A Socio Economic Survey of Sri Vaidyur

(Lalgudi Taluk - Trichirapalli Dist)

A Socio-Economic Survey of Sirudaiyur Lalgudi Taluk - Tiruchirappalli Dist

By

K. Dharmarajan, I.A.S

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OF

S I R U D A I Y U R

(LALGUDI TALUK--TIRUCHIRAPALLI DISTRICT)

BY

K. DHARMARAJAN I.A.S.,

" P R E F A C E "

This socio-economic report was prepared during my one year period of training in the district for submission to the Board of Revenue, Madras.

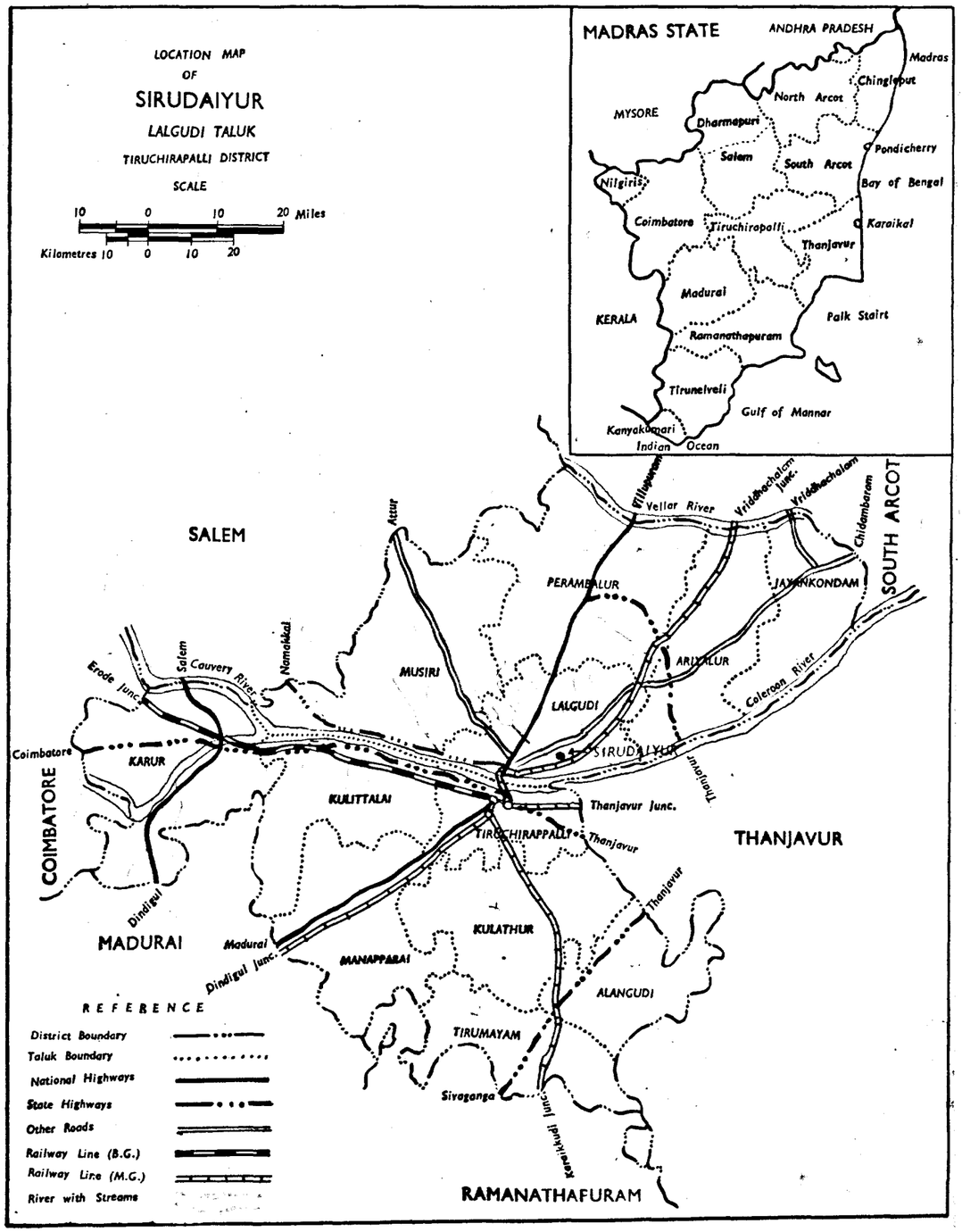
The survey was done mainly between August and October 1967. One difficulty that was encountered in the preparation of the report was that Census data was not available for Sirudaiyur village alone but pertained to the whole of Lalgudi town. So a door to door survey had to be carried out with the help of the local revenue staff. The report has been prepared on lines similar to the Village Survey Monographs prepared during the 1961 Census. An attempt has been made to give a readable presentation of the salient features of the village. Because of my limited experience in this field I have thought it not appropriate to give suggestions for improving the village economy. In order to reduce the burden on the reader all the statistical tables have been grouped together in the Appendix at the end. A few charts and photographs have been included to make the report more interesting.

In this work I have been encouraged right through by my Collector, Thiru N. Hari Bhaskar who has given me valuable guidance at every stage. I would be failing in my duty if I do not thank the Loan Deputy ~~Tahsildar~~ Tahsildar of Lalgudi, Thiru Daniel, and the Karnam of Sirudaiyur, Thiru Krishnamoorthi without whose help I could never have gathered all the necessary data. And last, but not least my thanks are also due to my personal clerk, Thiru Jambunathan, who took great pains in having this manuscript typed and getting it ready in time.

Tiruchirapalli,
Dated: 25-7-1968.

C O N T E N T S

MAP No. 1


LOCATION MAP
OF
SIRUDAIYUR
LALGUDI TALUK
TIRUCHIRAPALLI DISTRICT
SCALE
10 0 10 20 Miles
Kilometres 10 0 10 20
MADRAS STATE
ANDHRA PRADESH
Madras
Chinglepat
North Arcot
MYSORE
Dharmapuri
Pondicherry
Salem
South Arcot
Nilgiris
Bay of Bengal
Coimbatore
Tiruchirapalli
Karaikal
Thanjavur
Madurai
KERALA
Palk Strait
Ramanathapuram
Tirunelveli
Gulf of Mannar
Kanyakumari
Indian Ocean
SALEM
SOUTH ARCOT
Villupuram
Vellar River
Vriddhachalam Junc.
Vriddhachalam
Chidamberam
Attur
PERAMBALUR
JAYANKONDAM
ARIYALUR
Coleroon River
Namakkal
MUSIRI
LALGUDI
SIRUDAIYUR
Thanjavur
Erode Junc.
Salem
Cauvery River
Coimbatore
KARUR
COIMBATORE
KULITTALAI
Thanjavur Junc.
TIRUCHIRAPALLI
Thanjavur
THANJAVUR
Dindigul
MADURAI
Madurai
Dindigul Junc.
MANAPPARAI
KULATHUR
Thanjavur
ALANGUDI
TIRUMAYAM
Sivaganga
Karaikkudi Junc.
RAMANATHAPURAM
REFERENCE
District Boundary
Taluk Boundary
National Highways
State Highways
Other Roads
Railway Line (B.G.)
Railway Line (M.G.)
River with Streams

C H A P T E R—I

" THE VILLAGE "

Introducing the District

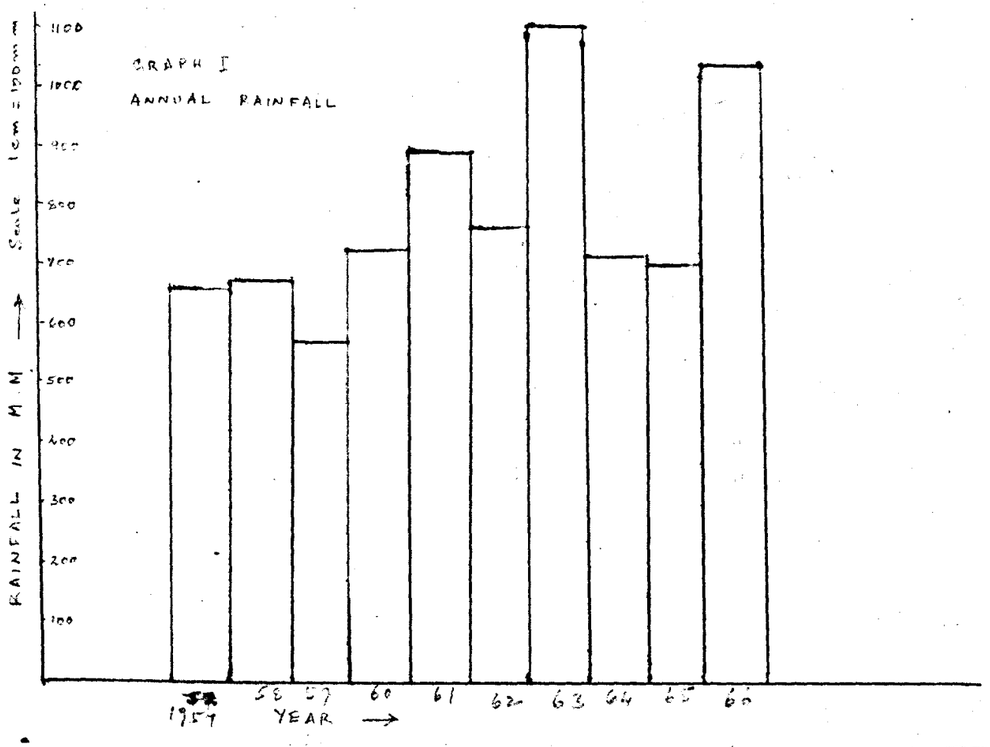
Lying more or less in the centre of Madras State and forming an irregular distorted kidney shaped figure is the district of Tiruchirapalli. The district is called after its head-quarter town, which word is fancifully derived from " Tirisira"(the three headed) and "palli" (a town), the lengend being that the place is so-called from Tirisira, the three headed brother of Ravana, who once held sway here.

Tiruchirapalli contains no well marked natural divisions. Two small ranges of hills, the Pachamalais and Kollimalais rise in the centre of the northern side. Elsewhere the district consists of an undulting plain bisected north and south by the valley of the Cauvery, and dotted here and there with masses of crystaline rock. All along the Cauvery on either side are vast tracks of fertile alluvial soil and when one motors down through this area in August or September the pleasant sight of lush green, prosperous, swaying paddy fields meets the eye. The monotony of the green paddy fields is broken by the topes of tall coconut trees that one sees all around.

Introducing the Village

In this fertile tract, on the northern bank of the Cauvery river, lies Sirudaiyur village. This village is one of the three revenue villages comprising the town of Lalgudi, which is the headquarters of Lalgudi Taluk. Lalgudi, about eighteen kilometers from Tiruchirapalli on the other side of the Coleroon river and about five kilometers from the Grand Anicut, the source of irrigation in the Thanjavur delta, is situated on the Tiruchirapalli-Chidambaram highway. It is an accident of history that the town's ancient name(Thiruthavathurai) came to be forgotten. Its modern name came into vogue from the eighteenth century during the time of the Carnatic wars. The army of Chanda Sahib marched through Lalgudi to Tiruchi backward and forward and had to stay in the place for a considerable time. The Muslims seeing the red Gopura of the temple there, called it "Lalguda" which later on became Lalgudi. The name of the village, Sirudaiyur, is derived from two Tamil words"Siriya"(meaning small) and Oor(meaning village) showing that this place would only have been a small hamlet in the earlier days.

The village boundaries extend over an area of 518.68 acres of which 448.14 acres are cultivated. Of these 402.78



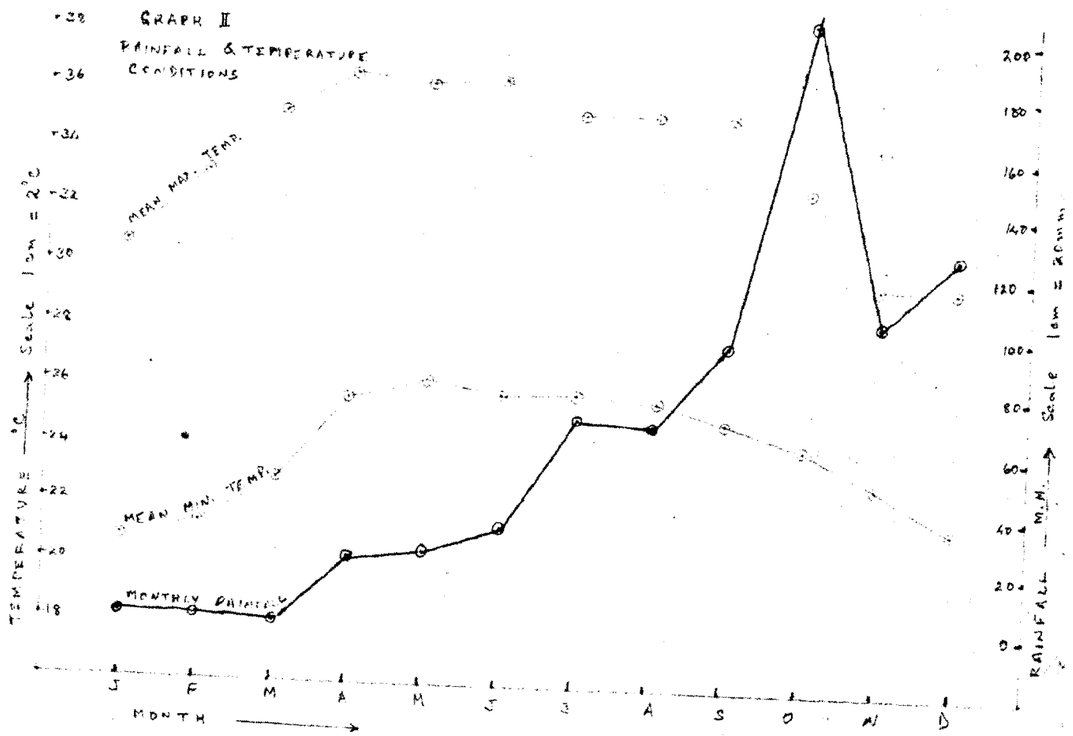
acres are wet lands. Sirudaiyur forms one revenue unit and has no hamlets as appendages. The village is bounded on the north by Thirumangalam and Peovalur villages and in the south by Angarai, L.Abishekapuram and Manakkal villages.

"Transport and Communications"

The village is situated on the Tiruchirapalli-Chidambaram main road and is connected to Tiruchi by a regular bus service. There are eleven rural bus routes plying through this village and on the average there is a bus to Tiruchi every fifteen minutes. Nearly 300 persons of Sirudaiyur travel by bus every day. Lalgudi is one of the stations on the Tiruchi-Madras railway chord line. The Lalgudi railway station lies just outside Sirudaiyur limits. There are eleven trains going in either direction in a day and on the average about 150 persons from Sirudaiyur make use of the train daily. There is a Post office in this village near the town bus stand. Though the Telegraph office is only in the adjoining L.Abishekapuram village it is only a furlong away from the southern boundary of Sirudaiyur. Besides, the village has also telephone facilities.

