CHAPTER - V

Socio-Religious Condition
SOCIO - RELIGIOUS CONDITION

Social condition of Painkulam village Panchayat is indispensable for a proper understanding of the activities of the people of this village.

Nairs

The Painkulam village Panchayat contains various communities. Nair community is one among them. People of the community is generally rich. They are the owners of lands1. They are most esteemed in its society next to Brahmans2. At present there are 7 Nair families in Painkulam area. They are mostly working in Government and private sectors3.

Nadars

Nadars means the enlightened. They are supposed to be migrated from the Tirunelveli district4. Were considered to be half polluting caste. They were suppressed and oppressed by the upper caste5. They were not even allowed to wear the cloths to protect their upper position of their body6. Once lived with dear

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3. Personal Interview with S. Mathavan Nair, Teacher, aged 45, residing at Painkulam, dated 04.07.2006.
6. Agur, C.M., Church History of Travancore, Madras, 1903, P.151.
and humiliation all over the country. They were considered as inferior to the sudras and superior to the parayas. Nadars formed the largest single Tamil group in the south Travancore. At the dawn of 19th century after the Nadars are raced Christianity a mass movement enlightened view entry are advanced educationally and economically. Most of them are working government and private sectors as Doctors, Engineers, Lawyers, Professors, Teachers, Nurses etc. A considerable number of people are at various levels in around

**Parayars**

The origin of Parayars is not known once they were related as slaves. Dr. Caldwell derives the word Parayan from 'Parai' or 'drum'. As they had no popularity of either in they used in reside small huts. Away from the ordinary village limits hence they were called Paracheirs. They are skilled and hand workers

10. Ibid., P.109.
in agriculture\textsuperscript{14}. The status if the Parayars region of increase with arrival of Christian Missionaries\textsuperscript{15}. It present there are 18 families of this community are in Painkulam area. It present Government provides various concessions and privilage in their development.

**Barber**

This community is in the list of most back ward and socially suppressed at present . There are only five families in Barber in this locality. Their traditional occupation was hair-dressing assisters it high casts during their feasts and burials. But it younger generation. It this community not ready to do the traditional jobs. Now entries are engaed in various other activities for than on some other jobs livelihood area\textsuperscript{16}.

**Gold Smiths**

Gold Smiths are engaged in making ornaments in Painkulam. At present five families in that area\textsuperscript{17}.

\begin{itemize}
\item[15.] Krishna Iyer, K., *op-cit*, P.83.
\item[16.] Personal Interview with S. Murghen, Barber, aged 45, residing at Anathamangalam, dated 08.07.2006.
\item[17.] Personal Interview with S. Krishnan Asari, Gold Smiths, aged 50, residing at Parakani, dated 10.07.2006.
\end{itemize}
Meenavars

The meenava people situated in 75 percent of the total population in Thengapattanam are meenavars most of them are engaged in fishing\textsuperscript{18}.

Religion in Painkulam

Hinduism

The Hindu community forms major religions group in the Painkulam village Panchayat. It religions helps are protect of Hindus are distinguish and leadership. They have respect temples to worship their every them Arulmigu Bhathreswari Amman Temple at Kootalumoodu is very important.

Koottalumoodu Arulmigu Bhathreswari Amman Temple

There are 19 temples in the Painkulam Panchayat area. One among them is Temple at Koottalumoodu for Arulmigu Bhathreswari Amman\textsuperscript{19}. In founder of Koottalumoodu Tample is Udaya Marthandan. The worship at the Kootalumoodu temple is

\textsuperscript{18} Personal Interview with T.Chandra kumar, President, Painkulam Village Panchayat, aged 35, residing at Painkulam, dated 10.07.2006.

\textsuperscript{19} Ibid.
held between 6.00 to 8.00 p.m daily during Festival days such as Pongal, Deepavali etc. special prayers are held without any limit. This temple attracts devotees from all over India. In additional daily Pujas, Annual Utasavam is held on large scale. Utsavams of this temple are lasted for 10 days. A special creater show onthis became people of them area use to call it an Kampam are in one of they special feature of this temple20.

**Christianity**

Tradition claims that St. Thomas was mainly responsible for speed of Christianity in this part of the country21. Hence the earliest Christian Community was known as St. Thomas christians22. He established seven churches in the Arabian coast23. Then St. Francis Xavier speed Christianity in the south and establing churches24. Among them churches contributed of poonthurai (Thiruvananthapuram) Poovar, Kollencode, Vallavilai, Thoothoor, Thengapattanam, Enayam, Midalam, Vaniakudi, Colachel, Kadiapattanam, Muttam and Pallam are very popular25.

