



District Human Development Report - 2017
DINDUGAL DISTRICT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

State Planning Commission
Tamilnadu

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DISTRICT HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT DINDUGAL DISTRICT

Introduction

- Dindigul district is an administrative unit in the south of Tamil Nadu. It was carved out of the composite Madurai district on September 15, 1985.
- Dindigul district, during the course of time, had names like Dindigul Anna, Quaid-e-Milleth and Mannar Thirumalai.
- Dindigul, which was under the rule of Tipu Sultan, has a glorious past. The historical Rock Fort of Dindigul was constructed by the Naik King Muthukrishnappa Naicker.
- Dindigul district is gifted with huge reserves of granite and quartz.
- The main rivers of the district are Kodaganaru, Palar, Kuthiraiyar, Porandalar, Amravati, Manjalar, Varadhamanathi and Maruthanathi.
- It is famous for its lock and tannery industries.
- It comprises of two revenue divisions, eight taluks, and 14 panchayat unions, 330 panchayats with 3870 hamlets.

Geography

- Dindigul district was carved out of the composite Madurai district on 15.9.1985, covering an area of 6266.64 sq. km.

- The district is situated between 10p -05' and 10p -09' of northern latitude and 77p -30' and 78p -20' of eastern longitude with a mean sea level of (+) 280.11MSL.
- Dindigul district is bounded by Erode, Coimbatore, Karur and Tiruchi districts in the North; Sivaganga and Trichy districts in the East; Madurai district in the South, and by Theni and Coimbatore districts and Kerala in the West.
- It has an area of 6266.64 sq.km, which is 4.82 percent of the State's area.

Topography

- Dindigul district has extensive hilly areas with undulating plains.
- Differing resistances of the geological formation has given rise to various land forms, viz., structural hills, residual hills, linear ridges and pediment terrains in the district.
- The coalescence of alluvial cones, formed after composite slope boundary. These are found well developed in northern part of Palani Hills, southern part of Kodai hills and Natham hills.
- The valley fill sediments are found to occur in Oddanchatram, Reddiarchatram, Sanarpatti and Natham blocks and the southern slopes of Kodaikkanal hills.
- The Palani hills on the West forming the north-eastern spur of the Western Ghats range in height from 1000 to 2700 metres.

- Structured hills are the major land forms in the district. The major part of Kodaikkanal and Palani hills occupies structural hills. Similarly, it is also found in parts of Nilakottai, Natham, Vadamadurai, Oddanchatram and Gujiliamparai blocks.
- The upper hills comprise peaks like Perumalmalai and Vandarvermalai and include the beautiful scenic, hill station known as Kodaikkanal.
- The lowest Palani hills include Thandikudi and Virupatchi. On the eastern side, a large number of isolated peaks like Sirumalai, Alagarmalai, Karumalai, Kodarangimalai, Rangamalai, Natham and Ayyalur hills are found.

Soil Condition

- The major soil types in the district are Red soil, Red sandy soil and Black Cotton soil.
- Red soils are prevalent in Palani, Natham and Odanchattiram, while Red sandy soils are prevalent in Nilakottai, Dindigul and Vedasandur.
- Black soil found in all taluks except Kodiakanal.
- The rest of the district is characterized by an undulating plains covered mostly by red soil (55%) while the rest of the plains are covered by black soil. In Dindigul district three different climatic conditions prevail.

Climate

- Tropical climate prevails in plains, sub-tropical in lower Palani Hills and Sirumalai and temperate climate prevails in Palani Hills.
- In the plains, the maximum and the minimum temperature recorded are 37.5°C and 19.7°C in the hill stations 20.6°C and 7.7°C respectively.
- The district receives an average rainfall of 930 mm with dominant share of 436 mm from the North east monsoon (October-December).

Status of Human Development

- The HDI was constructed for 14 blocks in the district. As per the indicators of the dimensions of standard of living, health and education, the index value ranges between 0.84 (Dindigul) and 0.31 (Guzliamparai).
- Dindigul block is at the top rank owing to its urban nature and Guzliamparai block is at the bottom due to its low performance in health and education indicator oddanchatram, which ranks second (0.67) is a municipality oriented block wherein standard of living and health indicators have strong influence.
- Besides, Guzliamparai, the other two low faring blocks Vadamadurai (0.46) and Natham (0.45) have low HDI values because of lack of access to basic amenities and health services.

