CHAPTER III

STUDY AREA - A PROFILE

III. 1. A PROFILE OF NAGAPATTINAM DISTRICT

III.1.1. Introduction

District of Nagapattinam has been carved out as a separate district due to bifurcation of Thanjavur district. According to this division, six taluks namely Sirkazhi, Tharangampadi, Mayiladuthurai, Valangaiman, Nagapattinam and Vedaranniyam were detached from their parent district i.e. Thanjavur to form this new district. The earlier history of this district is more or less the same as of its parent district i.e. Thanjavur being its part till recently. Tamil and Telugu are the main languages spoken in the district. Important fairs and festivals celebrated/organised in the district are Navarathri, Adi Pooram, Avani Moolam, Karthigai, Skandha Sashti, Thula Uthsavam, Vaikashi Brahmothsavam, Valli Kalyanam, Thirukkarthigai, Ahyayana Uthsavam, Chithirai and the floating festival, Mahasivaratri, Panguni Uthiram, 18 days theerthavari festival, Wedding of the Lord and His consort on the Sukla Sapthami day, Karthigai Deepam, Dhanur pooja (Thiruvathirai), Poosam and Pongal.

III.1.2 GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

Geographical Location of the District

The Nagapattinam district lies on the east coast to the south of Cuddalore district and another part of the Nagapattinam district lies to the south of Karaikkal and Tiruvarur districts. Its northern boundary is about 75
Km southwards from the Head Quarters of the Cuddalore district. Thanjavur
district and Tiruvarur district flank it on the west and on the south and east it is
bordered by the Bay of Bengal. The district lies between 10.25°N and
11.40°N North Longitude and 76°49' and 80.01°E East longitude. The
general geological formation of the district is plain and coastal. The Cauvery
and its offshoots are the principal rivers. Rising in the Coorg Mountains, this
river bifurcates about nine miles at the west of Trichy into two branches, of
which the northern one takes the name of Coleroen and the southern one
retains that of the Cauvery. All along the course of Cauvery and its dis-
tributaries, on both the banks numerous narrow strips of river
Map III. 1.1. Tamil Nadu
Chart III.1. Educational System In Tamil Nadu

Source: Tamil Nadu An Economics Appraisal, 2002 - 2003
Map III.1.2. Taluks of Nagapattinam District
Chart III.2. Organization Of Secretariat – School Education

Source: Tamil Nadu An Economics Appraisal, 2002 - 2003
Map III.1.3. Blocks of Nagapattinam District
porombokes lands called Paduagais that are cut up by countless patta lands. These strips ranging in width from about 3 metres to 100 meters are made up of bits of lands. Even though the Padugais and Poromboke lands are very dry they are very fertile. Flood banks of Cauvery and its dis-tributaries are away from the watercourses in the upper reaches where the river is wide and closer in the lower reaches and the river become narrow gradually. The marine land or coastal land has plain lands except for few sand dunes. However there is a general tilt from coastal line to inland area. The Vederanyam salt swamp, which is the largest swamp in Tamilnadu, runs along the coast from Point Calimere westwards to Muthupet. Consequently extensive lagoons have been formed in these areas. The terrain is an open plain, sloping towards the east and devoid of any hills. In south and Southwest of Thanjavur the country rises and forms a small plateau known as Vallam table land, broken by small ridges of grits and sandstone’s. Most of the rivers flow to the east into the Bay of Bengal. The most important feature of the district is the Cauvery River spread over with its numerous branches.

There are no less than eleven ports on the coast Nagapattinam district, of which eight are open to foreign trades. The coastline has a number of harbours of which mention may be made of Nagore, Point Calimere, Nagapattinam. The significant small ports are Kilvellore, Thirumulaivasalam, Nagapattinam, Velankanni, Topputturai, Mututupet and Adiramapatnam. The Nagapattinam district is made up the 6 Taluks of Nagapattinam, Kilvellore, Vedaranniyam, Mayiladuthurai, Sirkali and Thrangampadi. The East Side faces the Bay of Bengal. The district is the most part of a flat plain, slopping very gently to the sea on the east. The total geographical area of the district is
about 3536.38 Sq.km. The details of the name of the taluks with area in Sq.km. are given in the following table.

Table III.1. Taluks of District Nagapattinam

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No.</th>
<th>Name of the Taluks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Nagapattinam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Kilvellore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Vedaranniyam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Mayiladuthurai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Sirkazhi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Tharangampadi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Thirukuvalai</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: District Collectorate, Nagapatinam

Vedaranniyam salt swamp forms another great natural division. It runs along the coast from Point Calimere for about 48 kms. and is about 7 to 8 km. wide. This is the longest swamp of its kind in the state. It is filled by two periodical high tides during the full moon of months, May and June and retains sea water to a depth of two feet over a considerable area enclosed by low earthen banks, which when closed prevent the water from flowing back into the sea after the tide recedes. It is in this manner the well-known Vedaranniyam spontaneous salt is produced.
Administrative Arrangement in the District

Community Development Blocks in the district are: Sirkazhi, Kollidam, Sembanarkoil, Kuttalam, Mayiladuthurai, Thirumarugal, Nagapattinam, Kilvelur, Talanayar, and Vedaranniyam.

