



# Exploring the Refugee Rehabilitation centers in Tamilnadu

*Case studies of Srilankan refugee rehabilitation centers in Lenavilaku and Kottapattu.*

**V Suvedha, T Devadharshni, H Robert jones**

B.Arch, B.Arch, B.Arch

Department of architecture,

Periyar Maniammai Institute Of Science And Technology.

**Abstract :** This paper presents a live case study that examines the architectural design and spatial considerations of the Sri Lankan Refugee Rehabilitation Center, Lenavilaku. The study aims to analyze how the built environment and architectural features contribute to the well-being, functionality, and sense of belonging for the residents.

Through a combination of on-site observations, interviews with stakeholders, and analysis of architectural plans, the study investigates various aspects of the center's design. These include the layout and organization of spaces, integration of natural elements, utilization of sustainable materials, and the incorporation of culturally sensitive design elements.

The findings reveal that Lenavilaku's architectural design plays a vital role in creating an environment that supports the rehabilitation and reintegration process for the refugees. The paper highlights the center's emphasis on promoting communal spaces, privacy, and security, which are crucial for fostering a sense of community and individual well-being.

Moreover, the study explores how the center's architectural design responds to the unique needs and cultural sensitivities of the Sri Lankan refugee population. It examines how the design incorporates cultural elements, such as traditional aesthetics, symbolic motifs, and familiar spatial patterns, to provide a sense of familiarity and connection to their heritage.

The paper also addresses the challenges faced during the design and construction process, including limited resources, time constraints, and regulatory requirements. It discusses innovative strategies employed to overcome these challenges and emphasizes the importance of engaging local communities and stakeholders in the design process.

The insights gained from this live case study provide valuable lessons for architects, urban planners, and humanitarian organizations involved in designing and implementing refugee rehabilitation centers. By understanding the impact of architecture on the well-being and social integration of refugees, designers can create spaces that are both functional and culturally sensitive, enhancing the overall effectiveness of such centers.

**IndexTerms-Sri Lanka, refugees, rehabilitation center, Lenavilaku, live case study, architectural design, spatial considerations, cultural sensitivity, well-being, functionality.**

## I. INTRODUCTION

Refugee rehabilitation centers play a crucial role in providing support and assistance to displaced individuals, facilitating their journey towards self-sufficiency and social integration. The architectural design of such centers plays a significant role in creating spaces that promote well-being, functionality, and a sense of belonging for the residents. This paper presents a live case study that focuses on the Sri Lankan Refugee Rehabilitation Center, Lenavilaku, examining its architectural design and spatial considerations.

The displacement of individuals due to conflict, persecution, and natural disasters has resulted in the establishment of refugee rehabilitation centers worldwide. These centers aim to provide essential services, including shelter, healthcare, education, vocational training, and psychosocial support, to address the unique needs and challenges faced by refugees. However, the architectural design of these centers is often overlooked, despite its potential impact on the overall well-being and success of rehabilitation efforts.

The Sri Lankan Refugee Rehabilitation Center, Lenavilaku, located in [specific location], serves as an exemplary case study for exploring the architectural aspects of such centers. Lenavilaku has been recognized for its holistic approach, providing comprehensive support to Sri Lankan refugees, including access to education, healthcare, skill development, and social integration programs. Through this case study, we aim to analyze the architectural design of Lenavilaku and investigate how it contributes to the well-being and functionality of the center.

By conducting on-site observations, interviews with stakeholders, and analysis of architectural plans, we seek to gain insights into various aspects of Lenavilaku's design. This includes examining the layout and organization of spaces, the incorporation of natural elements, the use of sustainable materials, and the integration of culturally sensitive design elements. Understanding how these architectural features are implemented and their impact on the residents' experiences can provide valuable insights for designing and improving similar centers in the future.

Moreover, we aim to explore how Lenavilaku's architectural design responds to the specific needs and cultural sensitivities of the Sri Lankan refugee population. By incorporating culturally appropriate design elements, such as traditional aesthetics, symbolic motifs, and familiar spatial patterns, the center aims to create an environment that promotes a sense of familiarity, comfort, and connection to their heritage.

