EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DISTRICT HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT

DHARMAPURI DISTRICT

Introduction

- Dharmapuri is surrounded by Krishnagiri district in the north, Tiruvannamalai and Villupuram districts in the east and Salem district in the south. Kaveri River is situated in the west and the whole district is bounded by hills and forests.

- The geographical surface of the Dharmapuri district largely consists of Mysore Plateau and Shevaroy Hills, the Cauvery and Ponnaiyar rivers and their tributaries that course across the district.

- The district has an administrative division as five taluks, eight blocks and 470 revenue villages.

- The Hogenakkal Falls is located in Dharmapuri, it is popularly known as the Nayagara of India.

- Dharmapuri district is well-known for granites and minerals and high quality black granites, Quartz and Molybdenum are widely found in Pennagaram, Harur and Palacode blocks of the district.

- This district is worth-mentioning in the State for its Horticulture. The district accounts for nearly one-third area under mango cultivation.
and nearly one-half of the mango yield in the State.

Geography

- Dharmapuri district is situated in the northwestern corner of Tamil Nadu. It lies in between the latitudes N 11 47’ and 12 33’ and longitudes E 77 02’ and 78 40’.
- The district comprises of 4497.77 square kilometres of area, which is about 3.46 percent of Tamil Nadu State’s geographical area.
- The district has a vast area of fertile land. Nearly 163.82 Sq.km is forest area, 219.01 Sq.km is net area sown and 17.16 Sq.km is barren and uncultivable waste land.

Topography

- Dharmapuri district forms part of the upland plateau region of Tamil Nadu with many hill ranges and undulating plains.
- The western part of the district between Pennagaram and Denkanikottai has hill ranges of Mysore Plateau with a chain of undulating hills.
- The southern boundary of the district is occupied by the Shevaroy hill ranges.
- The plains occupying the central, eastern and southern parts of the district have an average elevation of 488 m. above Mean Sea Level.
- The Plateau region along the western boundary and the northwestern part of the
district has an average elevation of 914 m. above Mean Sea Level.

Soil Condition

- The soils of Dharmapuri district can be classified into i) Red Soil, ii) Red lateritic soil, Brown soil and iv) Alluvial soil
- The soils are mostly in-situ in nature, lateritic, earthy and pale reddish in colour.
- The type of soil in this district ranges from black to mixed loam. Red sandy soils are also seen in the Harur taluk. Black and loam soil are there in the Dharmapuri taluk. The soil is generally low in Phosphate and Nitrogen content.

Climate

- The climate of the district on the whole is slightly humid. The driest months are February and March with average relative humidity of about 30% in the afternoons.
- During the rainy months the average humidity is appreciably below the saturation level.
- The district temperature is a gradual decrease of both day and night temperatures from June onwards till December, when the mean daily maximum is about 30°C and the mean daily minimum about 19°C in the plains. The day temperatures increase gradually from January onwards.
STATUS OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

- In Dharmapuri district, Dharmapuri (0.813) Morapur (0.619) and Papireddipatti (0.569) occupy the top three ranks. Palacode (0.397) Karimangalam (0.415) and Pennagaram (0.416) are the bottom three blocks. It shows that there are wide inter – block variations of HDI in the district. There is need for reducing the variations across blocks through appropriate programmes based on ground realities.

- The GII value closer zero shows lower gender inequality and the value closer to one (1) shows higher gender inequality. Across the blocks, gender inequality is the least among Karimangalam (0.009). Dharmapuri (0.011) and Pennagaram (0.026) it is higher among Harur (0.066) Palacode (0.055) and Pappireddipatti (0.053).

- The Child Development Index helps us to understand the vital aspects of children such as their health and education. The top three blocks in Child Development Index are Dharmapuri (0.71) Harur (0.68) and Morapur (0.68). The bottom three blocks in CDI are Palacode (0.48) Pennagaram (0.35) and Karimangalam (0.22).

- The U5MR of Children is more in Palacode and Papireddipatti blocks.

