District Human Development Report - 2017

Theni District

State Planning Commission
Tamil Nadu

THENI
DISTRICT HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2017

**District Administration, Theni, and
State Planning Commission,
Government of Tamil Nadu
With the association with
Madurai Kamaraj
University - Madurai**

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ANIL MESHRAM, I.A.S.,
Member Secretary

MESSAGE

Tamil Nadu is a pioneer in implementing welfare programmes. The State's Twelfth Five Year Plan insists upon the betterment of Human Development status. Tamil Nadu is on the path of development for achieving accelerated, innovative and inclusive growth.

The State Planning Commission had earlier published Human Development Reports for the State and 8 districts. The analysis on the inter district and intra district disparities has led to policy recommendations and formulation of specific schemes like State Balanced Growth Fund to address backwardness. As a sequel, State Planning Commission has taken up the preparation of Human Development Reports for all districts.

This report is prepared with an objective to address Human Development concerns at the block level. An in-depth analysis on the Human Development status through Health, Education, Standard of living, Gender, Demography, Social Security sectors has been made to study the performance of blocks at the sub-district level. This could play as an effective tool for grassroots level planning.

I take this opportunity to place on record my sincere appreciation to the District Collector and Line Department Officials for sharing data on various parameters for the preparation of District Human Development Report. I thank all the stakeholders for their contributions to this report.

ANIL MESHRAM
MEMBER SECRETARY
STATE PLANNING COMMISSION

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PREFACE

Theni District nestled in the south-western region of Tamilnadu is endowed with rich natural resources and unique human resources. Though the district has for long remained in the backwaters of development, the rays of improvement have seeped in an unprecedented manner during the last few years.

A remarkable progress can be now seen in almost all sectors like health, literacy, agriculture, employment etc. This document is unique one to serve as a ready reckoner to understand the core issues of the district.

I hope this district human development report will pave a way to see the development in an overall perspective and trigger the development process in right direction.

I appreciate and thank all the district officials who have put their energy and effort to collect the qualitative data and professors of Madurai Kamarajar University who have worked tirelessly in compiling this report.

District Collector,
Theni.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I appreciate my ward Mr. M.Bharath, UGC – NET, UGC – Junior Research Fellow in Management, Co Investigator for Theni DHDR for the years of 2011-12 and of 2013-14, who had shouldered the responsibility of executing various tasks of the project with involvement and dedication. He deserves appreciation for his efforts behind the scene in organizing several stakeholders meet and focus group discussions.

Lastly, I acknowledge with a deep sense of appreciation, unremitting cooperation and help of all the officers and staff of the SPC and District Administration, without whom the present endeavor would not have achieved fruition.

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CHAPTER 1

THENI DISTRICT - A PROFILE

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Chapter

1

Theni District Profile

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Introduction

The district with its picturesque sceneries, green fields, mounds, hills and a mixture of slope and plain lands, is located in the south west part of Tamil Nadu. The city Theni is the headquarter of the district. The district is divided into two natural divisions: a) The hilly areas constituted by parts of the three taluks Periyakulam, Uthamapalayam and Aundipatti with thick vegetation and perennial streams from the hills on the western side b) Cumbum valley which lies in Uthamapalayam taluk. As of 2011, it had a population of 1,245,899 with a sex-ratio of 990 females for every 1,000 males. It is surrounded by the Western Ghats, having green stretches of cultivated lands and tea gardens. Silk cotton, soft towels, coffee seeds, grapes, cardamom and mangoes are the major produces of the district. It is the main route for the tourists bound from Madurai to Kochi via Bodinayakanur and to Thekkadi wildlife sanctuary via Cumbum. It holds nature's beauty with the spicy green ornaments, historical temples and popularly known waterfalls. It is divided into eight blocks namely Aundipatti, K.Myladumparai, Theni, Periyakulam, Bodinayakkanur, Uthamapalayam, Chinnamanur and Cumbum situated with two revenue divisions of Periyakulam and Uthamapalayam. There are five taluks namely Periyakulam, Uthamapalayam, Theni, Bodinayakkanur and Aundipatti, 6 Municipalities, 22 Town Panchayats and 130 Village Panchayats in the district.

Topography

The district lies at the foot of the Western Ghats between 9' 39' and 10' 30' North latitude, between 77' 00' and 78' 30' of East Longitude and the Central location: 10°04'N 77°45'E. It has total land area of 2,889 km2 (1,115 sq m) is bounded by Dindigul district to the north, Madurai district to the east, Virudhunagar district to the southwest and Idukki district of the Kerala State to the west. It comprises of mid range cities like Theni, Periyakulam, Bodinayakkanur, Cumbum and Uthamapalayam, It is diversified by several valleys, terrains, mounds, mountain ranges and hills. It has a range of hills which runs parallel to Western Ghats from north to south and this separates it from the neighbouring State of Kerala.

Climate- In the plains, the temperature ranges from a minimum of 13 °C to a maximum of 39.5 °C. In the hills, the temperature ranges from 45 °C to 25 °C. The district is known for its salubrious climate, hills and lakes.

Rivers and Dams- The Vaigai River, Kottagudi River, Suruliyar River, Varaganathi River, Manjalar River and Varattaru River flow through the district. The important reservoirs in the district are the Vaigai Dam, Manjalaru Dam, Sothuparai Dam, Sanmughanathi Dam, Manalaru Dam and Melmanalaru Dam.

Formation of Theni District (History)

The district has been formed after bifurcation from Madurai district as per G.O.Ms.No.679 Revenue Department Dated: 25.07.96. Consequent on the bifurcation, one new revenue division with headquarters at Uthamapalayam and two new taluks of Theni, Bodinaickanur were also created with effect from 01.01.97. Dr.K.Satyagopal IAS was the first collector of the district.

Theni Municipal town was only a temporary headquarter till 31.12.96. Consequent on the formation of the new district, Theni Municipal Town has been upgraded as taluk and district head quarters from 01.01.97. It is mainly a commercial town which also known for its big weekly market every Sunday.

Language: The language gets much importance in the human development. The languages spoken in the district include Tamil, Telugu, Kannadam, Malayalam, Sourastra and English. Tamil is the home language among the other languages in the district.

Art, architecture and culture

The art, architecture are the cultural reflection of the society and the evidence of human development. The district which proves its art and architecture through its temples namely Kalatheeswarar Gnanamman Temple, Veerapandi Gowmariamman Temple, Kamatchipuram Sri Pathira Kaliyamman Temple, Chinnamanur Sivagamiamman Temple, Suruli Vellapar Temple, Mallingar Swamy Temple, Kuchanur Saneeswarar Temple, Theertha Thotti Subramanya Temple, Periyakulam Balasubramanya Temple, Devadanapatti Kamatchi Amman Temple, Churches and Masques. The culture of the district is reflected through the cultural beliefs, festivals and etc.

Naturally, the district has got people who are religious, hard working, with belief in supernatural elements and so on. The one week religious festival celebration of the Gowmariyamman temple at Veerapandi during the month of May is popularly known and celebrated in the region. Veerappa Ayyanar temple festival during April at Theni, Kamatchi Amman festival at Devadhanapatti and Saneeswaran Temple festival at Kuchanoor are the most

honored festivals of the district and these festivals show the spiritual cultural practices of the district.

Temples and festivals

The Gowmariamman Temple at Veerapandi is situated in Theni taluk. The temple was built by the Pandiya King Veerapandian in 14th Century. When he was ruling Madurai, unfortunately he had lost his eyesight due to his ill fate. The history of the temple depicts that the King Veerapandiya regained his eye-sight by worshipping the Goddess Gowmariamman and the God Kanneeswaramudayar.

The Saturn or Saneeswarar is the main deity worshipped at Kuchanur village in Chinnamanur block. Lord Saneeswarer is present in splendid isolation without other planets and he is known as Kuchanooran, the powerful. The temple is situated on the bank of main channel of river Surabhi. The Kannagi temple which witnesses a single day festivity during Chitra Pournami day is in the interstate borders of Tamilnadu and Kerala. The main shrine in Devadanapatti Kamatchi Amman Temple is the deity Kamatchiamman and situated on the banks of the Manjalaru River which runs in Periyakulam block. The temple is 3 kms from Devadanapatti bus stand. The doors to the sanctum sanctorum are never opened in the temple, and all the pujas are offered only to the portals.

The special puja performed in the evening, to be accompanied with local musical instruments, is a spectacular audio-visual feast.

The main attraction in Mavoothu is the Vellappar Temple and the holy shrine is situated in the Varushanadu hill ranges, 20 kms from Aundipatti. Nestling among the hills, the temple is situated at top of a peak, surrounded by natural vegetation. Transport facility is available up to the foothills only. The rainwater gathers around the mango trees near the temple and flows downhill in torrents. This has given the place the name "Mavoothu" which is in Tamil stands for "spring of the mango groove". The place has a perennial water source.

Theni District
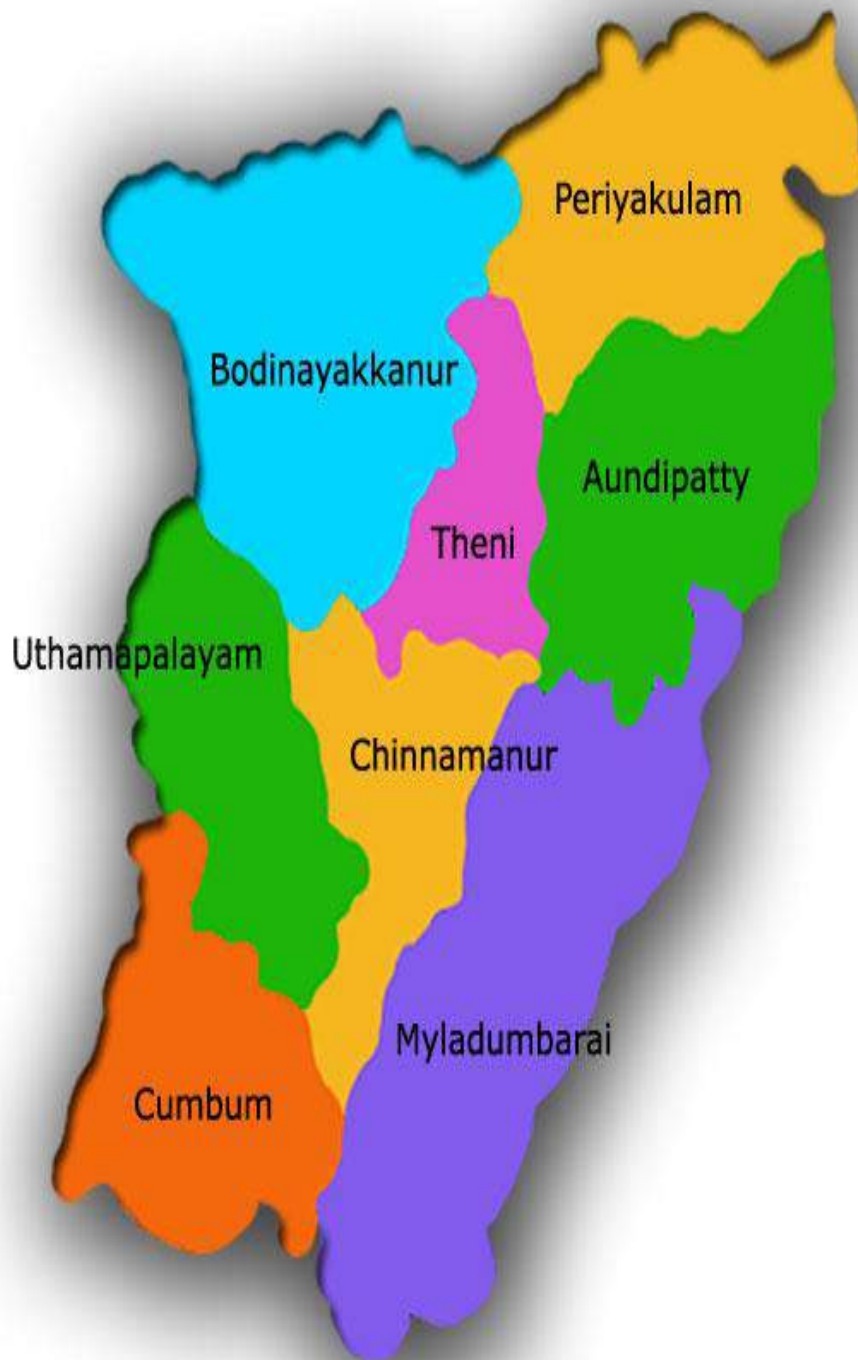
The following table 1.1 explains the demographic indicators as population, density of population per square km, urban population, sex ratio and decennial growth in percentage.

Table1.1- District Basic Demographic Indicators

SI.NO	INDICATORS	2001	2011
1.	Population	10,93,950	12,45,899
2.	Decennial Growth (%)	+4.25	+13.9
3.	Density of Population per sq,km,	381	434
4.	Urban Population	591841	670,481
5.	Sex Ratio	978	991

Source: Census 2011

Demography

Theni district had a population of 12,45,899 (as of 2011 Census). It consists of Urban population, 53.82 percent lesser than the State urban population and of rural population 56.18 percent. It has a population density of 434 inhabitants per square kilometer. The district population density is lower than that of State, 555 in 2011. Its population growth rate over the decade 2001-2011 was 13.9 percent, below the growth rate of State (15.61 percent). It has a sex ratio of 991 females for every 1000 males, thanks to improvement through the vigilant drive by the governmnet to arrest female infanticide during 2001-2011. Child sex ratio is at 934 female children for every 1000 male children. Share of scheduled caste and scheduled tribe's population from the total population was 20.72 per cent and 0.14 per cent respectively. Decennial growth rate was at +4.25 compared to the previous 1991- 2001. At the same rate of calculation, it improved to +13.9 in 2011 showing rapid growth when compared to the previous decade.

Economy

The district income is defined as the sum of total value of economic production within the district during the particular period. The major income of the district depends on the Tertiary sector of Rs.2, 67,947 lakhs followed by the Primary sector Rs.1, 07, 121 lakhs and the Secondary sector Rs. 62483 lakhs during 2011-12. The major portion of workforce depends on agriculture in the district. But the Tertiary sector contribution is high in Gross District Domestic Product. Being with low rainfall and unstable seasonal rainfall, Primary or agricultural sector contribution has reduced and due to the urbanization in the district, the contribution of Tertiary sector has

attained importance in the economy of the district. The rural population migrate to nearest districts specially Idukki in Kerala, other districts and other States in search of employment.

The table 1.2 shows the sectoral distribution of Gross District Domestic Product during 2004-05 to 2011-12 (Rs. in lakhs).

Table1.2 Sectoral Distribution of Gross District Domestic Product
(Rs. in Lakhs)

Years\ Sectors	Primary sector	Secondary sector	Tertiary sector	Total
2004-05	**72312**	**56419**	**165355**	**294086**
2005-06	86376	53907	182055	322338
2006-07	90371	51658	203500	345529
2007-08	84629	51963	215410	352002
2008-09	93363	44608	229576	367547
2009-10	97941	63413	236321	397675
2010-11	100293	62082	256514	418889
2011-12	**107121**	**62483**	**267947**	**437551**

Source: Department of Economics and Statistics

The table 1.2 shows GDDP of Theni district. The share of Tertiary sector in GDDP Rs.267947 is higher than the shares of primary sector Rs.107121 and secondary sector Rs. 62483. The mixed trend of growth rate in the sectoral contribution to GDDP of the district is observed from the years 2004-05 to the years 2011-12. The same trend is observed in State level sectoral contribution to GDDP. With the support of banks, small business trades, healthcare, transport, education and textile and spinning industries, the contribution of Tertiary sector is high, With the support of agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, sericulture, seed certification, cooperatives with NABARD, fisheries, agro business and marketing, forestry and other necessary infrastructure, the contribution of Primary sector is next to Tertiary sector and with the support of slow development of big industries, construction, crafts, developing agro based business, the contribution of Secondary sector is bound to increase.

Agriculture

Agriculture, the major economic resource of the district gets flourished by the Mullai Periyar dam water flow and the Vaigai dam water flow to the major crops productions as Paddy, Millets, Pulses, Cotton, Grapes, Mangoes, Bananas and Sugarcane. The district with the utilisation of land area for cultivation is 40.33% of the total land utilised area. The principal crop production in 2011-2012 was: Sugarcane 1,201,221 tonnes, Cotton 95,360 tonnes (561 bales of 170. kg lint each), Rice (paddy) 66,093 tonnes, Millets and other cereals 57,081 tonnes, Pulses 6,677 tonnes, Groundnut 4,021 tonnes and Gingili 325 tonnes.

Grape production

Cumbum Valley is a major centre for grape production with 4,000 small farmers producing over 90,000 tonnes of Muscat grapes, locally known as Panneer Dhrakshai and about 10,000 tonnes of Thomson seedless grapes during 2013-14. The unique feature of grapes plantation is that the grapes are harvested throughout the year.

Vegetables and flowers plantation

The hilly areas of the district Uttamapalaiyam, Periyakulam and Bodinayakkanur have the production of fruits, vegetables and flowers which are supplied to other districts in the State and also to some northern States. It is found that flower crops and herbal crops are being found out to be viable and are cultivated in a few pockets at hilly tracks.

Paddy, Millets and Pulses plantation

Paddy is cultivated twice in a year and the seasons for cultivation of paddy are June-August and September-December. During the seasons short and long term crops are sown. Dung, Leaf manure, Tank silt and Oil Cake besides chemical fertilizers are the important manure used in the district. Cumbu, Corn, Groundnuts and Regi are the staple food of the poorest class and are mostly grown as crops like paddy. Cotton is also sown in rain fed and irrigated areas.

During 2013-14, the production of Paddy, Millets and Pulses were 53865 tonnes, 171412 tonnes and 13514 tonnes respectively. Due to a normal rainfall and more storage of water for irrigation in Periyar dam, the government envisages higher level of production.

Agricultural Technology and Management Agency

It educates farmers about new technology in agriculture to increase productivity of the lands through practical training in specialized agricultural plots. **During 2013-14,** the speciality agriculture training has been given to farmers for red gram cultivation for 1684 farmers from 8 blocks. The beneficiaries are 190 from Aundipatti block, 225 from Bodinayakkanur block, 232 from Chinnamanur block, 112 from K.Myladumparai block, 238 from Cumbum block, 277 from Periyakulam block and 205 each from Theni and Uthamapalayam blocks.

The Agricultural Technology and Management Agency of the district was taking the selected farmers to other States like Gujarat, Madyapradesh, Uthrapradesh to know the advancement of agricultural science through field visits and also made to take part in increasing productivity of lands in paddy, banana etc. The farmers were taken on guided tour to the global summit on agriculture at Gujarat where farmers gained rich knowledge through participation mode. They are running a farm school for the benefit of the above said 1684 farmers.

Cardamom and Tea business trade

The city Bodinayakkanur is a major market place for cardamom, coffee, tea and black pepper. The city is called as Cardamom City because of the large quantity of cardamom plantation in Western Ghats mountain range, the border of the states Tamilnadu and Kerala and because of cardamom trade in the city. It has an auction centre for cardamom and it is suitable place for business trade for Tea, Coffee and Black pepper also. Fortunately, the private coffee powder making company located in district namely Tata Coffee Ltd., offers direct and indirect employment opportunities to more than 5000 people in the district.

Agro industry

The district has got number of processing units, cold storage stations, ripening stations for fruits and vegetables, fertilizer producers and chemical firms, market for horticulture things, green stations, biotech firms nursery and private nurseries. Notably, there are grape processing centers in the blocks Cumbum, Chinnamanur and Uthamapalayam, and banana ripening centers in the blocks Cumbum, Uthamapalayam, Periyakulam and Chinnamanur, and mango ripening centers in the blocks Theni and Periyalulam, and cashew nut processing units in the block K.Myladumparai, functioning effectively in the district. There are weekly market, commission market and farmers market functioning in all the blocks of the district. These agro business centers provide agro based employment opportunities to the people of the district. The district has got horticulture extension centers in all the blocks.

Industry

The industries and business trades are considered as major resources of the secondary sector to determine the GDDP of the district. The district comprises of many small scale to big scale industries as Textile industries, Cotton Spinning Mills, Sugar Mills, Grape wine factories, Handloom weaving and power loom industries.

Textile and Other Industries

Medium and Large scale industry

There are a few large scale industries, viz., Shri Renuga Textile Mills Private Ltd, Paragan Paper and Paper products Private Ltd, Eastern Condiments Private Ltd, Raj Shree Sugar Mills and Chimicals Private Ltd, Nisha Kishan Spinning Mills Private Ltd, LS Mills Private Ltd, Bojaraja Textiles Mills Private Ltd, Tata Coffee Privat Ltd and Anna Co operative Textile Mills Ltd. These industries provide employment opportunity to around 20000 local people.

Industrial Estates

The district has two industrial estates which includes Theni block that has industrial estate (25 acres with 57 industries function out of 72 sanctioned) and Aundipatti block has an industrial estate (10 acres with 10 industries function out of 15 sanctioned) where there are micro and small scale industries functioning. Cotton Spinning Mills, Oxide factories, Oil mills, Bakeries, Ginning factories and other types of industries are functioning. These two industrial estates

employ 1200 workers put together. The reason 25 units remain closed was power cut and high interest costs for loans they have availed.

Handloom weaving and Power loom industries are the major household industries function in and around of Aundipatti and Bodinayakkanur blocks. Other important items of making toys and dolls, processing of food articles, manufacturing of safety matches and its allied articles etc. are worth mentioning. Coarse blanket making firms and Wax printing firms function actively in and around Periyakulam block.

Hospitals

Access to health care services improves human development and also economic development of the district. The district has sufficient healthcare service providers with government primary and upgraded primary health centres having necessary facilities and nursing staff in every block of the district. The govt.sector along with private healthcare service providers provides sufficient facilities affordable to all. The major health service provider is the districts headquarter Government Hospital with Medical College located at Thirumalapuram, in Aundipatti block. It gets importance in the provision of healthcare service in the district as the traditional Indian medical practices as Siddha, Ayurvedha, Unani, Homeopathy, Yoga and Accupuncture. Government fosters support to the traditional medical practices in both the government and private services.

Educational Institutions

Educational Institutions are the pillar of the human development and the major contributor to the tertiary sector development. The district had number of schools as government (521 Schools from primary to higher secondary level with 54 hostel facilities in 2011), government aided and private in various blocks under state board, matriculation board.

During 2013-14, there were 898 schools in the district which included Primary, Upper Primary, and Higher secondary. Only Primary (522), Primary to Upper Primary(181), Primary to Higher secondary (55) and Upper Primary to Higher Secondary (140) which includes all government (529), private aided (236) and private unaided schools (125) and others (4) & unrecognized (4). The district has number of higher educational institutions (totally 52) including Arts and Science, Engineering, Medical, Media and other technical institutions monitored and owned by both government and private bodies.

Transport

Transport is the key factor to determine the human development and the contribution to all the sectoral development. The district has rail and road transport services for both passenger and goods mobility. Indian railway is slowly converting the meter gauge to broad gauge the entire railway track from Madurai to Bodinayakkanur. The railway project from Dindigul to Kumuli is in the pipe line.

Hotels

The hotels and restaurants play an important role in attracting the domestic and foreign tourists and in contributing the sectoral economic development. The district has star rated hotels namely International Hotel Ltd, Western Ghats Hotel Ltd., functioning along with budget hotels and restaurants of different sizes in the district.

Tourism

The district is known for ritual important sites for pilgrims namely Suruli Vellappar temple, Gowmariamman Temple and picnic spots namely Suruli Waterfalls, Kumbakarai Waterfalls, Vaigai dam and Kumuli adventure trekking. It attracts domestic and foreign tourists. The numbers of visitors are increasing and it is the emerging source of economic growth of the district to get more income.

Income

The growth rate of Per Capita Income of the district was Rs.39856 at constant prices (2004-05) for the year 2011-12, lower as compared to State Per Capita Income of Rs. 63996 at constant price. The district occupies the 29th place out of 32 districts in terms of per capita income. The reasons for the performance in terms of Per Capita Income are furnished in Chapter 3.

The following table 1.3 shows the growth rate of per capita income during the years 2011-12.

<center>**Table 1.3 Growth Rate of Per Capita Income (in Rupees) at constant price (2004-05) for the year 2011-12**</center>

Year	District	State
2011-12	**39856**	**63996**

<center>**Source: Department of Economics & Statistics**</center>

The growth rate of Per Capita Income from the year 2004-05 to the year 2011 -12 and the reasons for the growth performance in terms of Per Capita Income are elaborated in Chapter 3.

Social Sector

Health

The district scores relatively well on health development indices, the high rate of maternal mortality 80 in 2009, in its rural area. This was brought down to 78 in 2013-14. It has a non –medical cause, namely the lack of adequate transport facilities to carry pregnant women to health institutions for child – birth. To address this issue, the Government introduced the scheme of Public/Private Partnerships to reduce the mortality rates. The partnership operates emergency ambulance services and conducts outreach services in tribal areas. As it is being effectively implemented, there will be surely a decreasing trend in MMR.

The Crude Birth Rate

The Crude Birth Rate (CBR) is a statistical value that can be utilized to measure the growth or decline of population. The Crude Birth Rate is measured by the rate of births among a population of 1000. The following figure 1.1 shows the CBR of Theni district.

<center>**Figure 1.1 Crude Birth Rate – District level**</center>

Crude Birth Rate

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
CBR	16.3	15.7	14.6	13.3	13
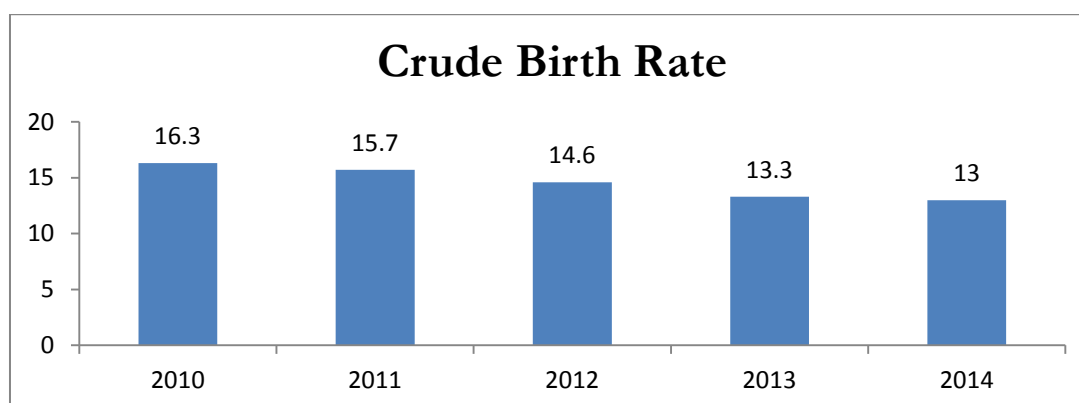
<center>**Source: Deputy Director, Health, Theni**</center>

The figure 1.1 shows that the district has witnessed the Crude Birth Rate of 16.3 and 15.7, 14.6, 13.3 and 13.0 during the years 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 respectively. It reveals the CBR going down to the positive side of human development index.

The Infant Mortality Rate

Infant mortality rate means the number of deaths of infants under one year old in a given year per 1,000 live births in the same year; included is the total death rate, and deaths by sex, male and female. This rate is often used as an indicator of the level of health in a country. The following figure 1.2 shows the IMR of Theni district.

Figure 1.2 Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)-District Level
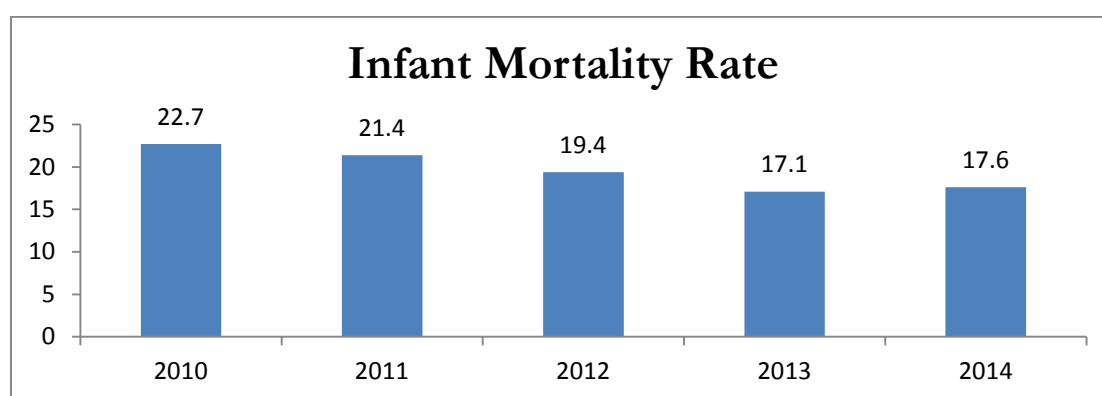
Source: Deputy Director, Health, Theni

The figure 1.2 shows the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) of Theni district that shows the trend of 22.7, 21.4, 19.4, 17 and 17.6 for the years 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 respectively. The trend shows good sign of improvement in reducing Infant Mortality Rate.

Literacy

Literacy is a basic human right and the base for enduring learning. It is an instrument of empowerment to improve health, income, and relationship with the humanity. The average literacy rate of Theni district in 2011 was 77.26 percent which had increased from 71.58 per cent in 2001. However, the status is lesser than the State average of 80.09 percent. If things are looked at gender wise, there was an increasing trend from 2001 to 2011, male and female literacy rate were 85.03 per cent and 69.46 per cent respectively in 2011 while male and female Literacy rate stood at 82.36 per cent and 60.70 per cent in 2001 respectively. Total literates in the district were 8, 70,080 of which male and female were 4, 79,403 and 3, 90,677 respectively. There is a gender inequality in the literacy rate in the district. Gender gap in Literacy was 15.57 in 2011.

The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) examines it to analyze the ratio of the number of students who live in the country to those who qualify for the particular grade level. Through SSA, the district has achieved the GER in primary and upper primary as 101.94 and 102.86 respectively in 2012-13 and the district GER primary has increased from 101.94 to 102.16 in 2013-14 which is lower than the State GER at 102.45. The primary educational opportunity opened to all, irrespective of economic status of the family and gender. It has consequences on the higher human development and reducing trend in child labour practice in the district.The district GER secondary has decreased from 111.7 in 2012-13 to 105.313 in 2013-14.

Conclusion

Theni district is located at the foot of mountain ranges 'Western Ghats' and in the banks of Mullai Periyar River. It is located at the south west part of Tamil Nadu. The Topography of the district includes hills, mounds and the mixture of slopes and plains. The blocks Uthamapalayam, Periakulam and Bodinayakkanur are located at both hills and plains in the district. The geographical setting of the district naturally helps the agricultural sector and agro based business which leads to the sectoral contribution to the economic development. The urbanization, industrialization, inter block migration poses high per capita income, similarly, it has its own implication with human development in terms of quality of life, knowledge and acquiring better health services. In terms of demographic support, sectoral contribution to the economic development, growth rate of per capita income, increasing trend in literacy rate and enrolment ratio and etc., the district has achieved the goals set for the year 2000 by National Health Policy. All these factors indicate that the conducive demographic environment for human development exists in the district.   .

CHAPTER 2

STATUS OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Chapter

2

Status of Human Development in Theni District

Introduction

"Human development is the end – economic growth a means". So, the purpose of economic growth can be to enrich people's lives. It encompasses three broad objectives: To improve Standard of Living, Health and Education. Evidences of growth over the years at State and National level disclose the fact that there is no automatic link between economic growth and human development. In recent times, the debate over 'economic growth vs. human development' has gained momentum and unfolded a new direction of thinking.

Human Development Index - Inter block variations

Human Development Index is intended to measure human development by combining the dimensions such as Standard of living, Health and Education. The dimesions include the indicators of HDI which is given in the following table. The HDI sets a minimum and a maximum value for each indicator and its dimensions that show where each block stands in relation to these dimensions and expressed as a value between 0 and 1.

Dimensions	Indicators
Standard of Living	Access to Cooking Fuel Access to Toilet facilities Access to Drinking water Access to Electricity Access to Pucca housing
Health	Infant Mortality Rate Maternal Mortality Rate U5 Mortality Rate
Education	Literacy Rate Gross Enrolment in Primary Gross Enrolment in Secondary

The following table 2.1 shows the top and the bottom three blocks in human development indicators of the district during the year 2013-14.

Table 2.1 Top and Bottom three blocks in Human Development Indicators during 2013-14

Top Three	Bottom Three
Theni (0.92)	K.Myladumparai (0.29)
Uthamapalayam(0.80)	Aundipatti (0.36)
Bodinayakkanur (0.79)	Periyakulam (0.65)
Source: Theni district indices computation	

Human development is measured through the value of indicators of the each block scored. As far as HDI is concerned for Theni district, the blocks Theni, Uthamapalayam and Bodinayakkanur are placed in top three places whereas the blocks K..Myladumparai, Aundipatti and Periyakulam are placed in bottom three places because of lacking in accessibility to cooking fuel, drinking water, toilet facilities, electricity and pucca houses, poor literacy rate, poor enrolment in schools and lack of health provisions to reduce the rate of IMR. The blocks Cumbum and Chinnamanur have registered with higher MMR and IMR than the other blocks of the district during 2013 - 2014. The blockwise index computation table has been given in Annexure 2. (A2.1 Index computation table).

Gender Inequality Index (GII)

Gender Inequality Index indicates whether women are able to participate actively in economic and political life. It measures gender inequality in key areas of economic and political participation and decision making. It focuses on women's opportunities in economic and political areas. The index indicates that the relative disadvantage for women is higher when the value is higher and vice versa women in general are disadvantaged when compared to men across the district.

GII comprises of the dimensions namely Empowerment, Health and Labour market between female and male counterparts. The demensions include the indicators of GII which is given in the following table.

Dimensions	Indicators
Empowerment	Female Literacy Male Literacy Share of female children 0-6 years Share of male children 0-6 years Share of female elected representatives in RLBs and ULBs Share of male elected representatives in RLBs and ULBs
Health	MMR Share of Institutional delivery Share of Ante natal coverage
Labor Market	Female work participation rate Male work participation rate Female work participation rate in non agri sector Male work participation rate in non agri sector Female Agri wage rate Male Agri wage rate

The following table 2.2 shows the top and the bottom three blocks in Gender Inequality indicators of the district during the year 2013-14.

Table 2.2 Top and Bottom Three blocks in Gender Inequality Index during 2013-14

Top Three with lower value	Bottom Three with higher value
Bodinayakkanur (0.02) Uthamapalayam (0.04) Theni (0.04)	Chinnamanur (0.10) Cumbum (0.10) K.Myladumparai (0.09)
Source: Theni district indices computation	

Gender Inquality is an important component to determine the human development. The GII is measured through the value of GI indicators of the each block scored the values between 0 to 1. As far as GII is concerned for Theni district, the blocks Bodinayakkanur, Uthamapalayam and Theni are placed in top three places because of availabitiy of labour market for both genders specially in agro and non agro sector and having opportunities whereas the blocks Chinnamanur, Cumbum and K..Myladumparai are placed in bottom three places because of poor labour market for both genders in non agro sector, higher MMR and IMR, poor wage rate provisions for both genders in both agro and non agro sector and high literacy gap between male and female gender. The blocks Aundipatti and Periyakulam have registered with low workers

participation rate in non agro sector and poor wage rate provisions for female in agricultural sector during 2013-14. The blockwise index computation table has been given in Annexure 2.(A2.2 Index Computation table).

Child Development Index (CDI)

The Child Development Index (CDI) is an index merging performance measures, particularly to children's education, health and nutrition. CDI comprises of the dimensions such as Health, Nutrition and Education. The each dimension includes the indicators of CDI which is given in the following table.

Dimensions	Indicators
Health	1. Under 5 Mortality Rate 2. Juvenile Ses ratio
Nutrition	Percentage of Malnourished children
Education	Enrolment in Primary schools Enrolment in Secondary schools Children never enroled in schools Transition rate from primary to upper primary Transition rate from upper primary to secondary

The following table 2.3 shows the top and the bottom three blocks in CDI during the year 2013-14.

Table 2.3 Top and Bottom Three blocks in Child Development Index during 2013-14

Top Three blocks with higher CDI value	Bottom Three blocks with lower CDI value
Uthamapalayam (0.663)	K.Myladumparai (0.198)
Bodinayakkanur (0.632)	Aundipatti (0.377)
Theni (0.589)	Chinnamanur (0.439)
Source: Theni district indices computation	

Child development is a good sign of human development. The CD Index is measured using the value of CD indicators of the each block and has secured the values between 0 to 1. As far as CDI is concerned for Theni district, the blocks Uthamapalayam, Bodinayakkanur and Theni have been placed in top three places because of scoring high rate of enrolment in schools, scoring high transition rate, having health provisions to reduce U5MR and IMR whereas the blocks K..Myladumparai, Aundipatti and Chinnamanur have been placed in bottom three places because of having high rate of mortality rates, having high percentage of Malnourished children,

having low child sex ratio and having lower rate of enrolment in schools and having high dropouts & lower transition rate. The blocks Cumbum and Periyakulam have registered low child sex ratio compared to the other blocks and high level of malnourished children during 2013-14. The blockwise index computation table has been given in Annexure 2. (A2.4 Index computation table).

Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)

The Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) is a new measure designed to confine the exact shortages that the public face at the given point of time. It can be used to build an ample image of people living in poverty, and permits comparisons across the blocks.

MPI comprises of the dimensions such as Health, Education and Living Standards. The each dimension includes the indicators of MPI which is given in the table.

Dimensions	Indicators
Health	IMR High Order Birth Rate Percentage of Malnourished Children
Education	Drop out in Primary Drop out in Secondary
Standard of Living	Access to Cooking Fuel Access to Toilet facilities Access to Drinking water Access to Electricity Access to Pucca housing

The following table 2.4 shows the top and the bottom three blocks in Multidimensional Poverty Index during the year 2013-14.