Table III.2 District Administrations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Name of the block</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Sirkazhi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Kollidam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Sembanarkoil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Kuttalam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Mayiladuthurai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Thirumarugal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Nagapattinam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Kilvelur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Talanayar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Thirukkuvalai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Vedaranniyam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: District Collectorate, Nagapatinam
The Nagapattinam district comprises 6 Taluks, 11 Blocks and 497 Villages. As regards the hierarchy of administrative arrangement, there are 3 Municipalities, 10 Town Panchayats and 433 Village Panchayats in the district. The details regarding the number of blocks, villages, village panchayats, town panchayats and municipalities.

**Meteorological Information**

a) **Temperature**: The average maximum temperature for the district (from 1991 to 2001) as a whole is about 32.46°C and the average minimum temperature is 24.75°C.

b) **Wind**: Dust Storms, whirl winds and dusty winds blow from various quarters towards the end of May. The Southwest winds sets in during April, it is the strongest in June and continues till September. Northeast monsoon starts during the month of October and blow till January. Cyclonic storm with varying wind velocity affects once in 3 or 4 years during the month of November-December. Both these storms affect the plantation crop. During Southwest monsoon the air is calm and undisturbed.

c) **Rainfall**: The Northeast monsoon, which starts in October and ends in December, contributes about 60% of the total annual rainfall. The Southwest monsoon rains from June to September and from March to May accounts equally for the rest of the annual rainfall. The monthly average rainfall in the district was 108.87 mm in 1991-2001.
d) **Cyclone:** Cyclonic storm brings havoc normally once in 3 or 4 years and heavy downpour during Northeast monsoon leads to flooding of the district and damages field crops and wealth of soil.

The average number of rainy days, mean maximum temperature, mean minimum temperature and mean relative humidity for the period 1991-96.

### III.1.3. Demographic Details

The Growth of population over the past four decades and the essential characteristics of the population in terms of birth rate, death rate, infant mortality rate and literacy levels are given below. The marginal farmers (cultivators) and agricultural labourers constitute a sizeable population of the labour force in the district.

### Population

The population of the Nagapattinam district has grown from 4,25,127 in 1951 to 14,88,839 in 2001. The growth rate indicates that there has been a significant increase during the 1951-61 decade with the average growth rate being 3.48% per annum during this decade. The growth rate has however stabilised over the past three decades at about 1.65-% per annum. According to the 2001 census, Mayiladuthurai taluk is the highly populated and Kilvellore taluk is the least populated in the district. There was a reduction of population of Nagapattinam taluk between 1971 and 1981 comprising bifurcated Tiruvarur taluk. There were also reductions of Sirkali taluks comprising bifurcated Thangambadi taluk in 1991.
Trend in Birth/Death Rate and Infant Mortality Rate

There has been a steady decline in birth rate, death rate and infant mortality rate over the past four decades in the district. The birth rate has come down from 39.50 in 1951 to 22.25 in 2001 (figures - per thousand) and the death rate from 21.0 in 1951 to 7.95 in 2001 (figures - per thousand). The infant mortality rate has also gone down from 92.50 in 1951 to 47.430 in 2001 (figures - per thousand). The details of birth rate, death rate and Infant mortality rate over the past four decades are given in graph.

Literacy Level among the Population

The literacy level of the Nagapattinam district according to figures available for the year 1996 is 59.87% with male literacy level being more than the female literacy level. It is also observed that while the male literacy level
has grown gradually from 62.70% in 1981 to 65.89% in 1996, there has been a steady increase of female literacy level from 37.92% in 1981 to 49.03% in 1996.

The information on literacy level among the population of the district is given in graph.

**Figure III.2. Literate Population of Nagapattinam District**

**Education**

The table given below provides information on types of education institutions available in the towns of this district. It also indicates the number of stadium and public libraries available therein:
### Table III. 3. Educational Arrangement of the District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the Towns</th>
<th>Education Institutions</th>
<th>Stadium</th>
<th>PL / RR +</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kuttlam</td>
<td>Higher Secondary/Intermediate School (1), Secondary/Matriculation School (1), Junior Secondary and Middle Schools (3), Primary Schools (3).</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>PL : 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arts and Science College (1) Higher Secondary/Intermediate Schools (5), Secondary/ Matriculation Schools (6), Junior Secondary and Middle Schools (10), Primary Schools (25)</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>RR : 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mayilathurai</td>
<td>Junior Secondary and Middle School (1), Primary Schools (2)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>PL : 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Arts, Science and Commerce College (1), Politechnics (1), Higher Secondary/Intermediate Schools (4), Secondary/ Matriculation Schools (7), Junior Secondary and Middle Schools (12), Primary Schools (26)</td>
<td>RR : 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nagapattinam U.A.</td>
<td>Higher Secondary Schools (3), Secondary/Matriculation Schools (3), Junior Secondary and Middle Schools (4), Primary Schools (14).</td>
<td>PL : 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1) Akkaraipettai</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2) Andanappettai</td>
<td>Primary School (1) Arts, Science and Commerce College (1), Politechnics (1), Higher Secondary/Intermediate Schools (4), Secondary/ Matriculation Schools (7), Junior Secondary and Middle Schools (12), Primary Schools (26)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>PL : 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3) Nagapattinam</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>RR : 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sirkazhi</td>
<td>Higher Secondary/Intermediate Schools (1), Junior Secondary and Middle Schools (2), Primary Schools (4)</td>
<td>PL : 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tirumullaivaral</td>
<td>Higher Secondary/Intermediate Schools (1), Secondary/ Matriculation Schools (1), Junior Secondary and Middle Schools (2)</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>PL : 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaitheeswarankoil</td>
<td>Higher Secondary/Intermediate Schools (2), Secondary/ Matriculation Schools (2), Junior Secondary and Middle Schools (5), Primary Schools (12)</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>PL : 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vedaranniyam</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PL / RR + - Public Library / Reading Rooms