- The child sex ratio is less than 900 in Karimangalam and Pennagaram blocks. No
block in the district has sex ratio closer to 950.

- Child marriages are prevalent in the district even though, the government machinery makes all efforts to prevent them in all possible ways. Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)

- Multidimensional Poverty Index reveals that in the case multidimensional poverty, it is lower in Dharmapuri (0.29). Morapur (0.467) and Harur (0.50) blocks, the multidimensional poverty is higher in Pennagaram (0.73). Palacode (0.68) and Karimangalam (0.557) The two blocks Papireddipatti (0.43) and Nallampalli (0.51) are in between the top and bottom MPI blocks

Employment, Income and poverty

- According to 2011 census, Dharmapuri district had a population of 12,72,758. Out of that, workers constituted 56.76% of the population of the district.

- During 2001 and 2011, there was only marginal variation in work participation rate in the district. It increased from 49.50 in 2001 to 49.86 in 2011.

- The MGNREGS was launched on 1-4-2008 in Dharmapuri district. In Dharmapuri district, more than two lakh job cards have been distributed to the beneficiaries till now.
Workers are broadly classified into cultivators, agricultural workers and other workers. During 2001 and 2011, an increasing trend is noticed among household industrial workers and others worker. There is a decrease in the number of cultivators and agricultural labourers during 2001 and 2011 in all the blocks of the district. Failure of monsoon, lower wages in agriculture and out-migration are the major causes of this phenomenon.

Employment provided through employment Exchange in Dharmapuri presents a dismal picture. More than 2 lakh persons registered with employment exchange. Only about 3600 got placement.

The contribution of the primary sector to GDDP declined from 18.08% in 2010 -11 to 15.55 in 2011-12. The share of secondary sector in GDDP marginally declined from 20.22% to 20.17% during the same period. The share of tertiary sector in GDDP declined from 64.28% in 2010 – 11 to 60.19% in 2011 – 12. We find that the tertiary sector plays a dominant role in GDDP.

The per capita income of the district in 2011 – 12 (at constant prices (2004 -05) at Rs. 56,202 was lower than that of the State’s per capita income which was Rs.63,996 during the same year. But it is encouraging to note that the per capita income of the district, more than doubled, from Rs. 27,265 in 2004 – 05 to Rs. 56, 262 in 2011–12.
People engaged in jobs in rural areas normally earn low income. So the people should explore the possibilities to earn more income from industrial centres. That means, they should have industrial exposure related training, update their technical skills and there should be improvement in literacy and education.

During 2013-14, nearly half of the households in the district (44.50%) come under the BPL category. The difficulty in getting remunerative jobs, seasonal nature of employment in agriculture, drought prone nature of some blocks result in chronic poverty.

Almost all the families have been covered under the public distribution system. Nearly 3.91 lakh families were in possession of family cards in 2014.

Demography, Health and Nutrition

In 2011, Dharmapuri district had a population of about 15 lakhs. Its sex ratio was 946 and this was lower than the sex ratio of the State (996). Among the 0-6 population, 52.27% were boys and 47.73%, girls. S.C and S.T. population accounted for 16.29% and 4.18% of the population respectively.

The density of population of the district increased from 319 in 2001 to 333.5 in 2011. Among the blocks, Nallampalli (505) Karimangalam (423) Dharmapuri (115 and Palacode (396) had higher population density
in 2011. The lowest population density was seen in Pennagaram (181) and Harur (187).

- The Crude Birth Rate of Dharmapuri district declined from 17.7 in 2013 to 16.7 in 2014. Papireddipatti is the only block in the district where the CBR increased from 13.2 in 2013 to 14.9 in 2014.

- There was marginal increase in CDR in the district from 4.9 in 2013 to 5.0 in 2014. Among the eight blocks, Palacode, Karimangalam and Papireddipatti experienced more CDR in 2014 than that in 2013. In Papireddipatti block, the CDR increased from 4.5 in 2013 to 5.8 in 2014. There is need for focusing on this block to reduce the CDR through appropriate healthcare measures.

