District Human Development Report - 2017
THOOTHUKUDI DISTRICT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

State Planning Commission
Tamilnadu
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DISTRICT HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT

THOOTHKUDI DISTRICT

Introduction

- On the 20th, October 1986 a new district, carved out of the erstwhile Tirunelveli district was born in Tamil Nadu and named after V.O.Chidambaranar, a great national leader hailing from Ottapidaram who led the Swadeshi Movement in the south. Since 1997 as in the case of other districts of Tamilnadu, this district has also been named after its headquarters town, Thoothukudi.

- The district of Thoothukudi has made notable strides in the development spheres over the past few decades. Among these are agriculture, horticulture and food processing, manufacturing and rural industry as well as communications and road infrastructure. However, its performance in the three core human development areas of education, public health and employment has had to negotiate the twin challenges posed by rapid growth of the district population and shrinkage of the land unit per farm family.

- There are three Revenue divisions (namely Thoothukudi, Tiruchendur and Kovilpatti), eight taluks and 12 blocks in the district.

- This district comprises 20 town panchayats two municipalities and one corporation. There are 468 revenue villages, grouped in 408 village panchayats.
**Geography**

- Thoothukudi district is bound by Virudhunagar district in the north, Tirunelveli district in the south and west, the Bay of Bengal in the east.
- The total area of the district is 4621 square kilometers.

**Topography**

- The river Tamirabarani flows through this district. The area under the river basin within the district is 78,698.8 hectares.
- According to topography, the district can be divided into three regions. The northern part consisting of black soil, mostly dependent on seasonal rainfall for agriculture; the central part is irrigated by water flow from the Western Ghats; and the southern part is red loam area.

**Soil Condition**

- The district is covered by Black Cotton soil in the west with isolated red soil patches in high ground. The sandy soil is present in the coastal tract. Alluvial soil is restricted to river flood plain and coastal part. Alkaline and saline soils are also noticed at places.

**Climate**

- The district has a hot tropical climate. High relative humidity prevails throughout the year between 60 and 75%.
During months of April, May and June Thoothukudi district is hot. During winter that is in the months of December and January, the climate is pleasant.

The maximum temperature is 35.8°C and the minimum is 22.8°C. When the North East Monsoon started the actual rainfall was higher up to 584.10 millimeters.

STATUS OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

In Human Development Index, Corporation (0.922), Alwarthirunagiri (0.783) and Udangudi (0.770) blocks occupy first three ranks and Vilathikulam (0.505), Pudur (0.476) and Kovilpatti (0.468) last three ranks.

It shows that within the district, inter block disparity is high in terms of human development due to lopsided development. The high per capita income of Thoothukudi district has considerably influenced its HDI value.

Thoothukudi’s literacy rate and life expectancy are also fairly high. However, this average life expectancy has increased from 66.45 (2011) to 73.8 (2013-14).

Out of thirteen blocks, the Corporation has performed well in human development which has scored (0.992) which means that all the parameters like health, education and standard of living have improved well due to urbanisation.
Sathankulam (0.749), Karunkulam (0.672), Srivaikundam (0.662) and Tiruchendur (0.639) have obtained better position as far as human development is concerned.

Thoothukudi in the sphere of education has shown impressive growth of primary schools and primary enrolment in recent times.

The lesser Gender Inequality Index blocks are Karunkulam (0.083), Kayathar (0.089) and Alwarthirunagiri (0.090) and higher in blocks are Corporation (1.000), Kovilpatti (1.000) and Ottapidaram (1.000).

The top three child development blocks are Sathankulam (0.765), Tiruchendur (0.699) and Udangudi (0.659) and bottom three blocks are Karunkulam (0.566), Kovilpatti (0.499) and Vilathikulam (0.462).

The three blocks with low Multi dimensional poverty are Corporation (0.053), Alwarthirunagiri (0.335) and Tiruchendur (0.387) and the blocks that had high multi dimensional poverty were Kovilpatti(0.532), Vilathikulam (0.599) and Pudur (0.607).

EMPLOYMENT, INCOME AND POVERTY

During 2009-10, the district’s GDDP was Rs.10, 61,784 lakhs at constant prices of 2004-05. It has increased continuously and reached to Rs.12, 28,777 lakhs during 2011-12. The computed growth rate of all three sectors is 15.73 during the last three years for Thoothukudi district and for the same period for the State of Tamil Nadu i.e. gross state domestic product (GSDP) growth rate
is 21.48 substantially high. The contribution of tertiary sector is the highest (64.91) followed by secondary (24.67) and primary (10.42) sectors.

