District Human Development Report - 2017
COIMBATORE DISTRICT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

State Planning Commission
Tamilnadu
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DISTRICT HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT

COIMBATORE DISTRICT

Introduction

- The ancient Kongunadu was made up of places currently known as Palani, Dharapuram, Karur, Nammakkal, Thiruchengodu, Erode, Salem, Dharmapuri, Satyamangalam, Nilgiris, Avinashi, Coimbatore, Pollachi and Udumalpet. Kongunadu was blessed with a pleasant climate and distinct features.

- The region was ruled successively by several dynasties of South India. Under the Cholas during the 11th century, the present-day Coimbatore came into existence as a jungle village under an Irula chieftain.

- The district was occupied by Mysore rulers in the 18th century from the Madurai rulers and after the Mysore wars in 1799, the district was occupied by the British, until the Indian independence in 1947.

- The district is known for its textile industries and hence called as ‘Manchester of South India’. Today, Coimbatore district is one of the industrially advanced districts of the State of Tamil Nadu and Coimbatore city is the second largest city in Tamil Nadu.

- In 1979 Coimbatore district was bifurcated into Coimbatore and Erode districts. Again in
2008, four taluks from Coimbatore District namely Tiruppur, Udumalpet, Palladam and Avinashi (Part) were carved out to form part of the newly formed Tiruppur district.

- The present Coimbatore district consists of three revenue divisions of Coimbatore and Pollachi and contains ten taluks.
- Coimbatore is one among the industrially developed and commercially vibrant districts of Tamil Nadu. It has got high concentration of small scale industries and medium and large scale industries.

**Geography**

- Coimbatore district is located at North Latitude between 10° 10’ and 11° 30’ and East Longitude between 76° 40’ and 77° 30’.
- It has an area of 4723 Sq. km. and is bounded by the Nilgiris on the North, Erode District on the East, Tiruppur district on the south and the State of Kerala on the west.
- The headquarters of the district is Coimbatore city.

**Topography**

- Coimbatore district is surrounded by the Western Ghats mountain range on the West and North, with reserve forests and the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve on the Northern side.
- Coimbatore district forms part of the upland plateau region of Tamil Nadu with many hill ranges, hillocks and undulating topography
with a gentle slope towards east except for the hilly terrain in the west. The undulating topography with innumerable depressions, are used as tanks for storage of rainwater for agriculture.

- The Noyyal River runs through the district and the city is in the Noyyal’s basin area. The district has an extensive tank system fed by river and rain water. The major rivers flowing through the district are Bhavani, Noyyal and Aliyar. The Siruvani dam is the main source of drinking water for Coimbatore.

Soil Condition

- The soils of Coimbatore district can be broadly classified into 6 major soils types viz., Red calcareous Soil, Black Soil, Red non-calcareous, Alluvial and Brown Soil.

- About 60 per cent of the district is covered by red soils, of which red calcareous soil is predominant. Medium to deep red calcareous soils are found mainly in Pollachi.

- The Alluvial soils are found in small patches along the Noyal river mainly in the upper reaches. The Alluvial soils are found mainly in Chinnathadagam and Chitrachavadi sub-basins and as scattered patches at the foothills of the Anaimalai.

- The Forest soils are confined to the reserve forest area and have a surface layer of organic matter.
Climate

- The district enjoys a tropical climate. The weather is pleasant during the period from November to January. Mornings in general are more humid than the afternoons, with the humidity exceeding 78% on an average.

- The district receives the rain under the influence of both southwest and northeast monsoons. The northeast monsoon chiefly contributes to the rainfall in the district and summer rains are negligible.

- In the period June to November, the afternoon humidity exceeds 66% on an average. In the rest of the year, the afternoons are dry, the summer afternoons being the driest. The period from April to June is generally hot and dry. The temperature recorded varies from 11.7°C to 42.6°C.

Status of Human Development

- The blocks in Coimbatore with low level of human development which need a special focus are Anaimalai, Sultanpet, Annur, Kinathukadavu and Thondamuthur blocks.

- Special attention is to be paid to Anaimalai block to reduce infant mortality rate and maternal mortality rate.

- Sultanpet needs priority attention in providing access to toilet facilities and safe drinking water.

- Annur needs better access to cooking fuel and pucca houses.
• Access to electricity connection is the immediate need in Pollachi North.