The findings of this live case study will contribute to the existing body of knowledge on the role of architecture in refugee rehabilitation centers. It will provide architects, urban planners, and humanitarian organizations with valuable insights and practical recommendations for designing spaces that effectively address the needs of refugees, enhance their well-being, and promote their successful integration into society.

In the following sections, we will delve into the specific architectural features of Lenavilaku, examine the challenges faced during the design and construction process, and discuss the implications of our findings for future design practices in the field of refugee rehabilitation.

**Keywords:** *architecture, refugee rehabilitation center, live case study, Sri Lanka, Lenavilaku, well-being, functionality, cultural sensitivity.*

## II. REFUGEE

Anyone who has been impelled to leave their country due to persecution, war, or violence is considered a refugee. A refugee is someone who has a licit fear of being bedeviled because of their race, religion, nation, political opinions, or participation in a specific social group.

## III. REFUGEES IN INDIA

India isn't a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention and doesn't have a comprehensive strategy for refugee protection. On the other hand, it respects the UNHCR's accreditation and gives sanctuary to deportees for philanthropic reasons. The Indian Constitution protects the abecedarian rights of deportees. Several groups, including bedeviled Indian- origin religious nonages and Tamils from Sri Lanka, are recognized as legal deportees in India. Illegal emigrants may be deported after being arrested. India manages deportees via ad hoc mechanisms because there's no specific legislation in place. Deportees have the same legal standing as regular nonnatives under the Nonnatives Act of 1946.

## IV. SRILANKAN REFUGEES

Literal perspective Civil war and forced migration from Sri Lanka Sri Lanka, which sits near the southernmost point of the Indian key, is a small, ethnically different, and underdeveloped nation. It had a 19 million- person population and a 750 per capita income in 1997. The Sinhalese and the Tamils, two significant ethnical groupings, ruled it. Sinhalese and Tamil ethnical conflicts arose after Sri Lanka's emancipation from British rule in 1948. As a result, militant political movements, including the LTTE in 1976, began to develop with the intention of establishing a separate State( Tamil Eelam) in the north- eastern businesses.

Three phases made up the Eelam War in Sri Lanka between the LTTE and the Sri Lankan Army. Between July 1983 and October 1987, 134,053 Sri Lankan settlers entered the Indian State of Tamil Nadu as part of the first phase. During the Alternate Eelam War( 1990 – 1994), 122,078 deportees entered Tamil Nadu during the alternate phase. The 48,000 deportees who were transferred home in 1987 came back to Tamil Nadu in half. While crossing the border, the Sri Lankan deportees encountered colorful issues with the Indian and Sri Lankan Navy. In 1993, the Tamil Nadu government unified the 243 camps formerly in place and reduced their number to 132. In June 1991, the Indian government began the alternate phase of extradition. The Indian government freely returned 54,188 deportees to Sri Lanka, and 75,587 others who had valid trip permits did so on their own terms. In April 1995, the third stage of the Eelam War began. By April 2003, the Fourth Eelam War had redounded in 22,418 deportees in India and around 668,706 IDPs in Sri Lanka.

Due to violent fortified conflict in Sri Lanka's northeast in 1996, the Indian government put a halt to voluntary return. The Fourth Eelam War began in 2006 as a result of the LTTE blocking the Mavil Aru Anicut. The Sri Lankan government, still, wasn't prepared for the peace accommodations. After the LTTE was fully destroyed in May 2009, the civil war was eventually over. Completed people had failed by the time the battle was completed, 24,512 had fled to India as of December 2009, nearly 300,000 were internally displaced, and an undetermined number had travelled to Western nations.

