



Equal Living Situation of Housing Scheme for Different Social Clusters in Tamil Nadu, India

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Abstract

First and foremost, housing programme in the state of Tamil Nadu innovated in 1998. Today there are about 200 model villages have been created throughout the state successfully. In each model village 100 well planned individual houses along with all the modern environmental urban facilities like garden, hospital, playground, library, milk center, etc., have been provided and well connected roads and transports to the district head quarter. This research made an attempt to bring a complete situation and survival of the peoples of their social status and perception of their opinion about the scheme as well as the changes of their life in terms of socio economic and demographic. Two stage sample selection was used, first stage selected the village and second stage selected households. In addition, deep discussion includes six focus groups, ten in-depth, five key-informants and three block development officers' personal interviews was conducted. This environment is expected to pave the way for the birth of a new society without distinction of caste, religion, race etc.,

I. Introduction

The programmes are implemented to improve the quality life of poor, thus empowering poor and enhancing opportunities for the poor in rural areas. Every decade the approach was changed. In 1990s the involvement of people in planning and implementation was emphasized. The 73rd Amendment to the constitution gave thrust to the local self-government for its active involvement in planning and implementation of Rural Development Programmes.

In late 1990s, the states adopted innovative approaches to eliminate poverty and create

infrastructural facilities in rural areas with local wisdom and based on local needs. Frequent elections during the past five years also put the pressure on politicians to adopt innovative approaches in Rural Development. One of the innovative approach adopted by the few states is the creation of the model villages namely, "Gokul Gram Yojana" of Gujarat, "Apna Gaon and Apna Kaam" in Rajasthan, "Ambedkar Gram Vikas Yojana" in Uttar Pradesh and "Model Village" is the pioneer and equal living housing scheme in the state of Tamil Nadu in the country. The paper is based on empirical study of Model Village and innovative elements of the equity model village to tackle the rural poverty, to create infrastructure in the village and to eliminate social barriers and thus by creating an egalitarian society thus providing infrastructure comparable to the urban environment.

The scheme is well received in the state of Tamil Nadu. However, the initial criticism disappeared gradually and the scheme came out with striking results. So far 200 modal villages have been created in various districts of the state and about 20,000 rural families have been benefited. Though it may not be sufficient to meet the actual rural family's requirements in Tamil Nadu, as a concept of model village is indeed admirable and received the total acceptance of the public. The study has undertaken during the year 2017-18 and entire process completed May 2019.

Government have issued detailed guidelines for implementation of the scheme vide G.O. Ms. No. 59, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (SGS-1) Department, dated 16.04.2008. Under the



scheme, a habitation consisting of 100 houses shall be constructed complete with basic infrastructure like Street lights, Drinking water with OHT, BT/CC roads and Public Distribution Shop. Each house shall have a separate toilet and an appropriate disposal system like septic tank with soak pit. Houses shall be allotted to the beneficiaries selected by a team consisting of the following:

- Project Director, DRDA, who will be the Chairman of the Committee
- Block Development Officer (Block Panchayat)
- Tahsildar of the Taluk
- President of the Village Panchayat where model village is located
- Concerned VAO(s)
- One PLF member from the model village

The Committee for selection of beneficiaries for model village will seek applications from those eligible who will be willing to stay at model village on permanent basis. While selecting the beneficiaries for model village, the persons living in houses with Mud walls with thatched roof, Brick walls with thatched roof, Mud walls with tiled roof, and Brick walls with tiled roof will be given priority in the above order as such persons are likely to be poorer. Persons residing in houses with RCC roof will not be eligible for Model village houses. No such persons who have been the beneficiaries of IAY houses or other housing schemes such as Fishermen free housing Scheme, Tribal housing through Tribal Welfare Department will be eligible for getting house under model village. The beneficiaries list will have to be finally approved by the District Collector. As far as possible, the beneficiaries shall be selected from the Village in which model village is being constructed. Allotment of the houses to the beneficiaries will be in the following proportions:

- SCs -40
- BCs-25
- MBCs-25
- Others-10

Reservation of 3% will be done horizontally across all communities for selecting beneficiaries with over 70% and above physical disability or mentally

retardation, as certified by the competent authority. wherever deemed necessary allotment may be made in the name of parents of the disabled. Pattas shall be issued to the beneficiaries upfront and they should be given in such a manner that families of all communities live adjacent to each other in an inter-mixed manner. The beneficiaries shall not be allowed to either sell or mortgage the house up to 30 years from the date of allotment. They are not allowed to use the house for non-residential purposes.

