



District Human Development Report - 2017
TIRUNELVELI DISTRICT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

State Planning Commission
Tamilnadu

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DISTRICT HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT TIRUNELVELI DISTRICT

Introduction

- The real wealth of the country is its people and the purpose of development is to create an enabling environment for them to enjoy long, creative and healthy lives as per UNDP statement. Economic development measured through GDP and per capita income form a part of the human development.
- Tirunelveli is a district located in the southern part of Tamil Nadu with a population of 30.77 lakh. The district is basically rural and comprises 19 blocks. Agriculture is the main stay of the district.

Geography

- Geography of Tirunelveli district in Tamil Nadu possesses various types of forests.
- The total geographical area of the district of Tirunelveli is 6823 Sq. km.
- It lies between 8°.05' and 9°.30' N and 77°.05' and 78°.25'E.
- This district has diverse physical and geographical features like lofty mountains and low plains, rivers, dry Teri structures and cascades, seacoast and thick inland forest, fertile alluvial and sandy soils, an assortment of flora, fauna, and protected wild life.

Topography

- The district is located in the southern part of Tamil Nadu and surrounded by Virudhunagar district on the North, Western Ghats on the West, Kanyakumari district on the South, Toothukudi district on the East. The lifeline of the district is Tamiraparani river which feeds the district.

Soil Condition

- Soil in the area have been classified into i) Deep Red soil ii). Red Sandy Soil. iii) Black Cotton Soil. iv) Saline Coastal Alluvium, and v) River Alluvium.
- Major parts of the area are covered by Deep Red soil and are found in Sivakasi, Tenkasi, Senkottai and Sankarankoil blocks and it is suitable for cultivating coconut and palmyrah trees. Red sandy soil also in reddish yellow in colour and is found in Nanguneri, Ambasamudram, and Radhapuram blocks and it is suitable for cultivating groundnut, millets and pulses etc., The Black Cotton Soil is found in Tirunelveli, Palayankottai and Sankarankoil blocks, and it is suitable for cultivating Paddy, Ragi, and Cholan etc.
- The Saline Coastal Alluvium are dark grey to deep brown in colour and spread over the Nanguneri and Radhapuram blocks.
- The River alluvial soils occur along the river courses of Tamrabarani and Chittar river

covering in the blocks Tirunelveli and Palayankottai and it is suitable for cultivating Groundnut, Chillies and Cumbu.

Climate

- The district enjoys a Sub tropical climate. The period from May to June is generally hot and dry.
- The weather is pleasant during the period from December to January. The relative humidity is on an average between 79 and 84%.
- The mean minimum temperature is 22.9°C and mean maximum daily temperature is 33.5°C respectively.

STATUS OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

- The status of the human development in the district has been constructed for 19 blocks and for one Corporation and the index value of HDI varies from 0.88 (Corporation) to 0.41 (Manur and Kuruvikulam).
- The high value for standard of living index and health index has determined to a large extent the HDI value of the Corporation. On the contrary the low value of standard of living index and education index pushed down the HDI value of Melaneelithanallur to the lowest one in the district and placing it at 20th rank.
- Tenkasi has an HDI value of 0.75 and is at the second spot because of its high positions

in education index (0.78) and health index (0.76).

- Manur is at the 19th rank with 0.41 as HDI value because of its low rank in education index (0.36) and health index (0.42).
- Gender Inequality Index comprises reproductive health, empowerment and labour market sectoral indices. The index values vary from 0.003 (Vallioor) and 0.067 (Corporation) and the lowest value indicates equity between genders in Vallioor. Again in the health index Vallioor has a minimum IMR of 10, and the maximum share of ID (100%) and the maximum ante-natal coverage of 100%.
- Corporation has got high GII index of 0.067 among the blocks indicating high gender inequity. The other blocks which fared well was Kalakadu and Kuruvigulam. Kuruvigulam is a backward block as per HDI, in contrast it had achieved third rank in GII. This was mainly due to low MMR (10) and 100 per cent achievement in institutional deliveries and ante-natal coverage.
- The child development index in the district differs widely from block to block ranging from 0.677 in Corporation to 0.395 in Charanmahadevi. In the analysis of CDI also, Manur is the most underdeveloped block in terms of child development as in the case of HDI and MPI. The reason being that Manur

has secured 19th rank due to low facilities in the indicators of health and education.

