



Proceedings of
2nd International Conference on Intangible
Cultural Heritage

Fostering Folklore Research
“Enriching Global Citizens through Traditional Insights”

ICICH 2020
18th and 19th December 2020



Department of Anthropology
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
University of Sri Jayewardenepura

**Proceedings of the 2nd International Conference
on Intangible Cultural Heritage**

**ICICH 2020
Virtual Conference**

Fostering Folklore Research
“Enriching Global Citizens through Traditional Insights”

18th and 19th December 2020

Department of Anthropology
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
University of Sri Jayewardenepura

Proceedings of International Conference on Intangible Cultural Heritage

255 Pages

ISSN: 2550-2360

Copyright© Department of Anthropology

All rights are reserved according to the Code of Intellectual Property Act of Sri Lanka, 2003

Published by: Department of Anthropology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (FHSS), University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka

Tel/Fax: +94 (0) 11 2801187

Disclaimer

The responsibility for opinions expressed, in articles, studies and other contributions in this publication rests solely with their authors, and this publication does not constitute an endorsement by Multi-Disciplinary Research Center or Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the opinions so expressed in them.

Official Website of the Conference: <http://fhss.sjp.ac.lk/icich>

Published By : Department of Anthropology,
University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka.

Printed By : Cybergate Services (Pvt.) Ltd.
57 A, Soratha Mawatha, Gangodawila,
Nugegoda, Sri Lanka.

Cover Design by : Bhawanga Hettiarachchi
Web Team,
University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

A Study on the “Kaderi” Worship that Prevails among Rural Tamil Folks

S. Muhunthan

Department of Hindu Civilization, Faculty of Hindu Studies, University of Jaffna

jaisriram2577@gmail.com

The word ‘Kaderi’ really denotes a person who had once lived as a member of a village or town society and had later renounced such a life due to some reasons and had found resort in a forest locality. His bitter experiences in the previous locality might have compelled him to undergo such a change in his life environment. The worship of the woman deity “Kaderi” being one of the folk deities in the Tamil society, needs much attention from a socio - anthropological point of view. “Kaderi” is a fearful and ferocious deity who frightens and causes harm to conceived females and girls who have attained puberty. In the most Hindu rural traditions, the word “Kadu” (forest) is interpreted as a natural field as against a general field of livelihood. Besides, the space referred to as “Kadu” is also used to indicate anger, fear, a state of having no family ties, and one’s departure. The main objective of this research is to bring out the significance of Kaderi worship based on Hindu Folk worship tradition. Based on Victor Turner’s theory related to “Liminal in religious rituals” and with the help of the foregoing information, this article attempts to elucidate the myths related to Kaderi. Basically, this article is a descriptive research. Collected data will be subject to content analysis in appropriate instances. This research article identifies several local religious traditions prevailing in South India and Sri Lanka in relation to Kaderi as may be seen below: Kaderi is a dreadful female deity, it moves about particularly during mid-day and midnight times. It attacks pregnant females, matured girls and teenage males. It dwells along lakes, ponds, paddy fields and forests that are out of the village borders. The following forms of worship pertaining to Katterri have also been identified in this article, viz. A ritual by the name “Mayanankollai” which literally means robbery at the crematorium. An important offering known as ‘Kalicchelavu’ made to Katterri, providing a specially prescribed diet for pregnant women.

Keywords: Kaderi, Liminal, Hindu Folk, Ritual