

**Changing Life Style Of Fishermen Community In Pudukkottai Coastal  
Region: A Study.**

**V. Gunasekaran,**  
Assistant Professor of History,  
Post Graduate & Research  
Department of History,  
AlagappaGovt Arts College,  
Karaikudi-3, Tamilnadu.

**Dr. P. Venkatesan,**  
Head & Associate Professor of History  
Post Graduate & Research  
Department of History,  
AlagappaGovt Arts College,  
Karaikudi-3, Tamilnadu.

**Abstract**

*Pudukkottai is one of the new districts formed after 1971 census on 14th January 1974. It was a unique state with all Sovereign powers reigned by the Maharaja of Pudukkottai. Pudukkottai District has thus an elected topography despite its small size. In recent years Mechanized Boats have been introduced and at present about 2000 mechanized fishing Boats are used by fishermen. The houses in the surroundings are mostly covered with palm roofs and Ketru (or) Kiduku (Coconut leaves). thousands of huts for rent have been built, because of the great demand for such houses from the laborers and their masters connected with the fishing Industry.*

\*\*\*\*\*

**Introduction:**

Pudukkottai is one of the new districts formed after 1971 census on 14th January 1974. It is one of the small districts of Tamil Nadu with an area of 4661 square kms. The District is bounded by Trichirappally in the north, Thanjavur in the north east, Bay of Bengal in the East, Ramanathapuram and Pudukkottai Districts in the south and Sivagangai district in the west.

**Political and Historical Origin**

Pudukkottai was formerly one of the princely states of India. It was a unique state with all Sovereign powers reigned by the Maharaja of Pudukkottai. Pudukkottai state comprised of eleven taluks viz Pudukkottai Kulathur, Karambakkudi, Eluppur, Ponnamaravathi, Kanatharvakkottai, Alangudi, Thirumayam, Aranthangi, Avudaiyarkoil, and Manamelkudi.

Before the rule of Pudukkottai state by Thondaiman Kings, Pudukkottai was under the control of the Muslims during the first half of the 14th century. When the Nayak Kings lost their importance Pudukkottai came under the suzerainty of the Thondaiman Kings. The Thondaiman Kings ruled Pudukkottai State from 1686 AD to 1948 AD, before it was merged with the union of the Government of India on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1948.

Pudukkottai District has thus an elected to topography despite its small size. It has something of all the physiographic divisions of Tamil Country traditionally described in literature and classified by RP. Sethupillai in 'Tamilagam Urum Perum'. There are the Kurinji or hill side lands, the Mullai forest lands, the Marutham (or) Plains lands, neithal or coastal lands, there is temporary transformation of all these categories in times of drought into Palai (or) desert lands.

## **Climate and Rain fall.**

The climate of the district is hot and dry except in the coastal area. Where the heat is mitigated to some extent by the sea breeze. Rain fall in this coastal region is scanty compared to heavier rainfall in the adjoining districts. It gets more rain from northeast monsoon. There are about 19 major fishing villages situated along the coastline in Avudaiyarkoil taluk, and Manamelkudi Taluk of Pudukkottai District. About 7300 fishermen are actively engaged in fishing. Fishing operation is mostly carried out by country Boats numbering about 3500. However, in recent years Mechanized Boats have been introduced and at present about 2000 mechanized fishing Boats are used by fishermen.

The important fish landing centers - are Kattumavadi, Krishnajiattinam, Vadakkamattinam, Ponnagaram, Ammapattinam, Athipattinam, Kottaipattinam, Jagathapattinam, Ayyampattinam, Thalainagar, Palakudi, Gopalapattinam, Mimisal,

R.Puduppattinam, Arasanagari Pattinam, Muthukuda, Pudukkudi, and Arasanagarai. The annual fish catch is -estimated at about -8,92,000tonnes. Better marketing facilities would improve the income of the fishermen considerably.

## **Places in the Coastal Region of Pudukkottai.**

Generally, the seashore is full of sands. The land appears to be engulfed by sand all over, throughout the sea shore Talai Plants, and thom filled tree, coconut trees, and Palmyra including casuarinas gardens appears to dominate the scene. The river Vellar and Pambar which are big and small rivers and stream reach the seashore many bridges have been constructed. The sea shore villages lie mostly in the east of Sethu road (means ECR). The most exciting sight is seen in the Village border where there are places where salt is produced.

The houses in the surroundings are mostly covered with palm roofs and Ketru (or) Kiduku (Coconut leaves). There are also a few houses made by bricks. In many villages colonies of fishermen have been built by the Tamil Nadu Government. The streets are very narrow and bent. Sewage channels, go through the street comers and across the entrances of the houses. Although there is natural breeze blowing along the entire locality there is the stink of fish, dry fish and so on all the time.

Around the houses, fences made out of Ketru (Coconut leaves) Olai (Palm leaves) and thom have been built. Fisher men work had repairing nets and Weaving them, on the grass fields and in Public places, the School verandah and thinai (house fronts). At the entrance.of the house, nets, hooks and other materials related to fishing are hanging. In the villages cyclone shelters have been built with the aid of the European Economic Community (EEC) and the Red cross society (RCS).

## **Conclusion**

In this district, thousands of huts for rent have been built, because of the great demand for such houses from the laborers and their masters connected with the fishing Industry, because of the mechanized. Boats the sea shore have also been contaminated with oil wastage and other

machinery parts. In this situation fishermen are living I like to bring out their nature and changing life style-of fishermen community through my research.

## Reference

- |                            |   |                                                                                |
|----------------------------|---|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. SETHUPILLAI-RP          | - | Tamilagam Urum Perum<br>VI Edition                                             |
| 2. SUBRAMANIAN.N           | - | Sangam Polity,<br>Ennes Publications<br>Madurai – 1980                         |
| 3. THURSTON.E              | - | Casts and Tribes of southern<br>India, Vol.I to VII government<br>press        |
| 4. THINGRAN. V.G           | - | Fish and Fisher of India I Edition<br>Hindustan publishing<br>Corporation Ltd. |
| 5. VENKATARAMAN AYYAR. K.R | - | A manual of Pudukkottai state,<br>Vol-I, Pudukkottai, 1938                     |