"Climate and Rainfall"

As Mr. Louis Moore says about Tiruchirapalli in his "District Manual" the weather is hot for nine months in a year and hotter for the other three months. April, May and June are the hottest months. The scorching heat of summer

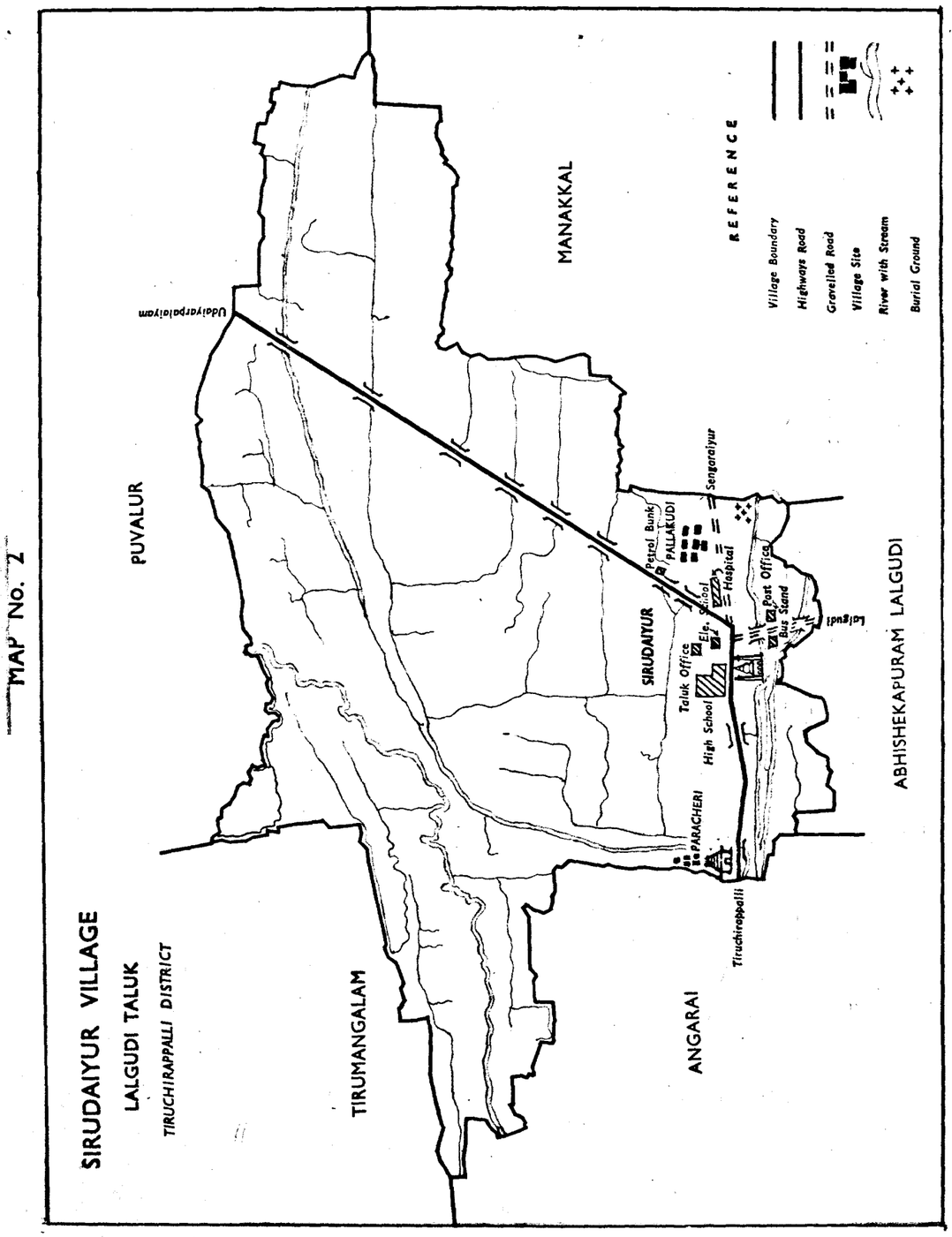


abates slightly in the later part of June when the ... west monsoon sets in. The village gets a little rainfall during these monsoons, but the greater part of the annual rainfall is received during the north-east monsoon period from October to December. The village gets on the average an annual rainfall of 786 M.M(The rainfall statistics are given in Table I in the Appendix)The pleasantest period in the village is between November and January.

* Flora and Fauna*

The general aspect of the area is quite monotonous. The soil is completely alluvial loam and most of the lands are wet lands. Hence one finds only continuous stretches of paddy fields all around. The flora of the area is not very distinguished, the commonest trees being the neem (Margosa), the tamarind(Tamarindus Indicus) and the coconut. A few mango trees and drumstick trees(Murunga Tinctoria) can also be seen. There is nothing to soothe the eye by way of wild flowers.

The fauna of this village consists only of domestic animals like cows and buffaloes. They are not of any distinct quality but belong to the country breed. There are no pastures in the vicinity and the cattle normally graze on poramboke lands and banks of the irrigation channels. A few of the Harijans in the village also rear goats. Poultry is also reared by some of the families.



"Village Developmental Institutions"

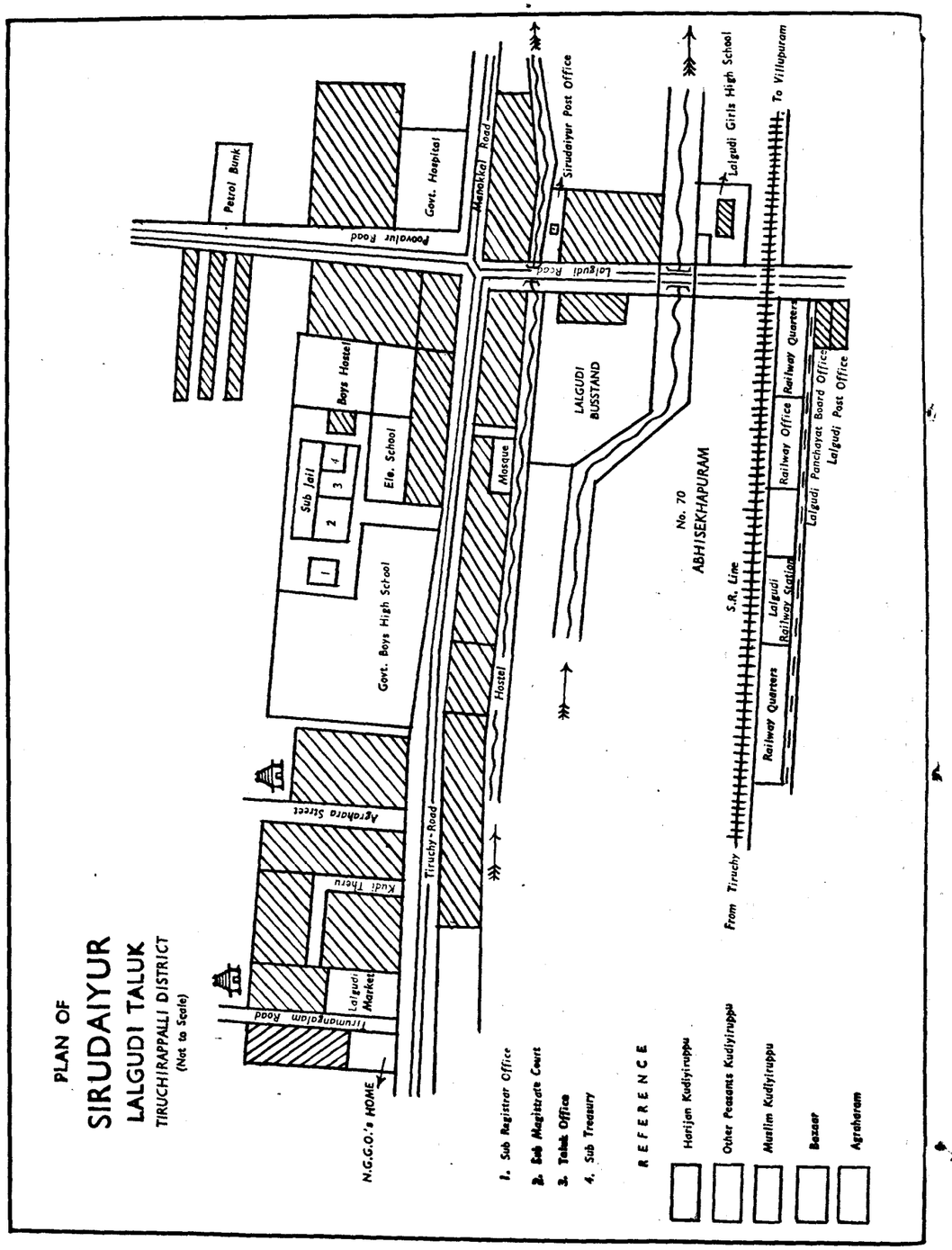
The village of Sirudaiyur is covered by the Block Development scheme from April 1958. A Panchayat Union has been constituted for the area from October 1960 with its headquarters at the neighbouring village Poovalur. There is a Key Village Centre in the village which serves all the villages around within a radius of five miles. There is an Elementary school as well as a High School in the village. The Taluk Headquarters hospital is also situated within the village limits.

"Layout of the Village"

A look at the village plan(Map 2) will clearly show that the village site is concentrated near the southern boundary of the village on both sides of the main road. The Taluk office, Sub-Magistrate's Court, the Elementary school, and the Boy's High School all form one group of buildings on the northern side of the main road. The bus-stand is situated on the southern side of the main road while the Government Hospital lies at the corner where the main road takes a turn towards the north. On either side of the main road there are series of shops and a couple of hotels.

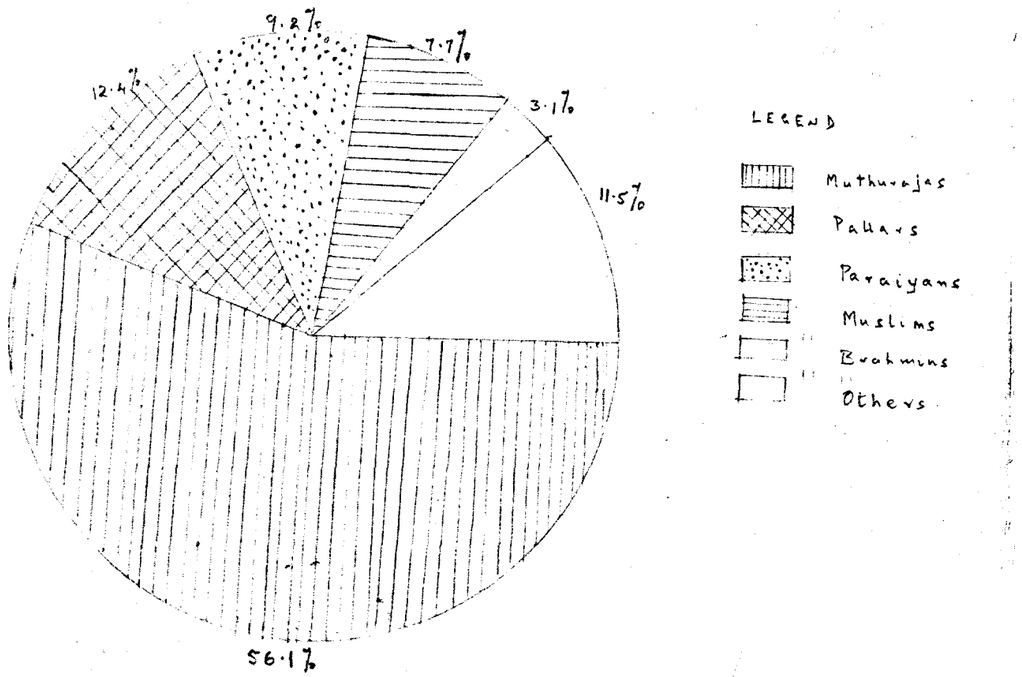
The residential area is not distinctly set apart, but we can broadly divide it into four units inhabited by

MAP No. 3



the different communities in the village. The first unit is the "Agraharam" which is a clean,well kept street consisting mainly of pucca houses which are tiled or terraced. This area is inhabited mostly by Brahmins. The Muthurajas, who are the greatest in number in the village, reside in four different areas in the village. The Muslims reside mostly at the corner where the main road takes a turn towards the north. The last unit which is the Harijan cheri consists of a conglomeration of huts with mud walls, mud floors and thatched roofs. This locality is very congested and lacks proper sanitary arrangements. A look at Map 3 will give a proper idea of the layout of the village and the residential pattern. It would be noticed that members of the Scheduled castes live separately from the caste Hindus and the two areas are separated by more than a furlong. This would paint a picture of glaring untouchability, which is not actually so. No doubt untouchability does exist as a part of the social fabric but it is in a form acquiesced in by the village community.

GRAPH 3 - ETHNIC COMPOSITION



" C H A P T E R--II "

THE PEOPLE

Ethnic Composition

There are a number of communities in the village belonging to various walks of life with a fair proportion of scheduled-caste population. However, the Muthurajas predominate in numerical strength. Table II(in the Appendix) gives an idea of the ethnic composition of the village. From this Table, it would be evident that out of the 620 households in Sirudaiyur village 309 households relate to the Muthurajas consisting of 1698 persons out of a total population of 3,030. Thus the Muthurajas constitute 56.1% of the total population. Of the others the Pallar community fall into second place, but they are far behind in numerical strength, constituting only 12.4% of the total population. The other two important communities are Paraiyans, who constitute 9.2% of the population and the Muslims, who account for 7.7% of the population. The Brahmin community is numerically only a minority community with just 93 persons. But in the social ladder the Brahmins hold the first position in the village. The Muthurajas come somewhere in the middle of the social scale and the scheduled castes, like the Pallars and Parayars, form the lowest rung of the ladder.

Muthurajas

Originally the Muthurajas were known as Muthiriyans. The Muthurajas of this village are Tamil speaking people and should be distinguished from the Muthurachas, a Telegu-speaking caste who are found in large numbers in Andhra Pradesh and in some parts of North Arcot District. About thirty years back the representatives of the Muthiriyans in Tiruchi and Thanjavur districts met and decided to adopt the more honorific title of Muthuraja. In appearance, these people are well built and sturdy and dark in complexion The majority of them are engaged in cultivation which is their traditional occupation. Though the Muthurajas are ranked comparatively low in the social scale they have a decisive influence in the village affairs because they happen to form the largest single community in the village.

The ritual structure of the Muthurajas is a mixture of the customs and manners of high castes as well as low castes. They wear the sacred thread during marriages and funerals in imitation of the Brahmins. "Parisam Panam" or the price paid by the bridgroom's party for the bride, which is the usual custom prevalent among many low castes, is followed by the Muthurajas. They seem to worship both Vaishnavite and Saivite deities with equal reverence. It is common practice among the Muthurajas to consult astrologers before fixing up matrimonial alliances. But it is interesting

to note that a girl's horoscope is drawn up with reference to the time she attained puberty and this is known as "Ruthu Jathagam". This is because the attainment of puberty is considered as some sort of rebirth for the girl who becomes a woman.

In days gone by, marriages used to be elaborate affairs with festivites, lasting for three or four days. But now the ceremony lasts only for a few hours. Nowadays many of the poorer sections have the wedding celebrated in the temples, where only the essential rituals are gone through, thus saving a lot of marriage expenses. The Muthurajas generally cremate their dead and their funeral rites are fairly elaborate. Other occasions which entail religious ceremonies are the birth of a child, ear-boring and the attainment of puberty of a girl.

Pallars

The Pallars are traditionally one of the agricultural labourer castes and generally till the lands of others as 'pannaiyals'. They are supposed to be particularly good at paddy cultivation. In the social scale they form one of the lowest castes. But like others of the lowest castes, they claim to be of the highest descent and say that they are of the lineage of Indra. They derive their name from

"pallam", a pit, saying that they were standing on low ground when the castes were originally formed. The word is perhaps connected with the wet cultivation at which they are such experts, which is always carried on in low ground. The Pallars are split into a very large number of endogamous subdivisions, but they are very vague about them. A proverb says it is difficult enough to learn all the different kinds of paddy, but that to master the subdivisions of the Pallars is impossible.

Paraiyans

The Paraiyans are also traditionally an agricultural labourer caste. These people will beat drums at the marriages and funerals of other communities. Their name has in consequence been supposed to be derived from the word "Parai" a drum. They are a beef eating and a polluting caste, standing a fraction below the Pallars in the social scale. But, like the Pallars, they have a very exalted account of their lineage, saying that they are descended from the Brahmin priest Sala Sambavan, who was employed in a Siva Temple to worship the god with offerings of beef, but who incurred the anger of the god by one day concealing a portion of the meat to give to his pregnant wife, and was therefore turned into a Paraiyan. The god appointed his brother to do the duty instead of him, and the Paraiyans

say that Brahmin priests, are their cousins. For this reason they wear a sacred thread at their marriages and funerals. Like the Pallars, the Paraiyans also recite a long list of endogamous divisions.

Muslims

The Muslim population in this village consists mostly of Ravuttans who by tradition are petty traders. They are supposed to be descendants of converts to Islam made by force by Aurangzeb, Haidar and Tipu. But they differ widely from the pure Muhammadans. Besides the fact that they speak Tamil and most of them do not even know Hindusthani, the ordinary Muhammadan vernacular, they do not normally intermarry with the pure Muhammadans and their women wear Hindu clothes instead of the Muhammadan petticoats, and are not "gosha". The relations between the Muslims and Hindus in the village are friendly enough and it is curious to note that the Muslims are on terms of special friendliness with the Pallars.

