

HISTORICISING THE ISLAND: THANTHONNI THURUTH

**Dissertation submitted to the
Post-Graduation Department of History, St. Teresa's College Ernakulam
(Autonomous) in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of
MASTER OF ARTS IN HISTORY**

By

ANAHA ROBERT

M.A. HISTORY (2021-2023)

REG. NO. SM21HIS002



**DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
ST. TERESA'S COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS)
ERNAKULAM
March 2023**

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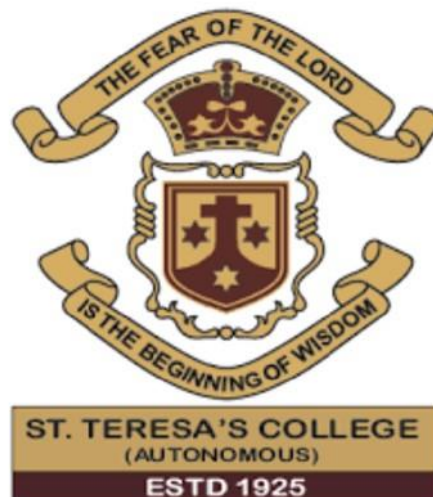
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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the dissertation entitled “**HISTORICISING THE ISLAND: THANTHONNI THURUTH**” submitted in the partial fulfilment of the requirements for M A Degree in History, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam is a bonafide work done by **ANAHA ROBERT** under my supervision and guidance. In addition, it is certified that this project or any part of this has not been previously submitted elsewhere to adjudge any degree, diploma or other title or acknowledgement.

Head of the Department

Supervising Teacher

Submitted to viva- voice Examination held on At the Department of History, St. Teresa’s College, Ernakulam.

Name and signature of Examiners

- 1.
- 2.

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this dissertation work entitled “**HISTORICISING THE ISLAND: THANTHONNI THURUTH**” is an original work done by me under the supervision and guidance of Ms. Mintu Judson Lecturer of Department of History, St. Teresa’s College, Ernakulam, and I have not submitted this project to any other universities for the award of any degree or diploma.

Place: Ernakulam

ANAHA ROBERT

Date:

St. Teresa’s College Ernakulam

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ANAHA ROBERT

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INTRODUCTION

In this dissertation I would like to deal with thanthonni thuruth which is a small island in the still waters of Kochi, Ernakulam which is just 1.5 km from the heart of the city, sea promenade. Thanthonni thuruth is one of the Goshree islands. This place of Goshree islands complete Vypin island, Vallaradam, Bolgatty, Mulavukad island, Kadamakkudy and a set of small islands placed in Lake Vembanad. The island of thanthonni thuruth is situated on the Vembanad Kayal which is close to the Arabian Sea. The small island is made up of sixty-six families who rely specifically fishing for their livelihood. Isolation makes it harder in an emergency, without a clinic or connection to the mainland. The first promise of a bridge became made to them in 1992 and it has still not longer materialized. The Goshree Island Development Authority [GIDA] was created out of the Greater Kochi Development Authority [GCDA] in 1994, government agencies for planning the development of the Goshree islands. The principle objective of GIDA is to broaden the infrastructure of the islands scattered in and around the town of Kochi.

Thanthonni thuruth is a 200 year of history in the heart of the Kochi. It was a favourable spot for the business men from Mumbai. Later the locals arrived. The island located in Kochi is still accessible to the city only through certain routes. A bridge or road connecting Kochi has been a long-standing demand of the island's residents, which has yet to materialize. The title of this work is 'Historicising the island: Thanthonni thuruth'. I hope to bring an awareness regarding lack of developments in thanthonni thuruth. This scenic island has a history of more than two centuries. Charcoal production for various purposes in Kochi was done at thanthonni thuruth island. Charcoal was exported to Sri Lanka through Kochi port. The natives come to the island for the construction of these, and later their generation settled on the island. In ancient times, there were only four houses. Thanthonni thuruth is an isolated island inhabited by fishing families. The island is about 100 acres. There are no shops, markets, dispensaries, schools, etc in this island. Although it is an isolated village, 66 families live on this island. The total population of this island is 270. The island got its name 'Thanthonni thuruth' meaning that every person owns a canoe. 'Than' which means individual and 'Thoni' meaning canoe.

Majority of the people are engaged in fishing and other related activities and daily wage labour for livelihood. 90 percentage of the households belong to below average income category. Only 10 percentage can be classified as middle class. Although the island comes directly under Kochi cooperative, the infrastructure provided by the government is not satisfactory. Earlier,

Thanthonni thuruth was under mulavukad grama panchayat. 2015 fulfilled the long-standing demand of islanders for a new boat jetty. As thanthonni thuruth island is surrounded by water, most of the residents use the ferry service. Most people in the family have their own canoe. Development facilities in the transport sector are very poor. The only means of transport available to the islanders are waterways with poor quality facilities. Water ways have always been an important mode of transportation in Kerala. Although Ernakulam district is full of waterways, they are underutilised. Private partners also play a special role, but this is very trivial. Inland waterways are an economically viable sector that reduces cost and time and therefore should be an integral part of infrastructure development in Kerala. There are no other means of travel apart from ferry services and hence disruption of services will affect the residents of the area significantly. Now the study of socio-economic contours of the island is relevant. My project study focuses on the social and economic profile of the island and the government policies related to the improvement of inland navigation services. Difficulties and problems due to inadequate river transport in thanthonni thuruth of Ernakulam district are relevant in this context because the disruption of the water transport sector on which the people are totally dependent will affect their lives and even daily life.

This project comprises of three chapters as the early historical study of thanthonni thuruth, social and economic profile of thanthonni thuruth, current detailing of the island thanthonni thuruth. The first chapter of the project deals with the historical background of the island and the geographical features of Ernakulam and its cochin islands. The second chapter covers the social and economic aspect and the third chapter covers the current issues, the struggles they had conducted and the government approaches toward them.

OBJECTIVES

- To study the socio- economic profile of thanthonni thuruth
- To understand the governmental policies that have been taken regarding water transportation in thanthonni thuruth.
- To suggest possible solutions to improve transportation facilities in the region and find out the problems of water transportation faced by the people of the island.

METHODOLOGY

Methodology used in this dissertation deals with both the primary data and the secondary data. Main method of the data collection is the interview method, books, newspapers, gida report, online sources. Interviews is produced from the politicians, temple authorities, etc.

ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY

The study is proposed to be organized under five chapters as below –

1. Chapter I – Introduction
2. Chapter II – Historic backdrop of the island: Thanthonni thuruth
3. Chapter III– social and economic profile of Thanthonni thuruth
4. Chapter IV – current detailing of the island: Thanthonni thuruth
5. Chapter V - Conclusion

CHAPTER 1

HISTORIC BACKDROP OF THE ISLAND: THANTHONNI THURUTH

In the First chapter i would like to deal with historical background of Thanthonni Thuruth, including geographical features of Ernakulam and its islands of Kochi. Ernakulam district become shaped on 1st April 1958. The district is called after the erstwhile Ernakulam city, the name of which in flip is stated to were derived from the phrase Hrishinagakulam a tank within the well-known Shiva temple in the city. Approximately 30 kilometres from North to South and 48 kilometres from East to West the district is bounded through 46.2 kilometres. Coast line of the Arabian sea at the West, Kottayam and the Alappuzha districts at the South, Idukki on the East and Thrissur at the North. It lies between range 90° and 42' to 10' 18' 00" and longitude 76° 12' 00" to 76° 46' 00".

Periyar and Muvattupuzha are the principal rivers of the district of which the former flows through Thodupuzha, Muvattupuzha, Alwaye, Kunnathnadu and Parur taluks. The Chalakuddi river which flows through North Alwaye also joins Periyar at Alanthikara. The rivers Thodupuzha, Kallayi and Kothamangalam join together to shape Muvattupuzha river. All through rainy season those rivers are complete and the low-mendacity region of the banks are tormented by heavy floods, however within the summer time they typically move dry and slim. The sea coast on this district falls entirely in Cochin Taluk, Cochin harbour that is a first-rate herbal harbour is also situated on this taluk. Malippuram and Njarakkal in Vypin Island are open avenue stead. The main islands are Willingdon Island, Vypin, Raman Thuruth, Cheriya Kadamakkudi, Bolgatty Island (Ponjikara), Vallarpadam, Valiya Kadamakkudi, Kumbalam, Panangad, Chellanam, Nettoor, Pizhala, Kankattuthuruth, Korampadam, Cheranellur and Chathannur. Maximum of these islands are very small in length extending from less than 1sq kilometre to 4sq kilometre. There are shipping centres to a lot of these islands.

Agriculture constitutes the most important segment of the district's economy and it is the biggest supply of employment. Approximately 70 in step with cent of the geographical region is underneath cultivation. Rice, coconut, lemon grass, rubber, pepper, ginger, mango, cashew nut and so on., are the maximum essential agricultural produce of the district. More or less 40 in line with cent of the total cultivated location is under paddy and 25 in step with cent underneath coconut. Commonly 3 crops of paddy are raised yearly- Viruppu, Mundakan and Puncha and there is any other system called Pokkali which is odd to the district. Beneath this

gadget best one crop maybe taken in 12 months after harvest suitable types of fishes are grown within the fields that is extra profitable. The ocean along whole coast of the district and the backwaters abound in fish of various sorts presenting great natural centres for both marine and inland fishers. Cochin is an ideal area to provide help to fisheries in its numerous things like trading, research and improvement. Ernakulam occupies a critical area a few of the districts of Kerala within the point of literacy and educational standards. There are fine centres for training from pre-primary degree to publish graduate stage and for expert and technical training¹.

ADVENTURES TO KOCHI

Kochi is the second largest port city on the west coast of India, historically and geographically very special. It is also the largest safe fishing centre in Kerala. Kochi is the Southern centre of Vembanad backwater and Periyar River. Including the areas where the Vembanad Lake and Periyar River's southern tributaries meet, Kochi Bay has an area of about 256sq kilometres, and is a fine estuary, which is home to a large number of fish. Kochi is a major fishing centre blessed with many small canals, creeks, mangroves, shrimp farming, agriculture, paddy fields, small and large islands, etc.²

Kochi, one of the populous cities of Kerala, is a stunning archipelago placed inside the South Western coast of India. Presently the islands consist of Mattanchery, Willingdon Island, Fortress Kochi, Kumbalangi, Ernakulam and other outlying islands. Kochi is plentiful with geographic splendour. It is one of the few states within the country which is loaded with every herbal asset and bodily capabilities. 'From rivers, beaches, lagoons to hills and forests', the old fashion city has all of it. And this also makes Kochi become of the preferred tourists' locales each for country wide and worldwide travellers. Kochi is located at sea mouth of seven rivers that originates from the Western ghats and traverses. The lowlands, midlands and coastal regions of Kochi and in the end drains out in Arabian sea. Kochi is a small city on the northern tip of a land that is not greater than 19 kilometres lengthy and its width in some regions is even much less than 1.6 kilometres. The town is separated from India's land mass via estuaries of rivers of Western ghat and inlets from Arabian sea and this feature makes Kochi a herbal harbour. The location of the entire metropolis is approximately 88sq kilometres and a main

¹ Ernakulam Kochi| Kerala| State of Kerala| <http://www.stateofkerala.in/districts/ernakulam.php>

² Goshree Island Development Authority Report -Paper work

portion of Kochi lies at the ocean level. There are beautiful seashores and beaches in Kochi and the shoreline is set 30 miles.

