



## Important Events in the Nilgiri Hills.

1799 : The defeat of Tipu and the accession of the plains country surrounding the hills to the British with their presence in the Coimbatore and Malabar. After this the British expand to make their presence felt in many places surrounding the Nilgiri Hills.

1812 : A revenue surveyer ventures onto the Nilgiri Hills, for which various notices are attached.

1819 : European houses and people and houses come to settle on the hills.

1822 : Preliminary surveys of the hills by a survey & reconnaissance team.

1847 : First extensive survey of the Nilgiri hills by Capt. Buchta long.

: A few coffee plantations have already started on the hills & surroundings.

Madhav's view of Chronology of Events: There are in some cycle - may be a 30 year cycle chiefly for a period during which a mode of resource use or a certain paradigm of relationship with the environment is established. We could cite ~~day~~ dates from the early 1800s as.

1800s the British establish power in Southern India.

1830s. the planting of coffee, etc. estate & exorbitant ~~Forest~~ Considering forestry, forest conservancy cells being established.

1857-60. The unity & further consolidation of power. the revenue surveys, the reservation of forests etc.

1910s. Power totally consolidated - and attempts at more reasonable administration and democratization showing by the reestablishment of village forests - But soon the inadequacy and total ~~break~~ break down the social system and use-a-use the market forces render such experiment a failure.

1950: The Forest Policy and the primary for National Interest, shown & written down in no uncertain terms - "that a village in the proximity of a forest has no special privilege over the resources of the forests, over the 'National' and Developmental interests.

1980: the new Conservation Policy.

When we look at the time series of events, basically with the idea of resource use paradigm in the broad sense of the term:

1) We could look at rainfall and seasons in the locale of the Belgians, and see whether there is in fact some cyclicity & pattern to the weather in terms of regularity & irregularity; and what are the statistical correlates of this time series.

2) What have been the periods of disease and disaster in the area? Among the major killers & during this period would come

a) The Great Indian Famine 1876-78.

b) Cholera.

c) Small-pox

d) Dysentery - ?

e) Influenza, in the year 1918 (?).

f) Plague 1894-1902 & 1907

~~What~~ Which are the major areas it has affected and what has been the <sup>extent of</sup> damage & depopulation.

3) What have been the major periods of land use changes.

1800-onwards a) The period of expansion of agriculture & its rate

1850-1920 b) The establishment of the plantation industry.

1880 - 1910) c) The Forest Reservations and consequent land  
1950 - 1970) or resource use restrictions.

1960 - 1980. d) The encouragement of forest based industries.

1960 - e) The intensification of agriculture through green  
revolution and Grow more Food campaign.

f) The Conservation/Recreation movements!

4) What have been the major political events in  
the area in general and the Nilgiri area in  
particular.

a) 1800 - British control established.

b) 1857 - Mutiny.

c) ~~18~~ 1947 - Independence.

5) What have been the major economic forces  
during the period.

~~a) 1800 - British control.~~

~~b) 1857 - Mutiny.~~

a) Before 1799: Some contribution to Tipu's fund.

b) ~~1800 -~~ the 1799 - 1881: Marginal Revenue  
to the British.

c) 1881 - The Revenue Survey & Settlement.

d) R 1882 - 1910: Reservation of forests &  
Revenue from the forests.

(e) 1910 - 1980: Revenue from forests.

(f) 1980 - onwards: Conservation orientation  
to forest policy - but still revenue  
earning.

(g) The Gold/Tea/Coffee world market.

