CHAPTER VI

CONCLUSION

The year 1956 marks the memorable beginning of the state of Madras later named state of Tamil Nadu. The State Reorganisation Commission recommendations were accepted by the Indian Parliament and the State Reorganisation Act was passed in March 1956.

On the 1st November 1956, Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu emerged with Nagercoil as its headquarters. The State Reorganisation Act (Act XXXVII) of 1956 created the district of "Kanyakumari" after the name of the Virgin Goddess.

Kanyakumari, the southern most District of Tamil Nadu, lies 77.36' of the eastern longitudes and 8°03' and 8°36' of the Northern latitudes. This district is bounded on the North and North East by the district of Tirunelveli, Kerala in the North West and the Gulf of Mannar, the Indian Ocean and Arabian sea in the South East, South and West.

Kanyakumari is predominantly agriculture in nature, with nearly half its total geographical area constituting the net sown area and similar perentages of the total working population dependent on agriculture. Paddy mostly growth in two different seasons, is cultivated in about 30% of the total cropped area in the Districts (30.9 hectares).
The entire production of paddy ill suffices to meet the requirements of the Kanyakumari district for only 50% of the total requirements is produced with in the district. The year 1958-59 shows the maximum area of 68,990 hectares under cultivation and 1983-84 as the lowest with 39,169 hectares.

Tapiaco is the staple food of the low income group of people in this district. This crop thrives well in a variety of soils, in different altitudes, from the coast up to hills. Starting from 8672 hectares in 1957-58 tapioca cultivation had expanded to 10486 hectares in 1986-87. The year 1972-73 has recorded the maximum area (17152 hectares) under tapioca cultivation.

Rubber is grown mostly in Kalkulam and Vilavancode taluks. Moreover Kanyakumari District is the first largest Rubber producing district in Tamil Nadu. Rubber has been steady in the district of Kanyakumari ranging between 8497 metric tonnes in 1977-78 and 9983 metric tonnes in 1984-85.

Palmyrah, the main sugar crop in Kanyakumari district amounts for about 3% of the total sown area.

Jaggery production in the state is around 21,500 metric tonnes. Thiruvattar, Thuckalay and Tholavai grow condiments and spices such as Cardamom, Chillis, Ginger, Pepper, Tamarind as also beetlenut,
arecanut and nutmeg. Out of the total arecanut production less than 10% is utilized locally and the rest is sent to the adjoining district. Mangoes and Bananas account for 99% of the total production; of the fresh fruits in the district (35 tonnes). Mangoes are cultivated in the district and account for the local consumption, as well as, canning in the industries located in the district are locally consumed and the balance is sent to Kerala. Pineapple and Jackfruit are also cultivated and account for about 70 metric tonnes annually.

Groundnut and coconut are the main oil seeds of the district and 90% of oil seeds of the district of Coconut. Coconut cultivation in Kanyakumari district stands third in Tamil Nadu.

Compared to 1956, in 1986 the result of maximum agricultural crops cultivation has gradually decreased in Kanyakumari District.

Scarcity of water, poverty, mechanical cultivation, famine, and cultural changes, are major reasons. The remarkable fact that most of the farmers in the present Kanyakumari District feeling that Agriculture is a not prestigious profession, in modern society. Moreover the people of Kanyakumari feel that traditional occupations will affect their prestige in society. Hence their children must concentrate on education and industry. As a result agricultural production, has dwindled the changes in the industrial and social fields. This is one of the main reason for literary and large scale industries.
Literacy has brought about changes in the cultural field, particularly, social customs, life style, food habits and dressing style.

As per 1981 census, there were 223 registered factories providing employment to 48,096 workers. Out of this 160 units, i.e. about 72% have been engaged in manufacturing food products. Other notable units are repairing works, manufacture of paper products, wood products, rubber etc. Under cottage industries, handloom industries, coir and honey processing are popular. Household industry is also a prominent industry in the district. It absorbs nearly 4.47% of the total working force. Stone work industry is one of the flourishing industries in the district.

When the district was formed in November 1956, there were 585 Educational Institutions of all categories in which 1,03,225 males pupils and 81,919 female pupils were studying, Of these Educational Institutions, 344 were Government elementary schools, 82 aided elementary school and 15 were elementary schools without receiving any aid from the Government. Thus the education has gradually vast developing in this district, significantly after 1956, the number of colleges, and Technical Institutions and number of students highly increased in Kanyakumari District. The 1981 census report has reflecting the growth of literacy percentage of Kanyakumari District.

According to 1981 census report literacy rate of Kanyakumari district works out to 63.83% as against the literacy rate of 46.72% Tamil Nadu. The literacy rates of males and females of the district are
68.55% and 59.08% as against 58.26% and 34.99% of Tamil Nadu. Among the taluks, Vilavancode has recorded maximum of 71.41% of literates, while Agasteeswaram has got 59.49% of literates.

