

# **A Walk in Nature - Coloures and Movements in South India Villages**

By

Radja Perumal

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N0.4, Kumaran Street

Arumbarthapuram Post

Pondicherry-605110

Mobile: 9944273930

Email: [radjaperumal@gmail.com](mailto:radjaperumal@gmail.com)

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## Declaration

I declare that the **A Walk in Nature - Coloures and Movements in South India Villages** is my own work and that all the sources that I have used or quoted have been indicated and acknowledged by means of complete references.

Radja Perumal

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## **Acknowledgement**

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## **Dedication**

This Project is dedicated to My Mother who have supported for my study without any limitations. All the credits go to her feet.

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## Introduction

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The origin of life on Earth is not well understood, but it is known to have occurred at least 3.5 billion years ago,(Schopf 2007)) during the hadean or archean eons on a primordial Earth that had a substantially different environment than is found at present.(Line 2002) These life forms possessed the basic traits of self-replication and inheritable traits. Once life had appeared, the process of evolution by natural selection resulted in the development of ever-more diverse life forms.

Species that were unable to adapt to the changing environment and competition from other life forms became extinct. However, the fossil record retains evidence of many of these older species. Current fossil and DNA evidence shows that all existing species can trace a continual ancestry back to the first primitive life forms (Line 2002). Nature evolves as it conditioned by the surroundings etc.

Nature is related to the intrinsic characteristics that plants, animals, and other features of the world develop of their own accord. Within the various uses of the word today, "nature" often refers to geology and wildlife. Nature can refer to the general realm of living plants and animals, and in some cases to the processes associated with inanimate objects—the way that particular types of things exist and change of their own accord, such as the weather and geology of the Earth. It is often taken to mean the "natural environment".

Here, this project is discusses the importance of nature and its beauty. The researcher cum creative painter tried to understand the secret of nature and tried to capture the beauty of the nature.

## **The Beauty of Nature**

The heart that loved her; lis her privilege  
Through all the years of this our life, to lead  
From joy to joy  
- Wordsworth

Wordsworth, a staunch lover of nature, believed that nature is a storehouse of joy and pleasure. It is an ever flowing fountain of divine beauty. It is a friend, a guide and a nurse to man. It has a healing touch of its own. A ruined body or a broken mind finds a lot of comfort and consolation in the lap of nature. It provides a man with fresh energy and a new vigor. It is a manifestation of the divine.

Nature is full of beauties and blessings for humanity. The flowing rivulets, the sounding cataracts, the dancing winds, the smiling flowers and the lofty mountains are only some of these beauties. Nature can fill our lives with real joy, goodness and happiness. To a lover of nature, every object, of nature is as much living as any human being. That is why Wordsworth wrote: "there is a spirit in the woods". Wordsworth's assumption is very philosophical and reasonable. His assumption is not only relevant to wood but also related to external force of knowledge. According to him in nature, life is there without any partiality.

## **Village and its Beauty**

A village is a clustered human settlement or community, larger than a hamlet but smaller than a town, with a population ranging from a few hundred to a few thousand.

Though often located in rural areas, the term urban village is also applied to certain urban neighborhoods. Villages are normally permanent, with fixed dwellings; however, transient villages can occur.

The Industrial Revolution attracted people in larger numbers to work in mills and factories; the concentration of people caused many villages to grow into towns and cities. This also enabled specialization of labor and crafts, and development of many trades. The trend of urbanization continues, though not always in connection with industrialization.

The soul of India lives in its villages, 60 percent of the population still lives in villages of India. Indian villages have a very beautiful and attractive lifestyle. The Villages are free from the hustle and bustle of a city life; villages are peaceful, calm, quite and full of greenery where one can breathe fresh air. Indian village house are Eco- friendly in nature, made by bamboos and mud's. The houses in Indian villages are mostly built of bamboo with thatched roofs. Wall and floor of the village houses are by painted by a mixture of dirt, grass, and cow shit. Before and after rain, these house need a maintenance every time. Most of the people who live in villages are farmers, other works as potters, carpenters, blacksmith. Bull's are use for farming and other activity in field. Women work planting the rice paddy, while the men work pulling bullock carts, tilling new soil etc.

The educational status of the people in the villages of India is not so good, some of the villages even don't have school. There are no water supply, no indoor toilets and no electricity. River water, well or hand pump are the main source of water. Life in the villages of India differ from one region to another, these Indian villages contain the list



of famous tribal groups in India. The life styles of villagers are very clean, sweet and simple. They don't dream for big house, vehicle, and money etc, whatever they got that is enough to live their life happily.