Kochi has some beautiful backwaters that act as a famous vacationer spot inside the town and has been proclaimed as country wide water ways by way of principal government. The primary soil type is alluvium, brown sand, teri and other currently fashioned sediments. Alongside the sea belts and backwaters the soil kind is by and large hydromorphic saline soil. Rocks to be had within the vicinity are Charnockites, Archean, Primary Dykes and Gneisses. The Mangalavanam, positioned on the centre of this Urban city is a beautiful woodland locatthat draws a selection of migratory birds and is good for the boom of mangroves. Mangalavanam is an included chook sanctuary and this wild park has helped the Kochiites in tackling the developing pollutants-problem within the metropolis.³

ISLANDS NEAR KOCHI

- Willingdon Island
- Mulavukadu Island
- Vypin Island
- Vallarpadam Island
- Kadamakkudi Island
- Gundu island
- Kumbalangi Island

One of the satisfactory ferry locations in India, a greatest example of an synthetic island connecting Fort Kochi with Ernakulam, a historical island constructed at full swing in 1936 by means of then Madras governor Lord Willingdon and Engineer Sir Robert Bristo- The details of Willingdon Island is one of the maximum tremendous creations made by using humans to this point. A floating island that offers a scenic panoramic view of the entire land on the bangs of Kochi Lake and a famous evening vacation sport for vacationers travelling Kochi receives normally occupied through the human beings in and around Kochi. Constructed at first for facilitating entrances to cruises arriving at the Kochi port, it has now advanced into a prime

³ Geography of Kochi|Climate of Kochi|Physical features of Kochi,<https://www.kochionline.in/cityguide.amp/geography-of-kochi>

tourist enchantment these days. In conjunction with presenting picturesque views, it also affords a starting point for the backwater tourism of Kochi. A go to the island will be spell binding due to panoramic views of the lake, busy streets, steep homes with shopping department shops, delicious sea food restaurants, and era parks. The breezy wind and calm environment, absolutely enjoyable with a stroll over the bridge that connects the main land of Kochi to the island, is ideal for a hangout with its soothing ecosystem⁴. Mulavukadu, also recognised to domestically as bolgatty Island, is one of the islands that structures a few portions of the metropolis of Kochi, Kerala India. Vypin island and vallarpadam island lie on its west facet and vaduthala mislead its east. Mulavukadu is associated with Ernakulam metropolis and vallarpadaam by using the gosree connects and to boxterminal road at north aspect to interface with Kalamassery and Aluva facet. Mulavukadu had a populace of 22,845. Men comprised 49 percentage of the populace and ladies 51 percentage. Mulavukadu had an ordinary skillability price of 86 percentage higher than the country wide regular of 59.5 percentage. Male training changed into 87 percentage and women schooling become 84 percentage. 11 percentage of the population were beneath six years old.⁵ Vypeen, an island approximately 5km from Ernakulam metropolis, sprawls in an area of more than 25 km. it owes its origin to the heavy floods of 1341. Till the arrival of the Portuguese in the 16th century, the islands were inhabited by way of a small indigenous fishing community. The Portuguese brought Catholic religion with in the place. They setup many churches including the famous Church of Our Girl of Desire. The pallippuram fort become additionally build by way of the Portuguese in this island in setup with recent studies, the Portuguese legacy is still seen inside the dialect of a few Anglo-Indians in Vypeen. They use the earliest types of creole [a combination of three languages] of the Portuguese Language but its grammar is simulated by way of Malayalam. Beneath the have an impact on of the Portuguese, vypeen began to develop and is now one of the island with the very best density of population. Njarakkal is the commercial enterprise centre of vypeen. There are numerous unexplored spots inside the island which might be hobby to travellers. the light house at ochanthuruthu, with it is adjacent seashore, is one in every of them⁶. Vallarpadam is one of the islands that make up the metropolis of Kochi, Kerala, India. Its miles situated within the vembanad lake and has a populace of over ten thousand. An international box transshipment

⁴ Willingdon island| Trip2kerala| <https://tripzkerala.com/place/willingdonisland/>

⁵ Mulavukad Ernakulam| Kerala| India netzone| <https://www.helotravel.com/india/mulavukad>

⁶ Vypeen island| Kerala tourism| <https://www.keralatourism.org/kochi/vypeen-island-kochi.php>.

terminal is below construction right here. Vallarpadam is attached via the goshree bridges with the town of Ernakulam and vypin island. 70 percentage of the island consists of paddy fields; the economic system basically such as fishing with the aid of traditional methods and cultivation of rice. Vallarpadam is an island located west of bolghatty island in Ernakulam district. It's far about 3.5km in length inside the north south route. The goshree bridges connect vallarpadam and vypeen with the mainland at Ernakulam. St mary's church is the principal enchantment of the island⁷. Kadamakkudy island is a collection of 14 islands on the suburbs of kochi in kerala. It's far a surreal searching vicinity, round 15km far from the heart of Ernakulam. Kadamakkudy is made of 14 islands inclusive of pizhala, moolampilly, cheriya kadamakkudy, murikkal, kothad, chennur, chariyam thuruthu and valiyakadamakkudy. The nation state is a stay gallery of agricultural, sports, fishing and toddy tapping. Those islands are similary well-known for prawn farming⁸. Gundu island is the smallest of all the islands that constitute together the town of kochi. The region of this island within the returned waters of kochi is handiest five acres and the land is by and large included with coconut bushes. gundu island of kochi is available via boat most effective from the vypeen island that is located nearby. the gundu island at kochi has coconut trees all round it, there is a coir manufacturing unit on the island. And amazingly, it's far the simplest constructing on the gundu island in kochi⁹. Kumbalangi is an island village inside the outskirts of kochi town in the country of kerala, India. Located amidst backwaters, around 12km [75.mi] from the city. Center, Kumbalangi is a chief traveller attraction and is famous for it's Chinese language fishing nets. Kumbalangi islands is sixteen km² in area. It's miles located round 15km from the Ernakulam junction railway station and around forty km from the cochin global airport. Over forty thousand people live inside the village. In keeping with the census 2011, majority of the people are Latin catholic Christians who represent seventy-five percentage of the population, and additionally has a 96-percentage literacy price the primary career in kumbalangi is fishing, and there are over one hundred Chinese nets inside the backwaters that face the village. Groves of mangroves separate

⁷ Islands in Kerala| Vallarpadam Island| Holiday Landmark Blog| <https://www.holidaylandmark.com/blog/islands-in-kerala-vallarpadam-islands/>

⁸ Kadamakkudy is a surreal group of islands on the suburb of Kochi <https://www.india.com/travel/articles/kadamakkudy-is-a-surreal-group-of-islands-on-the-suburb-of-kochi>

⁹ Gundu island| Maps of India| <https://www.mapsofindia.com/kochi/tourist-attractions/gundu-island.html>

the land from the water, providing a breeding floor for prawns, crabs, oysters, and small fishes. It's miles home to fishermen, farmers, labourers, toddy tappers and coir spinners.¹⁰

THANTHONNI THURUTH

Thanthonni Thuruth is one among the many small Gosree islands contributing in the geography of Kochi city. Vypeen, Vallarpadam, Bolgatty, Mulavukadu, Kadamakkudy islands consist of Gosree islands. In Thanthonni Thuruth island people mainly depend upon fishing to earn their living. The name of the island comes from two Malayalam words, Than, means "a person", and Thoni, means "a country boat". It means a place where each person owns a boat for commutation. The island is connected to Mulavukadu island. Vypeen island and Vallarpadam island are located at the western side. The place called Vaduthala, a part of the Kochi suburbs, is at the eastern side. At the northern side, the international container Transshipment Road is situated. This road connects the Mulavukadu island with Aluva and Kalamassery areas. Mulavukadu island is in the proximity of Thanthonni Thuruth island. People from across religions and political affiliations live here in total harmony. The important tourist destinations of the islands are Bolgatty Palace, which was built by the Dutch colonizers and later took over by the British and the Marian Pilgrimage Center-Vallarpadam Basilica Church.

The island is two hundred years old and situated in the middle of Kochi city. Earlier it used to be a picnic spot for tourists from outside Kerala, especially affluent businessmen from Mumbai. After this, the local people inhabited the small island. Though the island is situated at the center of Kochi city and only 1.5km far from it, the inhabitants have limited ways to reach the city. To cross such a less distance, the islanders depend on country boats. They have been demanding for a bridge which connects the island to the city. Their demands were falling on deaf ears so far. As mentioned earlier, the history of the scenic island dates to hundred years¹¹. The island was the center of charcoal production in the city. In earlier days, people from the nearby areas came to this island for work in the charcoal factories. Timbers brought to this place to make charcoal and later they were moved to Kochi Harbour for shipping.

There are historical records that the charcoal produced in this island were exported to neighbouring countries like Sri Lanka. The four houses of the initial settlers eventually became

¹⁰ Kumbalangi | Kerala Tourism | <https://www.keralatourism.org/destination/kumbalangi-kochi-tourist-village/>

¹¹ Media One New The story of the 200-year-old thanthonni island in Kochi city center | <https://youtu.be/vltepy7Ggjq>

the 65 homes seen in the present day thanthonni thuruth. It is said that in the initial years there existed a beautiful garden in the island. Additionally, timbers brought to this place for building sea going vessels. Furthermore, it is understood from records that a pond for fisheries one stood here in the island. It is ironical that the inhabitants witness the city's splendor day and night but could reach the city only after travelling using boats or country boats run by state agencies, which is less frequent. It should be taken into consideration that the distance between the city, and the island is a mere 15km! the five generations of the island dwellers were commuting in the same way. They continue doing so even now. 65 families of the islands depend on fisheries for a livelihood, and they cannot afford expensive ways of transportation.

Without basic infrastructure and hospitals, the islands present a challenge to the people in situations of emergency. The island is under the jurisdiction of the municipal corporation of cochin. In the year 1992, the state government had promised the people, a bridge which would connect the city and the island. The promise did not get materialized yet the Gida [gosree islands development authority], as its name signifies, was formed in the year 1994 to ensure the infrastructure development of the gosree islands. Still the 100-acre island is without shops, markets, medical dispensaries, or even a school! It is such an irony that the islanders, though they are surrounded by water body, do not have facilities of drinking water. The biggest challenges they face are floods during monsoon and during hightide as the land is lying low. They are denied of facilities such as newspapers and even the postal service! Only ten per cent of the island is bareen land. Rest of the area comprises of cultivable land including paddy fields fishery.¹²

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The scenic Thanthonni thuruth has a history of more than two centuries. The island was the center of charcoal production in the city. In earlier days, people from the nearby areas came to this island for works in the charcoal factories. Timbers brought to this place to make charcoal and later they were moved to Kochi harbour for shipping. There are historical records that the charcoal produced in this island were exported to neighboring countries like Sri Lanka. It is said that in the initial years there existed a beautiful garden in the island. Additionally, timbers brought to this place for building sea going vessels. Furthermore, it is understood from records

¹² Media one news| despite the development of Kochi city| the locals are finding it difficult to travel to thanthonni thuruth| which is not far from the city| <https://youtu.be/h87xjJ3IRhk>

that a pond for fisheries once stood here in the island¹³. According to Bindhu Ajith, a native of thanthonni thuruth, the history of thanthonni thuruth is said to have come from the fact that the name Thanthonni Thuruth come from rowing a canoe by itself, that is why the name Thanthonni thuruth came to be. In the early days, this area was a desert-like river bed. The soil was such that if we walked, our feet would sink. In the early days it was a place with beautiful plants and flowers. In the early days there were only four or five houses.

The residents here were people who had been staying for generations. In the early days there were paddy fields here. Prawn netting has existed in thanthonni thuruth since early times. During the older days, rice was harvested in paddy fields. In previous days, everyone lived very cooperatively. At present 64 families live in thanthonni thuruth. In the early days, the mode of transport here was by boat. The boat service started around 1989. In the early days there were not government boats but private boats. The so-called government institution was an Anganwadi. anganwadi was located adjacent to the temple. Therefore, anganwadi was stopped for some time for public activities. Now the children of thanthonni thuruth go to anganwadi in Chittoor.¹⁴ According to Baby, “a native of Thanthonni thuruth, in the early days thanthonni thuruth were small bunds, the stones were attached to the side. It was converted into a footpath when people came and settled there. Thanthonni thuruth is located surrounded by backwaters on all four sides. During the older days, agriculture was the main means of livelihood of the inhabitants of thanthonni thuruth. In previous days there was much poverty.

In the early days, there was no irrigation here, so the irrigation method depended on bringing water from a place called pachalam by canoe. Similarly, irrigation was also dependent on a place called ponnarimangalam. during the older days there was rice cultivation. It's said that in the early days, timber was brought and traded. During the older days, the residents of thanthonni thuruth used to sell copra at home. It is said that the timber was collected and brought to the pond in this area, collected and sold. Similarly, in the early days, the residents of thanthonni thuruth collected soap from the companies and melted, poured into boxes, packed and sold. During the older days people from the area called korungotta in Chittoor vaduthala came and lived here. Korunkotta is an island like thanthonni thuruth. In the early days there were only a few people here and the residents have come and settled here for generations. The reason behind the name thanthonni thuruth is said to be a historical incident. During the olden

¹³ Media one news| <https://youtu.be/vltepy7GgJQ>

¹⁴ Bindhu Ajith| personal interview| age 49| resident of the region| 9th October 2022

days, when the foreigners came, the people who lived here were fishermen. Fishermen will put strings like a rope in the river and two people will go ahead by pulling these strings and the person behind will hold the canoe and sink to catch fish. When the rope is dragged, the fishes come down here, so they drive under the water to catch the fish. When the foreigner looked, the canoe was going by itself, then the foreigner told the person who came with him that the canoe was going by itself. That canoe came to this island and that is why it got the name 'Thanthonni Thuruth'.