What have been the major technological changes in the Nolyji area as regards communication, artifacts, urbanization, industry, etc? Information, etc.

a) 1812 - 1822: Preliminary surveys and exploration of the hills, the reporting of a salubrious climate, amenable for Europeanization, the preliminary paths to and from the hills, etc.

b) 1822 - 1870: Trade with ~~indigo~~ cultivation of tropical plants. The beginning of fuelwood plantations, urbanization, the establishment of infrastructure as regards good all weather roads, the growth of the plantation industry. Water supply for urbanization.

c) 1870 - 1910: Expansion & establishment of the railways, the further expansion of plantations and establishment of ~~the~~ a plantation industry. Major opening up of the interior Wynaad by the

(1879-82) - ephemeral Gold mining and the plantation industry. The establishment of S&T in Wynaad. Cordite factory & ship. Attempts to make use of water power

1910 - 1950: Boom, War & Independence for energy.

a) 1950 - ~~1970~~ 1970: The building of a large number of ~~the~~ reservoirs for power in the upper plateau and for irrigation in the lower hills. Almost 100% utilization of water resources for power generation. Intensification of

agriculture with improved seeds, fertilizer and pesticide. The establishment of more industries; some very polluting like the HCFs etc. & Needle industries, etc.

1970-1990. Increased urbanization, and immigration and settlement in the area. Increased tourism by the middle income groups. The establishment of sanctuaries, and national parks. Encouragement of forest based industries, growth in industrial plantations. And concerns of the environment.

## On treating the Census reports with almost caution.

The reliability and authenticity of the census statistics is questionable because of very many inherent problems in census data collection and statistical preparation. Thus although we use it we have to use it with almost caution. We use it mainly because

- a) That is the only estimate of numbers of populations and its details available.
- b) That the use of numbers and quantitative estimates give the study an authenticity and precision that we believe is the unquestioned ~~reality~~ details of reality.
- ~~c) That these numbers represent and the statistics they represent~~
- (c) That these numbers and the statistics represent the reality as it exists.

However, we need to understand the inherent and possible sources of error in census statistics and use it with almost caution. And understanding its faults and source of error we use it to derive an understanding of historical reality. We use it for want of more accurate and detailed data.

In fact censuses may be done away with and be replaced by carefully and scientifically designed sample surveys that would yield reasonable or comparably good estimates!

The source of error in census data could be for the following reasons.

- (a) The geographical area coverage: The early censuses have not covered many of the far flung and remote and inaccessible geographic areas. Thus the numbers of population etc may be lower than the actual numbers. The census may not be a complete enumeration, thus the data may not be comparable.
- (b) Census collection methodologies have been different each census. Early censuses were carried out over a certain period and later censuses on a particular date. This may have caused double enumeration. Further in some censuses people were collected at certain centres and enumerated with the help of the forest department. In certain cases, the schedules may have been ambiguous and thus returns may have been faulty.
- (c) Definitions of different categories, and the organization of different categories have been different from census to census leading to incomparable returns from census to census. eg. Occupation.
- (d) The census collecting efficiency and the training of and experiences of enumerators and organizing staff have increased with better and more efficient returns in subsequent censuses.

(e) The priorities and thrusts of each census has been reflected in the ~~size~~ nature of the schedule and the kind of final tables returned. These thrusts and priorities may themselves have been defined by social, political and economic exigencies. Thus religion, caste and occupation had been the priorities during the British census and after 1941, the caste category was dropped from census, thinking wishfully that, if caste of the population was not collected and returned, it would not be a significant factor and cause of fissure in the society.

(f) The attitude of the censused population would be a very important factor affecting the reliability of returns. During the early censuses, there was a great apprehension among the local population that enumeration may be a means to impose some taxes and exploit the population and thus returns were not accurate. Question on the age of the respondent, since the date of birth of a person is not recorded with accuracy, ~~it has been~~ ~~by~~ the indigenous population, it may not have been returned accurately. There may also be error in the number of children, or the number of dependents, in each household, or the principal and secondary occupations. Thus these tables would be marginally inaccurate.

The other question about censuses ~~is~~ concerns their historical causes or motivations and their utilities. Broadly, why were the censuses taken and what were the census data and returns used for?

Much of the schedules, categories and classifications that were used especially with regard to occupational structure were developed in the European context and were simply <sup>imported and</sup> used to characterize the Indian society. Thus much of the ideas of census gathering were those prevalent in Europe and other parts of European colonies. Further the whole obsession with recording population details were a part of the European culture and civilizational experience, and this was a strong motivation for censusing the population. The colonial regime may have also been interested in learning and understanding the society that they govern.

