CHAPTER III

DEVELOPMENTAL HISTORY OF THE TWO DISTRICTS
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MEERUT DISTRICT:

Development of Meerut District comes through Agricultural prosperity. Regarding land utilization the soil of this district is considered to be one of the best in the state. The canal irrigation brought about a revolution in the economy of the district. The main canals of the districts are: (i) The Eastern Yamuna Canal (1830) (ii) The Ganga Canal (1955) (iii) And the Anupshahr branch of the Ganga Canal (1860). The Ganga canal benefits most of the Meerut region. The construction of canal was suggested by the collector of this region in 1807. After the canal construction the net irrigated area out of the total cultivated area increased from 27% in 1836 to 59% in 1901, settlement periods. The net work construction of tubewells started from 1933-34. A tubewell division to control the construction was established in 1934. In the year 1935-36 the total number of tubewell was 220. The agricultural prosperity and the realisation of the well water as a sure supplement for canal water, the pucca wells increased numerically from the year 1937. The tubewell irrigated area almost tripled in ten years. The total area irrigated in 1945-46 was 1,42,851 acres in comparison to 55,300 acres in 1935-36.
The irrigation facilities developed over the years rendered the district secured from drought. One of the most important reasons for agricultural advancement is the sugar cane cultivation. Sugar cane as a cash crop is cultivated mostly in those lands where tubewell irrigation facility available. The sugar cane cultivation is encouraged by the sugar mills started from 1932. In 1932 two sugar mills, one at Daurala and another at Meerut are established. After three years three more mills are established in the following places: Simbhawali, Modi Nagar and Diwan Nagar. The mills came into being could not develop further as a result of fixation of quota of sugar production in the year 1940-41. Further expansion was arrested during the second World War period.

Harvest and Crop Pattern: The main harvests in the district are the 'rabi' (Spring) 'Kharif' (Autumn) and zaid (extra or hot weather). There has been an all-round increase in the acreage under each harvest since the time of 1874 settlement. The latest settlement figures of 1940 show the rabi crops wheat, Gram and Pea show an increase in the total cultivated area as 30% and 18% respectively. Kharif crop sugar cane cultivated area increased 9 to 13%. Rice cultivated area degreased but
Bajra cultivated area increased to compensate it. Rice has never been an important crop. In 1901 rice was cultivated in 3% of the total cultivated area and it was reduced to 2% in 1940. The sugar cane cultivation is increased by the sugar mills. The double cropped area has shown a great increase from 1874 settlement period with 4.5% of the total cultivated area to 18% in 1901. However in 1940 it became 28%.

The major 'Rabi' crops are wheat, gram and pea. Wheat is cultivated all over the district. Gram as dry crop cultivated more in Meerut and Bhagpat tehsils. Pea is cultivated more in Hapur and Mawana Tehsils. Barley mostly cultivated in Hapur Tehsil which is the poor mans staple diet. Important 'Kharif' crops are rice and Bajra. There are two varieties known as Early and late varieties cultivated in 4:5 ratio all over the district. Bajra is cultivated more whenever there is short fall of rain and when it was not sufficient for rice cultivation. Bajra is generally cultivated in Hapur and Mawana Tehsils. Bajra occupies 16.5% of the total cultivated area. Jwar and maize are cultivated in 3.8% and 11% respectively in the district. Many of the crops cultivated in this region is used as cattle fodder (Chara).
Market and Trade: Meerut district, with its fertile lands and abundant harvest of food grains, has been an important trade centre for centuries. On account of its close proximity to Delhi it was more or less the kings granary. During the British period the surplus grains of the districts were moved to other parts of the country. In 1875 there were 194 miles metalled road and 220 miles and metalled roads were there. They roads connecting Meerut city with Ghaziabad, Roorkee and Moradabad was existing at that time. Ganga canal was opened in 1855 and a considerable amount of merchandise passed through it and it continued till the time Narora dam was constructed at the time of independence in the near by district in 1947. B hola and Nanum were the principal ghats among the six centres for canal traffic. The chief articles of transport were grain and timber. The canals, like the rivers were supplanted by railways in 1864. Traffic in goods and Commodities were diverted to railways and by 1870 the river traffic lost its importance and the canals also declined in transport. First portion of railway line was laid from Ghaziabad to Shahdra and Delhi in 1864 under East Indian Railway. Later it was extended to Meerut Junction in 1869. Ghaziabad to Moradabad via Garhmukhtashwar, Baksar, Babugharh, Hapur and Pilkhuwa was connected through railway line in 1900. At the fourth stage Meerut to Hapur and from Hapur to Bulandshahr and Khurja
centres are linked through the Railway line. The fifth line is from Shahdra to Muzaffar Nagar via Bhagpat, Baraut, and Shamli. There was a private railway line from Daurala to Mawana to facilitate traffic between the two sugar mills. During the second World War, a great shortage of wagons for transporting goods other than war materials during the War, led to the introduction of motor trucks for this purpose and it continued since then. Bus services started soon after independence.