- The district per capita income (Rs.74,933) of the district is high compared with that of the state (Rs.63,996) during 2011 -12 at constant prices. A majority of the people of the district are dependent on agriculture, textiles, industries and fishing for their survival.

- The percentage of the total workforce of the district has marginally decreased from 43.17 during 2011.

- The district also occupies the first place in salt production in the State. It is proposed to establish cottage-based industries since the district has Palmyra and coconut trees to promote rural economies.

- Another major uniqueness of the district is having major and minor ports such as Thoothukudi port and old port Kulasekara Patinam in Udangudi to facilitate major export and import of seafood and fish-based products.

- The district also has a large number of textile units to provide employment opportunities for rural and urban population.

- According to the recent data, total 367387 (69.74%) of the households got employed under MGNREGS in Thoothukudi district.
The district average below poverty line families’ are 18.33% during 2013-14.

Thus, about 4,65,845 households are entitled to make use of ration cards to buy essential commodities at subsidized prices.

DEMOGRAPHY, HEALTH AND NUTRITION

The decennial growth of population in the district from 2001 to 2011 is 10.16 percent during this period.

The overall general sex ratio has decreased in Thoothukdui between 2001 and 2011 from 1050 to 1024. The child sex ratio as per 2011 census was 963 compared with 953 of census 2001.

The CBR in the district declined from 15.7 in 2010 to 14.5 in 2011.

Crude Death Rate has marginally declined since 2009 to 2011 and again it increased to 5.8 in Thoothukudi district whereas at block levels there was not much difference in the crude death rate.

Thoothukudi district had a lower life expectancy when compared to the Tamil Nadu and currently it stands at 71.8 for females against 68.6 for males during 2013-14.

Thoothukudi’s IMR was 12.5 (2013-14) which was a significant decline over the years but Kovilpatti block had the highest IMR (30.54) when compared to State average.
The average MMR in Thoothukudi district is 105.8, which is substantially lower than all-India (407). The highest MMR were recorded in Tiruchendur (288.3), Srivaikundam (143.1) and Sathankulam (123.9) blocks than the district average and few blocks like Thoothukudi, Udangudi and Ottapidaram were having complete zero.

In Thoothukudi district as a whole, 7.69 percent of the pregnant women had been identified with anemia.

As far as Thoothukudi district is concerned, 13.37 percent of the children were under malnourished in 2013-14 as against 37.83 percent in 2001.

At the district level, 99 percent of the women and children have received IFA tablets and 100 percent of the adolescent girls have taken IFA tablets in the district and is a remarkable achievement which has significantly reduced anemia.

The level of achievement, with respect to the habitations covered by water supply, varies across blocks, with the percentage of fully covered habitations varying from the highest coverage in Corporation (100.0), Sathankulam (96.45) Ottapidaram (95.85), Karunkulam (94.2) Vilathikulam (93.79) and Udangudi (93.55) and lowest coverage in Thoothukudi (55.07), Kayathar (66.67), Kovilpatti (72.89) Pudur (88.51), Tiruchendur (90.0) and Srivaikundam (73.83).
The district average of households with toilet facilities is 56.67 percent.

Water-borne disease is a major threat in Thoothukudi district, especially diarrhoeal diseases is a major cause of mortality among adults.

**LITERACY AND EDUCATION**

- Thoothukudi district has got 3rd highest literacy rate of 86.16% in Tamil Nadu next to Kanyakumari and Chennai.

- The overall literacy rate has gone up from 81.5 percent in 2001 to 86.16 percent in 2011, the male literacy rate has increased from 88.3 to 91.14 percent. The encouraging fact is that the female literacy rate has gone up by more than 6.23 percent points from 75.1 percent in 2001 to 81.33 percent 2011. The ratio of male literacy to female literacy has come down from 13.2 in 2001 to 9.81 in 2011, revealing the narrowing of gender inequality in the district.

- At the primary level, the overall enrolment for the year 2012-13 was 99.9 per cent. Boys’ enrolment was 100.00 per cent and girls’ enrolment was 99.98 percent.

- The district average completion rates for boys at primary education were recorded as 96.6 and 97.32 percent and that of girls 95.8 and 96.82 percent respectively during 2012 -13 to 2013 -14.

- The upper primary enrolment rates were recorded as 98.6 and 98.75 percent
respectively during the years 2012 -13 and 2013 -14 and the rate marginally increased. The boys and girls enrolment in upper primary education has not shown significant changes during the years 2012 -13 and 2013 -14 but marginal improvement in enrolment among boys and girls could be seen during the years.

