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## A CASE STUDY ON THE VILLAGE THIRUVEDAGAM

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**ABSTRACT**

*The Village Thiruvedagam is a peaceful place, where people are also lovable, helpful and affectionate. Here we can see diversified occupations and different historical temples. 80% of the population is over the poverty line. But the scarcity of water make the village not capable for a good farming belt. Addiction to the alcohol is also a major issue of the village and most of the males spend their entire amount to addiction but while studying we find a light of hope in the village.*

**KEY WORDS:** Rural India, Development, Barriers of development, addiction.

### INTRODUCTION

Madurai is known as Kasi of South India for its prestigious and famous temples. To maintain the name and fame Madurai's villages also take a big part. Thiruvedagam is a famous historical village of Madurai that is consisting of 8 Temples and one Dargah. The name Thiruvedagam derived from tamil words 'Tiru-ed-ahem', Tamil word 'Tiru' means shree (beautiful)

'edu' means write in soil or pam leaf and 'vedagam' means hunting dress. According to past belief our ancestors who lived in forest they used arrow for hunting, this name came from them. One of the famous south Indian River Vaigai flows through this village from the north to south direction. The tamil word Vaigai derived from two words 'Vai' means keep and 'gai' means hand. This village was ruled by Pandya

kings. They make the second famous Lord Shiva temple in Madurai named Edaganthan temple in the middle of the village that possess 50% land of this village. This is true that temple was built by Pandyan king but there after it was reconstructed by Nayak kings. Though the Hindus are the majority some Muslim and very little christen families also representing the village population.

### **SOCIAL DIMENSION**

This Village is consisting of around 900 families and with the population of 5000 villagers. Most of the families are nuclear and almost 90% people have their own houses. Because of raising conflicts in the village last 2 years there is no Gram Sarpanch, only gram secretary or special officer handles all the administrative. Gram panchayat is consisting of 9 members. One Ration shop, VAO Office is present in the village. Total 9 wards and 3 hamlet, each hamlet has nearly 300 houses.

### **Education:**

The village is a developed village; the percentage of literacy is also not low. A Government panchayat union middle school (up to class 8) is present in the north of the village; Students from this school get some scholarship on the basis of their knowledge. 10 private schools is also present in the village surrounding areas. After completing the class 8 students go to Solavandapuram high school and then they go to the Vivekananda College for higher studies. Very few girls perused the higher studies mostly the choose the option of marriage because of family pressure. The Vivekananda College is there for higher education but that is only for boys.

### **Health:**

This village has a health centre that is handled by only one nurse and an *Aya*. Government provides medicine for pregnant ladies, new born baby and for some diseases also like Dengu, fever, cold, skin diseases etc. Monthly salary of Rs 2500 is offered to the nurse. Because of lack of human power all pressure comes over this nurse only. Everyday people came here in morning time mainly and in afternoon she goes home to home for checkup who cannot come. She checks the patient give them medicine and any laboratory test she takes sample of urine, blood, stool etc. and send it to *Melakkal*, for the pregnant ladies blood sugar, urine, albumen tastes are the must. She do all the vaccinations like TPT, DPT injection to the new born babies in the village.

### **Anganwari:**

Two Anganwari are present there, Thiruvedagam 1 and Thiruvedagam 2. In first anganwari has 20 children (10 boys, 10 girls) and one women teacher and in second anganwari has 25 children (15 girls, 10boys) one women teacher. Anganwari mainly work for take care of children, give

them food and teach just primary words. Except 4 or 5 children almost all are healthy baby. Pregnant ladies come under regularly check up. Sometimes anganwari center arrange camp for pregnant women and also for hyper tension people. Monthly meeting is also occurs.

### **Occupation:**

People of this village mainly suffer in water scarcity, so they can't go for much more farming. They only cultivate coconut, banana and some palm tree and sometimes when water is available they cultivate tomato, brinjal, okra. Last few year they do not cultivate paddy because the lack of water. That's why only 25-30% people depend upon agriculture, 50% people work in MNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guaranty act.) and rest 10-20% do the small business like shop, marketing etc. Sometime very few people also do migrate in Madurai, Chennai or other any place also for searching new job. 100 days' work gives uncertain wages but till they do this work in their own village and also go to the neighbor villages. Cleaning all rode and temple, cannel making, rode making etc. works come under the MNREGA. Monthly a person can get 1 week work on daily wage of Rs.150.

### **SHG:**

This village has 12 to 20 Self Help group that consists of 10-12 members. Their main work is contributing money in monthly basis and keep it for savings and in the time of marriage, death, or any other important purposes they will provide loan to the villagers in very low interest. So in village this SHG play an important role because, if for taking loan if villagers go to any bank or money lender, their interest rate will be high that will affect their daily life.

### **Political Dimension:**

Main leading party of this village is DMK and ADMK and very few BJP and congress supporters are also present there. Some schemes are running here like, Swach Bharat Mission, Widow Pension Scheme, Mutalakshmi scheme.

### **PROBLEMS**

Total south India suffers for the water scarcity and this village is also comes under this same problem and it is the main problem of this Village. Actually they depend on bore well and rain water only that's why they can't more attach with agriculture because in very rare case rain comes, Irrigation and drinking water facility are also poor. Government send water for cleaning purpose thrice in a week but these few amount are not enough to clean the surrounding areas, Government do not spend adequate money for people and also government give less attention to agriculture and farmers. Another big problem is most of the male and young generation spends more money in drinking alcohol.

### **CONCLUSION**

Thiruvedagam is a peaceful place, where people are also lovable, helpful and affectionate. Here 50%

people do 100 days' work, 25 to 30% goes for agriculture and rest do small business like shop, marketing. 80% villagers come over poverty line. In this village education status is satisfactory. Most of them want to go for higher education. Only girls go for marriage after completing only 18 years old comes under home pressure. Some villagers are police and civil officer that shows the diversity of the livelihood in the village. Students also get scholarship according to their merit. Water scarcity is main problem of this village and another problem is most the male and young generation spend more money in drinking alcohol, if they give up it, they also can spread their hand for village development purpose. Government have to take care about cleaning, agro related work and also take care about proper utilization of resourced and addiction free society. May be the village is very rich in the terms of natural resources, education, money and diversity of occupations are also there but the addiction of alcohol making the village lame. More than 80% of the male are addicted and more or less every day for the alcohol only they tortured their wife for money. Many well earning households are becoming poor day by day. But the positive thing what we observe that the new generation are started hating the addiction of alcohol because from their childhood they facing lot of problems and poverty for that. Many of them tell us while convey their anger to this addiction "If we have power we will break all the shops in all over the Tamilnadu". It's a very positive sign for the future of the society. When we further study about that we found that from the school only they get such awareness and hate against the addiction. The Head Mistress of the local Primary School said to us that this kids are the future society so we taking this initiative for a good future of the society.

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