Size of household

The varying size of household in respect of each community is given in Table III in the Appendix. It is seen that of the 620 households in the village 92 are large families having 7 or more members, of which 16 households consist of

10 persons or above. Small households with 2 to 3 members number 81 and there are 48 single member households. But as many as 899 households are of medium size(having 4—6 members) accounting for 64.4% of the households.

Types of dwelling

In this village there are three distinct types of dwellings. The first is the hut of the poorer sections built of mud with roofs of coconut thatch or straw. Generally, the roofing in these types of houses is low and does not provide adequate protection against heavy rains. The lighting and ventilation inside the hut is poor and the floor being made of mud is usually damp. These type of houses are the most common in the village and account for nearly 70% of the houses. Most of the Harijans and about 65% of the Muthurajas live in such houses. The second type is a more pucca house built of kiln burnt bricks with flooring either of mud or cement and roofing consisting of tiles which are placed over country wood rafters. The third type of house is the one owned by the richer sections. It is a terraced house built of brick and having cement flooring. Next to the huts, these are more common in this village accounting for nearly 17% of the houses. These are the general types of dwelling found in the village but a number of variations as regards construction can always be seen.

A study of the house types in the village gives an idea of the relative affluence of the various communities in the village. Thus for example, we find that all the Brahmins reside either in terraced or tiled houses indicating that they form the richer section in this village.

Of the 620 households 28.4% of the houses are with no regular room while 44.8% are households with only one room. Nearly 73.3% of the population live in such small houses which is an indication of the general poverty in the village. Only 12% of the households consisting of 339 persons are in double roomed houses. Only 54 houses in the village can be considered as big having four or more rooms. The statement showing the classification of houses is given in Table V in the Appendix. A study of this Table will give an idea of the general congestion in the village and also indicate the poor economic condition of most of the villagers.

C H A P T E R—III

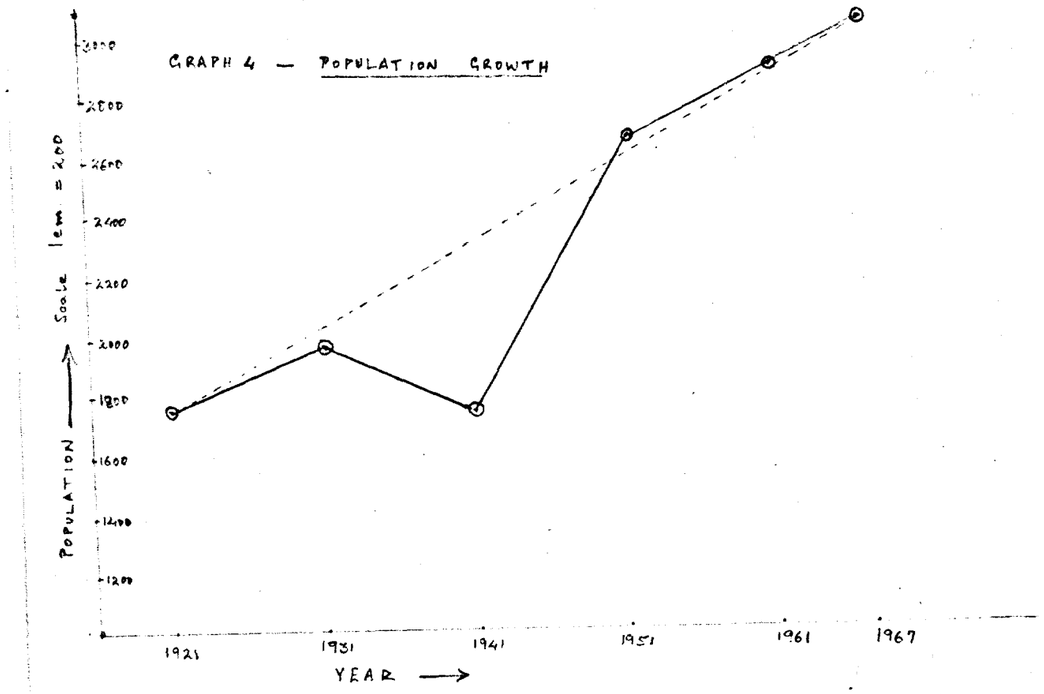
"POPULATION"

Growth of Population

At the time of the survey in September 1967 the population of Sirudaiyur village was 3030 consisting of 1640 males and 1390 females. In trying to study the growth of population in the village over the decades one difficulty was encountered. The Census figures are given for the whole of Lalgudi town and not separately for Sirudaiyur village. However, a rough estimate of the population of Sirudaiyur has been made by using the following method. Population figures for Sirudaiyur village for the years 1961 and 1967 were available. When we compare these figures with the corresponding figures for Lalgudi town we find that in both years the population of Lalgudi town has been 4.8 times that of Sirudaiyur. Applying the same ratio to the Census figures of Lalgudi town for the other years we have estimated the population of Sirudaiyur. These figures are given in the table below:-

Table-I Growth of Population

Year	Lalgudi town	Sirudaiyur village
1921	8346	1739
1931	9376	1953
1941	8314	1732



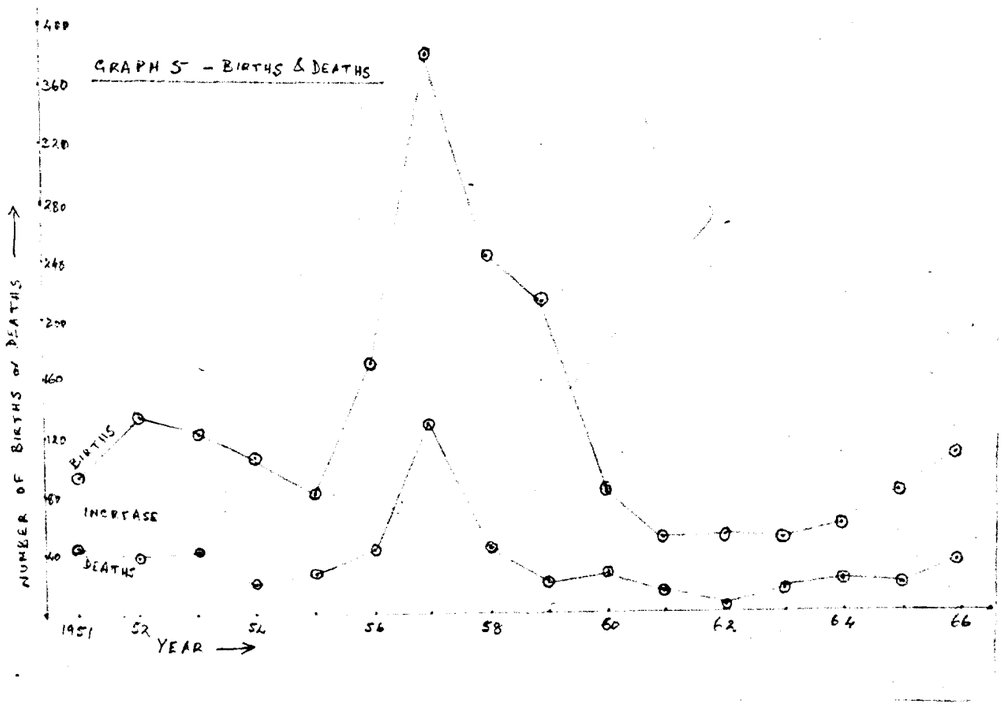
GRAPH 4 — POPULATION GROWTH

1951	12742	2645
1961	14568	3030

Graph 4 shows the population growth over the last four decades. The dotted line indicates the growth of population on the assumption that the annual increase in population has been constant. We find that all the figures except the one for 1941 fit in quite well with this assumption. From the graph we find that the average increase in population works out to 2d per year. During the decade 1951-61 Sirudaiyur village has registered an increase of 8.8% in population. It is interesting to note that this figure is less than the registered rate of increase for Madras State viz.,11.85% and far below the corresponding figure for the country viz.,21.54% and possibly this is due to migration that may have taken place from this village to other towns and cities.

Birth and Death Rates

The statement of births and deaths in Sirudaiyur for the period 1951-60 is shown in Table VI(In the Appendix) A glance at graph 5 shows that there seems to be an abnormal spurt in the number of births and deaths during the period 1956-59. No special cause for this could be traced. If we assume that this spurt is out of the ordinary and if we smoothen out this hump on the graph we get the trend as

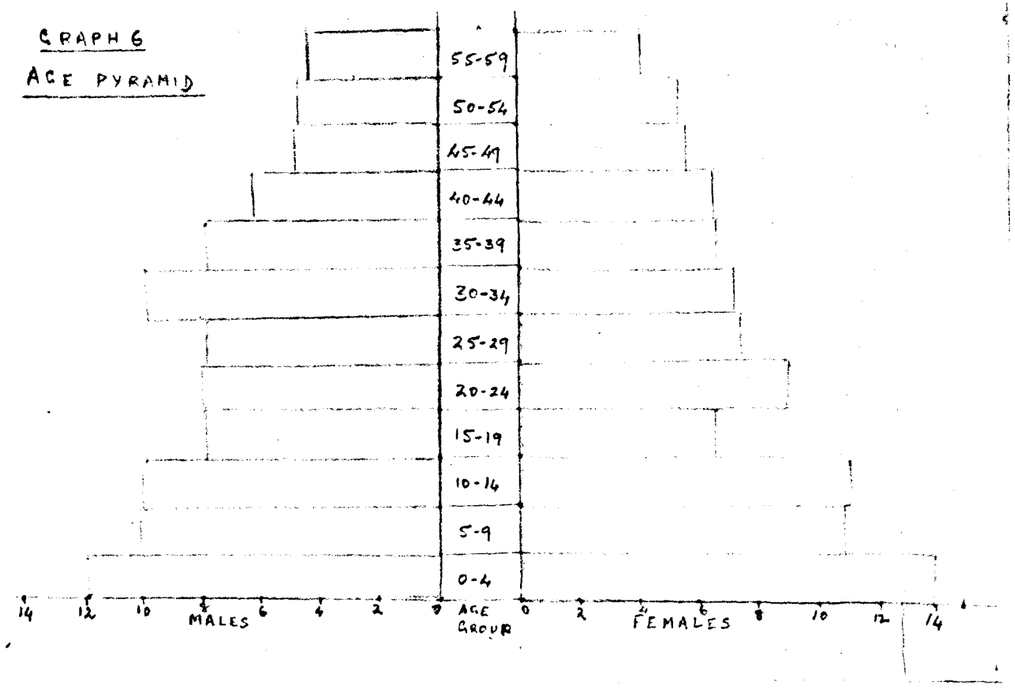


shown by the dotted lines. Then the shaded area between the red and blue lines gives an idea of the net increase in population over the years. From this we find that upto 1964 there is a general decreasing trend, but in the last two years the net increase in population is showing a slight rising trend. We cannot draw any definite conclusions from this because it must be remembered that the graph is based on the registered number of births and deaths and not on the actual number of births and deaths.

From Table VI we see that during the last sixteen years the number of births and deaths has been 2008 and 520 respectively. Taking the average population in this period to be 2840 the birth rate works out to 44.2 per thousand while the death rate works out to 14.9 per thousand. When we work out the birth rate for the period 1951-60 we get a figure of 56.1 per thousand. This is abnormally high considering the fact that the birth rate for the country was only 41 per thousand during the same period. This high figure is mainly due to the sudden spurt in the number of births in the period 1956-59. If we assume that there is something wrong with the statistics relating to this period and take the number of births to be 80 per year during this period, the birth rate works out to 29.2 per thousand and the rate of increase

GRAPH 6

AGE PYRAMID



per thousand works out to 14.3. Then the net increase in population during the last sixteen years becomes 810. Adding this to the population of 1951 we arrive at a figure of 3435. The actual population in 1967 is only 3030. This definitely indicates that persons have been migrating from the village and the rate of migration is around 8.8 per annum per thousand. Local enquiries also confirmed that several persons from the villages have been migrating to Tiruchi and other cities in search of better prospects for employment.

Age Structure of Population

Age structure of the population is an important feature which has a bearing on the village economy. The village economy is mainly dependent on agriculture. Inasmuch as agriculture is dependent on manual labour the efficiency of which is to a large extent related to the age of the worker, productivity in agriculture can be logically analysed only if we study the age groups of the people.

Table VII(in the Appendix) furnishes the population pyramid for Sirudaiyur in the year 1967. A pictorial representation of the same is given in graph 6. We find that in the age group 0-4 there are 196 males and 190 females working out to a percentage of 11.95 and 13.67

of the total male and female population. This is similar to the trend observable throughout the state. Persons who are over the age of 60 number 101 among the males and 82 among the females working out to 6.16% and 5.6% of the respective populations. This clearly shows that the average expectancy of life of the people in the village is fairly high and this is a reflection on the improved medical facilities that have been made available over the years.

The age group 18-34 is the one that provides the bulk of the rural labour force#. In Sirudaiyur we find that 38.1% of the population falls in this age group. Comparing this with the national figure of 35% we can say that this village does not have a particularly high labour potential.

Sex Ratio

According to the figures collected during this survey there are 848 females per 1000 males in Sirudaiyur. This is far below the sex ratio of Madras State viz.,992 and also lower than the figure for the nation viz.,941. What is even more surprising is that the sex ratio of Lalgudi town(of which Sirudaiyur is a part) is 1004. At first sight this might lead us to suspect that the population figures relating to Sirudaiyur are not correct, but we find

that a similar wide discrepancy is observable even in 1921. From the Census figures of 1921 we find that the sex ratio for Lalgudi town works out to 1021 while that for Sirudaiyur village is only 869. No reasonable explanation could be found for this marked difference in the sex ratios of the two places.

The sex ratios among the main communities in the village are given below:

Community	Males	Females	Sex Ratio
Muthurajas	897	801	893
Pallars	216	160	741
Paraiyans	154	135	812
Muslims	135	98	733
Total	1640	1390	848

We find that the sex ratio among the Muthurajas is slightly more than the average and this being numerically the dominant community, it influences to a large extent the sex ratio of the village. The sex ratio is extremely low among the Pallars and the Muslims.

Density of Population

The village covers an area of 526.95 acres or 2.1 Sq. Kilometers of which an area of 8.6 acres has been set apart for village sites. The density of population works out to 1443 person per square kilometer. This is much higher than the corresponding figure for the state viz.,358

and that for the nation viz.,134. This high density of population is an indication of the congestion in the village. Actually the congestion is even worse than what is portrayed by this figure because we must remember that the house sites cover only an area of 8.6 acres. The condition of the scheduled castes and the Muslims is the worst and the area per house works out to barely 1 cent. This extreme congestion is clearly an urban characteristic and arises out of the fact that the village is a part and parcel of Lalgudi and also because it lies in a fertile deltaic belt.

Family Planning

It would not be out place here to digress a little and discuss whether the family planning programme has made any substantial impact on the village. Local enquiries during the survey revealed that family planning has not made much headway in Sirudaiyur village. Though a fairly high percentage of the people in this village know about family planning and birth control methods and many of them even realise the importance of family planning for the country, most of the persons are not willing to practise family planning. Religious scruples and the fear of ill health are the two main grounds on which limitation of family is objected to.

The Muslims mainly object to family planning on religious grounds. Health reasons arise mainly out of the fact that certain persons who have undergone vasectomy operations in the village complain of several post operation maladies. These maladies are mostly psychological or the consequence of disregard of post operation medical advice, but any such complaint instils fear in the minds of the other villagers and acts as a tremendous retarding force on the family planning programme.