- The MPI value varies from 0.09 (Corporation) to 0.56 (Pappakudi). The high value for indicators of standard of living has largely influenced the MPI value for Corporation. The value for health and education also contributed for Corporation securing first place in combating poverty. This points out the fact that only with the development of all the sectors, poverty could be effectively rooted out.

EMPLOYMENT, INCOME AND POVERTY

- 47% percentage of population both in 2001 and 2011 are engaged in work. This indicates there has been no increase in the work participation rate.
- In urban areas people work in organised sector and their income is also higher. Of the total workforce, males constitute 61% and females just 39%. Here, the women in the rural areas work in agriculture where wage is low. Therefore, women are to be given priority in employment in the organized sector.
- In the district, there are about 580 child labourers found in 2012 as against 2,750 in 2001.
- Agriculture in dry region like Melaneelithanallur is not remunerative and Melaneelithanallur, a known dry region,

produces mainly maize and ragi. It naturally offers low wage. Only the development of watershed in the region would provide more wage income and employment.

- In the district, in 2014, the registered youth in the employment exchange is 63,222 and in 2014 alone about 317 people obtained jobs through exchanges. Over the years from 2007 to 2011, the percentage of registered candidates who have obtained jobs has increased from 0.63% in 2007 to 1.61% in 2011. For this, SEZ at Nanguneri and IT Park at Gangaikondan should take off with flying colours.
- Training on job skills to the youth can be regularly provided with. Step also is to be taken in the district to make it industrially advanced. Otherwise, it may lead to migration of labourers to Chennai and to other metropolitan cities.
- In order to enhance the livelihood of the people on a sustainable basis by creating economic and social infrastructure especially in rural areas and to address the drought, deforestation and soil erosion and to move one step towards realization of Right to Work , MGNREGA has to be implemented properly.
- The per capita income of district is Rs 78,473 which is higher than the State income.
- In 2013-14, Poverty in Tirunelveli district is estimated to be 33.18%. Generally, urban

poverty is lower than the rural poverty in the district.

- In 2013-14 in Tirunelveli, the public distribution system was effectively implemented and in the district a total of 8,53,060 cards were provided.

DEMOGRAPHY, HEALTH AND NUTRITION

- As per 2011 census, the male and female population were 15,20,912 and 15,56,321 respectively.
- In the district, CBR has decreased from 16.1 to 15.6 during the years 2009 to 2011.
- As regards the study on demographic trends in the district, although in 18 blocks the sex ratio is above 1000, it is falling and hence this has to be arrested by giving thrust on female health care activities. The decline is found more in the child sex ratio and Manur has the lowest child sex ratio of 920 and Charanmahadevi has 930. The low child sex ratio may be attributed to high mortality and malnutrition.
- In Tirunelveli, the IMR for Corporation is 7.5 in 2013-14 and in Ambasamudram, a rural block; the IMR is 23.23, almost three times higher than the IMR in Tirunelveli city. Thus, the difference in IMR between sex and region should be attended to.
- As regards MMR in Tirunelveli, it is 51.56 in 2013-14. Among the blocks, Kalakadu,

Kuruvikulam and Shencottai blocks have performed well in eliminating MMR and Ambasamudram, Kadayam and Radhapuram blocks have performed poorly. Ambasamudram has to be given thrust in health programmes for reducing MMR and IMR.

- In Tirunelveli district, the Still Birth Rate in 2013-14 is high in Alangulam with 16.6 and low in Vallioor. In the district, while perusing the data from 2007-2011, although it has come down to 12.6 from 15, the fall is not even and steep.
- The pre-natal and post- natal coverage is almost 100% in all the blocks. The place of institutional delivery comprises primary health centres, government hospitals and private hospitals.
- The immunization coverage in Triunelveli is 98.2%. In Tenkasi block and in nine other blocks, it has crossed 100%.
- As regards nutrition in 2013-14, 97.8% of the women in Manur block are provided with IFA tablets. Sankarankovil only 70% of the women are given IFA tablets. In the Corporation area only 90% of women and 75% of adolescent girls have got the tablets.
- In the district, about 19.21% of children are malnourished.
- 35% of rural households and 71% of urban households had drinking water within the premises.

