

SPARK

Assimilations of Experiences, Introspective reflections, Perspective changes & Village study findings during the Immersion Programme



Volume 1:
Rural Development Immersion Programme (RDIP)
for the First year MBA (2022 -2024) batch of
Thiagarajar School of Management



Table of Contents

Preface and Acknowledgment	2
1. Overview and Design of the Immersion Programme	3
2. Village Simulation Activity	6
3. Development Organizations (NGOs) Visit	10
4. Village Study and Findings	20
<i>Group 1: Melathirumanikam Village</i>	20
<i>Group 2: Keelathaniyam village</i>	25
<i>Group 3: M. Subbulapuram Village</i>	35
<i>Group 4: Dombucheri Village</i>	46
<i>Group 5: Karuppaiyapuram Village</i>	55
<i>Group 6: K Meenakshipuram Village</i>	69
<i>Group 7: Vadakku Muthaiapuram Village</i>	73
<i>Group 8: Velidupatti Village</i>	78
<i>Group 9: Koovanathu Pudur Village</i>	88
<i>Group 10: Pudupatti Village</i>	101
5. General Reflections of the students	107



Preface

This is the compendium of immersion programme undergone by the first year MBA students (Batch 2022 - 2024) of Thiagarajar School of Management (TSM) Madurai, Tamil Nadu. This compendium is named as 'SPARK', as it signifies the immersion programme bringing a new spark in the mind and action of the students undergoing it. This is the knowledge product evolved out of the student's efforts with their best selected reflections of the programmes and their village study report and findings. This compendium is designed and compiled by Mr S Praveen Kumar, Faculty, The DHAN Academy. We acknowledge the support of the faculty members of the TSM, Dr S P Denisia and Prof. Ved Srinivas who have contributed in collecting and proofreading the students reports. We extend our sincere thanks to all the community, field staff, other NGOs and development organizations, faculties of TDA and TSM and all other who have contributed to the success of organizing this immersion programme and bringing out this compendium.

Our sincere thanks to Mr B T Bangera, Chairman, TSM and DHAN Foundation, Mr M P Vasimalai, Chairman TDA, Dr Murali Sambasivan, Director, TSM, Prof. A Gurunathan, Director, TDA, Dr M Selvalakshmi, Principal, Dr. M Balaji, Dean, MBA, TSM and other esteemed faculties of TSM and TDA for their continued support and guidance in bringing the change in the young minds through this immersion programme.

1. Overview and Design of the Immersion Programme

Experiencing the Grassroots...

Immersion programmes are designed to educate and sensitize the participants about the Grassroot realities and experience the village way of life by living with the community. It is designed to create opportunities for the participants to connect “SELF” with the community and their way of life. Main aim of the programmes is to bring attitudinal changes in the participants and bring changes in the self and society. The immersion programme is one of its kind and unique programme offered by the academy which has an overarching objective of giving an attitudinal learning to the students and empower the knowledge related to development concepts and challenges faced by rural, tribal, coastal and urban folks. The students, who are provided with stay experience in villages, helps them to experience the rural way of life and to see the development issues interlinked with their daily routine. This will help them to understand the issues better and motivates them to arrive at solutions which will help the community to lead a sustainable life. The students are exposed to the problems faced by women, farmers and different stakeholders in various contexts and challenges they have to overcome for empowering them to come out of their burdens and achieve economic and social stability. They are also exposed to the successful models and approaches adopted by different stakeholders to overcome the issues and gaps in terms of social and economic conditions. Present day students are growing up without the knowledge of the grassroots and villages and living in a sheltered way of life. By undergoing this process of immersion programme, the students attitude changes in line to the betterment of the society.

To bridge this gap and to bring the social and developmental understanding among the students, DHAN Academy and Thiagarajar School of Management has initiated this Development Immersion Programme (DIP) for the students. The first programme was commenced in the year of 2011. Each year based on the feedback and various discussion mechanisms the programme is evolved to a great extent with different modules focusing on various aspects with credit score incorporated their syllabus. Since its modest beginning with 98 students in 2011, except one batch of MBA and PGDM each during 2013-14. About 2127 students have undergone this programme till date and had attitudinal learning of 9-10 days of immersion in rural area. About 118 students of this year MBA has attend this programme from April 4 – 11, 2023. The key purpose is to sensitize the management students and build their perspectives on Poverty, inequality, development issues in rural, coastal and urban areas through experiential learning

Guiding Principles of the programme are

- Development Practitioners’ facilitate learning on development issues and challenges which in turn create an strong impact in the minds of students
- Learning the stark reality of lives of underprivileged by experience of staying in villages
- Understanding the roles of different stakeholders in community as well as rural development
- Perspective building on Poverty, Inequality, Livelihoods etc.
- Experience of interaction with Social change agents by visiting their organization



Key activities in the immersion programme are

- Case studies about journey of community members who has come out of poverty through their hard work and determination
- Village Simulation activity to include Rural livelihoods and resilient communities against risks and vulnerability
- Study about holistic village dynamics, way of life, their resources and socio-economic status and their development issues
- Interaction with committed NGO leaders/ visit to community enterprises to learn about the leadership evolution and the reach and impact brought by the NGOs
- Cross learning from each other through the presentation of process documentation of the village stay, their learning and findings.

Design Modules

Poverty and Livelihoods Development: Status, Challenges and Prospects at grassroots: Poverty is a complex phenomenon coupled with shocks and vulnerabilities. Poverty is a transitory process and is a condition need to be understood from different stakeholders' perspective including poor communities. The classroom sessions with interactive process would kindle thought process of the students to appreciate and empathize the poor for their poverty condition. Interaction with real life case studies of community members who have moved out of poverty.

Learning Village Dynamics: Simulation activity in which the students simulate as families in a village to understand the community interaction, inter relation with each other, resource utilization and management, decision making and village economic dimensions

Experiencing village life with poor to understand the dynamics of poverty and relevance of different livelihoods activities in promoting quality of life: Poverty is due to interconnectivity of different development and socio-economic issues. Inter relatedness of society is a web in rural India, in which poor are trapped as debtors and they do not have power to move out of poverty. Despite they contribute for the prosperity of India. Understanding interrelatedness makes sense in connecting oneself with rural society by listening to the voices of poor and observing the suppressive situation of vulnerable sections in the rural society. The three-day 'Village Stay' would provide immense opportunities for students to experience affective learning and establish meaningful connection with rural society

Learning from Development Organizations: Development organizations play a key role in addressing various societal issues and problems and reach out to the socially disadvantaged people and vulnerable communities. Students visit those organization and learn how those organizations has evolved impacting the lives of many.



Schedule

Day 1

- Inaugural Session
- Lecture session on 'Poverty and Rural way of Life'
- Real life community interaction about their journey of 'Moving out of Poverty'
- Lecture of Community engagement and Participatory Research

Day 2

- Village Simulation Activity

Day 3 – 5

- Village stay as sub groups in 10 different villages in various districts of Tamil Nadu

Day 6

- Development organizations visit of eight different organizations and sustainable community models

Day 7

- Panel Discussion and Presentation of learnings and findings



2. Village Simulation Activity

Purpose:

The Village simulation activity is designed to help the students to be aware of the Village economy dynamics and how the farmers and others make decision personally and at a community level. One of the main focus of the simulation is to help the students to understand the decision-making process of the families in the villages. Next objective is to help the students to understand the resource utilization, importance of resources, negotiation and communication about the resources thereby ensuring their family survival. This helps the students to understand the agriculture system and process involved in doing the farming through the barter system method within the families and market system. This also helps them to understand how the weather conditions such as good, average, bad rainfall impacts the system. And furthers students understand how the policies of the government influence in the families survival

Principal systems/ components:

- (i) Crop production system,
- (ii) Livestock production system,
- (iii) Handloom production system,
- (iv) Oil Mill production system,
- (v) Market system,
- (vi) Household system, and
- (vii) Water system

Principal actors:

- The Game Manager who represents Nature and the Government
- The Trader who represents the market and/or the implementing arm of the Government,
- The households of the village represented by players, and
- The Game Inspectors to supervise the game and to help player and validate/rectify transactions.

Process:

The students were grouped into separate individual families. All students were grouped into 30 families in a village. They were asked to simulate the families of the village. The main focus for them is survival with the available resources. They will be provided with set of family members, assets, money, livestock etc. Each family has their own and varied set of things. But the whole village is a balanced system. The only way, all families survive is when all families equally participate and do the activity. They will start the agriculture activity, buy necessary inputs and wait for the rain situation and based on rainfall they will get output. This simulates the actual life of farmer and let them know the process and the struggle a farmer go through in his everyday life. They have to talk with other families, help each other and work towards survival of their family. Two simulations were completed in this programme.

Simulation Activity Photos



Key Learnings and Takeaways

1) Deborah Princy R

In simulation 1, the abundance of wealth (handloom system) gave bargaining power. However, we failed to manage the business. Not planning about our resources was our problem. In simulation 2, our wealth was taken away. Only then, did we realize how important each trading was. And when we were denied water, on which our basic survival was dependent. It created agony and frustration. I have understood it's not easy work to even food for every human in the family. It requires a lot of planning and sometimes I wanted to give up since I was not able to get the basics. I have to learn a lot.

2) R Gokulnath

Simulation game I understand the difference between the knowledge about farming and practical applications of different farming aspects and sufferings. We performed this for one day but farmers living this moment for all 365 days. From this simulation I understand the fact that when rainfall is good it gives a good feeling but when rainfall is bad my mind was stuck I understand the difference in rainfall per hour for hours and farmers for labor finding understand the real situation and how difficult it for farmers it is to find villagers even though automation in agriculture but it has not reached the rural farmers even now farmers are dependent on livestock as an agriculture student this simulation is very interesting to me to play and to understand the farmer's life.

3) P Likhitha

I learned how to effectively manage any critical situation that arises everything was cared for by our team but we managed to mobilize the resources during both simulations more than the team that thought of being family motivated us to work better as a team. I deeply understand financial management and the importance of savings and capitalizing the situations I wish to implement all these learnings in my real life.

4) Muniyan Derica Priyadarshan B

Being together, every family has to know about each other families it was very useful to forecast that demand. If everybody in the village is growing a particular crop then demand for other crops will be high.

Interdependency: one family is dependent on other families if I have a product then I have to know the right person who needs that product word of mouth is the only advertising activity going on in the village

Survival: basic needs have to be satisfied first people will price the products higher when they find the demand for the product is more people who are kind, you're not able to get rich to add up the people of their assets with a business mind made more money.

5) Pavithra B

Even though we can't able to survive in some stations, we manage to cope with this. In the future, we have learned about finding a 'Pygmalion effect' that higher expectation leads to higher performance'. When the inspector wanted to survive in this situation even though we are lacking and come out to fulfill that we tried so hard to manage the situation. I have learned that, In the toughest situations, Friendship won't work out. Convincing Others matters. It helps

me to understand a great thing in life if I wanted to do Business, mergers, and Acquisitions in the future. I should be better at convincing people and making deals.

6) Selva Samritha A A

In simulation one, we were the monopoly in the handloom markets, we don't know how to make use of the resources effectively. Later when we came to know the strategies our handloom become useless. The requirement and production of the land were met during the average rainfall but when there was poor rainfall the losses were real. When water resources were deficient, we were trying to get from other teams. But they were just holding our money till the better people comes next. I was studying I felt that this type of people also really exists in real life.

7) Shakthi T

In the first year, we faced huge losses because we don't know how the demand for the cloth works. In the second year, we learned to negotiate with farmers and be a middleman in other transactions. In the second year, we were given a rain flag. We didn't use the land and decided to give the common land to other livestock holders (share in the common resources). We learn to communicate with other resource holders for our survival by fulfilling each other needs.

8) Sharath Kumar S

I learned about how a family sees a child. Children who are wrongly considered burdens today will be tomorrow's assets. We tried to help as many people in our village if we are rich today, they should help those who are in need. You reap what you sow is the mean lesson learned in the simulation. We have to always remember each other's help and be in gratitude. Even a small miscalculation can also lead to loss of life so we must always make our decision very carefully.

9) Shree Jayanth Sarasraam M

Complex situation handling: from yesterday's meeting with Kalanjiam member and today's simulation, I feel each of them are in my family too. As a person from a joint family, I came to know that the real manager (my father) handles all these situations and takes care of us.

I learned many things in these simulations such as demand and supply (crop conditions), forecasting, managing a crisis (rainfall, surplus, deficit), bargaining (clothes and other resources et cetera), helping tendency, and people management.

10) Sriramiah R

It was an eye-opener to Examine our bargaining skills in the real world and see how unprepared we are for the real world. Bargain sour close that lightning speed and any hesitation, deals were cut off from us. Overall, it showed we are not prepared for real life and we need to be prepared more.

11) Udhayaprakash V

I understood how a family head would feel when he is a single parent. Resource sharing with the neighbors goes to a certain extent families which face loss in the first year became supportive of each other in the next simulation.

3. Development Organizations (NGOs) Visit

Group 1

Kottampatti Farmers Producers Company Limited and Community Radio, Karungalakudi, Madurai: Kottampatti farmer federation was promoted and registered under India Trust's Act in August 2006. This farmers federation has 328 Irrigation and Pond Water body associations having 12941 members and it has 151 Agriculture Finance Groups to promote savings and lending and bank linkages. FPO was started in the year 2016 with 1000 farmers as shareholders. Kottampatti Federation also running a community radio called "Vayala Vanoli 90.4 MHz" since 2011 for disseminating the agricultural related information to our members in and around the Kottampatti block. Through this, they Facilitate awareness on Education, Health, Gender, Rights, Agriculture, Traditional Knowledges, Information and Communication Technology for Development.



Group 2

M.S.Chellamuthu trust Gardents, Alagarkoil, Melur (TK), Madurai: MS Chellamuthu trust, founded in the year 1992, is organization that is working with persons suffering from 'Mental Illness'. The key activities of the trust are creating awareness among people, providing treatment facilities, providing rehabilitation and vocational training and finding placement and integrating recovered patients into the community.



Group 3

DHAN's Centre for Urban Water Resource Intervention Locations, Madurai: The centre is working mainly towards environment conservation and renovation activities. One of the interventions is creation of sacred grooves in the Urban spaces. They have converted 60 years old solid waste dump yard into an lush urban green forest at Thiruparankundram, Madurai with

the support of HCL Foundation. The next intervention is the renovation of Water bodies in Madurai space. The students visited one such water body – Oorani (drinking water pond) at Suravali Medu, Madurai with the support of Hi-Tech Arai.



Yellow Bags: The company started in the year 2015 with the objective of producing sustainable cotton bags and reduce the usage of plastic bags. The initiative runs with an ultimate aim of reducing plastic pollution and make the environment sustainable. They only engage the marginalized women in the local community for all their works.



DHAN SUHAM Hospital - Silaiman, Ramnad Road, Madurai: SUHAM Hospital is one of the key health interventions of DHAN Foundation. SUHAM has various health intervention activities in all DHAN Working locations. In this Silaiman, Location, DHAN has women Self Help group collective and is a registered body as 'Gangai Kalanjiam Federation'. With the support of the community, various donors, they have built this hospital to provide basic health needs to poor and vulnerable people at affordable cost.



Group 4

DHAN SUHAM Hospital, Mapalayam, Madurai: SUHAM Hospital is one of the key health interventions of DHAN Foundation. SUHAM has various health intervention activities in all DHAN Working locations. With the support of the community, various donors, DHAN have built this hospital to provide basic health needs to poor and vulnerable people at affordable cost. This hospital also provides affordable counseling facilities in various health departments and also affordable surgeries to the community members of DHAN Collective.

SPARK Medical Centre Rehab Speciality Care, Othakadai, Madurai: SPARK started in the year 2002, is an initiative working with a motto of 'together against drugs'. The objective of the organization is to lend hands and support the clients who have chosen the road to recovery to see the better things in life and to reduce the number of people who are addicted to alcohol and drugs.



Group 5

Indian Association for Blind, Sundarajanpatti, Alagarkoil Main Road, Madurai: IAB was established on January 14, 1985 by SMA Jinnah. The main objective is to promote comprehensive education, employment and rehabilitation opportunities for visually challenged children and adults with a special focus on those living in rural areas. The key activities are education, career and skill training, Residential services, employment and support systems.



Vaigai Vattara Kalanjiam, Appanthirupathi:

Vaigai Vattara Kalanjiam is the first SHGs promoted by DHAN Foundation in 1990s. It is registered as a Federation during 1995. Presently it has around 368 Women Self Help Groups with 5062 members. Presently, they have livelihood activity unit established during 2001 with the funding support of Hi Tech Arai and one more unit added by Loyal companies in 2017. Totally 113 women members are working in both the units. Padma Shree Chinapillai Amma is

also part of this kalajiam federation (Kalanjiam is the brand name of women SHG promoted by DHAN Foundation)



Group 6

Dr. B. Ramamoorthy, Organic Farmer Sholavandan, Madurai: To understand the importance and need of the organic farming, students were sent to retired college Vice Principal Mr Rama Moorthy's organic land. He is doing the organic farming for last six years in his 3 acres of land. He is preparing his own organic and natural fertilizers from the livestock and wastes generated from the farm. The students will learn the importance of organic products importance and negative impacts of chemical farming.



Banana Plate making Unit Melakkal, Madurai: This is started by Mr Murugesan from the year 2014 with around 100 persons who professionally trained. This unit generated products from the Banana plant wastes, which generates income. He is fully employing the rural women in this unit thereby empowering the local rural community. They are doing business with many vendors in and outside of the state and also exporting to foreign countries also. He was awarded Farmer Scientist Award by President Ramnath Govind and Best Farmer Award by ICR Delhi in the hands of PM Manmohan Singh.



Ballar Illam Karadikkal, Madurai: Ballar Illam was started in 15 January 1954 at Natham, Dindigul. Later it is moved to Thirunagar (for boys), Thirumangalam (for girls) and third one is at Karadikal.. 160 students are staying in this Illam, where 50 were taken care by government quota and remaining 110 students are taken care by donations and other means by the Illam. They provide free education, accommodation, food and clothes to the children. Mr Pandi, who was incharge is an inspiring Gandhian personality who is taking care of this Illam.



Group 7

Gandhi gram trust Chinnalapatti, Dindigul: The idea of Gandhigram was born to take forward the vision of empowering the villages and enabling their holistic development. The organization is the brainchild of Dr t S Soundram and Dr G Ramachanran who were ardent followers of Gandhi and worked to incorporate his values in their work. The mission of the trust is “Enhancement of socio-economic status of village community through interventions in Health, Education, Social Welfare, Livelihood and Extension services including R & D on appropriate technologies.



Group 8

Nilakottai Federation and Interaction with Jasmine farmers and SHG, Nilakkottai: Nilakottai Federation is the registered body of women SHGs collective started at 2000. Presently the federation has 311 self-help groups. In 2006, with the support of NABARD, jasmine farmers were grouped into an FPO. They have presently 502 shareholders with a share capital of 5 lakhs. They have visited Jasmine farmers and learned the jasmine farmers cultivation and process in the cultivation. They have learned about how much chemicals were

involved in the flower cultivation and how challenging and difficult in marketing, selling the harvest.



DHAN Karunai Illam, Nilakkottai:

The Karunai Illam Trust is a New Zealand incorporated charitable trust. It was set up to support the work of the late Jean Watson, a Wellington writer, who in 1987 established a children's home in the rural town of Nilakkottai, in the southern state of Tamil Nadu. DHAN Foundation is running the Illam with the support of the trust and many other donors. Illam provides a home away from home for about 50 young girls and boys. Many of the children come from single parent families who are unable to financially support their children. They reside at the Illam during the term time and are fully supported with their schooling, residential and extracurricular activity costs met by the Trust.

Key Learnings and Takeaways

1) Alice Minnie F

First of all, come on being from Madurai come on I did not know about this place earlier. After visiting the place, I became happy that such a place exists in Madurai. I appreciate the nobility in that and all the efforts by Dr. C Thomas Subramaniam and his family to make this place come into existence

When I visited the residence and while I was talking to our guides, it made me reflect on my mental well-being and whether I take care of myself physically and emotionally

Some residents are highly educated and achieved many things in life this made me realize those success and education are very important in life, one needs to take care of their emotional well-being before it can become a chronic illness

The place encouraged the patients to recover and then give them the option to become support staff for social re-integration. They categorize them into residence, responsive and responsible and take care of them and treat them accordingly. This made me realize the importance of having a proper structure and framework for the larger picture as well as for date today's operation

There are many thoughtfully designed activities such as paper bag making, tailoring, baking, cafeteria work, and cattle work, which helped the people choose and work in their areas of interest. This made me realize the importance of individual care and development.

There was also a school operating for children with special needs and they were learning through different methods and progressing this made me realize the importance of education

2) Mohammed Asif M

Our organizational visit to an NGO which works with disabled people helped me to learn how important it is to be respectful and sensitive to the needs of individuals which is disabilities. It is an eye-opening experience where I came to know about the challenges faced by individuals with disabilities and how hard an organization works to support them. The organization made them work for some ins in Centre works and made them realize that they are independent from this I have learned that the best way to treat people with disabilities is not to treat them with special care.

During the visit, I met a person who did his MBA from IIM Ahmedabad and ended up here because the stress made me realize how important our mental well-being is.

3) Vincita M

Our group visited Chellamuthu Trust which is a Home for mentally disabled people. This message is an eye-opening and unforgettable experience that taught me a lot. Firstly, I learned that people with mental disabilities are no different from anyone also. They are just like any other person but with limitations in some areas. Secondly, I learned about the importance of patience and understanding. It can be challenging to communicate with people with mental disabilities. But the staff and caretakers patiently took the time to understand their thoughts needs and wants. Everyone there have unique talents and abilities which is the staff that identified and helps them to Engage in activities by teaching and encouraging them.

Importantly I learned empathy is a powerful tool. Even a small gesture such as smiling listening to them clapping for them made them so happy there are there all the people are treated with kindness dignity and respect. overall, I can say I learned about humanity.

4) Rahul Rajiv

The first place visited was the Alagan secretary which was built on a previously waste dump site. I was astonished to see such a site in the locality, especially in a basement. This is to me a result of the passion for the environment by the volunteers and this model has great potential to reduce the carbon footprint of an urban lifestyle. This stands as an example that even if there are many constraints, passion for the environment will result in what we innovate. This model has to be replicated everywhere and be open to the public to enjoy with them having the responsibility to take care of such urban forests.

The next stop was Harveypatti Oorani, the story they said was interesting to me the work done by the people of the village is symbolic that when people come together and do something it will be sustainable and everlasting. If the renovation was developed by the community, I don't think it would be in the same clean source of drinking water even after this many years the sense of ownership would be lacking.

Next to be visited yellow bags. The kind of work they do is also amazing they were able to bring up the model of business where they localized to the production (within the locality of the workers) and still make bags and grow the business. I have also demonstrated that helping and caring for others need not come at a cost but be beneficial as well. The work they do with the children through the children's self-learning Centre as well as is very impressive and needs to be implemented throughout the country

Finally, we visited Sugam Hospital. The Rs.300 insurance the facility was Society was impressive. It has made the delivery of healthcare services accessible to people who are at

the bottom of the pyramid. These institutions can reduce the burden on government institutions and help meet their SDG goals also. This institution aims at making healthcare services affordable to the common people.

Visiting this organization made me realize how environmental consciousness is a must nowadays, community participation ensures collective responsibility, helping people and businesses around it can be profitable and any delivery of service can be done by anyone and not just the government.

5) Munian Derick Priyadarshan B

Through these organization visits, I came to know about CSR activities and how the other companies who want to involve in CSR activity can under the trust and foundations.

The vision and mission are very important and it acts as a driving force for the organization both the places I visited had a strong vision and they regularly accomplish their goals. Even if we are doing social service free service should not be an option as people think free means Lo letting the first location Hospital build their patients with the lowest price possible.

As an MBA graduate, my decision should not affect the livelihood of middle-class the lower-class people.

In the rehab center, I learned how to treat a person under we have a process we need to be kind and compassionate to rehab patients. We may encounter a person in our organization or daily life, with addiction issues. From this organization visit I learned to speak I learned how to speak with such kinds of people.

6) Deva George Raphael

The vision of the Sugam Hospital is to lower the poverty of the people. The motive is that the poverty people can also avail the quality medical facility. The margin for services is quite low and the profit that they were making in this hospital will be spent on the poor people themselves.

I came out of the perception that the hospital with a Lawyer charge can also deliver that quality service.

They formed a well-structured kind of relationship with all the other NGOs. They even trained the nurses assistant and operation assistant who didn't get placed in this hospital and this helps them to lower the cost and increase their value. Finally, it helps people to move out of the poverty line they also take part in bringing people out of superstitious belief and they are largely part to improve the quality of living for rural people.

While the second NGO we visited is completely different. That's Park Rehab is getting involved in making people walk on the right path. They are creating a large awareness among the people to turn down the alcohol habit. That's Park Rehab is completely engaged with changing the behavior of the people highly concentrated on curing emotional diseases of the people which in turn helps the people to get out of poverty and maintain a good and favorable society in which others live.

7) Muthulexmi

From this organization is it I have learned a lot of things and gained more new experiences which are eye-opening experiences for me I get to know about the rail system and tools which access a big rescuer for their education of blind people. I got to know about how people suffer from various eye diseases through the glasses they provide which are diagnosed to show the vision of their active people. I realized, how blessed I am with vision and good health. I came to know that there are computers for blind people's usage. They are learning a lot more than us in this institution. They are also involved in various fields of business such as bakery, etc. Overall, I felt so grateful for whatever I have seen in this institution and I realized how blessed I am. I am inspired by the willpower of those visually challenged people to learn and acquire knowledge which is very much appreciable.

We visited Vaigai Vattara Kalanjiam. They provide great support for the woman by providing training and development programs for the betterment of their livelihood. I got inspired and appreciate the Steps taken by the Dhan Foundation for the betterment and welfare of the woman in society. I felt that we need more women's self-help groups like Kalyan GM for the betterment of society through which we attain a better way of life and it leads to sustainable development in the country.

8)Sathya Sai Lavanya

The first point is their courage and curiosity Avdesh Digital has become part of life. It is difficult to work with computers even with visual goods. But these people dared to work and learn computers without any hesitation. One of the good initiatives is the "Thank You" bakery. It reflected the hard-working nature of the people. The writing system helps them to get literate. It was a good initiative done by Sajna, who has lost his vision for 13 years. One of our sirs who took a class in computer lost his vision at the age of 26. He is a good example of this way of life and utilizing all the opportunities and never giving up in life.

In Kalanjiam, a key Takeaway is our empowerment of women by employing and encouraging women by supporting their saving practices. In that, manufacturing shop one woman was doing Oryx with the material she had what I thought was it is a very easiest job so I got the rings from her but I could not able to do even one small oaring but that woman was doing it very smoothly and easily. my key Takeaway is that skill is different from the knowledge developing skills is more important, especially in the real world.

9) Aishwarya M K

Organic farming: the organic farming field had a very peaceful and serene atmosphere, with 3 acres of fresh produce and live stocks such as cattle and hence. The person running the firm explained the process vividly as well as clarified our doubts. Dr. P Ramamoorthy also explained the importance of agriculture and organic farming to the present generation. I also learned about how to do business in agriculture and market various products. It was inspiring to see how organic farming is contributing to healthy lifestyles and eating habits.

Banana plate-making unit: it is fascinating to learn that banana waste can be turned into beautiful hand-woven products like bags, storage boxes, yoga mats, etc. I learned that these waste cars come to the planet when they are incinerated by causing air pollution. The unit contributes to sustainability by avoiding this pollution and by recycling it. By using these

biodegradable items, the organization is aiming for a plastic-free planet this inspired me to do something innovative and sustainable for my planet.

Balar Illam: The school for underprivileged kids was an inspiring Place combined with agricultural land. This organization provides education and support to the kids. I learned about various children's protection acts and the registration process for starting a school. I was impressed by various live skills starting at the school like agriculture, and sewing which help the children to be independent.

Overall, my civic sense is fostered, my love towards my society has increased and my way of thinking that is my perspective has changed in positive ways.

10) Akash R

We had the opportunity to see how Dhan Foundation was providing the necessary help to the villages and the orphanages. The villages we met at good business people who export to foreign countries their major production of jasmine and tomato.

The orphanage was providing a Great job by providing a second family to the children for the home it needed. They provide free education to all the children without any expectations or returns. It is good to see how foreigner helps the people in our country without any expectation and still provide the annual expenditure for the organization.

This organization has inspired me that if I get settled in my life, I will do my best to improve society and help the people who are in need.

4. Village Study and Findings

Group 1: Melathirumanikam Village

Students: Abrar Ahamed S, Arjun M, Bernard Immanuel, Galvin Levi Christopher, Kingsly Surya, Madhumithran R K, Navaneethakrishnan L M S, Prasanna P, Sachin C, Siva Subramaniam S, Suraj M and Udhayaprakash V

Demography, Resources, And Cultural Dimension

Melathirumanikam village is in Peraiyur taluka of Madurai district in Tamil Nadu, India. It is situated 20km away from sub-district headquarters Peraiyur (Thasildar office) and 65km away from district headquarter Madurai. Melathirumanikam is the gram panchayat of Melathirumanikam village. The total geographical area of the village is 758.33 hectares. Melathirumanikam Pin code of Melathirumanikam village locality is 625535.

The entire people of the village are Hindus and almost everyone comes under the MBC category. There are 33 temples in total out of which three temples are meant for everyone to visit and the rest of the temples are only meant for certain people. There is no church or mosque in the vicinity of the village. A particular temple in this village has an age-old history and is said to be constructed even before Madurai Meenakshi's Amman temple. During the month of Chithirai, the villagers get together to celebrate a festival and it is cherished by them all.