Table 2.4 Top and Bottom three blocks in Multidimensional Poverty Index during 2013-14

Top Three blocks with lower MPI Value	Bottom Three blocks with higher MPI value
Theni (0.21)	K.Myladumparai (0.72)
Bodinayakkanur (0.32)	Aundipatti (0.66)
Cumbum (0.33)	Periyakulam(0.42)
Source: Theni district indices computation	

Multidimensional Poverty is an important factor to identify whether the existence of human development is high or low. The MP index is measured through the value of MPI indicators of each block scored the values between 0 to 1. As far as MPI is concerned for Theni

district, the blocks Theni, Bodinayakkanur and Cumbum have been placed in top three places with lower MPI value because of having high accessibility of cooking fuel, toilet facilities, drinking water, electricity and pucca houses, having low dropouts from schools and good health provisions whereas the blocks K.Myladumparai, Aundipatti and Periyakulam have been placed in bottom three places with higher MPI value because of lack of accessing of livelihood, having high rate of IMR, MMR, Higher Order birth rate and low percentage of control over malnourished children and high rate of dropouts from schools. The block Chinnamanur has registered poor standard of living and low level of health provisions during 2013-14. The block Uthamapalayam follows the top three blocks with above mentioned reasons. The blockwise index computation table has been given in Annexure 2.(A2.3 Index Computation table).

Conclusion

Social inequality is found in almost every society. This social inequality has several faces like gender inequality, inequality in health, education, income, quality of life, ethnic inequality, etc., The government and various non government institutions endeavour through various schemes to target socially deprived people or region through allocation of resources and improving their skill to minimize the disparity. Correspondingly, an attempt has been made to assess the disparity between the blocks of Theni district by using four indices, viz., Human Development Index, Gender Inequality Index, Child Development Index and Multidimensional Poverty Index. The consequence of computing indices for Theni district outcome has been furnished here. The table 2.5 shows the consolidation of HDI, GII, CDI and MPI indices during 2013-14.

Table 2.5 Consolidations of HDI, GII, CDI and MPI indices during 2013-14

INDICES	HDI		GII		CDI		MPI	
Blocks	Value	Rank	Value	Rank	Value	Rank	Value	Rank
Aundipatti	0.36	7	0.06	5	0.377	7	0.66	7
K.Myldumparai	0.29	8	0.09	6	0.198	8	0.72	8
Theni	0.92	1	0.04	3	0.589	3	0.21	1
Periyakulam	0.65	6	0.05	4	0.547	4	0.42	6
Bodinayakanur	0.79	3	0.02	1	0.632	2	0.32	2
Chinnamanur	0.68	5	0.10	8	0.439	6	0.40	5
Uthamapalayam	0.80	2	0.04	2	0.663	1	0.38	4
Cumbam	0.71	4	0.10	7	0.508	5	0.33	3

Sources: Compiled.

The table 2.5 clearly illustrates about the disparity among the blocks. Inter and intra block disparity is high in the district. The blocks Theni, Uthamapalayam and Bodinayakkanur are outperforming other blocks in human development with reasons of better provisions for drinking water, cooking fuel, usage of toilets, electricity, better housing, health and education.

The blocks Bodinayakkanur, Uthamapalayam and Theni are far ahead of all other blocks in Gender Inequality with reasons as better empowerment through elected representative participation in rural and urban legislative bodies, better in utilising the employment opportunities specially in non agri sector, better health provisions to reduce maternal mortality ratio, high level of female literacy and health oriented benefits.

The blocks Uthamapalayam, Bodinayakkanur and Theni are performing well in Child development through better provisions to reduce under 5 mortality rate, favourable chile sex ratio by taking serious steps in reducing female infanticide, control over the percentage of malnourished children and good enrolment in primary, upper primary and secondary with better transition rate.

The blocks Theni, Bodinayakkanur, Cumbum and Uthampalayam are performing well in maintaining Multidimensional poverty at lower level through harnessing the factors like Infant Mortality Rate, Higher order birth rate, drop outs in schools and improving access to fuel, drinking water, toilet facility, electricity and housing.

The block Theni commands good position in maintaining better Human Development, and Multidimensional Poverty Control followed by the blocks Bodinayakkanur and Uthamapalayam maintaining better Gender Inequality, Child development and Multidimensional Poverty Control. The block Cumbum maintains Multidimensional poverty and human development and Child development.

The blocks K.Myladumparai and Aundipatti maintain low level of performance in human development, gender inequality, child development and multidimensional poverty. The blocks Chinnamanur and Periyakulam maintain medium level of performance in human development, gender inequality, child development and multidimensional poverty control.

CHAPTER 3
EMPLOYMENT, INCOME AND POVERTY

<center>**Chapter**</center>

<center>**3**</center>

<center>**Employment, Income and Poverty**</center>

Introduction

The proportion of the population engaged in productive work, the quality of employment and the remuneration received by the working population are important determinants of human development. Lack of adequate employment opportunity results in lowering income level which in turn pushes people into poverty. Thus, there is a close relationship between employment, income and poverty. Moreover, economic development is invariably associated with structural changes in GDP (income) and employment. The characteristic feature of a developing economy is a declining trend in the share of the primary sector in GDP. In the process of diversification of the economy, one would expect a shift in the share of workers from the primary sector to secondary and tertiary sectors.

Employment

Theni district is an agrarian and industry based district. Under agrarian base, it is being made fertile by the perennial flows of Mullai Periyar River on the south west side, Vaigai, and Majalaru Rivers. The economy of the district is mainly agrarian. Utilization of land area for cropping in the district is 130352 hectors (Gross Cropped land area) with cropping intensity 1.17 in 2011.

Under agro industry base, the district has got number of processing units, cold storage stations, ripening stations for fruits and vegetables, fertilizer producers and chemical firms, market for horticultural products, green stations, biotech firms nursery and private nurseries. Notably, there are grape processing centers in the blocks Cumbum, Chinnamanur and Uthamapalayam, and banana ripening centers in the blocks Cumbum, Uthamapalayam, Periyakulam and Chinnamanur, and mango ripening centers in the blocks Theni and Periyalulam, and cashew nut processing units in the block K.Myladumparai are functioning effectively. There are weekly market, commission market and farmers' markets functioning in all the blocks of the district. These agro business centers provide have agro based employment opportunities to the people. The district has got horticulture extension centers in all the blocks.

Under industry base, there are a few large scale industries, viz., Shri Renuga Textile Mills Private Ltd, Paragan Paper and Paper products Private Ltd, Eastern Condiments Private Ltd, Raj Shree Sugar Mills and Chimicals Private Ltd, Nisha Kishan Spinning Mills Private Ltd, LS Mills Private Ltd, Bojaraja Textiles Mills Private Ltd and Anna Co operative Textile Mills Ltd.

There are 2 industrial estates located in the district. Theni block has 1 industrial estate of 25 acres with 57 industries functioning out of 72 sanctioned and Aundipatti block has 1 industrial estate of 10 acres with 10 industries functioning out of 15 sanctioned where there are small scale to mid range industries functioning with the production of cotton, oil, bakery items, bio oxide, workshops, rubbers and etc. with the workforce around 1200.

Shri Renuga Textile Mills Ltd produces cotton yarn and cotton towels with the capacity of 12130684 KG and 14112 spindles in 6 production units with 759 permanent employees and with around 10000 temporary employees in all the units as the employees with secondary education to PG degrees and Professional qualification. Eastern Condiments produces condiments with the 308 permanent employees and around 1500 temporary employees. LS Textiles Ltd produces cotton yarn with the 487 permanent employees and around 2000 temporary employees. Nisha Kishan Spinning Mills produces cotton yarns with the 386 permanent employees and around 1000 temporary employees. Raj Shree Sugars and Chemicals Ltd produce sugar with the capacity of 10000 MT with the 175 permanent employees and around 1000 permanent employees. The other major textiles, spinning mills and other industries function with reasonable workforce to its nature of production capacity and size in the district.

Size of the Work - Force and Workers Participation Rate

Labor is a primary factor of production and the size of the labor force is of great importance for the level of economic activity of the district. The number of working persons constitutes the working population of the district. The following table 3.1 shows the total workers and non workers of Theni district during 2001-11.

Table 3.1 Total Workers and Non-Workers

S.No	Block wise / District	Total Workers		Main workers		Marginal Workers		Non-workers	
		2001	2011	2001	2011	2001	2011	2001	2011
1	Aundipatti	57359	73423	52496	62089	4863	11334	61348	64864
2	K.Myladumparai	47923	42400	41724	34666	6199	7734	19940	32013
3	Theni	76015	87964	67547	81057	8468	6907	98130	112019
4	Periyakulam	80401	93127	74856	84743	5545	8384	108153	124231
5	Bodinayakkanur	81463	85976	76631	77507	4832	8469	86255	94813
6	Chinnamanur	50353	63116	41867	57705	8486	5411	62675	62762
7	Uthamapalayam	57416	61947	53653	54916	3763	7031	51202	67112
8	Cumbum	69350	83689	64934	77908	4416	5781	85967	96443
	District	**520280**	**591642**	**473708**	**530591**	**46572**	**61051**	**573670**	**654257**

Source: Census 2001 and Census 2011.

The total workforce of the Theni District was 520280 which accounted for 47.56% of the total population in 2001. The workforce has increased to 591642 but there is a minor reduction to 47.49% of the total population in 2011. Bodinayakkanur block has registered with

high number of 81463 workers followed by Periyakulam block the number of 80401 workers whereas K.Myladumparai block has registered with a least number of 47923 workers followed by Chinnamanur block with the number of 50353 workers in 2001. The number of total workers has registered an increasing trend in all the blocks of the district except K.Myladumparai block (the number of 42400 total workers in 2011.

The blocks Periyakulam, Theni and Cumbum have got high number of 84743, 81057 and 77908 main workers respectively whereas the block K.Myladumparai has got a least number of 34666 main workers in 2011. The blocks Aundipatti, Bodinayakkanur and Periyakulam have got the number of 11334, 8469 and 8384 marginal workers respectively whereas the block Chinnamanur has got a least number of 5411 marginal workers in 2011. The blocks Periyakulam, Theni and Cumbum have got the high number of 124231, 112019 and 96443 non workers respectively whereas the block K.Myladumparai has got a least number of 32013 non workers in 2011. The blockwise total workers and non workers percentage details have been given in Annexure 3 (A3.1).

Workers Participation Rate: The following table 3.2 shows the percentage of workers participation rate in Theni district during 2001-2011.

Table 3.2 Percentage of Workers Participation Rate

Rural/Urban	2001	2011
Rural		
Male	55.3	57.0
Female	44.7	43.0
Percentage	**52.4**	**51.6**
Urban		
Male	67.6	68.1
Female	32.4	31.9
Percentage	**47.6**	**48.4**
Total		
Male	61.2	62.4
Female	38.8	37.6
Percentage	**47.6**	**47.5**
Total Population	**1093950**	**1245899**

Source: Census2001 and2011

Gender and Context: The reduction of workers participation rate is higher in female (38.8 percent to 37.6 percent) than male (61.2 percent to 62.4 percent) in 2001 to 2011. Female work participation rate is higher in rural areas 43.0 percent than urban areas 31.9 percent and Male work participation is lower in rural areas 57.0 percent than urban areas 68.1 percent. But, in urban context, Female WPR is lower 31.9 percent and decreasing from 32.4 in 2001 to 31.9 in 2011 and Male WPR is higher 68.1 percent.

Sectoral Composition of Workers

The workers are mainly classified as agricultural workers and non agricultural workers. Agricultural workers are broadly classified as Cultivators and Agricultural labors. Likewise, Non agricultural workers are broadly classified as household workers and other workers. Becoming an industrial district, nearly 47 percent of the work force has involved in non agricultural activities. Cultivators are 6 percent and Agricultural labour is 47 percent in the district. The following table 3.3 shows the sectoral composition of workers of Theni district during 2001-2011.

Table 3.3 Sectoral Compositions of Workers

S.No	Block wise / District / State`	Total Workers		Cultivators		Agricultural Labors		Non - Agri. Labors/ Hotel, Transport, Mining/ SSI/ Construction	
		2001	2011	2001	2011	2001	2011	2001	2011
1	Aundipatti	65208	73423	10692	5707	28160	30306	26356	37410
2	K.Myladumparai	40074	42400	7889	4872	20156	23671	12029	13857
3	Theni	76015	87964	5877	4088	24694	25303	45444	58573
4	Periyakulam	80401	93127	6988	5797	39637	42630	33776	44700
5	Bodinayakkanur	81463	85976	6949	5641	40325	35835	34189	44500
6	Chinnamanur	54842	63116	3972	4209	28308	35019	22562	23888
7	Uthamapalayam	66026	61947	4471	3279	26174	33564	35381	25104
8	Cumbum	56251	83689	3598	2778	38535	49257	14118	31654
	District	**520280**	**591642**	**50436**	**36371**	**245989**	**275585**	**223855**	**279686**

Source: Census 2011

The table 3.3 shows the sectoral composition of workers of Theni district during 2001-2011. All the blocks of the district are showing a decreasing trend except in Chinnamanur block in Cultivators in 2011 when compared with the number of Cultivators in 2001.

All the blocks of the district except Bodinayakkanur block have registered with an increasing trend in Agricultural Labors in 2011 over 2001. All the blocks except Uthamapalayam show increasing trend in non agri cultural labourers in 2011 over 2001. Sharp increase in the number of Cultivators is noticed in Aundipatti block.

Case study: 3.1 Level of employment opportunities in the backward areas of Theni district

The case study aims to explore the level of employment opportunities in the backward areas of the district. The study was done by the method of collecting data and information through field study and interviewing the respondents. It is observed that backward areas remain with ample scope for employment opportunities in agro based small scale industries. K.Myladumparai block has potential with micro level industries like coir making units, indigenous brands of cool drinks companies, processing units for coconuts and coconut related products units, silk cotton processing units, honey bee keeping, poultry, goat farming, fish farming and animal husbandry units. There is scope for micro level tea factories, cardomom processing units and black pepper processing units in Vellimalai hills.There is scope for coffee powder processing units, cardomam processing units, banana processing units in Agamalai hills as it is having more potential to provide banana to other areas like Palani in Dindigul district. It is observed that the majority of the beneficiaries are diverting the financial assistance for Self Help Groups by depriving themselves of the benefits that they can reap in the long run. They can be educated about initiating their economic endeavour to make use of the funds for micro level units or cottage units in the backward areas like K.Myladumparai, Varusanadu, Agamalai and surroundings, and Megamalai. They can be encouraged to start tea shops, mobile restaurants, bakeries, tailoring shops and mobile repair shops in their areas by imparting necessary skills, resulting in avoidance of migration of labourers to other places.

Registration and Placement provided by the Employment Office

      The Government of Tamil Nadu has initiated the online registration facilities for the candidates. It simplifies the process of registration, renewal and record maintenance for the applicants and the government. A set of data observed from 2007 to 2014 reveals that, 183969 persons were registered in the employment exchange office. Out of 183969, virtually, 6092 candidates got appointment through district employment exchange office.

      Apart from employment exchange, there is scope through competitive exams conducted by government and private sectors. In Theni, the role of private sector is immense in terms of employment and placement. Nowadays, the department is also offering employment cum training. By utilizing this training with District Industrial Centre's guidance and financial support, individuals / graduates can become eminent entrepreneurs.

      The following table 3.4 shows registration and placement through district employment office of Theni district during 2007- 2014.

Table3.4 Registration and Placement (in Persons)

SI.No	Year	Registration	Placement
1.	2007	22406	433
2.	2008	20003	1200
3.	2009	21064	337
4.	2010	22909	2083
5.	2011	21746	825
6.	2012	23847	552
7.	2013	24884	189
8.	2014	28110	473

Source: District Employment Office, Theni

      The table 3.4 shows the registration and placement through district employment office that, from 2007 to 2014, there has been a decreasing trend in registration and in the number of placements. Because of the direct recruitment policies followed by both government and private sector, the number of registration and placements through employment exchange has come down.

Box 3.2 MGNREGA - Employment and Income

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) was formulized and authorized as an act of the parliament in September 2005 to offer legislative assistance to the poor. The major objectives of the scheme are to enhance livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a year as unskilled manual work, To protect the environment, to empower rural women, to cultivate gender equity in terms of the wage rate and to reduce rural, urban migration. The types of works undertaken in this scheme include the creation of new roads; excavate new ponds and restoration of water bodies like ponds, oranies, canal, irrigation tanks, etc.

Figure 3.1. Percentage of HH provided employment under MGNREGA, 2013 - 14

Percentage of HH provided MGNREGA Jobs 2013-14
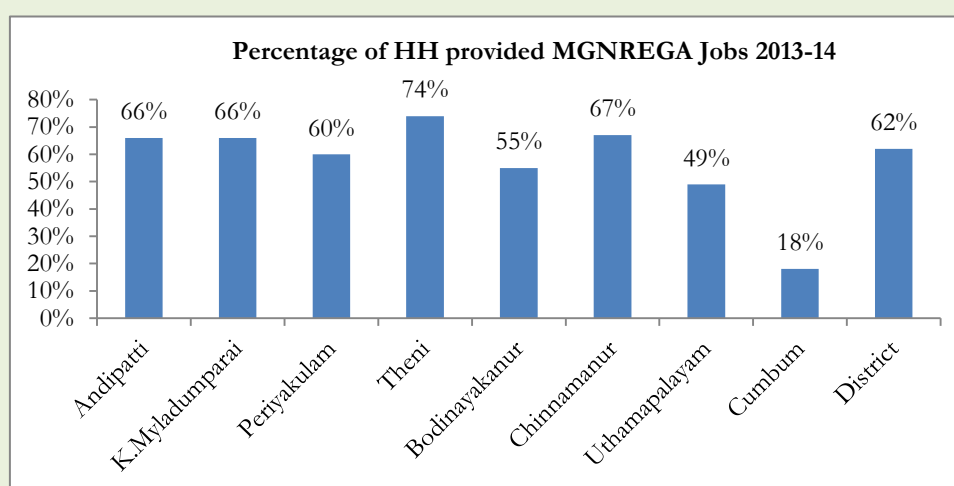
Source: PD, DRDA, Theni.

The figure 3.1 shows the percentage of House Holds provided MGNREGA jobs in 2013-14. The blocks Theni (74%), Chinnamanur (67%), Aundipatti (66%) and K.Myladumparai (66%) have registered high rate of employment through the scheme that was higher than the district average (62%) which was lower when compared to the jobs provided under the scheme in 2011 which was 65 %. The blocks Cumbum (18%), Uthamapalayam (49%) and Bodinayakkanur (55%) have registered lower rate of employment. Due interblock and interdistricts migration, the rate has come down in this year. The total number of HH provided jobs are 83166 out of registered HH under the scheme 134996. The total number of Mandays generated are 3646743 during 2014 -15.

During 2011, the blocks Aundipatti (78%), Theni (68%), K.Myladumparai (67%) and Periyakulam (67%) have registered high rate of employment through the scheme that was higher than district average 65%. and the blocks Cumbum, Chinnamanur and Uthamapalayam have registered low rate of employment through the scheme that was lower than the district average.

The blockwise details for the years 2011 to 2014 have been given in Annexure 3. (A 3.3 and A 3.4)

Income

Income is one of the dimensions to measure HDI. A decent standard of living depends on resource accessibility. To compute HDI, five Standard of living dimensions as access to cooking fuel, access to toilets, access to drinking water, access to electricity and access to pucca houses have been taken as proxy indicators to measure human development at block level and Per Capita Income is calculated as a district unit.

Growth in Per Capita Income

Income is measured as Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Net Domestic Product (NDP), which is equivalent to the total market value of goods and services produced in a given years. It is estimated at both current prices and constant prices with a given base year to adjust inflation. Per capita GDDP is the income per head. It is derived from GDP by dividing the total population. The following table 3.5 shows the per capita income of Theni district (GDDP) base year 2004-05 during 2005-12.

Table 3.5 Per Capita Income Base year 2004-05 during 2005-12

Year	District	Growth rate	State	Growth rate
2004-05	**26785**	**Base**	**33998**	**Base**
2005-06	29330	8.68	38435	11.55
2006-07	31421	6.66	43941	12.54
2007-08	32001	1.8	46293	5.09
2008-09	33416	4.24	48473	4.50
2009-10	36168	7.61	53359	9.16
2010-11	38122	5.13	59967	11.0
2011-12	**39856**	4.36	**63996**	6.30
District		**32.80**		**46.88**

Source: Department of Economics and Statistics, Chennai.

The table 3.5 shows the per capita income of Theni district is Rs.39856 at constant prices (2004-05) in 2011-12 which has increased from Rs.26785 in 2004-05 with mixed trend of growth rate and this is lower than the State per capita income of Rs. 63996 at constant price. When the growth rate trend of per capita income of Theni district is compared with the growth rate trend of PCI of State, it is observed the mixed trend of growth rate of PCI in both district and State level.

Sectoral Output:

The district total income is cropped up from three sectors, viz., Primary (These are industries that produce goods using resources in the location), Secondary (They will acquire the raw materials from the primary sector and turn them into refined goods) and Tertiary (Offer services for consumers or businesses). Agricultural business (plantation and cultivation), agro related allied business, Home textile industries, paper industry, ginning and mills, agro based processing units, cardamom, black pepper and tea trade business, transport and educational business, and banks boost up the district income. The following table 3.6 shows the sectoral share of GDDP at constant price 2004-05 during 2005 – 2012.

Table 3.6   Sectoral Share of GDDP at Constant Price (Rs in Lakhs)

Sectors	Primary		Secondary		Tertiary	
Year	GDDP	Growth rate	GDDP	Growth rate	GDDP	Growth rate
2004-05	**72312**	**Base**	**56419**	**Base**	**165355**	**Base**
2005-06	86376	16	53907	-5	182055	9
2006-07	90371	4	51658	-4	203500	11.5
2007-08	84629	-7	51963	1	215410	5
2008-09	93363	9	44608	-16	229576	6
2009-10	97941	5	63413	30	236321	2.8
2010-11	100293	2	62082	-2	256514	7.8
2011-12	**107121**	6	**62483**	1	**267947**	4
District		**32.50**		**9.71**		**38.29**

Source: Department of Statistics and Economics, Chennai.

The table 3.6 shows the sectoral share of GDDP of the district at constant price 2004-05 during 2005 – 2012. The share of tertiary sector to the GDDP of the district has got the highest growth rate (38.29) among other sectors from the years 2004-05 to the years 2011-12. Notably, the share of tertiary sector has increased high 7.8 in 2010-11 with mixed trend. The share of tertiary sector (Rs.267947) is higher than the share of primary (Rs.107121) and secondary (Rs.62483) sectors to GDDP during 2011-12. The growth rate of primary sector (32.50) can be attributed to share of agricultural activities, agro business and allied business activities and agro supporting business units. The growth rate of Tertiary sector is defined by the share of textile, spinning, ginning and oil industries, business trades, real estate business and banking business etc. The growth rate of secondary sector (9.71) can be attributed to share of slow developing agro allied business activities and agro business units etc.

Poverty and Inequality BPL Percentage

Poverty and inequality are inextricably linked. Because poverty is not a personal attribute but a relationship between poor people and the society in which they live. The experience and behavior of the affluent — the wages they take home, the bonuses they receive, the price they pay for basic goods, the amount of taxes they pay, and the political policies they support — all help constitute what it means to be poor.

The following table 3.7 shows the trends in poverty level of the district in 2013-14.

Table 3.7 Trends in Poverty 2013-14

S.NO	Blocks	Total Number of House holds (in Identified village)	Total of People Identified under Poverty	Percentage
1.	Aundipatti	28294	8168	29
2.	K.Myladumparai	22962	5713	25
3.	Theni	18082	5104	28
4.	Periyakulam	31718	8580	27
5.	Bodinayakkanur	20506	5494	27
6.	Chinnamanur	17928	3656	20
7.	Uthamapalayam	16566	4693	28
8.	Cumbum	8605	1603	19
	District	**164661**	**43011**	**26.12**

Source: Project Director, TNSRLM, DMMU, Theni.

The table 3.7 shows the trends in poverty level of the district (26.12%) in 2013-14 that The blocks Aundipatti, Theni and Uthamapalayam have registered high number of People Identified in Poverty 8168 (29%), 5104 (28%) and 4693 (28%) respectively in the poverty identified villages of the district.

Contribution of PDS (Public Distribution System)

Tamil Nadu's Public Distribution System aims at price stability and attempts to make available a few selected articles for mass consumption, particularly to the vulnerable sections at reasonable prices. The essential commodities such as rice, wheat, sugar and edible oils are distributed to consumers at low market price. There were 486 PDS outlets in 113 revenue villages in 2011.

The following table 3.8 shows the details of House Holds having family cards in the district in 2013-14

Table 3.8 Family Card Holders in 2013-14

S.No	Block wise / District / State`	No of Family cards
1.	Aundipatti	46664
2.	K.Myladumparai	25367
3.	Theni	59836
4.	Periyakulam	64872
5.	Bodi	57290
6.	Chinnamanur	36145
7.	Uthamapalayam	38731
8.	Cumbum	58545
	Total	**387450**

Source: DSO, Theni.

The table 3.8 shows the details of the number of family cards in 2013-14. Periyakulam block has registered the highest number of family cards with the number of 64872 followed by Theni, Cumbum and Bodinyakkanur blocks with the numbers of 59836, 58545 and 57290 respectively whereas the blocks Mayiladumparai, Chinnamanur, Uthamapalayam and Aundipatti have registered low numbers of family cards 25367, 36145, 38731 and 46664 respectively.

Conclusion

The economic development is associated with the changes in employment and income. It has close relation with human development. The share of primary sector in GDDP shows an improving trend in all the blocks of district with the support of workers participation in agro and agro related business activities but the share (Rs.176083) is less than the tertiary sector (Rs.283803) when the shift from primary sector to secondary and tertiary sector has been observed.

As far as primary sector contribution to GDDP is concerned, the share of agricultural sector is identified mostly in rural areas. As far as tertiary sector to GDDP is concerned, the share of non agri sector is identified mostly in urban areas like the blocks Theni, Bodinayakkanur and Periyakulam.

The enhancements in agriculture production through new technology adoption are the need of the hour to the products for rural livelihood as backbone of our country. The people registered and getting jobs under MGNREGA scheme is appreciable during 2014-15 which is

still to be monitored and improved. There is a need for support to SHGs in the backward blocks to venture house hold industries.

Furthermore, emphasis needs to be placed on employment generating schemes. In the past, poverty alleviation schemes have focused on asset creation, as a result not enough emphasis has been placed on employment generation. Specific attention is required for inter-block variations in terms of resource allocations, schemes and employment generation. Block specific interventions are required to overcome the inequality.

CHAPTER 4
DEMOGRAPHY, HEALTH AND NUTRITION

<center>**Chapter**

4

Demographic, Health and Nutrition</center>

Introduction

The life expectancy is the one of the indicators in human development which is meant to capture the overall health status of the population. Health is much more than just life expectancy. It includes fertility, mortality, nutrition, immunisation and well being. The chapter documents the demographic, health and nutrition status of Theni District. It analyses the trends and changes in health and nutritional indicators in the district. The effectiveness of government policies, programs and the role that social norms and culture play in influencing health outcomes.

Demographic Trends and Health Indicators

Demographic characteristics of a district provide an overview of its population size, composition, territorial distribution, changes therein and the components of changes such as nativity, mortality, and social mobility. This section on demographic indicators has been subdivided into two parts- Population statistics and Vital statistics. Population statistics include indicators that measure the population size, sex ratio, density and dependency ratio while Vital statistics include indicators such as birth rate, death rate, and natural growth rate, life expectancy at birth, mortality and fertility rates. These indicators for the Country as well as States will help in identifying areas that need policy and programmed interventions, setting near and long-term goals, and deciding priorities, besides understanding them in an integrated structure.

Population and Demographic Transition

Demographic transition is a global phenomenon. Demographers recognize four phases of demographic transition. In the first phase improved health care technologies and improved access to health care result in reduction in mortality rates but, birth rate continues to be high and therefore population growth occurs. In the second there is reduction in birth rate but the reduction in death rate is higher than reduction in birth rate, as a result population increases. In the third phase, birth rates and death rates are both low; however population growth continues because of a large number of individuals in the reproductive age group. In the fourth phase, the population level stabilizes with number of births and deaths being low and equal.

The following table 4.1 shows demographic profiles and the population growth of the district in 2011.

Table 4.1 Demographic Profiles

SI. No	Blocks	Population		Density		SC Population Percentage		ST Population Percentage	
		2001	2011	2001	2011	2001	2011	2001	2011
1.	Aundipatti	118707	138287	436	508	23.93	23.71	0.06	0.05
2.	K.Myladumparai	67863	74413	108	118	22.68	23.49	0.23	0.39
3.	Theni	174145	199983	945	1085	22.19	23.73	0.02	0.02
4.	Periyakulam	188554	217358	536	618	24.99	26.71	0.25	0.20
5.	Bodi	167718	180789	209	225	14.92	16.58	0.45	0.38
6.	Chinnamanur	113028	125878	401	447	19.72	21.32	0.09	0.03
7.	Uthamapalayam	108618	129059	419	497	17.46	19.77	0.01	0.00
8.	Cumbum	155317	180132	337	391	10.28	11.16	0.06	0.07
	District	**1093950**	**1245899**	**381**	**434**	**19.36**	**20.72**	**0.15**	**0.14**
	State	**62405679**	**7,21,38,958**	**478**	**555**	**7.10**	**7.20**	**0.80**	**0.80**

Source: Census 2011

Population Growth

An analysis of the decennial growth of population in the district from 2001 to 2011 shows that total population grew much slower than the State. The difference in growth rate between State and the District has widened over time and it has been very sharp between 2001 and 2011. In fact the population growth rate of the district was 13.9% between 2001 and 2011. The female population has grown at a marginally higher rate than that of males in the district as per child sex ratio of 0 to 6 years age group only indicating an environment favoring females.

The share of Scheduled Caste population has increased marginally between 2001 and 2011 and it was 19.36 percent in 2001 and 20.7 percentage in 2011.   The rate of population growth is more due to lack of awareness, education and economic backwardness. Scheduled Tribe's share in the total population has decreased by 0.1 percent from 0.15 to 0.14 percent due to their low share in the total population in the district. But, it has increased only in K.Myladumparai block.

It was also observed that while urban population has grown at a very high rate, the rural population has declined. This was due to conversion of many rural areas into urban ones in the district. The average density (434 habitants per square km) of the population in the district remained much lower than that of the State and most of the other districts. It is 1085 density of population per square kilometer in Theni block only as the highest density from among all

blocks in 2011. It is very low at 118 density of population per square kilometer at K.Myladumparai block.

Crude Birth Rate and Crude Death Rate

The Crude Birth Rate (CBR) is a statistical value that can be utilized to measure the growth of a population. It is measured by the rate of births among a population of 1000. The CBR is determined by taking the total number of births in a population and dividing by a number to obtain the rate per 1000.

The Crude Death Rate (CBR) is a statistical value that can be utilized to measure the decline of a population. It is measured by the rate of deaths among a population of 1000. The CDR is determined by taking the total number of deaths in a population and dividing by a number to obtain the rate per 1000.

The following table 4.2 shows the trends of CBR and CDR for the periods 2010 to 2014.

Table 4.2 Trends in CBR and CDR

S. No	Block / Municipality	CBR					CDR				
		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
1.	K.Myiladumparai	15.6	15.6	15.4	15.7	14.4	3.7	3.7	5.2	5.7	5.7
2.	Cumbam	16.6	14.3	13.2	13.4	11.8	3.7	7.5	6.2	5.8	5.4
3.	Uthamapalayam	16.9	15.6	14.3	12.9	13.8	6.3	8.3	7.2	8.1	7.9
4.	Chinnamnur	15.9	17	15.2	12.7	12.5	7.8	8.7	7.1	6.5	6.6
5.	Theni	17.5	14.7	13.7	11.1	12.5	9.2	7.2	6.7	6.2	6.2
6.	Bodinaickanur	16.9	14.7	14.8	12.5	12.6	6.9	6.5	6.2	4.6	5.2
7.	Aundipatti	15.6	16.9	15.7	14.9	14.1	8.4	7.5	6.4	6.1	6.1
8.	Periyakulam	15	16.3	14.9	14.6	13.3	8.6	7.5	6.8	6.5	6.5
	District Total	**16.3**	**15.7**	**14.6**	**13.3**	**13.0**	**6.5**	**7.2**	**6.5**	**6.1**	**6.1**

Source: DD Health. Theni.

The table 4.2 explains CBR of the district as the following: The block Aundipatti has growth in CBR from 15.6 in 2010 to 16.9 in 2011 followed by the block Chinnamanur has growth in CBR from 15.9 in 2010 to 17 in 2011 and the block Periyakulam had increased its growth rate in CBR from 15 in 2010 to 16.3 in 2011. The district level CBR has been decreasing during 2010-2011 from 16.3 to 15.7. The CBR in Aundipatti block (16.9) and Chinnamanur block (17) was more than the district average (15.7) in 2011.

During 2013-14, the CBR has decreased almost in all the blocks. The CBR is mostly less than or equal to the rates at block level and at district average when compared with previous year rates. The district CBR has come down from 15.7 to 14.6 in 2012 to 13.3 in 2013 and 13.0 in 2014.

The blocks Chinnamanur (8.7), Uthamapalayam (8.3), Cumbum (7.5), Aundipatti (7.5), Periyakulam (7.5) and Theni (7.2) were registering higher level of CDR than the district average of 7.2 percent in 2011. The block Periyakulam CDR came down from 8.6 in 2010 to 7.5 in 2011. The block Aundipatti CDR came down from 8.4 percent in 2010 to 7.5 in 2011. The block Theni CDR came down from 9.2 percent in 2010 to 7.2 percent in 2011. The trend occurrence was due to the increase in mortality rate, lack of medicine supply and ambulance service at needy hours to the remote villages and tribal areas like Agamalai in Bodinayakkanur block, lack of emergency services at required point of time and place.The CDR has decreased almost in all the blocks in 2012, in 2013 and in 2014. The district CDR has come down from 7.2 in 2011 to 6.5 in 2012 to 6.1 in 2013 and to 6.1 in 2014. The rates are mostly less or equal to the rates at block level and district average in 2012, in 2013 and in 2014.

Sex Ratio

Sex ratio is defined as the number of females per thousand males. It is an important and useful indicator to assess relative excess of deficit of men or women in a given population at that point of time. Sex differentials can be due to difference in mortality rate, migration, sex ratio at birth and at times the undercounting of women at the time of population enumeration. The following table 4.3 explains the blockwise sex ratio during 2001-2011.

Table 4.3 Sex Ratio (Adult) (2001 – 2011)

Sl. No	Block wise/District /State	General		SC	
	Block	2001	2011	2001	2011
1.	Aundipatti	979	985	977	977
2.	K..Myladumparai	920	948	950	971
3.	Theni	973	993	983	990
4.	Periyakulam	972	978	969	966
5.	Bodinayakkanur	985	999	969	993
6.	Chinnamanur	985	996	1002	999
7..	Uthamapalayam	992	998	984	1011
8.	Cumbum	997	1013	990	1028
	District	**978**	**990**	**977**	**988**

Source: Census, 2011.

The table 4.3 explains the sex ratio of the district was 978 in 2001 which increased to 990 in 2011. The block wise analysis shows the highest sex ratio of 1013 has registered in Cumbum block followed by Bodinayakkanur block with 999. There has been an improvement in sex ratio in all the blocks except the block K.Myladumparai where the rate of increase (920 to 948 from 2001-2011). In spite of the phenomenal increase in sex ratio that remains lower in the block K.Myladumparai than the other blocks.

The increase in sex ratio of Scheduled Caste is lower than the district general sex ratio. The district general sex ratio is 990 and the district SC sex ratio is 988 in 2011 which have increased from 977 in 2001. Hence, it is to be well addressed by proper monitoring by government and non government agencies to increase sex ratio in remote, rural and other needy places by resorting to controlling the female infanticide, IMR, MMR and Under 5 MR particularly for female children. Only in Periyakulam SC Sex Ratio has declined in the inter census period.

Child Sex Ratio

The Child Sex Ratio (CSR) is defined as the number of female children per thousand male children in the age group 0–6 years in human population. Thus it is equal to 1000, the reciprocal of the sex ratio (ratio of males to females in a population) in the same age group, i.e. under thr age of six. The following table 4.4 explains changes in the population of male and female children under the age of six years during the period 2001-2011.

Table 4.4 Child Sex Ratio 0-6 years (2001 – 2011)

Sl. No	Block wise/District /State	Population in the age group of 0-6 years				Sex Ratio	
		Male		Female			
		2001	2011	2001	2011	2001	2011
1.	Aundipatti	8373	7301	7202	6755	860	925
2.	K..Myladumparai	3845	4085	3257	3798	847	930
3.	Theni	10422	10036	9516	9419	913	939
4.	Periyakulam	11715	11298	10542	10527	900	932
5.	Bodi	9790	8699	8770	8231	896	946
6.	Chinnamanur	8114	6276	7564	5657	932	901
7.	Uthamapalayam	7192	5812	5679	5577	790	960
8.	Cumbum	7254	8366	6892	7824	950	935
	District	**66705**	**61873**	**59422**	**57788**	**891**	**937**
	State	**3515562**	**3820276**	**3302107**	**3603556**	**930**	**946**

Source: Census, 2011.

The table 4.4 explains the child sex ratio of 0-6 years age group in the district has increased from 891 in 2001 to 937 in 2011 indicating a move towards reversal in the trend favoring boys. If the decline is at birth then it is obvious that it is due to sex selective abortion. If it is at the early neo natal stage it could be female infanticide.

The lower Child Sex ratio had registered in the blocks Uthamapalayam, Myladumaparai and Aundipatti in 2001 and got improved in 2011. But, at Chinnamanur block got reversed during 2001 and 2011 from 932 to 901. This block would require some intervention to address this adverse sex ratio.

Life Expectancy at Birth

Life Expectancy at Birth is one of the most preferred indicators in demographic and health analysis. It reflects the average number of years a new born baby is expected to survive under the current schedule of mortality. It is a proxy measure for several dimensions like adequate nutrition, good health, education and other valued achievements. Besides, life expectancy at birth is used in the construction of a dimensional index of health in Human Development Index (HDI) and Gender Development Index (GDI). Life expectancy at birth indicates the number of years a newborn infant would live if prevailing patterns of mortality at the time of its birth had been to stay the same throughout its life.

The following table 4.5 explains the Life Expectancy at Birth for Theni district for the period from 2001 to 2013-14 for both the gender.

Table 4.5 Life Expectancy at Birth

Sl. No	Block wise/District /State	2001		2011		2013 - 14	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1.	District	62	64	65	68	70.3	69

Source: JD Health, Periyakulam

The table 4.5 shows the Life expectancy at Birth for male was 62 and for female were 64 in 2001. It was 65 for male and 68 for female in 2011. The increase in life expectancy shows the improvement of medical infrastructure and medical facilities by the government in the district. The district LEB has increased up to 70.3 for male and to 69 for female in 2013-14. The district is at 27th place in LEB (69.7). From among all the districts of Tamilnadu, this is lesser than the State average of 72 for Male and Female.

Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR)

Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) means the number of maternal deaths in a population divided by the number of women of reproductive age usually expressed per 1,00,000 women. Maternal Mortality Ratio is the number of resident maternal deaths within 42 days of pregnancy. Termination due to complications of pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium in a specified geographic area (country, state etc.) divided by total resident live births for the same geographic area for a specified time period, usually a calendar year, multiplied by 100,000.

The following table 4.6 shows MMR of the district during the years 2010 - 2014.

Table 4.6 Maternal Mortality Ratio

S.No	Blocks	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
1.	K.Myiladumparai	70.0	70.0	80.0	0.0	414.6
2.	Cumbam	80.0	70.0	70.0	125.2	284.9
3.	Uthamapalayam	140.0	110.0	120.0	64.4	0
4.	Chinnamnur	80.0	0.0	80.0	60.5	246.2
5.	Theni	0.0	70.0	210.0	89.9	40.3
6.	Bodinaickanur	410.0	250.0	190.0	86.8	0
7.	Aundipatti	60.0	50.0	230.0	95.9	152.1
8.	Periyakulam	0.0	110.0	150.0	63.2	34.8
	District	**110.0**	**100.0**	**150.0**	**77.9**	**123.1**

Source: D.D Health, Theni.

The table 4.6 shows MMR of the district that the blocks Aundipatti, Theni and Bodinayakkanur show the MMR of 230, 210 and 190 respectively in 2012 which maintained deaths per one lakhs live births which is not at all encouraging in health parameter. The block Cumbum shows uniformly lower MMR from 2008 to 2012 along with the block Chinnamanur. The district MMR was 150 in 2012. The same has come down to 78 in 2013 and increased to 123.01 in 2014 with specific reasons like necessary ambulance service to the remote and tribal villages, nutritional healthcare to pregnant women, providing care through social welfare department like group and social ritual ceremony to pregnant women and health service through primary and upgraded primary health centers at rural and urban habitats. MMR is a very important indicator because negligence to improve MMR status will have a negative impact on other vital indicators like IMR.

During 2013, MMR has increased from 70.0 to 125.2 in Cumbum block while the same has come down from 120 to 64.4 in Uthamapalayam block. The blocks Aundipatti, Periyakulam and Theni have registered lower MMR at 95.9, 63.2 and 89.9 in 2013 which has come down from 230, 210 and 190 in 2012 respectively. The district has to critically look into Rural Child

Health program implementation and its effect on the mother and the child particularly in Cumbum and Uthamapalayam blocks. During 2014, the blocks K.Myladumparai, Aundipatti, Chinnamanur and Cumbum have registered highest MMR which is not at all encourageing.

Place of Delivery

Appropriate delivery care is crucial for both maternal and prenatal health and increasing skilled attendance at birth is a central goal of the safe motherhood and child survival movements. In addition to professional attention, it is important that mothers deliver their babies in an appropriate setting, where life saving equipment and hygienic conditions can also help to reduce the risk of complications that may cause death or illness to mother and child. The following figure 4.1 shows the place of deliveries in the district during 2013-14.

Figure 4.1 Place of Deliveries in the district during 2013-14
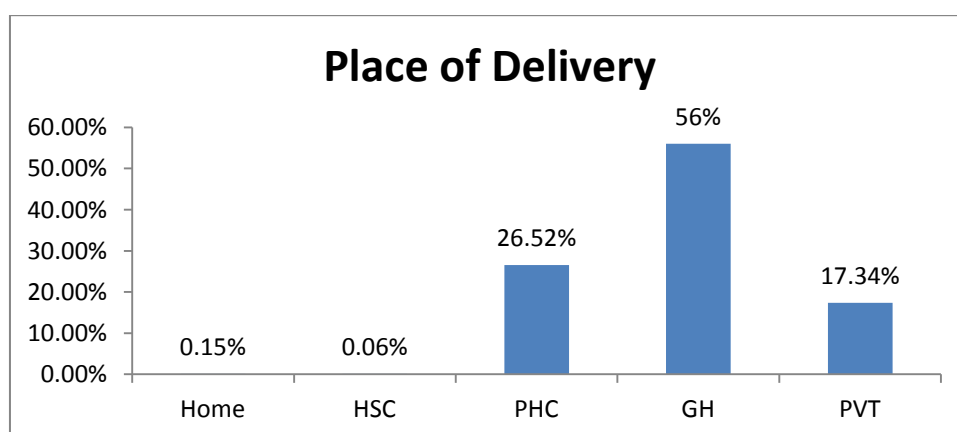
Source: DD Health, Theni.

Figure 4.1 shows the place of deliveries in the district during 2013-14, The places of deliveries in the district are Home deliveries, HSC, PHC, GH and PVT (Private Hospitals) stood at the number of 20 (0.15%) in 2013-14 and 71 (0.3%) in 2012-13, the number of 9 (0.06%) in 2013-14 and 70 (0.3%) in 2012-13, the number of 3464 (26.52%) in 2013-14 and 4159 (22.2%) in 2012-13, the number of 7303 (56%) in 2013-14 and 9739 (52%) in 2012-13 and the number of 2265 (17.34%) in 2013-14 and 4658 (24.5%) in 2012-13 respectively. Institutional delivery has been the common phenomenon in all the blocks under all the type of institutional deliveries. It is observed from the most deliveries benefit maximum from GH followed by PVT and PHC. The total delivery is the number of 13061 in 2013-14. It is observed that the institutional deliveries of the district average have registered 99.65 percent in 2012 - 13 and it has increased to 99.80 percent during 2013 - 14. The place of delivery details for the years 2012-13 have been given in Annexure 4 (A 4.1).

Case Study: 4.1 Need for health infrastructure in the backward areas of the district

The case study aims to explore the existing need for health infrastructure in the backward areas of Theni district. The study was done by the method of collecting data and information through field study and interviewing the respondents. It is needless to stress the importance of health. But, it is found out that the need for health infrastructure in the backward areas of Theni district. There is one Primary Health Centre in K.Myladumparai, one Primary Health Centre in Varusanadu and one upgraded PHC in Kadamalaikundu with poor staff strength of nurses, doctors, equipements and supplements. There are insuffient ambulance facilities to the 50 remote villages each with 200 and above population located around K.Myladumparai, Varusanadu and Kadamalaikundu.

There is only one PHC in Agamalai hilly area with poor staff strength of nurses, doctors, equipments and supplements. There are 10 villages with population strength of 600 families in this hilly area. There are no ambulance facilities to the surroundings of Agamalai hills. There are no medical shops and proper medicine supply. If the people need care for serious ailments, they have to travel to the plain areas like Periyakulam at a distance of 26 kms.

There are no PHCs and sub health centres and no ambulance facilities in Megamalai hills. The Megamalai hills have the population strength of 1500 families living and working in the private owned tea estates. The people of Megamalai area use the private tea estate owned hospital and medical shop for their urgent needs. If they need for serious cases, they have to travel to the plain areas like Chinnamanur at a distance of 40 kms.

Still Birth Rate:

Still Birth Rate (SBR) refers to delivery of a fetus that has died before birth. It is calculated for a number of such events occurred per 1000 live births. It is yet another indicator for assessing the status of women health as well as the extent of maternal health care delivered. The following table 4.7 shows the still birth rate of the district during 2010 to 2014.

Table 4.7 Still Birth Rate

SNo.	Block	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
1.	Aundipatti	9.6	19.8	19.7	23.1	13.9
2.	KK.Myladumparai	13.7	26.5	21.4	8.7	4.7
3.	Theni	22.5	18.8	20.5	19.6	13.1
4.	Periyakulam	18.7	18.2	13	10.2	16.3
5.	Bodi	14.3	17.9	12.3	11.1	9.2
6.	Chinnamanur	34	25.4	14.7	14.1	10.7
7.	Uthamapalayam	17.3	13.3	9.2	17.0	17.4
8.	Cumbum	20.1	14.8	17.1	11.3	12.4
	District	**18.3**	**19.1**	**15.7**	**13.6**	**11.9**

Source: Vital Events Report, Deputy Director of Health Services, Theni.

The table 4.7 shows the SBR of the district that was 20.9 per thousand live births in 2008. It has come down to 15.7 in 2012. The average performance of the district for the last four years gives a different kind of picture before coming to this present lower level which is encouraging. This was possible through the efforts put forth by the health department with vigor. The SBR has decreased almost in all the blocks in 2013 and in 2014 except Cumbum and Uhamapalayam and Periyakulam blocks where SBR has increased contrary to the decreasing trend in other blocks. The district SBR has come down from 15.7 in 2012 to 13.6 in 2013 and to 11.9 in 2014.

Infant Mortality Rate

The Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) is the ratio of the number of deaths among children less than one year old during a given year to the 1000 of live births during the same year. An infant must adapt to a rapidly changing environment, and death may occur if this adaptation is not successful. Traditionally, this has been expressed by stating that the most dangerous times in the life of a human being are "the first day, the first week, the first month, the first year," in that order.

The following table 4.8 shows the IMR of Theni district during 2010 to 2014.

Table 4.8 Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)

S.No	Block / Municipality	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
1	K.Myiladumparai	22.4	35.2	21.1	27.5	24.9
2	Cumbam	21.3	13	14.6	9.2	12.8
3	Uthamapalayam	27.2	20.9	16.3	17.4	19.9
4	Chinnamnur	28	21.6	18.1	18.8	16.6
5	Theni	19.7	22.5	24.4	10.3	9.3
6	Bodinaickanur	18.3	18.2	13.7	17.8	12.1
7	Aundipatti	23.9	16.2	20.5	23.0	29.4
8	Periyakulam	21	25.5	23.6	18.0	20.9
	District	**22.7**	**21.4**	**19.4**	**17.1**	**17.6**

Source: DD Health, Theni.

The table 4.8 shows the IMR of the district that it was high at Theni, Periyakulam, K.Myladumparai and Aundipatti at the rate of 24.4, 23.6, 21.1and 20.5 respectively in 2012. In the above four blocks IMR is to be monitored by Health Department with good medical practices and preventive measures. The IMR of the district is 17.1 in 2013 and 17.6 in 2014 which has come down from 19.4 in 2012.

The IMR of the block K.Myladumparai has incresesed from 21.1 in 2012 to 27.5 in 2013 and to 24.9 in 2014 and the IMR of the block Aundipatti has increased from 20.5 in 2012 to 23.0 in 2013 and 29.4 in 2014 which needs to be monitored by the department of health.

Immunization

Immunization is the process whereby a person is made immune or resistant to an infectious disease, typically by the administration of a vaccine. Vaccines stimulate the body's own immune system to protect the person against subsequent infection or disease. Immunization is done through various techniques, most commonly vaccination. Vaccines against microorganisms that cause diseases can prepare the body's immune system, thus helping to fight or prevent an infection. This is commonly administered to children.

The following table 4.9 shows the immunization performance of the district for infants during 2013 – 14.

Table 4.9 Immunization Performance for Infants during 2013-14

S.N	Name of the Block	Target	O Dose Ach	O Dose %	BCG Ach	BCG %	DPT & OPV Ach	DPT & OPV %	Measles Ach	Measles %
1	K.Myladumparai	1270	1182	93	1227	97	1257	99	1294	102
2	Cumbum	1495	1345	90	1499	100	1558	104	1421	95
3	Uthamapalayam	1665	1494	90	1579	95	1551	93	1707	103
4	Chinnamanur	1205	1122	93	1140	95	1166	97	1240	103
5	Theni	1385	1338	97	1344	97	1355	98	1326	96
6	Bodinayakkanur	1475	1424	97	1450	98	1443	98	1482	100
7	Andipatty	2170	1951	90	2098	97	2000	92	2101	97
8	Periyakulam	2710	2458	91	2574	95	2493	92	2632	97
	District			**93**		**98**		**97**		**99**

Source: DD Health, Theni.

The table 4.9 shows the immunization performance of the district for infants during 2013-14, the block Chinnamanur tops with 103% at immunisation against Measeles along with Uthamapalayam at the same rate. The block Cumbum tops 104% in DPT & OPV and 100% in BCG. The blocks Theni and Bodinayakkanur stood with 97% each in immunisation of O Dose over the target. The blocks Cumbum and Aundipatti stood with 90% each at the immunisation of O Dose. The blocks Uthamapalayam, Chinnamanur and Periyalulam stood with 95% each in immunisation of BCG. The blocks Aundipatti and Periyakulam stood with 92% at the lowest im immunisation against DPT and OPV and finally in Measeles immunisation Cumbum blocks is least with 95%. During 2011-12, the blocks K.Myladumparai and Periyakulam are far exceeding other blocks in immunization programs like O dose, BCG, DPT & OPV and Measles. Both the blocks have achieved 100 percent in O Dose, BCG and DPT & OPV with participation of health department. The same trend is expected to be followed in Cumbum, Chinnamanur and Bodinayakkanur as the performance is staying back at 92%, 92% and 91% respectively while according equal importance in other blocks also.**The blockwise immunisation performance details for the years 2011-12 have been given in. (Annexure 4.5)**

Female Infanticide

Female Infanticide is the deliberate killing of newborn female children or the termination of a female fetus through selective abortion. Female infanticide in India has a history spanning centuries. The dowry system has been cited as one of the main reasons for female infanticide and sex-selective abortion as many families who live in poverty cannot afford to raise the funds for a suitable dowry. The government has tried various approaches to prevent the practice through persuasion over the importance of female children and creating awareness of unbalanced

population growth. There is no data available as this is being carried on sporadically, illegally and secretly by the families concerned.

Nutritional Status

The nutritional status is used to describe an outcome of several biomedical processes. Education and communication regarding the importance of nutrition can go a long way in bringing about long term changes on attitudes and recognition by parents of the importance of nutrition for their children.

Given the fact that Tamil Nadu is known for effectiveness of its nutrition programmes, the district is also expected to perform similarly. Adequate nutrition is essential in early childhood to ensure healthy growth, proper organ formation and function, a strong immune system, and neurological and cognitive development. Economic growth and human development require well nourished populations who can learn new skills, think critically and contribute to their communities. Nutrition has increasingly been recognized as a basic pillar for social and economic development.

The following figure 4.2 explains the block wise trend in nutritional status of children in 0-5 years of age in 2013 and in 2014.

Figure: 4.2 Trend in Nutritional Status of Children (0-5 yrs) in 2013 & in 2014
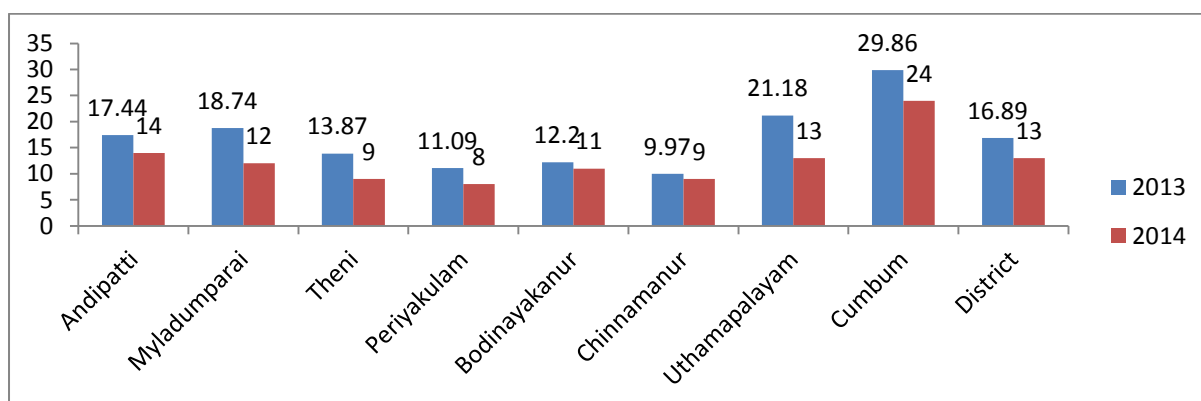
 Source: ICDS Theni

The figure 4.2 shows the nutritional status of the children in the district that the percentage of children in the overweight category is almost nil in all the blocks except Bodi, Periyakulam and Cumbum which are with 0.15%, 0.06% and 0.01% respectively. The percentage of children under severely underweight category is also in a very less percentage which is not requiring much more attention as the present programs carried on by health department and social welfare department is up to the standard. The highest percentage of children under normal category is found in Theni block with 92% and a lowest percentage is found in Cumbum block 72%. The block Cumbum has registered the highest percentage of children and those in the

moderately underweight category are 28%. It results in the district average of 16.89 percent of underweight category which is the sum of SUW and MUW. During 2013-14, in the underweight category, the sum of SUW and MUW has decreased almost in all the blocks of the district compared with the previous year and the district average of this category 13.00% has decreased from 16.89% in 2012-13. The blockwise details have been given for the year 2013-14 in Annexure 4.6.

Provision of IFA tablets

IFA tablets are given to pregnant women, adolescent women and children of 1-5 years age to guard them against Anemia. For pregnant women, at least a minimum of 100 tablets are essential. If not taken, the mother would run the risk of Anemia which may affect her as well as her child's health. Tablet is given either as prophylactic or therapeutic. It is intended that a good sign where more number of tablets are taken as preventive than curative for Anemia. The tablets are given in phases like initiated, continuing and completed. It happened at times where those women who received pills initially may not complete the full course due to short supply of tablets or non-compliance with the prescription.

At present a specific programme has been launched to address the anemia problems in adolescents. The poor nutritional status of adolescent females are early child bearing and reproductive. Anemia is one of the primary contributors to maternal mortality and is associated with compromised pubertal growth spurt and cognitive development among female aged 10-19 years. In 2002, about 39,547 adolescent girls received IFA tablets in the Theni district.

The number rose to 45,125 in 2005 and to 54,524 in 2006. Thus, strengthening the nutritional status of adolescent girls reduces the risk during pregnancy, child birth as well as infants at risk. Children in the age of 6-24 months are most vulnerable to anemia and it can result in impaired cognitive performance, behavioral and motor development coordination, language development and scholastic achievement, besides increasing morbidity from infectious diseases.

The following table 4.10 shows the provision of IFA tablets in the district during 2013 - 14.

Table 4.10 Provisions of IFA tablets during 2013-14

S.No	Block wise / District / State	Women		Children		Adolescent Girls	
		Total No.of Women	% or women took IFA tablets	Total No.of Children	% of children took IFA tablets	Total No.of Adolescent Girls	% of adolescent girls took IFA tablets
1	K.Myladumparai	1326	93	1941	36.5	4336	94
2	Cumbum	1387	83	2401	42.9	4920	74
3	Uthamapalayam	1585	85	2301	34	7652	102
4	Chinnamanur	1147	85	3103	57.7	7840	89
5	Theni	1408	91	1731	30.1	5804	97
6	Bodinayakanur	1636	99	3468	53.8	6146	99
7	Andipatty	1898	79	2305	30	8071	98
8	Periyakulam	2524	84	3061	28.9	8544	78
	District	**12911**	**82**	**20311**	**37.9**	**53313**	**90**

Source: DD Health, Theni. (Including both Rural and Urban)

The table 4.10 shows the provision of IFA tablets to women, children and adolescent girls in the blocks of Theni district during 2013-14. The block Theni lags behind with 30.1% of children taking IFA tablets which is lesser than the previous year (40%), Periyakulam is least with 28.9% (85% in previous year) and Aundipatti with 30% (72% in previous year) than the other blocks. The block Aundipatti remains the least with 79% (94% previous year) of women taking IFA tablets. The blocks Cumbum lags behind at 74% (73% in previous year) and Periyakulam with 78% (94% in previous year) of Adolescent girls taking IFA tablets. It is necessary that the district authorities to redress this poor state of affairs.

During 2012-13, Children and women of the block Theni have been provided with IFA tablets at lower level of 2440 (40%) and 2234 (76%) respectively in the district. Less number of adolosent girls 4914 (68%) and 5298 (73%) have been provided with IFA tablets in the blocks Uthamapalyam and Cumbum respectively which are the lowest in the district.

Box-4.1 Nutrition Programs of Government

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has come up with several schemes deciding the norms of child nutrition. These are:

Nutritious Meal Programs: The NMP was originally started to combat hunger and to encourage parents to send their children to school. It had a very positive impact on school enrolment and attendance. Later, serious attempts were made by the Government of Tamil Nadu to combine provision of food with other services such as health care, immunization, growth monitoring, pre and post natal care for women and care for old people. This has been done through programme like ICDS and TINP with the objective of enriching nutrition to children up to the age of three years. There has been a significant shift in policy focus from hunger to nutrition in Tamil Nadu. This was reflected in the policy for Malnutrition Free Tamil Nadu brought by Tamil Nadu Government in 2002-2003. The total number of students enrolled in NMP in rural areas of the district was 86524 and in urban areas of the district were 26122 and totally 112646 students 83 % of total number of students 135411 in the district during 2001-2011. During 2013-14, the total number of students enrolled in NMP in rural areas were 69851 amd in urban area 20331 and totally 90182 students (64 % of total no of students 141881). The enrolment has come down when compared with the past years due to various reasons. The blockwise details have been given in Annexure 4.

ICDS: Under the ICDS programme, children below 5 years are given adequate nutrition at Angan Wadi Centres (AWC). The total number of AWC in Theni district is 1065 centers that have covered 99177 children of age group of 0-5 yrs during 2014-15. The total number of children benefited from AWC is 50989 of 51.41 % on Children covered. The block K.Myladumparai (4473 only 8.77% of Children benefited) had the least coverage of benefits from AWC and the number of AWC were also lower (98 Centres in the block) than the other blocks of the district. The blocks Bodinayakkanur (4637), Uthamapalayam (4739) and Chinnamanur (4943) have registered lower children beneficiaries in the district.

Under the ICDS program, Pregnant women were getting benefits from AWC as ANW and PNM. The ANW and PNM beneficiaries are 7813 and 6858 respectively during 2014-15. The block K.Myladumparai had a similar low coverage as in case of Children's benefits coverage from AWC. This has resulted in MMR, SBR and in IMR in the block. **The blockwise beneficiaries through AWC details have been given in Annexure 4. NMP - (A 4.2 and A 4.3) AWC- (A 4.4)**

Non-nutritional factors and their impact on nutrition and health

There are many non-nutritional factors besides direct nutrient uptake that has significant influence on improving nutritional status. They include water supply, improved sanitation, reduction in infections, universal immunization etc. Decisions on nutrient uptake are with individual households and would vary depending on various factors. But many of the non-nutritional factors require very little effort on the part of individual household, most of these factors are under the purview of the state and hence comparatively easier to control. Inter sectoral co-ordination between the departments dealing with water, hygiene, sanitation and health is crucial for the prevention of diseases, especially water borne diseases. The recent Chikungunya out spread is a case in point. An analysis of the impact of health promoting factors on the health status of the population is presented here.

Water Supply

The level tracts of Theni block and some portions of the blocks Aundipatti and Bodinayakkanur are supplied with water by Mullai Periyar river system. The level tracks of the block Periyakulam is supplied with water at present by Manjalar dam and Sothuparai dam which are supplyig water throughout the year. The following table 4.11 shows the accessibility to safe drinking water to the district during 2013-14.

Table 4.11 Accesses to Safe Drinking Water during 2013-14

Sl.no	Name of the Block	Total No.of Habitation	No.of Habitation covered	Percentage
1	Aundipatti	216	211	98
2	K.Myladumparai	162	148	91
3	Theni	70	70	100
4	Periyakulam	121	119	98
5	Bodinayakanur	91	91	100
6	Chinnamanur	73	73	100
7	Uthamapalayam	36	36	100
8	Cumbum	21	21	100
	Total	**790**	**769**	**97**

Source: TWAD Theni Dt.

The table 4.11 shows the accessibility to safe drinking water supply to the district during 2013 – 14 that the blocks Aundipatti, Periyakulam and K.Myladumparai have registered having access to safe drinking water 98%, 98%, and 91% respectively. The rest of the blocks have registered higher number of house holds having access to safe drinking water that more than the district average of 97%. (84% in 2012-13 and 97% in 2013-14).

Sanitation

Sanitation is the hygienic means of promoting health through prevention of human contact with the hazards of waste as well as the treatment and proper disposal of sewage waste water. Hazards can be physical, microbiological, biological or chemical agents of disease. Wastes that can cause health problems include human and animal feces, solid wastes, domestic wastewater (sewage, silage and greywater), industrial wastes and agricultural wastes. Hygienic means of prevention can be by using engineering solutions (e.g. sewage and wastewater treatment), simple technologies (e.g. latrines, septic tanks), or even by personal hygiene practices (e.g. simple hand washing with soap). The word 'sanitation' also refers to the maintenance of hygienic conditions, through services such as garbage collection and wastewater disposal and provision of toilet facilities for households. The following table 4.12 shows the provision of toilet facilities for households in the district during 2013-14.

Table 4.12 Provision of Toilet Facilities during 2013 -14

S.No	Block/District	Total no.of HH	No.of Toilet facilities	% of HH provided with toilets
1.	Aundipatti	39463	19197	49
2.	K.Myladumparai	25517	14144	55
3.	Theni	54884	38858	71
4.	Periyakulam	54456	31071	57
5.	Bodi	47533	28063	59
6.	Chinnamanur	38103	23326	61
7.	Uthamapalayam	32749	27341	83
8.	Cumbum	47730	30804	65
	District	**340435**	**212804**	**63**

Source: Local Bodies, Theni Dist.

Table 4.12 indicates 63% in 2013-14. The block wise data shows that the Theni block has registered the highest number of households 75% with access to toilet facilities followed by Cumbum and Aundipatti block with 65% access in 2012 but which has come down to 71%, 65% and 49% in 2013-14 respectively. K.Myladumparai block has a least of households with access to toilet facilities with only 29% in 2012-13 but it has increased to 55% in 2013-14. The trend is lower than the other districts. Even within the district provision of toilet facility also has registered imbalanced growth. Government and non government organizations and Corporate Social Responsibility Initiatives have got to be arranged in all the blocks of the district to improve the number of toilets in maximum households.

Case Study: 4.2 Issues on sanitation in the backward areas of the district

The case study aims to explore the issues or status of sanitation in the backward areas of the district. The study was done by the method of collecting data and information through field study and interviewing the respondents. It is observed that there is no provision for drainage system, toilet facilities and dustbins in the backward areas like Kandamanur, Kadamalai Kundu, Kumanan Tholu, K.Myladumparai, Varusanadu and surrounding villages of K.Myladumparai block of Theni district. There is a practice of throwing garbage in open places, emitting the drainage water in open places and open defecation. It is found out that there are no public toilet facilities and public sanitation infrastructure. The remote villages around Megamalai hills and Agamalai hills do not have toilet facilities in the houses and in the public places.

Special Programs

Aids Control

The HIV poses a very big threat to the existence of human being. Huge volume of money, time and effort are spent to cure this dreadful disease. Yet, it remains as the biggest challenge before the scientific fraternity. The problem is more severe in a developing country like India. It is a matter of grave concern and requires immediate attention to prevent this menace.

The following table 4.13 shows HIV positive cases in the district during 2013-14.

Table 4.13 HIV positive cases during 2013-14

S.No	Age group wise	Positive Cases in 2013			Positive Cases in 2014		
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1.	0-14	5	2	7	9	1	10
2.	15-19	5	2	7	3	4	7
3.	20-24	7	7	14	8	5	13
4.	25-29	22	34	56	26	19	45
5.	30-34	39	45	84	25	32	57
6.	35-39	45	36	81	54	53	107
7.	40-49	110	39	149	90	48	138
8.	50 & above	57	27	84	65	39	104
	District	290	192	482	280	201	481

Source: D.D Health Theni.

The table 4.13 shows HIV positive cases in the district that the number of persons screened for HIV has decreased from 1320 in 2007 to 661 in 2011 to 482 in 2013 and to 481 in 2014. The age groups 25-29 yrs, 30-34 yrs, 35-39 yrs and 40-49 yrs have registered high number of HIV positive cases. The district HIV positive cases are 482 including male 290 and female 192 in 2013 and the cases are 481 including male 280 and female 201 respectively in 2014. The blockwise details have been given for the year 2007-11 in Annexure 4. (A 4.8)

In this regard, Voluntary Confidential Counseling and Testing Centre (VCCTC) play a crucial role in identifying HIV patients. Counsellors and lab technicians have been appointed to carry out the task. The centres are located in Government Head Quarters Hospital (GHOH) Theni and GH, Periyakulam. Some NGOs and local referral centres such as Angel, IRCDS and TRUPA have links with these VCCTC and play a complementary role in toning down the social stigma attached to the affected persons. It is as important as that of the treatment itself.

Tuberculosis and Leprosy cases

There are totally four TB units located in the district in different places namely Theni, Periyakulam, Bodinayakkanur and Aundipatti under revised National TB Control Program (RNTCP). Directly Observed Treatment Short Course (DOTS) is adopted to treat the TB cases. If a patient is suspected for TB, the first step is sputum examination. Later, positive cases are identified and the treatment is given with utmost care.

The following table 4.14 shows TB and Leprosy cases in the district during 2013-14.

Table 4.14 TB and Leprosy Cases during 2013-14

S.No	District	Positive TB Cases		Leprosy	
		2013	2014	2013	2014
1.	Aundipatti	103	141	5	5
2.	K.Myladumparai	86	92	6	6
3.	Theni	170	180	10	10
4.	Periyakulam	163	194	8	8
5.	Bodi	98	151	8	8
6.	Chinnamanur	112	103	2	2
7.	Uthamapalayam	98	139	11	11
8.	Cumbum	94	117	4	4
	District	924	1117	54	54

Source: D.D Health Theni.

The following table 4.14 shows TB and Leprosy cases in the district that a total number of 1095 TB patients have been reported in Theni district in 2007 which declined to 1036 in 2011 to 924 in 2013 and increased to 1117 in 2014. The block wise analysis shows Aundipatti block has registered the highest number of TB patients 536 in 2007 decreased to 498 in 2011 to 103 in 2013 and increased to 141 in 2014 followed by Periyakulam block has registered 205 in 2007 decreased to 199 in 2011 to 163 in 2013 and increased to 194 in 2014. A lowest number of cases are registered in Mayiladumparai with just only one TB patient in 2007 increased to 23 TB patients in 2011 to 86 in 2013 and to 92 in 2014.

The total number of leprosy cases detected and cured was 67 in 2010, 57 in 2011, 54 in 2013 and 54 in 2014. The blocks Uthamapalayam, Theni and Bodinayakkanur have registered high number of Leprosy cases 10, 8 and 8 cases respectively during 2013-14. The number of cases detected and cured has come down to a great extent. This is a significant achievement from leprosy eradication program in the district. With some more focused efforts, the district can achieve the goals set by the National Health Policy 2002 complete eradication of Leprosy. **The blockwise details have been given for the year 2007-11 in Annexure 4. (A 4.9)**

Conclusion

The district has reached the targets of national health policies with considerable reduction of CBR from 16.4 in 2009 to 13.3 in 2013, CDR from 6.7 in 2009 to 6.1 in 2013, MMR from 60 in 2008 to 150 in 2012 and a decrease to 78 in 2013 and IMR from 23.1 in 2008 to 17.1 in 2013, and with considerable improvement in sex ratio from 978 in 2001 to 991 in 2011 which is closer to the state sex ratio 995 in 2011 specially in the blocks Cumbum, Bodinayakkanur, Uthamapalayam, Chinnamanur, Theni and in Scheduled Caste social group in urban areas. Life expectancy at birth (LEB) has incurred in the case of male 62 years and female

64 years in 2001 increased to male 65 years and female 68 years in 2011. The performance of ANC and Immunization has been improved specially in the blocks Chinnamanur, Cumbum, Peiyakulam and Theni during 2011 to 2014. The institutional deliveries increased from 99.65 in 2012 to 99.80 in 2013-14 and Child Sex ratio of 0-6 year's age group from 891 in 2001 to 937 in 2011 which is closer to the State Child Sex Ratio 946 in 2011. The district with some sort of efforts maintains the natural growth rate of population.

It was found that the inter block migration was marginal in scale when compared to the total population that did not have much influence on population change. Out migration could have the effect but it could not be ascertained due to lack of date. Out migration could have been the main reason for drastic changes in population, witnessed in some of the blocks. It was found that between 2001 and 2011, many rural areas had become urban and so the population growth of urban areas was drastically highly notable in the blocks Periyakulam, Theni, Bodinayakkanur and Cumbum. It was observed that disadvantaged position of women in the society is the major underlying cause for the health and demographic issues etc. The significant investment on female literacy and education and livelihood enhancement are essential to considerably improve the health status of the district and it was observed that people below poverty line can be improved by direct benefit transfer and other welfare measures.

CHAPTER 5

LITERACY AND EDUCATION

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Chapter

5

Literacy and Education

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Introduction

The literacy level of a district is the basic indicator of human development achieved by a society. The spread of literacy is generally associated with important traits of modern civilization such as modernization, urbanization and industrialization. The literacy tends to be an important input in overall development of individuals enabling them to comprehend their social, political and cultural environment better and respond to it appropriately. Higher level of education and literacy lead to greater awareness in relation to social, political and cultural, and also contributes to the improvement of economic and social conditions. It acts as a catalyst for social upliftment enhancing the returns on investment made in almost every aspect of development efforts.

Literacy & Literacy performance of the district

Literacy is the ability to read and write. The power of literacy lies not only in the ability to read and write, but rather in an individual's capacity to put those skills to work in shaping the course of his or her own life. With the insight that genuine literacy involves "reading the word and the world" renowned educator Paulo Frieze helped open the door to a broader understanding of the term, one that moves from a strict decoding and reproducing of language into issues of economics, health, and sustainable development. The following table 5.1 shows the literacy rate of the district during 2001-11.

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Table 5.1 Literacy rate of the district during 2001-2011

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S.No	Block wise / District	2001			2011		
	Block	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1.	Aundipatti	92.41	57.96	75.22	83.65	65.35	74.54
2.	K.Myladumparai	70.52	46.76	59.06	75.07	55.92	65.73
3.	Theni	86.38	68.11	77.33	88.75	75.40	82.08
4.	Periyakulam	81.24	61.31	71.37	84.70	69.95	77.39
5.	Bodi	83.01	55.66	69.36	85.34	68.62	76.96
6.	Chinnamanur	80.16	64.53	72.30	84.72	68.47	76.57
7.	Uthamapalayam	83.03	64.07	73.57	85.30	71.42	78.35
8.	Cumbum	77.51	60.15	68.80	86.25	70.94	78.51
	District	**82.36**	**60.70**	**71.58**	**85.03**	**69.46**	**77.26**

Sources: CEO (SSA), Theni.

The table 5.1 shows the literacy rate of Theni district during 2001-2011 the average literacy rate of the district was 77.26 in 2011 which had increased from 71.58 in 2001. If things are looked at gender wise, male and female literacy rate was 85.03 and 69.46 respectively in 2011 while the figures in 2001 was for male 81.88 and 61.19 for female. The total literates were 870,080 of which male and female were 479,403 and 390,677 respectively in 2011 and 692,797 literates with male 400484 and female 292313 in 2001. Except in the blocks K.Myladumparai and Aundipatti, wherein the number of literates have marginally fallen, all other blocks recorded increase in literacy rates during 2001-2011.

Primary Education

Primary education is the foundation on which the development of every citizen and the nation as a whole is built on. In recent past, India has made a huge progress in terms of increasing primary education enrolment, retention, regular attendance rate and expanding literacy to approximately two thirds of the population. The following table 5.2 explains the gender wise gross enrolment rate in primary education over a period of 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 in Theni district.

Table 5.2 Genderwise Gross Enrolment in Primary Education

SI.No.	Names of Blocks	Primary						
		Boys		Girls		Total		
		2011 - 12	2012 - 13	2011 - 12	2012 - 13	2011 - 12	2012 - 13	2013-14
1.	Aundipatti	102.58	101.55	102.03	101.6	102.30	101.58	101.53
2.	K.Myladumparai	102.06	100.53	101.01	100.07	101.53	100.30	100.30
3.	Theni	102.49	102.81	102.03	103.73	102.26	103.27	103.09
4.	Periyakulam	102.52	102.16	102.01	102.6	102.21	102.38	102.38
5.	Bodinayakanur	102.42	102.25	102.00	101.3	102.22	101.78	101.78
6.	Chinnamanur	102.57	100.96	102.09	100.53	102.33	100.75	100.75
7.	Uttamapalayam	102.60	103.04	102.02	103.54	102.31	103.29	103.14
8.	Cumbum	102.52	102.08	102.90	102.3	102.71	102.19	102.19
	District	**102.46**	**101.92**	**102.46**	**101.96**	**102.46**	**101.94**	**102.16**

Source: CEO (SSA) Theni.

Table 5.2 shows the gender wise gross enrolment rate in primary education in 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 in Theni district. The series of data over the above said period indicates decline in total enrolment in primary education 102.46 to 101.94 and to 102.16. The block Uthamapalyam (102.31) to (103.29) has registered the highest number of primary enrolments followed by the blocks Theni (102.26) to (103.27) and Periyakulam (102.21) to (102.39) in 2011-12 and 2012-13 respectively. The lowest primary enrolment registered declined in the blocks Mayiladumparai (101.53) to (100.30) followed by Chinnamanur (102.33) to (100.75). The district

has registered gross enrolment rate in primary education 102.16 accounting for males 102.23 and for females 102.10 during 2013-14 which shows the marginal increase at both block and district levels.

The following table 5.3 explains the gender wise completion and dropout rate among all blocks in Theni district during the period 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14.

