

Historical and Geographical Background of Chittoor Municipal Corporation, Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh, India

¹P. Muralidhar & ²Dr. M. Reddi Bhaskara Reddy

Research Scholar, Assistant Professor*

Department of Geography, S.V. University, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh – 517 502

Abstract: Chittoor town has been selected for the purpose of investigation and an attempt has been made to study the impact of urban growth on environment. Chittoor town has been growing at a faster rate and the Chittoor urban system is the second largest urban agglomeration in Rayalaseema region only next to Tirupati. Particularly during the last five decades the Chittoor town has been experienced an aerial expansion in terms of residential, commercial and industrial areas. The intra-urban transport network, public and semipublic functional zones within the city and changes in the number of parks and playgrounds and also the formation of slums all together have been led to many environmental problems.

Key Words: Origin, Historical Significance, Rain fall, climate

Date of Submission: 02-12-2019

Date of Acceptance: 18-12-2019

I. INTRODUCTION

Urban Geography as a distinct study is a developed branch of human Geography, dealing with the study of compact non-agricultural settlements mainly towns and cities. It concerns with the spatial dimensions of urban centers. i.e. their origin, location, setting, growth, function and relationship with each other within and outside its surrounding areas or zone of influence. As a science of human settlement, urban geography deals with the complex urban areas which possess sharp internal differentiation. It concerns about delineation of urban activities which are expressed in characteristic association of intensive land use and human occupancy features. Though Chittoor town, with reference to its origin, can be classified as a riverside town, the term and the importance of the same is very much insignificant except when specifically related to a particular phase of early urban development.

Historical Significance

Jean Baptiste Tavernier, a French traveler and Jewel Merchant who visited Chittoor in 1652 described the place as very pleasant and cool and rich in streams and fountains, but at present it became a poor one due to the consequences of man's ruthless destruction of forests and wild beasts.

Chittoor is situated in a strategic position flanked by Kannada and Tamil regions. The Chittoor abounds in several pre-historic sites. Tools of Paleolithic age are found in several places in Chittoor town and surrounding areas. The remains of Mesolithic age were also found in Chittoor, Vayalpad, Sadum and Govindareddipalli villages near Chittoor.

Several dynasties tried to have control over the Chittoor region as it was strategically located. The present day Chittoor district came under the control of Mauryas. Later, it was under the control of the Sathavahanas whose rule lasted for more than four centuries from about 230 B.C. Later, it came under the control of Pallavas and Renadu Cholas. Inscriptions of Renadu Cholas were found in the district. Later Chittoor came under the control of Pallavas in the 4th Century A.D., the Banas in A.D. 820, the Vadambas, the Nalamba Pallavas in A.D. 878, Chalukyas of Kalyani in A.D. 973.

The association of the Cholas with Chittoor district continued for decades. Pandyas and Yadavarayas succeeded in controlling this area. The district then passed under the Rayas of Vijayanagar. Four dynasties, namely, Sangama, Saluva, Taluva and Aravidu ruled the region from A.D. 1336 to the last quarter of the 17th Century A.D.

The district passed into the hands of Mughals, Asafjahis, Nawabs of Arcot, Maratas and finally it came under the control of Tippu Sulthan in A.D. in 1766. In A.D. 1800, the Nizam of Hyderabad, Nizam Ali Khan ceded Ananthapur, Bellary, Kadapa and a part of Kurnool district to East India Company. Chittoor district was formed in 1911 with parts of the then North Arcot District and certain parts of Kadapa District which was ceded to East India Company by the Nizam of Hyderabad in 1801.

Chittoor figures quite prominently in the liberation of India from the British rule. 'Vandemataram' movement and 'Swadeshi' campaign were organized in Chittoor. Non-co-operation movement of 1920 saw the town seething with political activity. In the last week of September 1922, the Andhra Provincial Conference met at Chittoor and passed a Resolution recommending the boycott of councils.

Objectives

To present paper has assessed the status of geographical significance and Historical background of Chittoor Municipal Corporation. The present undertaking has set for itself the following important objective to examine the Constitution of Chittoor Municipal Corporation.

Methodology and Data

The data is collected from a variety of sources away from each other from Library Books, journals, census operation of India, government and private publications, the records of the Bureau of Economics and Statistics, and from the records of the district and Municipal planning departments.

