



A Review of the Rural Local Government in Puducherry Union Territory

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ABSTRACT: Though India got independence in 1947 it took seven years for Puducherry to effectively unite with independent India. An agreement between France and India in 1948 stipulated that the inhabitants of France's Indian possessions would choose their political future. The de jure union of French India with the Indian Union did not take place until 1962. On a de facto basis, the bureaucracy had been united with India's on 1 November 1954. It was organized as a Union Territory in 1963. Puducherry is now a part of India.¹ In this study an effort is made to organizational structure and functions of panchayati raj institutions of Puducherry Union Territory.

KEYWORDS: Commune, De Facto, De Jure, Village Panchayat, Gram Sabha

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I. INTRODUCTION

Puducherry formerly known as Pondicherry is one of the union territory of India bounded by south eastern Tamil Nadu state consisting of four small geographically unconnected districts namely Karaikal, (in Tamilnadu) Mahe (in Kerala) and Yanam (in Andhra) excluding Chandranagar (in West Bengal). Puducherry's total area is 290 sq.km spread over 11 non-contiguous enclaves lying near the Bay of Bengal and its total population is 950,289 (as per 2011 census). Its official languages are Tamil, French and English. Additional languages are Malayalam (in Mahe), Telugu (in Yanam). It is a most populous city for its rich culture, heritage and language. The territory changed its official name to Puducherry on 20th September 2006.²

II. HISTORY OF PUDUCHERRY

The history of Pondicherry is recorded only after the arrival of Portugal, Dutch, British and French traders. In 1664 the French East India Company namely (LA COMPAGNIE FRANCOIS DES INDES ORIENTALES) was formed by JEAN BAPTISTS COLBERT. In 1674, Pondicherry was founded by FRANCOIS MARTIN, set up a trading centre at Pondicherry and ultimately it became the capital of French Settlements in India. The mercurial history of Pondicherry had a constant background to the history of East India Company.

Its possession changed hands several times.³

- The French settled in 1674 which was captured by Dutch in 1693, restored in 1699.
- Taken away by the English in 1761, it was given back to the French in 1763.
- The English captured it once again in 1778, but gave back to the French in 1785.
- Again the English got it back from the French in 1793 only to retain it in 1816.
- The French took over in the same year and ruled it till the agreement for the de facto transfer of the French establishments to the Indian Union was signed in New Delhi on October 21, 1954 that came into effect on November 1, 1954.

2.1 FRENCH SETTLEMENTS IN INDIA

KARAIKAL was founded by the French on February 6, 1739. The French once dreamt of owning Karaikal for "its known to be fertile, and would be able to supply Pondicherry with rice, grains in years of

scarcity or famine. So Francois Martin acquired Karaikal and occupied it between December 1689 and June 1690.⁴

MAHE is a small town located in Kerala near Tellicherry. The French planned to wage a battle against the Malabar powers to curb British growing audacity. In 1725, the strategy of La Bourdonnias helped the French to capture Mahe.⁵

YANAM is a small area of 8 sq.km located In Andhra Pradesh. The French occupied Yanam in 1723 for establishing their trading posts. After the napolanic war, yanam along with the factory at Machilipatanam eas finally returned to the French in 1817⁶.

CHANDRANAGORE is a small town located in West Bengal founded by the French in **1673**. In 1690 French laid the foundation stone of their famous settlement in Chandranagore on a site granted by Shysta Khan. The peace treaty and convention of 1814 – 1815 obliged the English to return Chandranagore to the French on 4th December 1816. But due to the long distance Chandranagore merged with West Bengal in 1954⁷.

2.2 PONDICHERRY LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT

The French received the news of the decree issued on February 1, 1871 calling upon the French establishments in India to elect a representative to the French Parliament with great Le Clat. The only Indian to contest the election was Santhu Udayar, a professor of Tamil at French College. He lost the election in May 1871 to Panon Desbassynes de Richemont, son of the onetime Governor of Pondicherry, who initiated the Pondicherrians into letters and learning.

In fact, it was he who taught the natives to practice self – confidence and treat the aliens not as their superiors but as equals. To cut the matter in short, he was the forerunner of the freedom movement.

During the period of Gouvernoir Laugier (February 1872 – April 1881) the most notable reform carried out was the introduction of local self- government. On May 30, 1880 Pondicherry witnessed the first Municipal Elections. The first Mayor of Pondicherry was Leon Guerre.⁸

DE FACTO AND DE JURE

It was only on July 1954, the Government of France agreed to unite Pondicherry with India. An agreement between the Government of India and the Government of France was signed on October 21, 1954.

On November 1, 1954 at dawn French handed over Pondicherry along with Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam to the Government of India. This is known as de facto transfer.

