



AN INNOVATIVE THAI SCHEME IN TAMIL NADU (Tamil Nadu Village Habitation Improvement Scheme – 2011-2012)

Dr. S. Murugavalli

Assistant Professor of History, P.G & Research Dept. of Historical
Studies, S.S.Govt Arts College, Tiruttani.



ABSTRACT

The history of the local self-governance in Tamil Nadu can be traced back to the stone edicts and carvings in Sri VaikundaPerumal Temple of Uthiramerur in Kancheepuram district, which bear evidence to the well established local self-governance during the period of Chola Empire. The village had a perfect electoral system and a written constitution prescribing the mode of election. It was a system of democracy in monarchy where the member of the village council were elected through a process of secret ballot called "KudaOlaiMurai".

KEYWORDS: local self-governance , Chola Empire , perfect electoral system.

INTRODUCTION :

With the advent of the British rule, the system of local self-governance slowly disintegrated and the industrialization that followed resulted in massive unemployment. This eventually shattered the basic structure of the local self-governance. However, the British presented a modified concept of local self-governance to suit the British Colonial rule.

In the Post-independence era, the Government enacted Madras Village Panchayat Act 1950 for developing greater power to Panchayats. Article 40 in part iv of the constitution of India provide for the organization and endowment of powers to the Panchayats. So the panchayats undertook various activities to fulfill the basic needs of the people.

In 2011-2012 the Government of TamilNadu endeavor to improve the Quality of life in rural areas, by providing necessary inputs like protected drinking water, sanitation, health facilities, quality education, all weather roads, etc is continuous, sustained and persistent. Hence, in order to ensure an effective delivery mechanism, the strategy of Rural Development has mainly focused on poverty alleviation, better livelihood opportunities, provision of basic amenities and infrastructure facilities, through various innovative programmes. But, all these strategies were evolved with "Village Panchayat" as the basic structural and functional unit of planning.

The Government has committed to take up the planning, financing and implementation of the rural development schemes a step further, to the level of habitation in the village panchayat. Through, there are 12,524 village panchayats in the state, there are 79,394 habitations and only a micro level planning and financing at habitation level shall pave the way for reducing the rural-urban divide.

There are about 7 habitations on an average for each village panchayat in Tamil Nadu with 79,394 habitations in 12,524 village panchayats. However, the number of habitations varies from district to district. The average number of habitations in a village panchayat in the Nilgiris District is 37. Where as it is only 3 in

Villupuram District. Therefore allocation of equal amount to all the village panchayats, which have varied number of habitations, has lead to disparity in development,disproportionate distribution of assets,and uneven progress.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has introduced the flagship programme called Tamil Nadu Village Habitations Improvement Scheme [THAI] to overcome the bottlenecks in the uneven distribution of resources and to provide minimum basic infrastructure facilities to all the habitations. Tamil Nadu is the only state focusing on “Habitation” as the unit of development.

Scheme Components

Works under THAI Scheme are categorized into three as tabulated below.

Sl No	Minimum basic Requirement	Additional Requirements	Other Works
1	Water Supply	AnganwadiCentres	Any other permitted works
2	Street Lights	Public Distribution Shops	
3	Roads	S H G Buildings	
4	Burial Grounds	Threshing Floor	
5	Pathway to Burial Grounds	Play Ground	

Minimum Basic Requirements:-

1. Water Supply

Drinking water supply works like provision of power pump,extension of pipeline,augmentation of existing source shall be taken up, depending upon the requirement.

2. Street Lights

New Streetlights will be provided in the new habitations, extension areas, Adi-dravida and Tribal habitation and IAY housing colonies, based on the actual needs. Additional street lights, including Solar powered lights, will be provided in the areas where the existing coverage is felt inadequate

3. Cement Concrete Roads

Pavements with residential units on sides, streets or lanes prone to water logging, part of the street has already been covered with cement concrete will be taken upon priority.

4. Link Roads

Link roads will cover bus-plying roads,upgradation of WBM roads to BT roads (Black Topped) connecting two or more habitations in the same panchayat and upgradation of earthen / gravel roads.

5. Cremation / Burial grounds

Each burial ground / cremation ground will be provided with approach road, compound wall, cremation shed, water, facility and lights.

6. Pathway to burial ground

Wherever the pathway is already available, improvement of the existing pathway will be taken up and wherever pathway is not available, top priority will be given to provide approach road or pathway.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Wherever essential, the additional requirements like Public Distribution Shops, Anganwadi, S H G Buildings, Threshing Floors and Play Ground are being provided. Apart from the basic requirements and additional requirements, other essential requirements are also being provided.