In 1900 the important grains centres were connected with Moradabad. Some of the important centres are Meerut (Guiser ganj), Dalmandi, and Sabun Godam), Hapur, Sardana Bhagpat and Mawana. Hapur is one of the biggest grains centre in Northern India. Gur, Peas, Arhar and Wheat are the important commodities of Hapur market. There were traditional type of containers especially prepared to store the food grains in Hapur also the 'Silo' were also used. After the beginning of 20th century the trade of the district though dominated by agricultural commodities, a number of articles of industrial origin were also exported. Important articles being soap, glycerine, Cardboard boxes Candles, blankets and pottery. The articles were sent to Delhi, Calcutta and Kanpur. To safe guard the commercial interests trade associations were established in Meerut, Bhagpat Ghaziabad, Hapur and Sardana.
Commerce: The region covered by the district has always been very fertile, producing food grains—particularly wheat—in abundance which has made it a flourishing marketing centre. In the early part of the twentieth century, commercial transactions were conducted, through 'hundis' (a type of bills of exchange, in the form of letters of credit). At that time of money landing and borrowing 'hundis' were important elements in the economic life of the people. Financial institutions came on the scene, the Beepar Sahayak Bank Ltd., was established in 1901. Bank of upper India in Meerut city was started in 1904, its main business was advancing loans to zamindars. They Bankers ultimately byyaway the land mortgaged to them by the farmers. When the Agra Tenancy Act, 1926 did not allow the transfer of proprietary rights in land through mortgage led to Shrinkage of credit and closure of the Banks. The rate of interest on petty loans at that time was 25% per annum. The banks started after this episode was in 1917. Allahabad Bank started first followed by Imperial Bank of India (Present State Bank of India) in 1972 opened their branches in Meerut city. To help agricultural cultivators Meerut district co-operative Bank was established in 1919. They advanced loan through agricultural credit societies at 9% per annum rate of interest. Indebtedness was evenly distributed among the various categories of
cultivators—like big large medium and small farmers.
To ameliorate their condition the Government in 1880 advanced
loans called as 'Taqvi' loans. Loans are advanced generally
for making improvements on land or for increasing its
productivity, purchase of seed or cattle, for relief of
distress and for other purposes connected with agriculture.