The transfer of power was conformed on August 16, 1962 when a team of 39 administrators took charge of Pondicherry State. It was headed by Dr. Kewal Singh, who was nominated by the Central Government. Divided into 16 communes, Pondicherry was declared as a Union Territory. This day is known as **de jure Day**.⁹

LIST OF COMMUNES OF PUDUCHERRY

Puducherry state consists of

Village panchayats	-	70
Communes	-	05
Blocks	-	02

ARIYANKUPPAM BLOCK

The three communes in Ariyankuppam block are:

1. Ariyankuppam Commune – 11 Village Panchayats

i) Aryankuppam	vii) Poornamkuppam
ii) Aryankuppam (west)	viii) Andiyarpalayam
iii) Kakkayanthope	ix) Abishegapakkam
iv) Veerampattinam	x) Nallavadu
v) Manavelly	xi) Thimmanayakar Palayam
vi) Thavalakuppam	

2. Bahour commune – 15 Village Panchayats

i) Karaiyamputhur	ix) Kudiyiruppupalayam
ii) Manamedu	x) Kirumampakkam
iii) Kuruvintham	xi) Pannithittu
iv) Souriankuppam	xii) Pillaiyarkuppam
v) Parikkalpattu	xiii) Manapet
vi) Bahour(East)	xiv) Krishnavaram
vii) Bahour(West)	xv) Pudukuppam
viii) Seliamedu	

3. Nettapakkam commune – 11 village Panchayats

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| i) Nettapakkam | vii) Maducarai (West) |
| ii) Kalmandapam Pandasozhanallur | viii) Embalam |
| iii) Sooramangalam | ix) Sembialpalayam |
| iv) Earipakkam | x) Karaikalampakkam |
| v) Kariyanmanickam | xi) Korkadu |
| vi) Maducarai (East) | |

VILLIANUR BLOCK

The two communes in Villianur Block are:

1. Villianur Commune – 17 Village Panchayats

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| i) Ariyur | x) Manakuppam |
| ii) Kanuvapet | xi) Sathamangalam |
| iii) Koodapakkam | xii) Sedarapet |
| iv) Kottaimedu | xiii) Sivaranthagam |
| v) Manavelly | xiv) Sulthanpet |
| vi) Mangalam | xv) Thirukanchi |
| vii) Odiampet | xvi) Thondamanatham |
| viii) Pillaiyarkuppam | xvii) Uruvaiyar |
| ix) Poraiyar Agaram | |

2. Mannadipet Commune – 16 Village Panchayats

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| i) Chettipet | ix) Saniyasi Kuppam |
| ii) Kalitheerthal Kuppam | x) Sellipattu |
| iii) Katteri Kuppam | xi) Sorapatu |
| iv) Kodathur | xii) Suthukeni |
| v) Kunichampet | xiii) Thirubuvanai |
| vi) Mannadipattu | xiv) Thirukannur |
| vii) Madagadipet | xv) Thiruvandar Koil |
| viii) Sandai Padukuppam | |
| xvi) Puranasingam Palayam | |

2.3 KARAIKAL

Karaikal is one of the town of the Indian Union Territory Puducherry. It consisting of one municipality and 5 commune panchayats. It covers an area of 161sq.km. and its total population is 2,00,222 according to the 2011 census.

VILLAGE PANCHAYATS

1. Kottucherry
2. Nedungadu
3. T.R.Pattinam
4. Neravy
5. Thirunallar

2.4 YANAM

Yanam is one of the regions in the Union Territory of Puducherry. It consisting of yanam town and six villages is treated as Municipality for purposes of local administration. Its covers an area of 30sq.km and has an population of 31,362 according to the 2011 census.

VILLAGE PANCHAYATS

1. Mettakur
2. Yanam
3. Kanakalapetu
4. Francitippah
5. Adivipalam
6. Iskitippah

2.5 MAHE

Mahe is one of the regions in the Union Territory of Puducherry. Its total area is 9 sq.km. and has an population of 41,816 according to 2011 census. It has one municipality and 5 revenue villages.

REVENUE VILLAGES

1. Mahe
2. Pandakkal
3. Chalakara
4. Pallor
5. Kallayi

III. STATUTES GOVERNING THE MUNICIPALITIES AND PANCHAYATS¹⁰

1. The Puducherry Municipalities Act, 1973 and the Rules made there under.
2. The Puducherry Village and Commune Panchayats Act, 1973 and the Rules made thereunder.
3. Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969 and the Puducherry Registration of Birth and Death Rules, 1999.
4. The Puducherry District Planning Committee Act, 1994 and the Rules made there under.
5. Solid waste Management Rules, 2016 and Bye-laws for "Levy of collection charges for removal of solid waste from Residential and Non-Residential premises, 2017, notified by the Municipalities.
6. Decree of 1888, the French Legislation for marriage.

IV. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The members of local government are elected by the local people. But unfortunately, Pondicherry elections were held in 1968 under the French system of Commune Municipal Councils and after a gap of 38 years the elections to the local bodies have been held in Puducherry during June - July 2006, following the High Court order from Madras High Court.

But that was the last local body polls in the Union Territory of Pondicherry. That term of 1,149 representatives ended in July 2010. Since then no polls have been conducted because an independent MLA and a former councilor have petitioned the Madras High Court stating that reservations were not done properly. As there is no local body elections are conducted for the municipal and commune panchayats the government has acted to bring municipalities, commune and village panchayats under special officers instead of elected representatives.

In Union Territory of Puducherry, the commissioners are head of the municipalities and commune panchayats. The District Collector is empowered as the special officer.