- 65% of household have toilet facilities in the district.

LITERACY AND EDUCATION

- In the district, the total literacy rate has increased in all the blocks from 2001 to 2011 and the total literacy in the district has increased from 76.09% to 82.50% during the decade.
- The analysis on the literacy rate shows that the gender gap in literacy is higher in the district (13.26 %) Therefore it is suggested that the district needs to concentrate on female literacy.
- In the district in 2013-14, the GER at primary education was 102.10 and the GER at primary education for girls 102.38 and for the boys it was 101.82. Among the blocks, Tenkasi has higher GER of 127.89 and Melaneelithanallur, Manur and Kuruvikulam have the GER of just around 86. This low GER at primary level for three blocks, has a great impact on pulling down the human development status of the blocks.
- In 2013-14, in the district the completion rate at primary education was 98.44% and the rate is same for 2012-13. All the blocks have more than 98% completion rate in both 2012-13 and 2013-14, except in Shencottai.
- In the district, the dropout rate for girls' was 0.67% in 2013-14 and it is almost the same

for boys 0.77% in primary education, which was marginally higher than the girls.

- In Tirunelveli district, the enrollment in upper primary education for 2013-14 was 94.06 and in 2012-13 it was 93.83 in 2013-14. Between boys and girls, there was not much variation in the enrollment of upper primary education as it stood between 93.01 and 95.10 in 2013-14. In fact girls' enrolment in upper primary is higher than the boys.
- In the district, the completion rate for upper primary education was 94.68% in 2012-13 and it was 94.06 in 2013-14 and for the State it was 93.83%.
- In the district, the dropout rate in upper primary education is 1.53% in 2012-13 and for State it is 1.7% and Tenkasi has the lowest dropout rate of 0.31% and Manur has the highest dropout rate of 3.38%.
- In the district, the transition rate in upper primary to secondary in 2013-14 was 94.44 comprising 92.49 for boys and 96.58 for girls.
- While analysing the transition rate from upper primary to secondary in the district, Shenkottai had 97.61% which is the highest rate in the district between the blocks.
- In the district, there were about 3,008 habitations and 1,899 primary schools and 530 upper primary schools in 2011. This means, one primary school served 1.58

habitations and one upper primary school for 5.68 habitations on an average. Between the blocks, Palayamkottai has the highest number of primary schools of 158 and Meelaneelithanallur and Vallioor have 41 each.

- In Tirunelveli, the pupil teacher ratio for the district was 38 in 2001 and 24 for 2011 in primary schools and in upper primary the respective rates are 36 and 31.
- In the district across the blocks, the GER secondary varied from 98.68 in Manur to 105.65 in Ambasamudram. Between boys and girls the variation in the GER secondary is smaller, highlighting gender equity in secondary education.
- In 2013-14, the drop out was low (1.9) in Shencottai and high in Vasudevanallur (7.5). In Shenkottai drop out of girls is only 0.58, the attempt was to be emulated by other blocks. To compare the drop out between 2012-13 and 2013-14, except Kadayanallur, all other 18 blocks including the Corporation had reduced the drop out.
- As there is significant relationship between toilet and GER it can be reiterated that toilet facility with water availability may be created in all the schools and the facility should be functional always. In the district, 94.94% of the schools have toilet facilities and

Kuruvikulam block has only 85.4% in this regard.

- In Tirunelveli, out of 2,37,905 students, 4,152 stay in the hostels.
- Manonmaniam Sundaranar University is doing service to the people of this district since 1990 and on the eve of silver jubilee celebrations it serves the student community with its 28 university departments. In the district, there are about 29 arts and science colleges including government, aided, autonomous, self financing and university colleges.
- In the case of Technical education, there are about 19 colleges' comprising government, aided and unaided colleges offering quality education in the respective fields. Students numbering around 73,666 benefited under these institutions.

