

ECOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF MUDIYETTU – A PRESENTATION

By Rajeev, Kerala

Welcome you all to the presentaion.



Mudiyettu:
Post Harvest
Thanksgiving
Village Festival
in Kerala



Harvest in Kerala



Harvest in Kerala



Harvest in Kerala



- **Mudiyettu is a stylized ritualistic dance drama in Kerala performed after the harvest of summer crops.**



- **Mudiyettu is observed as an annual festival in 'Bhagavati Kavus', village temples of mother goddess, Kali.**
- **A village festival celebrating rich harvest, Mudiyettu is a thanks offering to Mother Nature.**



- **Mudiyettu: The Theme and Essence- Celebrating the Agricultural Prosperity and Triumph of Goodness over Evil.**



Mudiyettu is based on the Puranic story of *Darikavadham*, the killing of the demon *Darika*. It celebrates the goddess's triumph over the demon Daarikan

This social drama helps to impart the virtue and justice in the society.



- **Mudiyettu: A Community Measure to Keep the Environment Hygienic and Keep Away the Epidemic Diseases**
- Most of the plants or herbs used in the performance of Mudiyettu have great medicinal effect in the surroundings



- It has three major stages: *Kalamezhuthu*, a symbolic drawing of the figure of *Bhadrakaali* on ground purified by cowdung plaster; *Kalam pooja*, ritual adorations and *Kalam maikkal*, the performance part of Mudiyetu.
- This auspicious drawing is called ‘Kalam’”



- In Kalamezhuthu, The figure of *Bhadrakaali* is drawn with five colours, red, green, black, white and yellow derived from indigenous materials - rice, turmeric, green leaves from the *vata* tree, charcoal, etc. These five colour represent the *Panchabhootam* vatha, pitha and kapha. These three elements are the basic of Ayurveda.



- According to Ayurveda Medical stream, the imbalance of these vatha, pitha and kapha makes the body unhealthy.
- These colour powders of medicinal effect using in the performance helps in maintaining the balance of the body and creates a healthy environment.
- The indigenous materials used in Kalamezhuthu- rice, turmeric, green leaves from the vata tree, charcoal- have great medicinal effect in the surroundings.



- Popular belief was that Mudiyetu would be the ultimate remedy against the most dreaded epidemic, Small Pox.
- This Popular belief may have a scientific aspect that these indigenous things like rice, turmeric, *vata* tree, charcoal can have antigerm effect in the environment.
- The burning the medicinal materials will help to clean and purify the environment in the village.





- Blessing of the entire village by Mother godes at the end of the performance is an essential part of the performance.
- At the end of the performance, the 'Prasada', the ritual sacrament by the performers to the devotees in the form of materials used in the ritual- usually a mixture of rice, turmeric, green leaves of vata tree, charcoal. **And the villagers keep it for a long period as a medicine for unhealthy situations.**

- **Mudiyettu: A Measure to Protect the Biodiversity**
- Mudiyettu is conducted as an annual festival in 'Bhagavati Kavus', village temples of mother goddess, Kali.
- The conservation and maintaining of kavu or sacred groves and associated cultural heritage is an acknowledged form of traditional system of natural resource management, and an expression of community's ecological worldview.



- In order to use certain plants and products or parts of plants for the performance of mudiyettu, the protection and cultivation of these trees will be essential.
- Thus the conservation of plants and kavu (acred groves) will be ensured through this practice.



- **Mudiyettu: Each Community Participates with their Ethnic Products**
- Integration of all castes and communities happens in the various aspects of Mudiyettu.
- Each caste plays a specific role in the Mudiyettu ritual.



- The Parayan caste(traditional bamboo workers in Kerala) provides bamboo artefacts and leather hide for drums
- The Tandan(traditional climbers of coconut and areca nut in Kerala) brings the areca nut fronds required for masks and headgears
- The Ganakan paints the masks with natural dyes and materials



- The Kuruvan keeps the country torches burning
- The Veluthedan (Patiyan) washes the clothes and other costume materials used for making the deity's dress
- The Maran gets the torches ready and keeps them supplied with oil.



- **Mudiyettu: Creating Ecological Worldview**
- The Mudiyettu is performed in a very environment - friendly way.
- The very atmosphere of Mudiyettu performance will create an ecological worldview to the village people.
- The place of the performance is located near the kavu or sacred groves where **neem tree, banyan trees ,vata tree are present along with other different medicinal plants.**



- The materials used for Mudiyettu are natural products.
- The performer is decorated with ethnic herbal products and seeds for cultivation.
- The breasts of the Bhathrakali in kalamezhuthe will be decorated with different seeds of coming years of cultivation.



- **Mudiyettu: Developing Psychological Effect on Children and People**
- The Mudiyettu Performane creates great psychological impact on village community especially on children.
- The use of different colors and costumes will cherish the aesthetical appreciation of children.



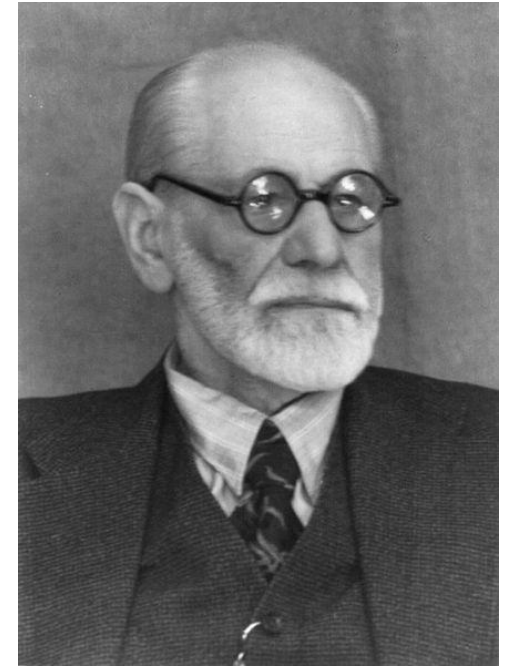
- It helps to develop an environment friendly attitude among children. At the end of the performance Kali takes the children and lie them on her lap which helps them drive their fear away and make them bold.
- The common psyche of a village community for the triumph of goodness, a fertile land, prosperity can be expressed through the Mudi yettu performance.



- **Mudiyettu: Need of documenting the psychological and ecological aspects of Mudiyetu through visual media.**
- The community psychology and the impact of Mudiyeetu on man, woman, children and different caste communities have not been studied properly.
- We have to search into how does the collective consciousness mind work for a prosperous and harmonious life in a village.



- The studies of greatest psychologist Sigmund Freud and his disciple Yueng on the interaction between human subconscious mind, nature, culture and performing arts can be applied for the psychological study of the impact of Mudiyetu on society.
- Like that, the ecological aspects of Mudiyetu has been very much ignored in the research and study of Mudiyetu.
- I hope that detailed research and video documentation are very essential in this context.





തിരുമൊഴി കേൾക്കുന്നവർക്കും
ഏകദേശം കാണുന്നവർക്കും
അഴകിയ ഗുണം വരുത്തും
അഴകേറും ശ്രീകുറുമ്പയമ്മേ
കൈതൊഴുന്നേൻ

**Bow the beautiful Goddess who gives
blessings to those who hear the divine
words and watches the performing art.**



Thank You