EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DISTRICT HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT

VIRUDHUNAGAR DISTRICT

Introduction

- Virudhunagar district is famous for its temples and food which is in the South Indian State of Tamil Nadu. Upto the beginning of 20th century AD Virudhunagar was called as Virudhupatti which was one among the six important places of Ramanathapuram District.

- Due to the rapid growth in the field of trade and education, it was renamed as Virudhunagar on 29 October 1923. The temple tower of Andal Thirukkovil is 197 feet, the tallest in Tamil Nadu, which is inscribed as the emblem of Tamil Nadu Government.

- The district is predominantly agriculture oriented. The district consists of eight taluks viz., Rajapalayam, Srivilliputhur, Sivakasi, Sattur, Aruppukottai, Virudhunagar, Thiruchuli and Kariyapatti. There are eleven blocks in Virudhunagar district viz., Rajapalayam, Sirivilliputhur, Sivakasi, Sattur, Aruppukottai, Virudhunagar, Thiruchuli, Kariyapatti, Watrap, Vembakkottai and Narikudi.
Geography

- It is bounded on the north by the districts of Madurai and Sivagangai, on the east by the districts of Sivagangai and Ramanathapuram, on the south by the districts of Thoothukudi and Tirunelveli and on the west by a portion of Kerala State and the district of Madurai.

- The administrative headquarters is located at Virudhunagar town. The district lies between $90^\circ 20'$ and $90^\circ 72'$ of north latitude and $77^\circ 20'$ and $78^\circ 70'$ of east longitude.

- The general geographical information of the district is that of a simple and flat area.

- Two non-perennial rivers viz., Arjuna river and Vaipar river are flowing in the district and it will be dry during the summer season. It has an area of 4432.55 sq. km.

Topography

- Physiographically, the district consists of two distinct regions. The eastern slopes of the Western Ghats in Srivilliputhur and Rajapalayam taluks and the black soil plains of Virudhunagar, Sivakasi, Tiruchuli, Kariyapatti, Aruppukottai, and Sattur taluks.

- The average height of the hills of the eastern slopes of the Western Ghats is 1500 metre,
though a few peaks rise to 1700 metre. The highest peaks are Peyimalaimottai and Kottamalai.

- The foothills have rich loamy soil with good vegetation cover.
- The plains with black cotton soil have underlying cal carious formations.

**Soil Condition**

- Soils in the area have been classified into i) Deep red Loam ii) Black soil iii) Red sandy soil. The majority of the study area is covered by Black soil.
- Ferruginous red soils are also seen at places.
- Black soils are deep to very deep and generally occurs in the depressions adjacent to hilly areas in the western and central part of district.
- Alluvial soils occur along the river courses.
- Red sandy soil is seen all around the Sattur, Kariyapatti, Aruppukotai and Thiruchuli blocks.

**Climate**

- The district enjoys a subtropical climate.
- The district receives the rain under the influence of both southwest and northeast
monsoons. The northeast monsoon chiefly contributes to the rainfall in the district.

- Most of the precipitation occurs in the form of cyclonic storms caused due to the depressions in Bay of Bengal. The southwest monsoon rainfall is highly erratic and summer rains are negligible.

**STATUS OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

- HDI value ranged from 0.456 to 0.871 at the block level. Among the 11 blocks, the top three positions were witnessed in Sivakasi (0.871) followed by Srivilliputhur (0.780) and Rajapalayam (0.735). Further, Thiruchulli block had the lowest HDI value with 0.456 followed by Vembakkottai (0.485) and Narikudi (0.505).

- The top three blocks in GII were Sivakasi (0.041), Srivilliputhur (0.045) and Narikudi (0.048). The worst performing three blocks were Aruppukottai with the index value of 0.076 followed by Watrap and Kariyapatti with the index value of 0.066 and 0.061 respectively.

- Among the 11 blocks in CDI, Srivilliputhur was in the first position with the index value of 0.691 followed by Rajapalayam (0.664) and Narikudi (0.595). Considering the bottom
values, the performance of Vembakkottai is worst with the index value of 0.276 followed by Thiruchulli and Kariyapatti with the value of 0.352 and 0.374 respectively.

- In terms of multidimensional poverty index, Sivakasi block (0.275) had the least number of deprivations and stood first in top three blocks followed by Vembakkottai and Srivilliputhur. The worst performance was witnessed in Kariyapatti (0.615) followed by Watrap and Narikudi and these blocks experienced multiple deprivations.

EMPLOYMENT, INCOME AND POVERTY

- Workers participation rate is low in the district (48.92 per cent). Some of the blocks had total workforce higher than the district average.

- The percentage of people engaged in farming activities was 2.87 per cent. Among the blocks in the district, the highest percentage of cultivators was witnessed in Narikudi block. Agricultural labourers constituted 10.53 per cent of total workforce. People employed in household industries were 1.65 per cent and other workers constituted 30.82 per cent.

