

CHAPTER I

DISTRICT PROFILE

PUDUKKOTTAI: DISTRICT PROFILE

Topography

Pudukkottai district of Tamil Nadu State in Southern India has the city of Pudukkottai as its headquarters and is also known colloquially as 'Pudhugai'. Pudukkottai District was carved out of Tiruchirappalli and Thanjavur Districts on 14th January, 1974. The district has an area of 4663 sq. km. with a coast line of 39 kms. The district lies between 78.25' and 79.15' of the Eastern Longitude and between 9.50' and 10.40' of the Northern Latitude. It is bound by Tiruchirappalli District in the North and West, Sivaganga District in the South, Bay of Bengal in the East and Thanjavur District in the North East.

The soils of the district can be classified into black, red, ferruginous, lateritic, alluvial and beach soils. Black soils are formed in the western part of the district. Red ferruginous lateritic soils are formed on the high ground, south of Annavasal, west of Illupur, north of Malaipatti around Kulakurichi near Gandarvakottai, East of Arantangi around Arimalam and Alangudi. Alluvial soils consist of blackish and brownish sandy and silty soils which can be found along the course of the Vellar, Agniyar and Ambuliyar rivers, whereas, the beach sands are found along the coast of the district.

The district is characterised by an undulating topography with residual hills in the northern, western and southern parts of the district, whereas the eastern part of the district is a flat terrain consisting of alluvial plains. The elevation of the terrain of the western part of the area is about 125 m above Mean Sea Level (MSL), whereas towards the coast, it is about 1 m above mean sea level. The district is endowed with minor minerals like granite, blue metal, rough stones and gravel. Vellar, Agniyar and Ambuliyar rivers flow through the district, but none of them are perennial so they give a deserted view. The district has a forest cover of 1208.6 ha. and its supply is around 7.99 Cubic meter of timber, 9996.53 tons of fuel wood and 22347.64 tons of pulp wood.

History

The history of Pudukkottai is an epitome of the history of South India. In and around Pudukkottai, there are many vestiges of the oldest habitations of man and some of the lithic records known in the South. The Pandyas, Cholas, Pallavas, Haysalas, Vijaynagar and Madurai Nayaks ruled over this part of the country and fostered its communal organisations, trade and industries and embellished it with temples and monuments of outstanding merit. The available historical evidence under the first Pandya Empire is rather scanty. The best known is the inscription at Sittannaval in the reign of Srimara Srivallaba (851-862 AD) and at Kudumianmalai in the reign of Kochadayan Ranadheeran or Sadayan Maran (700-730 AD). In the reign of Maravarman Rajasimha-I (730-760 AD) a number of battles were fought against the Pallavas, one of the sites was Kodumbalur. The inscription of the reign of Nedunchadayan, (768-816 AD) the greatest king of the dynasty is found in Thirugokarnam and Nirpalani. The reign of the three successors of Srimara Srivallaba ended with Rajasimha-II (920 AD) who lost his kingdom to the resurgent Cholas. The Pallava references to places and incidents in the district are equally scanty. The earliest reference of the historical events in the district find place in the Pandya records of Velvikudi and Sinnamanur plates which say that Maravarman Rajasimha defeated Nadhivarman Pallava Malla at Kodumbalur. The inscriptions of his successors are found in Kunnandarkoil, Malayadipatti and Rasalipatti.

Jainism flourished well in Pudukkottai area upto 11th century. There are a number of Jaina vestiges in the district. The Buddhist vestiges in the district come from the former Thanjavur district. Buddha idols are found at Kottaipattinam and Karur.

Raghunatha Thondaiman (1825-1839 A.D) was conferred with the title "His Excellency" by the British Government. In 1830, he planned to bring the Cauvery water to Pudukkottai through a new canal but could not succeed due to paucity of funds. Raghunatha Thondaiman was succeeded by his son Ramachandra Thondaiman (1839-1886). His long tenure of office was marked by extravagance and gross mismanagement. An administrator Seshaiya Sastri arrived at the scene as Dewan in 1878 and carried out many reforms. Among them was the remodeling of Pudukkottai town, incorporating the principles of town planning which were little followed in the country at that time. The towering administrative office building in red brick colour in Pudukkottai was constructed under the supervision of Seshaiya Sastri. The Pudukkulam, the big lake in the town was another creation of Seshaiya Sastri. Ramachandra Thondaiman renovated

many temples in the State. He was succeeded by Marthanda Bhairava Thondaiman (1886-1929), who became the ruler of the State at the age of 11. The administration was looked after, by a council with the approval of the British Government.

