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# Growth of Education and Educational Policies by Kingmaker Kamarajar – A Study

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During his nearly ten-year tenure as Chief Minister, from 1954 to 1963, K. Kamaraj worked toward the goal of social revolution in Tamilnadu. The thesis makes an effort to provide a thorough account of Kamaraj's strategy based on both primary and secondary sources. The thesis's title makes it clear that Tamilnadu is included in the study's geographic focus. However, throughout that time the State's physical borders had been redefined and undergone a number of adjustments and reorganizations. The State's official name, Tamilnadu, was first proclaimed in 1969; prior to that, it was known as Madras State. As a result, the State's official name during the study's timeframe was Madras State.

When it was established in 1956, the Madras State—previously known as the Madras Presidency under British rule—included all of modern-day Tamil Nadu, the coastal regions of Andhra and Rayalaseema, North Kerala's Malabar area, and the Bellary, Dakshin Kannada, and Udipi districts of Karnataka. While South Canara and Bellary districts were amalgamated with Mysore and Malabar district with Travancore-Cochin in 1956, Coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema were divided to form Andhra State in 1953 with its capital at Kurnool. Despite all the reorganizations and changes throughout history, Tamil Nadu, with its current formal boundaries, has always been a part of both the Madras Presidency and the Madras State in the past. In this way, the rearrangement has no discernible impact on the study's goals or findings. Additionally, limiting future research to Tamilnadu rather than Madras State would provide better clarity for the subject of this study in terms of continuity and impact.

Second item of clarification is on the mention of the word 'rule' in the title. The term is used on its mutually interchangeable noun-form meanings such as regime, leadership, reign, Government, charge and administration, basically to indicate 'time in power or 'period in office'. The usage of the word 'rule' in the title is also intended to reflect the popular usage of 'Kamaraj Rule' in both print and electronic media of the State.

The tenure of Kamaraj as Chief Minister was praised as Tamilnadu's "Golden Era" and "Decade of Reforms and Achievements." He steadfastly implemented a number of initiatives for the welfare of the public, which ultimately served to transform society. He gave great importance to how effectively government programs were implemented for the benefit of the general public. The goal of this thesis is to investigate the social reform technique employed by Kamaraj from 1954 to 1963 and its repercussions on Tamilnadu society.

### Objectives of the Study

- To review personal and political biography of Kamaraj.
- To examine educational reforms of his administration.

### Methodology

The study's research methodology was both historical and analytical. The narrative has been organized logically. For study exposition, analysis and interpretation using conventional historical narrative have been adopted. By gathering primary and secondary data from archives and conducting interviews with close relatives and Kamaraj's supporters, the structure and operations of the administrative reforms of Kamaraj were thoroughly explored.

### Review of Literature

There have been a number of works by eminent scholars on K.Kamaraj. K.Kamaraj the patriot and statesman by S.R.Bakshi, The Political Career of K.Kamaraj by P.Kandaswamy, Kamaraj: A Study by V.K.Narasimhan, K.Kamaraj A Socio-Political Study by V.K. Muthuswamy, Kamaraj by

T.S.Chockalingam, Kamaraj and His secrets of Success by Palayam M.Balasundaram, K.Kamaraj by Dr.M.H.Syed, The history of the Struggle for Social Justice in Tamilnadu by K.Veeramani, Gandhi and Kamaraj by Dr.S.Gowsalya, The Great Personalities by Jayashree, Kamaraj by Mrs.Malarrajan, Kamaraj plan by Biju Patnaik, Kamaraj: The Iron Man by R.P. Kapur, Kamaraj Builders of Modern India by R.S.Parthasarathy, Kamaraj The man of the masses by E.K.Swamy, Socio-Economic Upliftment of Depressed classes in Tamilnadu(1882-2000) by Dr.R.Ramasubramanian, History of Depressed class Education in Tamilnadu(1882-2000) by Dr.R.Ramasubramanian, Kamaraj Oru Sarithiram (Tamil) by Muruga Dhanuskodi, Kamaraj Oru Sagatham (Tamil) by A.Gopanna, Ninaivil Nirpavarkal (Tamil) by N.D.Sundaravadeivel, Perumthalaivar Kamarasar (Tamil) by Aru.Sangar, Kamarajurudan Kaal Nootrantaandu (Tamil) by C.P.S Vairavan, Periyarum Perunthalaivarum (Tamil) by A.Gopanna, Kamarasar Ninaivugal (Tamil) by Sulur Ka.Devarasu, Kamarajar Vazhkaiyum Aatchiyum (Tamil) by Dr.G.K.T.Balan, Nenjukku Needhi Vol 1&11 (Tamil) by Dr.M.Karunanithi, Kamaraj (Tamil) by Ilasai Sundaram, Kaalam Thantha Kamarajar (Tamil) by Dr.Muhilai Rajapandian Porkala Aatchi (Tamil) by Ka.Sakthivel, Aachariyar Aatchiyin Kodumaigal (Tamil) by Periyar E.V.Ramasamy, to name a few notable ones, based on their academic and popular values, that provide details about the life, political career and achievements of Kamaraj as Chief Minister.