During the older days there was no school. The early house was thatched house. The sides of the house were built of mud. There was no foundation and the floor was made with mud by hand. In the early days, the house was made of dung. There were very few houses. The early occupation of most of the people of thanthoni thuruthu was fishing. During the older days there was no education. Their livelihood in the early days was by catching fish, washing it, drying it and selling it in the market. Thanthonni thuruth a temple has existed in this area since ancient times but the temple has been developed in recent times. Prayers were performed with lit lamps. The majority of people in thanthoni thuruthu were Hindus. Two Christians lived in this area. There are two sects among the Hindus, dhivaran and pulayan. There was a 'kavu' here. This 'kavu' was located very close to the house. There was only one pratishtha and the goddess was the pratishtha. Large cotton leaves are usually found at the place where the deity sits, but only here were the pods"¹⁵.

According to Jaya, a native of thanthonni thuruth, a pillar in the history of thanthonni thuruth is their temple. Jaya says that till childhood i.e., till the age when they used to play, it was a small temple. There was a five house in the early days. At first thanthonni thuruth it was like a paddy field. During the older days there was agriculture in this area. It is said that this temple was brought here from 'Attu Puram kurishungal. a history says that in the early days a coconut tree was planted. There is a story saying that when a coconut sapling grew big it turned into three coconuts. This temple is said to be the pillar of thanthonni thuruth. 'Thullal has been going on in this temple since the early days. This was the temple where the thullal ritual and other rituals took place.

They were worshiped by the Naga king and Naga yakshi. The temple in the thanthonni thuruth is supervised by shanmuganada sangam. The supervision is done by the temple management

¹⁵ Baby Sukumaran | personal interview| age 70| resident of the region| 9th October 2022

committee. Election is held every year to elect the secretary as well as the president. Since the earliest times, the main ritual of the festival in the temple has been “kalamezhuthu pattu” as well as “Thullal”. The early house was a thatched house. Getting an education was very difficult in the early days. Education was difficult as there was no boat service. It is said that there was an incident in the past where a man died by sinking a canoe. There has been no school in this area since the early times till now. There was no boat service in the past, only after Gosree bridge came the government boat started coming here. There was a private boat from there to ponnarimangalam and from there to high court junction. During the older days people’s occupation was fishing and every household had at least one fisherman.

During the older days, the main ritual in the temple is ‘kalamezuthupattuu’ is performed for Nagathan. Similarly, ‘Guruthi’ is also performed there. The temple was built there only about a few years after the thanthonni thuruth area came into being. In the early days temple was very small. There was a banyan tree near the temple. Prathishtha was a mirror and was placed towards the west. It was a very small temple and there was no Nitya pooja. The festival will be conducted by medam tenth. If the saptangam starts on the first day of the month, the festival will be for three days.

In the early days, there would be a seven-day saptanga, starting from Aries 1. The festival will be five days after the dedication. After the re-consecration, it was a flag-raising festival for five days. Then it happened in the month of makara. The festival was karthika in makaram. Now the date changed after the reconsecration. The people of this place say that it is a very powerful temple that hears prayers if prayed to in any dangerous situation¹⁶. According to Ajith, a native of thanthonni thuruth, this area got its name from a thought that people who paddled canoes by themselves found their way of life during the British rule. There is a special way when the foreigner’s say it, they say thanthonni thanthonni and this area got the name thanthonni thuruth. Thanthonni thuruth is an island steeped in tradition. This is a place that has been partially filled with soil.

After the British rule a group called settu’s existed in this place. They ruled this island for some time. That is how they were brought here to look after the area and to keep the boats. In the early days, settu’s lived in thanthonni thuruth. during the older days thanthonni thuruth was a beautiful place. Gardens were all there in the early days. There were resorts for settu’s to stay.

¹⁶ Jaya Sudhakar | personal interview | age 68 | resident of the region | 9th October 2022

There were storage areas for the boats of those days. It is a very beautiful place that attracts foreigners a lot. The region has a historical tradition of almost two hundred years. During the older days no one would go to bolgatty palace. It is said that the beginning of this history is where foreigners were attracted to thanthonni thuruth. now the fifth generation lives here. during the older days there were four houses here. Thanthonni thuruth is said to be the wetland of Ernakulam district. The green zone of Ernakulam district is thanthonni thuruth. thanthonni thuruth got its name because it means that the people rowed the canoe by themselves to find their own way of life. In the early days there were small houses in thanthonni thuruth. In the early houses was thatched roof huts in thanthonni thuruth. it was only the recent times that they build tiled roof homes. During the older days, no one from outside came and settled here, the residents of thanthonni thuruth have been staying here for generations. It is said that thanthonni thuruth island was a hill in ancient times. The ancestors who were in thanthonni thuruth took soil from the lake and filled it, to build house and for agriculture. The people of thanthonni thuruth used to collect water from many places for water in the early days. The inhabitants of thanthonni thuruth lived in a very friendly manner. In the early days there were associations of men and women together.

In the past, no one except the Hindus occupied in the island. In ancient times no one had any education. In the early days in thanthonni thuruth there was barter system. They used to buy other goods in exchange for the rice it produced. In the work of sahodaran ayyappan the island of thanthonni thuruth is mentioned. But now there is a mangrove forest in the area of thanthonni thuruth which is said to have been washed in by the water. The mangroves were not planted by the people of thanthonni thuruth. In the early days there was also a coconut grove. There was an engineer in thanthonni thuruth there who had saved some coconut trees and saplings. K.s Radhakrishnan is a person born and brought up in thanthonni thuruth and he is a vice-chancellor. Historically there is a lot of tradion in this thanthonni thuruth¹⁷. According to Baskaran, a native of thanthonni thuruth, during the early days there was no electricity and drinking water. The settu's who settled here at first lived, in Ernakulam across the land. The natives from the thanthonni thuruth went to the settu's for the imploration of their basic requirement. The settu's who had strong dominance over the thanthonni thuruth island had and office in Ernakulam. Also they did in inhabited here due to lack of infrastructure and transportation facilities. According to Baskaran the island was acquire these settu's. settu were

¹⁷ Ajith Chunkkath| personal interview| age 58| resident of the region|9th October 2022

the vendors of timber. In the early days there is only less than 20 people inhabited in thanthonni thuruth , and their major means of occupation fishing and rice cultivation. Majority of the people were peasants, and fisherman. They didn't moved out of their land. They had their on occupation in recent times. Hindus were the only dwellers at the earlier period. It was said that the only Christian who lived in the Thanthonni Thuruth was near Kumaran homes who was an engineer, called Mathew'.

During the festival season every native in the island occupied and participated together. Most of the residents where thatched houses there are hardly any house for the company which was fitter than the thatched ones. The thatched house was constructed by the natives. During the older days people collect hundred coconuts leave from the coconut cultivators and these coconut leaves dried and used for making houses. Neighbours took part in the construction of the houses and they give kinds instead of money. It was an island were did not had any hospital services, if there is in case of any emergency it was difficult for them to reach medical service. A physician called paniparamban, who was the only physician in the island known for emergency treatment. since there was no transportation service canoe was used during the disaster took place, even now the situation is similar to older days. the native of thanthonni thuruth did not give importance to education therefore most of the people were uneducated. It's been 20 years after the construction of road for the transportation.¹⁸

REGIONS NEAR THANTHONNI THURUTH

Mulavukadu

Bolgatty

Pachalam

Marine Drive

Korunkotta

Mulavukad

Mulavukadu is a beautiful census town located in the Ernakulam district of kerala, south India. It is on the border of Ernakulam district and Thrissur district. it is situated at a distance of 9km

¹⁸ Baskaran | personal interview| age 80| resident of the region |11th October 2022

to the north from the district headquarters, kakkannad and 20km from vypin. the periyar river flows in the east of mulavukadu. The city is near the Arabian sea, so there is humidity in the climate. The local language of the Mulavukadu is Malayalam.

Mulavukadu is actually a beautiful island located in kochi bay. Bolgatty island is located at the southern end of the town. Hence mulavuakdu is locally known as bolgatty island. Vypin island and vallarpadam island are located on its western side and vaduthala on its eastern side. According to the 2011 indian census report, the population of mulavukadu in kerala is 22,845. 49 percentage of the population is male remaining 51 percentage is female. 11 percentage of mulavukadu population is below six years of age. The average literacy rate of mulavukadu is 86 percentage. this is higher than the national average literacy rate of 59.5 percentage. Mulavukadu is kerala has a male literacy rate of 87percentage and a female literacy rate of 84 percentage. Some interesting places in mulavukadu are St. Johns church, Emmanuel church mission station, Sri keraleshwara temple. bolgatty palace is located at the southern tip of the island. It was built by the dutch as a center of colonial administration and taken over by the british.¹⁹

Bolgatty

Bolgatty is another place located near thanthonni thuruth. An island in kochi known for its palace named bolgatty palace was built by the dutch in 1744 and eventually taken over by the british. It is the oldest palace built by the dutch outside the kingdom of holland. 1744- A dutch merchant built this palace. Later it was renovated with a beautiful lawn and many modifications. This palace served as the official residents of the dutch governor. 1909 this palace was bought by the king of kochi for the English east india company the palace was the residence of the british governors during the British rule.²⁰

Pachalam

Pachalam is another place located near Thanthonni thuruth. Pachalam is a place placed near the metropolis of cochin, kerala in india . Goshree bridge street at marine force aspect ends at pachalam. Pachalam can also be reached by chitoor road. Mulavukadu island is on its west, vaduthala and chitoor island is on its north, elamakkara at north east, mamagalam and

¹⁹ Mulavukad Ernakulam| Kerala |India Netzone| <https://www.indianetzone.com/13/mulavukadkerala.htm>

²⁰ Bolgatty Palace| Ernakulam district|<https://ernakulam.nic.in/tourist-place/bolgatty-palace/>

palarivattom is on its east, kaloor on southeast. It's also fantastically located among marine force, kaloor and edappally acting as a connecting hyperlink among the most critical places in kochi. Neighbourhood pachalam is the domicile of many influential and up-elegance human beings, although lately it has visible an upsurge in migrants settling down mainly in unauthorised, unlawful buildings and makeshift preparations within the area.²¹

Marine drive

Thanthonni thuruth is located just one and a half km from marine drive. Marine drive is a few of the maximum famous destinations in kochi. It is frequented through locals and visitors alike due to the staggering view of the backwaters and kochi harbour. The walkway is perfect to enjoy a walk at time of the day. There are numerous boat jetties along the way and the global boat jetty complicated is situated here as properly. At night, the great rainbow bridge involves life with colourful lighting fixtures and viewing it presently is particularly advocated.²²

Korunkotta

Korunkotta is another place located near thanthonni thuruth. Korunkotta is a rural area, it is surrounded by water on all four sides. 99 percentage of the people on the island depend on fishing for their livelihood. The means of transportation for the people of the island is the boat. It is very difficult for the people of the island to travel. The only way for the people of the island to go to Ernakulam is to come by boat up to vaduthala. Boat come to the island at intervals of 15 minutes. Since korunkotta is an island, the people of the island used to come to vaduthala to vote. From 2021, a booth system was introduced for the people of the island to vote. Korunkotta island was a hideout for political leaders in the early days. Due to the lack of a bridge to get to korunkotta, the politicians in the early days turned the island into a hideout. Although money has been sanctioned for the construction of a bridge from vaduthala to korunkotta, the construction of the bridge has not yet started. Most of the people of korunkotta island belong to the pulaya community. Korunkotta island has a boat jetty when the water metro comes in Ernakulam district. There is a small resort on korunkotta island. In korunkotta island,

²¹In top 10 place| pachalam| <https://in.top10place.com/pachalam-1969242292.html#.yo9zk1zsLcM>

²² Marine Drive kochi| Marine Drive Cochin Kerala India| <https://www.cochin.org.uk/tourist-attractions/godaisan-hill-html>

rice farming as well as shrimp farming are practiced by it's people as a means of livelihood²³.

In the second chapter I would like to deal with the socio-cultural geographical aspects and economical infrastructure of the Thanthonni Thuruth.

²³ Swarna joseph| personal interview| age 29| resident of vaduthala Chittoor| 9 October 2022 time

CHAPTER- 2

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROFILE OF THANTHONNI THURUTH

In the second chapter I would like to deal with the social and economic profile of thanthonni thuruth. The chapter mainly focuses on the social and economic profile of thanthonni thuruth in Ernakulam district. It includes etymology, geography, economy, social infrastructure, educational institutions, transportation, culture, sports, family pattern, occupational structure, tourism industry in thanthonni thuruth.

