

## HISTORICAL VIEWS OF KINSHIP AND MATRILINEAL SYSTEM IN KERALA

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### **ABSTRACT**

*This paper focuses on the origin, features, characteristics and theories related to the matrilineal system. This paper also makes an in-depth study of its introduction, reasons for the origin and advantageous of marumakkathayam and the historical views of kinship and matrilineal system in Kerala. This study in general demonstrates that social transformations and changes happened in the society are mainly in correspondence to the socio- economic developments, social demands and cultural requirements of the society. This study highlights the changing processes operating in the social order and institutions at various dimensions over time. The study shows that patrilineal and matrilineal system co-existed in Malabar a few decades back, especially before the 19th century and a cultural turn over in this regard happened mainly during the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Actually the matrilineal system existed as part of the wider socio-cultural entity of Malabar. Kerala's matrilineal legacy is just one of those anomalies. The nineteenth century witnessed a social awakening of far reaching importance. The spread of western education and rational thinking brought about radical changes in the existing social practices and pattern of life.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Customary Practice, Matrilineal, Patrilineal, Gender, Property Rights, Kerala, Colonial Law, Tharavad, Maromakkathayam*