Gender

- The district was with 1,023 as sex ratio. However, the child sex ratio of the district, was lower at 960 in 2011.
- Education also provides status to women. In the district, the girls' enrolment in primary education is 101.86 and 99.4 for upper primary education.
- In the district, the MMR was 121.52 which was high.

- The percentage of women workers in agriculture sector and percentage of women workers in non-agriculture sector are 35.6 and 58 percent. The female worker in non agriculture sector is low in Melaneelithanallur, Kuruvikulam, the backward block in the district, women may be given priority in the employment generation programme.
- A total of 19,367 SHGs were formed under Mahalir Thittam and under Pudhu Vaazhvu Project 3,853 SHGs were organized. In the district, a total of 23,220 SHGs are actively engaged in various activities including entrepreneurial endeavours. A total of 3,50,388 women members were enrolled in the SHGs out of 15,56,321 constituting 27%. More than one fourth of women were now participating in the economic activities.
- Among the different sectors in the local bodies, women employees were more in number than the male counterpart with 63%. In the private companies also women marginally outnumber men with 51.6%.
- Tirunelveli district has accorded proper recognition to women in local bodies and the total women members in local bodies of Tirunelveli are 1922 making 36.82% of the total members (5202). Now, Radhapuram block has sent more women members (41.83) to local bodies and Vallioor has sent only

32.02% women members to represent in the local bodies. Manur, Meelaneelithanallur and Kuruvikulam, which are all backward blocks, have sent a fair (over 38%) female representation to the bodies. Hence, the district is marching ahead in health, labour and empowerment leading to gender equity.

SOCIAL SECURITY

- The investigation on social security points out that in Tiurnelveli, as per 2011 census there were about 1,28,323 males and 1,42,482 females aged above 60, totalling 2,70,805 and constituting 9.94% of the district and this percentage of population is likely to be dependent on others. They might also have problems associated with old age like falling income and increasing health expenditure due to frequent illness. Therefore, they should be given adequate social protection.
- The maternity assistance scheme assumes significance in safeguarding the lives of pregnant women and the infants. With this view the assistance was provided to 43,182 women in 2012-13 in 19 blocks of the district and in Tirunelveli Corporation 4,633 were given maternity assistance.
- Under old age pension scheme 35,867 received benefits and under destitute widow scheme there were about 14,045 beneficiaries and under Differently abled scheme 2,958 benefited.

- In the old age pension schemes, there has been an increase of 39.11% between 2011 and 2001. Similarly, an increase of 53.81 and 48.58% was found in the other two schemes. On the whole, the total beneficiaries had increased by 40.40% in the last decade in the district.
- In Tirunelveli district, the violence against women was growing and the total violence in 2014 accounted for 876, and 899 in 2012. Of this, domestic violence constituted 30% of the total violence in 2012, which could be easily reduced with intervention of the family, society and the State.

INFRASTRUCTURE

- In 2013-14, among the types of road, the length of the BT road in the district was 11,377.544 km. The earthen road catering to the needs of the rural people was next with 2996.362 km. Nanguneri block had a total length of 491.703 km. Manur block had the next highest length of 475.648 km and Kuruvikulam has 412.83 km. Shencottai has only 37.53 km length of earthen road accounting for the lowest facility in the district.
- The urban areas had better road facilities in the form of all weather roads.
- In Tirunelveli district, there were 361 commercial banks functioning and serving 1918917 account holders reaching around 50% of the district's present population.

Among the blocks, Palayamkottai had the highest number of account holders (98562) and the major reason for this could be the greater number of the members of SHGs. In Palayamkottai, about 92.74% of the female were members of the SHGs. This had increased the saving habit of the women and developed the entrepreneurial skill.

