

## CHAPTER 4

### ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS AND DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF THE STUDY AREAS

This chapter gives a brief profile of the study areas. Sample areas include Thrissur corporation area of Thrissur district and Kavassery Panchayat of Palakkad district.

#### 4.1 Thrissur District and Thrissur corporation area

Thrissur is a revenue district of Kerala situated in the central part of the state. Thrissur district is popularly known as the 'cultural capital of Kerala'. There are 6 municipalities, 5 taluks, 16 Block Panchayats, 1 District Panchayat, 88 Grama Panchayats, 254 revenue villages and one corporation in the district. The date of formation of Thrissur district is on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1949. Thrissur is situated in 10<sup>o</sup> 10' and 10<sup>o</sup> 46' North latitude and 75<sup>o</sup> 55' and 77<sup>o</sup> 05' East longitude. It is bounded by Malappuram district on the north, Palakkad and Coimbatore district of Tamilnadu on the east, Ernakulam on the south and the Arabian Sea on the west. Thrissur Corporation area belongs to Thrissur taluk. There are 55 corporation wards, 233 municipality wards, 213 Block Panchayat wards, 1501 Grama panchayat wards, 13 assembly constituencies and one parliamentary constituency in the district.

Thrissur district has a total population of 3,121,200 as per the Census 2011. The Average Sex Ratio of Thrissur district is 1,108. As per Census 2011 out of the total population, 67.2% people live in urban areas while 32.8% lives in the rural areas. The Sex Ratio of Urban areas in Thrissur district is 1,112 while that of Rural areas is 1,099. The total literacy rate of Thrissur district is 95.08% comprising male literacy percentage about 96.8% and female literacy about 93.56 %. The child population of (age 0-6 years) the district counts to 303950 which constitute 10% of the total population. Schedule Caste (SC) constitutes 10.4% while Schedule Tribe (ST) 0.3% of total population in Thrissur district.

**Table 4.1**  
**Administrative set-up of Kerala and Thrissur (2011 census)**

Date of Formation	1 <sup>st</sup> July, 1949	
District Head Quarters :	Thrissur	
II. Administrative set-up	Thrissur	Kerala
1. Number of Revenue Divisions	1	21
2. Number of Taluks	5	63
3. Number of Revenue Villages	254	1453
4. Number of Corporations	1	5
5. Number of Corporation Wards	55	359
6. Number of Municipalities	6	60
7. Number of Municipality Wards	233	2216
8. Number of Block Panchayat	16	152
9. Number of Block Panchayat Wards	213	2095
10. Number of District Panchayath Wards	29	332
11. Number of Grama Panchayat	88	978
12. Number of Grama Panchayat Wards	1501	16680
13. Number of Assembly Constituencies	13	140
14. Number of Parliament constituencies	1	20

Source: Panchayat level Statistics (2011), Thrissur District, Department of Economic and Statistics, Thiruvananthapuram.

Thrissur municipality came into existence on Ist July 1942 and later in the year 2000 it was upgraded to the level of the municipal corporation, by merging the adjoining Ayyanthole, Ollukkara, Koorkanchery, Ollur and Vilvattom panchayaths and parts of Nadathara panchayath with the erstwhile municipal area. Thrissur Municipal Corporation came into being on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2000.

The Thrissur Municipal Corporation governs the Thrissur city and is the fourth largest city Corporation in the state of Kerala by area and population. Established as a Municipality since 1921 under the Cochin Municipal Regulations, it is responsible for civic infrastructure and administration; the distribution of electricity and water for Thrissur city. The Corporation manages 101.42 km of Thrissur city limits through 55 wards through five zones Ayyanthole, Vilvattom, Ollukkara, Ollur, and Koorkanchery. Among 55 wards 26 wards are reserved for woman, 4 for SC and the rest for the general. Two seats are reserved for SC woman among four SC reserved seats. Property tax is the main source of revenue for Thrissur Corporation. The present

study focuses on the wards of Peringavu, Ramavarmapuram, Kuttumuk, Villadom, Cherur comprises the 5,6,7,8,9 wards of Thrissur municipal corporation belongs to Vilvattom Zone. All these wards are 5 to 6 km away from Thrissur city. Villadom ward is reserved for woman representative.

As per the Population Census 2011, the total population of Thrissur is 315,957 out of which 152,296 are males and 163,661 are females and the Sex Ratio is 1,075. The literacy rate of Thrissur corporation area is 97.1%. Thus Thrissur corporation area has higher literacy rate compared to that of Thrissur district. The male literacy rate is 89.4% and the female literacy rate is 88.5% in Thrissur. Thrissur Municipal Corporation has total administration over 78,336 houses to which it supplies basic amenities like water and sewerage. It is also authorized to build roads within Municipal Corporation limits and impose taxes on properties coming under its jurisdiction. Schedule Caste (SC) and Schedule Tribe (ST) constitute 7.7% and 0.2% of total population in Thrissur district respectively.

In Thrissur Municipal Corporation out of the total population, 113,105 were engaged in work activities. 92.4% of workers describe their work as Main Work (Employment or Earning more than 6 Months) while 7.6% were involved in Marginal activity providing a livelihood for less than 6 months.