Table 5.3 Completions and Dropout Rate in Primary Education

SI. No.	Names of Blocks	Completion							Dropout						
		Boys		Girls		Total			Boys		Girls		Total		
		2011–12	2012–13	2011–12	2012–13	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2011–12	2012–13	2011–12	2012–13	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14
1.	Aundipatti	93.65	99.96	94.70	99.67	94.18	99.82	94.31	0.92	0.88	2.1	2.05	1.51	1.46	1.46
2.	K.Myladumparai	93.94	99.19	93.69	99.18	93.82	99.19	93.95	0.63	0.59	1.94	1.89	1.29	1.24	1.24
3.	Theni	94.53	99.93	95.42	99.81	94.98	99.87	95.11	0.88	0.84	1.18	1.13	1.03	0.99	0.99
4.	Periyakulam	94.07	99.88	95.36	99.65	94.72	99.77	94.85	1.15	1.11	1.04	0.99	1.10	1.05	1.05
5.	Bodinayakanur	93.56	99.92	95.30	99.69	94.43	99.81	94.57	1.26	1.22	0.79	0.74	1.03	0.98	0.98
6.	Chinnamanur	93.79	99.61	95.75	99.77	94.77	99.69	94.91	1.85	1.81	1.15	1.1	1.50	1.45	1.45
7.	Uttamapalayam	94.45	99.9	94.72	99.77	94.59	99.84	94.72	0.8	0.76	1.94	1.89	1.37	1.32	1.32
8.	Cumbum	93.83	99.9	96.40	99.67	95.12	99.79	95.25	1.09	1.05	0.45	0.4	0.77	0.72	0.72
	District	**93.98**	**99.79**	**95.17**	**99.65**	**94.57**	**99.72**	**95.66**	**1.07**	**1.03**	**1.32**	**1.27**	**1.2**	**1.15**	**1.15**

Source: CEO SSA Theni

The table 5.3 shows the completions and drop out rate in primary education of the district during 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14. The completion rate is highest in the blocks Theni (99.87), Uthamapalayam (99.84) and Bodinayakkanur (99.81). The completion rate is lowest in the blocks K.Myladumparai (99.19) and Chinnamanur (99.69) than the district average of 99.72. The lowest completion rate with reasons, due to social and economic causes like migration, unemployment, displacement, rehabilitation and resettlement. The completion rate has come down to 95.66 during 2013-14 due to obvious reasons as cited above. It is 95.94 for boys and 95.37 for girls. The blocks K.Myladumparai 93.95 and Aundipatti 94.31 have the least completion rate in primary education which is to be well addressed. This is lesser than the district average completion rate 95.66 during 2013-14.

The drop out rate is higher in the blocks, Aundipatti (1.46), Chinnamanur (1.45) and Uthamapalayam (1.32) than the district average of 1.15. The lowest drop out rate is in the blocks Cumbum (0.42), Bodinayakkanur (0.98) and Theni (0.99). This is lower than the district average in 2012-13. The same trend prevails in both block level and 1.15 at district level in 2013-14.

It is evident from above, that migration and economic compulsion are the major reasons for children being out of school. This is very much so, because over the years, there has been

considerable positive change in the attitude of parents regarding education of their children which is very much capitalized by the private schools. So the livelihood enhancement needs to be addressed in a focused manner in the region to reduce a high percent of out of school children.

Upper Primary/Middle School Education

The upper primary stage of school education comprises classes from VI to VIII, but is often merged with primary schools or high schools or higher secondary schools in Tamil Nadu.The following table 5.4 explains the changes in gender wise gross enrolment in upper primary/middle school education in Theni district during 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14.

Table 5.4 Gender wise Gross Enrolment in Upper Primary/Middle School Education

| SI.No. | Block Wise/ District Wise/State | Upper Primary | | | | | | |
| | | Boys | | Girls | | Total | | |
		2011 - 12	2012 - 13	2011 - 12	2012 - 13	2011 - 12	2012 - 13	2013 - 14
1.	Aundipatti	102.68	101.99	103.32	103.44	103.00	102.72	102.06
2.	K.Myladumparai	102.11	102.1	102.69	102.45	102.40	102.28	101.76
3.	Theni	102.39	102.44	103.68	103.16	103.04	102.08	102.10
4.	Periyakulam	102.55	102.67	103.94	104.44	103.25	103.56	102.80
5.	Bodinayakanur	102.53	102.42	103.49	102.41	103.01	102.42	102.26
6.	Chinnamanur	102.62	102.42	103.77	103.31	103.20	102.87	102.26
7.	Uttamapalayam	102.57	102.11	103.48	103.05	103.04	102.58	102.03
8.	Cumbum	102.59	102.66	103.97	104.63	103.28	103.65	102.39
	District	**102.51**	**102.35**	**103.54**	**103.36**	**103.02**	**102.86**	**102.21**

Source: CEO SSA Theni

The table 5.4 explains the gender wise gross enrolment rate in upper primary education during 2011-12 to 2012-13. The blocks narrowly range from 102.40 to 103.28 during 2011-12 and 102.08 to 103.65 during 2012-13. Interestingly, the gender wise split record shows, the blocks Periyakulam (102.67), Cumbam (102.66), Bodinayakkanur (102.42) and Chinnamanur (102.42) for boys and the blocks Cumbum (104.63), Periyakulam (104.44), Aundipatti (103.44) and Chinnamanur(103.31) for girls have attained maximum rate in the year 2012-13. Most of the blocks progressed a great deal particularly for girls.

The education attainment in the upper primary education is equally successful to that of the primary education. The blocks Cumbam (103.65), Periyakulam (103.56), Chinnamanur (102.87) and Aundipatti (102.72) have registered high rate in upper primary enrolment ratio

during 2012-13. The enrolment gap (1.37) (the range 103.65 – 102.28) in K.Myladumparai (102.45 the least among the other blocks) is mainly due to decline in girl's enrolment.

During 2013-14, the enrolment rate of upper primary is 102.21 consisting of boys 102.06 and girls 102.36 resulting in marginal decrease in both block level and district level. The lower completion rate in primary education is reflecting in the enrolment in upper primary level by a reduction of 0.70% in Aundipatti and K.Myladumparai blocks.

Completion Rate and Dropout Rate in Upper Primary/Middle School Education

One of the major indicators of educational performance is the dropout rate at each stage of education. The drop-out rate measures the ability of the system to retain the enrolled children. The percentage of school leaver or pass-outs out of total enrolment who do not pursue studies in same or in the other schools during the following academic session is termed as the dropout rate. The following table 5.5 explains the completion and drop out pattern in upper primary / middle school education, gender wise, during 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14

Table 5.5 Completions and Dropout Rate in Upper Primary/Middle Schools

SI.No.	Block Wise/District Wise/State	Completion							Dropout						
		Boys		Girls		Total			Boys		Girls		Total		
		2011 - 12	2012 - 13	2011 – 12	2012 - 13	2011 - 12	2012 - 13	2013 - 14	2011 - 12	2012 - 13	2011 - 12	2012 - 13	2011 - 12	2012- 13	2013 - 14
1.	Aundipatti	91.55	99.88	92.95	99.42	92.25	99.65	93.95	1.25	1.21	1.41	1.37	1.33	1.29	1.14
2.	K.Myladumparai	89	98.95	91.31	98.53	90.16	98.74	91.86	4.38	4.34	3.12	3.08	3.75	3.71	3.56
3.	Theni	91.89	99.60	91.42	99.26	91.66	99.43	93.36	0.98	0.94	2.28	2.24	1.63	1.59	1.44
4.	Periyakulam	91.5	99.45	92.17	99.69	91.84	99.57	93.54	1.28	1.24	1.32	1.28	1.30	1.26	1.11
5.	Bodinayakanur	90.7	99.71	92.15	99.72	91.43	99.72	93.13	2.28	2.24	1.57	1.53	1.925	1.89	1.74
6.	Chinnamanur	91.01	99.48	92.3	99.29	91.66	99.39	93.36	1.9	1.86	1.19	1.15	1.545	1.51	1.36
7.	Uttamapalayam	91.24	99.88	92.65	99.32	91.95	99.60	93.65	1.44	1.4	1.08	1.04	1.26	1.22	1.07
8.	Cumbum	91.77	98.61	92.48	99.22	92.13	98.92	93.83	0.96	0.92	0.89	0.85	0.925	0.89	0.74
	District	**91.08**	**99.45**	**92.18**	**99.31**	**91.63**	**99.38**	**93.33**	**1.80**	**1.77**	**1.60**	**1.57**	**1.71**	**1.67**	**1.52**

Source: CEO SSA Theni

The table 5.5 shows the completion and drop out rate in upper primary eduction of the district during 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14. The lowest completion rate in upper primary education has registered in the block of K.Myladumparai at the rate of 90.16 percent followed by Bodinayakkanur with 91.43 percent, Theni and Chinnamanur with 91.66 percent during 2011-12. There has been a little difference between boys and girls. The highest rate has been noticed in the block Aundipatti with 92.25 percent followed by Cumbum with 92.13 percent during 2011-12. This has further increased in the year 2012-13 in Bodinayakkanur with 99.72 percent,

Aundipatti with 99.65 percent and Uthamapalayam with 99.60 percent. This is very low at K.Myladumparai with 98.74 percent in 2012-13. During 2013-14, the completion rate is 93.33 consisting of boys 93.18 and girls 93.48. The blocks K.Myladumparai, Aundipatti and Chinnamanur have got poor completion rate by a reduction of 7 % in an average which is to be seriously looked into.

The average dropout rate in upper primary education in the district as a whole has declined sharply till 2013 from 2011. The highest dropout rate was registered in Myladumaparai with 3.75 percent in 2011-12. The block needs special attention to encourage the students to continue their study particularly in upper primary education. The drop out rate has reduced in the blocks Cumbum by 0.925 percent, Uthamapalayam by 1.26 percent, Periyakulam by 1.30 percent and Aundipatti by 1.33 percent in 2011-12. The same trend continues in the block K.Myladumparai in 2012-13 also at the rate of 3.71 percent as it was in 2012-13. The district average dropout rate in upper primary education of the district is 1.53 includes male 1.45 and female 1.60 in 2013-14. The average dropout rate of the girl children in upper primary education was registered to be slightly higher than that of the boys. The phenomenon is to be addressed. The drop out rate both at block level and at district level has come down appreciably during 2013-14.

Transition Rate from primary to upper primary and upper primary to secondary

It is important to study the growth rate in educational attainment among younger generation as the government pumps in a sizable portion of GDP in all districts with special emphasis on economically backward districts. It will ensure and find out the efficiency with which this government program is implemented for the sake of promoting the national literacy level. This will ensure the comparison of district level of literacy, gender wise and period wise, with the State level and national level to amend the policy reform on education.

The following table 5.6 exhibits the transition rate from primary level of education to upper primary level of education and from upper primary level of education to secondary level of education during the period 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 in Theni district.

Table 5.6 Transition Rate from primary to upper primary and upper primary to secondary

Sl.No	Names of the Blocks	Primary to Upper Primary			Upper primary to Secondary		
		2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
1.	Aundipatti	98.5	98.52	98.59	98.52	99.14	98.63
2.	K.Myladumparai	97.9	97.91	97.98	97.90	98.42	98.38
3.	Theni	98.4	98.45	98.52	98.45	98.96	98.23
4.	Periyakulam	99.1	99.08	99.15	99.08	99.60	98.87
5.	Bodinayakanur	98.6	98.61	98.68	98.61	99.12	99.10
6.	Chinnamanur	98.4	98.43	98.50	98.43	98.94	98.98
7.	Uttamapalayam	98.8	98.75	98.82	98.75	99.27	98.78
8.	Cumbum	98.8	98.84	98.91	98.84	99.35	99.69
	District	**98.57**	**98.57**	**99.80**	**98.57**	**99.10**	**98.83**

Source : CEO (SSA) Theni

The table 5.6 shows the transition rate from primary to upper primary and to secondary education of the district that the district has achieved 98.57 percent transition rate in the primary education during 2011-12. Transition rate in primary level of education has been improving in all blocks of the district marginally that is from 0.01 percent to 0.05 percent except in Uthamapalayam block where the rate has marginally fallen short of 0.05 percent and Periyakulum block where the rate has fallen short of 0.02 percent during 2011-12 and 2012-13. Transition rate of most of the blocks has fallen near the district average. Even, Periyakulam the usual outlier has fallen closer to that of the district average with 98.57 percent transition rate. There has been a little difference between boys and girls in this regard. During 2013-14, the average transition rate of the district has risen from 98.57 to 99.80 significantly. It has consisted of boys 99.85 and girls 99.75. The rates at block level have increased appreciably.

The same trend has been found regarding transition rate in upper primary education to secondary education. There has been a little difference between boys and girls. Transition rate of upper primary education in most of the blocks has fallen near the district average. The block K.Myladumparai has got the lowest transition rate (97.90) in 2011-12 and (98.42) in 2012-13. The block Periyakulam has registered highet rate 99.60 during 2012-13 as topper in the district. If this trend is corrected the national education policy's objective of getting more education to all people under the age of 14 years can very well be achieved as there is a favorable trend of a greater transition from upper primary to secondary during 2011-12 and 2012-13. This will ensure the effective utilization of resources in this end. This requires that targeted action is initiated in Theni district to effectively harness the rich potential of achieving still more transition than the present level. During 2013-14, the average transition rate of the district went down from 99.10 to 98.83 marginally. The rates at block level also have reduced marginally.

Access to Schools

Accessibility to schools is one of the important factors that can help in achieving universalisation of education. The policy of the State is that every habitation with a population of 300 and above should have a primary school within a distance of 1 km. The availability of schools facilities is measured by a set of indicators concerning access. Existing norms stipulate that a habitation (cluster of households) is entitled to have a primary school, if it has a population of 300 and more.

Upper primary schools are to be located at a distance of three km from habitations with a population of 500 and more. These norms are often relaxed in case of hilly and tribal areas, difficult terrains and borders of the district and ensuring more number of schools as situations warrant. The following table 5.7 explains the number of primary schools, upper primary schools/ middle schools in all the blocks of Theni district during 2014 -15.

Table 5.7 Availability of Schools during 2014-15

S.No	Blocks	Habitations	Primary only					Primary with upper primary (I – VIII)					Primary to Higher secondary (I-X)&(I-XII)					Upper primary to Higher secondary (VI – X) & (VI – XII)					Total
			Govt	Private Aided	Private Unaided	Others	Unregog	Govt	Private Aided	Private	Others	Unregog	Govt	Private Aided	Private Unaided	Others	Unregog	Govt	Private Aided	Private	Others	Unregog	
1.	Aundipatti	147	78	11	5	0	0	19	3	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	24	1	1	0	0	146
2.	Bodinayakkanur	117	35	20	7	0	2	18	15	1	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	7	5	1	0	0	115
3.	Chinnamanur	99	37	13	5	0	0	12	7	1	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	11	4	0	0	0	98
4.	Cumbum	103	29	17	12	0	1	8	5	1	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	11	7	0	0	0	102
5.	K.Myladumparai	92	54	5	5	0	0	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	13	1	0	0	0	93
6.	Periyakulam	148	46	21	16	0	0	10	22	2	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	22	2	1	0	0	148
7.	Theni	103	21	16	10	0	0	14	8	1	2	1	0	1	10	2	0	8	8	0	0	0	102
8.	Uthamapalayam	95	25	27	4	0	0	8	9	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	5	8	0	0	0	94
	District	**904**	**325**	**130**	**64**	**0**	**3**	**103**	**69**	**6**	**2**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**52**	**2**	**0**	**101**	**36**	**3**	**0**	**0**	**898**

Source: CEO SSA Theni

During 2014 -15, the total number of schools from primary to higher secondary level is 898. This includes government (529), private aided (235), private unaided (125), others (4) and unrecognised (4). This is at the rate of a school for 1.06 habitats. This is well covered but completion rate at primary and upper primary, drop out rate at primary level have got to be qualitatively improved upon from the present level to the desired level of 100 percent.

The availability of school details for the year 2011-12 have been given in Annexure 5 (A 5.10), shows that at the district level there was one primary school for per two habitations in an average during 2011-12. A better trend was available that a primary school for per every 1.5 habitations in an average in Chinnamanur block. But it varied between one schools per 2.25 habitations to 3 habitations in an average in all other blocks during 2011-12. This showed a lesser density of primary schools in the district.

In the case of upper primary and middle schools infrastructure, there was poor availability of schools with 14 upper primary and middle schools for 146 habitations, with an average of per school 10.6 habitations are grouped in K.Myladumparai block. There were 22 such schools for 181 habitations at an average of per school 8.5 for per habitations in Aundipatti block. This was poor distribution of schools to under privileged areas. The above situation has been improved with sufficient number of schools at one school per habitation during 2014-15.

Pupil- Teacher Ratio in primary and upper primary

Primary school pupil-teacher ratio is the number of pupils enrolled in primary school divided by the number of primary school teachers (regardless of their teaching assignment). The following table 5.8 shows the pupil teacher ratio of the district in 2014-15.

Table 5.8 Pupil Teacher Ratio during 2014-15

S. N	Block	Primary Enrolment	Primary Teachers	Primary PTR	Upper Primary Enrolment	Upper Primary Teachers	Upper Primary PTR
1.	Aundipatti	6183	269	22.99	4431	247	17.94
2.	Bodinayakkanur	3879	168	23.09	2036	124	16.42
3.	Chinnamanur	3159	137	23.06	2344	141	16.62
4.	Cumbum	3220	126	25.56	2158	102	21.16
5.	K.Myladumparai	4025	186	21.64	2449	149	16.44
6.	Periyakulam	5584	225	24.82	4192	211	19.87
7.	Theni	3147	117	26.90	2162	119	18.17
8.	Uthamapalayam	2547	111	22.95	1622	95	17.07
	District	**31744**	**1339**	**23.88**	**21394**	**1188**	**17.96**

Source: CEO SSA Theni

During 2014-15, Pupil Teacher Ratio is at 24 for primary and 18 for upper primary level, which is conducive for imparting knowledge to the students optimally. This has got to be monitored and improved upon to score 100 percent pass outs from our schools from the present level. The quality and result of teaching can be expected to be of high standard like more students to speak, write and calculate sums effectively.

The Pupil Teacher Ratio block wise details for the year 2011-12 have been given in Annexure 5 (A 5.6), shows that there had been the district PTR 30 that prevailed the same in the blocks like Periyakulam, Aundipatti, K.Myladumparai, Bodinayakkanur, Cumbum,

Uthamapalayam and Theni.

In the same way for upper primary education, the district had achieved PTR of 30 during 2011-2012 and then it had marginally increased over the recent years. While there had been a significant decline in PTR in the blocks like Periyakulam, Bodinayakkanur, Aundipatti Theni, Uthamapalayam, Cumbum, there had been a significant rise in the blocks like Aundipatti, Theni, Uthmapalayam and Cumbum. The above situation has been improved as district PTR 1:18 in upper primary during 2014-15.

Box - 5.1 Students who were able to read and write and calculate well– Theni district (I – V) (Primary) 2014 – 2015.

Block wise /District	Number of Schools	Number of Schools Estimated	Number of Students Estimated	Fluency in Reading		Fluency in Writing		Students doing Easy Sums in %	Students doing difficult Sums in %
				Tamil/Kannada/ Telugu	English	Tamil/Kannada/ Telugu	English		
Aundipatti	111	111	3814	85	67	73	57	88	83
K.Myladum parai	71	71	3646	87	77	82	70	89	84
Theni	60	60	7164	86	68	76	61	88	80
Periyakulam	100	100	7628	81	72	74	62	90	82
Bodi	88	88	6601	81	68	72	64	88	82
Chinnamanur	69	69	3403	86	62	75	58	88	84
Utthamapalayam	69	69	5049	80	69	73	60	89	81
Cumbum	59	59	5175	84	79	82	79	90	88
Total	**627**	**627**	**42480**	**84**	**70**	**76**	**64**	**89**	**83**

Source: CEO (SSA), Theni

The table shows the students were able to read and write well – theni district (i - v) (primary) 2014-15 that in Theni district, among the students who can able to read fluently in Tamil/ Kannada/ Telugu were 84% and English were 70%; and write fluently in Tamil/ Kannada/ Telugu were 76% and English were 64%. The students were able to do easy sums and difficult sums were 89% and 83% respectively.

The table for 2013 has been given in Annexure 5, (A 5.8) which shows the students can able to read and write well – Theni district (i - v) (primary) 2013 that in Theni district, among the students who can able to read fluently in Tamil/ Kannada/ Telugu were 64% and English were 46%; and write fluently in Tamil/ Kannada/ Telugu were 54% and English were 39%. The students who were able to do easy sums and difficult sums were 64% and 50% respectively.

Box-52 Students who were able to read and write – Theni district (V – VIII) (Upper Primary) 2014 – 2015

Block Wise /District	Number Of Schools	Number Of Schools Estimated	Number Of Students Estimated	Fluency In Reading		Fluency In Writing		Students Doing Easy Sums In %	Students Doing Difficult Sums In %
				Tamil/ Kannada/Telugu	English	Tamil/ Kannada/ Telugu	English		
Aundipatti	47	47	6354	88	65	73	51	83	79
Myladumpara	28	28	2128	82	78	78	60	89	83
Theni	39	39	6542	90	69	77	54	88	78
Periyakulam	56	56	6054	85	73	66	51	87	80
Bodi	45	45	5838	90	75	80	64	86	82
Chinnamanur	34	34	2492	88	65	75	51	88	80
Utthamapalay	30	30	3452	80	73	75	60	88	80
Cumbum	31	31	4602	84	75	80	69	90	82
Total	**310**	**310**	**37462**	**86**	**72**	**76**	**58**	**88**	**80**

Source: CEO (SSA), Theni.

The table shows the reading and writing skills among upper primary students for 2014-15 in Theni district among the students who were able to read fluently in Tamil/ Kannada/ Telugu were 86% and English were 72%; and write fluently in Tamil/ Kannada/ Telugu were 76% and English were 58%. The students can able to do easy sums and difficult sums were 88% and 80% respectively.

The table for 2013 has been given in Annexure 5 (A 5.9) which shows the reading and writing skill among upper primary students that in Theni district among the students who can able to read fluently in Tamil/ Kannada/ Telugu were 61% and English were 47%; and write fluently in Tamil/ Kannada/ Telugu were 55% and English were 41%. The students can able to do easy sums and difficult sums were 62% and 49% respectively.

Secondary Education

Secondary Education is a crucial stage in the educational hierarchy as it prepares the students for higher education and also to face the world. The general need for improving the quality of life and to reduce poverty, it is essential that school leavers acquire a higher level of knowledge and skills. The following table 5.9 shows the number of students of both genders with enrolment particulars in Secondary schools during 2013-14.

Table 5.9 Enrolments in Secondary Education during 2013-14

S.No	Block	GER		
		Boys	Girls	Total
1.	Aundipatti	58.7	48.6	107.3
2.	Bodinayakanur	56.7	50.9	107.6
3.	Chinnamanur	57.6	49.2	106.8
4.	Cumbum	52.9	48.9	101.8
5.	K.Myladumparai	53.2	47.3	100.5
6.	Periyakulam	54.2	48.1	102.3
7.	Theni	56.3	50.4	106.7
8.	Uthamapalayam	59.6	49.9	109.5
	District	**56.15**	**49.1625**	**105.313**

Source: CEO RMSA Theni

The Gross Enrolment Rate in secondary has registered low at 100.5 and at 101.8 in K.Myladumparai and Cumbum blocks respectively that is lower than the district average 105.3. The blocks Uthamapalayam and Bodinayakkanur have registered high enrolment rate at 109.5 and at 107.6 respectively during 2013-14 which is higher than the district average.

The details in (GER) actual numbers for the year 2012-13 has been given in Annexure 5, (A 5.1) (A 5.2) shows that the total enrolment at high school was 14056 with males accounting to 7503 and females 6553 in 75 schools of both government and aided schools during 2012-13. The enrolment was registered low in Theni (2585), Periyakulam (2462) and Cumbum (2378) blocks. Immediate attention to increase secondary school strength has to be carried on these three blocks, to start with. It will ensure quality in imparting education to students. The General Enrolment Rate for 2013-14 of the district is 56.15 for boys and 49.16 for girls totaling 105.31 consisted of all the 8 blocks. The block Uthamapalayam tops with 109.5 in GER.

The following table 5.10 shows the dropouts in secondary education of the district during 2012-13 and 2013-14.

Table 5.10 Dropouts in secondary education during 2012-13 and 2013-14

Sl. No	Blocks	2012– 13 Male	2012 – 13 Female	2012– 13 Total drop out	2013-14 Male	2013-14 Female	2013-14 Total Dropout
1.	Aundipatti	7.69	5.86	6.77	6.5	4.8	5.7
2.	Bodinayakanur	5.29	4.73	5.01	3.1	3.9	3.5
3.	Chinnamanur	6.83	5.58	6.21	9.0	4.0	6.5
4.	Cumbum	6.08	2.84	4.46	9.5	5.3	7.4
5.	K.Myladumparai	5.02	2.58	3.80	4.1	4.1	4.1
6.	Periyakulam	6.61	1.46	4.03	7.3	3.3	5.3
7.	Theni	3.23	1.45	2.34	5.9	4.5	5.2
8.	Uthamapalayam	5.77	2.83	4.30	3.8	2.9	3.3
	District	**5.63**	**3.25**	**4.44**	**6.2**	**4.1**	**5.1**

Source: CEO (RMSA) Theni.

The table 5.10 shows the dropouts in secondary education of the district during 2012-13 and 2013-14 that the drop out of the district has increased to 5.1 in 2013-14 from 4.44 in 2012-13. Reduction in drop out rate is seen in Uthamapalayam, Bodinayakkanur and Aundipatti. Increasing trend is found in all other blocks. Cumbum and Chinnamanur are leading in the scene. Male dropout is more than female dropouts in all the blocks in the above period except in K.Myladumparai which has remained 4.1 for both genders during 2013-14.

Access to Higher Secondary schools

During 2012-13, there were a total of 111 higher secondary schools in all the blocks of the district with the total student's strength of 80432 consisting of 40684 boys and 39748 girls. Out of this, the block Cumbum had the same strength of schools with total students strength of 6059 with the marginal fall of students strength to 6036, the block Theni had the highest number of schools 18 with total students strength of 15107 which is a reduction from the previous year referred, the blocks Aundipatti had 17 schools and Periyakulum had 16 schools with the students strength of 9792 and 11499 respectively.

On least side, the block K.Myladumparai had 9 schools only with the total student's strength 5184, the block Bodinayakkanur had 10 schools with the student's strength of 11336 and the block Chinnamanur had 12 schools with the student's strength of 8285. There was an increase in schools strength in all the blocks of Theni district from 92 schools to 111 schools, during the years 2008 to 2012-13, thanks to the diversion of the students to job oriented skill training courses like Polytechnic, Industrial and Technical Institute, Catering Institutes, Nursing Institutes and Information Technology Institutions either for securing jobs or to start self

supporting vocations as entrepreneurs. The blockwise details of access to higher secondary schools for the year 2012-13 have been given in Annexure 5.11.

During 2014 - 15, there are 194 higher secondary schools in the district which includes primary to higher secondary schools (52 private unaided schools and 2 others) and upper primary to higher secondary schools (101 govt. Schools, 36 private aided schools and 3 others). The blockwise details can be refered in the table 5.7 Availablity of schools during 2013-14 page no: 63.

Basic Infrastructure

Infrastructure facilities

The Government, with the assistance of NABARD, has accorded administrative sanction for providing infrastructure facilities such as classrooms, drinking water facilities, toilets and laboratories and libraries in Government High and Higher Secondary Schools.

Furniture

Under NABARD Scheme, desk and benches to students and chairs and tables to teachers were provided in the additional classrooms for Government High and Higher Secondary Schools. The following table 5.11 explains the total number of schools with necessary infrastructure like Toilet, Electricity, Drinking Water, Desks and Chairs during 2013-14.

Table 5.11 Basic Infrastructure status in the existing schools- Primary (Govn.) 2013-2014

Sl no	Blocks	No of Schools	With out own building	Pucca class rooms	Major repair class rooms	Minor repair class rooms	With HM room	Drinking water	Toilet facility	Girls Toilet	Access with ramp	Boundary Wall	Play Ground	EB Connetions	Kithchen and Midday Meal
1.	Aundipatti	78	0	203	5	53	24	78	78	78	53	51	45	78	72
2.	Bodinayakkanur	34	0	70	7	13	9	34	34	32	18	26	15	33	27
3.	Chinnamanur	37	1	106	1	9	11	37	37	36	23	29	22	37	35
4.	Cumbum	29	1	90	4	22	18	29	29	27	18	23	14	29	23
5.	K.Myladumparai	54	1	131	5	23	35	54	52	48	37	32	33	48	43
6.	Periyakulam	46	0	156	3	23	25	46	46	38	32	33	30	45	37
7.	Theni	21	0	73	2	0	4	21	21	20	16	19	17	21	20
8.	Uthamapalayam	25	0	75	2	3	16	25	25	25	19	22	10	25	25
	District	324	3	904	29	146	142	324	322	304	216	235	186	316	282

Source: CEO SSA Theni

The table 5.11 shows the basic infrastructure status in the existing government primary schools of the district that the infrastructural facilities in schools include basic facilities namely pucca classrooms, HM rooms, drinking water, playground, boundary wall, toilets, electricity connections etc. There are 324 government primary schools which have the number of 904 pucca class rooms, 29 class rooms were major repair class rooms and 146 classrooms were minor repair class rooms. There are 324 schools with drinking water, 322, 304 schools with toilet and girls toilet facities respectively and 316 schools with EB connections during 2013-14. Basic infrastructure during 2011-12 has been given in Annexure as **(A 5.4)**

Basic Infrastructure status in the existing schools- Upper Primary (Govn.) 2013-2014

Sl no	Blocks	No of Schools	With out own building	Pucca class rooms	Major repair class rooms	Minor repair class rooms	With HM room	Drinking water	Girls Toilet	Access with ramp	Boundary Wall	Play Ground	EB Connetions	Kithchen and Midday Meal
1.	Aundipatti	43	0	183	3	29	27	43	42	33	31	26	43	40
2.	Bodinayakkanur	25	0	126	1	24	15	25	25	18	20	18	24	23
3.	Chinnamanur	23	0	126	1	11	20	23	23	19	16	15	23	21
4.	Cumbum	19	2	74	4	9	9	19	19	12	17	13	18	18
5.	K.Myladumparai	27	0	116	1	23	23	27	27	18	23	17	27	24
6.	Periyakulam	32	0	153	1	14	24	32	30	20	26	20	32	28
7.	Theni	22	0	123	3	8	12	22	22	22	20	12	21	21
8.	Uthamapalayam	13	0	72	2	12	11	13	13	12	12	7	13	12
	District	204	2	973	16	130	141	204	201	154	165	128	201	187

Source: CEO SSA Theni

Case study: 5.1 Need for basic school infrastructure in the backward areas of Theni district

The case study aims to explore the need for basic school infrastructure in the backward areas of the district. The study was done by the method of collecting data and information through field study, observation and interviewing the respondents. It is observed that there are government schools from primary to higher secondary with insufficient basic infrastucture like toilet for boys and girls, well structured class rooms with desks and benches, computers, projectors, compound walls, electricity and play ground in the backward areas of Theni district. Because of poor basic school infrastructure, the most of the people of the backward areas migrate to other blocks of the district notably the blocks like Theni, Uthamapalayam and Periyakulam or to other districts notably Namakkal, Madurai and Erode or to other states notably Karnataka and Kerala for the purpose of educating their children.

There are many government schools from primary to higher secondary with insufficient basic infrastructure functioned in and around the villages of Kandamanur, Kadamalai kundu, Kuman tholu, K.Myladumparai and Varusanadu in K.Myladumparai block.

There is only one government higher secondary school with the student strength of 40 with under staff strength in Megamalai hills with the population strength of 1500 families.

There is only one government high school with the student strength of around 100 with under staff strength in Agamalai hills with the population strength of 600 families. The schools located in these areas are functioning with insuffient basic school infrastructure. It is also found out that there are no higher educational institutions in the K.Myladumparai block.

Hostel Facilities

The following table 5.12 explains about the number of hostels and the number of students in the hostels at Theni district during 2011 -14 at taluk wise.

Table 5.12 Hostel Facilities to students

A. Hostels for SC\ST Students (Adidravidar Welfare Hostels) 2011 – 14

S.No	Taulk wise / District / State	No. of Hostels				Total Number of Hostel students			
		2011	2012	2013	2014	2011	2012	2013	2014
1.	Bodinayakanur	4	4	4	4	101	296	296	291
2.	Theni	5	5	5	5	120	486	486	573
3.	Aundipatti	14	14	14	14	261	853	853	769
4.	Periyakulam	5	5	5	5	91	285	285	291
5.	Uthamapalayam	11	11	11	11	377	720	720	749
	Total	**39**	**39**	**39**	**39**	**950**	**2640**	**2640**	**2673**

Source: Adidravidar Welfare Department, Collect orate, Theni

The taluk Aundipatti had got 14 hostels which accommodated 261 students in 2011 and the students' strength have increased to 853 in 2012 and to 769 in 2014. The taluk Uthamapalyam accommodated 377 students in 11 hostels in 2011 and the students' strength increased to 720 in 2012 and to 749 in 2014. The entire district had total of 39 SC/ST hostels housing 2640 students of both genders in 2012 and has increased to 2673 in 2014. The taluk Bodinayakkanur had got 4 hostels accommodating 101 students in 2011 and the students' strength increased to 296 in 2012 and decreased to 291 in 2014.

B. Hostels for BC and MBC Students (Back Ward Welfare Hostels) 2011-2014

S.No	Block wise / District / State	No. of Hostels				Total Number of students (2011)			
		2011	2012	2013	2014	2011	2012	2013	2014
1.	Aundipatti	4	6	6	6	284	340	356	315
2.	K.Myladumparai	2	6	6	6	131	300	320	329
3.	Theni	3	2	4	4	161	110	200	202
4.	Periyakulam	1	3	3	3	63	150	175	150
5.	Bodinayakanur	1	5	5	5	83	245	248	334
6.	Chinnamanur	3	3	3	3	172	162	161	157
7.	Uthamapalayam	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8.	Cumbum	1	1	1	1	55	50	45	38
	Total	**15**	**26**	**28**	**28**	**949**	**1357**	**1505**	**1525**
	District(SC/ST+BC/MBC)	**54**	**65**	**67**	**67**	**3589**	**3997**	**4145**	**4198**

Source: Back Ward Welfare Department, Collect orate, Theni

There were 15 BC \ MBC hostels in Theni district accommodating 779 in 2001 and 949 in 2011 and increased to 1525 in 2014. The blocks Aundipatti has got 4 hostels, Theni has got 3 hostels and Chinnamanur has got 3 hostels with the students' strength 284, 161 and 172 respectively during 2011 and got changed to 315, 202 and 157 in 2014 respectively. Till date, there are no hostels in Uthamapalayam block. There are totally 4198 students including SC\ ST and BC\ MBC students accomodated in the hostels in the district.

During 2011-12, total of 49043 students of both the genders availed various scholarships like differently abled student's scholarship, NMMS, Post matric scholarship for SC\ST and for Converted Christian students etc., Under the free provisions to students' schemes, the number of 10429 students have been provided Laptops for those who completed 12th standard during 2013-14, in the very same year the number of 90824 students out of 99856 had been provided educational tools like textbooks, notebooks, foot wear, bicycle, bus pass, atlas, crayons, color pencils, geometry box and school bags.

Box-5.3 Technology Initiatives in education

The Government had laid out an ICT road map for developing the basic skills and concept of ICT as a part of the core of school education alongside reading, writing and mastering other subjects.

Presently, all the high and higher secondary schools in Tamil Nadu are provided with computers, printers, multimedia projectors, UPS along with required furniture. All these schools have also been given internet connectivity. Educational software and CD ROMs, CD and application software have also been provided as an integral part of the ICT package.

The purpose of providing the above ICT package is to establish an enabling environment in the school to promote the use of computers so as to help the children to think analytically and use self-learning skills for understanding the subjects. The online facility enables the students to assimilate information from various sources for better understanding.

The Government have also trained the teaching faculties to learn the use of ICT tools and various applications so as to help the students to access information on various subjects, to prepare students at the secondary and higher secondary level and to enable the students to master computer literacy and the basic computer skills.

During 2014 – 15, in Theni district, The Desktops, Laptops and Projectors are provided to schools under the scheme of Technology Initiatives in Education. From primary schools to higher secondary schools, the technical tools are provided by SSA, Department of Elementary Education and Department of Secondary Education and by others. The total number of government schools from primary to higher secondary provided Desktops, Laptops and Projectors are 274 schools out of 529 Schools in the district and the number of Desktops given to the schools by SSA is 696, the number of Laptops given by DEE is 371 and by others are 59. The Projectors provided to the schools by SSA are 95, by DEE are 48 and by DSE and others are 72. Each school is provided Educational software and CD ROMs, CD and application software for various subjects, was 97 CDs and software packages for each school.

The blockwise details for the year 2014-15 have been given in Annexure 5.(A5.7)

Higher Education

The main governing body at the tertiary level is the University Grants Commission – New Delhi which enforces its standards, advises the government, and helps to coordinate between the Central and the State. The following table 5.13 shows the status to higher education institutions with the students' strength in the district during 2013-14.

Table 5.13 Status of Higher education Institutions during 2013-14

S. No	Block wise	Arts – Science		Engineering		Polytechnics		Other Institutions		Total	
		No.of colleges	No. of Students	No.of college	No. of Students	No.of college	No. of Students	No.of college	No. of Students	No.of college	No. of Students
1.	Aundipatti	1	944	1	1645	1	717	3	317	6	3623
2.	K.Myladumparai	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
3.	Theni	1	1400	1	1275	1	1030	9	1620	12	5325
4.	Periyakulam	5	4045	2	1034	2	802	5	974	14	6855
5.	Bodinayakanur	2	1524	1	620	1	709	2	140	6	2993
6.	Chinnamanur	1	117	--	--	--	--	1	27	2	144
7.	Uthamapalaya	1	2152	--	--	--	--	6	763	7	2915
8.	Cumbum	1	1341	--	--	--	--	4	233	5	1574
	District	**12**	**11523**	**5**	**4574**	**5**	**3258**	**30**	**4074**	**52**	**23429**

Source: DD Statistics, Theni

The table 5.13 shows the status of higher education institutions with the students' strength in the district during 2013-14 that higher education is considered the apex stage of formal education. It is a part of the larger socio-economic system and hence the university has a dynamic role to play in changing the society. Madurai Kamaraj University has laid a strong foundation in the field of higher education. Nearly 11523 students of both genders are studying in 12 arts and science colleges located in 7 blocks except in Myladumaparai. The blocks Periyakulam has 5 arts and science colleges followed by the block Bodinayakkanur with 2 colleges. The district has 10 professional colleges (5 engineering colleges and 5 polytechnics colleges) located in the blocks Aundipatti (1 Engineering and 1 Polytechnic colleges), Theni (1 Engineering and 1 Polytechnic colleges), Periyakulam (2 Engineering and 2 Polytechnic colleges) and Bodinayakkanur (1 engineering and 1 polytechnic colleges) grooming future technologies comprising 7832 students of both genders in various fields of engineering and polytechnic.

The other institutions of skill development like education, nursing, ITI and catering colleges are totaling 52 in the district educating 23429 students. There is a Government Medical college with Hospital educating 506 students of both genders in various medical field of study.