Most people living in the village own land, but the farming is done on the temple's land which is leased out to the farmers. And the farmers, in turn, pay taxes to the temple. Maize, Millet & Chola Thattu are being cultivated in the village. They all depend on wells to bank on their farming. All the people seem to have insured their livestock as it is their main source of income. Since they are mostly dependent on rain-fed irrigation, and to meet the end needs, one person from the family goes to Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Guarantee Act which covers their bases covered. And due to the people flocking to this job fair, the village has lost its frontline workers to do the farming. Also, Widows and elderly people believe it's more light work to go to the job fair than it is to do farming.

Livelihood

Livelihood refers to how individuals or households secure their necessities of life, such as food, shelter, and clothing. It is how people earn a living to support themselves and their families. Livelihoods can be diverse and vary depending on factors such as the environment, culture, and available resources. People engage in different types of livelihoods based on their skills, interests, and access to opportunities. Some common livelihood activities include farming, fishing, trade, entrepreneurship, professional work, and non-profit work. Livelihoods are essential for individuals, families, and communities to achieve sustainable development and improve their quality of life.

Agriculture is the main source of livelihood for most households. Some of the families depend upon both agriculture and Animal husbandry for their livelihood. Many families migrated to other cities for getting the best job and a good salary. People into catering to make a livelihood is on the ascend.

- a. Livestock:** Livestock is an integral part of the livelihood of India's rural population. It contributes significantly to the overall output of the country's agricultural industry. Many farmers in India depend on animal husbandry for their livelihood. In addition to supplying milk, meat, eggs, wool, their castings (dung) and hides, animals, mainly bullocks, are the major source of power for both farmers and dairies. Thus, animal husbandry plays an important role in
- b. Rural Economy.** In our village: Some of the families have cows and goats and they supply milk for the whole village and get good revenue for their sustainable life.
- c. Cropping pattern:** Cropping pattern refers to the practice of growing different crops in a specific sequence or rotation on a piece of land over a period. The cropping pattern followed by farmers depends on various factors such as soil type, climate, availability of water, market demand, and the farming system in place. There are several cropping patterns, including monoculture, mixed cropping, and Challenges: Intercropping, crop rotation, and relay cropping. Monoculture is the practice of growing a single crop on a piece of land year after year. Example: In this village, Maize is the only crop that was cultivated frequently on a piece of land.
- d. Market Linkages:** Market linkage is a common facility to market manufacturers' products to buyers. The market linkage allows the people to transfer products they produced to reach the market. In the village, there are only 4 to 5 traders involved in these activities, which gives traders the power to determine the price of their own agricultural products. Their villagers are also aware that they get a lower price than other peer producers in the neighboring villages. They stay silent because they cannot involve in selling their products as it requires a certain amount quantity to transport the products and it also consumes a lot of time.
- e. Water scarcity:** this is the major problem that is faced by the village people. People suffer both for drinking and cultivating crops. Some of them have their own bore wells for drinking and for cultivating crops. Some of them depend on Corporation water for drinking.

Service, Infrastructure, and Institution

a) Road Facilities:

The village has an optimum road facility filled with farming land on both sides. The roads are well-connected and maintained; the state highways were laid around the 1970s. The roads are connecting to Usilampatti and Elumalai, which are nearby towns to the village. The road inside the village is laid using concrete, which was laid around 2008. The roads inside the village are narrow.

a) Educational facilities:

Melathirumanikam village has a primary and a middle school, the school was built around 1938 and functioning till now. Initially, it was started as a primary school and late in 2018 extended up to middle school (VIII Standard). The current strength of the student from the I to VIII standard is around 130. The school has currently 3 classrooms and 2 classrooms under construction. 3 teachers are there to teach the students. The school has no playground, so students are forced to play in limited areas within their school surrounding. After VIII Standard the students must go to Elumalai High School to continue their education, Elumalai which is around 6km from Melathirumanikam.

b) Health facilities:

The people of the Melathirumanikam have a primary health care center inside their village. Even though this medical Centre treats only common and seasonal diseases the medicines prescribed by doctors are not completely available in the center for which they must pay and buy the medicines from the nearby medical shop. To treat other diseases people, must go to Usilampatti. Government Hospital which is located around 18 km from the village. Considering the received.

c) Water Facilities

There is only a single water tank with a capacity of 60,000 liters in the village, which the villages feel's not enough to satisfy their need as they need water for themselves and to their livestock. Currently, a tank with a capacity of 1,00,000 liters capacity is planned to build in the village. Every household in the village is provided with a water tap under by Jal Jeevan scheme. An ambulance for any emergency could only reach the village 30 min after the information.

Savings, Credit, and Finance:

a) Bank Accounts:

The people in Melathirumanikam almost have bank accounts with the nearest Indian Overseas Bank. Many of the accounts are zero balance type accounts. As most of the people in the village go for MGNREGA, the salary is to be credited to their bank accounts and farmers in the village must have to receive Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi this leads the people in the village to have bank accounts. Most of the people with little school education in the village can operate ATMs and they use the ATM weekly.

b) Sources of credit:

Most of the loans that the village people take are from Self-help groups. Where self-help groups play a major role in giving loans to villagers based on their deposits. Most of the loan ticket is size is between 50,000 and 1,00,000. They use this to buy cattle, seeds, and fertilizers. SHG offers an interest rate of around 18% per annum.

c) Saving Pattern:

Most of the people earning in the village are up to the level to satisfy their basic needs. This led to no saving pattern among the villagers and some of the village who save are buying gold in the village.

d) Health and Sanitation:

The people in the village have toilets in their households which are mostly built under Swachh Bharat, villagers are availing of these benefits since 1995. From 1995 to 2000 the amount disbursed from the scheme is 5000 and currently the amount disbursed is 12,000.

People in the village mostly spend an additional amount and build toilets. Most of the village people use the toilets only. Currently, there is no common bathroom and toilet facilities in the village, but the village is taking steps to build one such public bathroom and toilet. Currently, they are in search of a place to build the public toilet.

Most of the people in the village do not have health or life insurance but interestingly they all have insured their livestock and crops. Most of the insurance is done through SHG and Aavin. Most of the people in the village do not have any lifestyle diseases and are in good health.

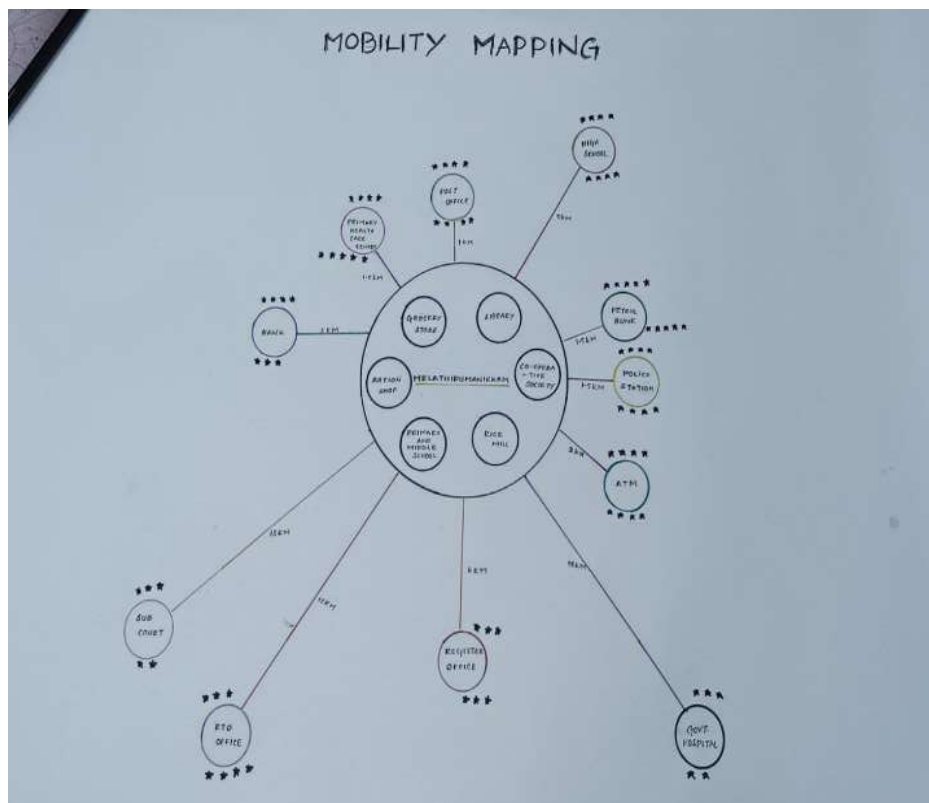
Development Issues

The key issues identified in the villages are

- a) Main problem is water scarcity due to irregular rainfall.
- b) There is no ATM in the village, so they must go about 1.5km to use near ATM.
- c) Because of the lack of cooperation among the villagers, many benefits were allocated to nearby villages.
- d) Transportation facilities are not good as only a few buses pass through the village which results in long waiting hours This becomes a major challenge for the villagers.
- e) The village has only up to middle school, for continuing their education above middle school the students must travel to a nearby high school which is located about 6km from the village. Transportation plays a major role in the student's education here, as students must travel long hours in crowded buses this reduces their productive time as they must support their families after they return from school.
- f) Medical facilities in the village are only up to give treatment to common seasonal diseases like fever, Headache, etc. Almost all the time the medicine prescribed by doctors is not available in the medical center for which the village has to travel to the nearby village to get the medicines.

Participatory Tools and Village Photos

Mobility Mapping



Social Mapping



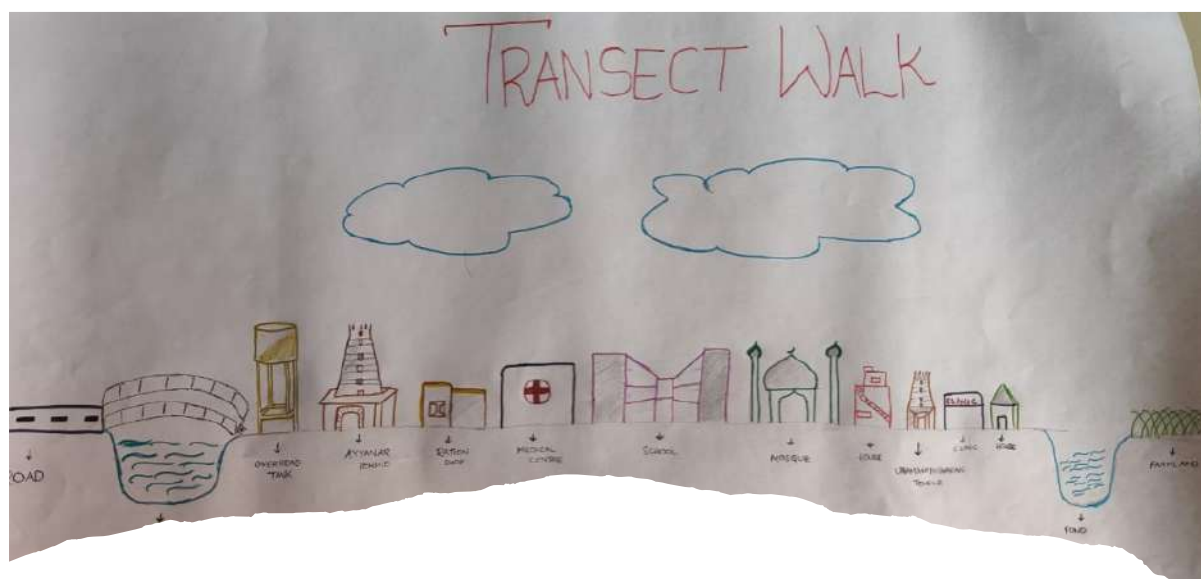
Group 2: Keelathaniyam village

Students: Adhavan R, Arul Manivannan, Bezaleel Azir Joses V, Gokul Nath R, Kishoore K, Mohamed Sultan Abrar, Naveen RP, Rahul Rajeev, Sathish Kumar Ravichandran, Siva Shanmugam Sampath, Suresh Kumar A and Vignesh PC

Keelathaniyam village is in Ponnamaravathi taluka of Pudukkottai district in Tamil Nadu, India. It is situated 23km away from sub-district headquarters Ponnamaravathi (Thasildar office) and 28km away from district headquarter Pudukkottai. As per 2009 statistics, Keelathaniyam is the gram panchayat village and according to Census 2011 information the location code or village code of Keelathaniyam village is 639534. The total geographical area of the village is 901.25 hectares. Keelathaniyam has a total population of 2,168 people, out of which the male population is 1,091 while the female population is 1,077. The literacy rate of Keelathaniyam village is 59.69% out of which 68.56% of males and 50.70% of females are literate. There are about 532 houses in Keelathaniyam village. The pin code of the Keelathaniyam village locality is 622002. Ponnamaravathi is the nearest town to Keelathaniyam village for all major economic activities.

Participatory Tools and Findings

Transect Walk



Historical Timeline

Uthamanadhiswara temple, a Shiva temple built in the 9th century by a Muthraiyyar king was later renovated by the great Chola king Raja Raja Chola 1. This is a symbol that this village is as old as at least 1000 years. The temple structure is fortified and also has a water storage structure which shows there existed a flourishing village around it. Fast forward to the 19th century, during the Britisher's reign, famine existed and Keelathaniyam was surplus in agriculture which made the Britishers take the cereals and grains from here to other affected parts. To agricultural produce wealth, Britishers developed the village by laying roads and connecting to nearby villages. By the 1950s, post-independence, Kattupatti Ramaiah, a minister took the initiative to form the boundaries of the villages and brought them under the records of the newly formed government and officially gave its name Keelathaniyam.

Electrification of the village started around 1962. Primary Health Centre and Ration shops were opened in the 1970s. In 2008, a Secondary school was opened in Sampapatti, one of the sub-villages under Keezhathaniyam. Around 2015, the village started moving from its dependence on firewood as its fuel for cooking to LPG. In the year 2021, tar was laid on the village roads which gave excellent road facilities for the villagers.

Infrastructure

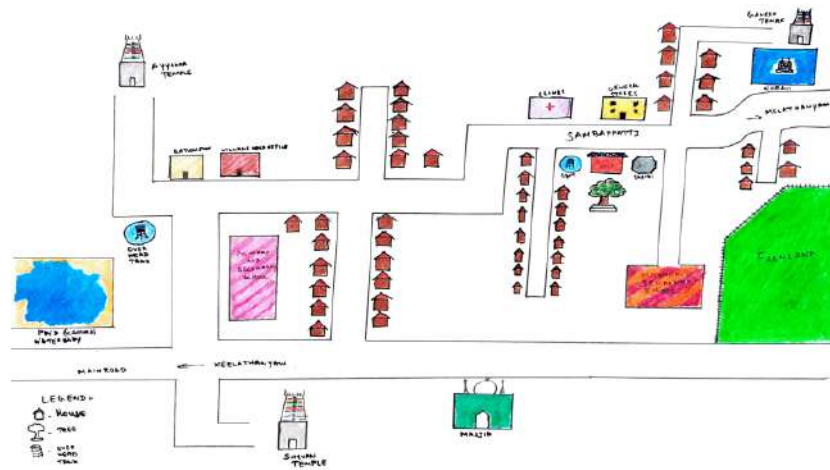
- As soon as we enter the village there is a mosque named Jumma Masjid. There are two famous temples located in Keelathaniyam which are Ayyanar Temple and Uthamanathiswaran Temple. The Latter Temple was built around 1000 years ago.
- There is a school in the center of the village established by the government and is maintained by the Panchayat.
- There is a Primary Health Centre that facilitates and ensures the good health and welfare of the people of Keelathaniyam. A clinic for emergency purposes is also located at the end of the village.
- There is an Overhead Tank, and it is used by the people to store water, use it for drinking and irrigation purposes.'
- A Ration shop which is also known as Public Distribution System provides basic commodities such as rice, sugar, and lentils for concessional rates to the villagers and is also located at the start of the village.

Water Bodies

- At the entrance of the village, a large lake is present, and it serves as the water supply to the nearby 550 acres of land held by PWD. If the lake is filled with water, agriculture takes place in the large farmland, else it does not.
- At the same time, a water reservoir is located within which a well is also found at its Centre. The Villagers use this water for drinking purposes. Even the nearby villagers also approach this reservoir to fetch water.

Resource and Social Mapping





- The main resources in the village will be the two water bodies: PwD Kamma, and Oorani, and the Overhead Tanks built by the corporation. The second will be the Farmland.
- The social mapping consists of the Ration shop, the Village head's office, Schools (primary, secondary, and higher secondary), clinics, General stores, Bus stand, Saavdi, Shivan temple, Ayyanar temple, Ganesh temple, and Masjid.

Seasonal Calendar

	THAI	MAASI	PANGUNI	CHITHIRAI	VAIKASI	AANI	AADI	AAVANI	PURATTASI	AIPPASI	KATHIGAI	MARGAZHI
RAINFALL	↙↘						↙↘			↙↘↙↘	↙↘↙↘	↙↘
DROUGHT				●	●	●						
SOWING		COTTON HARVEST		GROUND NUT SOWING			PADDY SOWING	PADDY TRANSPLANTATION				COTTON SOWING
HARVEST						GROUND NUT HARVEST					PADDY HARVEST	
CROPS	COTTON	COTTON		GROUND NUT	GROUND NUT	GROUND NUT	PADDY SOWING	PADDY TRANSPLANTATION	PADDY	PADDY	PADDY	COTTON
EXPENSES		●●●		●●●			●●	●●			●●	●●
INCOME		●●				●●					●●●	●●
EMPLOYMENT	😊	😊😊	😊	😊😊😊	😊	😊😊	😊😊😊	😊😊😊	😊	😊	😊😊😊	😊😊
SOCIAL ACTIVITIES	PONGAL FESTIVAL						IYYANAR TEMPLE FESTIVAL			DIWALI	KARTHIGAI DEEPAM	
SEASON	❄️	☀️	☀️	☀️	☀️	☀️	☁️	☁️	☁️	☁️	☁️	❄️

Semmampatti village receives maximum rainfall during the Aippasi and Karthigai Tamil months and the drought phase occurs in Chithirai, vaikasi, and Aani seasons. In this area, the major crop cultivated was groundnut, and paddy followed by cotton. Ground nut was sown during Chithirai and harvested during Aani season. Paddy seeds are sown in the Aadi season and transplantation is done during the Aavani season and harvesting of paddy is done during the Karthigai season. Cotton was sown during the Margazhi season and harvested during

the Maasi season. Mostly income was only two by three the amount incurred for expenses. Employment opportunities are created more during crop sowing and harvesting season. The important festival celebrated by these people was the Pongal festival, Iyyanar temple festival, Diwali, and Karthigai Depam.

Problem Tree Analysis

Semmampatti Village, located in S. Pudur Block, Sivaganga District, is facing a water scarcity crisis that has a severe impact on the lives of its residents. The problem tree analysis conducted for the village identified several causes and effects of water scarcity.

One of the primary causes of water scarcity in Semmampatti is the lack of rainfall. The village is in a region with a semi-arid climate, and rainfall is irregular, leading to a shortage of water for both agricultural and domestic use. Additionally, the depletion of groundwater resources is another significant cause of water scarcity in the village. The demand for water exceeds the recharge rate of the aquifers, leading to a decline in the water table.

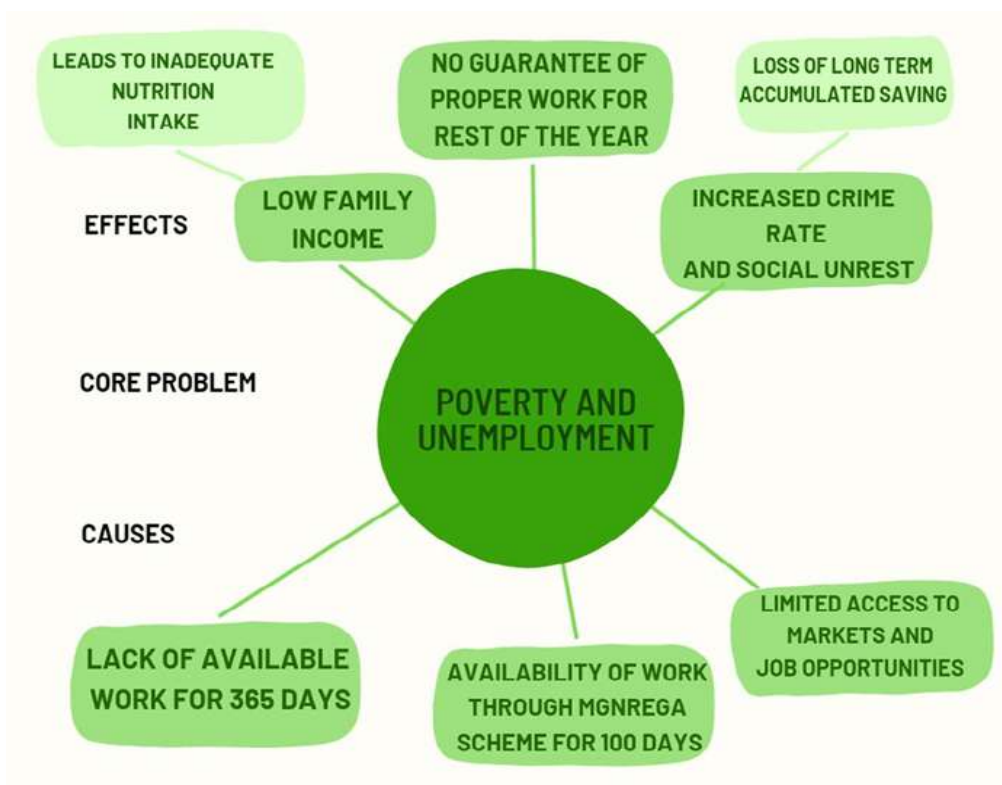
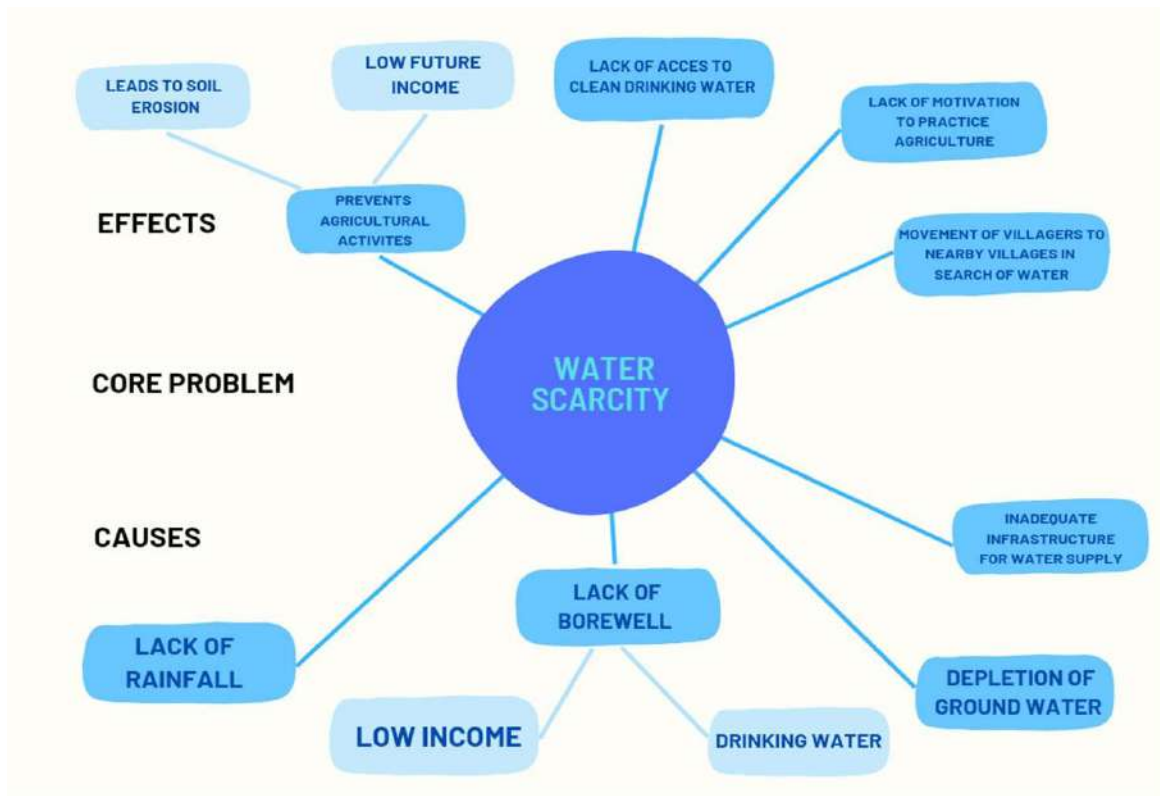
Furthermore, the lack of borewells is another factor contributing to the water scarcity problem. The residents of Semmampatti face significant challenges in accessing clean drinking water due to the unavailability of borewells. While some residents can afford to dig borewells, low-income families are unable to bear the high cost of borewell installation, leaving them dependent on rainwater harvesting for their water needs.

Moreover, inadequate water supply is another issue facing the village. The current water supply system is insufficient to meet the needs of the residents, and there are no proper water storage facilities. The situation is compounded by the poor quality of the water supplied, making it unfit for drinking or cooking.

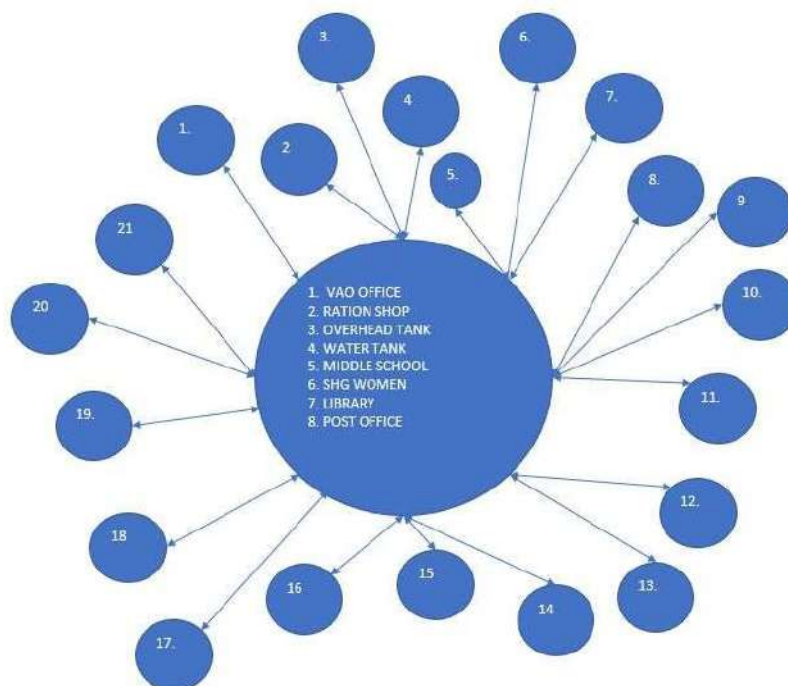
The effects of the water scarcity problem in Semmampatti are far-reaching and affect several aspects of the village's residents' lives. The primary effect is on agriculture, which is the main source of income for the majority of the village's residents. The lack of water prevents farmers from planting crops, leading to low future income and soil erosion.

The lack of access to clean drinking water is another significant impact of the water scarcity problem in Semmampatti. The residents are forced to rely on unclean water sources, leading to waterborne diseases and other health issues. Moreover, the lack of motivation to practice agriculture is another effect of the water scarcity problem. The villagers are discouraged from investing in agriculture due to the unpredictable water supply, leading to reduced agricultural productivity and lower incomes.

Finally, the movement of villagers to nearby villages in search of water is another significant water scarcity problem. The migration of residents has severe consequences on the village's economy, social cohesion, and culture, leading to the loss of a sense of community and identity. Semmampatti Village faces a severe water scarcity problem that requires immediate attention. The causes of this problem include the lack of rainfall, depletion of groundwater, lack of borewells, and inadequate infrastructure for water supply. The effects of the problem include the prevention of agricultural activities, the lack of access to clean drinking water, reduced agricultural productivity, and the migration of villagers to nearby villages. It is essential to address the root causes of the water scarcity problem in Semmampatti and implement sustainable solutions to improve the lives of the residents.



Mobility Mapping



LEGEND

Position	Name	Accessability	Affordability(1-5)	Accessability (1-5)
1	Paalwaadi	3000	5	3
2	PHC shop	400	5	4
3	Sivan Temple	1000	5	4
4	Paal Pannai	100	4	5
5	PWD for water	500	3	4
6	Bus stand	100	5	5
7	Pudukottai	25000	3	1
8	Farm Land	200	2	5
9	Karaiyur HS Sc	4000	3	2
10	Petrol Bunk	6000	1	1
11	Karaiyur Bank	3000	1	3
12	PHC Karaiyur	4000	4	2
13	Karaiyur EB of	3000	3	3
14	textile shop	15000	3	1
15	Meal Shop	3000	3	3
16	Ayyanar kovil	150	5	5
17	Biscuit Factory	17000	3	1
18	Kaveri Water	500	4	4
19	Sambumpatti	1000	4	4
20	Fertilizer shop	300	2	4
21	Meladhanupu	3000	2	3

SWOT Analysis

Strength

- Plenty funding by MGNREGA Scheme
- Transport and Electricity facilities
- Hard working Farmers
- Less Population

Weakness

- Economic Structure below average
- Few Job alternatives
- Discrimination between the people
- Much political influences
- Lack of savings
- Rain fed land

Opportunities

- Employment generation
- Food Security to the poorest

Threats

- Climate Change
- Diminishing natural Resources
- Pressure from pest and diseases
- Usury interest upto 5%
- Bank Loans that requires collateral

Matrix Ranking

The AHP Matrix is used for pairwise comparison to elicit judgments about the relative preferences of each pair of alternatives regarding each attribute. This Matrix Ranking clearly depicts that Water is comparatively the main issue followed by Employment, Debt, Sanitation, and Distance from home (accessibility).

