

Brutal atrocity Against Dalit in Tirukovilor, Villupuram District

An Interim Fact Finding Report



Social Awareness Society for Youths (SASY)

33-A, Second Cross West, Anna Nagar 4th Street, Marakanam Road, Tindivanam - 604001, Villupuram district,
Tamil Nadu. Phone: 04147 250 349, Email: pandiyan@sasy.org.in



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Vellamputhur is village located in Thirukovilur Taluk of Villupuram district, Tamil Nadu. On 21-02-2018 at night Mrs. Araayi and her children Selvi (14) (Name changed by the security and dignity of the girl) and Samayan (9) were brutally attacked at their home which is located at Vellamputhur village of Kandachipuram Block of Tirukovilur Taluk of Villupuram district.

Samaiyan (8) died during the Brutal attack of the mob; Selvi was raped, severely injured and admitted in the Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER) Hospital, Pondicherry. Her mother Araiye severely injured on head also admitted in the same hospital.

This news was reported in the newspaper on 23.02.2018 and with this source Social Awareness Society for Youths (SASY) – Tindivanam constituted a team and undertook fact finding mission with the headship of Adv. I. Pandiyan – Executive Director- SASY- along with Mr. Durai Pandi – State Coordinator, Mr. R. Babu – State Coordinator – SASY, Ms. R. Lalitha – DHRD on 23.02.2018 & 27.02.2018. The team has obtained the facts from the deceased mother and sister, Vellamputhur village people, Vellamputhur School Headmaster, classmates of Samayan and Selvi, Arakandanallur Sub Inspector and Medical Officers – JIPMER Hospital.

Background of the Village:

Villupuram District is the second largest district in the State of Tamil Nadu and it is known for having variety of tourist spots which are more than 500 years old. The district has temples, mosques and churches which are very old and famous. Villupuram is located on the bank of thenpennai and has Gingee Fort, Auroville, Tirukoilur, Malaikovil and Marakkanam Beach. The Schedule Caste (SC) constitutes 29.4% while Schedule Tribe (ST) is 0.7% of total population in

Villupuram village. 49% of the houses are thatched houses and in particular these houses have been given during the resettlements to the SC before 20 years ago are now in a state of collapse.

Vellamputhur is village located in Tirukoyilur Taluk of Viluppuram district, Tamil Nadu. About 369 families are residing in the village and it has population of 1678 of which 863 are males while 815 are females as per Population Census 2011. The population of children with age 0-6 is 218 which make up 12.99 % of total population of village.

The village is dominated by Vanniyar community (Most Backward Class). The dominant caste people have land, money and political power. 65 families belonged to the Schedule Caste (SC). Schedule Caste (SC) constitutes 39.87 % while Schedule Tribe (ST) is 2.86 % of total population. 63.11 % of workers are working as Main Workers (Employment or Earning more than 6 Months) while 36.89 % are involved in Marginal activity providing livelihood for less than 6 months. The following table depicts the numerical representation of the Vellamputhur Village.

Background of the Case:

Vellamputhur village is surrounded by D. Devanoor, Thirumalaipattu, Vadakalathanur, Arakandanallur and these villages are dominated by Vanniyar community. The SC/ST people are living their life with intense fear and anticipating of brutal attack and other forms of violations.

Vellamputhur village is dominated by a man named Rajendran (Vanniyar community) and he is a land lord of D. Devanoor. The Vanniyar community has surplus land near to Vellamputhur Dalit hamlets. And the Dalits were working as daily labourers in their land. About 120 Dalit families and 300 dominant caste families are residing in this village. And about 90 youth are working in Chennai and Bangalore and 7 girls are working in Tirupur District.

Likewise, in last year a tribal family was (Irular Tribe) subjected to this kind of brutal attack and this year Araiye's family was subjected to brutal murder, rape and heinous injuries. The Dalits in this village are targeted for brutal attack, rape, murder and other forms of untouchability practices.

It is found that Mr. Rajendran had asked Araiye 14 cents of land for cultivation and Araiye had told him that she would give 10 cents and she needs the remaining 4 cents for her household purpose.

Particulars	Total	Male	Female
Total No. of Houses	369	-	-
Population	1,678	863	815
Child (0-6)	218	131	87
Schedule Caste	669	351	318
Schedule Tribe	48	21	27
Literacy	58.63 %	65.30 %	51.92 %
Total Workers	1,087	561	526
Main Worker	686	98,759	0
Marginal Worker	401	185	216

Case in Brief:

Mrs. Araiye (47) belonged to the Scheduled Caste is a resident of Vellamputhur village of Kandachipuram Block, Tirukovilur Taluk of Villupuram District is residing with her children Selvi (Name Changed) and son Samayan. Her husband Mr. Elumalai passed away five years ago due to illness and other ailments. She has 6 children Mr. Pandidurai (26), Mr. Sarath Kumar (22), Ms. Viji (18), Mr. Anjulatcham (17), Ms. Selvi (13) and Samayan (8).

Her son Pandi Durai got married to a girl named Mahalakshmi and living in Veerapandiyapuram. Presently Araiye is residing with her daughter Selvi and Samayan. She is the sole bread winner of the family and working as a daily labourer and taking care of her children.

On 21.02.2018 (Wednesday) Araiye, her daughter Selvi and Samayan had gone for a function to Mahalakshmi's home at Veerapandiyapuram and returned to their home by 4 pm. In the evening Selvi and Samayan had gone to Suganthi (neighbour) for watching television and had come back by 9 pm.