The second question concerns the utility of the censuses. Of what use was the census data put too. In what way was the expenditure and effort seen to the imperial interests of the colonialists? The native apprehension of the early censuses, that they were taken to impose some taxes on the people may not have been literally true, but the data must have been used to know the growth of populations, the availability of labour and man-power, the social structure of society according to caste and religion and this kind of information would be useful to gain more control over the society and

to better use the man power resources to communal advantages. We still need concrete proofs of the actual utility of the censuses.

Thus the census at once returns certain, however inaccurate, quantitative figures on population, age-structure, occupations, caste, religion, language etc of the society; and at the same time it reflects the intellectual and ideological climate of the time. It gives some insight into the motivation of the government, and the probable utilities of the census data and returns.

## POPULATION GROWTH IN THE NILGIRIS

	<u>PERSONS</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>
1871*	41,501	27,192	22,309
1881	91,034	50,976	40,058
1891	99,797	56,155	43,642
1901	111,437	60,550	50,887
1911	118,618	63,509	55,109
1921	126,519	67,018	59,501
1931	169,330	91,928	77,402
1941	209,709	112,870	96,839
1951	311,729	163,280	147,849
1961	409,308	213,833	195,475
1971	494,015	254,120	239,895
1981	630,169		

The definition of an urban area keeps changing with the censuses. they were taken to mean only those that were declared municipalities (M) and cantonments (C). Later it was allowed to be decided by the census commissioner based on certain criteria of trade and composition and density of population, and later classed as class I, II & III.

The number of rural <sup>clusters</sup> ~~villages~~ were the revenue villages in the district.

POPULATION GROWTH URBAN / RURAL.



POPULATION GROWTH OF TRIBAL / INDIGENOUS POPULATION

1602 (A. Rames)	(1000)					
	<u>BABAGAI</u>	<u>TOMA</u>	<u>KOTA</u>	<u>KURUMBA</u>	<u>TRULA</u>	<u>OTHERS</u>
1871	19,476	693	1,112	613	1,470	26,137
					23,364	
1881	24,130	<sup>689</sup> 675	1,065	3,185	946	61,033
					30,001	
1891	30,633	739	1,201	3,966	1,201	648
					37,740	62,057
1901	<sup>34,178</sup> 34,223	<sup>807</sup> 805	<sup>1,267</sup> 1,300	4,074	1,825	69,210
					42,222	
1911	<sup>38,180</sup> 38,679	<sup>784</sup> 727	<sup>1,163</sup> 1,271	2,917	3,068	91,956
					46,662	
1921	40,329	640	1,204	..	1,165	83,181
					43,838	
1931	43,075	597	1,121	..	..	124,537
					44,713	
1941						
1951	67,251	879			1,786	261,813
		1950s [488 @ Peter 1965]			69,916	
1961	84,823	<sup>259</sup> 706	832	1,174	7,215	314,558
					94,750	
1971	104,392	812	1,269			387,542
					106,413	
1981	125,000	1,600	1,400	4,874	72% 5,900	491,395
					138,774	

\* European includes, Celtic, English, French, Galic, German, Hebrew, Irish, Portugese, Scotch  
~~Celtic~~, ~~Spanish~~, Welsh, Dutch, Greek, Italian.  
English