- The sex ratio of the district increased from 932 in 2001 to 946 in 2011. There is improvement in sex ratio in 2011 in all the blocks except in Dharmpuri where it declined from 927 in 2001 to 924 in 2011 and in Pennagaram where the sex ratio declined from 904 in 2001 to 898 in 2011.

- The Child Sex Ratio is defined as the number of females per thousand males in the age group 0-6 years in the population. Child Sex Ratio of Dharmapuri district increased from 863 in 2001 to 913 in 2011. That speaks of the good performance of the district in protecting the girl child through a series of awareness programs which have played a crucial role in improving the child sex ratio.
Efforts taken by the government to protect the girl child through a series of awareness programs was instrumental in improving the child sex ratio.

- The life expectancy at birth in 2013 – 2014 in Dharmapuri district was 71 and that is lower than that of the state (73.4). Similarly, the life expectancy of the males (69.8) in the district was lower than that of the state (71.8). The life expectancy of females (72.6) was lower than that of the state (75.2) Infant Mortality Rate (IMR).

- The average IMR of Dharmapuri District during 2013-14 was 19 and a majority of blocks in the district had IMR of more than 19. Nallampalli had the highest IMR with 21. Only two blocks had low IMR. Karimangalam with 12 was followed by Dharmapuri with 16.5 Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR).

- The MMR during 2014 in Dharmapuri district was 65. Pennagaram had the highest MMR with 140. It is heartening to note that Dharmapuri and Karimangalam reported nil MMR.

- The place of delivery is an important factor in preventing maternal and infant mortality. Most of the deliveries, in Dharmapuri are taking place in Primary Health centres, Government hospitals and private hospitals.

- Still Birth Rate is rather low, in general in the district as well as in the blocks. In Dharmapuri
district as a whole, it decreased from 1.20 in 2013 to 1.12 in 2014. By imparting periodical awareness to pregnant women and to those who belonged to the reproductive age group, still birth rate can be reduced further.

- Immunization programme is one of the most cost – effective health investments. Almost all the children in the district are immunized. Dharmapuri district has wide coverage of immunization through Primary Health centres and Health sub-centres.

- Nearly 20% of the children in Dharmapuri district suffer from malnutrition. Pappireddipatti block had more number of malnourished children (33%) in the district followed by Harur block (29%) Pennagaram had the lowest percentage (9%) of malnourished children.

- In Dharmapuri district 61% of women, children and adolescent girls availed of IFA tablets during 2014. The percentage of those who availed of the IFA tablets are the highest in Pennagaram block (74) followed by Dharmapuri block (71%). Only half of the target population availed of the IFA tablets in the Harur block.

- Almost all the blocks in the district get good supply of drinking water. The percentage of households having access to drinking water in 2014 ranged from 98.2 percent in Palacode to 99.9 percent in Nallampalli.
During 2014, in Dharmapuri district, only 41.50 percent of households had toilet facilities. While 74 percent of households in Pennagaram had toilet facilities, only 27 percent of households had toilet facilities in Palacode, followed by Harur (28 percent) and Pappireddipatti (30 per cent).

Cultural factors are predominant in rural areas preventing people from having toilet facilities in the house.

The number of HIV positive persons declined from 535 in 2013 to 479 in 2014 due to the efforts of the Health Department. Still there is need for spreading great awareness about AIDS, especially among the youth.

TB and Leprosy prevalence declined in the district when 2013 and 2014 data are compared.

The number of positive TB persons declined from 1549 in 2013 to 1376 in 2016 due to the consistent efforts of the Health Department of the district. For example, in Dharmapuri the number 625 in 2013 declined to 187. In Nallampalli block, the figure declined from 337 to 269 during the same period. Pappireddipatti block too the number of T.B. persons declined from 395 in 2013 to 129 in 2014. But in Pennagaram, Palacode, Karimangalam, Morappur and Harur blocks, there is a high jump in the number of positive TB persons.
The number of leprosy cases in the district declined from 31 in 2013 to 20 in 2014. All the blocks witnessed decline in the incidence of leprosy cases during the period.

