Historical Perspectives of Urbanization in Madurai-An Overview

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Abstract
Since its origin to the present period. Any city grows like a living organisms. Madurai is no exception, the city which started with an area of about 2.59 sq.kms in 1874 A.D has grown to a million, city occupied an area 52.sq.km by 1985 to 142 sq.km by 2011. The city which originated as the capital of the pandyan kings in the Historical period has continuously maintained its growth as a capital city till the Nayaks period and also maintained its urban status. In course of its historical growth many monuments have come into existence, which has accelerated the spatial structure and growth of the city.

Keywords: Historical, urbanization, perspective, nomenclature, settlement

Introduction
The settlements bear marks of their past history and act also as records of not only past cultures but also of changing aspects of Human geography. The study of evolution of a settlements is generally appraised through the modifications or a succession of changes, performance of that modification being produced long after the cause for it ceases to act. It is essential to analyze the Historical background which leads to a succession of changes in the evolution of a city. It is also important to understand the cultural and historical importance of the centre which leads to a succession of changes in the evolution of a city. It is also important to understand the cultural and historical importance of the centre which might have attracted tourists from the surrounding regions and where by the tourism also acted as a catalyst for the growth of the city.

Nomen-Clature
Madurai is a corrupted term of "Maruthapuri" which literally. Means a fort settlement where Mathura trees once abounded in the surrounding region in Madurai. Later in course of time, Maruthurapuri might have become Madurai. According to legends the other name for Madurai "Kadamba vanam" which might be due to the presence of Kadamba garden which is supposed to have existed at Madurai in ancient times. Like many of the ancient cities, Madurai has it own glorious history since it was closely associated with the history of Tamil Nadu. The ancient history of Madurai is closely associated with the history of the Pandyas and Madurai existed as the capital of the Pandyas from pre-historic times. The sthalapuranam of Madurai dates back to the origin of the city itself, to the fabulous time associating them with with gods like Indra and Shiva. History places the origin of Madurai around the 6th century B.C by a Pandya king Kulasekara Pandyan. According to Thiruvilayadal purnam a tamil literature of the thirteenth century,Madurai was built by a Pandya king. It was said that he found a lingam in the midst of a Kadamba garden and cleared the forest and built a temple for the lingam. He also built a planned town around the temple further, antiquity of the Pandyas dates back to the epic age and Madurai was considered to be the third capital town of the Pandyas. The former two being Madurai and Kapadapuram. These two towns were washed away by the sea. Then Madurai was presumed to have its location to the south of present Kanyakumari village on the bank of the river kumara. Kapadapuram was located on the bank of Tamirabarani River near the point of its confluence to the sea and the Pandyas moved to the north and established their capital at Kapadapuram. When Kapadapuram was also washed away by the sea they further migrated to the north and made present Madurai as their capital. Madurai located on the southern bank of the river vaigai was one of the famous towns during sangam period king Kulasekara Pandya, who ruled around 4th century B.c, built the Madurai town and the origin of Madurai can be safety placed at 600 B.c as established by the Pandya king. As early as the 3rd century BC, Megasthanes visited Madurai. Later many people from Rome and Greece visited Madurai and established trade with the Pandya kings. Madurai flourished till 10th century AD when it was captured by Cholas the arch rivals of the Pandyas. The Cholas ruled Madurai from 920 AD till the beginning of the 13th century.

In 1223 AD Pandyas regained their kingdom and once again become prosperous. Pandian kings patronised Tamil language in a great way [5]. During the Pandya period, many master pieces were created"Silapthikaram" the great epic in tamil was written based on the story of Kannagi who burnt Madurai as a result of the injustice caused to her husband Kovalan. In April 1311, Malik Kafur the General of Alauddin Khilji who was then the ruler of Delhi, reached Madurai and raided and robbed the city for precious stones, jewels and other rare treasures. This led to the subsequent raids by other Muslim Sultans. In 1323, the Pandya kingdom including Madurai became a province of the Delhi Empire, under the Tughlaks. In 1371, the vijayanagar dynasty of Hampi captured Madurai

and it became part of the vijayanagar empire Kings of this dynasty were in the habit of leaving the captured land to governors called nayaks. This was done for the efficient management of their empire. The Nayaks paid fixed amount annually to the Vijayanagar empire an 1530AD, the Nayaks become independent and ruled the territories under their control. Among Nayaks, Thirumalai Nayak (1623-1659) was very popular, even now he is popular among people, since it was he who contributed to the creation of many magnificent structures in and around Madurai. Madurai started slipping into the hands of the British East India Company[6]. In 1781, British appointed their representatives to look after Madurai. George Procter was the first collector of Madurai.

