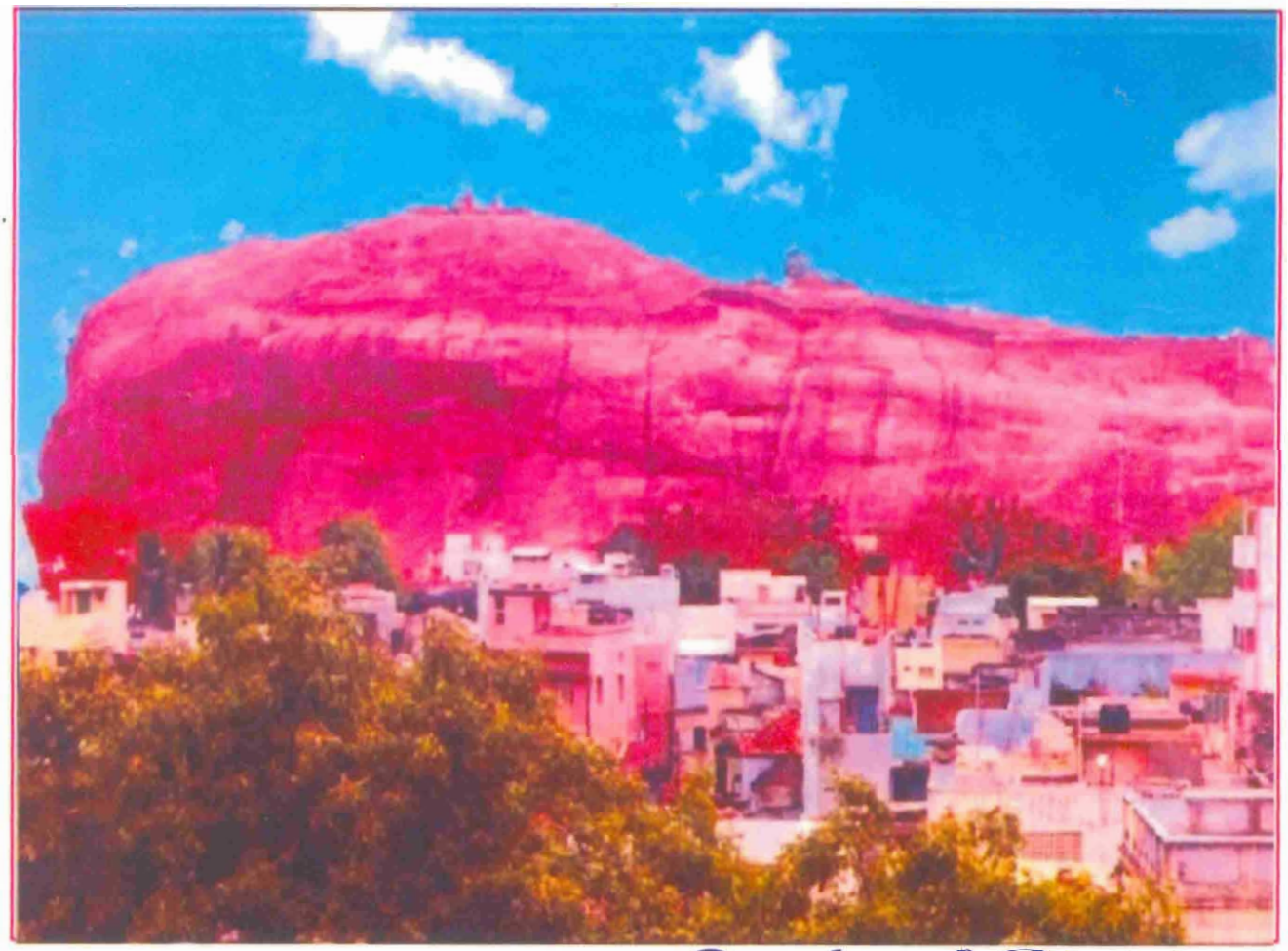
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT



Dindigul District

State Planning Commission

UNDP India

Union Planning Commission

DINDIGUL

DISTRICT HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT

District Administration Dindigul
and
State Planning Commission Tamil Nadu

in association with

Rajiv Gandhi Chair for Panchayati Raj Studies

Gandhigram Rural University, Gandhigram

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Foreword

United Nations Development Programme has first published the Human Development Report in 1990. Since then 18 reports have been published covering all aspects of human life. The First Report Constructed a comprehensive called – Human Development Index reflecting life expectancy, literacy and command over the resources to enjoy decent standard of living. The famous Pakistani economist late Mahbub-ul-Haq has uniquely designed the first report which kindled a new thinking in defining the quality of life of the people. Subsequent Human Development Reports added new indices such as human rights, gender equality, poverty, sanitation, drinking water, environmental issues, security, culture and language rights. Therefore, human development approach has been widening and covering new indices every year.

The Union Planning Commission published its first National Human Development Report in 2001 in which Tamil Nadu's achievements in education, health, family welfare were highlighted. Particular mention was made regarding the social reform movement in Tamil Nadu. "The state has, historically, been a hot bed of social reform movements, often precipitating political action in the desired direction. Social consciousness inspired by leaders such as Ramasamy 'Periyar' has influenced the people to become responsible parents, among other things, to adoption of family planning as a means to bridge the gap between increasing aspirations and availability of resources to meet these aspirations."

The states are also bringing out Human Development Reports highlighting the specific issues concerning to their states. As indicated in the National Human Development Report (2001), Tamil Nadu has been implementing comprehensive social development and welfare programmes covering child to old age people. It retains third position in the human development indices among the states in India, continuously since 1991 because of the Tamil Nadu government's commendable performance in the primary secondary and tertiary sectors. The development strategy envisaged by Tamil Nadu government gives importance to equity and social justice. Therefore it is natural for the State Planning Commission to evaluate and ascertain many social and economic development schemes by encouraging human development studies in the districts.

The State Planning Commission with the cooperation of the UNDP and Union Planning Commission is utilising the services of the academia, scholars and policy makers to study, analyse and prepare reports on human development of different districts. These studies would be helpful to arrive correct intervention programmes for the upliftment of deserving regions and deserving sections of the society.

I commend the services of the District Collector and officers of District Administration for the help they rendered to collect data and required information in the preparation of the Dindigul District Human Development Report. I convey my thanks to the Chief Secretary and Senior Officers of the Steering Committee for their valuable suggestions in this regard. I congratulate the efforts of the HDRC team at the Planning Commission and senior academics and scholars of the Gandhigram Rural University.

பொருள்கருவி காலம் வினைஇடனொடு ஐந்தும்
இருள்தீர எண்ணிச் செயல் - குறள் 675

(Resources, tools, time, place and deed;
Decide these five and then proceed – Kural 675)

The planning process, as thoughtfully defined by Thiruvalluvar, should prioritize schemes for strengthening and evolving appropriate social sector policies. In this context, the District Human Development Report of Dindigul will form a milestone in the overall planning and development of the State of Tamil Nadu.

26.02.2009

(M. NAGANATHAN)

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Foreword

Tamil Nadu has been a pioneer in implementing programmes for the development of people ensuring sustained growth tempered with social justice and equity. The State's Eleventh Year Plan aims at achieving employment generation, improving the livelihood of the people and reducing inequalities. While the State has been performing well in terms of Human Development indicators, it is necessary that the district differentials are analysed for bettering the well being of the individual.

The State Planning Commission in association with the United Nations Development Programme and Union Planning Commission under the Project "Strengthening State Plans for Human Development" has initiated the preparation of District Human Development Report (DHDR) for the districts of Dindigul, Sivaganga, Tiruvannamalai, Nagappattinam and Cuddalore. The objective of this exercise is to make an in-depth analysis of the status of Human Development within a district based on the internationally accepted specific Human Development indicators. This would help to identify areas for intervention for location specific remedial actions.

Based on the conclusions and recommendations in the Reports, the policies and programmes implemented in the districts need to be provided with interventions that recognize the inter district and inter block differences in levels of achievement with respect to health, income and education indices. Better knowledge of the achievements of the district / block with reference to their indicators will lead to transparency which in turn increases the involvement of the community leading to better governance.

It is a matter of great satisfaction that the UNDP and the Union Planning Commission have come forward to support this initiative and offer technical guidance. I take this opportunity to place on record my sincere thanks to the concerned District Collectors and their colleagues for sharing data on various parameters for the preparation of the report. I appreciate all the stakeholders for their contributions to this report. I am sure that these efforts will prove meaningful in improving the overall Human Development status of the district by quelling the intra district disparities.

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Date:10.9.2009

Foreword

I place on record my appreciation of the venture by Rajiv Gandhi Chair for Panchayat Raj studies, Gandhigram Rural University in collaboration with the State Planning Commission Tamil Nadu and Dindigul District Administration in bringing out the District Human Development Report for Dindigul District.

The report not only sheds light on the whole gamut of the status of the district in all respects but also is a first step towards planning for development at sub-district and sub-block level.

The concept of human development has undergone a sea –change with a paradigm shift in terms of measurement of development from wealth to improvement in the lives of people. Contrary to the traditional method of top down approach, planning from bottom to cater to the requirements of the people has been realized as the need of the hour to ensure participatory development, which is not a means to development but an end in itself.

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In the process of preparing The District Development Report, The preparation of a District Human Development Report is a constituent exercise, since preparing a District Development Plan has been made mandatory as per the provisions of the 74th Amendment to the Constitution of India. The task is stupendous because breaking down data at the sub–district level is difficult for the officials who have never before undertaken such an exercise. But we found it an interesting exercise. The task was assigned to us by the State Planning Commission. In this process, the District Administration has to play an important role in terms of procuring data for this exercise. This being a difficult task to achieve, a team was formed at the district level and assignments were handed down to officials by the District Collector. Periodical review was done by the District Collector meticulously. Another team comprising the State Planning Commission, the District Administration and the Rajiv Gandhi Chair of Gandhigram Rural University also worked towards achieving this goal. The whole process of preparing the District Human Development Report of Dindigul District was a learning experience for the district officials, the Rajiv Gandhi Chair project staff and the academicians who were involved in this exercise.

I am deeply indebted to Thiru P.R. Bindhumadhavan, Member – Secretary, State Planning Commission, for not only initiating this exercise but also enabling each one of us to internalize this process. With the same vibration, the District Collector, Thiru Murugiah, also played an active role in helping us collect data from various agencies and sources. The staff working in various projects of the Rajiv Gandhi Chair were of great support in preparing this report. Many NGOs, individuals and panchayats actively participated in all the deliberations. A few students and members of the staff benefited out of this exercise and prepared Village Human Development Reports while the teachers and the students were engaged in our outreach programme. On the whole, it was a learning experience for many in this field. It will certainly help the district to improve the living conditions of the people from the perspective of human development. Many officials and panchayat

leaders involved in this work internalized the human development perspective and this will help the district to improve its score on Human Development. I express my sincere thanks to the UNDP, the State Planning Commission, the District Administration, Ms. T. Rajarajeswari, Mr. Chandrasekhar Bahinipathi of MIDS and the Rajiv Gandhi Chair, Gandhigram Rural University, for having participated in the preparation of the Dindigul District Human Development Report.

G. PALANITHURAI

CHAPTER – 1

Introduction

> *'Human Development is defined as the process of enlarging people's range of choices. The most critical of these wide-ranging choices are to live a long and healthy life, to be educated and to have access to resources needed for a decent standard of living. Additional choices include political freedom, guaranteed human rights and personal self-respect.'*- UNDP, 1990.

Human Development Reports: Origin and Concept:

While Human Development itself is not a new concept, its documentation is a recent phenomenon. Human Development was talked about even by ancient philosophers like Aristotle and modern ones like Emanuel Kant who emphasized that wealth is not the ultimate goal but only a means through which we seek to achieve certain ends. It owes its origin to the dichotomy between the concepts of economic growth and development. Earlier it was the practice to measure development by indicators like the GDP of a country, but, subsequently, it was perceived that this practice had many flaws. Countries with high per capita incomes were confronted by problems like high inequality, poor living conditions for some sections of the society, gender inequality, and lack of access to health care and so on. It became increasingly clear that growth in income may not correspond to development of human beings in all its various aspects. The concept of Human Development gained prominence with eminent thinkers and economists like Mahbub ul Haq, Amartya Sen, Martha Nussbaum, and others, emphasizing a shift in the measurement of development from wealth to improvements in the lives of people.

The Human Development concept evolved in the 1980s in response to the increasing emphasis on economic growth as a measure of development. It places human beings at the core of development and emphasizes people's involvement as an end in itself and a not as a means of development. Central to human development is participation, especially of vulnerable sections, in the process of change and equity in development gains.

Human development is about people, about expanding their choices to live full, creative lives with freedom and dignity. Economic growth, increased trade and investment, and technological advancement are very important factors. But they are the means, not the end. Fundamental to expanding choices is building human capabilities, the range of things people can be. The most basic and underlying factors for human development are living a long and healthy life, being educated, having a decent standard of living and

enjoying political and civil freedoms to participate in the life of one's community.

The UNDP published the first Human Development Report (HDR) in 1990. The Human Development Index (HDI) is a summary measure of human development. It measures the average achievements in a country/region in three basic dimensions of human development:

- A long and healthy life, as measured by life expectancy at birth.
- Knowledge, as measured by the adult literacy rate (with two-thirds weight) and the combined primary, secondary and tertiary gross enrolment ratio (with one-third weight).
- A decent standard of living as measured by GDP per capita.

In India, Madhya Pradesh was the first State to release a Human Development Report in 1995. Subsequently, more states have published their HDRs.

In 2000, the UN General Assembly set eight goals for development, known as *Millennium Development Goals*, to be achieved by 2015. They are: eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; achieve universal primary education; promote gender equality and empower women; reduce child mortality; combat Human Immuno Deficiency Virus (HIV), Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), malaria and other diseases; ensure environmental sustainability and develop global partnership for development. Most of these goals are quantifiable, monitorable targets to measure progress against standards set by the international community. The concept of human development has been used as a very powerful subject of advocacy to argue in favour of pro-poor growth. It has highlighted the fact that it is not merely the quantum of growth but its distribution that is important. To compare levels of development across countries, Human Development Reports (HDRs) have proposed simple composite indices such as Human Development Index (HDI), Gender Development Index (GDI), Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM) and Human Poverty Index (HPI) to reflect the status of human development, gender development, empowerment of women and human poverty. The parameters of HDI are life expectancy at birth (LEB), adult literacy rate and gross domestic product (GDP) per capita income (PPP US $). The parameters for GDI are the same as those for HDI but it adjusts the achievement to reflect the achievements between men and women. The GEM captures gender inequalities in female and male percentage shares of parliamentary seats, their shares of position as legislators, senior officials and management personnel and also percentage shares of professional and technical positions and estimated earned income (PPP US $). And, finally, the parameters for HPI are probability at birth of not surviving to age 60, percentage of adults (aged 16–65) lacking functional literacy skills, percentage of people living below the poverty line and rate of long-term employment (12 months or more).

National Human Development Report

The Planning Commission (Government of India) has calculated HDI, HPI and Gender Equality Index (GEI) for the Indian States. The parameters for HDI are consumption expenditure (per capita per month), literacy rate for seven years and more, intensity of formal education (estimated), life expectancy at age one and infant mortality rate (IMR). The parameters for HPI are proportion of people living below the poverty line, proportion of population not receiving medical attention at birth, proportion of population living in kutcha houses and of people without access to basic amenities. The GEI is expressed as a proportion of economic attainment level of females to that of males and instead of per capita monthly expenditure, economic attainments for males and females are computed by considering the respective worker population ratios. The first Human Development Report was published in the year 2001.

State Human Development Report

The State Level Human Development Reports (SHDRs) are expected to galvanize greater resources for human development priority sectors in the States, and to help improve data systems and reporting practice at the State, district and community levels. So far, twenty-two States are in different stages of preparing SHDRs. These reports can act as powerful tools to initiate widespread dialogue on developmental alternatives for States. They can also be used to mobilise additional funding for the development programmes of States in collaboration with international donors.

Tamil Nadu is the sixth State in the Indian Union and the second South Indian State to prepare the SHDR. The Tamil Nadu SHDR, published in the year 2003, is important because it provides insights into the process of development in a State characterized by heavy industrialization, urbanization, better growth rates (marginally ahead of fifteen major States) and poverty levels below the national average. It is a relatively middle income State (fifth among major States) and boasts of impressive attainments in human development indicators. Further, its gender sensitive policies are also appreciable. In short, Tamil Nadu is a model of a middle income State that has tried to enhance the level of human development through the formulation and implementation of programmes that address the needs of the poor, vulnerable and marginal population of the State. The social welfare policies, programmes and schemes have contributed substantially to human development of the State. The report not only identifies problem areas but also assesses the successes of Tamil Nadu, especially in the areas of women's empowerment and social development. Based on a candid appreciation of the ground reality, the document highlights the future thrust areas for the government and civil society in the State. Following the State HDR, it was suggested that district HDRs (at a sub-district level) be prepared using the parameters included in the State HDR to understand and plan better for the districts.

Context of District Human Development Report

The process of preparing DHDR was one of the important steps taken up by the UNDP, after dealing with National Human Development Reports and State Human Development Reports in the selected states. This was the first attempt tried at the district level. The objective of preparing the DHDRs of the selected districts in the State was to create awareness about the Human Development concept among different stakeholders and use it in the district plan for the development projects through people's participation at grassroots level from village Panchayats to District Panchayats and from Town Panchayats to Municipal Corporation.

Hitherto, planning exercises were carried out by adopting the top-down approach. But now the need and approach have been changed. Planning from below is felt to be more appropriate for achieving participatory development. As a result, planning at district level has been mandated through a provision in the 74th Amendment to the Constitution of India. In planning for development, the human development indicators serve as important criteria and for this, the Human Development Report at the grassroots level will be of great use. So, the Planning Commission, Government of Tamil Nadu, with the help of UNDP, initiated this process of preparing District Human Development Report in selected districts in Tamil Nadu initially.

The Process of preparation of a DHDR

At the outset, an organization, which would form a core committee comprising the district administration with select line department representatives as its members and other stakeholders including Local Body representatives, NGOs and academics, was selected. The responsibility of preparing the Dindigul District Human Development Report was entrusted to the Gandhigram Rural University. The committee held an initial round of discussion to sensitise the stakeholders on human development and on how to collect various kinds of related data.

It is worth documenting the process of preparing the DHDR in order to sensitise different stakeholders to work on transforming the living conditions of the poor. It is intended to create awareness about the Human Development concept and the process of doing it and use it for the preparation of district plans.

Thus far, the Districts' statistical handbooks and the data submitted for the review meetings of the respective departments were the only sources of data and information that would be used for all planning exercises at the district and the state levels. This is the first time an attempt is being made to look at planning from the perspective of Human Development. It is against this background that the District Human Development Report has been prepared. UNDP has given as exhaustive list of indicators to be used for collecting information from various sources, viz, District Statistical

Department, NIC, Planning Commission Documents, Department of Economics and Statistics, Media reports, research articles and through interactions with the line departments and stakeholders like Panchayat Presidents, Academicians and NGOs. However, no attempt was made to calculate the HDI as such and it was planned that the major indicators of Human Development be presented in simple tables and comparison and analysis made based on the classified and tabulated data.

The committee held the initial rounds of discussion and brainstorming sessions on how to go about collecting the needed data. The first job was to sensitise the stakeholders about the exercise and make them understand what Human Development is and how it is different from the conventional practice of just looking at the per capita income or other statistics, which according to the proponents of HDI, is only a means of achieving Human Development and does not as such represent Human Development.

It is suggested that all the officials involved in the preparation of this District Human Development Report may be invited for a dissemination workshop that can be arranged in the respective district headquarters. This workshop will enable the officials to understand the concept of Human Development Index and will also help them to plan their activities in their domain effectively in future.

Methodology

The process of preparing the District Human Development Report was started with a detailed training programme organized for the officials, NGOs and academics involved in this task. The various dimensions of Human Development were discussed in the training programme held at Chennai and the district headquarters. Following this, a number of workshops, including Visionary Workshops, Technical Workshops and Focus Group Discussions, were also organised at the district level and the sub-district level wherein the district-level officials and block-level officials of various departments were invited and were oriented towards the importance of and need for such a report. Extensive inputs were drawn and popular perceptions were captured. The Local Body leaders were invited to participate in all the programmes. The District Collector presided over and facilitated all these workshops and explained the importance and utility of the report. In the whole process of training and visionary workshops, the stakeholders were provided with suitable orientation to sensitise them to these subjects.

The District Human Development Report was prepared with a participatory approach wherein the various departments of the government, NGOs, academics and other experts contributed in various forms. The necessary data for the report were collected through a format and the departments of the government supplied the data during the course of the preparation.

Intensive discussions were held to obtain primary data from the officials, NGOs, academics, the media and the civil society. Focus Group Discussions with various segments of the population and Panchayat leaders were also organised. Case studies were conducted with some successful Panchayat leaders. The secondary data in the form of Census Reports, and records of various government departments, State Human Development Reports and Government websites was collected. The collected data was processed, verified and validated. Most of the data was tabulated (wherever necessary) and presented in simple form and the collected data was analysed using simple statistical tools like average and percentage.

Scope

The Human Development Reports prepared at the State and National levels were indicative of the standard of life of the people at the respective level. But the district level Human Development Report is a first step towards analysing the situation. This helps to plan for development at the sub-district level and the sub-block level.

Further, till now the preparation of Human Development Reports was carried out by a few experts at the top level. This kept the officials at the middle as well as the district level and at the lower level ignorant of the concepts used in the report. These officials were interested in achieving the target of various development programmes without understanding the impact or outcome of such programmes. On the contrary, now these officials were also involved in preparing and consolidating necessary data in such a manner as to fulfil the requirements of the preparation of the Human Development Report. This also helped them to understand the outcome of the plans they executed and to rectify the mistakes or drawbacks in both planning and execution. It helps to change the mindset of the stakeholders who are in the field of development.

Limitation of Data

Block level data was not available readily for all the indicators. The various departments had compiled the data only for their requirements like taluk level or regional level requirements. So, it look a long time to compile the require data block-wise.

The frequent transfer of officials also posed a problem. The officials who were oriented initially about the DHDR were transferred and the newcomers had to be oriented on the same and this resulted in delay in collecting the necessary data. As the concept was new to the middle-level officials (and in same cases, the district- level officials also), it was difficult to make them understand the concept and its importance. When the process of collecting the information and data started it was not very easy as most information is not just readily available at the sub-district level. The team had to desegregate the data block-wise to the maximum possible extent and then undertake the analysis.

We could conduct analysis on a range of indicators like gender, rural, urban and spatial disparities which form the core arguments for this exercise. Probing on such disparities and the search for causes of better or poorer attainments threw light on the possibilities of bridging the gaps and on interventions to achieve attainments. This formed the recommendations pertaining to each development theme in the district. It was indeed a rewarding exercise for all sensitive stakeholders who are in the development domain.

Chapterisation

The report has nine chapters. They are (i) Introduction (ii) Dindigul District : An Overview (iii) Demography, Health and Nutrition (iv) Literacy and Education (v) Income and Livelihood (vi) Gender (vii) Local Bodies (viii) Millennium Development Goals (ix) Summary and Way Forward.

CHAPTER – 2

Dindigul District: An Overview

Dindigul District was carved out of Madurai District on the 15th September 1985. Dindigul was under the famous Muslim monarch Tipu Sultan and then under the British rule. The landmark and historical monument, the Rock Fort, was built by a Naik King and it is visible for several kilometers in all directions.

Location

Geographically Dindigul is located between 10.05 and 10.09 North Latitude and 77.30 and 78.20 East Longitude and the altitude of the district is (+) 280.11 MSL. Dindigul District is bound by Erode, Coimbatore, Karur and Trichy Districts on the North, by Sivaganga and Trichy Districts on the East, by Madurai District on the South and by Theni and Coimbatore Districts and the Kerala State on the West.

The geographical area of Dindigul District is 6266.64 sq.km, which is 4.82 percent of the State. Dindigul is administratively divided into four Taluks and 14 Panchayat Unions. According to the 2001 census, the population of the district is 19,23,014, which is 3.03 percent of the total population of Tamil Nadu. The population density is 317 per sq.km., which is lower than the State average of 480.

Physical Structure

The district has extensive hilly areas with undulating plains. The Pulney Hills on the West forming the north-eastern spur of the Western Ghats range in height from 1000 to 2700 meters. The upper hills comprise peaks like Perumalmalai and Vandarvermalai and include the beautiful, scenic, salubrious hill station known as Kodaikkannal. The lower plains are made up of hills like 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. The rest of the district is characterised by an undulating plain covered mostly by red soil (55 percent) while the rest of the plains are covered by black earth.

Economy

Agriculture, horticulture, floriculture and industries are worth mentioning in terms of their importance to the livelihood and economy of this region. Agriculture crops like paddy, cholam, cumbu, cotton, tobacco, groundnut, pulses and oilseeds are grown. In addition to these, a wide range of fruit, flower and vegetable crops are grown in the district. Coconut is one of the major plantation crops grown in the plains. Coffee, pepper, lemon, jackfruit, cardamom and other spices, sub-tropical fruits, flowers and vegetables are grown in the hilly areas of the district.

Oddanchatram is famous for its vegetable market. It is also famous for the export of butter manufactured in the adjacent villages using cream separators. Bathlakundu is an important market centre for tomatoes. Dindigul city is also an important wholesale market for onion and groundnut. Pattiveeranpatti in Bathlakundu is famous for cardamom and coffee curing enterprise.

Animal Husbandry

Animal husbandry is another predominant economic activity of the district; it deals with dairy farming, poultry development and sheep and goat rearing. The important cattle markets of the district are located in the blocks of Athoor, Dindigul, Guziliyamparai, Natham, Nilakkottai, Oddanchatram, Shanarpatti, Sempatti, Thoppampatti, Ayyalur, and Vedasandur, which cater to the needs of the farmers in the district. There are 5 veterinary hospitals, 43 veterinary dispensaries, 1 mobile dispensary, 1 veterinary clinic, 2 poultry extension centres, 177 artificial insemination centres and 1 animal intelligence unit in the district. The department, through its network of institutions, is rendering necessary veterinary services and treatment to ailing animals. The department takes up various activities like forecasting of endemic diseases in animals, preventive vaccination, artificial insemination, deworming, organizing sterility camps, fodder cultivation, encouraging soil testing for fodder cultivation and surveillance of zoonotic diseases. All the veterinary centres in the district have been provided with refrigerators. Many of them have become old and obsolete as they have been in use for 20 years. Hence, the centres find it difficult to store life-saving medicines and vaccines. So, through the RSVY

Acknowledgement

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I am deeply indebted to Thiru P.R. Bindhumadhavan, Member – Secretary, State Planning Commission, for not only initiating this exercise but also enabling each one of us to internalize this process. With the same vibration, the District Collector, Thiru Murugiah, also played an active role in helping us collect data from various agencies and sources. The staff working in various projects of the Rajiv Gandhi Chair were of great support in preparing this report. Many NGOs, individuals and panchayats actively participated in all the deliberations. A few students and members of the staff benefited out of this exercise and prepared Village Human Development Reports while the teachers and the students were engaged in our outreach programme. On the whole, it was a learning experience for many in this field. It will certainly help the district to improve the living conditions of the people from the perspective of human development. Many officials and panchayat

scheme, a sum of Rs. 3,60,000 was allotted to the Animal Husbandry Department for the purchase of new refrigerators.

Industries

Some of the major industries like handloom weaving, lock and safe manufacturing in the traditional sector, cotton/polyester spinning, leather tanning, food processing like flour, vermicelli manufacturing industries and a few agro processing industries are established in the modern medium- and small-scale sectors. For a long time, Dindigul town has been associated with iron locks, iron safe of good quality and durability. Another industry for which Dindigul is noted for is leather tanneries. The district has a flourishing handloom industry at Chinnalapatti, which is located 11 km from Dindigul on the Madurai-Dindigul road. Art silk sarees and sungudi sarees produced in Chinnalapatti find market in many parts of India and other countries.

Transport and Communication

Dindigul District is well connected by rail and road. The total railway length is BG 65.98 km and MG 116.08 km. (All the MG railway tracks are slated for conversion to BG shortly). It has National Highways of a total length of 148.75 km, State Highways of 2268.660 km, corporation and municipal roads of 237.46 km, town panchayat roads of 597.288 km, panchayat union roads of 3225.12 km and forest roads of 416.345 km. It has 445 post offices transacting postal business alone. Eleven post offices are carrying out post and telegraph business. There are 105128 telephones and 5741 public call offices in use in this district. There are 73 telephone exchanges in Dindigul District.

Temples

Every historical city in India has a good number of temples, reflecting the culture and the prosperity of the people. The famous Dhandayuthapani Temple situated on the Pulney Hills* at a height of about 456 mts is one of the six celebrated Hill Abodes of Lord Muruga. Besides this famous temple, there are other temples such as the Murugan temple at Thirumalaikeni, Abiramiamman Temple, Raja Kaliamman Temple at Thethupatti, Sri Kottai Mariamman Kovil, and Kurinji Andavar Temple at Kodaikkannal, which attract several thousands of pilgrims. In addition to these, there is a big mosque in Begampur in Dindigul.

Tourist Places

Kodaikkannal, a popular summer resort located at an altitude of 2,133 meters in the Western Ghats, is the princess of hills stations, with Kurinji flowers blossoming once in 12 years. The Bryant Park in Kodaikkannal, Rock Fort in Dindigul, Solar Physical Observatory in Kodaikkannal, and Kodai Lake are the famous tourist places in the district.

* Pulney hills is commonly known as Palani Hills.

E-Governance Initiatives in Dindigul District

Land Records Computerization

Tamil Nadu Infosystem on Land Administration and Management (Tamil NILAM) is a major e-Governance initiative undertaken by the Revenue Department of the Government of Tamil Nadu. This software system has been developed by National Informatics Centre, Tamil Nadu to computerise the Land Records System. *TAMIL NILAM* is currently implemented in all the rural taluks in the State. It handles all the transactions relating to Land Records in the State.

Touch Screen Kiosks

In order to provide a citizen-oriented service (G2C), the Revenue Department has installed Touch Screen Kiosks in 3 taluks in Dindigul District. Citizen services offered through Touch Screen kiosks:

- Land Owners (Pattadhars) can view their ownership details and get a copy of Chitta Extract (Record of Rights).
- Land Guideline Value applicable for registration of property at the Sub Registrar Offices, is available for viewing, based on street name and survey number
- Displays land details for a given Survey and Sub-Division number
- One can view the Birth Certificate details and get a copy of the Certificate. This can be seen accessed by selecting a village or a date of birth
- Similarly Death Certificate details can be seen and copies may be obtained

Features:

- Total interface is in Tamil.
- Voice messages for guiding new users.
- User-friendly buttons and number pads for entry.
- Kiosk has a coin acceptance unit and use is possible only on inserting coins.

Grievance Day Petition (GDP)

Grievance Day Petition (GDP) software has been implemented in the Collectorate. Chief Minister Cell Petition Monitoring System, a web-enabled application, is used by the GDP Section.

District Civil Supply Office

The civil supplies allotments are made online by entering card and member's details--shop wise and month wise-- over a web-enabled application. The allotments of various items are generated based on agencies. Godown-wise details are made available online.

E-Services Project

The government is in the process of setting up Citizen Services Facilitation Centres in all Collectorates. A request has already been made to the Collector for providing a minimum of 600-sq.ft preferably in the ground floor. An amount of Rs. 3 lakhs has been granted by the Central Government to set up the Facilitation centres. The centre is ready and it will be made available within a short span of time.

The District Administration has already received Computer Systems for the Citizen Facilitation Centre. These computers have been installed at the centre. The citizen services are to be commissioned shortly. On establishment, the public could access this service to know the status of their petitions and obtain certificates such as birth, death, community, income certificates etc.

Anytime/Anywhere e-Services

The e-Services for Taluk Offices enables citizens to view and apply for Chitta Extract, A-Register Extract, Birth Certificate copy, Death Certificate copy, Legal Heirship Certificate copy, Nativity Certificate copy. A citizen can also submit a grievance online and view the status of his grievance application.

RTO e-Services

e-Services for Transport Department enable citizens to view details of Registered Vehicle, Driving and Conductor licenses, permits issued for a vehicle, theft of vehicles and other relevant information on services rendered by the Transport Department of the State.

Regional Transport Department

NIC has developed & implemented "Vahan & Sarathi" for the Transport Department. "Vahan and Sarathi" provides total automation of Regional Transport Office (RTO) transactions comprising Fee and Tax, all stages of Registration, License, Permit and Enforcement through a workflow-based system.

Court Project

Seventeen (17) Laptops have been given to various judicial officers of the Dindigul District court. The honorable judges will be provided BSNLs broadband connection to their residences. Training will be imparted to the judges by the identified agency.

Common Integrated Police Application (CIPA)

CIPA introduces an element of transparency in the working of the police, by significantly reducing manual record/register maintenance at Police Station, eliminating duplicate and inconsistent record keeping, maintaining record of crimes and criminals, keeping track of the status of crimes, helping investigating officer with availability of records, generating various reports from time to time etc.

Common Integrated Police Application software will be installed in 32 police stations of Dindigul District. Police officials are given training to use the software. The process of setting up infrastructure has been already started by the Police Department.

Dindigul website: (www.dindigul.tn.nic.in)

The Dindigul District website is being maintained by the NIC. The district administration regularly updates the website in order to provide the latest information about the departments/district. The website also carries the contact address of all officers.

E-Tendering

The Tamil Nadu Portal of Government of Tamil Nadu is the central source for all Tenders/Notifications issued by the departments undertakings Boards of Governments for procurement of goods, services and works. Tenders can be viewed from different parameters viz. Classification, Agency, Product, Location, Value etc.

The government has notified that e-tendering has to be implemented by all departments. Necessary training has been given to various departments for uploading the tender documents.

Collabland for Survey Department

Objectives:

- Create FMB Maps using Ladder Data
- Viewing/Printing FMB Extracts as a Citizen Service
- Perform transactions like Sub-Division and Merging
- Mosaicing of FMB maps to create village boundaries
- Provide integrated Solution with Non-Spatial Data.

Video Conferencing

The NIC is providing video conferencing service to various Government Departments. Video conferencing sessions were conducted at NIC, Dindigul at frequent intervals. This facilitates faster communication among State and District officials.

Table No. 2.1

District at a Glance (Cross Comparison with Tamil Nadu)

Socio-Economic Characteristics	Dindigul (2001)	Tamil Nadu (2001)
Geographical Area	6,266.64 sq m. (4.82)	130058 sq km.
Demographic Characteristics		
Population	1,923,014	62,405,679
Male	968,137 (50.34)	31,400,909 (50.31)
Female	954,877 (49.65)	31,004,770 (49.68)
Growth (1991-2001)	**9.22**	**11.72**
Rural	1,249,762 (64.98)	34,921,681 (55.95)
Urban	673,252 (35.01)	27,483,998 (44.04)
SC	376,170 (19.56)	11,857,504 (19.00)
ST	6 ,484 (0 .34)	6,51,321 (1.04)
Sex Ratio (Females per 1000 Males)	986	987
Literacy and Education		
Person	1,181,746 (69.35)	40,524,545 (64.93)
Males	681,698 (79.76)	22,809,662 (72.64)
Females	500,048 (58.87)	17,714,883 (57.13)
Workers		
Total Workers	9,73,332 (51)	27,878,282 (44.67)
Rural	6,99,276 (71.84)	17,559,768 (50.28)
Urban	2,74,056 (28.15)	10,318,514 (37.54)
Male	5,85,146 (60.11)	18,100,397 (57.64)
Female	3,88,186 (39.88)	97,77,885 (31.53)
Age Group		
0-4 years	1,54,855	50,98,462
5-14 years	3,50,665	11,612,412
15-59 years	1,229,561	39,758,463
60 years and above	1,87,933	5,936,342

Note: Percentages are in brackets.

Source: Census (2001); District Statistical Handbook, 2006

CHAPTER – 3

Demography, Health and Nutrition

This chapter gives an overview of the Demography and Health and Nutritional status of Dindigul District. The population details are reviewed based on social group, gender and age. The analysis on Health and Nutrition, which are considered as an important component of human development, helps to asses the physical and mental well-being of the people. The Health sector is considered the vital unit for major policy decisions to be carried out for the welfare of the people. The present analysis will help us to comprehend the prevalent health condition and will guide us in taking corrective measures.

Demography

Demography shows the changes in the population trend over a period of time. This has both positive and negative impact on Human Development. The demographic structure of the population determines its economic and social status. The health, education and skill possessed by the population help in shaping the development of the State and bring in economic prosperity and overall well-being of the people.

The Census 2001 shows the population of Tamil Nadu as 62,405,679 comprising 31,400,909 males and 31,004,770 females. Dindigul accounts for 1,923,014 (Male: 9,68,137; Female: 9,54,877). Dindigul accounts for 4.65percent of the total geographical area of Tamil Nadu and the population share is 3.08percent. The population of Tamil Nadu has grown at the rate of 11.72 percent whereas the population in Dindigul District has grown at the rate of 9.22 percent. It ranks 15th among 29 districts in terms of its population.

The population growth rate has been declining over the years from 11.90 percent to 9.22 percent during the period 1971-2001. The district's decadal growth rate of population 9.22 is less than the State's growth rate (11.72). This shows that the district is heading towards population stabilization.

The district is yet to reach the targets set by the Tenth Five-year plan for Tamil Nadu (7% by 2011) in terms of population growth.

Rural Population

Dindigul has a total rural population of 12,49,762 as its share of the Tamil Nadu rural population total of 3,49,21,681, ranking 16th in terms of percentage of rural population. Sixty-five percent of the district population lives in rural areas. Dindigul District has 6,29,073 rural males and 6,20,689 rural females ranking it 13th and 14th in the respective category in the State. Shanarpatti is entirely a rural block. Other blocks that have a heavy concentration of rural population are Athoor, Bathlakundu, Natham, Thoppampatti, Vedasandur and Vadamadurai. With this framework in the background, the performance of the blocks in terms of Human Development Indicators is analysed.

Urban Population

Dindigul District has an urban population of 6,73,252 and ranks 15th among districts in Tamil Nadu. It represents 35 percent of the district population. Dindigul, Kodaikanal and Palani blocks exhibit urban characteristics, with more than 40 percent of population living in urban areas. Other blocks have a low to moderate share of urban areas within the block.

SC/ST Population

The total SC population in Tamil Nadu is 1,18,57,504. The ST population is 6,51,321. Among the total SC population 3.17 percent lives in Dindigul District, numbering 3,76,170. Among the total ST population (6,51,321) 0.1 percent (6484) lives in the Dindigul District.

Slum Population

In Tamil Nadu, 18.63 percent of the population, which is 26,39,590, is living in the slums of towns and urban areas. Out of the total population, 14,165,804 are in urban centres. In Dindigul District, Palani and Dindigul are the two areas with urban slums. Palani Municipality has 21,728 persons living in slums accounting for 32.35 percent of the total of 67,175 population of the town. In Dindigul Municipality, out of the total population (1,96,619), 70,663 persons are living in slums accounting for a whooping 35.94 percent. This is one of the serious areas of concern for the district administration to improve the living conditions of these people in the slums.

Sex Ratio

The sex ratio is 986 females per 1000 males as against the State average sex ratio of 987 per 1000 males, ranking it 18th in the State. It may be observed that the growth rate of the female population is 9.78 higher than the growth rate of the male population (8.68%); yet the sex ratio is 978 per 1000 males depicting the gender disparity in infant deaths and health care. In the sex ratio among 0-6 year population, Dindigul ranks 24th with 930 females per 1000 males as against 942 for Tamil Nadu. The child sex ratio is not encouraging, and would support the much infamously reported female infanticide prevalent in some parts of the district.

Amongst the rural population, the sex ratio is 987 females per 1000 males in the district as against 992 for the total rural population of the State. Dindigul ranks 19th in terms of the sex ratio among the rural population.

In Tamil Nadu, Thoothukkidi District and Tirunelveli District rank first and second respectively in the sex ratio with 1066 and 1055 females per 1000 males among all the districts in the State. Salem's sex ratio improved from 925 to 929. Dindigul 976 to 986; Madurai 964 to 978; and Theni 964 to 979.

Table No. 3.1 Population 2001 – Census (Total)

S. No.	State / District	Population			Growth Rate 1991- 2001			Sex Ratio
		Persons	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female	
1.	Tamil Nadu	62,405,679	31,400,909	31,004,770	11.72	10.96	12.50	987
2.	Dindigul	19,23,014	9,68,137	9,54,877	9.22	8.68	9.78	986

Source: Census of India, 2001

Table No. 3.2 Population 2001 – Census (Rural)

S. No.	State / District	Population			Growth Rate 1991- 2001			Sex Ratio
		Persons	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female	
1.	Tamil Nadu	34,921,681	17,531,494	17,390,187	-5.06	-5.58	-4.52	992
2.	Dindigul	12,49,762	6,29,073	6,20,689	-9.67	-10.02	-9.32	987

Source: Census of India, 2001

Table No. 3.3 Population 2001 – Census (Urban)

S. No.	State / District	Population			Growth Rate 1991- 2001			Sex Ratio
		Persons	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female	
1.	Tamil Nadu	27,483,998	13,869,415	13,614,583	44.06	42.52	45.67	982
2.	Dindigul	6,73,252	3,39,064	3,34,188	78.57	76.91	80.29	986

Source: Census of India, 2001

Table No.3.4 - Population 2001 – Census SC&ST (Total)

S. No.	Name of the State / District	Schedule Caste			% of SC to the total Total Population	Sex Ratio	Schedule Tribes			% of ST to the total Total Population	Sex Ratio
		Persons	Male	Female			Persons	Male	Female		
1.	Tamil Nadu	11,857,504	5,932,925	5,924,579	19.00	999	6,51,321	3,28,917	3,22,404	1.04	980
2.	Dindigul	3,76,170	1,89,066	187,104	19.56	990	6,484	3,320	3,164	0.34	953

Source : Census of India, 2001

Table No. 3.5 Population 2001 – Census SC&ST (Rural)

S. No.	Name of the State / District	Schedule Caste			% of SC to the total Population	Sex Ratio	Schedule Tribes			% of ST to the Total Population	Sex Ratio
		Persons	Male	Female			Persons	Male	Female		
1.	Tamil Nadu	8,308,890	4,159,182	4,149,708	23.79	998	551,143	278,746	272,397	1.58	977
2.	Dindigul	269,809	135,694	134,115	21.59	988	3,512	1,773	1,739	0.28	981

Source: Census of India, 2001

Table No. 3.6 Population 2001 – Census SC&ST (Urban)

S. No.	Name of the State / District	Schedule Caste			% of SC to the total Population	Sex Ratio	Schedule Tribes			% of ST to the Total Population	Sex Ratio
		Persons	Male	Female			Persons	Male	Female		
1.	Tamil Nadu	3,548,614	1,773,743	1,774,871	12.91	1001	100,178	50,171	50,007	0.36	997
2.	Dindigul	106,361	53,372	52,989	15.80	993	2,972	1,547	1,425	0.44	921

Source: Census of India, 2001

Table No.3.7
Blockwise Area, Population and Density

S. No	Blocks	Area in Sq. km	% to the Total Area	Population	% to total Population	Population Density
1	Athoor	266.39	4.25	1,46,139	7.60	549.00
2	Bathlakundu	190.74	3.04	1,04,402	5.43	547.00
3	Dindigul	358.59	5.72	3,48,136	18.10	971.00
4	Guziliyamparai	367.85	5.87	86,149	4.48	234.00
5	Kodaikkannal	1,042.83	16.64	1,00,645	5.23	97.00
6	Natham	652.70	10.42	134208	6.98	206.00
7	Nilakkottai	249.78	3.99	146332	7.61	586.00
8	Oddanchatram	508.47	8.11	123897	6.44	244.00
9	Palani	591.56	9.44	201556	10.48	341.00
10	Reddiarchatram	464.06	7.41	112910	5.87	243.00
11	Shanarpatti	293.04	4.68	107820	5.61	368.00
12	Thoppampatti	602.15	9.61	108612	5.65	180.00
13	Vadamadurai	345.00	5.51	98559	5.13	286.00
14	Vedasandur	333.47	5.32	103649	5.39	311.00
Dindigul district		**6266.64**	**100.00**	**1923014**	**100.00**	**306.87**

Source: Census of India, 2001

Table No.3.8
Blockwise Urban and Rural Population

Sl. No.	Blocks	Urban			% of Urban Population	Rural			% of Rural Population
		Male	Female	Total		Male	Female	Total	
1	Athoor	23745	23868	47613	32.58	49171	49355	98526	67.42
2	Bathlakundu	20150	19535	39685	38.01	33197	31520	64717	61.99
3	Dindigul	129416	127806	257222	73.89	45689	45225	90914	26.11
4	Guziliyamparai	6770	6530	13300	15.44	36623	36226	72849	84.56
5	Kodaikkannal	21586	20856	42442	42.17	29752	28451	58203	57.83
6	Natham	11269	11276	22545	16.80	56153	55510	111663	83.20
7	Nilakkottai	18259	17960	36219	24.75	55932	54181	110113	75.25
8	Oddanchatram	12142	11990	24132	19.48	49753	50012	99765	80.52
9	Palani	58064	56941	115005	57.06	43368	43183	86551	42.94
10	Reddiarchatram	9612	9738	19350	17.14	47000	46560	93560	82.86
11	Shanarpatti	-	-	-	-	54231	53589	107820	100.00
12	Thoppampatti	3055	3244	6299	5.80	51677	50636	102313	94.20
13	Vadamadurai	15452	15300	30752	31.20	34319	33488	67807	68.80
14	Vedasandur	9544	9144	18688	18.03	42208	42753	84961	81.97
Dindigul District Total		339064	334188	673252	35.01	629073	620689	1249762	64.99

Source: Census of India, 2001

Table No.3.9

Blockwise SC and ST Population

Sl. No	Blocks	SC			% to total	ST			% to total
		Male	Female	Total		Male	Female	Total	
1	Athoor	15431	15321	30752	8.18	32	39	71	1.10
2	Bathlakundu	11882	11093	22975	6.11	283	256	539	8.31
3	Dindigul	25326	25226	50552	13.44	199	200	399	6.15
4	Guziliyamparai	9039	8840	17879	4.75	76	88	164	2.53
5	Kodaikkannal	7860	7912	15772	4.19	1025	989	2014	31.06
6	Natham	8843	8724	17567	4.67	3	6	9	0.14
7	Nilakkottai	20868	20227	41095	10.92	745	663	1408	21.71
8	Oddanchatram	12505	12550	25055	6.66	84	82	166	2.56
9	Palani	27209	26969	54178	14.40	498	464	962	14.84
10	Reddiarchatram	9814	9706	19520	5.19	63	68	131	2.02
11	Shanarpatti	10992	11094	22086	5.87	111	111	222	3.42
12	Thoppampatti	12815	12675	25490	6.78	0	0	0	0.00
13	Vadamadurai	8451	8627	17078	4.54	196	195	391	6.03
14	Vedasandur	8031	8140	16171	4.30	5	3	8	0.12
District Total		**189066**	**187104**	**376170**	100.0	**3320**	**3164**	**6484**	100.0

Source: Census of India, 2001

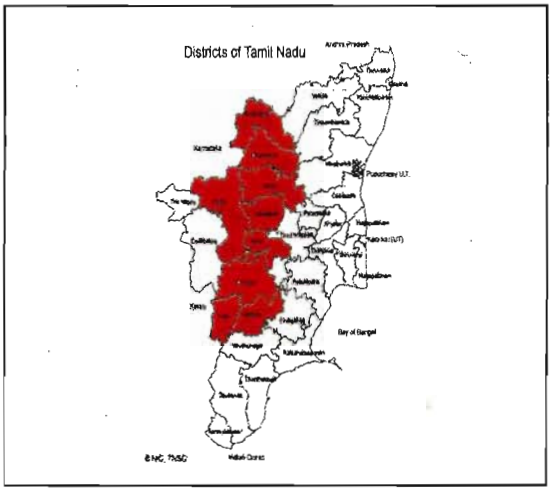
Blockwise Sex Ratio

The UNICEF report on Child sex ratio cautions that the alarming decline in child sex ratio is likely to result in more girls being married at a younger age, more girls dropping out of education, increased maternal mortality as a result of early child bearing and an associated increase in acts of violence against girls and women such as rape, abduction, trafficking and forced polyandry. The indicators of higher socio economic characteristics such as female literacy female workforce participation rate and economic growth have not been effective in checking the female sustenance and survival disadvantage[1]. The Study observes that the declining sex ratio is not an isolated phenomenon of rural India: rather the matter is dismal in urban areas.

