



Report

‘SWACHHTA PAKHWADA’

A Programme of

Spreading Message of Cleanliness Among Students and People of Our Surroundings

University Grant Commission

(Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India)

Field Visit to Perumalmalai

by

School of Historical Studies

15 September 2017

Acknowledgement

The faculty, Students and Scholars of School of Historical Studies wish to express their adoring and earnest thanks to our Honorable Vice-Chancellor and Registrar of Madurai Kamaraj University for providing a significant opportunity to the school to contribute for the welfare of the people of Perumalmalai village by the programme of 'SWACHHTA PAKHWADA.'

Executive Summary

On 15 August 2017, according to the direction of our university administration The School of Historical studies have been adopted a hamlet Perumalmai, which is being located 15 kilometers distance from proper Madurai and exactly few kilometers far away from the Madurai Kamaraj University. As fit into the name of the hamlet the region is obsessed by hilly terrain. Nearly a century ago settlements are emerged there, in either side of the hill, much closer to the foothills as called Perumalmali South and Perumalmali North. Most of the people who are settled there are previous labourers engaged into the works of mining the hill. In addition to that, in a very recent past, a new settlement called as Perumalmali Railway Colony have also been emerged exclusively with in-migrants of various places of the district. For administrative convenience the hamlet is being allocated under the jurisdiction of Karadipatty village panchayat in Thirumagal Block of Madurai district. The hamlet is entirely having sixty five households with population strength of 200 people (120 female and 80 male).

On 11.09.2017, after receiving the official communication, related to the Swachhata Pakhwada, from the university administration as a preparatory work the students and faculty members of the school convened a meeting to discuss and allocate the works which they planned to execute at Perumalmai. While of the meeting it was decided that the students and teachers were divided into six groups to execute the work.

On the same day the teachers and students of the school had visited the hamlet at around 3 p.m. to create a rapport with the villagers and to conduct a pilot study in which the lapses and needs of the people were orally recorded. On 12.09.2017 the students were allocated in groups to conduct individual interviews with a questioner in which nearly 48 were collected. On the afternoon of the same day the students and teachers were again assembled in the university premises to prepare seed balls and saplings which they intended to plant at Perumalmai. On 13.09.2017, the students and teachers of the school had nearly collected 600 saplings and 400 seed balls which they planted in and around of the village. The sapling plantation work was also continued in the next day (14.09.2017) too. After completing work the students were again engaged into the village to have interaction with individual people related to spread the message of cleanliness. The villagers of Perumalmai reciprocated the students and teachers very warmly. On

15.09.2017 the students and faculty members of the school again visited the hamlet to continue to spread the message with posters and other means.

Most of the villagers are working as casual laborers in unorganized sectors, mostly in construction industry and as drivers, in which their earnings could not be predicted. Simultaneously the elder female members of the families are also working in nearby agricultural farms for Rs. 30 to 50 as casual labour. Here too their availability of employment and emolument could not be predicted. Except in the railway colony, the houses what the villagers have been constructed in the hamlet are mostly not owned the plot. The hamlet is not having any basic facilities such school, primary health centre, anganvadi, market, ration shop or public transport facility. To prove this claim we could cite that the very first day the students and faculty members of the school had visited the hamlet by their walk because of non-availability of public transport. While of our interview we found that most of the adult male members of the hamlet are addicted to alcohol and tobacco. The female members of the family are expecting a way to out from the clutches of poverty and illegitimate social habits of their people and to have decent life.