Source: District Collectorate, Nagapattinam
III. 1.4. LAND RESOURCES

Resources of the district, their availability, use and environmental status are discussed in the following chapters. In Nagapattinam district, Narimanam village is the place where Petroleum products are available. In respect of other places, especially in riverbed region, petroleum products are available.

Agriculture and Horticulture

Land Utilisation

The total geographical area of the district was 3536.38 Sq.km. in 1995-96. Cropped area accounts for about 65.53% of the total area. Forest cover is very minimum accounting for only about 1.31% of the land. The non-available for cultivation land covering Barren and Uncultivable land, and land
put into non-agricultural uses, accounts for 22.83%. The other uncultivated lands including (a) permanent pastures and other gazing lands, (b) miscellaneous tree crops and groves not in the net area shown and (c) cultivable waste land, cover 5.35%. However, figure on forest land seems to be at variance with the reported extent of forest area by the forest department. The land utilisation pattern in the Nagapattinam district (Block-wise) is given in graph.

**Figure III.3. Land Utilisation At Nagapattinam District**

This coastal district abounds in green paddy fields, tall coconut groves, vast gardens of mango and plantain tree and other verdant vegetations. Paddy is the main crop of this district and it is grown three times in a year. The first crop is known as `Kuruvai' (the short-term crop) with duration of three and a half to four months from June-July to October-November. The second crop called the `Thaladi' has duration of five to six months from October-November to February-March. Third is the 'Samba' (the long-term) crop and has duration of almost six months from August to January. Other cereal crops of the district are cumbu, ragi, maize, korra and varagu. The pulses grown in the district are redgram, greengram and blackgram. Other food crops are
condiments and species, sugar crops, fruits and vegetables. Among the non-food crops, cotton/fibre, edible oils crops (groundnuts, coconut and gingelly) non-edible oils crops (castor, miger seeds, though in very small area) are the important ones.

**Trend in Production and Productivity of Important Crops**

Cereals, pulses and oil seeds are the three important crops produced in the district. The production of cereals, pulses and oil seeds fluctuate for the past five years (1991-96). The areas under production for cereals, pulses and oil seeds, also fluctuate for the past five years. The reason for the fluctuation could be using rotation of crops seasonally. The details on the productivity performance of the district in relation to Cereals, Pulses and Oil Seeds for the past 5 years.

**Soil Types**

Sandy Coastal Alluvium and Black Soil types cover 88.71% and 6.58% respectively in this district. The other Soils in the district comprise 4.71%.

**Status of Soil and Water Conservation Programmes**

Information on construction of new wells and construction of check dams/stop dams are indicates to be Nil in the district.

**Forest Resources**

Forest types: The forests of this division can be divided into two regions from the topography, and flora point of view. They are 1) The Alluvial Regions or Riverine Land areas. These areas lie on the banks of river and canal in the form of narrow strips. Teak plantations mostly cover these
areas, wherever the soil is unsuitable for teak, Sisso, Arjun and Eucalyptus have been planted in such areas. Although the soil is light and porous with high water table, the forest areas under these zones are subjected to tremendous biotic pressure and at present their poor floristic composition consist of limited number of herb and thorn species. The present situations do not bring them in any category of Forest type as per Classification of forests made by Champion and Seth.

**The Coastal regions:** This zone contains the Casurina plantations, the mangroves and the scrub jungle with the exception of a portion of Point Calimere sanctuary where about 23 sq.km. of tropical dry evergreen forests are existing. Major portion of the land 65.55% is used for cultivation of paddy for three times in a year but the forest cover has lesser percentage (1.31%).

**Forest Area**

There are 41 forest areas in the Nagapattinam district constituting a total area of 5311.70 hectares. 35 forest areas fall under the Reserve Forest category with 5037.21 hectares and 6 under reserve land category with 274.49 hectares.