In this context, it is worthwhile to study how effectively the family planning scheme has been implemented. In 1961 the Census Organisation conducted a Fertility Survey and approximately one per cent of the rural blocks were surveyed. The survey showed that the nuptial fertility rates (i.e number of births to 1,000 married women) worked out to 150.9 for the rural areas. The age specific fertility rates were found to be maximum in the age groups 18-22 and 23-27. Fertility gradually decreases above the age of 25. Therefore, an effective family planning scheme should concentrate on persons who fall in the age group 18-25. However, figures of vasectomy and salpingectomy operations show that nearly half the number of persons operated upon or above the age of 40, which means the scheme has

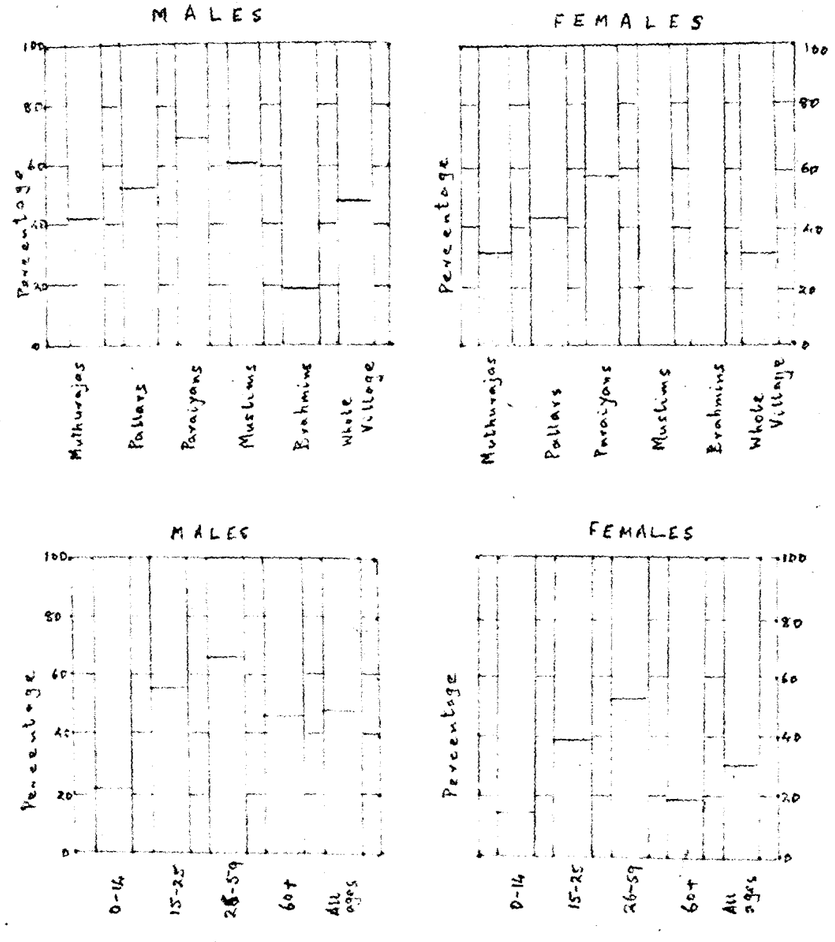
not been implemented very effectively. This is a direct outcome of our obsession for achieving certain targets in the number of sterlisations done annually and consequent compulsion on the people by the Block staff.

It was also interesting to note that most of the villagers understand "family planning" to be synonymous with sterilisation, and consequently associate family planning with surgery and hospitalisation. This is the direct result of the sterilisation bias exhibited in the family planning methods adopted in the State. The preventive side has been relagated to the background when compared with the surgical side. A reorientation in our approach to family planning is needed and this bias should be changed.

No one can dispute that family planning is an absolute necessity if we want to improve our standards of living. Our country is committed to a regular programme of family planning and we must achieve a substantial reduction in our birth rate. But what is wanted is a selective approach and the message should reach those sectors which need it most. Psychologically it is desirable to educate the women properly so that they seek the assistance of the family planning experts and family planning is not forced on them. It is

highly undesirable to import any element of compulsion in intensifying our family planning programme. Nor is it desirable for any target to be set for different areas, so that in their desire to achieve the target, the basic principles governing such a programme are likely to be ignored. The bulk of the family planning scheme should be education and propaganda, and in this our educational institutions and social organisations should play an increasingly important role. The Government should come in only to provide all facilities for those who wish to practice any method of birth control.

GRAPH 7 — WORKING FORCE



C H A P T E R—IV

"The Village Economy"

Working Force

Before we proceed to study the economy of the village we must first get an idea of the strength of the labour force in the village and of the occupational classification of the people.

Table VIII(in the Appendix) gives a detailed statement showing the community wise break up of the village labour force in various age groups. Workers totalling 1228 persons account for 40.5% of the population composed of 795 males and 433 females. This is slightly lower than the figure for the nation viz.,42.7%. Considering the fact that the labour potential in the village is 50% we see that the labour potential has not been tapped completely. As is to be expected the percentage of workers among males(48.4%) is higher than the percentage of workers among females (31.2%).

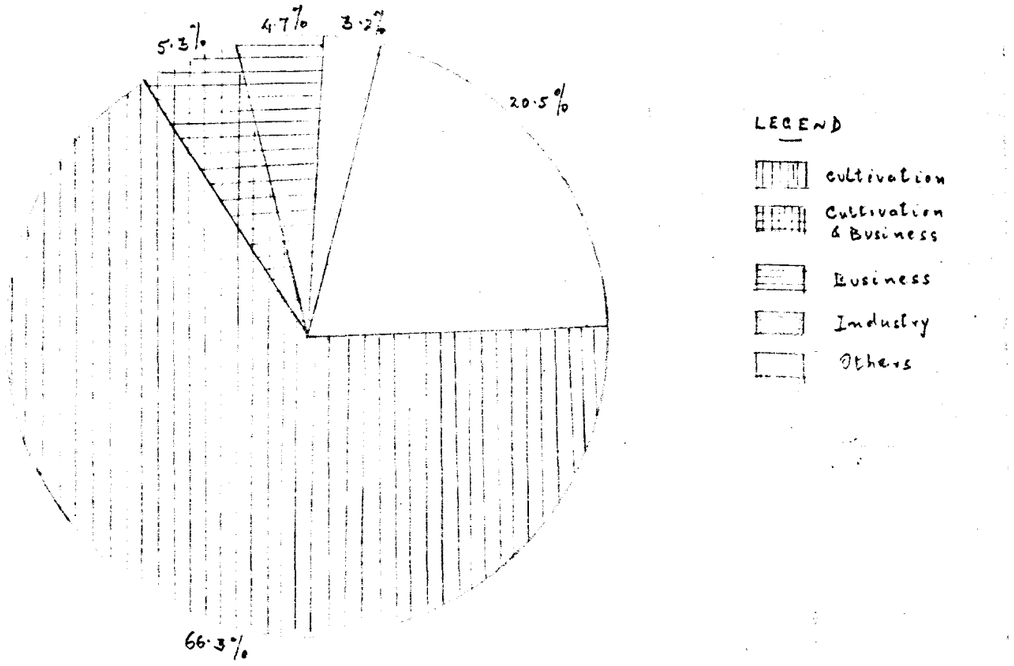
The majority of non workers are in the age group 0-14 there being 432 boys and 334 girls not doing any work, out of the total population of 1003 in that age group. Nearly 43% of the non workers fall in this age group. There are 180 non workers among those in the age

group of 60 and over. In the age group 26-59 the percentage of workers is seen to be 66% among the males and 53% among the females. These figures must be considered low considering the fact that most of the persons in this age group are able bodied and capable of doing work. This arises out of the fact that most of the Brahmins and the richer sections among the Muthurajas have their lands cultivated through agricultural labourers who are mostly Pallars or Paraiyans. This fact is also confirmed when we analyse the community wise break up of workers. We find that among the Brahmins only 1% have been classified as workers whereas among the Paraiyans we find that 69% of them are workers. From the figures we also see that among the Pallars and Paraiyans it is quite common for ladies to engage themselves in active work, whereas among the Muslims this is uncommon and among the Brahmins none of the females do active work. The Paraiyans even make most of their children work and as high as 42% of the Paraiyans in the age group 0-14 have been classified as workers.

Occupational Classification

The community wise pattern of occupation is indicated in Table IX(in the Appendix). Of the 309 Muthuraja

GRAPH 8 - OCCUPATIONAL CLASSIFICATION



households, 240 households are engaged in cultivation while only 20 households are engaged in industry. Among the Pallars and Paraiyans also the number of households engaged in cultivation is quite high. Of the 101 Pallar households, 80 are engaged in cultivation while among the Paraiyans 50 of a total number of 59 households are engaged in cultivation. The proportion of households engaged in cultivation is comparatively less among the Muslims and Brahmins. Considering the village as a whole we find that 66.3% of the households are engaged solely in agriculture. This compares favourably with the corresponding figure for the nation viz.,69.5%. The percentage engaged solely in industry or in business is very low being only 3.2% and 4.7% respectively. From the figures given in Table IX we can conclude definitely that agriculture is the primary occupation in this village.

A G R I C U L T U R E

In an underdeveloped economy agriculture is always the primary sector and in India this sector accounts for about 50% of the national income. In Sirudaiyur

village also we find that about 2/3 of the population is engaged in cultivation and the village economy is based mainly on agriculture.

Land and Agriculture

The total area of the village is 526.96 acres. The details of classification is as given below:

Classification	Extent in acres
Wet	402-78
Dry	43-36
Inam(converted to ryotwari now)	8-18
Assessed waste(dry)	0-55
Poramboke	69-99

From this Table it is clear that nearly 87% of the area in the village is cultivated and of this cultivated area nearly 89% is registered wet lands. This is to be expected considering the fact that the village lies in the fertile deltaic tract of the Cauvery. Poramboke lands account for only 69.99 acres. Of this 52.38 acres is channel poramboke and the area set apart for village site# is only 8.60 acres. The area set apart as communal poramboke is not sufficient but considering the high pressure on land nothing can be done to improve this situation.

The soil is completely alluvial loam. A statement showing the classification of the soil and the assessment fixed is given in Table X(In the Appendix). We find that the assessment amounts to Rs.4788-23 most of which is by way of assessment on wet lands. The rate of assessment on wet lands varies from Rs.17-81 to Rs.7-12 per acre. On dry lands the assessment varies from Rs.3-00 to Rs.1-75 per acre. Because of the high fertility of the soil and the existence of assured irrigation, land values are very high and one cent of wet land will fetch anything between Rs.120 and Rs.150 . Even dry lands fetch as high as Rs.8,000/- per acre.

The total revenue derived by the government from the land in this village is Rs.12,930/-. The detailed break up of this is shown in Table XI(in the Appendix). Of this amount Rs.6,758/- is by way of land revenue which includes Rs.575/- due to penal water charges. Local cess and surcharge amounts to about Rs.4,007/- while Rs.2,174/- is realised by way of additional assessment. The average kist works out to about Rs.28/- per acre. The last resettlement was done in fasli 1335 and considering the general rise in price levels during the last forty years there is a definite case for increasing the assessment or

alternatively introducing agricultural income tax on a progressive slab basis. The introduction of such an income tax will also help in restricting the increase in area under cash crops.

Irrigation

The irrigation in this village is mostly done by three channels which get their supply from the river Cauvery. However, except for the North Ayyan Channel, the other two channels are not fed directly by the Cauvery but is fed by the drainage from irrigated lands in villages lying to the west of Lalgudi. The registered ayacut under each source is shown below:

Name of Source	Class of Source	Registered ayacut(acres)	
		Single crop	Double crop
North Ayyan Channel	I	3-10	12-98
Malattar Channel	II	62-24	242-22
Panguni Channel	II	48-62	33-62
Total		113-96	288-82

We find that most of the wet lands are irrigated by the Malattar channel. These channels normally do not get any supply in the period April-June and hence most of the lands lie fallow in this season and no third crop is raised.

There are no irrigation tanks in this village, but there are two wells which irrigate about 3.5 acres. Because of the assured supply of water in the channels for about eight months in the year the ryots are not willing to sink any wells. But it would be worthwhile if we could persuade some of the ryots to sink wells - open wells as well as filter point tube wells-so that the ryots could raise seedlings for the Kuruvai crop well in advance of the release of water from Mettur and earlier transplantation could be undertaken. Earlier transplantation would be particularly benefical for ADT-27 whose yield is very much season bound.

Cropping pattern

We have seen already that a large percentage of the land in the village is being cultivated and land is being utilised to the maximum extent. The registered single crop area is 113-96 acres while the double crop area is 238-82 acres. Compared with this the actual area cultivated with first crop and second crop is shown in Table XII(1) in the Appendix. A study of this Table shows that though the area under Ist crop has remained more or less constant the area under 2nd crop(wet) has shown a steady decline from 307-67 acres in Fasli 1370 to 244-35 acres in fasli 1377. This is because more and more land is being cultivated with duffasal crops like sugarcane and plantain in the place of paddy.

GRAPH 9 – CROPPING PATTERN

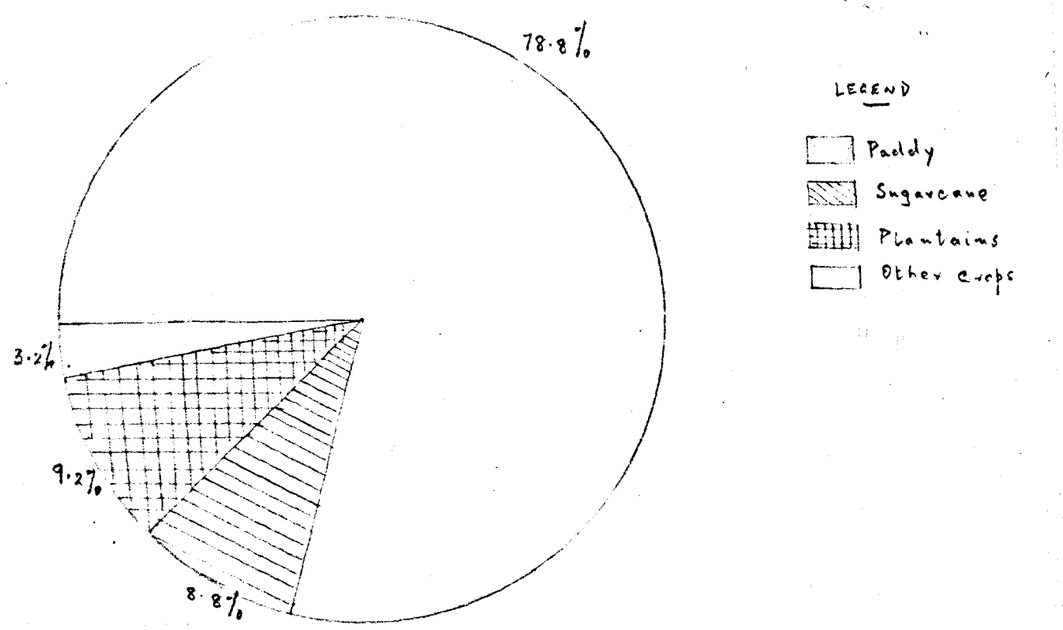
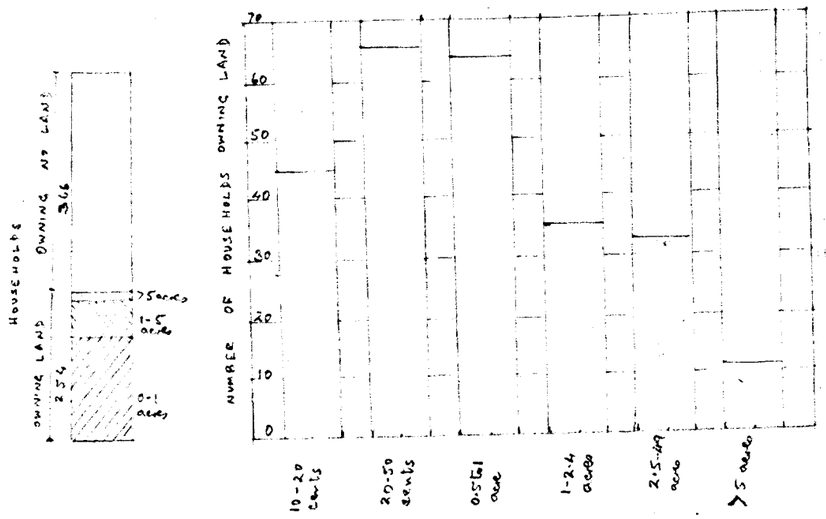


Table XII(ii) shows the changing cropping pattern in the village over the last few faslis. Paddy is the principal crop in the village and accounts for nearly 79% of the gross cropped area. However a study of this Table also leads us to the conclusion that over the years the area under cash crops like sugarcane and plantain has been increasing at the cost of the area under paddy. Over the last forty years the area under paddy has decreased from 591-77 acres to 524-31 acres while the area under sugarcane has increased from 25-42 acres to 58-45 acres. The area under plantains has also registered a remarkable increase from 14-62 acres in fasli 1335 to 61-30 acres in fasli 1377. With the increase in sugarcane prices announced by the sugar factories this year from Rs.56/- to Rs.90/- per tonne we may expect that more land will be brought under sugarcane in the coming fasli. This is an alarming trend and the government must soon do something to reduce this wide disparity between the prices of cash crops and those of food crops. Some form of agricultural income tax might also help arrest this trend.

