

Ezhuthani

Narayam or ezhuthani (Malayalam: എഴുത്താണി) is a writing instrument (stylus) used since antiquity in South India, Sri Lanka and other proximate regions of Asia.

Although similar to the modern day pen in shape and use, instead of using a colored ink, it scribes on the surface (normally a pre-treated palm leaf) creating fine scratches in the form of letters and shapes. In essence, the *narayam* is a long piece of iron with a sharpened or pointed end and fabricated to ergonomically fit into the writer's fist.

Narayam was the primary tool to scribe on palm-leaf manuscripts called *thaliyola*, the pre-treated leaf of an Asian palmyra palm. Until the introduction of paper, the palm leaves remained as the primary medium for creating, circulating and preserving written articles in the region.