• Gender inequality is higher in Perianaickenpalayam, Madukarai, Thondamuthur, Sulutanpet and Anaimalai blocks. Perianaickenpalayam tops the list in gender inequality among all the blocks.

• In this block, MMR is relatively higher. The share of female elected representatives is low and the female work participation rate is low. Madukarai has the second highest MMR in the district and the share of antenatal coverage and female work participation is also low.

• There is need for effective implementation of women empowerment programmes and improvement of women work participation rate in these blocks to bridge the gender gap in development.

• Estimates of CDI showed that the corporation (0.833) Karamadai (0.763) Kinathukadavu (0.730) Pollachi South (0.676) and Madukarai (0.598) ranked top five in Child Development, where as Anaimalai, Perianaickenpalayam, Thondamuthur, Annur and Pollachi were the bottom five blocks.

• Malnourished children are also more in Anaimalai. In Perianaickenpalayam, the transition rate from primary to upper primary level is relatively lower compared to the other blocks in the district. Under-Five mortality rate and malnourished children are more in
Thondamuthur block. The juvenile sex ratio is found to be the lowest in Thondamuthur block.

- The multidimensional poverty is relatively low in the Corporation, Perianaickanpalayam, Sarcarsamakulam and Pollachi South blocks.

- The MPI is high in Sultanpet, Anaimalai, Thondamuthur, Annur and Karamadai blocks. The important reasons for the high level of multidimensional poverty in Sultanpet block are high IMR, and malnourishment among children, low access to cooking fuel, and toilet facilities.

- In Anaimalai block, IMR, high order birth rate and the percentage of malnourished children are high (18.68%) In Annur, primary and secondary level dropouts are more.

- Targeted approach for poverty alleviation through special schemes is necessary in these blocks.

**Employment, Income and Poverty**

- The population engaged in productive work, the quality of employment, and the remuneration received by the working population play a major role in determining the employment, it result in sub-employed or under-employed. Thus, there exists a close relationship between employment, income and poverty.

- The work participation rate (WPR) in the district was 45 percent in 2011. There is not
much variation in WPR between 2001 and 2011. And the WPR is more than double among males in urban areas as compared to that of rural areas.

- In Coimbatore district, out of 15.67 lakh total workers, 0.80 lakh were cultivators. 2.30 lakh were agricultural labourers in 2011. Nearly 68 percent of total employees were in the unorganized sector. Out of that, Anaimalai, (88%) Sultanpet (84%) and Kinathukadavu (79%) blocks had a higher percentage of workers in the unorganized sector.

- The portion of cultivators in total work force declined from eight percent in 2001 to five percent in 2011.

- The numbers of cultivators and agricultural labourers have been declining in the district owing to urbanization and industrialization. Agricultural labourers were more in Anaimalai (39 percent) followed by Kinathukadavu and Sultanpet (36 percent each) and Thodamuthur (35 percent) blocks. These blocks need special attention in the implementation of labour welfare schemes.

- There is wide disparity between male and female wage rates in the district. The male and female wage rates were Rs. 290 and Rs. 160 per head respectively during 2013-14.

- The placement through District Employment office was only 1.74 percent in 2014.

- There is a shift of workers from farm to non – farm jobs in the rural sector and it is
imperative that more jobs need to be created in the secondary and the tertiary sectors in the district.

- At present, MGNREGA is a boon too many rural households as far as employment is concerned.
- In Coimbatore district out of 293551 households which demanded employment, 1,56,398 were provided employment under MGNREGA during 2013-14.
- The per capita income of the district was Rs. 77975 in 2011 at constant prices. It was more than the state per capita income which was Rs. 63996 in 2011-12 at constant prices. The district witnessed steady increase in per capita income from Rs.59700 in 2008-09.
- The percentage of households below the poverty line are higher in Pollachi North (29.03) Karamadai (25.20) Sultanpet (23.81) Percent and Sarcarsamakulam (20.88 percent) blocks and comparatively lower in Madukarai block (15.50 percent). There is higher incidence of poverty in the above blocks mostly because as of the workers are agricultural labourers and they get only seasonal employment.

Demography, Health and Nutrition

- The population of Coimbatore district increased from 29.17 lakh in 2001 to 34.58 lakh in 2011, registering 18.55 percent growth in a decade. In 2011, it constituted 4.79 percent of the State population. The SC.
population was 15.49 percent of the district populations 2011 and STs constitute 0.81 percent of the district population as per 2011 census.