It could be observed in Dindigul district too. The sex ratio of blocks Athoor and Bathlakundu which have literacy rate, female literacy rate better than the district is not

[1] Chakrabartoy, Lekha and Sinha, Darshy, (2006) "Determinants of declining sex ratio in India: An empirical Investigation", MPRA Paper No. 7602, posted 10. March 2008 Online at http://mpra.ub.uni-muenchen.de/7602/

very high. Athoor block, in particular, fares low when we count the overall sex ratio (990) and and compare with its ichild sex ratio (897) which which is the lowest in the district, despite its higher literacy and female literacy. Vedasandur is similar except for the literacy level.



Dindigul is one of those 9 districts whose child sex ratio is less than the state average (942). (Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri, Salem, Namakkal, Erode, Karur, Dindigul, Madurai, Theni). It may be observed from the Figure, these 9 districts form a contiguos chain from Krishnagiri in the North Tamil Nadu to Theni district in the Southwest of Tamil Nadu. Targetted action to improve the situation in these districts may be planned.

Sex ratio of Dindigul District according to 2001 census is 986/1000 males lower than state Sex ratio (987/1000 males). Blocks like Oddanchatram (1002), Vedasandur (1001) show higher sex ratio than district average. Bathlakundu shows lowest sex ratio (957). District Administration has to identify the reasons for lowest sex ratio in Bathlakundu Block and special measures have to be taken. But Child sex ratio shows alarming situation in Dindigul District. Athoor has the lowest child sex ratio (897) followed by Thoppampatti (903) and Vedasandur (905). There might be number of reasons for lowest child sex ratio like preference of male child and the Distirict Administrationhas to take special measures to sensitize the people on the importance of girl child. The incidence of female infanticide and foeticide may be checked by utilising the services of NSS students of colleges and universities, by organising sensitization programmes.

Table No.3.10
Blockwise Sex Ratio

Sl. No.	Block	Sex Ratio	Child Sex Ratio
1	Athoor	990	897
2	Bathlakundu	957	934
3	Dindigul	988	945
4	Guziliyamparai	985	924
5	Kodaikkannal	960	965
6	Natham	990	946
7	Nilakkottai	972	926
8	Oddanchatram	1002	934
9	Palani	987	963
10	Reddiarchatram	994	912
11	Shanarpatti	998	931
12	Thoppampatti	984	903
13	Vadamadurai	980	936
14	Vedasandur	1001	905
	District	986	930
	State	987	942
	All India	933	927

Source: Census of India, 2001

Health and Nutrition

The status of health shows the development of the particular geographical location. The health status is influenced by different factors like employment, income, educational attainment, social status, level of awareness, accessibility to health care and availability of health services. Poor health leads to deficiency in human capabilities and it also shows the level of deprivation among the people. There is a close link between health and poverty and health and development but the relationship is very complex. So, poor health is considered the major constraint of development. Health, being the basic right of individual people, everyone entitled to have quality health care service, safe drinking water, sanitation and so on. It becomes the obligation of the government to care for the health condition of the people.

Health is wealth. Nutritional status is one of the indicators of the overall well being of population and human development, and also an important component of human capability. There has been a significant improvement in the overall health and nutritional status of the population in Tamil Nadu. Over the last two decades it has been a steady reduction in percentage of underweight children and severely malnourished children, better early childhood care for survival growth and development and better nutritional status of pregnant and lactating women.

However, sub-clinical malnutritional incidence of low weight for age, anemia disability and hunger still continues to prevail among children in the lower socio-economic sections of the population. This prevents them from reaching their full

potential as vibrant and productive adults. Among upper socio-economic groups new problems of malnutrition such as obesity are manifesting themselves which arise out of increased consumption of processed and refined foods combined with sedentary life styles.

To measure the overall health condition of human beings, access to drinking water, sanitation, availability of doctors, trained health persons, UNDP has used life expectancy at birth (LEB) to reflect the aspect of health capability which shows the longevity of the people in the country. The health and nutritional indicators are presented, calculated and evaluated in various tables for 14 blocks and rural and urban areas.

Crude Birth Rate (CBR)

Table No.3.11

Crude Birth Rate

Name of the Block	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	Rank (Based on 2006-07)
Athoor	17.9	17.9	19.3	16.5	15.6	18.4	12
Bathlakundu	18.2	18.2	18.3	16.4	16.3	16	3
Dindigul	19.8	19.8	20.1	18.5	18.2	17.5	8
Guziliyamparai	19.26	19.52	19.78	13.95	19	19.3	13
Kodaikkannal	15.94	18.57	17.24	14.34	13.68	16.67	5
Natham	21.2	21.3	22.2	19.2	18.5	17.6	9
Nilakkottai	19.8	19.9	19.9	19.3	18.5	14.6	1
Oddanchatram	17.63	18.16	18.06	17.43	17.52	16.3	4
Palani	17.08	17.05	18.57	17.5	17.93	17.21	7
Reddiarchatram	19.7	9.7	19.7	17.5	17.2	17.1	6
Shanarpatti	22.1	22	20.5	19.3	18.6	17.7	10
Thoppampatti	15.84	15.32	15.97	15.14	15.72	14.61	2
Vadamadurai	20.51	18.6	18.74	16.83	17.35	19.72	14
Vedasandur	17.55	18.07	18.32	18.24	18.84	17.96	11
District	18.75	18.14	19.04	17.15	17.35	17.19	
Tamil Nadu						16.2	
India						23.5	

Source: DDHS, Dindigul and Palani, 2008

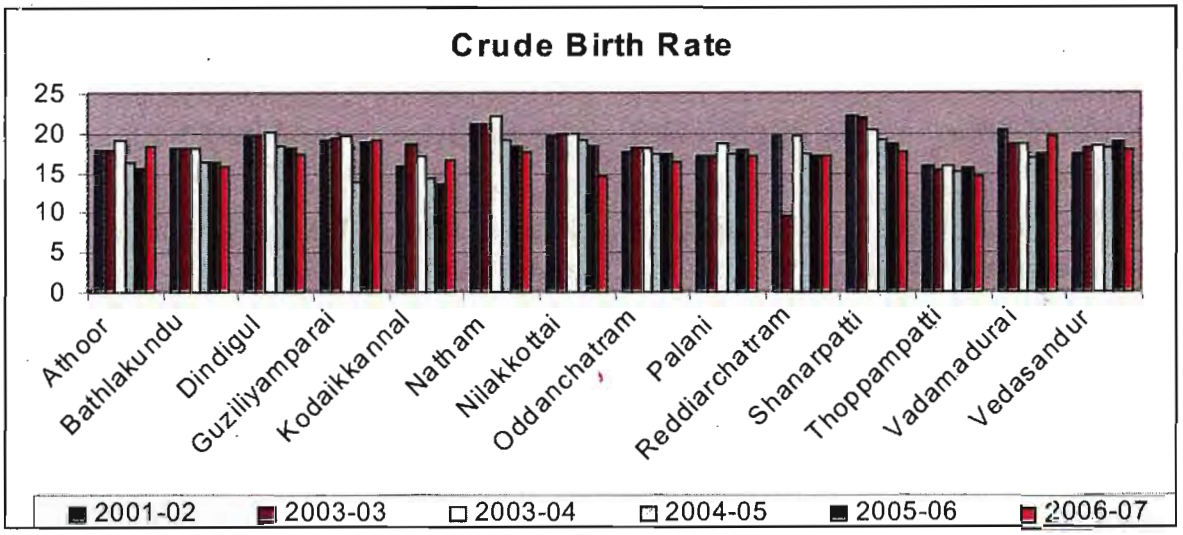


Figure.3.1

Between 1971-2000, the state crude birth rate (CBR) declined from 31.4 to 19.3%, a decline of nearly 39%. The second period of decline in CBR for TN is observed after the mid 1980s. The situation in Dindigul District shows fluctuation in the CBR. The series of data for 6 years from 2001 to 2007 for the various blocks of Dindigul district show that Guziliyamparai Block has experienced severe fluctuation. In the year 2004 - 2005, the CBR was 13.95.

Dindigul Block shows increase in the year 2003 at the rate of 20.1 and in the following years it shows a steady decline from 18.5 in the year 2004 to 17.5 in the year 2006. Shanarpatti Block also shows a declining trend from 2003. Among the 14 blocks the CBR is low in Thoppampatti Block which is highly rural.

Crude Death Rate

Table No.3.12

Crude Death Rate

Name of the Block	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	Rank (Based on 2006-07)
Athoor	7.5	7.2	7.3	8.7	8.2	6.8	11
Bathlakundu	6.8	5.9	5.7	6.7	6.7	6.06	7
Dindigul	7.6	6.9	6.8	6.8	6.3	5.4	5
Guziliyamparai	5.35	5.71	5.99	4.13	4.78	5.1	3
Kodaikkannal	2.52	3.4	2.9	2.35	3.6	2.44	1
Natham	7.3	6.8	6.6	6.5	6.2	5.9	6
Nilakkottai	6.3	5.9	6.3	7.5	7.2	6.4	8
Oddanchatram	5.85	6.44	6.07	4.99	6.09	6.4	8
Palani	3.57	5.44	5.11	5.58	4.51	4.88	2

Name of the Block	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	Rank (Based on 2006-07)
Reddiarchatram	8.6	8.1	8.3	8.9	8.8	7.8	14
Shanarpatti	7.9	7.4	7.2	7.4	7.2	7.03	13
Thoppampatti	15.84	7.05	6.53	5.62	5.55	6.72	10
Vadamadurai	5.57	5.35	5.08	4.65	4.46	5.27	4
Vedasandur	5.37	5.62	6.22	5.69	6.73	6.83	12
Tamil Nadu						7.5	
All India						7.5	

Source: DDHS, Dindigul and Palani, 2008 and SRS Bulletin October 2007, Sample Registration System, Office of Registrar General, India

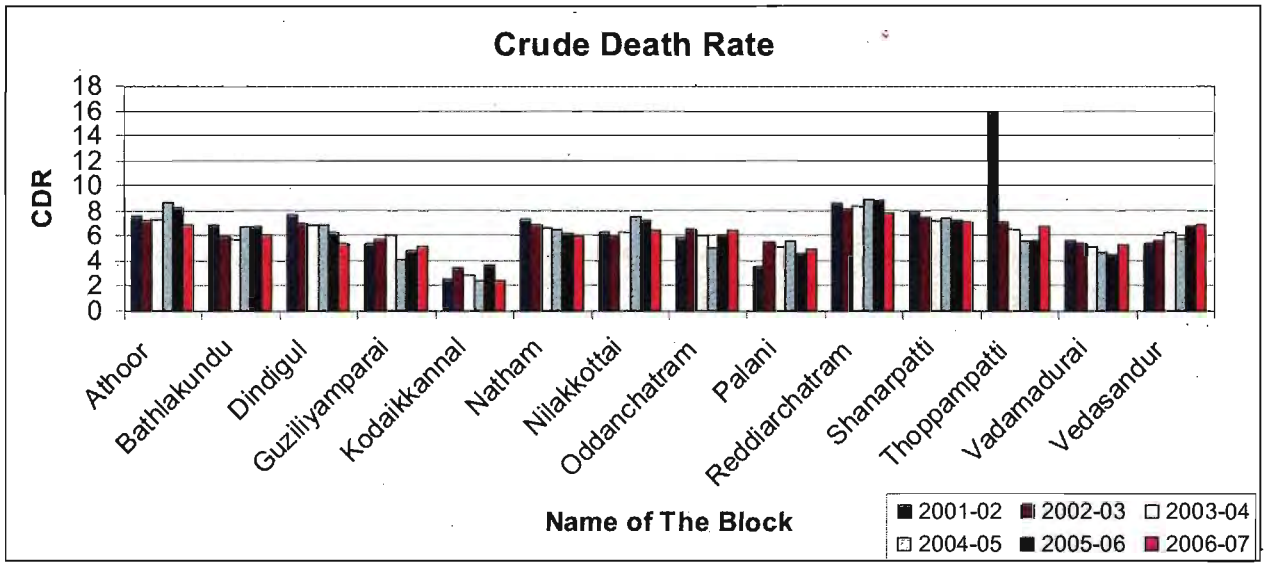


Figure 3.2

In Tamil Nadu, the decline in death rate is not as impressive as the decline in birth rates. It has nevertheless, been significant. From 14.4 in 1971 the crude death rate (CDR) came down to 7.9 in 2000. Similarly the CBR, CDR in Dindigul District also show fluctuation. In the year 2006, Kodaikkannal block has the lowest CDR at 4.09 whereas in 2004, the CDR was 3.79. But in 2005 Kodaikkannal block showed nearly 50% (6.93%) increase in the CDR. Among the 14 blocks, Reddiarchatram has the highest crude death rate. In 2004, it was 8.9 and in 2006, it was 7.8. In the year 2007, the lowest CDR was observed in Palani. This is because of better access to health in terms of awareness, logistics, and presence of qualified doctors who could deal with a range of health problems.

Infant Mortality Rate

Table No.3.13

Infant Mortality Rate

Block	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	Rank (Based on 2006-07)
Athoor	42.20	42.60	40.10	35.90	35.20	27.70	12
Bathlakundu	41.20	41.30	40.40	42.20	37.20	27.50	11
Dindigul	36.80	37.60	38.40	31.70	22.80	22..10	7
Guziliyamparai	34.68	29.67	32.87	24.84	21.77	12..65	3
Kodaikkannal	25.44	17.14	14.20	16.95	16.29	11.88	2
Natham	34.90	38.60	35.20	28.70	23.40	23.40	8
Nilakkottai	48.40	48.50	47.00	36.30	36.10	26.90	10
Oddanchatram	17.54	16.03	21.26	23.80	11.64	18.66	4
Palani	21.59	23.58	14.54	12.64	11.57	10.68	1
Reddiarchatram	38.50	38.50	39.00	37.40	39.30	35.10	14
Shanarpatti	26.90	36.10	38.50	24.00	26.40	21.70	6
Thoppampatti	30.69	22.08	22.27	32.52	19.82	26.63	9
Vadamadurai	40.64	37.80	36.00	50.60	35.90	28.50	13
Vedasandur	25.14	31.49	37.80	30.73	20.95	20.01	5
District	33.19	32.93	32.68	30.59	25.60	22.39	

Source: DDHS, Dindigul and Palani, 2008

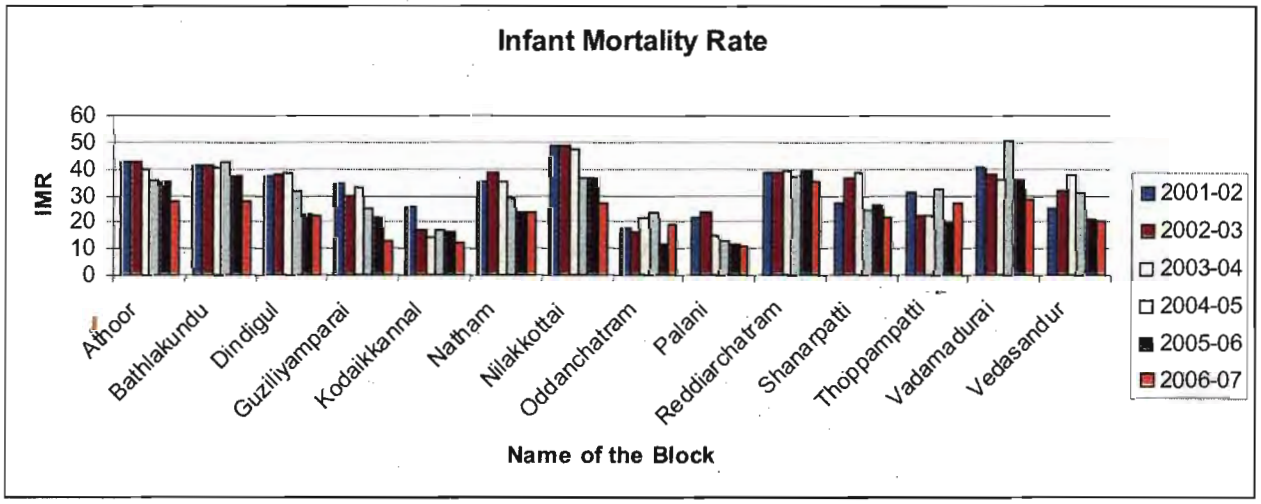


Figure. 3.3

The Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) is a sensitive indicator not just for the status of health, nutrition and caring accessible to infants below 1 year of age but also for the general well being of the society. In 1970, the IMR of Tamil Nadu was at 125 and by

the end of 1980s the IMR had reached 68 and by 2000, it was estimated at 51. In Dindigul district the incidence of IMR was 48.10 in the year 1998. In 2002, Nilakkottai block was placed at the top in IMR at the rate of 48.5. Within a period of 4 years it showed a steep decline of 26.9 in 2006.

In Vadamadurai block, the incidence of IMR reached maximum of all the blocks in Dindigul district at the rate of 50.6 in the year 2004. In the year 2006, Reddiarchatram experienced a 35.1 IMR and Vadamadurai was next to it at the rate of 28.5. The over all performance to reduce the IMR is not impressive in the Dindigul district. There are variation among the blocks. There are which register IMR between 10 – 13 also blocks which have three times the lowest IMR blocks like Palani (10.68), Kodaikkannal (12.65), Guziliamparai (12.65) and Athoor (27.7), Bathlakundu (27.5), Vadamadurai (28.5) and Reddiarchatram (35.1) are such typical blocks. It may be noted that the district average is 23.1 and there are 7 blocks report higher IMR above the district average. Conscious effort should be taken on the part of the officials to look into this problem. Periodical sensitization on this issue is important.

Still Birth Rate

Table No.3.14
Still Birth Rate

Name of the Block	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	Rank (Based on 2006-07)
Athoor	19	19.1	24.1	23.1	17.1	21.7	13
Bathlakundu	10	10.1	19.3	19.1	13.4	15.8	8
Dindigul	16.9	16.9	21.5	21	20.1	12.2	3
Guziliyamparai	20.55	15.78	12.78	10.19	18.74	8.43	1
Kodaikkannal	11.54	20.03	16.59	16.55	12.8	16.7	10
Natham	23.1	16.4	21.8	21.3	21.8	16	9
Nilakkottai	23.7	23.7	20	19.7	20.9	18.5	12
Oddanchatram	16.64	9.1	14.75	9.26	10.35	15.44	7
Palani	19.44	17.37	13.22	12.57	12.15	10.92	2
Reddiarchatram	15.8	15.9	18.6	18.1	19.5	13.5	5
Shanarpatti	12.2	12.3	22.1	21.6	23.8	15.3	6
Thoppampatti	20.85	20.29	22.84	17.11	22.22	17.01	11
Vadamadurai	32.49	31.5	26.98	22.29	23.19	30.55	14
Vedasandur	30.48	17.55	10.56	14.53	14.88	12.36	4
District	19.48	17.57	18.94	17.60	17.92	16.03	

Source: DDHS, Dindigul and Palani, 2008

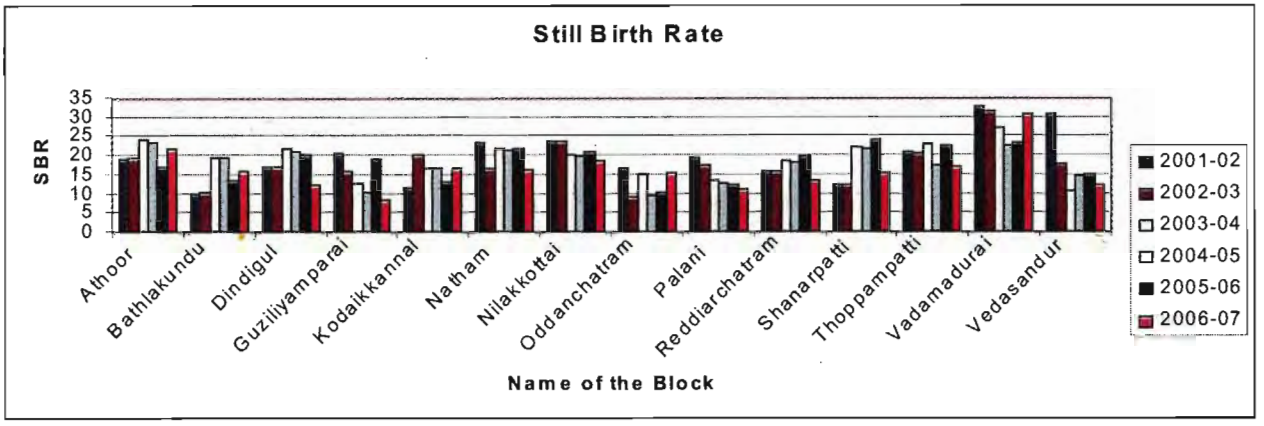


Figure. 3.4

The trend in still birth rate of the Dindigul district has declined from the year 2001 to 2006. The incidence was high at the rate of 32.49 at Palani in 2001 and it was only 19.27 in 2006, whereas in Vadamadurai the situation remains almost the same at the rate of 30.48 in 2001 and 30.55 in 2006. It may be noted from the previous table that infant Mortality Rate of Vadamadurai is also high (28.5 in 2006-07). Still birth rate in Guziliyamparai in 2006 was 8.43. But in 2001 the still birth rate was 20.55. In 2002, still birth rate in Oddanchatram was quite impressive at the rate of 9.1 but in the next year it shows an increasing trend at the rate of 14.75. In the year 2005, the rate was 10.35 but again showed an increasing trend with a rate of 15.44 in the year 2006.

Under Five Mortality Rate

In Dindigul district the present rate of under five mortality is low compared with the data in 2001. Among the 14 blocks Natham had a high incidence of under five mortality in the year 2002-2003. In the year 2006, the rate is only 3.4. Under five mortality rate is nil at Kodaikkannal block. But in the consequent two years there was an incidence of still birth rate and again nil in the year 2007.

Table No.3.15
Under 5 Mortality Rate

Name of the Block	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	Rank (Based on 2006-07)
Athoor	21.9	12.9	11.9	14.2	15.6	7.4	13
Bathlakundu	16.6	8.2	14.8	16.9	7.8	3.4	4
Dindigul	18.1	12.1	17.6	20.7	17.1	4.7	8
Guziliyamparai	3.21	3.79	2.43	7.01	2.42	1.41	1
Kodaikkannal	5.55	3.51	Nil	4.23	3.89	Nil	-
Natham	15.6	24.9	24.9	19.5	14.9	3.4	4
Nilakkottai	9	19.5	7.8	11.8	9.3	4.8	11
Oddanchatram	3.15	4.33	3.9	2.64	2.59	4.5	7
Palani	5.09	6.81	3.41	2.01	1.62	3.14	3
Reddiarchatram	15.6	18.2	7.8	11.8	17.4	5.4	12
Shanarpatti	19.7	19.1	17.6	12.9	13.2	4.7	8
Thoppampatti	4.05	2.98	3.43	5.13	2.4	3.7	6
Vadamadurai	7.49	6.3	9.56	4.82	5.22	4.7	8
Vedasandur	4.66	3.61	3.34	3.91	2.76	2.94	2
Tamil Nadu					35.5		
India					51.7		

Source: DDHS, Dindigul and Palani, 2008 and NFHS 3.

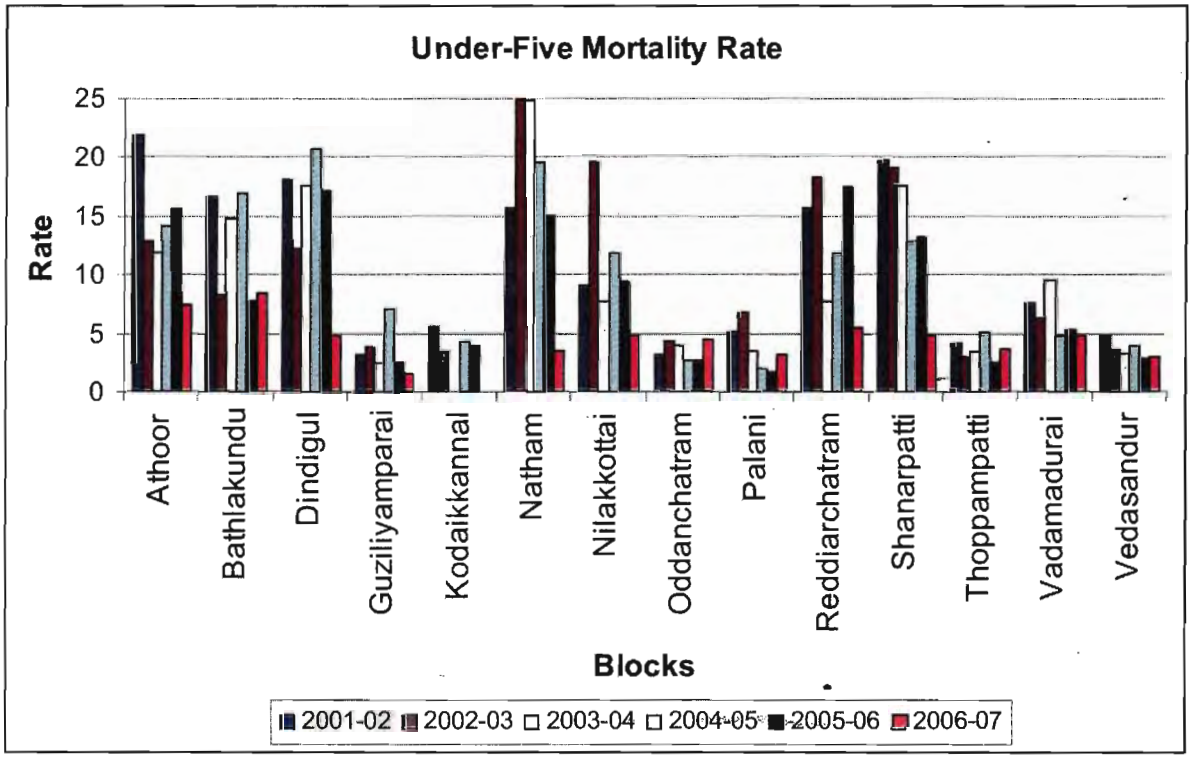


Figure. 3.5

In Palani Health Division ONE child family norm is followed in Oddanchatram and Thoppampatti Taluks by a particular Community especially in villages like Arasapillaipatti, Kothayam, Saravanapatti, Perumal nayakan Valasu, Thirumalai Nayakan valasu. According to health department the following reasons were attributed for this one child norm: a) to avoid the transfer of property; b) to control marriage expenditure; c) the community feels small family can be maintained easily as they travel frequently to other states for business; and d) in order to provide good education and assets to the child. It is purely the initiative of a particular community.

Institutional Deliveries

Tamil Nadu has made significant progress in increasing the proposition of institutional deliveries. Institutional deliveries comprise 65% of the total deliveries. However the variation across districts are seen though a substantial number of primary health centres or health sub centres are equipped to conduct normal deliveries. Only about 8 to 10% of all deliveries in Tamil Nadu take place in the 10,000 plus HSCs and PHCs in the state. In Dindigul district the percentage of institutional deliveries varies from 67% to 98%. In the year 2001, Kodaikkannal block recorded lowest number of institutional deliveries amounting to 67%. In the same year Oddanchatram recorded the highest percentage of 98. In the year 2002, Kodaikkannal block shows 2% increase in the institutional deliveries. Next to Kodaikkannal, Natham recorded the lowest in the year 2002. In the year 2003, Oddanchatram scored the maximum of 99.5%.Thoppampatti, Oddanchatram, Palani, Guziliyamparai, Vedasandur had highest number of institutional deliveries in the year 2004 attaining more than 95%. In the year 2006, Oddanchatram had 99.77% of institutional deliveries and Kodaikkannal recorded the minimum of 76.15%. In the year 2006-07 the following blocks recorded low institutional deliveries namely, Athoor, Bathlakundu, Nilakkottai and Vadamadurai and high infant mortality rate. (>20). Oddanchatram, Palani, Guziliamparai blocks with high institutional deliveries report less infant mortality. This clearly shows the negative correlation between institutional deliveries and IMR.

Dindigul block which is the district headquarters is typical, with higher literacy rates (73.5%) in particular female literacy rates (67.5%), with around 90% institutional deliveries and with high child mortality rates Infant Mortality Rate 22.1, still birth rate 12.2 and under 5 mortality rate 4.7.

In General districts' child mortality rates are higher than the state.

Table No.3.16

Percentage of Deliveries o(Domiciliary and Institutional)

Block	2001-02		2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
	D	I	D	I	D	I	D	I	D	I	D	I
Athoor	14.98	85.02	17.91	82.09	15.45	84.55	13.53	86.47	11.22	88.78	9.02	90.98
Bathlakundu	12.02	87.98	13.63	86.37	8.66	91.34	8.18	91.82	8.84	91.16	3.24	96.76
Dindigul	2.14	97.86	9.48	90.52	6.63	93.37	7.89	92.11	8.9	91.1	5.2	94.8
Guziliyamparai	12.33	87.67	9.5	90.5	6.63	93.37	3.52	96.48	1.57	98.43	2.04	97.96
Kodaikkannal	32.98	67.02	30.56	69.44	21.13	78.87	20.14	79.86	23.67	76.33	23.85	76.15
Natham	21.74	78.26	26.44	73.56	22.59	77.41	18.89	81.11	6.99	93.01	8.54	91.46
Nilakkottai	21.97	78.03	25.75	74.25	16.4	83.6	12.83	87.17	11.11	88.89	7.44	92.56
Oddanchatram	1.81	98.19	1.29	98.71	0.43	99.57	0.7	99.3	1.05	98.95	0.23	99.77
Palani	4.38	95.62	3.93	96.07	2.36	97.64	2.57	97.43	1.29	98.71	1.59	98.41
Reddiarchatram	10.22	89.78	11.56	88.44	8.75	91.25	9.33	90.67	12.54	87.46	4.5	95.5
Shanarpatti	25.52	74.48	29.2	70.8	25.09	74.91	23.27	76.73	12.72	87.28	17.01	82.99
Thoppampatti	3.28	96.72	2.57	97.43	1.45	98.55	0.77	99.23	1.43	98.57	1.17	98.83
Vadamadurai	23.7	76.3	21.42	78.58	12.53	87.47	12.91	87.09	13.14	86.86	8.89	91.11
Vedasandur	9.49	90.51	7.75	92.25	0.58	99.42	4.95	95.05	3.53	96.47	3.86	96.14
District			7.52	92.48	6.33	93.67	4.68	95.32	3.52	96.48	1.75	98.45
Tamil Nadu												**94.1**
India*											**48.80**	

Source: DDHS, Dindigul and Palani, 2008

* 2005-06 NFHS III, % of deliveries assisted by Health Personnel.

Table No.3.17

Deliveries (Domiciliary and Institutional)

Name of the Block	2001-02			2002-03			2003-04			2004-05			2005-06			2006-07		
	T	D	I	T	D	I	T	D	I	T	D	I	T	D	I	T	D	I
Athoor	2850	427	2423	2725	488	2237	2421	374	2047	2328	315	2013	2281	256	2025	2206	199	2007
Bathlakundu	3210	208	2824	2105	287	1818	1836	159	1677	1834	150	1684	1798	159	1639	1731	56	1675
Dindigul	3032	243	2967	3060	290	2770	3090	205	2885	2877	227	2650	3134	279	2855	3077	160	2917
Guziliyamparai	1589	196	1393	1610	153	1457	1664	62	1602	1593	56	1537	3001	47	2954	1716	35	1681
Kodaikkannal	1889	623	1266	2058	629	1429	1950	412	1538	1693	434	1352	1660	393	1267	2122	506	1616
Natham	3169	689	2480	3045	805	2240	2775	627	2148	2763	522	2241	2705	189	2516	2646	226	2420
Nilakkottai	2936	645	2291	2979	767	2212	2842	466	2376	2766	355	2411	2773	308	2465	2824	210	2614
Oddanchatram	2261	41	2220	2329	30	2299	2339	10	2329	2296	16	2280	1426	15	1411	2164	5	2159
Palani	3584	157	3427	3533	139	3394	3816	90	3726	3734	96	3638	3719	48	3671	3588	57	3531
Reddiarchatram	2250	230	2020	2240	259	1981	1989	174	1815	1951	182	1769	1946	244	1702	1867	84	1783
Shanarpatti	2265	578	1687	2483	725	1758	2132	535	1597	2093	487	1606	2099	267	1832	2063	351	1712
Thoppampatti	1767	58	1709	1709	44	1665	1790	26	1764	1687	13	1674	1752	25	1727	1628	19	1609
Vadamadurai	1987	471	1516	1802	386	1416	1827	229	1598	1712	221	1491	1765	232	1533	1947	173	1774
Vedasandur	1917	182	1735	1974	153	1821	1818	105	1713	1817	90	1727	1841	65	1776	1789	69	1720

Source: DDHS, Dindigul and Palani, 2008

Note: T- Total Deliveries; D- Domiciliary deliveries; I- Institutional Deliveries

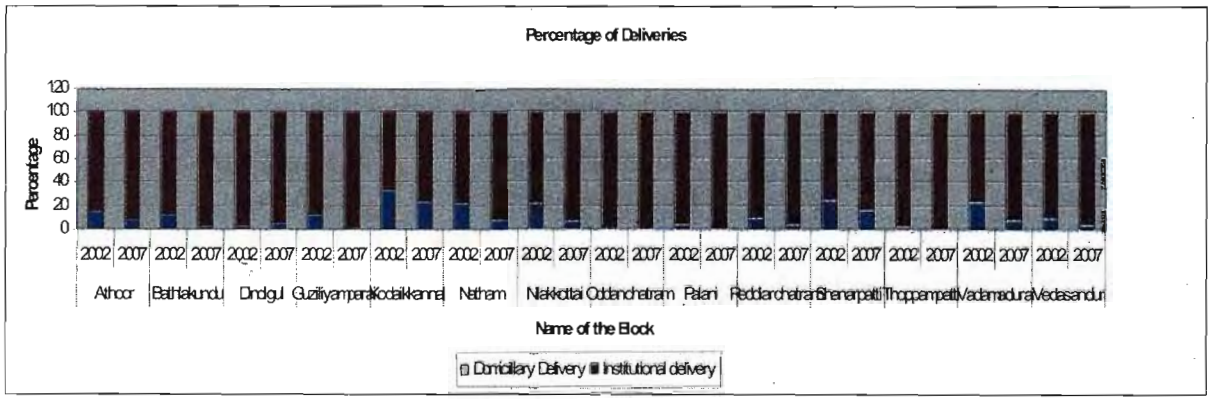


Figure .3.6

Population per Bed Ratio

It is observed that the population per bed ratio was found to the highest in Palani Municipality with 4307, followed by Vedasandur Block with 4087. The lowest population per bed ratio is seen in Athoor Block with 392 beds against 30509 population.

Table No.3.18

Block wise Population, Beds and Doctors 2005-06

Blocks	Population	Total Beds	Population per Bed	Total No. of Doctors	Population Per Doctor
Athoor	143937	367	392	9	15993
Bathlakundu	108689	259	419	7	15527
Dindigul	385342	414	931	7	55049
Guziliyamparai	84821	31	2736	6	14137
Kodaikkannal	109541	39	2808	6	18256
Natham	142758	202	707	13	10981
Nilakkottai	146880	149	986	10	14688
Oddanchatram	129760	38	3414	6	21627
Palani	206770	48	4307	10	20677
Reddiarchatram	110852	73	1518	9	12317
Shanarpatti	108819	66	1648	9	12091
Thoppampatti	112049	37	3028	9	12449
Vadamadurai	98806	28	3528	7	14115
Vedasandur	98108	24	4087	5	19622

Source: DDHS, Dindigul and Palani, 2008

Table No.3.19

No. of Primary Health Centres with Sub – Centres

Blocks	No. of Primary Health Centres	No. of Sub Centres
Athoor	5	29
Bathlakundu	3	18
Dindigul	3	19
Guziliyamparai	3	19
Kodaikkannal	3	20
Natham	5	27
Nilakkottai	5	26
Oddanchatram	3	26
Palani	4	22
Reddiarchatram	3	27
Shanarpatti	3	21
Thoppampatti	4	22
Vadamadurai	3	16
Vedasandur	2	19
District	49	305
State	1417	8683

Source: District Statistical Handbook, 2006

The District administration has taken following measures to reduce IMR and MMR: (1) Motivation for Institutional Delivery for Pregnant mothers; (2) Identification of high risk mother and referring them to the District hospital; (3) Creating awareness on female child benefit scheme; (4) Creating awareness on health issues; and (5) Awareness created among adolescent girls in schools on personal health and hygiene.

Nutrition

Among the children of the 0-36 months age group, Grade I malnutrition was found in 27227 in Dindigul, ranking 16th among districts in Tamil Nadu. In the same way the number of children with Grade II malnutrition was 2851, making the district 12th, 157 Grade III malnutrition children making the district the 24th and 52 Grade IV malnutrition children to rank 17th among the districts of Tamil Nadu. The Nilgris and Kanyakumari Districts recorded the least malnutrition cases ranking first and second in all types of nutritional status among children of 0-36 months age. Krishnagiri has the highest number of cases in all categories and ranks the last in nutritional attainment.

Anaemic Women

The blockwise data shows that the number of anemic women is found in Dindigul Municipality is 9553 women, 1954 women found in Vadamadurai Block. The number of anaemic women is seen in Vedasandur Block is 1686.

Adolescent Girls

The blockwise data shows that the number of anaemic adolescent girls were found in Natham Block is 2504. Iin Nilakkottai Block, 9874 adolescent girls were found. The number of anaemic adolescent girls is seen in Palani Municipality, is 8833.

Table No.3.20

Blockwise Anaemic Women and Adolescent Girls 2005-06

Blocks	Anaemia			
	Women	Women %	Adolescent Girls	Adolescent Girls%
Athoor	2336	3.2	9223	12.6
Bathlakundu	2216	4.3	6213	12.2
Dindigul	19553	11.3	22716	13.1
Guziliyamparai	1707	3.9	5314	12.4
Kodaikkannal	1750	3.5	5043	10.2
Natham	2504	3.7	9547	14.3
Nilakkottai	3238	4.5	9874	13.7
Oddanchatram	2001	3.2	7288	11.8
Palani	1844	1.8	8833	8.8
Reddiarchatram	1757	3.1	7921	14.1
Shanarpatti	1990	3.7	7294	13.5
Thoppampatti	1750	3.6	5221	10.7
Vadamadurai	1954	3.8	5841	11.7
Vedasandur	1686	0.1	6221	0.7
District Total	46286	2.6	116549	6.5

Source: ICDS, Dindigul, 2008

Children in the Age Group of 0-3 years

It is seen that there were 85233 children in the district in the 0-3 years age group. Out of these 84901(99.6) percent children were weighed. The blockwise data in the same table, (Table 3.21) shows that 100.00 percent children were weighed in Athoor Block, which was above the district average. The lowest number of children weighed was seen in Vadamadurai Block with 99.1 percent. Grade I malnutrition children are high in Vadamadurai block (1.3%), Nilakkottai block also shows same trend (2.6%). From the analysis it emerges that Vadamadurai is a hilly area, where the

villages are located in the interior and most of them are surrounded by hills with poor medical facilities. Keeping this in mind, the district administration, with the help of Central Government funds started its unique experiment of training and deployment of community health care volunteers (VHNS) under the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY) in the year 2004-05. In this scheme young girls from the age of 18 were selected and trained as community health volunteers by placing them with 'Village Health Nurse' and giving a honorarium of Rs.1000 per month for a period of one year. These health workers helped the public by way of counseling and supplying iron tablets and health facilities. Even after the one year period, they were required to contribute the same in their area without any honorarium. The government Health Department approaches them for implementing any health related scheme.

Normal Weight

Out of 99.6 percent children weighed, 66.3 percent were found to be in the normal weight category in the district. The blockwise data shows that the highest number of children in the normal weight category is in Thoppampatti Block with 79.6 percent, followed by Athoor Block with 77.7 percent, which is higher than the district average of 66.3 percent. The lowest number of children with normal weight is seen in Nilakkottai Block with 55.6 percent.

Categories

Out of 99.6 percent children weighed in the district, 32.9 percent children were found in Grade I category in the entire district. The blockwise data shows that the highest number of Grade I category children is seen in Nilakkottai Block with 41.8 percent, followed by 40.8 percent in Vadamadurai Block. The lowest number of Grade I children is observed in Thoppampatti Block with 19.9 percent. Out of 99.6 percent children weighed in the district, 0.8 percent children were found in Grade II category in the whole district. The blockwise data shows that the highest number of Grade II children are in Oddanchatram Block with 0.8 percent, followed by 0.7 percent in Bathlakundu Block and Palani Municipality. The lowest number of children in Grade II category is seen in Guziliyamparai Block with 0.1 percent. Out of 99.6 percent children weighed in the district, 0.02 percent children were found in Grade III and IV category in the whole district.

The blockwise data shows that the highest number of children in Grade III and IV categories is seen in Athoor Block with 0.7 percent, followed by 0.04 percent in Oddanchatram Block. The lowest number of children in Grade III and IV categories were observed in various blocks like Bathlakundu, Dindigul rural, Nilakkottai, Palani Municipality, Reddiarchatram, Thoppampatti and Vedasandur with 0.02 percent, the same as the district average.

Table No. 3.21
Blockwise Weight of Children in the Age Group (0-3 Years) 2005-2006

Blocks	Total No. of 0-3 year children	No. of Children Weighed	% of Weighed Children to Total No. of 0-3 years	Normal Weight	% of Normal Weight to No. of Children weighed	Grade I	% of GI to No. of Children Weighed	Grade II	% of GI to No. of Children Weighed	Grade III & IV	% of GI to No. of Children Weighed
Athoor	6312	6312	100	4903	77.7	1389	21.9	20	0.3	5	0.07
Bathlakundu	4765	4762	99.9	3251	68.3	1475	30.9	35	0.7	1	0.02
Dindigul (R)	8109	8071	99.5	5717	70.8	2324	28.8	28	0.3	2	0.02
Guziliyamparai	3865	3860	99.9	2597	67.3	1261	32.7	2	0.1	0	0
Kodaikkannal	4389	4369	99.5	2502	57.3	1812	41.5	55	1.3	0	0
Natham	7274	7173	98.6	4209	58.7	2883	40.2	81	1.1	0	0
Nilakkottai	7173	7118	99.2	3957	55.6	2972	41.8	187	2.6	2	0.02
Oddanchatram	4406	4395	99.8	3319	75.5	1037	23.6	37	0.8	2	0.04
Palani	7920	7911	99.9	5572	70.4	2281	28.8	56	0.7	2	0.02
Reddiarchatram	4886	4883	99.9	3110	63.7	1753	35.9	19	0.4	1	0.02
Shanarpatti	5785	5775	99.8	3947	68.3	1802	31.2	26	0.5	0	0
Thoppampatti	4034	4009	99.4	3193	79.6	797	19.9	18	0.4	1	0.02
Vadamadurai	5079	5034	99.1	2913	57.9	2055	40.8	64	1.3	2	0.03
Vedasandur	4518	4515	99.9	3018	66.8	1471	32.6	25	0.6	1	0.02
Dindigul (U)	6718	6714	99.9	4077	60.7	2620	39	17	0.3	0	0
Dindigul Total	85233	84901	99.6	56285	66.3	27927	32.9	670	0.8	19	0.02

Source: ICDS, Dindigul, 2008

Weight of Children in the Age Group 3-6 Years

Total Number of Children in 3-6 years

It is observed that there are 73180 total number of children in the age group of 3-6 years. Out of these 72469 (9.0) percent children were weighed. The blockwise data shows that 100.0 percent children were weighed in Athoor Block, followed by Bathlakundu block, Vedasandur Block and Dindigul Urban with 99.9 percent. The lowest number of children weighed was seen in Thoppampatti Block, with 96.4 percent.

Normal Weight

Out of 99.0 percent children weighed, 60.1 percent were found in the normal weight category in the district. The block wise data shows that the higher number of children in the normal weight category is in Palani Municipality with 78.1 percent, followed by Thoppampatti Block with 76.4 percent, which is higher than the district average of 60.1 percent. The lowest number of children in the normal weight category is seen in Nilakkottai Block with 50.9 percent.

Categories

Out of 99.0 percent children weighed in the district, 38.3 percent children were found in Grade I category in the whole district. The blockwise data shows that the highest number of Grade I category children is seen Reddiarchatram Block with 59.2 percent followed by Athoor Block with 46.6 percent. The lowest number of Grade I children is seen in Palani Municipality with 21.3 percent.

Out of 99.0 percent children weighed in the district, 1.7 percent children were found in Grade II category in the whole district. The blockwise data shows that the highest number of Grade II category children is indicated in Reddiarchatram and Shanarpatti blocks, with 0.9 percent Vadamadurai block emerges to be the backward in this indicators also (4.6%) in Grade II malnutrition in the age group of 3-6 years. The lowest number of children in Grade II category is seen in Vedasandur Block with 0.1 percent. Out of 99.0 percent children weighed in the district, 0.01 percent children were found in Grade III and IV category. The blockwise data shows that the highest number of Grade III and IV category children were found in Palani Municipality with 0.06 percent, followed by 0.05 percent in Oddanchatram Block. The lowest number is found in Nilakkottai Block, with 0.02 percent.

Again it can be seen from the same table that blocks and Municipalities like Athoor, Bathlakundu, Dindigul rural, Guziliayamparai, Kodaikkannal, Reddiarchatram, Shanarpatti, Thoppampatti, Vadamadurai, Vedasandur and Dindigul urban had no children in Grade III and IV categories.

Blockwise Anganwadi Centre/Total Number of Children of 3-6 Years (2005-06)

The blockwise data on AWCS shows that Palani Municipality has the highest number of anganwadis with 8.6 percent, followed by Dindigul Rural, with 8.5 percent. The lowest number of anganwadis is found in Bathlakundu Block with 5.4 percent.

Again in the same table it can be viewed that the total number of children in anganwadis in different blocks shows that Thoppampatti Block has the best rate of AWCS, with 30.5 percent children and the worst is found in Natham Block with 60.1 percent children per anganwadi centre. As a whole from the table we can see that there are 1887 AWCS with a total number of children 73180 in the age group of 3-6 years and showing the number of children per anganwadi to be 38.8 percent.

Table No.3.22

Block wise Anganwadi Centre / Total Number of Children from 3-6 Years (2005 - 06)

Blocks	No. of AWCS	% to No. of AWCS	Total No. of Children 3-6 years	No. of Children per Anganwadi
Athoor	146	7.7	4953	33.9
Bathlakundu	105	5.6	3820	36.4
Dindigul (R)	160	8.5	7602	47.5
Guziliyamparai	101	5.4	3105	30.7
Kodaikkannal	105	5.6	3242	30.9
Natham	135	7.2	8119	60.1
Nilakkottai	149	7.9	7399	49.7
Oddanchatram	114	6	3939	34.6
Palani	162	8.6	5824	35.9
Reddiarchatram	120	6.4	3867	32.2
Shanarpatti	117	6.2	4330	37
Thoppampatti	108	5.7	3296	30.5
Vadamadurai	129	6.8	5402	41.9
Vedasandur	109	5.8	3499	32.1
Dindigul (U)	127	6.7	4783	37.7
Dindigul District Total	**1887**	**100**	**73810**	**38.8**
Tamil Nadu Total (2007)	**45726**		**1179450**	
India (2007)	**863472**		**29894421**	

Source: ICDS, Dindigul, 2008

Table No.3.23

Blockwise Weight of Children in the Age Group (3-6 Years) 2005-2006

Blocks	Total No. of 3-6 year children	No. of Children Weighed	% of Weighed Children to Total No. of 3-6 years	Normal Weight	% of Normal Weight to No. of Children weighed	Grade I	% of GI to No. of Children Weighed	Grade II	% of GII to No. of Children Weighed	Grade III & IV	% of GIII & IV to No. of Children Weighed
Athoor	4953	4953	100	2569	51.9	2306	46.6	78	1.6	0	0
Bathlakundu	3820	3815	99.9	2165	56.7	1630	42.7	20	0.5	0	0
Dindigul (R)	7602	7397	97.3	4070	55	3314	44.8	13	0.2	0	0
Guziliyamparai	3105	3093	99.6	1747	56.5	1329	42.9	17	0.5	0	0
Kodaikkannal	3242	3237	99.8	1700	52.5	1333	41.2	204	6.3	0	0
Natham	8119	8028	98.9	5145	64.1	2850	35.5	33	0.4	0	0
Nilakkottai	7399	7373	99.6	3759	50.9	3181	43.1	431	5.8	2	0.02
Oddanchatram	3939	3824	97.1	2657	69.5	1158	30.3	7	0.2	2	0.05
Palani	5824	5802	99.6	4532	78.1	1236	21.3	30	0.5	4	0.06
Reddiarchatram	3867	3852	99.6	2279	59.2	1536	59.2	37	0.9	0	0
Shanarpatti	4330	4285	98.9	2820	65.8	1427	33.3	38	0.9	0	0
Thoppampatti	3296	3177	96.4	2426	76.4	746	23.5	5	0.2	0	0
Vadamadurai	5402	5356	99.1	2806	52.4	2305	43	245	4.6	0	0
Vedasandur	3499	3497	99.9	2119	60.6	1373	39.3	5	0.1	0	0
Dindigul (U)	4783	4780	99.9	2743	57.4	2004	41.9	33	0.7	0	0
Dindigul District Total	73180	72469	99	43537	60.1	27728	38.3	1196	1.7	8	0

Source: ICDS, Dindigul, 2008

Supplementary Feeding for six months – two years children

It is seen that a total number of 43689 children were weighed for the category of 6 months to 2 years in Dindigul District. Out of these 15502 children were eligible for supplementary feedingand of these eligible children, 99.9 percent were fed.