**Literacy and Education**

The literacy rate of Dharmapuri district in 2011 is 68.54% which is far behind the literacy rate of the State. But there is huge gender gap in the literacy rate of the males (76.85%) and females (59.50%).

During 2012 – 13 and 2013 -14, Dharmapuri district had enrollment of 99.80 percent in primary and almost all blocks had more or less the same enrolment for both boys and girls.

The completion rate during 2012-14 at primary level is 98% in the district and the rate is more or less the same for both boys and girls (98%).

The dropout rate at primary level is negligible at 2 percent more or less for boys and girls during 2012 – 13 and 2013 – 14.

The completion rate at upper primary level in the district increased from 93.55% in 2012-13 to 97.79% in 2013 – 14. It is interesting to find that the completion rate of girls (96.19%) is slightly higher than that of the boys (95.20%)

The dropout rate at upper primary level decreased from 2.77 in 2012 -13 to 2.37 in
2013 – 14. It is interesting to note that all the blocks witnessed decline in dropout rate. Not only that, the dropout rate declined for both boys and girls in all the blocks.

- While the transition rate from primary to upper primary level in the district during 2013 -14 is 96 percent, it is encouraging to note that the transition rate from upper primary to secondary level during 2013 – 14 is 99.36%.

- In 2014, for 2862 habitations in the district, there were 1491 schools in the district. They include 937 primary schools, 342 upper primary schools, 114 secondary schools and 98 higher secondary schools.

- The district’s average for Pupil –Teacher Ratio in primary school is 28:1 Morapurur block has the ratio of 25:1 whereas for Palacode block the ratio is 31:1 For Pappireddi block the ratio is 27:1. The district has ideal pupil – Teacher ratio.

- The enrolment rate at secondary level in the district during 2013 – 14 was 90.05%. And there is not much difference in the enrolment rate between boys and girls.

- The dropout rate at secondary level in the district decreased from 3.42% in 2012 – 13 to 2.57% in 2013 – 14. While Karimangalam block had the highest dropout rate (4.18 percent). Dharmapuri block had the lowest dropout rate (1.45 percent) in 2012 – 14. It is encouraging to note that the dropout rate for
girls in 2013 – 14 (1.77%) was lower than that of boys (2.57) in the same year.

- Out of the total number of 1361 schools in the district, 821 schools had 3 class rooms each and 540 schools had more than 3 class rooms in 2014. All the schools are provided with electricity and toilet facilities. Only 17 percent of the schools (2.29) are without compound walls.

- In Dharmapuri district, during 2014, there were 34 hostels with 3510 students as inmates. Harur block and Pappireddipatti block with 1371 and 1881 inmates respectively had the largest number of hostel students.

- Nearly 17,000 Adi-dravidar and Tribal students availed scholarship during 2014.

- There are 12 Arts and Science colleges in the district, of which 3 are government colleges, 2 are aided colleges and 7 are unaided colleges.

- Technical Education: There are 2 Engineering colleges and 17 polytechnics in the district.

**Gender**

- The female population of the district during 2011 was 7.30 lakh. It is 48.60% of the total population. Sex ratio is 946 and that is far behind the state’s sex ratio (995) and the literacy rate of women is 59.50% MMR is 65 in the district. The percentage of women working in agricultural sector is 65.71
A number of schemes are implemented by the government to empower women through financial support. The institutions which provide financial support include Self – Help Groups (SHGs), NABARD, nationalized banks, Pudhu Vazhv and Mahalir Thittam. The NGOS also play an important role in forming SHGs.

During 2013 – 14, there were 3581 SHGs in the district and they availed of credit of Rs. 75.45 crore.