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20. Personal Interview with M.V.Kesavadhas, President, Arulmigu Bhathreswari Amman Temple, aged 55, residing at Koottalumoodu, dated 06.07.2006.
24. Ibid., P.28.
25. Ibid.
Catholic church at Thengapattanam

In Catholic church at Thengapattanam is known Roman Catholic Church at Mulloorthurai near at Thengapattanam or in located very near at Thamaraparani River bed at Thengapattanam. In 1616 were 80 catholic in the region. But was raised 944 in 1716 now it membership. It the church 2700 present in a parish function under Kottar Diocese.

Church of South India

Missionaries of London Missionary was mainly responsible of the speed of protestant Christians in its south Rev. Ringel Haube was the first missionary of its society and he arrived Mylaudy in 1806. His successor was Rev. Charles mead. He came to Mylaudy in 1817. However, he shifted his mission centre to Nagercoil in 1819. Later he started another missionaries with Neyyoor as its head quarters. Mead and his successors were held responsible for its speed of Christianity. Throughout of length and breath of Kanyakumari district. At present C.S.I Diocese of

protestant Christians in numerous Churches, educational Institution and medical institution.29.

**C.S.I Church Amsi Mukkadu**

The C.S.I Church at Amsi Mukkadu began function service 20.06.1972.30. The local Christians of Amsi Mukkadu took initiative to included the Church. This Church contained 65 families in 1971. But present its church is thersed with 125 families.

**Muslims**

The Mohammedans Visited region in the beginning of 8th century. Their first arrival was closely mixed up with the tradition of chairman perumal and his conversion. It is said that he was converted to Islam by a Mohammedan Missionaries who visited this coast. He was “Malic Ben Hebek” who traveled from craganore to Quilon31.

**Malikthinar Mosque**

“Malic Ben Huber” also visited Thenga pattanam and he built a Mosque at “Sasthan Parambu32. This Mosque is called

31. Ibid.
32. Gopala Krishnan, M., op-cit, P.1215.
as Periya Palli, vasel (Big Mosque) Jimma palli (Jimma Mosque) and Malikthinar palli (Malikthinar Mosque) since malic Ben Habech contained the Mosque it of name. Malikthinar palli. It is said that the Mosque at Thengapattanam (Malikthenar palli or Mosque) was built in about 1200 years ago.

The Arab Merchants he visited this place for found that this place was suitable for their trade. These Arab merchants, with the Co-operation of the ruler of Travancore built several Mosques for the Propagation of Islam.

Chief among them are,


Education

Painkulam was educationally backward well of arrival of Christian Missionaries. The Christian Missionaries took effort to schools for spread of western education in region.
The queens Travancore Rani Lakshimi Bai and Rani Parvahi Bai, along with the Resident Col. Muntro gave encouragement to the Christian Missionaries in their educational enterprises.\textsuperscript{39}

The government and Private agencies took keen interest about schools in the region with eradicate from the people. At present there are 6 primary schools, 2 Middle schools 2 High schools and 3 Higher schools in Painkulam village.\textsuperscript{40}

**Government Middle School Painkulam**

This is the oldest Educational institution in Painkulam village Panchayat. It was started in 1892 and Its centuary. Was celebrated in 1992.\textsuperscript{41} In this Middle school 236 Students are studying Among them students are studying Malayalam as this first Language.\textsuperscript{42} Six Teachers with a Head Minster are working in this school. Thiru K.S. Raman the President of Parant Teachers Association of this school.

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42. Personal Interview with C. Rajakumari, Teacher (Malayalam), Government Middle School, Painkulam, aged 40, residing at Painkulam, dated 12.07.2006.
Government Higher Secondary School Thengapattanam

Government Higher Secondary School at Thengapattanam is built in 1971\(^43\). In an area of 75 cents of land. With classes from V to X Standards or was upgraded of Higher Secondary school since 11\(^{th}\) July 2001\(^44\) twenty one teachers staff and two non teaching staff are working in this school the strength of the school is 400. Among them females are 250 and males are 150\(^45\). Free uniform and text books are given to all the students with a new to promote education free noon meal is also given to the poor students\(^46\).