#### IV.SRI LANKAN TAMIL REFUGEES IN TAMIL NADU AN OVERVIEW

Previous to and after independence, India and Sri Lanka have a long history together. The new Sri Lankan government disrespected the Tamil nonage and repealed the Sinhala Language Act. There are presently 66156 Sri Lankan deportees living in 113 refugee camps in Tamil Nadu alone, which are dispersed over 28 of the state's 32 sections. Tamils from Sri Lanka began returning to India as a result of this. This study aims to identify the demographic traits of Tamil deportees from Sri Lanka living in Tamil Nadu. The study solely relies on secondary sources of data gathered from the UNHCR, Offered, Commissioner ate of Rehabilitation and Welfare of Nonresident Tamils, Tamil Nadu Government, and their separate reports. Further than 66156 Sri Lankan deportees are housed in 113 camps in Tamil Nadu alone, which are dispersed over 28 of the state's 32 sections.

#### 2.1.CASE STUDY – SRILANKAN REFUGEE REHABILITATION CENTER ,LENAVILAKU

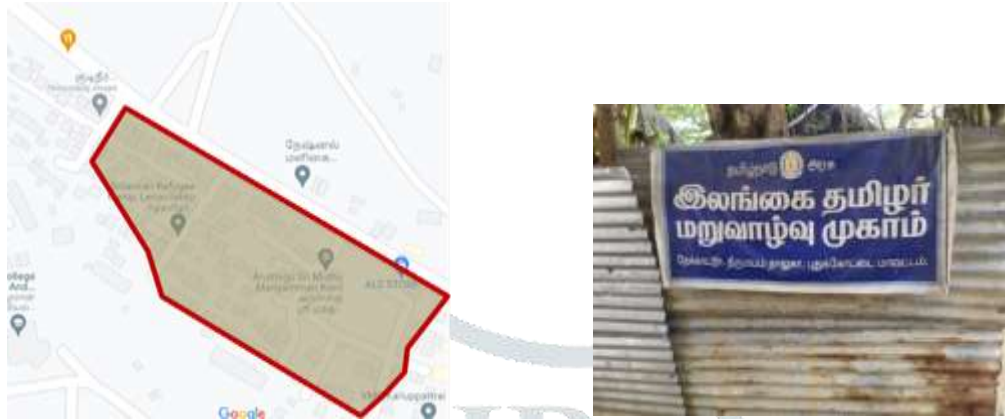


Figure 1-the site of lenavilaku rehabilitation center,Pudukottai

**Site location** - Ennapatti, Pudukottai, Tamil Nadu 622507

**Site area:** 7.5 acre

**Settlement pattern-** Clustered settlement

**No.of families** – 299.

**Population** - 910.

**No.of.houses** – 108



Figure 2 - Existing buildings - Evening school,RI room gathering hall

#### Rehabilitation center contains

- Houses
- Evening time school
- Common toilets
- Play ground
- Gathering space
- Administrative office
- Church
- Temple

#### Rehabilitation center occupation status

- 80% of men – painting
- 15% of men – daily wage construction workers
- 5%of men - salary job based on their qualification

- The majority of the women are housewives who sell their homemade goods. Some of them work as labour, while others held jobs depending on their educational backgrounds.