The blockwise data shows that 100.00 percent children were fed in all the blocks and municipalities, expect Vadamadurai Block, with 99.8 percent.

Supplementary feeding for 2 – 3 years children

It is observed that the total number of 28821 children were weighed in the category of 2-3 years. Out of these 10077 children were eligible and 100.00 percent children were given feeding in all blocks and municipalities.

Table No. 3.24
Blockwise Supplementary Feedings to
6 Months – 2 Years and 2-3 Years 2005-2006

Blocks	6 months – 2 years				2 – 3 years			
	No. of children weighed	Eligible Children	Fed	Fed % to eligible children	No. of children weighed	Eligible Children	Fed	Fed % to eligible children
Athoor	3267	916	916	100	2098	513	513	100
Bathlakundu	2458	582	582	100	1514	516	516	100
Dindigul (R)	4157	1109	1109	100	2801	846	846	100
Guziliyamparai	1959	438	438	100	1303	297	297	100
Kodaikkannal	2286	681	681	100	1404	348	348	100
Natham	3734	1072	1072	100	2445	519	519	100
Nilakkottai	3472	2510	2510	100	2417	1612	1612	100
Oddanchatram	2315	535	535	100	1504	291	291	100
Palani	1982	598	598	100	2760	322	322	100
Reddiarchatram	2621	719	719	100	1576	421	421	100
Shanarpatti	3092	946	946	100	1931	505	505	100
Thoppampatti	4204	683	683	100	1449	510	510	100
Vadamadurai	2555	2149	2145	99.8	1664	1368	1368	100
Vedasandur	2336	626	626	100	1505	378	378	100
Dindigul (U)	3251	1938	1938	100	2450	1631	1631	100
Dindigul District Total	43689	15502	15498	99.9	28821	10077	10077	100

Source: ICDS, Dindigul, 2008

Feeding to Antenatal Mothers, Postnatal Mothers and Noon-Meal Feedings to 26-60 months Mothers

Antenatal Mothers

The table shows that 10483 mothers were enrolled in the whole district. Of these 100.00 percent mothers were fed. The blockwise data shows that 100.00 percent feeding was given in every block and municipality. The lowest number of feeding to ante-natal mothers was seen in Dindigul Rural, with 99.0 percent.

Postnatal Mothers

From the same table it is observed that 10501 post-natal mothers were enrolled in the district, with 100.00 percent feeding given to them. The blockwise data shows that 100.00 percent feeding to post-natal mothers was given in all blocks and municipalities.

Noon-meal feeding for 26-60 months mothers

Again from the same table it is seen that 43054 mothers in the age group of 26-60 months were enrolled for noon-meal feeding. Out of these 42906 mothers (99.7 percent) were fed. The blockwise data shows that 100.00 percent feeding was given in various blocks and municipalities, except Vedasandur Block, with 94.5 percent.

Table No. 3.25
Blockwise Feeding to Antenatal Mothers, Postnatal Mothers and Noon-Meal Feeding Infants for 26-60 Months Mothers 2005-2006

Blocks	Anti-Natal Mothers			Post-Natal Mothers			Noon-Meal 26-60 months Mothers		
	Enrolled	Fed	Fed %	Enrolled	Fed	Fed %	Enrolled	Fed	Fed %
Athoor	818	818	100	818	818	100	2627	2627	100
Bathlakundu	640	640	100	593	593	100	2452	2452	100
Dindigul (R)	1017	1007	99	988	988	100	3281	3281	100
Guziliyamparai	500	500	100	519	519	100	2455	2455	100
Kodaikkannal	495	495	100	684	684	100	3047	3047	100
Natham	856	856	100	737	737	100	3285	3285	100
Nilakkottai	1046	1046	100	998	998	100	4445	4445	100
Oddanchatram	436	436	100	405	405	100	2155	2155	100
Palani	800	800	100	817	817	100	3222	3222	100
Reddiarchatram	667	667	100	687	687	100	2669	2669	100
Shanarpatti	688	688	100	697	697	100	3480	3480	100
Thoppampatti	444	444	100	430	430	100	1602	1602	100
Vadamadurai	782	782	100	698	698	100	3115	3115	100
Vedasandur	526	526	100	574	574	100	2734	2586	94.5
Dindigul (U)	768	768	100	856	856	100	2485	2485	100
District Total	10483	10483	100	10501	10501	100	43054	42906	99.7

Source: ICDS, Dindigul, 2008

Vitamin 'A' Solution (6-60) Months Children

It is observed that a total number of 145749 children were targeted for Vitamin 'A' solution. Out of these 130547 (89.6 percent) were given the solution. The blockwise data shows that Athoor Block, Bathlakundu Block, Kodaikkannal Municipality, Natham Block, Nilakkottai Block, Vadamadurai

Block, Vedasandur Block and Dindigul urban area recorded 100.00 percent Vitamin 'A' solution to children, followed by 99.7 percent in Oddanchatram Block. The lowest achievement in respect of Vitamin 'A' solution to children is seen Dindigul rural area with 39.3 percent.

IFA Tablets for Adolescent Girls

Out of 145749 adolescent girls targeted for IFA tablets, 105032 (97.7 percent) received them. The blockwise data shows that the highest achievement in respect of IFA tablets to adolescent girls is observed in Athoor and Reddiarchatram Blocks with 100.00 percent, followed by Guziliyamparai Block, Thoppampatti Block and Dindigul urban with 99.9 percent. The lowest percentage is seen in Palani Municipality, with 88.5 percent.

Box 3.1

Dr. Kausalya Devi: The Gandhian Doctor of Gandhigram

In a bustling rural hospital in Chinnalapatti, a small town on the Madurai-Dindigul road, works a remarkable woman who has dedicated her life to helping others, following the principles of Mahatma Gandhi.

Graduating from Madras Medical College in 1960, she used her skills in obstetrics and gynaecology to travel to various hospitals in Tamil Nadu after joining the state government service. She made a conscious decision not to marry so as to have enough of herself for everyone else. "Fortunately or unfortunately," she says, "I did not feel the need to marry. It limits you in several ways. Being unmarried gives you the freedom to do many things." It seems that Kausalya Devi has devoted her life to a cause, something not done lightly.

Dr. Kausalya Devi has worked in the Gandhigram Hospital for the last thirty-eight years. Now in her late seventies, she appears to have as much, if not more, enthusiasm and compassion than she did when she first stepped into the hospital all those years ago to meet Dr. TS Soundaram, a Gandhi activist and one of the earliest women doctors in the country. She left a cosy job with the government in 1969 when she visited Madurai for a friend's marriage. She tells us that she had no plan to come to Gandhigram and had not even heard of it before visiting. The hospital's founder, Dr. TS Soundaram, was looking for a doctor to work at the Kasturba Rural Hospital; after meeting and talking to her, Dr Kausalya Devi found herself captivated, and jumped at the chance to work there. By doing so, she brought a considerable degree of much-needed clinical expertise to a rural hospital.

Fondly referred to as Amma, she works tirelessly alongside others to provide a high standard of care to her 250 patients, care which can rarely be seen anywhere else and is truly admirable. Some might think it a very noble and brave decision to give up a comfortable life to devote oneself to a hospital, but not Dr Kausalya Devi: she knew immediately that she had found her calling, or that her calling had found her.

The hospital provides accessible, affordable and appropriate healthcare services to rural communities in and around the Dindigual district of central Tamil Nadu. As well as

taking in around 25 orphans at any one time, it also has a specialist care unit for newborn babies. Devi provides great service not only to the hospital, but also to the Chinnalapatti community as a whole.

She applies the interesting ethos of "prevention is better than cure," not only regarding sterilization, but also when dealing with unwanted children. When a mother brings an unwanted child to the hospital, Gandhigram only accepts the child if the mother agrees to undergo sterilization.

Other than the care side, the hospital provides employment opportunities for 2000 families in eight districts, and there is always a doctor available on campus for any emergency.

Courtesy: Sivakasi Times, March 2008.

Box 3.2

Kasturba Hospital

Dr. Soundaram started a maternity centre at Chinnalapatti in a large house donated by the benevolent friend of Gandhigram Dr. L.K. B. Laghumiah in 1947. It was a maternity centre with doctor and nurses. Community health care was started in a few villages around with trained health care activities like check-up of pregnant mothers, immunisation for children, family Planning advise, temporary methods of contraception were all addressed long before the government started them as a programme.

Later with funds generated by Dr. Soundram, the current hospital was constructed and the hospital shifted to its current location in 1962. The community in a number of villages were taking interest and participating in these health initiatives. Also village bodies discussions through Mahila mandals were organised. Dr. Soundaram felt that the village community should be provided with ***KAP*** *- give them the Knowledge, create Awareness and when they demand Provide service either at their doorstep or at the hospital. Loop insertion camps, family planning surgery camps and above all follow-up of all this activities. Hospital services were strengthened to provide service all 24 hours a day. Maternal and child health was the top priority. As per the demands of the community services were provided in family planning and medical termination of pregnancy as a result of which complications of septic abortion were reduced and stopped in the area. Subsequently, demand from the community encouraged the hospital to specialise in Recanalisation surgery. Then the community felt the need for treatment for couple with no children. Kasturba hospital started concentrating on this aspect by starting with education, simple investigation and treatment both with allopathy and Indian system of medicine for infertility.*

Currently, the hospital houses 275 beds, of which 100 are reserved for family planning surgery. The hospital provides free services to poor patients and excellent maternity services. The hospital is staffed by 119 permanent employees. The hospital gives utmost care to newborns and takes all efforts to reduce the neo-natal mortality rate which is rather high in rural India. In the year 2003, 3,494 babies were delivered here with a neo-natal mortality of 1%. The hospital provides 24 hour service with special care for women and children.

This hospital is a government recognised family welfare centre and a large number of mothers come to this hospital for their sterilisation operation. About 2500 medical termination of pregnancies are done every year. Recanalisation surgery and sterility investigation form part of the family welfare service provided by the hospital.

This hospital has won the National award twice and the state award fourteen times for the god work done in the field of family welfare. Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission (PPTCT) programme is implemented in this hospital according to the action plan of Tamilnadu State AIDS Control Society (TANSACS). Apart from the allopathic form

of treatment, this hospital also utilises the Indian system of medicine using Siddha and Ayurveda sciences for treatment.

This hospital trains Clinical Assistants (female), multi-purpose health workers (female), arogya sevikas, female nursing assistants, lab technicians (female) and also organises short time training to students from other institutions.

The hospital also manages 3 crèches in villages around Gandhigram, viz. Kachchakatti, Katunayakanpatti and Vellayanpatti. Referral services are available to six Government Primary Health Centres. This hospital renders Community Health Services to nearby villages. Dr. Soundram hospital at Gandhipalayam is also managed by the Hospital.

Adoption centre at the Hospital

Adoption is a sensitive process, both emotionally, legally and operationally. The Hospital has taken up facilitation of adoption through a functioning foster care centre for children either abandoned or given away by parents. Such children, mostly from the neighbouring districts find parents willing to adopt from the districts of Dindigul, Madurai and Theni. An adoption centre has been functioning at the Kasturba Hospital since 1999 with an in-country license by the government. The adoption centre has to monitor the children even after the process of legalisation, which KH does for 5 years in a periodic manner. So far, adoption of about 80 children has been facilitated by the centre with the entire process, including legalisation, being handled by a trained social worker. The social worker also doubles to provide counselling for patients in the hospital.

Telemedicine - Providing urban facilities for rural communities

Telemedicine, a recent advancement in the medical field is now an integral part of the health services of Gandhigram. Through this the Trust provides the much needed immediate maternal and child health care services to the rural communities. The telemedicine centre was inaugurated in June 2006; it is connected to the reputed 'Narayan Hridalaya', a multi-speciality hospital and cardiology centre in Bangalore. It has recently also tied up with the Adyar Cancer Institute, Chennai for providing these services.

Reputed doctors from these centres are at the service of the poor and needy from these communities. After the advent of this, five children were diagnosed with congenital heart diseases and are undergoing treatment. Angiography facility is also being planned.

The telemedicine initiative has been made possible by Ms. Hemalatha Murugesan, an engineer from Bangalore who came forward to support the unit in memory of her father, who died for want of immediate cardiac care while travelling to his home town.

Courtesy: www.gandhigram.org

Box 3.3

Ambilikkai Hospital

Dr. Jacob Cherian (84) born on July 14, 1923, at Kottara in Kollam district, Kerala, has been serving for the betterment of community health, education and socio-economic development for over four decades. After his graduation from the University of Kerala, he joined medicine in R.G. Kar Medical College, Calcutta. Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh and Glasgow conferred FRCS on him in 1961.

He came to Oddanchatram and started a small health centre to treat poor people. Four years later, he moved to Ambilikkai and established a community health centre there.

Dr. Cherian has established 18 institutions in medicine, health, education and social work, besides three homes for poor children. His Christian Fellowship Leprosy Hospital in Ambilikkai is the only recognized leprosy hospital founded by an Indian.

Community service is another area where he concentrated on controlling communicable diseases. He has established 24 mini health centres in several villages. In appreciation of his services to leprosy patients, the Ministry of Social Welfare gave him an award. Five Royal Colleges of Surgeons in UK and USA conferred fellowships on him.

Courtesy: *The Hindu dated 06.10.2007*

Box 3.4

Institute of Rural Health and Family Welfare Trust, Gandhigram

Dr.(Mrs.) T.S. Soundaram established the Gandhigram Institute of Rural Health and Family Welfare Trust in 1964 as an outcome of her successful experiences in the Pilot Health Project in Athoor block during 1959-64. Adopting the concept of Gandhian constructive programs in its delineation of its activities, the project pioneered Community Health Education as the promising concept to stabilize the Health and Family Welfare conditions of the Nation. These pioneering initiatives prompted the Government of Tamil Nadu, Government of India and Ford Foundation to recognize the project as an Institution in the year 1964.
The objectives of the Institute are formulated and reformulated to address the National Health and Family Welfare programs of the Government.

Courtesy: *www.girhfwt.org*

A. Infrastructure Facility In The Government Hospital, Dindigul

PPTCT	All ante-natal mothers are given counselling for HIV; Willing mothers and their spouses are tested for HIV free of cost;; medication administered during delivery for positive mother and child.
VCTC	Free counselling for all who go in for HIV test for only Rs.10/-
CT scan	24 hours service-maintained by TNMSC; Senior Radiologist available; Trained technicians available.
X-Ray	Emergency X-Ray – 24 hours For in-patents – 24 hours For out-patients – 7.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.
Ultrasonogram	Emergency – 24 hours For in-patients & out-patients – 7.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.
Lab	24 hour service. For below poverty line patients, all investigations free of cost; other patients are charged as per G.O.
Ambulance	Available on payment of charges: Monthly income below Rs.600/- free of cost; above that as per G.O.
Mortuary van	Available on payment of charges: monthly income below Rs.600/- free of cost and above that as per G.O.
Information Center	Functions at the Casualty Ward

Source: District Statistical Hand Book, 2006

B. NGOs Involved In HIV/AIDS Service

Sl. No.	Name & Address	Place	Activity	Target People
1.	Mother Saratha Devi, Social Service Society MSSS, Gandhi Nagar, Oddanchatram	Dindigul, Karur, Coimbatore, Madurai	Awareness, referral service care, support intervention	ANC Mother General Truckers PLWHA
2.	Rural Integrated Development Organization (RIDO) North New Street, Natham, Dindigul	Natham, Chanarpatty	Awareness, Counselling Referral Service	General People ANC mother migrant worker
3.	World Vision, Oddanchatram, Dindigul	Oddanchatram, Palani	Awareness, Referral Service	General People
4.	Arulagam Hospice, Reddiarchatram, Dindigul	Palani, Athoor, Reddiarchatram	Treatment care and support	PLWHA
5.	Society for Service Humanity (SSH) Sempatty, Dindigul	Sempatty, Athoor	Awareness care and support, referral service	General People PLWHA
6.	Society for reached the unreached (RTU)	Bathlakundu	Care and Support treatment Home	PLWHA children
7.	Read, R.M. Colony, Dindigul	Dindigul	Awareness referral service	General people, sex worker
8.	HIV positive network DDS and Gobalasamudram, Dindigul	Dindigul	Awareness referral service	PLWHA
9.	Dindigul AIDS Control Society (DACS) David Nagar, Dindigul	Dindigul	Orphanage	Affected Children Women
10.	DEEPAM Society, Bathlakundu, Dindigul	Bathlakundu	Awareness Treatment	General People, PLWHA

Source: District Statistical Hand Book, 2006

Tanneries in Dindigul District

Dindigul district is known for its leather factories. The contribution of the leather industry to the economic growth of Dindigul District is considerable. But the effluents from the tanneries are not treated properly resulting in health hazards.

Health Impact

Studies indicate that prolonged contact with chemicals used in the leather industry leads to problems such as dermatitis, loss of hair on the head, conjunctivitis, nervous disorder, itching of skin and throat mucous membrane, chest pain, ulcer, breathing problems, asthma, bronchitis, fissure in fingers, toes, mouth and nose, frequent fever, headache and stomach upsets. Specific gynecological problems faced by women workers are: menstrual disorders, premature death, still births and prolapsed uterus. People exposed to the tannery effluents may develop lung cancer, soft tissue sarcoma, pancreatic cancer, testicular cancer and bladder cancer, especially the workers who work without any adequate protection.

Tannery effluents

The overexploitation of groundwater induces water quality degradation. The untreated industrial effluents discharged on the surface cause severe groundwater pollution. This poses a problem of supply of hazard free drinking water in the adjoining areas. There are about 80 tanneries operating in and around Dindigul town in upper Kodaganar river basin, Tamilnadu, India. The untreated effluents from the tanneries have considerably affected the quality of groundwater in this area.

A detailed analysis of groundwater quality data has been carried out to assess the extent of groundwater deterioration. The concentration of cat ions such as Calcium (Ca2+), Magnesium (Mg2+), Sodium (Na+) and Potassium (K+), and anions such as Bicarbonate (HCO3–), Sulphate (SO42–), Chloride (Cl–) and Nitrate (NO3–) in the groundwater has been studied by the National Geophysical Research Institute, Hyderabad. Apart from these constituents, pH, electrical conductivity (EC), total dissolved solid and total hardness (TH as CaCO3) were also studied. The correlation of these constituents with the EC has been studied. The highest correlation is observed between EC and chloride with a correlation coefficient of 0.99. Progressive reduction in correlation coefficients for Mg^{2+}, $(Na^{+} + K^{+})$, Ca^{2+} and SO_4^{2-} are observed as 0.91, 0.87, 0.86 and 0.56, respectively. It is found that the quality of the groundwater in the area under investigation has deteriorated mainly due to extensive use of salt in the leather factories.

Box 3.5

Contamination of Water: *A granitic rock formation in Dindigul district, Tamil Nadu, India possesses poor groundwater potential. Serious contamination of both surface water and groundwater has been reported in this area as a result of uncontrolled discharge of untreated effluents by 80 tanneries for the last three decades 1– 4. The health of the rural farming community and people working in the tanning industries has been seriously affected. They suffer from occupational diseases such as asthma, chromium ulcers and skin diseases 5. About 100 km2 area of fertile land has lost its fertility. Total dissolved solids (TDS) concentration 6 in groundwater at some pockets varies from 17, 024 to 30, 575 mg/l. As the discharge of effluents continues, a prognosis of further pollutant migration is carried out using a mathematical model. A numerical model of the area was developed using the finite difference technique coupled with method of characteristics and it was also used to predict TDS migration for the next 20 years. Sensitivity analysis was carried out to identify the parameters which influence contaminant migration. Sensitivity analysis shows that advection and not dispersion is the predominant mode of solute migration. There are a large number of reports and papers available to describe the solute transport models to study contaminant migration in the industrial belts, coastal aquifer, etc. (C. P. Gupta et al., unpublished) 7–14. The computer software MOC developed by Konikow and Bredehoeft10 based on finite difference coupled with the modified method of characteristics is used for the present study. The area is a hard-rock, drought-prone region situated in Dindigul District, Tamil Nadu,*

Water and Sanitation

Houses Having Water Connection

The blockwise details of water connection in year 2005-06 are shown in Table 3.26.

Table No.3.26

Blockwise Details of Houses Having Water Connection As On 2005-2006

S. No	Blocks	Total Households	Total No. of Houses having Independent Water Connection	% to the total No. of houses having water connection
1	Athoor	35595	8440	23.7
2	Bathlakundu	25034	6042	24.1
3	Dindigul	81415	30750	37.8
4	Guziliyamparai	20565	1169	33.6
5	Kodaikkannal	24587	6902	28.1
6	Natham	29327	2244	7.7
7	Nilakkottai	34327	4416	12.9
8	Oddanchatram	33987	7025	20.7
9	Palani	49942	15319	30.6
10	Reddiarchatram	27605	2510	9.1
11	Shanarpatti	25340	3406	13.4
12	Thoppampatti	29544	3950	13.4
13	Vadamadurai	22183	1301	5.9*
14	Vedasandur	25728	1847	7.2
Dindigul District Total		**465179**	**95321**	**20.5**

Source: District Statistical Hand Book, 2006, Dindigul District

Table 3.26 indicates that there are 465179 households in the whole district. Out of these 95321(20.5 percent) are having water connection.

The blockwise data shows that the highest number of households having water connection is seen in Dindigul Municipality with 37.8 percent, i.e., 30750 households out of 81415 total households, followed by Guziliyamparai Block with 33.6 percent, i.e., 1169 households out of 20565 total households. The lowest number of water connections is seen in Vadamadurai Block with 5.9 percent, i.e., 1301 households out of 22183 total households.

Household Having Toilet Facility

The blockwise data in Table 3.27 shows the household toilet facilities during the year 2005-2006.

Table No.3.27

Dindigul District Total sanitation Campaign 2005-2006

Sl.No	Panchayat Union	**No. of** Households		Total No of HH	Percentage **of HH with Toilets**
		With Toilet	Without Toilet		
1	Athoor	14592	9265	23857	61
2	Bathlakundu	8223	7370	15593	53
3	Dindigul	13858	7722	21580	64
4	Guziliyamparai	9508	8079	17587	54
5	Kodaikkannal	8133	6468	14601	56
6	Natham	14682	9550	24232	61
7	Nilakkottai	13014	12749	25763	51
8	Oddanchatram	14781	13019	27800	53
9	Palani	11781	10294	22075	53
10	Reddiarchatram	14126	8680	22806	62
11	Shanarpatti	14193	11147	25340	56
12	Thoppampatti	15481	12517	27998	55
13	Vadamadurai	9593	5767	15360	62
14	Vedasandur	12773	8497	21270	60
	Total	174738	131124	305862	57

Source: DRDA, Dindigul District

Table 3.27 indicates that there are 3,05,862 households in the whole district. Out of these 174 738 (57%) percentage having toilet facilities.

The blockwise data shows that the highest number of households having toilet facility is seen in Guziliyamparai Block with 16.0 percent, i.e., 3291 households out of 20565 total households, followed by Vedasandur Block with 14.4 percent, i.e., 3700 households out of 25728 total households. The lower number of household toilet facilities is seen in Dindigul with 4.2 percent, i.e., 3400 households out of 81415 total households.

Box 3.6

Role of Panchayats in Health and Hygiene

Kala, ex-Panchayat President of Noothulapuram Panchayat Nilakkottai Block of Dindigul District, served two terms. She was educated upto 10th standard. With the help of an NGO, namely, ASSEFA, she received training in health education and served in villages in and around Nilakkottai. She contested in the 1996 and 2001 local body elections and won. She underwent the training given by the Rajiv Gandhi Chair for Panchayati Raj Studies, Gandhigram Rural University, Rural Extension Training Centres, Government of Tamil Nadu, after winning the 1996 local body election. Training equipped her with leadership qualities. After realizing the importance of health in the training programme, she properly made use of her position as a Panchayat President, and used the opportunity given for establishing a Primary Health Centre in the jurisdiction of her Panchayat. She mobilized public contribution for the purchase of 5 cents of land required for the construction of the Primary Health Centre. Now the PHC is functioning well. She is having good rapport with the medical officers of the PHC. There is a mutual understanding between the PHC and the Village Panchayat administration in promoting health and hygiene. The medical officers used to guide the Village Panchayat in maintaining cleanliness in the provision of water supply. Kala has the practice of visiting the PHC periodically. She said that she verified the out patient register and came to know that the majority of the patients with complaints like fever, stomach pain, were from the nearby village. The number of deliveries in the hospital has also increased, she observed.

She said that the medical officials paid much and immediate attention when an outbreak of cholera was noticed in one of the hamlets, namely Chinnamanaykkenkottai. It is said that due to the failure of the motor meant for water supply, some of the villagers fetched water from a public well which was not in use at that time. Moreover they did not boil the water. Hence cholera occurred. Immediately steps were taken to treat the patients at the PHC and water from the public well was removed and chlorination was done. All public places were cleaned and villagers were advised to drink water only after boiling it. In the meantime the repair in the motor was attended to and the water supply from the usual source was commenced. The doctors took all efforts in checking the water tanks and other public areas in all hamlets and it took a week to bring back normalcy. Kala had served as a Balwadi teacher and had the experience of organizing women sangams when she was with the NGO, ASSEFA. After she became the President, she made use of the services of the Balwadi teacher and the village health nurse in promoting the health and welfare of women and children.

She found that there was as open space at the back of the Balwadi. She decided to utilize the open space. She cleaned the space and planted trees like papaya, drumstick. She regularly grew vegetables and greens. All these vegetables, greens and fruits are used as supplements along with the food supplied to the children in the Balwadi.

CHAPTER – 4

Literacy and Education

Introduction

Education plays a pivotal role in laying a proper foundation for the overall social and economic development of any region. No single nation in the world with illiterate and uneducated people is developed or advanced. Education is an investment that contributes to individual and social development. Primary education is one of the most significant aspects as it contributes to improving the productive capacity of the society as well as its various institutions whether political, economic or scientific. The significance of primary education is two fold: first it makes people literate and secondly it serves as the very foundation necessary for an individual to acquire higher education. It is because of this paramount role of primary education it is accepted throughout the world that every child must have accesses to primary education. It is necessary that every child of school going age should have access to a school, and these schools must impart proper education in an effective way as a base for human capital development to be achieved.

Many developing countries have achieved universal primary education enrolment as a result of their efforts over the past decades. In particular, in the last 50 years, many developing countries have invested more resources in education. The rate of growth of the educational system has exceeded the rate of economic growth. According to the Millennium Development Goals, the following targets are proposed to be achieved by the year 2015: (a) All children to complete full course of five years of primary education; and (b) Gender disparity to be eliminated in primary and secondary education by 2005 and to all levels of education no later than 2015.

After Independence, India started its planning process but the impact of colonial legacy influenced our educational system. We were only concentrating on achieving universal primary education, mass education, adult education etc. The constitution of India has resolved to provide free universal primary education. It states that "the State shall endeavour to provide, within a period of 10 years from the commencement of this constitution, free and compulsory education for all children until they complete the age of 14 (Article 45). From the first five-year plan onwards, the Government of India concentrated on education as well as economic growth. However, only in the year 1966, the Kothari commission clearly stressed the relationship between education and productivity and the critical role of education in national development. The fifth five-year plan recognized education as a key factor in production. However, many countries are still lagging behind from achieving this goal. The 42nd amendment to the constitution of India in 1976 brought education which was largely a State

responsibility into the concurrent list making the education as the responsibility of both the State and Centre. The 73rd and 74th constitutional amendment stressed the greater role of panchayats in education especially elementary education and the 86th amendment to the constitution in the year 2002 made education as a fundamental right.

Therefore education and literacy are other important aspects of capability which is very vast and complex. A necessary pre-condition of education is the Literacy Rate (LR). Tamil Nadu is in the third position in respect of educational attainments next to the states of Kerala and Maharashtra in the case of both female and over all literacy rates.

Literacy

Literacy is the generally used indicator to assess the knowledge of the people as per the Human Development Index. According to the educational department data, the literacy rate of Dindigul District is 63.5. The literacy rate of Tamil Nadu according to the 2001 census is 73.5. Dindigul District lags behind the State average by 10 percentage points. The literacy rate among the various sections of Dindigul District varies, while the SC and ST literacy rate (both male and female) is further below the average literacy rate of Dindigul District (SC 61.64, ST 54.96). The block-wise inequality too has been striking despite the various efforts taken by the district administration. Gender and spatial disparity in literacy rate is also unequal.

Table No. 4.1
Blockwise Literacy Rates-2001

Sl. No	Blocks	Urban			Rural			All			Female Literacy Gap
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
1	Athoor	73.0	56.0	64.5	81.0	60.0	70.5	77.0	58.0	67.5	19.0
2	Bathlakundu	74.0	60.0	67.0	71.0	50.0	60.5	73.0	55.0	64.0	18.0
3	Dindigul	80.0	73.0	76.5	80.0	61.0	70.5	80.0	67.0	73.5	13.0*
4	Guziliyamparai	62.0	48.0	55.0	72.0	47.0*	59.5	67.0*	48.0*	57.5*	19.0
5	Kodaikkannal	81.0	67.0	74.0	79.0	56.0	67.5	80.0	62.0	71.0	18
6	Natham	68.0	50.0	59.0	74.0	47.0	60.5	71.0	49.0	60.0	22
7	Nilakkottai	68.0	53.0	60.5	77.0	55.0	66.0	73.0	54.0	63.5	19
8	Oddanchatram	71.0	55.0	63.0	76.0	48.0	62.0	74.0	52.0	63.0	22
9	Palani	75.0	60.0	67.5	77.0	56.0	66.5	76.0	58.0	67.0	19
10	Reddiarchatram	67.0	48.0	57.5	76.0	52.0	64.0	72.0	50.0	61.0	22
11	Shanarpatti	NA	NA	NA	74.0	52.0	63.0	74.0	52.0	63.0	22
12	Thoppampatti	65.0	49.0	57.0	74.0	49.0	61.5	70.0	49.0	59.5	21
13	Vadamadurai	62.0	49.0	55.5	73.0	47.0*	60.0	68.0	48.0	58.0	20
14	Vedasandur	70.0	53.0	61.5	70.0*	48.0	59.0	70.0	51.0	60.5	19
District Total		65.4	51.5	58.5	75.3	52.0	63.6	73.2	53.8	63.5	19.4
Tamil Nadu		88.9	75.9	82.5	77.2	55.3	66.2	82.4	64.4	73.5	18.0
All India		86.2	72.7	79.9	70.5	45.8	58.5	75.2	53.6	64.8	21.6

Source: Education Department, SSA, Dindigul District, 2007

NA – Not Available

The total literacy rate for males and females shows that Dindigul Block has the highest literacy rate with 73.5 percent, out of which 80.0 percent is male literacy and 67.0 percent is female literacy. The lowest literacy rate is found in Guziliyamparai Block with 57.5 percent, of which 67.0 percent is male literacy and 48.0 percent is female literacy. It emerges that Dindigul being an urbanized area, students nearby have accesses to education due to transportation facility. In the case of Guziliyamparai Block which is located faraway without any urban character. All the villages in these areas are scattered into the interior forest area with no proper transportations facility. It is difficult to have more number of schools, with full fledged number of staff because of the lower level of population in the hamlets, which are far away from one another.

Guziliamparai (57.5%), Natham (60%), Reddiarchatram (61%), Thoppampatti (59.5%), Vadamadurai (58%) and Vedasandur (68.5%) lag behind the district literacy rate of 63.5%.

Gender Literacy Gap

The overall female literacy gap for the entire district is 19.4 percent, but varies widely among blocks. The highest female literacy gap is found in Natham, Oddanchatram, Reddiarchatram and Shanarpatti with 22 percent. The lowest female literacy gap is in Dindigul Municipality with 13.0 percent. The blocks which have low literacy rate than the district also record high gender gap in literacy.

Urban Male and Female Literacy

The urban male and female literacy indicates that Dindigul Municipality has the highest literacy of males and females showing 80.0 percent and 73.0 percent as against the district average of 65.4 percent and 51.5 percent respectively.

Rural Male and Female Literacy

The rural male and female literacy among the blocks show that the Athoor block has the highest male literacy with 81.0 percent and that lowest male literacy is found in the Vedasandur block with 70.0 percent. In the case of female literacy rate in rural areas, Dindigul Municipality has the highest literacy rate with 61.0 percent. The lowest rural female literacy rate was found in Guziliyamparai, Natham and Vadamadurai blocks, with 47.0 percent. It is observed that in the Athoor block, there are convent schools run by religious institutions of Christians. However, Guziliyamparai is a remote area and lacks educational facilities.

Table No. 4.2

Blockwise SC/ST Literacy Rate 2001

S. No	Blocks	SC				ST			
		Male	Female	Total	Gap	Male	Female	Total	Gap
1	Athoor	72	64	68.00	8	62	61	61.00	1
2	Bathlakundu	69	53	61.00	16	69	61	65.00	8
3	Dindigul	78	74	76.00	4	78	70	74.00	8
4	Guziliyamparai	64	44	54.00	20	54	50	52.00	4
5	Kodaikkannal	76	58	67.00	18	48	40	44.00	8
6	Natham	63	41	52.00	22	52	50	51.00	2
7	Nilakkottai	61	47	54.00	14	67	59	63.00	8
8	Oddanchatram	71	51	61.00	20	60	58	59.00	2
9	Palani	70	66	68.00	4	74	68	71.00	6
10	Reddiarchatram	65	51	58.00	14	65	61	63.00	4
11	Shanarpatti	70	60	65.00	10	59	47	53.00	12
12	Thoppampatti	75	51	63.00	24	0	0	0	0
13	Vadamadurai	65	45	55.00	20	60	58	59.00	2
14	Vedasandur	73	49	61.00	24	55	54	54.50	1
District Total		69	54	61.64	15	57	53	54.96	4
Tamil Nadu		**73.4**	**53**	**63.2**	**20.4**	**50.2**	**32.8**	**41.5**	**17.4**
All India		**66.6**	**41.9**	**54.7**	**24.7**	**59.1**	**34.7**	**47.1**	**24.4**

Source: Census of India, 2001
Gap is the difference between male – female literacy rates

Total Literacy Rate for SCs

The highest total literacy rate for SCs is found in the Dindigul block with 76.00 percent followed by 68.00 percent in the Athoor and Palani blocks. The lowest total literacy rate is seen in the Natham block with 52.00 percent. From the same table, it is revealed that Dindigul Municipality has a higher literacy rate for SC males and females at 78 and 74 percent as against the district average of 69 and 54 percent for males and females.

Total Literacy Rate for ST

The highest total literacy rate for ST is found in the Dindigul block with 74.00 percent followed by the Palani block with 71.00 percent. The lowest total literacy rate is found in the Kodaikkannal block with 44.00 percent. There are no ST people in the Thoppampatti block.

Again from the same table, it is seen that the highest ST literacy rate is found in the Dindigul block for both males and females with 78 and 70 percent. This is due to better access and awareness of education among the ST population near the urban centre. The lowest literacy rate among both

male and female ST population is seen in the Kodaikkannal block with 48 and 40 percent.

Literacy Ranking

Indicators like total literacy, male and female literacy, rural urban literacy rate, SC, ST literacy rates are ranked individually across all the blocks in the district. Table 4.3 shows the blocks in their respective positions in the district.

The Dindigul block tops in the overall ranking of the select literacy indicators followed by Athoor, Palani and Kodaikkannal. The last rank of 14th in the 14 blocks goes to Guziliyamparai, which remains backward in most indicators of literacy and educational attainments. This is followed by Vadamadurai, Natham and Thoppampatti in the next three positions. Apart from educational indicators Vadamadurai performs poor in health indicators also.

Table No. 4.3

Block–Wise Literacy Ranking

Blocks	Rank	Blocks	Rank
Athoor	2	Oddanchatram	5
Bathlakundu	6	Palani	3
Dindigul	**1**	Reddiarchatram	8
Guziliyamparai	**14**	Shanarpatti	9
Kodaikkannal	4	Thoppampatti	11
Natham	12	Vadamadurai	13
Nilakkottai	7	Vedasandur	10

Note: Rankings were done in each indicator category like total literacy, male, females SC, ST, rural and urban literacy level.

Literacy Performance of the District Dindigul

Table No. 4.4

Literacy Performance of the Dindigul District

Category	Age Group	Dindigul	Tamil Nadu
Pre school	% of children (Age 3-4) Anganwadi or Other Public School	84.6	86.1
Out of school	% of children (age 6-14) out of school	1.6	1.2
Private school	% of children (age 6-14) in Private school	21.4	15.5
Std 1-2: Learning levels	% of children (Std 1-2) who can read letters, words, or more in own language	82.8	60.3
	% of children (Std 1-2) who can recognize numbers (1-9) or more	77.6	66.6
	% of children Std 1-2) who can read letters or more in English	60.0	53.4

Std 3-5: Learning levels	% of children (Std 3-5) who can read level 1 (std 1) text or more in own language	70.4	49.2
	% of children (Std 3-5) who can subtract or do more	63.0	43.0
	% of children (Std 3-5) who can read sentences in English	17.3	10.8

Source: ASER 2007

Table 4.4 indicates that the performance of Dindigul District in education is below the State performance. The enrolment of children in private schools is more than in public schools. But, the standard of learning level of the children is better than the State average.

Primary Education

Gross Access Rate (GAR)

The Gross Access Rate (GAR) to primary education in Dindigul District is 100 percent in all blocks. The district achieved 100 percent GAR in all blocks in the year 2002 – 2003. In 2001 -02, a few blocks of Dindigul District like Athoor, Dindigul Rural, Guziliyamparai, Nilakkottai, Vadamadurai and Dindigul Urban had 99 percent GAR. In the subsequent years, these blocks achieved 100 percent GAR.

Table No. 4.5
Gross Access Rate

Block Name	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Athoor	99	100	100	100	100	100
Bathlakundu	100	100	100	100	100	100
Dindigul Rural	99	100	100	100	100	100
Guziliyamparai	99	100	100	100	100	100
Kodaikkannal	100	100	100	100	100	100
Natham	100	100	100	100	100	100
Nilakkottai	99	100	100	100	100	100
Oddanchatram	100	100	100	100	100	100
Palani Rural	100	100	100	100	100	100
Reddiarchatram	100	100	100	100	100	100
Shanarpatti	100	100	100	100	100	100
Thoppampatti	100	100	100	100	100	100
Vadamadurai	99	100	100	100	100	100
Vedasandur	100	100	100	100	100	100
Dindigul Urban	99	100	100	100	100	100
Palani Urban	100	100	100	100	100	100
Total	99.6	100	100	100	100	100

Source: Education Department, Dindigul District, 2008

Gross Enrolment Rate (GER)

The Gross Enrolment Rate (GER) in primary education gives an indication of the level of primary education amongst residents in a given jurisdiction. Table 4.8 shows the GER at primary level in Dindigul District. The series of data over a period of six years indicate the improvement in spite of some fluctuations.

Table No. 4.6
Gross Enrolment Rate

Block Name	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Athoor	90.6	100	100	100	101	100.07
Bathlakundu	83.05	98.5	105	102	100	100.05
Dindigul Rural	91.05	100	100	101	101	100.06
Guziliyamparai	93.6	100	101	100	100	100.05
Kodaikkannal	78.9	100	105	103	100	100.04
Natham	96.15	101	105	102	100	100.04
Nilakkottai	82.3	100	103	102	100	100.05
Oddanchatram	85	101.5	103	101	100	100.05
Palani Rural	93.6	100	102	103	101	100.03
Reddiarchatram	77.6	100	100	101	101	100.05
Shanarpatti	87.3	100	100	101	100	100.05
Thoppampatti	92.6	100	106	104	100	100.05
Vadamadurai	85.4	100.5	107	102	101	100.07
Vedasandur	92.8	100.5	105	103	100	100.06
Dindigul Urban	96.06	100	100	101	102	100.06
Palani Urban	80.25	100	102	101	103	100.03
Total	87.15	99	102.75	101.81	100.62	100.05

Source: Education Department, Dindigul District, 2008

Net Enrolment Rate

The Net Enrolment Rate (NER) in primary education has increased over a period of time from 2001 to 2007. In the year 2001, the overall rate of Net Enrolment was 95 and in the year 2007, it was 98.81. But the district as a whole fared well in 2004-05 and 2005-06. However, this has to be verified by the Education department. The Net Enrolment Rate in a few blocks like Reddiarchatram, Kodaikkannal, Vadamadurai is lower than the district

average. The Gross Access Rate in these blocks is 100. The district administration has to identify the ways of increasing the rate. Universal elementary education includes not only universal enrolment but also completion and universal achievement. The completion rate (CR) of Dindigul District is 92.05. The district has shown improvement from 2001-2007.

Table No. 4.7

Net Enrolment Rate

Block Name	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Athoor	90	96	97.97	98.13	98.05	96.26
Bathlakundu	89	97	97.78	98.44	98.11	95.88
Dindigul Rural	93	96	98.81	99.17	98.99	97.1
Guziliyamparai	94	94	97.01	97.31	97.16	96.22
Kodaikkannal	82	93	97.03	98.68	97.85	94.18
Natham	94	96	98.55	98.82	98.68	97.44
Nilakkottai	86	94	97.72	97.66	97.69	94.98
Oddanchatram	90	96	97.35	98.7	98.02	96.28
Palani Rural	91	97	98.56	98.84	98.70	96.71
Reddiarchatram	86	96	97.09	97.31	97.20	94.85
Shanarpatti	90	97	98.05	98.21	98.13	96.29
Thoppampatti	94	98	97.81	98.21	98.01	97.28
Vadamadurai	90	96	97.63	98.14	97.89	95.92
Vedasandur	93	96	98.69	98.24	98.46	97.15
Dindigul Urban	92	97	100	99.19	99.44	97.24
Palani Urban	87	97	99.48	99.2	99.34	96.17
Total	86	95	98	98	99.30	98.81
State					98.48	

Source: Education Department, Dindigul District, 2008

Repetition Rate

Studies under District Primary Education Programme have revealed that the internal efficiency of the school system is strongly influenced not only by the drop-out rates but also by the high level of repetition rate. In the year 2007, the repetition rate is was 5.9. This rate reduced drastically from 23 in 2002. There is a fluctuation in the repetition rate in all the blocks. In the year 2004, both the drop-out and repetition rates are low. In the consecutive year, these rates have increased. It again showed a decline. locks like, Kodaikkannal, Bathlakundu, Guziliyamparai and Thoppampatti are predominantly rural areas. They depend on agriculture and seasonal migration is a common phenomenon in these areas. Kodaikkannal being a tourist spot has a lot of scope for labour-intensive work. Child labour might be one of the reasons for the drop-out and repetition rate.

Table No. 4.8

Repetition Rate

Block Name	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Athoor	21.00	14.00	2.00	18.00	9.39	6.74
Bathlakundu	21.00	14.00	3.00	22.00	17.13	6.86
Dindigul Rural	18.00	10.00	2.00	24.00	28.27	5.84
Guziliyamparai	25.00	20.00	3.00	42.00	26.35	6.35
Kodaikkannal	18.00	14.00	2.00	24.00	14.18	7.87
Natham	32.00	24.00	3.00	23.00	20.72	6.57
Nilakkottai	21.00	14.00	3.00	20.00	15.30	5.20
Oddanchatram	29.00	22.00	2.00	19.00	11.37	6.19
Palani Rural	23.00	17.00	2.00	18.00	16.78	6.27
Reddiarchatram	25.00	15.00	2.00	35.00	35.77	5.09
Shanarpatti	30.00	19.00	2.00	26.00	24.75	5.78
Thoppampatti	17.00	14.00	2.00	28.00	22.68	6.05
Vadamadurai	29.00	10.00	3.00	33.00	18.97	5.52
Vedasandur	19.00	14.00	3.00	33.00	20.06	5.79
Dindigul Urban	18.00	10.00	2.00	14.00	7.06	4.06
Palani Urban	23.00	17.00	2.00	9.00	17.57	5.66
Total	23.00	16.00	2.00	24.00	18.16	5.99

Source: Education Department, Dindigul District, 2008

Dropout Rate

The average rate of dropout in the district has declined over a period of time but the performance can be considered the best in the year 2003. The drop-out rate is high in Thoppampatti, Palani, Athoor and Kodaikkannal. The completion rate is also low in these blocks. In the year 2005, Kodaikkannal (1.00) showed a significant decline but increased drastically in the next two years (2.34; 2.03). The Block Educational unit must consider this and it has to spread the message among the parents about the importance of education. Being a pilgrimage centre, Palani urban has a lot of reason for the perpetuation of child labour. This may be the reason for the high drop-out rate. In the year 2002, the drop-out rate was 23. It has been reduced to 2.00 in 2004 but increased to 9.00 in 2005. Again it reduced to 2.44 in 2006 and declined further to 2.04 in 2007. After the successful implementation of schemes like SSA, still a few blocks still lag behind in achieving universal primary education. The district administration has to concentrate on these blocks to improve the situation.

Table No. 4.9

Dropout Rate

Block Name	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Athoor	16.00	3.00	2.00	1.00	1.32	2.04
Bathlakundu	12.00	15.00	2.00	11.00	2.56	1.98
Dindigul Rural	17.00	11.00	1.00	9.00	3.81	1.96
Guziliyamparai	14.00	11.00	2.00	4.00	2.70	1.81
Kodaikkannal	17.00	14.00	1.00	1.00	2.34	2.03
Natham	23.00	16.00	2.00	16.00	2.76	1.99
Nilakkottai	18.00	13.00	2.00	5.00	1.20	1.94
Oddanchatram	16.00	11.00	2.00	3.00	2.78	1.98
Palani Rural	23.00	14.00	2.00	5.00	2.09	1.95
Reddiarchatram	18.00	15.00	2.00	2.00	3.09	1.99
Shanarpatti	21.00	11.00	2.00	4.00	2.45	1.97
Thoppampatti	19.00	15.00	2.00	5.00	0.86	2.07
Vadamadurai	20.00	18.00	2.00	4.00	4.98	1.84
Vedasandur	19.00	12.00	1.00	2.00	5.77	1.97
Dindigul Urban	17.00	11.00	1.00	3.00	3.57	1.96
Palani Urban	23.00	14.00	2.00	9.00	2.44	2.04
Total	14.00	11.00	2.00	5.00	2.81	1.97

Source: Education Department, Dindigul District, 2008

Attendance Rate

The students of primary schools in all blocks have an attendance rate of 98.22. This has improved over a period of six years from 91 in 2002 to 98.22 in 2007. The low performing blocks in other educational indicators also showed some lacunae in the attendance rate.

Table No. 4.10

Attendance Rate

Block Name	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Athoor	90	90	93	94	98	98
Bathlakundu	89	93	93	94	97	99
Dindigul Rural	92	94	94	95	98	97
Guziliyamparai	89	91	92	93	98	98
Kodaikkannal	90	93	94	95	97	97
Natham	90	94	94	95	98	99
Nilakkottai	89	92	93	95	98	98
Oddanchatram	91	94	95	96	99	98
Palani Rural	92	95	96	97	98	98
Reddiarchatram	94	96	96	97	98	99

Block Name	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Shanarpatti	92	93	94	95	98	98
Thoppampatti	93	96	97	98	99	98
Vadamadurai	92	95	96	97	98	98
Vedasandur	91	95	95	96	98	99
Dindigul Urban	91	95	94	95	98	98
Palani Urban	91	94	94	95	98	97
Total	91	94	94	95	98	98.22

Source: Education Department, Dindigul District, 2008

Table No. 4.11

Completion Rate

Block Name	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Athoor	67.50	77.50	96.57	80.88	89	91.22
Bathlakundu	67.00	76.00	96.00	70.09	80.00	91.16
Dindigul Rural	70.00	80.50	97.13	68.82	68.00	92.20
Guziliyamparai	65.50	67.50	94.94	54.59	71.00	91.84
Kodaikkannal	68.00	70.50	96.57	74.37	83.00	90.10
Natham	54.50	66.50	95.79	66.39	77.00	91.44
Nilakkottai	65.50	73.50	95.04	74.50	84.00	92.86
Oddanchatram	58.00	69.00	96.41	78.40	86.00	91.83
Palani Rural	63.00	70.00	96.38	76.96	81.00	91.78
Reddiarchatram	66.00	76.00	96.00	60.00	61.00	92.92
Shanarpatti	52.00	68.50	96.58	69.40	73.00	92.25
Thoppampatti	72.00	75.50	96.23	70.05	76.00	91.88
Vadamadurai	53.50	74.50	95.10	60.07	76.00	92.64
Vedasandur	68.00	75.50	95.78	63.98	74.00	92.24
Dindigul Urban	63.50	80.50	94.32	84.34	89.00	93.98
Palani Urban	64.50	70.00	90.23	80.18	80.00	92.30
Total	63.00	73.00	96.06	72.00	79.00	92.05

Source: Education Department, Dindigul District, 2008

Pupil-Teacher Ratio

The current official norms of the pupil-teacher ratio are 1:40 in primary schools and 1:35 in upper primary schools. Apart from the pupil-teacher ratio, the quality of teachers also influences the performance of the children in education. Trained qualified teachers are expected to perform better. As per the Government of Tamil Nadu policy guidelines 2008-2009, the government gives priority to filling up the post of teachers and ordered filling up of all vacancies of secondary grade and BT post during the year 2007-08. 7979 BT

teachers have been appointed for classes 6, 7 and 8. 525 BT Tamil teacher posts have been sanctioned and filled. 7635 teachers have been selected and appointed through the Teachers Recruitment Board. All these measures taken by the government has reduced the pupil-teacher ratio and it is reflected in Dindigul District also. The pupil-teacher ration in Palani urban, rural, Toppampatti and Athoor has been reduced from the ratio of above 1:40 to 1:29 on an average. In the year 2005, the pupil-teacher ratio was the highest in the Kodaikkannal block (1:44). The Oddancahtram block showed the minimum pupil-teacher ratio (1:23.05) in the year 2007.