- Three dimensions, namely Health, Empowerment and Labour market have been taken for computing GII. These three dimensions have fourteen indicators. The value closer to zero (0) shows lower gender inequality and the value closer to one (1) shows higher gender inequality. The blocks which show lower gender inequality are Vadamadurai (0.01) Palani (0.01) and Reddiarchathram (0.02).
- The blocks which show higher gender inequality are Batlagundu (0.08) Guziliamparai (0.09) and Thoppampatti (0.09) These three blocks are at the bottom due to low female literacy, low female work participation rate in non – farm sector and high incidence of MMR.
- In Dindigul district out of 14 blocks, the top three blocks in CDI are Dindigul (0.77) Batlagundu (0.73) and Natham (0.58) These blocks are at the top due to low percentage of malnourished children and higher enrolment rate.
- The bottom three blocks in CDI are Thoppampatti (0.45), Vadamadurai (0.42) and Kodaikanal (0.34). These three blocks are at the bottom because of under - five mortality rate and low school enrolment ratio at higher secondary level.
- Among the 14 blocks in Dindigul district, Dindigul has the lowest multidimensional poverty index (0.17), followed by

Oddanchatram (0.19) and Palani (0.32). These three blocks are urban in nature and people in these blocks enjoy high standard of living and get good education.

- The three blocks Vendasandur (0.48) Guziliamparai (0.63) and Natham (.065) have higher MPI owing to their poor access to health and educational infrastructure. Inferences on the overall Index Rankings.

Employment, Income and Poverty

- Dindigul is drought prone and hence a majority of the population in the district depends upon employment for their livelihood.
- In the district, 87 percent of labourers are main workers, according to 2011 census. 51 percent of the total population are workers in 2011.
- The top three blocks with higher WPR in the district in 2001 are Thoppampatty (60.14%) Reddiarchathram (58.61%) and Guziliamparai (58.14%).
- The bottom three blocks with lower WPR in 2011 are Dindigul (41.62%) Palani (47.81%) and Kodaikanal (51.66%).
- The rural WPR in the district as a whole is 56.39 as against the urban WPR of 42.44 in 2011.
- It is noted from the blocks WPR is higher in rural areas, whereas it is lower in urban areas.

- The female WPR in rural areas is double that of the urban female WPR.
- The sectoral composition of workers reveals that the proportion of cultivators declined over the period 2001 – 2011, whereas the proportion of all other categories, namely agricultural labourers, household workers and other workers increased sizably.
- The district labour office on child labour status reports zero. But, there are reports about sizable presence of child labour in Athoor, Guziliamparai and Nilakottai blocks. This is a matter for investigation and necessary corrective action.
- The number of those who registered with employment office in Dindigul has been decreasing since 2009. The placement of those who registered was less than one percent (0.95%) in 2011. During 2013 – 14, there was a slight improvement in placement.
- MGNREGA is a prime employment assurance programme for the rural poor. As on 2011 – 12, around 2.46 lakh households received job cards against total rural households of 3.83 lakhs. That is, nearly two - thirds of the households in the district had employment opportunities. Reddichathram block was at the top with 88.34 percent registration for jobs under MGNREGS followed by Thoppampatty (82.65 percent) and Vadamadurai (73.63 percent).

- In 2013–14, nearly 62 percent of households in the district benefited from MGNREGA.
- The per capita income of the district in 2011 – 12 was Rs. 56376 and it was lower than that of the state (Rs. 63996).
- An analysis of the sectoral composition of GDDP reveals that the contribution of primary sector decreased from 19.3 percent in 2004 – 05 to 14.6 percent in 2011 – 12 at constant prices.
- The contribution of secondary sector increased from 27.6 percent in 2004 – 05 to 30.3 percent in 2011 -12 at constant prices.
- The contribution of tertiary sector increased from 53.1 percent in 2004 – 05 to 55% percent in 2011 – 12 at constant prices.
- A study of blockwise trends in poverty level in 2013–14 in the district reveals that Thoppampatti had the highest percentage (43.70 percent) of BPL households, followed by Shanarpatti (38 percent) and Vedasandur (36.04 percent).
- The blocks with low percentage of BPL households in 2013–14. Palani (20.64 percent). Athoor (24.41 percent). Kodaikanal (24.65 percent) and Dindigul (24.67 percent).
- BPL households primarily depend upon the public distribution system for their basic consumption needs. The District Supply Office of Dindigul provided family cards to nearly, 6.84 lakhs.

