

Rural Development in the State Of Tamil Nadu – An Overview

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Rural Development is defined as “improving the living standards of the mass of low- income population residing in rural areas and making the process of their development self-sustaining”. It embraces all those programmes that touch all levels of human living, e.g., agriculture and related matters, irrigation, communication, education, health, supplementary employment, housing, training and social welfare. Rural development needs to complement urban development so that a balanced growth will be ensured and growth in each sector will be reinforcing. During the Twelfth Plan (2012 -2017) the State Government focused its attention on the basic infrastructure facilities in all habitations, addressing the shelter requirements, creating an open defecation free and garbage free environment, bringing down rural poverty to below 10 percent, energizing street lights with solar energy and building up a conducive environment in schools for the upliftment of rural education and increasing livelihood opportunities in rural areas.

1. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To bring out the importance and necessity of rural development for the development of the state.
- To provide an insight into the rural scenario in Tamil Nadu.
- To highlight the measures taken by the state government for rural development.

2. METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

This study is primarily descriptive in nature. The study is based on secondary data collected from various reputed sources, books and websites.

RURAL POPULATION IN TAMIL NADU

Between the two censuses 2001 and 2011, the total number of persons living in rural areas of the State increased from 34.92 million to 37.23 million registering a decadal growth of 6.6 percent. However there was a steady decline in its proportion to total population in the State. It steadily decreased from 69.7 percent in 1981 to 65.8 percent in 1991, 56.0 percent in 2001 and further to 51.6 in 2011. The decline in the proportion subsequent to 1991 census was sharper in Tamil Nadu. A Tabular representation of the rural population in Tamil Nadu is depicted below.

RURAL POPULATION IN TAMIL NADU: 2001 & 2011 CENSUSES (MILLIONS)

CATEGORY	2001	2011
Total	34.92	37.23
Males	17.54	18.68
Females	17.30	18.55
Child population(0-6 years)	4.20	3.91
SC	8.30	9.48
ST	0.6	0.7

Source: Director of Census Operations, Tamil Nadu.

TABLE NO 1

According to the current 2011 census, the sex ratio in rural areas at 993 was lower than that of urban areas of the state.

RURAL LITERACY

The literacy rate in rural Tamil Nadu improved from 66.2 percent in 2001 census to 73.5 percent in 2011 census. However, this is lower than the urban literacy rate (87.0) in the state. In rural areas the female literacy rate at 65.0 percent was lower than that of the male literacy rate, which stood at 82.0 percent. Among the districts, the literacy rate was the lowest in Erode (56.2) percent and the highest in Kanyakumari (89.2) percent.

RURAL POVERTY

Rural Poverty in Tamil Nadu as measured by the Head Count Ratio (HCR) was about 15.8 percent in 2011-12. The ratio in rural was higher than the urban in the state – 6.5 percent in 2011-12. High dependence on agriculture and wage employment was the main reasons for the rural poverty in the state.

HOUSEHOLD AMENITIES AND ASSETS

The Census 2011 covered 9.56 million houses in the rural areas of Tamil Nadu. 98.2 percent of the rural houses were in livable condition and the remaining in dilapidated condition. About 88.0 percent of the rural houses had dwelling rooms and the remaining did not have any exclusive rooms. Water security to all households and individuals is one of the goals of the State Government. 79.3 percent of the rural houses had tap water, 7.7 percent from borewell, 5.8 percent from open well, 5.2 from hand pump and the remaining from other sources like rivers, canals, tanks, ponds and streams as per 2011 census.

A high proportion of rural houses had electricity as a main source of lighting and 8.3 percent used kerosene for lighting. Lack of awareness about sanitation, which is the basic for healthy living, makes majority of the households to defecate in the open. Of rural households, only 23.2 percent had toilet within their premises, 3.5 percent used public toilets and 73.3 percent practiced open defecation. Moreover, only 44.6 percent of the rural population had bathroom facility. Only 27.2 percent of rural households had access to dispose waste water in to drains. Most of the households

Used firewood as the major source of fuel, as much as 66.8 percent. Only 28.6 percent of the rural households used LPG.