LANGUAGE

	<u>BADAGA</u>	<u>EUROPEAN</u>	<u>IRULA</u>	<u>KOTA</u>	<u>KURUMBA</u>	<u>TODA</u>	<u>MALAYALAM</u>	<u>TAMIL</u>
1871	<del>1,019</del>	<del>2,940</del>	<del>35</del>	<del>1,062</del>	<del>152</del>	<del>669</del>	<del>7,431</del>	<del>19,882</del>
1881	1,019	2,940	35	1,062	152	669	7,431	19,882
1891	30,633	3,149	1,196	1,201	3,182	736	8,775	28,038
1901	34,223	3,808	819	1,300	3,714	805	4,759	39,121
1921	38,679	4,741	<del>1,187</del> 2,358	1,271	2,917	727	8,406	36,599
1931	42,521	5,050	1,481	1,123	..	597	17,432	54,311
1941								
1951	67,251	1,586	1,786			879	41,461	119,045
1961	<del>75,236</del> 84,823	2,838	3,958	862	3,767	759	64,622	157,830
1971								
1981					1,200			

Asian Languages

\* ~~North Indian~~ ~~languages~~ include: Bengali, Cutchi, Gujrati, ~~Hindustani~~, Marhatta, Oriyah, Persian, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Tulu, Turkish, by way, Singalese, Kasnua, Konkani, Lambadi, Tulu, Chinese, Hindi, Assam

\* Others Include: not stated, ~~Kasnua, Konkani, Lambadi, Tulu~~, Combined Languages.

\* Urdu

# LANGUAGE (CONT)

	<u>CANARESE</u>	<u>TELUGU</u>	<u>NORTH INDIAN / IRANIAN</u>	<u>OTHERS</u>	<u>HINDUSTANI</u>	<u>ASIAN</u>
1871						
1881	50,789	3,047	<del>5,140</del>	563	2,440	2,699
1891	14,125	4,332	<del>4,539</del> <del>2,996</del>	<del>32</del>	2,943 <sup>1801</sup>	1,456
1901	13,219	4,391	<del>1,926</del>	..	3,926	1,352
1921	13,026	4,515		..	3,834	1,545
1931	29,967	9,482			4,995	897
1941						
1951	40,241	26,469			5,192	7,817
1961	37,690	30,118			7,649*	14,379
1971						
1981						

# CASTE, TRIBE & RACES

	<u>Europeans</u>	<u>Eurasians</u>	<u>Brahman</u>	<u>Kshatriya</u> (Military/Agri)
1871	1,339	796	196	50
1881			440 (1.65)	<del>24</del>
1891				24

Chetti

Vellalan

Idiyans  
(Cow-Breeds)

Kammalan

1871

472

4,639

771

490

1881

3,145 (1.3)

258 (1.168)

Kanabkan

Kaikalans

Nannians

Kusavan

1871

114

232

1,234

23

1881

154 (1.852)

1,293 (1.197)

387 (1.15)

(Fisherman)

Satani

Sembadawan

Shan'an

(Palmcultivating)

Umbattan

(Barbers)

1871

1,959

60

16

108

1881

165 (2.113  
~~+418~~)

247 (4.167  
~~#6~~)

Nannan  
(Washuman)

Others

Pariahs

Muslms

Unsped

1871

194

24,809

10,228

1,934

44

1881

547 (1.378)

38,948 (1.187)

17,209 (1.402)

3,531 (1.798)

139 (1.482)

Agamudian

Rajput

Amalakaran  
(Temple servants)

Bahija  
(Agri/Trade)

1871

1881

59 (2.875)

83 (1.964)

11 (0.853)

808 (1.140)

1891

27

101

13

Besta  
(fishermen)

Devangalu  
(weavers)

Gouda

Lingadheri

1871

1881

114 (1.151)

84 (2.0)

369 (2.93)

304 (1.667)

Kallan  
(Worrior/Agri)

Kammalan  
(Blacksmith)

Komati  
(Merchant)

Kongu Vellalan  
(Agriculture)

1871

1881

38 (2.455)

1,617 (1.139)

4 (3.0)

2 (~~15~~0)

1891

12

Kurumber

Madaga  
(Teluga Harjan, Lakshar)

Maravan  
(Agi/Monior)

Mut-ratcha  
(Watchman)

1871

1881

3,185 (1.135)

2,776 (1.406)

53 (1.12)

23 (1.556)

1891

4

Nair  
(Agn/monna)