**Animal Husbandry**

Animal husbandry is an allied activity of agriculture in this district as well but it could not keep pace with the developmental work undertaken in the field of modern agricultural techniques. Therefore, the cultivators still depend on cattle imported from other neighbouring districts. The livestock found in this district are generally cattle and buffaloes, sheep, goats, pigs apart from poultry birds, which include fowls and ducks. The district have several
artificial Insemination centres, and sub-centres, key village blocks, veterinary hospitals and dispensaries which render valuable services for the development of livestock in the district.

**Mineral Resources:**

Lignite: Lignite seams have been encountered between 320 to 370 metre depth during the course of drilling by the **Oil & Natural Gas Commission (ONGC)** in Tirumangalam area near Mayilathururai. The fixed carbon ranges from 26.12% to 37.50%, which is higher than the lignite of Neyveli. The similar occurrences have also been reported from Vanadirajapuram, Chittakadu, Pandanallur and Kattumannarkoil areas.

Illemenite Sands: Illemenite garnet sands were located between Mimisal and Adiramapattinam, Tranquebar, Tirumullaivasal and at the mouth of Coleroon river. In Tranquebar probable reserves of illemenite and garnet are estimated at 90,400 tonnes and 4,900 tonnes respectively. An occurrence of Illmenite rich beach sands is reported in east of Kodiampalayam. It extends over a distance of 2 kilometres with an average width of 50 metres.

Kankar: Kankar and tuffaceous limestone occurs under red soil/laterite ranging in thickness from 0.3 to 1 metre, and Kankar layers are noticed in stream sections. The important occurrences are seen on the Grand Anicut canal cutting between Kuruvadipatti and Podur also in neighbourhood Thirumalasamudram. The thickness of Kankar in Thirumalasamudram area ranges from 2 to 2.5 metres and the total reserves are about 0.5 million tonnes. The Kankar is of good quality, with Cao ranging from 48.43 to 52.72% and low in magnesia and silica contents.
Salt: Salt pans are located at Adirampattinam and Vedaranyam.

ONGC: The ONGC of India is intensively exploring to augment the underground oil and natural gas resources of the Cauvery delta and not it is estimated to have vast potential. Many wells are being opened and started yielding oils and gas.

III.1.5. WATER RESOURCES

Rivers, Canals and Waterways

The district is situated in the deltaic region of the famous river Cauvery and criss-crossed by lengthy network of irrigation canals. Kolli dam River forms the northern boundary of the district, whereas Arasalar, Tirumalairajanar, Vettar and Vennar rivers drained the other parts of it. These all rivers are tributaries and branches of the river Cauvery.

River basins and their Catchment Areas

Catchment Area of River Basin

Vettar, Odambogiar, Kaduvaiyar, Pandavaiyar and Vellaiyar are the five minor basins of river basins in the district. Place of origins, total and within the district length and area of the basin in areas.

Basin-wise Status of the Ground Water Availability

Basin-wise status of the ground water availability for the Cauvery basin is made available only for composite Nagapattinam district comprising bifurcated Tiruvarur district.
Details of Dams & Reservoirs

Information was not available for dams and reservoirs in the district.

Irrigation by Different Sources

Nearly canals serve 80 percent of the total net area irrigated and only the river Cauvery feeds these canals. The Cauvery Delta system is the most ancient of all irrigation schemes in the undivided Thanjavur. This comprises mainly of three important projects. They are the famous Grand Anicut, the Upper Anicut and the Cauvery Vennar Regulator Project.

Fisheries Production

The Nagapattinam district has a coastal line of 165 kms. The Inland Fresh Water area spreads for about 1,000 (10 Sq. Km.) hectares. Marine fishing is practised in 60 coastal villages of the district.

Fishery: Since the district is a coastal region, marine fishing assumes importance. The marine fish catch mainly comprises of leognathics, sharks, flying fish, chank, catfish, prawns, silver bellies, crabs, rays and other miscellaneous varieties.

Mechanised boats; catamarans and country canoes are all used for fishing. A fish-landing jetty has been constructed at Kodikarai, which caters to the needs of marine fishermen and is the only workshop in this coastal area. A comparison indicates that the Coastal Fish Production is higher than the Inland Fish Production.
III.1.6. TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT

Protected and Conserved Monuments

Dutch Fort and Dutch Tombs are the protected monument maintained by the State Archaeology Department in the district.

Places of Tourist Attraction

Poompuhar (Sirkazhi block), Tharangampadi (Sembanarkoil block), Velankanni (Velankanni block), Nagore (Nagapattinam block) and Point Calimere (Vedaranniyam block) are the main tourist spots in the district. The first 4 tourist spots are visited throughout the year and the last tourist spot is visited from August to March. The foreign tourist arrivals have fluctuations and domestic tourist arrivals have been steadily increasing except in the years 1992-93 and the tourist arrivals both domestic and foreign are estimated at 2,99,150 during 1996. These five tourist spots are also included in the tourist circuits identified by the Tourism Department.