On July 15, 1903, in Virudupatti, Kumaraswami Kamaraj was born into a middle-class Nadar family<sup>1</sup>. a small village located forty-eight kilometers south of Madurai in the Madras Presidency, according to S.R. Bakshi in K. Kamaraj - The Patriot and Statesman (New Delhi: Anmol Publications, 1992), p. His parents were Sivakamiammal and Kumaraswami<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> S.R. Bakshi, K.Kamaraj – The Patriot and Statesman, (New Delhi: Anmol Publications, 1992), p.1.

<sup>2</sup> S. Gausalya, Gandhi and Kamaraj, (Madurai : Best Institute of Nonviolence and Women Studies (BINOWS), 2002), p.18

Gandhi and Kamaraj, by S. Gausalya, was published in 2002 by the Best Institute of Nonviolence and Women Studies (BINOWS) in Madurai.

Kamatchi was the original name given to Kamaraj in homage and respect for the well-known deity. The name was later changed to Kamaraj, though.<sup>1</sup>

Builders of contemporary India: K. Kamaraj, by R. Parthasarathy, New Delhi: Publication Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, 1983, p.

A girl named Nagammal was born to the couple two years later. The district of Ramanathapuram, where Virudupatti was located, was well renowned for its cotton and tobacco production. The Nadars were the district's most influential community. They identified themselves as Kshatriya-Naadalar and were ardent Hindus. The village of Virudupatti eventually developed into the district's commercial hub and took the name "Virudunagar."

## Conclusion

Kamaraj as a person and a personality, in literature, has been studied as a King Maker and a seasoned diplomat in both regional and national politics or an educational philanthropist or an uneducated and still efficient and uncorrupted administrator<sup>3</sup> or a freedom fighter and Gandhian martyr who lived for upholding democracy<sup>4</sup> or a leader who worked for uplifting poor and suppressed<sup>5</sup>. However, this study, emphasizing another aspect of Kamaraj's rule, has argued a subtle but strong envisioned social transformation approach underneath the strategies, plans and random welfare measures of Kamaraj as Chief Minister of Tamilnadu, for all but a decade, from 1954 to 1963. Having been born in the turn of the Twentieth Century in 1903 in a backward village of Southern State of the British India to uneducated parents, his accomplishments, as we listed some of them as freedom fighter, kingmaker, seasoned diplomat, educational philanthropist, uncorrupted administrator

and an up-lifter of poor, when he passed away at the age of seventy-two, in 1975, were unusual and beyond any reasonable and logical imagination.

Kamaraj introduced Tamil as medium of instruction for degree courses from the academic year 1960-61 onwards. This was started in the Government Arts College in Coimbatore and in the next three years, private colleges began the adoption. In 1965-66, the first batch of pupils who learned all their education in Tamil as their medium of education, since the primary and secondary education had already been provided with Tamil as medium of instruction by 1963 got their degrees. Yet another idea for his vision of the future was the triple benefit scheme for teachers and their retirement age revision. Despite the periodic salary revision and other benefits the Government provided for teachers, the State was first in Asia to implement a triple benefit scheme to teachers that included pension, provident fund and insurance schemes from April 1955. Besides, the scheme also had included free education up to S.S.L.C for children of elementary school teachers.

In 1963, the age of retirement of teachers was raised in various categories of schools from 55 to 58. The Government Order stated that the age of retirement from service shall be raised from 55 to 58 years in the case of trained teachers in all the elementary schools, secondary schools, training and special schools and Anglo-Indian schools whether they are under the management of the Government, local bodies or aided agencies and which are recognised by the Education Ministry. It was also stated that if any of these institutions had already been maintaining a retirement age higher than 58 years, would continue to be the same. His introduction of the Old Age Pension (OAP) scheme was another first in the history of free India. He had the forecast for the ageing population and possible changes such as urbanization and thus the scheme provided monetary help for the helpless and deserted elderly citizens.

Kamaraj had realized that the social transformation does not simply happen with infrastructural developments alone such as housing

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<sup>1</sup> R. Parthasarathy, Builders of modern India – K. Kamaraj, (New Delhi: Publication Division, Ministry of information and Broadcasting, Government of India, 1983), p.2.

and roads or health and hygiene or replacing agriculture with industrialization for that matter. These were fundamental platforms but not all. People's attitude towards their multiple roles as a caring family member, a contributing citizen and a creative entity had to be realized by them, and he ventured into developing libraries seriously to bring about a change in this area. Madras was the first amongst the States of India to pass an Act for public libraries, the Madras Public Libraries Act in 1948. Though the amendment of the Act came into effect in 1950, before Kamaraj came to power in 1954, there was neither prioritization nor serious attempts to set up the public libraries in the State.

Local library authorities were established in each district, and the Connemara Public Library was designated as the state's central library. The Libraries Act stipulates that every city with a population of more than 50,000 people must have a main library, every town with a population of 5,000 to 50,000 people must have a branch library, and every hamlet with a population of 1,000 to 5000 people must have a distribution station. 70 It was noted that the Government went beyond what the Libraries Act had recommended. Delivery stations were created in addition to Central and Branch libraries based on population to promote involvement and engagement in society.

In summary and as a concluding remark, the evidences that have been argued under the four different categories in details reasonably supports the notion that the random looking welfare measures of Kamaraj's rule in Tamilnadu, from 1954 to 1963, were not really random but a well-organised, subtly but strongly connected social transformation approach of Kamaraj.

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