#### **4.2 Palakkad district and Kavassery Panchayat**

Palakkad district is popularly known as ‘the granary of Kerala’ and ‘Rice bowl of Kerala’. The date of formation of Palakkad district is on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1957. Palakkad is bordered on the northwest by the Malappuram District, on the southwest by the Thrissur District, on the northeast by The Nilgiris District and on the east by Coimbatore district of Tamil Nadu. There are 2 revenue divisions, 4 municipalities, 5 taluks, 13 Block Panchayats, 1 District Panchayat, 91 Grama Panchayats, 156 revenue villages in the district which includes 150 municipality wards, 182 block panchayat wards, 1542 Grama panchayat wards, 12 assembly constituencies and 2 parliament constituencies as per 2011 census.

As per 2011 census, the total population of Palakkad district is about 2.8 million with sex ratio 1067. The sex ratios of rural and urban areas are 1068 and 1064 respectively. The total literacy rate of the district is 88.49% (rural-87.23% and urban-92.45%). The total SC population in the district is 403833 which form the 14.4% of total SC population of the state and with SC sex ratio 1045.

**Table 4.2****Administrative set-up of Kerala and Palakkad (2011 census)**

Date of Formation	Ist January 1957	
District Head Quarters	Palakkad	
II. Administrative set-up	<b>Palakkad</b>	<b>Kerala</b>
1. Number of Revenue Divisions	2	21
2. Number of Taluks	5	63
3. Number of Revenue Villages	156	1453
4. Number of Corporations	0	5
5. Number of Corporation Wards	0	359
6. Number of Municipalities	4	60
7. Number of Municipality Wards	150	2216
8. Number of Block Panchayat	13	152
9. Number of Block Panchayat Wards	182	2095
10. Number of District Panchayath Wards	29	332
11. Number of Grama Panchayat	91	978
12. Number of Grama Panchayat Wards	1542	16680
13. Number of Assembly Constituencies	12	140
14. Number of Parliament constituencies	2	20

Source: Panchayat level Statistics (2011), Palakkad district District, Department of Economic and Statistics, Thiruvananthapuram.

Kavassery panchayat belongs to alathur block of Palakkad district with an area of 30.46 Sq.km. It is bounded by Taroor Panchayat, Kuthanoor Panchayat and Gayatri river on the north, Alathur Gramapanchayat on the east, Vadakkencherry Panchayat and Mangalam river on the south and Mangalam by the west. Total SC Population of the panchayat counts to 5945 with SC Male population of 2850 and SC Female population 3095 as per 2011 census. The SC subcastes of the panchayat include Cheruman, Panan, Malayan, Mannan, Parayan, Kanakkan, Kavara, Pulluvan, Nayadi.

**Table 4.3****General Features of the Kavassery Panchayat**

Categories	2011 census
Name	Kavassery panchayat
Village Zones	Kavassery I, Kavassery II
Area	30.46 sq.km.

Block Panchayat	Alathur
Population	26839
Female	13993
Male	12846
Density	880.70 sq. m.
Disabled population	369
SC Population	5945
SC Male	2850
SC Female	3095
Sc sex ratio	1085*
Total SC households	792*
No of SC colonies	55
SC households in SC colonies	685*
Single SC households	107*
Literacy Rate	79.34
Literacy Rate male	87.62
Literacy Rate Female	79.34
No. of Wards	17
SC reserved Wards	4
SC female reserved Wards	2
Constituent Assembly	Taroor
Parliament Constituency	Alathur

Source: Primary Survey data and kavassery Panchayat, Annual Planning Report 2017-18

Out of 17 wards, 4 wards are reserved for scheduled castes. Total 4 SC candidates are elected, in the recent panchayat elections of 2015. Two females and 2 males were from SC reservation wards have been the election. The panchayat has 3 government and no private hospitals (Allopathic). There is also one government Homoeopathic dispensary and 1 Ayurvedic hospital and one Veterinary hospital.

**Table 4.4**

**Basic amenities available to Kavassery panchayat**

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Number</b>
Krishibhavan	kavassery	1
PHC	Padur	1
Govt Homeo dispensary	Thennilapuram	1
Govt Ayurvedic dispensary	Kazhani Chungam	1
Govt Veterinary dispensary	Kazhani Chungam	1
G LPS	Kongalakode	1
Anganavadis	Various places	27

Source: Primary Survey data and kavassery Panchayat, Annual Planning Report 2017-18

Proper sanitation facilities are provided by the panchayat. The Panchayat has a low position in industrial development. There are no major large scale or medium scale industries functioning in the panchayat. The main source of income of this panchayat from various agrarian production.

**Table 4.5**

**Crop pattern of Kavassery panchayat**

<b>Crops</b>	<b>Area (in hectors)</b>
Paddy	800
Coconut	370
Rubber	80
Plantain	125
Vegetables	80
Tapioca	50
spices	90

Source: kavassery Panchayat, Annual Planning Report 2017-18

Agriculture plays a crucial role in the economic profile of the panchayat. Rice cultivation is the major form of cultivation. A major portion of the cultivatable land is used for raising food crops. Rubber, plantain, vegetables, tapioca, ginger etc are major agrarian production.

**Table 4.6**

**Land Use Pattern of Kavassery Panchayat**

Land	Area (hectars)
Cultivated Area	1139
Forest Area	134

Source: kavassery Panchayat, Annual Planning Report 2017-18

Income also arises from traditional workers and from NRIs. Agriculture plays a crucial role in the economic profile of the panchayat. Rice cultivation is the major form of cultivation. A major portion of the cultivatable land is used for raising food crops. Rubber, plantain, vegetables, tapioca, ginger etc are major agrarian production.