Raja Rajagopala Thondaiman (1928 -1948) the last and ninth in the line of Thondaiman rulers, was selected by the British Government and was crowned when he was six years old. The administration was looked after by the English, among them Alexander Tottenham was noteworthy. After Indian independence in 1947, the Pudukkottai Princely State was annexed with the Indian Union on 04/03/1948 and became a division of Tiruchirappalli District. The long history of the Thondaimans rule came to an end.

Language

The main language used in Pudukkottai is Tamil. It is also the official language of the government. The Tamil dialect spoken here has close affiliation to the Central Tamil dialect spoken in the Central Districts of Tamil Nadu like Tanjavur, Nagappattinam and Thirunelveli. Pudukkottai is also known for Kurumba Kannada dialect, which was spoken by the Kurumbas of Pudukkottai district.

Art, Culture and Architecture

Pudukkottai district of Tamil Nadu is one of the finest places housing ancient Tamil Culture. It is also an archaeological paradise. Sittannavasal is the best known archaeological site in Pudukkottai district. It is known for its 9th Century AD paintings, which can be compared to the glorious paintings of Ajanta Caves. The main composition of the paintings in Sittannavassal is known as Samava – Sarana. Sittannavasal along with Kodumbalur and Narttamalai form a golden triangle of archaeological heritage in Pudukkottai district. Other sites include Arivar Koil, which is home to an ancient Jain cave temple. The influence of Jainism dates back to prehistorical times. Ezhadipattam and Navachchurai are some other sites sporting ancient paintings and polished stones. There is also an ancient burial site around these Jain shrines, which dates back to the megalithic period. Thirupperunmthurai is another historical place which is known to be blessed by saint Manikkavasagar. The temple there is of historical relevance and is known as Aavudaiyar Koil, which sports explicit sculptures.

Many places in Pudukkottai have been mentioned in Sangam Literature. The river Vellar which runs across Pudukkottai was known to be the historical boundary of

Cholas and Pandiyas. So, both kind of architecture in the form of temples and palaces can be found in Pudukkottai, such as the Raja's Palace in Pudukkottai and the Fort in Thirumayam. Pudukkottai is also home to stalwarts like Veeramamunivar, Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy, Sathiyamoorthy, Akilan and Valliyappan. Pudukkottai region has also been the apoch centre for Performing Arts, for instance Laya Vithvan Mamundia Pillai created Kanjira and established the Pudukkottai School of Miruthangam. Other performing arts personalities include Dhakshanamoorthi Pillai, Subburama Iyer and Sambasiva Iyer (Veena brothers), Sivarama Nattuvanar and Rukumani Devi Arundale (Bharanatiyam dancer).