Oddar  
(Stone/Earth workers)

Padayacchi  
(aghi)

Palli  
(Agn)

1871

1881

141 (1.660)

294 (2.095)

40 (1.105)

1,144 (1.933)

1891

6

Dargiyan  
(Agn)

Reddi  
(Agn)

Seniyan

Sembadawan  
(fishermen)

1871

1881

~~17~~ 209 (1.402)

98 (1.513)

162 (1.418)

177 (1.458)

Shetti  
Picherman

Tenangulu or Vadugar

Opparawan  
(Salt works)

Velama

1871

1881

2812 (1.154)

572 (1.165)

56 (1.24)

10 (1.5)

Yaduvu  
(cow hand)

Masathi  
(Agro / ashtay)

1871

1881

20 (1.857)

~~1881~~

1891

904

	<u>1871</u>	<u>1881</u>	<u>1891</u>	<u>1901</u>
Europeans	1,339		1,795	
Eurasians	296		1,237	
Brahman	196	440 (1.651)	442 (total of many sects)	558 (1.571)
Kshatriya	50		24	
Chetti (Trade)	472		3,324	2,950 (1.273)
Vellalar (Agri)	4,639	3,145 (1.300)		
Idaiyars (Cooherds)	771	258 (1.168)		332 (1.156)
Kammalan (Artisans)	490	1,617 (1.139)	792	1010 (1.563)
Kanakkan (Kolleg Agri)	114		154	36 (36/0)
Kaikalars (Weavers)	232	154 (1.852)		163 (1.329)
Vannians (Agri labor)	1,234	939 (1.194)		
Kusavan (Pot makers)	23	387 (1.15)		
Sabani (Mixed Caste) (Pamplu & Semandi)	1,959		26	
Sembadavan (Fisherman)	60	177 (1.452)	29	
Shanman (Taddy tappers)	16	165 (2.113)	52	
Bombalton (Barbers)	108	247 (1.167)	385	249 (1.327)
Vannan (Weaver)	194	547 (1.372)		
Others	24,609	38,949 (1.187)	967	
Pariyals (Outcaste)	10,386	17,209 (1.406)	13,583	
Muslim	1,934	3,531 (1.798)		
Unspecified	44	139 (1.422)	10	
Pajpals (Agri/Weaver)		83 (1.964)	101	
Agamudian		59 (2.622)	27	159 (1.409)
Ambalakaran (Temple servant)		11 (0.833)	13	
Balija (Agri/Trade)		808 (1.196)	426	
Besba or Valayan (Fisherman)		114 (1.151)	91	

	1871	1881	1891	
Perungudi (Weavers)		84 (2.0)		
Gonda (Agri)		369 (2.926)	18	
Chingadhari		804 (1.667)		
Kalhan (Agri/Woman)		38 (2.455)	12	22 (1.75)
Komate (Merchant)		4 (3.0)	<del>4</del> 1	
Kongu Vellalan		2 (0.0)		
Kurumbur (Forest & Hill tribes)		3,185 (1.135)	3,966	
Madiga (Cobbler)		2,776 (1.406)	1,240	
Maravan (Agri/Woman)		53 (1.68)	4	
Mutabcha (Watchman)		23 (1.556)	7	
Nair (Woman/Agri)		141 (1.660)	6	
Oldar (Stone/Earth workers)		294 (2.095)	622	
Padayacchi (Agri)		40 (1.105)		
Palli (Agri)		1,144 (1.933)	129	
Reddi (Agri)		98 (1.513)		
Senigan		162 (1.418)		
Shetti (fisherman)		2,818 (1.154)		
Tadg Telangulu or Vadugan.		578 (1.165)		
Upparavan (Salt workers)		56 (1.24)	65	
Vaniyan and Gandla (Oil pressed)		1,293 (1.120)		
Velama		10 (1.5)		
Vadevlu		20 (1.857)		
Marathi			903	
Parivanan (Agri/Woman)			8	
Raju or Raju (Agri/Woman)			19	
Bidaga (Agri)			29362	
Kamma (Agri)			39	
Kapn or Reddi (Agri)			107	