As Pondicherry is a small area and no local body elections are held the funds that we get from Central Government are not received. So many problems are faced by the municipal and commune panchayat members. The further problems are:

1. Allocation of funds and needs are not matched
2. Less manual power
3. Insufficient vehicles, machineries
4. No wages
5. No substitution
6. Poor accountability of government
7. Problems in solid waste management

V. AREA OF THE STUDY

KARAIKAL: It is one of the four regions of the Union Territory of Puducherry and is next to Puducherry in area and population. It is about 300 Kms from South of Chennai and about 135 Kms from Pondicherry on the East Coast. It is surrounded by the Nagapattinam and Thiruvavur districts of Tamil Nadu State. East side is covered by Bay of Bengal.

Karaikal is the study area where the researcher conducted her research study. It has totally 5 Commune Panchayats with 27 villages.

The area of study in this paper is about the administration and functions of Kottucherry, Nedungadu, Neravy, T.R. Pattinam and Thirunallar Commune Panchayats. For collecting the general information about these Commune Panchayats the researcher visited all the 5 Commune Panchayats and visited the male and female employees worked in that office.

5.1 OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

- To analyse the role of panchayat raj systems in the rural development of all communes in Karaikal district.
- To analyse the role of Local Government in the socio-economic development
- To review the role of Panchayats in rural development
- To evaluate the rural developmental activities of commune panchayats.
- To identify the problems of panchayatin implementing the rural development schemes.

- To give suggestions for the problems and ideas for the better implementation of policies and development in Karaikal commune panchayats.

5.2 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

- The Panchayat Raj system is playing an important role in rural development
- No local body election is conducted in Pondicherry, so the responsibilities of implementing various rural developmental schemes are sponsored by the relevant officers of that commune panchayats with the help of Central and State government.
- This study adopts a broad focus on activities done for rural development by all the communes
- The study focus on whether the developmental activities done by Communes reached the grass root level
- The study is crucial for evaluating the role of panchayat and the impact of the same on.

VI. METHODS USED FOR DATA COLLECTION

The tool adopted for data collection is Interview Schedule. The reason is most of the respondents are not well versed in education. Thus the researcher has undergone data collection through interview method for the greater depth and samples can be controlled more effectively.

6.1 ACTUAL DATA COLLECTION

The researcher actually collected the data from June 20, 2022 to July 15, 2022. The researcher has spent nearly 25 days for the data collection. The researcher collected the data from 100 respondents. Most of the respondents are well co-operated and shared their views without any hesitation.

6.2 SOURCES OF DATA

PRIMARY DATA

The researcher used interview method to collect data from the respondents. The structured questions was prepared to collect information about the local body government.

SECONDARY DATA

The researcher collected secondary data by referring various books, magazines, journals and newspaper. This information helped the researcher to formulate interview and it was also useful in giving interpretations.

6.3 KARAİKAL COMMUNE PANCHAYATS

Five Commune Panchayats in Karaikal districts has 27 village panchayats

1. Kottucherry - 5 village panchayat
2. Nedungadu - 4 village panchayat
3. Neravy - 4 village panchayat
4. T.R.Pattinam - 5 village panchayat
5. Thirunallar - - 9 village panchayat

KOTTUCHERRY COMMUNE PANCHAYAT

Population of Kottucherry

Area of Kottucherry comprises 27sq.km with population of 24,000 (according to 2011 census) comprising 5 Village Panchayats[namely Poovam, Thiruvettakudy, Varichikudy, Kottucherry North, KottucherrySouth] with 36 wards.

Name of commune panchayat	Name of village panchayat	Population of village panchayat (as per 2011 census)
Kottucherry	Poovam	1,565
	Thiruvettakudy	4,281
	Varichikudy	3,533
	Kottucherry North	7,482
	Kottucherry South	7,239
	Total	24,000

Table 4.1: Population of people in Kottucherry Commune panchayat

NO. OF WARDS

Sl.No	Name of the village	No. Of wards
1	Poovam	7
2	Thiruvettakudy	6
3	Varichikudy	7
4	Kottucherry north	8
5	Kottucherry south	8
Total		36

Table 4.2: Wards in Kottucherry Commune Panchayat

RESERVATION OF SEATS IN VILLAGE PANCHAYATS IN KOTTUCHERRY COMMUNE PANCHAYATS

Sl.No	Name of the village panchayat	Total no. of seats	SC seats	ST seats	General
1	Poovam	7	2		3
2	Thiruvettakudy	6	1		2
3	Varichikudy	7	3		1
4	Kottucherry north	8	2		3
5	Kottucherry south	8	2		3
Total		36	9		12

Table 4.3 : Reservation of seats for SC, ST and General

RESERVATION OF SEATS FOR WOMEN

Sl.No.	Name of the village panchayat	Total no. of seats	SC women	ST women	General women	Total
1	Poovam	7	1		3	4
2	Thiruvettakudy	6	1		1	1
3	Varichikudy	7	2		1	3
4	Kottucherry North	8	1		2	3
5	Kottucherry South	8	1		2	3
Total		36	6		9	15

Table 4.4: Reservation of seats for women

KOTTUCHERRY ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

Kottucherry Commune Panchayat has 36 ward members elected from each ward. 5 President, 5 Vice – President elected from each village panchayat, 1 Councillor, 1 Chairman and 1 Vice – Chairman

NEDUNGADU COMMUNE PANCHAYAT

POPULATION OF NEDUNGADU

Area of Nedungadu spread over 24sq.km with population of 17.146 people (as per 2011 census). Comprising of 4 Village Panchayats (namely Kurumbagaram, Ponpetthy, Melakasakudy and Nedungadu) with 33 wards.