The next day morning at about 6: 30 am Suganthi's daughter and Araiye's relative Ms. Snegha had come to Araiye's home and found that the front door of the house was shut. They both found that red colour dye on three of them and rushed to Suganthi and told her the same. Immediately Suganthi, her daughter and Snegha came into the house and found Araiye, Selvi and Samayan

lying in pool of bloodstains. The three of them screamed and shouted in agony and immediately the neighbours and the village people rushed to Ariaye's house.



The girl was smashed beyond recognition and was blood stains around her; her brother Samayan who lay next to her were eyes staring at the ceiling and her mother was severely injured at her head and her face similarly damaged. The villagers called and told about the incident to the Village Administrative Officer (VAO). Meanwhile the Arakandanallur Policemen, VAO and the 108 ambulance came to the spot and took the mother and the girl to Tirukovilur Government Hospital and then were taken to Mundiampakkam Government Hospital. Later for further medical treatment they both were shifted to JIPMER Hospital, Pondicherry and were admitted as in patient in Intensive Care Unit.



The boy Samayan died in the spot and with the help of Mr. Samikannu (relative of Ariaye) he was taken to Mundiampakkam Government Hospital in an Omni Van. The deceased boy was kept in

mortuary and was taken to autopsy on 23.02.2018 at 2: 30 pm. Presently with a complaint lodged by Mr. Samikannu and a case was registered at the Arakandanallur Police Station with the crime number: 140/2018 u/s 449, 452, 302, 307 IPC on 22.02.2018.

Presently the victim girl Selvi and her mother Araiye are in unconscious state and undergoing medical treatment at JIPMER hospital.

Chronology of the Incident:

1. 21.02.2018 - Araiye, her daughter Selvi and Samayan had gone for a function to Mahalakshmi's home at Veerapandiyapuram and returned to their home by 4 pm
2. 22.02.2018 - Araiye, Selvi and Samayan lying in pool of bloodstains. Samayan was dead, Selvi was raped and brutally attacked and her mother was severely wounded at her head and face.
3. 22.02.2018 – Selvi and Araiye was admitted to JIPMER Hospital
4. 22.02.2018 – Deceased Samayan was taken to Mundiampakkam Mortuary
5. 22.02.2018 - Complaint lodged by Mr. Samikannu and a case was registered at the Arakandanallur Police Station with the crime number: 140/2018 u/s 449, 452, 302, 307 IPC on 22.02.2018
6. 23.02.2018 – Autopsy of the deceased boy Samayan
7. 23.02.2018 – Fact Finding was conducted by SASY
8. 24.02.2018 – Met the concerned authorities and victims in JIPMER hospital.
9. 27.02.2018 – Spot investigation by Mr. Murugan – Vice Chairman, NCSC – New Delhi

Action taken by the Police Department:

1. Spot investigation was conducted by the Superintendent of Police along with two Deputy Superintendent of Police, Villupuram District
2. Mr. Veemaraj - DSP, Social Justice Wing - Villupuram District and Mr. Ashokaraj - DSP - Tirukovilur Taluk is heading 7 police teams in search of the accused
3. The police department had took Mr. Rajendran for investigation on 26.02.2018 to Thirumalaipattu Police Station and sent him back home after completing the investigation.

4. The policemen found bracelets and inner garments of gents in Mrs. Araiye's house. (Evidence in the case)
5. The policemen is conducting enquiry with the Railway station workers (near Vellamputhur village),
6. The policemen are enquiring with the medical records with the earlier incidents that occurred in Vellamputhur village (Incident 1 May - Brutal Attack and Rape - Ms. Kuppayi, W/o Sivakumar, Incident 2 - October - Bharathi, W/o Mr. Palani)

Findings & Recommendations:

- The fact finding team found that there must be strong political reason behind this brutal incident where the land which belonged to victim Araiye was continuously asked for sale by D.Devanoor Rajendran for past five years;
- The fact finding team found that this brutal incident is planned well by stalking every movement of each person in their family for many months and the relatives or friends might have helped Rajendran to attack the family brutally.
- The fact finding team also found that the police officers are in search of the accused within SC Community, so that the case won't be much strong if the crime is within the community.
- The fact finding team found that Selvi (14years) was brutally attacked and raped by the accused;
- The fact finding team is submitting a kind recommendation to the Police Officials to investigate about D.Devanoor Rajendran who is the sole reason and to be an accused in this brutal incident. The fact finding team also came to know that his behavior towards Dalit women was not good and the villagers accused him that his behavior towards Araiye's daughter in law and with this regard Araiye had fought twice with Rajendran for his misbehavior.
- The fact finding team humbly recommends the police department should take immediate action against the accused without any delay.
- The fact finding team recommends the police department to conduct a fair investigation considering the relatives and neighbors, friends who closely move with the victim's family,

- The fact finding team recommends the Arakandanallur policemen to file a case under the appropriate sections of SC/ST PoA Act 2015, and to conduct a fair investigation in the brutal murder, rape and attack.
- The fact finding team recommends the Tamil Nadu Government to provide quality medical treatment to the victim girl Selvi and to her mother Araiye and also to provide immediate relief of Rs. 25 lakhs to the victims.

News Source: (News Clipping Details):

1. The Indian Express, Dinakaran, Dinamalar, Dinamani, The Hindu, The Hindu (Tamil), Dinathanthi – 23.02.2018
2. Dinathanthi, Dinkaran, The Times of India – 24.02.2018
3. Dinakaran – 25.02.2018
4. Dinamani, Dinakaran, The Hindu (Tamil), Dinathanthi – 26.02.2018
5. The New Indian Express, The Hindu, Dinakaran, Dinamalar, Dinathanthi – 27.02.2018 (NCSC, Vice Chairman Murugan visited the Village)