Thanthonni thuruth is an isolated island inhabited by fishing families. This island is about one hundred acres. There is no shop, market, dispensary etc in the island. Despite being surrounded by water they do not have enough water for drinking purpose also they are not connected with the outer region because newspapers and postal facilities not available hence they live in totally isolated. Even though it is an isolated village sixty-six families are residing on this island. The total number of houses is sixty-three and the total population on the island is two-seventy. The residents of Thanthonni thuruth, which falls under Kochi corporation, have been waiting for years to construct a bridge which connecting the Kochi city

During the high tide, when the lake rises to the shore, all the houses here are flooded. In the past, there was a tide here and the water used to enter the land. But that was only in Scorpio month but not like this now. The island floods at least twice a month. If the house gets flooded, everything is like hell. Households' items and valuable equipment will all perish. All the walls of the house will crack due to contact with salt water. The duration of the houses here is a maximum of fifteen years no matter how much money is spent.

To build a big house is a big headache for them and they have to use a service boat or an engine equipped fiber boat to cross the island to the city. It is difficult to get the necessary materials to build a house, but even if you build a house with difficulty, the walls of the house will begin to weaken as soon as two high tides come. It is a situation where even marriage is very difficult for young people here because outsiders are not interested in coming and living on this island. Many families have already fled from here at various times. The whole trip has to wait for the arrival of the boat to cross the island. It's just that those who have their own boat don't have

that much of a problem. Digging well is not practical here but they get piped water. But like in the other parts of the city, the water is not completely clean, but the water supply is going on here without any problems. Garbage is another issue. All the houses here are surrounded by mud and sewage. Garbage in the lake poses a great threat to its ecosystem. The decline in fish stocks is a reflection of that. The ancients say that once upon a time rice cultivation was done here. But the new generation looks upon such things with astonishment, for they find that the new soil of the island they see is no better for producing agricultural crops. The dream of the people of this. Island is the days when the houses will not get flooded.

THE NAME ADVENT IN THE ISLAND AS ‘THANTHONNI THURUTH’

According to Mr. Sugunan, a native of Thanthonni thuruth, Thanthonni thuruth is a small island situated on the outskirts of the backwaters of the Ernakulam city region, the island got its name “Thanthonni thuruth with the meaning that every individual owns a canoe. “Than” means individual and “Thoni” means canoe. Even though the island is just a few kilometers away from the high court junction which is the heart of the city, it is a place of the marginalized group.

The reason behind the name Thanthonni thuruth is said to be a historical incident. In the early days, when the foreigners came, the people who lived here were fishermen. Fishermen will put strings like a rope in the river and two people will go ahead by pulling these strings and the person behind will hold the boat and sink to catch fish. When the rope is dragged, the fishes come down here, so they drive under the water to catch the fish. When the foreigner looked, the boat was going by itself, then the foreigner told the person who came with him that the boat was going by itself. That boat came to this country and that is why it got the name ‘Thanthonni thuruth’²⁴

GEOGRAPHICAL STRUCTURE AND ITS EXPLANATION

Thanthonni Thuruth island is located in Vembanad backwater. The island has an area of about one hundred and ten. It is the nearest island to Ernakulam city. to the north is Vaduthala town and in the south lies the heart of Ernakulam city with high court and marine drive and both are approximately two kilometers away. Even though the cities are just two kilometers

²⁴ Sugunan| personal interview| age 58| resident of the region| 15th December 2022

away from the island, due to improper transportation facilities it takes 4.1 and 3.8 kilometers respectively to reach the city. The east is the Ayyappankaavu town and west is the Mulavukad town and west is the Mulavukad town which is only about one kilometer away from the island that now it takes 4.1 and 1.8 kilometers respectively.

ECONOMICAL INSTABILITY AND THE IMBALANCES IN THANTHONNI THURUTH

According to Sruthy, a native of Thanthonni thuruth majority of the people are engaged in fishing and other related activities and daily wage labour for livelihood. Ninety percent of the households belong to below average income category. Only ten percent can be included in the middle class. Both men and women go to work at home in the city. A small number are domestic workers. Whereas men are mainly engaged in fishing. Very few people depend on the service sector, most of the working class depend on fishing, agriculture and other related activities Daily wage earners are also seen.

Agriculture and allied activities exist such as fish farming and mainly shrimp farming. The Chinese fishing nets which are commonly known as “cheena vala” and fishing traps which are commonly known as “Meen koodu” which are used for fish cultivation. The sector does not attract investor confidence due to lack of proper transport facilities, and water ingress into buildings destroys industries so industrialisation is just a dream for them. Fishing is the main livelihood of the island. Many of them are traditionally engaged in this profession.

At the same time, people belonging to the new generation are moving away from this and into the new field of work. The people of the island are all middle class. There are no wealthy people on this island. The people of the island are all getting better now. Children of this generation are studying and getting jobs. Most of the people on the island are very hardworking. In the early days, shrimp farming was active in the island and still there is shrimp farming but not many people are interested. For the festival of vishu a tradition called “kettukalak” is celebrated by the people of this island associated with shrimp farm. After this owner of the shrimp farm will drain the water from the shrimp farm the next day all the citizens of this island come together to catch the fish using fishnets and bare hands.

On this island there are people who does their individual business. It was during 2022 that there was a cake business took place in the Thuruth by Sujith who is living there about 24 years. He has 10years experience in professional cooking he worked in Trivandrum, Ernakulam,

Kottayam, and he had worked outside the country like Dubai, Abu Dubai, after all these experiences gained, he started this cake business of his own. The speciality of the cake is that it is mostly affordable beside cake he has also sell desserts etc almost of the citizen from the region buys products from him. Again, duck farming is another business held here because Duck eggs is most prominent items one among them it was also a greatest dependency for income.

SOCIAL LIFE AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE OF THANTHONNI THURUTH

Although the island comes directly under the Cochin cooperation, the infrastructure provided by the government is not satisfactory. Before this Thanthonni Thuruth was under the Mulavukad grama-panchayath. 2015 fulfilled the long-standing demand of islanders for a new boat jetty. The new boat jetty developed by the district tourism promotion council (DTPC) was inaugurated on Thursday, January 29, 2015. There is a public water system but the condition of pipe connections is not good and it is not available regularly. This inadequate availability also causes water scarcity in the region during the rainy season. It is difficult to get water from the pipes due to sea water in tourism during monsoons. They also face daily problems of water entering their houses due to high tide. During the monsoons and sometimes high tide was to dredge up the slushy oil from the bottom of the waterways and dump it all over the island. The people are forced to clean their houses daily as the water enters the house. People find it difficult to avail the boat service during low tide.

Although there are roads and street lights in the village, the situation is very bad. The people face many problems to meet their urgent consumption needs. In this area there is only a small shop with small items like soap, biscuit, rice etc attached to a house. There are no ration shops or any other government aided shops or institutions like Maveli store, Triveni, Supplyco and so on. Most of the time people have to reach the city to meet their domestic consumption needs. Their ration shop is located at Pachalam. It takes forty- two minutes to reach there. The government has ensured sanitation facilities for the local residents. The government has sanctioned funds to build toilets for many families. During the rains, muddy water overflowed into the septic tanks, making the toilets unusable. And also, the salinity in the mud causes cracks in the houses and it affects the stability which will in turn become useless. Other facilities provided on the island the people suffer from lack of public

health centers or any other medical facilities residents of the island are suffering due to lack of access to emergency medical care. Pregnant women, the elderly and young children are more

likely to suffer from it. People have to reach the city by boat for any emergency medical services where emergency medical assistance is difficult to get. This poses a serious threat to the lives of the local residents of the island. Many deaths have occurred on this island due to lack of timely medical treatment. The islanders have to travel 3.9 kilometers and 48 minutes to reach the Lourdes hospital which is just 1 kilometre²⁵.

Table shows the nearby hospitals and health care centers of Thanthonni thuruth.

NAME OF THE HOSPITAL	PLACE
Lourdes hospital	Pachalam
S.b. dispensary ours clinic	Pachalam
Ours clinic	Vaduthala
Specialists' hospital	Ayyappankavu
Mulavukad hospital	Mulavukad
Primary health care	Mulavukad
Dr lixan Xavier	Mulavukad

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION THAT NATIVES DEPENDS ON

According to Swathy Lakshmi, a native of Thanthonni Thuruth there are no educational institutions such as school, colleges, or even a pre-primary school in this island. The children have to go to the city for education. Anganwadi is the only government institution in the island. Children are forced to travel across backwaters to another island called ponnarimangalam, mulavukad, or towns like Ayyappankavu, vaduthala and mainly to Ernakulam city for schooling.

The table shows schools within a 3 kilometers radius of Thanthonni thuruth.

²⁵ Sruthy Sugunan| personal interview| age 25| resident of the region| 15th December 2022

Name of school	Place
Hidayathul Islam high school	Mulavukad
St Sebastian's up school	Mulavukad
Holy nativity play school	Mulavukad
St francis anglo indian school	Mulavukad
St joseph's school	Mulavukad
Saint peters lp school	Vaduthala
Saint antony's school	Vaduthala

Children's education is another concern of people on the island now. Because there are no educational institutions on this island, they have to depend on other areas. But the rainy season and subsequent floods also affect the education of children on the island.

THE ADVANCED TRANSPORTATION TECHNOLOGIES OVER TIME

Thanthonni Thuruth island is surrounded by water so most of the islanders use the ferry service. Most people in the family own a canoe, women and children are skilled at rowing to their destination. But the island's ferry services are not available regularly and are available only ten times a day and the service is unreliable and sometimes cancelled. It is the only means of transport which makes life difficult for the islanders. There have been drownings and boating accidents on the island. Funerals on the island are even miserable due to the difficulty involved in ferrying the body to the crematorium at pachalam. Sometimes two boats have to be tied together but there are also incidents where the boat carrying dead bodies overturns. Development facilities in the transport sector are very poor. The only means of transport available to the islanders are waterways with poor quality facilities. Ferry service is available from 6 am to 10pm. The service starts from mulavukad in the morning. It covers mainly 9 jetties. The service is as follows, mulavukad jetty- kuruthotta jetty- panchayath jetty- sisly jetty- hospital jetty- ponnarimangalam jetty- thanthonni thuruth jetty- Ernakulam jetty. Apart from

this, at 12.00pm the same service is extended to Ernakulam main boat jetty and also it reaches east kuruthotta at 9.00pm from mulavukad²⁶.

In the news channel the Hindu, from the article “we are like rats caught in a trap, say thanthonni thuruth islanders” we understand that a terminal of the kochi water metro project has been proposed at Thanthonni thuruth. It is also hoped that the introduction of ferry services will improve water connectivity to the city and nearby islands. For as long as they can remember, their lives have been dictated by water. The residents of Thanthonni thuruth have lost count of the number of times the treacherous waters of the Vembanad have toppled their traditional boats, sometimes claiming the lives of fellow islanders. Or, of the times the water came gushing into their homes during high tide. And yet, the 60-add families of fish workers continue to depend on water for their livelihood.

Just over a kilometer away from the bustling marine drive, Thanthonni thuruth in the kochi backwaters cries for road connectivity. The only ways to travel to and from the roughly 110-acre island is through the ferry service operated by the Kerala state water transport department or in the rickety wooden beats owned by the islanders. Ferry service is irregular and sometimes cancelled. Then they have no other option but to rely on boats. Reji Ts says office goes and school children can never expect to be on time. Often, they are unable to reach workplaces and schools, he adds. His mothers’ eyes welled up when she talked of the time her beat capsized while taking her pregnant daughter to a city hospital.

Thankamma says that they were rescued by another big boat that came that way. Almost all islanders have a similar story to tell. Saptati Tilothama remembers the night her children helped her sick brother – in- low board a boat to go to town for treatment. But he did not reach the other side alive. A number of families have moved out due to poor living conditions, says Mr. Reji “this island is sinking”. We are like caught in a trap” says Mr. Kumar, adding that their long-pending demands for a bridge and an outer bund road have gone unheeded. Councillor Anza James says the corporation has approved the funds required for infrastructure development works on the island, but adds that no one is ready to carry out the works due to difficulties in transporting construction materials. On the islander’s demand for a bridge connecting Thanthonni Thuruth to Kochi city, Goshree island development authority (GIDA) project director Ramachandran says: “currently there is no such proposal before Gida. Almost

²⁶ Swathy Lakshmi | personal interview| age 29| resident of the region| 15th December 2022

ninety percent of the area is wetlands, he says. He added that the irrigation department has submitted a proposal for an outer bund or ring road around the island and is awaiting environmental clearance. A terminal of the Kochi water metro project has been proposed at Thanthonni thuruth and the commencement of ferry service is expected to improve water connectivity to the city and nearby islands. But it's been a long and painful wait for the islanders. Even if the bridge come, I am too old now to climb it but I want to die knowing that at least my children will have access to get out the misery we went through, says 89-year-old ratnavalli²⁷. In the present scenario, the ferries have an average trip length of 8.9 km as compared to the average trip length of 14.0 km for public transport, hence the proposed.