Constitution of Chittoor Municipal Corporation

The Town Improvement Act was passed in 1865 to establish Municipalities in different towns of Madras presidency. The term 'Municipality' was officially used in 1884 only. Prior to that, the members of the Municipal Council were known as 'Commissioners'. In 1871, a new Act known as the Town Improvement Act III of 1871 was passed replacing the Act of 1865. the Town Improvement Act of 1871 was superseded by the Madras District Municipalities Act of IV of 1884. Chittoor was constituted into a municipality on 9th January 1917 under the Madras District Municipalities Act of 1884. The council was re-constituted in 1921-22 under the Act of 1920 when the strength of the council was fixed at 16 of which 4 were nominated Under the Amendment Act of 1930, the town was divided into 15 wards.

The strength of the council was increased to 20 which five seats were reserved viz., two of Mohammedans, one each for Indian Christians, Adi Dravidas and women. The strength of the council was increased to 21 during 1947-48. It was classified as Grade II Municipality in 1950. The strength of the council was increased to 24 in September 1952. Due to the increase in population, the strength of the council was increased to 28 in 1967, of which 3 were reserved for women and two for the scheduled castes. Besides, the council is having two ex-officio councilors and two alderman. At present, it maintains 34.45 kilometers of roads, a second-class traveller's bungalow, 22 elementary schools and 3 Secondary schools and 4 parks. The area of the municipality is 33.57sq.km.

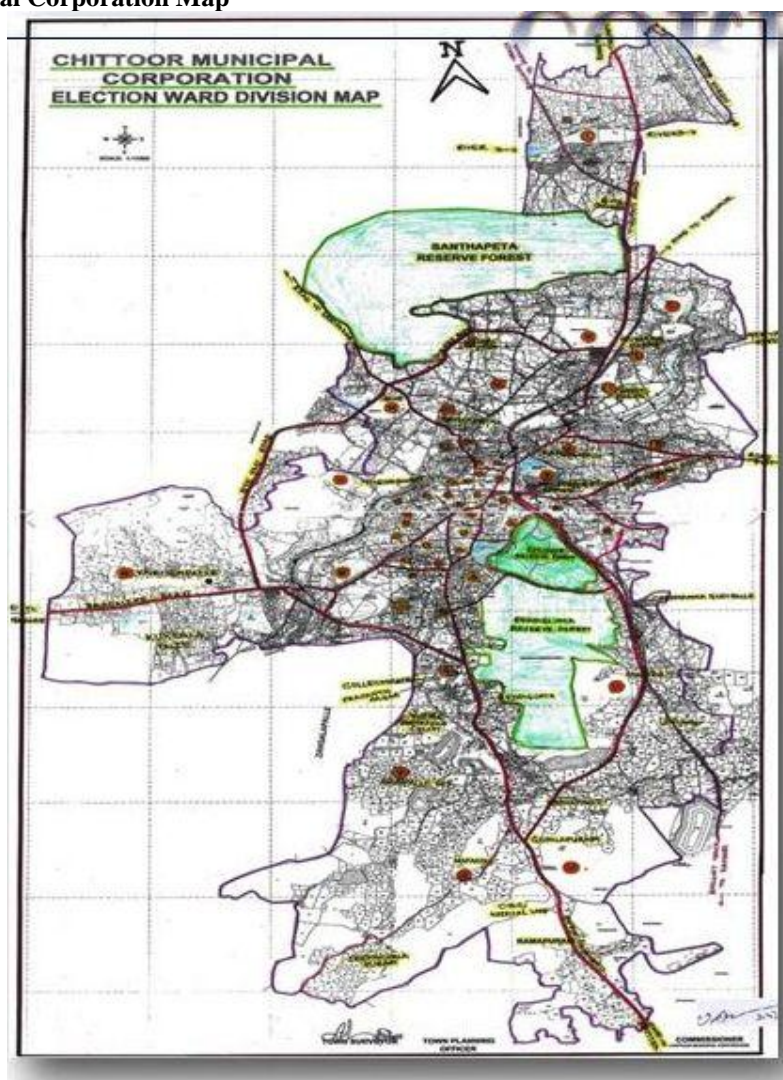
The following is the brief time line of Chittoor Municipal Corporation.

