on nature. Then they used to form their families among themselves. In case of time families had become communities and developed their own pattern of life. Gradually they came into close contact with other regions and people there began to exchange their products to Barter system. The Sangam Kings were issued copper coins in the middle of the sangam period. The sangam kings were issued copper coins in the middle of the sangam period. The Cholas, the Cholas and Pandiya.

It is evident from the class is that barter was prevalent during the sangam age. The good exchange was common in villages. The people of village exchanged their products under the Goods transaction which resulted to carry on internal trade, this trade was carried on paddy and salt along with some other articles.

PADDY AND SALT

The paddy and salt played a prominent role in the exchange of essential during the sangam age. The paddy was the product of Marudam region (Paddy fields and its surrounding areas) and salt was Naydal region (Sea – Coast its of adjoining areas). The people of both of the regions exchanged their articles on barter basis. There is reference to the exchange of salt for paddy in literature, likewise the paddy also exchanged for salt.

Further it is seen that the salt was in great demand. From the literature that the people of Marudam carried paddy to the salt pans and got salt in return. Likewise the salt merchants also carried the salt to other regions for exchanging the necessary food products. It seems that the paddy and salt served as a measure of value during the period.

OTHER ARTICLES

It is evident from the literature that the fish was exchanged for paddy. Natrinai identifies the daughter of the fisherman who was selling the fish in the street for exchange of paddy. For instance the Ayer women, the curd was exchanged from door to door for paddy.

Likewise the exchange of paddy for ghee is mentioned in Karunthogai. Even the ghee was exchanged for the flesh of buffaloes and fish also for paddy. So it is advocated that the paddy was considered as a measure of value during the period. But Prof. K.A. Nilakanda Sastri is of the opinion that the paddy was considered as a measure of value by giving importance to paddy.

The anthologies of the Sangam state that the people of Kurinji exchanged honey and edible roots for fish oil and toddy from the Neithal people. The shells got from the sea are also exchanged by the Paradavar for toddy. From this we learnt that the goods transferred or exchanged played a vital role throughout the Sangam age, the prominent barter system.

CONCLUSION

From the above information we come to the conclusion that the barter system played a prominent role during the Sangam period even today in the 21st Century

Goods transaction out in the remote village of our country as a whole still salt remains the medium of exchange.

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