

Maganam Administration in the Musiri Region, Tamilnadu

Dr. V.P. Thangavelu

*Associate Professor in History, No: 59 First Cross, Manicka Nagar,
College Road, Musiri & TK, Tiruchirappalli (Dt) Tamil Nadu. Pin Code – 621 211.
Mobile Number: 97864 80430 Phone Number: 04326-261960
E-mail Address: drvpthangavelu@gmail.com*

Abstract

The Musiri Region - Musiri Geography – Discuss about the territorial unit of the British administration - Names of Maganums and number of villages in Musiri Region – Maganum.

Key Maganum – Nattars – Wet lands – Dry lands – Iyalore – Yerragudy – Kannanoor – Thiruthalaiyur – Uppiliyapuram – Omandur – Kollakgudi.

INTRODUCTION

Maganum was the most fundamental territorial unit of the British period. In Trichinopoly Maganum was the primary unit for administration. Wallace's main objective to introduce the village settlement was to suppress the power of the head of inhabitants (Nattars) in the Maganum level by dividing the Maganum into composite villages. The Nattars in the dry area (North of Musiri Region) had been the renters of revenue and managed the Maganum. In the wet area, a Government servant was posted in each Maganum. In the Musiri region there were two taluks namely Iyalore and Thuraiyur in 1819. The Iyalore taluk had 3 Maganums, 45 villages and 104 muzrah. The Thuraiyur taluk had 13 Maganums, 176 villages and 129 muzrah.

THE MUSIRI REGION

Musiri Region covers the present Thuraiyur Taluk, Thottiyam Taluk and Musiri Taluk which formed until recently part of the old Tiruchirappalli District in Tamilnadu. However for convenience's sake, the present taluk divisions are followed in this research paper as all the existing sources and other publications follow only the present taluks.

MUSIRI GEOGRAPHY

The Musiri is located at 10°57' latitude 78°30' longitude. It has an average elevation of 82 metres (269 feet). The Musiri region is comprised Thuraiyur Taluk, Musiri Taluk and Thottiyam Taluk, This region is bounded by the Perambalur Taluk and District. On the North by Cauvery river on the south by Manachanallur taluk on the east and by Namakkal Taluk and district on the West. The villages of these region mostly located on the northern side of the Cauvery River, being well irrigated channels from Cauvery river are very fertile. Musiri is a moderate, sized village, situated on the bank of Cauvery, almost exactly opposite to Kulithalai of Karur District. According to the Report of Tiruchirappalli District north circle (1920).

MAGANUM ADMINISTRATION IN MUSIRI REGION

Names of Maganums and number of villages in Musiri Region are as follows:

Name of Maganums (Iyaloor Taluk)	Number of villages
Iyaloor	9
Thottiyam	19
Musiri	19
Total	47 villages

Thuraiyur Taluk	Number of villages
Thuraiyur	15
Yerragudy	17
Kannanoor	14
Thiruthalaiyur	17
Uppiliyapuram	17
Omandur	16
Kollakgudi	05
Total	101 Village

From the above data it is obvious that the Maganum functioned as the basic unit for administration.

MAGANUM

Trichinopoly district has number of territorial units in use at the beginning of the British period, which were taluk, mahal, mahanam, Village and muzarah. In the Wallace's letter in 1803 reporting the number of cattles were shown by Maganum. The names of Maganums in each mahal under the different taluks and the number of villages in the respective Maganum were as shown below:

Taluk	Maganum	Village	Muzrah	Shrotrium
1) Iyalore	3	45	104	
2) Thuraiyur	13	176	129	2

CONCLUSION

In the 19th Century the British administration in the musiri region were mainly established on the basis of revenue collections differed from wet places and dry places. The Magana divided into revenue villages and collected by nattars. The nattars collected revenues in the dry area (North of Musiri Region) very small. At the same time they collected large revenue from the wet areas so the Britishers not accepted the collection policy of nattars and were dismissed from the position of revenue collection. Latter on the nattars were agitated against the British Administration. Through this Maganum administration the Britishers completely exploited the musiri region farmers.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- [1] Available at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Musiri>, accessed on 15 January, 2007.
- [2] General Report of the Musiri Selection Grade Town Panchayat, 2003.
- [3] John Wallace's Report, selection from the Record of the Collectorate of Trichinopoly, dated 22 January 1802,
- [4] Letter from Lushington, in BOR Proceedings, 02 September, 1819.
- [5] Letter from the Collector of Trichinopoly to FSG, in BOR Proceedings, 14 March, 1803.
- [6] Letter from Wallace to 22 January, 1802, in BOR Proceeding 13 September, 1802.
- [7] Letter from Wallace to BOR 22 January, 1902, in BOR Proceedings 13 September, 1802.
- [8] Lewis Moore, Manual of the Trichinopoly District in the Madras Presidency, (New Delhi: Cosmo Publications, 1878).
- [9] Manual of the Administration of the Madras Presidency, Vol. III, (Madras: Government Press, 1893).
- [10] Manual of the Administration of the Madras Presidency, Vol. III, (Madras: Government Press, 1893).
- [11] Mizushima Tsukasa, Nattar and the Socio-Economic Change in South India in the 18th -19th Centuries, Study on Languages and Cultures of Asia& Africa, Monograph Series No.19, (New Delhi: Asian Publishers, 1986).
- [12] Note book of general information of the north Tiruchinopoly circle, chennai: Government Press, 1920.
- [13] Report from the Collector at Trichinopoly, para.134 in BOR Proceedings, 13 September, 1802.
- [14] Sundaraj, T. History of Tiruchirappalli, (Tiruchirappalli: Sundar Publications, 2003).
- [15] Tiruchirappalli census of India, 1991, Directorate of census operations, Tamil Nadu, series – 23, Part XII – B, District Census Handbook.