Kootalumoodu Arulmigu Bhadreswari Devasthanam

Matriculation Higher Secondary School

The management of the Kootalumoodu Arulmigu Bhadreswari Devasthanam in addition spiritual estimates concentrated more in the educational progress of the village.

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43. Inscription on the Wall of Government High School, Thengapattanam, dated 10.05.1971.
46. Personal Interview with T. Kumari, Teacher, aged 47, residing at Thangapattanam, dated 17.07.2006.
Hence this school started 1980\textsuperscript{47}. Its silver Jubilie celebrated was held in 2005\textsuperscript{48}.

This school was started with 10 students and two teachers and it was named as Arulmigu Bhadreswari Nursery school\textsuperscript{49}. L.K.G. Class started first with two teachers and a honorary principal Thiru R. KochappiNadar. Retired Headmaster Melavilakam, Painkulam was the Honorary Principal and his daughter Radha and Remancy daughter of Thiru. Podiyappi Nadar, Keezhamuttam were the teachers. The strength of the pupils in the school increased considerably hence newclasses are started with additional teachers. In 1985 this school was brought under Arulmigu Bhadreswari Devasthanam Educational service society\textsuperscript{50}. In 1989 Government of Tamilnadu approved this school the first batch of matriculation students of this school appeared for the Examination in 1993\textsuperscript{51}.

\begin{itemize}
\item[47.] Inscription on wall of Koottalumoodu Arulmigu Bhareswari Devasthanam Metriculation Higher Secondary School, Koottalumoodu, dated 10.03.1980.
\item[51.] Silver Jubilee Souvenir op-cit, 2005, P.6.
\end{itemize}
The school concentrates are on the moral, spiritual and material well being of its pupils. Likewise the first batch of Higher secondary students appeared for the Examination through this school in 1999. At present this school in fluming 1317 students as 58 teachers.

**St. Lawrence Primary School**

St. Lawrence Primary School is situated at Mulloorthurai. In 1978, the parish priest started the school with first standard in St. Lawrence parish church promises.

Due to non availability of school building and other infrastructure Facilities this school was closed down after two years then with support of public a separate building was constructed for the school. Foundation stone for this school was blessed and laid by most Rev. Fr.M.Arockya swamy, then Bishop of Kottar Diocese on 17.12.1978.

In 1987 this school was started with

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53. Personal Interview with S.Mary, Teacher, St. Lawrence School Mulloorthurai, aged 48, residing at Mulloorthurai, dated 15.07.2006.


55. Inscription on the wall of St. Lawrence Primary School, Mulloorthurai, dated 17.12.1978.
first standard upto V standared Government same recognition it this school in 1988\textsuperscript{56}.

At present the school has 6 teachers with two hundred and twelve students, Among then one hundred and fifteen are Males and ninety six students are Females\textsuperscript{57}. The school is functioning under the management of R.C. Diocese of Kottar. Rev.Fr.Stanley is the present correspondent of this schools. Rev.Fr.Aruljoe the parish priest of mulloorthurai is the local Manager of this school. Free text books, uniforms and food are given to the poor students the parish gives scholarship and prizes to the most out standing students.

\textbf{Al Amen Matriculation Higher secondary School Tengapattanam}

In 1985, Ms.M.shareeja Beevi and Ms.M.Shaajeera Beevi Visited Thengapattanam with role of meeting of public to discuss about Educational developmental activities of

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{56} Annual Report of St. Lawrence Primary School, Mulloorthurai, 1999, P.P.14-15.
\item \textsuperscript{57} Register Book of St. Lawrence Primary School, Mulloorthurai, 2005, P.P.15,17.
\end{itemize}
Thengapattanam. The people expressed their views of a matriculation school. Hence, they decided for establishment of a school for the benefit of the children of this area. At first, this school was in a thatched hut near to the Government Hospital. This school was accredited in 1986. Then, this school was shifted near to the Government Higher School in 1996. Subsequently, the school was again shifted to Beach Road. In its convened of its students and general public. The total strength of the school is 400. Among them, 255 students are male and 145 students are female. The total strength of teachers of this school is 20. Mrs. M. Shareefa Beevi was the first headmistress of this school. The present headmistress is Mrs. M. Shajeera Beevi. The school is built in an area of 78 cents. This school possesses all facilities such as drinking water, playground, library, lab, etc. In 2005, the school was upgraded into a higher secondary school, making it a leading school in this area.

58. Personal Interview with A. Asarin, Teacher Al-Ameen Matriculation School, aged 45, residing at Thengapattanam, dated 20.07.2006.