Introduction
INTRODUCTION

Kanyakumari District is the southern most district of Tamilnadu. This district was formed on the first day of November 1956. This district consists of two revenue divisions Nagercoil and Padmanabhapuram and four Taluks Viz. Thovalai, Agasteeswarm, Kalkulam and Vilavancode. There are 81 Revenue villages in Kanyakumari District. Out of the 81 Revenue Villages 13 villages are Thovalai Taluk, 20 in Agasteeswarm Taluk, 25 in Kalkulam Taluk and 23 in Vilavancode Taluk. Painkulum is one among the 23 villages of Vilavancode Taluk.

Location

Painkulum village is situated in the Vilavancode Taluk of Present Kanyakumari District. Once upon a time kanyakumari district was the part and parcel of Travancore. Painkulum village is surrounded by Killiyoor and Keezhkulam villages in the east Kunnathoor and Arudesam villages in the North, Arudesam and Ezhudesam Villages in the west and Arabian sea in the south. This village is situated about 10 kilometers south of Kuzhithurai Town.

2. Ibid.
Origin of the Name

The Name of the village 'Painkulam' came from 'Pynkilikulam'. 'Pynkili-Kulam' is a Malayalam name. 'Pynkili' means 'Green colour Parrot' and 'Kulam' means 'Pond'. The meaning of 'Pynkili-Kulam' is 'Pond of green parrot'.

It is said that this village was a part of the erstwhile Travancore state and was ruled by the Maharajas. The name for the villages were assigned during the period of Maharajas regime. When the authorities came to this place for assigning village name, they saw a large number of green colour parrots in the trees standing on the banks of a pond. So, they have given the name 'Pynkili-Kulam' for this village. This name 'Pynkili-Kulam' has shrinked latter to 'painkulam'.

Area and Population

The total area of this village is 14.56 square Kilo meters. It is noted that there is no Forest area in this Panchayat. The total population of this Panchayat is 29,287, according to 2001 census, out of this 13,182 are males and 16,105 are Females.

4. Ibid.
Climate

A semi-arid tropical Climate prevails all over the Kanyakumari District. During the winter months of November, December, January and February are cool with the minimum temperature dipping to 18°C. The minimum temperature during summer does not go below 24°C. The maximum temperature varies from 28°C. During winter 37°C. Extreme temperature is unknown in this part of the country and the prevailing characteristic of the climate is warm humid. The district receives both the Southwest and Northeast Monsoons. However, the share of the former is greater than that of the latter. Consequently almost the entire district is Fertile and all species of flora grow Luxuriantly. The coastal areas of the district have pleasant climate because of sea breeze.

Flora

Coconut, Areca nut, Palmyra, tamarind trees are commonly seen in all places of this village. Jack trees, Mango trees are also seen in several places of this village. Plantains and Vegetables are also cultivated in this Panchayat.

7. Ibid., P.5.
Fauna

Though all forms of wild life are not found of the village, birds of different feathers are found in it in large numbers. Almost of the people in the village are farmer and are of lower middle class, they fostering domestic animals like cows and goats and pet animals like dogs and cats. They also raise poultry of hen’s ducks and turkeys. However milk and milk products are luxuries to the people as they are economically poor\textsuperscript{10}.

Language

Tamil and Malayalam are the languages of this village\textsuperscript{11}. The percentage of Tamil speaking population of this village is about 90\% and Malayalam speaking population is about 10\%\textsuperscript{12}.

Cast and Religion

People of different communities like Nadar, Nair, Muslim, Mukkuvar, Arayar, Viswakarma, Kammala, Mannam(Washerman) and Thandar, Cherman(Pulayar) and Sambavar are residing in this village\textsuperscript{13}.

\textsuperscript{10} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{11} Personal Interview with C. Thankayan, aged 50, residing at Koottalumoodu, dated 18.02.2006.
\textsuperscript{13} Personal Interview with T. Chandrakumar, President, Painkulam Village Panchayat, aged 35, residing at Painkulam, dated 18.02.2001.
There are 19,073 Hindus, 8,338 Christians and 1,876 Muslims in this village\textsuperscript{14}.

**Occupation**

The people of this village engaged in Agriculture, Business, Fishing and Tapping Palmyrahs. Only a very small percentage is in Government service. Most of the ladies of this village are house wives and a few percentage of Ladies are engaged in tailoring and crafting etc. People of this village are educated well. Cent percentage Literacy is prevailing in this village\textsuperscript{15}.