- It is well known that employment, income and poverty are interrelated. The decline in the contribution of primary sector to GDDP, absence of enough non farm jobs, presence of large proportion of women in low paid jobs, low level of vocational skills are some of the reasons for low per capita income and poverty.

Demography, Health and Nutrition

- Between 2001 and 2011, the population of Dindigul district increased by 12.3 percent.
- The highest increase in population during 2001 – 2011 was witnessed in Natham block, whereas Thoppampatti block witnessed the lowest increase (6.5 percent) during the same period. Natham block had the highest High Order Birth and Thoppampatty block had the lowest crude Birth rate. These factors contributed to high and low percentage increase of population in these two blocks respectively.
- The Sex Ratio of the district in 2011 was 998 as against the sex ratio of the state (995). The sex ratio of the district increased from 986 in 2001 to 998 in 2011. This is a welcome sign.
- Athoor, Vedsandur, Oddanchathram, Dindigul and Palani are the top five blocks, having sex ratio of more than 1000, and Vadamadurai, Batlagundu and Natham are the bottom three blocks having less ratio in 2011.

- Dindigul district, witnessed decrease in population density by 32 percent during 2001 – 2011. All the blocks, except Shanarpatti, block has shown decrease in population density. Shanarpatti witnessed an increase of 22 percent in population density during the same period.
- SC Population in the district in 2011 was 21.85 percent of the population and ST population was 0.43 percent of the district population.
- The CBR for Dindigul was 18.7 percent.
- The CDR for Dindigul district declined from 6.8 in 2001 to 6.4 in 2011.
- Guziliamparai had the high death rate (9.6) in 2014.
- The child sex ratio of Dindigul district in 2011 was 933 as compared to the child sex ratio of 946 for the State. Among the blocks, Kodaikanal recorded the highest sex ratio of 976 and Vedasandur recorded the lowest sex ratio of 894. Ethical practices in the scan centres in communicating the sex of the children and female infanticide in the remote pockets of rural blocks are the key reasons for the grim picture with regard to child sex ratio in some blocks.
- Dindigul district recorded life expectancy at birth as 71.6 for 2014 and it increased from 64.66 in the year 2001.

- The life expectancy at birth for males increased from 62.67 in 2001 to 69.9 in 2014. The life expectancy for females increased from 66.64 in 2001 to 73.6 in 2014.
- In 2014, life expectancy at birth in the district (71.6) is lower than that of the state (73.4).
- The IMR of the district in 2009 was 18.7 and it was lower than that of the state in 2009 (21). And it declined to 13 in 2014 and that reflects the good performance of the Health Department in the district.
- While Reddiarchathram, Shanarpatti, Vadamadurai, Natham and Althoor blocks show higher IMR compared to Kodaikanal (2.4) and Thoppampatti (5.1). Increase in female literacy, media awareness and effective government scheme like Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy scheme have played a vital role in bringing down the IMR in the district.
- There is a steep decline in MMR from 123.69 in 2009 to 43.17 in 2014 in Dindigul district as a result of effective steps taken by the Health Department.
- Among the blocks, Guziliamparai (242.72). Thoppampatti (228.96) had very high MMR in 2009. But there was steep decline to 119.95 and 50.80 in 2014 in these two respective blocks.
- Institutional deliveries have become very common in the district. They take play in

government as well as private hospitals. Only a very few deliveries (18) took place at home. The domiciliary nature of deliveries is still a feature in some of the blocks like Shanarpatty. A few habitations in the hilly belt around Sengurichi Panchayat still carry this practice.

- The Still Birth Rate of the district which was 19.48 in 2001 declined to 15.60 in 2013. Oddanchathram block witnessed the highest SBR of 30.80 in 2013. It increased from 16.64 in 2001.
- Almost all children (98 percent) were immunized in the district.
- The highest percentage of children immunized (100 percent) in Kodaikanal blocks. Lowest percentage (93.40) of children immunized was recorded in Vadamadurai block.
- The percentage of malnourished children in the district declined from 42 percent in 2001 to 19.54 percent in 2011. The Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) has played an important role in improving the nutritional status of children.
- Iron Folic Acid (IFA) tablets are provided to adolescent girls, pregnant women and below 5 years of age children in the district.
- In the district, Nilakottai block had the highest percentage of women (108.4) who took IFA tablets and Vadamadurai block had the lowest percentage of women (52.5 percent) who took IFA tablets in 2013-14.