Customs And Beliefs:

In this village, they have followed some of the customs and beliefs. They have some traditional practices such as Kummi Adithal (dancing with clapping hands). In this village, there is a Amman temple in that village. People are doing some practices such as Poo Saathuthal and after that, at the beginning of Chithirai month, people offer Pongal to God and pray to God to get rainfall in that village. Usually, the rainfall is very low during the southwest monsoon. So, in order to get an adequate amount of rainfall people are following some customs and beliefs to get rainfall for irrigation.

Oorani:

The Oorani is the village's only drinking water source. It is the sustaining force of the village. The Oorani is a small pond that is constructed around a well, which collects rainwater from rains and from surrounding catchment areas. The Oorani is covered on all four sides by a fence to keep animals from contaminating the water. The water there is used only for drinking purposes. Villagers are not allowed to use it to wash clothes or their cattle or any other similar practices. Since the village does not get enough rain but when it rains the rainwater is harvested properly and the Oorani serves this cause very well. Nearby villagers also come to collect the water here.

Primary Health Centre

The healthcare in this region is characterized by several lifestyle problems, such as diabetes

and hypertension, as well as frequent occurrences of fever. In order to address these issues, regular fever camps are conducted daily, while pregnancy checkups are held on Tuesdays, eye checkups on Wednesdays, and dedicated mental health checkups on Thursdays. Despite these efforts, the area faces several challenges, including a lack of adequate staff. Only two doctors are available for a population that requires five, resulting in insufficient coverage for the community's health needs. In addition, the region experiences frequent snake bites, with two cases occurring each month.

Although there is a primary health center every 15 kilometers, the healthcare needs of the region exceed the capacity of these centers. Infant mortality rates remain high, with an average of three deaths per month, and maternal mortality rates are also concerning, with an average of two deaths per year. One of the main contributing factors to the high infant mortality rate is the prevalence of higher-order birth blocks due to community reasons and the desire for a male child. This results in mothers undergoing multiple pregnancies in quick succession, leading to health complications for both mother and child.

The situation is further compounded by the occurrence of suicides, mainly among students, with two or three cases each month. Finally, tuberculosis cases remain high, with 18 to 20 patients currently receiving treatment.

The lack of adequate staffing, coupled with high rates of lifestyle-related diseases, snake bites, and other health issues, has resulted in significant health challenges for the community. Effective interventions are needed to address the root causes of these issues, including promoting healthy lifestyles, improving maternal and child health outcomes, and addressing the social and cultural factors contributing to higher-order birth blocks. Additionally, efforts to address mental health issues and the high rate of suicides among students are also critical. Without swift and effective interventions, the healthcare situation in this region is likely to continue to worsen, leading to further health challenges and increased rates of morbidity and mortality.

Survey Analysis Findings

1. 66% of the respondents have an annual income of less than 1 lakh rupees and the rest of them have an annual income between 1-3 lakh rupees. This is primarily due to improper agriculture yield due to bad rainfall.
2. 75% of the respondents have spent less than 50000 rupees in agriculture-related activities. Only 9% of the respondents have spent between 1lakh to 3 lakh rupees for agriculture. As there is no lucrative income from agriculture people are not ready to spend more on this sector.
3. 56% of the respondents have livestock as a source of income. The cow had the highest share with 21.4% of the total livestock followed by Goat and Hen. Milk has more utility and selling opportunities than meat and egg hence Cow is preferred.
4. 80% of the respondents are part of the MGNREGA scheme by the government. It is a major source for many families as they don't have any other means of sustaining because of improper industrialization.
5. 62% of the respondents have debt. Debts are primarily carried out for marriage and education purposes.
6. Major sources of Debt are Relatives, banks, and local Loan sharks. Interest rate per month can spark from 3% to 5% per month based on source.

7. Infrastructure and development were claimed as the most critical Major development issues. Due to improper availability such as water, there are no major industrial players present here.

8. Firewood is preferred over LPG for its economic viability and availability. It is also easily available.

Conclusion:

- Majority of the people have agriculture as their primary occupation. They wish there were any other activities to replace agriculture as the primary source of income.
- Government should take up activities that will change the livelihood of people from agriculture to other allied services for sustainable growth.
- Government can bring projects to bring water resources available throughout the year through canal and river linking projects.
- The village has a good value system and harmony in place. Alleviating poverty can help people in all aspects

Village Photos



Group 3: M. Subbulapuram Village

Students: Adhithyan S, Ravi Kumar R, Athish Sr, Sharath Kumar R, Bhalaji V G, Smruthi Keerthan E S, Gunaseelan M, Surya Prakash M, Kousal Ajay V, Vishal Aadhithya P, Mohammed Asief M, Nazaran Joel A

M. Subbalapuram is a Village in T. Kallupatti Block in the Madurai District of Tamil NADU. It is located 50 KM to the west of the district headquarters in Madurai. 5 KM from T. Kallupatti. 538 KM from State capital Chennai. M. Subbulapuram, Pin code is 625702, and the postal head office is T. Kallupatti. Virudhunagar, Tirumangalam, Pallapatti, and Srivilliputhur are the nearby Cities to M. Subbulapuram. This Place is on the border of the Madurai District and Virudhunagar District. Virudhunagar District Virudhunagar is East of this place. M. Subbulapuram had good rainfall in 2020, so they are prosperous for the last 2 years. The social composition of the village. Subbulapuram Village has around 1120 men and 1300 women. Every villager has their own land for farming. The village is usually covered with rain-fed farming land. Villagers usually farm for 6 months during Mid-February because at times they receive insufficient water for farming. They usually harvest corn and cotton.

Remoteness of the Village:

- 1 km – Primary Health Centre, School (Elementary), Bank, Groceries
- 2 km – Higher Studies
- 7 Km – Government Hospital, Police Station
- 27 km – Railway Station
- Accessibility
- No frequent buses – (people prefer two-wheelers)
- No training facility
- Availability of nearby bank

Water resources

The primary source of water for this village is rain. They have two tanks built to store the water. They have Municipal Water and ground Water facilities. But their main problem is they get only salty water.

Livestock

Most families have their own livestock like hen, cow, goat, etc. for their own purpose. Some houses have their own cow to distribute the milk to the villagers.

Forest

Subbulapuram has grazing grounds for domestic animals where everyone sent their animals for grazing, and some farmers buy straws from the market to feed their livestock.

Food pattern

Usually, they eat rice and wheat foods. At festivals and family occasions, they eat meat foods. 50 years ago, they used to eat Raggi and cereals. Still today people in old age eat Kali and Kuuzh.

Traditional practices

The people in the village gather in order to celebrate Pongal in front of the temple. The village is centered around agriculture and animal husbandry, and people grow crops and raise livestock for their own use or for trade.

SERVICES, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND INSTITUTIONS:

Primary Schools and Colleges:

Residents of the village currently have access to primary school up to 5th standard. From VI standard to XII standard children have access to higher secondary education in a nearby vicinity. In the case of colleges, students must travel to either Madurai or Virudhunagar.

Medical Facilities:

Residents of the village have access to primary health centers in the village, and 24/7 availability of doctors. Medical shops are available in the locality.

Roads, Electricity, Transportation:

Roads in the village do not have a smooth surface, filled with bumps. In terms of electricity, the village has good access to electricity. The main problem of the village is the lack of transportation. Bus facilities are lacking, and residents find it very difficult to commute during emergency situations.

Panchayath office:

The panchayat office is located inside the village. It serves as a hub for administrative and governmental activities at the village level. The office is responsible for implementing and monitoring various government schemes, providing information on government policies and programs, and resolving disputes related to land, property, and other local issues.

Cooperative Societies

Farmers of the village are part of a Cooperative society named Vayalagam. Society helps the farmers in terms of finance, vehicle support, and resource support for agricultural need.

Government Establishments

The government has established a VAO office, Ration shop, Library, and Anganwadi inside the village. These establishments in the village help the residents in terms of education and food. The village does not have access to Police Station and Railway station.

Livelihood Pattern, Challenges:

Types of livelihoods:

In M. Subblapuram, two types of crops are widely grown: paddy and bajra.

M. Subblapuram soil is believed to be extremely nourishing and supportive of these two crops. In the Tamil month of Puratasi, the villagers sow the seeds and harvest them in the Thai month. This village is the largest producer of Paddy in the Madurai district. Rainfall is the only supply of water for cultivation in this village. Apart from that, M. Subblapuram has two ponds for water supply.

Livestock:

Most of the locals have cattle to meet M. Subblapuram's milk demands. Some villagers also raise goats for the temple.

Cropping Pattern:

The villagers' main business is the production of sack bags. The locals weave sack bags from dawn to sunset, which they use to load paddy and Bajra.

Market Linkages:

M. Subblapuram villagers are involved in a variety of services such as barbershops and tea stores etc. Many villagers are involved in offering transportation services using automobiles (Auto).

Seasonal Impact:

The majority of M. Subblapuram residents work for the Central Government Scheme for 100 days. Their daily pay varies between Rs.250 and Rs.300. In addition, some villagers work at fireworks companies throughout the week and return home on weekends. The rest of them are in agriculture. Their daily pay varies between Rs.250 and Rs.300.

Coping Strategies:

Every villager keeps a backyard flock of chickens (poultry) for their own consumption.

Challenges:

The non-availability of bus facilities and water scarcity are the major challenges to the people. The Drainage system is also a challenge to the people.

Wage pattern:

The average daily wage pattern is around Rs.250 to Rs.300 in the 100 days of work Scheme as well the fireworks companies also provide the same to the workers.

Village community & relationships:

People in the village are heavily diversified within themselves based on Community. But this kind of diversification is broken during the festivals and "Kovil Thiruvizhas" where all the people of the village come together for contributing to the event in terms of money, time, and effort. People are diversified only in the event of meeting one another in their respective houses. When we interviewed, we observed the statement of an old man that they tend to eat dinners occasionally by ordering food from a cook from a nearby village, where they gather around a tree and have the food but often, they do not tend to invite one another to their houses. They are bound by this caste phenomenon, but their friendship does exist beyond the barrier. A slight motivation can break their barrier and enhance their livelihood with friendship drizzling around. Relationships with other villages are less due to their location and the

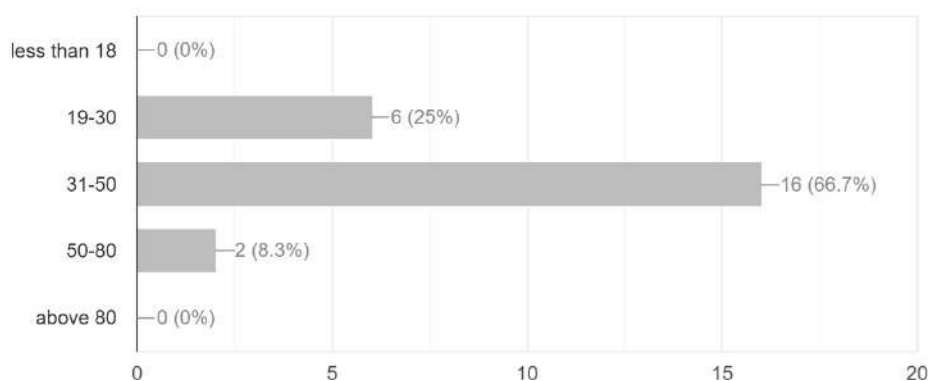
availability of transport facilities. However, they invite people in and around their location for the temple festivals and socialize with one another.

Demographics:

People in this village are mostly older since youngsters often tend to leave the premises as soon as they complete their school education or college education. The in-availability of higher secondary schools and colleges within 10 km inspires the youngsters to move to hostels or to relocate from the village. The poverty of isolation can be seen everywhere, and this does not attract any sort of arrival of resources and people. Nearly 1000 families with an average population of 1200 men and 1300 women are registered natives of this village as per the 2011 census. But the current count will be less, as people were found to be migrated to towns, cities, and nearby villages. People in the village sit together and decide upon seed cultivation, welfare schemes, and the rate at which the crops had to be exported to cities.

Age

0 / 24 correct responses



Age distribution

Values:

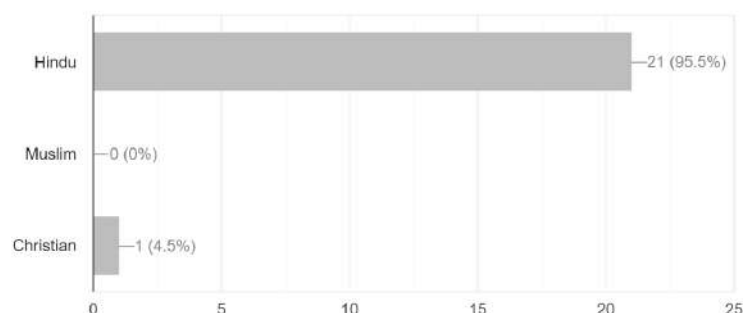
Education is stressed and compelled much to the youngsters by the old people which is an appreciable one. This caused the youngsters to migrate and settle elsewhere from the village, but however, they provide their contribution to the village every year for the local festivals and developments. Inter-caste marriages are still prohibited and not appreciated.

Rituals and traditions:

The Villagers are mostly Hindu, there are two main temples in the village namely Mariamman Temple and Karupasamy Temple. In Mariamman Temple, the festival will be conducted every year whereas in Karupasamy Temple the festival will be conducted once in 5 years. The last Festival in Karupasamy Temple is conducted recently in 2022, so the next festival will take place by 2027. Many superstitions are still now believed and followed in the village, however, none of the acts harm others. These superstitions are an individual's practices and approach toward living. Other traditional activities before and after harvesting are done as practiced all over Tamil Nadu.

Religion

0 / 22 correct responses



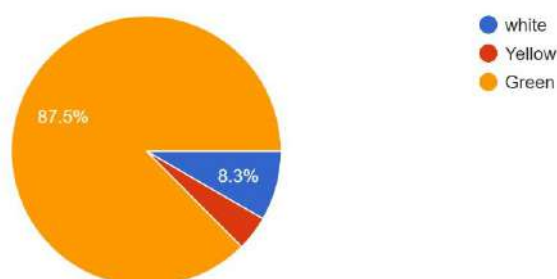
In this village all the people are Hindus and only one person practices Christianity. There are several Temples in this village.

Resources:

The village is scarce with water resources mainly for drinking water, even though every house has a borewell in which the water is available within 150-200 feet, but they prefer to get the Vaigai River water for the purpose of drinking. The water from the Vaigai River serves as a source of drinking water and acts as a supply chain for water which is built by the native ancestors. This area has a soil type that can only be used for the cultivation of cotton. The village is full of farmlands and every villager owns at least a part of it. Drinking water acts as a major problem in this village. People often spend 15 to 20 Rs for drinking water.

Ration card color

24 responses



The corporate water provided by the Government is not adequately available here. Transportation to this village is always available and most of the villagers own two-wheelers. People rely on buses for moving from their village to another place. The roads inside the village are either broken, damaged, or half-built without any proper maintenance.

Occupations and livelihood:

People have ration/smart cards and most of them have green color cards which means they are below the poverty line. People are familiar with government documents and they possessed those cards.

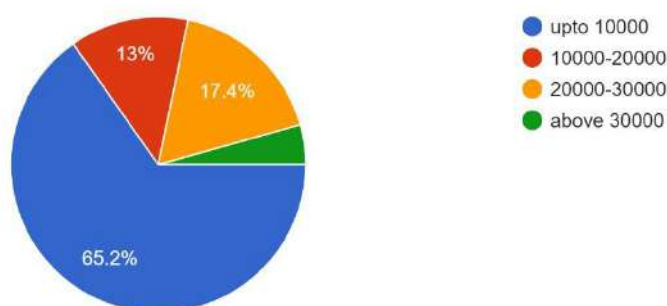
Farming is the sole occupation of their livelihood. Agriculture is mainly depending on Rainwater. None of the people here practice occupations other than farming or wood cutting. Youngsters often migrate to nearby towns after gaining education but, people residing here rely on farming. People gather, decide on crops and prices, and then cultivate the crops.

There is a lack of cattle farming in this village and people do not consume milk much here. The lack of entertainment facilities in this village heavily disrupts their evening life and people often talk with one another and spend time during the evenings. Youngsters here do not prefer to continue agriculture as their occupation and prefer to go to other towns or states in search of livelihood which cannot be seen in the nearby villages. This is mainly due to the poverty of being isolated and people here do not like either to develop this village or take necessary actions or measures to share their grievances with the Government.

INCOME DISTRIBUTION

Income monthly

23 responses



RELATIONSHIPS AND TRANSACTIONS:

Relationship within the villages:

There are two communities in the village namely BC and SC/ST. Both have separate Panchayat Unions. But the relationship between them is quite good they share the temple and celebrate the festivals together. There is no history of caste distribution in the village. But they differ themselves by building their houses. Scheduled castes live only in the east side and others in overall villages. The villagers do agriculture as their occupation for their livelihood and some of the villagers go to nearby textile mills to work. Some people cut and sell the wood to the local traders for their livelihood. Both men and women involved in Agriculture, also have cattle. They take care of the cattle as their primary work.

Many families in the village grow cattle such as cows, goats, and hens. They sell the milk that they get from their cattle, within the village and there are no specific retail outlets (Aavin) for it. People who wanted milk were purchased directly from the producers. The Goats and hens that they produce are consumed by the villagers mostly by themselves and if there was any surplus, they sell in the specific goat markets which are in the nearby villages, and the same for hens.

They follow their own village panchayat to discuss their problems. The village elders will be the key persons in the group. However, everyone in the village has the right to speak at the

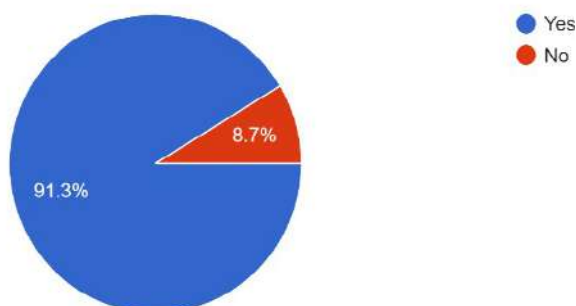
gram panchayat. The discussions happen in this way, but the decisions are made by the local political people.

A village administrative office - clerk is the main influential person because he has many connections outside the village. He is the one who makes them aware of the new government policies and helps them to benefit them.

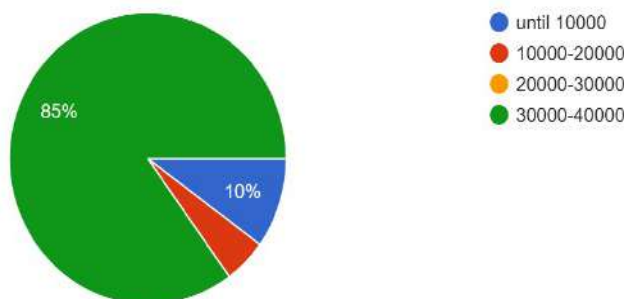
Relationship with outsiders:

There are only limited job opportunities in this village and many people go outside the village. Manpower is the main service that is provided by the village. Some educated youngsters even go abroad to work, and since 2010, the development of the village is in a faster rate. Then the main agricultural products produced are Paddy and Cotton. The Tamil Nadu government directly purchases the Paddy through TNC, which operates during the harvest period. The Cotton traders from outside purchase the cotton that is produced in the village and sell it to the textile market. The people do not depend on any group or any village, they themselves have enough resources to use. They go out of the village only to buy food grains and clothing for educational purposes. The Village President is from another village, so he is the dominant external leader who has many influences over the village. Most of the people in the village have taken bank loans and most of the loans range between Rs 30,000 - 40,000.

Any loan
23 responses

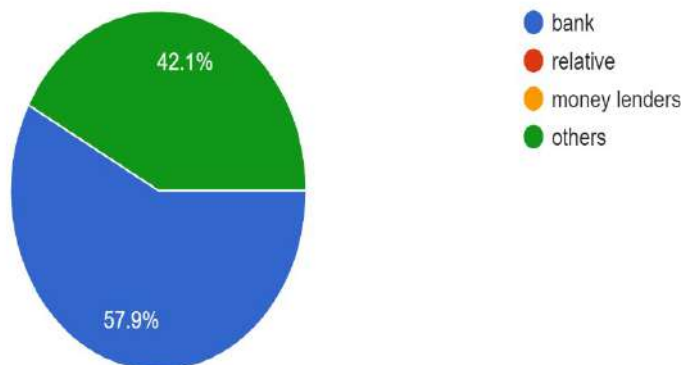


If yes, amount
20 responses



Source

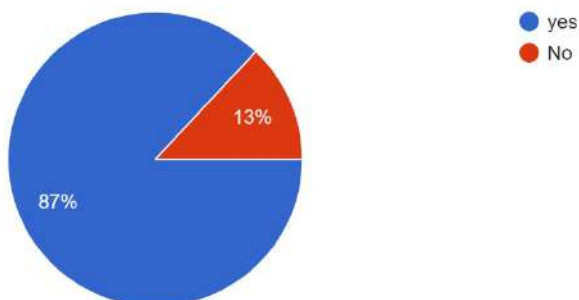
19 responses



Government Programmes:

MGNERGA

23 responses



M. Subbulapuram is a Village in T. Kallupatti Block in Madurai District of Tamil Nadu State, India. It is located 50 KM toward the west from the district headquarters in Madurai, 5 km from T. Kallupatti. 538 KM from the State capital Chennai. M. Subbulapuram Pin code is 625702 and the postal head office is T. Kallupatti. Pappaiyapuram (2 km), Kumarapuram (4 km), Kadaneri (4 km), Nallamaram (5 km), Silaimalaipatty (5 km) are the nearby Villages to M. Subbulapuram. It is surrounded by Watrap Block towards the west, Sedapatti Block towards the North, Kallikudi Block towards the East, and Virudhunagar Block towards the East. Virudhunagar, Tirumangalam, Pallapatti, and Srivilliputhur are the nearby Cities to M. Subbulapuram. This Place is on the border of the Madurai District and Virudhunagar District

The Government bus facility is available even before 70 years as said by the local people who were born in this village and are staying in the village for a period of 70 years. The village is between Tenkasi to Madurai, and there is a frequent bus facility for the villagers

The primary healthcare center has been there for 30 years.

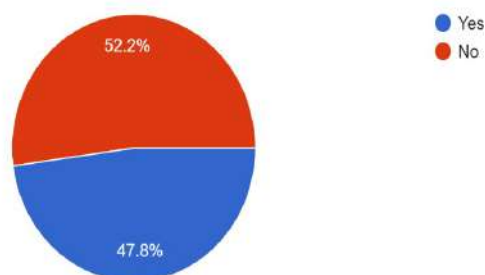
Under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin scheme, almost all the houses in the village have toilets. Most of the houses have gas connections.

Villager's opinion and complaints:

- Politicians visited their villages only during elections.
- Government bus frequency is only twice a day.
- There is a Lack of clean drinking water in the village.
- They have often power cuts.
- Farming is done only for 4 months due to no pumps or motors.
- Sewage water flowing on roads.

The availability of toilets availability in the village was alarming. More than half of the villagers were defecating in public places. They did not build a restroom inside their house.

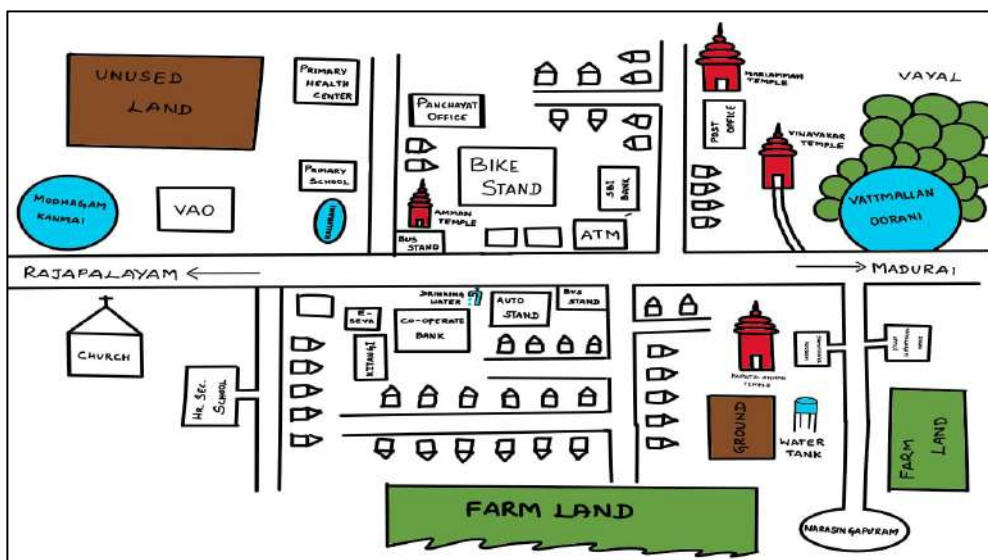
Toilet
23 responses



Sewage water on roads



Social Mapping



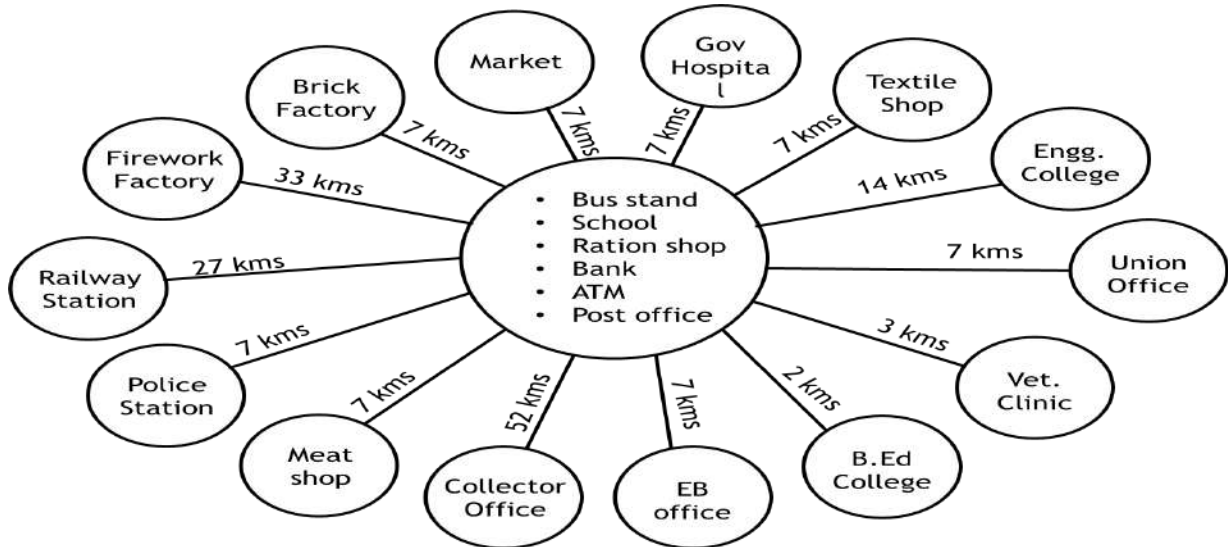
Interaction with school kids



Interaction with villagers



Mobility chart



Group 4: Dombucheri Vilage

Students: Akash K, Nikhil Prasanth V P, Balaji S, Rishikesh Siva Subramanian B
Deva George Rapheal, Shree Jayanth Sarasraam M, Hariharan R, Sriban S, Kumara
Shiddhaarth D N, Tharun S, Muniyan Derick Priyadarshan B, Viswanathan L V

Demography of the village:

Dombucheri is a village located in Bodinayakanur taluka of Theni district in Tamil Nadu. The village has a panchayat form of governance with Dombucheri as a “Block” village and the other four villages as a “Branch” village. Dombucheri village is identified with the “Lord Palani Aandavar” temple which is dated back to 120 years old. Also, to mention with there is a very old “Banyan Tree” at the centre of the village which is seen as a landmark for trade and transport even today.

The social composition of the village includes people from 18 different communities who are mainly engaged in agriculture, animal husbandry, and wage-based labour activities. Most of the families are depending on agriculture and animal husbandry for their subsistence of livelihood.

Due to family situations and lack of proper education in the early days, many people were forced to involve in labour-based activities. The current generation of people are giving importance to primary education which ensures slow transformation of their family towards a self-managed community. If we look at the career ladder, students are completing their primary or up-to-secondary education and stepping into their family business or some kind of labour work over a period.

People in the village are giving prime importance to traditional values and customs. One such biggest event in the village is the “Veerapandi temple festival”, where there is a group of people who celebrate the ceremony from the amount collected from every household of the village and nearby villages. There is also a practice followed in the village, that if any individual expires the entire household in the village contributes towards their funeral expenses. People also celebrate major festivals like Chithirai Pandigai, Deepavali, Pongal, and Veerapandi temple Thiruvizha.

To the best of the villager’s knowledge, 50 years back people consumed food grains such as ragi, maize, and millet, as their prime food. It got slowly replaced by rice and pulses. One of the reasons for this is the price of rice and pulses is getting cheaper than the food grains they consumed earlier. Particularly people are much dependent on the ration shop for monthly purchases of food grains for their family’s consumption.

Dombucheri village residents are owning separate agricultural lands which are in acres at the boundaries of the village and some of them are using leased lands for cultivation purposes. This village had no channel for river water in specific which is a constraint for them that Rice cultivation is not possible. They also cultivate 5-10 different crops namely maize, cotton, millet, sunflower, vegetables, sugarcane, banana plant, coconut tree farms and so on. These plantations are cultivated irrespective of any season.

Agriculture at Dombucheri mainly depends on underground water and natural rainfall. Moreover, rainfall is not much considered, and people have their individual wells and pumps which help them to get their yield. We have not seen much of borewells in this village, and the households have good groundwater resources and tanks. The government is providing pipeline water for drinking and for household purposes. Drinking water is getting contaminated at times and but they are easily accessing it.