During 2013-14, in order to reduce drop out rate at college level, the Tamilnadu State Council for Higher Education had released a sum of Rs 1.25 lakhs each to Madurai Kamaraj

University Constituent colleges at Aundipatti (Aundipatti block) and at Kottur (Theni block) under the scheme of special care for slow learners. There are five study centers of directorate of distance education of Madurai Kamaraj University at Theni, at ST Puram in Theni block, at Chindlacherry in Chinnamanur block, at Periyakulam and at Aundipatti catering to the needs of learners under non formal education. The blockwise details of higher educational institutions for the year 2011 have been given Annexure 5. (A 5.5)

Conclusion

The concerted and all round efforts have been put in the district to improve the educational status with more focus on all the blocks notably on backward blocks like K.Myladumparai, Aundipatti and Chinnamanur. Due to the efforts taken, there have been significant achievements in elementary education in terms of improvements in district GER in primary from 101.94 in 2012-13 to 102.16 in 2013-14 and Transition Rate in primary from 98.57 in 2012-13 to 99.80 in 2013-14. There has been mixed changes in Transition rate in upper primary education. The indicators pertaining to SC and ST students have shown considerable improvement. The total number of schools from primary to higher secondary level was 898 during 2013-14. This includes government (529), private aided (235), private unaided (125), others (4) and unrecognised (4). This is at the rate of a school for 1.06 habitation. The district administration and other actors need to be appreciated for giving high thrust for universalizing education.

Other specific areas to be addressed include the placement of enough teachers in upper primary education, rational distribution to teachers, converting the targeted efforts given to Tribal belts like Megamalai in K.Myladumparai block, Agamalai in Bodinayakkanur block and hilly track of K.Myladumparai into tangible results by ensuring proper functioning of different type of schools like Kendriya Vidyalaya, ICSE schools and Anglo-Indian schools, addressing the need for basic infrastructure facilities in the schools, teachers of small schools should be given special training in grade teaching to achieve improvement in teaching at the primary level. Single teacher schools are to be avoided and there is a need to promote in to multi teachers schools. The establishment of higher educational institutions like Engineering College, Nursing College, ITIs and Polytechnics are to be motivated in the blocks like Cumbum, Uthamapalayam and Chinnamanur.

CHAPTER 6
GENDER

Chapter

6

Gender

Introduction

No report on human development can be completed unless and until it unravels gender inequities in human development. Analyzing the strengths and weaknesses of efforts to address these, possible strategies to bridge the gender gap in the future are made. The performance of Tamil Nadu with respect to female literacy, IMR, life expectancy, health and fertility rate shows that the status of women in Tamil Nadu is higher than that in other States. 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 information and up-to-date studies exist on the condition (absolute levels of well-being) and position (wellbeing related to males) of women in Tamil Nadu with regard to most gender dimensions which can indicate the lack of concern for gender issues. Comparatively male are better placed than female in all areas of interest like social, economic, political, health and nutrition

Status of Women

The status of women in India has been subject to major changes over the past few millennia. The status of women has been changing from the ancient times. Despite the changes even today women face several problems in a male dominant society and family. In modern India, women have adorned high offices in India including that of the President, Prime Minister, Speaker of the Lok sabha, Leader of the Opposition and even in business houses of national and international level. However, women in India generally are still exposed to numerous social issues. The Constitution of India guarantees -to all Indian women equality (Article 14), -no discrimination by the State (Article 15(1)), -equality of opportunity (Article 16), -equal pay for equal work (Article 39(d)). In addition, it allows special provisions to be made by the State in favour of women and children (Article 15(3)), renounces practices that are derogatory to the dignity of women (Article 51(A) (e)), and also allows for provisions to be made by the State for securing just and human conditions of work and for maternity relief (Article 42).

The Indian Constitution, through the instrument of adult franchise and Article 15 prohibits discrimination on grounds of sex and guarantees political equality to women. However, such political equality is hardly exercised by the women of India. The 73rd Amendment to the

Indian Constitution has provided a compulsory 33% reservation for women in all local governing bodies. It has brought about a significant change in the sectors.The following table 6.1 explains the status of women in the district during 2011-12.

Table 6.1 Status of Women in Theni district during 2011-12

Sl.No	Gender	District
1.	Female Population	620216
2.	Percentage in Total population	49.8%
3.	Sex-ratio	990
4.	Female Literacy Rate	69.46
5	School Enrollment	98.6
6.	MMR	150 in 2012 & 78 in 2013-14
7.	Percentage of Women worker in agriculture sector	66.90%
8.	Percentage of Women in non-agri. Sector	33.10%

Source: Census, 2011

The table 6.1 explains the status of women in the district during 2011-12 that the female population is 620216 accounting for 49.8 % against the male population of 50.2% in the total population of the district. This results in sex ratio of 990 females for 1000 males which has shown an increasing trend from 978 in 2001 to 990 in 2011. The child sex ratio of the district is 937 females for 1000 males which has shown an increasing trend from 891 in 2001 to 937 in 2011. The increasing trend is resulted by the steps taken by the departments of government. Still, it is to be noted that the constant monitoring of scan centres will prevent sex determination of selective abortions and shield the girl child. The literacy rate of the district is (870080) 77.26%. The female literacy rate was in an increasing trend from 60.70 in 2001 to (390677) 69.46 in 2011 but it was lower than the male literacy rate which was also shown an increasing trend from 82.36 in 2001 to (479403) 85.03 in 2011. The gap (15.57) in 2011, between male and female literacy rates proves the gender inequality in the district. It is to be well addressed and to be filled.

Women's health is very important for the next generation. But, the health condition of women in the district is poor when compared to the State. Anemic condition, poor accessibility to the hospital from remote villages and inadequate infrastructure facility in PHC's causes higher MMR. The MMR of the district has decreased from 150 in 2012 to 78 in 2013-14. The decreasing trend is to be maintained by serious steps to be taken by the departments for enhancing maximum antenatal coverage, timely vaccination and medicine; mobility services.

66.90 % and 33.10 % of women were engaged in agriculture and non agriculture sector respectively. Specifically, maximum percent of the women agricultural workers were agricultural labors. Agricultural labors are economically vulnerable segment in society. Moreover, the percentage of male agriculture laborers is lesser than that of female agricultural laborers. It clearly shows the existence of gender disparity in the district.

Case study: 6.1 The status of women in the backward areas of Theni district

The case study aims to explore the existing status of women in the backward areas of the district. The study was done by the method of collecting data and information through field study and interviewing the respondents. It is observed that the status of women is poor in the backward areas of the district. Being women uneducated in the most of the families in the backward areas, they are unable to be aware of social, cultural, political, physical and health issues for themselves and their children and at the workplaces. Most of the women in the backward areas are considered as unskilled workers and they are mostly involved in agricultural sector works as sowers, pluckers, transplanters, weeders and trimming of bunds. They are paid meagre amount of wages in an average Rs 150 per day in Agamalai hilly area, Rs.200 per day in Megamalai hilly area and Rs 150 per day in Valliparai and Vellimalai hilly area than men. They are deprived of their status in the work places. There are issues like sexual harassment, threatening and delay in payment in the work place. It is observed that only less number of women is involved in jobs in non agro sector. Many of the uneducated and helpless women are involving in mining work and household work. The women are involved as elected representatives in the rural local bodies just for namesake and they are not allowed to perform their role as representative. They are in need of support from government and NGO in the form of financial assistance, counselling and guidance etc.,

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Box 6.1 Gender Inequality Index

Gender Inequality Index

The Gender Inequality Index (GII) is a new index used to measure gender difference within State / District. There are three important indicators used to measure gender inequality of the blocks, viz., Health, Empowerment and Labor market. These three indicators have fourteen dimensions to compute the GII. Outcome of GII reveals about the high range of gender inequality exist in district, the range of disparity 0.08 noticed in inter blocks on GII of the district. In Theni district, the blocks Bodinayakkanur (0.02), Uthamapalayam (0.04) and Theni (0.04) have been placed in top three places with low GII value whereas Chinnamanur (0.10), Cumbum (0.10) and K.Myladumparai (0.09) have placed in bottom three places. The following figure 6.1 shows the gender inequality index of the district during 2013-14. (Annexure 6.1)

Figure 6.1 Gender Inequality Index during 2013-14
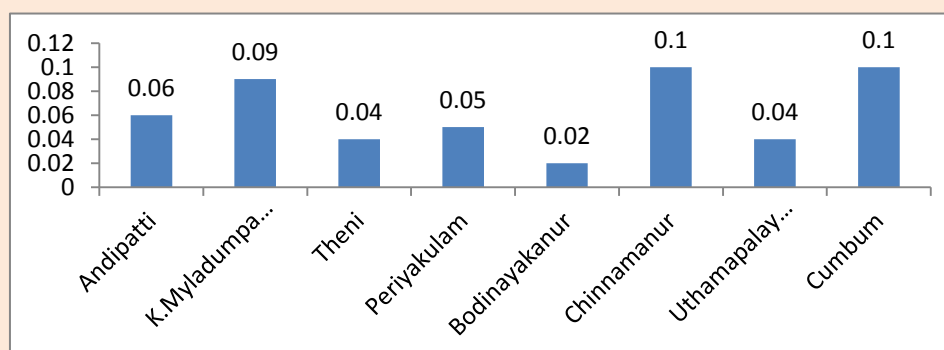
Source: Department of Statistics, Theni.

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Access and Control over Resources

Improvement in women's access to resources can contribute to household food security in a variety of ways. Using the conceptual framework, one can identify a number of pathways. First, greater access to productive resources such as credit, agricultural inputs and markets can improve food security by improving entitlement mapping. Second, greater access to resources such as fuel wood and water can help to save on women's time, which can then be devoted to either income-earning activities (resulting in improvement in entitlement mapping and hence a higher level of food acquirement) or to more domestic care (resulting in better food utilization). Third, greater access to health-care facilities can raise the health status of women and can contribute to household food security by enabling women to become more engaged in both income-earning and domestic care activities.

Finally, to the extent that greater access to resources removes some of the socio-economic constraints of women and thereby enable them to gain greater control over decision-making within the household.

The following table 6.2 shows the access and control over the resources during 2011 – 14.

Table 6.2 Access and Control over resources during 2011-12 &2013 - 14

S.No	Blocks	Number of Self help Group	Number of members	Credit Availed 2011-12 (Rs)	Credit Availed 2013-14
1.	Aundipatti	1952	29280	1710.700	1417.850
2.	K.Myladumparai	819	12285	4084.300	978.654
3.	Theni	1360	20400	1526.300	1647.200
4.	Periyakulam	3899	58485	2217.000	2056.860
5.	Bodinayakanur	1234	18510	1605.200	1500.230
6.	Chinnamanur	1925	28875	2640.000	1651.406
7.	Uthamapalayam	1644	24660	2025.500	1211.600
8.	Cumbum	1590	23850	2036.000	847.200
	District	**14423**	**216345**	**17845.000**	**11311.000**

Source: PO, Mahalir Thittam, Theni.

The table 6.2 shows that the blocks Periyakulam, Aundipatti and Chinnamanur have registered with high number of SHGs 3899, 1952 and 1925 respectively and high number of members 58485, 29280 and 28875 respectively. The low number of 819 SHGs and 12285 members was registered in K.Myladumparai block during 2013-14.

Box 6.2 Self Help Groups in Theni district

Self-Help Groups (SHGs), implemented under the Mahalir Thittam, have gained great importance over the years. Most of the development programmes of the Government are today implemented through the SHGs. Originally initiated, in May 1989, in 75 blocks of 8 districts of Tamilnadu, with assistance from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the programme today covers all the 368 blocks in the 28 districts of Tamilnadu (except Chennai).

(A) Self Help Group In Theni district

Mahalir Thittam Project is implemented in Theni District from the year 1997 with the participation of NGOs. The objective of the scheme is to improve the Socio Economic development of women, living below the poverty line. **The objectives of Mahalir Thittam are** to form Self Help Groups among the needy women, to create the savings habit among women, to meet out the internal credit and so on

(B) Group Formation:

Under Mahalir Thittam the women Self Help Groups are formed in the age group of 18-60 years with the BPL family members. The number of members is 12 to 20 for a group. A bank account shall be opened for the formation of the group. Group formation cost of Rs 350/- per SHG will be paid to the NGO. For the groups formed by People Labor Forum, the cost would go to the respective People Labor Forum.

The number of Self Help Groups was 14423 in Theni district in 2011 and membership stood at 216345 and total credit availed in lakhs by all these SHG was Rs.17845.000. A block wise analysis shows that Periyakulam registered a highest number of SHGs of 3899 followed by Aundipatti block with 1952 units of SHGs and Chinnamanur with the units of 1925 SHGs with the highest number of members as 58485, 29280 and 28875 respectively. The block.Mayiladumparai registered a lowest number of SHG with 819 units with the members of 12285. The blocks K.Myladumparai, Chinnamanur and Periyakulam have availed the highest credits to the members Rs.4084.00, Rs.2640.00 and Rs.2217.00 respectively and the block Theni has availed the lowest credit 1526.300 during 2011. **During 2013-14,** the number of SHG and the number of members are same and the credit availed has changes to Rs 11311.000. (Rs.in lakhs).

The blockwise details for the year 2011-12 have been given in Annexure 6.2

Employment

Work Participation Rate

Labours and the size of labor force are the primary factors of production and these are of great importance for the level of economic activity in the district. The number of working persons constitutes the working population of the district.

The working population of the district was 520280 (47.55%) includes male 338374 and female 181906 in 2001 and it was 591642 (47.48%) includes male 368900 and female 222742 in 2011.The trend with some changes which includes increase in number of female workers participation from 181906 to 222742 in the district. The following figure 6.2 shows the gender wise work participation rate during 2011. Block wise.

Figure 6.2 Gender wise Work Participation Rate during 2011
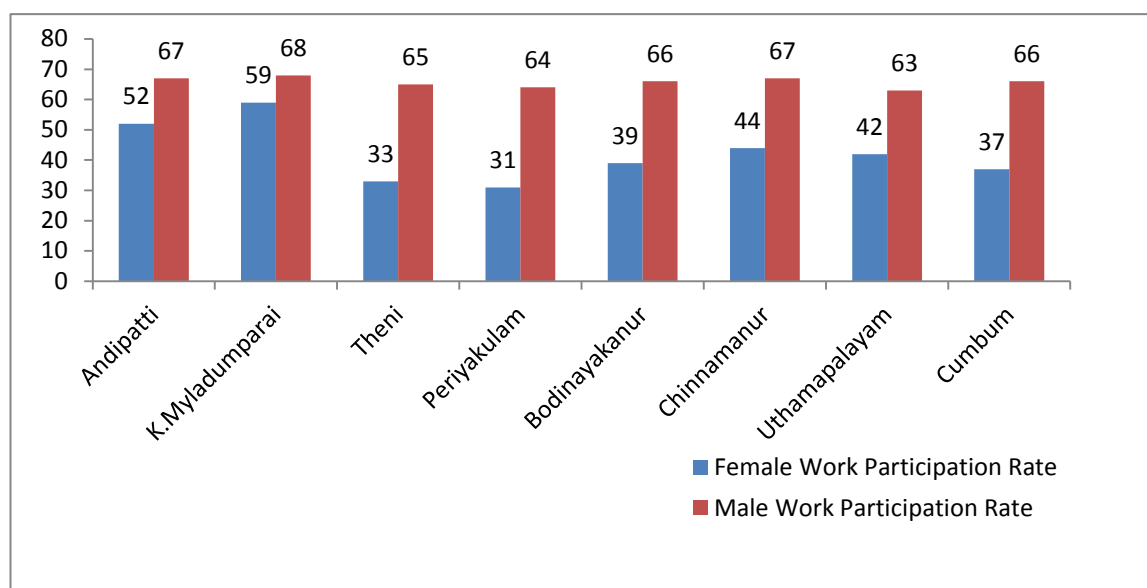
Source: Census 2011.

The figure 6.2 explains the gender wise work participation rate during 2011 that the female workers participation rate is high in the blocks K.Myladumparai (59%), Aundipatti (52%) and Chinnamanur (44%) but the female WPR is less compared with male workers participation rate in the blocks K.Myladumparai (68%), Aundipatti (67%) and Chinnamanur (67%). The trend proves that the workers participation is mostly in the agricultural works and agro related business. The rest of the blocks have considerable WPR which proves that there is workers participation to both in agricultural sectors and in non agricultural sector. **(Reference table in Annexure 6.3)**

Trend in female employment

The present scenario shows that, the female employment percentage in State government and local bodies is increasing trend. Out of 7535 State government staffs, the number of 1520 is female staff, 20.17 percent and out of 5242 local bodies staffs, nearly 37% percent occupied by female staff members. The female employment in both State government and local bodies are lesser than male participation in the district. It is mainly because of female gender choosing professional work lesser than that of men and also due to work nature and working environment. The valid reasons are like less number of opportunities for female, socio economic, cultural practices and etc.

The following table 6.3 shows the trends in female employment in 2011.

Table 6.3 Trends in female employment 2011

Sl.No	Category	Number of Male	Number of Female	Number of Total employees	% of female participation
1.	State Government	6015	1520	7535	20.2
2.	Local Bodies	3304	1938	5242	37.0

Source: District Employment Office, Madurai.

Trends in political participation

Women in India participate in voting, running for public office, and political parties at lower levels than men. Political activism and voting are the strongest areas of women's political participation. To combat gender inequality in politics, the Indian Government has instituted reservations for seats in local governments. Political equality includes not only equal right to franchise but also more importantly, the right to access to the institutionalized center of power. Thus, political participation of women means not only using the right to vote but also power sharing, co-decision making and co-policy making at all levels.

The active participation of women in political sphere is integral to empowerment of women and helps to build a gender-equal society as well as to speed up the process of national development. Women's political empowerment is premised on three fundamental and non-negotiable principles: (a) the equality between women and men; (b) women's right to the full development of their potentials; and (c) women's right to self-representation and self-determination. In PRI women are increasingly coming to the front and are providing leadership at the grass root level.

The following table 6.4 expresses Women memberships in local bodies in Theni district during 2011-12.

Table 6.4 Memberships in state assembly and local bodies during 2011-12

Sl.no:	Membership of women in State Assembly and local Body	LOCAL BODIES		
		Number of Male	Number of Female	% of female participation
1.	Aundipatti	190	135	42
2.	K.Myladumparai	90	105	54
3.	Theni	159	97	38
4.	Periyakulam	211	109	34
5.	Bodinayakanur	150	93	38
6.	Chinnamanur	132	83	39
7.	Uthamapalayam	126	82	39
8.	Cumbum	114	64	36
	District	**1172**	**768**	**40**

Source: P.A to Collector (Development)

The table 6.4 represents the membership of women in State Assembly and Local Bodies in Theni District in 2011-12. It indicates that K.Myladumparai block has registered the highest of 54% followed by Aundipatti block with 42%, Uthamapalayam block with 39% and Chinnamanur block with 39% and a least representation is registered in Periyakulam block with 34%. It is to be well addressed in all the blocks.

Conclusion

There is a considerable improvement in the status of women in the district in terms of female literacy rate 69.46, school enrolment rate 98.6, sex ratio 990, child sex ratio 937 and workers pariticipation rate in agri sector 66.90. There are no female members in State Legislative Assembly. But, their presence in Local bodies is fair in the district. Gender discrimination is an age-old social practice due to the patriarchal practices prevalent in Tamil Nadu. The kind of discrimination has been in practice across various social groups including SC and ST. So SC and ST women face double burden of caste discrimination and gender discrimination.

Gender discrimination is expressed through various means like inadequate recognition of women's contribution to GDP, lower wages than that of males, poor asset ownership, inadequate intra-household nutrition share, etc. there are many similarities between discrimination based on caste and gender. Hence poor social standing, perception of poor personal worth, poor asset ownership, and high incidence of poverty and lack of bargaining power are witnessed and as in caste-based discrimination, they reinforce each other and result in a vulnerability spiral. Women bear the triple burden of reproduction, domestic work and productive labor. While sex ratio is used as an overall indicator of the situation of women, more detailed analysis is needed to understand the kind of discrimination. As far as health of women is concerned, the backward blocks K.Myladumparai, Aundipatti, Chinnamanur and Cumbum are to be well addressed to monitor and to improve in terms of IMR, MMR and SBR.

CHAPTER 7

SOCIAL SECURITY

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Chapter

7

Social security

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Introduction

India always has the joint family system to take care of the social security in keeping with its cultural traditions. Family members and relatives have been always discharged a sense of shared responsibility towards one another. To the extent that the family has resources to draw upon, this is often the best relief for the special needs and care required by the aged and those in poor health. However, with increasing migration, urbanization and demographic changes there has been a decrease in large family units. This is where the formal system of social security gains importance. However, information and awareness are the vital factors in widening the coverage of Social Security schemes.

In the Indian context, Social Security is a comprehensive approach designed to prevent deprivation, assure the individual of a basic minimum income for himself and his dependents and to protect the individual from any uncertainties. The State bears the primary responsibility for developing appropriate system for providing protection and assistance to its workforce. Social Security is increasingly viewed as an integral part of the development process. It helps to create a more positive attitude to the challenge of globalization and the consequent structural and technological changes.

Demographic Profile of the Aged

Population and increasing number of senior citizens are an important emerging demographic phenomenon in India. Due to improvement in medical science, warranting a strong multi-sectoral policy and programme response to deal with many significant implications for the elderly in particular and society at large. Longevity by itself is a fact to be celebrated but for the increasing vulnerabilities of the elderly arising out of poverty, rural living, income insecurity, illiteracy, age-related morbidity, feminization, dependency, decreasing support base, etc.

The following table 7.1 shows the demographic profile of aged in the district during 2001.

Table 7.1 Demographic Profile of Aged during 2001

SI.No.	Block wise/ District/ State	Total Population	Population aged above 60		Total population aged above 60
			Male	Female	
1.	DISTRICT	1093950	51966	54948	106194
2.	STATE	62405679	31400909	31004770	62405679

Source: Census - 2001

The table 7.1 reveals the demographic profile of aged in Theni district in 2001 that the district had 106914 people of age 60+ which accounted for 10% of the total population. The proportion of elderly male population in Theni district was 51966 i.e., 49% and 54948 elderly female population i.e., 51% of total population of aged people. Elderly female population is more than the elderly male population by 2% i.e 2982 aged people.

Financial Security

The National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP) was announced in January 1999 to reaffirm the commitment to ensure the well-being of the older persons. The Policy envisages the support of State government to ensure financial and food security, health care, shelter and other needs of older persons, equitable share in development, protection against abuse and exploitation, and availability of services to improve the quality of their lives.

The Policy has the primary objectives are: To encourage individuals to make provision for their own as well as their old aged spouse; to encourage families to take care of their older family members; to enable and support voluntary and non-governmental organizations to supplement the care provided by the family; to provide care and protection to the vulnerable elderly people; to provide adequate healthcare facility to the elderly; to promote research and training facilities to train care givers and organizers of services for the elderly; and to create awareness regarding elderly persons to help them for leading productive and independent live.

Schemes run by the district social welfare office

The aged persons, deserted wives, widows are more vulnerable to social inequalities. Their socio economic shocks can be reduced through the implementation of social welfare programmes. Under these programmes, financial assistances were given to old aged people, destitute women, inter caste marriages, marriages of daughters of widow, marriage of widows.

The Following Eight Social Security Schemes are operated in Theni District.

1) Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension.
2) Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension.
3) Indira Gandhi National Disabled Pension.
4) Destitute Widow Pension.
5) Destitute Agriculture Laborers Pension.
6) Deserted Wives Pension
7) Disabled Pension.
8) Un-married women Pension.

As per G.O.Ms.No.41 Social Welfare and Noon Meal (SW 6-1 Department Dated 17.05.2011) monthly Pension is increased from Rs.500/- to Rs.1000/-. There are 80630 beneficiaries who get a Pension of Rs.1000/- per month as detailed below in Theni District in 2012

The following table 7.2 shows the financial assistance to aged people in the district during 2011-14

Table 7.2 Financial Assistance to aged people 2011 - 2014

S.l.No	Category	Coverage 2011	Coverage 2013	Coverage 2014
1.	IGNOAP	4188	14037	15013
2.	IGNWPS	519	17936	17842
3.	IGNDPS	49	553	550
4.	DWP	729	11882	11854
5.	DAL	21882	41808	39657
6.	DWivesP	5296	4091	4082
7.	DPS\ PHP	456	5845	5821
8.	UMP	223	493	493
	Total	**33342**	**96645**	**95312**

Source: SSS Collectorate, Theni.

The table 7.2 reveals that the number of beneficiaries in all the eight categories of old age pension schemes in the 60+ age group has increased from 2756 (2.6%) in 2005 to 33342 (31.4%) in 2010-11 on 2001 old aged population of the district. The financial assistance for old aged people has increased from 33342 people to 96645 people in 2013 and it has decreased to 95312 people. Only IGNOAP, IGNWPS and DAL have high number of beneficiaries under old aged pension scheme during 2013-14. It is to be well addressed by the departments of government to increase the beneficiaries coverage of old aged people in all the categories under the scheme.

Differently Abled

The Constitution of India ensures equality, freedom, justice and dignity of all individuals and implicitly mandates an inclusive society for all including the persons with disabilities. As per the provisions of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 , Nine categories of disabilities have been identified viz., Locomoto disability, Hearing Impairment, Visual Impairment, Mental retardation, Multiple Disability, Mental Illness, Autism, Cerebral Palsy and Leprosy. Persons falling under the above categories with a minimum of 40% disability are eligible for entitlement of all benefits provided by the Government.

The policy of the government towards the welfare of persons with disabilities has been reflected in the enactments, schemes and institutions established for the development of manpower for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. They are also included in the main stream of nation building process through various roles as per their qualification and efficiency. The following table 7.3 explains the differently abled population and the number of beneficiaries in the district during 2013-14, Gender wise and Disability wise.

Table 7.3 Differently abled Population & Beneficiaries during 2013 -14

Category	Population			Assistance			
Disabilities	Male	Female	Total	2013-14 Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total
LD-Loco motor Disability	6127	4533	10660	5036	3975	1061	5036
HI-Hearing Impaired	1048	954	2002	1006	670	336	1006
VI-Visually Imparied	765	521	1286	680	388	292	680
MR-Mentally Retarded	1874	1456	3330	2265	1288	977	2265
MD-Multiple Disability	283	252	535	192	120	72	192
MI-Mentally III	77	72	149	10	6	4	10
AU-Autisms	28	19	47	47	17	30	47
CP-Cerebral Palsy	311	294	605	100	66	44	100
LC-Leprosy Cured	57	41	98	50	42	8	50
Total	10570	8142	18712	9386	6572	2824	9386

Source: Rehabilitation Dept. Theni

The table 7.3 shows the differently abled population and the number of beneficiaries in the district during 2013-14 that the total differently abled population is 18712 people consist of 10570 male and 8142 female, only 9386 people are getting government assistance 6572 male and 2824 female put together all the disabilities wise. The beneficiaries are 5036 people consist of 3975 male and 1061 female out of 10660 people with Locomotor disability and 2265 people consisting of 1288 male and 977 female out of 3330 people with Mental Retardation are registered as beneficiaries. These two ailments are affecting more people and they deserve good

attention by the Health Department. The cases of Hearing Impaired - 1006 people out of 2002 people, Visually Impaired- 680 people out of 1286 people, Multiple Disability - 192 people out of 535 people, Mentally Illness - 10 people out of 149 people, Autisms - 47 out of 47 people, Cerebral Palsy -100 people out of 605 people and Leprosy - 50 people out of 98 people have registered for government assistance. The assistance coverage for the registered disabled persons in the district is (50.2%) very less compared to the registered differently abled population of the district.

Case Study:7.1 Issues on financial assistance in the backward areas of Theni district

The case study aims to explore the issues of financial assistance in the backward areas of the district. The study was done by the method of collecting data and information through field study, observation and interviewing the respondents. It is observed that there are issues on financial assistance in the backward areas of the district. There are less number of old aged people covered in old aged pension scheme, less number of women covered in marriage and maternity assistance scheme in the backward areas like Kandamanur, Kadamalai Kundu, K.Myladumparai, Varusanadu, Vellimalai, Agamalai in and around villages and Megamalai hills. Those who are willing to get financial assistance, loans from government face the problem of middle men like brokers who play in between and delay the process. It can be implemented by the Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme to get financial assistance. People are ignorant of the recent government initiatives like pension schemes, bank accounts opening to enrol them in the national stream. They are missing the right of proper measurement of food stuff in the public distribution system for which they are paying.

Box-7.1 Marriage and Maternity Assistance Program

The Marriage Assistance scheme is one of the major schemes of Government of Tamil Nadu for girls below the poverty line, which attempts to reduce the financial burden on the girl's family, while simultaneously enforcing the legal age of marriage for girls, 18 years and promoting female literacy and ensuring schooling.

The Maternity Assistance scheme provides cash assistance to pregnant women belonging to poor households to compensate them for the loss of wages during the last eight to twelve weeks before delivery and eight weeks after delivery. This cash assistance helps them to get essential nutrients in their diet. The financial assistance under Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Benefit scheme has been enhanced to Rs.12.000/-.

The Social Assistance schemes for women such as Marriage and Maternity assistance beneficiaries details furnished in the table for the years 2011-14.

SNo	Blocks	2011 - 2012			2012 - 2013			2013 - 2014		
		Degree holders	10th & 12th	Amount (Rs)	Degree holders	10th & 12th	Amount (Rs)	Degree holders	10th & 12th	Amount (Rs)
1.	Theni	105	132	8550000	90	115	7375000	173	252	14950000
2.	Bodinayakkanur	153	276	14550000	117	251	12125000	136	287	13975000
3.	Periyakulam	177	345	17475000	137	250	13100000	127	333	14675000
4.	Aundipatti	60	183	7575000	248	254	18750000	103	220	10650000
5.	K.Myladumparai	22	198	6050000	26	218	6750000	34	202	6750000
6.	Chinnamanur	74	224	9300000	76	160	7800000	75	233	9575000
7.	Uthamapalayam	125	275	13125000	164	251	14475000	115	255	12125000
8.	Cumbum	138	313	14725000	184	344	17800000	138	294	14250000
	District	**854**	**1946**	**91350000**	**1042**	**1843**	**98175000**	**901**	**2076**	**96950000**

Source : Social welfare office, Theni

The table shows that the marriage assistance coverage in the district is the number of 2800, 2885 and 2977 women during 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 respectively. The blocks Periyakulam, Cumbum, Uthamapalayam and Theni have registered at high number of the marriage assistance coverage as 333, 294, 255 and 252 women during 2013-14 respectively. The rest of the blocks show less coverage. The amount distributed under the marriage assistance scheme has got increased from Rs.91350000 in 2011-12 to Rs.98175000 in 2012-13 and got decreased to Rs. 96950000 in 2013-14. It is to be well addressed by the departments of government.

The number of pregnant women getting maternity assistance of the district has got increased from 10187 women in 2013-14 to 10930 women in 2014-15 and the distributed amount also has increased from Rs.120040.000 in 2013-14 to Rs.131168.000 in 2014-15. (Rs.in lakhs)

The reference table for maternity assistance scheme given in (Annexure 7.1 and 7.2)

Crime against Women

Crimes against women in India are on the increasing trend. As support increases for victims of crimes such as rape and domestic abuse, hopefully the number of arrests will also increase as law enforcement officials crack down on crime. Crime against women has been a subject of high priority for Tamil Nadu Police. Several measures have been undertaken to tackle social menace affecting women at large. While on the one hand, special attention is being paid towards prevention of crimes against women by increased police vigil, exclusive All Women Police Stations (AWPSs) have been opened in the State and Women Help Lines are also functioning in these All Women Police Stations. The following table 7.4 shows the crimes against women in the district during 2012 - 14.

Table 7.4 Crimes against Women – 2012 – 14

SI.No	Category	No of Cases 2012	2013	2014
1.	Rape& POCSO rape	22	38	33
2.	Molestation	40	37	30
3.	Kidnapping and abduction	79	30	44
4.	Dowry death	12	5	6
5..	Cruelty by Husband and his relatives	89	55	58
6.	Importation of Girls	0	0	0
7.	Dowry prohibition act	0	0	0
8.	Harassment of women act	82	129	92
	District	**324**	**294**	**263**

Source: S.P office Theni dt.

The table 7.4 shows the crimes against women in the district in 2014 and of total 263 crimes against women have been registered in the district. The most prevalent crimes faced by women were covered under Harassment of Women Act which accounted for 92 cases i.e., 34 percent of total crimes. This invites the involvement of NGOs to resort to family counseling a lot. Crimes under cruelty by husband and his relatives accounted for 58 cases i.e., 22 per cent of cases followed by 44 cases of kidnapping and abduction, 30 cases of molestation, 33 cases of rape and 6 cases of dowry death against women. The crimes against women have got down from 324 in 2012 to 294 in 2013 to 263 in 2014.

Conclusion

The vulnerabilities associated with child labor, disability, caste and gender-based discrimination and discrimination against old aged persons are the key issues to human development. Though the district has been registered as a child labor free district, the number of out-of school children in the distinct is on the higher side. Taking into consideration, the close links that exist between child labour and education, all children who are out of school need to be considered as child labour. Child labor is more of a rural phenomenon with more number of children engaged in agricultural and allied activates in the villages. Having the steps taken by the departments, the district has reached the task to have financial support to the differently abled people, old aged people and women to consider the vulnerablilies against them compared with the previous years.

As far as the old aged people and widow are concerned, the number of beneficiaries have increased considerably from 33342 people in 2011 to 95312 people in 2014 out of which the total number of old aged people, destitute widows and destitute agricultural labours that have registered is high in number in order to get government assistance. This is the result of serious steps taken by the department. As far as the marriage and maternity assistance is concerned, the number of beneficiaries has increased in 2014 compared with the previous year. Though the efforts are taken by the departments, still there is a gap between the schemes and the beneficiaries.

CHAPTER 8

INFRASTRUCTURE

Chapter

8

Infrastructure

Introduction

Infrastructure is the basic physical and organizational structures needed for the operation of a society or an enterprise, or the services and facilities necessary for an economy to function. It can be generally defined as the set of interconnected structural elements that provides framework for supporting the entire structure of development. It is an important term for judging a country's or region's development.

The term typically refers to the technical structures that support a society such as roads, bridges, water supply, sewers, electrical, telecommunications, etc. which can be defined as "the physical components of interrelated systems providing commodities and services essential to enable, sustain, or enhance societal living conditions".

Roads

The following table 8.1 shows the distributions of roads in kms of Theni district in 2013-14.

Table 8.1 Distributions of Roads (Kms)

Levels	MUD	WBM	BT	CC	Total
District	541.519	169.810	1460.131	282.423	2453.883
State HW	-	-	808.310	-	808.310
National HW	-	-	74.000	-	74.000
Total	**541.519**	**169.810**	**2342.441**	**282.423**	**3336.193**

Source: Local bodies and PWD highways, Theni.

The table 8.1 shows the distributions of roads in Theni district in 2013-14. The district is having a road network of 3336.193 kms including state highways, national highways, panchyat, panchayat union highways and municipal highways. Black topped roads are 2342.441 kms including State, National highways and other roads. CC roads, WBM roads and Mud roads are 282.423, 169.810 and 541.519 kms respectively in the blocks of the district. These have got to be developed as all season roads from this present status. The district had a road length of 2915.978 kms in 2011 and it has increased to 3336.193 kms. The details have been given in annexure 8.2. There is encroachment in Bodinayakkanur block upto 30 kms which needs to be evacuated. Roads in hilly and forest tracks are being delayed due to the reasons beyond the State highways authorities as clearance from forest and environment departments are delayed. This is the trend

in all blocks where forest is present and where the routes have to be laid to make it as motorable roads.

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Case Study: 8.1 Need for road infrastructure in the K.Myladumparai block of Theni district

The case study aims to explore the existing need for road infrastructure in the block K.Myladumparai. The study was done by collecting data and information through field study, observation and interviewing the respondents. It is found out that the backward block K.Myladumparai needs to be geographically connected with Virudhunagar district, the south west of the block and Madurai district, the east part of the block by well structured roads. The people of the block mostly use the forest rough road way from Valliparai situated near Varusanadu to Kilavan Koil Dam in Virudhunagar district, the south west of the block by walking for around 20 kms and from K.Myladumparai to M.Kallupatti in Madurai district the east part of the block via Muthalamparai and Thalaiyuthu by using vans, cars and two wheelers for around 40 kms by 20 feet narrow road upto Thalaiyuthu then rest with mud road to M.Kallupatti for 20 kms, which is poorly maintained. The total connectivity of this block can be enhanced so that the economic, social prosperity can be facilitated with ease.

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Electricity

The district generates 212 MW of electricity through Hydro Electric System from power stations namely Periyar Lower Camp, Suruliar Barrage I, Barrage II, Barrage III, Barrage IV and Vaigai Micro Hydal Power Station. In addition to this, 535.90 MW of electricity is generated through 273 Windmills located in the selected blocks of the district in 2014.15. The following table 8.2 shows the status of electrification of the district in 2011.

Table 8.2 Status of Electrification in 2011

Sl.No	Blocks	Total House Holds	Electricity Board Connections	Percentage of HH Connections with EB
1.	Aundipatti	38,034	38,759	100
2.	K.Myladumparai	21563	15258	70.76
3.	Theni	54,398	51,314	94.33
4.	Periyakulam	57,464	52,723	91.75
5.	Bodinayakanur	49,908	45,371	90.91
6.	Chinnamanur	32218	29478	91.50
7.	Uthamapalayam	31351	28136	89.75
8.	Cumbum	56029	51271	91.51
	District	**340,965**	**312,310**	**91.60**

Source: SPC Census 2011.

Table 8.2 reveals the status of electrification in Theni district that there are 312310 HH EB Connections out of 340965 total house holds. This is 91.60 percentage of total house holds

connected with power connection. The gap is to be plugged by the authorities on priority basis and social considerations.

In 2014-15, there are 313846 HH EB connections including Huts, 36660 connections for agriculture, 3744 connections for industrial purposes and 61012 connections for commercial purpose.

A total of 113 Revenue Villages, 586 Hamlets, 28 Towns have been electrified so far in the district. A total of 38768 street lights are electrified in the district. A high number of street lights are registered in Periyakulam Block with 7810 street lights followed by Theni block with 5819. The least number is found in K.Myladumparai block with 1777 street lights mainly attributed to the non accessibility of hilly regions of the block.