Co-operative movement was initiated in the district
in 1908 for this purpose. The first society registered in
the village Tatina (Tehsil Mawana). The progress of the
movement was slow. After 1919 when co-operation become a
provincial subject it gained momentum. Sixty four co-
operative societies were established in 1920. The economic
depression of the thirties affected its growth and in 1940
the number of co-operative societies increased to 62. How-
ever it was not popular among the rural people. A Govt.
report stated illiteracy and the lack of proper organisation,
however, generally kept the villagers away from the
co-operative movement. When sugar cane cultivation improved
in early thirties, the co-operative cane union was esta-
blished in 1934 in Meerut city. These unions undertake the
survey and marketing of sugar cane of their members. It
arranges for improved varieties of cane seed and help in
'maintaining cane seed nurseries in members' field.
Agricultural implements and fertilizer are also made available
to the members through this unions.
Education: Education as it obtained in the district in the epic periods was imparted by Guru with the best of care and free of cost. There was no state interference. Not only intellectualism but the development of character, learning with piety and proficiency in the sacred lore and practice them in life were the essential objects of education. From the Christian era the chief subjects taught were philosophy, literature, Mathematics, logic, grammar and medicine. In the medieval period Muslims brought the 'Maktab' school pattern and the education imported was religious along with some other subjects. But it was confined to their community. After the occupation of the district by the Britishers, the missionaries of Meerut started a vernacular school in 1811. An English school was established in Meerut in 1835. Later in 1843 it was closed. In 1840 there were 5 schools in Meerut. Setting up of regular system of village schools was initiated in 1845. The data collected for this purpose in the district at that time has shown there are 410 schools in the district. Half of the number of schools are Hindi Medium schools and 164 are Persian medium schools and the Sanskrit and Arabic medium schools are 28 and 13 respectively. The total number of teachers was 411 and the number of pupils attending schools was 3,798.
Different categories of schools were opened from 1848. Tehsil schools started from 1856 and new village schools from 1858-59. A training school for teachers started in Meerut in 1859. The Meerut college was started in 1892 as an intermediate college. The Dayanand Anglo-Vedic School was established in 1897. In 1901-2 there were 248 schools and 18 secondary schools functioning in the district. The girls pupils' population amounts to 15% of the total in the primary schools. However, at the secondary schools, the proportion of girls students in comparison to boys is very meagre. There are 12 girls in the secondary school but the boys' strength was 899. The literacy rate increased from 1.9% in 1872 to 3.1% in 1901.

Health: The system of medicine in the early times were based on Ayurveda with 'Vaidh' as experts. From the medieval period Unani system of medicine came into practice. However, it was mostly confined to the towns. The 'Hakims' are the practitioners of this system. Britishers when they established the cantonment in Meerut in 1806, they brought the Allopathic system of medicine. Prior to 1856 there were 3 dispensaries. One dispensary was at the cantonment and a branch of it in the Meerut city and a dispensary was at Hapur. In 1872 three more dispensaries were opened in Bhagpat, Baraut and Gurmukteshwar. The Ghaziabad dispensary was opened in 1879 and the Mawana dispensary was started from 1882. The hospital for women came into existence
In the year 1889 as Dufferin hospital in Meerut city. Later the canal department opened a women hospital in Bhola in 1890. The very next year another hospital was established in M Baraut.

The district Meerut is one of the healthiest and the death rate was lower here than other districts. Except the year 1892 in a fifteen years period upto 1907 the district had lower death rate than the birth rate. The birth rate was 34.65 per thousand population in 1892 whereas the death rate was 36.86 per thousand population. The year 1908 raised the death rate to 54.12 per thousand population when the out break of Malaria was severe. In 1918 the influenza epidemic rose the death rate to 87.01% per thousand. From 1971 onwards the death rate remained low than the birth rate and the death rate start declining further over the years.

The medical department and the health department were intergrated in 1947 and a director of medical and health services was appointed who headed all the three system of medicine, the Allopathic, the Auyrvedic and the Unani. The district Civil Surgeon is administrative head of the entire medical organisation in the district including the dispensaries run by the Zila Parisad. Primary health centre was under the control of district medical officer of health
and this system was established in the year 1930-31. He is assisted by 6 sanitary inspectors.