- The Crude Birth Rate (CBR) in the district was 14 in 2014 and the Crude Death that was 4. The CBR was high in blocks like Perianaickanpalayam, Sulur, Corporation, Anur and Madukarai whereas it was the lowest in Pollachi North and Anaimalai blocks. The birth control policies have to be effectively implemented in the blocks having high CBR.

- Though the overall CBR and CDR declined in the district in 2011 as compared to 2001, the difference between CBR and CDR is very high; it indicates the potential for high population growth.

- The sex ratio in the district improved from 968 in 2001 to 1001 in 2011 and it is better than that of the State. But the sex ratio is less than 1000 in Madukarai, Sulur, Perianaickanpalayam and in Corporation area and that needs special attention. While the sex ratio of the SC population in the district is favourable, the sex ratio of the ST population is less. In four blocks in the district. Special programmes are needed to create awareness. The sex ratio is an important indicator of social values and systems.

- The child sex ratio for the age group of 0-6 assumes importance in the wake of the general societal preference for a male child. Blocks with the lowest child sex ratio are
Annur, Madukarai, Kinathukadavu, Perianaikanpalayam, Thondamuthur, Pollachi South and Corporation. The reasons for such a preference are the perception of male child as a source of income. In some areas, this results in female infanticide though in recent times, owing to education and increased awareness of gender equality, gender preference tends to be neutral, concerted efforts are needed to create awareness and to provide equal access to education and employment opportunities for women.

- Life expectancy in Coimbatore district was 76.60 years for males and 72.10 years for females. The life expectancy of both males and females in the district is better than that of the State and the Country.

- The Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) in the district as a whole is less than that of the State IMR. But in some blocks, such as Anaimalai (16.30) Sultanpet (13.90) and Pollachi South (13.60). The IMR is more than that in other blocks in the district. The two key requirements for a significant reduction in IMR antenatal care and high quality care of newborns. The district with better socio-economic conditions and a network of health and nutrition centers could aim for a sharper reduction in IMR.

- The average MMR of the district 58 is lower than the State average MMR of 68. But some blocks in the district have very high MMR.
They are Anaimalai (171.38), Madukarai (123.90) and Sultanpet (115.70). The other blocks with MMR higher than the district average of 58 is Thondamuthur (98.20) Kinathukadavu (80.80) and Sulur (65.10)

- Coimbatore district has attained 100 percent institutional deliveries. The Primary Health Centres (PHCs), Government Hospitals and the private hospitals account for 15 percent, 36 percent and 49 percent of institutional deliveries respectively.

- Still birth rate in most of the blocks in Coimbatore district declined in 2014 when compared with the rates in 2010, except in Sarcarsamakulam and Karamadai.

- The percentage of malnourished children in the district decreased from 14.03 in 2011 to 9.51 in 2014. But in some blocks, like it is high. For example, in Anaimalai it is 18.68 percent, in Pollachi South, it is 12.14 percent and in Thondamuthur, it is 11.52 percent.

- 85.3 percent of women and 91 percent of adolescent girls took Iron Folic Acid (IFA) tablets in the district.

- The average antenatal coverage was 97.51 percent in the district. It was 100 percent in Perianaickanpalayam, Karamadai and Sulur blocks. Sultanpet block also attained nearly 100 percent (99.37%). The blocks that attained lower percentage than the district average include Thondamuthur (90.28%) Madukarai (94.22%) and Annur (94.32%).
Drinking water facilities vary across the blocks from 98.88 percent in Perianaickanpalayam to 93 percent in Sultanpet.

The Corporation has the highest percentage (86.16 percent) of people with access to toilet facilities. Access to toilet facilities is low in Sultanpet (40.72 percent) and Kinathukadavu (53.68 percent.) These two blocks need focused attention.

Number of HIV positive persons declined from 762 males and 731 females in 2007 to 388 males and 229 females in 2013-14 in the district. It is disheartening to note that 2412 positive TB persons reported in 2007 increased to 3280 in 2014. The incidence of TB is relatively more in Perianaickanpalayam and Pollachi North and South blocks. In Coimbatore district the prevalence of leprosy increased from 83 in 2007 to 117 in 2014.

**Literacy and Education**

The overall literacy rate in the district was 84.00 percent in 2011. This was seven percent points increase over that of 2001 literacy rate. The literacy rate of the males in 2011 was 89.06 whereas that of the females was 89.06 percent. But in Sulthanpet, Kinathukadavu and Annur blocks, the female literacy rate was less than 65 percent and that is a matter for concern and special steps have to be taken to improve the female literacy rate in these blocks.