### **Village Life in India**

Indian is an agriculture country and most of its people live in villages. A village is a collection of small huts in the midst of fields on which the village farmers work. Some villages are big while others are comparatively smaller. They are generally cut off from the cities and have a different kind of life.

The villagers live in the midst of natural surroundings. The charm of nature justifies the remark of the famous poet Cowper, "God made the country and manmade the town", As we rise early in the morning, we can listen to the sweet songs of birds. We can enjoy the beauty of the rising sun and the sweet breeze of the greenery of fields around, are the various pleasures that abound in the countryside.

The villagers pass a healthy, peaceful life. There is no smoke and noise of the city factories. They breathe fresh air which promotes their health. They also get pure ghee and milk. There is no hustle and bustle and no worry as in the modern life. The villagers, therefore, are happy and healthy. They lead a simple life and their desires are few. They are satisfied with what they have and never dream of those luxuries and comforts that modern science has provided us with in such ample measure.

Most of the people who live in villages are farmers. They cultivate their farms situated in the neighbored of the villages. They go to their fields early in the morning where

they work till evening, ploughing, sowing or reaping, according to seasons. Spinning and weaving is one of the most important cottage industries of a village. It helps to increase their meager income. Beside this, some people keep shops and provided the necessities of life of the villagers. Other works as potters, carpenters, blacksmith, etc, to fulfill their needs.

The villagers are deeply religious. They worship a number of gods and goddesses. They devote regular time to play and worship. The village priest enjoys great respect. But they are highly orthodox and any change is dislike and opposed. Many kinds of superstitions flourish among them. They live in constant fear of ghost. They believe in a number of omens.

The villagers are socially knit together. Their life is co-operate and interdependent. They depend on each other for the supply of their daily wants. They share in the joys and sorrow of each other. They help each other in time of need. Their social sense is so strong that the guest of one is considered as the guest of all. In a town or city, one does not care to know even one's neighbor. But each village is familiar with the family history of other villagers.

Surrounded Natural beauty is the crown of Village. Greeneries, mountains and rivers blossoms the beauty of Village. People are very transparent and their lifestyle is so simple. So they live long time.

I, the researcher have admired these village natural beauty. Several times I have stayed in village huts and interacted with villagers. They are very good as village nature. I understand that there are several advantages and Disadvantages.

## **Village Life Vs. City Life**

A comparative analysis of village life and city life is summarized below:

- In rural villages, there are few streets. The life of rural people revolves around muddy lanes. However, a city consists of many streets and hundreds of houses and buildings.
- In villages, there are few small shops to meet the requirements of the rural people. There are a number of large shops along the main streets of a city.
- There are few motor cars in villages. Most of the rural people travel in rickshaw and/or carts. The use of bicycles as a means of transportation is widespread at villages. Cars and other vehicles pass back and forth throughout day and night.
- There are standalone cinema halls at villages. On the other hand, there are a number of Multiplexes, Cinema halls, Post Offices and other public buildings in cities and towns. Hence, the lives of urban people are full of choices for entertainment.
- Our village economy is mainly based on agriculture. There are few cottage industries. Many factories and foundries are to be seen in the outskirts of large cities.
- The air in villages is generally fresh and pollution free. In towns, the smoke from houses, factories, vehicles, makes the air foul and unhealthy.

## **The Importance of Village**

India's villages are living repositories of ancient, diverse traditions that have survived down the ages through a combination of constancy and adaptation to changing circumstances. This resilience has enabled myriad village lifestyles to flourish in environments ranging from fecund, irrigated agricultural plains in India's north and southeast to the vast, arid plains in its

centre and the temperate mountain ranges of the east and west coasts. As Stephen P. Huyler states in *Village India*, the financial poverty of village existence is offset by a wealth of communal customs, rituals and attitudes.

“Their faith and the interdependence of their societies provide a unity and sense of purpose rarely experienced in the contemporary West ... Modernization is essential but its most healthy expression would be a blending of traditional forms (and the wisdom gained through centuries of subtle adaptations to the environment) with innovative technologies.”

Respect for village life has a proud history. Gandhi decreed that the nation’s heart and soul was in its villages and that “If the villages perish, India will perish too”. Gandhi championed village life for its virtues of self-sufficiency, honesty, peacefulness and spirituality. Claiming the cities and towns were bleeding the life out of villages, he advocated an independent India comprised of ideal small communities with healthy living standards and access to the benefits of modern civilization without the alienation inherent to industrial capitalism.