Livelihood

Dombucheri is an Indian village where agriculture is the predominant means of livelihood. There are also some other livelihoods that play a part in the village.

The major types of livelihoods are:

- ✓ Farming
- ✓ Daily wage Workers
- ✓ Cattle Rearing
- ✓ Drivers
- ✓ Owning small stationary shops and Hotels
- ✓ MGNREGA Work

Livestock

Even though most of the villagers are mainly doing farming, also simultaneously rear cattle. There are also some of the villagers who only do cattle rearing.

- ✓ Cow
- ✓ Goat

The livestock is mainly reared for the milk. The goats are reared for milk and meat too. The cow is the maximum livestock which is reared in the village. The next one is the goat.

Cropping Patterns

Most of the villagers own their lands. They also have some leased lands. The village has more Rain-fed lands than Tank-fed lands. Most of the farming is done depending on the rain for cultivation. But the rainfall in the village was not that much in the rainy seasons too. A maximum number of farmers had their own water source like a well or bore etc. The cropping patterns in the village are

- ✓ Rainy Season – Maize, Bajra, Sunflower, Urad Dal, Green gram
- ✓ Summer Season – Cotton, Vegetables

Some farmers produce some vegetables mainly for their household use which depends upon the season and other situational factors. The villagers mostly cultivate maize, Bajra in the rainy season and cotton in the summer season.

Market Linkages

The crops produced in the villages are mostly sold in the markets nearby villages by the Producers. They allocate the maize which is needed for their own livestock. They used to grind the maize and use it as feed for their Livestock which reduces their cost of livestock. They sell the remaining crops only in the market.

The meat produced in the village is sold at the meat stalls in the nearby villages.

Milk is sold to the intermediates for Rs.28/litre and the intermediaries sold it to the cooperative society for around Rs.35/litre. They sell at this cost because they got loans from intermediaries for their Livestock.

Seasonal Impacts

The villagers mainly depend on the Rainy season and some of the Farmers have borewells. Maize and Bajra are cultivated according to the Farmers' wish but they are sowed and cultivated mostly in the rainy season by the farmers and cotton is cultivated in the summer season.

Some people work as daily wage workers for a particular period after the cultivation of crops, till they are ready to farm another crop.

Comparing Various Livelihoods

- ✓ **Small and Large Farmers** - The major farmers in the village have their own water sources as well as pumping capabilities. As a result, these farmers are free to plant the crops which they choose. The Small level farmers, on the other hand, mostly relied on the rain or the so-called "kanmoi" water canals.
- ✓ **Daily wage employees in the village:** Those who travel to the towns for employment receive a little higher wage than those who stay in the village.

Trends in Livelihood Changes over the Years

Farmers adopted some new technologies which helped them in reducing human labour resulting in reducing the cost of crops till cultivation.

Fertilizer and pesticide usage has increased over the years. Earlier cow dung was mainly used as a fertilizer but now it plays a less part only.

Mahatma Gandhi NREGA, the inclusion of these community people results in an increase in daily wages and a significant change in villagers' livelihood. The Government has given importance to educational institutions and other necessary amenities to each and every people in the village of Dombucheri.

School

The village has a primary school named **Thirupathi Gnabagartha Nadunilaipalli** . which has from I standard to VIII Standard. The school was started in the year 1950. The school has been started with just 10 students in the village that too to provide basic education. Years passed as the school slowly converted from elementary school to secondary school. The village people also slowly know the importance of education and send their children to school and made them study. At present in the year 2023, the school had a population of more than 100 students. This shows how much the older people in the village gave importance to the education of the younger generation. When I had an interaction with the village people, especially with the ladies of the village, they said that they are keen on sending their kids to school in order to provide a good education for their kids.

Primary Health Care Centre:

The village of Dombucheri also has a Primary Health Care Centre which was established in 1950. The main motto of the PH centre is to provide basic healthcare facilities for the entire village people around the area. The PH also has a scan centre, Operation beds etc. The PH also has delivery facilities for women and provides the basic treatments for cough, cold and fever.

Affordability, Availability and Accessibility:

Affordability, availability, and accessibility are crucial factors that contribute to the development of a village like Dombucheri. In terms of affordability, the cost of living in the village is relatively low compared to urban areas, making it an attractive place for people seeking a peaceful lifestyle. Necessities such as food, water, and shelter are also relatively affordable and accessible to the villagers.

In terms of availability and quality, Dombucheri has a few facilities that cater to the needs of its residents. The village has a well-equipped primary health centre that provides basic medical services to the people. Additionally, there are several pharmacies in the village that provide

healthcare services to the residents. The quality of education is also good, with a few government and private schools in the area that provide education to the children.

Accessibility is another important factor that contributes to the development of Dombucheri. The village is well-connected by roads, with frequent bus services connecting it to nearby towns and cities. The nearest railway station is Kodaikanal Road, which is about 40 km away, and the nearest airport is Madurai Airport, which is about 99.5 km away. This makes it easy for the residents of the village to travel to other parts of the country.

In addition to these facilities, Dombucheri also has several village institutions that play a crucial role in its development. The village has several cooperative societies that help in the development of agriculture and other small-scale industries. The Panchayat office is also active in the village, helping to promote various developmental activities. Volunteer organizations and self-help groups (SHGs) such as Kalanjiam are also active in the village, working towards the betterment of the community.

Community associations are also active in Dombucheri, helping to promote social and cultural activities in the village. These associations provide a platform for the residents to come together and work towards common goals. Additionally, the village has several post offices that provide basic postal services to the residents.

Overall, Dombucheri is a well-developed village that provides affordable, accessible, and quality facilities to its residents. The village institutions play a crucial role in its development, and the community is actively engaged in various developmental activities.

Health and Sanitation of the village:

When it comes to health and hygiene in Dombuchery village, people are aware of what to do and what not to do to safeguard themselves from diseases. They are from an agricultural background most people have a good healthy lifestyle and are consuming a good number of calories. The immune system is high because when we observed their health issues, we did not find any sort of pressure or sugar level to be abnormal and at times of covid they did not get affected at large.

This indicated that people are in good health, but when it comes to hygiene practices people are not aware of certain things which they took in a different perspective. For example, the government toilet scheme was constructed in many houses but still many of them do not use it properly and some have not used it for a long time since the drain system was not properly provided in the toilets built.

The waste disposal is maintained properly in most of the places in Dombuchery but the drainage system is not good. People often get fevers due to this issue and while interviewing the Primary Health Care staff, we came to know that many got infections like colds and fevers due to contaminated water and improper drainage systems.

People have their own traditional ways to treat small medical issues but still, they have a Primary Health Care Centre which was started in the 1970s. People from nearby villages come to this place as this is the Hub (block office) for 5 other health centres nearby. There were separate wards for patients and for pregnancy, an operation theatre, and a laboratory. In addition to it, they have Siddha treatment available in the unit and ambulance service available.

For basic treatment and consultation, people visit this PHC and in case of major issues they refer to Government Hospitals nearby Bodinayakanur and Theni since there is no ICU. In most cases, people are addressed with non-communicable diseases and for detailed scans, they send them to nearby laboratories as there are x-ray and ultrasound facilities. They get

medicines from Government and give them to the public at a lesser rate in comparison to other medicals.

There are separate doctors for every aspect and they are visiting on a regular basis, also in addition to that several camps are conducted to reach distant villages surrounding Dombuchery village. They travel to schools for campaigns and mobile medical units are available with a moto to identify the disease before it takes the spread. They also have a labour ward for pregnant women and take good care with kits provided pre- and post-delivery for both mother and the child. By means of membership, they get the additional advantage of free consultation and discounts on medicine and scans taken.

In the PHC, we can find the vision and mission to eradicate illness and disease at the early stage which helps the poor people in the community to benefit and access the medical services at a lower cost when compared to other hospitals. We found that many of the villagers are active and healthy by natural means and if they get ill, the PHC is taking good care and making a sustainable livelihood for the community at large.

Savings Credit and Finance:

The villagers' primary source of credit is borrowing from the neighbouring Dombuchery primary agricultural cooperative credit society which is limited to agricultural and livestock purposes, while there are also short-term borrowings from the local financiers for urgent and temporary needs.

Dombuchery primary agricultural cooperative credit society limited provides an interest-free loan amount maximum of up to Rs.3,00,000 for agricultural purposes. Interest-free loan per acre is Rs.25000. Apart from this, the cooperative society provides other financial activities like Fixed deposits, Recurring deposits at an interest rate of 7.5%. As per the interaction with the bank manager, he said that currently, they are handling 4.9 crores of transactions. Dombuchery primary agricultural cooperative credit society limited is also facilitating interest-free gold loans.

Apart from providing loans to agricultural activities, they are also providing interest-free loans for cattle (Purchasing cows). Under this scheme, farmers can avail of up to Rs.60000 interest-free loans for purchasing cows. Once the farmers purchase the cow, it will be verified by the bank officials for confirmation.

The major contribution of financing and savings activities to the villagers is contributed by Dombuchery primary agricultural cooperative credit society limited, as the major occupation of villagers is farming. Apart from this, some individuals are financing money to the villagers to satisfy their immediate monetary needs.

DHAN Foundation is also playing a major role in savings, credit, and financing activities in the form of KALANJAM in the villages. This KALANJAM is formed and run by a group of women residing in that village. They collect small money like 500 per month from each woman who is part of KALANJAM. This amount is saved in the bank. KALANJAM also provides loans at minimal interest rates to those who make payments correctly. These are all the savings, financing, and credit activities for the villagers to improve their life activities.

Dombuchery primary agricultural cooperative credit society limited and Interaction with the manager.

Key Development Issues:

a) **Pairwise Ranking:** The following problems were identified as “KEY-DEVELOPMENT” issues of Dombucheri Village of Theni district based upon the qualitative survey conducted by our team among the residents of the village.

- Lack of Uzhavar Sandhai
- Unhygienic Sanitation Practices
- Open Drainage System
- **Contaminated Drinking Water**
- Improper Road Infrastructure
- Lack of Career Guidance
- Non-frequent timing of buses
- Absence of Specialty Medical Centers
- Ignorance of Government Officials
- Street Light Issues

Lack of Uzhavar Sandhai: The people frequently complained about the absence of a ‘Market Place’ within the village so that the farmers can sell their own harvested crops at a reasonable price. Instead, they had to travel to either Bodi or Theni District to sell their crops. The non-formers who wanted to buy regular groceries since the inventory stored in small provisional stores is not sufficient always and this is one of the major problems in the village.

Unhygienic Sanitation Practises: The villagers became divided in opinion when the issue of sanitation was discussed. One set of people was still comfortable with the open defecation system followed by their ancestors whereas the other set of people who wanted to build toilets were dissatisfied with the quality of toilets built by the government under the **PM Swachh Bharat Yojana, Free Toilet Scheme 2019**. Hence there arose two different viewpoints on one single issue in the village.

Open Drainage System: Since Dombucheri is not a corporation or city yet, the interlinking of sewer lines done in all the big cities does not take place in the Dombucheri village as of now. In addition to that, the existing Panchayat Development Board has not developed a good drainage system either for the village. Hence the wastewater was flowing on open ground and roads with no real covers, which is a real challenge during winter and rainy seasons. This open drainage also paves the way for a lot of contagious diseases among the villagers which is a real issue of concern.

Contaminated Drinking Water: As mentioned by the villagers, there have been instances where the drinking water supplied by the government contained few worms and a lot of algae content in it due to the excess nitrification process, which is impossible to purify by Normal boiling. Instead, intensive water treatment processes are required for the water to be purified completely which is not possible within the village.

Improper Road Infrastructure: Since all the roads within the village are basically roads of lesser importance, they were not laid with high-quality bitumen which is clearly visible all over the village. In addition to that, all the connecting roads in the village are extremely damaged and the setback distance between many houses in the village and the main roads is either too

high or too low. This creates a lot of inconveniences for the villagers, especially during medical emergencies.

Lack of Career Guidance: As per the observation of the people, many youngsters and schoolchildren do not have a proper picture of their career and future. This is mainly due to the lack of knowledge about the domain and its surroundings. Many youngsters after their school education prefer to indulge in money-seeking activities than pursue the graduation of their interest. It has been a pressing issue as far as education is concerned.

Non-frequent timing of buses: Transport facilities act as the bloodline for the development of the economy. So, any inadequacy and non-frequency of transport facilities would have severe repercussions on the developmental aspects of the village as well as the growth of the village. Dombucheri is currently revolving under this problem which should be addressed by the government immediately.

Absence of specialty Medical Centres: The health care system has been one of the major problems of the village. Though there is a primary health care center that ensures the well-being of the people at the basic level, the absence of specialty medical centres like Cardio centres, Dialysis centre have a huge bearing on their health which in turn pushes the affected people to the brink of their life.

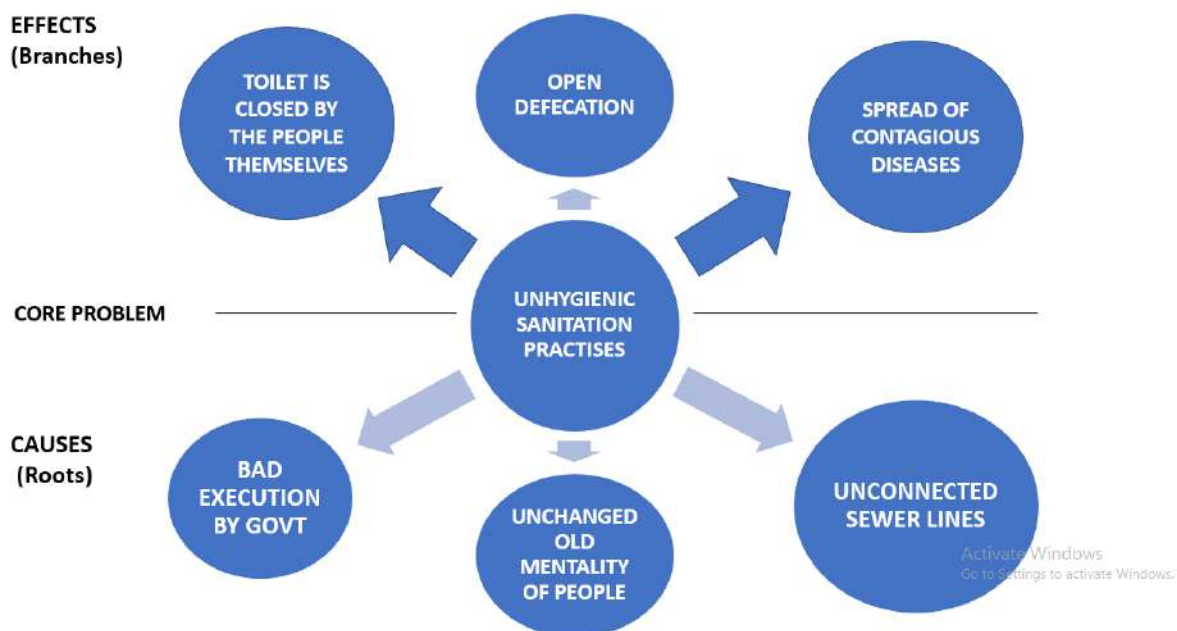
Ignorance of the Government officials: Many times, government schemes play a vital role in the developmental aspects of the village. But the implementation part lies with the government officials whose ignorance and sluggishness have a huge negative impact on the livelihood of the people.

Street Light Issues: The safety of women is at stake as the village has streetlight issues which in turn causes fear among the people, especially late at night. All the above-explained problems were analyzed using the 'Pairwise ranking' technique to find the developmental issues which are the most critical in Dombucheri Village and the resulting answer was **UNHYGIENIC SANITATION PRACTISES**. The following table explains the process behind the Pairwise Ranking technique employed in our analysis.

PROBLEM	LACK OF UZHAVAR SANDHAI	UNHYGIENIC SANITATION PRACTICES	OPEN DRAINAGE SYSTEM	CONTAMINATED DRINKING WATER	IMPROPER ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE	LACK OF CAREER GUIDANCE	NON-FREQUENT TIMING OF BUSES	ABSENCE OF SPECIALITY MEDICAL CENTER	IGNORANCE FROM GOVT. OFFICIALS	STREET LIGHT ISSUE
LACK OF UZHAVAR SANDHAI		LACK OF UZHAVAR SANDHAI	LACK OF UZHAVAR SANDHAI	CONTAMINATED DRINKING WATER	LACK OF UZHAVAR SANDHAI	LACK OF CAREER GUIDANCE	LACK OF UZHAVAR SANDHAI	ABSENCE OF SPECIALITY MEDICAL CENTER	LACK OF UZHAVAR SANDHAI	LACK OF UZHAVAR SANDHAI
UNHYGIENIC SANITATION PRACTICES			UNHYGIENIC SANITATION PRACTICES	CONTAMINATED DRINKING WATER	UNHYGIENIC SANITATION PRACTICES	UNHYGIENIC SANITATION PRACTICES	UNHYGIENIC SANITATION PRACTICES	UNHYGIENIC SANITATION PRACTICES	UNHYGIENIC SANITATION PRACTICES	UNHYGIENIC SANITATION PRACTICES
OPEN DRAINAGE SYSTEM				CONTAMINATED DRINKING WATER	OPEN DRAINAGE SYSTEM	OPEN DRAINAGE SYSTEM	OPEN DRAINAGE SYSTEM	OPEN DRAINAGE SYSTEM	IGNORANCE FROM GOVT. OFFICIALS	OPEN DRAINAGE SYSTEM
CONTAMINATED DRINKING WATER					IMPROPER ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE	CONTAMINATED DRINKING WATER	NON-FREQUENT TIMING OF BUSES	ABSENCE OF SPECIALITY MEDICAL CENTER	IGNORANCE FROM GOVT. OFFICIALS	CONTAMINATED DRINKING WATER
IMPROPER ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE						LACK OF CAREER GUIDANCE	IMPROPER ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE	IMPROPER ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE	IGNORANCE FROM GOVT. OFFICIALS	IMPROPER ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE
LACK OF CAREER GUIDANCE							LACK OF CAREER GUIDANCE	ABSENCE OF SPECIALITY MEDICAL CENTER	LACK OF CAREER GUIDANCE	LACK OF CAREER GUIDANCE
NON-FREQUENT TIMING OF BUSES								ABSENCE OF SPECIALITY MEDICAL CENTER	NON-FREQUENT TIMING OF BUSES	NON-FREQUENT TIMING OF BUSES
ABSENCE OF SPECIALITY MEDICAL CENTER									ABSENCE OF SPECIALITY MEDICAL CENTER	ABSENCE OF SPECIALITY MEDICAL CENTER
IGNORANCE FROM GOVT. OFFICIALS										IGNORANCE FROM GOVT. OFFICIALS
STREET LIGHT ISSUE										

PAIR WISE RANKING

Problem Tree Analysis: From the above tool, the identified developmental issues were further analysed using the “PROBLEM TREE ANALYSIS” method to find out the basic causes for the issue and following consequences that would take place due to that core issue.



As explained in the above chart, the following are the major causes that pave the way for the highlighted development issue.

Bad Execution by the Government: As previously explained, the grass root level execution of the government plans for free toilets was totally corrupted which resulted in poor-quality toilets built with construction materials not meeting the required standard.

Effect: People were frustrated with the quality of toilets built by the government which made them either demolish the toilet or close the squatting pan slot with cement mortar themselves, which ended up in unhygienic sanitation practices.

Unchanged Old Mentality of the People: Here the blame mainly falls on the villagers themselves because there are still old people who prefer defecating in open spaces which is totally wrong but still followed by generation after generation.

Effect: Open Defecation by people is a disappointing result due to the old mentality but this will never make any women in the village comfortable or safe.

Unconnected Sewer Lines: This is a consequence of the open drainage system followed throughout the village. People do not find good sewer lines connected with each other as in a municipality or corporation in Dombucheri which forces them to drain the wastewater pipes and even soil pipes in the open.

Effect: Many waters borne diseases like Cholera and Typhoid find these open drainage pits as their breeding place which results in a lot of suffering for the villagers who also lack major multi-specialty hospitals within the village.

Interaction with people



Group 5: Karupaiyapuram Village

Students: Akash R, Balaji R, Dinesh Sundar K, Hemanth Kumar K M, Madhusudhanan N, Navaneethakrishnan P, Praddep Ganesh V, Roshan Guru G K, Siddarth S, Sriramiah R, Thirunitheesh P R

Introduction: The village that we visited is known as "KARUPAIYAPURAM," situated in the Kadamalagundu Block of the Theni, District in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu. Despite its proximity to this notable site, the village of KARUPAIYAPURAM lacks some essential resources and basic amenities. KARUPAIYAPURAM is primarily an agricultural village, with its inhabitants relying heavily on farming and livestock for their livelihood. The village is blessed with fertile agricultural land, which contributes significantly to the economy of the village. However, despite the abundance of agricultural resources, the village still struggles with a lack of access to basic amenities such as clean water, sanitation facilities, and healthcare. Despite these challenges, the people of KARUPAIYAPURAM are hardworking and resilient. They continue to work tirelessly to improve their living conditions and the overall well-being of the village. The villagers' commitment to agriculture and livestock farming reflects their deep-rooted connection to the land and their traditional way of life.

Demography: In this village, approximately 900 adults are living 435 are male and 465 are females. It is noteworthy that the remaining individuals are likely to be young people, though the exact number is unspecified. Furthermore, all the people in this village follow the Hindu religion, and they all belong to the same caste. It is important to emphasize that there is no discrimination or differentiation of any kind among the villagers based on their religion or caste.

	Male	Female	
Adult	232	292	
Age 0 to 5	45	35	
Age 5 to 6	40	32	
Age 6 to 11	45	39	
Age 11 to 14	43	47	
Yet to finish schooling	30	20	
Total	435	465	900

Traditional Practices: In this region, it is a customary practice of the farmers to commence their cultivation activities on the first day of the Tamil month of Chithirai. The farmers perform a special pooja at the beginning of the farming season as they gather the traditional wooden plow tool, oxen, and vegetable seeds and give respect in front of the god. This auspicious occasion is celebrated with great enthusiasm and joy by the entire village. Another notable aspect of this tradition is the farmers' collective effort to dig canals. They join hands together to dig canals that pave the way to irrigate agricultural lands with enough water. This is an essential task as it ensures the proper distribution of water to the crops, which is crucial for their growth and yield. The whole community comes together and participates in these occasions.

Food And Housing Patterns:

The village of KARUPAIYAPURAM is home to various types of residences, including brick buildings, which are also known as Pucca houses. Both Pucca and semi-pucca houses are present in KARUPAIYAPURAM. Additionally, a few households have constructed their homes with the assistance of the government-sponsored scheme called the "Pradhan Mantri

Awaj Yojna".

Unfortunately, access to basic sanitation facilities is limited, as only 50 households have toilets. As for the resident's dietary habits, their food patterns primarily consist of traditional Tamil Nadu staples such as rice, Wheat, and other locally sourced foods. The mostly cultivated crops are vegetables and cotton.

Land Resources and Water Resources:

The village of KARUPPAIYAPURAM is inhabited by individuals who either own land or lease it. The land that is utilized by all members of a family is known as Patta land and is issued by the Government. However, the people of KARUPPAIYAPURAM are facing a serious issue of water scarcity as there are no reliable sources of water available in the region. The villagers are dependent on rainfall for their water needs, which makes their access to water highly unpredictable. There are three ponds in the village, but due to the contamination of water, they are not suitable for use, neither for irrigation nor for drinking purposes. Additionally, the villagers do not have access to unsalted water, as even the water delivered through water tanks is salty and unsuitable for consumption. The major sources of water for the village are the Saduragiri River and Vaigai River and the Suruli Falls. However, the pollution of these rivers has resulted in the contamination of the ponds, rendering them unfit for use. The villagers are in urgent need of access to corporate water for their daily needs, as the current situation is causing a lot of difficulties for them.

Livelihood

Types of Livelihoods

KARUPPAIYAPURAM is a typical example of Indian village where agriculture is the predominant means of livelihood. The literacy rate is low in the village, and this is one of the most important reasons. Among the 900 people (250 families) there are only 44 graduates. About half of the people are illiterates and there are very few who have completed up to class

The major types of livelihoods in the village are:

- ✓ Farming
- ✓ Daily wages workers
- ✓ Cattle Rearing
- ✓ Employment in shops and small firms in nearby villages, towns, or cities
- ✓ Owning small stationary shops and small Kirana shops

Livestock

Though most of the villagers in KARUPPAIYAPURAM are into farming they also rear cattle. There are also some villagers who only do cattle rearing.

The livestock found in the village are:

- Cow
- Goat
- Poultry

The livestock is mainly reared for milk. The goats are reared for milk and meat. Cow is the most reared livestock in the village. The second most found livestock is the goat. Some families also have poultry. They get eggs from the hens. They mostly use the eggs for family consumption and they sell the excess eggs. There are no huge poultry farms or enclosures in the village. Only one family has pigs and they sell the pigs to meat stalls.

Cropping Pattern: The Village Has Minimal Acres Of Land. Most Of The Villagers Own Land. The Government Has Given 'Patta' Land To The Landless People. Most Of The Villagers Who Own Land Use The Land For Cultivation. The Land Holding Ranges From 0.5 To 6 Acres.

The crop pattern of the village is given in the table below:

Rainy Season	Summer Season
Tomatoes, Cauliflower, Brinjals.	Cotton

The villagers mostly cultivate vegetables in the rainy season and cotton and cucumber in the summer season. Other than this some farmers produce some vegetables in small quantities mostly for household use depending upon the season and other factors.

Market Linkages

- The vegetables produced in the village are mainly sold to some mediators who approach them. Some farmers sell vegetables to big shop owners. The cotton produced is sold to mill owners.
- Villagers get the meat from their cattle and sell it to meat stalls which are in nearby villages. Milk is sold to households within the village directly by the farmers.
- The farmers do not have any direct linkage with the market.
- The inputs for farming including fertilizers and pesticides are provided by the government at cheap prices.

Seasonal Impacts

The villagers lack availability of water and hence the vegetables are grown only in the rainy season and cotton is grown in the summer season along with some other crops like cabbages, cauliflower, and other vegetables. Some people cultivate either vegetables or cotton and these people work as daily wage workers in the nearby organizations, or they work in the fields of other farmers during the seasons when they are not cultivating.

Challenges

Some of the major problems faced by the village are:

- i) Lack of Clean drinking water** - The lack of access to clean drinking water in a village can have a profound impact on the community. Women and children find it very difficult to fetch or collect water, which takes up a significant amount of time and can prevent them from attending school or engaging in other productive activities. In addition, the water that they collect may not be safe for drinking, leading to health problems and disease.
- ii) Lack of Transportation** - There are only two buses that come to the village. Other than this the villagers must depend upon private vehicles for their requirements.
- iii) Waste Disposal** - There is no proper system for waste collection or waste management. Waste is accumulated in various parts of the village.
- iv) Drainage** - The drainage system is not complete in the village. All households do not have proper drainage and the drainages are open.
- v) Lack of Street Lights** - Some of the villagers go to nearby areas to work and

some villagers are staying outside the village for educational purposes. After it gets dark it is difficult for the villagers especially women to get back to the village and they have safety concerns.

vi) Hospitals Nearby - There is a small government clinic in the village. For more serious matters they must go to Rajaas' Hospital and for more major issues or emergencies, they must go to the town to get treatment.

vii) Incomplete Roads - The road that goes to the village is not tarred. Even though the nearby road is tarred it is difficult to reach the village.

Vulnerabilities

i) Education - Since only Primary school is in the village, the number of school dropouts may increase as the parents may find it difficult to send their children to schools.

ii) Diseases - There is no proper drainage system and the existing drainages are open. This may lead to several diseases or pandemics.

iii) Middlemen - Due to a lack of connection with the direct market and due to the existence of middlemen the farmers are unable to get good prices for what they produce.

iv) Government Schemes - Though there are more than 15 government schemes available in the village the villagers are not aware of these projects and schemes. This is depriving them from getting many benefits.

Cropping Strategies

Based on the season the farmers cultivate different crops and this has helped to increase their production and income.

Traditional Systems

During the period from mid-May to mid-June, the villagers celebrate the Vaikasi Pongal festival. This festival is a traditional festival of the village. The common deity of the village is 'Vaalavandhal Amman'. They celebrate 'Vaalavandhal Amman Thiruvila' every year.

Wage Pattern (Gender Differences)

There is no difference in the wage payment to men and women. On an average workers get 220 to 250 rupees for a day's work. This is given to the worker irrespective of gender.

Migration And Wages

The villagers work in the nearby villages or towns but get back to their village in the evening. So, there is no migration in the village. The wages for the workers in the towns are slightly higher than what is received in the village. The villagers do not migrate from their village.

Mgnrega Work

This scheme is known in the village as the '100-day work scheme'. More than 60 percent of the villagers are employed as daily wage workers under this scheme.

Trends In Livelihood Changes Over The Years

Over the last 10 years, several changes have occurred in the village. Some of the major changes include:

i) Adoption of new technologies in the Farming Process - Farming has become easier due to the adoption of technology and it has helped in reducing human labour and

increasing profit for the farmers. Some new inventions like for example tree climbing equipment have also made the work of farmers easier.

ii) Use of Fertilizers and Pesticides - Farmers are increasingly using fertilizers and chemical pesticides in the village. Earlier organic ways of farming were mostly used by the farmers in the village.

iii) Mahatma Gandhi NREGA has resulted in a significant increase in the wages of rural workers, with a focus on benefiting SC, ST, women, and socially excluded communities. The inclusion of these groups in the plans of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA could be a significant indicator of poverty alleviation in rural areas and has led to improved livelihoods in many villages over the years.

Comparison of Different Livelihoods

i) Small and Large Farmers - The large farmers in the village have pumping facilities and irrigation facilities like sprinklers and drip irrigation. Hence, these farmers can grow the crops of their choice. On the other hand, the small farmers are more dependent on rain or the water canals called 'kanmoi'.

ii) Daily Wage workers in the village and Town - The daily wage workers who go to the towns get slightly better pay than those who work in the village.