The gross enrolment rates in 2013-14 in the primary and secondary education in the
district were 101.09 and 103.94 respectively. The gross enrolment rate for boys in secondary education was 109.48%. whereas for girls, it was 98.40%.

- The completion rate in primary and upper primary education was 98.61% and 95.73% respectively.

- The overall dropout rate at primary level was 1.38. The dropout rate for females (1.36) was slightly higher than that of males (1.29). The dropout rate for upper primary level was 1.38%. At the upper primary level, the dropout rate for boys was higher (1.44) than that of girls (1.33). The dropout rate at secondary level was 6.22.

- The Pupil - Teacher ratio in the district was 23:1 at primary level and 27:1 at upper primary level. Pollachi North block had the lowest pupil Teacher ratio (18:1).

- In the district, 165 schools had three class rooms and 1104 schools had more than three classrooms in each school.

- At the higher secondary level, the district had 144 schools in 2012-13. It is interesting to note that the strength of girls was higher (78543) than that of boys.

- There are 90 Arts and Science colleges in the district of which 3 are Government colleges, 12 are aided colleges and 73 are unaided (self-financing) colleges. There are 59 engineering colleges, of which there is one Government college, two aided colleges and 56 unaided colleges.
Gender

- In Coimbatore district, women constitute 50 percent of the total population. The district has favourable sex ratio (1001). The literacy rate in the district, according to 2011 census was 89.06 for males and 78.92 percent for females. The growth rate of female literacy for the decade 2001 to 2011 was higher than that of males indicating, narrowing gender gap in literacy. Except in Sarcarsamakulam, there has been impressive growth in female literacy in all the blocks and in Coimbatore Corporation. The majority of women in the district are employed in the non-farm sector as the district is relatively an industrially advanced district.

- Karamadai block tops the list in the number of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) (595) followed by Pollachi South (590) and Anaimalai (580). Blocks with the lowest number of SHGs are Sulthanpet (212). Sulur (221) and Perianaickanpalayam (221). Total credit disbursed to the SHGs as of 2013-14 was Rs. 192.25 crore. The maximum amount of credit was disbursed in the urban area, followed by Karamadai and Pollachi South. Microfinance programmes empower women and help them become agents of change and development. Access to the basic financial products such as savings and loans enable women to go in for new economic activities or expand the existing ones to earn more income.
Mahalir Thittam SHGs is widespread throughout Coimbatore district in rural as well as urban areas. There were 19266 Mahalir Thittam groups. Basic training is given to all the Mahalir Thittam groups both in rural and urban areas. Incentives given to a tune of Rs. 1.80 crore at the rate of Rs. 1,00,000/- for each federation in 180 Panchayats.

Mahalir Thittam Scheme in Coimbatore district is in the process of forming Panchayat level federation (PLF) with 10-20 groups in geographical proximity to take up collective economic enterprises.

PLF becoming a more viable proposition for the bankers. This scheme needs to be strengthened and sustained in providing access to finance, especially to the poor and vulnerable groups which is a prerequisite for employment, economic growth, poverty reduction and social cohesion. Income of women benefits their families through improved nutrition, health, education and well being thus, that Mahalir Thittam has become a popular poverty alleviation strategy.

The female work participation rate in the district as a whole increased from 26.73 percent in 2001 to 28.04 percent in 2011. It increased in all blocks except in Annur and Sulthanpet blocks. Sulthanpet block, which already had a high work participation rate, witnessed a decline from 50.69 percent to 47.72 percent. The reason for the increase in the female work participation rate in all
other blocks could be due to improvement in female literacy, increase in cost of living which necessitated women to take up paid work to support the family.

- At the district level, the female participation rate in local body election was 35 per cent. Female participation was the lowest in the Perianaickanpalayam block with 33 per cent.

**Social security**

- The population above 60 years of age constituted 11.6 percent of population in the district, of which male and female accounted for 5.50 percent and 5.77 percent. Annur, Sulthanpet, Pollachi North, Kinathukadavu and Anaimalai blocks had larger proportion of aged persons. A sizable section of the aged persons, differently-abled persons, and destitute widows received pension from the Government.

- In 2014, **88267 (34313+53954)** persons are benefitted from the Old Age Pension (OAP), 8250 persons are benefitted from OAP for differently-abled and 18520 persons are benefitted from OAP for destitute Widows.