KWMP is essential for people's movement between the islands and the mainland. Currently the KSWMP is the main service provider of the water transport system in Kochi besides the various private operators and localized jangar services. Ferry services of KSWMP are operational between Ernakulam mainland, fort kochi, vypeen, mattancherry, embarkation, bolgatty, mulavukad, high court, vytilla, error and kakkanad jetties such as nettoor, edakochi, kumbalam, pizhala, moolampilly, thanthonni thuruth etc are operated by private ferry services and jangars. However, the water transport system has been in decline over the last few decades, with minimal investment and less technological upgradation, owing to following reasons:

- Depleting boat numbers.
- Low quality of boats.
- Lack of safety measures
- Lack of reliability
- Poor accessibility to the jetties

The boats/ ferries operated by the SWTD, private operators, tourism department and KSINC act as a principal link between the mainland and the islands. Majority of these boats are old and in a dilapidated state, due to which the water transport system is losing out on competing with the other road based motorized modes in the city²⁸.

The high court has directed the authorities to expedite the infrastructure development projects in goshree islands for improving road connectivity in the area. While considering two writ

²⁷ We are like rats caught in a trap, say thanthonni thuruth islanders| The Hindu News| C Sharika
<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/kochi/we-are-like-rats-caught-in-a-trap-say-thanthoni-thuruthislanders/article>

²⁸ Kochi water metro project report: paper work

petitions, one filed by KCYM pizhala unit and the other by the state legal services authority, a division bench consisting of chief justice S manikumar and justice shaji p chaly ordered the goshree islands development authority (GIDA), Kerala water authority (KWA) the state government, and respective local bodies to expedite the construction of the bridges and other allied works for facilitating smooth and efficient traffic within the goshree island areas. The state legal services authority sought the intervention of the court to address drinking water problems and to provide adequate medical facilities and transport facilities to the inhabitants of the nine islands in the area.

A new bridge connecting Moolampilly with Pizhala and Cheriyaadamakudi was opened in June 2020. However, smooth flow of traffic along the bridge has been hampered as the works on the approach roads are yet to be executed. It comes under the first phase of the Moolampilly-Chathanad road project, and the work on the entire project is yet to be completed. Delay in acquiring land is cited as one key impediment to the speedy implementation of the project. Moreover, compensation and rehabilitation packages will have to be given to the residents who will be dislocated. The bench stated that the Pizhala bridge has been opened for the public during the pendency of the writ petitions, and therefore it is clear that though the directions sought in the petitions have not been completed in its entirety, substantial progress has been achieved in the project implementation.

“We are also of the opinion that the state has a duty and obligation to ensure that the fundamental rights guaranteed under the constitution are extended to the inhabitants of the islands”, the bench said, adding that the related works required for securing the basic amenities of the islanders should be expedited on a war-footing. The government and respective agencies are also directed to find sufficient resources required to complete the projects envisaged for the development of the nine panchayats in the goshree area, the bench said. The GIDA area includes fort vypeen part, gundu island and thanthonni thuruth, which fall under Kochi corporation and kuzhuppilly, pallipuram, edavanakadu, nayarambalam, njarackal, elamkunnappuzha, Mulavukadu and kadamakkudy panchayats. Though it is pointed out that the water metro will largely address the travel issues of the inhabitants, road network is expected to provide faster access to the city, especially during monsoon²⁹.

²⁹ Speed up infra projects, officials told| the times of india|https://m.timesofindia.com/city/kochi/speed-up-infra-projects-officials-told/amp_articleshow/80797113.cms

The table shows the timing of the ferry service from Mulavukad jetty to Thanthonni thuruth jetty to Ernakulam (marine drive) boat jetty

Mulavukad	Thanthonni Thuruth	Ernakulam
6.00am	6.30am	6.45am
7.40am	No service	8.15am
No service	8.30am	8.45am
10.10am	10.30am	10.45am
11.15am	11.45am	11.55am
2.00pm	2.30pm	2.40pm
3.15pm	3.40pm	3.50pm
5.00pm	5.30pm	5.40pm
7.10pm	7.25pm	7.35pm
9.10pm	9.30pm	9.35pm

The table shows the timing of the ferry service from Ernakulam (marine drive) boat jetty to Thanthonni thuruth jetty to Mulavukad jetty

Ernakulam	Thanthonni Thuruth	Mulavukad
6.50am	7.08am	7.30am
8.15am	8.25am	No service
9.10am	9.25am	10.00am
10.45am	10.55am	11.15am
1.10pm	1.30pm	2.00pm
2.45pm	2.50pm	3.15pm
4.20pm	4.35pm	5.00pm
6.10pm	6.30pm	7pm
7.45pm	7.55pm	8.25pm
9.35pm	9.45pm	10.00pm

CULTURAL STIGMAS IN THE ISLAND

According to Sujith a native of Thanthonni thuruth, the traditions and customs of the local people can be traced back to religious belief they follow. Most of the people are Hindus and the island has a small temple “Sree Rudhiramala Bhagavathi temple”. The temple consists of various deities like sree rudhiramala bhagavathy, yakshiyamma, ellathamma, bhuvaneshwary devi, sreemurugan, Ganapathy, shiva and so on. There are a president, secretary and treasurer for the temple. Festivals and celebrations are associated with this temple. Religious practices are mainly associated with this temple.

Other minority communities consist of Christian, Muslim communities but the Muslim community is insignificant. So, there are no mosques or places of worship to practice their religion. They are forced to cross the backwaters to Ernakulam and other places for religious purposes. ‘thullal’ has been taking place at sree rudhiramala bhagavathy temple since ancient times. Lord naga and nagayakshi were worshiped in Sree Rudhiramala temple. The temple is supervised by Shanmukhanandha Sangam. A secretary and a president are elected annually.

‘Kalamezhuthu pattu’ is performed by nagathan. There was no daily worship here. The festival will be held on the 10th of medam. There is a banyan tree in the temple which was sacred mirror. It was placed towards the west. There are two categories in the caste, dhivaran and pulayan. The main temple here belongs to the dhivara community (scheduled caste). There will be a five day or two-day festival in the temple. Earlier it was seven days. if the saptangam starts on the first day of the month the festival will be for three days.

IMPORTANCE OF ARTS AND SPORTS

Sports are held on the island. In the other places of Ernakulam when ‘vallamkali’ most common art competition was carried out, in representation of Thanthonni thuruth a raft also participated from earlier period. It was carried out just before the covid era. But now non-interested population residing in this island has resulted in the end of this competition³⁰. According to Rejitha, a native of Thanthonni thuruth, the art of thanthonni thuruth island is kaikottikali or onamkali. Kaikottikali is a game that is played with the same mind from young children to old people. The way one of the major artforms of their region kaikottikali is played is by clapping their hands while participants themselves sing the songs while they play this artform. ‘Kaikottikali’ is a game played with different steps, from small children to the elderly everyone plays kaikottikali or onam together, regardless of gender. This is a hand clapping game found only in Thanthonni thuruth island.

‘Kaikottikali’ is a game that has been handed down from generation to generation. ‘Kaikottikali’ is a game played from atham to makaram on onam. During the Malayalam month chingam according to the Malayalam calendar, from ‘atham’ till ‘makaram’ days these art form to performed by the local people. If there is a festival in the temple kaikottikali is played or Thanthonni thuruth people play it during festivals. Kaikottikali is generally played at night. Around 10 to 12 midnight, ‘kaikottikali’ is played. Kaikottikali is played during gatherings of locals.

Folk songs would be worship songs to say the songs that are sung. For this ‘kaikottikali’ art form the natural beat that which is obtained from clapping their own hands had itself helped the participants to performance the art song sung at the beginning of the ‘kaikottikali’ will be

³⁰ Sujith Sugunan | personal interview| age 38|resident of the region|:28th December 2022

a praise song and the song sung at the end of the 'kaikottikali' will be kummiyadi. Kummiyadi is played between two pairs. A praise song begins by praising lord ganesha³¹.

FAMILY AS AN INSTITUTION IN THANTHONNI THURUTH

According to Sumesh a native of Thanthonni thuruth, in the early days they lived in the island as a joint family but now they do not live in the island as a joint family now they all live in different houses. Living in other areas on the island itself. It was not like this in the past when the members of the family lived in the same house. In the early days, the houses on the island were all thatched houses, later the people renovated the houses and built them. Those who got married as well as those who left after getting married stayed in the joint family. But now the people of the island live as a nuclear family.

Children of the same father get married and move to other places. All the people of this island live in love and friendship with each other. The people of the island live by helping each other during any celebrations and wedding ceremonies, which makes this island special.

OCCUPATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND THE PATTERNS FOLLOWED

Most of the people of Thanthonni thuruth island depend on fishing for their livelihood. Farming was done on the island in the early days, but now everyone here is more focused on fishing. Most of the island's women are employed. The women of the island wash and dry the fish caught by their husbands and sell it in the Ernakulam market. Most of the men are engaged in fishing. In the early days it was very difficult for children to go to school. But with the introduction of government boat service children also go to school without delay. Women on the island mainly go to work in urban households and a small number are domestic workers.

28.9 percent are homemakers, 20 percent are students, 15.6percentage are laborers and other sections, 13.3 percent are self-employed and the rest 15.6 percent involved in government services. The income of the people of the island is about 60 percent of the people's income category is 0-5000. 35.6 percent population 5000 to 10000 2.2 percent from 10,000 to 25,000 and 25,000 to 50000 ,0 percentage of 50000 and above³².

³¹ Rejitha Sugunan | personal interview| age 50| resident of the region| 28th December 2022

³² Sumesh Ajay| personal interview| age 51| resident of the region|28th December 2022

TOURISM INDUSTRY IN THANTHONNI THURUTH

In the news channel news 18, from the article “A responsible tourism village in the making we understand that as part of promoting tourism, the district tourism promotion council (DTPC) is planning to develop Thanthoni thuruth island, 430 meters off the coast of Kochi, as a responsible tourism village, said DTPC secretary jayashankar. The aim is to develop the village, which has a population of at least 150 people, into an area where tourists can come, fish and cook their own food under the supervision of the island’s locals. “We found a spot on the island a few meters from the shore that could potentially be promoted as a fishing zone, especially. Because of its large population of prawns and other fish, ” Jayashankar said. However, there are no plans to touch the coast for this tourism project, he added. “Some houses in the village can also be converted into home stays. Local residents can be trained to give tourists the experience of the village, he said.

Jayashankar added that the tourism department has been directed to revive Anganwadi as a community center. Tourism officials said the idea would give city dwellers a break to enjoy the natural settings. Not far from the city where they live. The low-cost project is part of the responsible tourism village concept, where locals, tourists and local authorities are jointly responsible for the island’s social, economic and environmental aspects, providing direct income to villagers. Meanwhile, villagers and local bodies like the idea of a ‘knowledge city’ that a Bangalore- based company is slowly rolling out on Thanthoni thuruth island.

Residents say they have huge issues that need to be resolved before introducing the village concept. Tourism councillor S Manikandan said: “better facilities need to be introduced in the island first. There are no bridges connecting the island to the city. moreover, our boat jetties are in the most deplorable condition. People will not cooperate if these problems are not recognized. He said most of the people living on the island are now working as laborers in various construction companies and are not interested in returning to fishing³³.

In the article “deccan chronicle”’ bid to tap Kochi’s backwater tourism potential we understand that the Ernakulam district tourism promotion council (DTPC) is all set to explore Kochi’s backwater tourism potential is an answer to places like Alappuzha and Kumarakom. Among the new packages for the upcoming tourist season, DTPC has announced a village backwater

³³ A responsible tourism village in the making| news 18|<https://www.news18.com/news/india/a-responsible-tourism-village-in-the-making-423269.html>

tour connecting 13 islands along the periyar river, including kadamakudy, kotad, pizhala, Thanthonni thuruth and moolampilly.” Kochi backwater tourism is yet to be explored and this is the first-time tourists are getting a chance to visit these beautiful islands. Tourists arriving by air or cruise ships need not spend three hours extra to go to Kumarakom or Alappuzha to enjoy a backwater ride”, said a DTTC official; a boat ride on the upper deck costs rupees 650 per head. The tour starts at 11am and ends at Willingdon Island at 4pm. Fare includes Kerala food and welcome drinks. For the first time, we are also providing houseboats to groups to enjoy backwater travel, the official said. House boats are not widely used in Kochi backwaters as the salt water that reaches the beach at night damages the wooden boats. A DTTC official promises that the tour will attract more tourists than those conducted by private parties in Alappuzha and Kumarakom.

“Tourists can see the variety of activities engaged in by the various islanders. For example, they engage in various traditional occupations like pottery making (Moolampilly) duck, fish and crab farming (Kadamakudi), he said ³⁴.The island of Thanthonni thuruth which is only a kilometer away from the heart of Kochi city has a long story of neglect and underdevelopment. The islanders have been denied their right to equality and a better standard of living due to the government's inefficiency to initiate policies for the wellbeing of the people living there. The economic backwardness of the islanders can be linked with the undeveloped transportation system to the island. People are not able to go to work or to make consumption properly due to the transportation problem.

