



## PROFILE OF THE STUDY VILLAGES

VALLIEM AND VIVAYOGI OVER

## CHAPTER II

### PROFILE OF THE STUDY VILLAGES

All the study villages belong to the Reddiarchatram Panchayat Union of Anna District, Tamilnadu. Among the six study villages, Anumantharayankottai, Kondamanickanpatti and Puliyarajakapatti are the service villages of Gandhigram Rural Institute. They have been brought under Experimental Group. The rest of the other three villages namely Palakanuthu, Palaniyur and Ramagoundapatti were brought under Controlled group. The study villages have traditional and political leaders of middle and above middle age group. Primary or Middle school, link-roads, drinking water, providing Noon meal to the school children, electrification of the village streets and most of the houses are the common features of all the study villages. Noon meal centre for the pre-school age children is not available in Puliyarajakapatti. All the study villages are equally not up to the mark in sanitation. Utilising the open grounds and both sides of the road at the entrance of the villages as open air latrine, is quite common in all the study villages. Agriculture is the major occupation of all the villages. Around 50 percent of the agriculture landless labourers have

only seasonal employment. Generally major disputes and quarrels are settled through court of law except in the case of the Experimental group village Kondamanickenpatti and the Controlled group village Palaniyur. The data presented in this chapter would refer to the position in the year 1985. This is considered as the baseline data for this study.

#### ANUMANTHARAYANKOTTAI

##### Population-Caste Groups - Leadership

Anumantharayankottai panchayat consists of six villages. The population of the main village Anumantharayankottai is 2,250. Among them 1128 are male and 1122 are female. There are six caste groups including the scheduled caste families. They are Christian, Vanniar, Hindu Vanniar, Kulachatriyan, Hindu Nadar, Christian Nadar and two sub castes of the scheduled caste families. Though there are panchayat president and members, the traditional leaders, are given importance in the village community. 'Maniam' and 'Nattanmai' are the hereditary leaders or headmen of the village community. The traditional leaders have played a major role in deciding the socio-political activities of the village. The Church Priest has also been consulted by the

leaders before deciding the socio-political issues. Thus the traditional leaders established their grip over the village community despite the presence of elected panchayat presidents and members.

### Institutions and organisations

The village has got the following institutions:

- a) Noon meal centre for pre school children
- b) Middle school
- c) Cooperative Milk Society
- d) Branch of the Canara Bank
- e) An adult education centre

The school is being run by the R,C.Church. The Noon-meal and Adult Education Centres are being run by the Reddiarchatram panchayat union. The milk producers cooperative society has been formed by the people themselves to raise their income. Canara Bank started its branch at Anumantharayan-kottai to cater the needs of the people of the surrounding villages. A sub-health centre and a reading room-cum-library are being maintained with the help of the church. A Youth Club, a Women's Club and the Village Planning Committee are functioning in this village.

## Educational attainment

82.69 per cent of the school age children of this village have been enrolled in the school. Among those who have passed higher secondary examination 27.74 per cent have gone for higher studies. In the age group of 15-35, 41.81 per cent of them are literates.

## Agriculture

Paddy, groundnut, sugarcane, cotton, onion, oilseeds and different kinds of flowers are the major crops of this village. There is a percolation tank which helps to maintain the water level of more than fifty wells of the garden lands of this village.

Among the 199 farm families only five families adopted improved method of cultivation. 10.05 per cent of the farm families received assistance from the government to improve their agriculture.

## Agricultural labourers

Among the 255 agriculture labour families only ten families received bank loans under Integrated Rural Develop-

ment Programme to improve their economic conditions. 58.43 per cent of them got regular employment. No member of the above said families was engaged in any one of the village industries.

#### Health and sanitation

There is a mini-health centre to cater the needs of the people. It is being maintained by the Church. 20 per cent of the eligible couples have adopted family planning. Only five houses have individual latrines.

#### Social welfare programmes organised by the Panchayat Union

Except implementation of the Noon meal programme no other welfare programme was organised. The women welfare officer of the panchayat union organised a women's club. But it has become defunct.

#### Housing

Except a few terraced all other houses are tiled and sufficiently well constructed. The houses comprise two rooms and a veranda. A few new concrete terraced houses are coming up. The scheduled caste families are not having proper houses.