Objective

The objective of model village is to eliminate the traditional caste barrier in the society and also to remove the poverty in villages. The scheme aimed at removing the traditional barrier of caste system and social norms on one hand and motivates people to live in the village with oneness. The main objective of the present study is to understand and socio-economic and health conditions of the model villages residents however the specific objectives are:

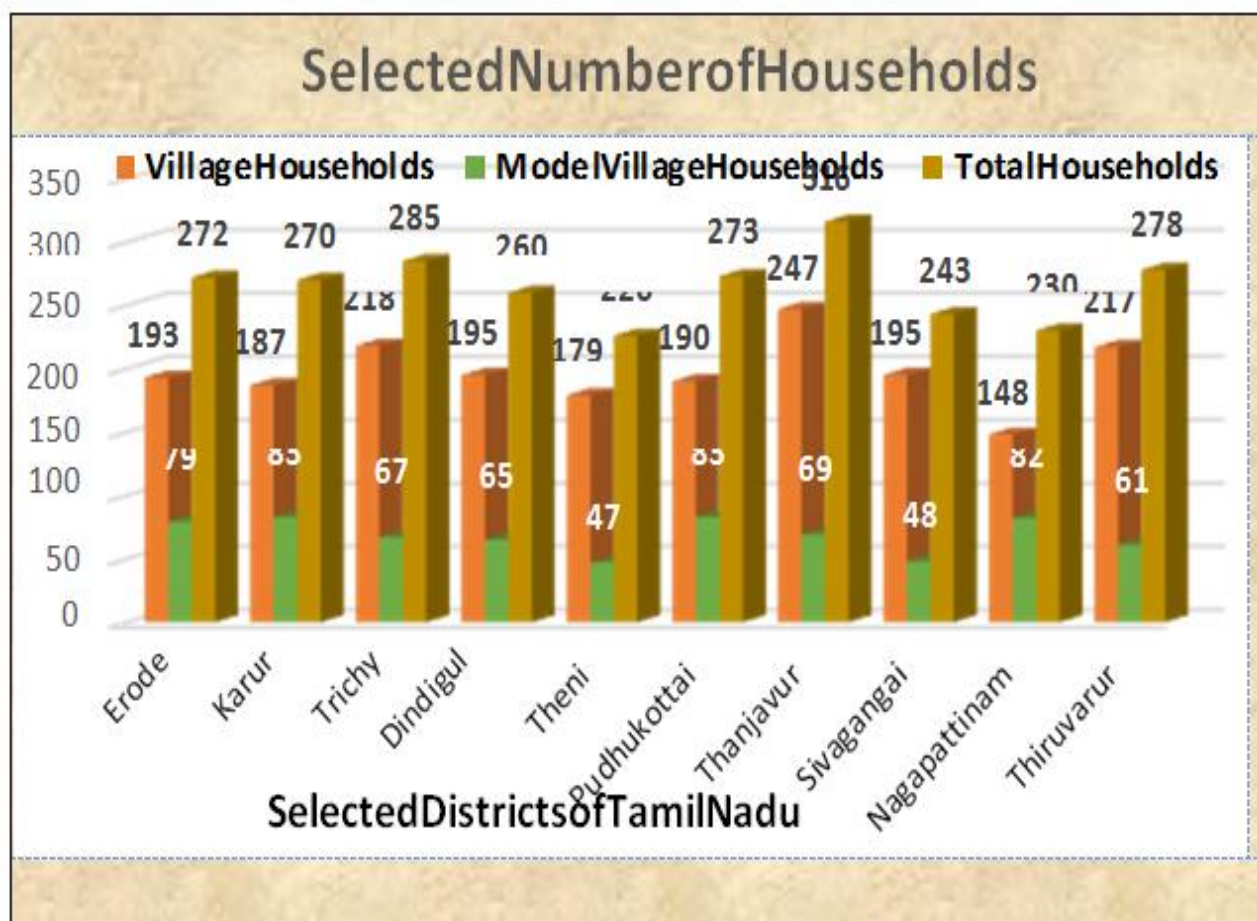
To study the present situation of socio-economic and health conditions of the different locations of model village in Tamil Nadu

To evaluate the economic needs of the residents of model village and villages in selected villages in the study.

To Access the possibilities of the up-scaling the model for the further development of infrastructure and housing scheme for other part in the state of Tamil Nadu.

II. DATA AND DISCUSSION

As per the scheme, the model village was created with all infrastructure facilities which is comparable to any developed urban environment. Ten district has been taken in this study, each district one model village and the original village has interviewed. Over all 2653 household interviewed. In addition, the quantitative survey also done with 6 focus group discussion, 15 key informants and 12 case studies.