Sl.No	Name of commune panchayat	Name of village panchayat	Population of village panchayat (as per 2011 census)
1	Nedungadu	Kurumbagaram	5,138

2		Ponbethy	4,057
3		Melakasakudy	3,488
4		Nedungadu	4,463
Total			17,146

Table 4.5: population of people in Nedungadu commune panchayat

WARDS IN NEDUNGADU COMMUNE PANCHAYAT

Sl.No.	Name of the Village	No. of Wards
1	Kurumbagaram	9
2	Ponbethy	7
3	Melakasakudy	6
4	Nedungadu	11
Total		33

Table 4.6: Wards in Nedungadu Commune Panchayat

RESERVATION OF SEATS

Sl.No	Name of the village panchayat	Total no.of seats	No.of seats reserved for SC	No.of Seats reserved for ST	No.of seats reserved for General
1	Kurumbagaram	9	2		3
2	Ponbethy	7	2		2
3	Melakasakudy	6	2		2
4	Nedungadu	11	2		4
Total		33	8		11

Table 4.7: Reservation of Seats in Village Panchayats in Nedungadu Commune Panchayat

RESERVATION OF SEATS FOR WOMEN

Sl. No	Name of village panchayat	Total no.of seats	SC women	ST women	General	Total
1	Kurmbagaram	9	-		4	4
2	Ponpethy	7	1		2	3
3	Melakasakudy	6	1		2	3
4	Nedungadu	11	1		2	3
Total		33	4		10	14

Table 4.8: Resevation of seats for women in Village Panchayats in Nedungadu Commune PanchayatAdministrative division

Nedungadu commune panchayat has 33 ward members elected from each ward. 4 President. 4 Vice-President elected from each village panchayat, 1 Councilor. 1 Chairman and 1 Vice – Chairman for Nedungadu Commune Panchayat

NERAVY COMMUNE PANCHAYAT

Neravyarea comprises 21.01sq.km with population of 12,841(as per 2011 census),with 4 village panchayat(namely Vizhidiyur, Keezhamanai, Neravy North, Neravy South) with 22 wards.

POPULATION OF NERAVY COMMUNE PANCHAYAT

Name of commune panchayat	Name of village panchayat	Population of village panchayat(as per 2011 census)
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Neravy	Vizhidiyur	3,284
	Keezhamanai	3,102
	Neravy North	3,121
	Neravy South	3,334
	Total	12,841

Table 4.9: population in neravy commune panchayat

WARDS IN NERAVY COMMUNE PANCHAYAT

Sl.No	Name of village panchayat	No. of wards
1	Vizhidiyur	5
2	Keezhamanai	6
3	Neravy North	5
4	Neravy South	6
Total		22

Table 4.10: Wards in Neravy commune panchayat

RESERVATION SEATS OF VILLAGE PANCHAYAT IN NERAVY

Sl.No	Name of the village panchayat	No. of seats	Scheduled castes	Scheduled tribes	General
1	Vizhidiyur	5	1		2
2	Keezhamanai	6	1		3
3	Neravy North	5	1		2
4	Neravy south	6	1		3
Total		22	4		10

Table 4.11: Reservation of seats for SC/ST and general

RESERVATION OF SEATS FOR WOMEN

Sl.No	Name of the village panchayat	Total no. of seats	SC women	ST women	General women	Total
1	Vizhidiyur	5	1		1	2
2	Keezhamanai	6	1		1	2
3	Neravy North	5	-		2	2
4	Neravy South	6	-		2	2
Total		22	2		6	8

Table 4.12: Reservation seats for women

Administrative Division

Neravy commune panchayat has 22 wards elected from each ward, 4 President, 4 Vice-President elected from each village panchayat, 1 Councilor, 1 Chairman and 1 Vice-Chairman for Neravy commune panchayat.

THIRUMALAIRAYAN PATTINAM COMMUNE PANCHAYAT

Thirumalairayanpattinam comprises area of 21.12sq.km and its total population is 21,335 with 5 village panchayats (namely North T.R.Pattinam, South T.R.Pattinam, Central T.R.Pattinam, East T.R.Pattinam and Keezhavanjore) with 39 wards.

POPULATION OF T.R.PATTINAM COMMUNE

Name of the commune panchayat	Name of the village panchayat	Population of village panchayat(as per 2011 census)
Thirumalairayan pattinam	North T.R.Pattinam	3,295
	South T.R.Pattinam	5,484
	Central T.R.Pattinam	4,938
	East T.R.Pattinam	4,679
	Keezhavanjore	2,939
	Total	21,335

Table 4.13: population of T.R.Pattinam commune

NO.OF WARDS

Sl.No	Name of village panchayat	No. of wards
1	North T.R.Pattinam	8
2	South T.R.Pattinam	10
3	Central T.R.Pattinam	15
4	East T.R.Pattinam	11
5	Keezhavanjore	7
Total		39