Table No. 4.12

Pupil-Teacher Ratio

Block Name	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Athoor	40	32	35	33	28	29.14
Bathlakundu	34	33	36	36	28	25.47
Dindigul Rural	38	38	37	45	30	26.32
Guziliyamparai	32	27	35	54	25	27.56
Kodaikkannal	22	26	37	44	33	26.32
Natham	39	36	35	36	35	29.32
Nilakkottai	38	31	34	44	30	27.25
Oddanchatram	28	24	33	38	22	23.05
Palani Rural	45	45	32	44	27	29.36
Reddiarchatram	37	32	34	36	31	26.35
Shanarpatti	38	35	33	48	31	28.36
Thoppampatti	42	24	32	34	21	29.25
Vadamadurai	38	35	33	37	30	29.12
Vedasandur	32	28	35	36	26	29.65
Dindigul Urban	38	38	37	39	32	29.38
Palani Urban	45	45	32	45	27	29.28
Total	37	32	34	43	29	28.00
Tamil Nadu 2007						36
India 2007						43

Source: Education Department, Dindigul District, 2008

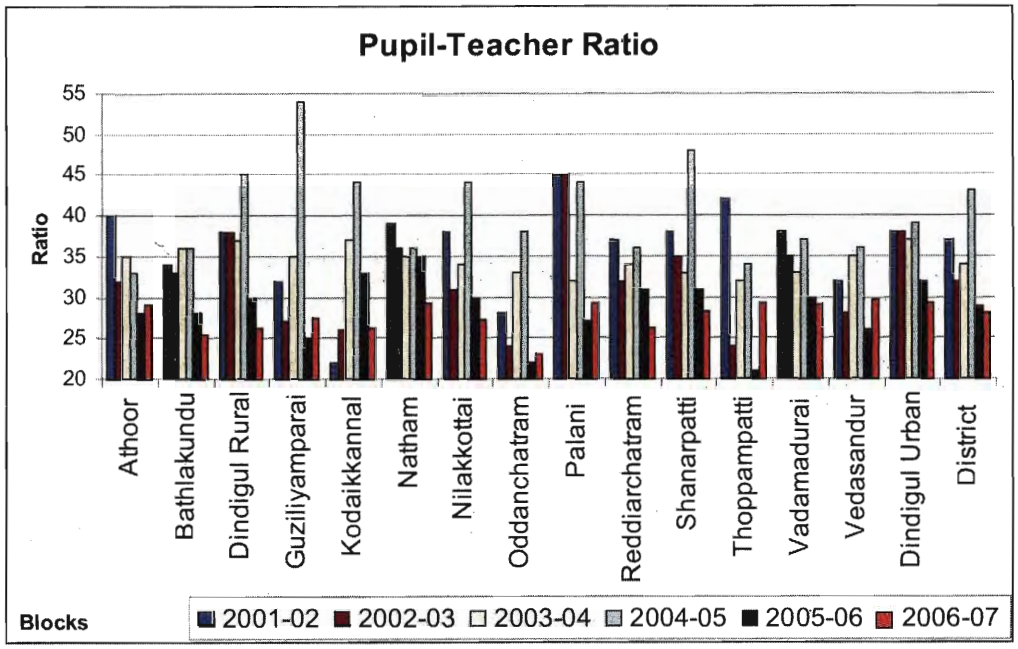


Figure 4.1

Teacher Strength

Table No. 4.13

Teacher Strength

Block Name	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Athoor	275	297	325	300	349	342
Bathlakundu	220	245	246	241	277	286
Dindigul Rural	235	279	283	297	333	342
Guziliyamparai	163	145	147	156	184	207
Kodaikkannal	195	176	178	204	238	213
Natham	236	229	228	241	278	284
Nilakkottai	241	238	239	260	283	301
Oddanchatram	203	225	196	208	243	261
Palani Rural	193	198	206	224	259	290
Reddiarchatram	212	254	226	276	298	271
Shanarpatti	208	226	235	245	257	235
Thoppampatti	199	217	250	242	253	289
Vadamadurai	190	190	237	240	248	269
Vedasandur	204	251	281	265	281	344
Dindigul Urban	392	344	344	344	344	342
Palani Urban	117	158	158	158	158	128
Total	3483	3672	3779	3901	4283	4404

Source: Education Department, Dindigul District, 2008

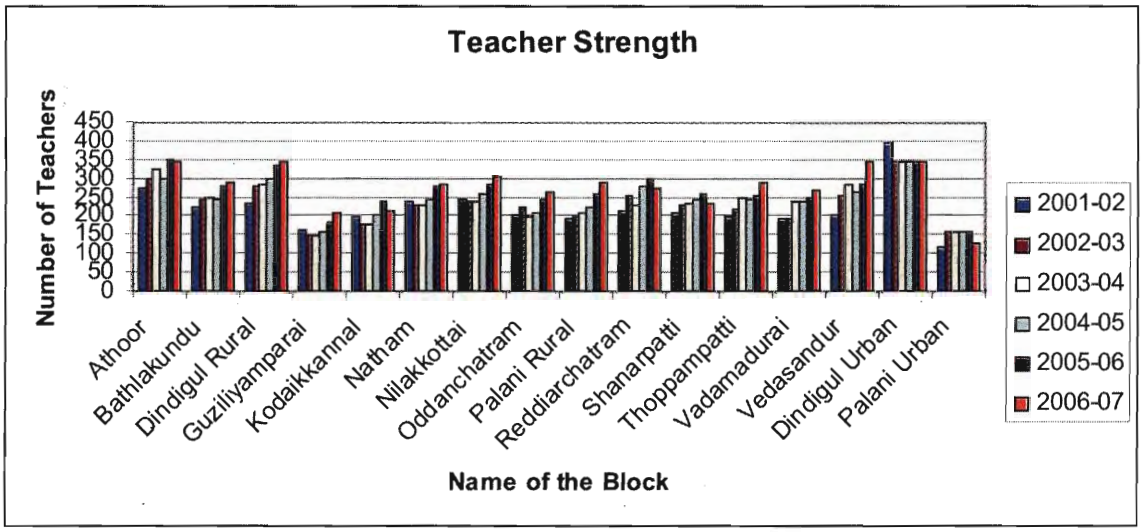


Figure 4.2

Performance of Primary Education (5-10) – General

In an ideal situation, the gross enrolment rate and net enrolment rate would be equal to 100. With 100% Gross Access Rate, one can expect higher enrolment rates too.

In Dindigul District, the enrolment at the entry level remains high for boys. For boys, GER is 100.07 but for girls, it is 100.02. With regard to NER ,again boys exceed the girls' rate (100.05 and 98.91 respectively). The same difference persists in the completion rate also. For boys it is 92.22 and for girls it was 91.86. The data shows the gender gap in all these indicators. Awareness for girls and parents is the need of the hour. Even the retention and drop-out rates are high for girls. The average drop-out rate for primary education in Dindigul District in the year 2007 was 1.97 for both the boys and the girls. Among the blocks there are variations in the gender gap.

With regard to indicators like GER, NER, and Completion Rate the gender gap is not so wide. But the repetition rate in the Kodaikkannal block shows much difference in the primary education in the year 2007. The repetition rate (RR) for boys was 10.67 and for girls, 5.07. But the drop-out rates among girls is higher than the boys in this block. There is a slight difference in Athoor and Dindigul blocks in the primary education. But in Dindigul, Vadamadurai, Thoppampatti and Bathlakundu blocks, girls' retention rate is higher than the boys. In Vedasandur, the gender gap in RR is high. It is 6.83 for boys and 4.65 for girls.

As far as the dropout rate is concerned, a few blocks show high drop-out rates among boys and a few has high drop-out rates among girls. This depends upon the labour intensity and the importance given to girls' education in particular area of Dindigul District. Athoor (2.18), Kodaikkannal (1.99), Natham (2.21), Palani rural (2.03), Shanarpatti (2.27), Vedasandur (2.17), Palani urban (2.41) have high dropout rates for boys in primary education. With regard to girls Bathlakundu (2.04), Dindigul rural (2.17), Oddanchatram (2.27), Thoppampatti (2.17), Dindigul urban (2.27) have high drop-out rate. Even though the Oddanchatram block and Dindigul urban are municipal areas, the people in these areas still lack awareness about the need for education of girl children.

To sum up, the Kodaikkannal, Athoor, Guziliamparai, Natham, Oddanchatram, Palani rural and Thoppampatti blocks have high repetition rates and drop-out rates and thus have lower completion rates. The performance of the above blocks in terms of SC/ST primary education is also poor. Further investigation is required to improve the situation and quality of education.

Table No. 4. 14
Primary Education

Block Name	GER			NER			CR			RR			DR		
	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T
Athoor	100.02	100.02	100.02	99.00	98.70	98.85	90.22	92.22	91.22	7.60	5.88	6.74	2.18	1.90	2.04
Bathlakundu	100.05	100.01	100.03	99.00	98.60	98.80	91.46	90.86	91.16	6.62	7.10	6.86	1.92	2.04	1.98
Dindigul (Rural)	100.20	100.03	100.12	98.00	98.09	98.05	91.34	93.06	92.20	6.91	4.77	5.84	1.75	2.17	1.96
Guziliyamparai	100.05	100.03	100.04	99.00	98.00	98.50	91.98	91.70	91.84	6.27	6.43	6.35	1.75	1.87	1.81
Kodaikkannal	100.03	100.02	100.025	99.00	98.89	98.95	87.34	92.86	90.10	10.67	5.07	7.87	1.99	2.07	2.03
Natham	100.08	100.02	100.05	99.00	98.00	98.50	90.82	92.06	91.44	6.97	6.17	6.57	2.21	1.77	1.99
Nilakkottai	100.09	100.02	100.06	99.00	99.50	99.25	93.46	92.26	92.86	4.56	5.84	5.20	1.98	1.90	1.94
Oddanchatram	100.06	100.02	100.04	98.98	99.08	99.03	92.16	91.50	91.83	6.15	6.23	6.19	1.69	2.27	1.98
Palani (Rural)	100.05	100.04	100.05	98.00	98.69	98.35	92.10	91.46	91.78	5.87	6.67	6.27	2.03	1.87	1.95
Reddiarchatram	100.08	100.02	100.05	98.90	99.00	98.95	93.82	92.02	92.92	4.24	5.94	5.09	1.94	2.04	1.99
Shanarpatti	100.05	100.02	100.04	98.89	99.30	99.10	92.54	91.96	92.25	5.19	6.37	5.78	2.27	1.67	1.97
Thoppampatti	100.06	100.02	100.04	99.25	99.25	99.25	93.00	90.76	91.88	5.03	7.07	6.05	1.97	2.17	2.07
Vadamadurai	100.09	100.02	100.06	98.90	98.09	98.50	93.62	91.66	92.64	4.77	6.27	5.52	1.61	2.07	1.84
Vedasandur	100.05	100.00	100.03	99.79	98.25	99.02	90.92	93.58	92.24	6.83	4.65	5.79	2.17	1.77	1.97
Dindigul (Urban)	100.09	100.05	100.07	99.00	98.46	98.73	96.20	91.76	93.98	2.22	5.97	4.06	1.65	2.27	1.96
Palani (Urban)	100.08	100.02	100.05	98.90	99.28	99.09	94.46	90.14	92.30	3.25	8.29	5.66	2.41	1.67	2.04
Total	**100.07**	**100.02**	**100.05**	**98.91**	**98.70**	**98.81**	**92.22**	**91.86**	**92.05**	**5.82**	**6.17**	**5.99**	**1.96**	**1.97**	**1.97**

Source: Education Department, Dindigul District, 2008

B – Boys, G- Girls T - Total

Primary - SC

Over all district performance among SC boys and girls does not show any major difference. In NER, the girls' rate is slightly higher than the boys. It is 98.86 for girls and for boys 98.46 for boys. Similarly, in RR, the girls' rate is higher. But in the completion rate, the girls' rate is lower than the boys. There is a marginal variation with regard to the drop-out rate. For girls it is 2.65 and for boys it is 2.60. The completion rate is high in general in Dindigul District for SC in primary. But this is situation is reversed in the Oddanchatram block. In Dindigul, CR is high among boys (96.84) and for girls it is 86.30 only. SC girls are performing better than SC boys in the Athoor and Bathlakundu blocks. In Bathlakundu, CR for SC girls is 90.83 but only 83.1 for boys. In Athoor it is 88.20 for girls and 76.65 for boys. The gender gap exists to a great extent with regard to Repetition Rate in two blocks i.e., Oddanchatram and Athoor. In Oddanchatram, for SC boys Repetition Rate is 0.61 and for SC girls it is 10.85. In Athoor, for boys the Repetition rate is 21 and for girls it is 9.30 in primary education. Differences persist in the drop-out rate among SC boys and girls in Shanarpatti and Vedasandur blocks. In Shanarpatti, it is 1.78 for boys and 2.8 for girls. In Vedasandur, it is 3.05 for boys and only 2.45 for girls.

Primary - ST

With respect to primary education among ST boys and girls, all the indicators show that the girls' rate is higher in GER, NER, CR and DR. But in RR, the boys' rate is high in primary education. In upper primary, girls' perform better than boys.

Table No. 4. 15

Primary SC

Block Name	GER			NER			CR			RR			DR		
	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T
Athoor	101.00	101.00	101.00	98.00	98.90	98.45	76.64	88.20	82.42	21.00	9.30	15.15	2.36	2.50	2.43
Bathlakundu	101.00	101.00	101.00	98.00	98.90	98.45	83.21	90.83	87.02	14.32	6.62	10.47	2.47	2.55	2.51
Dindigul (Rural)	101.10	101.00	101.05	98.00	99.00	98.50	92.97	88.25	90.61	4.84	9.00	6.92	2.19	2.75	2.47
Guziliyamparai	101.10	101.50	101.30	98.50	99.00	98.75	86.33	86.17	86.25	11.49	11.33	11.41	2.18	2.50	2.34
Kodaikkannal	100.52	101	100.76	98.30	98.90	98.60	85.62	88.80	87.21	12.34	8.40	10.37	2.04	2.8	2.42
Natham	101.10	101.00	101.05	98.46	98.12	98.29	92.90	88.86	90.88	4.78	8.34	6.56	2.32	2.80	2.56
Nilakkottai	100.50	101.50	101.00	98.43	98.00	98.22	94.85	88.75	91.80	2.56	8.80	5.68	2.59	2.45	2.52
Oddanchatram	102.30	101.00	101.65	98.36	98.00	98.18	96.84	86.30	91.57	0.61	10.85	5.73	2.55	2.85	2.70
Palani (Rural)	101.10	101.00	101.05	98.52	99.00	98.76	93.50	88.10	90.80	4.14	9.10	6.62	2.36	2.80	2.58
Reddiarchatram	101.50	101.50	101.50	98.50	99.00	98.75	88.29	87.15	87.72	8.73	10.35	9.54	2.98	2.50	2.74
Shanarpatti	101.10	101.05	101.08	99.00	98.00	98.50	97.48	92.50	94.99	1.78	7.68	5.48	1.78	2.80	2.79
Thoppampatti	101.10	101.05	101.08	99.00	99.80	99.40	85.82	90.70	88.26	11.19	6.45	8.82	2.99	2.85	2.92
Vadamadurai	101.50	101.00	101.25	98.51	99.90	99.21	85.74	88.14	86.94	11.08	9.36	10.22	3.18	2.50	2.84
Vedasandur	101.30	101.10	101.20	98.25	99.59	98.92	91.30	88.90	90.10	7.35	8.50	7.15	3.05	2.45	2.75
Dindigul (Urban)	101.21	101.02	101.12	98.56	98.65	98.44	89.62	89.50	89.56	7.32	8.98	7.76	3.06	2.30	2.68
Palani (Urban)	100.20	100.08	100.14	99.00	99.00	99.00	82.19	89.85	86.02	6.22	8.56	7.68	2.83	2.83	2.83
Total	**101.10**	**101.05**	**101.08**	**98.46**	**98.86**	**98.65**	**89.29**	**88.50**	**88.91**	**8.11**	**8.85**	**8.47**	**2.60**	**2.65**	**2.63**

Source: Education Department, Dindigul District, 2008

Table No. 4.16

Primary ST

Block Name	GER			NER			CR			RR			DR		
	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T
Athoor	101.03	103.25	102.14	91.00	95.00	93.00	86.17	87.11	86.64	10.43	9.16	9.80	3.40	3.73	3.57
Bathlakundu	102.68	NA	102.68	91.00	NA	91.00	86.33	NA	86.33	10.01	NA	10.01	3.46	NA	3.46
Dindigul (Rural)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	86.90	87.68	87.29	10.12	9.06	9.59	2.98	3.26	3.12
Guziliyamparai															
Kodaikkannal	102.25	103.05	102.65	92.40	95.80	94.10	86.58	85.56	86.07	11.22	9.31	10.27	4.56	5.13	4.845
Natham															
Nilakkottai	102.01	103.10	102.56	92.00	95.60	93.80	85.12	86.53	85.83	11.11	9.26	10.19	3.86	4.20	4.03
Oddanchatram															
Palani (Rural)	102.00	103.10	102.55	90.00	94.00	92.00	85.42	86.58	86.00	10.22	9.09	9.66	3.96	4.33	4.15
Reddiarchatram	102.54	103.30	102.92	91.00	95.00	93.00	86.05	87.23	86.64	10.39	9.11	9.75	3.39	3.66	3.53
Shanarpatti	102.25	103.20	102.73	91.00	95.00	93.00	85.62	86.72	86.17	10.81	9.07	9.78	3.91	4.21	4.06
Dindigul (Urban)	103.06	103.12	103.41	91.00	95.09	93.05	86.03	87.95	86.99	9.32	8.98	9.15	2.88	3.07	2.98
Palani (Urban)	102.40	103.16	102.78	92.30	95.15	93.73									
Total	**102.25**	**103.16**	**102.71**	**91.30**	**95.08**	**93.11**	**86.00**	**86.92**	**86.47**	**10.40**	**9.13**	**9.76**	**3.60**	**3.95**	**3.78**

Source: Education Department, Dindigul District, 2008

Performance of Primary Education (Year 2007)

The following tables show the status of boys, girls, SC and ST in primary education in the year 2007. Even though GER for boys are high, NER is high for girls. But the completion rate for girls is comparatively lower than the boys. The drop-out rate is higher among the boys and the repetition rate is higher for girls.

Table No. 4.17

Performance of Boys - Primary

Block Name	GER	NER	CR	RR	DR
Athoor	100.02	99	90.22	7.6	2.18
Bathlakundu	100.05	99	91.46	6.62	1.92
Dindigul (Rural)	100.2	98	91.34	6.91	1.75
Guziliyamparai	100.05	99	91.98	6.27	1.75
Kodaikkannal	100.03	99	87.34	10.67	1.99
Natham	100.08	99	90.82	6.97	2.21
Nilakkottai	100.09	99	93.46	4.56	1.98
Oddanchatram	100.06	98.98	92.16	6.15	1.69
Palani (Rural)	100.05	98	92.1	5.87	2.03
Reddiarchatram	100.08	98.9	93.82	4.24	1.94
Shanarpatti	100.05	98.89	92.54	5.19	2.27
Thoppampatti	100.06	99.25	93	5.03	1.97
Vadamadurai	100.09	98.9	93.62	4.77	1.61
Vedasandur	100.05	99.79	90.92	6.83	2.17
Dindigul (Urban)	100.09	99	96.2	2.22	1.65
Palani (Urban)	100.08	98.9	94.46	3.25	2.41

Source: Education Department, Dindigul District, 2008

Primary Education - Boys

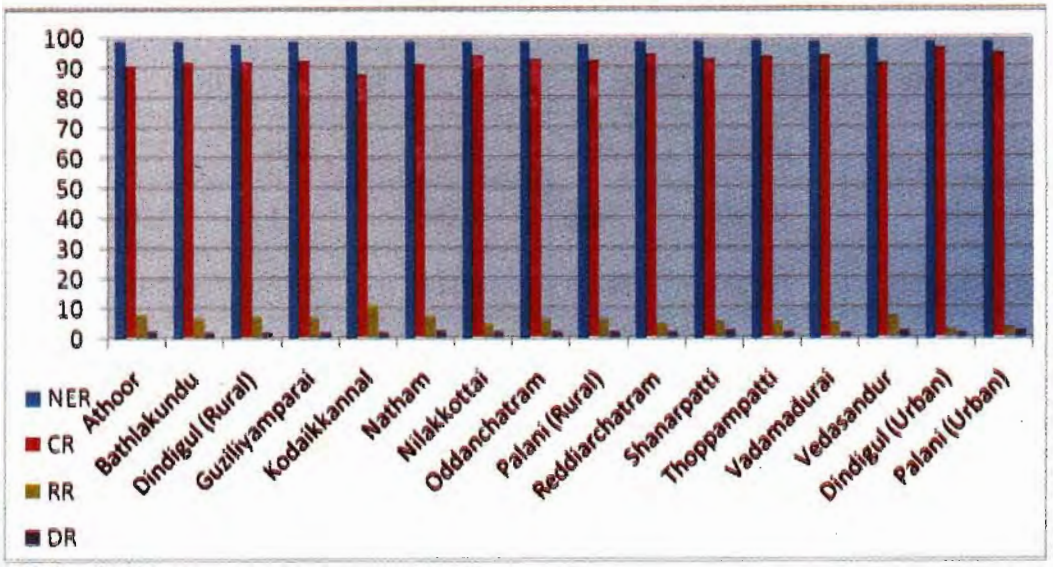


Figure 4.3

Primary Education - Girls

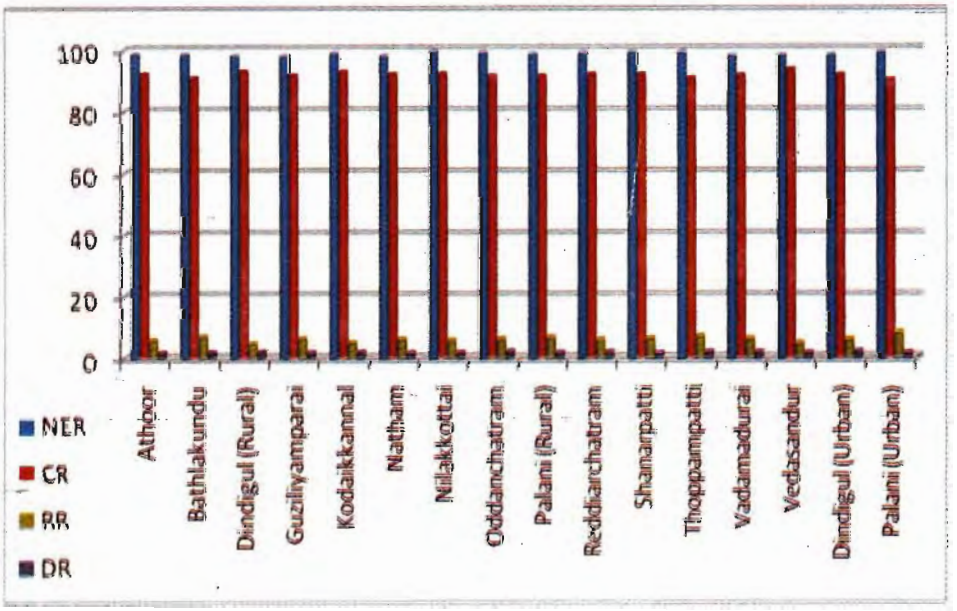


Figure 4.4

Table No. 4.18

Performance of Girls - Primary

Block Name	GER	NER	CR	RR	DR
Athoor	100.02	98.7	92.22	5.88	1.9
Bathlakundu	100.01	98.6	90.86	7.1	2.04
Dindigul (Rural)	100.03	98.09	93.06	4.77	2.17
Guziliyamparai	100.03	98	91.7	6.43	1.87
Kodaikkannal	100.02	98.89	92.86	5.07	2.07
Natham	100.02	98	92.06	6.17	1.77
Nilakkottai	100.02	99.5	92.26	5.84	1.9
Oddanchatram	100.02	99.08	91.5	6.23	2.27
Palani (Rural)	100.04	98.69	91.46	6.67	1.87
Reddiarchatram	100.02	99	92.02	5.94	2.04
Shanarpatti	100.02	99.3	91.96	6.37	1.67
Thoppampatti	100.02	99.25	90.76	7.07	2.17
Vadamadurai	100.02	98.09	91.66	6.27	2.07
Vedasandur	100	98.25	93.58	4.65	1.77
Dindigul (Urban)	100.05	98.46	91.76	5.97	2.27
Palani (Urban)	100.02	99.28	90.14	8.29	1.67

Source: Education Department, Dindigul District, 2008

Box 4.1

Status of Primary Education in the State

Trained teachers with a diploma in teachers education and with even higher qualification are employed in government schools and union primary schools. Elementary education in the State is now being concentrated on by the centrally assisted scheme, SSA. But the school enrolment is declining year after year in public schools. The decline of the birth rate may be one of the reasons but it needs a deeper probe. The government with a mission to provide access to school education has established schools for a population of thousand or within 1 km radius. The State report cards on education reveal that Tamil Nadu has 24201 government primary schools in 21950 villages. It means one habitation has more than one school. This does not include 9715 private primary schools which together make 33916 schools in 21950 villages. Dindigul district also has 100% Gross Access Rate. The average drop-out rate at the primary level has also reduced significantly from 3.17 percent to 1.54 percent in 2005-2006. In this year, Dindigul district has lowered its dropout rate and it is lower (2.81) than the State average.

Also the mushrooming of private schools has led to the close down of public primary schools. Some of the schools that once existed in places like Paraipatti, Chenkulathupatti in Dindigul district have been closed down for want of children.

Source: Global Local bimonthly news letter, issue 9, May-June 2008, Rajiv Gandhi Chair

Upper Primary Education

Gross Access Rate

In Dindigul District, as in the case of primary education, the GAR of the upper primary is also 100 for the past three years. Even though the access rate is high, the drop-out and completion rates are not impressive. The completion rate is low in Kodaikkannal, Palani, Thoppampatti, Natham, Reddiarchatram and Athoor blocks. There is an improvement in the completion rate from 58 to 90 over a period of six years. They have achieved an impressive rate of growth in the year 2004. But there was fluctuation in growth during the period 2005-2007. Palani rural had the lowest completion rate in the year 2002.

Table No. 4.19

Gross Access Rate – Upper Primary

Block Name	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Athoor	99	99.4	99	100	100	100
Bathlakundu	99	99.2	97	100	100	100
Dindigul Rural	99	99	100	100	100	100
Guziliyamparai	99	99.4	100	100	100	100
Kodaikkannal	98	99.4	100	100	100	100
Natham	98	99	97	100	100	100
Nilakkottai	99	100	100	100	100	100
Oddanchatram	100	100	100	100	100	100
Palani Rural	99	99.9	100	100	100	100
Reddiarchatram	99	99.2	100	100	100	100
Shanarpatti	99	99.8	100	100	100	100
Thoppampatti	98	99.4	97	100	100	100
Vadamadurai	98	97.3	99	100	100	100
Vedasandur	98	99.9	99	100	100	100
Dindigul Urban	99	99	100	100	100	100
Palani Urban	99	99.9	100	100	100	100
Total	99	99.36	99.2	100	100	100

Source: Education Department, Dindigul District, 2008

Gross Enrolment Rate

The Gross Enrolment Rate in upper primary school in Dindigul District was 100.7 in 2007 but in 2002, it was only 80.35. In the year 2003 all educational indicators in both primary and upper primary segments were not up to the mark. The Reddiarchatram block showed the lowest GER in 2002 (62.6) but there is an improvement continuously and it achieved 100.13 in the year 2007. In 2006, the GER rate remained the same (100.7) in all the blocks.

Table No. 4.20

Gross Enrolment Rate – Upper Primary

Block Name	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Athoor	86.8	100	102	104	100.7	100.06
Bathlakundu	76.4	100.5	103	103.5	100.7	100.18
Dindigul Rural	89.4	103	101	98	100.7	100.16
Guziliyamparai	90.07	100.5	101	98.5	100.7	100.08
Kodaikkannal	74.3	100.5	101	99.5	100.7	100.14
Natham	94.4	101	101	98	100.7	100.11
Nilakkottai	65.4	100.5	103	100	100.7	100.07
Oddanchatram	74.2	100	101	102	100.7	100.12
Palani Rural	87.05	97.5	102	101	100.7	100.11
Reddiarchatram	62.6	100	100	102	100.7	100.13
Shanarpatti	65.5	105	99	101.5	100.7	100.13
Thoppampatti	89.9	101	99	105.5	100.7	100.1
Vadamadurai	62.95	95	101	103	100.7	100.04
Vedasandur	87.2	91	95	100	100.7	100.03
Dindigul Urban	92.9	101	101	98	100.7	100.04
Palani Urban	70	100.5	102	101	100.7	100.04
Total	80.35	99.7	101	101.5	100.7	100.7

Source: Education Department, Dindigul District, 2008

Net Enrolment Rate

Compared to the Primary NER, the upper primary NER is slightly lower. The NER for primary education in 2006 for Tamil Nadu was nearly 98. Dindigul District was below the State average. Like primary NER, the upper primary NER also showed a lower rate in blocks like Reddiarchatram, Thoppampatti and Vadamaduari in the year 2002. But they competed with other blocks and showed improvement in NER in 2007.

Table No. 4.21

Net Enrolment Rate – Upper Primary

Block Name	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Athoor	81	94	98.8	98.08	96.55	94.49
Bathlakundu	85	94	97.63	97.63	96.57	94.64
Dindigul Rural	88	96	99.43	99.43	96.49	96.12
Guziliyamparai	87.5	94	96.23	96.73	96.5	94.59
Kodaikkannal	83.5	94	97.93	97.74	96.52	95.04
Natham	90	94	98.43	98.53	96.48	95.9
Nilakkottai	82	94.5	98.1	98.1	96.52	94.54
Oddanchatram	86.5	95	97.91	97.93	96.53	95.52
Palani Rural	82.5	94	97.94	98.14	96.62	94.5
Reddiarchatram	73.5	96	96.59	97.01	96.5	92.77
Shanarpatti	75	93.5	96.89	98.03	96.51	94.47
Thoppampatti	72.5	90	97.07	98.33	96.61	92.21
Vadamadurai	71.5	94	98.21	98.21	96.46	92.87
Vedasandur	82.5	95	97.55	97.82	96.35	94.46
Dindigul Urban	84.5	96	99.97	99.97	96.39	96.12
Palani Urban	82.5	94	99.97	99.97	96.43	95.23
Total	82	86	98	98.22	96.51	97.5

Source: Education Department, Dindigul District, 2008

Repetition Rate

In Dindigul District, the repetition rate in upper primary education is higher than that in primary education. Kodaikkannal had the highest repetition rate in 2002 among the blocks (32). But the trend shows that Reddiarchatram had the highest repetition rate (8.40) in the year 2007. As in the case of other indicators, there was an impressive performance in the year 2004 in all the blocks in the upper primary. There is a swing from 2.21 in the year 2004 to 7.65 in 2007 in the repetition rate of Dindigul District as a whole in the upper primary. In the Kodaikkannal block, repetition rates and dropout rates are high. Teachers' absenteeism may be one of the reasons for this trend.

Table No. 4.22

Repetition Rate – Upper Primary

Block Name	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Athoor	23.00	8.00	1.83	10.28	8.07	8.00
Bathlakundu	11.00	8.00	3.07	7.17	9.28	7.78
Dindigul Rural	28.00	12.00	1.44	10.69	12.22	6.88
Guziliyamparai	19.00	18.00	2.13	12.31	10.75	7.43
Kodaikkannal	32.00	16.00	1.72	9.10	4.34	8.07
Natham	23.00	15.00	2.11	19.86	10.09	8.18
Nilakkottai	22.00	14.00	2.74	17.44	8.72	7.98
Oddanchatram	18.00	11.00	2.89	7.62	7.22	8.18
Palani Rural	31.00	18.00	2.07	7.22	16.24	7.84
Reddiarchatram	25.00	16.00	2.12	12.38	19.87	8.40
Shanarpatti	24.00	18.00	2.37	9.40	11.56	8.27
Thoppampatti	28.00	11.00	1.95	10.46	9.87	7.92
Vadamadurai	28.00	19.00	2.18	13.02	13.39	5.23
Vedasandur	19.00	12.00	2.57	14.94	8.72	7.18
Dindigul Urban	28.00	12.00	1.44	10.69	5.27	7.57
Palani Urban	31.00	18.00	2.07	7.22	7.80	7.65
Total	24.00	14.00	2.21	11.36	9.39	7.65

Source: Education Department, Dindigul District, 2008

Dropout Rate

The average drop-out rate of the district as a whole declined in the past six years in the upper primary from 18 to 2.28. The highest drop-out rate was in Palani rural, urban, Shanarpatti, Natham and Vadamadurai in the year 2002. But in the year 2007, Kodaikkannal and Vedasandur had the highest drop- out rate in the upper primary. In all the educational indicators, there was an impressive performance in the year 2004 in both primary and upper primary education. This was not maintained in the subsequent years. Even though dropouts have been efficiently controlled it needs to be checked out because of the fluctuation.

Table No. 4.23

Dropout Rate – Upper Primary

Block Name	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Athoor	16.00	3.00	1.59	7.03	4.38	1.73
Bathlakundu	12.00	15.00	1.69	5.58	3.53	2.11
Dindigul Rural	17.00	11.00	1.15	11.41	9.09	1.94
Guziliyamparai	14.00	11.00	2.36	2.83	4.44	2.04
Kodaikkannal	17.00	14.00	1.36	6.26	7.97	4.08
Natham	23.00	16.00	1.63	5.48	5.52	1.18
Nilakkottai	18.00	13.00	1.81	1.41	4.62	1.63
Oddanchatram	16.00	11.00	1.80	9.02	3.16	1.76
Palani Rural	23.00	14.00	1.60	16.40	5.39	2.35
Reddiarchatram	18.00	15.00	1.77	9.20	4.59	1.93
Shanarpatti	21.00	11.00	1.51	10.33	8.81	2.62
Thoppampatti	19.00	15.00	1.95	5.14	5.35	2.66
Vadamadurai	20.00	18.00	1.81	12.88	8.42	2.24
Vedasandur	19.00	12.00	1.48	12.26	8.72	3.26
Dindigul Urban	17.00	11.00	1.15	2.96	1.40	2.34
Palani Urban	23.00	14.00	1.60	10.07	5.85	2.66
Total	18.00	13.00	1.66	7.19	5.13	2.28

Source: Education Department, Dindigul District, 2008

Attendance Rate

In the attendance rate also the primary segment fares better than the upper primary. Attendance rate in the primary education of Dindigul District is 98.22 but for upper primary it is only 96.8. In the year 2006 it was 98 but it declined in 2007. The performance with regard to attendance rate in all the blocks is more or less same. Only Vedasandur block has the minimum of 95. All the blocks in Dindigul District improved the attendance rate gradually. But it has not achieved 100%.

Table No. 4.24
Attendance Rate– Upper Primary

Block Name	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Athoor	90	95	92	93	98	96
Bathlakundu	89	93	93	93	97	97
Dindigul Rural	92	98	94	94	98	98
Guziliyamparai	89	96	91	92	98	97
Kodaikkannal	90	97	93	94	97	96
Natham	90	96	94	94	98	96
Nilakkottai	89	95	92	93	98	97
Oddanchatram	91	97	94	95	99	96
Palani Rural	92	98	95	96	98	96
Reddiarchatram	94	96	96	96	98	97
Shanarpatti	92	95	93	94	98	98
Thoppampatti	93	97	96	97	98	97
Vadamadurai	92	95	95	96	99	96
Vedasandur	91	96	95	95	98	95
Dindigul Urban	91	97	95	94	98	96
Palani Urban	91	95	94	94	98	96
Total	**91**	**96**	**94**	**94**	**98**	**96.8**

Source: Education Department, Dindigul District, 2008.

Completion Rate

Table No. 4.25
Completion Rate

Block Name	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Athoor	60.50	88.50	96.50	82.69	87.55	90.28
Bathlakundu	77.50	77.00	95.66	84.75	87.19	90.12
Dindigul Rural	54.50	77.50	97.39	77.92	78.69	91.19
Guziliyamparai	67.50	71.00	95.57	82.37	84.81	90.53
Kodaikkannal	51.00	69.50	96.89	84.65	87.69	87.86
Natham	52.50	68.50	96.22	74.67	84.39	90.65
Nilakkottai	59.50	73.00	95.43	78.67	86.66	90.40
Oddanchatram	66.00	78.00	95.31	83.00	89.62	90.07
Palani Rural	45.50	68.00	96.09	76.39	78.36	89.82
Reddiarchatram	56.50	68.00	96.10	78.40	75.55	89.67
Shanarpatti	55.00	70.50	96.17	80.28	79.63	89.12
Thoppampatti	52.50	73.50	96.13	79.40	84.78	89.43
Vadamadurai	51.50	63.50	95.98	74.10	78.19	92.54
Vedasandur	61.50	75.50	95.83	72.82	82.56	89.57
Dindigul Urban	60.00	77.50	97.39	91.18	93.33	90.10
Palani Urban	58.00	68.00	96.09	90.24	86.35	89.69
Total	58.00	73.00	96.12	81.45	85.50	90.10

Source: Education Department, Dindigul District, 2008

Table No. 4.26

Pupil Teacher Ratio

Block Name	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Athoor	39	34	42	51	38	35.68
Bathlakundu	56	34	47	53	38	35.64
Dindigul Rural	40	34	41	33	38	39.75
Guziliyamparai	48	36	39	59	40	35.21
Kodaikkannal	16	34	45	71	38	42.65
Natham	45	37	37	63	38	39.78
Nilakkottai	43	34	39	42	39	24.86
Oddanchatram	36	32	45	71	38	34.25
Palani Rural	35	24	46	31	38	38.13
Reddiarchatram	46	36	45	60	38	37.13
Shanarpatti	48	41	44	43	37	35.28
Thoppampatti	20	36	45	47	39	35.16
Vadamadurai	40	34	49	40	39	45.10
Vedasandur	42	30	39	61	39	45.36
Dindigul Urban	40	34	41	28	39	42.00
Palani Urban	35	24	46	26	40	42.00
Total	39.00	34	43	49	39	38
Tamil Nadu						54

Source: Education Department, Dindigul District, 2008

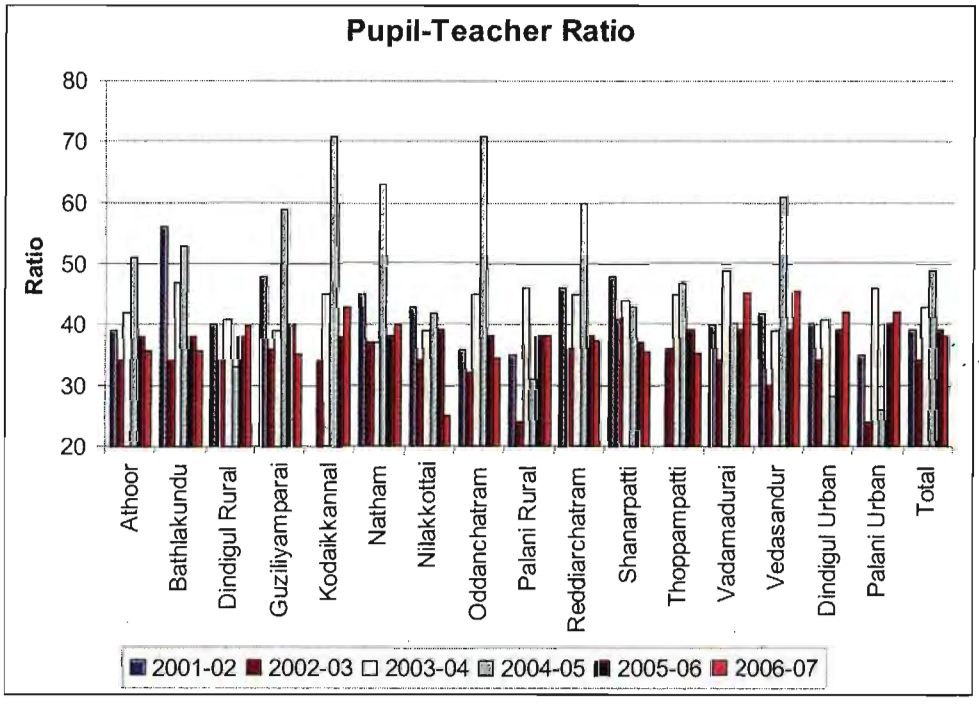


Figure 4.5

Table No. 4.27

Teacher Strength

Block Name	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Athoor	207	176	205	235	226	538
Bathlakundu	188	200	200	230	220	498
Dindigul Rural	191	214	191	231	211	487
Guziliyamparai	73	128	115	195	115	316
Kodaikkannal	120	151	140	200	140	399
Natham	185	197	185	205	205	408
Nilakkottai	250	280	263	299	299	503
Oddanchatram	166	166	186	198	186	434
Palani Rural	168	172	181	201	201	441
Reddiarchatram	122	147	142	198	142	388
Shanarpatti	178	193	174	220	220	383
Thoppampatti	118	134	134	200	132	343
Vadamadurai	165	162	165	181	185	295
Vedasandur	176	163	197	197	197	305
Dindigul Urban	334	572	565	574	574	459
Palani Urban	199	209	209	209	209	527
Total	2840	3264	3252	3773	3462	6724

Source: Education Department, Dindigul District, 2008

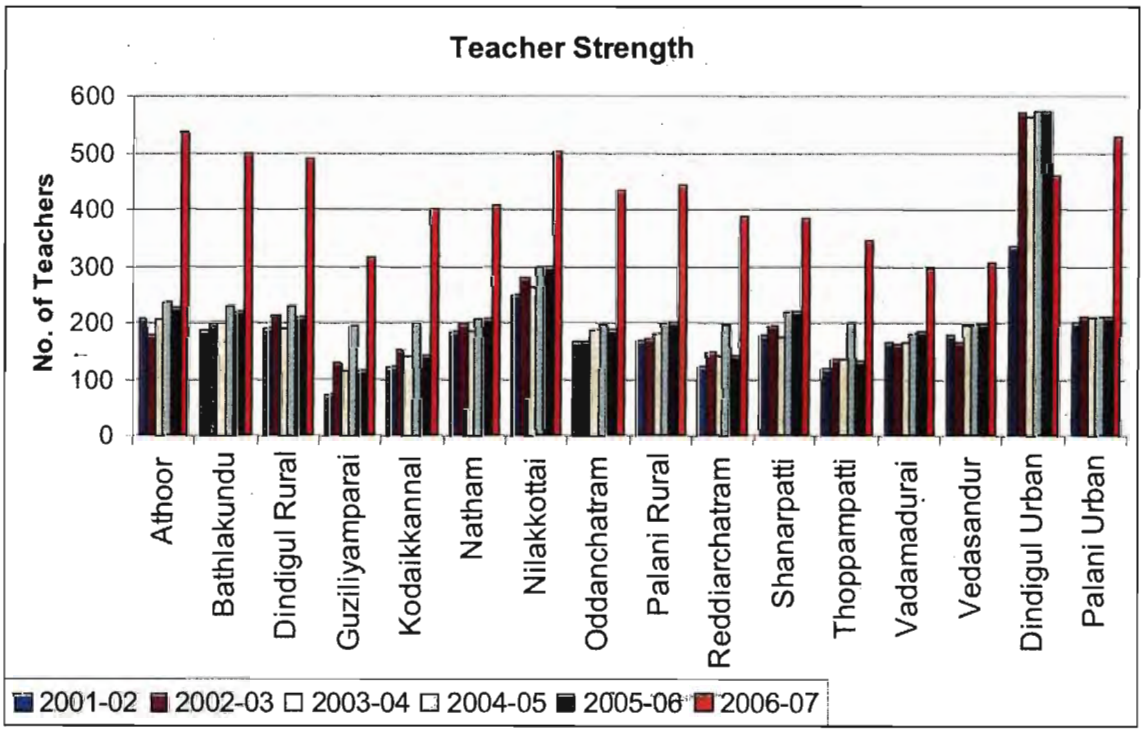


Fig 4.6

Upper Primary- All

In Dindigul district for upper primary the enrollment at the entry level remains high for girls. For boys GER is 102.66 but for the girls it is 102.78. With regard to NER for both boys and girls it is the same. The completion rate for girls in the upper primary is higher than the boys. It is 90.35 for girls and 89.77 for boys. It shows the better performance of girls than boys in upper primary. Moreover retention rate and drop out rates are high for girls. The average drop out rate for upper primary education in Dindigul District in the year 2007 is 2.50 has girls and for boys it is 2.06. There is a contradiction in the upper primary education in Dindigul District. Completion rate and drop out rates are high for girls. The reason has to be identified to reduce the dropout rate.

In the upper primary level of Dindigul District there is not much gender gap with regard to GER and NER at the block level in the year 2007. But completion rate shows some variation at the block level. In Kodaikkannal block girls completion rate is higher than the boys. It is 90.34 for girls and 85.34 for boys. But in Vadamaduari block the trend is reversed. Boys CR is 96.84 and girls it is 88.24 only. There is a slight difference in the completion rate among girls and boys in Dindigul, Guziliyamparai and Vedasandur block.

In the upper primary education of Dindigul District only few blocks are doing well for retaining girls. It is in Vadamadurai block girls retention rate is 7.33 and for boys it is only 3.12. Where as Natham and Kodaikkannal block the trend shows boys repetition rate is high and it is 9.23 and 9.73 respectively but it is 7.12 and 6.14 for girls.

In Vedasandur block dropout among boys is high and it is 4.81 when compared to girls (1.70). In Bathlakundu, Vadamadurai and Palani girls dropout rate is high. There is a wide gender gap in Vadamadurai block. There it is 0.04 for boys and 4.43 for girls.

As in primary education blocks Kodaikkannal, Athoor, Guziliamparai, Natham, Oddanchatram, Palani Urban, Thoppampatti, Vedasandur and Reddiarchatram show low performance with regard to RR, DR and CR in upper primary education.

Palani block which performs well in terms of health indicators show a poor performance in terms of educational indicators. This needs further investigation.

