

**THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE UPCOUNTRY SOCIETY – STUDY  
BASED ON “ORU KODAI KOLONTHU” SHORT STORY COLLECTION**Shanmugaraja Nishanthini<sup>1</sup>

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**Abstract**

Upcountry people are the cause of emergence of a new literary genre in Sri Lanka called 'Upcountry Literature'. Early poetry attempts (*Kummi, Themmangu, Sindhu*) and subsequent essays, short stories and novels symbolize their life.

Short stories focus on realizing the upcountry people and their biological problems and difficulties. N.S.M. Ramaiah was one of those people who, through her short stories, made eye contact with such individuals who were caught up in the struggle of daily life. His short stories are unique in that they highlight the tragic lives of the people of the hill country and the challenges they face.

Women became the subject of poetry and novels and later they faced various problems due to social change. In general, gender – based prejudices, oppression and negative thoughts that are present in society have prepared women for a life of control. This situation is constantly illustrated by various literatures. The women of the upcountry who are dressed as professional wagers are also playing a professional role.

The characters in N.S.M. Ramaiah's short stories are the ones who change the idea that men who can afford hard work and face grueling daily challenges are the ones who face the biggest challenges of the family. These characters are not created for story moves and literary enjoyment. They represent the life of unchanging upcountry women.

Upcountry literature, articles and studies have been published to identify the problems of upcountry workers and the challenging life and occupations they face. However, the role of women in the upcountry community and their importance remains unclear.

The short stories ~Oru Koodai Kolunthu|> ~Pinju kuviyal|> ~Engo oru thavaru|> ~Theekkulippu|> ~Mutrugai|> ~Vetkai|> ~Malai|> ~Niraivu|> ~Ranam| in the ~Oru Koodai Kolunthu| short story collection can be seen in the role of women in the upcountry community. Based on these short stories, this research aims to identify the role of Upcountry community and to identify the challenges they face. In order to achieve the objective of this research, Descriptive and sociological studies have been conducted. For this purpose the ~Oru Koodai Kolunthu| short story collection is used as secondary data. Other research articles, magazines, internet news and other articles related to this issue are supplementary to this article. Finally this study demonstrates that women are gaining an important social and economic role in the upcountry society. It also identifies the problems they face in its wake.

**Keywords:** upcountry, upcountry people, *oru koodai kolonthu*, upcountry women, challenges, Role

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