- Child labour was present in the district and interventions take place regularly.
There was a wide gap between the registration and placement in the employment exchange. The placement was less than one per cent.

The per capita income of the district had gradually increased from Rs. 62038 in 2008 – 2009 to Rs. 87361 in 2011 – 2012. By comparing per capita income of the district with the State, per capita income of the district was better than that of the State.

Poverty level in the district was 42.48. Poverty levels in the rural blocks were higher than the urban blocks.

**DEMOGRAPHY, HEALTH AND NUTRITION**

The population grew over 11 per cent during 2001-11 period. Considering the block-wise population, the highest percentage was witnessed in Kariyapatti block with 30 per cent and the lowest was witnessed in Vembakkottai block with 1.2 per cent.

Sex ratio had decreased from 1012 in 2001 census to 1007 in 2011 census. But it was greater than the State and all India average of the district was better than the State average.

Virudhunagar district had a child sex ratio of 954 as per the 2011 census. It is evident that
the child sex ratio of Virudhunagar district is far better than the Tamil Nadu State. The child sex ratio showed a declining trend. Among the 11 blocks, the child sex ratio was high in Sivakasi block (977), next was Virudhunagar block (965). Narikudi block had the least with 905.

- The industrialised blocks had high population density when compared to the rural blocks.

- The Crude Birth Rate value of the district for the year 2013 – 14 and 2014 – 2015 was 14.00 and 13.45 respectively. The overall district Crude Death Rate value was 5.65 and 5.55 for the year 2013 – 2014 and 2014 – 2015 respectively.

- In Virudhunagar district, Sattur block had a higher Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) with 23.90 followed by Watrap (18.60), Vembakkottai (17.30), Srivilliputhur (15.20), Rajapalayam (14.40), Virudhunagar (13.80) and Aruppukottai (11.70). Narikudi block possessed the lowest value with 4.60 followed by Thiruchulli (5.50), Kariyappatti (7.40) and Sivakasi (10.60). The IMR value for the district is 13.00 for the year 2013 – 2014.

- The lowest Maternal Mortality Ratio value was witnessed in Srivilliputhur block with 70
followed by Rajapalayam (80), Sivakasi (90), Virudhunagar (100). The highest value was evidenced in Sattur block with 180 followed by Vembakkottai (160), Narikudi (149), Thiruchulli (140), Watrap (140), Kariyapatti (139) and Aruppukkottai (128). The MMR of the district was 125.09.

- During 2010, the still birth rate of the district was 15.7 and it increased to 15.8 in 2012 and it declined to 11.2 in 2014 still birth rate showed a declining trend in the district. The highest still birth rate was witnessed in Sivakasi (15.0) and the lowest was in Sattur with 4.8.

- Nutritional status of the rural blocks in the district was very low. Considering the severely underweight children, Aruppukkottai block had highest percentage with 0.74 followed by Vembakkottai (0.68), Thiruchulli (0.60) and Kariyapatti (0.55). The least percentage was witnessed in Virudhunagar with 0.04 followed by Narikudi (0.12) and Sivakasi (0.28).

- Out of 11 blocks, the percentage of women who took IFA tablets was low in Sivakasi block (75) and high in Aruppukkottai (159.2). Considering the percentage of adolescent girls who took IFA tablets, Virudhunagar block possesses the lowest percentage (50.2). The
rural block had the lower percentage, when compared to urban blocks, except in Virudhunagar and Aruppukottai blocks. Further, the percentage of children who took IFA tablets was very low in all the blocks in the district. The highest percentage was witnessed in Sivakasi block (77.8) and the lowest was in Virudhunagar block (9.2).

- Open defecation practices were high in the district. Out of 11 blocks, five blocks were covered with approximately fifty per cent toilet facilities and the remaining blocks were covered with 60 to 80 per cent toilet facilities. Among 11 blocks, Rajapalayam block was having the lowest percentage of 50.17 and the Aruppukottai block had the highest percentage with 77.25. On an average, only 55 percent of households had latrine facilities.

- The HIV cases identified in the district were very low. Among the identified cases, more number of HIV affected age group were in the 30 – 49 years.

- Number of TB Cases identified had increased from 1087 in 2013 to 1185 during 2014. More number of TB cases was in the industrially developed blocks due to pollution and work environment.
LITERACY AND EDUCATION

- The overall literacy rate of the district had increased from 73.70 per cent in 2001 census to 80.80 per cent in 2011 census. But this level was low in rural blocks. Considering the male literacy rate, it is 88.50 and female literacy is 73.10 per cent.

- 2013-2014 data, the GER at primary school education in the district is 99.56. Comparing the district rate with block level, four block viz., Kariyapatti, Sivakasi, Thiruchuli and Vembakkottai are having lower GER with 98.84, 99.36, 99.46 and 98.90 respectively. It is inferred that the overall GER at primary level is good in the district.