- The number of beneficiaries under various categories of differently-abled persons included 2739 mentally retarded, 556 hearing impaired and 454 persons with multiple disabilities. The assistance for the differently-abled includes free bus passes. Self-employment loan and scholarships.
More than 200 cases of crimes against women were registered in 2014 and above 50 percent of the cases related to “cruelty by husband and relatives.” Molestation” cases declined, however, from 70 in 2011 to 29 in 2014. And the total number of cases relating to crimes against women declined from 321 in 2011 to 200 in 2014.

**Infrastructure**

- Infrastructure is essential for achieving economic growth and for improving the standard of living of people. The technical structures of physical infrastructure are roads, bridges, water supply, and sewer. Electrical grids and tele communications.

- The total road length in Coimbatore district was 8538.85 km. Mud roads are more in Sulur block. Almost all the blocks have more than 100 kms of bituminus road with the exception of Sarcarsamakulam, and Sultanpet blocks. Cement concrete road was found to be longer in Karamadai. Water bound Macadam road was longer in Perianaickanpalayam.

- In Coimbatore district, almost all the blocks have good electricity connectivity. Nearly 90 percent of the population has access to electricity. In the district, as a whole, 1062 million units of hydropower and 186.90 MW of wind energy are generated. Wind energy, which is an important non – conventional energy, is generated in Sultanpet block. As far as consumption is concerned industry is
the major consumer in the district accounting for 55 percent of the total consumption, followed by domestic consumption (26 percent). Agriculture, public lighting and miscellaneous consumption account for the rest.

- Coimbatore district has a good communication system with 145 telephone exchanges and 610 mobile towers.

- Cooperative credit institutions occupy an important position in the financial system of the economy in terms of their reach, volume of operation and the purpose they serve. As per the data from the Registrar of Cooperative Societies there were 300 Cooperative Societies operating in Coimbatore district. Corporation, Sulur. Anaimalai and Karamadai blocks have larger number of cooperative societies. There are a number of special cooperatives like tailoring, stationery where a number of women are employed.

- There are Commercial banks in the district. Canara bank is the Lead Bank of the district with 32 branches in the district. The total credit deposit ratio was 134 percent in commercial banks, and 76.74 percent in primary cooperative banks in 2013-14.

- Insurance mitigates life risk and material risk of people. According to DES, District Handbook, Coimbatore 2013 – 14, there are 94 branches of public sector insurance companies were there in Coimbatore district,
besides private insurance companies. In 2013–14, a total number of 1065861 policies were issued in the district to cover various types of risks.

- The district is well connected by national (360.40 cm) and State (1168.72 km) highways. The fleet strength of the Tamil Nadu State Transport cooperation Ltd. was 3268 in 2012-13, which carry 25.05 lakh passengers per day. There are 30 private transport operators in the district. There are 13 railway stations in Coimbatore district. Coimbatore junction is well connected to major Indian cities like Chennai, Bengaluru, Indore, Bhopal, Gwalior, Jabalpur, New Delhi and Mumbai, besides the neighboring State, Kerala. It is the second highest revenue yielding station in Southern Railway. It has an international airport and it is connected by air to all the major Indian cities and to Sharjah and Singapore.

- Coimbatore has a large number of small, medium and large industries. The major industries in the district are fabricated metal production Industries, machinery and equipment units and textiles. It is known as the “pump city of India.” There are 10,172 manufacturing units.

- The drinking water sources of the district are Siruvani dam, Aliyar dam, Pillur dam, Akkamalai checkdam, Aliyar river and Bhavani river.
The water supplied in litre per capita per day (lpcd) is 110 in Coimbatore corporation, while it is 90 in three municipalities. Rural water supply as on 1.4.2014 shows that 2117 rural habitations are fully covered with drinking water supply (40 lpcd and above) while 121 habitations are partially covered (10.39 lpcd) and 63 water supply schemes were taken up during 2014-15.

Conclusion

The density of population in Coimbatore district increased from 601 per sq. km. in 2001 to 942 in 2011 registering an increase of 57 percent largely due to urbanization and industrialization.

Hence, infrastructure has to be futuristically planned in terms of transport, water supply, waste disposal, power and tele communications.

The Coimbatore has been expanded and the metro rail system is essential for free flow of traffic. The higher density of urban areas is an advantage, because it may provide economy of scale in the provision of public goods and other urban services.