Services, Infrastructure And Institutions

Education:

- KARUPPAIYAPURAM village has a Primary Government School and children join the Pottapalayam Government school for 6th to 8th standard education and then use Samanatham or Madurai Government Higher Secondary School for Higher Secondary education.
- Primary School consists of 35 students.
- Parents are willing to admit their children to the Private school than Government school because they expect more standards in terms of education from Government Schools.
- Grooming children in the same school from primary till the completion of Secondary education can be effective in developing their attitudes and personality.
- St. Dominic Saviour trust higher secondary is the only private school located in KARUPPAIYAPURAM village.
- Students use government buses to reach the school in the mornings and return in the evenings.
- KLN College of Engineering is located near KARUPPAIYAPURAM village.
- Some of the village people work in KLN college as teaching and non-teaching staff.
- "Puthiya Bharatha Ezhutharivu Iyakkam" is an activity conducted by the BEO office (Block Education Office) for enhancing children's creativity.
- Primary Government School has only Headmaster for teaching and there is NO office attendant.

Health Facilities:

- KARUPPAIYAPURAM Village has access to a Primary health center and a Government Veterinary hospital located 1 km from the center of the village i.e., in Kondhagai.
- The Primary Healthcare Centre helps people with basic first aid activities and handles pregnant women also with more
- For any major health issues, people will have to reach out to Madurai Government Hospital which is around 15 km from the village.
- People who breed cows and goats prefer the government veterinary hospital for treatment.
- KARUPPAIYAPURAM village has more farming activities than Animal husbandry

Basic Amenities:

Road:

- People do not have a road network for proper transportation facilities.
- Roads are not in good condition and they need to be improved.
- For example, one street in the village is extremely in bad road condition that even a share auto cannot pass by smoothly.
- The road conditions are good in places where public transports like buses travel to and forth.
- Although the buses are available, the timings of the buses are not appropriate and trips of the number of buses per day is not enough for the people.
- However, this is due to less financial resource generation and the dark history of the communal riot that happened between the two villages.
- It is one of the reasons the buses employed are lesser due to violent behavior and threat to security.

Electricity:

- Electricity supply is constant throughout the village.
- Streetlights have a proper electricity supply at night, but the number of streetlights is less in number (only about 80 to 90).
- Some streets do not have streetlight facilities.

Water:

- The village has water storage facilities, but the maintenance is poor, so water demand is high in summer times.
- They even have three ponds and a large kanmoi which are large in terms of water holding capacity and they serve as a source of water supply for nearly 450 hectares of agricultural land area.
- If the village people do proper cleaning of the ponds and Kanmoi then they can use the water for agriculture as well as for drinking purposes.
- They even have Private as well as Common wells to facilitate their irrigation needs.
- Some wells are still in use and some are in bad condition.
- Saltwater exists in the ground due to the chemicals disposed by adjacent educational Universities and Industries like paper mills.
- It has not affected the people adversely in terms of health. However, it must be seen as a potential danger to the health of the village residents.

PDS:

- Ration shops are run in a proper manner. Ration goods are given once a month to the people in the village regularly.
- The amenities like rice, sugar, Palm oil, and Dal are provided through the Ration shops.
- No kerosene oil is provided in the Ration shop, but this seems to be a major concern for the people when the price of gas goes higher.
- Rice is given free of cost. The price of sugar is Rs. 25 per kg, the price of palm oil is Rs. 30 per kg and the price of the Dal is Rs. 30 per Kg.

Affordability, Availability (Quality), And Accessibility:

- KARUPPAIYAPURAM Village, like many other rural villages in India, faces challenges related to affordability, availability (quality), and accessibility. These challenges can be related to necessities such as food, healthcare, education, and infrastructure.
- Affordability is a major challenge for many villagers in KARUPPAIYAPURAM, who may face limited financial resources. In terms of affordability, villagers often face challenges in accessing basic goods and services due to limited financial resources.
- There are issues such as high prices for food and other essentials, limited access to credit, and a lack of affordable healthcare.
- In terms of availability and quality, rural villages may also face challenges in accessing quality goods and services.
- This can include limited access to healthcare facilities, poor quality of education, and a lack of infrastructure such as roads and electricity.
- Finally, accessibility is also an important issue in rural villages.
- Limited transportation options can make it difficult for villagers to access markets, healthcare facilities, and other important resources.
- It is difficult for the villagers to access basic goods and services, such as nutritious food, clean water, and healthcare.
- The high cost of living can also limit their access to credit and other financial resources.
- This can make it difficult for them to start businesses, purchase equipment, or invest in other opportunities that could help to improve their financial situation.
- Availability and quality of goods and services are the major concerns in the rural village of KARUPPAIYAPURAM.
- Villagers face limited access to healthcare facilities, poor quality of education, and a lack of infrastructure such as roads and electricity.
- They also find it difficult to access basic services, travel to markets or healthcare facilities, and participate in economic activities.

Cooperative Societies

- To address the above-mentioned challenges, village-level institutions like cooperative societies can play an important role.
- Cooperative societies are organizations that are owned and controlled by their members, who work together to achieve common goals.
- These societies can provide a range of services to their members, including access to credit, market their products, and other resources.

- By working together, the villagers can help to address some of the challenges that they face in accessing affordable, quality goods and services.
- Cooperative societies in KARUPPAIYAPURAM Village can help to address the affordability challenge by providing access to credit and other financial resources. This can help villagers to start their businesses, purchase equipment, and invest in other opportunities that could improve their financial situation. Cooperative societies can also help to address the availability and quality challenge by working to improve healthcare facilities, education, and infrastructure in the village.
- Finally, cooperative societies can help to address the accessibility challenges by providing transportation services to their members. This can make it easier for villagers to access markets, healthcare facilities, and other resources. By working together, the villagers can help to address some of the challenges that they face in accessing affordable, quality goods and services.
- To conclude, KARUPPAIYAPURAM Village, like many other rural villages, faces challenges related to affordability, availability (quality), and accessibility. However, village-level institutions like cooperative societies can play an important role in addressing these challenges. By working together, villagers can help to improve their financial situation, access basic services, and participate in economic activities. Cooperative societies can work to improve healthcare facilities, education, and infrastructure in the village, making it easier for villagers to access basic resources.

Panchayat Offices:

- The President of the village is Mr. Jothimani.
- He has performed well in terms of his responsibility to enhance the status of the village to a decent one.
- The Panchayat office is at the center of the village and is accessible to people from 10 am to 2 pm.
- All the government contracts for the improvement of the village like good constructions, water bodies revamp, drainage systems, road facilities, children's park, and nursery gardens are being considered and actively worked upon.
- Few facilities are already completed and many are underway to completion.

Volunteer Organizations, SHGs, And Community Associations:

- People are active members of SHGs and other community associations.
- Most of the members in these groups have more than one-member income in their families.
- Some families utilize the group schemes in a proper way and attain the benefits in a way to generate additional income such as house rents, shop rents, and returning gold from banks.
- These community activities also encourage the people to work in groups and increase a better communication and understanding between the people.

Post Office:

- For KARUPPAIYAPURAM village they use the post office which is located near the KLN Engineering college.
- They provide all the necessary facilities for people. People also use postal services.

- Transportation, Delivery, money transfer, postal saving, postal insurance, passport and visa services, and Philately are the activities carried out in the postal office.

SAVINGS, CREDIT, AND FINANCE

Sources Of Credit:

- The villagers do not prefer banks for loans because of the securities they have to provide to the banks.
- Besides, the banks charge high-interest rates for the loan.
- The financial condition of most of the people in the village is very poor.
- The loan repayment becomes tougher for them.
- They take loans from other people so they need not have to pay any securities and high interest rates.

Farm Credit Systems And Non-Farm Credit Systems:

- The Farm Credit System (FCS) is a nationwide lending network that specializes in serving the agricultural community.
- Farm credit system refers to providing financial assistance that supports the production of agricultural products like vegetables, cotton whereas the non-farm credit system refers to financial assistance for poultry, fisheries, etc.,
- The whole village does not get money from banks or other financial institutions, but they use the concept of CIRCULATION OF MONEY and CHIT systems to gain and leverage money out of the cash they have in hand.
- There is NO SPECIFIC DEBT CYCLE for the villagers of KARUPPAIYAPURAM. They borrow money in times of their need and return in times when they have money in hand.

Savings, Investments, And Money Lenders:

- The villagers of KARUPPAIYAPURAM village save money through the assistance provided by Self-Help Groups like Kalanjiam.
- Money lenders in the village provide money at the interest rate of 5-6% which is much lower than the traditional banking interest rate and it is the reason people prefer private lending to banks.

Other Social Systems Of Spending:

- People of the village forget all disparities and arguments in their minds and come together to celebrate temple festivals.
- Temple contributions and festival contributions are equally made by all the families of the village. All the villagers make sure to pay at least 500 – 1000 rupees to signify their contribution to the function.
- The Relative contribution happens in the form of 'Moi' system that is highly prevalent in Tamil Nadu.
- The villagers whenever they conduct a function, the relatives provide Moi during the function. This happens every time each family in the village conducts a function.
- Through this system, the family manages almost 70-75% of the money they have spent on the function.

Health And Sanitation

- Lack of proper sanitation facilities is a major issue in this locality.
- Access to basic sanitation is a basic human right, but it is denied to many in this area.
- The absence of toilets in households is a major obstacle in achieving the goal of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.
- Women and girls are excessively affected by the lack of toilets as it exposes them to safety risks and hampers their education.
- Providing access to clean and safe toilets is essential for the health and well-being of the people in this area.
- Urgent action is required to address this issue and ensure that every household has access to a toilet facility
- A village without a proper drainage system can lead to various health hazards for its inhabitants.
- Lack of drainage can result in stagnant water that provides a breeding ground for mosquitoes and other insects, which can cause diseases like malaria and dengue fever.
- Without a proper drainage system, the village may experience frequent floods during the rainy season, leading to damage to homes, crops, and livestock.
- The absence of drainage can also result in soil erosion, which can harm the environment and damage agricultural land.
- The accumulation of wastewater in the village can lead to the contamination of drinking water sources, which can cause illnesses such as diarrhoea, cholera, and typhoid fever.
- Without proper drainage, the roads in the village may become impassable, making it difficult for residents to access essential services like healthcare and education.
- Lack of drainage can result in unpleasant odours and unsanitary conditions, which can negatively affect the quality of life for villagers.
- In the absence of proper drainage, it may be challenging to dispose of solid waste, leading to litter and pollution in the village.
- Without adequate drainage, the village may experience significant economic losses due to damage to infrastructure and decreased agricultural productivity.
- The installation of proper drainage can significantly improve the living conditions of villagers and create a healthier and more sustainable environment for all.
- The expenditure for building a sewage canal in front of individual households ranges from 3 to 5 Lakhs.

Open Defecation

- **Open defecation** is a common practice in this locality due to the lack of toilets.
- Out of 10 houses, only 1 house has a toilet facility.
- 90% of the houses in this area do not have a toilet.
- Poor sanitation and hygiene practices can lead to the spread of diseases and infections.
- Most people are unaware of the community toilet that is built in the village and

the toilet is not in use at present.

- The community toilet has been built during the year 2021-22 by the village panchayat with an expenditure of 5.25 Lakhs.

Key Development Issues In Karuppaiyapuram Village

1. Access to basic amenities:

The village does not have access to basic amenities like clean water, sanitation, healthcare, education, and electricity.

✓ **Agricultural Development:**

The main source of income in KARUPPAIYAPURAM village is agriculture but farmers are not able to cultivate their land effectively. There are issues with irrigation as there are limitations to access the sluice gates.

✓ **Rural Infrastructure:**

The main road connecting Kondhagai and Pottapalayam via KARUPPAIYAPURAM is good but there are poor public transportation and communication networks. There are only 90 streetlights in the village most of which cover the main roads.

✓ **Employment Opportunities:**

Employment opportunities are very less in the village and in the nearby areas. Only some people can find work that pays a fair wage that provides a stable income.

✓ **Social Issues:**

There are some social issues affecting the community, such as gender inequality, caste discrimination, or poverty. The villagers are taking some community-driven initiatives to address these issues.

Way Forward

Access to basic amenities:

- Developing a community-led initiative to build and maintain water tanks or wells to improve access to clean drinking water.
- Partnering with local health centers or NGOs to provide healthcare services and education to the community.
- Supporting the development of local schools and educational programs to improve access to education.

Agricultural Development:

- Providing farmers with improved access to irrigation facilities and taking more crop protection measures.
- Setting up farmer cooperatives to enable collective bargaining and access to markets.
- Encouraging the use of modern farming techniques to increase productivity.

Rural Infrastructure:

- Investing in infrastructure development, such as building better roads, common sewage systems, and public transportation systems.
- Encouraging private investment in the area to boost economic growth and create employment opportunities.

Employment Opportunities:

- Providing training programs to develop skills that are in demand in the local job market.
- Supporting entrepreneurship and small business development in the village.
- Encouraging the development of industries that can leverage the local resources and

expertise, such as agro-processing or handicrafts.

Social Issues:

- Promoting awareness and education on issues such as gender equality, caste discrimination, and poverty.
- Encouraging the involvement of women and marginalized groups in decision-making processes.

Environment:

- Promoting sustainable agriculture practices, such as organic farming or agroforestry.
- Creating awareness about the importance of keeping the natural resources clean and healthy like kanmois and fresh ponds (near Valavandhal Amman temple).
- Creating awareness about the hazards of open defecation and waste disposal near Kanmois.
- Though two people were appointed for cleaning the kanmoi, man-power seemed to be inadequate and henceforth the program ceased.
- Encouraging the use of clean energy sources and reducing waste generation.

Governance:

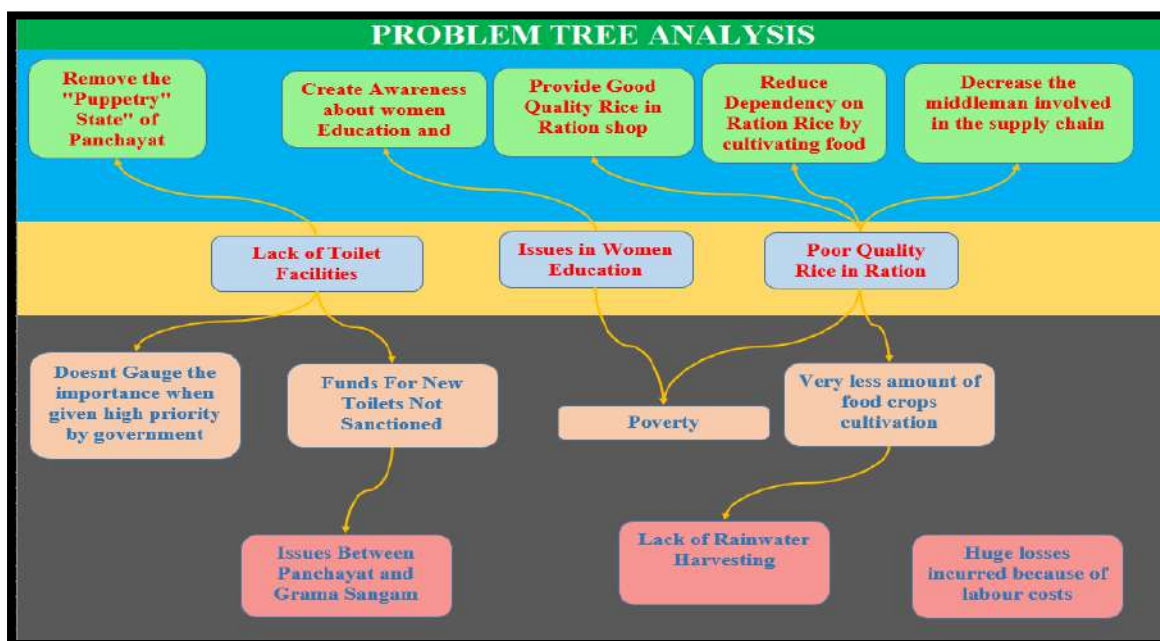
- Encouraging transparency and accountability in local governance through citizen participation.
- Building the capacity of local government officials to enable better governance and service delivery.
- Encouraging the development of local institutions and mechanisms for dispute resolution and conflict management

Pairwise Problem

- Problems can be identified and prioritized using a pairwise problem matrix used in problem-solving and decision-making. In general, it can be applied to any situation where multiple problems need to be addressed.
- The first step in creating a pairwise problem matrix is to identify a list of problems. Afterward, each problem is compared to every other problem on the list to determine which has a greater impact. It is usually done by assigning a score or rating based on a set of criteria, such as the severity, the cost, the potential benefits, and the likelihood of success.
- After all the pairwise comparisons have been made, the matrix shows each problem's relative importance. The matrix can be used to prioritize the problems and determine which ones should be addressed first.
- Villagers can use the pairwise problem matrix to identify and prioritize their most pressing issues. Using a pairwise problem matrix, for example, a village can determine which of its problems is most important to solve first, such as access to clean water, lack of healthcare facilities, and poor road infrastructure.

Pair-Wise Problem Matrix					
PROBLEMS	Toilet Facility	Ration Rice Quality	Power Cuts	Hospital Facility	Bus Timings
Toilet Facility	1				
Ration Rice Quality	Ration Rice Quality	1			
Power Cuts	Toilet Facility	Ration Rice Quality	1		
Hospital Facility	Toilet Facility	Ration Rice Quality	Hospital Facility	1	
Bus Timings	Toilet Facility	Ration Rice Quality	Bus Timings	Bus Timings	1

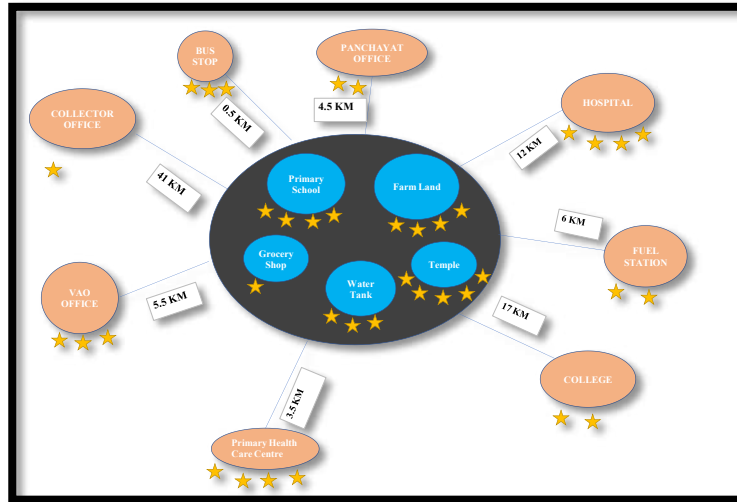
Problem Tree:



Mobility Mapping

A mobility map of a village involves analyzing and visualizing various forms of transportation available, as well as identifying potential barriers to mobility for different groups of people, such as the elderly and people with disabilities. Mobility mapping aims to create a comprehensive understanding of how people move around the village and identify opportunities for improving it. Mobility mapping typically entails collecting data on various modes of transportation, such as walking, cycling, public transportation, and private automobiles, as well as the condition of the roads and sidewalks, the availability of public transportation, and the location of key landmarks and destinations in the village. Various tools and techniques, such as maps, graphs, and charts, are then used to analyze and visualize the

collected data. It is possible to identify areas with high demand for transportation, as well as areas with gaps or barriers to mobility through this analysis.



Seasonal mapping Seasonal mapping of a village is a process of creating a map that depicts seasonal changes in land cover and land use in the village. A map is typically created by analyzing several factors, including the time of year, topography, land use, satellite imagery, and local knowledge. Researchers, farmers, and policymakers can use the map to understand the seasonal dynamics of the village and make informed decisions about land use and resource management. In addition, it can be used to monitor changes in the landscape over time and identify areas in need of conservation. The seasonal mapping of a village is an essential tool for understanding and managing the village's resources.

	சித்திரை	வைகாசி	ஆணி	ஆடி	ஆவணி	புரட்டாசி	ஐப்பசி	கார்த்திகை	மார்கழி	தை	மாசி	பங்குனி
கத்தரிக்காய்												
தென்னை												
காலிப்பிளவர்												
தக்காளி												
முருங்கை												
கொட்டை முந்திரி												
பருத்தி												

Group 6: K Meenakshipuram Village

Students: Aarthi T J, Annie Christabel Princy J, Boomika S, Eshani C, Ilakkiya K, Likhitha P, Monika M, Pradhu Nisha, Sabura Saheen A, Shanth Judith A, Subalakshmi R, Vedhavalli N

History

The oldest member of the village is Mr. Gangamuthu aged 93 and he narrated the history of his village. He is a farmer who still practices farming on his sandalwood farm actively even at this age. His family consists of his 80-year-old wife and 4 daughters and a son, all of whom are well-settled in different parts of the state. He owned 7 acres of land earlier and now he has 3 acres of sandalwood trees. He did road contracts and constructed irrigation tanks (kammai) and pump sets. Later he left that job because the partnership fell apart and started farming. He played a key role in bringing Kamarajar to the village with the help of the villagers he repaired the roadway for Kamarajar's arrival. K-Meenakshipuram is a small village located near "Kallorani village." Under Virudhunagar district comes under the "Aruppukkottai" block. Earlier the village was named "Konganakuruchi meenatchipuram". Now changed as K-Meenakshipuram. Naiyakar's & Chettiayars are the ancestors of this village. Initially, they lived alongside the riverbank (kamma karai) located near the village.

Demography and Population

The town has 320 families and a total adult population of 733 people, including 400 men and 333 women. Men outnumber women in percentage terms. 54 women and 46 males out of every 100 persons. Most of the men are working as lorry drivers, working for the quarry and farmers. Under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, the housewives of the village go for 100-day wage work. Some of them also engage in farming and a very little population of women go to work at the quarry. In the settlement, there were only two types of homes: concrete homes and homes with tiled roofs. Hinduism was the primary religion practiced by most people, with Christianity coming in second.

Food and Festivals

Millet, Bhajra, and Ragi were the main food items consumed nearly 50 years ago. People now consume rice as their primary food. In the month of Panguni Kuladeivam and Chithirai Pongal festivals are celebrated. Communities like scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are not allowed in certain traditional festivals. Maasikalari is a social event that happens in the village.

Health and Sanitation

People in the village seem to be in good health condition, but it takes 20 to 30 minutes to go to the hospital due to a lack of transportation. The infrastructure development in the village was inadequate, for example, 90% of the houses do not have restrooms and plumbing facilities they lack the usage of footwear and wash their hands.

Savings, Credit, and Finance

Individuals save money from their income as part of the Kalanjyam Scheme and get loans based on their credibility. In addition, individuals have accounts with TMB and Punjab Nation Bank. The villagers mostly take loans for farming, education, and marriage. Kalanjyam starts financing the village people to eliminate loan sharks by allowing people to get loans with interests of 1.5% to 2%. Each member is eligible for a loan of two lakhs, and Kalanjyam offers loans with lower interest rates than banks.

Education

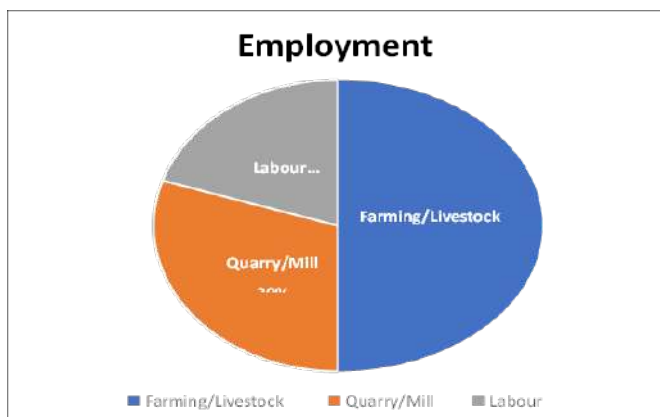
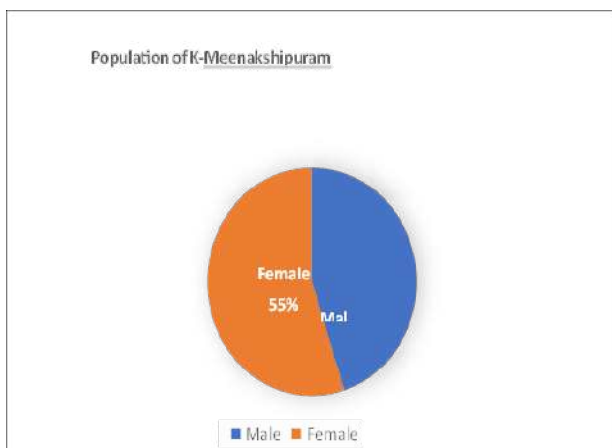
There were 23 students in the primary school and 15 children in Anganwadi in their village, which has two teachers and two caretakers. Parents wish to have a middle school and more facilities for their children in their village with a park for playing.

Problems

The community lacks a post office, bank, and transportation facilities. They have access to a hospital and a police station, although they are located a distance from the settlement. There exists water scarcity in the village. Due to the frequent use of lorries and the inadequate state of the roads, this community, which was built adjacent to quarries, suffers greatly.

Solutions

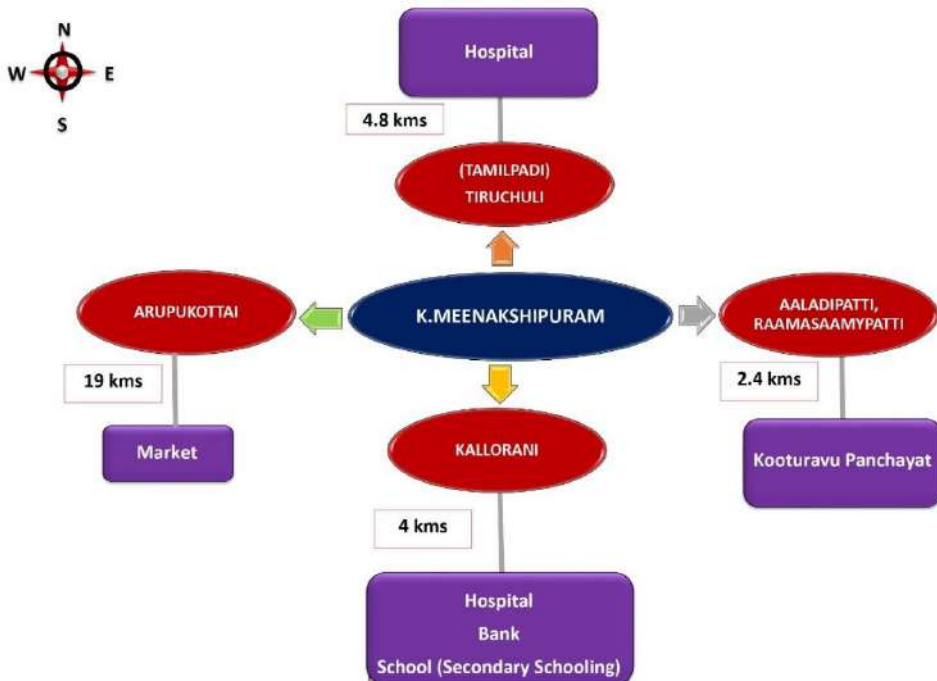
The biggest problem of these villagers is the lack of transportation as it deprives them of mobility. This problem stems from poor roads and the lack of proper roads makes it difficult for them to access hospitals and schools. Laying proper roads gives them accessibility to hospitals and schools because the kids must travel around 3 km for learning from standard VI to XII. Building a school closer to the village or expanding the existing school would largely help them. One of the biggest problems faced by the women of this village is poor sanitation as only a few houses have bathrooms. Therefore, every house needs to have a bathroom and awareness should be created about its impact.



Social Mapping



Mobility Map



Seasonality Mapping

	மார்ச்	ஏப்ரல்	மே	ஜூன்	ஜூலை	ஆகஸ்ட்	செப்டம்பர்	அக்டோபர்	நவம்பர்	டிசம்பர்	ஜனவரி	பிப்ரவரி	மார்ச்
Rainy Season				Rainy Days									
Festival		Vaikasi - Pongal										Maasikaleri	
Crops				Cotton and Corn	Chilli and Kanakambaram								
Crops Harvest							Chilli and Kanakambaram						

Pairwise Ranking

Problems	Lack of transportation facility	Hospitals	Alcoholism	Lack of education	Poor health and sanitation
Lack of transportation facility	X	Lack of transportation facility	Lack of transportation facility	Lack of transportation facility	Lack of transportation facility
Hospitals	X	X	Alcoholism	Hospitals	Hospitals
Alcoholism	X	X	X	Alcoholism	Alcoholism
Lack of education	X	X	X	X	Lack of education
Poor health and sanitation	X	X	X	X	X

Group 7: Vadakku Muthaiapuram Village

Students: Abinaya P, Anto Sagaya Shirley R, Chithira Senaa M, Garunya Srinidhi H, Jayapriya R, Mahalakshmi S, Muthulexmi S, Prasanna S, Sakthi Brindha K, Shirlein Valantina E, Subratha S S G, Vincitta M

About the Village

Geographically, V. Muthaiya Puram is situated just 2 kilometers away from V. Pudur. It is a village (thalakattu) with about 150 families, rain-fed farmland, and livestock. The 100 Naal velai thittam, or agriculture, is the main source of income for the locals. This is the lifeblood of their livelihood, allowing them to take care of their fundamental necessities. Hamlet is experiencing a financial crisis, which is the main concern of the people. Education regarding health, hygiene, and sanitation is crucial for addressing issues like illiteracy and poor sanitation, which are solely the result of neglect.