Access to LPG Fuel

During 2012-13, at the district level, there are 184910 LPG connections 47.80 % consisting of 108651 with single LPG connection and 76259 with double LPG connections 203086 households are using wood resulting in health hazards due to indoor smoke pollution.

During 2013-14, at the district level, there are 186387 LPG connections, 48% consisting of 109353 with single LPG connection and 77034 with double LPG connections. The blockwise details have been given in Annexure 8.1.

Communication System

The communication system is a collection of communication networks with the capability of interconnection and interoperation to form an integrated whole. The purpose of the communication system is to serve for effective communication to operate the society well connected. Telecommunication is the exchange of information over significant distances by electronic means. Communication is needed for development. Theni district has communication facilities with 229 post offices conducting postal business. There are 25 telephone exchanges and 56433 telephones in use by people.

The following table 8.3 shows the telecommunication system of the district during 2013-14.

Table 8.3 Telecommunication Systems during 2013-14

S.No	Taluk wise	No. of Telephone exchange	No. of PCOs	No. of Land Line	No. of HH with connection	Number of Mobile phone Towers	Population covered
1	Theni	5	806	5249	1121	10 / 8549	15725
2	Periyakulam	6	391	3235	797	11 / 7031	11454
3	Andipatty	3	113	2166	340	6 / 4017	6636
4	Bodinayakanur	3	202	2612	745	5 / 6700	10259
5	Uthamapalayam	8	129	4142	1253	15 / 6835	12359
	District	**25**	**1641**	**17404**	**4256**	**47**	**56433**

Source: BSNL Theni

The table 8.3 shows the telecommunication systems of the district during 2013-14 that block wise analysis of Telecommunication network in Theni district shows that there were a total of 25 telephone exchanges, 1641 PCOs, 17404 of land line connections, 4256 households with telephone connections, 47 mobile phone towers and 56433 people are covered under various types of telecommunication networks. Theni block has registered the existence of the highest number of PCOs followed by Periyakulam block. Likewise, the highest number of land line connections is provided in Theni block followed by Uthamapalayam block.

During 2014-15, the number of telephone exchange is one same and population covered decreased to 16579.

Financial Institutions

The district is covered by 164 commercial banks under the service area. In addition to this, 7 insurance companies and 115 co- operatives are serving the people during 2013-14 and 2014-15.

The following table 8.4 shows the financial institutions, commercial and co-operative banks during 2012-13 and 2013-14.

Table 8.4 Financial Institutions commercial and co-operative banks during 2012-13 & 2013-14

S.No	Block wise / District / State	No. of Co-op Societies		No.of Members	
		2012-13	2013-14	2012-13	2013-14
1.	Theni	18	18	75659	75869
2.	Aundipatti	16	16	35453	35677
3.	Periyakulam	24	24	67783	67965
4.	K.Myladumparai	4	4	21829	21871
5.	Bodinayakanur	16	16	51404	67821
6.	Chinnamanur	13	12	32297	31248
7.	Uthamapalayam	12	12	45476	46442
8.	Cumbum	12	13	43398	49762
	District	**115**	**115**	**373299**	**396655**

Source: JR Cooperatives, Theni and Lead Bank, Theni.

An analysis of the block wise distribution of cooperative banks shows that there are 115 cooperative societies in Theni district serving with 373299 members. Periyakulam block has the highest number of cooperative societies with 24 units followed by Theni block with 18 units. During 2013-14, it has got improved the members to 396655.

Godown facilities through Cooperatives: From among primary agricultural co operative societies only two societies at Uthamapalayam and Theni are having Godown facilities to help small and marginal farmers to store the commodities to avail credit facilities and to sell at a later date to fetch good price for the commodity. Other societies have got the necessary permission to carry on this by availing funds from NABARD Bank. 7 Percentage per annum is interest charged by the societies to such farmers.

Commercial Banks and Performance: As per the records of the lead bank of the district, the present commercial banks strength is 164 branches with 1060124 account holders showing incremental trend in 2013-14. This strength stood at 148 branches during 2012-13 with 761840 account holders. Out of the 164 branches 94 branches are the public sector banks and 66 branches are private sector banks including Co operative banks. There are 4 development banks namely Land Development bank, TIIC, TAICO and Repco bank extending only long term capital. All the banks have a total deposit of 2130.03 crores as on 31 March 2012. The total advances made up to 31 March 2012 were 3955.87 crores resulting in credit deposit ratio of 186%. During 2013-14, the total deposit of Rs 2325.92 crores, credit Rs.5081.12 crores. This gives credit deposit ratio (60%) of 218%.

The total number of banks increased to 166, deposit increased from Rs.2787 crores at March 2014 to Rs. 3104 crores in March 2015, Credit increased from Rs 5722 crores in March 2014 to Rs 6141 crores in March 2015 and Credit deposit ratio is 198 for the district. The CD ratio is high with SBI and Syndicate bank 819% (deposit 5945306 and advances 13848226) and 611% (deposit 176368 and advances 1077127) all in thousands respectively during 2014-15.

All Central and State government programs and NABARD programs dovetailing of socio- economic, infrastructure and human aspects of development are being carried on by the commercial banks through VDDP – II and RBI out reached program in 2 villages in the district.

Insurance

Insurance is the equitable transfer of the risk of a loss, from one entity to another in exchange for payment. It is a form of risk management primarily used to hedge against the risk of a contingent, uncertain loss. According to study texts of The Chartered Insurance Institute, there are the following categories of risk: 1. Financial risks which means that the risk must have financial measurement, 2. Pure risks which means that the risk must be real and not related to gambling, 3. Particular risks which mean that these risks are not widespread in their effect, for example such as earthquake risk for the region prone to it. It is commonly accepted that only financial, pure and particular risks are insurable and all are insured against by government insurance companies and private insurance companies. Insurance plays a major role in protecting livelihood from sudden unexpected losses there by giving continuity to livelihood even after the incidence of accidents and other such situation. It is also an instrument for any individual or business to protect them in a proactive manner. The situation in Theni district typically reflects the situation. The following table 8.5 shows the insurance companies in Theni district during 2013-14.

Table 8.5 Insurance Companies in Theni district during 2013-14

S.No	Name of the companies	No. of branches	Polices issued
1.	L.I.C of India	2	13812
2.	New India Insurance	1	9800
3.	The Oriental Insurance	2	18242
4.	United India Insurance	1	13599
5.	SBI Life Insurance	1	542
	District	**7**	**55995**

Source: Insurance Companies, Theni.

The table 8.5 shows the insurance companies in Theni district during 2013-14 as 7 public sector insurance companies covered 55995 insurance policies which is lesser than the previous

year. These companies are covering both life insurances by LIC of India and Non life insurances through New India Assurance, the Oriental Insurance Company Ltd, United India Insurance Company Ltd and SBI insurance.

During 2011-12, these companies put together 82987 insurance policies. The Private insurance companies on both life insurance and non life insurance in the district through companies like If-Co Tokyo and ICICI Prudential operate by employing field staff working in the district. The majority of them keep their offices at Madurai and at Chennai. The penetration of insurance companies has been very poor. The number of branches is very low and number of policies match nowhere to population of Theni District. Hence the insurance picture reflects a very low level of knowledge in Theni district.

Major Irrigation Channel

Periyar dam, Manjalar dam, Sothuparai and Vaigai dam

The average annual rainfall in the district is 1050 mm. wells and tanks are the major source of irrigation except for some pockets irrigated by canal system. Number of electric pump sets in the district of Theni was much better than that of the State. This was also reflected in the irrigation intensity and in cropping intensity. So the district is well endowed in terms of water availability and irrigation infrastructure. This means that major source of production instability is in the rainfed cultivation. About 42% of area fall under rain fed category is in the district and considering the fact that the variation in rainfall is as high as 45.32 %, there is considerable variation in the production of rain fed crops.

Dam Channels bring   drinking water

Protected drinking water is one of the basic ingredients of human resource development in general and increased labour productivity in particular. The exogenous factors such as rising human population, unpredictable and inadequate spatio-temporal distribution of rainfall, presence of salinity and alkali put the district on tenterhooks with respect to supply of assured drinking water to the people.

Availability of Ground water potential

The ground water potential has been depleted much and the same is decreasing further so rapidly due to requirement of water for agriculture to ensure micro irrigation by farmers. In the absence of monitoring by authorities, it has reached an alarming stage of poor ground water potential and in the absence of recharging water into the ground requiring more rain water harvesting. Major dams, minor dams and tanks are having its potential of storing water coming down to 60 % or 70% from their full capacity of 100% due to poor desilting program. The following table during 2014-15 shows the availability of groundwater, stage of development and categorization of blocks as obtained from the State groundwater directorate.

Categorization of blocks	No of blocks	Names of the blocks
Safe (Upto 70% utilization)	Nil	-
Semi Critical (utilization between 70% & 90%)	Nil	-
Critical (utilization between 90% & 100%)	3	Bodinayakkanur, Cumbum and Theni
Over exploited(utilization beyond 100%)	5	Aundipatti, Chinnamanur, K.Myladumparai, Periyakulam and Uthamapalayam

Source: Lead bank – Theni,State groundwater directorate.

Industries

The establishment of textile mills, and a number of industries in the small and medium sectors coupled with the encouragement given by the State Government in the form of incentives and setting up of industrial centers has accelerated the rate of industrialization in the district. Cotton is a major commercial crop of the district and the cotton industry therefore occupies an important place in the economy. Theni and Aundipatti are the chief centres for spinning mills and ginning factories in the produce a variety of cotton yarn.   There are 1160 registered small scale industries units as on 2015 engaged in the manufacture of a very wide range of products with production capacity of Rs.2581463.000 employing 6443 employees. The blocks Bodinayakkanur, Periyakulam, Aundipatti and Theni have got 7, 3, 2 and 5 medium and large scale registered industry units respectively employing 837, 404, 561 and 1793 employees respectively as per the records of District Industries Centre of the disrtrict. Cotton and village industries are dispersed throughout the rural areas. Some common cottage industries are: making of boxes and other articles from Palmyra leaves, metal artifacts fashioned from copper and brass, and aluminum vessel manufacture for domestic use. Gem cutting has been introduced to provide employment for women.

Agro industry

The district has got number of processing units, cold storage stations, ripening stations for fruits and vegetables, fertilizer producers and chemical firms, market for horticulture things, green stations, biotech firms nursery and private nurseries. Notably, there are grape processing centers in the blocks Cumbum, Chinnamanur and Uthamapalayam, and banana ripening centers in the blocks Cumbum, Uthamapalayam, Periyakulam and Chinnamanur, and mango ripening centers in the blocks Theni and Periyalulam, and cashew nut processing units in the block K.Myladumparai, are functioning effectively in the district. There are weekly market, commission market and farmers market functioning in all the blocks of the district. These agro business centers tend to have agro based employment opportunities to the people of the district. The district has got horticulture extension centers in all the blocks.

Medium and Large scale industry

There are a few large scale industries, viz., Shri Renuga Textile Mills Private Ltd, Paragan Paper and Paper products Private Ltd, Eastern Condiments Private Ltd, Raj Shree Sugar Mills and Chimicals Private Ltd, Nisha Kishan Spinning Mills Private Ltd, LS Mills Private Ltd, Bojaraja Textiles Mills Private Ltd and Anna Co operative Textile Mills Ltd.

Industrial Estates

There are 2 industrial estates located in the district. Theni block has 1 industrial estate of 25 acres with 57 industries functioning out of 72 sanctioned and Aundipatti block has 1 industrial estate of 10 acres with 10 industries functioning out of 15 sanctioned where there are micro and small scale industries functioning. Cotton Spinning Mills, Oxide factories, Oil mills, Bakeries, Ginning factories and other types of industries are here. These two industrial estates employ 1200 workers put together. The reason for 25 units remaining closed due to power cut and high interest costs for the loans which they have availed.

Transport facilities and communications

There are three National Highways running through the district. NH 45 – Dindigul - Periyakulam - Theni, NH 49 – Theni - Madurai – Rameshwaram –Dhanushkodi (NH49 extension Theni to Cochin) and NH 220 Gudalur – Cumbum – Uthamapalayam – Theni (NH 220 extension Kollam to Theni). In addition to the National highways there are State highways; district roads and other than districts roads that are being maintained in the district. The post and telegraphs network is fairly extensive. There are two head Post Offices in Theni and Periyakulam. The users of telephones are around 56433 and the telephone exchanges are 25 as on 2013-14. The district is connected by Road with major cities of the State and other States.

The district is also connected by rail from Madurai city. Government Transport Corporations and private authorities provide ample transport facilities to the people of the district. Tamilnadu State Transport Corporation (TNSTC-Madurai) Dindigul region, Theni Division with 7 bus depots each with average 50 fleet strength is providing the public transport facilities to the public to carry men from one place to another inside the district and also to other parts of the State and to other States. All India Permit Government carriers are used to carry material from one place to another within the State and to other States of the country. Southern Railway operated rail service from Madurai to Bodinayakkanur on Meter Gauge. Now the rail transport has been converted into broad gauge, the work is in progress. On completion, this will facilitate passenger and goods traffic at lesser cost. The railway service from Dindigul to Kumuli broad gauge to facilitate both passenger and goods traffic would pave a long benefit to the district on the same work is completed within the planned time frame by central government.

Case Study: 8.2 Issues on road infrastructure, transport, electricity and communication facilities in the hilly tracks of Theni district

The case study aims to explore the existing issues or status of road infrastructure, transport, electricity and communication facilities in the areas of the backward blocks of Theni district especially hilly tracks. The study was done by the method of collecting data and information through field study, observation and interviewing the respondents. It is observed that very poor road, transport, communication and electricity facilities in the areas of backword blocks of the district especially in hilly tracks.

There are only three buses run by the transport corporation with the three timings morning 4 am, 10.30 am and 12.30 pm from Chinnamanur to Iranvangalar totally 57 kms via Thenpalani, Megamalai, Highway Vis, Manalar, Upper Manalar, Maharashan Mettu. The hilly track is covered with private owned Tea estates for 30 kms from Megamalai to Iravangalar. There are around 1500 families living and around 2000 people working in the tea estates. The hilly track with number of hairpin bends and with poor road safety infrastructure like just 10 feet narrow road with out parapet wall or stones, and dangerous also. It requires immediate improvement.

Case Study: 8.2 Continuation………….

In the hilly track of K.Myladumparai block, there are less number of buses run by transport corporation from Theni to Vellimalai totally 60 kms via Kandamanur, Kadamalai Kundu, Kumanan Tholu, Indira Nagar and Arasaradi. There are around 500 families living and working in private owned tea estates, cardamom estates and black pepper estates. Since both the plain land and Vellimalai hilly track have poor road infrastructure with just 10 feet narrow BT road from Kadamalai Kundu to Vellmalai hills without parapet wall or stones. This present facility for transport is difficult to travel upon and dangeraous also. The respondents opine that the roads from Varusanadu to Murukodai, Thumukundu, Gandhigram and Valliparai totally around 20 kms are not worthy of mentioning as roads.

In the hilly track of Agamalai in Bodinayakkanur block, only private Jeep transport facility is available with limited timings as only in morning 7 am to 8 am from Periyakulam Munrandal bus stand to Agamalai hills totally 26 kms via Sothuparai Dam and Kannangarai village. There are around 600 families living in Agamalai and surrounding villages and working in Coffee estates, cardamom estates and the fields of banana, fashion fruits. There are just 10 feet narrow BT roads upto Kannangarai village, then the rest of the road is covered with only 8 feet narrow mud road to Agamalai without parapet wall or stones.

It is observed that poor communication facilities exist in the areas of backward blocks of the district especially hilly tracks. The hilly tracks of Theni district Valliparai and Vellimalai in K.Myladumparai block, From Thenpalani to Megamalai to Iravangalar and Agamalai and surrounding villages in Bodinayakkanur block are covered with only BSNL telephone service coverage with very less number of house hold and mobile phone connetions.

The Postal service has covered hilly tracks Valiparai, Vellimalai, Magamalai, Highway Vis and Agamalai with poor infrastructure and with less number of employees.

It is observed that there is meagre number of concrete or pucca houses used by the people in the backward areas. Forest department is not giving clearance for construction of pucca houses on environmental protection grounds. There is no Electricity connection in the areas of Arasaradi and Vellimalai hills

Conclusion

The district had fared well in the case of roads, electrification of village and individual houses. The district administration needs to be appreciated for the improvement in public infrastructure. The recent efforts to identify infrastructure needs and planning for the same at the village level through various schemes is a very positive move. As far as the electrification is concerned, EB Connections and the capacity of electricity generation has been improved by the technical advancement and serious steps have been taken by the government compared with the previous years. But the EB connections in remote villages and hilly tracks of the district need to be addressed seriously. As far as the tele communication and postal services are concerned, the service has reached well in the district with the steps taken by the department but the hilly tracks and remote villages have to be connected. As far as the road infrastructure is concerned, it has been found out that there is a good improvement in length of roads in urban areas and villages but the quality of roads is poor in villages.

The hilly tracks of Megamalai, Agamalai and the hilly tracks in Cumbum and in Periyakulam blocks need to be addressed in terms of road infrastructure immediately.

CHAPTER 9
SUMMARY AND WAY FORWARD

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Chapter

9

Summary and Way forward

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Introduction

Human development calls for evaluating development not only on economic advancement, but also improvements in human well being. Bridging the disparities through development intervention in the field of employment generation, sustained income, poverty free, better health care, knowledge gaining environment, gender parity with social security to the vulnerable section, prosperous infrastructure to achieve human development would result in balanced development. Government of Tamil Nadu in its inclusive growth strategy through State Balanced Growth Fund (SBGF) is targeting backward blocks of Tamil Nadu for balanced growth and innovation proposals to fill the schematic gaps of the existing schemes. Through this scheme, government will reduce the regional disparities; it boosts up the human development of the district as well as State.

This report with its simple presentation is an attempt to provide block level, rural– urban and gender-wise information and information on human development which would proude inputs to policy makers, researchers and all those concerned with in the development of the district and its people. The present chapter attempts to highlight in Theni district an approach to increase the degree of human development among the people of Theni district.

Human Development Index

➢ In Theni district, during 2013-14, the blocks Theni (0.92), Uthamapalayam (0.80) and Bodinayakkanur (0.79) occupy the first three ranks and K.Myladumparai (0.29), Aundipatti (0.36) and Periyakulam (0.65) occupy the last three ranks in HDI.

➢ In the Standard of living indicator, urban context, growing industrialized belt and accessibility to well developed infrastructure influence is high in Theni district. The lower range of accessibility to cooking fuel, toilet facilities and electricity is causing backwardness in K.Myladumparai block in terms of quality of life. Accessibility to the cooking fuel, toilet facilities, pucca houses, electricity and road infrastructure is poor in Chinnamanur and Aundipatti blocks that to specifically in the hilly tracks namely Varusanadu hills and Megamalai hills. The trend prevailed during 2011-12 that continues same in the backward blocks of the district during 2013-14.

- Urbanized blocks have more health issues than the rural blocks. The blocks Periyakulam (20.9), Uthamapalayam (19.9) and the rural blocks Chinnamanur (16.6), Aundipatti (29.4) and K.Myladumparai (24.9) have recorded higher range of IMR than the other blocks. MMR has registered higher in the blocks Cumbum (284.9), Aundipatti (152.1), Chinnamanur (246.2) and K.Myladumparai (414.6) during 2013-14. The same higher MMR rates prevailed in these blocks during 2011-12. The blocks Periyakulam (4.5), Uthamapalayam (4.3), K.Myladumparai (5.5) and Aundipatti (6.5) have recorded higher U5MR than other blocks during 2013-14. The blocks Periyakulam (8.1), K.Myladumparai (8.1) and Aundipatti (11.4) have recorded higher High Order birth rate in 2014. Reason behind this issues due to scarce accessibility to health care services, underweight children, infrastructure facility of PHC and anaemic mothers etc.,

- During 2013-14, in Theni district, the blocks Bodinayakkanur (0.02), Uthamapalayam (0.04) and Theni (0.04) occupy the first three places in Gender Inequality Index. The blocks Chinnamanur (0.10), Cumbum (0.10) and K.Myladumparai (0.09) occupy the last three places in GII. Range of disparity noticed in Theni district on Gender Inequality Index is 0.08 (Bodinayakkanur (0.02) to Chinnamanur (0.10)) during 2013-14. The range prevailed during 2011-12 that continues same but the blocks Chinnamanur and Cumbum have been placed in the last positions with higher GII value during 2013-14.

- The blocks K.Myladumparai (55.92) and Aundipatti (65.35) are with low score in female literacy rate than other blocks of the district. Female WPR in agriculture is lower in the blocks Cumbum (37) and Periyakulam (31) than other blocks. Female WPR in non agri sector is lower in the blocks, K.Myladumparai (9), Uthamapalayam (19), Cumbum (19) and Periyakulam (25) than other blocks which are considered to have agriculture as their forte. Female Work Wage rate is lower in the blocks Uthamapalayam (Rs.142) and Cumbum (Rs.146) than other blocks namely Aundipatti (Rs 163) during 2013-14.

- While assessing the Child Development in terms of education, children never enrolled in school is low in the entire district. During 2013-14, the blocks K.Myladumparai (100.30) (108.30), Chinnamanur (100.75) and Aundipatti (101.53) (107.30) have the issue of lower enrolment in primary schools and secondary schools respectively than other blocks. The blocks Chinnamanur (1.45) (6.5), Aundipatti (1.46) (5.7) and Cumbum (7.4) have the

issue of higher dropouts in primary and secondary schools respectively than the other blocks. Transition rate from primary to upper primary (97.98) and upper primary to secondary (98.38) is lower in K.Myladumparai block than other blocks of the district. The block needs to give focus on education. The above mentioned trend in enrolment, in dropouts and transition in both primary and secondary schools had prevailed in the backward blocks during 2011-12.

➢ The end result of MPI in Theni district exhibits the higher range of disparity among the blocks. (Theni (0.21) to K.Myladumparai (0.72) during 2013-14. The range of MPI is the same that had prevailed (Bodinayakkanur (0.29) to K.Myladumparai (0.79)) during 2011-12 .

➢ During 2013-14, high range of infant mortality (24.9) in K.Myladumparai block has correlation with child malnourishment (12.00). Inadequate breastfeeding and lack of knowledge in child health was noted as a causal factor in this issue. The blocks K.Myladumparai (8.1) and Aundipatti (11.4) have recorded higher higher order birth rate that has a link with malnourishment.

Employment, Income and Poverty

➢ The blocks Aundipatti, Chinnamanur have got increase in Workers Participation Rate from 48.32% to 53.09% and from 44.55% to 50.14% respectively whereas the blocks K.Myladumparai, Uthamapalayam and Bodinayakkanur, it has decreased from 70.62% to 56.98%, from 52.86% to 48.00% and from 48.57% to 47.56% respectively during 2001-11-12.

➢ As per census 2011, under rural WPR, Female WPR shows an increase of 11.1 (rural 43.00 – urban 31.9) than urban area, whereas male WPR shows an increase of 11.01 (urban 68.01 - rural 57) in favor of urban labor as industrialization and service organizations mostly favor urban area.

➢ During 2013-14, the wage rate for male has registered a high of 350 rupees in the blocks, Theni, Uthampalayam and Peiyakulam that is higher than the district average of 347 rupees. The wage rate for male has registered a low of 343 rupees in the blocks Aundipatti and K.Myladumparai that is lower than the district average. The wage rate for female has registered a high of 163 rupees in the blocks Aundipatti and K.Myladumparai whereas low wage rate for female 142 rupees was registered in Uthamapalayam block.

- As per census 2011, the percentage of cultivators and agri laborers put together comes to 67 percent, 62 percent and 62 percent in the blocks K.Myladumparai, Cumbum and Chinnamanur respectively whereas in the very same blocks industrial workers and non agricultural workers percentage have registered 33 percent, 38 percent and 38 percent respectively, which is very low.

- Registration and placement through employment exchange shows a mixed trend of increase during 2008-09 at 6 percent (registration 20003 and placement 1200) and during 2010-11 at 9.01 percent (registration 22909 and placement 2083) during 2001-2011 period it stands at 3.8 percent (registration 21746 and placement 845). During 2013-14, 28110 candidates registered and 473 candidates got placement i.e, 0.33 percent. Totally, from 2007 to 2014, the registration was 183969 candidates and 6092 candidates got placement. This is deduction in rate due to obvious reasons of introduction of new economic policies, privatization and direct recruitment policy followed by both government and private.

- Under MGNREGA scheme, the blocks Aundipatti, Theni, Periyakulam and K.Myladumparai have registered the jobs for households at 78%, 68 %, 67 % and 67 % respectively which is higher whereas the block Cumbum gets only 10 % jobs for house holds during 2011-12. During 2013-14, the blocks Theni, Chinnamanur, Aundipatti and K.Myladumparai have registered the jobs for households at 74%, 67%, 66% and 66% respectively.

- The per capita income of the district has registered Rs.39856 which is lesser than the State per capita income Rs.63996 during 2011-12. It is observed that the mixed trend in growth rate of PCI during the year 2004-05 to the year 2011-12.

- The sectoral composition of GDDP of the district during 2011-12, the tertiary sector registered Rs.267947 which was higher than the primary Rs.107121 and the secondary sectors Rs.62483 with mixed trend of growth rate from the years 2004-05 to the years 2011-12.

- The blocks K.Myladumparai and Uthamapalayam have registered the highest percentage of house holds Below Poverty Line at the rate of 65.04 and 59.89 respectively during 2003-04.

- The blocks Aundipatti, K.Myladumparai, Periyakulam and Cumbum have registered high number of People Identified under Poverty than the district average during 2013-14.

Demography, Health and Nutrition

- An analysis of the decennial growth of population in the district from 2001 to 2011 shows that total population has grown from 1093950 to 1245899. The difference in growth rate between State and the district has widened over time and it was very sharp between 2001 and 2011. In fact, the population growth rate of the district was 13.9% between 2001 and 2011. The female population has grown at a marginally higher rate than that of males in the district as per child sex ratio of 0 to 6 years age group only indicating that there is a reduction to a certain level in sex selection practices.

- The share of Scheduled Caste population has increased marginally between 2001 and 2011 and it was 19.36 percent in 2001 and 20.7 percentage in 2011. Rate of population growth is more due to lack of awareness, education and economic backwardness. Scheduled Tribe's share in the total population has decreased by 0.01 percent from 0.15 to 0.14 percent due to their low share in the total population in the district. But, it has increased only in K.Myladumparai block.

- It was also observed that while urban population has grown at a very high rate, the rural population has declined. This was due to conversion of many rural areas into urban ones in the district. The density of the population in the district 434 remained much lower than that of the State 555 and most of the other districts. It is 1085 density of population per square kilometer in Theni block which had the highest density among all blocks in 2011. It was very low at 118 persons per square kilometer at K.Myladumparai block.

- The blocks Chinnamanur (8.7), Uthamapalayam (8.3), Cumbum (7.5), Aundipatti (7.5), Periyakulam (7.5) and Theni (7.2) are registering more CDR than the district average of 7.2 percent for the year 2011. The block Periyakulam CDR came down from 9.9 percent during 2009 to 8.6 in 2010 to 7.5 during 2011. The block Aundipatti CDR came down from 8.4 percent in 2010 to 7.5 during 2011. The block Theni CDR came down from 9.2 percent in 2010 to 7.2 percent in 2011. The trend occurrence is due to the increase in mortality rate, lack of medicine supply and ambulance service at needy hours due to bad roads in the remote villages and tribal areas like Agamalai, Bodi Mettu, surrounding 10 villages in Bodinayakkanur block, Valiparai, Megamalai, Vellimalai and Varusanadu in K.Myladumparai block lack of emergency services at required point of time and place..

During 2013-14, the CBR rate of the district 13.0 has decreased from 15.7 in 2011 and CDR of the district was 6.1 and had decreased from 7.2 in 2011.

➢ The sex ratio of the district was 978 in 2001 which increased to 991 in 2011. But the Cumbum block registered sex ratio of 1013 and the block K.Myladumparai registered the lowest sex ratio of 948 in 2011. In spite of the increase when compared to in the sex ratio it remains low in the block K.Myladumparai than the other blocks.

➢ The child sex ratio of 0-6 years age group in the district had increased from 891 to 937 between 2001 and 2011 indicating that the efforts to address adverse sex ratio has been successful at large extent. If the decline is at birth then it is obvious that it was due to sex selective abortion. If it is at the early neo natal stage it could be female infanticide.

➢ The Life expectancy at Birth in the district in 2001 for male was 62 yrs and for female it was 64 yrs. It was 65 yrs for male and 68 yrs for female in 2011. The increase in life expectancy shows the improvement of medical infrastructure and medical facilities by the government and private sources in the district. During 2013 - 14, LEB has increased up to 70.3 yrs for male and to 69 yrs for female.

➢ The MMR of the district was 150 during 2012 and the blocks Aundipatti, Theni and Bodinayakkanur had an MMR of 230, 210 and 190 respectively which maintained deaths per one lakhs live births which is not at all an encouraging health parameter. The block Cumbum shows uniformly lower MMR from 2008 to 2012 along with the block Chinnamanur. The same has come down to 78 in 2013 and increased to 123.1 in 2014.

➢ Institutional delivery had been the common phenomenon in all the blocks in the district under all the type of institutional deliveries. It is observed from the most deliveries benefit maximum from GH followed by Private and PHC in the district. It is observed that the institutional deliveries of the district average were 99.65 percent in 2011 and it has increased to 99.8 percent during 2013 - 14.

➢ The Still Birth Rate of the district was 20.9 per thousand live births in 2008. It has come down to 15.7 in 2012 and to 13.6 in 2013-14. The average performance of the district for the last four years gives a different kind of picture before coming to this present lower level which is encouraging.

➢ The IMR was high in Theni, Periyakulam, K.Myladumparai and Aundipatti at the rate of 24.4, 23.6, 21.1and 20.5 respectively in 2012 which had come down in the blocks Theni

10.3 and Periyakulam 18.0 and increased in the blocks K.Myladumparai 27.5 and Aundipatti 23.0 during 2013-14. The IMR of the district has decreased from 23.1 in 2008 to 19.4 in 2012 and to 17 in 2013-14.

➢ The immunization performance of the district for infants during 2011 that the blocks K.Myladumparai and Periyakulam had exceeded the other blocks in immunization programs like O dose, BCG, DPT & OPV and Measles. Both the blocks have achieved 100 percent in O Dose, BCG and DPT & OPV with participation of Health department. The same trend is expected to be followed in Cumbum, Chinnamanur and Bodinayakkanur as the performance has staggered back at 92%, 92% and 91% respectively while according equal importance to other blocks also. During 2013-14, the immunisation performance has increased in the blocks Chinnamanur, Cumbum and Bodinayakkanur.

➢ During 2012-13, Children and women of the block Theni were provided with IFA tablets at a lower level of 2440 and 2234 respectively. Less number of adolosent girls 4914 and 5298 were provided IFA tablets in the blocks Uthamapalyam and Cumbum respectively.

➢ The total number of students enrolled in Nutritious Meal Program in rural areas of the district was 86524 and in urban areas of the district were 26122 and totally 112646 students in the district during 2001-2011.

➢ Under the ICDS programme, the total number of AWC in Theni district is 1065 centers that have covered 99177 children of age group of 0-5 yrs during 2014-15. The total number of children benefited from AWC is 50989 of 51.41 % of Children covered. In the block K.Myladumparai (4473 only 8.77% on Children benefited). There was the least coverage of benefits from AWC and the number of AWC was also lower (98 Centres in the block) than the other blocks of the district. The blocks Bodinayakkanur (4637), Uthamapalayam (4739) and Chinnamanur (4943) have registered lower children beneficiaries in the district.

➢ Under the ICDS program, pregnant women are getting benefits from AWC and PNM. The ANW and PNM beneficiaries are 7813 and 6858 respectively during 2014-15. The

block K.Myladumparai has least coverage and PNM as it is in Children's benefits coverage from AWC. This has resulted in MMR, SBR and in IMR in the block.

- The accessibility to safe drinking water supply to the district during 2012-13 in the blocks K.Myladumparai, Chinnamanur and Uthamapalayam are to be improved by developing infrastructure to provide water supply to the needy habitations in the district as they are covering 73 %, 79% and 80% of the habitations respectively.

- During 2013-14, the blocks K.Myladumparai (91%), Aundipatti (98%) and Periyakulam (98%) have registered low number of house holds having access to drinking water that the percentage is lower or equal to the district average 98%.

- The total of 59% of households in Theni district has an access to toilet facilities. Theni block has registered the highest number of households with access to toilet facilities 75% followed by Cumbum and Aundipatti block with 65% access, K.Myladumparai block has the least number of household with access to toilet facilities with only 29% in 2012-13. During 2013-14, the number of house holds wih toilet facilities has increased from 59% to 63%.

- The HIV positive cases of the district that in 2007, about 7 persons had been tested for HIV and one person tested HIV positive. In the subsequent years, the number of persons screened for HIV has decreased from 1320 to 661 between 2007 and 2011.

- In 2013, HIV positive cases are 482 including male 290 and female 192 and in 2014 the cases are 481 including male 280 and female 201.

- In case of the TB and Leprosy cases in the district, the total number of cases referred for sputum examination increased from 6, 456 to 12,456 in the past five years. Out of which the positive cases ranged from 678 in 2007 and 1458 in 2011. The positive rate increased from 6.21 to 7.25 in the same year. The positive cases were given proper treatment to recover from TB. The cure rate is appreciable and revolves around 86 percent of the total TB cases in each year. The death rate is around 4 percent. The total number of leprosy cases detected and cured was 67 and 57 respectively. The number of cases detected and cured has come down to a great extent.

- The TB cases were 924 in 2013 and 1117 in 2014. The Leprosy cases were 54 in 2013 and in 2014.

Literacy and Education

- The Literacy rate of the district was 71.58 in 2001 and it has increased to 77.26 in 2011. Male and female literacy rate was 85.03 and 69.46 respectively in 2011 whereas it was for male 81.88 and for female 61.19 in 2001. Total literates in Theni district were 870,080 of which male and female were 479,403 and 390,677 respectively in 2011. In 2001, the district had 692,797 literates with male 400484 and female 292313.

- The Gross Enrolment Rate in primary education declined from 102.46 to 101.94 during 2011-12 and 2012-13 and increased to 102.16 in 2013.14. But still these will not stop the increase in number of 'out of school children' dropping out of the education system or never enroling into the system have very strong economic roots. This is very much evident above, which shows that migration and economic compulsion were one of the major reasons for becoming out of school children.

- The completion rate in primary education of the district was 99.72 and 95.66, due to the highest performance in six blocks except the blocks K.Myladumparai (99.19) (93.95) and Chinnamanur (99.69) (94.91) during 2012 -13 and during 2013-14 respectively.

- The drop out rate that prevailed was 1.15 at district level in 2013-14. It was the highest in the blocks Aundipatti (1.46), Chinnamanur (1.45) and Uthamapalayam (1.32). The lowest drop out rate was in the blocks Cumbum (0.42), Bodinayakkanur (0.98) and Theni (0.99).

- The Gross Enrolment Rate in upper primary education had decreased from 103.02 in 2011 to 102.86 in 2012 and to 102.21 in 2013 -14.

- It had been observed that the lowest completion rate in upper primary education in the block of K.Myladumparai at the rate of 90.16 in 2011 and increased to 91.86 in 2013-14 than the other blocks.

- The average dropout rate in the district as a whole had declined sharply till 2013 from 2011. The dropout rate in upper primary education of the district is 1.53 and that includes male 1.45 and female 1.60 in 2013-14. The highest dropout rate in Myladumaparai with 3.75 percent in 2011-12 in upper primary education which had decreased to 3.56 in 2013-14.

- During 2013-14, the average transition rate of the district rose from 98.57 to 99.80 significantly. It consisted of boys 99.85 and girls 99.75 in primary to upper primary.

- There is an imbalance in the accessibility of schools within the blocks. A level playing field was not provided to the needy mass of the rural and tribal regions. If some more schools are added in this category it will give a balanced growth in education of both genders irrespective of their standard of life.

- The pupil teacher ratio of the district in 2011 that the district had attained was the desired rate of 30 pupils per teacher long back by 2011 (with PTR of 25) and had remained closer to 30 over years until 2011-2013. This was not so in the case of all the blocks. Subsequently, teacher's strength fell below the standard expected in schools of the district.

- During 2014-15, Pupil Teacher Ratio was at 24 in primary and 18 in upper primary level, which was conducive for imparting knowledge to the students, optimally. This has got to be monitored and improved upon to score 100 percent pass outs from our schools from the present level.

- The students were able to read and write – in Theni district (i - v) (primary level), among the students who can able to read fluently in Tamil/ Kannada/ Telugu were 64%, 84% and English were 46%, 70% and write fluently in Tamil/ Kannada/ Telugu were 54%,76% and English were 39%, 64%. The students were able to do easy sums and difficult sums were 64%, 89% and 50%, 87% during 2012-13 and during 2013-14 respectively.

- The reading and writing skills among upper primary students in Theni district among the students who were able to read fluently in Tamil/ Kannada/ Telugu were 61%, 86% and English were 47%, 72% and write fluently in Tamil/ Kannada/ Telugu were 55%, 76% and English were 41%, 58%. The students were able to do easy sums and difficult sums were 62%, 88% and 49%, 80% during 2012-13 and during 2013-14 respectively.

- The General Enrolment Rate in secondary education during 2013-14 of the district was 56.15 for boys and 49.16 for girls consisted of all the 8 blocks. The blocks Uthamapalayam top with 109.5 whereas the block K.Myladumparai is the least with 100.5 in GER.

- The dropouts in secondary education of the district during 2012-13 that there was more dropout rate among boys 5.63 than girls 3.25 at district level. During 2013-14, the dropout rate was more among boys 6.2 than girls 4.1 at district level indicating that dropout rate had increased.

- During 2013-14, there were 898 schools in the district which includes Primary, Upper Primary and Higher Secondary. Only Primary (522), Primary to Upper Primary (181), Primary to Higher Secondary (55) and Upper Primary to Higher Secondary (140) which included all Govt. (529), Private aided (236), Private Unaided (125), Others (4) and unrecognized (4).

- The entire district had 39 SC/ST hostels housing 2640 students of both genders by 2012 which had increased to 2673 students in 2013-14. There were 15 BC \ MBC hostels in all blocks of Theni district accommodating 779 Students in 2001 and increased to 949 in 2011 which was increased to 28 hostels and 1525 students in 2013-14.. There are totally 4198 students including SC\ ST and BC\ MBC students accomodated in 67 hostels in the district during 2013-14.