After India's independence, Madurai is one of the major districts of Tamil Nadu state. Later on Madurai district was bifurcated into two districts namely Madurai and Dindugul districts. In Madurai district, there are 15 State Assembly constituencies and two parliament constituencies.

Historical of the Growth of Madurai City
The History of the Pandyas can be traced from the Sangam period to till date. The normal extent of the pandya kingdom in the Sangam age corresponded to the modern district of Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Tirunelveli and part of Kanniyakumari. During the Sangam period Madurai was ruled by the Pandyas (600 B.C to 300A.D and the famous king during this period was Pandyan Nedun chelian.The sangam age was followed by the rule of the Kalabhras and was known as the dark age. Around 600AD Pandya Nadu once again come under the possession of the Pandyas. Around the 8th century AD there was conflict between Pallavas and Pandyas. The Commencement of the Hindu period witnessed the Chola supremacy over the Madurai pandyas king Aparajita 800 AD with the help of the chola king Aditya. It fought the pandya king Varaguna and succeeded in annexing Madurai with the chola kingdom. The princess of the former Pandya line consolidated their powers and Maravaman (1210) succeeded in conquering the Pandya Nadu Towards the close of the 13th century the Pandya rulers began to face the Musllium invasion and in 1310 Madurai was conquered by Malik kafur a chieftain of Mohammed bin Tughlaq and thus formed the Sultanate of Madurai which bought untold astrocities to the Madurai temple Kumara Kampana a chieftain of Krishna Devarayer of Vijayanagar kingdom overthrew the Madurai Sultanate between A.D 1360 1363 and established the Nayak rule. Present Madurai was planned and rebuilt by the Nayak rulers like Viswanatha Nayak 1529-1564 and Thirumalai Nayak 1653-1659. Around beginning of the 17th century the Nayaks had to face internal rebellions invasions and so the Nayak dynasty scattered down fall of the Muslim began in 1738,but in 1740 the Maharashtra appeared with a large army defeated the Nayaks since then the conditions of Madurai became worse be caused of the conflicts between the Maharasahtra and the Carnatic Nawab The British took advantage of their constrict and took possessions of Madurai in 1792 Madurai was under the jurisdiction of the British till 1947 when India attained Independence. In 1947 it included in its jurisdiction the former Madras State and present Tamil Nadu Madurai. From early periods an attempt is made to trace the same from the Tamil literature the evolution of Madurai is analyzed for the following periods

1. Early Historical Period Before 874 A.D
Since 6th Century B.C from the decoys of days of Kulasekar

Pandian of Pandia dynasty, the famous ceylonese's chronicle. The Mahavamsa described Vijaya the first Ceylon king as the son-in-law of Madurai king (500 B.C) and has made reference to Madurai as being raced by Pandiya princes. During the Sangam period about 2000 years ago, in Tamil literature the Pari padal Tirattu described the morphology of Madurai in a vivid manner. The Shape and structure of Madurai was in the form of a lotus with the temple in the centre and structure radiating from it in the form of the petals of a lotus the flower. Thus it was presumed initially that the city might have a circular shape with the streets, in concentric circles around this central nuclei temple with radiating lanes

2. Hindu Period 874 to 1740 A.D
The early Hindu period was characterized by Chola supremacy over the Pandyas and there is little information regarding the structure of Madurai city. In the medevial period, The modern city of Madurai was developed with a layout of concentric square pattern with temple and palace as nuclei. Viswantha Nayak (1529-1564) a Vijayanagar king was the main architect and designed Madurai city layout according to Silapathikaram the famous Tamil literature work written by Ilango Adigal in the 5th century A.D. The layout pattern is known as Saravadaya Batra. During this period the city was fortified with big moat an all sides with main opening towards east. Another Nayak ruler, Thirumalai Nayak (1622-1659) extended Sree Meenakshi Amman Temple and constructed a new Mandapam on the eastern Side of the temple at a distance of kilometer. The architecture during this period blends with the orient with that of the west because to the incurrence of the Portugese and British. Thirumalai Nayak also constructed a very big water tank an the eastern periphery of the city on the main road connecting the city with Rameswaram, The big water tank is known as Mariamman Teppakulam.

During Rani Mangammal's period, the city experienced development with there paved avenues, temples, choultris, besides a big summer palace and a sports ground in the foreground of the palaces on the northern side of the river vaigai. The present Gandhi museum is located in the summer palace of Rani Mangammal. Thus the city has under gone Many phases of development and by now the city has a well developed area namely the central commercial an the eastern and southern part of the city core. The residential areas emerged very distinctively in. the western and northern sides of the temple extending up to the river Vaigai[15]. A number of new smaller scattered attachments also emerged around the city. Arapalayam, Kuyavarpalayam and Goripalayam during the Nayak period.