Pattern of Land holdings

The pattern of land holding plays an important role, at least theoretically, in the growth of agricultural economy. A large number of small holdings would mean higher overheads and consequently higher costs of production

GRAPH 10 - LAND OWNERSHIP



in agriculture. On the other hand, too large a holding might be unwieldy and might not give maximum yield.

The details of the distribution of landholdings in Sirudaiyur village is given in Table XIII(in the Appendix). Surprisingly we find that as high as 59% of the households do not own land. This means a large proportion of the population in this village work as agricultural labourers and help in the cultivation of lands not only in this village but also other villages in and around Lalgudi. Among the households owning land 61% own less than 1 acre each. This figure is much lower than the figure for the country viz.,35%, but this is to be expected in any deltaic tract where there is assured irrigation and consequently pressure on land is very high. 30% of the land owning households own between 1 and 5 acres each and only about 4.3% own more than 5 acres each. The average area owned by a landowning household is only about 1.8 acres. Thus we may definitely say that the holdings in the village are small.

Most of the holdings in the village are in one piece especially the smaller holdings and expectionally few of the holdings are in more than two pieces. Therefore as far as this village is concerned we would not be correct in saying that fragmentation of land is hampering efficient farming. In general the landowners may be divided into

three broad categories. The first category consist of those farmers owning less than one acre. Though such a holding may not be economically the most viable unit in the ~~dense~~ sense that it may not lead to the maximum utilisation of overheads, neverthless such a piece of land is most conducive for efficient farming because no outside labour is engaged and the work put in by the land owner and other members of the household is enough to ensure a good yield. In the second category fall farmers who own between 1 and 5 acres. In such a holding the day to day farming operations can be looked after conveniently by the landowner and members of his family. But during transplantation and harvesting he has necessarily to depend on hired labour. In the last category come the landlords who own more than 5 acres. In such holdings even the day to day farming cannot be looked after by the landlord and his household. Moreover in such a household, belonging as they do to the middle class, the women members of the family will not work in the fields. So the landlord has to employ agricultural labour even for looking after operations such as weeding etc., besides of course for harvesting and transplantation. A few of the richer sections among this class employ agricultural labour on a permanent basis as "pannaiyals". During the transplantation and harvesting seasons when there is a pressing demand for agricultural labour the farmer in

category 1 is happy as he is not dependent on hired labour, and the competition is only between farmers in category 2 and those in category 3. But those in category 3 are in a more advantageous position since they can afford to pay higher rates.

The ownership of land by households of different castes is shown in Table XIII(i). One surprising feature that we notice is that among the Pallars about 43% of the households own land, of which 12 households own more than 1 acre each. The proportion of landowners is highest among the Brahmins and next in order come the Muslims. It is interesting to compare this Table with Table IX which shows the occupational classification. Table IX gives the number of households engaged in cultivation whereas the number of households owning land is given in Table XIII(i). The difference between these two figures gives an approximate idea of the number of households who cultivate land not owned by them. Thus we see that though there are only 254 households owning land, as many as 411 households are engaged solely in cultivation. Most of the pattadars cultivate their land themselves, there being only 20 non cultivating pattadars of whom 19 are absentee landlords.

Landlord Tenant Relationship

Normally the landlord takes rent in kind from the tenant. But no rigid rules are laid down and most of the agreements are informal and not reduced to writing. The normal practice is that the land revenue is paid by the pattadar, but all other costs of cultivation are borne by the tenant. The average yield per acre is about 30 kalams(1 Kalam = 37½ Madras Measures) and the tenant has to give the pattadar about 50% of this as rent. If the tenant incurs expenditure on repair of channels etc., then he is entitled to the entire quantity of straw, otherwise the pattadar is entitled to about 40% of the straw. Inspite of this inequitable distribution of Melvaram and Kudivaram rights it was surprising to note that generally there have been no estranged relations between the landlords and tenants.

Agricultural Practices

Though the structure of agriculture has not shown much change over the years there has been a gradual improvement in agricultural practices. No doubt the poverty of the farmer makes him somewhat cautious in trying out new methods, but he is not unduly tradition bound and when he is convinced, especially through physical demonstration, that a certain improved practice would be useful for him he does not hesitate in adopting the practice.

Paddy cultivation is done in two seasons. A short term Kuruvai crop is sown sometime at the end of June or Beginning of July just after water is released in the Cauvery from Mettur. The crop matures in about 110 days and is harvested sometime in October just before the north-east monsoon sets in. The second crop is a long term samba paddy which is sown just after harvesting of the Kuruvai crop in October. This crop takes about 5 to 6 months to mature and is harvested sometime in March. After this the land is allowed to lie fallow for about three months. Some of the ryots grow some green manure plants during these three months and this crop is just ploughed in when cultivation is begun in June. Sugarcane is normally sown in August or in February while plantains are planted usually in October. Both these crops are normally allowed to stand on ground for a period of 2 years.

Since paddy is the most important crop in the village it would be interesting to study in more detail the cultivation practices adopted by the villagers of Sirudaiyur in raising paddy. The normal method adopted in this village is that of transplantation. For this, first a nursery has to be prepared. For every acre of paddy cultivation about 10 cents of nursery has to be prepared. This area is irrigated and ploughed well. The seeds obtained from last years' harvest or from the agricultural depot is first

soaked in a mud pot for forty eight hours and treated with agrosan. These seeds are then sown in the nursery by broadcasting. The main field is then prepared as follows. The land is irrigated by the water from the channels and then ploughed with the country plough four or five times both lengthwise and breadthwise. The soil is then mixed with leaves cow dung etc., and the whole thing is trampled into the soil. The land is again ploughed and clods of earth are thus broken and the whole place is turned into a mire. The surface is then smoothed out by means of a flat board. When the seedlings in the nursery are about a foot high they are transplanted into the main field. Chemical manuring is done in two stages. One is the basal dressing which is done right at the beginning while the second stage is the top dressing done about a month before harvesting. Many of the ryots also undertake two rounds of spraying of pesticides as a prophylactic measure. After harvesting the paddy is threshed, dried and finally sent for milling.

Nearly the entire cattle dung obtained in the village is used up as manure and the supply of cattle manure is fairly adequate. On the average each acre of land gets about 15 cart loads of cattle dung. However the scheme for compost development has not been very successful. Similarly the development of green manure plants has not been very popular. Most of the farmers do use some leaves from trees and plough it in. Some of the ryots even allow

some short term green manure plant to grow on the lands when it lies fallow after the samba harvest and these plants are ploughed in situ. But there has been as yet no concious effort for the promotion of green manure plants.

Chemical fertilisers are being commonly used by the ryots. The farmer has been convinced that a systematic application of fertilisers will give a better yield and the new high yielding strains are particularly responsive to high doses of fertilisers. The problem has now become one of meeting the demand of the ryots and not one of forcing him to use fertilisers. It is surprising to note how well he has mastered the various scientific names of different fertilisers. The distribution of fertilisers through the block over the years is shown below;

Fertiliser	Quantity distributed(Tonnes)			
	1963-64	1964-65	1966-67	1967-68
Ammonium Sulphate	1280	1860	1430	1205
Urea	445	275	310	279
Calcium Ammonium Nitrate	35	55	50	50
Ammonium Phosphate	7	55	-	30

From this Table we notice that the consumption of fertilisers has shown no increase, whatsoever for the past four years. The main reason for this is that the use of fertilisers has been in vogue in this area for the last ten

years or more and consequently the consumption has reached some sort of maximum and no further rise can be expected. The use of phosphate and nitrate does not seem to be popular, whereas the use of ammonium sulphate seems to be far in excess of requirements. This is mainly because the average ryot is very much impressed by the vegetative effect caused by ammonium sulphate and he wrongly equates this with increased productivity.

Improved seeds are being distributed to the ryots through the Block. Many of the ryots have started using hybrid seeds like ADT-27, Co-29 etc. Indents for these seeds are placed by the block to the Director of Agriculture. The seeds are procured from the various state seed farms and distributed to the blocks according to their requirements. The Gramasahayak scheme which was initiated some years back for the purpose of multification of seeds has been found to be a failure and has now been discontinued.

Pests like the stem-borer and crop diseases like blast, leaf spots etc., sometime affect the paddy crop. But the ryots are now becoming increasingly aware of the need for adequate and timely plant protection measures. The importance of prophylactic measures is now being gradually recognised by the ryot. The distribution of sprayers and dusters on a large scale as well as subsidies to the extent

of 50% have helped in popularising the use of pesticides. The Block staff has also been popularising the use of improved implements and an increasing number of Bose ploughs Burmese settums, intercultivators, green manuretramplers have been distributed to the ryots. The following Table would indicate the gradual increase over the years in the supply of pesticides and improved implements.

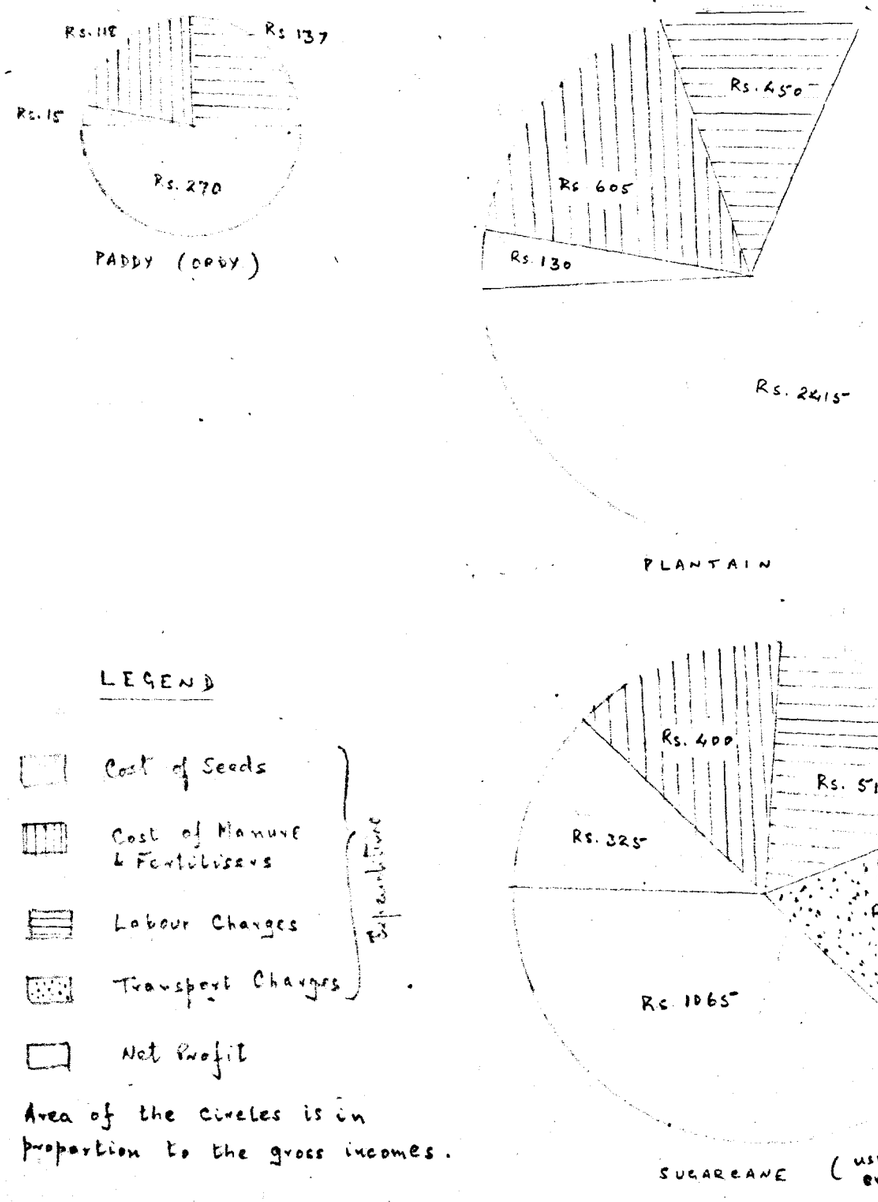
Fasli	Pesticides distributed KGS	Tins	Implements distributed Numbers
1373	886	67	42
1374	1164	84	67
1375	1819	130	88
1376	1680	175	121

Agronomics

As mentioned earlier, paddy is the main crop. The average production per year comes roughly to 12,600 bags of 57 kilograms each. The average yield thus works out to 23 bags per acre. The price fixed by government is Rs.40/- per qunital. During the Kuruvai season because of the onset of monsoon and the consequent risk in the paddy getting bad, the open market price is about the same as the government price and sometimes even lower, but during the samba season the open market is about Rs.10/- per quintal more than the government price.

GRAPH II

COST OF CULTIVATION & PROFITS PER ACRE



The details of the costs of cultivation per acre for various crops and the net income derived therefrom is given in Table XIV. We see that the cost of cultivation for paddy is Rs.270/- per acre and the net profit is Rs.270/-. The cost of cultivation includes Rs.120/- towards labour charges for transplanting and weeding. For the small farmer who utilises his own labour this can be deducted from the cost of cultivation and the net profit comes to Rs.390/- per acre. Considering that two crops of paddy are generally raised this means a small farmer can get Rs.800/- per year per acre from paddy cultivation. If he happens to be a lessee he will make about Rs.400/- per year. When the farmer raises ADT-27 he makes an additional profit of atleast Rs.100/- per acre. Cultivation of sugarcane and plantains is much more profitable. The net profit for sugarcane works out to Rs.2765(using the latest price for sugarcane) and that for plantains works out to Rs.2415. It is no wonder that there is a gradual shift towards these cash crops. But most of the smaller farmers still stick to paddy cultivation because the initial investment needed for cultivation of these cash crops is quite high and beyond their means.

The normal wages paid to agricultural labourers is about Rs.1.50 per day for ploughing and Re.1 per day for transplanting and weeding. The normal working hours are from 7 A.M to 12 Noon. For harvesting the wages are normally

paid in kind. Usually about 16 labourers are employed to harvest one acre of paddy and each of them is given around 6 Madras Measures of rice.

Agricultural Marketing

Disposal of the agricultural produce is an interesting feature of the rural economy. Most of the ryots are fairly well informed and have some crude idea of the law of supply and demand. They know that if they wait for a month or two they will get a better price for their produce, but the average ryot does not have sufficient financial backing to tide over the time lag between harvesting and sale. He is in need of immediate cash so that he can undertake further cultivation operations and normally he tends to sell the produce as soon as it is harvested. Consequently he has to sell in a buyers market and does not get the most renumerative price. Some of the richer farmers can of course afford to wait for an opportune time for selling. The marketing is done normally through the agents of the various rice mills who come to the village.
Of course, increased credit through government institutions have decreased the dependence of the ryot on the local money lender to whom previously they were usually indebted and were forced to sell their produce at very low rates.
There is an Agricultural Marketing Co-operative Society in Sirudaiyur, but this society is concentrating more on the

distribution of agricultural inputs to the ryots and not so much on marketting the produce on behalf of the ryots.

In this connection we should also mention about government procurement because nowadays a large proportion of the marketable surplus in paddy is mopped up from the village by this mechanism. Procurement is being done on a progressive ~~levy~~ levy slab basis on all holdings above 1 acre. Various licensed rice millers act as the procuring agents for the government. But sometimes, especially during the kuruvai harvest, the rice millers refuse to co-operate and do not procure, and the procurement has to be done on government account. Because of this procurement the ryot has to sell a large proportion of his marketable surplus at the government price. During the samba season the government price is normally Rs.7 to Rs.10 per quintal lower than the open market price. At present the pricing policy of the government seems to be consumer-oriented. We must now seriously think of evolving a producer oriented pricing policy and give a more ~~remunerative~~ remunerative price to the producer. This will make procurement easier and also give the farmer an incentive to cultivate more food crops. The average procurement done in Sirudaiyur over the last three years has been about 1800 bags during Kuruvai and 1100 bags

during Samba season. Even presuming that about 50% of the produce is kept back for consumption we see that the ryot is still left with some proportion of the produce which he sells in open market.

