

A VISIT TO THANJAVUR CRAFT CENTERS

A Field Visit Project Report

Submitted to

A.V.V.M.SriPushpam College (Autonomous), Poondi, Thanjavur.
(Affiliated to Bharathidasan University, Thiruchirapalli.)

**For the partial fulfillment of the degree of
Master of Arts in English Literature**

Submitted by

I-M.A STUDENTS

**Under the guidance of
Dr.S.Kanagaraj, M.A., M.Phil.,Ph.D.,**



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STUDENTS UNDERTAKING THE FIELD VISIT PROJECT
SUMMARY

Department: ENGLISH

Name of the Students:

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19ENA304	MOORTHY K
19ENA305	ARUN M
19ENA351	GEETHAPRIYA S N
19ENA352	DURGADEVI S
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19ENA356	SUVETHA D
19ENA357	ELAKKIYA V
19ENA358	SIVAGAMI M
19ENA359	TAMILMANI R
19ENA360	KARTHIKA M
19ENA361	KARTHIKA S
19ENA362	SOWNDARYA S
19ENA363	PAVITHRA T
19ENA364	DEVAKI S
19ENA365	GAYATHRI M
19ENA366	PRIYA N
19ENA367	RAMYA G
19ENA368	SOWNDARYA A
19ENA369	VINITHA N
19ENA370	VARSHINE P
19ENA371	SALINI S
19ENA372	KOUSALYA U
19ENA373	ARUVIYA V
19ENA374	KARKUZHALI D
19ENA375	JAYAMANI R
19ENA376	KAVI ROJA P
19ENA377	PORSELY K
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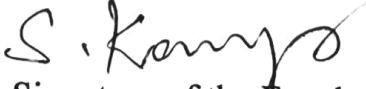
Name of the Faculty Guide: Dr.S.Kanagaraj. M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D.,

Project Title: A Visit to Thanjavur Craft Centers

Objective of the Project: To enhance reinforcement among the students in experiential and know about handcrafts and their developments.

Outcome of the project: Students enrich their opportunities for social growth and personal growth.


Signature of the HOD


Signature of the Faculty/Guide.

THANJAVUR ARTICLES

Thanjavur (Tanjavur or Tanjore) is a temple site in the Tamil Nadu region of southern India. Thanjavur was the capital of the great Chola (Cola) king Rajaraja I, and it was he who commissioned the site's magnificent temple, the Brihadishvara, in the early 11th century CE. Many other temples and shrines were added over the centuries making Thanjavur one of the most important and most visited historical sites in India today. Thanjavur is listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site.

Etymology

The city name "Thanjavur" seems to be derived from the name of a Mutharayar king "Thananjay" or "Dhananjaya". Thananjaya(Dhananjaya)+Oor=Thanjavur. Kalamalla stone inscription (the first stone inscription) was done by Renati Chola king Erikkal Muthuraju Dhanunjaya Varma of 575 CE According to local legend, the word *Thanjavur* is derived from "Tanjana", an *asura* (giant) in Hindu mythology who was killed in what is now Thanjavur by the Hindu god Neelamegha Perumal, a form of Vishnu

History

There are no references to Thanjavur in any of the Sangam period (third century BC to fourth century AD) Tamil records, though some scholars believe that the city has existed since that time. The Cholas came to prominence once more through the rise of the Medieval Chola monarch Vijayalaya (841–878) in about 850. Vijayalaya conquered Thanjavur from the Mutharayar king Elango Mutharayar and built a temple dedicated to Hindu goddess Nisumbhasudani When the Chola Empire began to decline in the 13th century, the Pandyas from the south invaded and captured Thanjavur twice, first during 1218–19 and then during 1230. During the second invasion, the Chola king Rajaraja III (1216–56) was exiled and he sought the help of the Hoysala king Vira Narasimha II (1220–35) to regain Thanjavur. Thanjavur is believed to have been conquered by Kampanna Udayar during his invasion of Srirangam between 1365 and 1371. Deva Raya's inscription dated 1443, Thirumala's inscription dated 1455 and Achuta Deva's land grants dated 1532 and 1539 attest Vijayanagar's dominance over Thanjavur.

Thanjavur was successfully conquered in 1674 by Ekoji I (1675–84), the Maratha feudatory of the sultan of Bijapur and half-brother of Shivaji (1627/30–80) of the Bhonsle dynasty. Ekoji founded the Thanjavur Maratha kingdom which ruled Thanjavur till 1855. The Marathas exercised their sovereignty over Thanjavur throughout the last quarter of the 17th and the whole of the 18th century. The Maratha rulers patronized Carnatic music. In 1787, Amar Singh, the regent of Thanjavur, deposed the minor Raja, his nephew Serfoji II (1787–93) and captured the throne. Serfoji II was restored in 1799 with the assistance of the British, who induced him to relinquish the administration of the kingdom and left him in charge of Thanjavur fort and surrounding areas. The

kingdom was eventually absorbed into British India in 1855 by the Doctrine of Lapse when Shivaji II (1832–55), the last Thanjavur Maratha ruler, died without a legitimate male heir. The British referred to the city as Tanjore in their records. Five years after its annexation, the British replaced Negapatam (modern-day Nagapattinam) with Thanjavur as the seat of the district administration. Under the British, Thanjavur emerged as an important regional centre. The 1871 India census recorded a population of 52,171, making Thanjavur the third largest city in the Madras Presidency. After India's independence, Thanjavur continued as the district headquarters.

Economy

The major occupation of the inhabitants of the city is tourism and service-oriented industry, while the traditional occupation is agriculture.

Thanjavur is known as the "Rice bowl of Tamil Nadu". Paddy (unmilled rice) is the crop and the other crops grown are blackgram, banana, coconut, gingelly, ragi, red gram, green gram, sugarcane and maize. The total percentage of land fit for cultivation is 58%. There are three seasons for agriculture in Thanjavur – *Kuruvai* (June to September), *Samba* (August to January) and *Thaladi* (September, October to February, March). The total rice production has been maintained at 10.615 L.M.T and 7.077 L.M.T. The city acts as a focal point for food grains transported from the adjoining areas of the Cauvery Delta. Organic farming is gradually becoming known to the farmers of Thanjavur. To maximise agricultural produce, organic farming is being implemented. Though agriculture is the main economic activity, only 7% of the population is involved in it. There is a lot of agricultural related trading that forms the key economic activity in the city.

Thanjavur is an important centre of silk weaving in Tamil Nadu. There were 200 silk weaving units in the city in 1991 with around 80,000 people working in them. Thanjavur is also famous for the 'Thalaiyatti bommai' or 'Dancing dolls' which is a doll made from clay, wood or plastic. The sarees produced in the villages surrounding Thanjavur are sold in Thanjavur and neighbouring towns. Increasing production costs and competition from large-scale producers have reduced the number of people involved in the production. The city produces bell metal craft like Thanjavur metal plates, bronze images bowls, napkins and powder boxes made of copper and bronze. The city is a major manufacturer of pith works consisting of models of Hindu idols, mosques, garlands and other bird figurines. Manufacture of musical instruments like veena, tambura, violin, mrithamgam, thavil and kanjira is another economic activity in the city.