Infrastructure facilities in the model village are best comparable to the urban areas and accessible to all people without any discrimination. Almost all infrastructure facilities were found in all model villages. For running school, the noon meal centers etc., there is a library in every model village and the timings of the library from 8 to 11 in the morning and 4 to 6 in the evening. In the library many books related to socio- culture, historical, story books in Tamil, English, Telugu, Malayalam etc., and four regional Tamil newspapers is available.

The recreation facilities were also provided to children, youth and elderly people. A community hall in each model village is for celebration of marriages and any other social functions. One television room and park with all playing facilities are also provided within the compound of the model village. One very interesting aspects is that there is no any communal god sign or simple or statue could

see the entire model village, which may divide/diverse the people. Another noticed important information is that the allocation of house was not given the same community as neighbour.

There is clear information to all the households, that every house should grow at least two trees to maintain the environment greenery. In some houses flower plants are also planted and the garden is maintained in front of the houses. In model village people were instructed to maintain the hygiene. Accordingly, the roads and houses are very hygiene and the people were taken the sufficient measures to maintain hygiene in the village. At the entrance of the model village aesthetically decorated arch was constructed. The design on the welcome arch was gopuram and in both sides' the national bird peacocks were put up. On the welcome arch the name is written that "Periyar Ninaivu Samathuapuram" the meaning is periyar memorial equal living place.



Model village entrance
with complete structure of 100
houses



Table.1 Details of Qualitative Interviews

S.N	Village/ Districts	Details of the qualitative Interviews			
		Focus Group Discussion (FGD)	Key Informants (KI)	Case Study (CS)	Total No. of Interviews
1	Pudupatti/ Pudukkottai	FGD-1	KI-1 KI-2		FGD-1, KI-2
2	Chinnankonviduthi/ Sivagangai	FGD-1	KI-1	CS-1	FGD-1, KI-1, CS-1
3	Nochiyur/ Thiruvavur	FGD-1	KI-1	CS-1	FGD-1, KI-1, CS-1
4	Kurungulam/ Thanjavur		KI-1		KI-1
5	Thekkalur/ Thiruppur		KI-1	CS-	KI-1, CS-1
6	Michkalpalayam/ Erode		KI-1 KI-2	CS-1	KI-2, CS-1
7	Valayapatti/ Karur	FGD-1	KI-1 KI-2	CS-1 CS-2)	FGD-1, KI-2, CS-2
8	Pannapatti/ Thiruchirappalli	FGD-1	KI-1	CS-1 CS-2	FGD-1, KI-1, CS-2
9	Sempatti/ Dindigul	FGD-1	KI-1 KI-2	CS-1 CS-2	FGD-1, KI-2, CS-2
10	Silvarpatti/ Theni		KI-1 KI-2	CS-1 CS-2	KI-2, CS-2
Total Interviews		FGDs-6	KIs-15	CSs-12	33



Today, 20 years after its inauguration, almost all the families continue to live there despite all the facilities, including houses, roads, drainages, the community hall, library, primary school, park and the cooperative milk society, are continue the functioning.

One of the residence reported in our key informants that “We are continuing to fulfil our dream by living here in harmony, he adds. Though caste has not become completely irrelevant at this environment as indicated by the fact that there has seldom been an inter-caste marriage, most residents vouch that there have been no instances of caste-related tension. Mr. Alagu Raja, a spinning mill employee who grew up in the model village, says Pongal was the major festival celebrated there with the participation of all households.

Apart from the lack of basic amenities, a key issue for the residents was the non-transfer of the land to their names, which is proving to be a hurdle in obtaining bank loans or even expanding their houses. “But we were told that the ownership will be transferred after 15 years,” says Mr. Mahalingam, a resident in a case study.

Mr. S Muthuswamy, a beneficiary, in a focus group discussion, he stated that the disinterest to the

government for 10 years, sorry for the state affairs. “Without state aid, the programme failed,” says Muthuswamy, a priest at an HR & CE temple in Bhakthajaneswarar temple in Thirunavalur, who returned to his house due to lack of basic amenities. His elderly parents, however, stay at the house in the model village. Chellakannu says the idea of Model village needs sustained state backing. “The government should give loans and mainly access to education because all these model villages are situated far from high schools,” he says. After being left in oblivion for a decade, the newly-elected government has turned its attention towards and is planning to address the civic woes. Principal secretary K Gopal told TOI the government has been taking stock of the condition of the house in model villages. “We are also discussing the modalities with regard to the new model villages while looking for suitable places,” said the officer. The government would also look into the issues related to ownership of the houses while taking up the repair work. However, activists feel the government should address socio-economic issues of the residents as well to ensure the beneficiaries live there. The state should adopt a holistic approach and create community activities such as self-help groups for women from different communities was discussed in the group discussion.