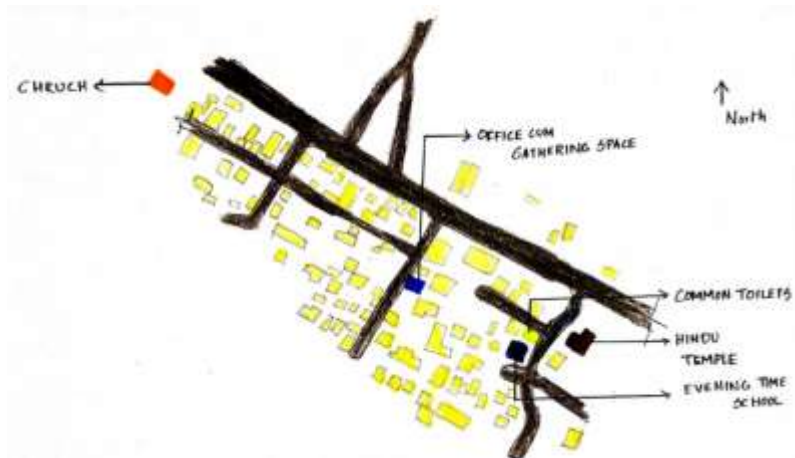


Figure 3 - the site plan marked with existing facilities

### Facilities

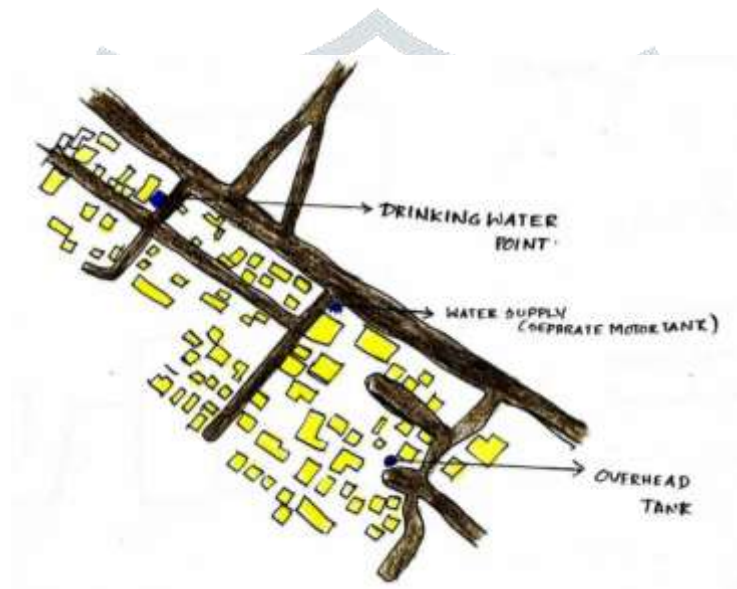


Figure 4 - the site plan marked with existing water facilities

- Bus stop is 550 metres away and reachable on foot.
- The site has good access to the road system.
- The distance to Mount Zion Engineering College is 200 metres. At Lembalakudi, a primary school and medical services are both within a two-kilometer radius.
- The town of Thirumayam is five kilometres away.
- The government offers adult citizens initiatives including monthly amounts per individual and a free driver's licence with training.
- The government offered the ladies courses in art and craft and tailoring.

New house construction plans

தொகுப்பு வீடு :

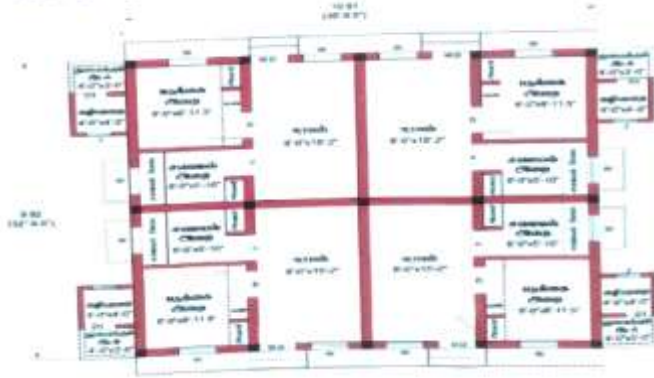


Figure 5- The plan of unit house which can accommodate 4 families

தனி வீடு :



அழகுற வெட்டும் தளத்தம் :

