

SETTLEMENT PATTERN OF PULAYA TRIBES - A CASE STUDY IN AANAIMALAI BLOCK, UDUMALPET TALUK, TIRUPUR DISTRICT, TAMIL NADU

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ABSTRACT

Awareness among the tribal communities was lacking and they have an inferiority complex. Their geographical location, distance from the town, accessibility to communication and other activities were influenced more on the literacy improvement. A majority of the tribal groups settled in the hilly and inaccessible areas. Pulayas are also not exempted under this criterion. Their habitat located in the hilly terrains of Anaimalai Hills of Udumalpet Taluk. The core aim of this study is to present the settlement pattern of Pulaya tribes of Udumalpet Taluk, Tirupur District of Tamil Nadu state. The following objectives were framed to attain the aim. To locate the tribal villages and their settlements, To present the settlement pattern of the tribes, To suggest apt ways to improve their settlement pattern of the tribes, Anaimalai Block of Udumalpet Taluk, Tirupur District, Tamil Nadu, India was chosen as the study area. The study area lies between 10°13'26.345" to 10°30'27.007" North latitude and 77°4'11.783" to 77°22'35.077" East longitudes and its covers an area of 463.792 sq. kms. There are 6 villages namely Thirumoorthy Hills, Kurumalai, Mavadappu, Kulippatti, Kodanthur and Thalanji were chosen for this study. The primary and secondary data. Personal interview was conducted to collect the descriptions about their settlements. Data regarding the settlement locations were gathered from the respective forest offices and from the Tribal Residential Schools. There are houses only by with wall side closed with bamboo pieces and tatched roofs. Some parts of the villages consisted of bamboo walls pasted with mud. Roofs also covered either with steel sheets or with the asbestos sheets.

KEYWORDS: Thirumoorthy Hills, Kurumalai, Kulippatti and Kodanthur

INTRODUCTION

The key aim of this study is to present the settlement pattern of the Pulaya tribes of Udumalpet Taluk, Tirupur District of Tamil Nadu. This study involved with primary databases which collected through direct field investigations among the tribal villages. Tribal people must awaken through the government policies and its proper implementations. Education plays a key role in the enhancement of the tribal community. Awareness among the tribal communities was lacking and they have an inferiority complex. Their geographical location, distance from the town, accessibility to communication and other activities were influenced more on the literacy improvement. The majority of the tribal groups settled in the hilly and inaccessible areas. Pulayas are also not exempted under this criterion. Their habitat

located in the hilly terrains of Anaimalai Hills of Udumalpet Taluk. They accommodated themselves in the nearby villages located in the same mountain range and they have a good relationship with each other. This study focuses the settlement pattern of these tribal communities and their salient features to be noted.

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

The core aim of this study is to present the settlement pattern of Pulaya tribes of Udumalpet Taluk, Tirupur District of Tamil Nadu state. The following objectives were framed to attain the aim.

- To locate the tribal villages and their settlements
- To present the settlement pattern of the tribes
- To suggest apt ways to improve their settlement pattern of the tribes

STUDY AREA

Anaimalai Block of Udumalpet Taluk, Tirupur District, Tamil Nadu, India was chosen as the study area. The study area lies between $10^{\circ}13'26.345''$ to $10^{\circ}30'27.007''$ North latitude and $77^{\circ}4'11.783''$ to $77^{\circ}22'35.077''$ East longitudes and its covers an area of 463.792 sq. kms. There are 6 villages namely Thirumoorthy Hills, Kurumalai, Mavadappu, Kulippatti, Kodanthur and Thalanji were chosen for this study.