Administration: Meerut is known to have enjoyed established since a time of Sultans of Delhi. But the revenue history is not available in detail. Shershah introduced the method of collecting revenue on the basis of the measurement of land. Lands were divided into good middling and inferior on the basis of normal yields of stable crops. One third of the average yield was fixed as revenue assessment. During Akbar's rule the district formed a part of the 'Subah' of Delhi and 'Sirkar' of Delhi. Meerut was the headquarters of a 'Dastur'. In Maratha's rule Meerut was a part of Shahranpur 'Banoj' (A division of having 52 barganas). On December 30, 1803 Sindhia passed on the territory between the Ganga and Yamuna region to the Britishers. They divided the region into three district and Meerut was included under the charge of the collector of Moradabad district. Meerut was established as a separate district in 1818. In 1853 the present Tehsils of Meerut had come into existence and the bifurcation of the district into Meerut and Ghaziabad had altered the position recently.
The first summary settlement was made after annexation by the Britishers of the Ganga Yamuna Doab. In the first settlement 'Amani' (Contract) system of revenue were prevailed. The tehsildars and 'amins' (petty collectors of revenue) were allowed to have 10% as remuneration on their collection. The second settlement was held in October 1804. The Amins examined the rent rolls of each village for two years preceding annexation. They engaged the actual proprietors in most of the cases on easy term of revenue. The revenue was assessed on the basis of produce. Petty land revenue officials were appointed to assist Tehsildars. These arrangement affected the small land lords and the officials exploited the situation for their un proportionate income. However the Government could not break up the big estates and akhundwad allowed them to hold vast area of lands. Prominent among the estates were the Landhaura, the Kurk Parikshitgarh and the Kuchesher. In 1805 the triennial settlement was made the 'Muqarridars' (tenure holders paying fixed rate of revenue or rent) to pay their revenue based on the rate fixed earlier and made it permanent for 3 years. In 1811 the resettlement was made and it necessitated by the non acceptance of the revenue system in among the few estate proprietors as a result few forms were lapsed in existance. This led to many transfers of land in to different peoples hand.
The first regular settlement was made in 1833. The rate of crop in each village was assessed and the revenue was fixed and the basis of yield. These transactions led to humiliate the agricultural group a lot and let become a factor for the support the people extended to the army, in their revolt against the Britishers. This kind of agitation against the Britishers occurred wherever the land was passed on to the hands of outsiders from the hereditary owners group. During the freedom struggle in 1857-58 sixty nine estates were confiscated and later forth nine of them were sold in auction and the remaining 16 were given to those who stood by the Britishers in the test of time of mutiny and four estates were held under direct management. During this period large area of land went into the hands of non-agricultural communities like traders and businessmen. The first twenty five years from the first settlement no immovable property was attached to collect the revenue. The settlement of 1901 took into account the conditions of the soil and they were classified with new nomen clature based on the crop cultivated in the area and the rent revenue was fixed for 30 years.

The classification suggested 40% of the holding of land were under proprietary cultivation. It again suggests the horizontal spread of land ownership in the district.
The 1940 settlement revised the maps and records after inspecting selected places in 1930-31. They gave a reduction in revenue rate to actual tâllers and non-occupancy rentals. In 1945 when the U.P. Zamindari abolition committee assessed the land holdings and found the average size of the holding as 3.5 acres. The land was unevenly distributed among the population.

The Congress Party took the reins of government in 1937. They passed the united province tenancy act in 1939. All statutory tenants and certain non-occupancy tenants acquired hereditary rights by this act. Restrictions were imposed on landlords from ejecting tenants. Rent rates were fixed and forced labour was prohibited. Landlords were forbidden from acquiring more lands. However in reality the strain between the Zamindars and the tenants continued.

The removal of middle men between the land owners and the Government was found in the history of the district. The Akbar period, Todarmal introduce 'Raiyatwari' system. Service remuneration were given to officials who collect revenue. In 18th century the growth of feudal interests led to Zamindars emerge as powerful middlemen. It continued till the 1950 when the zamindari abolition act was passed.
IRRIGATION AND CROPS: The Tirunelveli district has fertile soils only in scattered regions. However it has a predominantly agricultural economy. The red soil which is less fertile is found distributed in most of the region. However by a good network of irrigation system making full use of the water resources, natural deficiency has been overcome to a larger extent. Puckle in his settlement report rights "The lands mostly irrigated from channel-fed tanks (of which there are 580) instead of from channels direct; and the care bestowed upon the land, and the pitch of excellence attained in cultivating it, is in pleasing contrast to the care less system of husbandry pursued in the Cauvery districts." (25).

All the rivers of the district arise from the western ghats. Tambaraparni and Chitar are the principal irrigating rivers of the district. The other main tributaries are the Manimuthar, pambayar, Peeyar, Ular, Pambar, Koriyar and Servaiyar. The Tambaraparni river is perennial river and at Papanasam in Ambasamudrum Taluk the river has been damened for regulating supply of water for irrigation and also for generation of electricity.
The sources of irrigation in the district are: the rivers, canals, tanks and wells. The Pandiyas and the Nayaks who ruled this part from 14th to 17th century have provided this district with an elaborate and admirable system of irrigation works, anicuts, channels and tanks. There are eight anicuts, except Srivaikuntam anicut which was built in 1868 the rest sevel are of ancient origins. In 1905-06 the area irrigated by the sources was as follows: 43,754 acres through canals; 1,59,845 acres by tanks; 76,758 acres through wells and 3,493 acres by other sources.