Table.2 Percentage of respondents according to their benefits of the social welfare schemes

Benefits of Government Social Welfare Programmes						
Name of the Districts	Type of House	Free Housing	Free Education	Marriage Assistance	Protein Food	Delivery Assistance
Erode	Village	14.6	78.2	7.8	53.9	37.3
	Model village	69.6	73.3	12.7	51.3	32.9
	Total	30.6	76.8	9.2	53.2	36.0
Karur	Village	21.1	86.0	8.7	59.3	38.9
	Model village	91.6	78.5	3.6	67.5	43.4
	Total	42.9	83.7	7.1	61.9	40.8
Trichy	Village	7.8	87.5	16.1	67.1	46.5
	Model village	85.1	88.1	20.9	68.7	44.8
	Total	26.1	85.5	17.3	67.5	46.1
Dindigul	Village	32.6	85.2	19.5	71.3	44.1
	Model village	53.8	88.4	12.3	53.8	44.6
	Total	38.0	86.0	17.7	66.9	44.2



Theni	Village	21.3	87.7	16.2	70.9	51.4
	Model village	74.5	85.9	25.5	61.7	42.6
	Total	32.4	86.9	18.1	69.0	49.6
Pudukkottai	Village	25.8	84.0	15.8	79.0	47.4
	Model village	72.3	78.3	8.4	68.3	42.2
	Total	39.9	82.3	13.6	75.7	45.8
Thanjavur	Village	19.4	81.8	13.8	76.4	50.4
	Model village	89.7	88.2	16.2	73.5	58.0
	Total	29.8	83.2	14.3	75.8	52.1
Sivagangai	Village	14.3	86.5	13.8	78.5	54.5
	Model village	79.2	87.5	8.3	74.5	52.1
	Total	27.4	86.7	12.7	77.7	54.0
Nagapattinam	Village	6.8	82.6	8.1	77.0	52.0
	Model village	85.4	87.6	8.5	75.0	69.5
	Total	34.8	84.3	8.3	76.3	58.3
Thiruvarur	Village	15.7	87.2	6.5	62.2	37.5
	Model village	83.6	85.1	3.3	60.0	39.3
	Total	30.6	86.8	5.8	61.7	37.1
Tamil Nadu	Village	17.3	89.6	12.7	69.5	45.9
	Model village	78.8	87.4	11.4	65.4	47.1
	Total	33.2	89.0	12.4	68.4	762

Tamil Nadu government is a pioneer in setting up an example for the other states involving itself in misery eradication programmes relating to poor abandoned ladies, destitute widows etc., The government is granting financial assistance through various marriage assistance scheme with view of girls having minimum required educational qualification and reducing the financial burden of parents to some extent in connection with their daughter's marriage. Likewise, the government commits itself with dedication in forming a casteless and religion less society and grants financial assistance to those who perform inter-caste marriage.

Almost all are educated in the village as well as the model village (90 percent) from government free education. Another very important finding is that about 35 per cent of the rural household was

provided by government under the free housing scheme. 12 per cent of the household were benefited

from the marriage assistance scheme and 55 per cent of the household's pregnant women are benefited from protein food, out of which 33 per cent woman were also availed delivery assistance. These programs performance of the district were found differently, Pudukkottai, Thanjavur and Karur are performing above the state performance but in case of model village housing scheme universally doing well in all the programmes.

III. CONCLUSION

Model village housing environmental scheme, which is aimed at creation of spatial equality among all things is an unparalleled effort in the history of the



Post-Colonial State. Initiated by Tamil Nadu government, this effort, in fact, was preceded by a series of caste clashes that rocked the Indian states over the period of time. A woman resident said that caste animosity was not there but a sense of stiffness remained “Homes were provided to us but literally no attempts were made to foster a sense of harmony.” Even on the socio-economic front there was no case of strong upward mobility and the village does not have a single graduate and the economic conditions largely remain deplorable. Bureaucratic apathy in the model village is tangible –defunct library hall which remains empty for many years, waterless tanks, locked television room, playground full of bushes and thorns and a dilapidated community hall. The noon meal center which has no kitchen here has to cook food for children in the open.

This environment is expected to pave the way for the birth of a new society without distinction of caste status and purse power. Even though there are earlier models, the present one is a government sponsored scheme intended to avoid caste conflagrations and communal violence. Earlier several housing scheme have been introduced for the houseless by successive governments; but these are located far away from the main residential areas. Of course, houseless is no longer ‘huddled like pigs’, and their housing conditions have improved but the problem of untouchability still persists. In such a situation, it is thought that the model village scheme if properly implemented would bring about radical changes in environmental development in the state of Tamil Nadu as well as in the country.

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