**Temples Churches and Mosques**

At Painkulam Village, 19 temples are situated\textsuperscript{16}. they are Kootalumoodu Arulmigu Bhadreswari Temple, Anathamangalam Bhadreswari Temple, Kaisoondi Madan Thanpuran Temple, Sakthinagar Esukki Amman Temple, Pananthininavilai Sree Bhadreswari Temple, kallalumoodu Esukkiyamman Temple, Orukkampivilai Sree Bhadrakali Amman


\textsuperscript{16} Personal Interview with M.V. Kesavadas, President, Kootalumoodu Arulmigu Bhadreswari Devasthanam, aged 50, residing at Painkulam, dated 18.02.2006.
Temple, Kanakkapillvilai Sree Bhadreswari Temple, Kinathadithavu sastha Kaniyaka Temple, Neduvilai Sree Bhadreswari Temple, Manakkadu Sree Sastha Temple, Asmi Amman Temple, Ananlikai Nagar Amman Temple, Vadalikootam Sree Bhadreswari Temple, Panankalumukku Sree Bhadreswari Amman Temple, Ootukuzhi Sree Bhadreswari Temple and Melavilai Sree Sakthi Temple. All these temples are the private Temples. Amsi Sree Mahadvar Temple and Kuranganar vilai Sree Mahadevar Temple are the Government Temples, which are functioning under the control of the Hindu Religions and Charitable Endowment Department. Apart from these Temples, there are Roman Catholic Churches at Muloorthurai, ManiyarmKuntru, Oottukuzhi. Church of south India (C.S.I.) Churches are established at Aresakulam, Oottukuzhi, Amsi Mukkadu and Painkulum.

17. Ibid.
18. Personal Interview with S. Thomas Secretary, Annai Arokya Matha Catholic Church Oottukuzhi, aged 45, residing at Oottukuzhi, dated 19.02.2006.
19. Personal Interview with T. Devadhas, Church Secretary, aged 58, residing at Amsi Mukkadu, dated 19.02.2006.
There are few mosques at Thangapattanam Viz. Attupalli, Beach palli, Peria Palli, Kulathpalli and Bus stand Palli. Hindus, Christians and Muslims are living cordially in this village.

**Life**

The life style of the people of Painkulam various from family to family and community to community. Generally the people built their houses in tune with their life style wealth and occupation. As far as the people of Painkulam of olden days were concerned, most of them had built small houses having mud walls and thatched roofs. The rich people of those days had built their houses with burnt bricks and tiled roofs. They had paved their floors with flooring tiles or laid them with concrete with cement polish on the outer surface.

**Agriculture**

The main occupation of the people of this village is Agriculture. They are cultivating paddy, banana, vegetables, tapioca, etc.

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23. Ibid.
Supply of water for cultivation is mainly depending upon rain. However cultivation is made by the water from Kuzhithurai river, water from the ponds and water from the branch channel of chittar pattanam Kal.

**Education**

At the time of the merger of Kanyakumari District with Tamilnadu on 01-11-1956 there were two schools in Painkulam village\(^{24}\). They were Government Primary School, Painkulam and the Amsi School, Amsi. Now there are 13 schools in this village, 6 schools are primary schools, 2 Schools are middle schools, 2 Schools are High Schools and 3 Schools are Higher Secondary Schools\(^{25}\). The details of the Schools are given below,

- Government Primary School, Ananthamangalam.
- Government Primary School, Amsi.
- Government Primary School, Amsi Weavers Street,
- Government Primary School, Thengapattanam.

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24. Personal Interview with R. Sikamon y, Retired Deputy Thasildar, residing at Painkulam, dated 05.03.2006.

Government Primary School, Mulloorthurai.
St. Lawrence Primary School, Mulloorthurai.
Government Middle School, Painkulam.
Government Middle School, Mukkadu.
Government High School, Amsi.
Government High School, Ananthamangalam
Government Higher Secondary School, Thengapattanam
Al-Ameen Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Thengapattanam
Kootalumoodu Arulmigu Bhadreswari Devasthanam, Matriculation
Higher Secondary School, Painkulam.

Out of these 12 schools, Kottalumoodu, Arulmigu Bhadreswari Devasthanam Matriculation Higher Secondary School and the Government Middle School, Painkulam are the notable Schools. Arulmigu Bhadreswari Devasthanam Matriculation Higher Secondary School stands first in the public Examination results and the Government Middle School, Painkulam is the only school, which celebrated its centenary year.  

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Sources of Information

The sources that are used for writing the 'Painkulam Panchayat-A Study' consisted of primary and secondary sources. The primary source includes both published documents. The official publications are in the form of the Tamil Nadu, Panchayat Act, the census report of the Directorate of census operations, the report of the District Social Welfare Officer, Government gazetteer's census report of Directorate about Painkulam, Gazetteers of Kottar Diocese School reports and Records, Church records, Industries reports and registered and personal Interviews.

As the topic chosen for the dissertation is a present development, original source materials are consulted largely and widely than the secondary sources. To add flesh and blood to the superstructure then and there the Secondary sources are given a free play in the construction of this historical edifice. Painkulam is very much useful to analyse the developments of the people in different ways. These personal Interviews are very much useful
for writing the thesis for which other source materials appeared insufficient and some them totally absent.

Some published works like "The Travancore State Manuel" by T.K. Velupillai, "Travancore State Manuel" by V. Nagam Aiya, "Church History of Trqvancore" by C.M. Agur, mere helpful to write the early history of the region.