

## **Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi- A Socialite Legend**

**K. Annie Winslet,**  
Research Scholar,  
Department of History,  
Women Christian College, Nagercoil  
Manonmaniam Sundaranar University.

**Dr. V. Divya,**  
Assistant Professor,  
Department of History  
Women Christian College,

### **ABSTRACT**

Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi is a proper leader and socialite legend who records the indelible history of the leaders of Tamil Nadu and India as well. He believes that art should be an instrument to reach the people of any category. It is not just for entertainment. He manifests the ideas of the people of Tamil Nadu through his social contribution and historical perspectives. He nurtures his artistic creation through movies, novels, poems, books, and letters. Which reflects his social signification and construction. The present article deals with his social activities which reform the society and witness a tremendous change in the civilized world.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi had been the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for five tenures. Karunanidhi's name cannot be avoided so easily in cinema or politics. During his tenure, he made Tamil Nadu a pioneer for many states in India by effectively implementing several good social welfare programs to help the poor people and needy to get education, economy and financial sustainance. His generous attitudes towards the social change is vividly discussed in this article.

### **KALAINGAR'S THOUGHTS ABOUT SUPERSTITION BELIEVES:**

In the novel "Friday" the Kalaignar has expressed his opposition to superstition. He has been trained in Periyar's school of social reform and did political and rational movement work. He asserts that, "superstitions loosen the grip on life and stand in the way of progress"<sup>1</sup>. He urges the Tamil society to move ahead with brains in the future and exposes the absurdities of superstitions through his literary work.

The novel, condemns the situation of doing everything by looking at the day and the planet. It is a good day for Jesus, it is a good day to clean the house and the door, it is a good day to beautify the house and beautify it, it is a good

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<sup>1</sup> Kalaignar M. karunanidhi, Velli Kizhamai, Bharathi Publication, 1968

day to light a lamp and offer prayers to the house deity, it is a special day similar to Mangal day and yellow saffron. Shivanesar advises that it is foolishness to treat the day as sacred by creating hardships for the family.

#### WOMEN WELFARE:

Kalaignar says that women and men are equal in all the ways. Because he followed the principles and the advice of the Periyar and implemented many schemes for the welfare of the women society. In 1990, the Kalaignar issued an order giving 30 per cent reservation to women in Government posts<sup>2</sup>. In 1973, women constables were appointed for the first time in India<sup>3</sup>. He encouraged women by allocative 33 per cent reservation in local bodies<sup>4</sup>. Women's welfare schemes were started, Women run Fair-Price shops were and women's Self-Help Groups were started to provide employment opportunities for the women welfare to improve their economical status in the society.

#### KALAINGAR'S RATIONALISM

A rational world would go a long way in changing caste differences and superstitions, In Indian society, where varnasiram was deeply ingrained. Therefore, the Kalaignar often insists in his letters. Noting that, not only to remove the evils caused by caste, religion and social systems but also to establish an egalitarian society by pointing out the economic difference, As there is a division to work, he explains the need for rationality in all the fields in our nation. He decrees, that his directors should follow role model of Periyar and Anna who have been propagating rational ideas in their works. Through this way, he tries to rationally eliminate the caste inequalities in the society.

#### HIS ATHEIST BELIVE

“Religion corrupts the knowledge of man, Religion corrupts the people by dividing them instead of uniting them religious does not force to men to focus on morality at all. Religion does not have rationalism<sup>5</sup>” - EVR Periyar

Kalaignar follows the principles of Periyar and decided to oppose the rituals of religion. In the name of religion, people perform unequal treatment in their worship. God is equal to everyone. In the name of God, no one became

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M Karunanidhi: Quota for women in local bodies, a diversionary tactic., Decon Chronicle., 24 february, 2016.

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Ibid. Decon Chronicle., 24 february, 2016.

<sup>4</sup> Times of India., 'Bill for women's reservation should take cue from TN', 25v September 2023

<sup>5</sup> Ramasamy.E.V., Prakiruthavatham., p12

moderate. So he doesn't oppose religion he only opposes the method of worship.

**RESERVATION POLICY:**

The South Indian Welfare Rights Association, which emerged in 1916, insisted on reservation in education and employment for non-Brahmins. Natesan, Dr. Nair, Thiagarayar, Panagal Asar, P.T. Rasan and some other leaders helped Tamils who born on reservations and got jobs in government positions due to their selfless efforts.

He focusing to overcome various inequalities in the reservation of seats, by increasing the reservation for backward classes from 25% to 31% during the Congress rule. In 1989, he established 20% reservation for most backward classes. He implemented 18 per cent reservation for Scheduled Tribes from 16 per cent. In the September 2007 Ordinance, he took seven per cent of the reservation for backward classes and 3.5 per cent each for Muslims and Christians and gave them as marginalized ethnic minorities. Once MGR introduced reservation on economic grounds, he strongly opposed it. Through his letters, it is evident that Kalaignar's vision towards the reservation.

**BREAKING OVER THE SYSTEM OF PRIESTHOOD:**

Before 1937, the status quo in Tamil Nadu where a few castes, were not allowed to enter into the temple. This restriction was broken through Vaidyanatha Iyer's Temple Entry Protest. However, the plight of all non-parish people staying outside the sanctorum has not gone away. In this situation, Father Periyar announced to opposed and protested against this a Karuvarai entry protest. After that the period of Kalaignar brought the law that, priest can be appointed from all the castes on 23.05.2006<sup>6</sup>. Under the scheme 34 students belonging to Adi Dravidian class 76 students belonging to the backward class 52 students belonging to most backward class, 42 students belonging to the Other class, Total 207 students have completed the training and got certificates.

**CONCLUSION:**

In the vast history of Tamil Nadu, Kalaignar's literary work is vast. He brought a fame to Tamil people through his tremendous works at literary arena such as poems, essays, novels, short stories, dramas, films, history and political

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Temple of social justice: Tamil Nadu appoints non-Brahmins as 'archakas' in Vedic temples., The Hindu., 07.09.2021.

works. A number of social ideas is inscribed in the works of Kalaignar. And in which lots of transformation and witness in the history of Tamil Nadu.