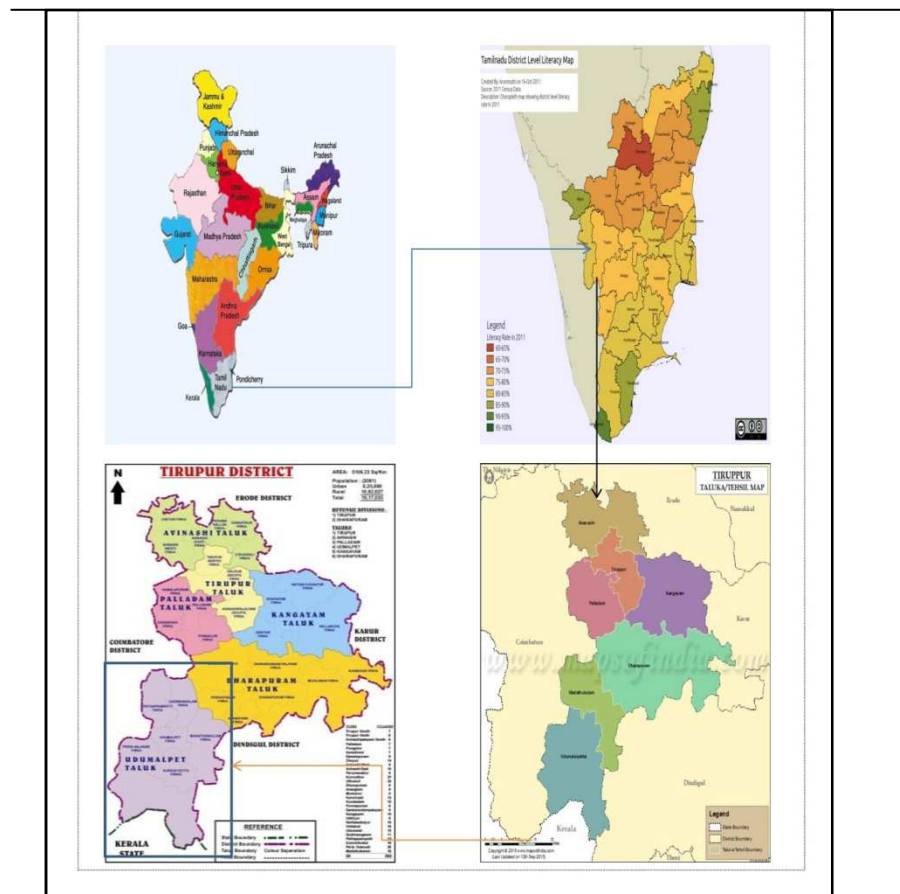


Figure 1: Location Map – Udumalpet Taluk

DATA AND METHODOLOGY

This study involved both primary and secondary data. Personal interview was conducted to collect the descriptions of their settlements. Data regarding the settlement locations were gathered from the respective forest offices and from the Tribal Residential Schools. The headmen of the tribal villages explained all the required information and related experiences. Photographs were taken to present the settlement pattern of the tribal villages.

SETTLEMENT PATTERN

The study projects that the existing settlement pattern of the tribal villages found in the chosen study area. They built their own settlements with the support of the family members. Settlement pattern includes the size, shape, and materials used for constructions were clearly explained. Half of the total settlement in Thirumoorthy hills village were built with concrete by government loans.



Figure 2 – Thirumoorthy Hills



Figure 3 – Kurumalai



Figure 4 – Kulippatti



Figure 5 – Kodanthur

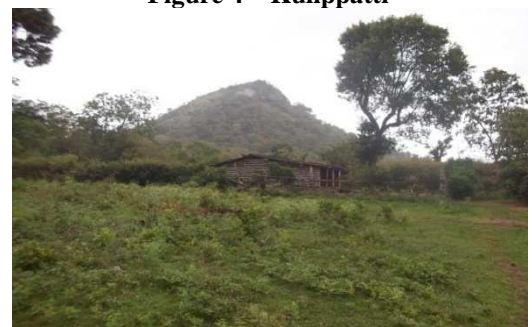


Figure 6 – Maavadappu

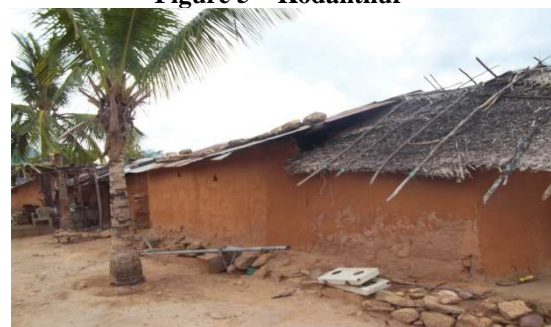


Figure 7 – Thalanji

Remaining 5 villages other than Thirumoorthy hills are not having a single concrete settlement and located in rugged hilly terrains of Anaimalai Hills. Lack of awareness about the government housing loans, they were residing in the same settlement pattern as they built by their own way. Houses were built with a minimum of 10 feet length and 10 feet width. There are houses only by wall side closed with bamboo pieces and tatched roofs. Some parts of the villages consisted of bamboo walls pasted with mud. Roofs also covered either with steel sheets or with the asbestos sheets.

CONCLUSIONS

Each settlement or a group of settlements close by another one. Rarely, there are few individual settlements, that too not so far from the village. A package of settlements with their own style and materials used for shaping it was common. Few settlements located a little far from its group must be in the higher elevated site due to watching the wild animal wandering. Only in Thirumoorthy hills, they have concrete settlements, built with the help of government loans. The main reason is that the Thirumoorthy hills located very close to the town when compared with other settlement patches. Semi bamboo settlements are commonly built in all the villages. Settlements built partially with bricks and tile roof are also less in numbers. Their settlements were mainly built with bamboo and available roofing materials in their surrounding areas.

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