Gandhi’s vision of national, spiritual and social transformation based in the villages proved overly idealistic and was never implemented to any large extent by governments. No doubt the prospect of any such scheme coming to fruition is no more likely in today’s glossy new India, preoccupied with software start-ups, call centers, Bolly wood starlets and consumer glitz.

However, Gandhi’s warning that India’s survival depends on the wellbeing of its villages seems even more pertinent today. India has no valid option but to protect the interests of its villages because they will remain important and highly populated for a long time to come.

India will almost certainly continue its march to the front rank of geopolitically significant nations while the majority of its swelling populace remains relatively poor. This scenario adds weight to the challenge of maintaining village viability in order to discourage the sons and

daughters of India's soil from abandoning the countryside in pursuit of urban-based, middle-class affluence.

To the challenges facing India's villages, no single response can suffice. Most thought they would leave their village to gain qualifications, but return at some stage to help the community.

Most likely, the rising generation of India's villages will seek to migrate to cities in unprecedented numbers to seek better lives. In some ways, this is a positive development in terms of the global environment: city dwellers can be supplied with housing, power, transport, food and water more efficiently than their country counterparts. As Mark Lynas argues in *The God Species*, urban sites occupy just 2.8% of the earth's land, enabling about 3.3 billion people to live in an area less than half the size of Australia. Increased urbanization is also linked with lower birth rates (Concensation 2012).

Even so, the cities of India and other developing countries are already struggling to cope with huge current populations. Unchecked mass migration from the countryside would trigger disaster. While India works towards better-managed cities, villages made as economically and culturally viable as possible will be a mainstay for future sustainability.

We in the West must acknowledge that no place is truly remote in the 21st century global village.

### **Advantages of Village Life**

It represents the ideal life of which the poets sing. The life of villagers passes quietly. The works of nature surround the villagers.

The craving of children for the village is a sign that it is the most natural and healthful life for man.

- In villages the environment is peaceful. Villagers live a simple life.
- Villagers get abundant opportunity to enjoy the beautiful gifts of nature.
- People living in villages breathe pure air.
- People living in villages are healthier, active, and simpler in habits than the people living in towns.
- The quiet and peace of village life give opportunities for thought, study, and mental development, which are impossible in town life.
- The abundance on pine air, and the more healthy conditions of life, also establishes physical health and strength as town life can never do.

Thus, the rural populations are always the backbone of a village (Kiran 2016).

### **Disadvantages of Village Life**

The dwellers in the village miss the conveniences and opportunities of life in town. The educational advantages are often few and difficult to secure, and opportunities for work are far less than in the city.

Life in the village may become dull, and engender a lack of brightness and polish which puts the village people at a disadvantage beside the town dweller.

Ignorance, prejudice, and narrowness, too, are more characteristic of village than of town life (Kiran 2016).

### **South India Village**

South India is the area encompassing the Indian states of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana as well as the union territories of Andaman and Nicobar, Lakshadweep and Puducherry, occupying 19.31% of India's area (635,780 km<sup>2</sup> or 245,480 sq

mi). Covering the southern part of the peninsular Deccan Plateau, South India is bounded by the Bay of Bengal in the east, the Arabian Sea in the west and the Indian Ocean in the south. The geography of the region is diverse with two mountain ranges - the Western and Eastern Ghats, bordering the plateau heartland. Godavari, Krishna, Kaveri, Tungabhadra and Vaigai rivers are important non-perennial sources of water. Bengaluru , Chennai, Hyderabad, Visakhapatnam,Kochi, Coimbatore, Mysore and Thiruvananthapuram are the largest urban areas.

### **Historical Background of South India**

Tamils are a Dravidian ethnic group who speak Tamil as their mother tongue and trace their ancestry to the Indian state of Tamil Nadu, the Indian Union territory of Puducherry, or the Northern, Eastern Province and Puttalam District of Sri Lanka. Tamil people with a population of approximately 76 million living around the world are one of the largest and the oldest of the existing ethno-linguistic cultural groups of people in the modern world. Tamils comprise 24.87% [note 1] of the population in Sri Lanka, 10.83% in Mauritius, 5.91% in India, 5% in Singapore and approximately 7% in Malaysia.