Wells supplement other irrigation sources. It is prevalent in the dry black soil areas and in the tari regions of Tiruchendur and Nanguneri. The cultivators used to lift water from the well through "Kamalai". The area irrigated by the rivers usually have two rich crops of rice without fail in many ordinary season (A.J. Stuart, 1879 : 3).

Paddy forms the staple food crop of majority of the people in the district. Of all the crops raised in the district, paddy comes first. Paddy is raised in two crop, the short term crop or the 'Kar' and the long term crop or the 'Pisamam'. Other food crops are cholam, it
provides a good quantity of straw to be used as
fodder for cattle. Cumbu is the another important crop
and for many people in the dry soil tracts it is the
staple food. Other crops are Ragi, Samai, Varagu and
so on. Out of a total cropped area 67.5% were under food
crops which is lower than the state's average of 75.4%.
However one third of the acreage cultivated with non food
crops. The pulses raised in the district are: Green
gram, red, black and bengal gram also the horse gram.
The commercial crops are cotton, gingelly, chillies, ground
nut, tobacco and sygar cane. Cotton is the chief commodity
of trade in this district. It is generally cultivated in
the black cotton soil tracts. Next to coimbatore Tirunelveli
produces maximum cotton in this state.

Market and Trade: Sea was the important trade
route of this district since long. There were 3 ports
Tuticorin, Kayalpatnam and Kulasekarapatham during the
British period. Earlier Korkai, at present a small town,
it is only 6 Kms. from the mouth of the river Tambaraparani,
a sea-port once. Greek writers mentioned about it as a
first rate important city of south India. Bishop cald
well mentioned about it (1881; 18). Koyal (Palayakayal)
at present a village was also a famous city and centre of
commerce long time ago. Portuguese first established
themselves at this place. Coins of singalese and Pandya
origin were found in this region by James Hornell (H.R. Pate, 1917: 432). Tuticorin is important port in the British period and being the terminal of south Indian Railway the port is used for shipping transaction. Large quantity of surplus cotton grown in the Northern part of the district were exported from here. The trade developed in 1840 onwards. The earliest year for which reliable trade statistics are available is 1830. At that time the total value of import was R. 1,92,877, and the export was of R. 21,20,252. A large amount of money came in to the district out of trade. The export items are apart from cotton, living animals, Gingelly oil, dyes, fruit, vegetable, rice, hides, metals, salt, spices, sugar and jaggary and many other items. The import items are drugs grain of sorts, gunnies and machines, provisions, seeds, spirits, wine and so on.

Railways come in to the district in 1875 and it was extended to Tuticorin to help the shipping arrangement. In 1876, 48,992 tons goods of all sorts were transported through railways. Principal articles carried by the railways were grains, seeds of all sorts, salt, oilcake and cloth. The south Indian Railways started the Maniyachi and Tirunelveli line and later it was extended upto Kallidaikurichi in 1902. The very next year it was further extended to Shencottah and by 1904 it was connected with quilon.
The first spinning mill was opened in 1885. Another mill was opened in 1888. To carry the goods to places bridge construction over rivers were started in 1843 connecting Palayamkottah and Tirunelveli. Srivaikuntam was connected with Tirunelveli through a bridge construction in 1889. The road communication was also developed in this period. Conditions of road in general deteriorated during the war. In order to make good this set back in road communication, post war development and Re-construction scheme were evolved. In 1944 a new high ways department was formed to carry out these schemes. The road maintenance has also been perfected to a great extent. The district had 814 miles road in 1869 and it rose to 849 miles in 1877.