According to the 2011 Census, 88.7 percent of the rural households have communication facilities, with a high proportion as 85.3 percent having televisions. About 66.3 percent of the rural houses had a landline or mobile telephone connections.

PROBLEMS FACED BY THE RURAL POPULATION

- Lack of clean, potable drinking water.
- Lack of sustained water availability in all Government schools ,anganwadi toilets and Public Sanitary Complexes.
- Shortages in the existing sanitary facilities has adverse effects on the rural health.

- Inadequate drainage facilities and electricity availability.
- Absence of well co-ordinated transport system hinders the development of the rural areas.
- Lack of medical services.
- Inadequate number of schools in the rural areas.

MAJOR SCHEMES IMPLEMENTED IN THE STATE

As per the 2011 Census, about 51.55 percent of the people, numbering 3.72 crores are living in the rural areas. Since majority of the State population live in rural areas, and Tamil Nadu being a welfare state, more thrust is given to the development of rural areas, directly impacting its economic growth, deliverance of social justice and improvement in the standard of living of the people, focusing on poverty alleviation, provision of basic amenities and infrastructure facilities as its stated objectives and goals. These goals will be achieved through effective implementation of various well conceived development programmes with the active participation of Panchayat Raj Institutions.

The Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj is responsible for the implementation of various rural development and welfare schemes undertaken by the State Government is listed below.

Tamil Nadu Village Habitation Improvement Scheme (THAI)
Chief Minister Solar Powered Green House Scheme (CMSPGHS)
Energisation of Street Lights with Solar Energy
Comprehensive School Infrastructure Development Scheme (CSIDS)
Member of Legislative Assembly Constituency Development Scheme (MLACDS)
Rural Buildings Maintenance and Renovation Scheme (RBMRS)
Self Sufficiency Scheme (SSS)
Rural Infrastructure Scheme (RIS)
Renovation of Integrated Sanitary Complex for Women
Integrated Men Sanitary Complex (IMSC)
Clean Village Campaign
Repair and Renovation of Anganwadi Centers
Socio - Economic Development Programme (SEDP)
THANE
Rural Roads under NABARD - Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF-XVII)
Scheme Component of Pooled Assigned Revenue (SCPAR)
Solid Waste Management System (SWMS)

THAI – Tamil Nadu Village Habitations Improvements Schemes: This scheme is being implemented from 2011-12. The scheme is been programmed to cover 79,394 habitations spread over 12524 village panchayats.

MLACDS – Member of Legislative Assembly Constituency Development Scheme: With the objective to bridge the gap in the existing infrastructure facilities in the 234 assembly

constituencies, the MLACDS is being implemented with financial assistance of the state. An amount of rupees two crore per constituency, per annum has been allocated from 2011-12.

MPLADS – Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme: The Government of India has provided Rs. Five crore to each member of Parliament. During 2013-14 5,402 works were taken up at a cost of Rs.253.95 crore.

RBMRs – Rural Buildings Maintenance and Renovation Scheme. Maintenance of assets created in local bodies and to ensure the full utilization, repairs and renovation of Overhead Tanks (OHT), Ground Level Reservoirs (GLR) and Pipelines are undertaken in this scheme.

TNSRLM - Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihoods Mission. This scheme is implemented since 2012-2013 and aims to bring at least one woman member from the rural poor into the Self Help Group network linking them with sustainable livelihood opportunities. The Tamil Nadu Corporation for Development of Women has undertaken most of the activities of Mahalir Thittam through TNSRLM in 31 districts.

3. CONCLUSION

Rural economy has its crucial role in development of the State for achieving the planned target of more inclusive and sustainable growth. Though rural population occupies a major part of the total population, its decadal growth is lower than that of the urban areas. There has been increasing trends of shifting and migrating population from rural to urban areas which need to be controlled. By exploring the possibilities of sustainable agricultural growth, fuller utilisation of rural resources, tapping the potential of rural youth in entrepreneurship the growth and development of rural areas can be ensured.

4. REFERENCES

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