From the 5th century BCE onwards, urbanization and mercantile activity along the western and eastern coasts of what is today Kerala and Tamil Nadu led to the development of four large Tamil political states,

Carbon dating on ash mounds associated with Neolithic cultures in South India date back to 8000 BCE. Artifacts such as ground stone axes, and minor copper objects have been found in the region. Towards the beginning of 1000 BCE, iron technology spread through the region; however, there does not appear to be a fully developed Bronze Age preceding the Iron Age in South India (Agarwal 2006). The region was in the middle of a trade route that extended from

Muziris to Arikamedu linking the Mediterranean and East Asia (Schoff 1912). Trade with Phoenicians, Romans, Greeks, Arabs, Syrians, Jews and Chinese began from the Sangam period (c. 3rd century BC to c. 4th century AD) (Landstorm 1964). The region was part of the ancient Silk Road connecting the Asian continent in the East and the West (Elisseeff 2001).

Several dynasties such as the Cheras of Karuvur, the Pandyas of Madurai, the Cholas of Thanjavur, the Satavahanas of Amaravati, the Pallavas of Kanchi, the Kadambas of Banavasi, the Western Gangas of Kolar, the Rashtrakutas of Manyakheta, the Chalukyas of Badami, the Hoysalas of Belur and the Kakatiyas of Orugallu ruled over the region from 6th century B.C. to 14th century A.D. The Vijayanagara Empire, founded in 14th century A.D. was the last Indian dynasty that ruled over the region. After repeated invasions from the Sultanate of Delhi and the fall of Vijayanagara empire in 1646, the region was ruled by Deccan Sultanates, polygars and Nayak governors of Vijayanagara empire who declared independence<sup>1</sup>.

### **Flora and Fauna in South India**

There is a wide diversity of plants and animals in South India, resulting from its varied climates and geography. Deciduous forests are found along the Western Ghats while tropical dry forests and scrub lands are common in the interior Deccan plateau. The southern Western Ghats have rainforests located at high altitudes called the South Western Ghats montane rain forests and the Malabar Coast moist forests are found on the coastal plains. The Western Ghats is one of the eight hottest biodiversity hotspots in the world and a UNESCO World Heritage Site (Levis 2007).

The region is home to one of the largest populations of endangered Indian elephant and Bengal Tiger in India. Elephant populations are found in eight fragmented sites in South India;

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<sup>1</sup> [\*"They administered our region". The Hindu.\*](#) 4 June 2007. Retrieved 6 April 2014.



in northern Karnataka, along the Western Ghats, in Bhadra–Malnad, in Brahmagiri–Nilgiris–Eastern Ghats, in Nilambur–Silent Valley–Coimbatore, in Anamalai–Parambikulam, in Periyar–Srivilliputhur and Agasthyamalai (Sugumar 1993). The region is home to one-third of the tiger population and more than half of the elephant population of India<sup>2</sup>. There are 14 Project Tiger reserves and 11 Project Elephant reserves in the region (Panwar 1987). Other threatened and endangered species found in the region include grizzled giant squirrel, grey slender loris, sloth bear, nilgiri tahr, nilgiri langur, lion-tailed macaque, and Indian leopard.

The traditional music of South India is known as Carnatic music, which includes rhythmic and structured music by composers like Purandara Dasa, Kanaka Dasa, Tyagayya, Annamacharya, Bhakta Ramadasu, Muthuswami Dikshitar, Shyama Shastri, Kshetrappa, Mysore Vasudevachar and Swathi Thirunal. The main instrument that is used in South Indian Hindu temples is the Nadaswaram, a reed instrument played along with Thavil, a type of drum instrument to create an ensemble (Doraisamy). The motion picture industry has emerged as an important platform in South India over the years, portraying the cultural changes, trends, aspirations and developments experienced by its people. South India is home to several distinct dance forms such as Bharatanatyam, Kathakali, Kerala Natanam, Koodiyattam, Kuchipudi, Margamkali, Mohiniaattam, Oppana, Ottamthullal, Theyyam, Vilasini Natyam and Yakshagana. The dance, clothing and Sculptures of South India exemplify the beauty of the body and motherhood.

My research area is Puducherry, Chennai surrounding villages. These surrounding villages are highly valued based on the vegetation. Huge amount of natural wealth supports south India to be a healthy state. Most of the Villages are greenery. Traditional life style was highly followed so still we can see the natural beauty.

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<sup>2</sup> Elephant Census 2005 (PDF), Ministry of Environment and Forests, 2007, archived from the original (PDF) on 12 March 2012,

I chose villages in Tamilnadu and Pondicherry for my project. This mission completely done Tamilnadu and its surrounding villages. The next sub section describes the Tamilnadu and its villages.

