



Socio-Religious and Cultural Understanding of the Historical Researches in India



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CHAPTER 6

Costume of Male during the Nayak Period in Tamil Country: Through Art and Literature

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Dress is a reflection of the culture of a period. Dress is an inclusive term for garments, jewellery, cosmetics and hair dressing. Here it is considered as an aspect of the culture of civilized people, in this sense the term 'dress' may be used interchangeably with the term costume¹. Dress is influenced by geographical factors such as climate and available materials by technological developments such as weaving methods and by historical events including war, trade patterns and religious movements. The different kinds of dress and costumes are found in the sculptures and paintings of the Nayak monuments. They throw much light on the mood and taste of the people.

The costume of gods and goddesses did not differ much from those of the kings and the aristocracy of the Nayak period. The two pieces of clothing of dhoti or *vetti* or lower garment and *uttarium* or upper garment was continued during this period. According to John Nieuhoff, the men wore nothing but single piece of calico wrap about their middle and another piece about head². They did not wear any upper garment in their body.