

In forward communities, ava:, avaṅka, ma:mi and a:ttukka:ri are used. ma:mi is a term used to refer to the wives in the Brahmin community.

The term ava: is also used to refer to the wives honorifically. a:ttukka:ri is a term which is usually used to refer to the wives while introducing to the other persons. avaṅka is yet another form used to refer to the wife in formal situations.

In the backward communities, vi:ttukka:ri, camca:ram, vi:ttle, ava and name are used to refer to the wives. camca:ram and vi:ttukka:ri are the forms used to introduce the wife to others. The high income group, college educated informants refer to their wives by their names. The land lords always refer to their wives by using the word kavunṭacci, the feminine form of kavunṭar, the caste name. A term pannakka:ricci 'land lady' is also used to refer to the wives of land lords. vi:ttle means literally 'in the house' and it refers to one's wife. ava 'she - non-honorific' and vi:ttle are used in lower income communities to refer to the wives.