- In Virudhunagar district, the completion rate at primary school level during 2012-2013 was 96.80. It has decreased to 96.27 in 2013–2014.

- Dropout rate at primary education was very low in the district. The dropout rate of the district during 2012–2013 and 2013–2014 were one and the same with 0.95.

- The overall transition rate from primary to upper primary in the district is 97.60 during 2013–2014.
• The district average of enrolment of male children in upper primary school has an increase trend from 98.96 in 2012 - 2013 to 99.05 in 2013 - 2014. Many blocks in the district have achieved around 100 per cent enrolment in upper primary school education. The highest is witnessed in Narikudi block and the lowest is in Kariyapatti block. Average enrolment of girls in upper primary school education in the district has an increasing trend i.e., 98.75 in 2012 – 2013 to 99.43 in 2013 – 2014.

• The highest dropout rate was evidenced in Virudhunagar block with 1.86 at upper primary level and the lowest was witnessed in Vembakkottai and Sattur blocks with 1.72.

• The overall transition rate of the district from upper primary to secondary school during 2013 – 2014 was 98.05. The transition rate for boys and girls during the same period was 98.10 and 98.00 respectively.

• It is clear that completion rate at upper primary level the district average during 2012 – 2013 was 93.30. It has increased to 94.20 during 2013 – 2014. Even though the dropout rate of the district is equal with 1.78 during 2012
– 2013 and 2013 – 2014, there is a drastic change at the block level.

- Considering the pupil - teacher ratio of the district, it ranges from 26:1 to 30:1 at primary level and 26:1 to 31:1 at upper primary level.

- The GER of secondary level education of the district in 2013 – 2014 is 99.02.

- Arts and science college in the district is inadequate to absorb the growing needs of higher education. Total number of arts and science colleges in the district was 12 and the number of engineering colleges in the district was 10.

- Total number of hostels in Virudhunagar district was 47 and the total number of students staying in the hostel was 2866.

GENDER

- The female literacy is 73.10 per cent when compared to the male literacy rate of 88.5. The gender gap in literacy was 15.4 percentage points and this was found to be quite high.

- The average female work participation rate of Virudhunagar district was 40.74 per cent. Percentage of women workers in agricultural
sector in the district was 19.76. Percentage of women workers in non-agricultural sector is 57.03.

- More number of SHGs were functioning and engaged in numerous productive activities in the district. Total number of women SHGs in the district is 12338. Total number of women as members in SHGs is 209746. The total amount of credit availed by the SHGs in the district is Rs. 6109 lakh. Formation of women SHGs in the district improved the status of women in the district.

- Political participation of women in rural areas is good in number when compared to urban areas. The total number of women members elected for different bodies in the district is 1634.

SOCIAL SECURITY

- The total age old people in the district are 151809. According to 2011 census, the total population under above 60 years of age was 151809. Out of this 78430 were female and the remaining 73379 were male.

- During 2012 – 2013, 5150 beneficiaries benefitted under old age pension scheme in the district. Out of this, 1657 were physically
challenged. The district authorities have taken efficient steps to identify the beneficiaries and had distributed adequate financial aid to the people who deserved in the district.

- Under Marriage Assistance Scheme, the maximum number of beneficiaries was identified through Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiayar Memorial Marriage Assistance Scheme. Totally 4169 beneficiaries had benefited and the amount disbursed was Rs. 14.41 crore to the needy.

- No major crime against women were witnessed in the district. The cases reported were only 152.

**INFRASTRUCTURE**

- The total road length of the district is 2619.16 km. Urban roads are in better condition when compared to rural roads. State highways length was 307.44 km.

- In the district all the villages are electrified and all hamlets in all 11 blocks are having adequate amount of electricity connections. Village streets were electrified with tube lights and the town roads are electrified with sodium lamps.

- All the blocks have well developed postal system and many villages within each and
every block possess sub-post offices. Total number of post offices in the district is 279.

- Total number of telephone exchange in the district is 64.
- Total number of commercial banks in the district is 131. Total number of commercial bank service area in the district is 450. Total number of insurance companies in the district is 21.
- Total railway length of the district 167 km. National highways length is 147.60 km.
- The dams available in the district were Annaikuttam, Golwarppati, Irrukkankudi, Kullursandhai, Pilavakkal and Vembakkottai. Among this Vembakkottai is the biggest one.
- Two industrial estates are functioning at Virudhunagar and Rajapalayam. A cooperative Industrial Estate is also functioning in Sivakasi.

Conclusion

- The indices calculated for the district namely HDI, GII, CDI and MDPI are tools that reflect the level of human development and also serve as measuring scale to compare the performance of the blocks and to identify intra-district disparities.
• The disparities in education, health and income across the blocks of the district are distinctly captured by the indices.

• It is important to address this intra-district or inter block disparities so that the overall development of the district is ensured.