### **Festival Beauty in Tamilnadu**

Among the ancient Tamils the practice of erecting memorial stones (natukal) had appeared, and it continued for quite a long time after the Sangam age, down to about the 16th century. It was customary for people who sought victory in war to worship these hero stones to bless them with victory (Subramaniam 1980). They often carry inscriptions displaying a variety of adornments, including bas relief panels, friezes, and figures on carved stone.

The most important Tamil festivals are Pongal, a harvest festival that occurs in mid-January, and Varudapirappu, the Tamil New Year, which occurs on 14 April. Both are celebrated by almost all Tamils, regardless of religion. The Hindu festival Deepavali is celebrated with fanfare; other local Hindu festivals include Thaipusam, Panguni Uttiram, and Adiperukku. While Adiperukku is celebrated with more pomp in the Cauvery region than in others, the Ayyavazhi Festival, Ayya Vaikunda Avataram, is predominantly celebrated in the southern districts of Kanyakumari District, Tirunelveli, and Thoothukudi.

In rural Tamil Nadu, many local deities, called *aiyyanārs*, are thought to be the spirits of local heroes who protect the village from harm (Mark). Their worship often centres around *nadukkal*, stones erected in memory of heroes who died in battle. This form of worship is mentioned frequently in classical literature and appears to be the surviving remnants of an ancient Tamil tradition. *Munis* are a group of guardian gods, who are worshiped by Tamils. The Saivist tradition of Hinduism is significantly represented amongst Tamils, more so among Sri Lankan Tamils, although most of the Saivist places of religious significance are in northern

India. The Alvars and Nayanars, who were predominantly Tamils, played a key role in the renaissance of Bhakti tradition in India. In the 10th century, the philosopher Ramanuja propagated the theory of Visishtadvaitam. Kambaramayanam is the Tamil version of Hindu Epic Ramayana, which was written by the Tamil poet Kambar during 12 century. The Tamil version is smaller than the original Ramayana written by Valmiki. It's not a translation but tells the story in a different perspective. Tamil Jains constitute around 0.13% of the population of Tamil Nadu<sup>3</sup> . Many of the rich Tamil literature works were written by Jains. According to George L. Hart, the legend of the Tamil Sangams or literary assemblies was based on the Jain Sangham at Madurai<sup>4</sup>.

### **Environmental tragedy in Villages**

During the last three decades, environmental issues have become increasingly important for human beings throughout the world. Environmental problems affect everyone, every sector, and every country depending on living conditions, structure of the sector, and the geographic and socioeconomic situation of the country. Environment protection is an important challenge for every community, whether small or large, rural or urban because its long-term consequences affect people's life significantly.

Environmental degradation is a major stress on community life in both rural and urban settings. In rural areas, ecological problems such as deforestation can wreak havoc on a community in many ways. Urban dwellers do not have the same direct link with the natural environment as rural people. The major environmental issues in urban settings revolve around land use and transportation, the quality and availability of water and sanitation services, air quality, solid and liquid waste management, as well as noise and the aesthetic role of the

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<sup>3</sup> "Census 2001 – Statewise population by Religion". Censusindia.gov.in

<sup>4</sup> "The Milieu of the Ancient Tamil Poems, Prof. George Hart". 9 July 1997. Archived from the original on 9 July 1997.

environment. For the peasant household the environment is about resources contributing directly to family livelihoods (water, forests, meadows, wild plant and animals, soils, etc). This distinction is not meant to deny rural dwellers the possibility of being conscious of worldwide ecological issues. Nor does it intend to give a false impression of uniformity in the role of particular resources in peasant livelihoods. Moreover, farmers seem more environmentally oriented than urban residents when their interests are threatened by economic development. Farmers tend to believe in stewardship of the land and conservation.

Environmental policies first concentrated on point source industrial pollution. Attention later shifted to nonpoint source surface and groundwater pollution where the agricultural sector was pin pointed as the main polluter of water. Therefore, the interaction between agricultural activity and the environment is unavoidable. The agricultural impact on the environment can be positive as well as negative. Farming may, for example, improve as well as destroy the fertility of soils or the diversity of biotopes and species. Agriculture, therefore, determines not only the ecological quality but also the aesthetic appeal of the rural countryside.

In south India particularly Pondicherry surrounding villages are highly polluted because of industrial waste. The road East coastal area there are several industries and companies running. In and around villages are highly polluted.