- The district average completion rates with respect to upper primary education were recorded as 93.9 and 95.00 percent respectively during the years 2012 -13 to 2013 -14. It was quite interesting to note that girl’s completion rate at upper primary level is much higher than the boys not only in the district average but also in all the blocks.

- In upper primary schools the dropout rate was found to be marginally higher (1.70) in 2013 -14 than (1.55) in 2012 -13 whereas the total dropout rate of SC and ST children has also come down from 2.34 to 2.30 and 1.10 to 1.07 (ST) during 2010 -11 to 2011 -12. However, the total dropout rates in upper primary education were recorded was highest in Pudur (2.15), Ottapirdaram (2.20), Kayathar (2.68), Kovilpatti (2.28) and Tiruchendur (2.26) and lowest were recorded in Thoothukudi (1.5), Karukulam (1.68), Srivaikundam (1.20), Alwarthirunagiri (1.02), Udangudi (1.80) Sathankulam (1.44), Vilathikulam (1.02) and Corporation (1.05). The activities of SSA must be encouraged more to reduce dropout rate in upper primary schools.
There are 2292 habitations in the district which are having unequal distribution of schools among the district. Sometimes the numbers of habitations are high but the availability of schools are very less when compared with the number of habitations.

The district average pupil–teacher ratio for primary and upper primary schools for the district as a whole was recorded as 1:18 and 1:22.

The total district average enrolment ratio in secondary school has been estimated at 98.75 percent whereas gross enrolment ratio of boys and girls have been estimated at 98.82 and 98.67 percent respectively. The overall dropout rate has decreased from 2.81 to 1.7 during 2012-13 to 2013-14 respectively.

Inadequate transports and low access to high schools are the major reasons for low enrolment rate at high school level, especially among the girl’s students.

The noteworthy feature of the Government of Tamil Nadu has been that it has built several hostel buildings across the state for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes and Backward Class students, which enables to increase the enrolment ratio in school education. In Thoothukudi district, out of 1,34,038 students, there are 1,480 students staying in hostels, especially in the educationally backward blocks.

At present, there are 19 arts and science colleges available in the district out of which
8-colleges are government aided, 1-autonomous, 7-private self financed and 3-constituent colleges.

**GENDER**

- The average literacy rate of Thoothukudi in 2011 was 86.16 compared with 81.52 of 2001. If things are looked at gender-wise, male and female literacy were 91.14 and 81.33 respectively. The lowest literacy rates were recorded in Pudur (77.72), Kayathar (74.49), Vilathikulam (80.75) and Ottapidaram (80.15) than the district average. In order to motivate female literacy in the backward areas, adequate infrastructure provisions must be extended such as roads, transport facilities and access to schools.

- With regard to sex ratio, it stood at 1023 as per zoll cast when compared with 2001 census figure of 1050.

- The child sex ratio as per 2011 census was 963 compared with 953 of census 2001. sex ratio of the block is are high when compared with the state and nation but the rate has come down from 2001 census to 2011 which influenced persistance gender inequality in Thoothukudi district.

- Female work participation rate in the labour markets needs to be improved both in rural and urban areas in all the sectors. Highest percentage of non-farming activities were recorded in Corporation (98.0), Udangudi (88.0), Tiruchendur (72.0) and Thoothukudi (71.92) and lowest were recorded in Vilathikulam (22.0), Kayathar (29.0) and
Pudur (31.0) respectively which denotes poor standard of living for women.

- The female agricultural wage rate ranges from Rs.120 to Rs.150 in Thoothukudi district. The low female agricultural wage rate itself is an indicator which determines gender discrimination in the society. Gender-wise wage discrimination could be seen in agricultural sector across the district. The wage discrimination was recorded more in Thoothukudi, Kayathar, Kovilpatti, Ottapidaram, Vilathikulam and Pudur than the rest of the blocks such as Srivaikundam, Alwarthirunagiri, Karunkulam, Tiruchendur, Udangudi and Sathankulam. It shows that the diversification of labour force may be engaged in other industries since the Thoothukudi district has more number of industries.

- The political participation of women in the State Assembly and Lok Sabha in Thoothukudi district was not very impressive but their participation in RLBs/ULBs is quite impressive and no blocks in the district had less than 33 percent.

SOCIAL SECURITY

- The various social security schemes covered 11.36 percent of the population of 1, 98,902 ageing population (above 60 years) during the 2011 census.

- The highest coverage was 51.34 percent for OAP followed by 21.16 for widow Pension, 2.94 for Disabled Pension, 4.51 for Differently-abled pension, 4.46 for Destitute/
Deserted Wives Pension, 14.96 for Destitute Widow Pension and 0.64 Unmarried Women Pension in Thoothukudi district.