Figure III.4  Tourist Arrivals In Nagapattinam District
III.1.7. INFRASTRUCTURE

Urbanisation

Urbanisation pattern

The proportion of urban population to total population has increased during the decade 1981-91 and is estimated at about 26.79% during the year 1996. The proportion of municipality population to the total population has decreased from 16.38% in 1981 to 16.23 in 1996. But the proportion of town panchayats population to the total population has increased steadily from 6.68% in 1981 to 10.56% in 1996. Among the urban areas, municipalities account for a greater share of urban population when compared to the other urban areas.

Density of Population

The overall density of the district has increased from 646 persons / sq.km. in 1981 to 770 persons / sq.km. in 1996. The density in urban and rural areas has increased from 2817 persons/sq.km. in 1981 to 3456 persons/sq.km. in 1996 and from 525 persons/sq.km. in 1981 to 600 persons/sq.km. in 1996 respectively.

Urban Services

The total quantum of water protected water supply system in the district account for 172.10 lakhs litres. The average Percapita water supply is around 53.33 LPCD for the district. The municipalities of Nagapattinam and Mayiladuthurai have the highest Percapita consumption of 55 LPCD and the Town Panchayats of Kuttalam, Vedaranniyam and Manalmedu also have the same Percapita consumption. In terms of population covered, the Municipality of Mayiladuthurai registers 84% at the maximum and the Town Panchayats
Kuttalam and Manalmedu register 100% while in the other areas it averages around 95%.

**Population below poverty line**

1,38,463 families are below poverty line in Nagapattinam district.

**Transportation**

**Development of Roads and Bridges**

The composite Nagapattinam district has State highways, major district roads and other district roads. There are no National Highways. The length of the roads in all the categories have increased in 1996 in the district. The same situation is observed in the case of major and minor bridges and culverts and hence the real progress made in the development of roads and bridges could be seen.

**Growth of Vehicle population**

There has been a significant increase of two, three and four wheeler vehicles in the district over the past 10 years. Increase of vehicles may increase air pollution emitted from them.

**III.1.8. Industrial Development and Environmental Status**

**Industries**

The district is deprived of any major industry but it is a flourishing centre of cottage industries and handicrafts alike. The district is equally well known for its pith articles consisting of beautiful models of Hindu idols, temples, mosques, flower garlands, bouquets, parrots and peacocks. The flower garlands and bouquets are much in demand during Christmas days. pith
is grown on the beds of tanks in the Sirkazhi, and Mayuram taluks. The making of musical instruments of jack wood like the veena, the tambura, the violin, the mridangam, the tabla and the kanjara exhibit excellent taste, knowledge and workmanship. The jack wood has special quality for producing musical sounds. Government has established an industrial training institute at Nagapattinam. This is to promote industrial development in the area. With a view to improve the condition of the weavers, the State Government like housing schemes has also initiated various welfare measures, introduction of group insurance etc.

**Number of Industries**

There are 490 industrial units situated in the composite Thanjavur district, of which, 4 sugar units, 1 petroleum refinery, 1 distillery, 1 thermal power plant are coming under highly polluting industry. M/s. ONGC have explored crude oil and natural gas in Nagapattinam District. The crude oil is made available for Madras refineries limited whereas natural gas is utilised as fuel in ten nos. of sodium silicate units. Also this gas is utilised as a fuel for one thermal power generation unit (2X5 MW) by TNEB in this area. One SIDCO Industrial Estate is located at Nagapattinam. The industrial units in these estates are non-polluting or less polluting in nature.

**Aqua Culture Activities**

An Extensive water sample analysis carried out in over half-a dozen villages of Sirkali taluk, in the aquaculture belt of Nagapattinam district by the Gandigram Rural University as reported in Indian Express dated October 9, 1994 has revealed a disturbing deterioration in the quality of the only source of potable water ground water
An independent study made by the Bhagawati Environment Development Institute recently has established that hardness, chloride and alkalinity levels of water collected at 17 different points in Srikali taluk of Nagapattinam District spread over the seven villages of Niethalvasal, Mehendrapalli, Keelaiyur, Pudukuppam, Eranjimedu, Thirunagari and Radhanallur are in excess of the prescribed tolerance limits for drinking water.

III. 2. A PROFILE OF THE MAYILADUTHURAI TALUK

III. 2.1. MAYILADUTHURAI TOWN

"Mayiladuthurai" or "Mayavaram" is a famous town in Nagapattinam district of Tamil Nadu state of India. The town is located in the historic Thanjavur area, on the banks of river Cauvery in east coast of India. The town is well-connected to other major towns in the region, such as Tiruchirappalli and Kumbakonam. It is a well known Railway junction in the mainline that connected Chennai and Tiruchirapalli initially. "Mayiladuthurai" (formerly "Mayuram" or "Mayavaram") is a city and a municipality in Nagapattinam district in the Indian States and territories of India state of Tamil Nadu. The town is located in the historic Thanjavur area on the banks of river Kaveri River Cauvery. Mayiladuthurai is a well known railway junction and the town is well-connected with other major towns in the region, such as Tiruchirappalli and Kumbakonam. Mayiladuthurai is a Lok Sabha constituency.
The central town has the majority of business establishments. Residential areas are mostly in the two suburbs called Korainaadu (koranad) and Thiru-Indaloor (Thirivizhandur). Legends say that due to a curse, Goddess Parvathi took birth as peacock in Mayuram and worshiped Lord Shiva in his form of Mayuranathar. Mayuram means peacock in Sanskrit and it was later translated as Mayiladuthurai in Tamil language. According to the book "Mayiladuthurai Mahaangal" (Saints of Mayiladuthurai), several saints lived and attained their final peace (samadhi) in and around Mayiladuthurai. Lot of siddhars also have lived here. Even today there is a village called Sidharkaadu in the western outskirts of Mayiladuthurai. Legends also tell that it was a part of Tharukavanam A new book called Mayiladuthurai Mahaangal gives a detailed account of 21 saints who lived in and around Mayiladuthurai over the centuries. This book was written by Sri La Sri Swamy Ongaranandha and is available in all leading book shops in and around Mayiladuthurai.