History of Vadakku Muthaiapuram

The old people in the village stated that they got electricity for their village before Mr. MGR became the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. Mr. MGR became the Chief Minister in 1962 and they got electricity in the year 1960. The government implemented the street light system in 1980. Before that, the village had a kerosene lamp in their streets. Important note to the timeline, Government opened a Ration shop for the village in 1985. The shop will be opened twice a month for distributing the goods.

During the period of Ms. Kanagavalli an MLA of that village, she implemented the drainage system. They got a waterpipe connection from a nearby village called Muthusamy Puram and from the early stages till 1998, they fetched water from a well for their usage, as they had two separate wells. One is for drinking purposes and the other is for all other purposes like washing clothes, bathing, and vessel cleaning.

After 1999 the government implemented a water pipe system for everyone to get water. They have a pipe for every road. Water will be given thrice a week. The village has only a primary school. For further education, they must go to V. Pudur for their education. The school was built in 2000 and currently, the dual teaching system is followed in the school. Before the 20th century, the village only had a mud road. After 2004, the government constructed Thar Road for that village.

Demography

Vadakku Muthaiapuram is a small village which is located near V. Pudur. In this village maximum, of 150 families reside in Vadakku Muthaiapuram and most of the population were Hindus. The residents of the village mainly depend on agriculture and work in '100 Naal Velai Thittam' for their livelihood. Though many were not open to talk about their caste and community, it is found that most of the residents belonged to MBC and BC community.

Agriculture

The people of Vadakku Muthaiapuram solely depend on Agriculture for their income. The lands here are rain-fed, hence the downpour of rain has a great impact on their agricultural yields. Major crops that are cultivated include – Maize, Chilli, Cotton, and Cluster Beans. During the season when they are not cultivating, people depend on '100 Naal Velai Thittam.' Crops are cultivated from August to March. They are harvested between March to April and in the remaining time, the field is prepared for the next cultivation. However, only a few families are aware of the schemes declared by the government to promote agriculture. Out of the 150 families who are residing in the village, only very few own land. The rest of the villagers work as labourers in the fields of others. The villagers say that the maximum field in the village

owned is 40 acres and many people go to work there. People in this village too face the same problems faced by the other villagers. Since they are heavily relying on rain for their yield, sometimes poor rain leads to bad yield and the villagers cannot reap what they sow.

Water Resources

There were four water sources out of which two dried out. People rely on the remaining water sources which are located at two ends of the village. They also use the corporation's water.

Land Resources:

They have rainfed lands, they cultivate crops according to the available water source.

Labour:

Most of the labourers work for MGNREGA. The female population mostly works for MGNREGA while the male population works as lorry drivers.

People - Culture, Food, and Religious Festivals

The villagers collect money from each house for celebrating the Aadi Pongal. The houses are whitewashed every year during the time of Aadi Pongal. All the villagers gather without going to work on the day of the death of any people in the village. They still follow the practice of returning to their house after their husband's death. They actively participate in saving their income. This shows how people are deeply rooted in their relationships with their community living of oneness in the village though they were not earning much income. The food pattern of the villagers is also the same as others. They mainly depend on pulses, maize, and rice for their food. They get rice from the ration shop and the villagers cultivate the vegetables in their farms and they directly use those vegetables.

The local festival celebrated in Vadakku Muthaiapuram is Aadi Pongal. It is celebrated in the Tamil month of Aadi. For this festival, they sow seeds and grow the Mulaipaari and take it in a procession during the festival. Mulaipaari is a kind of offering to goddesses, and it is a traditionally prevailing legacy requesting good rain and fertility of the land, in order to secure a rich harvest. This festival is also an occasion for the family to get together and feast with festive special dishes such as Sakkarai Pongal. They will collect around 1000-2000 rupees as 'Thalaikattu Vari' for each family. The Aadi Pongal festival is a time of great joy and celebration for the people.

Health and Sanitation

Sanitary napkins are provided to college and school-going students through Anganwadi. The sewage system was brought during the 1990s. The villagers still follow the practice of open defecation. Some of the reasons people told while surveying was that many lived in rental houses and hence there was no possibility of building a restroom. Also, some of the people in the village have low-level houses, so during a time of heavy rainfall – sewage enters their homes and travels to the nearby town for getting treatment from the hospital. The villagers never worry about the sanitation systems prevailing in their village. The people are unaware of the consequences that they would face due the improper hygiene. The people think and say that they never face any difficulties by using open defecation or open disposal of napkins during their menstruation, and they replied they had no problems with it. This is a harsh reality because this practice is so harmful to the health of the people, but they accept things as per the prevailing conditions of the village. The government must take steps to build toilets in villages seriously and help the people. We understood how privileged and lucky we were in terms of having our own washroom.

Panchayat Offices

Vadakku Muthiyapuram is in Kovilpatti Taluk and is located in Tuticorin District. The panchayat administers villages including Vadakku Muthiyapuram and Muthusaamipuram. Panchayat is responsible for providing Water Supply, Sanitation, Electricity, and so on. It also takes care of Healthcare, Education, and Infrastructure Development, and ensures that the needs of the people are met. Largely Depends on Agriculture Farmers Grow Urad Dal, Moong Dal, Kambu, and Cholan. The panchayat also assists women in their neighbourhood by creating self-help organizations called Kalanjiyam where they pool their resources and lend money to one another for their businesses. Additionally, the panchayats guarantee that all the village people take part in the decision-making process. The panchayats also provide widespread access to state programs and benefits, allowing individuals to take advantage of them early and more conveniently.

Savings, Credit, and Finances

The village people lack awareness about the importance of savings. Few people are saving their money for their future. They do not have the ability to manage their expenses and to save their income. The people, do not save according to the survey because expenses = income are the same to them. Many people in the village have started their savings before some years itself in Vayalagam and Kalanjiyam.

The survey shows that every home has debt to be settled and paying interest for that. The following are the sources from which they got credit. People rely on Canara Bank - 1.4% interest rate, Indian Bank- 2.75% interest rate, and Self-Help -1.5% interest rate without securities.

The people spend an average amount of Rs. 10,000/- for the Aadi Pongal festival every year once in a way. Some of them invest their savings in chits (Kalanjiyam and Vayalagam) run by NGOs like DHAN Foundation. The average monthly salary for a farmer's family is Rs.6000/- per month.

Education

In Vadakku Muthaiapuram, there is a government-run primary school and nearby the school, an Anganvaadi also exists. A dual-teacher system is followed as the strength of the school is very low. For higher education, people are seeking a high school in V. Pudur. There is a lack of awareness amongst the female villagers regarding education. The average educational qualification of female villagers is up to the 12th standard. The villagers must travel all the way to V. Pudur Government Hospital for acquiring healthcare facilities. No health centers are available inside the village.

It is quite evident that education was of the least priority to people. The villagers lack the awareness that education could improve their lives significantly.

Problem Analysis

The primary issue that was identified in this entire village is illiteracy. Many cause-and-effect problems in the area are due to the result of this illiteracy. The absence of infrastructure, where there are no suitable schools in the village for the pupils, and a lack of awareness, where the villagers are not aware of the value of education and its benefits, are some of the fundamental causes of this illiteracy. It also had a strong conservative foundation, where the girls were expected to be married and stop attending school after the 12th grade. The people lack the resources to fund to provide educational facilities to their children because of their poverty and this is a fundamental issue of illiteracy in this village. Ineffective leadership is another factor, as they themselves are not prepared to benefit the community, and the carelessness and effortlessness of the people bring down the status of the village.

The fore mentioned cause results in the effects of the outgrowths of this main issue. The main consequence of illiteracy is unemployment and many young people in Hamlet still lack jobs despite having finished their undergraduate degrees at reputable institutions. Due to the financial difficulties brought on by their unemployment, they are unable to meet their fundamental demands.

Sanitation is the next significant impact in this village. People are not aware of the consequences of improper sanitation, particularly girls. They lack the information and awareness necessary for good hygiene, which can cause several health problems. Lack of education results in neglect, where some villagers accepted some problems as unimportant. As a result, each factor in this problem tree analysis depends on the others, which causes the emergence of new factors. It is crucial for the villagers to comprehend the connection between cause and effect and to maintain awareness of their environment. People also understood the importance of each problem that they were facing but they were not ready to find a solution for the problem that they were facing.

Wayforward

Since the major reason is a lack of awareness, we thought it would be great if they sought help from the NGOs. They can bring awareness among the people regarding the use of toilets instead of open defecation. They can also educate people in the way of savings, credit finance, and financial literacy. Governments can aid the innovation of water ponds, roads, street lights, pools, drainage, etc. They can also create employment opportunities for the people. There is a scope for empowering people through the way of starting oil mills. Oil mills can be started on a small scale and villagers can contribute in small amounts. The villagers have the raw materials needed for the business and hence, it is also a feasible solution.

Village Photos





Group 8: Velidupatti Village

Students: Aishwarya M K, Arthi R, Deborah Princy R, Gayathri S, Kamali R, Manjula R, Nila M, Pritha K, Sathyasailavanya, Shreya S, Thanu Shree P and Vishnu Priya K A

Demographics

Velidupatti is a Village in Vilathikulam Block in Tuticorin District of Tamil Nadu State, India. It is located 45 KM towards North of the District headquarters in Thoothukudi, which is 13 KM away from Vilathik

Census Parameter	Census Data
Total Population	994
Total No of Houses	282
Female Population %	49.8 % (495)
Total Literacy rate %	72.6 % (722)
Female Literacy rate	32.5 % (323)
Scheduled Tribes Population %	0.0 % (0)
Scheduled Caste Population %	9.1 % (90)
Working Population %	58.90%
Child(0 -6) Population by 2011	91
Girl Child(0 -6) Population % by 2011	58.2 % (53)

(Data collected from VAO Office)

Velidupatti - Village Overview

Gram Panchayat	Velidupatti
Block / Taluka	Ettayapuram
District	Thoothukkudi
State	Tamil Nadu
Pincode	628902
Area	602.84 hectares
Population	994
Households	282
Nearest Town	Ettayapuram

Religion, Caste, Social Composition

The village of Vilathikulam is diversified with different communities. There are around 5 to 7 castes. People here mostly belong to MBC and SC. Under this, they are segregated into Ambalar, Pallar, and Vellal. There are also few Christians. People who have migrated from other villages belong to Nadar and Tuluvar castes. Female population is less in the village. Most of the people in the village are MBC and SC. Mostly the Panchayath Thalaivar is from the Nadar community.

Livelihood

The livelihood of the people in the village can vary greatly depending on the factors such as geography, climate, access to resources, and level of economic development. In general, however, many villagers rely on agriculture and related activities such as fishing and forestry as their primary source of income and sustenance. As we know that the people in rural places in India mainly engage themselves in agriculture and in this village, 90 percent of the people mainly engaged themselves in agriculture but heremost of the people are having only small land approximately “1-5 acres” and most of the peoples are working in MNREGA 100 days’ work guarantee act and they are getting up to Rs.250 per day and the other important occupation of this village is cutting of woods where men are getting up to Rs.500/- and female are getting up to Rs.300/-. This 100-day work helps them when there is no rainfall in the village and when there is no good cultivation. 15 to 20 people are government employees in that village and most of their children are out of the village for their work and higher studies. When it comes to cotton cultivation, they were getting very less income than other crops. Their main cultivation period is from September and October.

Health

There were no proper hospital facilities in that village, they had only one primary health center and even in that center, treatment was also poor. The primary health center will function from Monday to Saturday. If there is any emergency case, they must visit Vilathikulam which is almost a 13 km distance. Although government facilities were the most common healthcare access point and there were 108 ambulances that will quickly respond if there is an emergency. If there are no proper facilities in Vilathikulam then their next choice was only Thoothukudi.

Education

The education of the village Velidupatti has a Primary school (till 5th). For secondary education, they must travel to Perilovanpatti and Vilathikulam. The notebooks, uniforms, and food are provided under government schemes. The students were seated in the same class. Even though the government had built a new building, the painting of the boards is not yet completed for along time. The strength of the students has reduced from 100-200 during the year, (2010) and now is 40-50 (2023). There were 2 to 3 teachers for the entire school. There was less facility for teaching the students. While interacting with the students, we came to know that the students are very enthusiastic about their future and everyone had their own goals.

Seasonal Impact

- The seasonality influences the farmers' decisions about when to sow and harvest, and ultimately the success or failure of their crops.
- The major problem in the village was water scarcity, the village is purely dependent on the rainfall.

Basic Amenities

- Most of the households have their own rest room in their houses.
- Many people live in kutcha houses and some people live in pucca and semi-pucca houses.

- For cooking they rely on LPG cylinder stoves and some people use wood-burning stoves.
- In this village they do not have Tar Road, only a mud road is there.
- They do not even have much livestock, and they get packed milk like us in packets and not from

Self Help Group

- SHGs available in this village are Magalir Kulu, Kalangiyam, etc.
- In Kalangiyam, where 20 people invest an amount and get a loan for 5x of the invested amount and get 1.5% as interest for the month.

Bank Accounts

- From the data collected we could find that almost everyone in the village has a bank savings account linked with the Aadhar card.
- Here most of the families are benefited from the MGNREGS act, so they said that they popularly open accounts in the Central Bank and Indian Bank personal savings accounts
- Generally, here these people have personal accounts in SBI, Central Bank, and Indian banks (here they get interest as 90 Paise per rupee) and they will invest in some private banks such as L&T, and Ashirwad banks.
- The reason for popular deposits in private banks is that they will get high-interest rates in deposits such as (2-2.15 per rupee) and they will withdraw cash immediately.
- And here people have a self-help group known as Kalanjiam and most of the people, nearly all the people are members of Kalanjiam moreover, there are nearly 15-20 Kalanjiams in the village and the name for the Kalanjiam was mostly on Hindu god names

Sources of credits

In banks usually, they invest 20,000 and get loans up to Rs. 1,00,000 and they rarely prefer private banks because the interest rate will be high (more than 3 rupees for a rupee) and the interest rate for a loan in Kalanjiam is 1.5%.

SWOT Analysis

Strength

- 1) Majority of the village farmers hold some surface area of land.
- 2) They do various farming activities, addition to that they go for 100 days work.
- 3) Availability of labour force is high.
- 4) Most of the youngsters in the village are interested toward agricultural work.
- 5) The youngsters in the village have the enthusiasm to learn and the level of curiosity to know things is high.

Weakness

- 1) Labourers' show more interest toward the 100 days' work rather than to work in the field, though their capacity is high.
- 2) Lack of motivation, and their profit only cover their expense.
- 3) Lack of knowledge about the government schemes and the provisions provided to them.
- 4) Most farmers lack basic entrepreneurship knowledge and skills related to smart

farming.

Opportunities

- 1) They try to adopt new technologies.
- 2) Villagers in rural areas can use their skills to produce handicrafts such as pottery, weaving, wood carving, and embroidery, still people are not exposed to this area though they are capable.

Threats

- 1) Agriculture sustainability and climate change holding size that is getting smaller.
- 2) Dry land, in summer season people suffer so much.

Traditions

- 1) 'Thai Poosam' is a sacred Hindu festival that is celebrated to commemorate the triumph of good over evil. The day of Thai Poosam is observed annually during the 'Poosam' star in the Tamil month of "Thai". Lord Sri Murugan is the embodiment of Lord Shiva's light and wisdom. Devotees pray to him to overcome the obstacles they face, as He is the divine vanquisher of evil. The motive of Thaipooam festival is to pray to God, to receive his grace so that bad traits are destroyed.
- 2) Vaigasi 30, Aani 14 – meeting for Pongal Celebration
People in the village join hand and tend to celebrate the Pongal with welcoming.
- 3) Aadi peruku – Tax collection for caste
Amount of 3000 is collected from all families in the village and the Permul Kalamman Kovil Kodai is held in the English month of August on an average 400000 is collected on whole and the festival is held grand.
- 4) Purattasi last Saturdays – collect farmers loan in 3 temples, with a belief that doing so, will bring rainfall.








Pair-Wise Mapping

A systematic, semi-structured approach and method of assessing and understanding village situations with the participation of the people and through the eyes of the people. It comprises a rich menu of visualization, interviewing and group work methods that have been proven valuable for understanding the local functional values of resources, for revealing the complexities of social structures and for mobilizing and organizing local people. It is therefore a family of methods and approaches to enable local people to present, share, and analyze their knowledge of life and conditions, to plan, to act, monitor, and evaluate. Below is the pair wise mapping of Velidupatti village.

Lack of facilities	Transportation	Education	Health	Employment	Sanitation	
Transportation	x	2	1	4	5	1-TRANSPORTATION
Education	x	x	2	2	2	2-EDUCATION
Health	x	x	x	4	3	3-HEALTH
Employment	x	x	x	x	4	4-EMPLOYMENT
Sanitation	x	x	x	x	x	5-SANITATION

- 1) People stated the basic lack is the transport facilities as it is available only stipulated time.
- 2) Public transport represents an opportunity to improve the environment or at least to bring for sustainable environment.
- 3) As education is the second priority students after completing their 5 class have to move to Town for their education as people requested at least till grade 8 in their own place would help students.
- 4) With regards to employment, though they work in their own lands and if there is no work, they tend to work in 100 days but salaries are not regularly credited to their account.

Seasonal Calendar

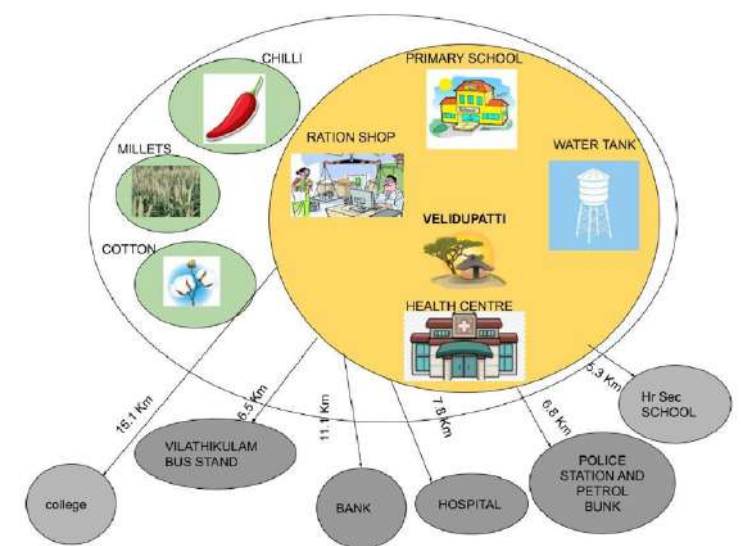
MONTHS	COTTON 	CHILLI 	MILLET 	
Chithirai				
Vaigasi				
Aani				
Aadi				
Aavani				
Puratasi 	✓	✓	✓	SOWING
Iyepasi	✓	✓	✓	
Karthigai 	✓	✓	✓	
Marzhali 	✓	✓	✓	GROWING
Thai 	✓	✓	✓	HARVESTING
Maasi				
panguni				

The Seasonal Calendar is that helps people explore and understand how ecological, social, and economic aspects of their lives and wellbeing change throughout the year. Specific variables can be used to help people explore agro-ecological and climatic variations that may better inform their own planning, decision-making and risk mitigation and disaster preparedness initiatives. The Seasonal Calendar reveals annual and cyclical patterns in a community that deepen people's understanding of the effects of changes throughout the year. Possible patterns and seasonal correlations that people may learn from include: climate (rain fall and temperatures), crop sequences (pests and diseases), food availability, forage patterns, workloads (agriculture and non-agriculture), work type and load differences (between men, women, and children), social events, migration, income and expenditures, credit requests and repayment, clean water availability, and disease prevalence. The Seasonal Calendar also calls people's attention to the similarities and differences in livelihood-, community- and gender-specific workloads.

Mobility Mapping

Mobility map is a method used to explore the movement pattern of a group, or a community. Where people go and for what reason? How frequent are the visits, what is the distance, and what is important about the place visited? Like social and resource maps and transect, the resource map is a representation of people's perception of

movement patterns and the reasons for them. Encourage them to represent other aspects in the form of symbols or in writing. At the aspects which could be represented, including Places of interest, Purpose of visiting the places, Importance of the places visited, Distance and direction of the places, Accessibility: mode and cost of transport and Frequency of visits

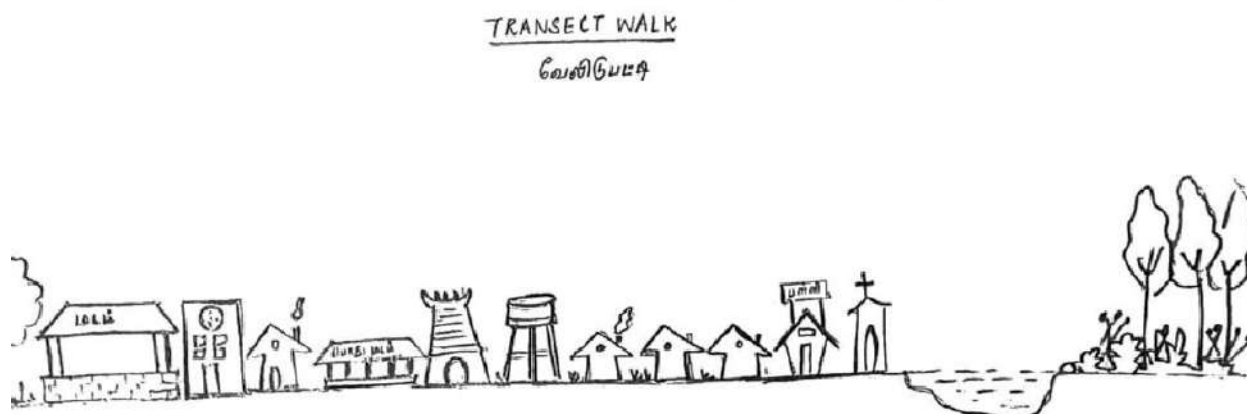


Timeline Mapping

Timeline mapping is the process of arranging important events, activities, grants, actions, achievements, and other milestone markers in chronological order, enabling insight into their relationships to one another and to key contextual factors (e.g., social, economic, political, demographic, and cultural events and trends). A simple response to a timeline is that the timeline helps track some form of progress, making history easier to remember, and assisting audiences in identifying past and current patterns.

Transect Walk

A transect walk is a tool for describing and showing the location and distribution of resources, features, landscape, mainland uses along a given transect. The Transect Walk reveals the location and distribution of resources, infrastructure, social interaction, landscape, land use patterns and different activities taking place within a community or targeted area. The exercise involves group members speaking with people in the community and active observation of the environment to capture key information (e.g., assets, hazards, livelihoods) that is then used in the classification of zones (i.e., land use, vulnerability, social conditions). Conversations along the way offer the opportunity to hear perspectives from a diverse array of community members and to gain insight on how the physical and social characteristics and relationships have changed over time.



Key learnings

1. Understanding the challenges and opportunities

The immersion program offered a first-hand experience of rural life and helped to understand the challenges faced by the people living in rural areas, such as limited access to basic amenities, poor infrastructure, and lack of economic opportunities. At the same time, the immersion program exposed the strengths and opportunities available in rural areas, such as community cohesion, traditional knowledge systems, and natural resources.

2. Developing empathy and cultural sensitivity

It helped us to develop empathy and cultural sensitivity towards people from different backgrounds. We learned to appreciate the cultural diversity and traditions of rural communities and gain a deeper understanding of the social and economic factors that shape people's lives.

3. Earning sustainable development

The immersion program helped to focus on sustainable development practices that promote economic growth, social progress, and environmental sustainability. We learn about innovative approaches to agriculture, renewable energy, waste management, and other areas that promote sustainable development.

4. Developing leadership skills

The programs helped us to often involve working with community leaders, NGO staff, and government officials. We learned about leadership styles, communication skills, and problem-solving techniques that are essential for effective community development work. Overall, rural development immersion programs provide a unique opportunity for us to gain hands-on experience and learn about the challenges and opportunities in rural development.

Village Photos



Government Primary School



Samudhaya Kudam



All villages had this equipment to fetch water from pipes in the street.



The Chilli godown of Velathikulam near the Dhan office, where it is owned by a private owner in the government building and various varieties of chilli are exported and saved here.



People from neighbouring villages work for wages in the godown removing the stem of the chilly and packing it for export. Per kg 50 were given as wages to the workers approximately per day they would earn 250.



Helping villages with removing cotton from the shell, they were so excited to have us with them.



With the help of villagers, we drew the Social map

Group 9: Koovanathu Pudur Village

Students: Akshaya K, Asha D, Deeptha P N, Guru Priya S, Kaviya Shree G S, Manthra Shree L, Nivethitha S V, Raxxelyn Jenneyl L, Selva Samritha A A, Sneha M, Tharani V R and Yashika E

Demography, Natural resources, and patterns of change

History

The name of the village “Koovanathu Pudur” came into existence as the legends say many owls came at night to the village in those days hence the name of the village came into use. The land is mainly agricultural land and they do farming for their livelihood. In those days, their main source of income was from farming. They cultivated many kinds of pulses, grains, paddy, and vegetables and have livestock. The village also had enough water resources backup due to good rainfall. Now due to a lack of income and rainfall, from farming many have shifted to different kinds of jobs over a period. Currently, only a few are in agriculture and cultivate only a few crops that are profitable in the market like corn, vegetables, peanuts, and flowers like roses, etc. People have ventured into industry-related labour jobs, 100 days job schemes, and construction due to the insufficiency of income from agriculture. Many from agriculture have shifted to sericulture, the people who do this sericulture mainly grow mulberry plants which are food for the worms. The temples and schools have been part of the village for many decades. This indicates that the importance of education is well known to these people and they also have a very strong culture of celebrating festivals together in harmony.

Demographics and resources:

Koovanthupudhur is a village located at a 1km distance from Dindigul to Natham Highway. Koovanthupudhur’s School is in the center of the village with a Kaliyamman temple and a public auditorium surrounding it. These are circled around each other. The School is divided into 2 buildings, both being the Primary 1st block is for standards I to III, whereas the 2nd block is for IV to V. From 6th std and other higher education purposes, The children must travel another 5km- 6km from the village, for 6th standard onwards and to pursue their other higher education studies. The public auditorium is used for conducting various traditional functions, cultural functions, and festivals that are being celebrated by the village people.

The ration shop of the village is located on the right side of the village having a play school and Ganesh temple adjacent to it. The ration shop functions 2 times a week and the Ganesh temple festivals are celebrated prestigiously. The left side of the village has 2 cell phone towers and many small huts and houses with a pond surrounded by greeneries and other trees. Some people live in small houses and they earn by daily wages

On the south-west side of the village, the villagers involved in poultry farming. They also harvest mulberries in a large amount from their fields. Majority of the village farmers are involved in cultivating this Mulberry from their farms and along with these they do have coconut grooves.

Murugan temple is situated with paddy field on its right and a combination of cement buildings and huts surround it. Water tank is located on same side. The village altogether has

2 water tanks and the other one is located on the entering side. A pond is found at this side with a road connecting Dindigul highway behind it. Basically, the village is divided into 4 quarters and resources are well utilized by the on either of the 4 sides. The exit of the village has the DindiguCoir Consortium Pvt. Ltd. It is dual manufacture industry. They only export to foreign countries including Japan, America etc.

Timeline

- 1934- 1st school
- 1961- Kaali amman kovil
- 1964- 1st EB connection
- 1981- Murugan kovil
- 1992- Ration shop
- 2009- Sanarpatti Auditorium
- 2005- School building
- 2014- Society
- 2016- Clean India (restroom)
- 2019- water tank

Livelihood Pattern and Challenges

Seasonal cropping:

Cultivation of crops are divided into 3 PATTAM.

- 1st Pattam is between the Tamil month mid of Thai to Chithirai.
- 2nd Pattam is between the Tamil month Vaigasi to Aavani.
- 3rd Pattam is between the Tamil month Puratasi to mid of Thai.

Paddy:

Paddy is sown in the Puratasi month and harvested in the tamil month “Thai”

Vegetables:

Vegetables like Brinjal, Onion, Chili, Tomato and Peanut are harvested twice in a year. They are planted in Vaigasi and harvested in Aavani and again planted at the end of Margazhi and harvested in Chithirai. Avaraikai is planted in Aadi month and harvested in Thai month.

Mulberry

Once it is planted it can be harvested throughout the year. The harvest depends on the growth of sericulture. They cultivate mulberry, paddy, and vegetable crops. Vegetables are grown by people with less than an acre of land. Those who own 1 to 2 acres of land grow paddy, and those who own more than 2 acres engage themselves in sericulture and Mulberry cultivation. The silkworm is so delicate that if someone sprays pesticides on their land adjacent to it even though the worms are not there, it will die. So only those with land larger than 2 acres typically practice sericulture.



Festivals

Chithirai Thiruvizha

Chithirai Thiruvizha is celebrated in the month of Chithirai. Tamil New year is celebrated by all the people in the village.

Kaali Amman Temple Festival

This is celebrated once in two years. All the relatives are invited, they all prepare Pongal together in front of the temple. They buy goats and give it to the god by killing it as a ritual. All these cost around Rs.20,000 to Rs.30,000 per house. They buy new clothes. A tax is collected for this festival, it is around Rs.1500 to Rs.3000.

Vinaayagar Chadhurthi:

It is celebrated in the month of Aavani. All the people together celebrate this festival.

Pongal

Pongal is celebrated in the month Thai. The expense of this will also be huge as they must buy paint for animals. Pongal expense, dresses and some people do paint their house. People say that they spend around Rs.15000 per house. Small games like Kabadi, Uriadi will be conducted by the people.

Panguni Uthiram:

It is the village temple function that is celebrated in the month of Panguni by all the people.

Deepavali:

It is celebrated in the month Aaipasi. They buy new clothes and crackers to celebrate it. People say that they spend around Rs.10,000/- per house for Deepavali.

Livelihoods

The livelihood of the villagers varies depending on their economic condition like internal factors and external factors like the availability of resources, and seasonal changes. The villagers adapt themselves according to different environmental conditions by changing the cropping pattern or changing the kinds of occupation. The major source of incomes is sericulture, agriculture, cows.

