

# Valangai and Idangai Group Clashes in TamilNadu

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## ABSTRACT

Valangai and Idanagi caste divisions were rampant in Tamilnadu between the 11<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries . Just like the social set of the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC by the common people against the domination of the Brahmin Community in north India the common people of Tamilnadu formed the groups against the Brahmin domination. An opposing group gradually got themselves divided in to two groups. One group known as agriculturists who were the group who were illtreated by the Brahmins formed themselves in to one group known as the Valangai group. Another group of people concentrated their activities in non agricultural deeds. Such non agricultural workers came to be known as Idangai division. At the present time right hand group is known as the farmers. The left hand group is known as the workers. For nearly seventh centuries controversies existed between the right hand and left hand groups.

**Key Words:** Valangai and idangai education ,TamilNadu

## Introduction:-

During the period of the Imperial cholas casteism was a powerful force in Tamilnadu. The common people who were next to the Brahmins became staunch devotees of lord Shiva and lord Vishnu. Those who were the devotees of lord Shiva were termed as valangai group Those who were the devotees of lord Vishnu were known as left hand division.

In Chidambaram this caste distinction is clearly visible in Chidambaram Temple . In the Temple two deities, Lord Shiva and lord Vishnu are enshrined.In one of the sanctum sanctorum lord Shiva is enshrined. In another sanctum sanctorum lord Vishnu in incarnated. Those who come to worship Shiva do not come to worship Vishnu . They do not turn to the side of the lord Vishnu. Those who come to workship lord Vishnu do not turn to the side of lord Shiva. These two divisions arose during the period parantaka chola first. On the basis of this in agricultural and industrial acitivities also they were divided in two groups.

There were 98 small sections with in the right hand divisions. Like wise the left hand division was also consisting of 98 branches. This information is provided by valangai and Indangai puranas. Since the chola kings were mostly saivites the right hand divisions supported the chola kings. When the right hand divisions extended full support to the kings the chola kings came for ward to utilize their services and army consistent purely of the right hand group was found.

Since the chola kings were despots they were engaged in protecting the chola kingdom and on so many occasions the left hand divisions were involved in trading activities and other business activities.

### **Controversies between the Right hand and left hand divisions.**

The head quarters of the right hand and left hand divisions was Kanchipuram because only in Kanchipuram stone inscriptions associated with the right hand and left hand divisions are found. The right hand division is more in number than the left hand division.

The valangai division was politically highly developed than Idangai division. From the 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards there were continuous controversies between the Left hand and Right hand divisions.

The Valangai division was more powerful than the Idangai division. During the period of Raja Raja chola the powerful army consisting of the Right hand division was distinctly organised. The valangai division and the Idangai division were clearly differentiated. The valangai division had three horizontal markings with holy ashes and the Idangai group had three markings with sandal wood paste vertically. Even during the period of karikala the right hand people organized and served as the body guards and were known as kaikolar. The valangai division formed the major division of the Chola army. During the period of karikala the right hand division who worshipped Lord Shiva stood near the right side and those who worshipped Lord Vishnu stood at the left side

So it is assumed that controversies between the two groups started even from the period of Karikalacholan. In kanchipuram there are two important temples known as kailasanatha temple. Another temple is known as varatharja perumal temple.

In celebrating functions there were difference of opinion between right hand and left hand groups. The right hand division and the left hand division had separated halls and separated dancing girls. These dancing girls were known as devadasi s. The right hand group and the left hand group never celebrated any common function jointly. In Thanjavur also there were clashes between the right hand and left hand divisions. The valangai division was permitted to use white umbrella and palanquin. This right given to the right hand group was not given to the left hand group. So in 1440 controversy, clashes and destruction of properties were caused between the two groups. The cholas encouraged right hand and left hand clashes.

Because when the two happened to be united the powers of the chola kings were questioned. After the disappearance of the chola empire in the 12 Century right hand and left hand divisions came to end.

### **Conculsion:-**

Just like the different caste group in Tamilnadu Idangai and Valangai distinction also arose among the non bramins. Those non bramnines who worshiped shiva and Vishnu were known as Valangai and Idangai divisions respectively. The right hand group supported the chola kings because chola kings were saivites clashes between the two groups were common in kanchipuram Thanjavur Madurai and Chidamparam . The two groups developed hatred against each other which led to the Brahminical domination.under no circumstance they were not united. Instead of fighting against braminalical domination they themselves were involued inclashes between themselves achieve .So they could not achive any thing against the braminalical domination the aim of fullfuling their desire to oppose the braminalical domination ended in failure.

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