The postal communication also grown alongwith road and railway communication. In 1876-77 there were 43 post offices. A system of rural delivery being tried. Every important villages will be visited for the collection and distribution of letters twice in the a week or often. The experiment tried in two taluks first and found to be successful which was extended to other areas later. All these developments facilitated the Britishe rulers to administer this region in a better manner.
Education: Public instruction was not considered as the duty of the state. During the regime of the native kings and in the early days of British rule, education was left in the hands of the people. In 1822, Sir Thomas Munroe conducted a state wide enquiry on education. The enquiry revealed the low number of literate persons, consequently it was decided to start a collectorate and Tehsildari schools in each district. In the early days the foreign missionairies started a number of schools in the important centres of the district and in rural parts. In 1844 a church missionary school was started and it became a college in 1880. The present St. Xavier high school in Tuticorin was started in 1883. Schools have been started in interior parts of the district like Nazareth, Dhonavur, Pannaivialai, Sawyerpuram and in many other places. These to a certain extent kindled the feelings of the Hindus and they started schools of their own. The Hindu college at veerawagavapuram (Now in Petti) was the out come of their efforts. In 1857-58 there were 273 schools aided by Government with 7,088 pupils. By 1875 there were 323 schools with 12,937 pupils. Apart from this there were 729 schools aided by local funds with an average of 30 pupil for each school.

An institution, Board of instruction, was set up as a result of the Munroe Enquiry. It started a collectorate
and a Tehsildari school. The scheme could not survive for many reasons like mode of selection, low pay, absence of stimulus to the teacher, the want of training and the entire absence of supervision and so on. Anglo-vernacular controversy emerged and the Board of instruction came to the replaced by a committee of native education. This body introduce the normal school for training the teachers and the Taluk school where Tamil, English and other modern subjects were taught. Education in this district was further augmented by the local funds and town improvement acts of 1871. The census of 1901 marked a rise in the percentage of literacy in proportion to total population. By 1910 the district possessed 9 high school for boys and 1 for girls. Also there were 16 incomplete secondary school. There were 1,700 schools of which 119 were exclusively for girls. Most of them were missionary schools. A school for orphanage for the Deaf and Dumb was started at Palayamkottai in 1899. Today it is one of the best school importing education and some trade for the self support of the physically handicapped in the state. There is also a school for the Blind and it is the first school started in India for the blinds.

Earlier to the Elementary education act in 1920 the elementary education was left in the hands of private agencies like missionaries and private individuals. By 1920 at act an Educational council for each district was
set up in the state. The council insisted on wide
diffusion of education. The council consist of persons,
some are nominated by the Government and the others
elected by the local bodies. Matters concern with elementary education were all to be carried out only
in consultation with this body. Later the Madras
education act was modified and an element of compulsion
was added to it. District boards and the municipalities
were empowered to impose penalties on the parents who with
drew their children from elementary schools. In 1939
Taluk councils replaced the district education council and
later in 1941 the department of education was vested with
this responsibilities. As a consequent the various measures
elementary education progress. The total number of pupil
attending schools increase from 78,539 in 1910-11 to
1,43,286 in 1930-31.

Secondary education also improved over the years.
Earlier the secondary education ended with matriculation
examination conducted by the University. But in 1911
this was replaced by the secondary schools leaving
certificate examination conducted by the board of secondary
education. The strength of the pupil in 1910-11 at
5,471 to 10,299 in 1930-31.
Christian missionaries have played a prominent role in collegiate education. The district is conspicuous by the absence of Government college except the one women college started in 1970. All colleges exists in this district are private colleges. St. Johns college, St. Xaviers college, Sarah Tucker college all exist at Palayamkottai and the Madurai Dravium Thayumanavar Hindu college at Tirunelveli are the old institutions. The missionaries started college in other parts of the district also. The technical education is imparted by few institutions. Excluding the districts of Madras and Nilgiris, Tirunelveli comes second in regard to women's education.