Mayiladuthurai is famous of its Gold Jewelry business and its Marriage-Halls. Nearly a hundred marriage-halls are there in the town and people from various places come here to conduct marriage ceremonies because of Mayiladuthurai's best-in-class (cheap & readily-available) people and services for marriage ceremonies. The central town has the majority of business establishments. Residential areas are mostly in the two suburbs called Korainaadu (Koranad) and Thiru-Indaloor (Thirivizhandur).
The town is noted for its contribution to Tamil literature and culture. "Ayiram Anaalum Mayuram Aagadhu" is an old saying. Maha Vidhwan Meenakshi Sundaram Pillai lived in Mayuram. U.V. Swaminathan Iyer, who redacted and published the first modern editions of much of Tamil Sangam literature, was a student of Meenakshi Sundaram Pillai. Mayuram Vedanayakam Pillai, who wrote "Prathaba Mudaliyar Charithiram", the first Tamil Novel was a Munsif here. Amarar Kalki Krishnamurthy studied in the Municipal high school, Mayuram. Renowned Carnatic musician Madurai Mani Iyer, Mayuram Rajam Iyer, Violin artist Mayuram Govindaraja Pillai (disciple of kumbakonam Rajamanikkam pillai ), Kundrauki Adigalar and Dr. M.S. Udayamurthy were citizens of Mayuram. Sri Gopalakrishna Bharathiyyar who wrote "Nandanar Carithiram" lived in Anandathandavapuram, 5 km from Mayuram. One of the institutions that was formed for the flourishing of Saivism|Saivam and Tamil, Dharmapuram Adhinam (Mutt) is in the eastern part of Mayuram.

Mayiladuthurai is also famous for its Shiva and Vishnu temples. The "Abhayabiga samedha Mayooranathar Swamy temple" (called as the Big-Temple) is the shiva temple on which a "Thevaram" song has been recited. "Parimala Ranganathar temple", the Vishnu temple in Thiru-Indalur suburb is one among the "108 Thivya Desams".

As of 2001 India census GR India, Mayiladuthurai had a population of 84,290. Males constitute 50% of the population and females 50%. Mayiladuthurai has an average literacy rate of 80%, higher than the national average of 59.5%: male literacy is 84%, and female literacy is 76%. In Mayiladuthurai, 9% of the population is under 6 years of age.
III. 2.2. A. PROFILE OF THE MAYILADUTHURAI BLOCK

Mayiladuthurai Block is one of the arrests Block in the Mayiladuthurai taluk. There are 54 village panchayat come under this Block. It is situated at the tail end of the river Cauvery. It is located at Northwest of Nagapattinam, West of Karaikal Southwest of Chidambaram and Cuddalore, East of Kumbakonam and North of Thiruvarur. The climate in this taluk is uniformly warm. It receives most of the rainfall from north-east Monsoon. The river Cauvery serves the vast irrigation network and drinking water. This block is well connected infrastructure facilities and having number of educational institution. As per the 2001 census the total population of this Block is 1,34,000.

Agriculture is the main economic activity for over 60 per cent of the workforce of the Mayiladuthurai Block. The need for agriculture sector to be more productive is thus apparent from the fact that more than 60 per cent people depend for their sustenance on about 35 per cent of the land. Planning for increasing the agricultural productivity thus becomes an important priority for the Block.