- ❖ 1917 Constitution of Municipality
- ❖ 1950 Upgraded in to Grade II Municipality
- ❖ 1965 Upgraded into Grade I Municipality
- ❖ 1986 Upgraded into Special Grade Municipality
- ❖ 2000 Upgraded into Selection Grade
- ❖ 12th July 2012, Upgraded into Municipal Corporation

Education in Chittoor Municipal Corporation

Chittoor Municipality, since its inception in 1917, maintained six elementary schools, four for boys and two for girls, earlier these institutions were under the management of Municipality in 1917. In addition to these schools, there were 14 elementary schools run by private institutions. On the advice of the District Educational Officer, and the Deputy Inspector of Schools, night schools were started for the children of working class in 1920. Apart from the children of labourers even elders also joined these schools. Due to great demand, the number of night schools was increased to 6 by 1928. There were also separate schools for Adi Dravidas and Muslims. There were 15 High Grade teachers and 30 lower elementary grade teachers working in these schools. In 1961, as per the orders of the Government, compulsory education was introduced by 1969, the Municipality maintained twenty two elementary schools, out of which one was upper primary school and three, secondary schools. Out of twenty two elementary schools, twelve schools were special elementary schools taken over from the private managements.

Chittoor Municipal Corporation Map



Primary education

The primary school is the real centre of elementary education and the primary and fundamental unit in the vast organization working to achieve the aim of total literacy for all boys and girls of school-going age. An attempt was made by the Madras presidency to liquidate illiteracy. The council, in desiring to realize the objective established and maintained number of primary educational institutions from time to time. As stated earlier the municipality obtained/inherited six primary schools from the Local District Board. By 1920, the Municipality established three more schools raising the number of primary schools to nine. Of these nine schools six for boys including one night school and three for girls. The total number of pupil in these schools was 1,700. By 1924-25, the strength in the primary schools increased to 2,341. The council granted Rs 5000/- for constructing a building for Mohammedan Elementary School in 1917. Owing to the strength and demand for greater facilities for education pupils beyond primary levels, a seventh standard in Chittoor girls schools and fifth standard in Santhapet school were opened. By 1929-30, the number of elementary schools increased to fourteen.

GEOGRAPHICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF CHITTOOR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Spatial location, site, situation and their importance

Geography concentrates attention upon the setting or towns (Smalies, 2002). In describing the geographical context of a town it is desirable to distinguish different aspects of position which may be designated as location, site and situation. A background of these factors is essential for a proper perspective of the historical, political and other economic forces which shaped the growth and morphology of Chittoor.

Chittoor town, one of the ancient towns of Andhra Pradesh state, is also the second largest town in Chittoor District, next to Tirupati town (according to 2011 census, it ranks 13th position in Andhra Pradesh state and 5th position in Rayalaseema region). It is situated at a height of 394.5mts above MSL, covering an area of 33.54 sq.km with the population of 3,20,567 (2011 census). It, of course, happened that the urban character both in respect of size and function was emerged by the growth and accretion about a pre-urban nucleus at the tri-state junction of Bangalore-Chennai Highway (NH-4) and a railway station on the Renigunta – Katpadi line of Southern Railway. The town is located 13° 9' to 13° 16' N & 79° 3' to 79° 8' E and occupies a position in the southern most part of Andhra Pradesh state at a distance of 150 km. from Chennai (the capital city of Tamil Nadu state) and 180 km. from Bangalore (the capital city of Karnataka state) Metropolitan Cities. It is served both by Railways and Roadways. It is connected with Karnataka and Tamil Nadu with a good network of roadways. The Chennai-Mumbai trunk road and the Chennai-Bangalore National Highway pass through this town.

The city has grown on the banks of the river Ponnai in almost star-shaped pattern in the midst of beautiful hills and hillocks all around eastern parts (The Eastern Ghat ranges entered the district as Seshachalam hills and the world's famous Sri Venkateswara Temple is situated on these hills in Tirupati-Tirumala with a name 'Edukondalu' means 'Seven Hills'). Some element of this wider setting got altered in course of time and others, while remaining permanent features of the scene, change in their significance for life and development of the town.

Chittoor is pre-eminently unilingual district because Telugu is the official language spoken by 70 per cent of the total population. In addition Tamil comes the second, and Urdu, Kannada, Lambadi, Marathi, Malayalam, Hindi, Korava, Yerukala was also spoken by people. The Telugu language spoken in the district has some admixture of Tamil words and the intonation seems to be slightly more elongated and differs from those of the people living in Nellore and Kadapa Districts (The border districts of Chittoor).