District Map

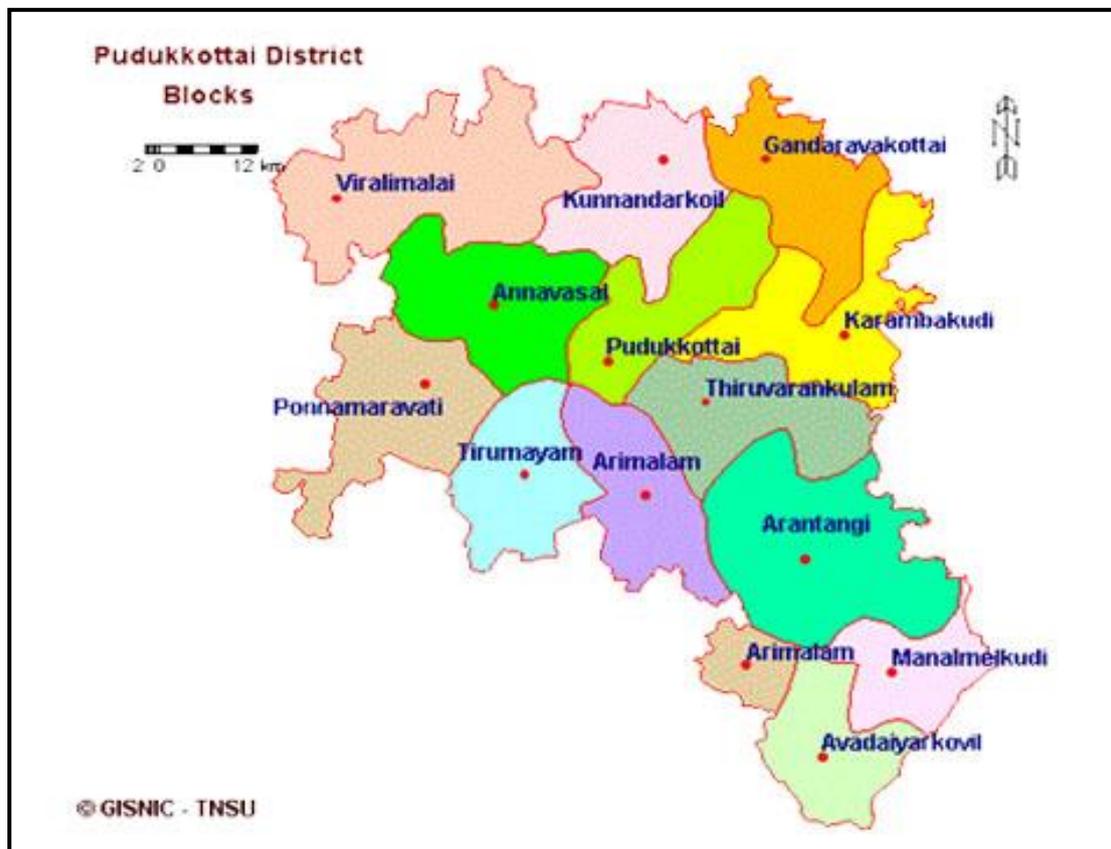


Table 1.1 - District Basic Demographic Indicator

Sl. No	Indicators	2001	2011
1	Population (no.)	14,59,601	16,18,345
2	Decennial Growth (%)	9.98	10.86
3	Density of population per sq,km,	314	348
4	Urban population (%)	17.02	19.39
5	Sex ratio	1015	1015
6	Percentage of 0-14 year old)	28.40	24.28

Source: Census 2001 and 2011

Table 1.1 shows the basic demographic indicators of Pudukkottai district. The population of Pudukkottai district was 14.6 lakh in 2001, which has increased to 16.2 lakh in 2011. The decennial growth rate of population, which was 9.98 per cent in 2001 has slightly increased to 10.86 per cent in 2011. There is an increase of 0.88 per cent. The density of population per sq. km. in 2001 was 314, which has increased to 348 in 2011 and shows the increase in urbanization. This is also corroborated by the increase in the urban population from 17.02 per cent in 2001 to 19.39 per cent in 2011. The sex ratio remains the same during 2001 and 2011 as 1015 females per 1000 males. So, gender discrimination and sex selection do not seem to be the major issue in Pudukkottai district. The percentage of 0-14 year old children was 28.40 per cent in 2001, which has decreased to 24.28 per cent in 2011. It may be due to the increased awareness regarding family welfare measures and also the increasing urbanization.

Economy

Agriculture

In order to understand the agricultural situation, it is important to know the land use classification. The district has an area of 4,663 sq. km., which is 3.59 per cent of the total geographical area of Tamil Nadu. The total geographical area of the district is 4,66,329 ha., out of which 23,535 ha. of land is covered by forests (2013-14). The total cultivable area stands at 2,69,861 ha. in 2013-14, which has decreased from 2,71,167 ha. in 2007-08. The land put to non – agricultural purpose in 2007-08 was 1,29,799 ha., which has increased by 7,306 ha. in 2013-14 to 1,37,105 ha. A substantial amount of land in Pudukkottai district has been converted from land under miscellaneous tree crops and groves and agricultural purpose to non-agricultural purpose. The net sown area has decreased to 1,26,817 ha. in 2013-14 from 1,51,760 ha. in 2007-08.

The nature of the Pudukkottai district is purely agrarian with Paddy, Banana, Sugarcane, Groundnut and Cashew nut as major crops. According to DD Statistics (2013-14), the net area sown is 1,26, 817 hectares and the area sown more than once is 5,397 hectares, i.e., only 1.04 per cent is sown more than once. There are 5,843 Tanks and 136 Cauvery Mettur project Tanks in the district. 120 villages were benefitted by the Cauvery Mettur Project Tanks in the district. The net area irrigated in the district is 1,03,910 hectares. There are 9,661 government canals, 62,645 Tanks, 12,832 Tube wells and 6,777 other wells in the district.