3. British Period 1800-1947A.D
The Pandyas added marvelous bleedings and the Nayaks added several splendid buildings. But the expansion of the city started only after the entry of the British till then the city had the fort walls as its limitations (2.56 Sq kms). The area extent increased to 6.63 sq kms when it was declared a municipality in 1851. Madurai came in to the possession of British in 1792 In 1840 a British Collector by name Black burn razed to ground the old fortification of the city and filled up the moat upon which the present broad veil street were laid. There after the town expanded in all direction. At that time Madurai which had an area of 2.56 Sq kms and a population of 41,601 person (1856) attained the status of a town with the enforcement of old town improvement Act in 1866, The British slowly started developing Madurai as a regional administrative centre, with a new district jail and

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sessions court founded in 1870 and 1875 Madurai was connected by railways with Tirchy and later with Rameswaram, Tirunnelveli and Bodinayakanoor. The work of the Albert Victor Bridge over Vaigai, and important land mark connecting southern and northern Parts of the city was started in 1855 and completed in 1889. In 1896 the supply of drinking water to all the parts of the city started from the Arapalayam scheme and a second scheme stared functioning at Kochadai in 1920. The first planning mill known as the Madurai Mills started working in Madurai from 1892 onwards. The underground drainage scheme for the city was put to the commissioner in 1913-1914 and was introduced in the city in 1925. The electric fiction started on 1926 through generators and from 1936 it was fed by Periyar Hydroelectric power project.

The city's importance as a centre of administrative and judicial functions resulted due to the influx of migrants from far and nearby villages towards the city sacking employment in the newly started institutions and establishments. The introduction of educational institution simultaneously with the advent of the railways and road way contributed much towards the urban growth. The built up area extended along the Ramnad road in the east and Alagar Koil Road in North Theni Road in the west and Tirunelveli road in the south and formed the out skirts of the old city limit Institutions like District Board high school (1856) Madura college (1880) Dravida Technical School (1890) Fourth Tamil Sangam (1901) American college (1910) Mission hospital (1897) Erskine hospital (1916) and the Town planning scheme prepared after the visit of Town planning officer Patrick Geddes in 1916, in the expansion of the city.

4. City in its Modern Period

The growth of the city in its modern period is mainly due to the starting of a number of smaller scale industries in and around Madurai. The small scale industries, auto spares, metal powder, rubber etc. All the small scale Indus trice developed during this period. These industries were mostly concentrated in the south me stern part of the city. Along the bank of river Vaigai. This was mainly due to greater accessibility and availability of open space and water. the starting a number of industries and commerce, transport facilities etc. have attracted a large number of people from very small towns and surrounding rural areas to migrate into this city Due to migration and the and growth of population the congestion in the central part of the city has increased. This had induced the desire for space for modern houses free from congestion and pollution. This was also responsible for the faster urban expansion in all directions especially along the north and north east.

Such residential localities include Narimedu, Tallakulam and Gandhi Nagar. Later took place in Shenoy Nagar, K.K. Nagar, and Somasundaram colony.Most of these residential localities were situated in the peripheral areas in all directions excepting the southern side due to the location of a number of industries. A number of educational institutions were started at Madurai city after independence. Lady Doak college (1948) Thiagarajar College (1949) Fatima College (1953) Medical College (1950) Due to the educational institutions large number of people migrated by the city by the year 1959. The house were constructed near Sathamangalam. The growth of the city during this period was faster to the north of the river vaigai especially in the north eastern parts of Alagar Koil Road than other parts of the city.

Conclusion

Since its origin to the present period. Any city grows like a living organisms. Madurai is no exception, the city which started with an area of about 2.59 sq.kms in 1874 A.D has grown to a million, city occupied an area 52.sq.km by 1985 to 142 sq.km by 2011. The city which originated as the capital of the pandyan kings in the Historical period has continuously maintained its growth as a capital city till the Nayaks period and also maintained its urban status. In course of its historical growth many monuments have come into existence, which has accelerated the spatial structure and growth of the city.

Madurai came under the British rule in 1792. A major landmark in the urban growth was the demolition of the fort around the historical city in 1840. After this event the city spread in all directions. The city was linked to other places through railways in the year 1875. This accelerated the growth of the city. The city attained the status of municipality in 1851. By 1971 the city was raised the status of the corporation. Based on the study of the origin and growth of Madurai city has been increased. So that emergence of urbanization taken place. It brought more environmental problem in Madurai Since then the city has experienced a sizeable growth of population leading to an increase in area under all types of land uses. It has been observed that the residential space has experienced a very significant increase, which may be due to growth of population in Madurai and also in migration from the surrounding rural areas and small urban settlements. The city today functions as an urban center.

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