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Matrilineal System among the Nairs

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Abstract

Matrilineal System (Marumakkathayam) was a system of matrilineal inheritance that prevalent in Kerala. In this system descent and the inheritance of property was traced through females. This word literary means inheritance by sister's children. Most commonly this system was followed by the Nair community in Kerala. The Marumakkathayam system created many problems in the Nair community and the educated persons among this community strongly opposed the Marumakkathayam system.

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