According to 2011 census, the female literacy rate of the district was 53.11% and this is lower than the male literacy rate of 68.18%. The existing programmes of the government should be strengthened by periodical assessment to increase female literacy in the district.

The work participation rate for women in the district is 42.16%.

The percentage of women workers in non – agricultural sector is 41.82.

Dharmapuri block had the highest female work participation rate in the non – farm sector (63.60%) and the lowest share was found in Pappireddipatti (27%) in 2011.

Agricultural wage rate of female workers in all the blocks ranges from Rs. 110 to Rs. 120. The average wage rate in the district is 116.
In the district elected women representatives in the local bodies accounted for 33.33%. This has been made possible by the amendment made in the constitution with regard to Panchayat Raj institutions giving one third of the seats in the local bodies for women.

**Social Security**

- Social security is provided in the district for the aged above 60 years, destitute widows, differently-abled, destitute deserted widows and unmarried women. More than 63 thousand people received financial assistance from the Dharmapuri Collectorate through the existing schemes.

- All individuals above the age of 60 who live below poverty line are eligible to get financial assistance through Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS). By 2014, 38123 aged poor in the district availed of the financial assistance from the scheme.

- Crimes against women are under control in Dharmapuri district. In 2014, 117 cases of crimes against. The Data available for three years 2012 to 2014 reveal gradual decrease of crimes against women. The stern action by the police, education, changing attitude of people towards decent life have brought down the crimes against women. Meticulous planning, community policing and the concept of Friends of Police have played an important role in bringing down the crimes against women.
Infrastructure

- The total road length of Dharmapuri district is 5858 Km. The types of roads are Mud, WBM, BT and CC roads.

- Through TNEB, 470 revenue villages and 1809 hamlets and eleven towns have been electrified.

- The Telecommunication system in Dharmapuri district in 2014 included 65 Telephone Exchanges, 2323 PCOs, 36758 land lines and 130 Mobile Towers. Though all the blocks have telecommunication facilities, Palacode, for some reason, does not have single landline. And that must be rectified.

- Dharmapuri district in 2014 had 134 cooperative societies with a membership of more than three lakhs, 74 commercial banks with more than 2.76 lakh account holders.

- Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has five branches in the district and it has issued the maximum number of policies (38290). National insurance company Ltd., The New India Assurance Company and the Oriental Insurance Company have each one branch and they have 7235, 14407 and 12300 policy holders respectively.

- State Highways play an important role in the district. There has been a persistent demand to declare the State Highways as National Highways.
Highways to facilitate further improvement and strengthening of these State Highways.

- Hogenakkal Waterfalls is an important tourist place in Dharmapuri district. Besides, there are many places of religious and cultural interest.

- Hogenakkal Integrated Drinking Water Project is a fluorosis mitigation drinking water project constructed at Hogenakkal in Dharmapuri district. It is executed by Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board (TWAD) with funding from the Japan Bank for international Cooperation (JBIC) using Tamil Nadu’s share of Cauvery water. The project aims at supplying safe drinking water to the drought prone and fluorosis affected Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri districts of Tamil Nadu. The total cost of the entire fluorosis mitigation project is Rs. 1334 crore.

**Conclusion**

- Dharmapuri district’s biggest asset is its labour force. By identifying suitable industries, across the district, the resource can be utilized.

- By developing proper vocational skills among the population, we can check the trend towards out-migration of unskilled youth, while improving the employability and earning capacity of the youth.

- The health problems of the district are aggravated by social and cultural factors,
such as early marriages, Malnutrition of children has a damaging impact on the health profile of the district. So, prioritized health awareness programmes should be top agenda of the districts.

- The agro-processing sector has a great potential as Dharamapuri district is an agricultural and horticultural economy.
- A separate district Board for coir industry may be established.
- The large number of SHGs in the district may be drawn into economic activities, through provision of technical support and micro finance.
- The district has a lot of potential for tourism development in view of Hogenakkal waterfalls and historical sites.
- The inclusive growth of the district should include special programmes for tribal development.