

district of Tamilnadu. The study concentrates on all the three major communities of the area, namely, forward community, backward community and scheduled community. Each village is constituted of some hamlets which fall within its administrative jurisdiction. Nanjai Kolanalli, a village panchayat consists of six hamlets, whereas Punjai Kolanalli, a town panchayat, consists of twenty eight hamlets. A hamlet consists of four houses at the minimum and about two hundred houses at the maximum.

### 3.2.1 Transportation Facilities

The sample villages are situated on the Erode - Karur highway. Erode, the head quarters of the Periyar district, situated twenty five kilometers away from it, is the nearest town. The temple village Kodumudi is located five kilometers away from Kolanalli. The river Cauvery flows on the eastern boundary of the village. The otherside of the river bed is the boundary line of the Salem district.

The buses plying between Karur and Erode pass through these villages and they offer good transport facility to the public. Six sub-urban buses connecting Erode are also plying via these villages. The trains which go from Erode to Trichy pass through these villages and the passanger trains stop here. The school and college students