Even the small shop located on the island faces the seawater flooding which destroys the commodities in the shop. People are also not able to make large consumptions because of the difficulty in reaching homes with it. The social life of people is pathetic, even funerals are not properly done. The dead bodies are taken to the nearest town in two canoes tied together. All these show the miserable conditions of the people living in Thanthonni thuruth

³⁴ Bid to tap Kochi's backwater tourism potential | deccan chronicle | <https://www.deccanchronicle.com/150803/nation-current-affairs/article/bid-tap-kochis-backwater/potential>

CHAPTER 3

CURRENT DETAILING OF THE ISLAND: THANTHONNI THURUTH

In the third chapter I would like to deal with present situations, several strikes they conducted and government approaches of thanthonni thuruth.

CURRENT REGIONAL STIGMAS OF THANTHONNI THURUTH

In the news channel the new Indian express, from the article ‘no end in sight to plight of thanthonni thuruth residents, we understand that, the citizens of thanthonni thuruth, an island in the Kochi backwaters off the goshree walkway have lengthy been disturbing the government to assemble a bridge to ease their tour woes. While the construction of the goshree bridges in the first decade of the millennium provided street connectivity to adjoining islands, thanthonni thuruth which has a populace of greater than 350 people-changed into ignored. The lack of shipping centers apart from boats has been inflicting notable distress to the islanders, especially when they should delivery the unwell. In keeping with the citizens of the tiny island, round 27 people have lost their lives due to the excessive time had to ferry them to hospitals inside the town. “I used to be simply 10 years antique when my father died of a heart assault even as he went fishing”, stated rejitha sugunan, now 43. “it required two or three humans to push the boat sporting his frame across to the mainland as the backwater stretch close to the island had become shallow on the time”.

Pregnant women too face massive difficulties in attaining hospitals, she added, the islanders. Primarily fishermen, need to journey to ponnarimangalam and mulavukad areas to buy essentials. “Whilst human beings inside the metropolis buy cars or two wheelers, we’re depending on boats. Our kids are frequently past due to reach colleges positioned on mainland,” said Ajith Kumar, every other resident. The covid situation has plunged the lives right here into deeper turmoil. “Many human beings were pushed into poverty as they had been not able to sell their seize in the market because of restrictions. Obtaining essentials has additionally been hard at some point of the length. In advance, the government had dispensed meals kits,” said any other, who didn’t want to be named. An additional worry for them is the risk because of heavy rains which often result in large flooding inside the region.

Citizens of thanthonni thuruth on Thursday evening staged a protest near the goshree islands development authority constructing located close to the island. All of the islanders, inclusive of girls and kids, joined in which additionally noticed them building a bridge with the aid of tying collectively united states of America boats and by way of keeping aloft burning torches to reiterate their call for a bridge connecting the island with the town. ³⁵

In the news channel the new Indian express from the article ‘no end in sight to plight of thanthonni thuruth residents we understand that, citizens of thanthonni thuruth an island in Kochi backwaters off goshree walkway, have lengthy been traumatic the government to construct a bridge to ease their travel woes. “To reach the island, which is domestic to 66 families, we ought to rely on the boat provider operated by the state water transport department (SWTD) or on the country boat owned by some of us. If anyone falls sick or desires instantaneous scientific resource, we have a tough time taking the person to the sanatorium said Hariharan kadavath, a resident. “we’ve written numerous letters to the ministers and the officers of the goshree islands improvement authority (GIDA) urging them to construct a bridge and outer bund. Final week, I acquired a reply from the chief minister’s office concerning a grievance I had submitted seeking information on the development of a bridge. The reply stated Ernakulam MLA TJ Vinod had submitted a suggestion, looking for allocation of fund for the bridge in the 2022-23 country price range. But nothing befell,” said Hariharan.

Although the proposed water metro undertaking is predicted to connect thanthonni thuruth with the principle land, residents stated they don’t have any readability on the problem either. Vinod was unavailable for comment. GIDA secretary raghuraman said 90 percentage of the island is wetland, as a result it regularly gets inundated. “As a solution, a 1.7km lengthy seawall will be built at the southern facet of the island. It was also proposed to construct a 5-meter huge and 3-meter excessive outer bund that could be used as a avenue in destiny”, he said. “We are planning to use a complicated era to assemble the bund. The slit dredged from the lake might be used to construct it. It has verified to be robust, green and value powerful,” he said. Raghuraman stated GIDA will invite tenders once it receives technical sanctions and environmental clearance for the challenge.

³⁵No end sight to plight of Thanthonni Thuruthu residents| the new Indian express|Ramu R
<https://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/kochi/2020/nov/06/no-end-in-sight-to-plight-of-thanthonni-thuruthu-residents-2219919.html>

“In 2020, The government authorized 6 crores for the project. But the technical sanction that is submitted will point out the precise fund required. If any extra money is required, the GIDA fund will be used,” he stated. Meanwhile, the islander’s wait keeps developing. “I don’t recognize whether the bridge may be built whilst I’m alive” stated Indira, a 73-year old resident³⁶.

In the news channel the news minute from the article 63 families on a small island in Kochi and their eternal wait for development, we understand that it’s an island of no development. As the human beings of Kochi rejoice the brand-new metro, airports, large apartments and malls, proper in the heart of the city lies an island, which has been absolutely circumvented within the pursuit of development. A little island within the backwaters of Kochi within the back waters of Kochi with 63 families which depend on fishing for the livelihood, thanthonni thuruth is just 1.5km far away from marine drive. But, its popularity for the isolation of people with leprosy appears to have endured into the present day with even basic facilities now here in sight. The isolation hits hardest in times of emergencies without a clinic or connectivity to the mainland. Humans of the village bear in mind that it changed into in the course of Karunakaran’s tenure as leader minister that the primary promises for a bridge changed into made to them in 1992.

It has nevertheless no longer materialized; people keep to apply their vanjis- traditional wooden boats to get to the metropolis. “We recognize that we can die right here without receiving medical interest on time. How we are able to visit the town in the vanji throughout real property developers who needed release tourism projects. “Gida claimed it might smooth up the lake and use soil to obstruct the water in the course of emergencies?” says Devaki, a 65-year-old resident. “We asked them to offer us a striking bridge at least but they didn’t to even that. All they gave us were take election guarantees” she provides. The boat provider that exists is abnormal and families ought to make their personal arrangements to ship their youngsters to school on time. Matters took a flip for the worse when the nation the goshree development authority (GIDA) proposed a brand-new challenge to check water waft on to the island from the lake throughout the monsoons. They located to their dismay, that the proposed challenge could advantage everyone however the islanders.

³⁶No end in sight to plight of Thanthonni Thuruth residents| the new Indian express| Aishwarya Prabhakaran| <https://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/kochi/2022/aug/21/no-end-in-sight-to-plight-of-thanthonni-thuruth-residents-2489675-html>.

Usha k, a leader of the thuruthu residents' association alleges that the project was conceptualized to help the realtors. "They informed us island could now not be flooded once they whole the challenge. It destroyed some of our cheena valas (Chinese fishing nets) and the prawn cultivation. The challenge changed into a curse, not a blessing" she said. GIDAs approach to the problem of the island's flooding at some stage in the monsoons and from time-to-time excessive tide become to dredge up the slushy soil from the lowest of the waterways and unload it everywhere in the island. Another member of the association muraleedharan N alleged that this circulate become a ploy to facilitate the flooding. We believed that and but later found out it become a lure", muraleedharan stated, alleging that it changed into performed to allow for larger boats of tourism firms to the reach the island.

Islanders say that tourism promoters have sold numerous acres of land on the island. Ultimate July, the slushy mud dredged up from the lake bed become dumped all around the island, which include homes which had a courtyard crowned with concrete. "They stuffed mud as opposed to soil and cheated us. They cleaned the lake and all waste become dumped right here," Usha said. It is not possible to stroll steadily in huge elements of the southern aspect of island, where most of the houses are. the slush has even trickled into septic tanks making it not possible to apply toilets within the rain. "Believe us ladies and those younger girls going out into the open to relieve ourselves. We used to awaken at four am to defecate so that no one might see us", says Jayanthi any other resident of the island. Pointing to the cracks on her newly constructed residence, Jayanthi stated: "the salinity in the dust has prompted these cracks. Slowly our houses will even emerge as useless like bathrooms."

Despite the fact that the district collector had assured that the slushy dust might be eliminated from islander's homes, six months have already surpassed. Some other casualty of the GIDA's hasty flood control measures is viable irreparable damage to the mangroves that line the northern facet of the island. Following large protests and the intervention of the Kerala high court, GIDA needed to halt is landfilling. To feature insult to damage, their long-status demands for even a number one health Centre(percent) has now not been met. "Why ought to government be? Best 63families stay here. We are all each day salary employees so our votes aren't going to make huge difference," an angry murukeshan said. "We aren't soliciting for

huge matters we want our simple desires met. We don't want to be cheated by means of such things as this GIDA under taking.”³⁷

In the news channel Manorama news from the article ‘tired of saying that there should be a surrounding wall thanthoni thuruth protested we understand that, a human bridge by the residents of thanthonni thuruth protested in Kochi Bay as a perimeter wall to stop the tide. The islanders alleged that the island was a water line. It is ironic that this strike is happening in the city of Kochi, where anything is possible. Their ancestors settled on the island before this city developed to such an extent. From that day on a reasonable demand, they put before the authorities was to prepare a wall to save the island from the tidal wave. Convinced that the election promises would not be fulfilled, the islanders went on strike many times. Now it has become ab ritual.

When the houses are filled with water during the high tide, their anger erupts into a strike. But who is there is to hear this lamentation? The demand to build a bridge to connect the island with Kochi is also decades old. After listening to the slogans demanded by the bund and the bridge, the authorities have no shame. Except for seven and a half acres of the island, big real estate groups have already acquired other places. The authorities conveniently forget that the poor people of this small island are the beneficiaries of the smart city project implemented by the central government in Kochi.³⁸

In the news channel the quint, from the article island with self-owned boats’ struggles without healthcare we understand that, thanthonni thuruth is inhabited by 275 people and has no healthcare facility or educational institution. Surrounded by using water and grime sits a dilapidated moss-stained residence in thanthonni thuruth, an island in the backwaters of Kochi. “The flooding has end up recurring. I now not mop up the residence. I can have to do it once more the very next days”, said Padma rajappan (80), the resident of the house. Throughout the lake surrounding the thuruth island, is a contrasting sight: improvement is apace with the development of humongous flats though private gamers a 4-lane street, and an amusement walkway.

³⁷ 63 families on a small island in Kochi and their eternal wait for development| The news minute| Haritha john|<https://www.thenewsminute.com/article/63-families-small-island-kochi-and-their-eternal-wait-development-38093>

³⁸ ‘Chutumathil venam-thuruthu’| Manorama news|<https://www.manoramanews.com/news/kerala/2021/11/25/protest-at-thanthonni-thuruth-html>

“These have in large part been carried on reclaimed lands that displaced a massive volume of water, which now floods the island” stated jinu Varghese, venture director, goshree island development authority (GIDA) one of the authorities’ organizations for the development of Kochi. Thanthonni thuruth (translated: island with self-own boats) is inhabited via 275 human beings and has no healthcare facility or instructional institution, besides for an anganwadi that was lately closed mentioning low turn of children. Thuruth can most effectively be visited the usage of vanjis (small boats) owned through the islanders or through the sole ferry service operated by the government. Jayan Ts, a 48-year-old fisherman and resident of thuruth, gesturing at his vanji docked in the front in their residence, says, in the course of medical emergencies, together with pregnancy, the islanders ought to wade through the water even at night.

Thankamma Subramanyan, a 70-year antique resident of the island, whose sister suffered a stroke lately, mentioned the problems of ferrying the latter to a sanatorium. “We had to ferry her on our boat at night time to clinic 5km away. Carrying her to the boat, then rowing throughout to the mainland and expecting an experience to the hospital changed into a strenuous project”. Thanakamma subramanyan, resident the islanders name autorickshaw drivers in advance and ask them to attend throughout the lake. “These kinds of hardships can only be resolved with the aid of pleasing our long-standing demands for a bridge and a bund.”