Table 4.14:No. of wards

RESERVATION OF SEATS IN T.R.PATTINAM COMMUNE PANCHAYAT

Sl.No	Name of village panchayat	No. of seats	Scheduled castes	Scheduled tribes	General
1	North T.R.Pattinam	8	-		3
2	South T.R.Pattinam	10	2		3
3	Central T.R.Pattinam	15	2		3
4	East T.R.Pattinam	11	1		3
5	Keezhavanjore	7	-		3
Total		39	5		15

Table 4.15:Reservation seats for SC/ST and General

Reservation of seats for women

Sl.No.	Name of village panchayat	Total seats	SC women	ST women	General women	Total
1	North T.R.Pattinam	8	-		2	2
2	South T.R.Pattinam	10	2		2	4
3	Central T.R.Pattinam	15	3		2	5
4	East T.R.Pattinam	11	2		2	4
5	Keezhavanjore	7	1		3	4
Total		39	8		11	19

Table 4.16: Reservation seats for women in T.R.Pattinam commune

Administrative division

T.R.Pattinam commune Panchayat consists of 39 ward members elected from each ward,5 President, 5 Vice-President elected from each village panchayat, 1 Councilor,1 Chairman and 1 Vice-Chairman for T.R.Pattinam commune panchayat.

THIRUNALLAR COMMUNE PANCHAYAT

Thirunallar area spread over 45.80sq.km with total population 40.000 comprising 9 village panchayats (namely Ambagarathur, Nallambal, Sethur, Sellur, Karukkankudy,Surakudy,Thirunallar (North),Thirunallar (South),Pettai) with 58 wards.

POPULATION OF THIRUNALLAR COMMUNE PANCHAYAT

Sl.No	Name of commune panchayat	Name of village panchayat	Population (as per 2011 census)
1	Thirunallar	Ambagarathur	7,391
2		Nallambal	1,119
3		Sethur	3,890
4		Sellur	3,418
5		Karukkankudy	2,654
6		Surakudy	4,666
7		Thirunallar (North)	6,866
8		Thirunallar(South)	6,788
9		Pettai	3,208
Total			40,000

Table 4.17: population of Thirunallar Commune

NO.OF WARDS

Sl.No	Name of village panchayats	No.of wards
1	Ambagarathur	7
2	Nallambal	5
3	Sethur	7
4	Sellur	5
5	Karukkankudy	9
6	Surakudy	8
7	Thirunallar (North)	6
8	Thirunallar(South)	5
9	Pettai	7
Total		58

Table 4.18: No. of wards

Sl.No	Name of village panchayat	Total no. of seats	Scheduled castes	Scheduled tribes	General
1	Ambagarathur	7	1		3
2	Nallambal	5	1		2
3	Sethur	7	1		3
4	Sellur	5	1		1
5	Karukkankudy	9	2		3
6	Surakudy	8	1		3
7	Thirunallar (North)	6	1		3
8	Thirunallar(South)	5	1		2
9	Pettai	7	1		3
Total		58	10		23

Table 4.19: SC/St and General seats

RESERVATION SEATS FOR WOMEN IN THIRUNALLAR COMMUNE PANCHAYAT

Sl.No	Name of village panchayat	Total no. of seats	SC women	ST women	General women	Total
1	Ambagarathur	7	-		3	3
2	Nallambal	5	1		2	3
3	Sethur	6	-		3	3
4	Sellur	5	2		2	4
5	Karukkankudy	7	1		1	2
6	Surakudy	5	1		1	2
7	Thirunallar (North)	9	1		2	2
8	Thirunallar(South)	8	1		2	3
9	Pettai	6	-		2	2
Total		58	7		18	25

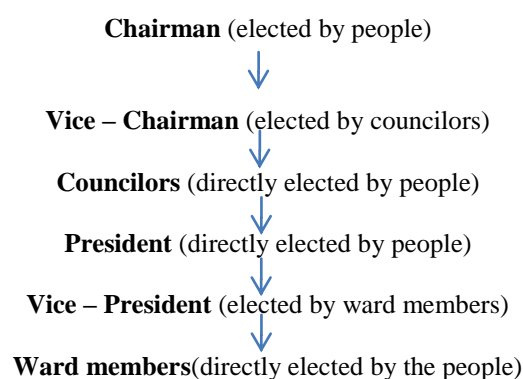
Table 4.20: Reservation of seats for women

Administrative Division

Thirunallar commune Panchayat consists of 58 ward members elected from each ward, 9 President, 9 Vice-President elected from each village panchayat, 1 Councilor, 1 Chairman and 1 Vice-Chairman for T.R.Pattinam commune panchayat.

Flow chart of Administrative Division common to all 5 commune panchayats

At village panchayat level one President is elected by the people, one Vice-President elected by ward members and one councilor for each village panchayat with ward members. In commune panchayat council has one Chairman, one Vice-Chairman for one commune panchayat elected by councilors.



