

3. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN TAMILNADU

Tamilnadu, being a State of the Indian Union, it becomes important to situate the successes and failures of Tamilnadu's public policy in the field of social development, in the wider context of the Indian union.

The Indian Scene

As per the Human Development Report 2000 of UNDP, India holds the dismally low 128th rank (out of the 174 countries analysed) in the field of social / human development. And, only in 1999, India has moved from being a "low human development" country to the lowest ranks of "medium human development" countries. Even the minimal climbing in the recent past has been more due to an improved per capita income, rather than any significant increase in its literacy rate or a decent standard of living.

Its daily per capita supply of 2496 calories (in 1997), its life expectancy at birth of 62.6 years (in 1997), its adult literacy rate of 55.7% (in 1998), its real GNP per capita of US\$ 444 (in 1998), its combined first-, second- and third-level gross enrolment ratio of 55% (in 1995), its infant mortality rate of 69 per 1000 live births (in 1998) and under-5 mortality rate of 105 per 1000 live births (in 1998), its 33% infants with low birth-weight (in 1997) ... all these show that India has indeed a long way to go before ensuring decent human development for all its citizens.

In terms of the Gender-related Development Index (GDI), India held, again, a lowly 108th rank out of 174 countries (in 1998), showing how far women in India lag behind men in social / human development.

And India has very low levels of public expenditure on health (0.6% of GDP in 1998) and on education (3.2% of GNP in 1997 and 11.6% of total government expenditure in 1995-97).

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Social Watch Report 2000

assesses the progress of Social Development in India as follows:

- Basic Education: **Critical Situation**
- Children's Health: **Below Average**
- Food Security and Infant Nutrition: **Below Average**
- Reproductive Health: **Below Average**
- Life Expectancy: **Above Average**
- Safe Water and Sanitation: **No data**
- Reduction in Military Expenditure: **Critical Situation**
- Female Literacy: **Below Average**

Tamilnadu vis-à-vis India

Tamilnadu, home to one of the most ancient civilizations of the world, was born as a State of the Indian union on 1 November 1956. It was then called Madras State and later in 1969, was renamed as Tamilnadu.

Occupying just 4% of India's geographical area and possessing only 3% of the water resources of India, Tamilnadu, as per the 1991 Census, accounted for 6.59% of the Indian population. With a population of 55.64 million, Tamilnadu, in 1991, was the 7th most populous State in the Country. The population density of Tamilnadu (428 per sq.kms) is much above the national average of 267 per sq.kms.

Economic Development

Over the 37 years 1960-61 to 1997-98, the compound growth rate of State Domestic Product (SDP) per annum of Tamilnadu was 4.0%, behind Haryana (5.1%), Punjab (4.9%), Maharashtra (4.7%) Rajasthan (4.5%), Karnataka (4.4%), Gujarat (4.3%) and Andhra Pradesh (4.2%) .

Over the years 1960-61 to 1990-91 (the pre-reforms period), Tamilnadu had a compound growth rate of 3.6% behind Haryana (5.4%), Punjab (5%), Rajasthan (4.7%) Maharashtra (4.3%) Karnataka (4.1%), Andhra Pradesh (3.7%) Assam (3.7%) and on a par with Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat (3.6%).

Over the post-reform years 1990-91 to 1997-98, Tamilnadu had a compound growth rate of 5.5%, behind Gujarat (7.6%), Maharashtra (6.5%) West Bengal (6.5%) Andhra Pradesh (6.1%) Karnataka (5.8%) Kerala (5.6%). Over the same period, Tamilnadu had an average annual growth rate of 6.08% behind Gujarat (8.2%) Maharashtra (7.35%) and Karnataka (7.16%).

The Net State Domestic Product (NSDP) of Tamilnadu at constant prices was Rs. 16,984 crores in 1996-97.

DISTRICTS IN TAMILNADU

Districts(1991)		Districts(2000)	
01	Chengalpattu-MGR	01	Kancheepuram
		02	Thiruvallur
02	Chidambaranar	03	Thoothukudi
03	Coimbatore	04	Coimbatore
04	Dharmapuri	05	Dharmapuri
05	Dindigul Anna	06	Dindigul
06	Kamarajar	07	Virudhunagar
07	Kanniyakumari	08	Kanniyakumari
08	Madras	09	Chennai
09	Madurai	10	Madurai
		11	Theni
10	Niligiris	12	Niligiris
11	North Arcot Ambedkar	13	Vellore
12	Pasumpon Muthuramalinga thevar	14	Sivagangai
13	Periyar	15	Erode
14	Pudukkottai	16	Pudukkottai
15	Ramanathapuram	17	Ramanathapuram
16	Salem	18	Salem
		19	Namakkal
17	South Arcot	20	Cuddalore
		21	Villupuram
18	Thanjavur	22	Thanjavur
		23	Nagapattinam
		24	Thiruvarur
19	Thiruvannamalai Sambuvarayar	25	Thiruvannamalai
20	Tiruchirapalli	26	Tiruchirapalli
		27	Karur
		28	Perambalur
21	Tirunelveli Kattabomman	29	Tirunelveli

As per the economic development index, Tamilnadu, in the 1970's, held the 4th rank among the 15 major States. In the 1980's, it slipped to 6th rank and was a "marginally backward State". And in the early 1990's, it had regained its 4th rank and had become a "medium developed State"

Recently, Tamilnadu has claimed to have captured the top position in the country in attracting fresh industrial investments. Over the last 4 years, TN seems to have attracted as much as 22.31% of the total industrial investment in the country, which is about 2,29,721 crores, since May 1996.