Thanakamma subramanyan, resident Varghese stated that the venture for an outer bund to prevent the water ingress during excessive tides became prepared, however the coastal law area (CRZ) clearance changed into awaited. She stated that there had been no proposal for the bridge thus far. She introduced that it turned into no longer feasible to build a 372-metre-long the bridge connecting the 200-metre-extensive island to the mainland and that many families would be displaced in the procedure. Another GIDA respectable said, “I tried explaining to a few citizens the issues of constructing a bridge inside the island. But they’re continual with their unfeasible call for “talking about the environmental clearance for the bund, Varghese stated, ‘limitless species are a part of the delicate atmosphere of thuruth. Infrastructure improvement ought to disturb them.

“We also spoke to a prominent environmentalist, who said, “if private individuals ought to get CRZ and environmental clearance, there have to be equal probabilities for the island citizens to get a clearance for the bund to save you the excessive -tide ingress. The islands adjoining to thuruth are well connected to the mainland and feature all fundamental facilities. One island

within the archipelago even hosts the country's largest conference center and a traveler destination under the jurisdiction of Kerala tourism branch. Including insult and irony to harm, the sight that islanders awaken to is that of sky's carpenter owned through industrial giants. Notwithstanding such inequitable improvement, in which poverty prevails on one facet and affluence on the other, the demands of the islanders fall on deaf ears³⁹.

In the news channel woke, from the article the islanders sleepless indoors in the water we understand that, the frequent flooding of houses during high tide disturbs the sleep of the islanders. November 16, 2022 Kochi thanthonni thuruth island flooding of houses. The dam was formed during the early morning tide. Locals complain that the waterlogging is due to the inadequacy of the outer bund. The existing bund is broken at many places. Goshree island development authority has allocation of funds to strengthen the bund but it is yet to be implemented due to technical reasons. The locals complain that the people's representatives do not intervene effectively. As the protest became heavy, the district collector held a discussion with the local representatives.

The locals ended their protest after the collector assured that the steps would be expedited for the implementation of the project. In the month of November and December, the tide is higher in the lake. Most of the houses in the island are flooded during these times. Most of the days the water comes in around 12pm. The same situation will continue till 3am in the morning⁴⁰

In the news channel Marunadan Malayalee from the article 'the order to prevent the rising of the river was hidden and played with fraud. Celebrities including Padmaja are filling things without spending a dime. Goshree authority is preparing the situation by giving tacit approval to kadakampally kalamassery style land theft, we understand that it has been alleged that large land owners and politicians are filling acres of swampland at the expense of the government in thanthonni thuruth island in Kochi city, which is full of mangrove forests and biodiversity. Prominent individuals along with goshree island development authority are filling their acres

³⁹ Kochi: 'island with self-owned boats' struggles without healthcare | the quint | Aishwarya Raj and Adarsh B Pradeep | <https://www.thequint.com/amp/story/my-rwport/in-kochi-a-lake-that-divides-poverty-and-affluence>.

⁴⁰ Vellam vidinakath: thanthonni thuruth | Malayalam woke journal | Anitta jose | <https://mal.wokejournal.com/2020/11/16/frequent-tidal-surge-of-water-into-the-houses-disturbs-the-sleep-of-the-tanthonni-islanders/>

of land at no cost to the poor fishing families in the name of greenery that can even prevent natural calamities.

In November last year, GIDA sanctioned RS3.5 crore to prevent flood water from entering the homes of around 140 families in the area. The project was to take soil from the lake and fill only a small area around the flooded houses by constructing a bund to save the area from permanent flooding. The goshree Island development authority chaired by the chief minister has earmarked about RS.9 crore for this purpose. GIDA informed the poor local people who are fisherman that they would not cause any damage to the island's mangroves and biological resources but INTUC leader KP Haridas and Padmaja Venugopal's family are among those who have acquired free land from the government under the guise of the project. Acres of land in the name of Padmaja's mother-in-law Sridevi Amma and sister of Dr Venugopal are being filled at GIDA expense without following any rules. K.P Haridas owns one-and-a-half acre of land and Padmaja Venugopal's families owns almost as much land.

A company headed by haridas is also said to have land here. Apart from them, doctors and high society officials own land on thanthonni thuruth island and a film producer linked to Kochi's drug mafia also owns property here. It is indicated that a certain land mafia is using this scheme to sell all this illegally. According to the order of GIDA, to prevent water from entering the houses, it is allowed to fill the land of 5 cents and 3 cents by carrying out backwater dredging. The island is in flagrant violation of the wetland's conservation act 2004 and the coastal management act. This island on the island has been marked as a park and play ground in the plan of Kochi corporation. As soon as the complaint was received, the collector ordered a detailed investigation. Then in the month of march of march, the revenue officials conducted a detailed inspection.

The destruction of mangroves was also discovered. Nothing happened to this investigation report either. The reality is that even after this the land mafia continued to fill the land. There is no permission from Kochi corporation for this earth moving. In fact, it is clear that the land mafia in the island is trying to swindle land on the model of kadakampally kalamassery with the tacit approval of the government departments. Despite bringing the issue to the attention of district collector etc. no action has been taken. It is also said that a property dealer who has enough influence in all political parties is on the scene to destroy the island. Fearing that the project will be abandoned if there is a controversy, none of the local residents are ready to

complain directly. There needs to be a protest against the wanton destruction of the biodiversity that should save a city from natural calamities in the name of development ⁴¹

In the news channel the Hindu from the article thanthonni thuruth witnesses severe flooding we understand that, islander's demand for an outer bund yet to fructify. The past few nights had been a nightmare for the islanders of thanthonni thuruth whose houses had been a flooded during high tide. The flooding changed into especially horrific on Sunday night time, forcing human beings to are searching for safe haven on the GIDA office at chathiath road. Flooding of their houses at night in the course of excessive tide presently of the year isn't always new to the citizens of thanthonni thuruth. But they had been in for a surprise on Sunday night time, while nearly 80 percentage of the 63 households with approximately 250 members in total, found their homes flooded, with the water rising at an alarming fee. There was the scourge of the pandemic on one side and the sea become being similarly ruthless, rued reji ts, an islander who's a transient worker with the Kerala nation strength board.

The tidal waves lashed on a 110-acre island, just about a km from marine drive and to the north of the goshree bridges, round 11pm and the water ingress persisted until about 3.30am on Monday. "Using our canoes, we moved a good number of people, mostly children and women, to the GIDA (goshree islands development authority) premises. A few youngsters stayed at the back of to observe over the aged who were seated on raised, make shift platforms. The flooding has been on for the past few days and that is probably to be there for some greater days", said Mr, Reji. Whilst the islanders met district collector S. suhas, also GIDA secretary, on Monday, he stated their call for an outer bund to test water ingress might be taken upon a conflict footing, in line with Mr. Reji.

However, the glitch, he stated, become that the island being a coastal low zone (CRZ) place, environmental clearance was wished. "This is what is thought to have held up the call for these types of years". The islanders, whose only get entry to the mainland is by means of small canoes or the occasional ferry operated via the country water shipping branch, had closing week protested via aligning their canoes throughout the waters for a bridge to connect the area to the mainland. Ansa James, outgoing councillor of thattazham ward comprising the island, said funds to the tune of 6 crore had been sanctioned some 6 years ago, but environmental clearance

⁴¹ Marunadan Malayalee| <https://www.marunadanmalayalee.com/news/exclusive/story-on-thanthoni-thuruth-issue-20582>

was no forthcoming. “It would now require a fresh estimate, but I’m sure GIDA has the funds and the islander’s demand for an outer bund is not a made-up one,” she said.

On Sunday night time, there was flooding throughout Kochi’s estuaries and islands. “But almost every different island is linked to the mainland now, with an get away route. We’ve none and that is what frightens us” stated Mr. Reji. “there’s every other technology developing up at the island and the handiest way to guard their destiny is to protest,” he added⁴².

In the news channel the new Indian express, from the article Thanthonni thuruthu flooded, 63 families camp at GIDA office, we understand that, sitting inside the porch of GIDA office at chathiyath avenue 80-year-old Padma rajappan of thanthonni thuruth, a tiny island in the backwaters of Kochi that is simply 1.5km from the city, changed into looking at the water receding rapid after the excessive tide that brought on huge damage to the islander’s homes on Sunday night time. Commercially by using though she become disappointed that her electric home equipment, furniture, utensils and other matters got broken while the water from vembanad lake gushed in to their domestic, the octogenarian is more involved approximately the future of her grandchildren she said the lake water might soon engulf the island if the authorities fails to assemble proper outer bunds around the island.

“We don’t have a bridge connecting the mainland. Moreover, there is no medical facility. We best have united states of America boats to go to the mainland. Though we’ve raised the call for an outer bund several times, nobody became there to listen our plea. How can we live to tell the tale if-metre-tall waves gush into our houses? She asked. As many as 63 families of thanthonni thuruth spend a sleepless night time within the porch of GIDA, to where they were shifted on Sunday night time after the houses had been flooded within the high tide. “The encroachment and unscientific construction of excessive -rise buildings close to the backwaters are the primary reasons for the high tide,” said babu, a resident. Although water used to go into the premises of our houses, this is the primary time it entered the houses.

We were forced to run from our residence around night time looking for a refuge in the event that they forget about the islanders, what is the factor in developing the opposite regions of the city? how long can we be compelled to guid a lifestyles like this?” he asked. In step with the citizens, the government had promised to construct a bridge when K Karunakaran become the

⁴² Thanthonni Thuruth witness severe flooding| The Hindu|<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/kochi/thanthonni-thuruth-witnesses-severe-flooding/article>

leader minister. The Goshree islands development authority (GIDA) which was installation for the welfare of island residents has additionally taken an apathetic attitude in the direction of the needs of islanders. Though the irrigation department had submitted an offer for the development of an outer bund or ring street, the technicality involved in getting the environmental clearance has behind schedule it for years. “Though we’re dwelling within the metropolis, the electricity and water deliver is the handiest provider that we don’t have a primary health centre in our area. A bridge and outer bund are inevitable for us to live to tell the tale right here. The government is forcing us to take extreme steps to get our primary demands met,” stated soumithri muraleedharan, any other resident. District collector S suhas stated steps could be taken to discover, an everlasting approach to the islanders’ woes. “Observe-up steps might be taken to fulfil their lengthy-status demand of a bridge. For the reason that bund task is yet to get a clearance, we cannot remark now, however we are able to take steps to clear up the difficulty”, stated the collector. ‘Will take a stand earlier than meeting elections. The long-status call for of thanthonni thuruth residents to get a bridge and outer bund will soon be a head ace for political parties as the citizens are gearing up to elevate their voice before the assembly elections. In keep with them, enough time may be given to the political parties and the government to discover a solution.

“We raised our voice through numerous protests but regrettably no person heard. However, it’s going to know not be like this this within the coming days as we are able to take a stand before the assembly election”, said a resident of the island. A total of 63 families are dwelling on the island. If they can’t preserve the phrase, we can be forced to take the extreme step,” said some other resident⁴³. In the news channel the Hindu from the article low-lying areas witness severe flooding, during high tide we understand that, ratings of residential regions lying close to the backwaters around Kochi were affected by flooding following excessive tide over the past 4 days. the scenario endured to be grim in places consisting of thanthonni thuruth, maraud, njarakkal, kumbalanghi, kadamakudy and edavanakkad.

The worst affected regions include maraud and thanthonni thuruth. At the island of thanthonni thuruth, round 90 percentage of the 65 homes were flooded on Sunday morning, said V.V Praveen councilor from thattazham. He said the situation had no longer improved on Monday. Maradu municipality chairman Antony ashanparambil said the municipal council participants

⁴³ Thanthonni Thuruth flooded,63 families camp at GIDA office| the new inidan express| Anilkumar T| <https://www.newinidanexpress.com/cities/kochi/2020/nov/17/thanthonnithuruthu-flooded-63-families-camp-at-gida-office-2224301.html>.

visited the low mendacity areas that had been flooded and a document was being organized via the sales department. John Sheri, a maradu resident, stated the flooding of homes have been more intense in low-mendacity areas over the last 3to4 days. kumbalangi panchayat president Lija Thomas stated dozens of houses had been laid low with flooding and that the state of affairs had turn out to be worse on Monday. Areas close to the backwaters both on the eastern and western fringes of the village have been affected. The worst hit areas included the eastern side of the malattu bus stop and near the pazhangad church, she added. Njarakkal panchayat president T.T Francis stated regions along the coast of the panchayat had been severely tormented by flooding during the last 4 days. the scenario regarded grim even on Monday, he stated. A team of officers from the panchayat and council individuals visited the coastal areas in addition to regions within the eastern fringes of the village which include valiyavattam, manjanikkad and cheriya manjanikkad. Kadamakudy panchayat president Mary Vincent said several houses mendacity near the backwaters in wards 1 and 13 of the panchayat have been affected. Water had entered the compounds of most houses in the wards, she said and pointed to slit deposit in the backwaters as one of the major motives for the flooding throughout high tide.