Table No. 4.28

Upper Primary - All

Block Name	GER			NER			CR			RR			DR		
	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T
Athoor	102.63	102.70	102.67	97.80	98.00	97.90	90.11	90.45	90.28	8.12	7.87	8.00	1.77	1.68	1.73
Bathlakundu	102.45	102.96	102.71	97.00	98.00	97.50	90.34	89.89	90.12	8.42	7.14	7.78	1.24	2.97	2.11
Dindigul (Rural)	102.52	102.65	102.59	97.00	97.00	97.00	90.24	92.13	91.19	7.41	6.34	6.88	2.35	1.53	1.94
Guziliyamparai	102.66	102.80	102.73	98.00	96.00	97.00	89.38	91.68	90.53	7.84	7.02	7.43	2.78	1.30	2.04
Kodaikkannal	102.66	102.76	102.71	99.00	97.00	98.00	85.34	90.37	87.86	9.73	6.41	8.07	4.93	3.22	4.08
Natham	102.50	102.55	102.53	98.00	96.00	97.00	89.87	91.43	90.65	9.23	7.12	8.18	0.90	1.45	1.18
Nilakkottai	102.66	102.94	102.80	97.80	98.00	97.90	90.45	90.34	90.40	8.54	7.42	7.98	1.01	2.24	1.63
Oddanchatram	102.77	102.56	102.67	97.50	98.00	97.75	89.89	90.24	90.07	9.12	7.23	8.18	0.99	2.53	1.76
Palani (Rural)	102.55	102.78	102.67	98.20	97.00	97.60	88.56	91.08	89.82	8.63	7.04	7.84	2.81	1.88	2.35
Reddiarchatram	102.88	102.80	102.84	97.50	96.80	97.15	89.86	89.48	89.67	9.12	7.68	8.40	1.02	2.84	1.93
Shanarpatti	102.99	102.58	102.79	97.00	97.50	97.25	88.89	89.34	89.12	8.43	8.10	8.27	2.68	2.56	2.62
Thoppampatti	102.80	102.96	102.88	96.60	97.80	97.20	89.48	89.38	89.43	8.42	7.41	7.92	2.10	3.21	2.66
Vadamadurai	102.66	102.85	102.76	96.40	98.00	97.20	96.84	88.24	92.54	3.12	7.33	5.23	0.04	4.43	2.24
Vedasandur	102.66	102.84	102.75	98.00	98.00	98.00	86.96	92.17	89.57	8.23	6.13	7.18	4.81	1.70	3.26
Dindigul (Urban)	102.50	102.89	102.70	97.50	97.46	97.48	89.84	90.35	90.10	8.12	7.01	7.57	2.04	2.64	2.34
Palani (Urban)	102.69	102.80	102.75	98.00	98.00	98.00	90.32	89.06	89.69	8.17	7.13	7.65	1.51	3.81	2.66
Total	**102.66**	**102.78**	**102.72**	**97.58**	**97.58**	**97.50**	**89.77**	**90.35**	**90.07**	**8.17**	**7.15**	**7.65**	**2.06**	**2.50**	**2.28**

Source: Education Department, Dindigul District, 2008

Upper Primary- SC

Over all district performance among SC boys and girls doesn't show any major difference in upper primary education. In NER girls' rate is slightly higher than the boys. It is 98.34 for girls and for boys 98.36. In RR girls' rate is lower than the boys. But in completion rate girls rate is higher than the boys'. There is a marginal variation with regard to drop out rate. For girls it is 2.44 and for boys it is 2.28.

There is no major gender gap in the upper primary education indicators among the blocks of Dindigul District. Palani urban and Kodaikkannal show higher retention rate among boys (17.89 and 17.13) and lower only for girls (14.68 and 13.84). Athoor block shows major difference in dropout rate between SC boys and girls. It is 6.16 for boys and 2.45 for girls.

Table No. 4.29

Upper Primary SC

Block Name	GER			NER			CR			RR			DR		
	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T
Athoor	102.00	102.00	102.00	98.00	98.00	98.00	80.42	84.43	82.43	13.42	13.12	13.27	6.16	2.45	4.31
Bathlakundu	102.10	102.00	102.05	98.00	98.00	98.00	82.34	83.97	83.16	14.42	13.06	13.74	3.24	2.97	3.11
Dindigul (Rural)	102.00	102.00	102.00	98.00	98.50	98.25	81.54	83.84	82.69	15.21	13.25	14.23	3.25	2.91	3.08
Guziliyamparai	102.10	102.00	102.05	98.50	98.00	98.25	82.83	84.76	83.80	16.04	13.40	14.72	1.13	1.84	1.49
Kodaikkannal	102.1	102	102.05	98.50	98.00	98.25	81	82.37	81.69	17.13	13.84	15.485	1.87	3.79	2.83
Natham	102.00	102.29	102.15	98.70	98.00	98.35	82.87	83.64	83.26	15.43	13.42	14.43	1.70	2.94	2.32
Nilakkottai	102.00	102.56	102.28	99.00	98.00	98.50	82.54	83.48	83.01	15.62	13.34	14.48	1.84	3.18	2.51
Oddanchatram	102.00	102.63	102.32	98.60	98.40	98.50	81.98	83.97	82.98	15.98	13.74	14.86	2.04	2.29	2.17
Palani (Rural)	102.50	102.23	102.37	97.90	98.30	98.10	82.65	83.84	83.25	15.98	13.89	14.94	1.37	2.27	1.82
Reddiarchatram	102.00	102.53	102.27	98.59	98.60	98.60	81.64	83.73	82.69	15.92	13.98	14.95	2.44	2.29	2.37
Shanarpatti	102.10	102.00	102.05	98.50	98.63	98.57	82.58	84.98	83.78	15.75	13.34	14.55	1.67	1.68	1.68
Thoppampatti	102.20	102.60	102.40	98.00	98.45	98.23	81.23	83.72	82.48	14.99	13.79	14.39	3.78	2.49	3.14
Vadamadurai	102.10	102.80	102.45	98.00	98.58	98.29	82.37	83.67	83.02	15.95	14.51	15.23	1.68	1.82	1.75
Vedasandur	102.10	102.20	102.15	98.96	98.60	98.78	82.36	83.96	83.16	15.21	13.22	14.22	2.43	2.82	2.63
Dindigul (Urban)	102.20	102.50	102.35	98.50	98.50	98.50	82.25	84.82	83.54	15.98	13.19	14.59	1.77	1.99	1.88
Palani (Urban)	102.10	102.35	102.23	98.00	98.85	98.43	82.04	83.97	83.01	17.89	14.68	16.29	0.07	1.35	0.71
Total	**102.10**	**102.29**	**102.20**	**98.36**	**98.34**	**98.35**	**82.04**	**83.95**	**83.01**	**15.68**	**13.61**	**14.63**	**2.28**	**2.44**	**2.36**

Source: Education Department, Dindigul District, 2008

Table No. 4. 30

Upper Primary- ST

Block Name	GER			NER			CR			RR			DR		
	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T
Athoor	104.00	104.29	104.15	93.50	95.00	94.25	84.54	85.93	85.24	11.42	10.45	10.94	4.04	3.62	3.83
Bathlakundu	104.50	NA	104.50	93.00	NA	93.00	85.89	87.97	86.93	11.85	9.23	10.54	2.26	2.80	2.53
Dindigul (Rural)							87.64	87.36	87.50	10.31	8.43	9.37	2.05	4.21	3.13
Guziliyamparai															
Kodaikkannal	104.36	104.25	104.305	93.05	96.00	94.53	82.32	83.65	82.99	11.78	8.56	10.17	5.9	7.79	6.845
Natham															
Nilakkottai	104.30	104.60	104.45	93.00	96.00	94.50	87.89	89.37	88.63	10.21	8.97	9.59	1.90	1.60	1.75
Oddanchatram							85.48	88.76	87.12	11.03	9.87	10.45	3.49	1.37	2.43
Palani (Rural)	104.23	104.25	104.24	93.00	95.00	94.00	86.24	88.32	87.28	11.78	9.60	10.69	1.98	2.08	2.03
Reddiarchatram	104.20	104.50	104.35	93.05	95.00	94.03	85.89	89.13	87.51	12.13	9.72	10.93	1.98	1.15	1.57
Shanarpatti	104.30	104.50	104.40	93.10	95.42	94.26	87.67	88.71	88.19	11.29	8.98	10.14	1.04	2.31	1.68
Thoppampatti	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	89.36	89.36	NA	9.86	9.86	NA	0.98	0.98
Vadamadurai															
Vedasandur															
Dindigul (Urban)	104.20	104.20	104.20	94.16	95.00	94.58	86.21	88.76	87.49	11.25	9.66	10.46	2.54	1.58	2.06
Palani (Urban)	104.52	104.50	104.51	93.34	94.00	93.67	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total	**104.29**	**104.39**	**104.34**	**93.24**	**95.18**	**94.07**	**85.98**	**87.94**	**86.97**	**11.31**	**9.39**	**10.34**	**2.71**	**2.67**	**2.69**

Source: Cohort Study 2007

Note: GER- Gross Enrolment Rate

NER- Net Enrolment Rate= GER-RR

RR- Repetition Rate

DR- Drop-out Rate

Performance of Upper Primary Year 2007

Table No. 4.31

Performance of Boysoys – Upper Primary

Block Name	GER	NER	CR	RR	DR
Athoor	102.63	97.8	90.11	8.12	1.77
Bathlakundu	102.45	97	90.34	8.42	1.24
Dindigul (Rural)	102.52	97	90.24	7.41	2.35
Guziliyamparai	102.66	98	89.38	7.84	2.78
Kodaikkannal	102.66	99	85.34	9.73	4.93
Natham	102.5	98	89.87	9.23	0.9
Nilakkottai	102.66	97.8	90.45	8.54	1.01
Oddanchatram	102.77	97.5	89.89	9.12	0.99
Palani (Rural)	102.55	98.2	88.56	8.63	2.81
Reddiarchatram	102.88	97.5	89.86	9.12	1.02
Shanarpatti	102.99	97	88.89	8.43	2.68
Thoppampatti	102.8	96.6	89.48	8.42	2.1
Vadamadurai	102.66	96.4	96.84	3.12	0.04
Vedasandur	102.66	98	86.96	8.23	4.81
Dindigul (Urban)	102.5	97.5	89.84	8.12	2.04
Palani (Urban)	102.69	98	90.32	8.17	1.51

Source: Education Department, Dindigul District, 2008

Status of Boys - Upper Primary

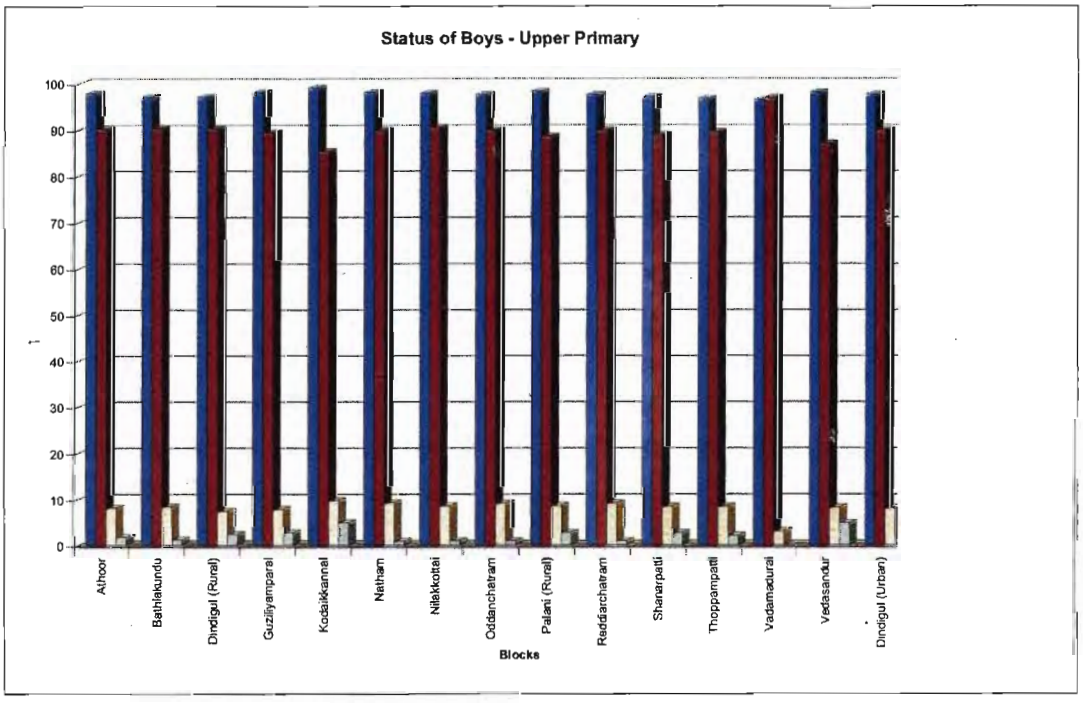


Figure – 4.7

Table No. 4.32

Performance of Girls — Upper Primary

Block Name	GER	NER	CR	RR	DR
Athoor	102.7	98	90.45	7.87	1.68
Bathlakundu	102.96	98	89.89	7.14	2.97
Dindigul (Rural)	102.65	97	92.13	6.34	1.53
Guziliyamparai	102.8	96	91.68	7.02	1.3
Kodaikkannal	102.76	97	90.37	6.41	3.22
Natham	102.55	96	91.43	7.12	1.45
Nilakkottai	102.94	98	90.34	7.42	2.24
Oddanchatram	102.56	98	90.24	7.23	2.53
Palani (Rural)	102.78	97	91.08	7.04	1.88
Reddiarchatram	102.8	96.8	89.48	7.68	2.84
Shanarpatti	102.58	97.5	89.34	8.1	2.56
Thoppampatti	102.96	97.8	89.38	7.41	3.21
Vadamadurai	102.85	98	88.24	7.33	4.43
Vedasandur	102.84	98	92.17	6.13	1.7
Dindigul (Urban)	102.89	97.46	90.35	7.01	2.64
Palani (Urban)	102.8	98	89.06	7.13	3.81

Source: Education Department, Dindigul District, 2008

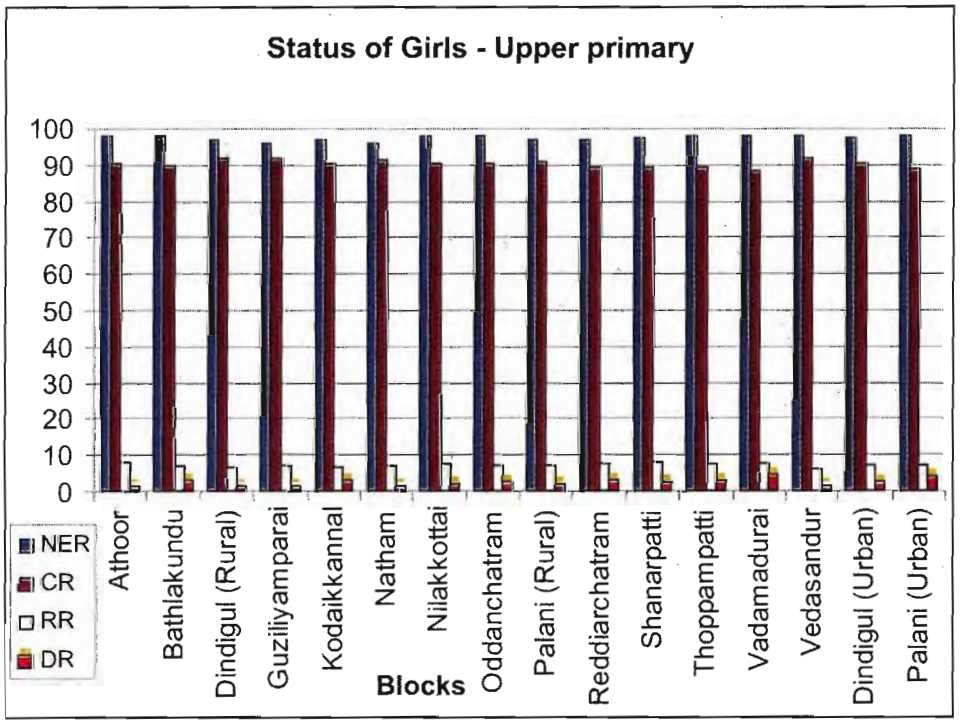


Figure 4.8

Table No. 4.33
Overall Performance – Upper Primary

Block Name	GER	NER	CR	RR	DR
Athoor	102.67	97.9	90.28	8	1.73
Bathlakundu	102.71	97.5	90.12	7.78	2.11
Dindigul (Rural)	102.59	97	91.19	6.88	1.94
Guziliyamparai	102.73	97	90.53	7.43	2.04
Kodaikkannal	102.71	98	87.86	8.07	4.08
Natham	102.53	97	90.65	8.18	1.18
Nilakkottai	102.8	97.9	90.4	7.98	1.63
Oddanchatram	102.67	97.75	90.07	8.18	1.76
Palani (Rural)	102.67	97.6	89.82	7.84	2.35
Reddiarchatram	102.84	97.15	89.67	8.4	1.93
Shanarpatti	102.79	97.25	89.12	8.27	2.62
Thoppampatti	102.88	97.2	89.43	7.92	2.66
Vadamadurai	102.76	97.2	92.54	5.23	2.24
Vedasandur	102.75	98	89.57	7.18	3.26
Dindigul (Urban)	102.7	97.48	90.1	7.57	2.34
Palani (Urban)	102.75	98	89.69	7.65	2.66

Source: Education Department, Dindigul District, 2008

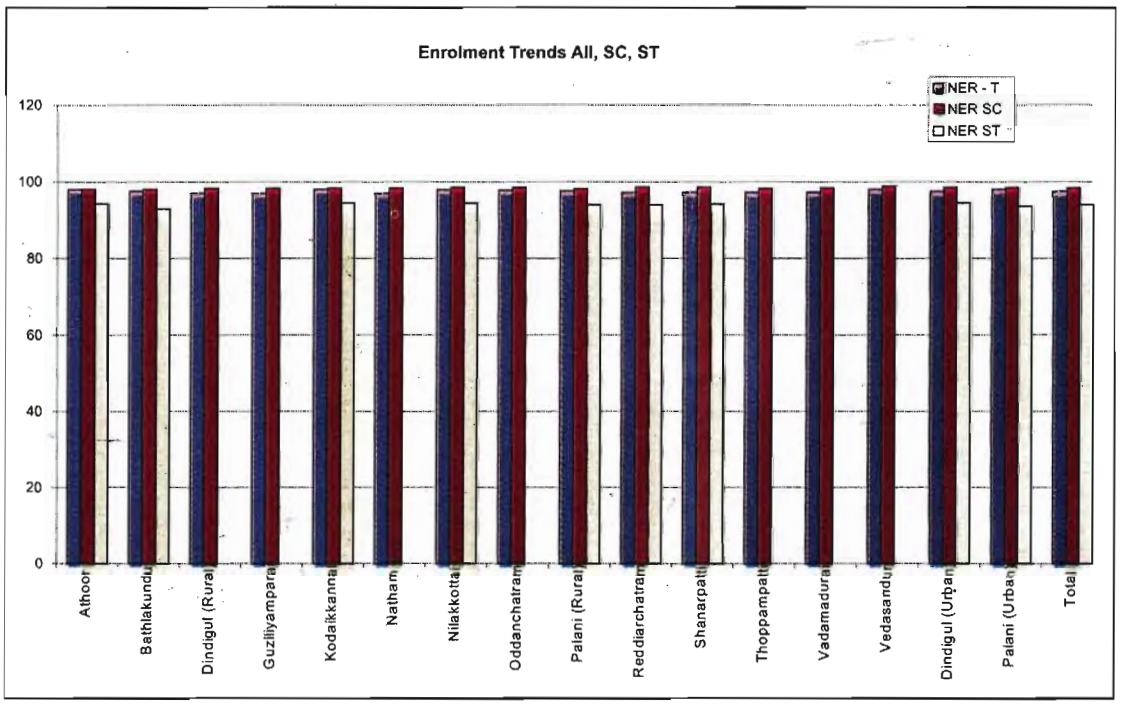


Figure 4.9

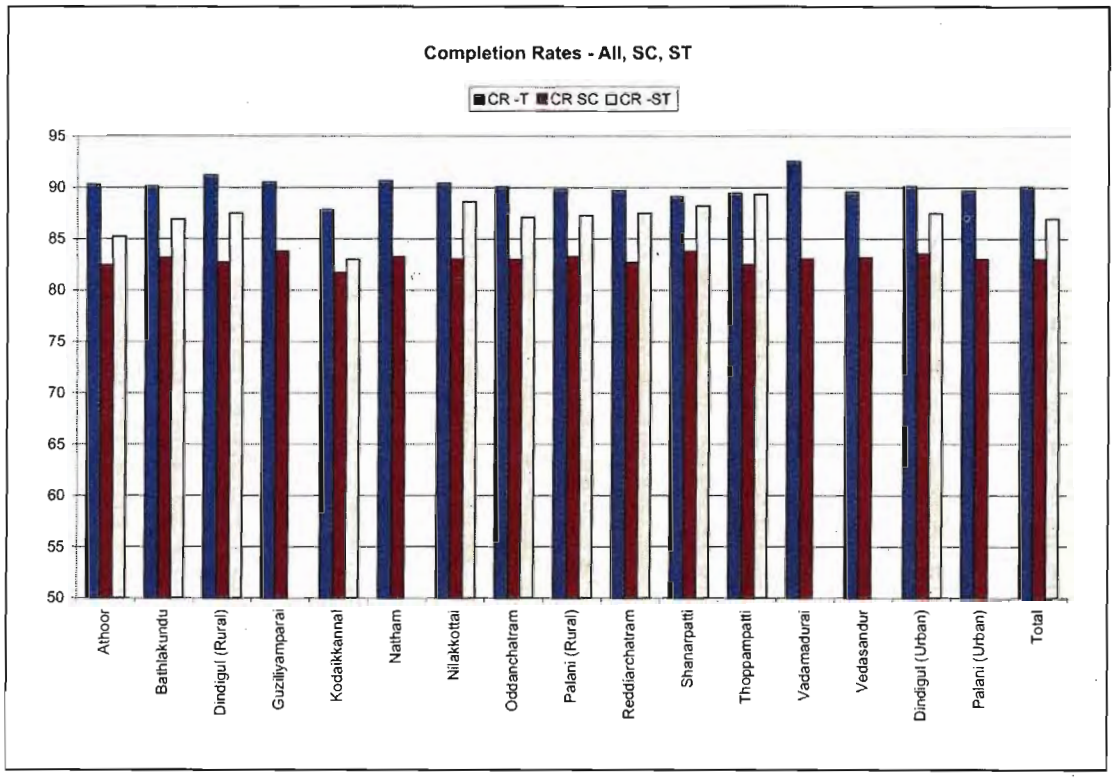


Figure 4.10

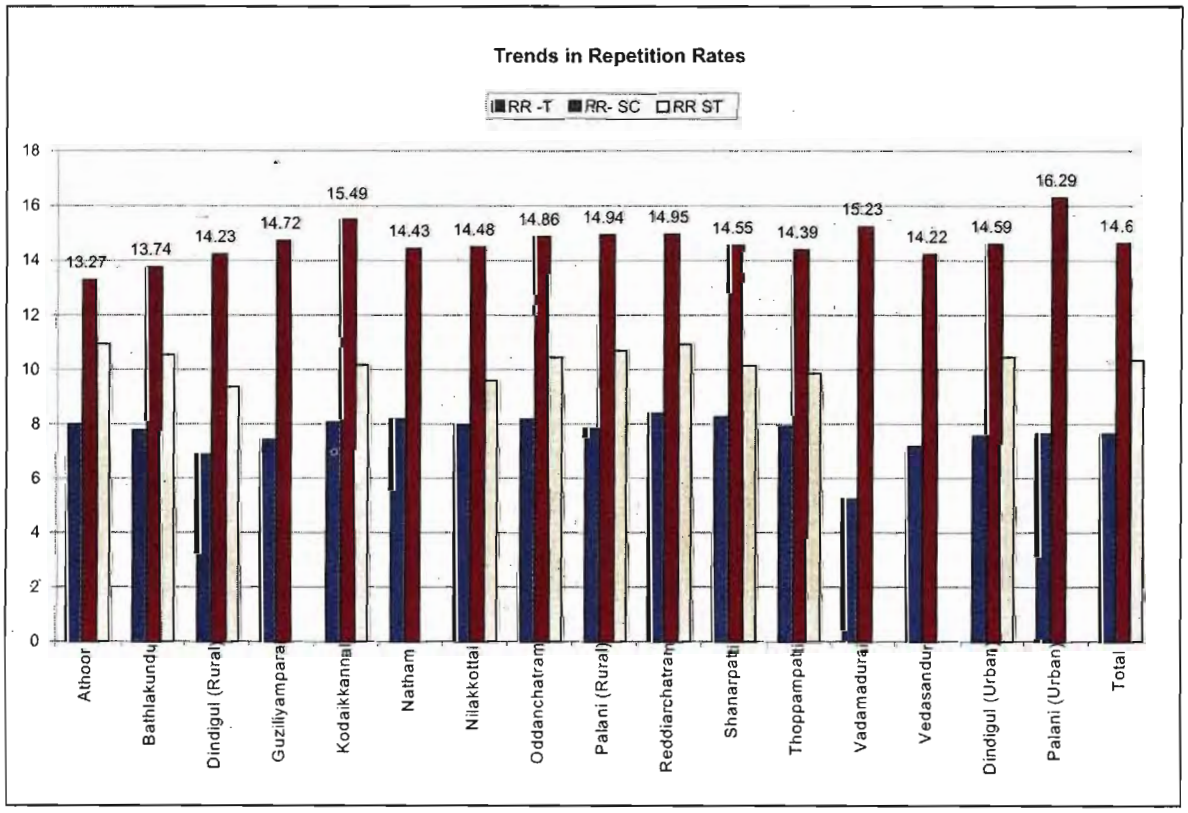


Figure 4.11

The Tables and Figures on the Enrolment and attainment indicators of All, SC and ST children presented above, imply that though there is not much variation among the enrolment rates, much variation could be observed in Completion rates and Repetition Rates. The Completion rates for SC is much less than that of all categories and ST. Similarly, the repetition rates are nearly double as that of all children. Urban areas of Palani, Dindigul and Kodaikanal blocks depict a high repetition rate for SC, followed by almost all blocks in the district. Concrete steps to improve the completion rates and to check repetition rates among SC students would be necessary to improve the educational situation of the district.

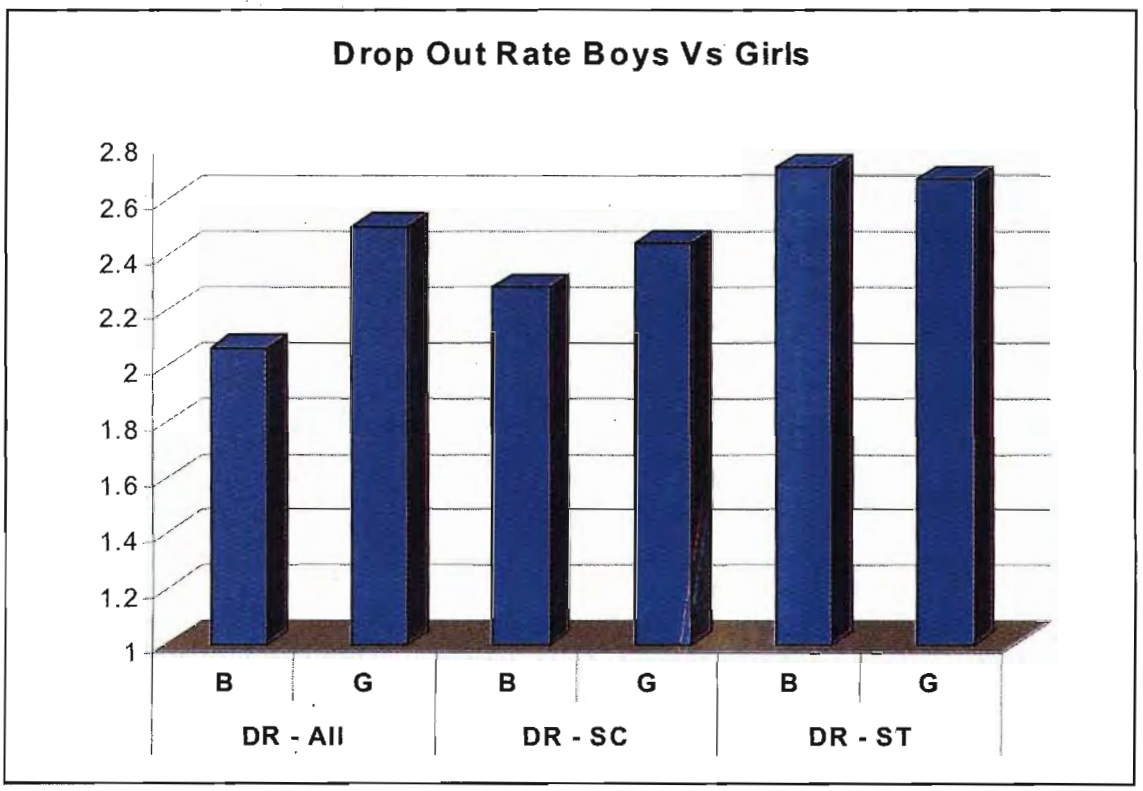


Figure 4.12

The Drop out Rate among girls in Upper Primary Education is higher than drop out rates in Primary education. Their Repetition rates and drop out rates are lower in all 3 categories, All, SC and ST. But while in Upper Primary education, more no. of girls tends to drop out of the educational stream. There is no uniform pattern observed in Girls' Drop out, since Bathlakundu, Nilakottai, Oddanchatram, Reddiarchatram, Thoppampatti, Vadamadurai, Palani Urban and Dindigul Urban have higher drop outs in all category, Guziliyamparai, Kodaikanal, Natham, Palani Rural and Urban areas have higher SC Girls' drop out. Drop out of ST girls is highest in Kodaikanal, Bathlakundu, Dindigul Rural, Palani Rural and Shanarpatti.

Table No. 4.34

Schools by Category

	Primary schools (Std. I-V)					Upper Primary Schools (Std. I-VIII)					Primary & upper Primary Sections in High/ HSS (Std. I-X/I-XII)					Upper primary sections in Middle / High / HSS (Std. VI-VIII)					Upper primary sections in Middle / High / HSS (Std. VI-VIII)				
	Govt.	Aided	Unaided	Others	Total	Govt.	Aided	Unaided	Others	Total	Govt.	Aided	Unaided	Others	Total	Govt.	Aided	Unaided	Others	Total	Govt.	Aided	Unaided	Others	Total
Athoor	59	17	9		85	7	6	1		14			3		3	7	5	1		13	73	28	14		115
Bathlakundu	54	5	3		62	11	2			13	1		5		6	5	5			10	71	12	8		91
Dindigul	80	46	7		133	9	12	2		23	2	1	13		16	7	22	1		30	98	81	23		202
Guziliyamparai	78	3	2		83	13	2			15			1		1	5	2			7	96	7	3		106
Kodaikkannal	46	15	5		66	10	2	2		14			12		12	8	6			14	64	23	19		106
Natham	84	8	13		105	17	4	2		23			3		3	6	1	3		10	107	13	21		141
Nilakkottai	62	23	2		87	9	7			16	3	1	1		5	5	4			9	79	35	3		117
Oddanchatram	86	7	4		97	8	4	3		15			6		6	8	3	2		13	102	14	15		131
Palani	56	17	12		85	11	5			16			14		14	7	3			10	74	25	26		125
Reddiarchatram	72	19	2		93	7	3			10			1		1	9	3	1		13	88	25	4		117
Shanarpatti	67	11	2		80	12	4			16			1		1	5	3	1		9	84	18	4		106
Thoppampatti	96	8	7		111	16	0			16			2		2	5	5	3		13	117	13	12		142
Vadamadurai	68	3	7		78	17	1			18					0	5	1			6	90	5	7		102
Vedasandur	82	13	7		102	9	2	1		12					0	9	2			11	100	17	8		125
Total	990	195	82	0	1267	156	54	11	0	221	6	2	62	0	70	91	65	12	0	168	1243	316	167	0	1726

Source: DISE, 2004

Child Labours

Table No. 4.35

Block-Wise Incidence of Child Labour – 2005

S. No	Blocks	Child Labourers					% of the Total child labours
		Male	% of the male child labour	Female	% of the Female child labour	Total	
1	Athoor	98	14.5	94	13.2	192	13.8
2	Bathlakundu	20	2.9	19	2.7	39	2.8
3	Dindigul•	38	5.6	48	6.7	86	6.2
4	Guziliyamparai	22	3.2	28	3.9	50	3.6
5	Kodaikkannal•	98	14.5	56	7.9	154	11.1
6	Natham	22	3.2	60	8.4	82	5.9
7	Nilakkottai	11	1.6*	16	2.2	27	1.9*
8	Oddanchatram	16	2.4	8	1.1	24	1.7
9	Palani•	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	Reddiarchatram	33	4.9	35	4.9	68	4.9
11	Shanarpatti	32	4.7	54	7.6	86	6.2
12	Thoppampatti	14	2.1	14	1.9	28	2.0
13	Vadamadurai	55	8.1	67	9.4	122	8.8
14	Vedasandur	38	5.6	32	4.5	70	5.0
15.	Dindigul (U)	128	18.9	140	19.6	268	19.3
16.	Palani (U)	41	6.0	36	5.0	77	5.5
17.	Kodaikkannal (U)	12	1.8	6	0.8*	18	1.3*
District Total		**678**	**100.0**	**713**	**99.8**	**1391**	**100.0**

Source: District Statistical Department, Dindigul District, 2006

• - Municipality

_ - Highest

* - Lowest

Total No. of Child Labour

From Table 4.35 it is observed that the total number of child labour incidence is the highest in Dindigul Urban with 19.3 percent followed by Athoor Block with 13.8 percent and the lowest is observed in Kodaikkannal Urban with 1.3 percent.

Male Child Labour

In case of male child labour the highest is seen in Dindigul Urban with 18.9 percent followed by Athoor Block and Kodaikkannal rural showing the same value with 14.5 percent. The lowest is indicated in Nilakkottai Block with 1.6 percent.

Female Child Labour

The highest percentage of female child labour is seen in Dindigul Urban with 19.6 percent followed by Athoor Block with 13.2 percent. The lowest is seen in Kodaikkannal Urban with 0.8 percent. There is no incidence of child labour in Palani Rural.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Table No. 4.36

Universities, Students and Teachers and Courses Offered

2005-2006

Sl. No.	Name of the University	Students			Teachers	Name of the Courses Offered
		Boy	Girls	Total		
1.	Mother Terasa Women University, Kodaikkannal	-	1065	1065	31	UG, PG, M.Phil., Ph.D., Diploma
2.	Gandhigram Rural University, Gandhigram	1009	1120	2129	128	UG, PG, M.Phil., Ph.D., Diploma
Total		1009	2035	3194	159	

Source: Dindigul District Statistical Hand Book, 2006

Table No. 4.37

Colleges for General Education, Students and Teachers

Sl. No.	Name of the Institutions	No. of Institution	Students			Teachers
			Boys	Girls	Total	
1.	Government Colleges	2	-	2450	2450	98
2.	Aided Colleges	3	2200	2099	4299	172
3.	Self Financed Colleges	8	3400	2200	5600	480
Total		**13**	**5600**	**6746**	**12349**	**650**

Source: Dindigul District Statistical Hand Book, 2006

Table No. 4.38

Colleges for Professional Education, Students And Teachers

Sl. No.	Name of the Institutions	No. of Institution	Students			Teachers
			Boys	Girls	Total	
1.	Engineering Colleges	5	5074	1710	6784	435

Source: Dindigul District Statistical Hand Book, 2006

Table No. 4.39

Colleges for Special Education, Students and Teachers

Sl. No.	Name of the Institutions	No. of Institution	Students			Teachers
			Boys	Girls	Total	
1.	Lakshmi College of Education	1	12	88	100	8

Source: Dindigul District Statistical Hand Book, 2006

Table No. 4.40

Comparison of Performance of Students at Higher Secondary Level During 2006

Sl. No.	District	2006	Rank	2007	Rank	% of Comparison with last year
1.	Chennai	85	5	87	9	(+)2
2.	Kancheepuram	75.87	13	81.35	16	(+)5.48
3.	Thiruvallur	74.98	14	80.43	18	(+)5.45
4.	Vellore	57.70	29	71.20	26	(+)13.05
5.	Villupuram	68	19	57.05	30	(-)8.00
6.	Cuddalore	65	24	69	28	(+)4
7.	Thiruvannamalai	57	30	64.49	29	(+)7.49
8.	Dharmapuri	59.79	27	76.21	22	(+)16.42
9.	Krishnagiri	58	28	70	27	(+)12
10.	Salem	70.57	18	81.73	15	(+)11.16
11.	Namakkal	79.72	9	87.40	7	(+)8
12.	Erode	84.16	6	90.84	2	(+)6.07
13.	Coimbatore	85.54	4	88.98	5	(+)3.05
14.	The Nilgiris	66	21	76.02	23	(+)9.62
15.	Trichy	81.50	7	85.51	11	(+)4
16.	Perambalore	61.48	25	73.64	25	(+)12.16
17.	Karur	76.87	12	88.91	6	(+)12
18.	Pudukkottai	61	26	76.35	21	(+)15.35
19.	Tanjore	74.16	16	81.17	17	(+)6.58
20.	Nagapattinam	66	21	76	24	(+)10
21.	Thiruvarur	66.09	20	77	20	(+)11
22.	Madurai	80.70	8	86.62	10	(+)5.92
23.	Theni	79	10	85	12	(+)6
24.	Dindigul	78	11	85	12	(+)7
25.	Virudhunagar	87.87	1	94.37	1	(+)6.5
26.	Sivagangai	73.80	17	87.06	8	(+)13.08
27.	Ramanathapuram	74.30	15	83.37	14	(+)9
28.	Tuticorin	86.60	3	90.53	3	(+)3.09
29.	Tirunelveli	86.70	2	89.60	4	(+)3
30.	Kanniyakumari	65.23	23	77.21	19	(+)11.98

Source: *Dinamalar* (Daily), May 22, 2007

+ = Increase - = Decrease

The comparison of performance of students at Higher Secondary level in 2006 and 2007 shows that Dindigul District ranks 11 and 12 respectively. The pass out percentage has increased from 78 in 2006 to 85 in 2007. However, there is a decline in the district's ranking from 11 to 12 in the respective years. The measures taken by the school administration to improve the pass out percentage is laudauble but when Dindigul District is ranked with others it shows a step backward.

Table No. 4.41

Schools for Teacher Education, Students And Teachers

Sl. No.	Name of the Institutions	No. of Institution	Students			Teachers
			Boys	Girls	Total	
1.	District Institution of Education and Training, Oddanchatram	1	123	182	305	17
2.	Other Teacher Training Institute					
	a) Aided TTI	4	180	480	660	20
	b) Unaided TTI	8	225	725	950	88

Source: Dindigul District Statistical Hand Book, 2006

Table No. 4.42

Institutions for Other Professional Education, Students and Teachers

Sl. No.	Name of the Institutions	No. of Institutions	Students			Teachers
			Boys	Girls	Total	
1.	ITI	18	1260	190	1450	144
2.	Polytechnic	7	2600	290	2890	113
3.	Nursing Institute	5	44	358	402	38

Source: Dindigul District Statistical Hand Book, 2006

Box 4.2

Gandhigram Rural University

Gandhigram Rural University was founded in 1956. With undying faith and deep devotion to Mahatma Gandhi's revolutionary concept of 'Nai Talim" system of education. Gandhigram Rural University has developed academic programmes in Rural Development, Rural Economics and Extension Education, Rural Oriented Sciences, Cooperation, Development Administration, Rural Sociology, English and Communicative studies and Tamil and Indian Languages. Students who emerge from its portals tend to meet the personnel needs of rural development under various government and non-government schemes.

To teaching, the dimensions of research and extension in course of time were added. This three-dimensional approach became a pioneering model which earned appreciation form all over the country. Today, it has become a nationally and internationally recognized policy of the nation and reflects the principles evolved here in developing the rural university concept.

Started in small way, the university has developed into a big educational complex, comprising seven different faculties offering in all about fifty different programmes. It awards Doctoral, Master's and Bachelor's degrees, diplomas and certificates through its seven academic faculties. Rural Development, Rural Social Sciences, Rural Oriented Sciences, English and Foreign Languages, Tamil, Indian Languages & Rural Arts, Rural Health & Sanitation and Agriculture & Animal Husbandry. It has at present about 2300 students and 125 teaching and 250 non-teaching staff. The programmes offered here have attracted students from abroad every year.

The objectives of the university are (i) to provide for instruction and training in such branches of learning s will promote a classless and casteless society; (ii) to provide for research and advancement and dissemination of knowledge and (iii) to function as a centre for extension work leading to integrated rural development.

Courtesy: www.ruraluniv.ac.in

Box 4.3

***Extension Education:** In India most of the Colleges and Universities are involved only in teaching and research and only a very few institutions are involved in teaching, research and extension activities. Extension is an integral part of teaching and research in each an every subject and can reinforce and strengthen the quality of teaching and research. Extension activities reduce the gap between the book views and the field views. Extension activities will bring clarity to the substantive aspects of the subjects.*

***Curriculum based** – Arranging field based learning programmes for students – Focus Sensitivity*

Service based *– Extending service to the community through awareness programmes, capacity building programmes and organizing rural institutions and facilitating development initiatives – Focus Micro Plan*

Knowledge based *– Consultancy to Government, Non Government Organisations, Panchayat Raj Institutions and other rural institutions to help the rural community.*

Students gain much insight into real issues when they carry out the extension activities in the society. If students go with theoretical input alone their mindset will be purely utopian. Through true constant interaction they will became thorough with theory as well as practice.

(Dr. G. Palanithurai, Gandhigram Rural University, Gandhigram)

Box 4.4

Mother Teresa Women's University

Mother Teresa Women's University is situated at Kodaikkannal, a quiet hill station tucked away in the Palani Hills of South India. This University was established in the year 1984 by the enactment of Tamil Nadu Act 15. This University aims to extend its service to women students of all communities. It strives for Academic Excellence and Personality Development and gives equal importance to promotion of employment prospects for young girls.

The vision of the university is Empowerment of women through Education and the mission of the UNiveristy is (i) to Promote Quality Education to Women at all levels(ii) to identify and address the emerging needs; (iii) to contribute to women-in-Development (iv) to carry out research facilitating pro women policies.

Courtesy: http://www.motherteresawomenuniv.ac.in

Table No. 4.43

Computer Training Centres

Sl. No.	Name of the Blocks/ Municipalities	No. of Computer Training Centers
1.	Dindigul	18
2.	Athoor	5
3.	Reddiarchatram	1
4.	Shanarpatti	3
5.	Nilakkottai	14
6.	Bathlakundu	17
7.	Natham	2
8.	Palani	17
9.	Oddanchatram	12
10.	Thoppampatti	-
11.	Vedasandur	5
12.	Vadamadurai	6
13.	Guziliyamparai	-
14.	Kodaikkannal	30
Dindigul District Total		130

Source: Dindigul District Statistical Hand Book, 2006

Teleconference facility through EDUSAT for District Institute of Educational Training

Teleconference facility through EDUSAT was planned to be provided at the District Institute of Educational Training at Oddanchatram. A similar facility will also be provided in all 16 Basic Resource Centres (BRC) functioning under the Sarva Sikshya Abyan Scheme in Dindigul District in a phased manner, according to the Chief Educational Officer.

The first of its kind in the district, resource persons can guide teachers through teleconference on how to undertake action research to find out various problems of students and teachers and between schools and the society. Such facility will also help students get better education through e-learning. Research on students' personal problems would help teachers interact with students easily

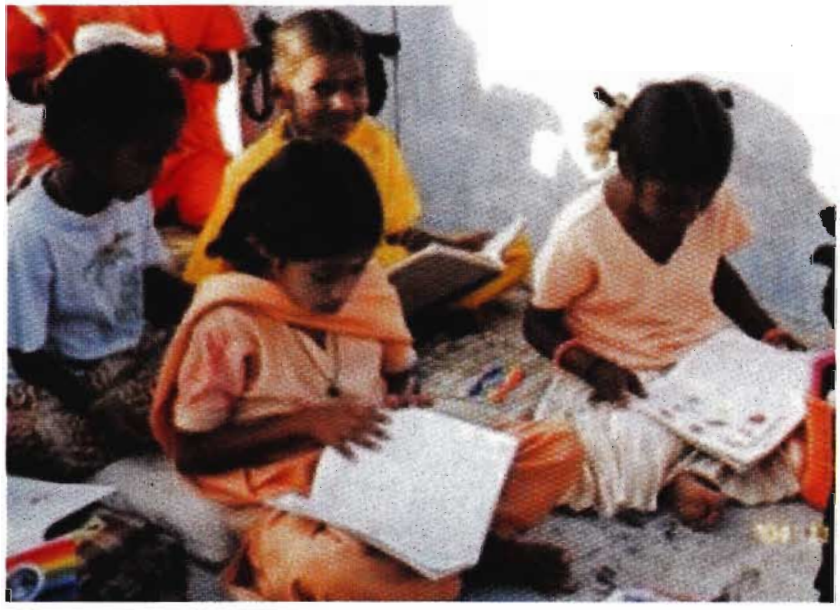
and help them to eliminate such problems without any strain and improve their efficiency.

Provisions have been made through landline and mobile phones to enable teachers in Dindigul to interact with resource persons in Chennai.

Summary

The Education Commission 1996 found that 65% of cases of dropout were due to poverty. Several studies have found that participation in schooling is influenced by three sets of factors. (a) Household economic factors, (b) School environment including the quality of physical and human infrastructure and quality of instruction, (c) Social and cultural factors. Apart from these NFHS study 1996 to 2002 found that the lack of interest and not considering educational necessary, cost of schooling, opportunity cost and school related factors influence the enrollment.

The implementation of the union government's SSA for achieving universalization of elementary education with respect to enrolment and retention to be achieved by 2010 influenced elementary education. The Government of Tamil Nadu's concrete effort for providing quality education at primary and upper primary level and the launching of SSA scheme in all districts marked fruitful effort. In Dindigul District the achievement is remarkable in terms of improvement in GER, NER and CR in the year 2003-2004. But, later on there was fluctuation. Similarly the performance was not uniform in all the blocks. The blockwise attention is needed. The improvement shown by the girls was remarkable over a period of time. Still gender gap persists in few blocks like Kodaikkannal, Athoor, Thoppampatti. This should be taken into account. SC and ST students also achieved on par with general category students with regard to all the indicators of education.



In government schools everything including bus pass, noon meal and uniform are free, but enrolment rates in government schools are thinning down. In private schools parents have to spend between Rs.2000 and Rs.7000 per year. This rate might have gone up in urban private schools. The introduction of SSA scheme has provided the opportunity for infrastructural facilities, formation of Village Education Committee, and formation of Parents Teachers Association to impart quality education to the students. Apart from this the government of Tamil Nadu introduced Activity Based Learning (ABL) method. The ABL method is a method of learning that has a set of learning tools and special kits which foster learning in an interesting way. Now the government should create awareness among parents to enroll their children in government schools.

Dindigul district has two universities. The state university is in Kodaikkannal. The primary and upper education in this block lags behind other blocks. There is a chance for the district administration to tie up with the university in Kodaikkannal to improve the educational status in Kodaikkannal block. In few blocks, dropout rate and child labour is high. There is a chance for reducing these rates by getting into collaboration with Engineering colleges and ITIs for providing non-formal education to youngsters.

CHAPTER – 5

Income and Livelihood

The major goal of development policy in India ever since the country became independent has been poverty reduction. This was to be achieved by high growth by raising the purchasing power of the poor through the endowment of land and other assets by generating employment opportunities, and through public intervention for large scale food for work programme (Radhakrishna and Ray, 2004-2005). The Government of India is implementing many poverty alleviation schemes and it commits about Rs.11,000 crore per annum to centrally sponsored schemes and Rs.28,000 crore to the Public Distribution system together accounting for 2% of the GDP (Social Development Report, 2006). India has the history of reducing poverty significantly.

Table 5.1 shows that poverty has declined from 1993-94 to 1999-2000 in Dindigul District. In 1993-94 the district average was more than the state average. It may be noted that 40% of the urban population in Dindigul live in poverty. The government of Tamil Nadu has planned to eradicate poverty by 2012. But Dindigul District has long way to go to eradicate poverty. The failure in poverty reduction could be attributed to the poor performance of agricultural growth, agricultural production barely kept pace with population growth during the period, the annual growth of per capita output being negative (India social Development Report, 2006). The per capita income of Dindigul District shows an upward trend in spite of fluctuations.