Health: Until during close of the first half the 19th century no serious Attempt was made by the Government to provide medical facilities for the common people, in the district. In the past, an annual feature epidemics spread in to the region, mostly through pilgrims who gather in large number in place of Pilgrimage during festivals and also through agricultural labourers who migrate in to this region during harvest seasons. After the enactment in 1871 as the Madras town improvement Act and local funds Act which made it obligatory on the part of the local bodies to ensure sanitation in urban areas.
The local bodies began to open new dispensaries and by the close of the first decade of the present century there were a number of medical institution in the district. Until 1922-23 the district health problem were left to the supervision of the district medical officer who was then called as the district medical and sanitary officer. A separate public health department to look after the sanitation and other health problems were established in 1922. The district health officer with his head quarters at Tirunelveli with sufficient number of staff. Other than these the local bodies and the Municipalities have their own health department with a set of trained and qualified persons. After setting up of the department a number of preventive and control measures were taken. Steps have been taken for the proper disposal of night soil and other fouls and also for the provision of protected water supply. Drainage system was considerably improved. There exist 26 hospitals and dispensaries of which six were run by the Municipalities and either the rest were managed by the local bodies. The speedy development in this sphere occurred after independence especially from the five years plans.

Missionaries also played a crucial role in this sphere. They opened a hospital in 1870 at Nazareth which is considered on time of the well-equipped hospital of the district even now,
Administration: Tirunelveli belonged to the Mathura Nayak Kingdom during the first 35 years of the 18th century. Being comparatively open and fertile it was not assigned to chief times and as usually done for tribute. This area was managed directly by the Rajas from their capital at Madurai. One of them measures which given rice to greater consequences after was the removal of the indigenous cultivators from the rich portions of the Tambaraparani valley to make way for colonies of Brahmins from the North. They remained as owners of the best land till the recent past. The settlement made in 1866 classified the district into two portions:

i) River Vellay which comprises the taluks of tirunelveli, tenkara, Ambasamudram, Tenkasi and Nanguneri.

ii) Dry taluks it includes the rest of the portion of the district. The taluk was divided into four groups on the basis of soil, situation, irrigation, abundance or scarcity of labour, distance from roads, market towns and so on.

Revenue demand on each village and Tyot is annually fixed by the collector or one of his assistance at "Jummabundy". A pattah was issued to each ryot showing the land revenue and local fund cess payable by him for the year. Inam villages rent also collected similarly. The Zamindari peishcush is paid in direct to the taluk treasury.
Failure to pay on issue of demand, attachment of moveable and immovable property is held and auctioned.

To carry out all these activities collector as the head incharge of the district. He is assisted by one sub-collector and one head Assistant Collector. They are assisted by Assistant Collector and three deputy Collector one each for treasury, salt department and revenue collection. At taluk level there were 9 Tehsildars with 8 Deputy Tehsildars and their Subordinates of 2 to 4 revenue Inspectors.

The land revenue system in Tirunelveli district had undergone so many changes over the period of Hindu dynasty to the British rule. Under the Hindu dynasty the wet lands were heavily assessed and payment was taken both in kind and money. The dry lands paid a money rent, though if the ryot had any difficulty in raising money his assessment was taken in kind. The Pandyas rule this region till 16th century. From 16th century onwards up to 18th centuries it was ruled by Nayaks from Madurai. Muslims conquered the district in 1736, the revenue system of their rule, if system it can be called, was own the mere tial of how much the district could bear by the exaction of the utmost that the ryots could pay. The
grain rent was abolished in favour of money rent. No one scale of assessment lasted for a long time.
Changes were made according to the fancy of each renter or on the occurrence of any pressing emergency. When the country came under British rule in 1801, through the management of this region was handed over by the Nawab Khan 1781 in itself, the net produce was shared equally between the Government and the ryot. Later, for some time the district was under Amani system, i.e. the crop was grown and shared under the immediate supervision of the revenue officers, and the Government share was taken in kind. This system continued till 1807 by the time the poligars were subdued and courts of justice was introduce.
The district was then rented out in large forms. The village rent system was also tried and become impossible owing to difficulty of disposing of the produce for money. The result was sort of mixed system; the villages were rented out to the villagers if they would take them, and if not it is rented out to large farmers on a triennial lease which was fixed on the average of the past six years revenue demand. When the rent fell in arrears than the amani system was again reverted to a decennial lease. The result remained the same. The system of 'Ulunghi' was introduce in 1822 and continued till 1859.
Under this system and annual valuation of the Government share of the produce was determined accordingly. The re-settlement started in 1866 and completed in 1879 for a fixed 30 years period has brought the new forms of administrative set up in revenue administration.