There are several precaution method Government of Pondicherry provides, though it is difficult maintain due to lack of awareness among community. When I visited Ousteri<sup>5</sup> lake which is 7km away from Pondicherry is gradually polluting. Birds used to frequently come from various continents. Birds stay there quite a number of days. Due to lack of river and low deep nowadays very small amount of birds comes to that particular river.

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<sup>5</sup> The century old man-made Ousteri Lake - also referred to as Osudu Lake - is situated about 10 kms from Puducherry town and has been recognized as one of the important wetlands of Asia by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) and it is the most important freshwater lake in the Pondicherry region. The structure of the lake is complex - consisting of water, wetland/marsh and mudflats; it acts as the single largest catchment of fresh water in Puducherry.



Ousteri Lake, Pondicherry

There are several river in Pondicherry. Gingee River, Guduvaiyar River, Malattar River, Pambaiyar River and Pennaiyar River are effectively crosses in Pondicherry region. Now most of the rivers does not have water due to lack of rain, drought. It happens not only because of lake of rain fall but also human's unawareness about the nature. People are living with sophisticated life which is against nature. Village is turning to empty land. No agricultural farming. Very limited farmers are ploughing and seeding their land form crop. There is no hard work. Everybody wants white color job. They come out from the village and settling urban side. These kinds of lifestyle spoil human kind and nature as well.

There are some hill stations in Tamilnadu still we can see some green field. When I visited Nilgiri Mountain Ooty for my research, I found fresh greenery fields and hills. Plenty of concrete buildings constructed in Town side. These places need to be protected and saved animals. Wild animals were rarely found these hill sides. Because of urbanization wild animals like Buffallo, monkeys and other forest animals migrates towards where nature makes them

happy. I made several art sketches in that place. Ooty<sup>6</sup> is one of beautiful hill station for tourists.



Outdoor art sketch at Ooty hill, 2016,

### **Personal Artistic Visit**

In this project firstly I prepared list of villages in Pondicherry and Tamilnadu in South India. These villages were listed based on their natural beauty and natural calamity. Out of listed villages, I understand that some villages are greenery and some are polluted due to industrialization. I decided to pay a visit all villages. Initially I started to go nearer villages in Pondicherry.

The first village which I visited village is Arumpartha puram. The surrounding area of the Arumbartha puram is greenery. Lot of rice field area surrounded by the coconut

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<sup>6</sup> Ooty, also known as Udhagamandalam, is a hill station in the state of Tamil Nadu, in southern India. Surrounded by trees, central Ooty Lake is a huge artificial expanse of water with pleasure boats. On the slopes of nearby Elk Hill, the Rose Garden is home to over 2,000 varieties of roses. The Government Botanical Garden, created in the 19th century, features ferns, orchids and a prehistoric, fossilized tree.

and Neem trees. It was quite artistic to practice art. Plenty of cows and bulls were grazing the grasses. Birds were sitting on the bulls shoulder. Some of the domestic animals drink the canal water. This atmosphere created heavenly feeling. Nature is supporting each other but human are breaking the relationship by cutting trees and other unnatural activities.

Generally Village is surrounded by various trees and rivers etc. Each and every natural creation is interlinked with each other. Their food cycle is regular. But human disturbed their food chain. It is unfortunate to notice that we human people don't understand the nature.

Human brain developed the society system at the same time it destroyed Nature. It is very essential to tune our life style towards healthy life without disturbing nature.



Farmers field Arumbarthapuram Village, 2016





During art process and interview with farmer, 2016

I started to draw the beauty of the fields. A farmer 53 year old Mr. Thoppulan from Othyampattu village was ploughed his field. I had great chat with him about the village people's simple lifestyle. He further explained about the rice field and his farming life history i.e how they are suffering without water, the difficulties in pesticides, struggle for money etc. I expressed my happiness by encouraging their interest in nature and their farming activities even they are facing lot of practical problems. Farmers are main bone to the entire human community. Farmed products might be sold either to a market, in a farmers' market, or directly from a farm. In a subsistence economy, farm products might to some extent be either consumed by the farmer's family or pooled by the community. So that farmers will definitely get benefits.



I made several drawings in that Othyampattu village. After the Othyapattu village visit, when I returned to home I came across the concrete building city where there were no birds and green fields. It was a contradictory environment. I realized that villages are the heaven. Villages are the precious place for wealth nation; it is the place which provides healthier society. As our father of our nation Mahatma Gandhi says “India lives in villages and agriculture is the soul of Indian economy”. Nearly two thirds of its population depends directly on agriculture for its livelihood. Agriculture is the main stay of India’s economy. It is our duty to save our land.



