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THE 'HOME SCIENCE' OF GENDERING FOOD

A COLONIAL CONSEQUENCE

Dr. DEEPA GOPALAKRISHNAN

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THURSDAY | 15 JUNE 2023 | 3.00 PM (IST)

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ABSTRACT

The symbiotic relation between gender and food has become an academic areas where historical and political investigations have been initiated. In light of the recent scholarships, the present paper focuses on the transformation that happened in the gender roles, especially in connection with food and cooking in colonial Malabar under the project of colonial modernity. The paper argues that Victorian ideologies during colonial rule made the act of cooking much more gendered than in the pre-colonial period. Colonial education policies encouraged imperial domesticity in the colonies. The introduction of a new curriculum on cooking in educational institutions made middle-class women praise the act of cooking in the 19th and 20th centuries through magazines and periodicals edited by them.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER



Dr. Deepa Gopalakrishnan is an Assistant Professor of History at the Department of History, Co-Operative Arts and Science College Madayi, Kannur. She holds a postgraduate degree in History from the Department of History, NSS College, Manjeri. Her MPhil focused on "The Food Culture of Eranad: A Historical Study" from Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady, and her PhD research looked at "The Politics of Food and Cuisine: Religion, Power, and Gender in the Making of Food in Colonial Malabar" under the guidance of Dr. E.N. Lakshmanan from the Department of History at Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady. During her doctoral studies, Dr. Gopalakrishnan was awarded a junior research fellowship by the Kerala Council for Historical Research. Her research interests primarily lie in the field of Gender History and Cultural History. She has also authored a book titled "*Kerala Bhakshana Charitram*," which explores aspects of food culture in Kerala.

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