

## THE NEW COLONIES

I am a very lucky person. I have always found people working for me in the shop floor or in the less skilled jobs who have taught me many things. There was my Foreman Dorai who taught me what it means to be a "Mudalaali (head)" so that he could be a good "Thozililaali (Workman)"! I have blogged about this earlier in these "Bed Time Stories". Now it was my driver Selvam's turn to make me ponder.

A few days ago Selvam was looking very troubled. The previous night there had been a small incident near his house, an accident where a small child had been hurt and the ensuing altercation. The crowd around stood by and watched. Some were shouting. He came to see what the commotion was, took the child to hospital and ensured her well being before getting back home. His neighbors said "very good of you, but should you have got involved? We don't know the reality, may be the Police will question you". But many of them were either the spectators or the ones fomenting the fight!

He was very upset because as he put it "Saar, if no one will help as a part of a community, and keeps worrying about themselves how will our 'Samudaayam' prosper now and how will it be in the future? I am seeing this reluctance to act for common good increasing all over. My neighborhood is not a community at all, saar. Like the rich peoples colonies, they have become poor peoples colonies."