The village has been linked with the main road. There is regular town bus service through this village to Dindigul town. There is a post office.

Anumantharayankottai village has traditional leadership. The Christian Vanniyar group is the major caste group of this village. The Church is taking initiative in implementing some of the development programmes. Paddy, oil seeds and some of the major commercial crops are being cultivated.

#### KONDAMANAIKENPATTI

Kondamanaickenpatti is one of the hamlets of Silvarpatti village panchayat. The elders of this village say that Kondamanaickenpatti was built and named after Kondamanaicker, one of the assistants of Gopal Naicker who ruled Dindigul hundreds of years ago. There is no historical evidence to this statement.

#### Population - Caste Groups - Leadership

Population of the village is 377; male 187 and female 190. Five caste groups are living in this village. They

are Kallar, Naidu, Blacksmith, Chettiar and Washerman. This village has leaders in all caste groups.

#### Institutions and organisations

This small village has a middle school which helps the boys and girls of Kondamaniackenpatti and the surrounding villages to study upto 8th standard. This school is run by the department of Kallar Reclamation Scheme of the State. The Kallar caste groups were considered most backward in education and other aspects and were given special attention during the British period. A Balwadi for the pre school age children and an adult education centre are being run by the Gandhigram Rural Institute. A common workshed for the blacksmiths and a community threshing floor were constructed by the Gandhigram Rural Institute. The village planning committee, the youth club and women's club are functioning in this village.

#### Educational attainment

64.91 per cent of the school age children of this village have been enrolled in the school. Among those who have passed higher secondary examination 33.33 per cent have



gone for higher studies. 56.96 per cent of those who were in the age group of 15-35 were literates.

#### Welfare programmes

Except running of the Balwadi by the Gandhigram Rural Institute no other welfare programmes were being implemented in this village for the welfare of the women and children.

#### Housing

There are two terraced concrete houses, other houses are also sufficiently strong having tiled roofing. Almost all the houses are having not less than three rooms.

#### Link Road and other communication facilities

This village is very near to the main road which leads to Dindigul. 'once in two hours town buses are plying through this village to Dindigul and other villages. Post office has been located in the nearby village. The village is connected with the Dindigul Main Road and other surrounding villages through link roads.

The major caste groups Kallar and Naidu are living together without conflicts and confrontations in the village.

#### PULIYARAJAKKAPATTI

Puliyarajakkapatti belongs to the Kuttathupatti panchayat of Reddiarchatram union. The elders of this village say that the ancestors of 'Kshatria Rajas' and 'Thevars' built their houses 250 years ago and started living here.

#### Population, Caste Groups and Leadership

The population of this hamlet is 1103, male 579 and female 524. There are four major caste groups. They are Thevars, Vaduka Naidus, Kshatriya Rajas and scheduled caste. Among the scheduled castes there are two groups. Most of the youngmen of the families of the Kshatriya Rajas have gone to other places and settled there to run their trades.

#### Institutions and organisations

This village has a primary school run by a private management. An adult education centre was being run by the Gandhigram Rural Institute. The Village Planning Committee,

the Youth club and the Women's club were functioning in this village.

### Educational attainment

53.67 per cent of the school-age children of this village have been enrolled in the school. Among those who have passed in the higher secondary examination, no one had gone for higher study. 36.67 per cent of those who were in the age group of 15-35 were literates.

### Agriculture

Groundnut, zovar and oilseeds are cultivated as dry land and well irrigated garden land crops. Majority of the farm families are engaged in dry farming. Most of the irrigation wells do not have sufficient water for irrigation. The irrigation tank of this village has not been properly desilted and maintained. Among the 98 farm families only two had adopted improved methods of cultivation. 11.22 per cent of the farm families have received assistance from the government to improve their agriculture.

### Agricultural labourers

Among the 79 agricultural labour families only five have received loans under Integrated Rural Development programme to improve their economic conditions. 49.09 per cent of them got regular work.

### Health and sanitation

There is no regular medical service to the villagers. Most of them go to Dindigul Government Hospital for treatment. Among the eligible couples 12.70 per cent of them have adopted family planning. No house has individual toilet.

### Social welfare programme

Though this village is a bigger one compared to a few nearby villages there is no Noon Meal Centre for the pre-school children. Other social welfare programmes were also not implemented.