- Natham block had the highest percent (102.5) of adolescent girls who took IFA tables in 2013 – 14 whereas Oddanchathram had the lowest percentage (12 Percent) of adolescent girls who took IFA tablets.
- In Dindigul district, safe drinking water is provided to 80.68 percent of households.
- Athoor block had the highest percentage (97.84) of households provided with safe drinking water during 2012 -14 and Thoppampatti block had the lowest percentage (56.77) of households provided with safe drinking water.
- Toilet facilities at home is an important aspect of sanitation. In Dindigul district, during 2013 – 14, 59 percent of households have toilet facilities.
- Shanarpatti had the highest percentage of households (73.58) followed by Kodaikanal with 72.76 percent of households with toilets. Palani block had the lowest percentage of households with toilet facilities. (32.23).
- There has been steady decrease in HIV cases in the district since 2007. In 2007, there were 718 HIV Positive persons and they decreased to 412 in 2014. Similarly, there were 625 HIV Positive persons among females and they decreased to 335 in 2014. This has been made possible by the awareness by the government about the dread disease.

- In the district, in 2007 there were 3123 positive TB persons and in 2011, there was a marginal decrease to 3063. Among the blocks in the district, the highest decline (692) was recorded in Dindigul block and the smallest decline (4) was observed in Thoppampatti block. On the other hand the highest increase (+26) was recorded in Natham block.
- The number of leprosy cases in the district declined from 118 in 2007 to 110 in 2011. The National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP) was launched in 1994 – 95. With the introduction of multidrug therapy in 1981, there has been good progress in the treatment and recovery of leprosy patients.
- With the integration of leprosy services into general health services, leprosy curative services are now available in the state in all PHCs, Corporations, municipal hospitals and government dispensaries.

Literacy and Education

- Dindigul had the total literacy rate of 76.26 as against the state literacy rate of 80.33. The male literacy of the district was 84.23 against female literacy rate of 68.33.
- The gender gap in literacy in the district was 16 percent when compared. There was significant growth in literacy in the district during 2001 and 2011.
- The top three blocks which had higher literacy in 2011 are Dindigul (85.57) Kodaikanal (79.59) and Athoor (78.86).

- The bottom three blocks that had low literacy rate in 2011 are Guziliamparai (67.69). Thoppampatty (69.39) and Vadamadurai (70.17).
- During 2013 – 14, the district had 100 percent enrolment in primary education.
- The completion rate in primary education in 2013 – 14 was 99.26% and in 2012 -13 it was 95.30%. This was made possible by bigger contribution by Guziliamparai (88.20 in 2012-13 to 99.14 in 2013 – 14). Dindigul rural (90.70 to 99.34) and Palani rural (92.21 to 98.68).
- The dropout rates in primary education are minimal in most of the blocks in the district. Child labour, migration of parents in search of employment during agricultural lean season and lack of interest in education are seen as major reasons for dropouts in some blocks.
- The enrolment rate at upper primary education in the district is above 100 percent. There is no much inter – block variations in the district in enrolment among boys and girls.
- The completion rate in upper primary level in the district was 92.9% in 2013 – 14 as against 98.7% in 2012 – 13. This is a matter for concern.
- The dropout rate of the district in upper primary education was 1.26% in 2013-14 as against 1.25% in 2012-13.

- The transition rate in the district in 2013 – 14 from primary to upper primary level was 99 percent.
- The transition rate in the district in 2013 – 14 from upper primary to secondary level was also more or less the same (99 percent).
- During 2013 – 14, in the district, for 3870 habitations, there were 1276 primary schools and 608 upper primary schools.
- Natham block had more number of primary and upper primary schools. Guziliamparai block has less number of primary and upper primary schools.
- The Pupil - Teacher Ratio in primary education is 25:1. The Pupil – Teacher Ratio in upper primary education is 31:1.
- Natham block had the highest pupil – teacher ratio (31:1) and Thoppampaty had the lowest Pupil – Teacher ratio (19:1) among the blocks at the primary level in 2013 – 14. At upper primary level, in 2013 – 14 Batlagundu had the highest Pupil Teacher Ratio (47:1) and Oddanchathram had the lowest Pupil Teacher Ratio (21:1).
- The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) during 2013 – 14 in secondary education in the district was 100.32. The GER of boys was 99.43 and girls was 100.32.
- GER during 2013-14 Secondary education. Dindigul Urban (158.13), Batlagundu (119.61)

Vedasandur (115.11) Palani rural (103.08) and Palani Urban (96.53) recorded high.