Particularly Tamilnadu has been at the crest of the recent cyber wave sweeping the nation. Software exports from Tamilnadu had gone up from Rs. 37 crores in 1995-96 to Rs. 1,800 crores in 1999-2000. The State boasts of over 22,000 software professionals and annually turning out over 13,000 software engineers.

There have been many efforts to grade the various States of India vis-à-vis their levels of development and economic growth. For instance, recently, a **composite development index**, using 16 development indicators, has been devised to rank the States (Rf Rajkishor Meher, 1999).

The 16 indicators (Development Index) are:

1. per capita production of foodgrains
2. %age of net irrigated area to net area sown
3. average yield of foodgrains per hectare
4. factory workers per 1000 population
5. gross industrial output per capita
6. industrial value added per capita
7. %age of urban population
8. %age of literate population
9. %age of villages having electricity connection
10. surfaced road length per lakh population
11. surfaced road length per 100 sq.km. of land area
12. population per bank branch
13. per capita mobilisation of deposits by scheduled banks
14. per capita advancement of credit by scheduled banks
15. %age of non-poor population
16. average life-expectancy rate of people

As per the above index (using the deprivation method), Tamilnadu, in the 1970's, held the 4th rank among 15 major States, behind Punjab, Maharashtra and Kerala. In the 1980's, it slipped to 6th rank, being overtaken by Haryana and Gujarat and was a "marginally backward" State. And in the early 1990's, it had regained its 4th rank, behind Punjab, Haryana and Maharashtra and had become a "medium developed State"

As per the **composite index of infrastructure development** constructed by Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy, Tamilnadu was the 3rd best in the country, with an index of 144.0, behind Punjab (191.4) and Kerala (157.1).

Social Development

Tamilnadu is generally regarded as “a socially above-average State of the Indian Union”. And the Tamilnadu Government has always been proud of its “impressive performance” in the field of social sector vis-à-vis other States in India.

Tamilnadu does have an above-average performance in many of the major sectors of economic and social development. Tamilnadu can indeed take legitimate pride in its various successes. Among the 15 major States of India, Tamilnadu holds impressive ranks, in general literacy rates, sex ratio, birth rates, infant mortality rates etc.

There have been many efforts to compute human development indices for the major States of India, in line with the approach of UNDP. In the various indices devised, Tamilnadu ranks 5th or 6th among the major States of India.

Given the fact that India as a whole has just recently moved from low to medium category of countries, in terms of the human development index, only 4 States of India (Kerala, Punjab, Maharashtra and Haryana) find themselves in the medium HDI category. Tamilnadu finds itself either in the low or medium HDI category, depending on the index.

In terms of the Quality of Life Index, Tamilnadu was assessed to be the 4th among 15 major States of India in 1989.

But it's very striking that in terms of an index, which is in the nature of a rural index, Tamilnadu held a lowly 11th rank, lower than even low income States such as Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Orissa.

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TAMILNADU SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT – AT A GLANCE

- Population (1991).....55, 858,946
(Projected Population (2001)).....62,252,000
- Population density (1991).....429 per sq.km
- Life Expectancy (1991)..... 62.4 years

- Sex Ratio (1991).....974 females per 1000 males
- Urban Population (1991)..... 34.2%
- Dalit Population (1991).....19.2%
- Tribal Population (1991)..... 1.03%

Tamilnadu has
6.59% of India's population
4.00% of India's geographical area
3.00% of India's water resources

- Per Capita cultivable land..... 0.22 hectare
- Forest Cover..... 17.50% of total area
(vs the 33% minimal norm)

Primary Sector contributes
to 21.80% of State income and 61.80% of employment

Secondary Sector contributes
to 30.70% of State income and 16.20% of employment

Tertiary Sector contributes
to 47.50% of State income and 22.00% of employment

- Rural Urban per capita income ratio.... 1:6
- 41.80% of rural people and 31.87% of urban people, poor

Literacy Rates

- General..... 62.66%
- Rural literacy..... 54.59%
- Female literacy 51.33%
- Rural women..... 41.84%
- Dalits..... 39.47%
- Dalit women..... 29.50%
- Tribals..... 23.35%
- Tribal women..... 16.94%

School Drop out Rates.....

- Upto primary school..... 14.41%
- Upto Middle school..... 35.43%
- Upto High School..... 57.92%
- Upto Higher Secondary..... 82.27%

Total Educational outlay of Govt.....3.8% of SNDP
Public outlay for primary education.....1.9% of SNDP

- Crude Birth Rate19.0 per 1000
 - Crude Death rate 8.0 per 1000
 - Infant mortality Rate 53.0 per 1000
- Public Allocation for Health Care.....1.5% of total budget

- Only 15.6% of Tamilnadu households enjoy all the three basic needs of electricity, drinking water and sanitation (compared to 16.10% in India)
- In 50% of Tamilnadu urban bodies, water supply is well below national norms
- Only 23.13% of Tamilnadu households have toilet facilities
- Only 7.1% of Tamilnadu rural households have toilet facilities
- 19902 out of 26,100 primary and middle schools do not have toilet facilities

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