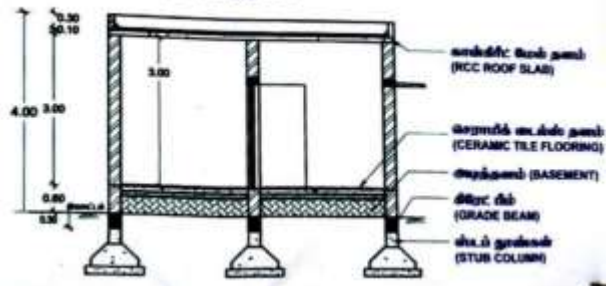


Figure 6- The plan and section of single house

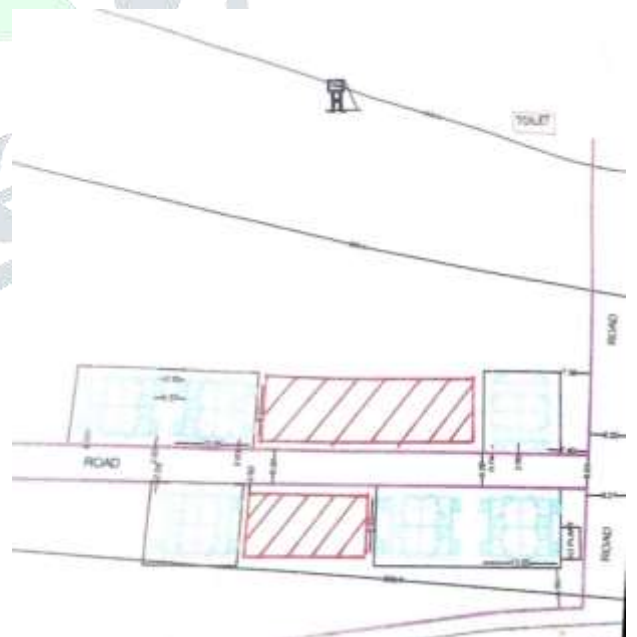
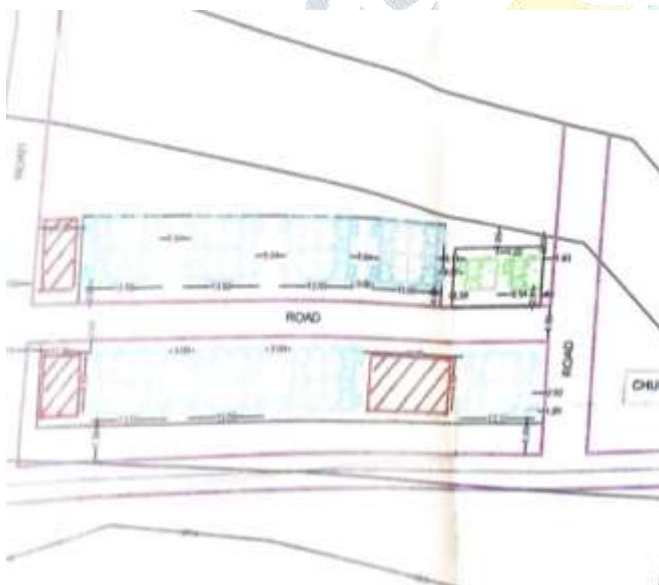