III 2.3. PROFILE OF MAYILADUTHURAI TALUK

Geographical speaking Mayiladuthurai taluk consist of a total area of 43,146 hectares. Our of this total wet land, dry land and barren land constitute the respective area of 28,850 hectares, 6,145 hectares and 8151 hectares
Table III. 4. Mayiladuthurai Taluk Villages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Census Villages</th>
<th>115</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agarakirangudi</td>
<td>Alangudi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anathandavapuram</td>
<td>Arivalur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asikkadu</td>
<td>Attur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elanthoppu</td>
<td>Elumagalur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inantiruvalangadu</td>
<td>Ivanallur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kadalangudi</td>
<td>Kaduvangudi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kanganamputhur</td>
<td>Kanjivoy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kazhanivasal</td>
<td>Keelaiyur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiloy</td>
<td>Kizhaparuthikudi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kokkur</td>
<td>Komal(East)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Konerirajapuram II Bit</td>
<td>Korukkai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kozhaiyur</td>
<td>Kshetrapalaparam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madhirimangalam</td>
<td>Maharajapuram</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manganallur</td>
<td>Mannampandal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mayiladuthurai</td>
<td>Mekkirimangalam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melaiyurthulasenthirapuram</td>
<td>Melanallur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mudikandanallur</td>
<td>Murugamangalam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nallathukudi</td>
<td>Nallavur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palaiyur</td>
<td>Palayagudalure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pandur</td>
<td>Pattamangalam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perumalkoil</td>
<td>Peruncheri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Porumbur</td>
<td>Sengudi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sethur</td>
<td>Sholampettai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sivanaragaram</td>
<td>Srikantapuram</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thalancheri</td>
<td>Thathangudi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thirumangalam</td>
<td>Thirunalkondacheri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thulasenthirapuram</td>
<td>Tiruchirambalam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uluthukuppai</td>
<td>Valuvur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vellalaragaram</td>
<td>Villianallur</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Taluk Office, Mayiladuthurai.
Map III.2.1. Mayiladuthurai Taluk
Table III. 5 Educational Institutions In Mayiladuthurai Taluk

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the Panchayat / Town</th>
<th>Types of Schools</th>
<th>Total Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mayiladuthurai Town</td>
<td>Primary School</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Upper Primary School</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High School</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Higher Secondary School</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mannelmedu Town</td>
<td>Primary School</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Upper Primary School</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High School</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Higher Secondary School</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuttalam Town</td>
<td>Primary School</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Upper Primary School</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High School</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Higher Secondary School</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mayiladuthurai Block</td>
<td>Primary School</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Upper Primary School</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High School</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Higher Secondary School</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuttalam Block</td>
<td>Primary School</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Upper Primary School</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High School</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Higher Secondary School</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>287</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: District Educational Office, Mayiladuthurai.

Population

The total population of this taluk as per 2001 census, 3, 67,074. Out of this total, urban male and female and females represent a share of 53,413 and 5311. Similarly the share enjoyed by the rural areas in terms of male and female population respectively 129419 and 1, 30,431.
Revenue – Administration

Mayiladuthurai Taluk consists of unions namely Mayiladuthurai Panchayat union/ Mayiladuthurai Block and Kuttalam Block / Kuttalam Panchayat union. Mayiladuthurai Town represents for its administration a municipality.

The taluk consists of two town panchayat like Mannelmedu panchayat and Kuttalam Panchayat like wise it has 98 village Panchayats. Mayiladuthurai represents 54 villages Panchayat like while kuttalam starts with 44 village Panchayats. Put together Mayiladuthurai and Kuttalam the total number of revenue villages fond in this taluk is 166 the total of village administrative offices.

Revenue Divisions and Electoral Constituencies

The Revenue Divisions of Mayiladuthurai Taluk are Mayiladuthurai, Pottaverthi, Kuttalam, Mangnallur and Pallaiyur. In Mayiladuthurai Taluk we find two legislating assembly constituencies like Mayiladuthurai and Kuttalam and one preliminary constituency namely Mayiladuthurai MP Constituency.

Source of Irrigation

The main source of irrigation for the entire Mayiladuthurai Taluk is river cauvery as per 2001 cases a total number of formers seen in this taluk is 34,028.
III.3.1. A PROFILE OF KUTTALAM BLOCK

Kuttalam Block is situated in Nagapattinam District. Nagapattinam is situated in south eastern side of Kuttalam Block. To its western side Kumbakonam is situated. To its southern side Nannilam Taluk and in Northern side Mayiladuthurai is located. The climate in this Block is uniformly warm. This Block receives most of its rainfall from the south west monsoons. Kuttalam Block has about 30 square Kilometers as its total area. The total Population of this Block as on 2001 census is 1,37,387. Out this total, Table population works out to 68,817 and female population is fixed at 68,570. The density of population registered here is 4,480 per square Kilometers. Out of the total population cited above, schedule caste stands for 31 per cent, Schedule Trip represent 0.1 per cent. Kuttalam Block is predominantly an agricultural Block. Paddy, the principal crop is grown throughout the year. The other crops grown are sugarcane, banana, cotton, pulses and oil seeds.

In Kuttalam Block 1 town panchayat, 53 village Panchayats, 58 revenue village are there. Kuttalam Block was served by a fairly adequate network of electrification.

Kuttalam Block has been served by a good network of roads comes around 153 Kms. Total length of metallic road is 72.63 Kms, non-metallic roads is 3.65 Kms. The total number of banks of nationalized banks function in Kuttalam Block is 7. There are 3 police stations, there is 1 Government hospital in the Block. The total village of the Block was covered by 5 PHCs, 24 sub- centers are functioning in the Block.
Kuttalam Town

Population

Kuttalam is a Town Panchayat. The total Population of Kuttalam as per 2001 census, is 13,444. This total represents, a male population of 6,660 and a female population of 6,784. Again, out of this total population the size of SC population is found at 2,163 and the size of ST population is remained at 4.