	1871	1881	1891	
Kunchiga (Agri)			5	
Nattaman (Agri)			28	
Puluvan (Agri)			4	
Sudra (Agri)			9	
Tottian, Kambalattan (Agri)			13	
Vakkaliga (Agri)			4,806	
Vellala (Agri)			3,836	
Kammadiyan (Cattle breeders)			23	
Cheruman (Field labourers/Blacksmiths)			916	
Holeya (Field labourers)			6,760	
Muppan (Field labourers)			36	
Pallan (Field labourers)			689	
Paniyan (Field labourers)			3,863	
Pigala (Field labourers)			23	
Vettuvan (Field labourers)			9	
Iruka (Forest & Hill tribes)			1,201	1,825 (1.023)
Kadan ( " )			15	
Kasuka (-do-)			319	
Kota (-do-)			1,201	
Malaiyalam (-do-)			12	
Mudukun (-do-)			30	
Palliyan (-do-)			71	
Pulaiyan (-do-)			7	
Soliga (-do-)			264	
Toda (-do-)			789	
Jangam (Priests)			11	
Pondarom (Priests)			49	
Valuna (Priests, Hindu + Christ)			398	

	1871	1881	1891
Bairagi & Gosayi (Devotees)			2
Kanisan (Astrologers)			10
Bhatraju (Musicians)			1
Banajiga (Traders)			93
Kavarai (Traders)			461
Kalhai (Traders) Muslim			1,135
Mappala (Traders) "			440
Memam (Traders) "			13
Set (Traders) "			3
Vadugan (Traders)			420
Vaisyan (Traders)			2
Lambadi or Baijan (Carriers)			37.
Akkasale (Goldsmith)			54
Tattan (Goldsmiths)			76
Gejjevara & Opa (Artisans) <sup>Kamela</sup>			87
Hajam, Mangala & Velakkattalavan <sup>(Barbers)</sup>			24
Kollan (blacksmiths)			18.
Tacchan (Carpenters)			57.
Chembotti & Kannan (Coppersmiths) <sup>Brass &amp;</sup>			17
Namadav & Panan (Tailors)			38
Vettilaiakaran (Perfumers)			82
Alavan & Kadupattan (Salt-makers)			48
Boya (Fisher men, Boatman, Fakir, etc.)			87
Paravan (- do -)			27
Sanalakkaran (- do -)			8
Toreya (- do -)			136
Idiga & Ishevan (Distillers & Toddy tappers)			10
Piyyan (- do -)			461

	<u>1871</u>	<u>1881</u>	<u>1891</u>	<u>1901</u>
Chakkilian (Leather workers)			693	
Putturiyan (Hollage watchmen etc)			22	
Toti (Scavengers)			12	
Korava or Yerukala (Mat makers)			47	
Valaiyan (Hunters)			20	
Vedan (Hunters)			182	
Andi & Dasari (Beggars, etc)			146	67(2-526) + 1
Nokkan (Tumblers, etc)			2	
Non-Indian, Asiatic Races.			3,001	
Native Christians			5,169	

## The maharaja's Hunt

The Mysore maharaja, Jayachamaraja Wodeyar shot about 75 tigers during his life. He had been advised by a Kurumba black magician that he would have a male progeny only if he shot at a 100 tigers, so he had a drive for shooting tigers. The maharaja had a full-fledged game department involved to provide the infrastructure for hunting. They would have tiger block, on the fringes of the forests with a water pond and a place to fatten the bait. And with tribal trackers to provide watch. If a tiger ventured in, the tracker would inform the raja and he would come for a hunt. In addition, the state had game reserves, all over its land.

Nagarhole : 150 to ~~200~~ sq km = 15-20 tigers.

Jaya Bhaskaran,

tel: 36 0884.

Flat 21, "Lampurna"

8, Palace Cross Road,

Bangalore 20.