Scheme Implementation:-

During 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14.

To ascertain the availability of basic needs and to assess further requirement of basic infrastructure in these habitations, a unique detailed survey has been conducted for the first time in the country assessing the actual availability of facilities at the habitation level and the actual needs to be fulfilled at the micro level for which an online database has been created.

The survey consists of the following set of 12 formats which assessed the availability of basic needs of water supply, street lights, roads and other infrastructure facilities and further requirements at the habitation level.

1. Basic details of the habitation.
2. Water supply.
 - (a) Over Head Tanks.
 - (b) Mini Power Pumps.
 - (c) Ground level Reservoirs.
 - (d) Hand Pumps.
3. Street Lights.
4. Streets and Lanes.
5. Burial / Cremation grounds.
6. (a) All Buildings belonging to Government / Local Body Institutions (Except, School Buildings)
- (b) All school Buildings belonging to Government / Local Body Institutions.
7. Ponds and Ooranies.
8. Play grounds.
9. Bus Stands.
10. Shandies
11. Details of Self Help Groups.
12. a) Village Panchayat roads.
- b) Panchayat Union roads.

A detailed survey has been conducted in 25,335 habitations of 2020 village panchayats for the year 2011-12, 18,581 habitations of 2,250 village panchayat for the year 2012-2013 and 15,115 habitations of 2500 village panchayats for the year 2013-2014 based on the survey, a detailed action plan has been drawn and the minimum basic requirements, additional essential requirements and other requirements have been fulfilled with the available funds.

“THAI” Scheme Implementation in V Phases

The scheme has been programmed to be implemented in v phases from 2011-12 to 2015-2016.

During 2011-2012, this programme was implemented in 25,335 habitations of 2020 village panchayats with an annual allocation of Rs.680 crore.

During 2012-2013, this programme was implemented in 18,581 habitations of 2,250 village panchayats with an annual allocation of Rs.750 crore.

During 2013-2014, this programme has been implemented in 15,115 habitations of 2500 village panchayats with an annual allocation of 750 crore.

During 2014-2015, this programme will be implemented in 12,095 habitations of 2741 village panchayats with an annual allocation of Rs.750 crore.

During 2015-2016 this programme will be implemented in 8268 habitations of 3013 village panchayats with an annual allocation of Rs.750 crore.

Thus, all the 79,394 Habitations in all 12,524 village panchayats will be provided with the required basic amenities by 2015-2016.

CONCLUSION:-

The Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department is implementing various schemes of Central and State governments efficiently and expeditiously with the aim of improving the quality of life of the poor people in the rural areas. Tamil Nadu is the only state in India which implements "THAI" a mega scheme taking "Habitation" as the basic unit to ensure the provision of basic infrastructure facilities in all the habitations. The Rural Development and Panchayat Raj department will continue to work with total commitment to fulfill the basic requirements and ensure development of all sections of the people in the rural areas of our state. This scheme is very useful to develop the socio-economic status of poor people in rural areas.

REFERENCES**PRIMARY SOURCES:-**

1. Policy Note – 2012-2013, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, Government of Tamil Nadu.
2. Policy Note – 2013-2014, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, Government of Tamil Nadu.
3. Policy Note – 2014-2015, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, Government of Tamil Nadu.
4. Policy Note – 2015-2016, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, Government of Tamil Nadu.
5. Backward Regions Grant Fund – Hand Book for Village Panchayat- Rural Development Department, Government of Tamil Nadu.
6. Go. No. 119(4) (CGS) Dated-15.2.06.
7. Go. Ms. No. 6 (44) Dated 31.03.06.

SECONDARY SOURCES:-

1. PalaniDurai – Panchayat Government in Tamil Nadu, South Vision, Publication.
2. Dr. Govindaswamy – CholarVarularu, Vasavi Publication, Chennai.
3. Dr. GomathiVinayagam – TamilagaVaralaru, Muttu Publication, Chennai.
4. Dr. A.V.Rajendiran – Acts and Administration of Panchayats, Raman Publication Chennai.
5. Dharmaraj. J – PanchayatRaj –Dency Publication, Sivakasi.
6. Dr. Shanmugam – Panchayat Raj Act – Shenbaga Publication, Chennai.
7. M. Thamilarasan–SamudhayathirkuUdhuvum Sattangal.