**REIMAGINING THE GOOD CITY FROM ENNORE CREEK**

Interview Notes

**Interview details**

Interviewers: Raju K.

Place of interview: Sadayankuppam

Date of interview: 17 May, 2022

Geo Coordinates: 13.186570 N, 80.291893 E

Notes by: RK (No Voice recording, Only Notes taken)

**Interviewee Information**

Names: Anonymised

Pseudonyms: Uncle

Sadayankuppam is a remote village that had only one street light before 30 years. Now we live peacefully, but in the past there was dominance of the ‘Mudhaliyar’ community (/caste) in our village.

Since I was 10 years old, I was playing football with elders aged 30-45 from our village and still continuing the sport and also teaching boxing to the community children to divert them from drugs, as we see an increase in drug use in the area. We four youngster decided to initiate boxing coaching in our place which I learned from my Uncle.

Now only limited elders are playing football.

We play football regularly in the village ground called Ambedkar Selection ground which we made it usable, earlier it was a poor place to play football. This ground belongs to a temple on the bank of the Sadayankuppam lake. There are 3 other grounds inside of the Sadayankuppam village, in which the private owners used to conduct cricket tournaments called Kingfishers ground, which earlier used to be agricultural land and now no agriculture is done due to salinity intrusion in groundwater. Earlier, 25 years before there was good paddy production at the same place, from which me and my uncle (Mama) used to get the paddy from the field to our house in bullacarts. Our team is called ‘SK boys’. There would be many Ambetkar photos, drawings and flags in our place as we are a Scheduled community.

The surplus water from Puzhal lake would drain into our village lake and then join the river and later to the sea. The ground opposite to the lake would be flooded for 3 days and maximum for a week and the situation would be normal.

In 2015 the Sadayakuppam was heavily flooded. All the houses were flooded upto 8 feet higher and our village was fully flooded for 4 days to 1 week. Many people were moved out of the village, some were able to protect themselves, whose house has a terrace and 5 families went to church terrace as their houses were fully flooded and they didn't have a terrace. Each family would have 7-8 members. Two people died in the Sadayankuppam village in 2015 flood. Both were carried away flooding water as the level of flood was higher than their height. Government served us food, which was very poor and many parties helped us at that time.

Most import issue we face in this village is the unemployment and though there many small factories with in this village, we are finding it hard to get job as the job opportunities are given to the north Indian Migrant workers (Hindikaaranga) as they work for minimum wages and the we demand fair wages to factory employers, which they find it as higher wages. Another thing is we don’t have transportation access to this place as there are no government transportation services. Many youths are unemployed and even most of the educated youth in our place are also unemployed.

There was news that our place is going to have a 400 acre dam. But we won’t let the government evict our place if we are asked to evict. The British people have mentioned about our community's resistance to their imperialism in a book, the book is with someone from our community and I also heard that our village name is mentioned in the ‘10 kannu bridges’.