### Housing

There are more than 40 scheduled caste families in this village. They do not have proper houses. Many of the

families do not have house-sites to construct new houses. A few families of agricultural labourers also do not have proper houses.

#### Link Road and communication facilities

There is a link road to reach the National Highway. There is no town bus service to this village. People have to walk more than one kilometre to get the bus.

There are two borewells for the supply of drinking water.

#### PALAKAEUTHU

This controlled group village Palakanuthu is the main village of the Palakkanuthu panchayat. But populationwise this is not a big village. Though agriculture is the main occupation twenty families are engaged in purchasing and selling agricultural produces in large scale. About 50 per cent of the farm families are landless labourers. There is a private textile mill near this village on the one side of the Dindigul - Palani Road. Only three persons of this village are employed in this mill.

### Population - Caste groups - Leadership

The population of this village is 1,440 - male 580 and female 460. There are three major caste groups. They are Pillai, Chettiar and Scheduled caste. Among the scheduled caste there are two groups. Five families of other caste groups have come from the other parts of the Anna District and purchased garden lands and settled in their farm houses. Usually they don't mingle with the families which have been there for several decades.

### Institutions and organisations

There is a primary school which is being run by the Tamilnadu Evangelical Lutheran Church. The school was started in 1939. In the beginning classes were conducted in a private building in the village. Later the Church purchased land near the main road (Dindigul-Palami Road) and constructed building for the school. A noon meal centre is being run for pre-school children of this village by the Reddiarchatram panchayat union. A Sub-Health Centre is being run by the health department. Free medical care is given to the children and women particularly to the pregnant women by the health assistants and the doctors who visit the

sub-centre periodically. There is a Cooperative Credit Society. A Women's club which was functioning earlier has become defunct. Bharathi Village Welfare Association which was functioning earlier has also become defunct.

#### Educational attainment

87.18 per cent of the school age children have been enrolled in the school. Among those who have passed the higher secondary 16.67 per cent have gone for higher studies. Among those who are in the age group of 15-35, 51.54 per cent are literates.

#### Agriculture

Cotton, Tobacco, Zovar, Chillies and vegetables are cultivated. Most of the wells have not sufficient water for irrigation. The farmers depend upon dryland farming. There is no percolation tank to rise the water level of the irrigation wells. Among the 71 farm families only four have adopted improved method of cultivation. 9.86 per cent of the farm families have received assistance from the government to improve their agriculture.

### Agricultural labourers

Among the families of the agricultural labourers only four received loans under Integrated Rural Development Programme to improve their economic condition. 49.09 per cent of them got regular work.

### Health and sanitation

There is a regular medical service through the sub-centre. Those who are well-off have gone to the private hospitals in Dindigul for treatment. Among the eligible couples 25.53 per cent of them have adopted family planning. Only two houses have individual toilets.

### Social welfare programmes

Except the noon meal and health service programmes no other welfare programmes have been implemented for women and child welfare.

### Housing

The Tamil Nadu Evangelical Church had purchased lands and given to 27 scheduled caste families to construct



houses. The families had constructed houses on their own. The houses of the other caste groups are strong buildings with tiled roofs.

#### Link Road and Communication Facilities

This village is at a walkable distance from the main road. Town buses stop at the entrance of the village. There is a post-office in this village

There is no leadership in Palakkanathu to take initiative to implement development programmes. The Tamil Nadu Evangelical Luthren'Church has done some work in the field of education and the upliftment of scheduled caste families.

#### PALANIYUR

The controlled group village Palaniyur is a hamlet of Dharmathupatti panchayat of Reddiarchatram union. The elders of this village help to settle disputes and quarrels between groups and individuals within the village itself. By and large people do not go to the court of law or police station for settling their disputes or quarrels.

### Population, Caste Groups and Leadership

This village consists of 100 households including the farm houses around the village having the population of 540. Male 282, female 258. The Udayar community has been playing a dominant role in implementing village welfare activities before 1985. There are three caste groups in this village. They are Udayars, Chettiar and Gounder.

The traditional leadership of this village, mainly the leaders of Udaiyar community was responsible for implementing a few development programmes in the past. Even now they help to settle disputes. A few teachers who are working in the schools of the near by villages are also helping the leadership of this village in settling disputes between groups and individuals.