As stated earlier the town has a population of 3,20,567 (2011 census). It is expanding at a rapid rate and hence the sex ratio of 1000:1002 as compared to ratio of 1000:992 in the State, as of 2011 census. The literacy rate of the city is 90.6 per cent. Chittoor city was upgraded as Municipal Corporation in 2012.

Chittoor is the district capital and hence had a number of Government institutions. It is predominantly an agro-market place of the district. It is a market centre for mango, grain, sugarcane, peanut and milk. Industries include oilseeds and rice mills are famous. As the entry point for huge cluster of industries located in adjoining Vellore district, especially Ranipet and strategically located in between Chennai and Bangalore highway.

It is quite common to see thousands of men and women from Chittoor travel to Tirupathi, Ranipet and Vellore for work and for education. State Government's initiatives to develop the district making use of its proximity to two major business centers of the country-Chennai and Bangalore, is expected to improve the economy of the district as well as Chittoor to a great extent.

Rainfall

The geographical conditions of India play a crucial role in influencing the climate because they determine the direction of monsoon winds and their intensity. Rainfall in India is mainly dependent in different degrees on the southwest and northeast monsoons. In view of the importance of monsoons as the main source of rainfall in India, several studies have been carried out and many explanations regarding the origin and maintenance of southwest monsoon have been offered (Flohn 1960). Yet the underlying mechanism of the southwest monsoon system is extremely complex and not fully understood. The seasonal conditions during the southwest and northeast monsoons vary in different degrees. There may be some short-term and long-term fluctuations in the onset, advance, retreat and intensity of their activity depending upon the height above mean sea level (MSL), distance from the sea, general configuration of the topography, moisture capability, physical barriers and its latitudinal expansion. Due to these reasons the characteristics of rainfall vary both spatially and temporally with major effect on crop farming and cause enormous hardship to the people. Due to the diversity of relief in the district/town and climatic conditions particularly the rainfall differs seasonally and regionally to a great extent. As said earlier the location of Chittoor Town in the southeastern fringe of Andhra Pradesh, its varied surface configuration, its somewhat nearness to Bay of Bengal Coast, the direction of prevailing winds, all combine to generate climatic environment with wide variety of characteristics.

Climate

The four most important requisites for the successful development of a region, and agriculture are water, air, sunlight and soil. Variations in incidence of the first three are connected with climate; which constitutes the most important single resource that determines the growth and development of a town. As stated earlier that Chittoor Town is predominantly an agro-market place of the district. It is a market center for mango, grain, sugarcane, peanut and milk. Industries include oilseeds and rice mills are famous in this area. The climate

of any region is not determined by a single climatic element, but by the combination of other climatic elements like temperature, humidity, wind, rainfall etc. Hence a sound knowledge of these elements and their effect on growth and development is therefore essential.

II. CONCLUSION

Therefore, the analysis of the setting of the city of Chittoor, and its importance reveals innumerable variants and individual peculiarities in respect of the conditions that have determined the location. Thus, the city has developed as a commercial as well as religious centre. Tracts of flat-land adequate for the layout of factories and for indispensable buildings have also exercised importance. But, in some directions, natural depressions and slight ruggedness due to rocky outcrops limit the extension of the urban growth.

REFERENCES

- [1]. Sampath M.D, Chittoor through the Ages (Delhi, 1980), P.p. 1-3.
- [2]. Sampath, M.D. Chittoor through the Ages, (Delhi, 1980), Pp.4-5.
- [3]. R.A.D. of the Madras presidency for the year 1917-18, p.141.
- [4]. Administration Records of Chittoor Municipality, 1966-67, GO. 1342, M.L. & M, dt: 15.6.1967, p.18., Administration Records of Chittoor Municipality, 1970-71, G.O No. 1852, M.L. & M dt18.47.1971, p. 35.
- [5]. G.O.No.141 M.L.&M; Municipal Administration, 1961.
- [6]. The Madras Elementary Education Manual: Printed by Govt. Press Madras:1940,p.53
- [7]. Sangam age : The literature produced by the ancient Tamilian poets, popularly known as "Sangam Literature."

P. Muralidhar. "Historical and Geographical Background of Chittoor Municipal Corporation, Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh, India." IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Science (IOSR-JHSS). vol. 24 no. 12, 2019, pp. 01-05.