Cashflow Analysis

Sericulture: Sericulture is the major source of income for most of the villagers. More than 60 -70% of the people do sericulture.

Income: 30,000

Expenses:15,000

It is considered as the most profitable source of income in the village as the climatic conditions favour the sericulture.

Agriculture (Paddy)

After sericulture, they depend on agriculture for their livelihood. In agriculture they mostly cultivate paddy. Apart from paddy they also cultivate some vegetables like Brinjal, Ladies finger and ground nut but these are of low quantities. They also grow jasmines which are

profitable among the flowers.

For 1- acre paddy field, Income = Rs.30,000/- Expenses=Rs.20,000/-

Sometimes the expenses might match income and lead to a no profit situation also.

Cattle farming

In the area of livestock, most of the villagers have cows. Cows yield a good profit.

Income -Rs. 20,000/-

Expenses -Rs.10,000/-

Services Infrastructure and Institutions

- The facilities that are available inside the village are School, Ration shop, Worship place, Farmland and Water source.
- The collectorate is far from the village when compared to other facilities.
- Other basic and essential facilities like bus stop and post office are nearest to the village.
- Hospitals and educational institutions are 4 to 5 kms near to the village, which are quite convenient to the villagers.
- The water resources and farmland are already available inside the village and it is very much convenient for the village farmers to cultivate crops in their farmland.
- There is a village called, Shanarpatty which is a neighbourhood village of Koovanathupudhur is located 1 km away from the village.
- Factories are quite far away from the village.
- Fertilizer shops are available near the village which makes it even more convenient for the farmers to cultivate crops

Savings, credit, and finance

The villagers do have the habit of savings money through the Kalanjiam Program. Though few of them have taken bank loans, they find Kalanjiam to be more convenient with lower interest rates and greater returns at a longer period. Kalanjiam is a community Banking for Poverty Reduction. Banking “By the People, of the People and for the People” is the philosophy behind the Kalanjiam Community Banking programme in DHAN Foundation. The genesis of Kalanjiam Community Banking Programme of DHAN Foundation in 1990 was a result of its analysis of rural poverty situation that revealed rampant exploitation of the poor by the moneylenders. It contrasted with the scenario of vast network of Government owned commercial bank branches that had been mandated to lend to the priority sector for benefiting the economically weaker sections of the society. The basic need of designing the “Kalanjiam Community Banking Programme” was to build the capacities of the poor and enabling them to manage their financial problems and build strong, sustainable Peoples’ Organizations to address their development needs. The Community Banking initiative of DHAN exploded the myth that the “Poor cannot save”. They have clearly demonstrated the success of the savings-led microfinance model. Savings bring equity and builds ownership by the people at the grassroots level. It educates the poor about their rights and ensures that their entitlements for financial services reach them. The savings that the members mobilize in their groups are again provided as loans to members in need of credit to meet their consumption and production needs.

In this village, there are about 14 groups, with each having 14 – 20 members. They have received a loan up to Rs. 2,00,000 at an interest rate of 1.5%, whereas if applied in a bank, the interest rate would have been around 4%. With the yearly gain from these savings, the people invest for their farming activities, their children's education, purchase of gold etc. Rajakaliamman Kalanjiam is the banking community for this village. It runs for about 13 years, there are around 40 members from this village. A meeting is held on 5th of every month and they discuss, plan for their future, cross-checking of correct payment from all the members. Occasional trainings like tailoring are also provided at free of cost. According to the testimonials of Eshwari and Priya (members of this Kalanjiam from this village), they have received up to Rs.2,00,000/- loan for one person with Rs. 500/- per month of continuous savings. They also have savings of around Rs 46,000 till date.

Other social systems followed in this village include contributions for temple, festivals and for the festival in Kaaliamman Temple, which happens every year, the village spends around Rs 5,00,000, with each household spending up to Rs. 30,000/-. The other festival contributions include the Pillayar Temple festival, Pongal celebrations. The traditional system of contribution named the "Moi System" is also practiced as a source of crowd-funding during hard times. A family is bestowed with cash gifts by invitees, a favour that is appreciated, recorded in ledgers, and returned, when there is an opportunity in the future.

Health and Sanitation

The major factor that affects the people's health was the unavailability of the proper outlet for the drainage system. Clogged drains cause the accumulation of waste stagnant which affects the discharging pathway. The system that existed in the village was that, they would dig all kinds of waste, throw away and the loop continues. This unhygienic practice of disposing the waste leads to the rise of infectious diseases as cholera and enteric fever. People must ensure that they have proper outlet for discharging the wastes which is the basic health condition to be looked after.

The 2016 project on construction of Toilets to all the families highlighted the essentiality of healthcare. This purpose of good sanitation is to provide a better and healthy living environment for everyone. This remarkable decision across India made a huge development in the rural areas. This helps them to prevent them from various kind of contagious diseases and withstand as health foe with various communities. But the awareness on sanitary conditions remained unknown to the people where they started to use the built toilets to maintain the items with unlimited stock. This acted as a barrier in providing a better sanitation place. Some of these conditions prevailed in the rural most areas.

Healthcare centers are established for a purpose to treat the diseases and to meet the emergency needs as well as to provide hygiene and sanitation to the villagers. Their mission is to eradicate the lack of primary health care center in rural India. They provide equitable, affordable, and quality health to the people. Whereas it is observed that the village lacks the existence of hospitals, even the primary healthcare centers which in 13 km away from their village to the hospital. Medical check-ups can be faster, convenient for the elderly ones if these centers are nearly available. Infrastructural development is a major component in achieving the

quality of the treatment. This helps in controlling the spread of diseases and reduces the increase in the mortality rates due to adequate facilities.

Key Development Issues and Solutions

Problem tree analysis:

Problem tree analysis is a visual and analytical tool used to identify the underlying causes and effects of a problem. It helps to identify the root cause of the problem and can be used to develop the strategies to address the problem. We collected many problems from the people of the village and of the problems are common to all. The root causes of all the problems are their lack of awareness about their demographically smaller village.

Pair-wise ranking

Pairwise ranking refers to the process of comparing two items at a time to determine which is preferred. Inference for pairwise ranking involves making statistical inferences about the underlying preferences based on the observed rankings.

Problems consolidated

1. Lack of Health Centre.
2. Need for Secondary School.
3. Need for a Bank/ATM.
4. Need for a library.
5. Lack of proper sewage disposal channel.
6. Lack of Transportation facilities.
7. Lack of proper industry for daily wage employment.

Inferences

- To make the inferences about the underlying preferences, we can use the Bradley-Terry model. This model assumes that the probability of one problem being preferred over another is proportional to the difference in their severity levels.
- We analyzed the severity of the problems from the data collected from the villagers.
- We allotted the problems in the matrix and we asked the villagers to rank their most severe problems.

Based on the result the following are the rankings:

- The topmost problem faced by the villagers is sewage followed by health centers, secondary schools, lack of proper industry for daily wage employment, the need for banks and need for a library.

Solutions

- The major problem is no proper sewage facilities. The villagers dump their waste near their houses and dispose of themselves. This could lead to some diseases. Government must introduce some projects to give proper sewage and drainage facilities for each house.

- The next major problem followed by sewage is need for a health center. Even for emergency purposes, the villagers need to travel to the nearby town to do checkups. If not a hospital, government can appoint a nurse for that village for emergency and first aid purposes.
- There are no proper transportation facilities. There is only one bus available. The villagers have no other proper means of transport. They have to go to the nearby bus stop for transportation. Since there are school students, college students, and workers traveling to places the government can introduce bus stops and increase the frequency of buses.
- The next problem is the need for daily wage industries. Here even though almost everyone is into agriculture or sericulture, people ask for some industries nearby where they can get proper daily wages to satisfy their needs. Introduction of industries might be difficult in that area as the population is small in the village, but the government can introduce any industry or factory in the surrounding area and give employment to the villagers.

SWOT Analysis

STRENGTH

1. Larger number of land holders.
2. Adoption of different types of farming.
3. Large labour force.
4. Good government support.

WEAKNESS

1. Mahatma Gandhi national rural employment guarantee act.
2. Most of the farmers lack the basic entrepreneurship knowledge and skills related to smart farming.
3. Lack of knowledge about the government schemes.

OPPORUNITIES

1. Joining hand with other farmers.
2. Exporting their products to America, France, Australia.
3. Availability of banking as the source of fund.

THREATS

1. Scarcity of farm labourers.
2. Climate change and sustainability of agriculture.
3. Small and shrinking land holding size.



KEY LEARNINGS

Resourcefulness: The villagers have very limited resources like water, electricity and income, they know how to use them optimally. The insufficiency of resources doesn't affect their day-to-day life they have learned to live with whatever resources that they get for their living.

Innovation: The villagers have simple and easy solutions for everyday problems that they face. They help each other in overcoming their issues. Their sense of seeing an issue as a community problem paves way for them to have an innovative solution.

Life hack –Adaptability: They quickly adapt themselves into any kind of situation they don't seek individual comfort. They are trained to adapt themselves when there is shortage of resources or anything.

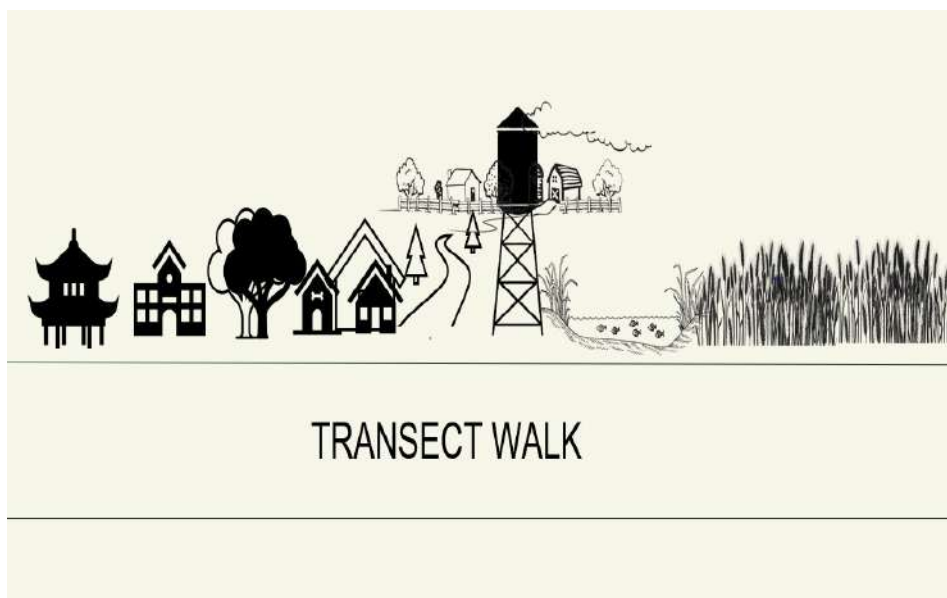
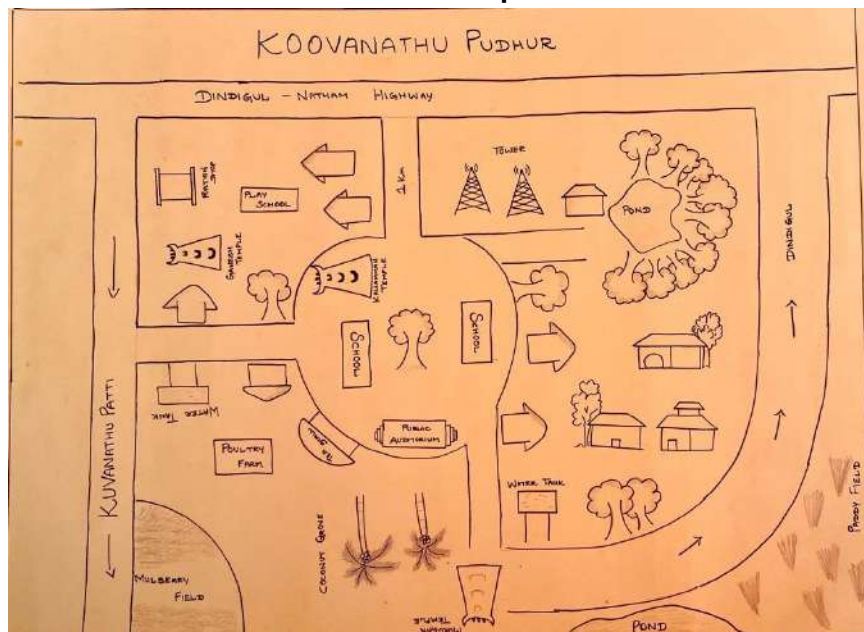
Sustainability The villagers are mindful of the place that they live in and they don't pollute their surroundings, as they lead a sustainable life which is in coherent with the ecosystem. They give back to the nature by using sustainable farming practices.

Hospitality: In terms of values, their hospitality is something that stands out. They have a helping tendency for the people in need and they often go out of their way to help others.

Community engagement: All the people in the village live as a cluster of community and not as separate entity. They don't have a concept of a nuclear family as they all live as a joint family and do build a strong relationship with their neighbors. Even if they are a nuclear family, they blend well with the ways, customs and tradition of the village.

Participatory Tools and Village Photos

Social Map



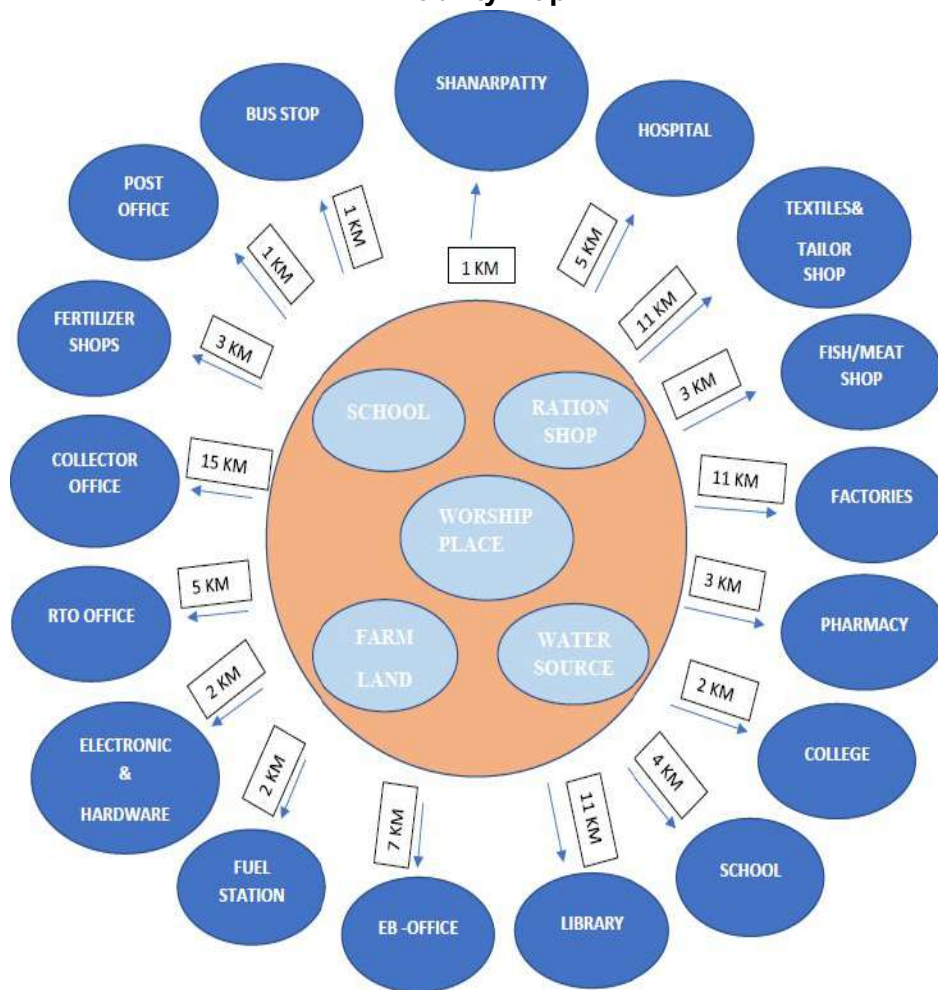
Seasonal Calender

	March/April	April/May	May/June	June/July	July/August	August/September	September/October	October/November	November/December	December/January	January/February	February/March
	சித்திரை	வைகாசி	ஆனி	ஆடி	ஆவணி	புரட்டாசி	ஐப்பசி	கார்த்திகை	மார்கழி	தை	மாசி	பங்குனி
அவரக்காய்				நடுதல்						அறுவடை		
நெல்						நடுதல்				அறுவடை		
கத்திரிக்காய்	அறுவடை								நடுதல்			
வெங்காயம்	அறுவடை	நடுதல்			அறுவடை				நடுதல்			
மிளகாய்	அறுவடை								நடுதல்			
தக்காளி	அறுவடை	நடுதல்			அறுவடை				நடுதல்			
கடலை	அறுவடை	நடுதல்			அறுவடை				நடுதல்			
மல்பெரி	பட்டு வளர்ப்பு சார்ந்தது											
விழா	சித்திரை திருவிழா	காளி அம்மன் கோவில் திருவிழா			விநாயகர் சதுர்த்தி					பொங்கல்		பங்குனி உத்திரம்



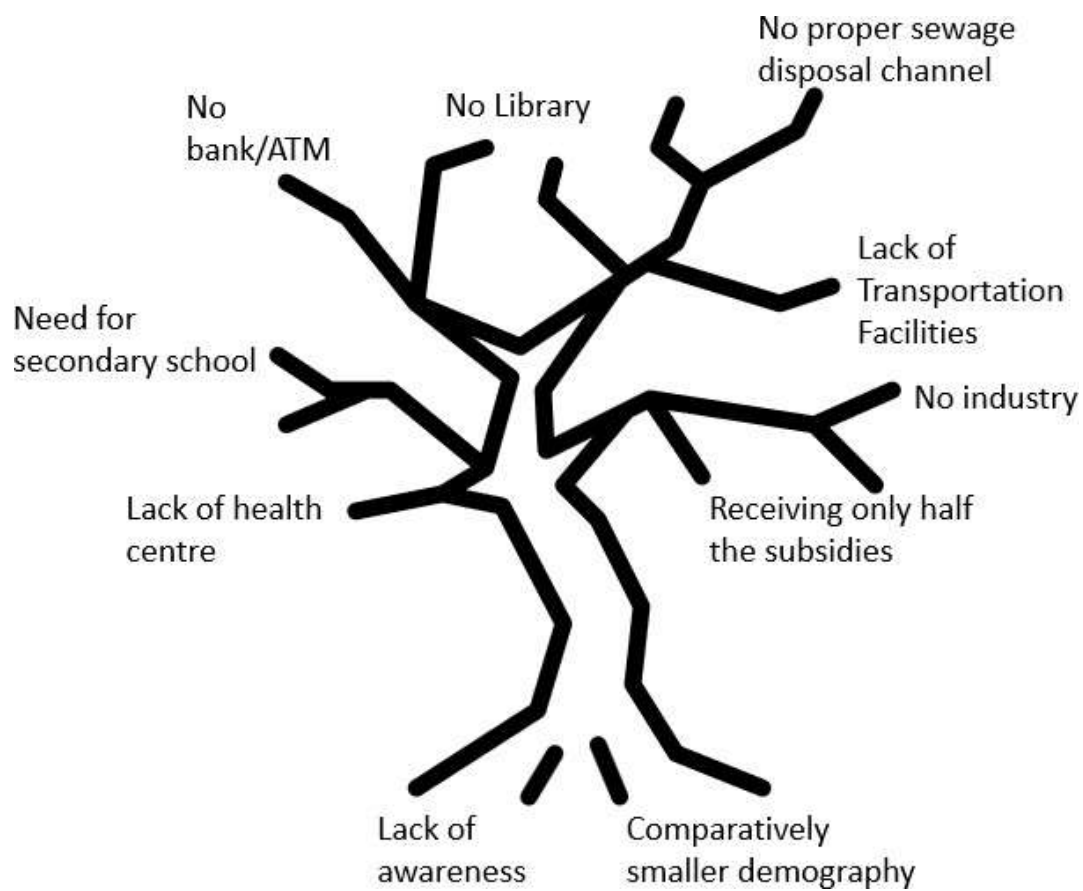
Sericulture

Mobility Map





Problem tree analysis



Pair-wise ranking

	Health Centre	Secondary School	Bank/ ATM	Library	Sewage/ Drainage	Transportation	Daily Wage Industry
Health Centre		1	1	1	5	1	1
Secondary School			2	2	5	6	7
Bank/ ATM				3	5	6	7
Library					5	6	7
Sewage/ Drainage						5	5
Transportation							6
Daily Wage Industry							

Group 10: Pudupatti Village

Students: Alice Minnie F, Aswathi S, Divyakamalabharathi M, Hamsarupa R M, Kethaarini Harshana V, Meenapriya A R, Pavithra B, Rithika Yazhini V, Shakthi T, Sririthikha V and Vaishnavi S

Introduction

The study area is village Pudupatti situated in the Kannivadi block of Dindigul district in Tamil Nadu. It is a village with less than 10% population owning agricultural land. The major occupation is driving (Lorries & Vegetable trucks) for men and women generally stay at home. There are more livestock owned than acres of agricultural land. People in the village are educated, women more than men. They are satisfied with their place and do not show any interest to migrate for the purpose of earning high.

Demography

The village approximates to a population of 2,200. There are many elderly women who live alone. There is a majority of people following Hinduism and almost all belong to the same caste, Suruthimar (BC) which helps them stay in union.

Livelihood

Pudupatti is the resident to educated women as they have completed their School or Undergraduate education before getting married. Almost 90% of men do not complete their School education and begin working as drivers or coolies in the Rice Mill. People refuse to work in the fields because of the 100-days job plan MGNREGA which gives them the same salary at a very less manual work.

Major livestock includes Cows & Bull. They are reared for milk. They also own chicken for eggs that suffice their own needs.

The farmers mainly cultivate Corn & Cotton. They hold 0-2.5 acres of land at the maximum. They also produce Brinjal, Tomatoes, Chillies for their household and Flowers for sale at the market.

Services, Infrastructure & Institutions

Pudupatti is being offered the basic needs like streetlights, new roads. Drainage system plan was begun during last year. Ration shop is an old and abandoned one, it is now being run in a Wedding Hall and will be rebuilt soon. The village has 3 famous Amman temples. The village has only 2 water tanks. Post office functions with one male and one female employee. Pudupatti has one printing and xerox store. They do not have a hospital however there is a Nurse who visits the village once a week to support both people and livestock. The only institution in Pudupatti is the Government Middle School which is both Tamil and English medium up to V standard and Tamil medium only from VI to VIII standard. Smart classrooms have been requested to the government. Pudupatti also has a public library.

Health & Sanitation

People in the village are very good at health but there are no good sanitization facilities in Pudupatti village. There is no proper disposal of sanitary pads and there is lack of toilet facilities because there is no adequate place to build toilets even though the government has provided a scheme to build the toilets. Even in the public toilet, there is no proper cleanliness

for men' s toilet. Improper sanitization leads to varied health issues among the people in Pudupatti village.

Key Developmental Issues

- **Shortage of water**

There is no rainwater harvesting tank, even in a single house. They mainly depend on rainwater and underground water level but there is no proper storage facility in that village.

- **Transportation**

There is no proper transportation facility in this village. Free buses are available half an hour proceeds with the time. But in emergency there is no proper transport facility.

- **Hospital**

In that village, there is no hospital facility, even for basic medical needs, they must go to Kannivadi main block or Dindigul. Doctors are not available, only nurses will be coming weekly once for check-up both human as well as livestock.

- **Higher secondary school**

In this village, schools having up to standard of VIII Standard. Even they wish to continue their studies in a higher secondary School then they must go 4 kilometers away from Pudupatti village for their basic education

- **Improper sewage disposal**

There is no proper sewage disposal in that village. Last year only the panchayat office initiated to get fund for the drainage system. But there is no proper sewage disposal in Pudupatti village.

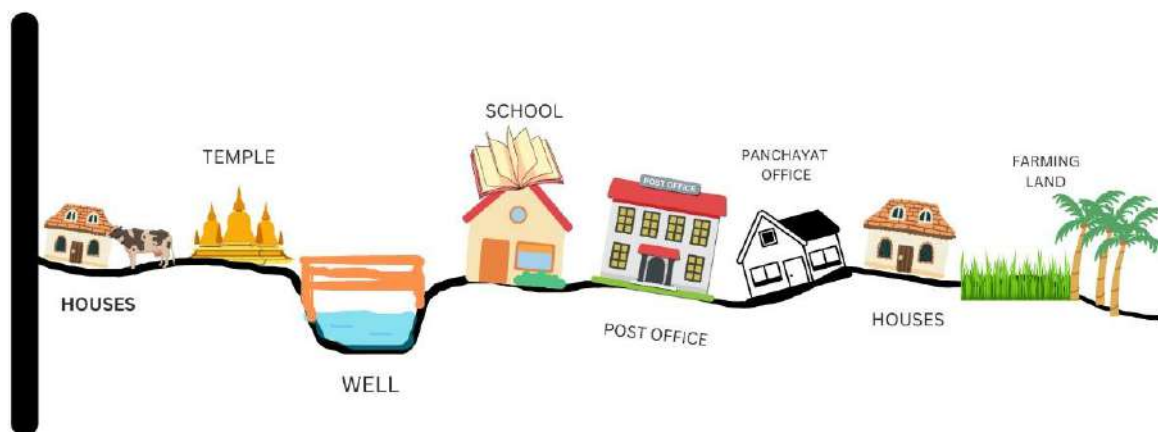
Conclusion

Pudupatti, a village which is lacking some major livelihood facilities and the people are living in union despite gender differences and social status. However, one thing is clear, that the people of Pudupatti refuse to leave their homes to work and earn in a distant city. They are very happy with what they have which everyone must learn to appreciate and follow.

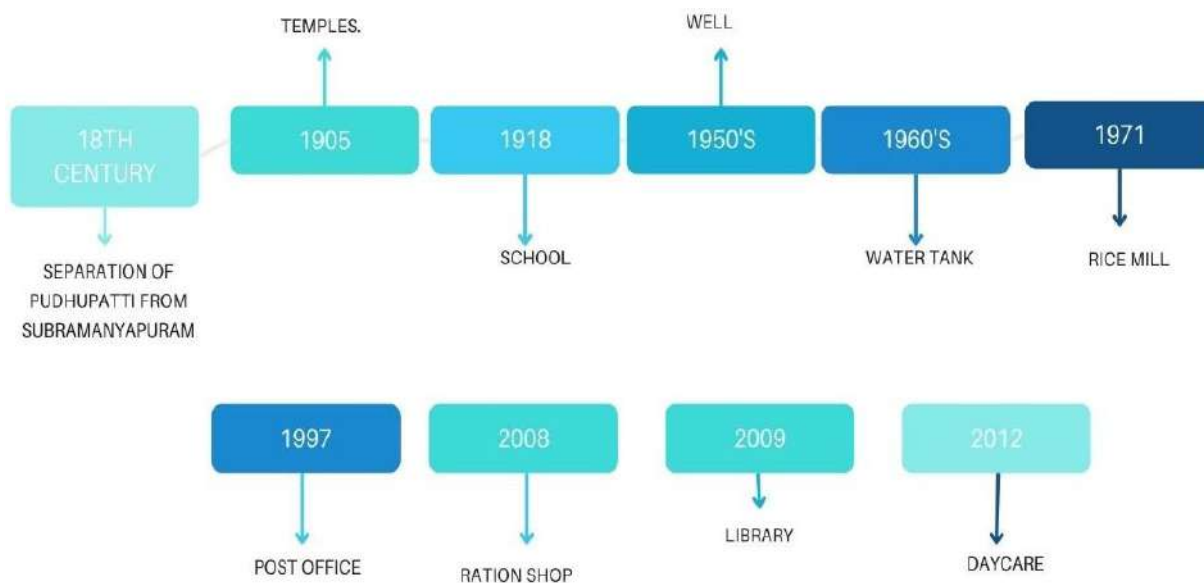
Village Photos and Participatory tools



Transect Walk



Timeline

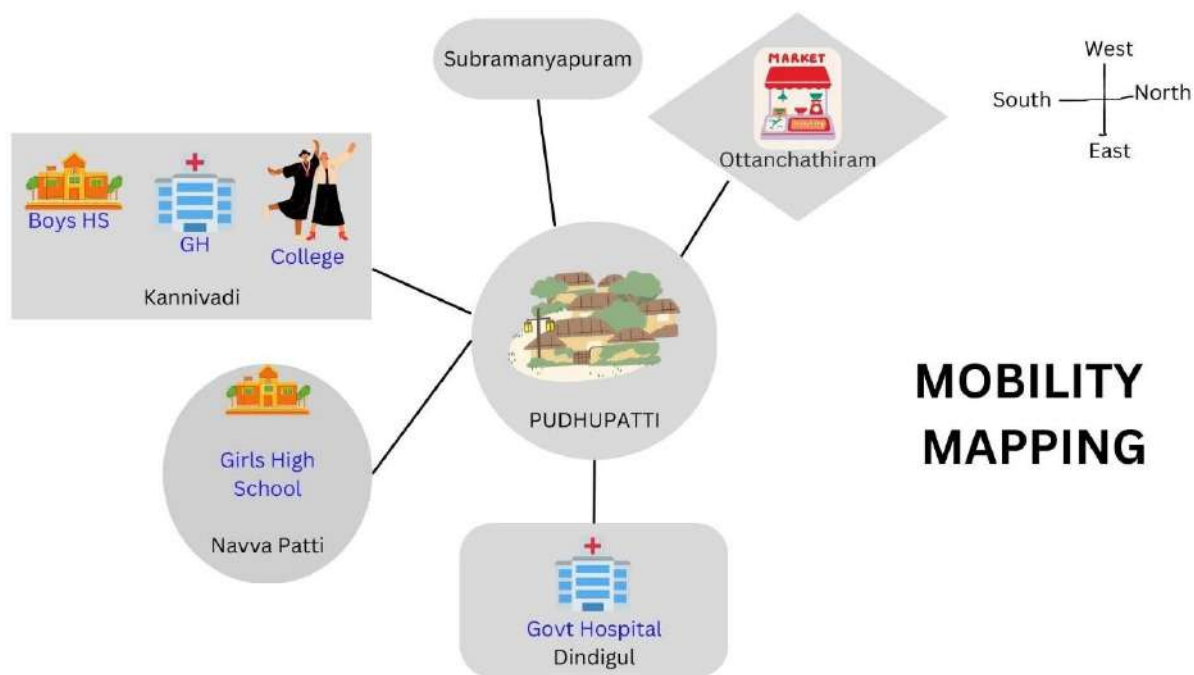


Seasonal Calendar

	CHITHIRAI	VAIGASI	AANI	AADI	AAVANI	PURATTASI	AIYPPASI	KARTHIGAI	MARGAZHI	THAI	MASI	PANGUNI
Cotton	>	>	>							>	>	>
Corn	>	>					>	>	>	>	>	>
Bajra/Pearl Millet			>	>	>	>						
Plantains							>	>	>	>	>	
Brinjal, Ladies Finger, Tomato							>	>	>	>	>	
Paddy				>	>	>	>	>	>			

Matrix Ranking

PROBLEMS	Water	Day care	Auto Transpotation	Labour Shortage	Hospital	Higher Secondary School	Less Farming
Water		Water	Water	Water	Water	Water	Water
Day care			Auto Transpotation	Labour Shortage	Hospital	Day care	Less Farming
Auto Transpotation				Labour Shortage	Auto Transpotation	Higher Secondary School	Less Farming
Labour Shortage					Labour Shortage	Labour Shortage	Less Farming
Hospital						Hospital	Less Farming
Higher Secondary School							Less Farming
Less Farming							



MOBILITY MAPPING

5. General Reflections of the students

1." The visit was an eye opener for me as many things that I thought was essential for living was non-existent and it made me grateful for everything that I have, and I am thankful for the life I that I have."