6.4 GRAM SABHA

- Each village panchayat has one Gram Sabha
- All voters in that village panchayat are members of gram sabha
- President is the head of the gram sabha
- A gram sabha should be gathered by village panchayat
- In Karaikal commune panchayats gram sabha is gathered by the commune office employees

6.5 MAIN FUNCTIONS OF COMMUNE PANCHAYATS

- To provide protected drinking water
- To provide sanitation in the entire panchayat area
- To provide road facilities in the entire panchayat area
- Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages
- Maintenance of vital statistics

- Provision of Basic Civic Amenities
- Levy collection of commune panchayat taxes and fees

6.6 DIRECT TAXES

- House tax
- Profession tax
- Entertainment tax
- Trade license
- Duty on transfer of property
- Duty on toddy taxes
- Ground rent
- Building rent
- Entertainment tax
- Parking fees
- Lease of ponds and trees

6.7 FUNDS FOR COMMUNE

- MLA Fund
- MP Fund
- SC Welfare Department
- LAD(Grants – in - Aid)

6.8 FUNCTIONS OF COMMISSIONER

- A commissioner shall be appointed by the Government in the case of each commune panchayat council.
- No recovery shall be made from the commune panchayat council towards the salary and allowances paid to any commissioner or towards his leave allowances. Pensions
- The commissioner shall have the right to attend the meetings of the commune panchayat council or of any committee and take part in the discussions thereof, but without the right to move any resolution or to vote.
- Attend any meeting of the commune panchayat council or of an committee thereof if required to do so by the chairman
- Carry into effect the resolutions of the commune panchayat council
- Furnish to the commune panchayat council such periodicals reports regarding the progress made in carrying out the resolutions of that body and in the collection of taxes as the council may direct.
- Control all the officers and other employees of the commune panchayat council
- Perform all the duties specifically imposed and exercise all the powers conferred on the commissioner by this Act.

VII. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

This part describes about the analysis and interpretations of data.

TABLE - 5.1

Sl.No	Name of the commune	No. of respondents	Percentage of the respondents
1	Kottucherry	20	20%
2	Nedungadu	20	20%
3	Neravy	20	20%
4	T.R.Pattinam	20	20%
5	Thirunallar	20	20%
	Total	100	100%

TABLE SHOWING ABOUT NUMBER OF THE RESPONDENTS IN FIVE COMMUNES

The above table shows the number of the respondents. In each commune researcher contacted 20 respondents for the data collection.

TABLE 5.2
TABLE SHOWING THE AGE OF THE RESPONDENTS

Sl.No	Age of the respondents	No. of respondents	Percentage of respondents
1	20 – 40	54	54%
2	41 – 60	26	26%
3	61 – 80	16	16%
4	Above 80	4	4%
	Total	100	100%

The above table shows about the age of the respondents. Nearly 54% of the respondents are in the age group of 20 – 40 years. 26% of the respondents are in the age group of 41 – 60 years. 16% of the respondents are in the age group of 61-80 years. 4% of the respondents are in the age group of above 80%.

TABLE 5.3
TABLE SHOWING THE FAMILY INCOME OF THE RESPONDENTS

Sl. No	Family income	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Less than 5000	12	12%
2	5001-10000	68	68%
3	10001-20000	12	12%
4	Above 20000	8	8%
	Total	100	100%

The above table shows that 68% of the monthly income of the respondents are between 5001 – 10000, 12% are between 10001 – 20000, 12% of the family income is less than 5000 and 8% of family income is above 20,000. It shows that majority of the respondents monthly family income is between 5000 to 10000.

TABLE 5.4
TABLE SHOWING THE MARITAL STATUS OF THE RESPONDENTS

Sl. no	Marital status of the respondents	No. of respondents	Percentage of the respondents
1	Married	68	68%
2	Unmarried	19	19%
3	Widower	13%	13%
4	Divorcee	-	-
	Total	100%	100%

The above table indicates that 68% of the respondents are married, 19% of them are unmarried and 13% of them are widower. So, they should more responsible to uplift their family.

TABLE NO. 5.5
TABLE SHOWING THE TYPES OF HOUSE RESIDING

Sl.no	Type of House	No. of Respondents	Percentage of respondents
1	Hut	26	26%
2	Thatched	52	52%
3	Concrete	22	22%
	Total	100	100%

The above table shows that 26% of the respondents are residing in hut house, 52% of the respondents live in thatched house and 22% of the respondents lives in concrete house. It clearly indicates most of the respondents residing in concrete houses.

TABLE NO. 5.6

TABLE SHOWING THE HOUSE OF THE RESPONDENTS

Sl.no	House of the respondents	No. of respondents	Percentage of the respondents
1	Own	80	80%
2	Rental	20	20%
	Total	100	100%

The above table indicates that 80% of the respondents having own house and 20% of the respondents residing in rental house. Majority respondents are having own house so that it helps in reducing the house rent.

TABLE 5.7

TABLE SHOWING THE WORKDONE BY THE PANCHAYAT EMPLOYEES

Sl. no	Workdone by the panchayat employees	No. of respondents	Percentage of respondents
1	Yes	45	45%
2	No	37	37%
3	No opinion	18	18%
	Total	100	100

The above table indicates that 45% of the respondents felt good work done in their areas by panchayat employees. 37% of the respondents felt that there is no good work done by them and 18% of the respondents have no opinion about the work done by panchayat employee.

TABLE 5.8

TABLE SHOWING THE SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMS EXECUTED BY THE PANCHAYAT

Sl. no	Welfare program by the panchayat	No. of respondents	Percentage of the respondents
1	Yes	42	42%
2	No	34	34%
3	No opinion	24	24%
	Total	100	100%

The above table indicates 42% respondents agree that panchayat execute that social welfare program, 34% did not accept that the panchayat execute social welfare programs and 24% of the respondents have no opinion about this. It shows that panchayatbody are good in implementing social welfare program.

