CHAPTER 2

STUDY AREA

2.0 Location

Kozhijampara grama Panchayath is located in Chittur taluk which lies in the eastern part of Palakkad district. It is located between 10° 39' 30" north to 10° 45' 57" north latitude and between 76° 45' 42" east to 76° 52' 47" longitudes. It has a total geographical area of 48.84sq.km. Kozhinjampara grama panchayath is bounded in the north by Vadakarapathy, in the south by Perumatty, in the east by Eruthenpathy and in the west by Nalleppily panchayath.

2.1 Relief

The Kozhinjampara grama panchayath lies at the eastern end of Palakkad gap. The panchayath is located in between Anamalai hills and Nilgiri hills of western ghat. The panchayath is located at an elevation of 120 mts to 220 mts from mean sea level. Physiographically, the panchayath has been categorized as midland. The southern part is Kunnaampidari hills (229 mts), one Trignometrical station is located.

2.2 Climate

Kozhinjampara gramapanchayath is one of the driest panchayath in Kerala. The Panchayat lies in the rain shadow region of the Western Ghats. The area is experiencing hot and dry climate during summer. The Palakkad district is considered to be the warmest district of Kerala. Among the panchayaths of the district, Kozhinjampara grama panchayath is the warmest. The temperature varies from 23°C to 28°C in winter and 30°C to 42°C in summer.

2.3 Drainage

The Panchayath has mainly three rivers namely Chitturpuzha, Korayaar, and Varattayar. The Chitturpuzha flows westward through the southern part of the Panchayath. The Korayar and the Varattayar originates from Kothavadi in Tamil Nadu. Moolathara dam constructed across Chitturpuzha is one of the important sources of irrigation. Kunnamkattupathy canal and Moolathara canal are the major canals of the Panchayath. Due to interstate disputes the
rivers in the panchayath almost get dried up in summer season besides. The Panchayat has 54 public wells but majority of them get dried up during summer season. Many parts of Panchayath experiences shortage of water during this season.

2.4 Land uses

In the year 2010-11 out of the total area of the panchayath 964.57 hectares (28.88%) of the land is used for paddy cultivation. Plantation crops contribute 34.99% (905.85 hectares) and mixed crops contribute 28.88% of the panchayath. In the panchayath of paddy fields are converted to other purposes like coconut, banana, sugarcane, vegetables, mixed crops and built up area. The paddy here cultivated is wet paddy. So, it helps in ground water recharging. Due to the reduction in area under paddy, the ground water level is also reduced. In the panchayath, 245.29 hectares (5.66%) of land is cultivable waste land.

2.5 Soil

Kozhinjampara grama panchayath has three major types of soil; alluvial, red and black soil. Red and black soil covers about 50% of the total area. Black cotton soil extends to some adjacent areas in Tamil Nadu. It is mainly found in Chittur taluk of Palakkad district. It is not found in any other parts of Kerala. The black soil is an extension of black cotton soil of Deccan plateau. The clay content is high and organic matter content is low. Slushy paddy land and low lying wet lands characterized by this soil are locally known as ‘poonthalpadams’.

2.6 Demography

Development of a country depends upon the availability of human resources. As per 2011 census, the total population of Kozhinjampara grama panchayath is 28751 among which 14156 are males and 14595 are females. Out of the total population, 2204 are scheduled caste and 722 are scheduled tribes. The density of population in the panchayath is 671 persons/sq km (2011 census). The people belong to Tamil, Malayalam and also mixed blends.

2.7 Literacy

When compared to the states level of literacy, the panchayath remains backward. The literates in the panchayath are 21312. The literacy rate of the population is 74.12% and that
of male is 79.31% and female is 69.09%. The total illiterate people in the panchayath is 7439 and it covers 25.87% of total population. The low literacy rate is a reflection of the Tamil linguistic people who form the majority.

2.8 Occupational structure

According to 2011 census, the total workers in the panchayath are 13944 and it covers 40.53% of total population (See Table No: 2.4). Among the workers, main workers are 11711 and marginal workers are 2233. Total cultivators in the panchayath are 1617 and it covers only 4.7% of total populations, among them main cultivators are 1526 and marginal cultivators are 91. The main agricultural labourers in the panchayath are 4033 it covers 11.72 % of total area. The non-workers in the panchayath are 14807 and it covers 43.04% of the total population.

2.9 Transportation and settlement

Kozhinjampara is one of the important small border towns of Palakkad. It has good proximity to Tamilnadu. The location of panchayath is midway between Palakkad and Pollachi/Coimbatore. It is connected to the industrial and marketing city, Coimbatore in the North and to Thrissur, the cultural capital of Kerala in the West. State Highways connect Kozhinjampara to the above cities. It is connected to the industrial area of Kanjikode through Menonpara junction. Pollachi is located in the Eastern part and is easily accessible the border. The general settlement pattern of the panchayath is generally linear, but more concentration is seen in the North and South wards of the panchayath.