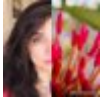


Twitter Thread by Savitri Mumukshu - ██████████ ██████████



Savitri Mumukshu - ██████████ ██████████

[@MumukshuSavitri](#)



1

Vijayanagar (1336–1646 AD) was one of the greatest Hindu empires of India. When N.India was enslaved by Islamic savagery, Vijayanagar followed Hindu tradition to empower women with education, property rights, & financial/administrative control.

#OurTrueHistory

@ShefVaidya



2

Inscriptions, historical texts & foreign traveler's accounts describe the women of Vijayanagar as possessing property & financial independence. Many donated property to worthy causes such as temple improvements, civil works & welfare schemes. Others volunteered their services.

Many women gave donations, for instance, an inscription recorded in 1540 A.D. mentions that a tank was constructed by Chinnamamba, wife of chief Pratapa Yalla and sister of Ramaya Mantri Bacha, the chief minister of king Achyuta Raya.¹³ Since, a tank is an essential avenue for better living and a woman has given a donation for the tank, we can infer that the donor enjoyed some respectable position and was aware of the growing needs of the community. Economically also she must have been self sufficient to give this

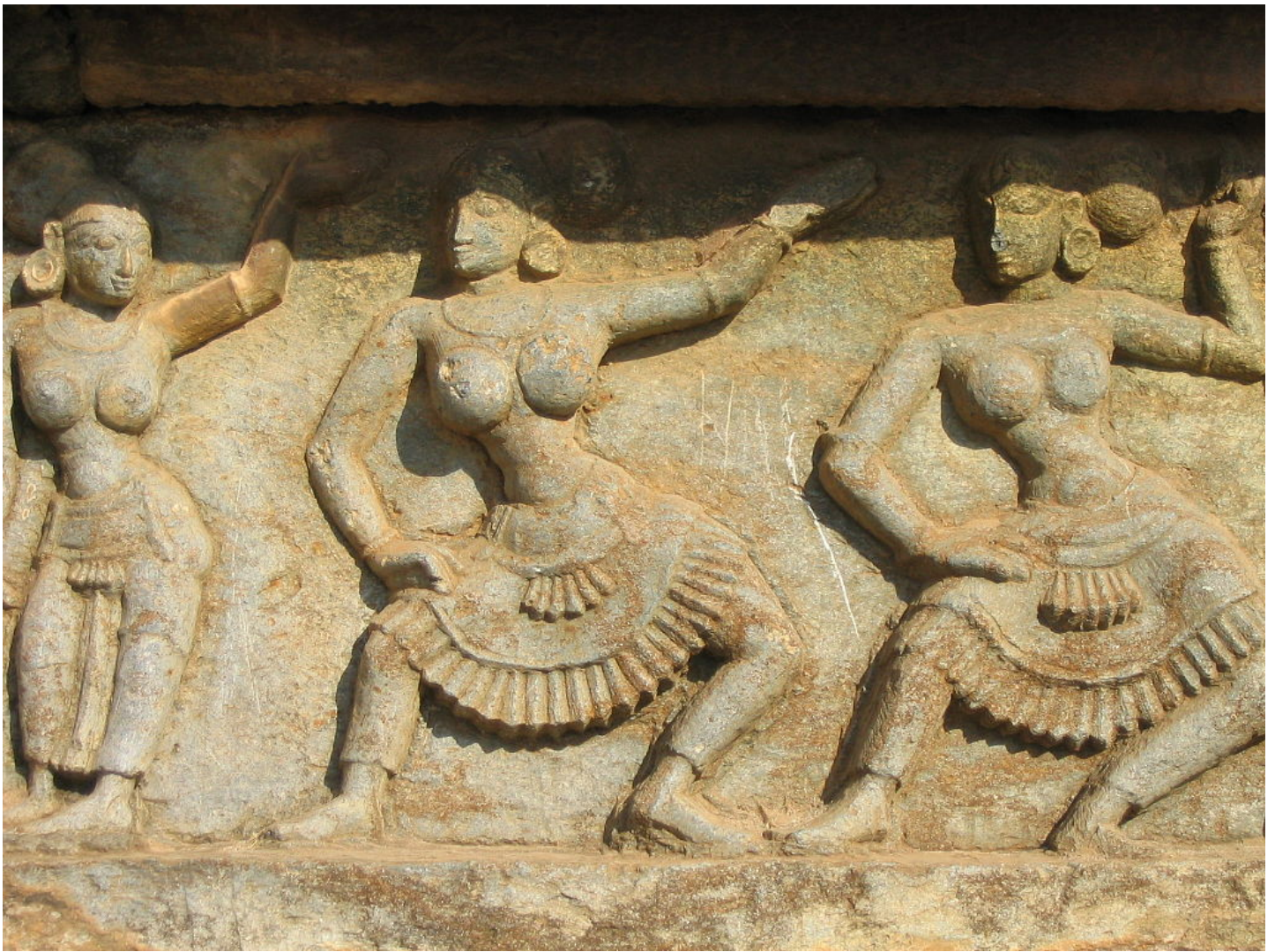
3

Women were educated from a young age to become literate in Sanskrit, Kannada, Telugu, etc.. The great king Krishnadevaraya himself patronized several female writers and poets & encouraged centers of learning. Women authors wrote timeless Kavyas & literature during this era

The girls belonging to the noble class were taught to read and write not only the local languages but also Sanskrit. One of the necessary accomplishments they ought to fulfil was skill in music and dancing. To divert themselves from the daily routine, they went to the palace pleasure garden along with their maids. Even they enjoyed swimming and sported with water. There were separate pools for women of the nobility.

4

Young girls were also taught music, dance & painting. This education proved invaluable in preserving & furthering the classical Hindu arts. Auditoriums were designed for female musicians & dancers to practice. Temple dancers were showered with wealth & highly respected.



5

Women's education was not limited to the arts; many served as accountants, astronomers, astrologers & chefs. There were female judges, bailiffs, & guards employed for state services. Their power can be gauged by the fact that women also held administrative control.

A few women were wrestlers, astrologers and soothsayers. Women wrote all the accounts of expenses that were incurred inside the gates and others were involved in writing the affairs of the kingdom and compared their books with those of the writers outside. There were women musicians who sang and played on the instruments.³⁴ Other women included cooks for the king's personal service and others were kept for times when he gave banquets. Ten cooks prepared the food for no one but the king alone. Women and eunuchs served him at the table.³⁵ Many women handled sword and shield and others who

6

Women even performed physical, labor-intensive jobs such as carrying luggage, working in the fields, guarding the royal offices & washing laundry. Women warriors were also trained in military arts such as wrestling, sword play, archery, riding elephants & horses.



7

Festivals & events such as Shakti Yatra, Vijayadashami celebrated the power of women. Women of all castes & tribes participated in these festivals. The capital Hampi was named after goddess Parvati, as a timeless testament to Vijayanagar's reverence for the feminine divine.



8

Foreign travelers described Vijayanagar's women as elaborately dressed with rich jewelry, hairstyles & accessories, showing prosperity across all classes. Their safety was guaranteed by strictly enforced laws, as criminals who molested women were given stringent punishment



9

While India reeled under the savagery of Islamic onslaughts, Vijayanagar upheld the Hindu tradition of elevating women. The freedom to learn, work, create & earn empowered women to contribute in making Vijayanagar one of the most prosperous & progressive societies in the world



10

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