

Highlights of Tamil Nadu HDR (2003)

Achievements

- Tamil Nadu is among the most industrialised States and ranks next to Maharashtra in terms of the contribution made by the manufacturing sector to Net State Domestic Product (NSDP).
- The State's NSDP growth rate was 6.3 per cent per annum during the 1990s, ahead of the NSDP growth rate of 5.99 per cent of the 15 major States.
- Poverty levels have declined from 45.80 per cent in 1987-88 to 21.12 per cent in 1999-2000. Poverty rates declined from 32.38 per cent to 20.55 per cent in rural areas and from about 39.77 per cent to 22.11 per cent in urban areas making the two levels of poverty almost equal.
- In 2001 HDI value for Tamil Nadu was 0.657 as compared to 0.571 for India as a whole.
- Literacy rate has been increasing progressively, especially female literacy rates, increasing from 51.33 per cent in 1991 to 64.55 per cent in 2001. The ratio of male literacy to female literacy also came down from 1.4 in 1991 to 1.27 in 2001.
- First State to make computer education available in all government higher secondary school level. It manages to sustain its good performance in education due to the existing levels of infrastructure as also the strong presence of the private sector.
- Life expectancy at birth (LEB) has improved over the past three decades, while the total fertility rate has shown sharp declining trend moving from 3.9 in 1971 to 2.0 in 1997 as per the SRS. In all districts female LEB exceeded male LEB and in 10 of the 29 districts female LEB exceeded 70 yrs.
- The Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) has reduced from 113 in 1971 to 48.2 in 1998-9. Since 1970, Tamil Nadu IMR has declined much more rapidly than India's.
- There has been an improvement in the sex ratio in some of the districts prone to female infanticide.
- The gender related development index for Tamil Nadu is higher (0.654) than that for all-India (0.560).
- Total female workers increased from 31.4 per cent in 1981 to 34.7 per cent in 1991.
- By March 2003, nearly 1,26,100 exclusively women's Self Help Groups (SHGs) in operation with a membership of nearly 2.15 million. SHGs help women to cope with important social problems as well as preparing them for administrative and financial management.
- Child labour has shown declining trends as the State's efforts in various social sector programmes have borne fruit.

Challenges

- Incidence of poverty remains high, 21.12 per cent (1999-2000) although it is less than the all-India average (26.1 per cent).
- Wide differentials in the per capita income across the State persist.
- While women have made improvements in the absolute levels of literacy, enrolment and life expectancy, their position vis-à-vis men have remained unchanged or even worsened in many ways
- The pupil-teacher ratio for primary schools at 38 is better than the national average of 40, but variations across the districts need to be narrowed
- About 46.6 per cent of children under 5 years are underweight as a consequence of malnutrition.
- All 29 districts of Tamil Nadu have reported AIDS cases with estimates ranging from 300,000-350,000 HIV positive cases.
- Girl children are a significant part of the rural labour force. Presence of over 606,000 child labourers in the main and marginal worker categories, with a large majority being girls (1991 Census).
- Combination of high fertility and falling mortality rates has led to a large and rapidly increasing aging population, constituting 7.4 per cent of its total population of which two-thirds are illiterate.
- Unemployment rates are quite high in Tamil Nadu, especially in terms of daily unemployment.
- Employment in the secondary and tertiary sectors is concentrated in the urban areas, high differentials in per worker output could create an acute rural-urban divide in the State.
- Number of marginal workers increased from 1.4 million in 1991 to 4.1 million in 2001 suggesting that increase in the worker participation rate was the result of an increasing number of marginal workers rather than main workers.

Key Recommendations

- Employment creation should focus increasingly on non-farm employment, in the manufacturing and service sectors.
- Develop agriculture through systematic and cost effective watershed approaches, with people's participation.
- Encourage cultivation of commercial crops with market advantage while ensuring food security with the stabilisation of rice cultivation in about 2 million hectares.
- Ensure quality of livestock products and effectiveness of support services to improve livestock development by encouraging private enterprises and farmers.
- Encourage the informal sector building industry, especially in rural areas, through appropriate fiscal policy measures.
- Improve the skills of the workforce in view of the changing market demand in the industrial and service sectors.
- Reduce the crude birth rate from current 19.3 in 2000 to about 14 by 2010 and bring down the total fertility rate from 2 in 2000 to 1.5 by 2010.
- Cut down the infant mortality rate to at least 40 by 2005 and 30 by 2010.
- Raise life expectancy from the present level of 66 to 75 years by the next decade.
- Reduce maternal mortality rate from its present 1.5 per 1000 to less than 1 by the end of the next decade.
- Undertake close study and remedial measures to reduce the incidence of diseases. Expand the network of PHCs in smaller municipalities, town Panchayats and in urban areas.
- Health education and prevention of HIV/AIDS should be stepped up.
- Eradication of blindness to be accorded priority in the current decade.
- Introduce a new policy framework, with appropriate reallocation of financial resources, to achieve the goal of universal elementary education by the end of the current decade.
- Undertake a rational assessment of needs before opening new schools in the context of a declining birth rate.
- Ensure that all school age girls attend school, at least at the elementary level.
- Increase the number of non-formal education projects to cover the estimated 1.5 million drop outs in the age group 9-15 years.
- Improve school infrastructure, reduce the pupil-teacher ratio to manageable levels in rural areas and provide training in multi-grade teaching.
- School syllabus should be child-centred and constantly revised to make learning enjoyable.
- Revamp adult literacy efforts and ensure that neo-literates do not relapse into illiteracy.
- Actively involve local communities and parent teacher associations in the running of schools at the primary and upper primary levels to increase enrolment and improve the quality of teaching.

District wise HDI and GDI Values, 2001

District	HDI (2001)		GDI (2001)	
	(Value)	(Rank)	(Value)	(Rank)
Chennai	0.757	1	0.776	1
Kancheepuram	0.712	2	0.710	2
Thiruvallur	0.654	12	0.651	13
Cuddalore	0.644	16	0.643	15
Villupuram	0.587	28	0.582	28
Vellore	0.658	11	0.655	11
Tiruvannamalia	0.612	26	0.608	26
Salem	0.626	24	0.625	24
Namakkal	0.636	20	0.631	20
Dharmapuri	0.584	29	0.582	29
Erode	0.658	10	0.656	10
Coimbatore	0.699	5	0.697	5
Nilgiris	0.685	6	0.686	6
Tiruchirapalli	0.671	7	0.671	7
Karur	0.647	15	0.641	16
Perambalur	0.596	27	0.592	27
Thanjavur	0.630	21	0.629	21
Nagapattinam	0.654	13	0.652	12
Tiruvarur	0.637	19	0.633	19
Pudukkottai	0.618	25	0.615	25
Madurai	0.661	8	0.661	8
Theni	0.628	23	0.628	22
Dindigul	0.641	17	0.638	17
Ramanathapuram	0.629	22	0.626	23
Virudhunagar	0.651	14	0.649	14
Sivagangai	0.640	18	0.635	18
Tirunelveli	0.658	9	0.656	9
Thoothukudi	0.703	4	0.703	4
Kenniyakumari	0.711	3	0.708	3
STATE	0.657		0.654	
Source: Government of Tamil Nadu (2002) , <i>Tamil Nadu Human Development Report 2002</i> , Government of Tamil Nadu, pp-16				