At Velliangiri Mountain, Tamilnadu. June 5<sup>th</sup> 2016

On 5<sup>th</sup> of June I started to visit some villages in Tamilnadu. There are several villages which are not polluted in Coimbatore. One of the villages near Vellyangiri forest is exposed me the spiritual feelings in a natural method. Jakki Vasudev the founder of Isha Yoga center designed the idea to the spiritual transformation from body to mind

through nature. Jakki Vasudev is a good environmental supporter. He has planted thousands of trees around the state. His explanation about the gift of nature is attractive and he encourages planting trees. I visited Velliyangiri Mountain for project reason. The Isha temple was surrounded by the mountain. There was real feeling of spirituality. Plenty of trees and artistic environment created with the nature. I made several drawings on the spot. From there I moved to Ooty one of the best hill station in Pondicherry. Hills, waterfalls, eroded stones, slopes, tea plants scenes were documented in the form of drawings. One of the very interesting moments was that I visited an artistic hut of tribes temple. This temple was situated near the greenery grass bed. The moment I saw the natural situation, I was amazed and immersed in my art work. This environment had been photographed for my project.

### **Environmental cleaning campaign**

In continuation of my project journey, on 3<sup>rd</sup> of July, 2016 I and other team members of "Save Nature for Safe Future" did cleaning campaign in Ousteri Lake, Pondicherry. The century old man-made Ousteri Lake - also referred to as Osudu Lake - is situated about 10 kms from Puducherry town and has been recognized as one of the important wetlands of Asia by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) and it is the most important freshwater lake in the Pondicherry region. The structure of the lake is complex - consisting of water, wetland/marsh and mudflats; it acts as the single largest catchment of fresh water in Puducherry. Our team's litter picking campaign gave me energy to do more service to the welfare of

community. The beauty of unpolluted Lake Scene had been drawn and documented. I understand that lot of cares must be taken to preserve water resources.



On the spot painting at Ousuterry Lake



Save Nature for Safe Future team, Ousutery

## **Art Works Created during the Project**

### **Art works**

The following art works had been made during last 6 month. All works were created based on the conservation of Nature. I used different medium to create art works. Mediums were selected according to the concept. These works were exhibited in a different art exhibition and shows.

I have made several drawings and paintings in past half yearly project. Wherever I visit villages, I used to go with my art kits. The environmental issues was photographed and painted in various mediums like Water colour on paper, Acrylic colours on paper and canvas, Oil painting on canvas, Charcoal drawings and other possible mediums. All the works were made in both realistic and semi abstract forms. The high care had been

taken to show environmental issues. The relevant colours and materials have been used. I practice encompasses traditional media, new media and critical social forms of production. The work embraces a full range of landscape/environmental conditions from the rural, to the suburban and urban as well as urban/rural industrial. I was influenced by the American artist Robert Smithson. His Spiral Jetty (1969) environmental art work gave me lot of ideas for my art. In future I have planned to create art form within the field. During this project period I had an art exhibition at Kalinka Art Gallery, Pondicherry. Around 30 paintings had been exhibited. I received Good response and comments from the viewers.

As a researcher, I analyzed nature and its impact around the villages. Hot and worm colour depicts the dry or drought. Emotionally, I used the paint to show the tragedy of the environment. Some areas I have handled the pigment very softly to convey natural beauty. Technically acrylic paint supported for my concept. It dries very quickly and it supports me to bring my ideas quickly. The rough surface of the canvass supported me to execute the subject matter. Thin lines have been used in order to show the detail of the concept. Detailed areas are the main subject of the painting and rest merged with background. Both dark and light colours have been used. Dark tone depicts the tragedy of environmental issues and light tone portrays that the delightfulness of the nature. The artist involved very deeply during the art creation. Wherever I go outside to do art, I deeply involve with the villagers. I get information and do sketch on the spot then these preliminary sketches will be developed on the canvas.

During the art process, I tried with various suitable materials. For example, plastic bottles were used during the plastic awareness installation. These plastic bottles were

collected from the village lands. These plastic bottles were originally thrown by the people. I collected these bottles and used to create art works.

## **Conclusion**

Life is very short and sweet. It depends on how we are within ourselves. We all are in the evolution process. Millions of years have gone. After human evolution, there are tremendous changes in life in the earth. But nature always teaches good lessons. We human fail to understand because of modern life style adaptation. We all wanted to be happy but we destroy nature. It is really controversy. The great Tamil saint Vallalar Ramalingam once he mentioned that live with Nature and Nature is the God. To understand the secret of nature we human must preserve village as it is. Village is the treasure of human. It is the University of the Knowledge. Farmers are the real teacher who produces food for us. This research recommends that village must be taken care for human wealthy evolution. As an artist I believe that village gives energy to artists and other skilled people. It is our responsibility to keep clean our villages without any environmental issues. So animals, humans could live in the earth planet happily. So that evolution process could move reasonably to reach the ultimate truth.