A Priyanka, a resident of thanthonni thuruth, said flooding have been extraordinary and the state of affairs had remained grim even on Monday. Mr. Praveen said flooding of houses become a common place prevalence at the island however the scenario had worsened week. He said he had brought the difficulty to the attention of chief minister pinarayi Vijayan on December 30 and that the chief minister had issued instructions to the district collector to prepare a report. The constructing of the outer bund has been one of the demands of the islanders. However, no step was taken thus far to save you the flooding of houses, he stated⁴⁴.

In the news channel, The Hindu from the article ‘medical boat’ to visit thanthonni thuruth we understand that, islanders worried over in accessibility to basic health care. For citizens of thanthonni thuruth, the proposed clinical boat provides from next month is in all likelihood to be at fine a small relief, at the same time as it’ll be extra of a reminder of the way even basic healthcare remains nonetheless in accessible years after the goshree bridges changed the fortunes of these in the neighbouring islands for true. Lourdes clinic, a city – primarily based organization, has determined to reintroduce a medical boat, popularly known as ‘marunnu boat’

⁴⁴Low-laying areas witness severe flooding during high tide| the hindu| <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/kochi/low-lying-areas-witness-severe-flooding-during-high-tide/article33497038>

for the 60-strange households who both has to rely upon the erratic boat service or row their way to the metropolis for the simple act of consulting a medical doctor or buying drugs.

“The boat became brought in the 1980s to islands like kadamakkudy and pizhala and changed into in fashion, though sporadically, till 2016-17. Although in between we released mobile medical units to 12 centres available with the aid of avenue, the boat service changed into shelved because the places being served via it gradually were given connectivity, we are now reintroducing it entirely for the citizens of thanthonni thuruth” said resmi s. kaimal, own family remedy representative at the sanatorium. The islanders have volunteered to make to be had a ship geared up with engine for the visits of a health practitioner and a nurse with critical drug treatments on the first and third Thursdays every month. The crew will even generally tend to bed-ridden sufferers and offer ordinary scientific check-ups. “First of all, we can convey drug treatments for commonplace ailments like diabetes and blood pressure, and as soon as we get acquainted with the scientific records of islanders, we are able to get a truthful concept of the form of drugs we want to bring. On the grounds that patients examined by means of the scientific team could have an internet check in opened in their names, they’ll have little formalities to comply with in case they’re referred for in-man or woman consultation on the hospital” said Dr kaimal⁴⁵.

MAJOR PROTESTS CONDUCTED BY NATIVES

As the construction of the outer bund on thanthonni thuruth island has not been started for years, the islanders have come down to owner’s walkway to protest by completing the human bund in the backwater, hoping that an urgent decision will be made to remind the authorities of the misery of life. The students also lay in the water for hours wearing life jackets with their parents. 60- and 80-year-old mothers also joined the protest. In 2014, goshree island development authority general council approved the project to build an outer wall and protective wall on the island. As the project could not be started yet, it was renewed again. Life in this island, located in the backwaters adjacent to the city of Ernakulam, is full of misery.

The island cannot be reached without a canoe or boat. All the walls of the houses built here are in a cracked condition during high tides and monsoons, houses are flooded and people are forced to leave the island and relocate the residents of the island are suffering due to water

⁴⁵‘Medical boat’ to visit Thanthonni Thuruth| the Hindu| M P Praveen| <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/kochi/medical-boat-to-visit-thanthonithuruth/article6559390>

entering their houses even during high tide the 42.85-hectare island has 66 houses and 342 residents. A bridge remains a dream of the islanders even though the corporation sets aside lakhs of rupees every year from the plan fund and own fund for the development work on the island, the islanders have no meeting to experience it. Contractors turn their backs when they hear the word island although on the other side of marine drive, the only option is by ferry if you get off the boat, you head knowing all these difficulties, contractors do not look back on this route it is very difficult for patients to travel by boat, including students' islanders find it very difficult if they feel chest pains or other things at night the islanders say that if you have life, you will get your life back⁴⁶.

in the news channel news 18 Malayalam from the article There is no bridge to reach the other side, protest by Thanthoni Thuruth islanders of Kochi by building a boat bridge we understand that The locals' demand for a bridge to connect the island to the other side is decades old After the local government elections were held, the residents of Kochi thanthoni thuruth island intensified their agitation for a bridge to cross the other side As the first step of the protest, the islanders staged a boat strike on the lake The 300-meter stretch from the island to the office of GIDA, Goshree Island Development Authority, is anchored by lifeboats. The protest was held with burning torches along with slogans for the bridge⁸³ families lived on the island and many left the island when life became difficult due to lack of infrastructure. At present, there are about 300 residents in 61 families on the island, except for seven acres of land on the island, which has been acquired by big real estate groups⁴⁷.

Protest against the construction of a human bridge by the Thanthuni Thuruth islanders on the Kochi backwater to stop the tide and as a perimeter wall Residents said the promise to build a bridge on the island was a watershed moment It is ironic that this kind of struggle is happening in this city of Kochi where anything is possible Their ancestors settled on the island before this city developed to such an extent From then on, a reasonable demand they put before the authorities was a wall to protect the island from the tide Convinced that the election promises would not be fulfilled, he went on strike many times When the houses are filled with water during the high tide, their anger erupts into a strike But who is there to listen to this lamentation

⁴⁶ Kerala kaumudi news|<https://youtu.be/pBux4f4319y>

⁴⁷ 'Marukaraethan palamila': Thanthoni Thuruth| news 18 Malayalam|<https://malayalam.news18.com/photogallery/kerala/kochi-thanthoni-thuruth-peoples-protest-for-bridge-gg-tv-msa-309743.html>

and there is a need to build a bridge connecting the island with Kochi? The authorities are not ashamed to listen to the decades-old slogans of the need for a bund and a bridge⁴⁸.

RESULT OF GOVERNMENT APPROACH AND APPROVAL

Report of the Joint Directors of Fisheries, Central Region On 16 12 2012, the residents of Ernakulam Thanthoni Thuruth Island had complained to the Hon'ble Minister of Fisheries regarding salt water entering their homes from the backwaters and difficulty for fishermen to fish due to silt and silt in the backwaters. Hon'ble Minister of Fisheries Department requested the Ernakulam District Collector to take action on this complaint and then on 17 12 2012 the District Collector instructed the Irrigation Department to study the matter and give a report and estimate. A report has been prepared from the Irrigation Department and the area around the people's houses can be dredged from the dam and raised with sand to solve the waterlogging and an estimate of 3,5,000,000 rupees has been prepared and submitted to the Ernakulam District Collector.

This is a very useful proposal for the people but only if more soil, silt etc. is removed from the lake then the people will be able to fish comfortably here. Moreover, there will be a permanent solution to the water dam only if the 4-5-meter embankment is moved around the island and the bund is filled. As per the order of 13 2 2012, an amount of 17.14 crores has been ordered to be paid from the JIDA to the Vallarpadam where water enters the houses from the dam and to move 4 meters to the dam and build an outer bund to fill it up. Gosree Development Authority project, Vallarpadam container terminal project, marine drive project, etc. have made it impossible for people to live and get employment. Therefore, they request in the report that the solution and estimate suggested by the Assistant Engineer Irrigation Canal Section, Ernakulam should be accepted and dredging should be done to facilitate fishing and outer bund should be built around the island to secure the life of the people of the island as is done in Vallarpadam.

Report on the application sent by Mr. Ibrahim Kunj to the Hon'ble Minister of Public Works Department of Kerala State regarding a bridge to connect Thanthoni Thurut Island with the mainland. Goshree Island Development Authority was formed gida with the idea of bridges to connect the islands to the mainland as envisioned by sahodaran Ayyappan. The Vypin Ernakulam Bridges were constructed by omitting a bridge for the residents of Thanthoni Thurut

⁴⁸ Manorama news <https://youtu.be/67-pzDldCUc>

Island, home to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes fishermen, from the first project, when the remaining Rs 350 crores was cleared except for the port's debt, which was obtained by filling up 25 hectares of backwater with the help of Cochin Port. Back then the cost of a bridge was Rs 10 crore but now it is around Rs 45 crore. Although there are instructions from the Hon'ble Supreme Court and the Hon'ble High Court that the money received from the dam should be used only for the development of Kochi Islands, there are complaints that the funds of the Development Authority are diverted and spent in the political interests of some former ministers⁴⁹.

⁴⁹ Goshree island development authority report – paper work

CONCLUSION

This project is a study of thanthonni thuruth island in Ernakulam district. As there are no other transportation facilities, the people of thanthonni thuruth mainly depend on and use inland water. A study on this topic is very important. As we know, Ernakulam district is rich with 1100 km of navigable water ways. But due to various reasons only 40 km is navigable. Approximately 110-acre thanthonni thuruth inland is accessible only by the Kerala state water transport departments, ferry service or by wooden boats owned by the thanthonni thuruth islanders. The first chapter of the project is introduction dealing with the basic information's of the thanthonni thuruth island and the second chapter deals with the historical background of the island and also mentions the places near thanthonni thuruth island such as mulavukad, bolgatty, pachalam, marine drive, korunkotta. Mulavukad is a scenic town located in the Ernakulam district of kerala, south india. Bolgatty is another place located close to the thanthonni thuruth island. The distance from pachalam to thanthonni thuruth is 3.7kms. Thanthonni thuruth island is located just 1.5km from marine drive. Korunkotta is another place located to this island. All this information is included in the second chapter of the project. The third chapter focuses on the social and economic profile of thanthonni thuruth covers social and economic aspects. A topic covered in this chapter 'the name advent in the island thanthonni thuruth' which explains the reason the island got its name and the history behind it. Another topic in this chapter is geographical structure and its explanation which states the geography of the island. Another topic in this chapter is the economic instability and imbalance, thanthonni thuruth describes that most of the people are engaged in fishing and other allied activities and daily wage labour for subsistence. Very few people depend on the service sector and most of the working class depends on fisheries, agriculture and other related activities. Agriculture and allied activities exist such as fish farming and mainly shrimp farming. It includes information about Chinese nets and fishing traps known as fish cages used in fish farming. It also includes information about the social life of the people in the island and the educational institution that the children of the island rely on for their education. Similarly, the cultural life and family pattern of the people of the island and the importance of tourism in the third chapter are pointed out. The chapter four deals with the current detailing of the island thanthonni thuruth. This chapter covers the current issues, the strikes they have conducted and the government approaches towards them. This chapter points out how difficult their journey through misery was and how many deaths there were. As the construction of the outer bund at thanthonni thuruth has not started for years, islanders has protestes as far as queens walk way by building

manmade bund in the backwater. Similarly, the fourth chapter covers the protests of the construction of the human bridge by the thanthonni thuruth residents for the surrounding wall to prevent the flood and the many struggles and the measures taken by the government to improve their lives. And the fifth chapter deals with conclusion including the findings and the suggestions to improve the lives of islanders. The following are my findings through my project ‘Historicising the island: thanthonni thuruth.’

50percentage of passengers on the ferry service are students and workers. This shows that the ferry service plays an important role in the daily life of the people of the island. 62 percentage of the island’s population depends on road, water transport and the rest depend on water transport only. Majority of the passengers are highly dissatisfied with the quality and services provided in the ferry system. The people of the island say that no government policies have been implemented to improve the existing ferry service. Most of the passengers complain about irregularly and delay in ferry service. The people of the island are demanding a bridge connecting the nearest town to their daily lives. Through this project, many problems faced by the people of the island were known. Based on them the following suggestions are made. Provide basic facilities like ration shops, and other small shops and public health centers. The authorities should take serious steps to build the bridge connecting the city. existing ferry services should provide basic facilities such as cleanliness, good seating in boats etc. encourage private participation in the ferry system. Offer subsidized seasonal tickets to regular passengers. Ferry service should be provided simultaneously to facilitate traffic. Includes this area in the kochi water metro project. Authorities should improve and maintain the quality of facilities provided to passengers. Due to less accessibility, it takes more time and effort to reach the boats, so the authorities should provide good infrastructure to improve accessibility.

On the islander’s demand for a bridge connecting thanthonni thuruth to kochi city, project director Goshree islands development authority (GIDA) Ramachandran says: “currently there is no such proposal before GIDA. Almost 90 percentage of the area is wetlands, he says. He added that the irrigation department has submitted a proposal for an outer bund or ring road around the island and is awaiting environmental clearance. A terminal of the kochi water metro project has been proposed at thanthonni thuruth and the commencement of ferry service is expected to improve water connectivity to the city and nearby islands.

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APPENDIX

APPENDIX



In Kochi, a Lake divides poverty and affluence



Thanthonni Thuruth witnesses severe flooding



63 Islands on a small island in Kochi and their external wait for development



'Medical Boat' to visit Thanthonnithuruth



No end in sight to plight of Thanthonnithuruth