- Moment of families to urban areas like Dindigul and Palani to admit children in secondary education, enrolment of children from nearby blocks are the reasons for high GER in these blocks.
- The blocks that had low GER in 2013 – 14 are Athoor (79.5) Reddiarchathram (81.56) and Guziliamparai (82.70). Early marriage, cultural beliefs, employment opportunities available in nearby spinning mills and textiles are the possible reasons for low GER in these blocks.
- During 2013 – 14, the dropout rate of Dindigul district at secondary level was 4.5. It is interesting to note that the dropout rate for girls at the district level (3.46) is lower than that of the boys (5.54).
- During 2013-14, 175 schools in the district provided higher secondary education. 77 are government schools, 49 are government aided schools and the remaining 49 are unaided schools.
- 2013 – 14, out of the 1889 schools in the district, nearly two - third of the schools (63.6%) had more than three classrooms and 16 percent of the schools had three classrooms and the rest had less than three rooms.
- It is encouraging to note that all schools have drinking water facility and toilet facilities both

for boys and girls. There are still a few schools without electricity. A number of schools (8045) in 2013 – 14 were without enough desks and chairs.

- In the district, 278 schools have hostel facilities.
- The district enjoys good higher education infrastructure, except that it does not have a medical college.

Gender Gender

- Dindigul district has 14893 Self – Help groups with a membership of 61,023 women members. The SHGS have mobilized a credit of Rs. 106.35 crores.
- Out of 14 blocks in the district, Gender Inequality Index (GII) is low in Vadamadurai, Palani and Reddiarchathram. It is relatively high in Batlagundu, Guzilamparai and Thoppampatti blocks.
- In the district 33 percent of the women are employed. It does not include the self – employed and wage labourers.
- Nearly 40 percent of women are there in governance.

Social Security

- As per 2011 census, 10.9 percent of the population in the district is aged people.
- Out of 2,36,331 aged populations, hardly, 13.72 percent of the old populace is receiving OAP benefit.

- Financial assistance is provided in the district in the form of old age pension, pension for destitute widows, disabled persons, mentally retarded persons, severely disabled persons, muscular dystrophy persons and those afflicted with leprosy.
- Financial assistance is also provided to differently-abled persons. 3372 differently-abled are provided with financial assistance.
- Marriage and maternity assistance is provided through different schemes.
- In 2013 – 14, the crimes against women increased to 279 from 217 in 2011 and the majority of the cases of crime against women (119) in 2013 – 14 related to cruelty by husband and his relatives.

Infrastructure

- The district has fared well in the case of roads, electrification of villages and transport facilities. The district has an overall road length of 4930.35 kms of which 661.10 kms are of Mud type, 137.02 kms are of Water Bound Macadam (WBM) type, 3224.03 kms are of Bituminous Tar (BT) type and a meager 12.64 kms are of Cement Concrete (CC) type.
- Electrification has been done to 3084 hamlets, 23 town panchayats and 123 wards of the four municipalities with population coverage of 14.57 lakhs in the district thereby erecting more than 5,000 street lights.

- At district level, there are 33 telephone exchanges with 1072 PCOs and 95 mobile towers.
- There are 197 bank branches in the district having 682926 members and 2110132 account holders in the commercial banks.
- In 2011 United India Assurance Company, there are 6 branches with a policy of 52953 members, Oriental insurance company with 5 branches with 21000 policies issued and LIC had 4 branches and issued 48450 policies.
- The recent effort to identify the infrastructural need and planning for the same at the village level is a positive step. Attempts towards ownership and maintenance, of assets created are highly appreciated.

Conclusion

- As Dindigul is a drought - prone area, the district administration has to concentrate on rain water harvesting.
- People, especially those in the rural areas have to be sensitized about the need for toilet facilities at home to promote sanitation.
- The gender gap in literacy and education has to be further reduced by appropriate steps.
- Lastly, there should be focus on bottom three blocks in the indicators of development and appropriate steps are to be taken to improve the situation. 