The Researcher having traversed the magic are of the research from its inception to its conclusion is now able to list out pertinend findings which in turn will enable fruitful conclusions to be drawn and pertinent recommendations to be made.

Findings

1. The Kanyakumari District is young and vibrant District of Tamil Nadu having come in to existence only in 1956 after the passing of the state re-organisation Act (1956).

2. Having been culled out of Kerala and attached the southern most part of Tamil Nadu, Kanyakumari District has a multitude of caste and sub-caste, with divers tungs and religions.

3. Kanyakumari district has been identified as an educationally forward and literacy superior district of Tamil Nadu. The people of the district especially the Nadars and the Nairs are fast progressing towards hi-tech high levels of education. The interesting features is the even the women in these communities are adapting them selves to forward thinking in the acquisition of knowledge. There is seen vast advances in the quality and quantitative of educational education.

4. The district is rich with traditional architectural monuments such as forts, palaces, temples, churches, etc. Many of these
architectural wonders have existed from the period before Christ but Kanyakumari is still the process of acquiring for the architectural glorious. The mambhotch statue of Thiruvalluvar directed in January 2000 and the Vivekananda Rock stands testimony to the districts, continuing architectural sculptural glorious.

5. Kanyakumari in keeping with the rest of India and particularly the state of Tamil Nadu is progressing well on the economic front. There have been significant strides in both Agriculture and Industry.

6. Starting with just one large scale industry in 1956 the district as per 1981 census has had 223 registered factories providing employment to 48096 workers. Another significant findings is that 72% of these registered units (160) are engaged in manufacturing food products. The recent for such heavy concentration of food manufacturing units in Kanyakumari is the main crops are tapioca with 10'486 hectare sown area in 1986-87.

Banana has 2'253 sown area in 1985-86 and coconut 17237 hectares in 1985-86 the district. Apart from these main crops which provide raw-material food-processing for food manufacture palmyra has a total sown area of 3% of Kanyakumari. The are other fruits such as mangoes, pineapple and Jack fruit, which are also produced and precessed in Kanyakumari District.
Kanyakumari District has not only a fertile soil, but also has adequate irrigational facilities. The Pechipparai, Perunchani, Chittar, Kodayar I and Kodayar II contribute to the irrigational prosperity of the District. A part from the reservoirs in dams Kanyakumari also has water sources in the form of river such as Thammirabarani, which is also known as Kuzhithuraiar is form by the combination of the Kodayar and Paralayar rivers. The Ponnivaikkal river basin is bounded by Paralayar and Valliyar and drains in to the Arabian Sea. There are also the number of drinking water wells (1028) in Kanyakumari District which perennially supply safe drinking water and 351 wells its supply safe drinking water seasonally. Table 4.22 gives details information of Length of Canals and Tanks in Kanyakumari District.

The high educational profile of the district has paid rich dividends. Dr. V. Natarajan is an internationally reputed Economist and also a Tamil Scholar. Dr. V.I. Subramaniyam, Dr. Agastialingam and Dr. Muthu Shanmugam all sons of Kanyakumari soil are international authority in Tamil linguistics. The entire district has Novelists, Historians, Journalists and Academicians.

Kanyakumari District houses a good body in a good mind because of the various medical facilities available in the district.

Table 5.4 details the medical facilities which the Govt. office. There are also vast and varied private medical services, available in
the district which is the result of that the advancements scene in the educational field.

10. Kanyakumari District has immense scope for trade and commerce. Having the coelechel port and the two sub ports Manakudi and Kovalam and Agasteeswaram Taluk.

The Kanyakumari port is exclusively for the transport of tourist from the show to Vivekananda Rock and Thiruvalluvar Statue.

11. Kanyakumari District has the plathora of temples, churches, mosques, and Jain temples.

The people of Kanyakumari District live in consonance with the neighbours whether they belong to the same caste, religion (or) language. Kanyakumari District stands as a model district for secularism.

12. Women in general are a hardassed lot, not only the sub-continent but all over the world. In the east-while Travancore State which is now Kanyakumari District, women have been oppressed and suppressed. It is only after the formation of the present Kanyakumari District and steady improvements in womens education that women in Kanyakumari District have come in to their own are now standing as a shining example to the rest of the country.
The above findings enable the researcher to draw the following conclusions:-

1. Having come into existence a mere forty old years ago Kanyakumari District is still evolving. In keeping with the rest of the country the invigorating spirit of youth coupled with its hoary antecedents enabling Kanyakumari to diversity and progress in the economic arena with its industries, agriculture and Irrigation.

2. Kanyakumari District with its inevitable minkling of castes (Nadars, Vellalars, Nairs, etc.) and with religions differences with families is able to exist as a harmonious whole. This significant feature is noticed very particularly in Kanyakumari District and aids the conclusion that there is unity in diversity.

3. The early missionaries who had set up various educational institutions and who have concentrated on primary education have also laid on special emphasis on the education of the girl children. This service by the Christian missionary that has gone a long way in improving the quality of life of people in Kanyakumari in general and the women in particular.