- During 2013-14, Under the Free Provisions to students' schemes, students were provided with Laptops 10429 students who had completed 12 standard in 2013-14 in the very same year were given Laptop and 90824 students out of 99856 were provided with educational tools like textbooks, notebooks, foot wear, bicycle, bus pass, atlas, crayons, color pencils, geometry box and school bags.

- During 2013-14, Under Technology Initiative scheme in education, the total number of government schools from primary to higher secondary were provided with Desktops, Laptops and Projectors 274 schools out of 529 Schools in the district and the number of Desktops were given by SSA is 696, the number of Laptops given by DEE is 371 & by others are 59. The Projectors provided to the schools by SSA are 95, by DEE are 48 and by DSE and others are 72. Each school is provided Educational software and CD ROMs, CD and application software for various subjects, notably in number of 97 CDs and software packages were provided for each school.

- During 2013-14, there are 11523 students of both genders studying in 12 arts and science colleges located in 7 blocks except in Myladumaparai. The blocks Periyakulam had 5 colleges followed by the block Bodinayakkanur which had 2. The district had 10 professional colleges (5 engineering colleges and 5 polytechnics colleges) located in the blocks Aundipatti (1 Engineering and 1 Polytechnic colleges), Theni (1 Engineering and

1 Polytechnic colleges), Periyakulam (2 Engineering and 2 Polytechnic colleges) and Bodinayakkanur (1 engineering college and 1 polytechnic college) grooming future technologies comprising 7832 students of both gender in various fields of engineering and polytechnic.

➢ The other institutions of skill development like education, nursing, ITI and catering colleges are totaling 52 in the district educating 23429 students during 2013-14.

➢ There is a Government Medical college with Hospital educating 506 students of both genders in various medical fields of study during 2013-14.

Gender

➢ The female population is 620216 accounting for 49.8 % against the male population of 50.2% in the total population of the district. This results in sex ratio of 990 females for 1000 males which is in increasing trend from 978 in 2001 to 990 in 2011. The child sex ratio of the district is 937 females for 1000 males which was also an increasing trend from 891 in 2001 to 937 in 2011. The increasing trend resulted with the steps taken by the departments of government. The literacy rate of the district is (870080) 77.26. The female literacy rate is in increasing trend from 60.70 in 2001 to (390677) 69.46 in 2011 but it is lower than the male literacy rate which is also in increasing trend from 82.36 in 2001 to (479403) 85.03 in 2011.

➢ The maternal mortality rate of the district was 150 in 2012. Anemic condition, accessibility to the hospital from remote villages and inadequate infrastructure facility in PHC's causes higher MMR. The MMR of the district has decreased from 150 in 2012 to 78 in 2013-14.

➢ The 66.90 % and 33.10 % of women engaged with agriculture and non agriculture sector respectively. Specifically, maximum percent of the women are agriculture workers or agriculture labors. Moreover, the percentage of male agriculture labors is lesser than that of female agricultural labour during 2011-12.

➢ The number of Self Help Groups was 14423 in Theni district in 2011 and membership stood at 216345 and total credit availed in lakhs to all these SHG was Rs.17845.000 Laks. The number of SHG and the membership are same during 2013-14 and the amount credited has increased to Rs 11311.000 lakhs.

➤ The gender wise work participation rate during 2011-12 that the female workers participation rate is high in the blocks K.Myladumparai (59%), Aundipatti (52%) and Chinnamanur (44%) than male workers participation rate. The trend proves that the workers participation is mostly to the agricultural work and agro related business.

➤ The present scenario shows that, the female employment percentage in State government and local bodies is in increasing trend. Out of 7535 State government staff, 1520 number is female, 20.17 percent and out of 5242 local bodies' staff, nearly 37% percent are occupied by female staff members. The female employment in both State government and local bodies are less compared with male participation in the district during 2012-13.

➤ The membership of women in State Assembly and Local Bodies in Theni District in 2011-12, indicates that K.Myladumparai block has registered the highest of 54% followed by Cumbum block with 52% and Aundipatti block with 42% and least representation is registered in Uthamapalayam block and Periyakulam block.

. Social Security

➤ The demographic profile of aged in Theni district during 2001-11 shows that the district had 106914 people of age 60+ which accounted for 10% of the total population. The proportion of elderly male population in Theni district was 51966 i.e., 49% and 54948 elderly female population i.e., 51% of total population of aged people.

➤ The number of beneficiaries in all the categories of old aged people pension schemes in the 60+ age group has increased from 2756 (2.6%) in 2005 to 33342 (31.4%) in 2010-11 and increased to 95312 in 2013-14.

➤ The differently abled population in the district during 2013-14 were 18712 out of which 10570 male and 8142 female, the differently abled people getting government assistance are 9386 out of which 6572 male and 2824 female.

➤ The number of 5036 differently abled people with 3975 male and 1061 female out of 10660 people with Locomotor disability and the number of 2265 differently abled people consisting of 1288 male and 977 female out of 3330 people with Mental Retardation are registered for government assistance during 2013-14.

➤ In the case of Hearing Impaired, the number of 1006 people out of 2002 people; Visually Impaired the number of 680 people out of 1286 people; Multiple Disability the number

of 192 people out of 535 people; Mentally Illness the number of 10 people out of 149 people; Autisms the number of 47 people out of 47 people; Cerebral Palsy the number of 100 people out of 605 people and Leprosy the number of 50 people out of 98 people are registered for government assistance during 2013-14.

➢ The assistance coverage for the registered differently abled persons in the district was (50.2%) very less compared to the registered differently abled population of the district.

➢ The total number of 2800, 2885 and 2977 women had got Marriage Assistance during 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14 respectively.

➢ The total number of 10187, 10930 Pregnant women had got Maternity Assistance during 2013-14 and 2014-15 respectively.

➢ The crimes registered against women in the district was 324 in 2012. The most prevalent crimes faced by women were cruelty by husband and relatives which accounted for 89 cases i.e., 27.46 percent of total crimes.   Crimes under Harassment of Women Act accounted for 82 cases i.e., 25.30 per cent of cases followed by 79 cases of kidnapping and abduction 40 cases of molestation, 22 cases of rape and 12 cases of dowry death against women were registered. The crimes against women have come down to 263 during 2013-14 with respective decrease in crimes against women in all the categories.

Infrastructure

➢ The distribution of road network of the district during 2011-12 was 2915.978 kms including State highways, National highways. Panchyat and panchayat union highways and municipal highways. Black Topped roads in the district of length of 2004.088 kms including State, National highways and other roads, CC roads, WBM roads and Mud roads of length of 353.340 kms, 187.856 kms and 370.694 kms respectively in the blocks of the district.

➢ During 2013-14, the length of roads has increased to 3336.10 kms. The length of BT road has increased from 2004.088 kms to 2342.441 kms.

➢ The status of electrification in Theni district was that 312310 House Holds had EB Connections out of 340965 total houses holds. This is 91.60 percentages of total house holds connected with power connection in 2011. During 2014-15, there are 313846 HH

EB connections including Huts, 3744 industrial connection purpose and 61012 connections for commercial purpose.

➤ The district had the EDC Wind Mill capacity of 535.90 MW and Hydro generation of electricity capacity of 212.00 MW as on 2015.

➤ Considering the telecommunication systems of the district during 2012-13, it was seen that there were a total of 25 telephone exchanges, 1641 PCOs, 17404 of land line connections, 4256 households with telephone connections, 47 mobile phone towers and 56433 people were covered under various types of telecommunication networks through BSNL network.

➤ During 2013-14, an analysis of the block wise distribution of cooperative banks shows that there were a total of 115 cooperative societies in Theni District serving a total of 373299 members.

➤ During 2013-14, as per the records of the lead bank of the district, the present commercial banks strength is 164 branches with 1060124 account holders in the district. Out of the 164 branches 94 branches belonged to the public sector banks, 66 are private sector banks and 4 deveopment banks. All the banks have a total deposit of Rs.2130.03 Crores as on 31 March 2012.

➤ The number of banks increased to 166 as on 20.05.2015. The deposit increased from Rs 2787 crores at March 2014 to Rs 3104 crores as of March 2015, Credit increased from Rs 5722 crores as at March 2014 to Rs 6141 crores as at March 2015 and Credit Deposit ratio is 198 during 2014-15.

➤ All Central and State government programs and NABARD programs dovetailing of socio- economic, infrastructure and human aspects of development are being carried out by the commercial banks through VDDP – II and RBI out reach program in 2 villages in the district.

- In 2011-12, there were 4 public sector insurance companies. During 2013-14, the number of insurance companies had increased to 5 with the membership covered 55995.

- The dams Periyar dam, Manjalar dam, Sothuparai and Vaigai dam are the source of water for irrigation and drinking water in the district. The periyar dam provides irrigation and drinking water provisions for four more districts namely Madurai, Dindigul, Ramnad and Sivagangai.

- Theni and Aundipatti are the chief centres for spinning mills and ginning factories producing a variety of cotton yarn. There are 1160 registered small scale industrial units as on 2015 engaged in the manufacturing of a very wide range of products with production capacity of Rs.2581463.000 and employing 6443 employees.

- In 2013-14, the district has got number of processing units, cold storage stations, ripening stations for fruits and vegetables, fertilizer producers and chemical firms, market for horticulture products, green stations, biotech firms nursery and private nurseries. Notably, there are grape processing centers in the blocks Cumbum, Chinnamanur and Uthamapalayam, and banana ripening centers in the blocks Cumbum, Uthamapalayam, Periyakulam and Chinnamanur, and mango ripening centers in the blocks Theni and Periyalulam, and cashew nut processing units in the block K.Myladumparai, functioning effectively in the district. There are weekly market, commission market and farmers market functioning in all the blocks of the district. These agro business centers tend to provide agro based employment opportunities to the people of the district. The district has got horticulture extension centers in all the blocks.

- In 2013-14, there were a few large scale industries, viz., Shri Renuga Textile Mills Private Ltd, Paragan Paper and Paper products Private Ltd, Eastern Condiments Private Ltd, Raj Shree Sugar Mills and Chimicals Private Ltd, Nisha Kishan Spinning Mills Private Ltd, LS Mills Private Ltd, Bojaraja Textiles Mills Private Ltd and Anna Co operative Textile Mills Ltd. empoying more than 30000 employees.

- In 2013-14, the district has 2 industrial estates located in Theni block of 25 acres with 57 industries functioning out of 72 sanctioned and Aundipatti block has 1 industrial estate of 10 acres with 10 industries functioning out of 15 sanctioned where there are micro and small scale industries run by SIDCO. There was no private industrial estate

- There are Three National Highways that run through the district. NH 45 – Dindigul - Periyakulam - Theni, NH 49 – Theni - Madurai – Rameshwaram –Dhanushkodi (NH49 extension Theni to Kochin) and NH 220 Gudalur – Cumbum – Uthamapalayam – Theni (NH 220 extension Kollam to Theni).

- The Post and Telegraphs network is fairly extensive. There are two head Post Offices in Theni and Periyakulam.. The users of telephones are around 56433 and the telephones Exchanges are 25 as on 2011 – 12. The number of telephone exchanges is same during 2013-14 but the connections have come down to 16579.

- Southern Railway operated rail service from Madurai to Bodinayakkanur train services on Meter Gauge. Now the rail transport has been converted into broad gauge and the work is in progress. The railway service from Dindigul to Kumuli is also on anvil.

Way forward

The following may be concentrated upon by the policy makers of the district development to ensure a fair Human Development Index covering the masses of the district on a secular basis to ensure harmony and co operation from the people of all walks of life.

1. The present eight blocks can be increased to nine blocks by creating one more block by trifurcating the total area of Aundipatti and Myladumprai blocks so that keen attention can be accorded without wastage of time and efforts of the government machinery, ensuring more attention to the really backward pockets of the present Aundipatti and K.Myladumparai blocks.

2. Expanding industrialization both on agro based and non agro based in all blocks by creating bigger industrial estates than the present industrial estates at Theni and Aundipatti by SIDCO and Private industrial estates can also be encouraged.

3. Locating more than one smart city in the district from out of the provision for hundred smart cities envisaged in India to perpetuate urbanization as a means of generating employment and also ensuring environmental benefits.

4. Roads are to be developed through national highways authority of India or by private participation as the same is not at all adhered to so far. Toll roads through private participation can be provided from Dindigul to Kumuli and Madurai to Cochin so that four lane roads with modern construction through private capital would go a long way in the nation building of this district. The provision of quality roads would be useful to the community including farmers to bring their commodity from field to house and house to the market.

5. Broad gauge railway has got to be replaced from Madurai to Bodi Mettu and newly constructed from Dindigul to Kumuli as envisaged in the national budget to ensure lower cost of transportation to the population including business community so that the cost of products would be lower and would help in lowering inflation rate in the long run.

6. This is to be ensured more tourism income and more revenue for tourism related service units.

7. On health grounds, all the primary health centers can be upgraded with necessary infrastructure to reduce IMR, MMR, and U5MR and enhance Life expentancy and good health care to all.

8. Private health care can be encouraged and supported by a good health policy from government.

9. An Arts and Science college and engineering college, polytechnic, ITI and three high schools can be added to the educational infrastructure in K.Myladumparai block.

10. As the standard of life is very poor in K.Myladumparai, Chinnamanur and Aundipatti, provision for drinking water, toilet, pucca houses, cooking fuel and electricity to the unreached areas can be executed after a thorough planning immediately.

11. The existing regulated markets can be supplemented up to eight regulated markets representing every block with a separate regulated market so that farmers get additional income by ensuring a fair price for their commodity.

12. Horticulture ensures more employment and also more income through more produce on scientific farming through the horticulture department of government in K.Myladumparai block in the cultivation of Morringa, Papaya, Tomato, Cashew nut, silk cotton, dates, pickle, lemon grass and palm rosa as it is considered to be vegetable hub by making use of the potential ground water already existing there. Making honeybee farming can augment the farmer's revenue.

13. The warehouses and storage either through co operative sector or through private participation can be carried on to ensure farmers to get more prices for their commodities.

14. As the commercial banks are considered to be conducive to growth through enhancing the savings of the general public and also to ensure capital for investment. The present strength of 164 branches can be doubled with in a time frame of five years. At present, the banks may appoint more business correspondents for their branches in their respective service areas with population of 2000 or more as per the directives of RBI in the year 2006. There are already 41 of such villages that have been identified and implemented with the appointment of business correspondents which are at different stages of growth. The same RBI guidelines provide for

inclusive growth for tribal belts with population strength of 1000. So the tribal hamlets in Chinnamanur, Bodinayakkanur and K.Myladumparai blocks can be ensured with business correspondents to provide them, the inclusive growth of banking facilities.Theni District Central Co Operative Bank can be formed.

15. The Local area banks and Regional Rural Banks can be formed through private participation with government initiatives.

16. The sick co operative mills, ginning mills and rice mills can be rehabilitated to ensure the employment to the existing workers and additional workers.

17. The farmers can be properly motivated by good associations of the government machinery.

18. Uthamapalayam RDO jurisdiction can be provided with an equal and all inclusive Government Head Quarters Hospital to resort to more health oriented programs for the welfare of that area, closer to that population.

19. Tourist important places like Suruli falls, Kumbakarai falls, High way Vis valley of Megamalai etc, can be improved upon with necessary infrastructure like star hotels, recreation clubs to bring both domestic and foreign tourists including NRIs.

20. Employment generation projects either on industrial front and agro business front along with urbanization can very well be concentrated upon to arrest migration from the district to other districts so that problems for children and women on their education and health ground can be brought down to nil. It will also ensure the availability of more laborers for local development in Theni district.

21. The district can join the main stream of economic development through start up culture which is fast developing with private and overseas funding through on angel funding, joint venture and private equity investors by creating favourable climate. Particularly, women entrepreneurs can be encouraged to ensure women empowerment as the need of the hour. Business Incubators can be formed and being mentored by professional bodies through CII, IIT Chennai, IIM Trichy and NIT Trichy by making use of their technical and business acumen in this regard.

22.   District Industries Centre may ensure more skill development programs through the government agency like National Counsil for Vocational Training.

23.   In the process of sustainable health, all vacancies can be filled without delay so that the health oriented development is accelerated on war footing.

24. National Highways 45, 49 and 220 are to be broadened by four lane ways or six lane ways as Theni district is dependent on roadways in the absence of railways. The national highways 49 and 220 are particularly significant as these are connecting the coastal border of east and west of South India.

25. In order to save ground water and soil fertility, government support is to be extended to the farmers to eradicate partenium plants and *seemai karuvel* trees from the cultivable lands. Moreover, these trees are totally eradicated in Kerala as per the State government policy. All the major dams like Vaigai dam, Sothuparai dam and Manjalaru dam are to be desilted along with minor dams and tanks which are not subjected to the desilting work through MGNREGA scheme. A minimum of ten check dams can be formed in the river Vaigai, Manjalaru and Mullai River each.

26. The scientific farming on horticulture and agro forestry are to be initiated through ATMA by strengthening and improving its strength by 100% to ensure maximum out put through minimum input of water, fertilizer etc., by involving more than 5000 interested farmers from the present strength of 1684 farmers by converting Agricultural Technology and Management Agency into a speciality center in line with speciality centers of Ontario state model from Canada. Agricultural scientists, veterinary scientists, Dr.M.S. Swaminathan foundation scientists are to be roped in as this is an agrarian economy to carry on this agricultural venture.

27. Kendriya Vidyalaya Schools and CBSE pattern schools are to be opened either by the government or to be approved and to be stared by educational entrepreneurs to arrest migration of people to ensure quality education to their children in other districts like Namakkal etc.,

28. Theni is one of the identified districts as agri export zone for mangoes etc. There is a need for the creation of common infrastructure like packing, grading, cooling, transportation by reefer

vans etc., Mega markets for fruits and vegetables may be formed in Chinnamanur, Cumbum and Periyakulam and for Vegetables in Thevaram.

29. Animal husbandary department may further strengthen the infrastructural facilities of the existing veterinary institutions. There is a need for hygienic milk production, establishment of cold chain from production to marketing, maintenance of quality, value addition etc.

30. Establishment of a cattle breeding farm with all required facilities as is functioning at Sivagangai district.

31. Adequate and modern storage structures need to be constructed to enable the farmers to tap the market potential both domestic (FCI) and international (MNCs). The Governmnet departments especially DRDA and co operative department may promote setting up of storage godowns in rural areas through Rural Infrastructure Development Fund.

32. The following can be carried on

   i. Encroachments in 18th canal and streams can be cleared in Gopalapuram and other places by the district administration.

   ii. Forest and environment clearance can be got on, so that, the length of roads can be enlarged in remote and hilly tracks.

   iii. Hi tech Apiculture with imported bees can be encouraged among entrepreneurs to gain maximum advantage of harvesting more honey and also to improve productivity in agriculture.

   iv. MGNREGA work can be undertaken in private lands also to save rain water to be harvested as practiced in Vidarba region of Maharastra.

   v. Oothucadavu stream is to be provided with a check dam like Valiparai check dam in K.Myladumparai block. This check dam in the Western Ghats will benefit the revenue villages like Chidampara villaku, Kumantholu and K.Myladumparai villages with more ground water potential and creating water provision for wild life also.

   vi. Banana cultivators had suffered a huge loss and support can be extended to reduce their economic sufferings.

ANNEXURES

A2. Chapter 2

A2.1 Human Development Index 2013-14

Blocks	Standard of Living					Health			Education			Standard of Living				
	Access to Cooking Fuel	Access to Toilet Facilities	Access to Drinking Water	Access to Electricity	Access to Pucca Houses	IMR	MMR	U5MR	Literacy Rate	GER Primary	GER Secondary	Access to Cooking Fuel	Access to Toilet Facilities	Access to Drinking Water	Access to Electricity	Access to Pucca Houses
	2011	2013-14	2013-14	2011	2013-14	2014	2014	2014	Census 2011	Educa dep 2013-14	Educa dept 2013-14					
	%	%	(habitation)													
Aundipatti	26.0	49.00	98	100.00	49	29.4	152.1	6.5	74.54	101.53	107.30	0.08	0.13	0.89	1.00	0.13
K.Myladumparai	26.0	55.00	91	70.76	55	24.9	414.6	5.5	65.73	100.30	100.50	0.08	0.28	0.50	0.19	0.28
Theni	55.0	71.00	100	94.33	71	9.3	40.3	2.3	82.08	103.09	106.70	1.00	0.69	1.00	0.84	0.69
Periyakulam	47.0	57.00	98	91.75	57	20.9	34.8	4.5	77.39	102.38	102.30	0.75	0.33	0.89	0.77	0.33
Bodinayakkanur	47.0	59.00	100	90.91	59	12.1	10	2.4	76.96	101.78	107.60	0.75	0.38	1.00	0.75	0.38
Chinnamanur	41.0	61.00	100	91.50	61	16.6	246.2	3.3	76.57	100.75	106.80	0.56	0.43	1.00	0.77	0.43
Uthamapalayam	38.0	83.00	100	89.75	83	19.9	10	4.3	78.35	103.14	109.50	0.46	1.00	1.00	0.72	1.00
Cumbum	47.0	65.00	100	91.51	65	12.8	284.9	2.8	78.51	102.19	101.80	0.75	0.54	1.00	0.77	0.54

Cont...

Health			Education			Standard of Living Index	Health Index	Education Index	Overall Index	Rank
IMR	MMR	U5MR	Literacy Rate	GER Primary	GER Secondary					
0.13	0.68	0.13	0.67	0.87	0.88	0.26	0.23	0.80	0.36	7
0.32	0.09	0.34	0.29	0.78	0.53	0.23	0.22	0.49	0.29	8
1.00	0.93	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.85	0.83	0.98	0.95	0.92	1
0.50	0.94	0.55	0.80	0.94	0.62	0.56	0.64	0.78	0.65	6
0.88	1.00	0.98	0.78	0.89	0.90	0.61	0.95	0.86	0.79	3
0.68	0.47	0.79	0.76	0.81	0.86	0.60	0.63	0.81	0.68	5
0.54	1.00	0.59	0.84	1.00	1.00	0.80	0.68	0.94	0.80	2
0.85	0.38	0.90	0.84	0.93	0.60	0.70	0.66	0.78	0.71	4

A2.2 Gender Inequality Index 2013-14

GENDER INEQUALITY INDEX 2013-14

Indicators	Health							Empowerment						Labour	
	MMR	Share of Institutional Deliveries	Share of Ante Natal Coverage	Female Literacy	Male Literacy	Share of female Children (0-6) years	Share of male Children (0-6) years	Share of Female Elected Representatives in RLBs and ULBs	Share of Male Elected Representatives in RLBs and ULBs	Female Worker Participation Rate	Male Worker Participation Rate	Female Worker Participation Rate in Non-Agri Sector	Male Worker Participation Rate in Non-Agri Sector	Female Agri. Wage rate	Male Agri. Wage rate
	2014	2013-14	2013-14	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2013-14	2013-14
Source	Health Department			Census				RD&PR Department		Census				DOES	
Unit	rate	%	nos	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Andipatt	152.1	99.85	97	65.35	83.65	48.06	51.94	42	58	52	67	25	44	163	343
Myladum	414.6	99.67	99	55.92	75.07	48.18	51.82	54	46	59	68	9	19	163	343
Theni	40.3	99.64	100	75.40	88.75	48.41	51.59	38	62	33	65	43	67	150	350
Periyakul	34.8	100	100	69.95	84.70	48.23	51.77	34	66	31	64	25	45	150	350
Bodi	10	99.79	100	68.62	85.34	48.62	51.38	38	62	39	66	28	50	150	343
chinnama	246.2	99.66	100	68.47	84.72	47.41	52.59	39	61	44	67	17	38	150	350
Uthama	10	100	98	71.42	85.30	48.97	51.03	39	69	42	63	19	36	142	350
Cumbum	284.9	100	100	70.94	86.25	48.33	51.67	36	48	37	66	19	38	146	343

Gender inequality index 2013-14 Continuation………

	Health				Empowerment						Labour																		
MMR	Share of Institutional Deliveries	Share of Ante Natal Coverage	Female Literacy	Male Literacy	Share of female Children (0-6) years	Share of male Children (0-6) years	Female Elected Representatives in RLBs and ULBs	Elected Representatives in RLBs and ULBs	Female Worker Participation Rate	Male Worker Participation Rate	Female WPR in Non-Agri Sector	Male WPR in Non-Agri Sector	Female Agri. Wage rate	Male Agri. Wage rate	Female Health Indices	Male Health Indices	Female Emp Indices	Male Emp Indices	Female LF Indices	Male LF Indices	GF	GM	GFM	Health Bar	Emp Bar	LF Bar	GFM Bar	GII	Rank
0.07	1.00	0.97	0.65	0.84	0.48	0.52	0.42	0.58	0.52	0.67	0.25	0.44	1.00	0.83	0.40	1	0.51	0.63	0.51	0.62	0.47	0.73	0.57	0.70	0.57	0.56	0.61	.06	5
0.02	1.00	0.99	0.56	0.75	0.48	0.52	0.54	0.46	0.59	0.68	0.09	0.19	1.00	0.83	0.29	1	0.53	0.56	0.37	0.48	0.38	0.64	0.48	0.64	0.54	0.42	0.53	.09	6
0.25	1.00	1.00	0.75	0.89	0.48	0.52	0.38	0.62	0.33	0.65	0.43	0.67	0.63	1.00	0.63	1	0.52	0.66	0.45	0.76	0.52	0.79	0.63	0.81	0.59	0.60	0.66	.04	3
0.29	1.00	1.00	0.70	0.85	0.48	0.52	0.34	0.66	0.31	0.64	0.25	0.45	0.63	1.00	0.66	1	0.49	0.66	0.36	0.66	0.49	0.76	0.59	0.83	0.57	0.51	0.63	.05	4
1.00	1.00	1.00	0.69	0.85	0.49	0.51	0.38	0.62	0.39	0.66	0.28	0.50	0.63	0.83	1.00	1	0.50	0.65	0.41	0.65	0.59	0.75	0.66	1.00	0.58	0.53	0.67	.02	1
0.04	1.00	1.00	0.68	0.85	0.47	0.53	0.39	0.61	0.44	0.67	0.17	0.38	0.63	1.00	0.34	1	0.50	0.65	0.36	0.63	0.40	0.74	0.52	0.67	0.57	0.50	0.58	.10	8
1.00	1.00	0.98	0.71	0.85	0.49	0.51	0.31	0.69	0.42	0.63	0.19	0.36	0.40	1.00	0.99	1	0.48	0.67	0.32	0.61	0.53	0.74	0.62	1.00	0.57	0.46	0.64	.04	2
0.04	1.00	1.00	0.71	0.86	0.48	0.52	0.52	0.48	0.37	0.66	0.19	0.38	0.52	0.83	0.33	1	0.56	0.60	0.33	0.59	0.39	0.71	0.51	0.66	0.58	0.46	0.56	.10	7

A2.3 Multidimensional Poverty Index 2013-14

Block Name	Health			Education		Living Standards				
	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive
	IMR	High order birth rate	Malnourshied Children	Drop out in primary	Drop out secondary	Access to cooking fuel	Access to toilet facilities	Access to drinking water	Access to Electricity	Pucca house
	2014	2014	2014	2013-14	2013-14	2011	2013-14	2013-14	2011	2013-14
Aundipatti	29.4	11.4	14.00	1.46	5.7	26.0	49.00	98	100.00	49
K.Myladumparai	24.9	8.1	12.00	1.24	4.1	26.0	55.00	91	70.76	55
Theni	9.3	4.5	9.00	0.99	5.2	55.0	71.00	100	94.33	71
Periyakulam	20.9	8.1	8.00	1.05	5.3	47.0	57.00	98	91.75	57
Bodinayakkanur	12.1	4.6	11.00	0.98	3.5	47.0	59.00	100	90.91	59
Chinnamanur	16.6	4.7	9.00	1.45	6.5	41.0	61.00	100	91.50	61
Uthamapalayam	19.9	5.1	13.00	1.32	3.3	38.0	83.00	100	89.75	83
Cumbum	12.8	3.1	24.00	0.72	7.4	47.0	65.00	100	91.51	65

Multidimensional Poverty Index 2013-14   Continuation......

| Negative | Negative | Negative | Negative | Negative | Positive | Positive | Positive | Positive | Positive | | |
| Health | | | Education | | Living Standards | | | | | | |
IMR	HOB	Malnourshied Children	Drop out in primary	Drop out in secondary	Access to cooking fuel	Access to toilet facilities	Access to drinking water	Access to Electricity	Pucca house	Overall index	RANK
0.00	0.00	0.63	0.00	0.41	0.59	0.00	0.00	0.78	1.00	0.66	7
0.22	0.40	0.75	0.30	0.80	0.20	0.00	0.18	0.00	0.00	0.72	8
1.00	0.83	0.94	0.64	0.54	0.46	1.00	0.65	1.00	0.81	0.21	1
0.42	0.40	1.00	0.55	0.51	0.49	0.72	0.24	0.78	0.72	0.42	6
0.86	0.82	0.81	0.65	0.95	0.05	0.72	0.29	1.00	0.69	0.32	2
0.64	0.81	0.94	0.01	0.22	0.78	0.52	0.35	1.00	0.71	0.40	5
0.47	0.76	0.69	0.19	1.00	0.00	0.41	1.00	1.00	0.65	0.38	4
0.83	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.72	0.47	1.00	0.71	0.33	3

A2.4 Child Development Index 2013-14

Block name	Indicator for child development rate								Indices								Overall index	Rank
	Health		Nutrition	Education					Health		Nutrition	Education						
	Juvenile sex ratio	U5MR	Percentage of Malnourished Children	Enrollment in Primary	Enrollment in Secondary	Children Never enrolled in schools	Transition rate from primary to upper primary	Transition rate from upper primary to secoday	U5MR	Juvenile sex ratio	Percentage of Malnourished Children	Enrollment in Primary	Enrollment in Secondary	Children Never enrolled in schools	Transition rate from primary to upper primary	Transition rate from upper primary to secondary		
	2011	2014	2014	2013-14	2013-14	2013-14	2013-14	2013-14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Aundipatti	925	6.5	14.00	101.53	107.30	0.00	98.59	98.63	0.000	0.407	0.625	0.433	0.756	0.000	0.521	0.274	0.377	7
K.Myladumparai	930	5.5	12.00	100.30	100.50	0.00	97.98	98.38	0.238	0.492	0.750	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.103	0.198	8
Theni	939	2.3	9.00	103.09	106.70	0.00	98.52	98.23	1.000	0.644	0.938	0.982	0.689	0.000	0.462	0.000	0.589	3
Periyakulam	932	4.5	8.00	102.38	102.30	0.00	99.15	98.87	0.476	0.525	1.000	0.732	0.200	0.000	1.000	0.438	0.547	4
Bodinayakanur	946	2.4	11.00	101.78	107.60	0.00	98.68	99.1	0.976	0.763	0.813	0.521	0.789	0.000	0.598	0.596	0.632	2
Chinnamanur	901	3.3	9.00	100.75	106.80	0.00	98.50	98.98	0.762	0.000	0.938	0.158	0.700	0.000	0.444	0.514	0.439	6
Uthamapalayam	960	4.3	13.00	103.14	109.50	0.00	98.82	98.78	0.524	1.000	0.688	1.000	1.000	0.000	0.718	0.377	0.663	1
Cumbum	935	2.8	24.00	102.19	101.80	0.00	98.91	99.69	0.881	0.576	0.000	0.665	0.144	0.000	0.795	1.000	0.508	5

A 3. Chapter 3 Employment, Income and Poverty

A3.1 Total Workers and Non-Workers 2001-2011

S. No	Block wise / District / State`	Total Workers		Main workers		Marginal Workers		Non-workers	
		2001	2011	2001	2011	2001	2011	2001	2011
1	Aundipatti	48.32	53.09	91.52	84.56	8.48	18.25	51.68	46.91
2	K.Myaladumparai	70.62	56.98	87.06	81.76	12.94	22.31	29.38	43.02
3	Theni	43.65	43.99	88.86	92.15	11.14	8.52	56.35	56.01
4	Periyakulam	42.64	42.84	93.10	91.00	6.90	9.89	57.36	57.16
5	Bodi	48.57	47.56	94.07	90.15	5.93	10.93	51.43	52.44
6	Chinnamanur	44.55	50.14	83.15	91.43	16.85	9.38	55.45	49.86
7	Uthamapalayam	52.86	48.00	93.45	88.65	6.55	12.80	47.14	52.00
8	Cumbum	44.65	46.46	93.63	93.09	6.37	7.42	55.35	53.54
	District	**47.56**	**47.49**	**91.05**	**89.68**	**8.95**	**11.51**	**52.44**	**52.51**

Source: Census 2001 and Census 2011.

A3.2 Child Labors in Theni district during 2001-2011

Sl.No	Category	2001		2011		% of child labour
		Male	Female	Male	Female	
1	Aundipatti					
2	K.Myladumparai					
3	Theni					
4	Periyakulam			Nil		
5	Bodinayakanur					
6	Chinnamanur					
7	Uthamapalayam					
8	Cumbum					

Source: Asst commissioner Labour dept. Theni.

A3.3 Percentage of HH provided employment under MGNREGA, 2011-12

S.No	Blockwise / District / State	Total No. of HH	HH provided jobs under MGNREGA	% of HH provided with jobs
1	Aundipatti	28723	22535	78%
2	K.Myladumparai	21503	14444	67%
3	Periyakulam	20767	13904	67%
4	Theni	15037	10166	68%
5	Bodinayakanur	15358	9313	61%
6	Chinnamanur	12956	7008	54%
7	Uthamapalayam	9551	5183	54%
8	Cumbum	4446	455	10%
	District	**128341**	**83008**	**65%**

Source: PO, DRDA Theni

A3.4 Percentage of HH provided employment under MGNREGA, 2014-15

S.No	Blockwise / District / State	Total No. of HH	HH provided jobs under MGNREGA	HH Provided Jobs	Man Days Generated	Financial Allocation in Lakhs	% of HH provided with jobs
1	Aundipatti	37742	33824	22358	908093	923.06	66
2	K.Myladumparai	26888	23927	15876	816883	990.01	66
3	Periyakulam	32507	21328	12777	605614	603.37	60
4	Theni	25128	14756	10857	525945	599.97	74
5	Bodinayakanur	22771	15379	8394	330123	425.72	55
6	Chinnamanur	13974	10337	6962	276443	298.98	67
7	Uthamapalayam	14452	10375	5053	155013	195.60	49
8	Cumbum	7440	5070	889	28629	39.56	18
	District	**180902**	**134996**	**83166**	**3646743**	**4076.26**	**62**

Source: PO, DRDA Theni

A3.5 Trends in Poverty Level in 2003.

SI.No	Blockwise / District / State	Total Number of HHs	Total No. of BPL HHs	Percentage of BPL Families
1	Aundipatti	35698	10674	29.90
2.	K.Myladumparai	21959	14282	65.04
3.	Theni	22309	6330	28.37
4.	Periyakulam	31023	7161	23.08
5.	Bodinayakanur	18280	8540	46.72
6.	Chinnamanur	15018	4706	31.34
7.	Uthamapalayam	16700	10001	59.89
8.	Cumbum	7751	2073	26.74
.	**District**	**168738**	**63767**	**37.79**

Source: DRDA, Theni

A 4. Chapter 4. Demography Health Nutrition

A4.1 Place of Deliveries in the district during 2012-13

S.No.	Name of the block	Home	Institution Delivery					
			HSC	PHC	GH	PVT	Total	Rate
1	Kadamalaikundu	9	5	642	554	138	1339	99.3
2	Cumbum	3	12	291	891	304	1498	99.8
3	Uthamapalayam	2	3	276	1016	454	1749	99.9
4	Chinnamnaur	7	2	417	695	210	1324	99.5
5	Theni	8	6	353	739	325	1423	99.4
6	Bodinaickanaur	8	16	282	853	413	1564	99.5
7	Aundipatti	9	10	701	983	500	2194	99.6
8	Periyakulam	11	16	685	1554	410	2665	99.6
	RURAL TOTAL	**57**	**70**	**3647**	**7285**	**2754**	**13756**	**99.6**
1	Cumbum	3	0	35	566	260	861	99.7
2	Chinnamnur	0	0	59	464	168	691	100
3	Bodi	4	0	1	495	751	1247	99.7
4	Theni	6	0	350	585	464	1399	99.6
5	Periyakulam	1	0	67	344	261	672	99.9
	URBAN TOTAL	14	0	512	2454	1904	4870	99.7
	GRAND TOTAL	**71**	**70**	**4159**	**9739**	**4658**	**18626**	**99.6**

Source: DD Health Theni

A4.2 Nutrition Programs of Government 2001 - 2011

S.N o	Block wise / District / State	2001			2011		
		No. schools	Total Number of students	No. of students enrolled in NM Programme	No. schools	Total Number of students	No. of students enrolled in NM Programme
1	Aundipatti	108	18221	16291	123	16627	15865
2	K.Myladumparai	60	12545	11387	77	10480	9532
3	Theni	53	14954	8855	54	12059	10256
4	Periyakulam	78	18601	16618	90	12478	11634
5	Bodinayakanur	65	11367	10337	65	10388	9853
6	Chinnamanur	59	11452	9660	57	9415	8942
7	Uthamapalayam	77	15481	12562	80	12127	11686
8	Cumbum	45	6451	5940	53	9468	8756
	Rural	**545**	**109072**	**91650**	**599**	**93042**	**86524**
	Municipalities						
1	Theni	19	10132	7495	19	9680	5436
2	Periyakulam	27	10916	8380	27	9450	7397
3	Bodinayakanur	23	13952	5300	23	10731	5287
4	Chinnamanur	19	6639	3441	19	4393	2985
5	Cumbum	16	9723	5000	16	8115	5017
	Urban	**104**	**51362**	**29616**	**104**	**42369**	**26122**
	District	**649**	**160434**	**121266**	**703**	**135411**	**112646**

Source: PA to collector, Theni

Total Number of students	No. of students enrolled in NM Programme	Rate
16627	15865	95
10480	9532	91
21739	15692	72
21928	19031	87
21119	15140	72
13808	11927	86
12127	11686	96
17583	13773	78
135411	**112646**	**83**

Source: PA to collector, Theni

A4.3 Nutrition Programs of Government 2013-14

S.No	Block wise / District / State	2013 - 14		
		No. schools	Total Number of students	No. of students enrolled in NM Programme
1	Aundipatti	123	17142	13264
2	K.Myladumparai	83	9191	7927
3	Theni	54	8573	5888
4	Periyakulam	89	17352	12904
5	Bodinayakanur	65	9850	7379
6	Chinnamanur	57	8096	5983
7	Uthamapalayam	80	17319	9205
8	Cumbum	52	10778	7301
	Rural			**69851**
	Municipalities			
1	Theni	19	14872	5099
2	Periyakulam	27	7531	5691
3	Bodinayakanur	23	11392	3706
4	Chinnamanur	19	3294	2042
5	Cumbum	16	6491	3793
	Urban			**20331**
	District	**707**	**141881**	**90182**

Source: PA to collector, Theni

S.No	Block wise / District / State	NMP Rate %
1	Aundipatti	**77**
2	K.Myladumparai	**86**
3	Theni	**47**
4	Periyakulam	**75**
5	Bodinayakanur	**52**
6	Chinnamanur	**70**
7	Uthamapalayam	**53**
8	Cumbum	**64**
	District	**64**

Source: PA to collector, Theni

A4.4 ICDS: Angan Wadi Centers with coverage 2014-15

S. No	Blocks	Angan Wadi Centres	Covered Children of 0-5 yrs	SNP Fed ANW	SNP FedPNM	6 months - 12months	13m-24m	25m-36m	37m-60m	5yrs+	Total 6m-5+yrs	Grand Total
1.	Aundipatti	148	11897	936	816	1019	2158	1957	1664	0	6798	8550
2.	Bodinayakanur	113	8307	731	620	697	1434	1361	1121	24	4637	5988
3.	Chinnamanur	108	9792	789	663	700	1626	1463	1132	22	4943	6395
4.	Cumbum	131	13889	937	854	852	2012	2054	1221	19	6158	7949
5.	K.Myladumparai	98	7348	665	554	630	1316	1268	1259	0	4473	5692
6.	Periyakulam	159	14807	1281	1104	1263	2699	2606	2134	0	8702	11087
7.	Theni rural	94	8167	654	569	575	1422	1393	1170	0	4560	5783
8.	Then urban	107	14832	1004	915	1082	2232	2067	598	0	5979	7898
9.	Uthamapalayam	107	10138	816	763	883	1530	1552	774	0	4739	6318
	Total	**1065**	**99177**	**7813**	**6858**	**7701**	**16429**	**15721**	**11073**	**65**	**50989**	**65660**

Source: District Project Officer, ICDS Theni.