Agricultural credit

Credit facility is quite essential for agricultural operations. At present rural credit is being provided by three sources-cooperatives, government and the private money lenders. The government sanctions credit under the L.I.L. act or the A.L. act. The ryot is now depending more and more on government for agricultural credit and turns to the money lenders only when he requires loans for domestic affairs. But in Sirudaiyur village the ryot does not seem to have made much use of the agricultural credit facilities extended by government. In 1967 only Rs.2500-Rs.1000 under LIL and Rs.1500 under the Intensive Manuring Scheme-was given as loan to ryots in this village. This is because the ryot in Sirudaiyur is not interested in sinking any well as he assured of canal irrigation, and most of his lands need no reclamation. So he is in need mostly only of short term loans for carrying out his cultivation operations.

L I V E S T O C K

Livestock, like supply of credit, is an important factor in an agrarian economy. Cultivation in villages being rudimentary in nature, calling for the use of the traditional plough, needs the motive power of oxen if it is to return good dividends. The absence of healthy livestock in the village is a serious impediment for higher productivity.

In Sirudaiyur there are 157 oxen of which 14 are kept for breeding purposes and the rest are used as working bulls. There are 120 cows of which only 56 are yielding milk. The number of she buffaloes yielding milk number 27. Besides there are 14 sheep and 193 goats and the strength of village poultry is 223. The livestock in the village must be considered insufficient in relation to the population. But we must remember that a large number of households engaged in cultivation do not own land themselves, and hence do not rear oxen. Even among those who own land many own only about 1/2 acre and they do not find it worthwile to rear their own cattle but prefer to borrow bulls during the ploughing season. Further the use of bullocks as a means of transport is not very prevalent in this village because it is served well with bus and lorry services and the ryots prefer to use these modern forms of transport.

Another factor that has acted as a bottle-neck to the development of cattle in the village has been the acute shortage of grazing facilities. There are no grazing ground porambokes set apart in the village, and the cattle graze mostly on the banks of the irrigation channels or on lands that are lying fallow. The villagers do not attach too much importance to the proper feeding of cattle. They normally feed their cattle with rice bran,cotton seeds, oil cake and straw, but no scientific method of feeding is adopted.

Most of the cattle in the village is of the inferior country breed and as yet there seems to be no serious effort to develop the special breeds. Now that there is a Key Village Sub-centre at Lalgudi it is hoped that more and more villagers will take advantage of the facilities for artificial insemination and thus improve the breed of cattle. The semen used for articicial insemination is taken from the'Jersey' variety for cows and "Murah" variety for buffaloes and this is brought from Tiruchi by jeep.

The cattle diseases that commonly occur in this area are Haemorrhagic septicaemia and black quarter. Recently there was an attack of rinderpest also, but this was controlled because of prompt veternary aid. Mass inoculation and vaccination against cattle diseases is being undertaken

as a prophylatic measure and the Extension officer (Animal Husbandary) of the Panchayat Union is attending to this work.

There is ample scope for improving the condition of livestock in the village, but the acute shortage of grazing facilities is proving a serious obstacle.

I N D U S T R Y

In an agraian economy the problem of unemployment in rural areas is an important point that has to be tackled. With increasing population the pressure on land increases resulting in more unemployment. Besides this we have the problem of seasonal unemployment because the landless labour force does not get full employment during the off seasons. In order to get a faster rate of economic growth it is necessary to utilise this idle man power for rural industries. But, unfortunately our efforts in this direction have not met with much success.

We have already mentioned that in Sirudaiyur only about 3.2% of the households are engaged in industry. Except for a unit producing bell metal articles there is no industry worth the name in Sirudaiyur. The Bell Metal Unit was started in November 1959 by the Industries Department as a training centre. In 1962 this was converted as a production centre. The Unit is now under the administrative control of

the Panchayat Union Council, Lalgudi. This unit is now manufacturing brass and bell metal articles. But this industrial unit does not absorb much labour and there are only a few workers employed in the unit.

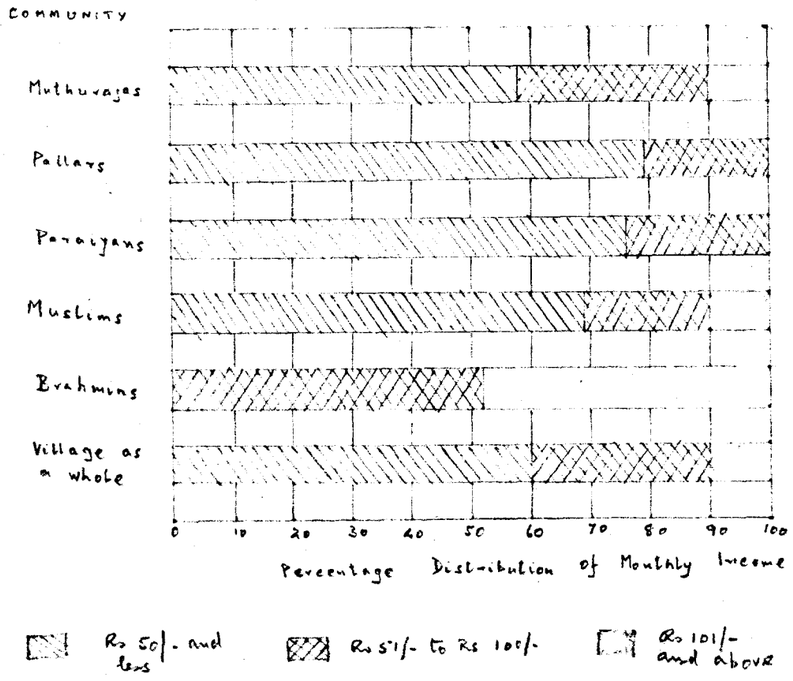
There is a small blacksmithy unit which is making horse shoes, iron tyres for cart wheels, bodies for tyre carts etc., This is only one man show and is run by a Muslim. His average monthly income come to about Rs.150/- Besides this there are no other industries. Even so the problem of unemployment is not very acute in this village because there is an increasing demand for labour for the construction of houses, buildings etc., at Tiruchi and during the off seasons many of the labourers from this village go over to Tiruchi to seek employment. The only raw material available in plenty in this area is paddy straw and bran. It would be a good idea to start some rural industry based on these raw materials e.g. a straw board factory or an industrial unit for manufacturing bran oil.

GENERAL ECONOMIC CONDITION

Monthly income

In spite of the development that has taken place in the village resulting in increased productivity in agriculture the average villager still remains extremely

GRAPH 12 MONTHLY INCOME OF HOUSEHOLDS



poor and the miserable living conditions of many of the villagers is seen to be believed. A statement of the monthly income of households of different communities in Sirudaiyur is given in Table XV (in the Appendix).

Out of the 620 households in the village only 61 households enjoy an income of over Rs.100/- per month and there are as many as 375 households who do not even earn Rs.51 per month. This means that at least 60% of the village must be considered to be miserably poor. Among the households belonging to the higher income bracket 30 households are those of Muthurajas and 11 are Brahmin households. There are no Harijan households which fall in this higher income bracket. On the other hand we find that none of the Brahmin households fall in the lower income bracket. This clearly shows that besides the caste differences between Harijans and Brahmins there is even a disparity in their economic conditions with the Brahmins forming the richer section and the Harijans forming the poorer section and this economic disparity only tends to accentuate the caste difference. No doubt the Harijans have been benefitted by the special schemes undertaken by the Government for them, but it will still take years before they are completely lifted out of this mire of poverty. The Muthurajas form the middle income class in the village. Of the 309 Muthuraja

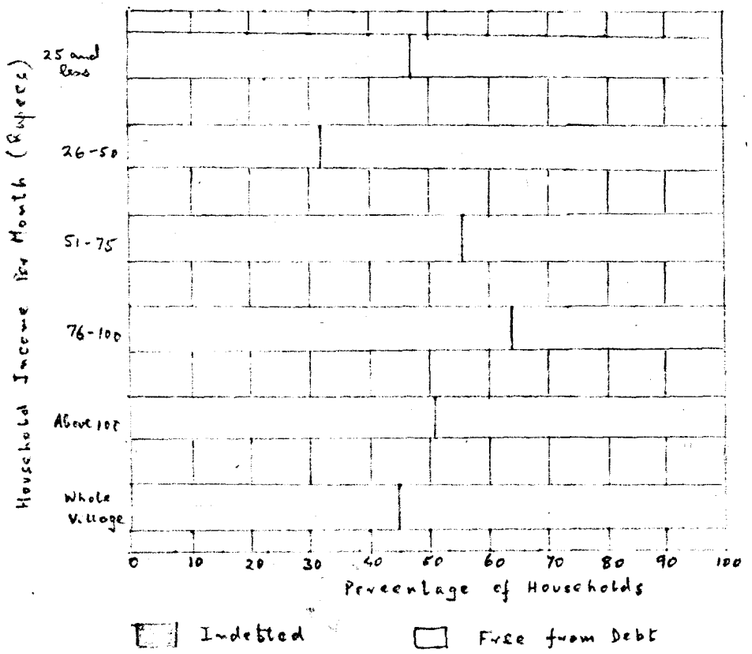
households 58% fall in the lower income bracket while only 10% fall in the higher income bracket. This is more or less the same as the income distribution for the village as a whole.

The total income of all the households in the village works out roughly to Rs.30,000 and average income per households works out to Rs.50/- per month. This means about 40 % of the households earn more than the average. But except for 10% of the households who earn a steady income of more than Rs.100 a month, the rest are marginal or sub marginal households. Even in a household earning Rs.100 if we take the average number of members in each family to be five the average per capita income comes to Rs.20/- only. In the case of marginal households this figure drops to Rs.10/- per head. By any reasonable norms this must be considered definitely below what can be called an "Economic Living."

Expenditure Pattern

To some extent the expenditure pattern will depend on the income group. But one common feature is that the bulk of the income is spent on necessities like food and clothing. In the low income group more than 80% of the income is spent on food and ~~clothing~~ clothing. Many of the poorer sections of the population find their incomes not even sufficient for getting the basic necessities. These families earning about Rs.50/-

GRAPH 13 - INDEBTEDNESS BY INCOME RANGES.



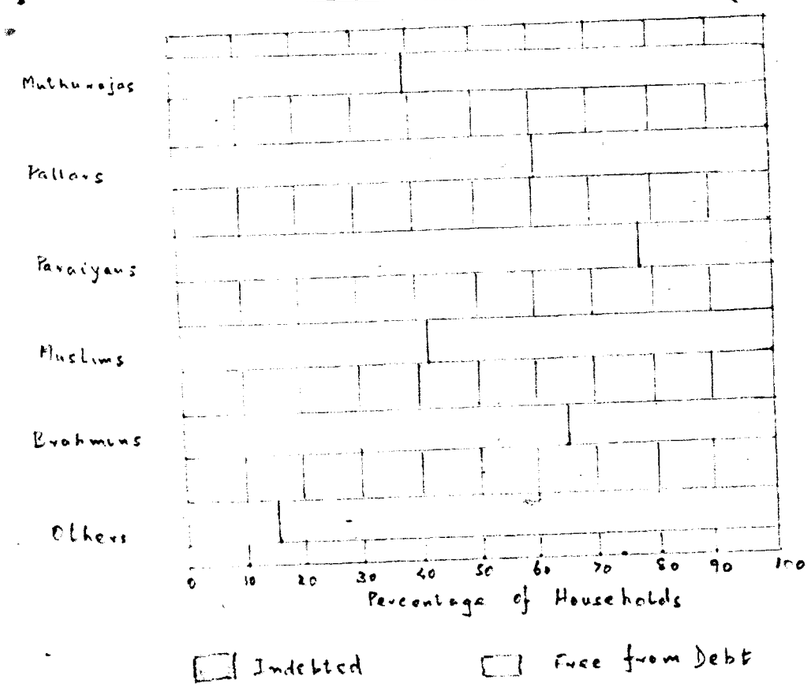
a month just manage to live within their income but when they are faced with extraordinary items of expenditure, like medical treatment or a marriage etc., they are forced to borrow. The higher income group leads a fairly convenient life, but it is surprising to note that a number of these households are also in debt. This is mainly due to ostentatious celebration of marriage and festivals.

In this background of poverty and general indebtedness of the villagers it would be too much to expect that the average ryot will have the habit of saving. No doubt a few Cumulative Time Deposits and savings bank accounts have been opened by the villagers mainly due to pressure from the Block staff, but the general habit of saving has not been inculcated in the village. Furthermore, the main aim of the small savings scheme-mopping up of the surplus purchasing power in the rural areas-has not yet been realised.

Indebtedness

A statement of indebtedness in the village is given in Table XVI (in the Appendix). We find that indebtedness in this village is fairly high. As many as 44.7% of the households are in debt. The total number of households in debt is 277 and total amount of indebtedness in the village is around Rs.67,120/-. The average indebtedness are households works out to Rs.242/-. The indebtedness by income ranges is shown in

GRAPH 14 - INDEBTEDNESS BY COMMUNITIES



graph 13. We see that indebtedness is more among the higher income groups. The highest percentage is in the income group 76-100 where 64% of the 84 households are in debt. Most of these households are in debt because of expenditure on marriage and festivals. Indebtedness is lowest in the income group 26-50. This is the group which does not have to borrow for its ordinary wants and also does not spend much on marriages. The borrowing in this group is mainly for cultivation expenses. In the income group Rs.25/- and below the percentage of indebtedness is 47% and most of the borrowing is done to meet expenses towards basic necessities.

A study of the indebtedness among the different communities shows that indebtedness among the Harijans is highest. 77.9% of the Paraiyans and 60.4% of the Pallans are in debt. Of the 309 Muthurajas households 33.8% are in debt while 41.4% of the Muslim households are in debt. Surprisingly the indebtedness among the Brahmins is quite high, only 34.8% of the households being free from debt.

The sources of debt are governmental as well as non-governmental agencies. However we find that about 64.5% of the loans are taken to meet a marriage expenses and about 13.6% of the loans go to meet the ordinary wants of the poorer ryots. This means most of the items of expenditure

are non productive and only 21.9% of the loans are expended on cultivation etc., Consequently most of the loans have to be taken from the local money lender or pawn broker. The interest charged by government agencies and co-operative societies is usually 6½% per annum. The money lenders may charge interest ranging from 15 to 25%. This exhorbitant rate of interest adds to the real burden of debt. In order to reduce this heavy burden of debt we must do intensive propaganda to help inculcate in the villagers habits of frugality and thrift and make them reduce their expenditure on unproductive items like marriages, festivals etc. During the transition period, until there is a change in the outlook of the villagers, co-operative societies could be asked to advance loans to ryots for unproductive items of expenditure also. This may wean away most of the villagers from the money lender, and ultimately this would prove beneficial to the ryot.

C H A P T E R--V

SOME ODDS AND ENDS

In this chapter we shall discuss some miscellaneous aspects relating to the village which we have failed to touch upon in the preceding chapters.

LITERACY AND EDUCATION

Because of the proximity of ~~the~~ Sirudaiyur to Tiruchi the villagers here are well aware of the importance of education. The younger generation in particular feels acutely the need for improving their educational standard and they realise that this will open up for them better avenues for employment. Some of the villagers do not even mind sending their children to Tiruchi for pursuing higher education. Unfortunately, among the poorer sections, economic conditions force several parents to discontinue the studies of their children so that they start earning at an early age and do their bit to complement the meagre resources of the family.

Detailed statistics relating to literacy in the village is given in Table XVI(in the Appendix). Of a total population of 3030 only 956 are literates. Of this 663 are males and 293 are females. The crude literacy rate thus works out to 31-6%, 40.4% among males and 21-1% among females. This literacy rate compares very favourably with

the figure of 24.0% for the nation. But to get a better idea of the level of literacy in the village we must not take into consideration the population in the age group 0--4, since this age group is necessarily illiterate. If we apply this correction factor we find that out of a population of 2644 there are 956 literates working out to an effective literacy rate of 36.2%,45.9% among males and 24.4 among females. Of the literates 639 are without educational standards, 239 of the literates have studied upto the Primary standard and 63 have passed their Matriculation examination. We find that of the population of 3030 only 15 have had a college education. This is not a very high figure but we must remember that once a person has been educated in College he normally migrates from the village to other towns and cities in search of employment. We have already pointed out in chapter III that such a migration has indeed been taking place over the years.