4. The rich cultural tradition of Kanyakumari District as evidenced in its Art, Architecture, Sculpture and Dance have enabled the continuing of tradition an at the sametime as impelled innovation and advancement.
5. Kanyakumari District has natural resources such as Dams, rivers, tanks and wells, which in turn helped in agricultural progress. There is immense scope of further agricultural advancement which in turn the help develop the industrial capacity of the district.

6. It is seen that from a mere one large scale unit in 1956 the district has progress 293 registered units employing 48096 workers. While a majority of these units on concentrating on food processing it cannot be denied the Kanyakumari has a lot of potential for diversification in its industrial efforts. Though coconut, Tapioca and Banana are the main raw-material for food-processing units, Kanyakumari district has other products, such as Jaggery, Palmyrah and rubber which can they exploited to greater industrial advantage.

7. The various Dams in Kanyakumari District ensure adequate water supply to the four Taluk of the district. There is scope for utilising these water sources for generating electrical energy as also exploring the possibilities of the long conventional forms of energy.

8. The district has the distinction of the second most literate in the state. There are eminent scholers from this part of the country who, are occupying significant force within the country and abroad. There is not been enough recognition of their eminence.

9. The district has a number of hospitals and other medical services rendered by private practitioners. Though average level medicine is practised and adequately in the district, there are no speciality centres.
10. This district has a port exclusively for tourists, apart from the colachel port and two sub-ports at manakudy and Kovalam. Kanyakumari stands at the tip of the sub-continent where three great expanses of water, the Bay of Bengal, Indian Ocean, Arabian Sea meet. Apart from the out dated terrtis which transport tourists to and from the Vivekananda Rock Memorial there is no significant picnic or pleasure Boat trips more ever the fishing industry is still virgin and untouched.

11. The churches, temples, ports and palaces in Kanyakumari and not only beautiful edipices, but are also ancient. These simples of tourist attraction have not been maintain an improved which in turn affects the tourist prospects of this district. Enhancement of tourism would mean enhancement of economic viability.

12. Though women have been catred academically in the primary stages of education. There is still a certain amount of trepidation in allowing the women folk of this district to pursue higher education and even it allowed to pursue higher studies the women invariably settle down to be house wise's rather then take of a career.

Above mentioned conclusions leave to the following recommendations.
Recommendations

Suggestion

Kanyakumari is the budding district of Tamil Nadu. It is recommended that cultural institutions to promote art forms such as dance, music, paintings etc.

1. They must be encouraged to be set up. At present Kathakali is expounded in promoted in the neighbouring Kerala state leaving no scope for the talent available Kanyakumari to prosper.

2. There are also various inscriptions, palmleaves (Nittu) and other ancient data available in and around the temples, ports etc. There has not been significant academic (or) scholarly enterprise in unearthing the pressures secrets of the by-gone ages. It is recommended that the various universities in the states institute scholarship and research fellowships to activate academic endeavour.

3. It has been seen that medical facilities though adequate is not specialised. It is recommended that speciality clinic and Hospitals and also medical Institutions be affiliated and set up in this district.

4. It is further recommended that special care be taken to identify the area's in which women might excel such as pathology, counselling, social work, etc and institutions specially created to
train them in these areas. Women would find it easier to take up part-time employment rather than become fully career oriented. Pathology Lab or cell counselling centre would provide women with the opportunity of part-time employment.

5. Kanyakumari has a red loamy soil and also alluvium loamy soil. At present there are no research institutes to study the topography and soil of this area. Infact even the rubber research institute is situated in Kerala, though majority percentage of rubber is gloom on Kanyakumari soil. In keeping with the three language formula, the rubber research institute in Kerala, prints hand outs and other material in Hindi the national language, English the link language and Malayalam the local languages. A majority of the rubber farmers who are in Kanyakumari are unable to follow instructions because these are not available to them in the mother tongue Tamil. It is recommended the efforts may be to the either ensure the Tamil translation for the benefit of the Kanyakumari rubber farmers (or) stringent measures be taken to inculcate a knowledge of English (or Hindi) in the Kanyakumari Tamil speaking rubber farmers.

6. Tourism efforts should be strengthened not only should the temples, churches, ports etc. be refurbished, but there should be specific tours and pleasure tribals organised by Bus, Car etc. as also by boat or ferry.
Areas for further Research

The present research is exploratory in nature and is not a quantitative study. There could be further research to quantity the various aspects of Kanyakumari district, to Agriculture, Irrigation, Industry, Society, Education, Specialisation, Tourism, Unity in Diversity, Secularism etc.

The present study is confined to a thirty year period 1956-1986 research could be undertaken to cover the proceeding and succeeding periods.

Specific research could be undertaken with regard to vital areas such as History, and the rulers of Kanyakumari Sociology with regard to Caste, Religion, Language, women literates verses illiterates relations with a neighbouring states inter and intra-groups, Marriage customs, festivals and rituals etc. That could also be a political study before and after the study period.