TABLE 5.9

TABLE SHOWING THE SELF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES BY PANCHAYAT

Sl. No.	Self-employment opportunities by the panchayat	No. of respondents	Percentage of respondents
1	Yes	24	24%
2	No	54	54%
3	No opinion	22	22%
	Total	100	100%

The above table shows about any self-employment opportunities given by the panchayat, 24% of the respondents agree that they give self-employment opportunities to the people, 54% of the respondents not agree that they give self-employment opportunities to the people and 22% of the respondents have no opinion about self-employment opportunities given by the panchayats. It shows that panchayatshave not created much self-employment opportunities to the people.

TABLE 5.10

TABLE SHOWING HE GRANTS IN AID – GIVEN BY THE STATE GOVERNMENT

Sl.no	Grant in aid given by state government	No. of respondents	Percentage of respondents
1	Yes	32	32%
2	No	43	43%
3	No opinion	25	25%
	Total	100	100%

The above diagram shows the Grants in- aid given by the government to the panchayat. 32% of the respondent are sufficient with grants in aid given by state government, 43% of them respondent are not sufficient, 25% of them has no opinion with the grant in aid. It shows that the grant in aid provided by the state government is not sufficient for panchayat.

TABLE 5.11

TABLE SHOWING THE ABILITY OF PANCHAYAT TO RAISE ITS OWN FUNDS

Sl.No	Ability of panchayat to increase resources	No. of respondents	Percentage of respondents
1	Yes	43	43%
2	No	38	38%
3	No opinion	17	17%
	Total	100	100%

The above table shows about ability of panchayat to raise its own fund. 43% of the respondents feel that panchayat has ability to raise its own fund. 38% of them felt that panchayat has no ability to raise its own fund. 17% of them hasno opinion about the ability to raise its own fund.

TABLE 5.12

TABLE SHOWING THE AWARENESS OF DEVELOPMENTAL PLANS EXECUTED THROUGH PANCHAYAT

Sl.no	Awareness about developmental program	No. of respondents	Percentage of respondents
1	Aware	35	35%
2	Unaware	46	46%
3	No opinion	19	19%
	Total	100	100%

The above table shows about the awareness of the respondents on developmental programs executed by the panchayat. 35% of them aware about the developmental plans. 46% of them are not aware about the developmental plans executed by them. 19% of them has no opinion about the developmental plans. Thus, the majority of the respondents have no awareness about the developmental plans made by panchayat.

TABLE 5.13

TABLE SHOWING THE NECESSARY OF PANCHAYAT ELECTION

Sl.no	Necessity of panchayat election	No. of respondents	Percentage of respondents
1	Yes	74	74%
2	No	16	16%
3	No opinion	10	10%
	Total	100	100%

The above table shows the necessary of panchayat election. 74% of the respondents accept that panchayat election is necessary. 16% of them doesn't accept the panchayat raj election. 10% of them has no opinion. Therefore, panchayat raj election is must.

TABLE 5.14
TABLE SHOWING THE NECESSARY OF RESERVATION FOR WOMEN IN PANCHAYAT

Sl.no	Reservation for women is necessary	No. of respondents	Percentage of respondents
1	Yes	85	85%
2	No	3	3%
3	No opinion	12	12%
	Total	100	100%

The above table describes about the opinion of reservation of women in panchayat. 85% of the respondents expressed that reservation for women in panchayat is necessary, 3% of them expressed that reservation for women in panchayat is not necessary. 12% of them have no opinion about it.

TABLE 5.15
TABLE SHOWING THAT WOMEN PERFORMANCE IS BETTER THAN MEN

Sl.no	Performance of women better than men	No. of respondents	Percentage of respondents
1	Yes	45	45%
2	No	38	38%
3	No opinion	17	17%
	Total	100	100%

The above table shows the performance of women with performance of men. 45% of the respondents feel that women's performance is better than men's performance. 38% of them feel that women's performance is not well when compared to men's performance. 17% of them have no opinion about it. Most of the respondents accepted that women's performance is better than men's performance.

TABLE 5.16
TABLE SHOWING THE OPINION OF RESPONDENTS THAT POLITICAL PARTIES ARE

Sl.No	Empowerment of the Panchayat in their community	No.of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
1	Agree	64	64%
2	Disagree	26	26%
3	No opinion	10	10%
	Total	100	100

CONTROLLING THE PANCHAYATS

The above table indicates about the opinion of respondents that whether the political parties are controlling the panchayats are not. 48% of them felt that political parties are controlling the panchayats. 25% of them are not felt about the controlling of political parties. 27% of them have no opinion about it.

TABLE 5.17
TABLE SHOWING THE OPINION OF THE RESPONDENTS THAT PANCHAYAT WILL EMPOWER THEIR COMMUNITY

Sl. no	Control of political parties over panchayats	No. of respondents	Percentage of respondents
1	Felt	48	48%
2	Not felt	25	25%
3	No opinion	27	27%
	Total	100	100%

The above table indicates the opinion of the respondents that panchayat raj will empower their community. 64% of the respondents agree that panchayat system will empower their community. 26% of them do not agree that panchayat system will empower their community. 10% of them have no opinion about it.