On analysing the literacy standards in relation to age groups we find that most of the persons who have had an education upto Matriculation or beyond fall in the age group 15-25. This clearly shows that the desire to learn among the younger generation is being translated into action. Studying the trends in education community wise, we find that among the Muthurajas out of 897 males 360 are literate and out of 801 females 180 are literates. The

literacy among the Pallars and Paraiyans is very low and none of them have studied beyond Matriculation. This is a direct consequence of the poor economic condition of these communities. It is a sort of vicious circle-because they are poor they cannot afford higher education and consequently they continue to remain poor.

In Sirudaiyur village there is one Panchayat Union Elementary school and one High School for boys. But in judging the sufficiency or otherwise of schools in the area we must take into account the other schools within the Town Panchayat area because several children from Sirudaiyur go to schools other than the two situated in the village itself. On the whole, within the Lalgudi Town Panchayat area there are 8 elementary schools and 2 high schools. Of the Elementary schools one is being run by the Harijan Welfare Department. Besides this there is a Technical School where they are teaching typewriting. Considering that the population of Lalgudi town is about 14,000 we may say that the number of schools in this area is quite sufficient. For continuing their education beyond Matriculation children from this village have to go to Tiruchi.

VILLAGE AMENITIES

Communications

We have already touched upon this aspect in an earlier chapter. We have seen that the village is connected with

the District headquarters by regular bus services and a few train services also. There are still a few households which own bullock carts and one can still see the cart being used as a mode of transport. But attitudes are fast changing and most of the villagers now prefer to use the modern faster modes of transport.

Water facilities

The various irrigation channels passing through the village are used commonly by most of the poorer sections in the village for purposes of bathing and washing clothes. But most of the houses of the Brahmins and many of the houses of the richer sections of the other communities have their own independent wells in their house backyards which provides them water. There is also a protected drinking water supply in the village from an overhead tank which is fed from a bore well operated by an electric pump. Besides this some of the streets have been provided with hand operated bore pumps which also provide drinking water. Recently another overhead tank has been constructed near the bus stand. But the work on pipe connections is still in progress and it will take a couple of months before the residents of Lalgudi town can be benefitted by this.

Sanitary conditions

From the sanitary point of view the village site may be divided into two distinct areas. The first area is the western end of the village consisting of the "Agraharam" inhabited mostly by the Brahmins and the adjoining street ~~which is inhabited mostly by the Brahmins and the adjoining street~~ which is inhabited by the richer sections of the Muthurajas. This area presents a fairly neat appearance. The streets are fairly clean and there is no congestion of houses. The sanitary conditions are also satisfactory. The second area is the eastern portion of the village consisting of the Harijan cheri and the Muslim street. This is an extremely congested area and the sanitary condition here leaves much to be desired. There are no proper drainage facilities and in some of the areas in the ~~cheir~~ cheri one sees the drains from the houses running into the street turning the street into a dirty slushy puddle. Many of the people also dump rubbish on the streets. There are only one or two public urinals and latrines in the village. But there seems to be no use building public latrines because the common experience has been that it is difficult to maintain these latrines clean and in due course they fall into disuse. However the Town Panchayat could improve the sanitary conditions by having a proper system of masonary drains.

Fuel and Lighting

Firewood still remains the common form of fuel used by the villagers. Even the richer sections continue to use firewood. Since there are no forests in and around Sirudaiyur, firewood has to be brought from other places. Casurina is the most commonly used firewood and the Forest Department is raising casurina plantations in several areas in the district to meet this demand. The village is electrified and all the streets in the village have been provided with tube lights. The street lamps are being maintained by the Town Panchayat and they are also meeting the electric charges.

Medical Facilities

Though Lalgudi is only a Taluk headquarters it has a fairly good hospital. There are two medical officers in charge of the hospital, one of them being a lady doctor. At present the bed strength of the wards is only 52, but on the average the number of in-patients is more than 80. As a result the wards are fairly crowded and there is a good case for expanding the bed strength in the hospital to 100. The average number of out patients comes to 100 per day. The hospital attends to maternity cases also and for this purpose there are two maternity attendants on the hospital staff. In spite of the adequate medical facilities

available here some of the villagers prefer to travel 12 miles and go to the District Headquarters Hospital at Tiruchi. The hospital is also acting as a Family Planning clinic and during the last year 323 Family Planning operations were performed here. With these improved medical facilities being made available and mass vaccinations and innoculations being undertaken the incidence of diseases in the village is fast reducing and now one rarely hears of epidemics like smallpox,cholera and malaria.

Co-operative Societies

There is only one co-operative society that is situated in this village. This is the Lalgudi Sivagnanam Co-operative Agricultural and Marketing society. It was started as long back as 1925 and at present it has a strength of 2394 of which 81 are member societies. The area of operation of the society spreads all over Lalgudi taluk. The authorised share capital of the society is Rs.1 lakh and at present the subscribed capital is Rs.78,435/- of which Rs.50,000 has been subscribed by government. So it can still not be termed a fully co-operative society with the government holding the majority of shares.

The objects of the society were (i) to purchase on wholesale basis manures,implements and other agricultural requisites and sell it to the villagers, preference being shown to members and (ii) to arrange for the sale of produce of members to their best advantage. This second objective

has not yet been achieved and at present the society is simply acting as a wholesale agent. During the year 1966-67 the society sold fertilisers to the tune of Rs.17.8 lakhs and distributed agricultural implements worth Rs.6000/- to members. During the procurement season in 1966-67 the society acted as an agent of the Tiruchi District Wholesale Stores Ltd., and procured paddy worth about Rs.3.3, lakhs.

The society has been doing good work, but it could benefit the villagers more if it would diversify its activities and help the ryots to market their produce to their best advantage. It would be a good idea for the society to run a co-operative rice mill. At present most of the rice mills are at Manachanallur which is about 10 miles away. A rice mill at Lalgudi would definitely be useful for the ryots in this area.

Besides the Sivagnanam society there are also other co-operative societies in this area. Though these societies are not situated in Sirudaiyur they still benefit the villagers here. One such is the Lalgudi Co-operative Urban Bank which was started as early as 1917. At present the bank has 1326 members with a subscribed capital of Rs.34,500 The Bank issues short term as well as long term loans to members. Sometimes loans are also issued for non agricultural purposes on the surety of immovable properties. The Bank accepts various kinds of deposits, from members as well as

non members and at present the Bank is running without any assistance from the Central Bank. If the Bank has to cope up with the demands of its members it will have to increase its deposits and this it can only do if it offers higher interests rates on par with joint stock banks.

There is also a Co-operative Building Society at Lalgudi which is giving loans to members for purchase of developed plots or for the construction of new houses. Besides, a Co-operative Labour Contract Society was started in 1963 with the object of promoting the economic interests of labour and finding suitable and profitable employment for them by obtaining contracts and getting the contracts executed by the members of the society. Unfortunately this society has not yet been very successful in its venture.

The Co-operative movement is gradually taking root in the village and more and more ryots are realising the benefits of a co-operative society in comparison with the money lender. It is hoped that co-operative societies will play an increasingly important role in the village economy.

RELIGION

Though the majority of the population are Hindus, the percentage of Muslims in the village is not insignificant. There is a mosque for the Muslims which is situated just off

the main road. There is no big Hindu temple situated in the village, but there is a fairly big Siva temple at Lalgudi just about 2 furlongs away from Sirudaiyur. This is the Sri Saptharisheeswarar Temple. The name of the temple seems to have been derived from the belief that seven Rishis worshiped the Lord here and obtained salvation. According to tradition, the seven Rishis became one with God when the top of the Lingam was split into two and a column of ~~five~~ four emanated from it. Even now the cut is visible on the lingam. The annual income of the temple is Rs.60,000/-. The temple is being managed by an Executive officer and three trustees.

PANCHAYATI RAJ

Sirudaiyur has been under the Block Development Scheme since April 1958. It is now a part of the Lalgudi Town Panchayat and under the jurisdiction of the Lalgudi Panchayat Union. There can be no doubt that the block has been doing useful work and the extension staff, in particular have tried to propagate modern ideas in the village. The traditional attitude of the villager is fast changing and he has become more receptive to modern ideas.

But the question to be asked is whether Panchayat Raj bodies have in any way been helpful in bringing about this change and in implementing the community development programmes.

When Panchayati Raj was introduced the emphasis was placed on helping people to help themselves so that progressively the responsibility for running the various schemes might be taken over by the villagers' own organisations. This objective has not been realised and we find that just the opposite has happened. The villager has become more and more dependent on government. For example, when there is a breach in a tank the villagers instead of getting together and closing the breach, travel to the block or taluk headquarters to make a complaint and asking the government officials to do the job. What little self realiance the villagers had before is slowly disappearing.

Another objective of Panchayati Raj was the setting up of a basic democracy so that the villages would plan for themselves and look after their own business. This attempt to give the plans" grass roots" meets with certain difficulties. In addition to the local peoples' ignorance of the planning process and the difficulty they experience in reaching a consensus about objectives, there is a justifiable feeling on their part that whatever planning effort they make will have at best a marginal effect because of the rigidity of system of financial allocations. Thus there has been hardly any decentralisation of plan formulation to the block levels.

The general experience has also been that Panchayati Raj has very rarely succeeded in producing the right type of leadership. Those who get elected are usually party politicians, none of whom have much interest in constructive tasks, being mainly concerned with the enhancement of their own status and influence. Even where a genuinely public spirited leader emerges he is able to achieve very little against the bitter opposition of the traditional leaders of the community. In the elections party politics are rampant with each party identifying itself with a particular local faction or caste, with the result that factionalism in the village has been aggravated.

So long as Panchayati Raj institutions remain a battle ground for rival factions, panchayats and panchayat union councils will be useless as agencies for rural economic development.

We have dealt at length with Panchayat Raj because of the important role it must play in rural development. Though the remarks have been made in general they apply equally well to Sirudaiyur and these remarks have been based mainly on the observations of the working of the Town Panchayat at Lalgudi and the Lalgudi Panchayat Union.

C H A P T E R---VI

SUMMING UP

We have now come to the end of our survey of the socio-economic conditions of Sirudaiyur. It has been the story of a small village situated on the fertile bank of the Cauvery river in Tiruchirapalli district. Though the village is small its proximity to Tiruchi and the fact that it forms a part of Lalgudi town have made the people in this village susceptible to urban influences. The impact of urban influences is reflected in a higher level of social awareness, a progressive attitude towards education and changing patterns of dress and food habits.

Most of the people of Sirudaiyur are Hindus. The Muthurajas form the biggest community numerically and they form the middle income class in the village. Educationally and economically the Brahmins form the advanced section of the village and they display a higher level of social awareness. The Pallars and Paraiyans form the poorer section of the village and most of them live in a miserable condition#.

Agriculture forms the backbone of the economy of this village and there is hardly any industry worth the name. The soil in the area is very fertile and most of the lands have assured channel irrigation. Paddy is by

far the predominant crop grown in the village but gradually there is a trend to switch over to cash crops like sugarcane and plantains. Improved practices in agriculture are being adopted by the farmer and the use of fertilisers and pesticides have become a common feature. The ryots are also fast changing over to high yielding strains like ADT-27,CO-27,CO-25 etc.,

After the extension of the Community Development Block a few developmental works have been undertaken in the village. The extension staff have been doing some useful work in making the villagers receptive to modern ideas especially in the field of agriculture. But when we look at the working of the panchayat and Panchayat Union Council we are sadly disappointed. The main objectives of Panchayat Raj viz., increasing self reliance among the villagers and decentralisation of democracy, have not been achieved. There seems to be insufficient consensus among the rural people to make democratic decentralisation more than a halting vehicle for rural development.

Literacy standards are definitely rising in the village and there is increasing enthusiasm among the children to improve their educational standard. Increase in literacy has led to increase in political consciousness. Elections are no longer just a purposeless waiting in long

queues and blind marking of a ballot paper with a rubber stamp. Now the people have started taking active interest in elections. In fact, a stage has now been reached when politics seems to ~~be~~ enter each and every issue in the village and ~~this~~ several times this proves an obstacle to developmental activities in the village.

No doubt several facilities have been extended by Government which have definitely benifitted the villagers. But the lasting impression that is left in our mind after surveying this village is the extreme poverty of the common man. For the average villager it is a constant war of existence. The poverty could be attributed to two reasons. Firstly their sole dependence on agriculture and the low return from it and secondly the absence of a suitable secondary occupation to give them gainful employment during the idle periods. Whatever be the reason it is distressing to note that in spite of all governmental efforts we have not yet succeeded in solving the main problem of the common villager. No doubt a problem that is centuries old cannot be solved in a few years. But we hope the change will come fast and the villager will be able to lead a more prosperous life in the near ~~future~~ future.

T A B L E—I

(i) ANNUAL RAINFALL-1957-1966

Year	Rainfall in M.M.	Year	Rainfall in M.M.
1957	655	1962	787
1958	667	1963	1,103
1959	570	1964	717
1960	728	1965	711
1961	892	1966	1,042

Average 786 M.M.

(ii) MONTHLY RAINFALL

Month	Rainfall in M.M Last 5 years average	Rainfall in M.M Figure for 1966	Month	Rainfall in M.M Last 5 years average	Rainfall in M.M Figures for 1966
January	1.00	4.00	July	70-37	30-00
February	1.00	-	August	68-16	238-37
March	-	13-00	September	95-56	238-16
April	22-83	17-40	October	205-81	251-75
May	24-47	6-00	November	104-71	92-00
June	33-00	63-14	December	128-73	86-06

I (iii) Temperature Recorded (at Tiruchi) 5 years average

Month	Mean Maximum °C	Mean Minimum °C	Month	Mean Maximum °C	Mean Minimum °C
January	30.7	20.8	July	35.3	25.9
February	33.1	21.3	August	33.3	25.6
March	35.2	22.9	September	33.3	25.0
April	36.5	25.6	October	32.8	24.2
May	36.2	26.2	November	29.7	23.0
June	36.4	23.8	December	29.6	21.6

" T A B L E—II "

"ETHNIC COMPOSITION "

Community Caste	No.of houses	Number of persons Males	Females	Total	Percentage composition
HINDUS					
Muthurajas	309	897	801	1698	56.1
Brahmins	23	51	42	93	3.1
Asari	5	11	15	26	0.8
Vannan	6	14	11	25	0.8
Panditbar	9	21	15	36	1.2
Chettiar	13	32	22	54	1.8
Pillai	12	31	27	58	1.9
Kannar	11	35	31	66	2.2
Mudaliar	5	12	13	25	0.8
Pallar	101	216	160	376	12.4
Parayan	59	154	125	279	9.2
Malayalee	10	31	30	61	2.0
Muslims	58	135	98	233	7.7
Total	620	1,640	1,390	3,030	100.0

TABLE—XII

SIZE OF HOUSEHOLD

Caste	Single-member		2-3 members		4-6 members		7-9 members		10-& above		Total	
	H	P	H	P	H	P	H	P	H	P	H	P
Muthurajas	21	21	34	68	187	1038	51	406	16	165	309	1698
Pallers	13	13	18	39	65	289	5	35	-	-	101	376
Paraiyans	6	6	20	60	33	142	8	71	-	-	59	279
Muslims	8	8	2	5	39	157	9	63	-	-	58	233
Brahmins	-	-	2	5	18	66	3	22	-	-	25	93
Others	-	-	5	14	65	337	-	-	-	-	70	351
Total	48	48	81	191	339	2029	76	597	16	165	620	3030

T A B L E--IV

" HOUSE TYPES "

Caste	No.of houses with roofs				No.of houses built of			No.of houses with		
	Terraced	Tiles	Asbestos sheets	Thatched	Mud /ply	Bricks	Stones	Mud floors	Cement floor	No.of houses occupied
Muthurajas	61	42		206	241	61	7	240	69	309
Pallars	8	5	-	88	88	8	5	90	11	101
Paraiyans	-	2	-	57	57	-	2	59	-	59
Muslims	15	9	-	34	24	15	9	40	18	58
Brahmins	12	11	-	-	-	14	9	11	12	23
Others	12	11	2	45	40	17	13	49	21	70
Total	108	30	2	430	460	115	45	489	131	620

T A B L E—V

Households by number of rooms and by number of persons occupying

Caste	Total No.of rooms	Total No.of family members	House holds with no regular rooms		House holds with 1 room		House holds with 2 rooms		House holds with 3 rooms		House holds with 4& more rooms	
			House Holds	Members	House Holds	Members	House Holds	Members	House Holds	Members	House-Holds	Members
Muthurajas	535	1698	15	61	191	1107	30	185	38	191	35	184
Pallars	111	376	80	288	11	46	10	42	-	-	-	-
Parayans	59	279	57	267	2	12	-	-	-	-	-	-
Muslims	95	283	12	55	29	98	12	51	-	-	5	29
Brahmins	74	93	-	-	2	9	11	36	-	-	10	48
Others	101	351	12	44	43	214	11	55	-	-	4	18
Total	995	3030	176	735	278	1486	74	339	38	191	52	279

T A B L E—VI

Births and Deaths

Year	No.of births	No.of deaths	Net increase
1951	94	44	50
1952	131	37	94
1953	122	41	81
1954	106	19	87
1955	81	25	56
1956	169	42	127
1957	378	127	251
1958	241	43	198
1959	210	20	190
1960	82	26	56
1961	49	11	38
1962	51	3	48
1963	49	14	35
1964	58	19	39
1965	81	17	64
1966	106	32	74
Total	2,008(1330)	520	1,488(810)

P.T.O.