### Institutions and organisations

This village has a primary school named after Mahatma Gandhi. The name "Gandhiji Elementary School" was suggested by the villagers and accepted by the panchayat union and the government departments. There are two cooperatives which were started before 1985. One is Potters' Cooperative Society and the other is Milk Producers' Cooperative Socie-

ty. The Potter's Cooperative Society was organised with the help of the State Khadi Village Industries Board. About 12 poor families earn their livelihood through pottery by way of working in a common workshed. About 30 families, small farmers and landless labourers get an additional income through the Milk Producers' Cooperative Society.

#### Educational attainment

51.06 per cent of the school age children are enrolled in the village school. 14.29 per cent of those who have passed +2 have gone for higher studies. 44.21 per cent of those who are in the age group of 15-35 are literates.

#### Agriculture

The main occupation of the village community is agriculture. Paddy, sugarcane, cotton, zovar and other millets and pulses are cultivated in the well irrigated and dry lands. Among the 41 farm families only three have adopted improved methods of cultivation. 4.92 per cent of the farm families have received assistance from the government to improve their agriculture.

### Agriculture labourers

Among the 42 agricultural labour families four families have received loans under Integrated Rural Development programmes. 28.57 per cent of them are employed in village industries. 47.02 per cent of them get regular work.

### Health and sanitation

People go to Dharmathupatti or Dindigul to get medical aid. 37.50 per cent of the eligible couples have adopted family planning. 3.70 of the houses have individual latrines. Welfare programmes connected with child and women welfare have been implemented in the village.

### Housing

All the houses except those of the scheduled caste families have sufficiently strong buildings. Most of the houses of the agricultural labourers are having two rooms with tiled roofs. A few new buildings are coming up.

### Link road and other facilities

There is no proper link road to reach Dharmathupatti and other villages. From Dharmathupatti town buses are

plying to Dindigul and other places. There is a post office at Dharmathupatti which is very near (walkable distance) to Palaniyur.

#### RAMAGOUNDANPATTI

Ramagoundanpatti belongs to Gurnathanaickenur panchayat of the Reddiarchatram union. The elders of this village say that their ancestors 'Kalaiman Gounders' came from Manaparai area of the Trichy district of Tamilnadu and settled down in Ramagoundanpatti 300 years ago.

#### Population, Caste groups and Leadership

This hamlets consists of 71 houses having the population of 411 - Male 210 and female 201. Malaiman gounder and Kallars are the two major caste groups. Each caste group has its own traditional leadership.

#### Institutions and Organizations

There is a primary school which provide noon meal to the school children. There is no other institutions or organizations functioning in the village. Some of the

villagers are members of the Pudukkottai Co-operative Credit Society.

### Educational Attainment

Only 35 per cent of the school age children have enrolled in the primary school. No one has passed the +2 and gone for higher studies in the recent past. But several years before two individuals had completed their graduation and later on one started practising law and the other became a graduate teacher. In the age group of 15-35, only 31.88 per cent are literates.

### Agriculture

Among the 48 farm families, 3 have received bank loan for deepening their irrigation wells. Among the farm families only one had adopted the improved method of cultivation. Zovar, Groundnut and Kambu are mainly cultivated in this village. The percolation tank is not properly desilted and maintained. In many irrigated wells there is no water for irrigation.

### Agricultural Labourers

15.75 per cent of the agricultural labourers have received loans under Integrated Rural Development Programme. 47.37 per cent of them get regular work.

### Health and sanitation

Generally the villagers go to Reddiarchatram for medical treatment and for the serious ailment they go to the government hospital, Dindigul. 25 per cent of the eligible couples adopted family planning. No house has an individual latrine in this village. No social welfare programme is being implemented in the village except the Noon meal programme.

### Housing

Most of the houses except a few are in good condition. They have two rooms, one small veranda to sit with tiled roofs.

This village is situated on one side of the road which leads to Reddiarchatram and other villages. Once in two hours town buses are plying through the village to Dindigul and other places.

Ramagoundanpatti is a small village. The faction groups are working against one another. A Handful of young and middle aged educated men have left the village and settled in Dindigul and Madurai.