

**MIND AND SPACE: A STUDY ON POST-
TRAUMATIC PSYCHOSOCIAL
DISABILITIES IN
SELECTED MALAYALAM FILMS OF THE
1980s and 90s**

A Thesis submitted

in partial fulfillment for the Degree of

Doctor of Philosophy

by

GAYATHRI G.R.



Department of Humanities

**INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SPACE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
MAY, 2020**

ABSTRACT

Psychosocial disabilities describe the experiences of people and their ‘participation restrictions’ related to mental health conditions. The present study focuses on how psychosocial disabilities are constituted in the selected Malayalam films of the 1980s and 90s. The work analyzes the gender and sexuality conflicts within these selected films with a special focus on the body politics, sexual restraints, the role of families and the precarious positioning of the protagonists on the fringes of their families and other institutions. The work also analyzes how the visualization of psychosocial disabilities in these films differs from time to time through the use of cinematic techniques, the portrayal of the eccentric psychiatrist, the setting of mental hospitals in exotic locations and through the interplay of realities using dream sequences. The study also analyzes the epistemic changes within the discourse of mental health healing systems prevalent in Kerala as depicted in the selected films. The study discusses the caste dynamics by analyzing the anxieties of the upper caste protagonists in relation to the end of feudalism and breakdown of joint families; and also through the representation of the fear of the ‘empowered other.’