

TEMPLE DONATIONS AND SOCIAL MOBILITY AMONG THE VELLALAS IN MEDIEVAL SOUTH INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Temple donations by the Vellalas can be studied as a significant process of mobility and change in medieval South India. Tamil Inscriptions throw a good deal of light on the nature of temple donations by Vellala men, women and their organization. These donations were made in form of material gifts, i.e. money, gold, cattle etc. or services. The monetary value of these donations reflected the social and economic standard of the donors and their role in society. This study shall investigate the size and volume of temple donations made by the Vellalas, and its linkages with the contemporary social and economic changes.

KEYWORDS: *Vellalas, Mobility, Chittiramei, Temple-Donation, Peasant*

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