VIII. FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

This part of the study deals with the research findings. The findings are listed below as;

- 54% of the respondents are in the age group of 20 - 40 years
- 42% of the respondents are in the level of primary education
- 40% of the respondents are coolie
- 54% of the respondent's income is between 5000 - 10000.
- 68% of the respondents are married.
- 56% of the respondent's family is nuclear family.
- 60% of the respondent's income is not sufficient to balance their monthly expenditure.
- 52% of the respondents are living in thatched house.
- 80% of the respondents are residing in own house.
- 40% of the respondents are satisfied with the performance of the panchayat
- 45% of the respondents accept that panchayat has done good work to their area.
- 37% of the respondents are not satisfied with the road conditions in their area. Only Thirunallar commune respondents are satisfied with their road conditions.
- 52% of the respondents are satisfied with the lightning facilities in their area.
- 90% of the respondents are satisfied with the good drinking water. Kottucherry, Nedungadu, T.R.Pattinam and Thirunallar Communes provide drinking water thrice in a day. Neravy Commune provides drinking water four times per day in their area.
- 50% of the respondents are not satisfied in garbage cleaning and maintenance of streets by panchayats
- 54% of the respondents felt that the panchayat did not provide self-employment opportunities to them.
- 48% of the respondents are not satisfied with the financial position of the panchayat.
- 43% of the respondents felt that grants-in-aid given by the state government is not sufficient for the panchayat.
- 32% of the respondents expressed that the government officials co-operate during plan formulation only at average level.
- 46% of the respondents are unaware about the developmental plans executed by the panchayats.
- 42% of the respondents accept that occasionally only panchayati raj institutions play an important role in rural developmental programs.
- 74% of the respondents agree panchayat election.
- 85% of the respondents expressed that reservation for women in panchayat is necessary.
- 47% of the respondents rate the working of women in panchayat is good.
- 45% of the respondents agree that performance of women is better than men's performance.
- 60% of the respondents not want to increase or decrease the reservation of seats for women in panchayat. It shall be remains same.
- 48% of the respondents feel that political parties control the panchayat.
- 64% of the respondents agree that panchayat will empower their community.
- 40% of the respondents agree that the people are actively participate in rural developmental programs.
- 56% of the respondents expressed that the developmental programs are implemented by bureaucrats is somewhat done in efficient manner.
- 75% of the respondents accept that the rural development is not possible without panchayat.
- 42% of the respondents need improvement in local bodies for rural development.

IX. SUGGESTIONS

The researcher have few suggestion to improve the effectiveness of communenpanchayatswhich are listed below;

- The current situation in rural communities contribute to lack of political and socio-economic development. Infrastructure of rural communities must be given first preference.
- The main responsibilities of village panchayats is construction and maintenance of streets and rural roads. Roads in rural areas are poor and the people suffers lot. So many accidents are occurring. So rural roads need to be on the top of rural development.
- Transportation system for rural areas needs to improve so that it brings an opportunity for the smart village
- Priority should be given for the public hygiene. The commune must take initiative measures for the health and sanitation.

- The allocations of resources for the rural development to the communities need to be prioritized in order to implement projects that it will help to sustain community members.
- Commune Panchayat employees should create awareness among that area people because most of them are unaware of the developmental plans and so many respondents don't know where is the commune office itself.
- The unemployed youth will be able to participate in rural economic development through skill development. Employment opportunities will bring hope for the educated youth and their skills will help in the empowerment of rural areas. If commune panchayats organize any voluntary functions it will definitely help in the contribution on the development for rural areas.
- Panchayat should give importance to the infrastructures like roads, good transport facility, clean drinking water and maintenance of street lights.
- Local governments should raise its own resources and maintains its revenue so that it would enable the developmental plans and services that guarantee the quality of living style of people from the grass root level.

X. CONCLUSION

As this study clearly indicates that with the emergence of such panchayati raj institution there is a significant change in the lives of rural people. Local administration department monitors the various schemes sponsored by the government and executed by the local bodies.

In addition, it allots the grants to the local bodies from the resources earmarked by the Government of India under Five Year Plans. A separate engineering division has also been created in the department to assist the local bodies to execute civil program.

The implementation of rural developmental schemes and program have created an improvement in economic position of the selected area, as a result of implementation of rural developmental programs most of the people gain additional income. As the data shows that without the panchayat raj institutions. Nowadays, it is not possible to initiate any state or central governmental plan.

Local Government is the focus of government efforts at promoting development. To effectively develop, the people's efforts must be adequately mobilized. A purposeful combination of people's efforts energies with government for improving socio-economic conditions are key factors in rural development. Rural development as a strategy is designed to improve the economic and social life of the rural people.

The Rural Development is implementing a number of program in the rural areas of State. The main goal of these programmes is to reduce poverty, increase the assessts among the families belonging to the lowest income category, reduce involuntary unemployment and under employment to negligible levels, improve access of the poor to social services and infrastructure development of rural areas.

Genuine and valuable findings have been made which gives a clear picture about all five commune panchayats. This study is useful for further studies in future towards the research on commune panchayat.

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