Period	Average population	Birth rate per 1000	Death rate per 1000	Rate of increase per 1000
1951-60	2290	36.1	14.7	41.4
1951-65	2840	44.2	14.9	29.3(14.3)
1951-66	2950	23.2	5.4	16.8

Note: The figure given within brackets have been derived on the assumption that the number of births in the period 1956-60 was the same as in 1955 and 1966 viz., per year.

T A B L E—VII

Age Structure of Population

Age-Group	Population		Percentage	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
0—4	196	190	11.95	13.67
5—9	164	151	10.00	10.86
10-14	163	152	9.94	10.94
15-19	130	91	7.92	6.55
20-24	131	122	7.98	8.78
25-29	129	103	7.87	7.41
30-34	162	98	9.88	7.05
35-39	129	94	7.87	6.76
40-44	102	93	6.22	6.69
45-49	81	80	4.94	5.76
50-54	80	76	4.88	5.49
55-59	72	58	4.39	4.17
60+	101	82	6.16	5.89
Total	1640	1390	100.00	100.00

T A B L E—VIII

(i) Workers and Non Workers

Community	Age Group	Workers			Non Workers		
		Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
Muthuraias	All ages	621	376	245	1007	521	536
	0-14	56	31	25	539	284	255
	15-25	120	70	50	135	65	70
	26-59	410	255	156	304	123	181
	60+	35	20	15	99	49	50
PALLARS	All ages	188	112	68	196	104	92
	0-14	31	15	16	84	50	34
	15-25	35	25	10	23	13	10
	26-59	105	65	40	73	33	40
	60+	9	9	2	16	8	8
PARAIYANS	All ages	177	106	71	102	48	54
	0-14	40	25	15	45	20	25
	15-25	23	13	10	9	5	4
	26-59	101	60	41	40	20	20
	60+	13	8	5	8	3	5
BRAHMINS	All ages	8	8	-	85	43	42
	0-14	2	2	-	30	16	14
	15-25	1	1	-	17	9	8
	26-59	4	4	-	28	13	15
	60+	1	1	-	10	5	5
MUSLIMS	All ages	102	82	20	131	53	78
	0-14	27	25	2	53	25	28
	15-25	20	15	5	15	8	7
	26-59	52	40	12	58	18	40
	60+	3	2	1	5	2	3
Whole village	All ages	1228	795	433	1802	845	957
	0-14	187	121	66	816	422	394
	15-25	234	151	83	250	122	128
	26-59	735	466	269	576	235	341
	60+	72	57	15	180	66	114

(11) PERCENTAGE OF WORKERS

Age group	Males	Females
0—14	22	14
15-25	55	39
26-59	66	53
60+	46	19
All ages	48	31

Community	Males	Females
Muthurajas	42	31
Pallans	52	43
Paraiyans	69	57
Muslims	61	20
Brahmins	19	0
Whole village	48	31

T A B L E—XI

Occupational Classification of Households

Community	Total No.of house holds	House holds engaged in: Cultivation	Industry only	Business only	Cultivation & industry	Cultivation& business	Cultivation Business & Industry	Other occupation
Muthurajas	309	240	20	10	5	20	10	4
Pallars	101	69	-	-	-	-	-	21
Paraiyans	59	50	-	-	-	-	-	9
Muslims	58	28	-	10	-	4	-	13
Brahmins	23	12	-	-	-	5	-	6
Others	70	3	-	9	-	4	-	54

TABLE—X

Classification of Soil and Assessment

(i) Cultivated Land

Classification of soil	Taram	Rate/M. acre	Extent	Assessment	Taram	Single or double crop	Rate/M. acre	Extent	Assessment
II-2	3	3-50	29-42	103-20	2	1	11-87	3-10	36-79
						2	17-81	13-90	231-18
					e3	1	10-62	4-39	46-61
						2	14-17	57-55	816-63
II-3	4	3-00	1-83	5-49	4	1	9-50	18-83	179-13
						2	12-69	128-72	1633-43
II-4					5	1	8-25	73-58	623-63
						2	11-00	88-44	972-84
II-5	6	1-75	14-60	25-66	6	1	7-12	12-04	85-72
						2	9-30	1-13	10-74
Total		45-91	45-91	134-35				402-78	4836-70

Add. Inam lands(converted to ryotwari) 8-18 acres with assessment Rs.17-18

Single crop wet		113-96	971-89
Double crop wet		288-82	3864-81

Total area 453-39 Acres
Assessment 4786-38

(ii) Poramboke land

Classification	Extent	Classification	Extent	Classification	Extent
Channel	40-59	Drains	11-79	Pound	0-11
Paths	0-44	Village site	8-60	Temple	0-10
Taluk office	2-33	Hospital	2-17	School	2-54
Threshing floor	0-72	Others	0-60		

Total: 69-99

T A B L E---XI

TOTAL REVENUE FROM LALGUDI

FASLI---1376

Assessment	4,769-12	Land Revenue	6,758-06
Fasalijasti	486-00	Land cess	2,404-79
~~Tirwajasti~~ Tirwajasti	89-21	Surcharge	1,606-03
	5,344-33		
Deduct remissions	78--91	Addl. assessment	2,112-31
	5,265-42	Addl. water cess	51-94
Misc. Revenue	1,492-64		
Total Land Revenue	6,758-06	Total Demand	12,930-13

T A B L E—XII

CROPPING PATTERN

(i) Areas Yielding Single and Double Crop

Fasli	Extent Cultivated in acres				
	Wet 1st crop	2nd crop	Dry 1st crop	2nd crop	Manavari
1370	387-89	307-67	8-36	11-09	15-95
1371	387-79	306-06	8-14	10-37	16-05
1372	387-57	295-07	8-01	6-69	16-27
1373	383-32	266-83	8-98	5—98	19-46
1374	385-38	278-66	9-18	2-15	17-40
1375	385-13	264-93	8-92	2-46	17-65
1376	384-96	276-44	8-77	8-07	17-82
1377	386-44	244-35	24-33	7-92	16-51

(ii) Area under each crop

Fasli / Crop	1335	1374	1375	1376	1377
Paddy	591-77	572-64	551-09	573-05	524-31
Sugar-cane	25-42	44-07	62-51	50-04	58-45
Plan-tain	14-62	47-20	38-22	48-47	61-30
Cocc-nut	N.A	12-37	11-14	10-99	11-07
Betel-vine	N.A.	11-66	13-59	10-43	4-98
Other trees	14-65	5-81	5-79	3-65	2-87
Other crops including pulses	45-06	1-00	0-71	0-48	2-15
G.Total	691-84	696-75	683-05	697-11	665-13

T A B L E--XIII

Pattern of Land holding--Fasli 1376

(i) Extent of land owned by various communities

Community	No. of land	Land	Number of households owning: Below 10 cents	10 to 20 cents.	20-50 cents	0.5-1 acre	1-2.4 acre	2.5-4.9 acre	5-10 acre	Above 10 acre
Muthurajas	176	133	-	20	35	35	21	15	3	2
Pallans	56	45	-	15	10	8	5	5	2	-
Parsiyans	39	20	-	10	4	3	2	1	-	-
Muslims	21	37	-	-	17	12	3	5	-	-
Brahmins	8	15	-	-	-	6	4	3	2	-
Others	66	4	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-
Total	366	254	-	45	66	64	35	33	9	2

(ii) Area of holdings according to ownership

Range	Single Pattas: No.of pattas	Extent	Joint Pattas: No.of pattas	No.of pattadars	Extent	Total extent
0-to 1 Acre	66	25-10	60	282	23-52	48-62
1 to 5 "	56	118-74	53	267	105-26	224-00
5 to 10 "	10	64-46	2	6	13-50	77-96
10 to 50 "	-	-	2	19	43--50	43-50
50 acres	1	54-06	-	-	-	54-06
Total	133	262-36	117	574	185-78	448-14

(iii) Pattas Paying Different Assessment

Pattas Paying	Number of pattas: Single	Joint	Total in F.1376	Total in F.1335	Extent	Assessment
Re.1	20	19	39	13	4-80	21-08
1 to 10	47	42	89	63	43-55	336-95
10 to 30	42	42	84	63	148-51	1552-91
30 to 50	7	8	15	14	48-55	549-38
50 to100	15	4	19	13	104-06	1189-64
100-250	-	1	1	1	8-31	104-06
250-500	-	1	1	1	30-30	393-21
500	1	-	1	1	54-06	592-11
Total	133	117	250	174	448-14	4769-12

T A B L E—XIV

Agronomics

(i) Paddy		Ordinary variety	ADT-27
Farm yard manure	Rs.44	Rs.118	Rs.220
Fertilisers and Pesticide	Rs.74		
Seed(24 Madras measure)	Rs.15	15	15
Labour		137	137
Ploughing	Rs.68		
Transplanting	Rs.38		
Weeding	Rs.15		
Harvesting	Rs.50		
Miscellaneous	Rs.16		
	Rs.137		
Total expenditure		330	422
Gross income		590(45 Kalams yield)	810
(30 Kalams at Rs.13/Kalam+ Rs.50 of straw			
Net profit		270	388

(ii) SUGARCANE

Fertilisers (18 bags of sulphate)		Rs.400
Cost of setts+ transplantion		Rs.325
Labour		Rs.510
Preparation of ground	Rs.160	
Planting of setts	30	
Weeding	105	
Manuring	65	
Watering	150	
	Rs.510	
Transportation of produce		Rs.500
Total expenditure		Rs.1,735
Gross income(50 tonnes at Rs.56/- per tonne		Rs.2,600
Net profit for owner cultivator		Rs.1,065
Lease amount		700
Net profit for lessee		365

If the latest price of sugarcane viz.,Rs.90/- per tone is used net profit for an owner cultivator =.Rs.2765/-

(iii) PLANTAIN

		Rs.
Farmyard Manure	Rs.50	
Fertilisers	575	605
Seedlings		130
Labour		450
Planting	Rs.40	
Manuring	45	
Giving bamboo support	100	
Weeding	205	
Miscellaneous	60	
	450	
Total expenditure		1185
Gross income (900 bunches at Rs.4/- a bunch)		3600
Net profit for owner cultivator		2415
Lease amount		700
Net income for lessee	Rs.	1715

T A B L E--XV

MONTHLY INCOME

Community	Total No.of house holds	No.of households having a monthly income		
		of Rs.50/- and less	Rs.51 to 100	Rs.101 and above
Muthurajas	309	180(58)	90(32)	30(10
Pallars	101	80(79)	21(21)	-
Paraiyans	59	45(76)	14(24)	-
Muslims	58	40(69)	12(21)	6(10)
Brahmins	23	-	12(52)	11(48)
Others	70	30(43)	26(37)	14(20)
Total	620	375(60)	184(30)	61(10)

Note: Figures in brackets gives percentages in relation to total number of households in that community.

T A B L E--XVI

INDEBTEDNESS

A Rs.25 and below
B Rs.26 to Rs.50
C Rs.51 to Rs.75
D Rs.76 to Rs.100
E Rs. 101 to Rs. and above
F Total

Community	Income Range	Total No.of #house holds	No.of house holds in debt	Total indebted-ness	Average debt per house-hold
MUTHURAJAS	A	60	20	1000	50
	B	120	30	3000	100
	C	50	20	2000	100
	D	49	30	5000	166-65
	E	30	20	30000	1500
	F	309	120	41000	341-67
BRAHMINS	A	-	-	-	-
	B	-	-	-	-
	C	6	4	800	200
	D	6	5	1500	300
	E	11	6	3500	583-34
	F	23	15	5800	386-67

MUSLIMS	A	2	-	-	-
	B	38	10	800	80
	C	6	6	2000	333.33
	D	6	5	4000	800.00
	E	6	3	4000	1333.33
	F	58	21	10800	450
PALLARS	A	40	20	500	25
	B	40	30	2000	66-67
	C	10	5	500	100
	E	11	6	500	83-34
	F	101	61	3500	57-38
PARAIYANS	A	25	20	300	15
	B	20	18	600	66-67
	C	8	5	500	100-00
	D	6	3	500	166-67
	E	-	-	-	-
	F	59	46	1900	41-31
OTHERS	A	-	-	-	-
	B	30	2	300	150
	C	20	6	420	70
	D	6	1	1500	1500
	E	14	2	1900	950
	F	70	11	4120	374-55

T A B L E--XVI

(ii) Indebtedness by Causes

Community	Marriage expenses		Ordinary wants		Cultivation expenses	
	Amount of debt Rs.	No.of families	Amount of debt	No.of families	Amount of debt	No.of families
Muthurajas	30,000	20	4,000	50	7,000	50
Brahmins	3,500	7	800	3	1,500	5
Pallars	1,000	10	500	31	2,000	20
Paraiyans	400	8	300	20	1,200	18
Muslims	3,400	3	720	8	-	-
Total	43,300	58	9,120	120	14,700	99

T A B L E--XVII

* AGE AND LITERACY *

(Among the main Communities)

Community	Age Group	Illiterate			Literate			Literate			
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	With no education	Up to Primary	Up to Matric	Intermediate & above
Muthurajas	All ages	537	621	1158	360	180	540	345	152	35	8
	0—14	187	262	449	128	18	146	89	57	-	-
	15—25	80	90	170	55	30	85	37	21	22	5
	26-59	230	224	454	148	112	260	185	51	11	5
	60+	40	45	85	29	20	49	24	23	2	-
Pallars	All ages	156	143	299	60	17	77	70	5	2	-
	0—14	45	40	85	20	10	30	25	5	-	-
	15—25	30	18	48	8	2	10	8	-	2	-
	20—59	68	75	143	30	5	35	35	-	-	-
	60+	15	10	25	2	-	2	2	-	-	-
Paraiyans	All ages	106	115	221	48	10	58	51	6	-	-
	0—14	25	35	60	20	5	25	20	5	-	-
	15-25	14	12	26	4	2	6	4	1	1	-
	26—59	60	58	118	20	3	23	23	-	-	-
	60+	7	10	17	4	-	4	4	-	-	-

Mus- lims	All ages	85	92	177	50	6	56	36	15	3	2
	0—14	30	2	58	20	2	22	14	8	-	-
	15—25	4	12	16	19	-	19	9	6	2	2
	26—59	48	48	96	10	4	14	12	1	1	1
	60+	3	4	7	1	-	1	1	-	-	-
Brah- mins	All ages	-	-	-	51	42	93	23	50	13	5
	0—14	-	-	-	18	14	32	8	24	-	-
	15—25	-	-	-	10	8	18	-	3	10	5
	26—59	-	-	-	6	5	11	8	1	2	-
Total of all commu- nities	All ages	977	1097	2074	663	293	956	639	239	63	18