A4.5 Table: Immunisation performance 2012

S.N	Name of the Block	Target	O Dose		BCG		DPT & OPV		Measles	
			Ach	%	Ach	%	Ach	%	Ach	%
1	K.Myladumparai	1270	1273	100	1269	100	1234	97	1188	94
2	Cumbum	1590	1467	92	1470	92	1510	95	1475	93
3	Uthamapalayam	1780	1704	96	1701	96	1728	97	1725	97
4	Chinnamanur	1410	1290	91	1296	92	1328	94	1340	95
5	Theni	1480	1378	93	1377	93	1450	98	1366	92
6	Bodinayakkanur	1690	1527	90	1532	91	1530	91	1564	93
7	Andipatty	2210	2120	96	2122	96	2175	98	2099	95
8	Periyakulam	2720	2579	95	2561	94	2732	100	2604	96
	District	**14150**	**13338**	**94**	**13328**	**94**	**13687**	**97**	**13361**	**94**

Source: DD Health, Theni.

A 4.6 Trend in Nutritional Status of Children (0-5 yrs) in 2013 and in 2014

S.No	Name of the Block	Overweight	Normal	SUW	MUW	% of Under Weight (SUW+MUW)	
						2013	2014
1.	Aundipatti	0.00	85.00	0.00	15.00	17.44	14.00
2.	K.Myladumparai	0.00	86.00	0.03	14.00	18.74	12.00
3.	Theni	0.00	92.00	0.05	8.00	13.87	9.00
4.	Periyakulam	0.06	91.00	0.00	8.00	11.09	8.00
5.	Bodinayakanur	0.15	89.00	0.03	10.00	12.20	11.00
6.	Chinnamanur	0.00	90.00	0.10	10.00	9.97	9.00
7.	Uthamapalayam	0.00	79.00	0.03	21.00	21.18	13.00
8.	Cumbum	0.01	72.00	0.03	28.00	29.86	24.00
	District					**16.89**	**13.00**

Source: ICDS Theni.

A4.7 Under 5 MR 2013-14

SNo	Blocks	2013	2014
1.	K. K.Myladumparai	6.7	5.5
2.	Cumbum	2.0	2.8
3.	Uthamapalayam	3.7	4.3
4.	Chinnamanur	3.9	3.3
5.	Theni	2.5	2.3
6.	Bodinayakkanur	3.8	2.4
7.	Andipatty	4.7	6.5
8.	Periyakulam	4.1	4.5
	District	**3.8**	**3.8**

Source: DD Health Theni

A4.8 HIV positive cases during 2007- 2011

S.No	Age group wise	Positive Cases in 2007			Positive Cases in 2011		
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1.	0-14	3	4	7	4	1	5
2.	15-19	2	0	2	1	1	2
3.	20-24	24	56	80	3	10	13
4.	25-29	109	137	246	59	43	103
5.	30-34	0	0	0	67	60	128
6.	35-39	331	224	565	91	53	145
7.	40-49	195	97	292	121	48	169
8.	50 & above	100	28	128	69	30	99
	District	**764**	**546**	**1320**	**415**	**246**	**661**

Source: D.D Health Theni.

A4.9 TB and Leprosy Cases during 2007-2011

S.No	District	Positive TB Cases		Leprosy	
		2007	2011	2010	2011
1.	Aundipatti	536	498	9	5
2.	K.Myladumparai	1	23	5	2
3.	Theni	54	64	15	8
4.	Periyakulam	205	199	9	10
5.	Bodi	93	81	8	2
6.	Chinnamanur	37	51	9	7
7.	Uthamapalayam	48	43	6	15
8.	Cumbum	121	77	6	8
	District	**1095**	**1036**	**67**	**57**

Source: D.D Health Theni.

A4.10 Provision of IFA tablets during 2012-13

S.No	Block wise / District / State	Women		Children		Adolescent Girls	
		Total No.of Women	% or women took IFA tablets	Total No.of Children	% of children took IFA tablets	Total No.of Adolescent Girls	% of adolescent girls took IFA tablets
1.	Kadamalaikundu	1341	94	1298	61	5046	92
2.	Cumbum	2561	93	3225	81	5298	73
3.	Uthamapalayam	1979	99	2719	93	4914	68
4.	Chinnamanur	2285	98	1578	86	5487	102
5.	Theni	2440	76	2234	40	6412	87
6.	Bodinayakanur	1264	92	2431	98	6514	102
7.	Andipatty	2329	94	1988	72	7698	84
8.	Periyakulam	3059	87	4614	85	9214	94
	District	**17258**	**92**	**20087**	**77**	**50583**	**95**

Source: DD Health, Theni. (Including both Rural and Urban)

A 4.11 Access to safe drinking water during 2012-13

Sl.no	Block	Total No. of Habitation	Total number of Habitations with Drinking water	Percentage
1.	Aundipatti	214	193	90
2.	K.Myladumparai	162	119	73
3.	Theni	82	68	83
4.	Periyakulam	143	128	90
5.	Bodi	108	95	88
6.	Chinnamanur	87	69	79
7.	Uthamapalayam	44	35	80
8.	Cumbum	42	37	88
	District	**882**	**744**	**84**

Source: Local bodies Theni

A 5. Chapter 5 Literacy and Education

A5.1 Enrolments in Secondary Education during 2012-13

S.No	Block	GER			NER		
		Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1	Aundipatti	60.3	50.8	111.1	51.9	45.8	97.7
2	Bodinayakanur	61	50.9	111.9	54.3	46.8	101.1
3	Chinnamanur	61.1	51.4	112.5	52.7	45.6	98.3
4	Cumbum	59.2	50.2	109.4	53.5	44.9	98.4
5	K.Myladumparai	59.9	51.2	111.1	52.4	46.3	98.7
6	Periyakulam	61.2	51.6	112.8	54.2	46.2	100.4
7	Theni	60.9	52.9	113.8	53.7	45.6	99.3
8	Uthamapalayam	59.6	51.4	111	52.9	44.8	97.7
	Total	**60.4**	**51.3**	**111.7**	**53.2**	**45.75**	**98.95**

Source: CEO RMSA Theni

A5.2 Enrolments in Secondary Education during 2012-13 (Actual numbers)

Sl. No	Blocks	No of Schools	Male	Female	Total
1	Aundipatti	12	1161	1092	2253
2	Bodinayakanur	6	648	571	1219
3	Chinnamanur	11	449	389	838
4	Cumbum	13	1604	774	2378
5	K.Myladumparai	6	378	333	711
6	Periyakulam	11	1223	1239	2462
7	Theni	10	1463	1122	2585
8	Uttamapalayam	6	577	1033	1610
	District	**75**	**7503**	**6553**	**14056**

Source: CEO RMSA Theni

A5.3 Completion Rate Secondary Level during 2012-13 and 2013-14

S.No	Block	Completion Rate 2012-13			Completion Rate 2013-14		
		Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1	Aundipatti	78.69	87.66	83.18	76.0	88.2	82.1
2	Bodinayakanur	78.08	88.59	83.33	82.2	89.9	86.0
3	Chinnamanur	81.52	88.37	84.94	79.1	87.3	83.2
4	Cumbum	82.78	90.54	86.66	77.4	87.5	82.5
5	K.Myladumparai	76.45	82.63	79.54	85.1	89.4	87.3
6	Periyakulam	75.81	88.93	82.37	66.8	83.4	75.1
7	Theni	85.63	89.28	87.45	83.5	90.6	87.0
8	Uthamapalayam	83.00	90.66	86.83	85.2	93.6	89.4
	Total	**80.96**	**88.90**	**84.93**	**79.4**	**88.7**	**84.1**

Source: CEO RMSA Theni

A5.4 Basic Infrastructure 2011 (Primary to Upper primary (govt.))

SI. N o.	Names of Blocks	Total No.of School s	With 3 class rooms	more than 3 class rooms	with toilet	with girls toilet	with electri city	with drinki ng water	with desk and chair
1	Aundipatti	121	67	54	121	53	121	121	32
2	K.Myladumparai	78	39	39	74	36	74	78	20
3	Theni	42	9	33	42	11	42	42	5
4	Periyakulam	73	31	42	71	24	73	73	8
5	Bodinayakanur	61	32	29	61	17	58	61	4
6	Chinnamanur	60	35	25	61	25	60	60	11
7	Uttamapalayam	37	25	12	37	22	37	37	10
8	Cumbum	49	22	27	47	21	48	49	2
	District	**521**	**260**	**261**	**514**	**209**	**513**	**521**	**92**

Source: CEO SSA Theni

A5.5 Higher Education (colleges and other institutions)2011

S.No	Block wise	Arts – Science		Engineering		Polytechnics		Other Institutions		Total	
		No.of college	No. of Students	No.of college	No. of Students	No.of college	No. of Students	No.of college	No. of Students	No.of college	No. of Students
1	Aundipatti	1	897	1	1593	1	323	9	2096	12	4909
2	K.Myladumparai	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
3	Theni	1	1400	1	1275	1	1030	6	1600	9	5305
4	Periyakulam	5	3929	2	997	2	770	7	916	16	6612
5	Bodinayakanur	2	1400		--	--	--	2	133	4	1533
6	Chinnamanur	1	47	--	--	--	--	1	17	2	64
7	Uthamapalayam	1	2132	--	--	--	--	2	299	3	2431
8	Cumbum	1	1140	--	--	--	--	4	208	5	1348
	District	**12**	**10945**	**4**	**3865**	**4**	**2123**	**31**	**5269**	**51**	**22202**

Source: Statistical Hand book

A5.6 Pupil Teacher Ratios during 2011

SI. No.	Names of the Blocks	Primary School		Upper Primary School	
		2011			
		Pupil Teacher Ratio	Pupil School ratio	Pupil Teacher Ratio	Pupil School ratio
1	Aundipatti	30	89	25	85
2	K.Myladumparai	30	180	25	80
3	Theni	30	311	28	84
4	Periyakulam	30	391	30	92
5	Bodinayakanur	30	150	25	86
6	Chinnamanur	30	192	25	82
7	Uttamapalayam	30	200	25	83
8	Cumbum	30	210	20	80
	District	**30**	**215**	**25**	**84**

Source: CEO (SSA) Theni

A5.7 Technology Initiatives in Education during 2014-15

S.No	Blocks	Desktops				Laptops			Projectors		
		No Of schools	No of desktops	DEE	DSE & Others	SSA	DEE	DSE & Others	SSA	DEE	DSE & others
1.	Aundipatti	40	99	0	0	0	76	3	15	11	20
2.	Bodinayakkanur	34	85	0	0	0	50	7	14	0	7
3.	Chinnamanur	34	77	0	0	0	31	4	9	10	10
4.	Cumbum	31	85	0	0	0	26	6	10	0	5
5.	K.Myladumparai	33	83	0	0	0	61	10	5	17	10
6.	Periyakulam	37	96	0	0	0	49	16	13	0	10
7.	Theni	32	79	0	0	0	47	11	13	10	7
8.	Uthamapalayam	33	92	0	0	0	31	2	16	0	3
	Total	**274**	**696**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**371**	**59**	**95**	**48**	**72**

Source: CEO, SSA, Theni

A5.8 Students can able to read and write – Theni district (I- V) (Primary) 2013

SI. No	Block wise /District	Number of Schools	Number of Schools Estimated	Number of Students Estimated	Fluency in Reading		Fluency in Writing		Students doing Easy Sums in %	Students doing difficult Sums in %
					Tamil/Kannada/Telugu	English	Tamil/Kannada/ Telugu	English		
1.	Aundipatti	111	72	4094	77	47	63	35	72	52
2.	K.Myladumparai	71	18	280	73	27	49	25	67	52
3.	Theni	60	60	8706	61	48	53	40	63	47
4.	Periyakulam	100	97	7401	65	57	59	49	71	58
5.	Bodi	88	88	8437	54	51	49	45	51	42
6.	Chinnamanur	69	69	4834	66	51	53	41	69	52
7.	Utthamapalayam	69	54	3236	69	47	60	40	64	53
8.	Cumbum	59	59	7582	48	38	42	38	55	45
	Total	**627**	**517**	**44570**	**64**	**46**	**54**	**39**	**64**	**50**

Source: CEO (SSA), Theni

A5.9 Students can able to read and write – theni district (VI - VIII) 2013 (upper primary)

Si. No	Block Wise /District	Number Of Schools	Number Of Schools Estimated	Number Of Students Estimated	Fluency In Reading		Fluency In Writing		Students Doing Easy Sums In %	Students Doing Difficult Sums In %
					Tamil/ Kannada/ Telugu	English	Tamil/ Kannada/ Telugu	English		
1.	Aundipatti	47	11	521	59	40	47	23	60	43
2.	K.Myladumparai	28	2	68	63	32	61	25	59	48
3.	Theni	39	35	6153	66	50	62	52	64	50
4.	Periyakulam	56	53	4389	71	58	62	52	71	59
5.	Bodi	45	45	6420	53	52	47	43	54	41
6.	Chinnamanur	34	34	3814	68	55	57	43	65	48
7.	Utthamapalayam	30	11	1785	64	52	62	51	62	53
8.	Cumbum	31	31	5974	46	35	40	35	60	50
	Total	**310**	**222**	**29124**	**61**	**47**	**55**	**41**	**62**	**49**

Source: CEO (SSA), Theni.

A5.10 Availability of Schools 2011

SI. No.	Names of the Blocks	Number of Habitations	Number of Primary Schools	Number of U.Primary/middle Schools
		2011	2011	2011
1	Aundipatti	181	89	22
2	K.Myladumparai	146	58	14
3	Theni	108	37	22
4	Periyakulam	140	65	35
5	Bodinayakanur	129	57	32
6	Chinnamanur	78	49	20
7	Uttamapalayam	91	52	17
8	Cumbum	113	47	13
	District	**986**	**454**	**175**

Source : CEO (SSA) Theni   (Including Both Rural and Urban)

A 5.11 Access to higher secondary schools 2012-13

No	Blocks	Higher Secondary 2012-13			
		No of Schools	Male	Female	Total
1.	Aundipatti	17	5027	4765	9792
2.	Bodinayakanur	10	5650	5686	11336
3.	Chinnamanur	12	3841	4444	8285
4.	Cumbum	17	2892	3144	6036
5.	K.Myladumparai	9	2972	2212	5184
6.	Periyakulam	16	5636	5863	11499
7.	Theni	18	7334	7773	15107
8.	Uttamapalayam	12	7332	5861	13193
	District	**111**	**40684**	**39748**	**80432**

Source: CEO, RMSA, Theni.

A6. Chapter 6 Gender

A6.1 Gender Inequality Index during 2013-14

Blocks	Health Bar	Emp Bar	LF Bar	GFM Bar	GII	Rank
Aundipatti	0.70	0.57	0.56	0.61	0.06	5
K.Myladumparai	0.64	0.54	0.42	0.53	0.09	6
Theni	0.81	0.59	0.60	0.66	0.04	3
Periyakulam	0.83	0.57	0.51	0.63	0.05	4
Bodinayakkanur	1.00	0.58	0.53	0.67	0.02	1
Chinnamanur	0.67	0.57	0.50	0.58	0.10	8
Uthamapalayam	1.00	0.57	0.46	0.64	0.04	2
Cumbum	0.66	0.58	0.46	0.56	0.10	7

Sources: Department of Statistics, Theni

A6.2 Self Help Groups in Theni district 2011

S.No	Blocks	Number of Self help Group	Number of members	credit availed
1	Aundipatti	1952	29280	1710.700
2	K.Myladumparai	819	12285	4084.300
3	Theni	1360	20400	1526.300
4	Periyakulam	3899	58485	2217.000
5	Bodinayakanur	1234	18510	1605.200
6	Chinnamanur	1925	28875	2640.000
7	Uthamapalayam	1644	24660	2025.500
8	Cumbum	1590	23850	2036.000
	District	14423	216345	17845.000

Source: PO Mahalir thittam Theni

A6.3 Gender wise Work Participation Rate during 2011

Sl.No	Name of the Block	Total female population 7+	Female workers	%of Female workers	Total male population 7+	male workers	%of male workers
1	Aundipatti	61868	31915	52	62363	41508	67
2	K.Myladumparai	32423	19128	59	34107	23272	68
3	Theni	90212	29445	33	90316	58519	65
4	Periyakulam	96924	29732	31	98609	63395	64
5	Bodinayakanur	82132	32075	39	81727	53901	66
6	Chinnamanur	57158	25245	44	56787	37871	67
7	Uthamapalayam	58876	24861	42	58794	37086	63
8	Cumbum	82835	30341	37	81107	53348	66
	District	**562428**	**222742**	**40**	**563810**	**368900**	**65**

Source: Census 2011

7. Chapter 7 Social security

A7.1 Marriage assistance scheme 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14

Sl no	Blocks	2011 - 2012			2012 - 2013			2013 - 2014		
		Degree holders	10th & 12th	Amount (Rs)	Degree holders	10th & 12th	Amount (Rs)	Degree holders	10th & 12th	Amount (Rs)
1.	Theni	105	132	8550000	90	115	7375000	173	252	14950000
2.	Bodinayakkanur	153	276	14550000	117	251	12125000	136	287	13975000
3.	Periyakulam	177	345	17475000	137	250	13100000	127	333	14675000
4.	Aundipatti	60	183	7575000	248	254	18750000	103	220	10650000
5.	K.Myladumparai	22	198	6050000	26	218	6750000	34	202	6750000
6.	Chinnamanur	74	224	9300000	76	160	7800000	75	233	9575000
7.	Uthamapalayam	125	275	13125000	164	251	14475000	115	255	12125000
8.	Cumbum	138	313	14725000	184	344	17800000	138	294	14250000
	District	**854**	**1946**	**91350000**	**1042**	**1843**	**98175000**	**901**	**2076**	**96950000**

Source: Social welfare department, Theni.

A7.2 Maternity Assistance scheme

S.NO	Finance Year	Total No of Beneficiaries	Amount Distribution Rs.
1.	2013-2014	10187	12,00,40,000
2.	2014-2015	10930	13,11,68,000

Source: DD Health Theni

8. Chapter 8 Infrastructure

A8.1 Access to LPG 2013 & 2014

SN	Taluks/ Blocks	2013				2014			
		No LPG	1 LPG	2 LPG	Total	No LPG	1 LPG	2 LPG	Total
1.	Theni	25300	16788	17899	59987	26360	16870	17975	61205
2.	Periyakulam	32144	19666	13201	65011	33097	19887	13346	66330
3.	Aundipatti	48098	17116	6933	72147	48902	17229	7362	73493
4.	Uthamapalayam	68882	37407	27247	133536	70020	37682	27292	134994
5.	Bodinayakkanur	28662	17674	10979	57315	29833	17685	11059	58577
	District	**203086**	**108651**	**76259**	**387996**	**208212**	**109353**	**77034**	**394599**

Source: District PDS officer, Theni

A8.2 Access to Roads in 2011   Source: Local bodies Theni

Levels	MUD	WBM	BT	CC	Total
District	370.694	187.856	1121.578	353.340	2033.468
State HW	-	-	808.510	-	808.510
National HW	-	-	74.000	-	74.000
Total	**370.694**	**187.856**	**2004.088**	**353.340**	**2915.978**

TECHNICAL NOTES

Construction of Human Development Index (HDI)

The latest UNDP Report-2010 on HDI continues to adopt the same basic three indicators of education, health and standard of living/income for the calculation of HDI. Simultaneously, an effort was also made to arrive at Gender Inequality Index. To compute HDI, 10 indicators were used covering the area of living standard, education and health. HDI presents information on the human development in three dimensions while GII provides information gender differentials in achievements. The indicators that may be used for deriving HDI at the block level are as follows:

Indicators for measuring HDI:

Dimensions	Indicators	Nature of Indicators
Standard of Living	Access to Cooking Fuel Access to Toilet facilities Access to Drinking water Access to Electricity Access to Pucca housing	Positive
Health	Infant Mortality Rate Maternal Mortality Rate U5 Mortality Rate	Negative
Education	Literacy Rate Gross Enrolment in Primary Gross Enrolment in Secondary	Positive

There are three indicators for measuring health, three for education and five for standard of living. All these indicators reflect human development.

Method of Estimating HDI

For the estimation of the HDI, the following steps may be followed:

1. All computations would be done at two stages. The first computation would help in understanding the relative positions of different blocks within the district. The second set of computation would relate to the position of a block with reference to other blocks.

As a first step, a minimum and maximum value has to be set for each of the above 11 indicators to transform them into indices lying between zero and one. For this purpose, the observed minimum and maximum figures for each of the indicators will be taken. Since the Geometric Mean has to be calculated, in the case of a positive indicator, the minimum value would be taken as 10 per cent less than the observed minimum value in the block similarly, in the

case of a negative indicator, the maximum value would be taken as 10 per cent more than the observed maximum value.

2. The index value (in the case of a positive indicator) can be calculated using the formula – Index Value = (Actual Value – Min. Value) / (Maximum Value – Minimum Value) Eg: calculations will be based on highest values being assigned highest ranking.

3. The index value (in the case of a negative indicator) can be calculated by using the formula – Index Value = (Max. Value – Actual Value) / (Maximum Value – Minimum Value).

4. For Computing sect oral indices (health, education and standard of living) geometric mean is to be used and the method of calculation is as below. Thus there will be three indices one for Standard of living, another for health and the last for education.

Sect oral Index = If I_1 . I_2 ….. I_n are the n indices for a particular sector, then the Geometric mean for the sector = $(I_1 \times . I_2 \times ….. I_n)(1/n)$.

5. To compute HDI, aggregate the three sect oral indices using geometric mean with the following formula.

HDI= $(SI_l \times SI_h \times SI_e)(1/3)$; where SI_l is the sect oral index for living standard, SI_h is the sect oral index for health and SI_e is the sect oral index for education.

Illustration for calculating HDI

Note: The observed minimum and maximum figures for the block should be taken into account. The minimum figure for calculation should be taken as 10 per cent less than the observed minimum figure for all the blocks.

Construction of Gender Inequality Index (GII)

GII measures the loss in potential of human development due to inequality between female and male achievements. As it reflects an inequality situation, a value of zero represents no inequality and a value of one represents highest level of inequality in the society. The UNDP report of 2010 has brought out the GII index for all the countries. For measuring GII, three dimensions are considered by the report. They are:

          1. Reproductive Health

          2. Empowerment

          3. Labor market

Indicators considered for measuring GII:

Dimensions	Indicators	Nature of Indicators
Empowerment	Female Literacy Male Literacy Share of female children 0-6 years Share of male children 0-6 years Share of female elected representatives in RLBs and ULBs Share of male elected representatives in RLBs and ULBs	Positive
Health	MMR Share of Institutional delivery Share of Ante natal coverage	Negative Positive Negative
Labor Market	Female work participation rate Male work participation rate Female work participation rate in non agri sector Male work participation rate in non agri sector Female Agri wage rate Male Agri wage rate	Positive

Method

1. Aggregating across dimensions within each gender group using geometric mean.

2. Aggregating across gender group using a Harmonic mean.

3. Calculate the geometric mean of the Arithmetic means of the each indicator

4. Calculating the GII by comparing the equally distributed gender index to the reference standard.

The GII value ranges from zero (no gender inequality across dimensions) to one (total inequality across dimensions).

Other Issues of importance

Another important issue that needs to be addressed in the section relates to the crimes against women that are reported in the districts. This may relate to issues related to dowry harassment, domestic violence, girl child marriage and other forms of crimes against women including harassment at workplace that are reported within the district.

Construction of Child Development Index (CDI)

Child Development Index (CDI) is an index combining performance measures specific to children - education, health and nutrition - to produce a score on a scale of 0 to 100. A zero score would be the best. The higher the score, the worse children are faring.

The Child Development Index (CDI) was developed by the campaign in UK, "Save the Children" in 2008 through the contributions of Terry McKinley, Director of the Centre for

Development Policy and Research at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, with support from Katerina Kyrili.

The indicators which make up the index are chosen because they are easily available, commonly understood, and clearly indicative of child well-being. At the international level, the three indicators used for measuring child development index are:

- Health: the under-five mortality rate (the probability of dying between birth and five years of age, expressed as a percentage on a scale of 0 to 340 deaths per 1,000 live births). This means that a zero score in this component equals an under five mortality rate of 0 deaths per 1,000 live births, and a score of 100 equals our upper bound of 340 deaths per 1,000 live births. The upper bound is higher than any country has ever reached; Niger came the closest in the 1990s with 320 under-five deaths per 1,000 live births.

- Nutrition: the percentage of under fives who are moderately or severely underweight. The common definition of moderately or severely underweight, which we use here, is being below two standard deviations of the median weight for age of the reference population.

- Education: the percentage of primary school-age children who are not enrolled in school. For our measure of education deprivation, we use the opposite of the Net Primary Enrolment rate, i.e., 100 – the NER. This gives us the percentage of primary school-age children who are not enrolled.

Indicators for Child Development

In the preparation of District Human Development report, the following indicators would be used to measure the CDI:

Dimensions	Indicators	Nature of Indicators
Health	1. Under 5 Mortality Rate 2. Juvenile Ses ratio	Negative Positive
Nutrition	Percentage of Malnourished children	Negative
Education	Enrolment in Primary schools Enrolment in Secondary schools Children never enroled in schools Transition rate from primary to upper primary , Transition rate from upper primary to secondary	Positive Positive Negative Negative Negative

Computation of Child Development Index

- The indicators have been broadly categorised under the 3 parameters that influence the HDI.

- All the above indicators are negative and positive in nature.

- The index values for each of the indicators can be calculated by using the following formulas as explained earlier Index Value = (Max. Value – Actual Value) / (Maximum Value – Minimum Value)

- The index values for each of the indicators would range between 0 and 1 - 0 indicating the lowest ranking for the blocks and 1 indicating highest ranking of the block

- The Child Development Index would be the average of the index values of the three indicators – with highest value indicating better child development.

- The composite index is the average of the consolidated index values of all sectors and this is to be used to assign the ranks for the blocks within the district.

Multidimensional Poverty Index

In the preparation of District Human Development report, the following indicators would be used to measure the MDPI:

Dimensions	Indicators	Nature of Indicators
Health	IMR High Order Birth Rate Percentage of Malnourished Children	Negative
Education	Drop out in Primary Drop out in Secondary	Negative
Standard of Living	Access to Cooking Fuel Access to Toilet facilities Access to Drinking water Access to Electricity Access to Pucca housing	Positive

Computation of Multidimensional Poverty Index

- The indicators have been broadly categorized under the 3 parameters Health, Education and Standard of Living.

- The data collected for the above indicators has to be used for calculating the index values. This would help in making the values unit-less and would allow summation of the index values of all the indicators.

- The index values have to be calculated for each of the indicators after identifying whether the indicators are positive or negative. This is done to make the index values unidirectional.

- The index value (in the case of a positive indicator) can be calculated using the formula – Index Value = (Actual Value – Min. Value) / (Maximum Value – Minimum Value)

- E.g: calculations will be based on highest values being assigned highest ranking

- The index value (in the case of a negative indicator) can be calculated by using the formula – Index Value = (Max. Value – Actual Value) / (Maximum Value – Minimum Value)

- The index values for each of the indicators would range between 0 and 1 - 0 indicating the lowest ranking for the block and 1 indicating highest ranking of the block

- The consolidated index for each of the parameters/sectors/dimensions will be the average index value of all the indicators. The composite index is the average of the indicators of all the three parameters – Health, Education and Standard of Living - this will be used to assign the ranks for the blocks within the district.

Ways and Means of the Analysis of Socio-economic Data

Our DHDRs contain a mine of data. However, data by themselves cannot and do not say anything about the development issues. We have to make a deliberate attempt to analyse them, unravel them,and classify them in order to derive relevant and meaningful inferences and conclusions. In this note,an attempt is made to give some idea about the ways and means of analyzing the various issues relating to various development indicators. If data constitute the body of the report, the analyses of socio-economic changes in the district indicated by the data constitute the soul of the reports. So, equal importance is to be given to data and the analysis.

Calculation of Trend Rate

In order to understand the development issues in the district, we have to take into account the changes taking place in the given indicator over a period of time. The determination of the mere status at a point of time will not help in finding the causal factors of the socio-economic changes taking place in the district. For ex: if we are interested in knowing the problem of children dropping out of school stream, we have to take into account the data of school enrolment as well as children. Dropping out of school over a period of 10 or 20 years. The growth rate of enrolment and the children dropping out of school for two periods of time, say 1991 to 2001 and 2001 to 2011 will go a long way in providing some ideas and clues to understand the performance of the district in the field of primary education.

So, it is necessary to go for calculation of growth trends for each and every indicator such as population, 10 th and 12 th standard results, pupil-teacher ratios, the proportion of female teachers in primary schools and high schools, expectation of life at birth, district domestic

product, per capita income etc. We have to keep in mind, while calculating the trend rates, that the rates have to be calculated gender-wise, social groups-wise and rural-urban divide-wise.

The relationship among indicators

The development indicators generally do have some kind of relation with one another. For the derivation of inferences, we have to try to establish and understand the kind of relationship among the indicators. For a given change, there can be any number of causal factors. The relationship between indicators is multi-dimensional and not one-dimensional. For example, let us assume that the performance of students in SSLC examination in a particular district over a period of time is on the lower side. What could be the reason for this lower performance? It is common practice to blame the teachers for the low performance of students in 10 th and 12 th standard examinations. This could be one of the reasons. We have to take into account various other factors such as attendance rate, health (nutrition) conditions of children, education level of parents, particularly of mothers, time available for children to study in the home, the general educational environment in the village/town etc. We have studies which have established functional relationship between the female literacy rate on the one hand and on the other IMR/U5MR/MMR. It is also revealed that there is a close relationship between gender inequality and higher proportion of girls marring before reaching 18 years of age. The relation among these factors have to be analyzed and based on this, inferences have to be derived. The analysis is to be multi-dimensional. The analysis has to be gender sensitive and it has to take into account the existence of various social-groups.

Derivation of inferences and conclusions

The chief objective of DHDRs, among other things, is to provide guidelines to people's representatives and development administrators at the district level for preparation of the district development plans. The DHDRs have a lot of development policy implications. We have to keep these factors in view while deriving inferences and conclusions relating to socio-economic changes in the districts. We have to give list of so derived inferences and conclusions of each dimension at the end of the concerned chapter. It is also necessary to give an integrated account of the inferences and conclusions at the end of the report. This constitutes the basis for the formulation of the way forward for the district.

Gender sensitivity and Social group-wise analysis

It is needless to say that human development paradigm is gender sensitive and it is very much conscious of the existence of various social groups in the society. But, the analysis in the report

must be such that the gender perspective has to run through all the chapters. Similarly, social-group wise analysis must be done for each dimension of HDI. At the same time, the report must focus on multiple nature of inequality in the district. The inequality analysis need not confine to gender inequality, class inequality, caste inequality etc. It can be extended to intra-district development disparity, inter-generational inequality, intra-household inequality (food distribution between men and women in the family), inequality in terms of dignity of life, participation in social activities etc.

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ART Anti-Retro Viral Treatment

ATM Automatic Teller Machine

BMO Block Medical Officer

BPL Below Poverty Line

BSNL Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited

CBR Crude Birth Rate

CDI Child Development Index

CDR Crude Death Rate

CEO Chief Educational Officer

CHN Community Health Nurse

DRDA District Rural Development Agency

DWP Destitute Widows Pension

FY Financial Year (April to March)

GDDP Gross District Domestic Product

GDP Gross Domestic Product

GII Gender Inequality Index

GSDP Gross State Domestic Product

ha Hectare

HDI Human Development Index

HDR Human Development Report

HHs Households

HOB High Order Birth Rate

HSC Health Sub Centre

HUD Health Unit District

ICDS Integrated Child development Service Scheme

ICT Information and Communication Technology

IDU Injecting Drug User

IEC Information, Education and Communication

IEC Information ,Education and Communication

IFA Iron Folic Acid

IHDS India Human Development Survey

IMR Infant Mortality Rate

IRDP Integrated Rural Development Programme

ITES Information Technology Enabled Services

Km Kilometer

LBW Low Birth Weight

LEB Life Expectancy at Birth

LIC Life Insurance Corporation of India

LNG Liquefied Natural Gas

MDG Millennium Development Goals

MDPI Multi Dimensional Poverty Index

MGNREGS Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme

MMR Maternal Mortality Rate

MSME Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

MUW Moderately Under Weight

NABARD National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development

NCAER National Council of Applied Economic Research

NDDP Net District Domestic Product

NGO Non Government Organization

NHDR National Human Development Report

NLC Neyveli Lignite Corporation

NLEP National Leprosy Eradication Programme

NMP Nutritious Meal Programme

NRLM National Rural Livelihood Mission

OAP Old Age Pension

PCI Per Capita Income

PCO Public Call Office

PDS Public Distribution System

PHC Primary Health Centre

PHP Physically Handicapped Person

PPP Public Private Partnership

PPP$ Purchasing Power Parity Dollars

RIDF Rural Infrastructure Development Fund

RMSA RashtriyaMadhyamikShikshaAbhiyan

SBR Still Birth Rate

SC &ST Scheduled Caste & Scheduled Tribe

SHDRs State Level Human Development Reports

SHG Self Help Group

SIDCO Small Industries Development Corporation

SIPCOT State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu

SMS Short Message Service

SRI System of Rice Intensification

SSA SarvaShikshaAbhiyan

SUW Severely Under Weight

TB Tuberculosis

THAI Tamil Nadu Village Habitations Improvement scheme

TNAHCP Tamil Nadu Area Health Care Project

TNCDW Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women

TNEB Tamil Nadu Electricity Board

TRF Total Fertility Rate

TSC Total Sanitation Campaign

U5MR Under 5 Mortality Rate

UN United Nation

UNDP United Nations Development Programme

US$ United States Dollar

VES Vital Event Survey

VHN Village Health Nurse

VHS Voluntary Health Service

WPR Work Participation Rate

REFERENCES

Theni District -Chief Educational Office – RMSA

Theni District - Additional Chief Educational Office - SSA

Theni District - Superintendent Office- DCRB

Theni District – District Rural Development Agency (DRDA)

Theni District -Social Welfare Office

Theni District - Employment Office

Theni District- Joint Registrar – Co operatives

Theni District – Public Distribution Officer

Theni District – Assistant Commissioner – Labor Welfare Department

Theni District- Project Director- Integrated Child Development Scheme

Theni District – Block Development Officer -   Theni block

Theni District – Block Development Officer -   K.Myladumparai block

Theni District – Block Development Officer -   Chinnamanur block

Theni District – Block Development Officer -   Uthamapalayam block

Theni District – Block Development Officer -   Cumbum block

Theni District – Block Development Officer -   Periyakulam block

Theni District – Block Development Officer -   Bodinayakkanur block

Theni District – Block Development Officer - Aundipatti block

Theni District –   Commissioner - Theni- Allinagaram Municipality

Theni District – Commissioner – Periyakulam Municipality

Theni District – Commissioner – Bodinayakkanur Municipality

Theni District – Commissioner – Chinnamanur Municipality

Theni District – Commissioner – Cumbum Municipality

Theni District – Commissioner – Goodalur Municipality

Theni District- Assistant Director- Town Panchayats – Boodhipuram

Theni District – Adidravidar Welfare Office

Theni District- Backward Caste Welfare Office

Theni District- Project Director- Mahalir Thittam

District Employment Office- Madurai District

Theni District – Special Sub Collector

Theni District- Differently Abled People Welfare Office

Theni District- Superintendant- Tamilnadu Electricity Board

Executive Engineer- BSNL – Theni District

Manager – LIC of India – Theni District

Manager – New India Insurance, Theni District

Manager- Oriental Insurance- Theni District

Manager- United India Insurance- Theni District

Manager- State Bank of India – Theni District

Lead Band Manager- Canara Bank – Theni District

Theni District- Joint Director- Agriculture

Theni District- Deputy Director- Horticulture

Branch Manager – Tamilnadu State Transport Corporation Madurai - Dindigul Region - Theni Division

Executive Engineer- Public Works Department – Highways

Executive Engineer – Highways

Tamilnadu Water and Supply Board – Theni District

Theni District- District Supply Officer

Theni District- District General Manager – Puthu Valvu Thittam

Joint Director- Health Department- Theni District