Images

## Development of Art works stage by stage

Title: The Life of Nature 1



Title: The Life of Nature 2



Title: The Life of Nature 3



Title: The Life of Nature 4





Life of Nature -5



Life of Nature -6



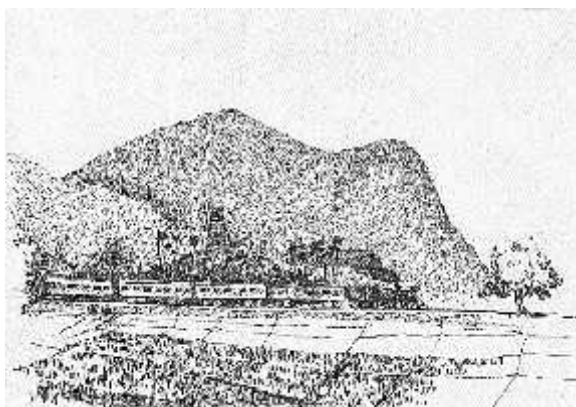
Out door sketches



Out door sketches



Out door sketches



Nature Boomes



## Experimentation and Creation



Trees



Flowers



Streets



Branches in the morning





Work at stage



Environmental installation



Tree is our Mother



Life alignment



Bodhi tree



Early Morning in the village



Blossoms



Study of Branch



Nature Art work



Nature Art work



Nature Art work



Nature Art work



Nature Art work



Nature Art work

### Abstract Creation



Village tragedy



Left out





Mesmerizing tree



River beauty



Work at Researchers Studio

## My Travel and Visit- Images

Art Exhibition in Puducherry



Art Exhibition in Puducherry



Art Exhibition Visit



Art Exhibition Visit



Environmental drawing programme



Environmental drawing programme





Environmental awareness cartoon art



Environmental awareness cartoon art



Outdoor Drawing



Out Door Drawing



Out door Drawing- Dam



Field visit - Mountain



Out door sketcj



Fild visit



Field visit in Village



Interaction with farmer



Field Visit- Out door drawing



Field Visit- Out door drawing





Field Visit at Perumukkal, Tamilnadu



Field Visit at Perumukkal, Tamilnadu



Maiyam Foundation, National Environmental Seminar



Coastal Environmental awareness Art work



Art show at Jipmer, Pondicherry



Scrap Art Workshop at Madurai Kamararj University





Scrap Art Workshop at Madurai Kamaraj University



Heritage preservation, National Seminar by Thazhi Foundation, Puducherry



Art show at 'I' Art Research Foundation



Art show at Kalinga Gallery, Pondicherry

In Delhi Art show- LKA, Jan 20018



In Delhi Art show- LKA, Jan 20018



In Delhi Art show- LKA, Jan 20018



Art show in France



Art show at Thapong Visual Art Centre,  
Gaborone, Botswana



Delivering Activities at I Art Studio

### Appreciations for my Art Activities during this project



Appreciation from Ex. Chief Minister of  
Puducherry



Appreciation from Art and Culture Secretary,  
Puducherry





புதுச்சேரி துறையில் நிலை பெறும் பொருள்களின் அளவிற்கும் பிராந்திய வரையறுக்கும் ஒப்பீட்டையும் குறித்துள்ள அலுவல், (அது பெறுவதற்கான) கட்டுப்பாடு முறையை, பெறுவதற்கான ஆட்சிமன்றம் ஒன்று கையாடப்படும் ஒன்று துணைகளை குறுக்குத் தகவல் மூலம் நாடுவதற்கு தகவல் அளவுகள்.

The exhibition, which has 45 paintings on display will run till January 31 from 10am to 7pm. On Sunday the artists will conduct a live demonstration of their work.





■ டில்லி லலித் கலா அகாடமியில் நடந்த தேசிய அளவிலான ஓவியக் கண்காட்சியில் புதுச்சேரி ஓவியர்கள் ராஜா, கோபால் ,சரவணன், சார்பில் வைக்கப்பட்டிருந்த ஓவியங்கள், பார்வையாளர்களிடையே வரவவேற்பை பெற்றன.



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