



**AMARAKOṢODGHĀṬANA OF KṢĪRASVĀMIN - A  
Socio-Cultural Study**

**( ISBN NO: 978-81-936580-4-8)**

Author & Year- Dr. V. Yamuna Devi (2017)

Published by : Karnataka Historical Research Society,  
Dharwad-580001

Page : XV+ 251, Price-Rs 225/-

Amarakoṣodghāṭana of Kṣīrasvāmin is a commentary on Amarakoṣa by Amarasimha, most celebrated and authoritative ancient thesaurus of Sanskrit belonging to the 6<sup>th</sup> century A.D. It is the earliest available complete commentary on Amarakoṣa. The book entitled Amarakoṣodghāṭana of Kṣīrasvāmin – A Socio-cultural Study by Dr. V. Yamuna Devi is an analytical study of social, political and cultural condition prevailing during the period

of the author of the commentary. The book has four chapters. The Introductory chapter (Chapter I) begins with a brief note on the history of lexicographical literature in Sanskrit and commentaries on them. Then the writer proceeds to give a detail information about the Lineage, Place of birth, Date and other personal details along with the works of Kṣīrasvāmin in a systematic way. Based on the opinions of K.G. Oka, Dr. Hardatt Sharma, Dr. N.G. Sardesai, Prof. Mm. Yudhisthira Mimamsak and information available in Descriptive Catalogues of Sanskrit manuscripts Vol.9, the writer tries to establish that Kṣīrasvāmin was a native of Central India. Chapter II deals with the social life such as social structure, various professions people engaged in, family, position of women, daily life, economic status etc. prevailed during the 10<sup>th</sup> Century as found in Kṣīrasvāmin's commentary. In her observation on these, she also gives references from the Bhagavad Gītā, Manusmṛti, Āpastambha Dharmasūtra, Gautama and Vaśiṣṭha Dharmasūtra. Chapter that follows, Chapter III, the author makes a study on the cultural aspect revealed through the list of synonymous words of teacher, students, customs, *samābr̥ttaḥ*, *snātaka*, knowledge etc. found in Amarakoṣa and Kṣīrasvāmin's explanations on them. The author tries to explore how the commentary helps the reader in opening the vocabulary of Sanskrit language and also how it has been able to through much new light, wherever Amarakoṣa is too brief or without explanation or ambiguous. The study also reveals Kṣīrasvāmin's knowledge in a vast range of literature revealed from his citation of literary works. In the concluding chapter the author while making evaluation of the subject that Kṣīrasvāmin is justified in criticizing or identifying the mistakes of his predecessors, either the lexicographers or commentators and Amarakoṣa as well. The study is successful in bringing to light a glimpse of socio-cultural status in India between 6<sup>th</sup> century AD and 11<sup>th</sup> century AD.

-- Manashi Sharma