Figure 7- The layout shows the existing houses and new construction of houses

## 2.2 CASE STUDY 2 – SRILANKAN REFUGEE REHABILITATION CENTER, KOTTAPATTU



Figure 8-The site of srilankan refugee rehabilitation center,kottapattu

**Site location** - Ramanathapuram Rd.,Kottapattu,Trichy,Tamil Nadu 620020

**Site area** -8.5 acre

**Arrangement pattern**- grid pattern

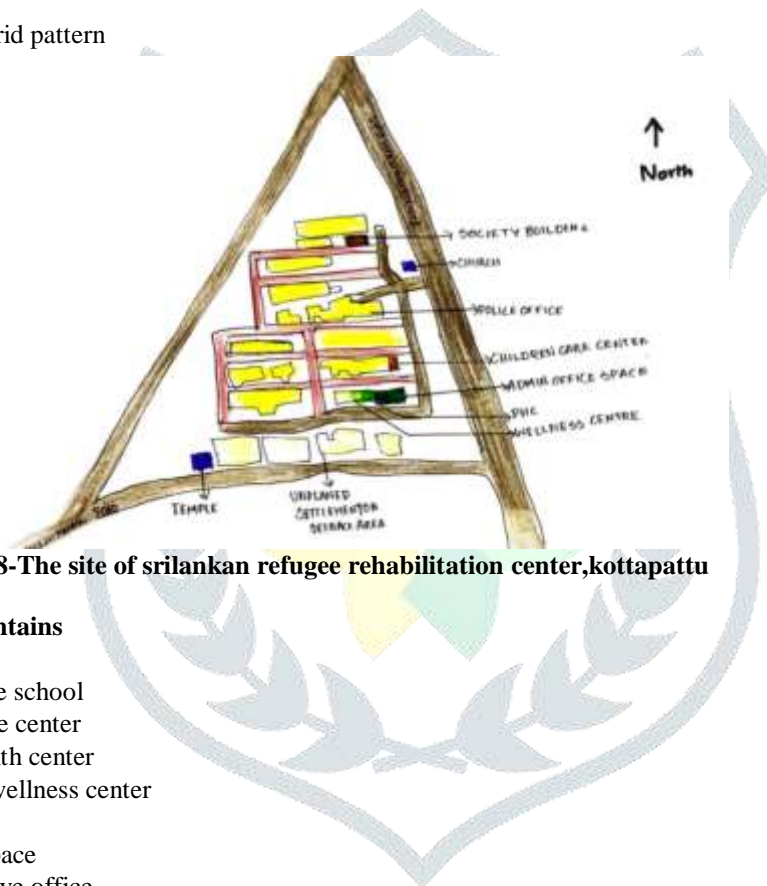


Figure 8-The site of srilankan refugee rehabilitation center,kottapattu

### Rehabilitation center contains

- Houses
- Evening time school
- Children care center
- Primary health center
- Health and wellness center
- Petty shops
- Gathering space
- Administrative office
- Temple
- Church
- Security room
- Society building
- Police station

### Surroundings

Since the refugee center is in the main city area, it is surrounded by government buildings.

### Facilities

Most of the basic needs and health care and basic education facilities are available inside the center.

### Occupation

Most of them are daily wage labour.

Urban based occupation.



Figure 9- shows the condition of the camps and their activities

III.COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Parameters	Lena vilaku refugee rehabilitation center	Kottapattu refugee rehabilitation center
Site area	6 acre	8.5 acre
Site boundary	Not defined	Defined with boundary wall
Population	910 people	1880people
Facilities	Less facilities compared to kottapattu center	More facilities like health and wellness center primary health centers are located inside the center
Security	No separate security room, Attendance taken once a week	Separate security room and attendance taken daily
Drinking water facilities	Purified drinking water is provided by lebara foundation which is an srilankan trust along with UNHCR.	Tamilnadu government drinking water supply
Arrangement	Clustered arrangement	Grid pattern of arrangement
Construction materials	Burnt brick, asbestos roof, GI sheet roof, cement flooring..	Burnt brick, asbestos roof, GI sheet roof, cement flooring, concrete roof ..
Newhouse construction	58 new houses are in construction stage.	New houses are yet to be built in this center.

Due to a lack of room, the majority of residents extended their homes using temporary sheets. Police officers are always maintaining a close eye on the refugees. The majority of early-built refugee housing employs an asbestos roof, which has substantial health risks. The government provides financial aid to refugees in the form of monthly payments, and the meeting places double as training facilities for vocational training. The lack of a drainage system causes an unsanitary environment for the refugees. The religious features of the refugee centre are given importance, and the camp include both Hindu and Christian temples. The refugee centres are wired for electricity, and solar-powered street lights are part of the design. The streets of the lena vilaku center is narrower because of uneven extension of houses by the people compared to kottapattu center. Most of the material used in construction are low cost material and locally available material. Some of the refugee houses were rebuilt by their own based on the income . None of the streets in either camp have been built.

V.REFERENCES

[1] <https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/refugee-crisis-in-india/>  
 [2] [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/292970989\\_Living\\_Conditions\\_of\\_Sri\\_Lankan\\_Tamil\\_Refugees\\_in\\_India](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/292970989_Living_Conditions_of_Sri_Lankan_Tamil_Refugees_in_India)  
 [3] [http://ijrar.com/upload\\_issue/ijrar\\_issue\\_20543969.pdf](http://ijrar.com/upload_issue/ijrar_issue_20543969.pdf)