Literacy Level

The total number of literate population available at Kuttalam is 10,115 with male literates numbering 5,406 and female literates numbering 4,709. The size of illiterate found at Kuttalam is 3,329. Out of this total, male and female illiterates represents the number of 1,254 and 2,075 respectively.

Work Force

The total number of workers available at Kuttalam is 4,270. To this total the share made by male workers and female workers are 3,537 and 733 respectively. Out of the total members of 4,270 workers available at Kuttalam, the main workers represent a total of 3,609. Out of this total, male and female main workers represent the number of 3,133 and 476 respectively. With reference to the 3,609 main workers seen at Kuttalam, the number of main workers engaged in agriculture is 380. Out of this, male agriculture labour stood for a total of 326 and female agriculture labour is 54. Out of the 3,609 main workforce found at Kuttalam, other workers represent a total of 2,985.
III.4. A PROFILE OF MANNELMEDU BLOCK

Population

Mannelmedu is a Town panchayat in terms of its revenue administration. According to 2001 census, the total population of Mannelmedu is 9,275. The male and female total population represents the number of 4,745 and 4,530 respectively. Out of this total population, SC represents 2,706 while ST represents 174.

Level of Literacy

The total number of literate population available at Mannelmedu is 6,654 with 3,720 male literates and 2,934 female literates. The number of illiterates seen at Mannelmedu is 2,621 with 1,025 male illiterates and 1,596 female illiterates.

Work Force

The total number of workers available at Mannelmedu is 3,559. Out of this total, male and female workers represent the number of 2,550 and 1,009 respectively. The size of main workers represent a total of 2,798 with a share of 2,155 by male and 643 by female main workers. The total main workers available at Mannelmedu represents 323 main cultivators, 1,279 main agricultural labour, 32 main house hold workers and 1,164 other main workers.
III.5. A PROFILE OF MANNAKUDI VILLAGE

Geographical Formation

Mannakudi, a little hamlet situated 3 k.m. away from Mayiladuthurai, forms part of Mayiladuthurai Taluk of Nagapattinam District. It is situated on the road way from Mayiladuthurai to Poompuhar. It has no rail link. It is a most fertile village with an area of 870.36 acres representing wet area of 473.17, dry area of 241.71 and purambokku area of 155.48 acres, Kanjanagaram, Vellalaragaram, Uluttankuppai and Mannampandal are respectively situated to the East, West, North and Southern side of the Mannakudi. Mannakudi has got 3 revenue wards.

Population

The total population of this tiny village was 2600, according to 2001 censes. This population is comprising a total of 1100 males, 1000 females and 500 children.

Community Classification

The following is the pattern of the community classification of the total population of the cited above: 1,585 MBCs, 195 OCs, and 820 SCs.

Literacy Level

Out of the total population of 2600, 1800 of them are literate while the remaining 800 of the same are illiterate. The literacy ratio is 9 : 4.
Work Force

The principal occupation of the inmates of Mannakudi village is agriculture. The primary source of irrigation for them is the river Cauvery. A total number of 48 pump sets working with the free electricity supplied by the Government of Tamil Nadu are owned by farmers doing ownership cultivation.

III.6. A PROFILE OF DHARMAPURAM VILLAGE

Geographical Formation

Dharmapuram, a little hamlet situated 3.5 k.m. away from Mayiladuthurai, forms part of Mayiladuthurai Taluk of Nagapattinam District. It is situated on the road way from Mayiladuthurai to Tharangambadi. It has no rail link. It is a most fertile village with an area of 740.12 acres representing wet area of 354.57, dry area of 241.71 and purambokku area of 143.84.

Population

The total population of this tiny village was 2038, according to 2001 censes. This population is comprising a total of 890 males, 708 females and 440 children.

Community Classification

The following is the pattern of the community classification of the total population of the cited above: 562 OCs, 550 BCs, 616 MBCs, and 310 SCs.

Literacy Level

Out of the total population of 1850, 1200 of them are literate while the remaining 650 of the same are illiterate. The literacy ratio is 9:5.
Work Force

The principal occupation of the inmates of Dharmapuram village is agriculture. The primary source of irrigation for them is the river Cauvery. A total number of 32 pump sets working with the free electricity supplied by the Government of Tamil Nadu are owned by farmers doing ownership cultivation.

III.7. A PROFILE OF THERAZHANDUR VILLAGE

Geographical Formation

Therazhandur, a little hamlet situated 10 k.m. away from Mayiladuthurai. It is situated on the road way from Mayiladuthurai to a Kumbakonam. It has no rail link. It is a most fertile village with an area of 625.72 acres representing wet area of 321.34, dry area of 175.13 and purambokku area of 129.25

Population

The total population of this tiny village was 2820, according to 2001 censes. This population is comprising a total of 1380 males, 975 females and 465 children.

Community Classification

The following is the pattern of the community classification of the total population of the cited above: 326 OCs, 1100 BCs, 612 MBCs, and 782 SCs.

Literacy Level

Out of the total population of 2820, 2020 of them are literate while the remaining 800 of the same are illiterate.