Table No. 5.1
Poverty Estimation

Year	Poverty Indicators	Dindigul	Tamil Nadu
1993-94	BPL Population (in Lakh)	7.05	170.52
	% of BPL Population	46.28	31.66
	Rural	5,83,022 (47.08)	1,12,00,960 (28.93)
	Urban	1,21,825 (42.80)	58,51,174 (38.63)
	Combined	7,04,847 (46.28)	1,70,52,134 (31.66)
2004-05	BPL Population	19,52,636	6,40,96,000
	% of BPL Population	27.9	21.6
-	Rural	248786 (20.5)	6722114 (19.8)
	Urban	296221 (40.0)	7104506 (23.5)
	Combined	545006 (27.9)	13826620 (21.6)

Source: DoES, Tamil Nadu, 2006

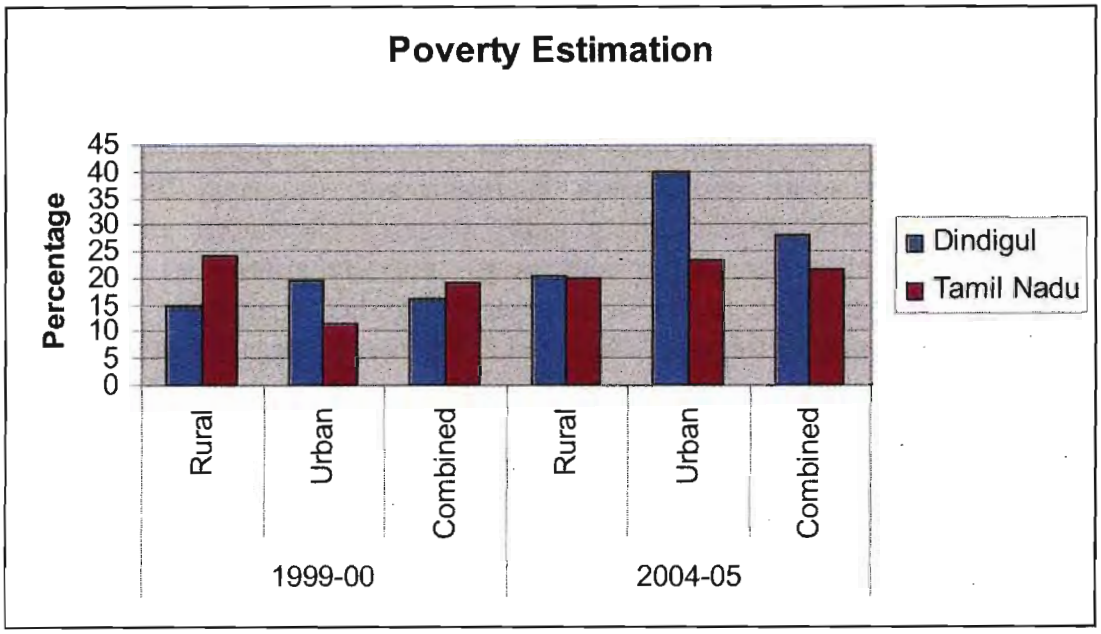


Fig. 5.1

Table No.5.2

Rural Families with Average Monthly Income

S. No.	Block	Total Rural Families	Rural Families with Average Monthly Income (In Rupees)						Total
			Less than 250	250-499	500-1499	1500-2500	More Than 2500	No Response	
1	Oddanchatram	30909	2070 (6.69)	9841 (31.83)	14407 (46.6)	3056 (9.88)	1308 (4.23)	227	30909
2	Thoppampatti	32136	2571 (7.99)	12761 (39.70)	8017 (24.94)	1478 (4.59)	840 (2.61)	6469	32136
3	Vadamadurai	15870	1204 (7.56)	7968 (50.20)	5939 (37.42)	521 (3.28)	190 (1.19)	48	15870
4	Vedasandur	21583	2206 (10.22)	8253 (38.23)	8852 (41.01)	1718 (7.95)	554 (2.56)	0	21583
5	Nattam	30185	3700 (12.25)	11483 (38.94)	13098 (43.39)	1514 (5.01)	353 (1.16)	37	30185
6	Reddiarchatram	30327	552 (1.82)	7252 (23.9)	13634 (44.95)	8042 (26.51)	698 (2.30)	149	30327
7	Shanarpatti	33040	4191 (12.68)	10303 (31.18)	14725 (44.56)	2797 (8.46)	1024 (3.09)	0	33040
8	Kodaikkannal	17441	845 (4.84)	4097 (23.49)	10101 (57.91)	2078 (11.91)	220 (1.26)	100	17441
9	Nilakkottai	25781	3086 (11.97)	6005 (23.29)	14341 (55.62)	1386 (5.37)	898 (3.40)	65	25781
10	Vattalkundu	20538	1036 (5.04)	5244 (256.53)	7001 (34.08)	3668 (7.85)	909 (4.42)	2680	20538
11	Palani	18587	819 (4.40)	3479 (18.71)	11981 (64.5)	1350 (7.26)	737 (3.96)	221	18587

S. No.	Block	Total Rural Families	Rural Families with Average Monthly Income (In Rupees)						Total
			Less than 250	250-499	500-1499	1500-2500	More Than 2500	No Response	
12	Athoor	23311	1864 (7.99)	3758 (16.12)	12850 (53.96)	3988 (17.10)	851 (3.65)	0	23311
13	Dindigul	30954	1185 (3.82)	5585 (18.04)	15633 (50.50)	4679 (16.08)	3814 (12.32)	58	30954
14	Guziliyamparai	17124	2213 (12.92)	6176 (36.06)	5502 (32.13)	1303 (7.60)	482 (2.81)	1448	17124
Total		**347786**	**27542 (7.91)**	**102205 (29.38)**	**156081 (44.87)**	**37578 (10.80)**	**12878 (3.70)**	**11502**	**347786**

Source: Department of Rural Development Website

Table No. 5.2 shows that out of 347786 Rural families, 7.91% of families get less than Rs. 250/- as average monthly income in Dindigul District. 36.06% of families get Rs. 250 /- to 499/- as average monthly income. Only 2.81 % of Rural families in Dindigul District get more than Rs.2500/- as average monthly income. In Shanarpatti Union more number of rural families (12.68%) gets less than Rs. 250/- as monthly income. In Natham and Vadamadurai Block (1.16, 1.19) less number of rural families get more than Rs.2500/- as monthly income. The blocks Thoppampatti and Vadamadurai has more than 40% of the families lives with monthly income of 250-499/- this contributes heavily to their poor performance in health and educational indicators.

Table No. 5.3

Net Domestic Product at Constant (1993-94) Price (Rs in Lakh)

Year	Dindigul	AGR	Tamil Nadu	AGR
1993-94	155045		5164329	
1994-95	174683	12.67	5794317	12.2
1995-96	173682	-0.57	5986121	3.3
1996-97	183174	5.47	6231570	4.1
1997-98	182939	-0.13	6782227	8.8
1998-99	214,561	17.29	7050517	4.0
1999-00	229,555	6.99	7468504	5.9
2000-01	244,347	6.44	8045255	7.7
2001-02	231926	-5.08	7791956	-3.1
2002-03	243746	5.10	8011378	2.8
Average Annual Growth Rate		5.35		5.1
CAGR		4.42		4.30
Exp. Growth		5%		4.39%

Note: CAGR→ Compound Annual Growth rate

Source: DoES, Tamil Nadu

Table No. 5.4

Sectoral Contribution

Year	Primary		Secondary		Tertiary	
	Dindigul	Tamil Nadu	Dindigul	Tamil Nadu	Dindigul	Tamil Nadu
1993-94	33.88	26.23	24.15	32.16	41.96	41.60
1994-95	32.22	26.10	25.80	32.73	41.98	41.17
1995-96	27.08	21.90	26.69	34.85	46.23	43.25
1996-97	26.70	20.81	25.83	33.24	47.47	45.94
1997-98	19.65	20.82	26.34	31.14	54.01	48.04
1998-99	29.41	21.89	21.71	29.19	48.88	48.91
1999-2000	28.06	19.52	22.36	30.69	49.57	49.78
2000-01	25.67	18.96	22.86	30.83	51.47	50.21
2001-02	23.74	19.57	20.92	27.68	55.34	52.75
2002-03	20.52	14.75	22.35	29.81	57.13	55.44

Source: DoES, Tamil Nadu

Sectoral Share

The average annual growth rate of Net District Product (NDP) of Dindigul district 5.35% whereas average Tamil Nadu it is 5.1%. This shows that Dindigul District annual growth rate is slightly higher than the state average. It necessitates looking at the sectoral share of the District income in order to understand the income distribution. With regard to sectoral share the primary sector contribution towards district income district declined from 32.22% in the year 1994-95 to 20.52% in the year 2002-03. This shows that the share of agriculture which is the major contributor to the primary sector has in fact declined. During the same period, the state too witnessed the same trend, with the contribution of primary sector in the year 1994-95 is 26.10% declining to 14.75 in the year 2002-03. Even though primary sector contribution shows declining trend in the Dindigul district, the share to district income is higher than the sectors' share to the state average income. The share of the secondary sector in the Dindigul district is 25.80% in the year 1994-95 it also declined in the year 2002-03 to 22.35%. However the share of the tertiary sector improved from 41.98% in the year 1994-95 to 57.13% in the year 2002-03.

The secondary sector includes mining, manufacturing, construction, electricity, gas and water supply which is labour intensive has declined in this district. But the tertiary sector which includes trade, transport, storage, communication, banking, insurance, real estate and community and personal service shows contributed significantly to the growth of the district income.

The share of primary sector has declined over the years without much reduction in the rural population (65%) which predominantly depends on agriculture. Nearly 61 per cent of the total workers are cultivators and agricultural labourers. Linking with the sectoral share of NDP, the large scale underemployment in agriculture could be seen.

The nature of transformation of the district economy directly from agriculture to services while bypassing industrial sector clearly indicates neglect of industrial development in the district. This largely explains the high urban poverty in the district. Lock and leather industries which is predominant in Dindigul needs to be revived to contribute significantly to the district economy.

Table No.5.5 Per Capita Income (in Rs)

Year	Dindigul	Tamil Nadu	Growth rate	
			Dindigul	Tamil Nadu
1993-94	8530	8955		
1994-95	9500	9932	10.8%	!0.4%
1995-96	9341	10147	-1.7%	2.1%
1996-97	9747	10451	4.3%	3.0%
1997-98	9636	11260	-1.1%	7.4%
1998-99	11193	11592	15.0%	2.9%
1999-2000	11865	12167	5.8%	4.8%
2000-01	12522	12994	5.4%	6.6%
2001-02	11789	12484	-6.0%	-4.0%
2002-03	12594	12696	6.6%	1.7%
			4.3%	3.9%

Source: DoES, Tamil Nadu, 2006

The districts' per capita income is slightly lower than the State's Per capita income. The district has shown improvement despite fluctuations in the intermittent years. Strategies to make agriculture a viable livelihood option and conducive environment for the development of industries sector would help to place the district in the growth trajectory.

Monthly Per Capita Expenditure (MPCE)

It is found that Rural Urban inequality in Dindigul District towards monthly per capita expenditure. Urban people have higher the per capita income and hence higher their monthly expenditure. This indicates that poverty persist more in rural areas than in urban areas. In the 50th round of National Sample Survey the proportion of population in the 0 – 300 Monthly Per capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE) category was found to be more but in the 55th round of NSS, this has improved. In the rural areas the proportion of population in 0-300 MPCE category reduced from 79.74 (50th round of NSS) to 14.95 (55th round of NSS). This falls in line with the State's trend.

In urban areas 300-500 category of MPCE is reduced from 44.12 (50th round NSS) to 6.13 (55th round of NSS). In the 55th round of NSS on MPCE in the proportion of population in the 500-800 MPCE class in both urban (33.81) and rural (39.83) has increased The following table shows that the proportion of population according the MPCE categories during the two survey periods, namely 1993-94 (50th round) and 1999-2000 (55th round) .

Table No. 5.6

Monthly Per capita Expenditure

MPCE Class	50th Round NSS (1993-94)			55 th Round of NSS (1999-2000)			50th Round NSS (1993-94)			55 th Round of NSS (1999-2000)		
	Dindigul						Tamil Nadu					
	Rural	Urban	Combined	Rural	Urban	Combined	Rural	Urban	Combined	Rural	Urban	Combined
0-300	987636 (79.74)	125600 (44.12)	1113236 (73.08)	214605 (14.95)	23199 (6.13)	237804 (13.09)	26444509 (70.82)	5972570 (39.37)	32418079 (61.76)	6211443 (16.13)	707573 (3.43)	6919016 (11.7)
300-500	185634 (14.98)	96667 (33.95)	282301 (18.53)	488106 (34.01)	87285 (23.06)	575391 (31.68)	8444460 (22.61)	5388861 (35.53)	13833321 (26.35)	16889800 (43.86)	4649493 (22.58)	21539293 (36.45)
500-800	62956 (5.08)	37812 (13.28)	100768 (6.61)	571558 (39.83)	127952 (33.81)	699510 (38.51)	1802447 (4.82)	2614490 (17.23)	4396940 (8.37)	11366356 (29.52)	7156136 (34.76)	18522492 (31.34)
800-1000	933 (0.07)	9139 (3.21)	10072 (0.66)	95098 (6.62)	57760 (15.26)	152858 (8.41)	315576 (0.84)	528385 (3.48)	843961 (1.6)	2065557 (5.36)	2785897 (13.53)	4851454 (8.21)
1000-2000	1325 (0.1)	12714 (4.46)	14041 (0.92)	57283 (3.99)	72680 (19.2)	132703 (7.3)	240860 (0.64)	598446 (3.94)	839306 (1.59)	1737189 (4.51)	4543787 (22.07)	6280976 (10.63)
2000+	0 (0)	2737 (0.96)	2737 (0.17)	8334 (0.58)	9519 (2.51)	17853 (0.98)	91109 (0.24)	64091 (0.42)	155200 (0.29)	232290 (0.6)	741008 (3.59)	973298 (1.64)
All classes	1238484	284671	1523155	1434984	381135	1816119	37338963	15146843	52486807	38502635	20583894	59086529

Source: NSS data from DoES, Tamil Nadu

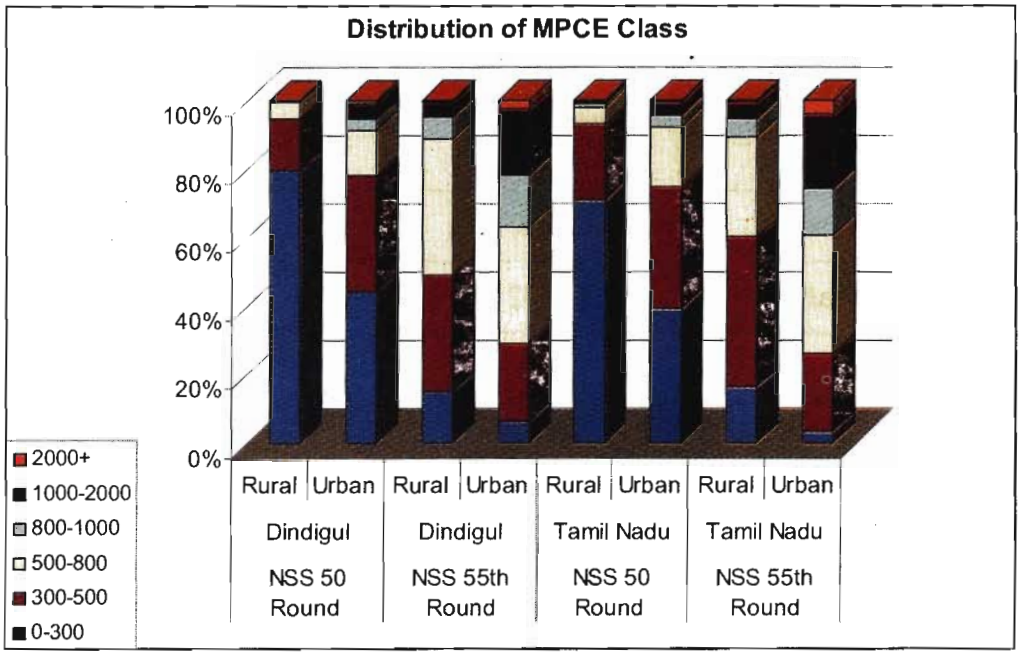


Fig. 5.2

Inequalities

According to the 50th round of NSS survey conducted in 1993-94 (values recomputed using the slab of Rs.50/-), the inequality index for the total population of Dindigul was estimated as 30.25 percent as against 30.03 percent for the state. Among the rural population the inequality index was 28.8 as against the state average of 26.6. Among the urban population the figure was 34.15 for the district and 31.17 for the state.

Table No. 5.7

Blockwise BPL Families

S. No	Blocks	Rural	Urban	Total
1	Athoor	745		745
2	Bathlakundu	4463		4463
3	Dindigul	9605	16215	25820
4	Guziliyamparai	6955		6955

S. No.	Blocks	Rural	Urban	Total
5	Kodaikkannal	6304	3710	10014
6	Natham	5936		5936
7	Nilakkottai	7845		7845
8	Oddanchatram	10132		10132
9	Palani	469	5147	5616
10	Reddiarchatram	8969		8969
11	Shanarpatti	8575		8575
12	Thoppampatti	13324		13324
13	Vadamadurai	3096		3096
14	Vedasandur	3453		3453
Dindigul District Total		**89871**	**25072**	**114943**

Source: District Statistical Hand Book, 2006, Dindigul District

Workers Distribution

The contribution of agriculture sector in the rural work force in the total main work force accounted for 31.18 percent in the total marginal workers category. Agricultural labourers are only 9.39 in Dindigul District. Nearly 60% of the workers depending on agriculture produce 20% of the District income. Suitable measures have to be taken to revive the agriculture and make it profitable livelihood option for the rural poor. In Tamil Nadu the total main workers category, agricultural labourers are 31.0 percent. In the total main workers, agricultural labour force is more than other category in Dindigul District, wherein Tamil Nadu other workers category is a little more than the agricultural labourers.

Table No. 5.8

No. of Workers

Sl. No.	Category		District		Tamil Nadu	
1.	Total main workers	Cultivators	1,83,218	18.82	51,16,039	18.4
		Agricultural Labours	3,13,195	32.18	86,37,630	31.0
		Household Industries	25,180	2.59	14,99,761	5.4
		Other Workers	3,20,300	32.91	1,26,24,852	45.3
		Total Main Workers	8,41,893	86.50	2,37,57,783	85.22
2.	Total Marginal Workers	Cultivators	10,132	1.03	377220	1.35
		Agricultural Labours	91,395	9.39	2574844	9.24
		Household Industry	4,800	0.49	238702	0.86
		Other Workers	25,112	2.59	929733	3.33
		Total Marginal Workers	1,31,439	13.50	41,20,499	14.78
		Total Workers	9,73,332	50.61	2,78,78,282	44.78
3.	Non Workers		9,49,682	-	34,5,27,397	
4.	Total Population		19,23,014	-	6,24,05,679	

Source: Census of India 2001

Table No. 5.9

Main Workers and Main Cultivators

S. No.	Block	Main workers			Total main cultivators		
		Persons	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female
1.	Dindigul	1,21,863	92,294	29,569	6,736	4,432	2,304
2.	Athoor	59,707	38,246	21,461	7,054	4,727	2,327
3.	Reddiarchatram	61,327	33,807	27,520	16,970	9,503	7,467
4.	Shanarpatti	46,485	27,380	19,105	10,350	6,928	3,422
5.	Natham	55,819	35,350	20,469	15,808	10,612	5,196
6.	Nilakkottai	57,342	36,158	21,184	14,380	9,021	5,359
7.	Bathlakundu	38,023	25,601	12,422	8,215	5,205	3,010
8.	Palani	86,018	57,281	28,737	10,081	6,491	3,590
9.	Oddanchatram	65,078	38,447	26,631	20,962	12,040	8,922
10.	Thoppampatti	61,024	34,310	26,714	23,751	13,421	10,330
11.	Vedasandur	51,847	30,468	21,379	13,329	7,804	5,525
12.	Vadamadurai	47,784	27,394	20,390	11,646	6,779	4,867
13.	Guziliyamparai	42,184	24,657	17,527	13,654	8,532	5,122
14.	Kodaikkannal	47,392	29,333	18,059	10,282	6,413	3,869
	Total	**8,41,893**	**5,30,726**	**3,11,167**	**1,83,218**	**1,11,908**	**71,310**

Source: District Statistical Handbook, 2006

Table No. 5.10
Main Agricultural labourers and Workers in Household Industries

S. No.	Block	Main Agricultural Labourers			Main workers in Household Industries		
		Persons	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female
1.	Dindigul	12,321	6,323	5,998	7,544	4,339	3,205
2.	Athoor	26,948	14,347	12,601	2,373	1,263	1,110
3.	Reddiarchatram	31,129	14,736	16,393	1,394	612	782
4.	Shanarpatti	20,690	10,282	10,408	1,277	579	698
5.	Natham	26,846	14,450	12,396	1,075	396	679
6.	Nilakkottai	24,451	12,998	11,453	1,843	979	864
7.	Bathlakundu	14,043	7,889	6,154	648	380	268
8.	Palani	31,882	16,466	15,416	2,294	1273	1021
9.	Oddanchatram	24,855	11,084	13,771	1,398	660	738
10.	Thoppampatti	22,843	10,463	12,380	1,742	953	789
11.	Vedasandur	19,894	9,046	10,848	1,292	533	759
12.	Vadamadurai	22,342	10,363	11,979	911	583	328
13.	Guziliyamparai	17,709	7,973	9,736	757	387	370
14.	Kodaikkannal	17,242	8,966	8,276	632	294	338
	Total	**3,13,195**	**1,55,386**	**1,57,809**	**25,180**	**13,231**	**11,949**

Source: District Statistical Handbook, 2006

Table No. 5.11
Main Other Workers and Marginal Workers

S. No.	Name of the Block	Main Other Workers			Total Marginal Workers		
		Persons	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female
1.	Dindigul	95,262	77,200	18,062	14,066	6,879	7,187
1	Athoor	23,332	17,909	5,423	9,687	3,843	5,844
3.	Reddiarchatram	11,834	8,956	2,878	5,937	2,118	3,819
4.	Shanarpatti	14,168	9,591	4,577	12,092	5,416	6,676
5.	Natham	12,090	9,892	2,198	13,873	4,820	9,053
6.	Nilakkottai	16,668	13,160	3,508	15,440	7,241	8,199
7.	Bathlakundu	15,117	12,127	2,990	9,583	4,652	4,931
8.	Palani	41,761	33,051	8,710	6,871	3,114	3,757
9.	Oddanchatram	17,863	14,663	3,200	7,737	2,782	4,955
10.	Thoppampatti	12,688	9,473	3,215	5,991	2,322	3,669
11.	Vedasandur	17,332	13,085	4,247	7,070	2,677	4,393
12.	Vadamadurai	12,885	9,669	3,216	7,062	2,813	4,249
13.	Guziliyamparai	10,064	7,765	2,299	11,623	3,961	7,662
14.	Kodaikkannal	19,236	13,660	5,576	4,407	1,782	2,625
	Total	**3,20,300**	**2,50,201**	**70,099**	**1,31,439**	**54,420**	**77,019**

Source: District Statistical Handbook, 2006

Table No. 5.12
Marginal Cultivators and Marginal Agricultural Labourers

S. No.	Name of the Block	Total Marginal Cultivators			Total Marginal Agricultural Labourers		
		Persons	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female
1.	Dindigul	519	186	333	6,409	2,588	3,821
2.	Athoor	496	159	337	6,797	2,472	4,325
3.	Reddiarchatram	470	189	281	4,458	1,395	3,063
4.	Shanarpatti	973	514	459	9,316	3,979	5,337
5.	Natham	939	372	567	11,360	3,730	7,630
6.	Nilakkottai	1,160	541	619	11,127	5,081	6,046
7.	Bathlakundu	546	272	274	7,412	3,356	4,056
8.	Palani	430	142	288	4,089	1,658	2,431
9.	Oddanchatram	840	338	502	5,600	1,780	3,820
10.	Thoppampatti	825	301	524	4,031	1,398	2,633
11.	Vedasandur	544	207	337	5,263	1,735	3,528
12.	Vadamadurai	493	256	237	5,350	1,813	3,537
13.	Guziliyamparai	1,318	413	905	8,174	2,318	5,856
14.	Kodaikkannal	579	136	443	2,009	732	1,277
	Total	**10,132**	**4,026**	**6,106**	**91,395**	**34,035**	**57,360**

Source: District Statistical Handbook, 2006

Table No. 5.13
Other Marginal Workers

S. No.	Name of the Block	Total Marginal Workers in Household Industries			Total Marginal Other Workers		
		Persons	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female
1.	Dindigul	546	164	382	6,592	3,941	2,651
2.	Athoor	328	55	273	2,066	1,157	909
3.	Reddiarchatram	179	38	141	830	496	334
4.	Shanarpatti	397	114	283	1,406	809	597
5.	Natham	348	52	296	1,226	666	560
6.	Nilakkottai	985	242	743	2,168	1377	791
7.	Bathlakundu	269	81	188	1,356	943	413
8.	Palani	402	79	323	1,950	1,235	715
9.	Oddanchatram	265	65	200	1,032	599	433
10.	Thoppampatti	237	63	174	898	560	338
11.	Vedasandur	198	63	135	1,065	672	393
12.	Vadamadurai	118	33	85	1,101	711	390
13.	Guziliyamparai	306	66	240	1,825	1,164	661
14.	Kodaikkannal	222	60	162	1,597	854	743
	Total	**4,800**	**1,175**	**3,625**	**25,112**	**15,184**	**9,928**

Source: District Statistical Handbook, 2006

Livelihood

Livelihood is the most determining need for a human being. It means how people with in communities live, rather than approaching development planning from a sectoral perspective such as agriculture, forestry or fisheries. To attain a decent level of human development people need sustainable livelihoods which ensures them and their dependents to be able to have access to basic resources and basic needs to ensure a life of dignity, decent living, protection against diseases, hunger, squalor, poverty, deprivation and denial of basic rights. Therefore livelihoods ensure lack of hunger, ability to access basic health, give children basic education, ability to afford a decent shelter, clothes and resources for daily necessities and other social expenditure. Thus, the most crucial need for a sustainable livelihood for an individual or household is employment, over a period of time that ensures a level of remuneration satisfying basic needs and quality of life.

This chapter mainly focuses on communities depending on various livelihood activities for their day to day life.

Agriculture

Agriculture is one of the important occupations in the district. The major crops grown in the district are paddy, jowar, bajra, maize, pulses, groundnut, cotton, sugarcane, tobacco, coconut, coffee, pepper, lemon, drumstick, mango, flowers and vegetables. Some special programmes are implemented in the district like Cereals Development Programme, Special Food Grains Production Programme, Oil Seeds Production Programme, National Pulses Development Programme, Integrated Cotton Development Programme, Pulses Seed Cotton Inter Crop Programme, Accelerated Maize Development Programme, etc. The district has a sufficient good network of dealers in fertilizers and pesticides. Many Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS) have taken up fertilizer distribution business. About 85 percent of the land holdings belong to small and marginal farmers, who avail of crop loan for raising/maintaining crops.

Area Irrigated by Crops

Table 5.14

Area Irrigated By Crops 2005-2006

Sl. No.	Crop	Area
1.	Paddy	23735
2.	Jowar	2439
3.	Bajra	7832
4.	Ragi	8
5.	Redgram (dhall)	5
6.	Green gram	34
7.	Blackgram	77
8.	Chilly	978
9.	Onion	3365
10.	Potato	512
11.	Tapioca	238
12.	Sugarcane	7014

Sl. No.	Crop	Area
13.	Cotton	1514
14.	Groundnut	12478
15.	Gingely	148
16.	Tomato	2489
17.	Banana	1708
18.	Mango	2419
19.	Grapes	185
20.	Guava	893
21.	Sunflower	1449

Source: District Statistical Handbook, 2006

Land Use Pattern

Table – 5.15

Land Use Pattern of Dindigul District 2003-2005

S. No	Classification	2004 - 2005	2005-2006	% to G.Area	Difference
1	Forest	138923	138923	22.17	0
2	Barren and Uncultivable uses	36210	36210	5.78	0
3	Land put to Non-Agricultural uses	65418	65184	10.44	319
4	Cultivable Waste	8931	8931	1.43	96
5	Permanent Pastures/Grazing Lands	6946	6946	1.11	0
6	Miscellaneous (Trees, Crops, Groves)	6672	7414	1.06	133
7	Current Fallows	11497	15425	1.83	-4220
8	Other Fallows	96392	94126	15.38	-14233
9	Net Area Sown	255945	253505	40.84	18175
10	Geographical area	626664	626664	100.00	0
11	Total Gross Cropped Area	264367	261758	42.19	22095
12	Area sown more than once	8422	8253	1.34	3920
13	Cropping Intensity	103.3	96.84		

Source: Agriculture Department, Dindigul District, 2006

The land use pattern of Dindigul District in Table 5.1 shows that it has a total geographical area of 626664 hectares, of which 22.17 percent area is under forest, which is quite significant for maintaining the ecological balance of any location or any area of significant size. The total cropped area in the year 2004-05 was 264367 accounting for 42.19 percent. The net area sown was 255945 accounting for 40.84 percent. The cropping intensity has slightly improved from 101.9 to 103.3 percent from 2004 to 2005.

Land Holdings by Area Irrigation

The land holding by area irrigation is presented in Table 5.15.

Table – 5.16

Type of Irrigation 2005-2006

Sl. No	Name of the Block	Area Covered Under Canal	% to the total	Area Covered Under Tank	% to the total	Area Covered Under Well	% to the total	Area Supplemented By Well Under Tank Irrigation	% to the total
1.	Athoor	2270	32.9	1946	11.9	4516	8.4	710	11.8
2.	Bathlakundu	553	8.0	699	4.3	2700	5.0	298	5.0
3.	Dindigul	0	0	1476	9.0	4186	7.8	790	13.1
4.	Guziliyamparai	0	0	472	2.9	4143	7.7	30	0.5
5.	Kodaikkannal	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
6.	Natham	222	3.2*	1299	8.0	2570	4.8	2575	42.9
7.	Nilakkottai	907	13.2	465	2.8*	4051	7.5	150	2.5
8.	Oddanchatram	719	10.4	1052	6.4	11150	20.7	0	0.0
9.	Palani	1461	21.2	3768	23.1	2912	5.4	18	0.3*
10.	Reddiarchatram	0	0	698	4.3	3474	6.4	423	7.0
11.	Shanarpatti	0	0	1220	7.5	2300	4.3*	600	10.0
12.	Thoppampatti	763	11.1	1549	9.5	5415	10.0	0	0.0
13.	Vadamadurai	0	0	1202	7.4	3445	6.4	64	1.1
14.	Vedasandur	0	0	480	2.9	3021	5.6	351	5.8
Total		**6895**	**100**	**16326**	**100**	**53883**	**100**	**6009**	**100**

Source: Agriculture Department, Dindigul District, 2007

Area covered under Canal

The highest coverage under canal is seen in Athoor Block with 32.9 percent followed by Palani Block with 21.2 percent. The lowest area under canal was observed in Natham block with 3.2 percent. Blocks such as Dindigul, Reddiarchatram, Shanarpatti, Kodaikkannal, Vedasandur, Vadamadurai and Guziliyamparai are not covered under canal irrigation.

Area covered under Tank

Palani Block has the highest coverage under tank with 23.1 followed by Athoor Block with 11.9 percent. The lowest percentage of coverage under tank is shown in Nilakkottai Block with 2.8 percent.

Area covered under Well

Oddanchatram Block has the highest area covered under well with 20.7 percent followed by Thoppampatti with 10.0 percent. The lowest percentage of area covered under well is seen in Shanarpatti Block with 4.3 percent.

Area supplemented by well under tank irrigation

The highest area supplemented by well under tank irrigation is Natham block with 42.9 percent followed by Dindigul Municipality with 13.1 percent. The lowest area supplemented by well under tank irrigation is observed in Palani Municipality with 0.3 percent.

Box **5.1**
Water Conservation

Sri.Sekar, of Sevugampatty village in Bathlakundu Block identified a place where all the water from his farm drained at a common point. A farm pond was dug near his well. The rain water collected from his farm filled the pond immediately. The water so collected was stored for a period of more than 4 months. The well in his farm got recharged within a very short period compared to previous years. Further, the quality of water has also improved. After seeing the result, farmers of the adjoining farms have come forward to take up the construction of the farm ponds in their farms too.

Land Holdings by Nature

Table – 5.17

Nature of Soil 2005- 06

Sl. No	Name of the Block	Sandy Loam /Ha.	% to the total	Clay Loam Ha.	% to the total	Black Cotton / Ha.	% to the total	Saline and Alkaline Soil / Ha.	% to the total
1.	Athoor	12608	8.2	0	0.0	2165	4.8	240	11.0
2.	Bathlakundu	9061	5.9	642	6.5	0	0.0	0	0.0
3.	Dindigul	6002	3.9*	0	0.0	3560	7.8	140	6.4
4.	Guziliyamparai	9536	6.2	854	8.7	0	0.0	25	1.1*
5.	Natham	24713	16.1	1860	18.9	0	0.0	0	0.0
6.	Nilakkottai	11243	7.3	1033	10.5	0	0.0	0	0.0
7.	Oddanchatram	12455	8.1	2110	21.4	7600	16.7	140	6.4
8.	Palani	9850	6.4	1050	10.6	10200	22.4	300	13.8
9.	Reddiarchatram	14508	9.4	0	0.0	7070	15.6	325	14.9
10.	Shanarpatti	6225	4.0	0	0.0	855	1.9*	489	22.5
11.	Thoppampatti	17438	11.3	500	5.1*	14000	30.8	480	22.1
12.	Vadamadurai	9349	6.1	1022	10.4	0	0.0	12	0.6
13.	Vedasandur	10812	7.0	789	8.0	0	0.0	23	1.1*
District Total		153800	100	9860	100	45450	100	2174	100

Source: Agriculture Department, Dindigul District, *2007*

Sandy Loam Land Holdings in Hectares

The largest area covered under sandy loam is observed in Natham Block with 16.1 percent followed by 11.3 percent in Thoppampatti Block. The lowest area covered by sandy loam in hectares is seen in Dindigul Municipality with 3.9 percent.

Clay Loam Land Holding in Hectares

The largest area of land holding in clay loam is observed in Oddanchatram Block with 21.4 percent followed by 18.9 percent in Natham Block. The lowest area of land holding in clay loam is found in Thoppampatti Block with 5.1 percent.

Black Cotton Land Holdings in Hectares

The largest area of black cotton land holdings in hectares is indicated in Thoppampatti Block with 30.8 percent followed by 22.4 percent in Palani Municipality. The lowest black cotton land holdings in hectares is seen in Shanarpatti Block with 1.9 percent.

Saline and Alkaline Land Holdings in Hectares

The largest area of saline and alkaline land holdings in hectares is seen in Shanarpatti Block with 22.5 percent followed by 22.1 percent in Thoppampatti Block. The lowest area of saline and alkaline land holdings is seen in Vedasandur and Guziliyamparai Blocks showing the same value with 1.1 percent.

Farmers using different types of Pump Sets

Table – 5.18
Usage of Pump Sets 2005-2006

S. No	Name of the Block	Oil Engine	% to Total Oil Engine Pump Sets	Electric Motor	% to Total Elected Motor Pump Sets
1.	Athoor	259	7.9	3219	8.2
2.	Bathlakundu	208	6.4	2040	5.2
3.	Dindigul	118	3.6	2685	6.8
4.	Guziliyamparai	320	9.8	3352	8.5
5.	Natham	252	7.7	2350	6.0
6.	Nilakkottai	247	7.6	2785	7.1
7.	Oddanchatram	627	19.2	6518	16.5
8.	Palani	227	7.0	5275	13.4
9.	Reddiarchatram	148	4.5	3469	8.8
10.	Shanarpatti	335	10.3	3229	8.2
11.	Thoppampatti	256	7.8	2534	6.4
12.	Vadamadurai	165	5.1	1329	3.4
13.	Vedasandur	100	3.1*	639	1.6*
	District Total	3262	100.0	39424	100.0

Source: Agriculture Department, Dindigul District, 2007

a. Oil Engine Pumps

It is observed from Table 5.16 that Oddanchatram Block is using the highest number of oil engine pump sets with 19.2 percent followed by 10.3 percent in Shanarpatti Block. The lowest usage of oil engine pumps is seen in Vedasandur Block with 3.1 percent.

b. Electric Motor Pumps

The highest number of electric motor pumps is used in Oddanchatram Block with 16.5 percent followed by 13.4 percent in Palani Municipality. The lowest use of electric motor pumps is seen in Vedasandur Block with 1.6 percent.

Agriculture wages for Agricultural Operations

Table – 5.19

Block Wise Wages for Agriculture Operations 2005-2006

S. No	Name of the Block	Ploughing M/Rs.	Weeding		Irrigation	PP Spraying	Fert. APM.		Harvest	
			M	F	M	M	M	F	M	F
1.	Athoor	130	110	60	110	110	110	60	110	60
2.	Bathlakundu	120	100	50	100	100	100	50	100	50
3.	Dindigul	130	110	60	110	120	110	60	120	60
4.	Guziliyamparai	100	100	50	100	110	100	50	100	50
5.	Natham	100	100	50	100	110	100	50	100	50
6.	Nilakkottai	110	100	50	100	100	100	50	100	50
7.	Oddanchatram	140	120	60	120	120	120	60	120	60
8.	Palani	130	110	60	110	120	110	60	110	60
9.	Reddiarchatram	120	100	50	100	110	100	50	100	50
10.	Shanarpatti	120	100	50	100	100	100	50	100	50
11.	Thoppampatti	110	100	50	100	110	100	50	100	50
12.	Vadamadurai	110	100	50	100	110	100	50	100	50
13.	Vedasandur	130	110	60	110	100	110	60	110	60

Source: Agriculture Department, Dindigul District, 2007

The wage rate for different agricultural operations in various blocks of the district is almost uniform. The minimum wage rate for ploughing is Rs.100/- per day in Natham and a maximum of Rs.140/- in Oddanchatram. Almost in all blocks, the female wage rate is just 50 percent of the men's wage rate, which is lower than the minimum wage rate specified in the Minimum Wages Act of the Government of Tamil Nadu.

Animal Husbandry

Animal Husbandry is another predominant economic activity of the district which deals with dairy farming, poultry development and sheep and goat rearing. The important cattle markets of the district are located in the blocks of Athoor, Dindigul, Guziliyamparai, Natham, Nilakkottai, Oddanchatram, Shanarpatti, Sempatti, Thoppampatti, Ayyalur, and Vedasandur which cater to the needs of the farmers in the district. There are 5 veterinary hospitals, 29 veterinary dispensaries, 1 mobile dispensary, 1 veterinary clinic, 2 poultry extension centres, 177 artificial insemination centers and 1 animal intelligence unit in the district. The department, through its network of institutions, is rendering necessary veterinary services and treatment to ailing animals. The department takes up various activities like forecasting of endemic diseases in animals, preventive vaccination, artificial insemination, deworming, organizing sterility camps, fodder cultivation, encouraging soil testing for fodder cultivation and surveillance of zoonotic diseases. All the veterinary centers in the district have been provided with refrigerators.

The Present Scenario at the Lock Cluster in Dindigul

The lock industry in Dindigul is more than 100 years old and is spread over 5 villages in the district. Earlier the number of units in each village was approximately around 50 but now only a total of 43 units exist in the entire cluster. In some of these units, there is only one or two persons engaged in making the traditional locks. The present annual turnover of the cluster is estimated to be around Rs.120 lakhs. Hand-made locks have an international reputation and some of the products are valued at even Rs.1000 per lock. All the locks made in this cluster are hand-made and each lock is unique in its design and system. However, these locks do not conform to the ISI certification standards. There is no documentation of the method of manufacturing and even the drawings of the locks do not exist. The entire process is based on the craftsmen's memory, most of who have been engaged in this business for many years.

As a consequence of the absence of technical information, one cannot capture the skill base of this craft and so when the concerned manufacturer retires, his knowledge also goes with him. In olden days, these skills used to get transferred to the new generation as the craftsmen's children too would involve themselves in the lock-making occupation. But now due to less remuneration in smithy work, an increasing number of youngsters are opting for the textile industry and are leaving their traditional businesses. Introduction of new types and designs of locks in the cluster is a dire need today. This would require formal training in new manufacturing methodologies so that the Dindigul Lock Cluster is able to survive the onslaught of imported locks.

SWOT Analysis

Strengths

- Complete manual assembling with each lock having its own unique key code
- Easy availability of skilled labour.
- The Dindigul Lock Worker's Industrial Co-operative Society Ltd. is a strong actor and a nodal agency to promote infrastructural development & skill up gradation amongst craftsmen of the cluster.

Weaknesses

- Poor market linkages
- Absence of commonalty of goal.
- Using low level technology
- Lack of product branding

Opportunities

- Sub contract job from large units
- Big scope in manufacturing of special purpose locks
- Huge untapped market potential

Threats

- Entry of multinationals in domestic market, e.g. (China Locks)
- There is no separate R&D institution for introducing new models & types.

Vision for the Cluster

"The Dindigul lock cluster will provide high quality locks to cater to the domestic and export markets by adopting the latest art of technology by 2003"

The locks are produced mainly in the small-scale sector in India. The lock-manufacturing units are located in two clusters: Aligarh and Dindigul. There are about 6000 small scale units and a couple of organized sector units making various types of locks such as lever locks (pad, temple, excise, trick, mortise, auto, furniture, safe, garage, post, railways, bicycle etc.) and pin cylinder mechanism locks. The annual turnover of Indian lock industry is approximately Rs. 250 crores. The industry provides direct employment to approximately 25,000 persons mostly belonging to weaker and minority sections of the society. Almost 80% of the lock-manufacturing units are artisan based. Product designs in vogue are a century old. Artisans are following hand crafting based processes.

According to an estimate, the global market for locks will touch US $ 50 billion by 2005. The Indian lock industry can protect its share in the domestic market and have a share in the world market, provided cost-effective technologies are adopted and the locks are properly marketed. There is a need to protect traditional lock making. At the same time, it is necessary to introduce some mechanization to make the industry competitive in the post WTO regime. Keeping

this in view, a project document has adopted a two–pronged approach for the development of the Indian lock industry: technological up-gradation and market development of the industry.

Sirumalai Hill Area Development

Efforts have been made to develop the Sirumalai Hills as one of the prime tourist attractions in the district. The district administration has sent a Rs.2 crore-proposal for hill area development to the State Government for approval, according to the district administration.

Prospects for marketing hill bananas look bright following a private company in the SIPCOT Industrial Estate in Nilakkottai establishing fruit ripening and cold storage facilities. A scientific approach is essential to boost yield, productivity and hi-tech horticulture. Farmers benefit from supply of quality planting materials like seeds, seedlings, grafts from SHF of the district. It is expected that the simultaneous and uniform cultivation of hill-banana by all farmers in the hills would help them get a high yield and subsequent branding would help in marketing the produce. The Fruit Growers Association is active here and is selling over 400 tonnes of hill banana to Palani Devastanam for making "Panchamirtham". At present, farmers in hilly regions in the district who produced 2,500 tonnes of banana last year (2004), will produce 5,000 tonnes in 2005. With the supply of quality planting materials, production was expected to touch 10,000 tonnes in 2006.

Hill variety banana springs back to life

The area under hill banana, or Virupakshi, has doubled in the last three years i.e. from 2006 to 10,000 acres. Though this is just over one-fourth of the original estimated area of 36,000 acres under this banana variety, there has been a rapid expansion in area in recent years. Raised extensively in the Lower Pulney Hills and the Sirumalai Hills in Tamil Nadu, this variety was facing decline in production with the area plunging to a low of 2,000 acres. The Government's decision to launch a rejuvenation scheme three years (i.e from 2006) back has given a fresh impetus to the crop.

The scheme took off to a good start, but witnessed a setback as disease-free planting material was not freely available. The tissue culture companies, which had taken on the task of providing suckers to growers, could not keep pace with the demand. Unlike other commercial varieties such as Robusta and Rasthalli, the rate of multiplication is said to be rather slow in Hill banana-Virupakshi because of the genetic nature of the plant material.

Many private companies and Government organisations were multiplying tissue culture plantlets and supplying to farmers. The disease caused by virus in the banana plant had once almost wiped out the banana cultivation in Palani and the Sirumalai hills It needs indexing of mother plants for being free from viruses from which tissue culture plants are produced to prevent further spread of the disease.

The incidence of the Banana Bunchy Top (BBT) virus was as high as 60-70 per cent in the Lower Pulney Hills and the crop was almost wiped out during 1985. The virus spread vertically through infected Aphids.

According to the NBRS, Trichy of ICAR, the planters have once again come back to planting hill banana as the global price of coffee has started to crash. The Government is contemplating to set up a central facility for testing disease-free planting materials for suitable production.

Ayurveda

Ayurveda is the ancient Indian science of healing, which has found itself very much in demand in the modern world. According to Ayurveda, there are three doshas or basic metabolic types: kapha, pitta and vata. Each dosha is rooted in specific organs of the body and associated with two of Ayurveda's elements (earth, water, fire, air and ether). Combinations of these doshas in various proportions are said to yield a total of 10 body types which determine each individual's physical and emotional makeup.

Much like traditional oriental medicine, the Ayurvedic system aims not just at treating diseases, but to maintaining and balancing the energy and the health of both mind and body. This includes yoga for mind, typical massage treatment for body, specific food habits, breathing exercises, herbal saunas or enemas to detoxify the body and comprehensive programme of Pahchakarma for purification and rejuvenation.

Khandige Herbs and Plantations, Sirumalai, is situated at an average altitude of 1100 meters with a very salubrious climate throughout the year. This forest of over 600 acres situated near Madurai and Dindigul contains many rare and endangered species of animals and plants which are being preserved for future generations as natural diversity the world over is being lost. The property consists of a beautiful forested highland valley with beautiful views all round. It is part of a continuous stretch of reserve forest. It is ideally suited for eco-tourism.

The private estate is interested in combining ayurvedic research and treatment centre with an international eco-tourism centre and market. The organization is looking forward to setting up joint ventures.

Nanganjiar Reservoir (Dindigul District)

This scheme contemplates the formation of a reservoir across Nanganjiyar, a tributary of River Amaravathy near Idayankottai Village in Palani Taluk, Dindigul District to benefit 2,530 hectares of new ayacut with stabilisation of 24 hectares of old ayacut in Idayankottai, Valayapatti and Chinnakamapatti Villages in Vedasandur Taluk of Dindigul District and Sendamangalam Village of Karur Taluk of Karur District at an estimated cost of Rs.20.70 crore.

In this project construction of uncontrolled spillway is in progress. Earth dam works and main canal and spillway works are nearing completion. The Government has approved the reappraisal estimate of this project for Rs.37.36 crore. The work is

in progress. Totally 93% of the work has been completed. The budget provision for the year 2004-05 is Rs.0.02 lakh.

A successful Initiative of livelihood

A new initiative has been launched at Kadavakurichi Village by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to let the locals look after their environment and not depend on the government.

The village is in a hilly area at the base of the Kadavakurichi hillock. Rainfall is in short and sharp spells. So water gushes down from the hills and drains away, carrying with it fertile topsoil. Agriculture is tough and people have to walk several kilometers for drinking water. It has been tougher in the last two years when rains have been more short than sharp-- just 50 per cent of the normal 700 mm.

Experts from the bank taught them that the solution was in `saving the water where it falls,' through watershed development. This meant preventing the water rushing down from the hills, by putting up bunds, and letting it accumulate in reservoirs to recharge the water table, which in some places had dropped below 800 feet.

The required funds would be met from the watershed development fund of the bank, which would lend about Rs 75 lakhs at 6 per cent to the Government. The villagers will in turn receive it as grant to implement the Kadavakurichi watershed project. A local NGO, Centre for Improved Rural Health and Environmental Protection, will coordinate between villagers and the authorities, and provide technical support.

The villagers have worked, and completed up front, the works on 90-hectares with a grant of Rs 5.5 lakhs from the bank. Under the watershed project, they have to contribute at least 16 per cent of the cost of the project as labour with the participation of every family in the community.

Land belonging to more than 70 farm families apart from government-owned wasteland was taken up for development. Over 127 gully plugs and loose boulder structures were put up to slow down the water flow, 1800 saplings were planted and four ponds deepened over the last one year.

Apart from the bank being convinced to fund the entire project, the benefits are already apparent. The water levels in some wells have increased by 2 - 6 feet and there is a lot more greenery. They have taken up cultivation of millets and flowers, which was not possible in the previous year, despite some rainfall. Some of the families that would have migrated in search of work stayed back because of availability of employment.

According to the Secretary of the NGO, there are five such watersheds around the Kadavakurichi Hill, which would be taken up for development. Over 550 families would benefit once these watersheds covering the villages of Veelinaickenpatti, Paapinaickenpatti, Jayanaikenpatti, Muthariyar Nagar and Musavanathu are developed. More than 6000 hectares could be brought under cultivation and the area would benefit. The area was rich in medicinal plants and

honey. The Kaduvakurichi Hills and surrounding areas were an ideal spot for ecotourism projects.

Handlooms

The Handloom Weavers Co-operative Societies in Dindigul District registered sales of Rs 10.29 crore during 2004-05. Out of total of 10,956 handloom venture in the district, 3,903 are under the co-operative network. However, only 2,137 looms are functional.

According to the Commissioner for Handlooms, about 34 handloom weavers co-operative societies and one power loom co-operative society are engaged in the production of cotton, polyester and silk sarees, bed-sheets, bedspreads, pants and shirt materials.

The special features of agro-climatic conditions prevailing in Dindigul District

Dindigul District is blessed with varied climates to suit almost all the Horticulture crops for better production with intervention of recent agro – techniques.

Dindigul District has three distinct Agro-climates viz., Temperate, Subtropical and Tropical. Hardly any other district in Tamil Nadu State has such unique agro climatic zones within the same district. The climatic zone, crops of the region are given below.

1. **Temperate**: Upper pulney region comprising Kodaikkannal, Mannavanur, Vilpatty, Poomparai temp: 22° 18° Humidity: 80-85 **crops:** Pear, Plum, Cole crops like Cauliflower, Cabbage, Potato, Carrot, Beans , Garlic etc.