- 148 cases have been registered as crime against women in the district.

INFRASTRUCTURE

- There are 427 revenue villages, 1907 hamlets and 29 towns fully covered with electricity and more than 1,00,086 street lights are functioning in the district.
- More than 4.17 lakh km of transportation was operated every day carrying nearly 10.01 lakh passengers every day.
- A total of 119 new buses were purchased for Thoothukudi district and 54 new routes were introduced. Train facility is available in all the taluks except Vilathikulam and Sattankulam.
- The total train route is 107 km and the total number of railway stations is 23. The total road length of National Highways is 118 km the number of registered motor vehicles for commercial purposes is 22,730 and for non-commercial purposes 82,644.
- This district has high-speed double line rail link to Chennai, Coimbatore, Bangalore and Madurai. The district has an eight-lane highway to Madurai connected to NH4; east coast link to Chennai and backbone for high-speed dedicated freight corridor to Nagpur.
- The growth rate of rural and urban electrification in Thoothukudi district is very good. The electrified villages grew by 99.58 percent in 2001 and 100 percent in 2011.
The number of cellular subscribers is on a constant rise in Thoothukudi district and number of PCOs has also increased. More than 50,396 land line connectivities were recorded, excluding mobile phone users. The highest land line connectivity was recorded in Corporation (18,590), followed by Tiruchendur (8228) and Kovilpatti (7546). The highest mobile towers could be seen in Corporation (54 and followed by Kovilpatti(26) and Tiruchendur (24).

There are 218 commercial banks in Thoothukudi district, out of which, 46 banks are available in the Corporation limits and 37 banks in Thoothukudi block and followed by 24 in Kovilpatti and 15 each in the blocks of Srivaikundam, Alwarthirunagiri and Tiruchendur.

Due to inadequate road connectivity in Karunkulam, Sathankulam and Pudur blocks are still struggling for better services. Enormous mud road connectivity prevails in Kayathar, Ottapidaram, Vilathikulam and Pudur blocks which has negative effect on school attendance and also influences to increase school dropout ratios. There is a huge gap between the availability of roads based on the national average.

The numbers of policies issued in Thoothukudi district by the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) through its five branches grew to 46419.

CONCLUSION

Ultimately, as seen in Thoothukudi district, increased primary enrolments are followed
by subsequent low dropouts in the upper primary and post-primary stage, because of state policy interventions in the educational system. Even so, sporadically a little dropout rate can be seen at the block level.

- Meanwhile special education programs, such as the establishment of Sarva Shiksha Abiyan, have improved enrolment and retention rate in school education in Thoothukudi district.

- Greater attention must be given to school infrastructure, including more classrooms, a kitchen room, separate toilets for girls’ in all the schools and a boundary wall for every school.

- All PHCs do not have adequate doctors and staff nurse and so the existing staff positions need to be filled for ANM, pharmacists, lab technicians and health inspectors.

- High-order pregnancies and births may lead to risk of premature birth and low birth weight, cerebral palsy, still birth, mother health, anaemia; sometimes it may lead to MMR at the time of labour. Nearly, 50-90 percent of MMR are caused by haemorrhage, ruptured uterus, hypertensive disorders and anaemia. Therefore, high-order birth has been the root cause for more IMR and MMR which can be controlled by the means of providing adequate health care infrastructure facilities at block level.

- Drip irrigation, drain and sprinkler irrigation and other modes of irrigation system need to be encouraged among the farmers to overcome water scarcity during their farming
activities since most of the lands are barren land.

- Minor millets such as maize, ragi, Panivaragu, Samai and Kadakani need to be encouraged to be cultivated since these crops are less water intensive and take 45 days to grow. In order to realize water potential, Integrated Watershed Management Projects need to be implemented.

- The proposed check dam is the only option to make agriculture a more flourishing sector.

- It is important to progressively draw SHGs into economic activities, through provision of technical support and micro finance. Capacity-building activities also need to be conducted for the SHGs in order to train them for the performance of a future economic role. SHG training has to be flexible and need-based, and must include market linkage, infrastructural support and financial assistance towards risk management.

- The HDI, GII, CDI and MDPI are tools which not only reveal the level of human development in the district but also help in assessing the level of performance at the block level and in identifying intra-block disparities. It could be concluded that there is a wide disparity of human development among the blocks of the district due to various levels of access to cooking fuel, toilet facilities, drinking water, electricity, pucca houses reduction of IMR, MMR, U5MR, literacy rate, primary and GER in secondary level education played a major role in Human development.