-SRIRAMIAH R-2211100

2. "I had a different perspective of what a village is but once started interacting with village people it was very different from what I have thought. They are so happy with what they have."

-NIKHIL PRASANTH V P-2211067

3. "This was really a good experience for me. I got to know how the village works the pros and cons the village and the sufferings of the people there. Even though we had several challenges, we were able to manage with what we had. I'm total I am glad we came here."

-SMRUTHI KEERTHAN E S-2211097

4. "It was once in a lifetime experience. Learnt how to manage things efficiently and live happy with whatever we have. Made me realise how blessed I am for everything I have. Realised how grateful I should be to my parents for providing me good education."

-ANNIE CHRISTABEL PRINCY J-2211011

5. "I feel immense pleasure because of its peaceful and serene environment. Blessed with Greenery, purity of air and as well as people. It's full of simplicity and people and their helping tendency and this was a good experience for me."

-KAMALI R-2211043

6. "People are more dedicated to their work, education, though even with lack of basic facilities they have. The love and care people showered on us made us feel so much comfortable, last really thanking God for what we are today, what we have."

-PRITHA K-2211075

7. "It's a wonderful experience which will be stood for my lifetime. It gave immense pleasure, interacting with them and be with them for past two days. We should learn to be happy with what we have."

-GAYATHRI S-2211034

8. "It gave me a lot of knowledge about villagers' lifestyle and their work culture, business, and school students way of education system. The challenges we face are very less when compared to the challenges faced by villagers. Their challenges for roads and transportation cannot be compared to people in cities who blame the traffic."

-AKASH K-2211007

9. "It was a nice experience and a great managing skills and knowledge about the villages we acquired. The perception had on the village people was totally changed. Planning and adjusting with what the resources we are having etc. I learned a lot."

-SHREE JAYANTH SARASRAAM M-2211092

10. "Village visit was a good experience and the best part about village is knowing about their livelihood and food pattern and knowing the real value of food and it made us realize we should be really thankful for what we have now, and many people out there are striving hard to get settled and we can take them as an inspiration."

-THANU SHREE P-2211108

11." The village we went had lots of culture and traditional values which is followed for many years and panchayat control was the only form of governance. People are happy with the basic facilities but needs a lot of improvement to develop their livelihood which was collected in problem statement. As a group we contributed some of the happiest moments in their lives and they were happy by our visit, and we understood a lot about their livelihood and felt thankful for what we are having now."

-BALAJI S-2211019

12. "I'm so happy in interacting with the village people. Once, I'm also lived in a village, so this isn't a new one to me. But I've learned so much by knowing their daily life and their jobs. And even though they've nothing with them, they are still happy. By seeing them, I felt very thankful for the life I have."

-DINESH SUNDAR K-2211029

13." It was a great experience. I realised how privileged we all are to have what we have. My biggest take away was to stay simple and grounded and be grateful. Had a great time interacting with them and learning about their lives."

-BOOMIKA S-2211024

14." Learnt about the challenges faced by the villagers such as water scarcity, how they are managing their families with a limited amount of income. And also how people are managing their families by finding other alternative jobs and using livestocks."

-ADHAVAN R-2211004

15." I started enjoying every moment with villagers & farmers. They are easily approachable and leading simple way of life. My phone usage during RDIP was reduced and I actively engaged with them. They keep supporting us from beginning to end of RDIP."

-GOKUL NATH R-2211035

16." I really had a good experience. Learnt how village life functions, it was nice interacting with the people. The one thing I liked the most is their timing. Everything was shut by 8. Visiting farmland was the best thing we did!"

-VISHAL AADHITHYA P-2211117

17. "Though we have so much of facilities and sophistication we keep complaining on things. The key learning for me from this programme is to live a life with satisfaction and nothing else. Though the villagers have so many problems in and around their village they are all eagerly waiting for their annual festival in the upcoming days in which they emphasis on meeting their relatives. Those people were so much loving and welcoming and never showed mean faces for our questions about their livelihood. I personally had the best opportunity to interact with so many people."

-SABURA SAHEEN A-2211082

18. "This village visit was a very good experience. RDIP gave a chance to know more about livelihood and regular patterns they follow. They are so happy with what they have. They lack awareness about their benefits given by government and other schemes. They never hesitated to interact with us they responded and cooperated during interaction."

-SRIBAN S-2211099

19. "I got to know the reasons due to which many of their problems stemmed. Though at a base level all these problems are brought in light to us, I felt that the scenes I had saw at the village was very different when compared to what the media shows us. Despite this it was a great learning to see them being contented and working hard. It was an overall great experience for me."

-CHITHIRA SENAA M-2211025

20. "I was still in a confusion whether it is a rural area or not. As soon as we reached a village, I have meet a 90 years old man whose English is as good as me and I except there will be a lot of complaint from people about the village but none of them raised a complaint, they were completely satisfied with what they have but there is more lack of awareness about the opportunities in education and business may this could be the reason for their level of satisfaction and while hearing about their spending habit most of them spending equal amount for festival this could also be a reason for their satisfaction level."

-DEVA GEORGE RAPHAEL M-2211028

21. "It felt like I got well immersed with the villagers for around 2 days. Got to know about their livelihood, their way of life which is simple and easy. The challenges they were facing primarily were lack of toilet facilities and village completely lacked rainfall leading to loss of agriculture for the past 15 years. Only those who had borewell engaged in farming. Overall, it seems most of them are nearly poverty-stricken."

-MOHAMED SULTAN ABRAR-2211058

22. "The village visit was a must one as we know that food shelter and clothing is the most important things in everyone's life, and we are blessed with those things and people are working hard for those things and I learnt how to manage cash by interacting with one of the family they are managing their family with 7k per month including savings."

-SUBRATHA S S G-2211103

23. "3-day village visit gave a clear picture about the present scenario of the village and their difficulties in survival. They showed their love and respect and treated as their own kinds and gave the required details we wanted. It was indeed a good experience and learnt a lot. Thank you."

-NAVEEN R P-2211065

24. "It was a great experience and learning for the past two days. Especially the interaction part with the villagers thrown light upon the harsh life realities and their lifestyle. Very grateful and thankful for what I have today."

-RISHIKESH SIVA SUBRAMANIAN B-2211079

25. "Three days of Village visit & interaction with the villagers entirely changed my perspective about what problems really are!! Importance of humbleness was clearly established by the villagers. they are 100 percent pure souls who can just provide nothing but hospitality, even kids have so much knowledge about their surroundings and lifestyle. I learnt how to be productive even when we face so many problems. Overall, there was an intense learning each and every minute that was spent over there."

-LIKHITHA P-2211051

26. "Different perspectives and different environments each came with different sets of experience. Within the limited time I have come across a vast amount of knowledge and unspoken rules about villagers and their surroundings."

-NAVANEETHA KRISHNAN P-2211063

27. "Even though I come from an agricultural background, I could find so many differences in this village. The way people do farming, their lifestyle, their culture, and beliefs everything was completely different. It was also sad that people are not having enough water for their day-to-day activities. It changed my perspective on water management. One best thing is, even with

all these difficulties they put a big smile on their face and are ready to face the upcoming challenges.”

-RAVI KUMAR R-2211077

28.” It was a good experience. Even though the visit was all about the immersion of how an MBA graduates in the village, but this rather focuses on how to adapt to a village situation and its circumstances. In this experience, I have learned how to manage with less resources. Thanks for the opportunity.”

-AKASH R-2211008

29. “This village visit was such an eye opener for me which made me realise how blessed I am and feeling so grateful for everything I have today. Even though the villagers are facing several challenges in the village, they are happy with what they have. I have learnt a lot from their simplicity to their cultural homogeneity. And The love and care those people showed towards us made us feel like home.”

-MUTHULEXMI S-2211062

30. “My visit to the village was a wonderful experience. It really altered my perspective of the villages, allowing me to feel connected with their feelings and see how closely tied to agriculture. I have more regard for them now because of how they greeted us. Overall, meeting the people was a wonderful experience.”

-SACHIN C-2211083

31. “An important thing I have learned from these 3 days is that money doesn’t give happiness. Even though the people in the village have many problems still they are happier than us. And the other thing I have learned is if we are united even big problems will be easier to face. And I have also learned about how the agriculture is closely connected with the villagers. I thank you for giving me this wonderful experience.”

-PRADDEP GANESH V-2211071

32. “During this visit, I was able to see how the villagers live happily with their limited resources and how the children live their lives without internet or mobile phones and the people there are very kind even though they know we're strangers they didn't treat us like that, and they show us how to live a healthy life.”

-HEMANTH KUMAR K M-2211040

33. "It was great experience. I could learn how people allocate the minimum resources for their livelihood and learn how they enjoy the way of life. These three days of village visit changed my perspective about the village and their life. The way they received and take care of us was good."

-MEENAPRIYA A R-2211057

34. "The first and foremost learning is adaptability and acceptability, we visited village which was a good exploring experience and yet we made to know more about different types of people and their lifestyle. We came to know about their difficulties faced in their day-to-day life and the most interesting fact they are comfortable and ok with what they have. The warmth and love showered by them is abundant. It was such a wonderful experience."

- DIVYAKAMALABHARATHI M-2211030

35. "This village visit gave me a better understanding, how farmers and people struggle to accommodate their basic needs. Also, the hardships faced by the farmer because of the unstable market for their goods and hardships by each and every family due to lack of facilities."

-UDHAYAPRAKASH V-2211112

36. "This experience of me being in a village is completely different. I could see the genuineness of people over there, the ready to help mentality and their caring nature. The happiness that they get with the little things that they have, made me realise how we complain of not having many things and not being satisfied with what we get. This visit just made me realise how blessed we are all in our lives and how grateful we should be for that."

-MAHALAKSHMI S-2211054

37." The people of the village were so warm and welcoming, they were very humble even though they owned a lot of properties, everyone worked equally on the field to make their living. Hard work, humbleness and hospitality is my takeaway from this village visit!"

-DEBORAH PRINCY R-2211026

38." The main thing which I saw among the people in the village was "UNITY" which I admired a lot. People live a simple life with many problems, still not whining about their lots in life. The care they showed on us was exemplary. "

- BALAJI R-2211020

39." This RDIP was a unique experience ... was able to interact with many new people, understand their lifestyle, their values towards life, their culture. Learnt the importance of agriculture and its impact in each one's life. Learnt how to live happily with the minimum resources we have. I felt grateful for the life I have.

-RAXXELYN JENNEYL L-2211078

40." The village visit made me realize how comfortable of a life I am living now, especially getting uninterrupted drinking water supply, quality education and opportunity to work and has made me grateful. Also, it is very heart-warming the way almost everyone, even people without proper income offered us to eat or drink in their house. The hospitality in the village is very heart-warming."

- ALICE MINNIE F- 2211010

41." RDIP was a great experience, and I am so happy in interacting with the villagers knowing about their livelihood and culture. Though they faced difficulties, but they live happily with what they had. These three days of visit changed my perspective about them. This visit made me realised grateful for the life I have."

-NILA M-2211068

42." Village visit was a great experience, it's impossible to live without hygiene right the key challenge that people facing in that village is sanitation. Their respect for food every time they have is to be followed. When it is about celebrations it is totally different from cities, where in village the whole villagers will be united and celebrate the festival which is a great thing to admire, and they lived a happy life with whatever they have. The takeaway is how to balance the environment ecologically and to lead a healthy life ahead."

-JAYAPRIYA R-2211042

43." It was a mixed feelings and emotions. Some people expressed their happiness, and some expressed how hard there are living their life with minimal income. Interacting with the village people was a good experience and I learned many things and it made me realise how comfortable I am living my life.

-MADHUSUDHANAN N-2211052

44.This village stay for me was a very different experience. I understood the importance of time management - not only on the individual level, but things must be done at the right time only then we will be able to get its rewards or else putting efforts when not necessary will go in vain. Also, we should be able to adjust with others, and the resources we have. Surviving with existing resources without complaining itself was a learning for me. Interaction with village people gave me a new perspective of how we should deal with the problems. Besides this I came to know about the problems they've been facing in agriculture and the required resource constraints for that. It shows that the backbone of the country still must be uplifted a lot, only

then the development will be meaningful. Overall, it was a wonderful learning experience for me.”

-HAMSARUPA R M-2211038

45.” The people of the village had a very great hospitality. During data collection I was surprised that many women got their degrees after their marriage. And the mothers were very focused on their children’s studies. I could see the progress of growth. Humble and hardworking people. “

-RITHIKA YAZHINI V-2211080

46.” Before the village visit I had a different mindset about villages and their life. They were living with available resources with them and enjoying the happiness of little moments. The main thing I noticed among the people is helping others and the way they received us and take care of us these days. I would like to follow this quality till my life.”

-SIVA SUBRAMANIAM S-2211095

47.” This is totally different experience to me. I am from agriculture background. Here I witness the struggling life of small farmers. They are so happy with what they have. Even though they just earnings for their survival, they take care of us so well. Especially those children at village.”

-YASHIKA E-221120

48.” This was a unique experience. It made me realise life is all about how you perceive it. We need to be grateful for what we have and mindful in using them. One thing that I will remember from RDIP is all the kids in the village always had a huge smile and welcomed us with warmth love. This experience made me realise that we aren't living our life to the fullest they are the ones who are enjoying life in a humble and simple way.”

-ASHA D-2211016

49.” The learnings and knowledge i gained from the 3-day village visit was an enriching and eye-opening experience for me. Throughout the visit, i was aware of cultural sensitivities and social norms and take care not to disrupt the local way of life. Yet, those people never missed a chance to guide us and kept supporting us in every way they can. Their smile and continuous support motivated us to further explore and learn about their culture and ways of life under this sunny weather. Overall, it was a valuable experience, providing new perspectives, experiences, and learnings that helped to better understand and appreciate the world around me.”

50.” The following are things I've learned.

1.Hospitality Every home we visited are very warm towards us.

2.Time management We have to the time very effectively to complete the task assigned.

3. Effective utilisation of resources - Since we are the team, we must utilise the resource among us effectively

4. Gratitude: How grateful we should be is learned from the lives of those people.

-DEEPTHA P N-2211027

5. Savings:

Right saving plays a vital role in economic growth of the person. Necessary for awareness towards savings to the rural people is understood.”

-GARUNYA SRINIDHI H- 2211033

51.” These 3 days taught me how people still live happily with their basic needs and sometimes where their needs were not completely met! Though they had various situation everyone understood the importance of education!!!Key learning was Acceptability and adaptability and not to complain our life! Feeling Grateful!!”

-SELVA SAMRITHA A A-2211087

52.” The overall experience at the village was far from what I expected. Everything was lovely until I got deeper into it. People appeared to be happy, but they were all suffering in some way. Everyone in the village was selfless and helpful. Despite their struggle to meet their minimum wage, they wanted to get us something, simply because we were their visitors. They also made me wonder how someone this old could be so dedicated. It was a very positive experience with Learning and experience wrapped into one!”

-SUBALAKSHMI R-2211102

53.” The village visit broke my surface level perceptions about the causes of their hardships. The interaction regarding the covid times with the villagers had been and how easily they tackled it had been an eye opener and it helped me to learn some important life lessons. They also taught that happiness is within us and not around us.”

-THIRUNITHEESH P R-2211111

54.” First, I had a very great experience. Came to know different types of people and it was overwhelming to see that they won’t hesitate to help us even if they suffer. All the people to whom we took surveys were very hospitable. Learnt how farmers are facing the difficulties without proper resources and labour. They even suffer to get proper drinking water, felt that I am blessed in many ways.”

-ASWATHI S-2211017

55." The village visit was such a learning experience. They treated us like one among them and welcomed with whole heart, which is rare in cities. The people there were happy and satisfied with minimal resources. I learnt about their lifestyle and grateful enough to hear about their life stories, different experiences. While asking about problems they focussed on the whole villager's problems rather than individual ones. The overall experience changed my perspective towards things in a positive way and made me realize how grateful I must be. "

-MANTHRA SHREE L-2211056

56." These 3 days visit taught me more about the village people's lifestyle and their perspective on life. The people showed us unfeigned love and hospitality. Even though they lack the basic facilities, they carry on with their lives in a positive way, which made me believe that people can find peace and contentment in living simply and I felt grateful for the life I live. One thing common among the villagers was the smile that concealed all their pains and difficulties. I also learnt that happiness lies in enjoying the little things around us. Overall, it was a memorable experience."

-ESHANI C-2211031

57." The village visit gave me a lot of experience, People in village are more active, simpler, humbler. When they saw us, they felt happy and spreaded happiness among us. Even though they didn't have enough facilities, their love for village is high and happy with whatever they had. Not even a single face is with depression or like that, there are full energetic and spreaded happiness all over."

-SATHYASAILAWANYA R-2211086

58." The village visit was a very humbling experience for me. I learnt a lot about their culture and customs It broadened my understanding on the importance of resourcefulness and community. The visit to the village showed me how important it is to be able to keep going and adapt when things get tough. The villagers were good at coming up with new ways to solve problems even when they didn't have a lot of resources. This made me realize that even when things seem impossible, if we keep trying and stay open to new ideas, we can succeed."

-SHREYA S-2211093

59." The village visit was a humbling experience for all of us. It was eye-opening to see how people in rural areas live with limited resources, yet still manage to be happy and content. We learned about their struggles, their way of life, their culture, and traditions, and how agriculture plays a vital role in their everyday lives. We were amazed at how united they were and how they were always ready to lend a helping hand."

-SATHISHKUMAR RAVICHANDRAN-2211085

60." My key takeaways during the visit are:

1. Importance of a well-developed and established social fabric (our selected village had many key resource issues, but the people knew each other strengths and problems and are doing their best to sustain together)
2. My neighbour's problem can be my problem also.
3. A collective decision is always better than an individual decision. (As wider perspective improves the solution to a general problem)"

-ARUL MANIVANNAN-2211015

61." They have something that I felt I lacked, despite being in a city with all the facilities and comforts that I need. I think they have a lot of simplicity in their lives. Their expectations do not cross boundaries beyond reach. And this governance of needs is the biggest takeaway."

-KINGSLY SURYA-2211047

62."First the villagers were very friendly and welcoming, and they seemed to be genuinely interested in sharing their experiences and problems with us. Some takeaways of this visit are how resilient they are and how they adapt their environment with what they have. Second the political awareness and the general knowledge they have is to be learnt. Overall, it was humbling and made me appreciate the initiatives which aims to improve their livelihoods."

-MADHUMITHRAN R K-2211053

63." It was wonderful to stay in the village, such a positive and enriching experience! Immersing oneself in a different culture is a great way to broaden one's perspective and learn about different ways of life. I was happy that the people in the village were so welcoming and hospitable towards us. Building relationships and connections with people from different backgrounds is an important part of cultural exchange, and we were able to do that during our stay. I hope that this experience stays with us and inspires us to continue exploring new cultures."

-MONIKA M-2211060

64." I learned a lot from this village visit. People living there are working hard to meet their daily necessities and have fewer savings. They lack basic facilities like water, transportation, and other needs. They have low wages and are trying to give their children an education. They have a strong sense of culture and rituals. They were simple and had a helping tendency. The village lacks sanitation and needs a lot of infrastructural development. Still, they were leading happy and peaceful life."

-AARTHI T J-2211001

65." The village visit is a great learning and experience for me. The interaction with the villagers showed their expectations is to get basic facilities and needs. They are happy and sustained with what they have."

-NAZARAN JOAL A-2211066

66." It was a great experience for me. How they are living as a joint family and how they are running their family with a small income. Importance of a well-developed and established social fabric. They are more aware of politics than me, this motivated me a more. I hope that this experience stays with us and inspires us to continue exploring new cultures."

-ARTHI R-2211014

67." This was totally new experience for me. I felt immense pleasure when people are welcoming and very friendly. I liked how they live in one big family with harmony. I learnt how to be happier with minimal income. That one smile in people faces can Motivate others to worker harder for their family."

-SHAKTHI T-2211088

68." The village visit will be an unforgettable experience for me. The people there welcomed us whole heartedly and were ready to interact with us despite their busy schedule. They were humble and showered us with love which made me connect easily with them. It's fascinating how they live together as family, enjoy working in different jobs. Even though agriculture is their main job, the village we visited were dependent on only the rainfall, so they had to work on other jobs during the rest of the seasons. Their versatility awed me. Another thing that fascinated me was even with little resources and income, all the youngsters in every family were either pursuing education or were with a degree. Even the older people were literate. Their interest in learning and their will to work hard had a positive impact in me and will always inspire me".

-AISHWARYA M K-2211006

69." It is totally a new experience for me. People welcomed us as part of their family. The people in the village are working hard for their necessities. and the land is rainfed land. They mostly depend on rainfall... And they do work in mills, crackers for the rest of other seasons. they have their own strength to work hard and live. And depends on daily wages. Even Though they are daily wagers they have their savings too. From this village visit I learnt that we could survive in this world if we have the will power to work hard. What I thought was that most of the villages have caste issues, people in that village are helping each other without thinking of caste and all. so, it made me think that villages are also becoming caste free."

-ABINAYA P-2211002

70." The people in the village were very hospitable. Though they did not enough money to get by they offered us food and helped us throughout the program. It made me realise how I had

taken advantage of certain resources like water and electricity since it's amply available. I understood that I need to use the resources wisely.”

-SHANTH JUDITH A-2211089

71.” The village visit is a different encounter for me. I learnt about the challenges faced by the people in the villages, changes happened in their life due to poor rainfall and how they strive to manage the household to lead a normal life in a village with very few facilities. Also, I learnt that even in the days of the modern era, in those villages most of the women are ought to get married after completing 12th.”

-VINCITTA M-2211116

72.” The village people were so kind to us. They are living as a joint family, and they are running their family with a small income. Importance of a well-developed and established social fabric was found there. They are more aware of politics than us. I hope that this experience stays with us and inspires us to continue exploring new cultures. The hospitality in the village is very heart-warming.”

-ATHISH S R-2211018

73.” Village visit was a great experience for me, and I learned about the livelihood of people and the problems they face in their day-to-day activities. While interacting with farmers I came to know many problems that I had never heard, and I realized that they are happy with what they have!”

-ABRAR AHAMED S-2211003

74.” The 3 days village visit gave me a different idea, different perspectives, different knowledges about the village people. The village people were very hospitable, friendly with each one of us and they were so kind. Even though they don't earn much but still we can see happiness in their face, and I learned how we can manage our life with minimal income.

-SHIRLEIN VALANTINA E-2211091

75.” I was extremely happy when i got opportunity to visit Theni (Bodi).The village I visited was so scenaric and good and the people in the village also so natural...They are so gentle and they also helped for our data collection very much!! Though they face many hardships, but they are happy with what they gave...That is the important Thing i noticed and Admired!! That taught me to be Happy with what I have...And I came to know about the farming patterns etc. Even though the aged people in the village didn't got opportunity to study, but they made the youngsters and their children to study and send their children to schools and colleges. Even though they didn't earn well. But managed to do all these things. Even though they don't have the book knowledge, but they are more having practically and life experience knowledge!!! That's the most important thing i noticed in the village people!!!



-VISWANATHAN L V-2211119

76. "I am overwhelmed to see the village people. The kind of interaction I made with them was so important for me and my life! The people are doing well in their own way! I liked one thing. Even though they didn't earn well. But they help each and everyone around them. That's very important for life. They are very much happy with what they have! Overall, it was a pleasure experience for me and my team for visiting the village".

-ADHITHYAN S-2211005

77. " Through this RDIP I came to know the other side of people's life. I got to know that there are still people who are unaware of their basic needs provided by the government. Though they seem to be happy they all have several reasons for financial instability and struggle for their daily livelihood. I learnt and got amazed by the way they feel contented with what they have. I learnt how they lead a positive life. This positivity gave me a different perspective about life. I felt blessed and thankful for the life I was given. They welcomed us with a happy face and hospitality was so pleasing. I learnt happiness does not lie on being happy with materialistic life, it is about the people whom we live with. They all somehow save money which helped me in knowing the importance of saving. Overall, it was a great experience for me."

-ANTO SAGAYA SHIRLEY R-2211012

78. " It was wonderful chance to learn about their lifestyle and the difficulties they face in day-to-day life. I am very happy to interact with the people in village because they are easy to approach. The great takeaway is how to make use of limited resources in an optimal way."

-PRASANNA S-2211074

79. "We visited a village, which changed our perception of villages, we made to understand more about various types of people and their lifestyle. The first and foremost learning is flexibility and tolerance. We learned about the challenges they endure daily, and the most interesting truth is that they are content and satisfied with what they have. They are generous with their warmth and love. Overall, it was a different experience."

-SRIRITHIKHA V-2211101

80. "3 days RDIP is useful for me. It's good exposure. I learned many things about the townlet people and their lifestyle. They are kind-hearted people. Without expecting anything from us they took care of and guided us. They shared the difficulties faced in their life that made me feel how grateful for my life.

-ILAKKIYA K-2211041



81." In these three days, I've learned to value the environment given . I've learned to live life by nature, Respect people, how to work along with a team within a short period to accomplish the goal which will help in the organization's work culture also."

-KOUSAL AJAY V-2211049

82." Whatever I thought hard is routine for the villagers. poverty is really a mindset. Rich people were not satisfied with what they have but on the other hand the poor didn't even know what they want."

-MUNIYAN DERICK PRIYADARSHAN B-2211061

83." Got a chance to explore rural areas and their lifestyle which many fail to do as they stuck in their work. Learnt to live with essentials rather than expecting many, lovely neighbourhood, Being with greenish nature and sweet animals."

-ARJUN M-2211013

84." There are many problems in Village. Because lack of awareness. But when I spoke with few people, I believe that we can create awareness within them. There are too much politics. Mostly everyone having debts and they are struggling to payback. They have no idea other than their seasonal crop. They believe that the land can be useful only for cultivation to make profit. But still there are many ways to make profit with limited water supply. If we gather many data and do a analysis, with that we can conclude a business model. Which will combine all landowners and we can make them profit and we can expand our business also. Even though with lots of problems still they are happy."

-VIGNESH P C-2211115

About The DHAN Academy (TDA): The DHAN Academy is the development education initiative of DHAN Foundation, started in the year of 2001. The Academy grooms and nurtures young graduates as development professionals for development action by providing them with the relevant attitude, skills and knowledge. The Academy offers a two-year-full-time Programme in Development Management (PDM), Community Health Management (PCM), Insurance Management (PIM) and Livelihood Management (PLM). Another flagship programme designed by the academy to enable the world of practice is 'Immersion programme' for management, engineering, agriculture students, bankers and working professionals. It also runs number of short duration Development Management Programmes (DMPs) and takes up research, documentation and consultancy services .

About Thiagarajar School of Management (TSM): Established in the year 1962 by the great philanthropist and industrialist, Shri. Karumuttu Thiagarajan Chettiar, Thiagarajar School of Management (TSM) began with the aim to impart professional education to managers who had a burning desire to scale up their career potential with better managerial skills. Today, the institute offers MBA, PGDM programmes which are approved by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), New Delhi. TSM offers one one-year Post Graduate Diploma in Data Science and Business Analytics exclusively catered to the needs of working executives and also offers a Ph.D. programme. The institution is accredited by NAAC with 'A+' grade and secured All India Rank 90 in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2023 rankings in Management Category



The DHAN Academy (TDA)

T. Malaipatti, Thenkarai, Mullipallam,
Mellakkal, Tamil Nadu 625207
Website: www.thedhanacademy.in,
Email: tda@dhan.org
Phone: 04543 299 989



Thiagarajar School of Management

Pamban Swamy Nagar, Thiruparankundram,
Tamil Nadu 625005
Website: www.tsm.ac.in
Email: mbooffice@tsm.ac.in
Phone: 0452 248 4099