2. **Sub-tropical:** Lower Pulney region Comprising Perumalmalai, Pannaikadu, Perumparai, Thandiyankudisai, Adalur,KC Patty, Pachalur and Sirumalai hills in eastern side temp: 27^0 22^0 Humidity:80 **crops:** Hill Banana, Acid lime, Manderin Orange, Beans, Chowchow, Coffee, Cardamom, Pepper etc.

3. **Tropical**: Rest of the district area accounts for Plains. Temp: 36^0 31^0 Humidity: 65 **Crops:** Mango, Banana, Sapota, Guava, Grapes, Tomato, Brinjal, Bhendi, Onion, Annual Moriinga, Chillies, Coriander, Tamarind, Rose, Jasmine, Crossondra, Tube Rose & Other minor flowers.

State Horticulture Farms- Aims of the State Horticulture Farm

1. Reddiarchatram

Started in the year 1994 on the Dindigul – Palani National Highways at the 16th kilometer from Dindigul with an extent of 5.33 ha. The main activity of the farm is to produce quality pedigree planting materials of Mango, Guava, Tamarind, Sapota, Amla, Pomegranate, Acid lime, Jamun and Ornamental plants. Farmers can purchase the planting materials at the farm during office hours.

2. Sirumalai

Started in the year 1980 for the benefit of farmers of Sirumalai, Because farmers in Sirumalai faced a transportation problem to transport quality seeds and seedlings. The cultivation area is 24.40 ha. The main activity of the farm is to produce quality pedigree planting materials of Pepper, Areca nut, Coffee, Acid lime and Silver oak plants. Farmers can purchase the planting materials at the farm during office hours.

3. State Horticulture Farm, Kodaikkannal

The State Horticulture Farm observatory Kodaikkannal was started during 1961. This farm is situated at 7680 feet above the MSL. The farm area is 12.75 acres. Yearly average maximum temperature is 10 - 24° C and minimum temperature is 2 - 7° C. The average rainfall is 1600mm per year.

4. State Horticulture Farm, Thandikudi

The State Horticulture Farm, Thandikudi, was started in 1986. This farm is situated in Kootlakombu hamlet at Thandikudi revenue village at an elevation of 1350 to 1450 above the M.S.L. Total area of the farm is 5.45 hectares. The average rainfall is 1450mm per year. Subtropical climate prevails in this farm.

The performance of the crops are location specific and rare in cluster mode. One such crop is Moringa.

Moringa

Moringa cultivation in Dindigul District is unique spreading in and around Oddanchatram and Bathlagundu Block accounting an area of 1200 ha. The better performance of the crop is due to climatic factors in that area. At the time of the flowering and harvesting climate is dry, hot and there is less moisture in atmosphere, which favours production of better Moringa fruits with more yield and there by growers get profit. The marketing of the Moringa is not a problem for the grower since there is a big vegetable market at Oddanchatram. So, the crop is grown regularly from November to June in this area, taking into account the climate.

Hill banana

Hill banana is produced on both the sirumalai hills and pulney hills over an area of 2500 ha. Producing about 37500m tons of fruits. The fruit has less moisture content compared to other local varieties of banana. Hence, the hill banana is utilized for the preparation pf *"Panchamirtham"*. At present, about 400 m .tons of hill banana fruits are supplied to Palani Devasthanam for *"Panchamirtham"* is devoted for Lord

Muruga at Palani. So, there is a demand for more supply of fruits to Devasthanam which in turn expands the area of hill banana cultivation. The area increase may be of about 1000 to 15000 ha in the coming years adopting hi-tech horticulture.

Coconut Plantation

In the District Coconut Plantation occupies 25000 Ha. The farmers are growing Cocoa a commercial cropl, in coconut plantation as inter crop, which fetches additional income of Rs. 40,000/- to Rs.50,000/Ha. This leads to the increase of socio – economic status with the existing farming land. The cultivator also benefited by protecting the soil health with séances of Cocoa leaves. Over and above this, there is reduction in soil erosion, conservation of soil moisture, restriction of weeds, ultimately farmers are induced to adopt organic farming. Organic farming is more concerned with quality produce (reduction in residue of chemicals through fertilizers and plant production) for health care. The produce also fetches better price for the farmer. There is shop functioning exclusively for sale of organic produce in the District at Oddanchatram Town.

Alternative Land Use System

Due to more water requirement and production cost farmers growing crops like paddy, sugarcane, cotton and banana have switched over to the Maize crop, which needs less water and entails less production cost. In the blocks of Athoor, Reddiarchatram, Oddanchatram, Palani, Thoppampatti, Vedasandur, Vadamadurai and Guziliyamparai the area under maize has increased over the past 10 years because of the reason mentioned above.

Maize area and Production

Table. No. 5.20
Area and Production

S. No.	Details	2003 -04	2004-05	2005-06
1.	Area (in ha.)	42,398	35,913	39,944
2.	Production (in Lakh M.T.)	1.51	1.47	1.90

The area under maize, one of the prominent crops in Dindigul district. Has increased to 39,944 hectares in 2005 – 06 over the year 2004 -05 of 35,913 hectares. The area under other millets, pulses and cotton have been converted to maize crop. This is because of the increase in demand from the poultry industry as well as for export. The favourable price hike has attracted the farmers.

The production cost of maize is lower when compared to that of cotton and other millets. It has lesser water demand and nil pest and disease incidence.

The production has also increased from 1.47 L.M.T. in 2004 -05 to 1.90 L.M.T. in 2005-06. Now-a-days the marketing of maize is in the hands of middle men. In order to over come the obstacle, minimum support price for maize needs to be declared. The Department of Agriculture marketing and Agri business has suggested a programme of forming Maize Farmers Groups and establishing a link with the industry that needs maize.

Box 5.2

Cut – Flowers

Kodaikkannal Hills enjoy a specific climate both in upper Pulneys and lower Pulneys to suit the cut-flowers production namely Carnation, Rose, Gerbera etc., under protected cultivation (Polyhouse). The main crop is Carnation. The climatic factor is so conducive for quality production and thereby earns premium price in the local market and also has a chance of export business.

At present, about 60-80.polyhouses (each 500 to 1000 Sq.m.) are available for Carnation cut-flower production in the Kodaikkannal area. The farming activity is very intensive with high-cost technology over limited area compared to extensive cultivation of Coffee and other Cole vegetables. Because of the hi-tech production of cut-flowers with favourable climate, (that is difference between the day and the night temperature is about 10^0 to 32^0 C) producing quality produce fetches a premium price which improves the socio–economic status of the farmer.

The commercial cut-flower enterprise was started in Kodaikkannal after 1993. The intervention of Rastriya Sam Vikhas Yojana (RSVY) scheme brought bloom to the cut flower industry. The farmers were taken to the horticulture training centre in Pune for a week's training in cut flower cultivation. As the cut-flower is grown commercially, the cut-flower growers/farmers association was established. The demand for cut-flower is increasing in both domestic and export markets; the changing trends of flower decoration in parties, offices, houses and events are paving the way for an increased demand for floriculture in Kodaikkannal.

Box 5.3

The Case of Pannaikadu Farmers

Pannaikadu area is the part of the lower Pulney Hills, which is 25 kilometers away from Kodaikkannal. It is at a 1200 meter elevation from the MSL. The temperature ranges from 30 C to 18C. Pannaikadu is bestowed with enough sunlight, which is the most desirable factor for cut-flower cultivation compared to Kodaikkannal. Mr. R.Ravi, Mr.Selvakumar, Mr.P.Ramkumar and Mr.T.T.Kumaresan are small farmers holding 3 acres, 2.5 acres, 2.5 acres and 2.00 acres of land respectively. They used to grow traditional crops such as banana, coffee and some vegetable in their land. They have been cultivating cut-flowers since the introduction of RSVY. So all of them have shifted to growing carnation flowers in their polyhouse except one who grows Gerberra. Gerberra has 5 years of life span and a 50 sq.mt polyhouse can accommodate 3,700 plants. All these farmers have established their units in common places. They share common facilities for water provision from common well and tank. They share the cost of security personnel during the night time. It reduces the cost of procurement, production and marketing of flowers. The four farmers of Pannaikadu set a trend of collective working to achieve a common goal of maximizing production and income.

Box 5.5

National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme

Sitharevu *is a Village Panchayat in Athoor Panchayat Union of Dindigul District. It has a population of 14,952 with 7,551 males and 7,401 females. It is located at the foot hills of the Western Ghats. Agriculture and agricultural activities are the major livelihood resources. The plantations in the hill provide employment to the labourers of the village with a daily wage rate of Rs.80 per day for a male and Rs.30-40 for a female as well as children. These labourers are taken to the plantations by tractors.*

But the introduction of the NREGP in this Panchayat changed the life style of these labourers. The registration rate which was very poor during the initial stage rose in course of time due to their understanding of the following facts. Both men and women were given an equal wage rate of Rs.80 per day. They realized that they can work locally instead of going to estates in the hills. In the estates, the women received only a maximum of Rs.40 per day for a day's hard labour, whereas under the NREGP, they get double that income which improves their economy.

They can work locally along with their family members in the same work spot. This will enable them to look after their children and aged members. They also have a feeling that working in other private estates will enable owners to improve their economic status but if they work in the village under this scheme it will improve the welfare of the poor families, and also the common assets like village tanks and other channels could be properly maintained and it will benefit the entire village. Their work in the same village will strengthen their interpersonal relationship. Further, they will have no feeling of servant under this scheme. Above all, the labourers get the satisfaction of receiving government money as their wages. Because of these reasons the turn out of labourers is more from the women labourers than their male counterparts. In Sitharevu Panchayat, a number of works have been selected and upto 31st March 2007 a total of 28,601 man days have been spent with a total expenditure of Rs.32,22,230. It is to be noted that 1,266 members have been benefited by this scheme of whom 277 are males and the remaining 989 are females. NREGP (National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme)

Summary

Livelihood is one of the most determining needs of the human being. As far as this district is concerned agriculture, forestry, agri-labour, handloom weaving, tourism, floriculture, small industries, animal husbandry and labour in spinning are some of the major sources of livelihood for the people. Recently the government programme of NREGP has also been serving as an important source of income to a vast number of labourers. Apart from the above, the various schemes of the government like Cereals Development Programme, Special Food Grains Production Programme, and Integrated Cotton Development Programme are also helping the farmers to increase their agricultural production resulting in reasonable income.

CHAPTER – 6

Gender

> Women are not passive recipients of welfare enhancing help brought about by society, but are active promoters and facilitators of social transformation. Such transformations influence the lives and wellbeing of women, but also those of men and all children, boys as well as girls.
>
> Amartya sen

No report on human development can be complete unless and until it unravels gender inequities in human development, analyses the strengths and weaknesses of efforts to address these, and suggests possible strategies to bridge the gender gap in the future. The performance of Tamil Nadu with respect to female literacy, female IMR, female life expectancy and fertility rate shows that the status of women in Tamil Nadu is higher than that in other States barring Kerala. However, while women have improvements in absolute levels of literacy, enrolment and life expectancy, their position *vis-à-vis* men has remained unchanged (for example, persistent gender gap in literacy) or even worsened in many ways (for example the declining sex-ratio). Unfortunately, neither data nor comprehensive and up-to-date studies exist on the condition (absolute levels of well-being) and position (wellbeing relative to males) of women in Tamil Nadu with regard to most gender dimensions, which can indicate the lack of concern for gender issues.

Status of Women in Dindigul District

Usually, the status of women is examined in absolute sense by looking at where women stand *vis-à-vis* health, education, income and social indicators. This section focuses more on their position in society, that is, compares where they stand *vis-à-vis* men, and second, integrates both the 'rights' and 'development' framework while choosing indicators. The sex ratio is 986 females per 1000 males as against the state average sex ratio of 987 per 1000 males, ranking it 18th in the state. It may be observed that the growth rate of the female population is 9.78 higher than the growth rate of the male population (8.68%) yet the sex ratio is 978 per 1000 males depicts the gender disparity in infant deaths and health care. In the sex ratio of 0-6 year population, Dindigul ranks 24th with 930 females per 1000 males as against 942 for Tamil Nadu. The child sex ratio is not encouraging, and would support the much infamously reported female infanticide prevalent in some parts of the district. In Dindigul district the enrollment at the entry level remains low for girls. For boys GER is 100.07 but for the girls it is 100.02. With regard to NER again boys exceeds the Girls rate, 100.05, 98.91 respectively. The same difference persists in completion rate also. For boys it is 92.22 and for girls it is 91.86. The data shows the gender gap in all these indicators. The awareness for girls and parents is the need of an hour. Even the retention and drop out rates are high for girls. The average drop out rate for primary education in Dindigul District in the year 2007 is 1.97 and for girls also it is 1.97. Among the blocks there are variations in the gender gap.

Access and Control over Resources

Assets

No district level statistics are available on the ownership of land. A study of land ownership amongst 161 households in Dindigul District carried out by the MSSRF revealed that in 94 per cent of the households, men owned the land. Women who owned land were predominantly those heading households or the only child of their parents. Again, no gender-disaggregated statistics are available in this regard. The patrilineal customary systems of inheritance, patrilocal system of marriage, the lack of knowledge of women of their legal rights and dependence of women on their male siblings for support in the event of marital conflict all come in the way of women claiming their rights (Tamil Nadu Human Development Report, 2003).

Credit and Markets

The fact that women engage less in paid work and have less access to formal education than men further constrains their ability to access credit. They also do not have valuable independent assets to make them credit worthy. Other constraining factors are distance from banks, gender bias of bankers, working time of banks and the lack of resources to meet formalities.

Self Help Group Members

Dindigul District has a total number of 61960 SHGs. Out of these, the highest number is found in Dindigul Municipality with 7150 members with 11.5 percent of the SHGs, followed by Vedasandur Block with 9.5 percent. The lowest percentage of SHGs were found in Palani Municipality, with 2336 members (3.8 percent).

The blockwise details about the Self Help Groups is analysed in Table 6.1 showing the total number of members in different blocks, savings and total number of Scheduled Caste members.

Table No. 6.1

Blockwise Details about Self Help Groups 2005-2006

S. No	Block	Total SHGs	% to Total Groups	Savings in Rs.	% of Saving to Total	SC Members	% to SC to Total
1	Athoor	5,492	8.9	62,67,348	7.7	1,353	24.6
2	Bathlakundu	3,650	5.9	86,31,629	10.6	1,348	36.9
3	Dindigul	7,150	11.5	93,06,564	11.4	2,337	32.7
4	Guziliyamparai	3,922	6.3	44,87,481	5.5	1,960	50.0
5	Kodaikkannal	3,589	5.8	56,67,759	6.9	1,685	46.9
6	Natham	4,514	7.3	46,83,144	5.7	1,025	22.7
7	Nilakkottai	3,630	5.8	49,27,891	6.0	1,890	52.1
8	Oddanchatram	4,974	8.0	47,89,582	5.9	1,323	26.6
9	Palani	2,336	3.8	26,23,140	3.2*	1,317	56.4
10	Reddiarchatram	4,192	6.8	62,94,465	7.7	1,212	28.9
11	Shanarpatti	5,022	8.1	45,27,465	5.5	1,655	33.0
12	Thoppampatti	4,718	7.6	66,66,015	8.2	2,090	44.3
13	Vadamadurai	2,911	4.7	32,44,747	4.0	273	9.4*
14	Vedasandur	5,860	9.5	95,21,950	11.7	2,027	34.6
District Total		**61,960**	**100.0**	**8,16,39,175**	**100.0**	**21,495**	**34.7**

Source: District Rural Development Agency, Dindigul District, 2007

Savings

Vedasandur Block has the highest savings with 11.7 percent followed by Dindigul Municipality, with 11.4 percent. The lowest percentage of savings is found in Palani Municipality, with 3.2 percent.

Scheduled Caste Members (SC)

With regard to the participation of Scheduled Caste members in the total Self Help Group members in various blocks it is seen that the highest number is found in Palani Municipality, with 56.4 percent, followed by 50.0 percent in Guziliyamparai and the lowest is observed to be in Vadamadurai Block, with 9.4 percent.

Gender Disparity in Wages

In all agricultural activities wages for women is less than that for men for activities like weeding, fertilizer spraying and harvesting women are allowed to work. In Athoor block women get Rs.60/- for weeding work, men get Rs.110/- for the same work. This trend prevails in all activities in all the blocks. In a few blocks women get less than Rs.60/- for weeding work. Women are not allowed to do ploughing and irrigation activities. In all blocks women get less than 60% of wages compare to men (Natham men Rs. 100/-, women Rs.50/-). The District Administration has to take necessary steps to sensitize the masses on gender issues.

Table No.6.2

Wages for Men and Women

S. No	Block	Ploughing M/Rs.	Weeding		Irrigation	PP Spraying	Fert. APM.		Harvest	
			M	F	M	M	M	F	M	F
1.	Athoor	130	110	60	110	110	110	60	110	60
2.	Bathlakundu	120	100	50	100	100	100	50	100	50
3.	Dindigul	130	110	60	110	120	110	60	120	60
4.	Guziliyamparai	100	100	50	100	110	100	50	100	50
5.	Natham	100	100	50	100	110	100	50	100	50
6.	Nilakkottai	110	100	50	100	100	100	50	100	50
7.	Oddanchatram	140	120	60	120	120	120	60	120	60
8.	Palani	130	110	60	110	120	110	60	110	60
9.	Reddiarchatram	120	100	50	100	110	100	50	100	50
10.	Shanarpatti	120	100	50	100	100	100	50	100	50
11.	Thoppampatti	110	100	50	100	110	100	50	100	50
12.	Vadamadurai	110	100	50	100	110	100	50	100	50
13.	Vedasandur	130	110	60	110	100	110	60	110	60

Source: District Statistical Handbook 2006

Gender and Rights to Bodily Integrity

Incidence of violence against Women in Tamil Nadu occurs in a variety of forms, some of which are similar to those across the globe such as: female infanticide, female foeticide, rape, wife battering, eve-teasing, molestation, pornography and trafficking in women. Others are specific to the Indian or South Asian context such as female infanticide/foeticide, child marriage, forced marriage, dowry-related harassment and witch hunting. These forms of violence take place in a variety of institutional contexts: family, work place, schools and colleges, temples, roads, hospitals and even prisons. Violence against women is largely under-reported due to the tendency of the society to victimize the victim, as well as the feeling that violence within the family is a private issue. As a result, the statistics on violence perhaps underestimates the real magnitude of gender-specific violence. Furthermore, some forms of violence like marital rape are as yet not legally recognized as violence. Hence official records do not cover all forms of violence.

Table No. 6.3

Crime against Women

Sl. No	Head	2001		2002		2003		2004		2005	
		TN	DGL	TN	DGL	TN	DGL	TN	DGL	TN	DGL
1	Rape	432	14	512	14	557	18	681	18	571	17
2	Attempt to Rape	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	Molestation	1773	48	1866	33	2022	51	1861	30	1764	33
4	Kidnapping and abduction	657	49	720	26	632	14	692	17	783	36
5	Dowry death	194	08	247	02	220	03	225	07	215	05
6	Dowry harassment	815	08	966	25	1555	30	1437	40	1650	35
7	Eve teasing	1012	11	1766	44	881	02	1081	04	665	01
8	Infanticide	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	4885	138	6077	142	587	118	5977	116	5648	127

Source: Superintendent of Police, Dindigul, 2009
Note – TN - Tamil Nadu
DGL - Dindigul

Table No. 6.4

SC/ST act cases 2001-2005

Year	Tamil Nadu	Dindigul	%
2001	829	09	01
2002	924	18	02
2003	782	26	03
2004	698	31	04
2005	839	31	04

Source: Superintendent of Police, Dindigul, 2009

Table No. 6.5

No of Cases Registered Against Women Harassment and Dowry-2005-2006

Sl. No	Name of the station	No. of Cases Registered Against Women Harassment And Dowry					
		Harassment			Dowry		
		Rural	City	Total	Rural	City	Total
1.	Other Police Station	6	2	8	10	3	13
2.	All Women Police Station Dindigul	-	-	-	5	2	7
3.	All Women Police Station, Palani	-	-	-	5	-	5
4.	All Women Police Station, Kodaikkannal	-	1	1	2	-	2
5.	All Women Police Station, Nilakkottai	-	-	-	7	-	7
6.	All Women Police Station, Vadamadurai	-	-	-	8	-	8
7	All Women Police Station, Oddanchatram	-	-	-	1	-	1
Total		6	3	9	38	5	43

Source : Superintendent of Police, Dindigul, 2007

As per the records of the Superintendent of Police, Dindigul District, the incidence of reported crimes against women has gone down from 138 in 2001to 127 in 2005. At the same time the number of persons convicted also has gone down from 15 in 2001 to 8 in 2005. There is no female infanticide case in Dindigul District from 2001 onwards. This is a good trend. As for crime against women like rape, attempt to rape, molestation, kidnapping and abduction, dowry death, dowry harassment by husband and relatives, and eve-teasing the number of cases registered is slowly going down from the year 2001 onwards.

Causes and Consequences of Gender-based Violence

There are several causes of violence against women. The perception that after marriage women are the husband's property is strong in Tamil Nadu. Suspicion of infidelity, infertility (of the couple), alcoholism, dowry and instigation by in-laws are some of the immediate causes of violence against women, signaling the deep-rooted patriarchal values that underlie the same. The result is that wife beating is considered normal, even by women themselves.

Portrayal of women in the media as sex objects and different forms of violence in films have also played a major role in perpetuating and increasing violence within and outside the family. Violence has significant effects on the mental and physical health of women. Studies in Tamil Nadu show that foetal wastages (abortions) often occur due to battering (Jejeebhoy, 1998). This is, however, yet to be recognized as a public health issue in Tamil Nadu. Violence leads to income loss for women and for families, of which also affects children adversely.

Women in Politics

As women constitute around half of the world's population, it is important to reflect on international attempts made to assess the threshold share of women in elected offices that would make a significant, irreversible difference in combating the unequal access to decision making in the public domain. The UNDP HDR stipulates that 30 per cent should be the minimum (UNDP, 1995). Very few countries have come anywhere near this minimum goal. Nordic countries lead the way in this regard. For example, in countries like Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden, the 30 per cent threshold has been crossed either at the parliament or at the cabinet level. However in the case of Tamil Nadu, the situation is very different. After independence, ever since the Tamil Nadu Assembly was first constituted in the year 1952, the number of women members in the Assembly has been increasing. At present there are 23 members in the Tamil Nadu Assembly which is the largest ever since its inception. As far as Dindigul District is concerned, there are two women members selected from this district to the Assembly. In rural local bodies, out of 306 village panchayat presidents 24 SC women and 82 women from women's constituencies have been elected to the gram panchayats. Out of 14 Panchayat Union Councils women are serving as chair persons in 5 Panchayat Union Councils. The Dindigul District Panchayat Chairman is a women. It is also observed that one Ms.Ponnammal represented the Nilakkottai Legislative Constituency in this district for a long period from 1957 to 1996. Similarly in local bodies also women occupy 33.3 % of seats. This was made possible by the 73rd and the 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts.

Summary

Gender is an important element in Human Development. In this chapter we have discussed in detail the various aspects of gender, status of women in Dindigul District and their access to resources, the details regarding Self Help Groups their participation in decision-making positions and the prevalence of violence against women.

CHAPTER – 7

Local Bodies

The village Republic will be managed by a panchayat which will be a living political force and entity. Panchayats will be united in a free and voluntary association by an ever widening circle of "village republics". It is not an "apex sustained by the bottom" but an oceanic circle where the centre will be the individual always ready to perish for the village, the latter ready to perish for the circle of villages and so on, sharing the majesty of the oceanic circle of which they are parts".

Mahatma Gandhi

Local Bodies in Dindigul District

Social Institutions play a crucial role in building up the capability of the people. There are formal and informal institutions existing at the local level. These institutions influence the productive capacity of the people. These institutions also play an important role in finalizing the rules and regulations of the society. They also look into the welfare and development of the society as a whole. One such institution is the local bodies. This was established as per the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Act. As per the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act 1994, three tier structure at the rural Local Bodies and urban Local Bodies comprising of Municipalities and Town Panchayats came into existence in 1996. Table 7.1 gives the details of these Local Bodies.

Table No. 7.1

Classification of Municipal Bodies

Sl. No.	Classification of Municipal Bodies	No.	Area (Sq. Km.)	Population
1.	Corporations			
2.	Special Grade	2	20.64	2,64,186
3.	Selection Grade	1	21.45	32,969
4.	First Grade			
5.	Second Grade			
6.	Third Grade			
7.	Township Committee			
	Total	3	42.09	2,97,155

Source: Area and Population as per Census, 2001

Table No. 7.2
Municipal Bodies by Taluks

Sl. No	Taluk	Corporations	Grade of Municipal Council					Township Committees	Total
			Special	Selection	I	II	III		
1.	Dindigul		1						1
2.	Palani		1						1
3.	Kodaikkannal			1					1

Source: District Rural Development Office, Dindigul, 2007

Table No. 7.3
Rural Local Governance

Sl. No	Dindigul District	Total No. of Seats	SC-General	SC Women	General	General Women
1.	Village Panchayat Presidents	306	35	24	165	82
2.	Panchayat Union Council Chairman	14	2	1	7	4
3.	Panchayat Union Members	232	26	19	125	62
4.	District Panchayat ward members	23	2	2	13	6

Source: District Rural Development Office, Dindigul, 2007

Table No. 7.4
Number of Village Panchayats and Town Panchayats

Sl. No	Panchayat Union	Village Panchayat	Town Panchayat
1.	Dindigul	14	2
2.	Athoor	14	3
3.	Reddiarchatram	24	2
4.	Shanarpatti	21	
5.	Nilakkottai	23	2
6.	Bathlakundu	17	3
7.	Natham	23	1
8.	Palani	20	3
9.	Oddanchatram	35	1
10.	Thoppampatti	38	1
11.	Vadasandur	28	2
12.	Vadamadurai	15	2
13.	Guziliyamparai	17	1
14.	Kodaikkannal	15	1
	Total	306	24

Source: District Rural Development Office, Dindigul, 2007

Local Bodies and Micro Level Planning

Till date since Independence our Central and State Governments have prepared ten Five Year Plans with the help of experts and government officials and carried out the same for the development of our people. Our governments have spent crores of rupees in our villages to implement these plans. Even then, all of us know that many of our basic needs have not been fulfilled. Not only that, our government created an impression that achieving about development is the duty of the government. Nowhere is it proved that the government alone has brought development of the community. It can be brought only by the people synergizing the efforts of the government. The government can render a help to those who aspire for achievement and development. People who are in poverty have to struggle against it, for which the government can provide all possible assistance. It has been the practice in India that all development activities are carried out on supply driven mode and never on demand. The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments have provided an opportunity for reversing the trend. Though 74th amendment has provisions for district level planning, in Tamil Nadu, this district level planning exercise was not carried out and so it was thought of preparing a plan at village level as an experiment. This methodology is devised on the basis of the planning exercises done in Sivagangai, Pudukkottai, Thoothukudi and Dindigul Districts, and the District Collectors of these districts helped this process as partners and also took part in the planning exercises and in plan execution by understanding the legal sanctity, of the Village Panchayats.

This planning has got certain objectives. They are: a. to reverse the trend of working on supply-mode to working on demand-mode; b. making the people as participants in their development initiative; c. making the government departments work on people's plan, d. making the people dream and envision for their development; e. planning is an instrument by which local self-governance can be strengthened.

Objectives of the Planning

According to Article 243 G of the Constitutional Amendment and 240 and 257 of the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, the local body institutions should prepare development plans to ensure economic development and social justice. Such plans should have the following objectives:

A. Economic Development

The plan should be developed in such a way that it has to achieve economic development by increasing the production in agriculture, land reforms, small irrigation system, animal husbandry, dairy and poultry and fisheries. Economic development is the key in this process.

B. Social Justice

The benefits of economic development should reach the various categories of the community. Particularly, it should reach the poor and the socially weaker sections. Further, the plans should facilitate increased income by providing employment opportunities to the socially disadvantaged and the marginalized.

C. Welfare

The plan should incorporate schemes for providing infrastructural facilities like road, water supply, housing, street lights, waste disposal, and also social welfare schemes like education, welfare of women, children and cultural activities.

D. Environmental Protection

The plan should have a component to protect nature and environment. It should not cause damage to the eco-system, flora and fauna. It should have devices to manage natural resources. It should aim at creating green, clean and thus eco-friendly villages.

E. Coordination

The plan should ensure the total development and growth of the entire village by incorporating all the development plans of the concerned area, plans of the respective departments, schemes for individual benefits, schemes that are implemented by the government departments, schemes that are implemented by banks, NGOs and other development agencies.

F. People's Involvement

The plan should be on the basis of collection of data, confirmation of the same, assessing the needs, evolving activities and prioritizing the same. At every level people have to be involved and people should own the plan.

Steps Followed in Planning Exercises

A. Preparatory/Environment Building

Meetings with District administration – Prior to the commencement of the exercise in the village, meetings with the district administration were to be held. This meeting was meant to ensure their cooperation not only in the preparation of the plan but also to implement the same. The District Administration's cooperation is a critical component for the preparation and implementation of the plan.

Identification of Gram Panchayats – Inputs from the District Administration helped the process of identifying the Gram Panchayats for planning exercises. Gram Panchayats were selected on the basis of certain conditions. They were, commitment of the Panchayat leader, cooperation of the community with the Panchayat and willingness on the part of the Panchayat leader to follow the process.

Memorandum with Gram Panchayats – Once the Gram Panchayats were identified, a preliminary discussion with the representatives of the Panchayat was to be held in which the objectives of the planning and clarifying the roles to be performed by different agencies were to be explained. The Gram Panchayat should subsequently pass a resolution committing its willingness to create a Panchayat level plan for its Panchayat.

Orientation – A day-long orientation for the Gram Panchayat members, representatives from SHGs, youth groups, and other opinion makers at the village level were held within the Panchayat. The orientation emphasised the importance of planning, the steps to be undertaken and the importance of the Panchayat owning the process.

Gram Sabha Meetings – Subsequently the Gram Sabha of the respective Panchayat should be apprised of the activities. There were five statutory committees that a Gram Panchayat must establish. If these committees had not been established then they must be set up in consultation with the Gram Sabha. The formation of the committees ensured greater participation in the planning process. There was a need to create a Planning committee to oversee the entire process of preparation of the Panchayat Plan. If the number of committees at the Panchayat level is to be kept within a manageable limit, the Panchayat Council can take on the responsibilities of the Planning committee with one co-opted, non-elected member from each of the five statutory committees (Appointment Committee, Development Committee, Agricultural and Watershed Committee, Works Committee and Education Committee). Periodical updates presented to the Gram Sabha assisted in a broad based participation in the process in order to ensure direction and coordination.

Capacity building – A five-day workshop for elected representatives of these Panchayats – inclusive of council members –served as the base for further work. The workshop consisted of a vision exercise as well as sessions on planning. Once the planning committee of the Panchayat was created, a three-day workshop on "Planning for Social Development" ensured that the focus of planning does not remain limited to infrastructure creation alone.

Orientation of Committee members – The members of the committees required orientation and role clarification to take forward the plan creation process.

Interface between elected representatives and the district administration – At regular intervals from the inception onwards there was regular interaction between the elected representatives and the district administration. In the long run, this developed the capacity of the elected representatives to deal with the administration and the interest and commitment of the administration added value and lent credence to the plan creation and implementation exercise.

Exposure – Organizing brief exposure visits to witness innovations undertaken by other Panchayats in the State enabled the Panchayats to 'think out of box'. The fact that they do not have to limit themselves necessarily to only scheme-based activities but they could plan their own interventions was reinforced.

Ward/Hamlet level meetings – To generate interest amongst all sections ideally, meetings were held at the ward/hamlet level on the need for plans, the steps to be taken, committees to be constituted and the roles to be performed.

Village level officials – An opportunity for a meeting between members of the statutory committees, the Gram Panchayat and village level officials was created.

This enabled the village level officials to give their inputs and facilitated participation of others in the plan preparation process.

B. Data Collection

Identification of Data needed – In consultation with the members of the statutory committees and the Gram Panchayat identification of data needed to be collected to develop the plan was undertaken. The sources of data and the processes by which the data could be verified were explored. Each committee took on the responsibility to collect the needed data on various aspects of development.

Finalization of tool to collect the Data - Tools to collect information were finalized. A well-formulated template prepared by the State Planning Commission was used.

Identification and orientation of investigators – The committees needed to enroll additional village level volunteers to assist in the data collection process. An orientation of those undertaking the responsibility to collect the data was organized to facilitate data collection.

Review of data and Collation – Once the data were received they were reviewed with the committee members and investigators and if there were any gap to be filled it had to be attended to. The collected data should be compiled and collated.

Presentation of Data for Confirmation – The data that were collected were presented to the Gram Panchayat and Gram Sabha for their approval. An analysis accompanied the presentation of the information. Feedback and comments were obtained and incorporated.

C. Community-Based Planning

Hamlet level development workshop – A comprehensive hamlet level development workshop was conducted. At the hamlet level, a series of activities needed to be undertaken with an emphasis on enhancing the participation of families was undertaken.

(a) Identification of the most vulnerable- Poor families, women-headed families, landless families, homeless families, families headed by a person with disability and no other/inadequate wage-earners, families headed by the aged. An attempt was made to explore the extent of benefits these families receive from existing social security and employment schemes and to try and verify the accuracy of the data. The data were also useful as the Panchayat can use them to monitor the extent of benefits they are able to get from the government.

(b) Identification and prioritization of needs- The needs emerging from each hamlet and the priorities were identified. (c) Solutions, possible costs and a realistic re-prioritization were done. For each of the needs that were identified, potential solutions and the estimated costs were worked out. Once this information is available, it is possible that the hamlet may choose to re-prioritize its needs. (c) Information sharing and review: The

collected data and analysis made should be shared with the members present at the hamlet meeting since it could enable discussions and assist in identifying needs and priorities.

In the past Venn diagrams, ranking of priorities, resource maps, and wealth ranking were used as tools. Even in the absence of any PRA technique being utilized, a sensitive and focused facilitator with an inquisitive mind could in a group situation cull out a wide variety of responses and achieve all of the above. The role of the facilitator for the group meetings is absolutely critical.

Consolidation of Hamlet plans – The inputs emerging from the hamlet level meetings needed to be consolidated by the committees.

Presentation and approval of Gram Sabha – The consolidated plans must be presented to a special Gram sabha for its inputs, comments, feedback and approval. The plan was finalized only after approval of a special Gram Sabha.

Panchayat Meeting – The Gram Panchayat incorporated the suggestions made by the Gram Sabha and then prepared an action plan for the next steps to be taken and allocate responsibilities for each. The plan should ideally be broken up into realistic annual plans to make it more realistic for follow-up and monitoring.

Identification of potential support institutions /departments - The Gram Panchayat tried and identified potential sources of support both monetary or otherwise for specific components of the plan. These included sectoral departments, DRDA, MP-LAD, MLA-LAD, local NGOs, Banks etc.

Proposal creation – Several components required to be converted into specific proposals that are then presented to either sectoral departments or the DRDA for support. Technical details wherever necessary were added to the proposals prior to their acceptance by departments.

D. Implementation, Monitoring and Review

The statutory committees and the Gram Sabha must play a key role in the implementation, monitoring and review of the process of transforming the plan into reality. The easiest way to guarantee this is ensuring the ownership of each of the critical stakeholders in the Plan.

Key government officials and elected representatives – District Collector, Project Officer-DRDA, other key officials in DRDA, BDOs, Panchayat Union Councillors, District Councillors, MPs and MLAs involving in the process of implementation.

Table No. 7.5
Gram Panchayat and Social Development
Activity Chart - Indicators

Sl. No.	Activities	Responsibility	Outcome	Verification
1.	100% enrolment of eligible children	President, Vice-President, Ward Members, PTA, SHG Members, youth Clubs, NGO, Retired Officials, Education Committee	Level of literacy increased.	School records
2.	Reduction of Dropouts	President, Vice-President, Ward Members, PTA, SHG Members, youth Clubs, NGO, Retired Officials	Increase in Educational standard	School records
3.	Ensuring protected Drinking Water Supply to School	President, Vice-President, Ward Members, School Teachers	Improvement of students Health, reduction of ill health of students	Physical verification
4.	Providing toilets to school	President, Vice-President, Ward Members, School Teachers	Increase in health of children	Physical verification
5.	Utilizing the toilets by the school students	President, other members of the Panchayat Council Teachers, PTA, Parents.	Toilet Culture Developed	Physical verification
6.	Cutting the nails of the students every Monday in Balwadi and School	Youth club, SHG, Panchayat Ward Members, School teachers	Health education, reduction of diseases, improvement of health.	Physical verification
7.	Planting of saplings in the school premises	President, teachers, agriculture departments	Environment awareness eco development.	Physical verification
8.	Creating a school garden	President, teachers PTA, Youth clubs, Agriculture Department.	Increase in nutrition as the vegetables are given to noon mean centers	Physical verification
9.	Providing a toilet in the Balwadi	President, Vice President, Ward Members	Education, increase in health status	Physical verification

10.	Adding vegetables to the noon meal by getting donations and getting the vegetables from the school garden	President, Vice-President, Balwadi teacher, School teachers	Nutritive food for students	Physical verification
11.	Taking steps to prevent the practice of child labour	President, Vice-President, Ward Members, School teachers, PTA, .NGO, SHG, Youth club	School enrolment, literacy, HRD	Physical verification
12.	Cleaning over head tanks	OHT operators, under the instruction of panchayat regularly	Health status, productivity	verifying the records
13.	Creating Awareness among the people about family welfare	PHC Staff, President, Vice-President, Ward Members, Health Committee, SHG, Youth	Livelihood security ensured.	verifying the records small family
14.	Identify the vulnerable families and ensure food security to them and constantly monitor them with the help of government schemes	President, Vice-President, Ward Members, SHGs	Income generation, reduction of poverty, status of women	Physical verification
15.	Building the skill of the women through training	Presidents, Vice-President, Ward Members, Training institution, Social Welfare Department at the District Women Development Corporation	Income generation, reduction of poverty, status of women	Physical verification
16.	Ensuring proper functioning of PDS	President, Vice-President, Ward Members and SHG, officials of Civil Supply	Food Security	Verifying the BPL List

17.	Prevent open defecation in the villages by creating awareness and constructing toilets in each and every house	President, Vice-President, Ward Members, SHG, Youth Club, NGO, Project Staff, TRSP, Retired Employees	Improvement in Health, Sanitation Environment	Physical verification
18.	Creating awareness about RCH by printing a card and giving it to every family	President, Vice-President, Ward Members, Health Committee, NGO, Staff of PHC	Improvement in women and children, health, economic status	PHC records
19.	Ensure the delivery of services from sub centre and PHC to the people through the schemes available for prenatal and post natal care	PHC Staff, President, Vice-President, Ward Members, SHG, NGO, Health Committee	Increase in health status and economic status	Verifying the PHC records
20.	Creating awareness among the importance of water management	President, Vice-President, Ward Members, Community leaders, Planning Committee Members, NGO	Rational Utilization of Water	Physical verification
21.	Organize workshop for pregnant women to disseminate the needed information akin to ANC and PNC	PHC Staff, SHG, President and Vice-President	Increase of health awareness, health status, economic status, Reduction of infant mortality and new born babies are in exact weight	Verifying with PHC records

The above projected activities could be carried out easily if the Panchayat meets some key assumption. They are:

Key Assumptions

- Harmony prevails in Panchayat
- Panchayat is perceived as development space.
- Community supports Panchayats.
- Panchayat leader has got commitment.
- Panchayat leader has vision.
- Panchayat leader has got skill and capacity.
- Panchayat is not leader centric.
- Panchayat is people and system centric.

Based on these issues, the plan documents of the Panchayats have included the following demands:

- Enrolling all the children who have completed five years of age in school.
- Ensuring that the enrolled children continue their studies without dropping out.
- Conducting school annual day celebration to enable the students to display their creative potential.
- Providing basic amenities like drinking water, toilet, playing ground and vegetable garden in the school.
- Creating a sanitation and toilet culture among the students.
- Establishing reading rooms to encourage the desire to learn among the villagers and putting to use the Ayyan Thiruvalluvar Library.
- Providing toilet facility and playthings for children in the anganwadi and trimming their nails to ensure hygiene.

- Enrolling all the children who have completed two and a half years of age in the anganwadi and helping them to learn the habit of attending to their personal cleanliness.

- Ensuring the age-specific weight and the general health of children by providing them with appropriate balanced nutritious meal and ensuring the proper conduct of activities such as providing nutritious flour and noon meal under the integrated child welfare scheme.

- Preventing female infanticide by creating awareness among the villagers.

- Ensuring that all the children receive fully and properly the benefits of the immunization programme.

- Creating an environment free of child labour.

- Adopting measures to prevent child mortality.

- Creating awareness among the people about gender equality.

- Ensuring that all deliveries take place only in hospitals.

- Creating awareness among women about prenatal and postnatal care.

- Helping women to fully receive the benefits of the activities under the postnatal child welfare schemes.

- Helping pregnant women to properly receive benefits such as prenatal care, medical examination, immunization vaccines, nutritious flour and pregnancy assistance money.

- Providing the required minimum basic facilities in the sub-health centre.

- Helping the village health nurse to discharge her welfare functions well.

- Taking steps to ensure optimum utilization of the women's sanitary complexes.

- Ensuring that all the people get safe drinking water.

- Completely eradicating open air defecation.

- Arranging for common public toilets and their proper use.

- Removing waste in order to create a sanitary village.
- Creating awareness among the people about the dangers to the village from non-degradable substances like plastics and polythene and taking steps for their prohibition.
- Augmenting finances by converting public wastes into fertilizer.
- Planting, rearing and protecting saplings in public places to transform the village into a green village.
- Ensuring minimum basic amenities to all the habitations in the village.
- Installing solar lights on streets.
- Ensuring that all eligible families get ration cards.
- Arranging to issue pattas to those who own no house sites.
- Ensuring that essential commodities are properly available under the public distribution system.
- Building houses for houseless people.
- Eradicating untouchability and creating social harmony.
- Ensuring that the Adi Dravidar community gets all the benefits it is eligible for.
- Organizing poor women into self help groups and helping them to achieve social and economic upliftment.
- Making all the arrangements required to enable the self-help groups to produce articles and to market them.
- Bringing together the village artisans into a federation, enhancing their manual skills and arranging for employment opportunities for them.
- Creating awareness to ensure that girls are married only after they complete twenty-one years of age.
- Observing the families of weak, destitute, elderly people, poor widows, poverty-stricken artisans and guaranteeing their livelihood.

- Identifying the disabled and reaching to them benefits that ought to reach them.
- Showing the way for male as well as female self help groups to function robustly.
- Motivating and guiding self help groups participating fully in public welfare activities and in Gram Sabha meetings.
- Repairing and maintaining water sources such as ponds, tanks, ooranis and kanmois, collecting rainwater in them and using them properly.
- Creating the right perspective among the people regarding the importance of water, water management and utilization of water.
- Developing natural resources and protecting them from damage and degradation.
- Creating awareness among the people to cultivate medicinal plans in public places in the village and in habitations and to use them.
- Creating awareness among the people to effect changes in agriculture to suit circumstances.
- Reclaiming common property resources from encroachment.
- Regulating common property resources and taking steps to augment the Panchayat income through them.
- Reorienting the Panchayat activities to a people-centered mode and carrying them out with people's participation.
- Transforming the Panchayat into an arena for people's action.
- Transforming the people into social citizens and making them participate in all Panchayat activities. Transforming the Gram Sabha into a forum for social upliftment instead of a forum for collecting grievances.
- Involving women and Dalits in a big way in all the activities of the village.
- Synergising the different organizations functioning in the village for development activities.

Box **7.1**

Role of Panchayats in the Issues Population Health and Social Development

The Rajiv Gandhi Chair for Panchayati Raj Studies, Gandhigram Rural University, with financial assistance from the population Foundation of India, New Delhi, implemented a project in ten selected Panchayats of Dindigul District. The Project Concentrated on social development issues through Panchayats by involving the community in the following areas: school enrolment, immunization, pre and post-natal care, family welfare, hygiene and sanitation, child care, water supply, drainage, nutrition and environment.

The Panchayats have done a commendable job in the domain of social development. The study showed that the Panchayat Presidents have potential to do so many innovations other than Panchayat administration. The leaders have got power to mobilize the people. All these Panchayats are free from social conflicts. The experience showed that success can be achieved only when they get cooperation from the government and the field staff. Once the Panchayat Presidents get sensitized on social development issues in turn they are able to sensitize the people. The people automatically become enthusiastic about the social development issues as they are conscientized on the implications and importance of child care and related activities. The net result of the exercise is that out of 10 Panchayats, one Panchayat got state level award for the commendable work done in respect of social development issues as the President has done much on environmental sanitation and common property resource management. This exercise demonstrated the fact that the state has not achieved health for all by the year 2000 AD. By the introduction of 73rd constitutional amendment act, responsibility of delivering health services is shifted to the gram panchayats. By doing this exercise now the responsibility has been shifted to the people (our health is in our hand) as people are sensitized properly on social development issues.

Box 7.2

Role of Traditional Panchayats and Community in the Management of Grassroots Institutions

Karisalpatti is a multi-caste Village Panchayat in Reddiarchatram Block of Dindigul District. Christian Vanniar is the dominant caste group with 500 families followed by 150 Hindu Vellalar families and 100 families belonging to SC. The social dynamics of the Christian Community in Karisalpatti brought to light the power and authority of the traditional people. In spite of the moral supremacy of the priest over the Christian community, the Parish administration adjusts and extends cooperation with the traditional community system in Karisalpatti Panchayat. The traditional Panchayat consists of three members namely, Nattamai as the head, the Maniam and Chinna Nattamai as his deputies. These community based organizations and the church have to consult this traditional committee in village administration. After the introduction of the new Panchayati Raj System, the Rajiv Gandhi Chair capacitated the Panchayat leader, and the community is well informed about the new system. Stress was given to mobilizing the community through the Panchayat. The community based organizations were properly backed up by the Panchayat. The capacitated Panchayat leader collaborated with the community and involved the youths and women in the development of the Panchayat. The linkages with community based organizations helped the Panchayat to strengthen its power, and so delivery was fruitful. For example, the priest of the Church daily briefed the community about sanitation, health, education, and the importance of involving the people in the activities of the Panchayat. This made the people realize the need for their participation in the Gram Sabha meetings and this resulted in providing full support to all the activities especially in the implementation of government schemes and the selection of beneficiaries. The Panchayat also identified the Common Property Resources and improved the same. The income has been augmented through the Common Property Resources. Thus, the Karisalpatti experience showed that mobilization of community is a pre-requisite for any developmental activity and it is easy for the Panchayats to improve their administration.

Box 7.3

Role of Panchayats in Food Security

Sri. A.M. Nattuthurai is the President of K.Keeranur Panchayat. The background of college education and the experience in government service moulded Nattthurai to become more scientific in his life. As many poor families of the Boyer community used to migrate to Kerala and other cities where employment/income generation activities are available in stone quarries, they are not able to get ration cards. But a ration card is a very important document for many reasons. The issue of non availability of ration cards was raised in the Gram Sabha meetings. Hence the Village Panchayat administration undertook a survey and made arrangements for applications. All the families who had migrated to Kerala were identified and ration cards were given to them. The Village Officers' and the Civil Supplies Department Officials cooperation was the main support. The issue of ration cards ensured their food security.

He felt that Training is an effective tool to improve the perception of any individual. Nattuthurai had undergone training in many centres like SIRD, RIRD, Gandhigram Rural Institute and Vivekananda Kendra of Kanyakumari. During the training at Bhavanisagar an idea of organizing free noon meal for those who are very poor and destitute by the community itself was mooted to the participants. Nattuthurai got the message and he decided to work it out in his village. Nattuthurai met the SHGs and other public spirited individuals and shared this idea. Though all SHGs did not come out in favour of the experiment, 3 SHGs agreed to contribute. It was decided to contribute a handful of rice/paddy every day in a pot (Kalanchiam) kept in the house of the contributor, and once in a month the collected quantity has to be put into the another Kalanchiam a big bucket kept in the Village Panchayat office. The Village Panchayat discussed the modalities of providing the free noon meals with the self help group members. It was proposed to handover the collected rice to the beneficiaries. All agreed to that arrangement. At present there are twelve persons, mostly aged destitutes, who are receiving the rice every month. Among the beneficiaries there are lepers also. There is one beneficiary disabled in both legs. The Kalanchiam is implemented from 01.03.2005. On 15.08.2005, during the Independence Day Gram Sabha meeting, the District Collector Mr.Murugiah participated and distributed the collected rice to these poor persons. Witnessing this activity of feeding of destitutes from the village contribution, especially from the SHGs, other people also came forward to contribute. Without any setback the programme is going on and Nattuthurai showed his happiness.

