

## KUMARAKOVIL MURUGAN TEMPLE- A STUDY

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### ABSTRACT

*Kumarakovil (Koil means-Temple) is one of the notable temple in Kanyakumari District, Tamilnadu. This temple is about 15 km from Nagercoil and 35km from Thiruvananthapuram. It is situated on the mountain called Veli Malai is believed to be place where lord Murugan married the tribal girl Valli.the Murugan deity here, is standing posture is 6 feet tall. The temple has also a long history dates back to 17<sup>th</sup> century.*

**KEYWORDS:** KUMARAKOIL, TEMPLEDEVOTEES, WORSHIP, POOJA, SANNITHAM, DEVOTION

### INTRODUCTION

Kumarakoil is situated at the Velimalai hills in the Kalkulam Taluk. It lies in the jurisdiction of the Padmanabhapuram Municipality. The devotees, who reach the top of Kumarakoil to worship **Kumaraswami** climb the 38 steps, feel healthy both physically and mentally. It is a holy place in Kanyakumari is blessed with lush green fields and evergreen forests. Generally the temples of Kanyakumari are situated on the top of the hills and thus this temple lies on the top of the hills.



TEMPLE GOPURAM



38 STEPS

### Interdisciplinary Relevance

The studies about temple culture, history, and the sociological aspects of temple clientele also have interdisciplinary significance.

### Objectives of the Study

1. To sketch the Historical importance of Kumarakoil
2. To evaluate the structure of Kumarakoil
3. To evaluate the architecture of Kumarakoil.
4. To analyse the pujas and festivals of Kumarakoil.

### Methodology

Methodology adopted in this work is combined of both descriptive and analytical method. It depends upon primary and secondary sources for data. Primary sources are planned to collect by conducting field visits. This documented information was integrated with historical and

epigraphical data. Published literary works were used to understand historical background and antiquity of temple.

### Structure of the temple

The front face of the temple is in the East side and there is a pond called as Thirukkulam in the right side of this temple. There are so many paddy fields and coconut fields are placed in the surrounding of this temple. A small place is allotted for a first God Lord Vinayaga in the front side of this temple. It is named as **Vinayaga Sannithi**. There is a mandapam in front of this temple. Each and every year the disciple of Lord Muruga take Kavadi to express their devotion traditionally. The devotees are first worshipping **Lord Vinayaga** and then enter into the inner side of the temple. In the outer lane, there is **Sree Dharma Sastha Sannithi** situated in the southeast side of this temple face to

East side. In the western side of the outer lane, there is kitchen. It is named, *Ootupura*. In the inner lane and in the front view of the temple there is a tallest pillar called, *Koil Kodimaram*. In the inner lane right side of the temple, there is *Vinayagar Sannithi* is placed, called as, *Kalyana Vinayagar*.



*Vinayaga Sannithi*

Lord Muruga statue is called as *Samana Theertha Thiruoruvachilai*, because of this height *Samana Thiruoruvachilai* are made with hairless head and there is no curve in this body of this statue. *Lord Muruga* is placed very beautiful, then only the ancient side it is a *Thirumurugan Thiruoruvam*.



NAVARATHRI FESTIVAL

Inner side of the temple, there is a *Lord Illayanayanar* statue placed in the southwest side. In the western side, *Kasilinga, Kasi Viswanathar Sannithi* is placed. The devotees of *Kasi* to *Kaniyakumari* worship these Gods. Orchava Moorthi Manavidaikumara sannithi is placed in the North side and west side. This statue is to Thiruvananthapuram during *Navarathri pooja*

and to *Suchindram* during *Markazhi Festival*. *Arumuga Sannithi* is situated in the Northern side of the inner lane, which faces towards the South side. In the south side a Neem tressis there, which is called as *Thallavirucha*. After worship this God *Mahadeva Sannithi* is placed east side. *Sivaligam* is in the south side, *Nandhikesavar* in the North side. People worship these God with pleasure.



**KODI MARAM**

Kumarakoil temple is very close to Kerala state majority of the Devotees are from Kerala.

#### Conclusion

Above information, it is clear that Kumarkoil is one of the notable temple in south

India. The temple VelMuruga Seva Sangam is doing many social services, help the poor girls

during their marriage time and encourage educational grant.

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