- The study pertaining to LIC shows that in Tirunelveli district, there were 8 branches of LIC serving the people with life insurance and the total number of policies has gone up to 96,248. With the population of over 30.77 lakh, the policy holders form only 3.13%. Certainly the percentage has to be enhanced and for this one branch for one block may be the needed mantra. The other types of insurance companies like Oriental Insurance Company meant for covering vehicle, travel, health also functions in the district with only a fewer branches.
- In Tirunelveli, there were 425 village panchayats with 2,866 hamlets in rural side and in urban area there were 37 town panchayats, 7 Municipalities and 1 Corporation. Almost 100% coverage of electricity was found in Tirunelveli district.
- In Tirunelveli district, there were 84 telephone exchanges with 80,813 landline serving 72,175 households in 2014. In addition, in the

district there were 3,16,187 mobile connections provided to the people by BSNL accounting around 10% of the total population of the district.

- Wireless communication and mobile connections have also helped the communication to a greater extent. From 76.54 million subscribers in 2004, it has increased exponentially to 935 million in 2012.
- Public transport supports the enrolment of children in schools and over 97,000 children have been provided transport facility free of cost. Likewise the student community numbering 4,691 was provided with the transport facility at 50% concession. The differently abled people totalling 798 and 17 dependents of freedom fighters are given the transport facility freely. However, on seeing the plight of the children to board the bus at peak hours and in busy route, new bus service exclusively meant for children may be introduced and this will take public transport to a greater height.

Conclusion

- It is clear from the report that agriculture is the main stay of the people living in rural blocks. Although, River Thamirabarani and its tributaries provide water, the water supply

for irrigation is limited to a few blocks such as, Ambasamudram and Cheranmahadevi. This leads to agriculture characterised by single crop and providing employment only for a few months in a year leading to poverty and backwardness.

- Agriculture is to be promoted by increasing the irrigation intensity and cropping intensity and by the application of modern technique in cultivation. To increase the irrigation intensity it is suggested to take measures for in situ moisture conservation and for construction of check dams, percolation ponds, recharge shaft and farm pond for increasing irrigation facility.
- Increasing irrigation intensity along with conserving the available water will benefit the farmer. Therefore, farmers should be educated on water conservation so as to enable them to employ drip irrigation system and also water carrying pipes, sprinklers should be provided.
- It is suggested that a judicious mix of agriculture with other activities such as dairy, poultry, piggery, fishery, sericulture and horticulture suited to the given agro-climatic conditions and socio-economic status of the farmers may be promoted.
- It is also suggested that the necessary inputs required for increasing agricultural productivity like distribution of hybrid seeds,

fertilizers suited to the soil, solar pump set, hand sprayer, power sprayer, tarpaulin, power tiller, rocker sprayer, crow bar, iron pan and spade be ensured.

- All the above suggestions may increase the productivity of agriculture and thereby the income of the people. Moreover, in the district it will help to bring the current fallow lands to tune of 35,525 hacters of land accounting for 5.26% of total geographical area into cultivation. This will also increase the production of agricultural products and income and thus would lead to reduce poverty in the district.
- To increase the health conditions of the people hospital infrastructure facilities in the primary and secondary health centres are to be strengthened to curb MMR, IMR and U5MR. Specialist service is not available in rural hospitals. The services of specialist may be utilized at least at the time of emergency and exclusively for this a wing may be created at every taluk hospital. Blood bank is to be established in all the secondary hospitals.
- To increase the public health of the people, women sanitary complexes and men sanitary complexes, for providing toilet facilities and to discourage open defecation, may be constructed in the hamlets.
- To increase the gross enrolment ratio at primary and at secondary levels, school

facilities with sufficient infrastructure may be created with special reference to upgrading primary to middle, middle to high schools, high schools to higher secondary schools in the important places. Moreover, conducting enrolment rally, distributing pamphlets on the importance of education, establishing dropout monitoring committee at school level, creating awareness on education in the *Grama Sabha* meeting may result in increasing GER.

- To increase the industrial development of the district, construction of value added product firms like fodder industry (agriculture), titanium industry (ilmenite), common facilitation centre for manufacturing RCC poles and concrete blocks and construction of vertical shaft brick kiln for the brick manufacturers may be encouraged. The SEZ at Nanguneri and tidal park at Gangaikondan may be promoted to function to its full capacity.