Table No. 7.6

List of Panchayats which Prepared Microplan

Sl. No.	Block	Village panchayat
1.	Athoor	Athoor
2		N. Panchampatti
3.		Kalikkampatti
4.	Dindigul	Mullipadi
5.		Thottannuthu
6.		M.M.Kovilur
7.		Pannaipatti
8.		Balakrishnapuram
9.	Nilakkottai	Kodanginayakkanpatti
10.		Sithargalnatham
11.		Anaipatti
12.		Noothulapuram
13.	Reddiarchartram	Silvarpatti
14.		T.Pannapatti
15.		Kamatchipuram
16.		Karisalpatti

Source: Computed

Role of Women in Planning

The Village Panchayat Presidents who are highly conscientised on the issues of Social development and Social Justice developed the perspective plan for their respective Panchayats. Among the 16 Village Panchayats who prepared development plan six Village Panchayats were headed by women. These women panchayat presidents concentrated on 100% school admission, ensured the normal weight of newborn babies, institutional delivery, attention to prenatal and postnatal care, reduced malnutrition, concentrated on Family welfare. Thus their Plan document becomes a vision document. They fixed the achievable and quantifiable indicators targeting social development issues. They formed the committees and through them they worked. Women presidents gained confidence in this exercise and social development issues were discussed during the micro plan exercise in these panchayats. These Village Panchayat Presidents gained this insight while they were in SHGs and there by they quickly grasped the social development issues. This exercise exhibited the hidden leadership potential of the women. While mobilizing all the groups cutting across the differences the women leaders exhibited the high degree of democratic leadership. The women leaders, by their performance, have won the recognition of the community.

The enactment of the 73rd and the 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts and subsequent legislation by the respective state governments on Local Bodies enabled them in considerable achievements in human development issues. Many Gram Panchayats in Tamil Nadu have achieved 100% school enrolment, providing safe drinking water, improvement in health facilities and gender justice. If these activities are motivated further and encouraged the achievement of millennium development goal will not be a distant dream. Further, the role of women in development is crucial since most of the parameters of human development are women oriented; so their involvement in such activities is essential.

Summary

This chapter has outlined the significance of Micro Level Planning. Because of the proximity, sensitized Village Panchayat Presidents can identify the issues affecting the people which were so for not noticed. Many of the social development issues can be tackled at the local level and there is no need to wait for the government at the higher tier to take action. This will end the prolonged waiting. Moreover in micro level planning people were the primary stakeholders and they were involved in the planning process. People from all sections of the community were involved in this process and it is more participatory in nature.

CHAPTER - 8

Millennium Development Goals

In order to sustain overall development and also to ensure human well being all the member countries of the United Nations gathered at the UN Millennium summit in New York in September 2000. The summit evolved 8 development goals along with 18 time bound targets and 48 indicators for measuring the progress of activities in reaching the goals. It has been designed to represent the collective desire of all the countries to enable a better future for their citizens who are deprived from the decent standard of living and wellbeing. From 2000 onwards efforts have been taken by these countries to achieve the MDGs.

To achieve these goals India has taken several measures through policy initiatives at the national and state levels. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, Sarva Sikhsa Abhiyan, National Rural Health Mission, Bharat Nirman are some of the key welfare programmes launched by government of India for achieving the MDGs through out the country. Likewise the state Governments have launched several welfare measures namely, Nutritive noon meal programme, providing Rs.6000/- as maternity assistance to the pregnant women belonging to the poor families, medical screening of the school going children and so on. These programmes are operated in Dindigul District also. Apart from the initiatives of the Government, the institutions like Gandhigram Rural University, Gandhigram Institute of Rural Health and Sanitation and Kasturibai Gandhi Hospital and large number of civil society organizations strive to achieve these goals.

Hence, it is necessary to capture the status of MDGs in Dindigul District with an aim of focusing the attention of all the institutions and organizations working on development through schemes and programmes on the targets and goals to be reached. The previous chapters revealed the status of Human Development in this district. All the human development indicators with block variations and their causative factors are captured in this report. This chapter makes an attempt to present the position of Dindigul District in attaining the MDGs in the year 2015. This attempt has been made by analyzing data presented in the previous chapters along with the MDG target to be achieved at the national level and the status of Human Development in Tamil Nadu.

Table. No.8.1

Official list of MDG indicators

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)	
Goals and Targets	**Indicators for monitoring progress**
Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	
Target 1.A: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day	1.1 Proportion of population below $1 (PPP) per day 1.2 Poverty gap ratio 1.3 Share of poorest quintile in national consumption
Target 1.B: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people	1.4 Growth rate of GDP per person employed 1.5 Employment-to-population ratio 1.6 Proportion of employed people living below $1 (PPP) per day 1.7 Proportion of own-account and contributing family workers in total employment
Target 1.C: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger	1.8 Prevalence of underweight children under-five years of age 1.9 Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption
Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education	
Target 2.A: Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling	1.10 Net enrolment ratio in primary education 1.11 Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach last grade of primary 1.12 Literacy rate of 15-24 year-olds, women and men
Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women	
Target 3.A: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015	3.1 Ratios of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education 3.2 Share of women in wage employment in the non-agricultural sector 3.3 Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament
Goal 4: Reduce child mortality	
Target 4.A: Reduce by two-thirds,	4.1 Under-five mortality rate

between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate	4.2 Infant mortality rate 4.3 Proportion of 1 year-old children immunised against measles
Goal 5: Improve maternal health	
Target 5.A: Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio	5.1 Maternal mortality ratio 5.2 Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel
Target 5.B: Achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health	5.3 Contraceptive prevalence rate 5.4 Adolescent birth rate 5.5 Antenatal care coverage (at least one visit and at least four visits) 5.6 Unmet need for family planning
Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases	
Target 6.A: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS	6.1 HIV prevalence among population aged 15-24 years 6.2 Condom use at last high-risk sex 6.3 Proportion of population aged 15-24 years with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS 6.4 Ratio of school attendance of orphans to school attendance of non-orphans aged 10-14 years
Target 6.B: Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need	6.5 Proportion of population with advanced HIV infection with access to antiretroviral drugs
Target 6.C: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases	6.6 Incidence and death rates associated with malaria 6.7 Proportion of children under 5 sleeping under insecticide-treated bednets 6.8 Proportion of children under 5 with fever who are treated with appropriate anti-malarial drugs 6.9 Incidence, prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis 6.10 Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under directly observed treatment short course

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability	
Target 7.A: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources	7.1 Proportion of land area covered by forest 7.2 CO_2 emissions, total, per capita and per $1 GDP (PPP) 7.3 Consumption of ozone-depleting substances 7.4 Proportion of fish stocks within safe biological limits 7.5 Proportion of total water resources used
Target 7.B: Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss	7.6 Proportion of terrestrial and marine areas protected 7.7 Proportion of species threatened with extinction
Target 7.C: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation	7.8 Proportion of population using an improved drinking water source 7.9 Proportion of population using an improved sanitation facility
Target 7.D: By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers	7.10 Proportion of urban population living in slums
Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development	
Target 8.A: Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system Includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction – both nationally and internationally Target 8.B: Address the special needs of the least developed countries Includes: tariff and quota free	*Some of the indicators listed below are monitored separately for the least developed countries (LDCs), Africa, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.* <u>Official development assistance (ODA)</u> 8.1 Net ODA, total and to the least developed countries, as percentage of OECD/DAC donors' gross national income 8.2 Proportion of total bilateral, sector-allocable ODA of OECD/DAC donors to basic social services (basic education, primary health care, nutrition, safe water and sanitation) 8.3 Proportion of bilateral official development assistance of OECD/DAC donors that is untied

access for the least developed countries' exports; enhanced programme of debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) and cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous ODA for countries committed to poverty reduction	8.4 ODA received in landlocked developing countries as a proportion of their gross national incomes 8.5 ODA received in small island developing States as a proportion of their gross national incomes Market access
Target 8.C: Address the special needs of landlocked developing countries and small island developing States (through the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly)	8.6 Proportion of total developed country imports (by value and excluding arms) from developing countries and least developed countries, admitted free of duty 8.7 Average tariffs imposed by developed countries on agricultural products and textiles and clothing from developing countries 8.8 Agricultural support estimate for OECD countries as a percentage of their gross domestic product 8.9 Proportion of ODA provided to help build trade capacity Debt sustainability
Target 8.D: Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term	8.10 Total number of countries that have reached their HIPC decision points and number that have reached their HIPC completion points (cumulative) 8.11 Debt relief committed under HIPC and MDRI Initiatives 8.12 Debt service as a percentage of exports of goods and services
Target 8.E: In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries	8.13 Proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis
Target 8.F: In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications	8.14 Telephone lines per 100 population 8.15 Cellular subscribers per 100 population 8.16 Internet users per 100 population

Source: (http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.htm)

Halving Poverty and Hunger

In order to achieve the goal of halving income-poverty and hunger, India has to reduce the population BPL from 37.5 per cent in 1990 to 18.75 per cent in 2015 at the National level and from 40.90 per cent to 20.45 per cent at the State level. But at the end of 1999-2000, the poverty head count ratio was 26.1 per cent at the national level and 21.12 per cent in the State level. Against this, the poverty ratio in Tamil Nadu was 21.6 percent as per NSSO data for the year 2004-05. The government of Tamil Nadu has planned to eradicate poverty by 2012 i.e, by the end of the eleventh plan. The chapter on income and livelihood shows that in Dindigul District the trend in poverty has declined from 1993 -1994 to 2004-2005. In 1993-94 the district average is more than the state average. In 2004-2005 the percentage of population living below poverty line in Dindigul district was 27.9 which are higher than the state proportion of poor population 21.6.The District has to reduce the poverty from 27.9 in the year 2004-2005 to 18.64 in the year 2015 in order to achieve the MDGs target. The state government is implementing a number of poverty alleviation programmes and the district administration and local bodies have to take steps to make use of these schemes in Dindigul district to realize the objective of reducing poverty. The NREGS scheme was implemented in Dindigul District in the first phase itself. The district administration has got the award from the central government for the effective implementation of the NREGS programme for the year 2007-08. The Programme has resulted in ensuring the employment generation and gender equality in wages. But the phase in which the poverty has been reduced in Dindigul district seldom promising.

India has witnessed around 8 % growth in GDP in the last couple of years and it has planned to accelerate the growth by 9 % at the end of the eleventh plan. Economic development resulted in rapid urbanization which led the growth of urban population. As a result the ratio of urban poverty is also higher than the rural poverty. Tamil Nadu, one of the most urbanized states in India witnessed 44 % of its 65 million population residing in urban areas against the national average of 28%. The present data of Dindigul District also shows that urban poverty(40%) is at increase, it is almost double than the rural poverty and higher than the percentage of urban poverty in Tamil Nadu. In order to achieve the MDGs target, the district administration has to reduce the urban poverty from 40% in the year 2004-2005 to 31.44% in the year 2015.The urban poverty poses the problem of housing, sanitation, health, education, social securities and livelihoods to the poor in the urban areas apart from ensuring food security. In Tamil Nadu 18.63 % of the population are living in Slums of the select towns and urban areas. In Dindigul district Palani and Dindigul are the two centres designated as areas having urban slums. Palani municipality has 32.35 % of the slum population. Dindigul has 35.94 %. The decline of secondary sector in Dindigul district contributed to the increase in urban poverty and obviously this will affect the people in slum areas also. The state government should take special measures to eradicate urban poverty by taking innovative actions. Then only

the target of the state government in reducing the proportion of people living on less than one dollar a day by half can be achieved. While preparing district plan, special attention has to be given for urban poverty reduction in Dindigul district. The state government has taken number of measures with regard to reduce the rural poverty by taking measures to regenerate the farm sector and to increase the area under cultivation through the reclamation of cultivable waste and fallow lands. The state government has also launched a scheme for distribution of two acres waste land to poor agricultural labour families to achieve its objective. The strategy to reduce the urban poverty is to develop the non farm sector and skill upgradation to improve the employability of the poor in the growth sectors of the state.

Universal Primary Education

With a view to attaining the goal of universal primary education, the enrolment rate should be increased to 100 per cent, the drop out rate to be wiped out by 2015 and Gender disparity has to be eliminated in primary and secondary education by 2005and in General education by 2015. Tamil Nadu has been one of the best performing states in India by each of the four yardsticks above. The NER for primary education in 2006 has reached 98 % with all districts the state above 95 %. In terms of gender parity Tamil Nadu performance has been second only to Kerala among major states. In 2002 the overall girl boy enrollment ratios in primary and upper primary levels were 92.9 and 92.3 respectively. The drop out rate in the State at 13.85 per cent was against 34.89 per cent at the national level during 2002-03. For achieving 100 percent enrolments at the primary school level, which helps to attain the educational goal of MDG Government of India, introduced Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) throughout the country in the year 2003. The SSA aims to complete five years of primary schooling by 2007 and eight years of elementary schooling by 2010. It also envisages achieving universal retention by 2010. Improvement in enrolment rates has increased the overall literacy rate (7+year's age) of the State from 62.7 per cent in 1991 to 73.5 per cent in 2001 as against an increase from 52.2 per cent to 64.8 per cent at the National level.

The analysis of the performance of Dindigul district in education shows that the district lags behind the state average in NER. The NER of Tamil Nadu in the year 2004 is 98.38 against 97.67 in the district. But the completion rate of the state is 77.57 in the year 2005. According to the COHORT study the completion rate at primary level during the year 2003-2004 in Dindigul district is 96 against the state average 75. It has achieved 92.05 in the year 2008. The dropout rate in 2003- 2004 for Dindigul district at primary level is 2 but in the subsequent years it has increased. The drop out rate for the State is 6. With regard to Gender disparities in primary and upper primary education of Dindigul District, NER of Boys is 97.48(2005) and Girls is 97.85(2005). Girls NER is slightly higher than the boys, but it is lesser than the state average. NER among boys in the state is 98.48 and Girls is 98.27.Like NER boy's (92.22) completion rate is higher than the girls (91.86) in the year

2008. Awareness for girls and parents is the need of an hour. For the attainment of universal primary education and to ensure that all boys and girls their primary schooling, the district administration should ensure that 100 % enrolment and 100% completion rate, so that by 2015 the district can achieve universal primary education. This will contribute for the achievement of state as well as national government target. In this district special drive could be arranged with the collaboration of the educational institutions for increasing the enrolment and retention rates. By the synergetic action of the government departments and civil society organizations and the local bodies monitoring the schools could be done by which the drop out rate can be wiped out.

Gender Equality in Education

The Gender bias in providing education has led to a gap in literacy rates between male and female. The literacy rate of male and female in 1991 was 74 and 51 respectively, which later increased to 82.4 and 64.4 in 2001in Tamil Nadu. In Dindigul district the literacy rate of male female is 79.8 and 58.9 respectively. This imbalance has to be rectified by 2015 to achieve the third goal of MDG. The male female proposition in the primary education in the state was 54: 46 in 1990-91 and 51:49 in 2000-2001. This shows that state has performed better than the National average. But the analysis on Dindigul district shows that there is vast gap between male and female literacy rate. The literacy gap is 19.4. As per MDG the gender disparity in education at primary and secondary level has to be eliminated by 2005 and at all levels by 2015. But still now there exists a wide gap in male female literacy. Measures should be taken to reduce the gap in order to attain the goal. After the introduction of the SSA, infrastructure facilities, access to schools and teachers strength have increased. Similar effort has to be made to enroll all eligible girl children in schools and ensure that teachers are gender sensitive. Since the state government has given free bus, uniform, text books, noon meal and free bicycle for higher secondary students, access to schools is not a problem. Active mobilization is necessary on the part of the local bodies. The education department has to work with the local bodies to achieve this goal. Local bodies have to ensure the completion of primary and secondary education by the school going children in the villages. By constant mobilization, sensitization and monitoring this target could be achieved.

Reducing Infant Mortality Rate

Reducing the Mortality rates of infants and under 5 age groups draws the attention of all stake holders. In India the death rate of 125 per 1000 live births in 1988-92 has to be brought down to 42 by 2015. It has comedown from 80 per 1000 live births in 1990 to 60 in 2003 and further to 58 in 2004. It is clear from the statistics that state IMR has been reduced from 53 in 1998 to 44 in 2002. Further it has been reduced to 23.8 in 2005-06. The IMR of Dindigul district has declined from 33.18 in 2001-02 to 29.3 in 2004. If it has to attain the target by 2015 the rate has to be reduced below 20 by 2015. Dindigul district

exhibits speedy progress in reducing IMR and will help to achieve the national target enforced by UN Millennium Submit.

Reducing Maternal Mortality Rate

The policy of the Government is to take care of the pregnant women till lactating period. It was initiated long back. At the national level it was envisaged to bring down MMR form 437 in 1991 to 109 at the end of 2015. With a view to reducing the maternal risks the expectant mothers are advised to take delivery assistance from the skilled health professional. The proportion of institutional deliveries increased from 25.5 % in 1992-93 to 39.8 % in 2002-03 at the all India level and in the state it increased from 64.2 in 1992-93 to 90.4 % in 2005-06 (NFHS-3). The MMR in Dindigul district in the year 2006 is 1.01 where as for the state it is 0.93. In Dindigul district the percentage of institutional delivery has improved from 85.96 in the year 2001-02 to 93.1 in the year 2006-07. According to the data provided by DLHS 2002-04, the percentage of anaemic adolescent girls is high amounting to 95.3% in Dindigul district. In order to achieve MDGs target, Dindugul district has to reduce MMR from 1.01 in the year 2006 to 0.9 in the year 2015. Anaemia coupled with domiciliary deliveries will pose a great threat to both the mother and the child. Ensuring institutional deliveries, providing access to health services and reduction in the prevalence of anemia will certainly have an impact in reducing the MMR.

Under Five Mortality rate

Improvements in indicators such as MMR, institutional deliveries, IMR and immunization will reduce the under five mortality. Tamil Nadu has fared well in immunization and it has immunized 91.4 percent of the children. Not only children, expectant mothers have to be immunizised to reduce the IMR. As far as Dindigul district is concerned, the status of under - five mortality rate is 8.5 percent. It has to be reduced 4.17 in the year 2015 in order to achieve MDG target and to increase the child sex ratio. Because the child sex ratio of the Dindigul district is not encouraging. The child sex ratio of Dindigul district is 930 females per 1000 males as against 942 for Tamil Nadu and Dindigul ranks 24th district with regard to child sex ratio. The district administration has to take special measures to sensitize the people on the importance of immunization and ANC, PNC care. The percentage of children who received full vaccination is 95.6% in Dindigul though better than the state; has to attain 100% in vaccination.

Institutional Deliveries

Tamil Nadu has made significant progress in increasing the proposition of institutional deliveries. Institutional deliveries comprise 94.1% of the total deliveries in the Tamil Nadu. However, the Dindigul district has 93.1% and it is less than state average. The district administration as well Tamil Nadu has to achieve 100 per cent institutional deliveries to improve the other health indicators.

Combat HIV/Malaria and other diseases

In India the prevalence of HIV among pregnant women was at a lower rate compared to other developing countries. However, the rate has increased from 74 per lakh of pregnant women in 2002 to 86 in 2003. This trend has to be reversed. The malarial and TB deaths are consistently coming down. The incidence of malarial deaths during the year 1990s is 1.2 lakh cases. This was reduced to 35,000 in the year 2002. Geographical information system is being developed in Tamil Nadu for Carrying out epidemiological mapping of the villages and identifying vulnerable area and seasonal pattern of disease outbreak. The Tamil Nadu State AIDS control society constituted in the year 1994 to tackle the problem of AIDS in a more effective manner. As for as Dindigul District is concerned the number of AIDS cases are 2169 in the year 2004, whereas in Tamil Nadu it is 7805. This shows that nearly one fourth of the AIDS cases prevalent in Dindigul. The spread of HIV AIDS has to be reduced to 0.05% in the year 2015 to attain the goal of reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS. Among the males, it has to be reduced to 0.07% and among the female it has to be reduced to 0.03% by 2015. The measures like awareness creation, sensitization, and proper treatment have to be undertaken. Similarly the prevalence rate of TB in Dindigul was 186 in the year 2004 against the state average of 196. But the prevalence rate of malaria is higher in the district at 95 but it is only 69 in the state. The district administration has to bring down malaria prevalence to 0% before the year 2015. For this; Mosquitoes have to be controlled effectively to bring down the rate to zero along with improved sanitation facilities, closed and underground drainage systems.

Ensuring Environmental Sustainability and access to safe drinking water

In view of the persistent efforts taken by the government to protect and nurture natural resources, the total land area covered by different forests is kept at 20.64 per cent as assessed in 2003. As per National Forest policy 1998, the national goal should be have a minimum of one third of the total land area of the country under forest or tree cover. In the hills and in mountainous regions, the aim should be to maintain two- third of the area under such cover in order to prevent erosion and land degradation and to ensure the stability of the fragile ecosystem. The reserved and protected forest at the all India level together accounted for 19 per cent of the land area and this rate is maintained for biological diversity. In Tamil Nadu, the proportion of forest area in the total area worked out to 17 per cent in 2003-04 as against 15.58 per cent in 1979-80.In Dindigul district the total forest area is 21.12%. The district which is fortunate to have topography with mountains can grow more trees as an afforestation measure. This has to be increased to 33.3 percent to improve the sustainable development. Integrating sustainable development principles in the development policies is one of the development goals of MDGs. The afforestation programmes are effectively implemented in the State and the deforestation activities either for fuel purpose or for construction have been curtailed. Proportion of households using forest logs as fire wood has come

down considerably. The present government, through its scheme, is providing LPG to stop the use of logs as fire woods.

The proportion of population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation has to be halved by 2015. The efforts taken by the State in this regard are remarkable. The slum populations in all the cities are increasing due to the large scale migration from the rural areas. Perhaps the provision of urban facilities in the rural areas would help to contain crowding of cities. In 2001 only 57.6 of rural house holds did not have access to safe drinking water through tap in Tamil Nadu and 37.94 percent in Dindigul do not have access to safe drinking water. This has to be reduced further and it has to reach 12.10 percent in the year 2015. As far rural and urban situation are concerned, 44.89% (2001) of rural population does not have access to safe drinking water and District administration has to bring down this to 13.18 in the year 2015. In the urban areas this has to improved from 25.12 %(2001) to 6.12 in the year 2015. With regard to the sanitation situation concerned is further worse with 75.75 (2001) of households do not have access to sanitation facilities. This has been improved and 42.83 percent households have to be provided sanitation facilities in the year 2015 in order to achieve MDGs target. Water and sanitation facilities have to be improved because they are related to the health and well being of the people. It is imperative that local bodies both rural and urban have to be sensitized on these issues and they have to work very effectively on these areas. Periodical sensitization of local body leaders will improve the situation as more number of schemes is available to the local bodies for these kinds of activities.

Table.No. 8.2

MDG Fact sheet of Dindigul District

Development Indicators	MDG target	Present Status			Target for the District 2015
		India	Tamil Nadu	Dindigul	
Income & Poverty	Reducing the proportion of people living on less than a $ a day by half Reducing the proportion of people suffering from hunger				
% of BPL population (2004-2005)					
Combined		27.5	21.6	27.9	18.64
Rural		28.3	19.8	20.5	11.08
Urban		25.7	23.5	40.0	31.44

Employment Employment-to-population ratio	Target Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people	39.26	44.78	50.61	65.00
Nutrition	Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger				
Prevalence of Underweight children under 5 years of age Grade II, III&IV malnutrition (2005) (0-3 years)			3.04	1.34	0.9
Education	Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling				
Literacy rate 2001 (%)		64.8	73.5	63.5	
Male Literacy Rate		75.3	82.4	79.8	
Female literacy rate		53.7	64.4	58.9	
NER – Primary (2004) Total - Boys - Girls		90	98.38 98.48 98.27	97.67 97.48 97.85	100.00 100.00 100.00
Completion Rate Total - Boys Girls			2005 77.57 76.14 79.07	2008 92.05 92.22 91.86	100.00 100.00 100.00
Ratio of Literate females to Males 15-24 age group		72	90.35	88.58	100.00

Health	Reduce by 2/3rds the mortality rate among children under five Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV AIDS, the prevalence and death rates associated with and major diseases				
U5MR			35.5	18.3	4.17
IMR (2006)		55	23.8	29.3	20
CPR (2006)		49	47	55.5	70
MMR (2006)		-	0.93	1.01	0.9
Institutional delivery (2007)			94.1	93.1	100
Prevalence rate of TB (2004)			196	186	0
Prevalence rate of Malaria (2004)			69	95	0
Number of AIDS cases (2004) - male - female - Total			 5499 2306 7805	 1497 671 2168	 0.07% 0.03% 0.05%
Percentage of Children availed full vaccination			91.4	95.6	100%
Environment	Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes Reverse loss of environmental				

	resources Reducing the half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water Achieve significant improvement in lives of at least hundred million slum dwellers by 2020				
% of recorded Forest area to total geographical area		23	17	22.12	33.3
% of Houses without Access to safe Drinking water (2001)					
Total			57.6	37.94	12.10
- rural			58.52	44.89	13.18
- urban			59.2	25.12	6.12
% of Houses without Access to Toilet facilities (2001)			64.84	75.75	42.83

Notes

1. Target for poverty reduction is based on the Poverty rates for 1993-94 estimates
2. Targets for WPR has been based on the growth rate in WPR from 1991 to 2001, source Census 2001
3. Proportion of Underweight children has been Nutritional Grading of children of Grade II, Grade III & IV, and targets have been fixed based on the 2001 data
4. Targets for educational indicators, NER and CR based on 2001 rates
5. Targets for Maternal and Child mortality are based on the declining trend of the State/ District
6. Targets fro AIDS prevalence/ TB and Malaria prevalence is based on the incidence in the refernce year
7. Forest area and area under trees is based on National Forest Policy 1988 and District Land use pattern
8. MDG Target for 2015 with regard to Access to Water & Toilet facilities is based on Census 1991 figures
9. CPR worked based on 11th Five Year Plan targets

Sources: Census of India, 2001, DLHS-2 (2002-2004), Tamil Nadu Economic Appraisal 2005-2006, Tamil Nadu Human Development Report 2003, Monthly Bulletin of Family welfare performance in Tamil Nadu- February 2009, Dindigul District Statistical handbook 2004.

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CHAPTER – 9

Summary and Way Forward

For a long period, growth was measured only on the basis of economic indicators like GDP and GNP. But this approach has been challenged on the ground that "the objective of Human Development is not simply to produce more goods and services for material enrichment but to increase the capabilities of all people to lead full, productive and satisfying lives". The UNDP, in the year 1990, first took this initiative and prepared a Human Development Report based on the above perspective. The UNDP stressed that "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". There are three essential elements of Human Development to enable people to lead long and healthy lives: to access knowledge, to access education and to possess the resources needed for a reasonable standard of living. Consequently, three areas have been identified as being of primary social concern--health, education and material well being. Accordingly, the State and Central governments prepared Human Development Reports. Further attempts were made to prepare Human Development reports at the district level. This chapter attempts to summarize the Human Development scenario of Dindigul District.

Demography, Health and Nutrition

The demographic trend shows changes in population growth over a period of time in Dindigul District. The population of Tamil Nadu grows at the rate of 11.72 percent whereas in Dindigul District it grows at the rate of 9.22 percent, registering a lesser growth trend than the State's. The sex ratio of Dindigul District is 986 females per 1000 males. This is lower than the State average. The sex ratio of the rural population is 987 females against the 992 for the State. The child sex ratio (0-6 years of age) is not promising as well. The Athoor block has the lowest child sex ratio of 897 followed by Thoppampatti and Vedasandur. The inequality index of the total population of Dindigul District is estimated as 30.25 percent as against 30.03 percent for the State.

The situation in Dindigul District on CBR and CDR shows fluctuation. Like CBR and CDR the incidence of IMR also reached the maximum in the year 2004 and subsequently, it decreased but not to the extent of the expectation of the Millennium Development Goal. But, SBR has declined from the year 2001 to 2006. A few blocks like Guziliyamparai and Vadamadurai have the highest SBR. The under-five mortality rate is low. Dindigul District has also made significant progress in sensitizing the population on the importance of institutional deliveries.

Among the districts in Tamil Nadu, Dindigul stands 16th in the prevalence of malnutrition among the 0-36 months age group. With respect to Grade III malnutrition children, it ranks 24th Districts like the Nilgris and Kanniyakumari have recorded the least malnutrition cases. With respect to anaemic women, block variations are found. Dindigul Municipality recorded the highest number of anaemic women. The highest number of anemic adolescent girls was found in the Natham block. With regard to normal weight of children in the age group of 3-6 years only 60.1 percent were found. The Nilakkottai block recorded the lowest number of children in the normal weight category (50.9 %).

Problems in Attainment of Health

Hospitals and PHCs are not adequately staffed. The social problems in dealing with high IMR are reported to have been almost tackled and there is no reported case of female infanticide as per data or any press reports though this could not be counter-checked with the field reality. What is needed is the appointment of more number of reproductive specialists as nodal health officers block-wise or area-wise.

Suggestions

- To reduce still births, maternal mortality and to improve the overall health of infants and mothers, it is necessary to care for the mothers in the antenatal stage, giving them the opportunity to have a balanced diet, may be through a scheme like the Noon Meal Scheme.
- Mothers are to have at least one square meal of balanced nutrition per day. The present scheme of providing Rs. 6000 to the expectant mothers or young mothers does not bear the expected result because many times the money is used for children's school fees, local festivals or repaying petty loans. Therefore the whole purpose of this scheme is lost.
- Educating girl students in reproductive health by including a course in their 9th and 11th standards, where the pressure of meeting public examinations is minimum, will help them to understand the importance of such health issues.
- A gynecologist and a reproductive specialist should be posted in all block-level PHCs, preferably a lady doctor.
- Socio economic factors play a significant role in becoming pregnant, delivering a child and rearing a child. There is clearly a lack of social education and male domination is another factor of concern.
- Village-level misconceptions should be gradually eliminated by creating better awareness and providing education by employing old village type/traditional teaching and educational methods.

- Health and good value systems should be taught or preserved based on the location-wise social traditions on the basis of viability.
- HIV and AIDS prevalence in rural areas is due lack of awareness and hence IEC activities need to strengthened.
- Officials at the district level and below should be sensitized on the importance of tackling the condition of nutritional deficiency. With the help of field-level officials, people could be sensitized on healthy eating habits. The nutritional content of fruits and vegetables can be advertised through pamphlets. The district administration can motivate local body leaders to discuss the issues relating to health and nutrition in the Gram Sabha. Health and Nutrition specialists can also sensitize SHG members.
- Special attention can be given to the lowest performing blocks. The negative responsible factors for the poor performance should be identified and measures should be taken to rectify them.

Literacy and Education

The literacy rate of Dindigul District is 63.5 percent. It lags behind the State average. The SC/ST literacy rate is further below the average literacy rate of Dindigul District. As in the case of health indicators, block-wise inequality too has been striking despite the various efforts taken by the district administration. The Guziliyamparai block recorded the lowest literacy rate (57.5 percent) with 67.0 percent for males and 48.0 percent for females. Not only the Guziliyamparai Block, the Natham and Vadamadurai blocks also show a very low female literacy rate (47.0 Percent). The Kodaikkannal block shows the lowest ST female literacy rate (40.0 percent) according to the 2001 census. Dindigul Municipality has the highest literacy rate (male 80.0 percent and female 73.0 percent).

Dindigul District has made significant achievements in the development of education over a period of time. But inter-block variation is found in all the education indicators. In the year 2003-2004, there was a big jump in the development of the overall educational status. But this was not constant. In primary education, it has 100 percent Gross Access Rate, more than 100 percent Gross Enrolment Rate and the Net Enrolment Rate also increased over a period of time. It has also drastically reduced Repetition Rate in primary education. Blocks like Kodaikkannal, Thoppampatti, and Vadamadurai have to concentrate on the areas that they lack. Dindigul being dependent on agriculture, poverty and economic backwardness lead to a high drop-out rate in upper primary in a few blocks. Apart from this, Kodaikkannal and Palani are tourist spots. Agriculture and tourism are labour-intensive sectors and hence, in these places the drop-out rate is high. The gender gap is not wide in general. The overall performance of SC boys and girls in primary education does not show any major difference. Upper primary education has also fared well. Overall the district administration has

controlled the dropout rate effectively. In spite of the improvement in educational attainment in the primary and upper primary segments, the pass out rate in 10th and 12th standards is not impressive when compared with that of other districts of Tamil Nadu.

Suggestions

- Special attention should be given to the Guziliyamparai Block. Attention should be paid to Thoppampatti, Kodaikkannal and Vadamadurai Blocks also.
- Identifying socio-cultural issues prevailing in particular villages and blocks, attention should be given to rectifying those issues.
- Sensitizing teachers to increase the completion rate of girls.
- Building strong public accountability through the Gram Sabha.
- Standardization of Monitoring and Evaluation system.
- Strengthening supervision mechanism.
- Panchayats should be given needed monitoring power.
- Identifying best practices and motivating others to replicate the same in the field of education.
- Sustainable motivation for the students of 10th and 12th standard.
- Since the district has access to tertiary education, which has both central, State and technical institutes, especially for women, students can be motivated to join these institutes.
- The district lacks special education institutes, which should be established.
- Proper awareness among parents and children should be created.
- Short-term economic compulsions should not adversely affect the educational goals.
- Educational committee of the Panchayats should be made effective.
- Quality, equity and efficiency aspects relating to education will impact the welfare of the society.
- Activate Parent – Teachers Associations.

Agriculture and Livelihood

There is a lot of scope for agriculture-related activities in Dindigul District. The Oddanchatram vegetable market, fruits from Kodaikkannal, especially hill banana from Pulney Hills and the Sirumalai Hills, Coir industry, Lock industry, Chinnalapatti Handloom industry can be given attention for further development. The Oddanchatram vegetable market is one of the important vegetable markets in the State, dealing with 3,000 to 5,000 tonnes of vegetables everyday. For the hills surrounding Kodaikkannal, the news is good but not great. The Pulney Hills border the large Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS) in the Anamalais and is thus linked to the Chinnar WLS, the Eravikulam National Park and the Parambikulam WLS. Wildlife roaming into the Pulney Hills from these protected areas is at risk, without any legal protection. So, poaching of wildlife remains a serious but undocumented fact of life in the Pulney Hills. The proposal to declare the Pulney Hills a protected area seeks to address this serious threat to India's biodiversity. A large number of chamber brick units are functioning in this district. Tanneries are thickly situated in this district. Finished and semi-finished leather and other leather products have a good export market. Dindigul locks and iron safes are very famous for their quality. The district is also famous for its handloom products and rice milling. Groundnut and vermicelli are the other types of food-based industries functioning in this district.

The Indian lock industry is concentrated in two major locations, Aligarh and Dindigul. The century-old location at Dindigul is known for small lock manufacturers. According to SIDBI, at present there are only 42 units out of about 250 units which existed in the past. They are spread over five villages in Dindigul District. The 42 units represent the artisan sector besides one workers' co-operative, which employs about 30 workers. The total turnover of all these units is around Rs. 4 million and the number of workers engaged in the industry is estimated to be about 150.

Suggestions

- There is scope for the district administration to establish processing facilities, cold storage godowns and scientific weigh machine for the farmers.
- Preserving the Pulney Hills in their present State will solve only part of the problem they face. However, a programme to restore the hills to their pre-colonisation State would go a long way in encouraging the hills' biodiversity and increasing the water supply to the plains. A restoration programme is needed immediately.
- Pine, eucalyptus and wattle trees are swiftly spreading into the grasslands. Exotic trees have to be cut and attempts made to propagate native grasslands and shola species. But this challenging task will be made especially difficult because the blanket ban that has been

imposed on tree-felling does not differentiate between native and exotic trees.

- Some plantations would have to be retained to provide a sustainable source of energy for the communities that live on the hills. Ecological restoration in the upper Pulney is an idea that will require more than a lifetime to implement. It will need further studies and abundant patience, but it is certainly something that needs to be attempted for the sake of the hills, their wildlife, and the human communities that depend on water from the hills.

- There are several instances where protected areas in southern India have benefited local communities. These could be role models worth emulating. The Kalakad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (KMTR) has been running a highly effective eco-development project in villages on its periphery. Villagers, once neglected and dependent on illegal activities in the forest, have become stakeholders in the Tiger Reserve because of education and schemes launched to improve their economic condition. A similar relationship is highly desirable in the case of the Pulney Hills too. Among cases where a relocation of villages was advisable, the successful project in the Bhadra Tiger Reserve (Karnataka) is worth mentioning. In this case, non-governmental organizations worked with the village leaders and the Forest Department and found better land for villagers who lived in the core of the sanctuary.

- The proposed protected area in the Pulney Hills will be a pro-people wildlife sanctuary, and communities living around the hills will have a great stake in it.

- In a drought-prone area, one of the strongest reasons to protect the Pulney Hills is its critical role as a watershed. In fact, there is a proposal that the Pulney Hills be called both a biodiversity reserve and a watershed reserve in recognition of its important role in providing water to the surrounding drought-prone plains. At the same time, the sanctuary or national park will help conserve rare biodiversity, one of India's great treasures and an important legacy for future generations. Through restoration activities, eco-development and low-impact eco-tourism, the proposed sanctuary will be able to provide job opportunities that will not endanger the fragile hill environment.

- There is much scope for starting leather-based units, lock units, brick units and food-based units in this district.

- Dindigul District has a reputation for being located in the white belt of Tamil Nadu. Animal Husbandry shares equal importance along with horticulture as a remunerative occupation. Part of Dindigul District, Palani and Vedasandur Taluks lie in the Kangayam breeding tract.

- Dindigul District has the necessary environment for breeding pure exotic milk breeds like Jersey in the Kodaikkannal, the Palani and the Sirumalai Hill ranges. Palani, Vedasandur and part of Dindigul Taluks are unique in buffalo breeding in the sense that buffaloes are highly productive in this dry tract. From this dry tract, butter and curd are exported to other states and the area is dotted with creameries. The buffalo is the 'bread winner' of many families.

- Kodaikkannal, Dindigul, Natham and Nilakkottai Taluks have a good population of cross-bred cows with different levels of exotic inheritance. The density of sheep and goat population is high in Palani, Vedasandur and Dindigul Taluks. The flourishing sheep breeds in these areas are the reputed Macheri breed. Goats are multiplying without any directional breeding.

- There are two Poultry Extension Centres at Gandhigram and Kodaikkannal. These Poultry Extension Centres are designed to serve as Model Units in Poultry Management. They are no longer functioning and have probably lost this relevance as poultry leading has become more sophisticated and large scale.

- Infrastructure for cattle and buffalo breeding is extended through a wide network of insemination centres in this district.

- Animal health cover is extended through a network of veterinary institutions distributed uniformly in this district.

- Landless farm labourers including women can be brought under the self-help group net for their economic uplift and the over-all rural development.

- It is to be urged that the people participate in the wasteland development programme and improve their standard of living.

- Groundwater in and around Dindigul Town is polluted due to discharge of untreated effluents from 80 functional tanneries. The Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) in a 100-km area are observed to range from 2000 to 30,573 mg/l in open dug wells. A mass transport model was constructed to study pollutant migration. The study area covering 240 kms was chosen to construct the groundwater flow model in the weathered part of unconfined aquifer system. The shallow ground water potential field computed through the flow model was then used as input to the mass transport model. MT3D computer code was used to simulate mass transport in the groundwater system. The mass transport model was calibrated with field observations. The available database was, however, quite sparse. Notwithstanding, efforts were made to arrive at reasonable guesstimates of the characteristic parameters.

Groundwater is highly polluted due to tannery effluents on the eastern side of the Kodaganar River and on the western side of the town. In order to observe the distribution pattern of TDS and to demarcate the higher concentration zones in the study area, TDS contour map was prepared.

- Geometry and boundary conditions in the aquifer are generally complex, because the aquifer is in hard rock terrain.
- The State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu made a pitch to potential investors to take up space at the Eco-Enterprises Park proposed to come up in the Nilakkottai Agro Industrial Complex in Dindigul District.
- The cluster of agro-based activities that are envisaged in the complex will include a food park. An agri export zone would add to the locational advantage.
- The Eco-Enterprises Park is located in the 388-acre Nilakkottai Agro Industrial Complex, which includes a food park, a joint venture between SIPCOT and the Agriculture Department.
- Facilities will include cold storages, quality control laboratories, aseptic packaging and spray drying units.
- Nilakkottai is also a part of the Agri Export Zone for mangoes. The Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation is also looking at a winery project, which is likely to be located at Nilakkottai. The industries that are likely to come up at the park are biological software enterprises like bio - pesticides, bio-fertilizers and sericulture, herbal technology, horticulture technology and renewable energy technology. It is said that the Government is reorienting agriculture development with focus on agro-processing, value addition and exports. To access export markets, agriculture production has to be integrated with environmental concerns, to adhere to sanitary and phytosanitary requirements and to exploit opportunities presented by organic farming.
- The Eco Enterprises Park can catalyze environment-friendly industries. Ideally, the units coming up at the park can concentrate on water technologies, like development of minimum water requirement farming, needs of the locality including products relating to moisture retention and efficient use of water; energy-related products concerning biogas, biomass and wind energy; health applications like indigenous medicine systems and herbal products.
- According to SIDBI, as per the prevailing mindset for industrial development, it was thought prudent to reserve about one thousand items for exclusive manufacture in the small-scale sector prior to liberalisation. Locks were also included in this list and the Indian lock

industry was insulated from competition as well as from new technology.

- A monopoly market further ensured that technology upgradation and product improvement were the least on the priority list of the units. By the time India started integrating its economy with that of the rest of the world in the early 90s, it was found that the lock industry was not in a position to compete internationally.
- In view of the increasing importance of the lock industry vis-à-vis the present status, SIDBI made an intervention for technology upgradation.

Owing to the great variety of climatic conditions existing in Dindigul District, there is a great scope for horticulture development in the district. Already, in the plains, the areas near Oddanchatram are famous for vegetable cultivation and still there is potential to be realised. Accordingly, the Department of Horticulture has identified the following thrust areas.

- Location-specific cropping pattern in cluster mode for better marketing from Government as well as private firms.
- Making available of quality planting materials and seeds.
- Based on the market need the development of different kinds of fruits, vegetables, plantation crops, spices, flowers, medicinal and aromatic plants, mushroom etc.
- Exploitation of unique features in the crop production like off-season mango, etc.
- Efficient and economic water management through micro-irrigation system for maximizing production per unit area.
- Strengthening of marketing arrangements for the promotion of agri business.
- Development of export promotion zones.
- Promotion of hi-tech horticulture like cut flowers, vegetable production in polyhouse.
- Production of vegetables through organic farming.
- Processing and value addition of products from mango, banana, tomato, chillies, onion and moringo.
- Building up a reliable database.
- To help the new entrepreneurs to start new agro-based and food processing units with a fixed investment (land, building and machinery) of Rupees Twenty five lakhs and above in each block of this district.
- Implementation of cluster development scheme in this district.
- To help the exporters by giving export guidance through an Export Guidance Cell.
- To select eligible unemployed educated youth under the PMRY Scheme through a Task Force Committee headed by the General

Manager, District Industries centre and recommend to the service area banks to sanction and disburse the loan.

Achieving human development involves many stakeholders. The initiatives taken by the government at all levels have to play a crucial role in improving the status of the people. This report shows that the initiatives taken by the local body leaders from the human development perspective are worth mentioning. These leaders have taken measures to improve the health of women and children, provide livelihood and food security. At the sub district level they have worked for the attainment of human development. This shows that planning from below will provide expected and fruitful results.

Way Forward

- Sensitizing the local bureaucracy and local leaders on Human Development is imperative.
- People are sensitized on water supply, public distribution system and community transport but they are not sensitized on sanitation, public health and primary education. Awareness should be created through NGOs, Local Bodies, field-level staff and CBOs. People should be made to realize the importance of sanitation, public health and primary education as their felt needs. The district administration can use NSS volunteers and media like FM radios for awareness and information dissemination.
- The local bureaucracy has been oriented to be accountable to their higher officials but they should also be made accountable to the people.
- The local bureaucracy's skill and capacity should be enhanced.
- Constitutionally established Local Bodies and institutions can effectively monitor the functions of all the line departments at the grassroots level.
- The Gram Sabha is an effective instrument to disseminate information about the status of Human Development.
- Public institutions have to be strengthened and they are to be integrated with the Local Body institutions as partners for effective and quality service delivery.
- Efforts should be taken to change the mindset of the people towards public institutions.
- All review meetings at all levels have to be done from the perspective of Human Development.
- Human Development indicators have to be kept as attainable goals.
- Identify top and bottom five blocks in all human development indicators and pay attention to low performers.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS	- Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome
ANC	- Ante Natal Care
ASER	- Annual Status of Education Report
BG	- Broad Gauge
BPL	- Below Poverty Line
CBR	- Crude Birth Rate
CDR	- Crude Death Rate
CPR	- Couple Protection Rate
CR	- Completion Rate
DDHS	- Deputy Director of Health Service
DISE	- District Information System of Education
DLHS	- District Level Household Survey
DOES	- Department of Economics and Statistics
DPEP	- District Primary Education Programme
DR	- Dropout rate
GAR	- Gross Access Rate
GDP	- Gross Domestic Product
HDR	- Human Development Report
HDI	- Human Development Index
HIV	- Human Immuno Deficiency Virus
HUD	- Health Unit District
ICDS	- Integrated Child Development Scheme
IFA	- Iron and Folic Acid
IMR	- Infant Mortality Rate
ITI	- Industrial Training Institute
LBW	- Low Birth Weight
LIC	- Life Insurance Corporation of India
MDG	- Millennium Development Goal
MG	- Metre Gauge
MMR	- Maternal Mortality Rate

MPCE	- Monthly Per Capita Expenditure
NDP	– Net Domestic Product
NER	- Net Enrolment Ratio
NFHS	- National Family Health Survey
NGO	- Non Governmental Organisation
NMP	- Noon Meal Programme
NSA	- Net Sown Area
NSSO	- National Sample Survey Organisation
PDS	- Public Distribution System
PHC	- Primary Health Centre
PTR	- People Teacher Ratio
RSVY	- Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana
RCH	- Reproductive and Child Health
SBR	- Still Birth Rate
SC	- Scheduled Caste
SHG	- Self Help Group
SRI	- Systemic Rice Intensification
SSA	- Sarva Shiksha Abiyan
ST	- Scheduled Tribes
TAHDCO	- Tamil Nadu Adi Dravida Housing Development Corporation
TFR	- Total Fertility Rate
TINP	- Tamil Nadu Integrated Nutrition Project
TN	- Tamil Nadu
UN	- United Nations
U5MR	- Under Five Mortality Rate
WPR	- Work Participation Rate

Glossary

Antenatal Period

The period from conception till the onset of labour (approximately 40 weeks).

Attendance Rate

The percentage of classes attended by students.

Completion Rate

The percentage of students completing their education in the primary standards may be defined as the completion rate in the primary standards.

Cropping Intensity

The percentage of gross cropped area to net cropped area in a year.

Crude Birth Rate (CBR)

CBR is the number of live births per 1000 of mid year population.

Crude Death Rate (CDR)

CDR is the number of deaths per 1000 population.

Dropout Rate

The percentage of students leaving the school system without completing education.

Gross Access Ratio (GAR)

GAR in primary means the percentage of total habitations that have schools in short distances within the radius of 1 km.

GAR in upper primary means the percentage of total habitations that have schools in short distances within the radius of 3 km.

Infant Mortality Rate

The number of deaths of infants under age 1 per 1000 live births in a given year.

Irrigation Intensity

The percentage of gross irrigated area to net irrigated area.

Life Expectancy at Birth (LEB)

LEB is the average number of years a new born child would be expected to live if the child is subject to the age pattern of mortality prevailing at the time of its birth.

Literacy Rate

The percentage of literates to the total population of children, age 7 years and above.

Low Birth Weight

The weight at birth is less than 2500 gm.

Maternal Mortality Ratio

The ratio reflects the risk women face of dying during pregnancy. The number of women who die during pregnancy or during the first 42 days after delivery per 1000 live births in a given year from any cause related to or aggravated by pregnancy but not from accidental or incidental causes.

Net Enrolment Ratio (NER)

NER is defined as the percentage of the total 5^+ to 9^+ children enrolment to the total school population of the 5+ to 9+ age group children.

Prenatal Period

The period between conception and birth.

Pupil-Teacher Ratio

The Pupil-Teacher Ratio indicates the average number of pupils per teacher.

Repetition Rate

Proportion of pupils from a cohort enrolled in a given standard at a given school year who study in the same standard in the following school year.

Still Birth Rate

The death of a foetus weighing at least 500 gm (or when birth weight is unavailable, after 22 completed weeks of gestation or with a crown-heel length of 25 cm or more), before the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother.

Total Fertility Rate

The number of live births per 1000 women of reproductive age, usually taken as 15-44 years in a given year.

Work Participation Rate

The percentage of persons in labour force.