Table 1.2 - Sectoral Distribution of Gross District Domestic Product

(In Rupees lakhs)

Year	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary	Total
2004-05	77,796	90,897	2,05,006	3,73,699
2005-06	90,588	1,07,964	2,32,055	4,30,607
2006-07	90,590	1,11,338	2,69,980	4,71,908
2007-08	75,141	1,29,093	2,92,695	4,96,929
2008-09	66,330	1,29,813	3,19,036	5,15,179
2009-10	82,477	1,47,574	3,38,362	5,68,412
2010-11	85,636	1,58,595	3,79,467	6,23,698
2011-12	1,10,717	1,61,601	4,09,255	6,81,573

Source: Department of Economics and Statistics, Tamil Nadu

The sectorwise Gross District Domestic Product (GDDP) for Pudukkottai district provides a glimpse of the contribution of each sector to the output. The primary sector declined in actual numbers during 2007-08 and 2008-09, then it started increasing continuously. The other two sectors secondary and tertiary increased gradually all the years. In the year 2008-09, the secondary sector increase was very marginal. The primary, secondary and tertiary GDDPs were Rs.1,10,717 lakhs, Rs.1,61,601 lakhs and Rs.4,09,255 lakhs in 2011-12 respectively. The share of primary sector (includes agriculture and allied activities& mining) to the GDDP was 16.24 per cent in 2011-12. The secondary sector, which includes manufacturing, mining, construction, etc., contributed 23.71 per cent to the GDDP in the year 2011-12. While the contribution of the tertiary sector or service sector was 60.05. Comparing the three sectors, the tertiary sector contributes more than 60 percent to the GDDP of the district, which shows the transformation from an

agricultural base to a service sector driven economy. The contribution of the agriculture sector to the GDDP is the lowest compared to the other two sectors. This phenomenon is not unique to Pudukkottai district, the State and National scenarios reflect the same picture.

Industry

Pudukkottai district is considered to be industrially backward in general and so, the Government of Tamil Nadu has taken several steps to industrialize the district. In this respect, the district has three SIDCO industrial estates and one SIPCOT complex with a total area of 96.08 acres. The two SIDCO industrial estates are located in Machuvadi (Pudukkottai block) and Mathur (Viralimalai block), while the SIPCOT complex is located in Vellanur (Annavasal block). Totally, there are 65 sheds and 37 tiny sheds developed in all these estates and complexes. 140 plots, with a total area of 311.69 acres remain vacant and need to be developed in the Vellanur SIPCOT complex, which falls seven kms away from Pudukkottai on the Tiruchirappalli – Rameshwaram National Highway. Apart from these, there is one BHEL plant located in Olaikudipatti (Thirumayam block), which is the latest addition of industries in Pudukkottai district, built at a cost of Rs.250 crores and a capacity of 25,000 metric tonnes, directly and indirectly generating employment of about 4,000.

The total number of registered industries in Pudukkottai district is 20,715 out of which 9,730 are Small Scale Industries (SSIs), 5,925 are Cottage Industries (CIs), 5044 are Handicraft Industries (HIs) and 16 are Large and Medium Scale Industries (LMSIs). The total investment in all these industries is estimated to be about Rs.16,667.05 lakhs, out of which, Rs.15,867.24 lakhs, Rs.414.91 lakhs, Rs.254.77 lakhs and Rs.130.13 lakhs are the investment amounts of SSIs, CIs, HIs and LMSIs respectively. The total employment generated by these industries is 41,498, out of which, 23,290 is generated by SSIs followed by CIs with 8,883, HIs with 7,549 and LMSIs with 1,776 respectively.

The thrust sector activities identified for industrial growth in the next five years are heavy steel and structural fabrication, manufacturing of boilers, granite cutting and polishing, modern rice mill, coir products and briquettes, cashew nut processing, fisheries based industries like fish processing, manufacturing of fish meal, fabrication and servicing of mechanized boat - FRP boat, ice plants and cold storage. Other industries are manufacturing of articles from sea weed, mineral based industries like mechanised

bricks, Mangalore tiles, ceramic and mosaic tiles, Attangudi tiles, granite cutting and polishing, blue metal jelly, quicklime, white cement, forest based industries like saw mill, agro based industries, automobile ancillaries, cashew based units, modern freezing plants for processing of fish, prawns, crabs, etc., in the coastal areas of this District.

Other Sector

In terms of other sector, i.e., services, it is important to get some information regarding the connectivity to services through infrastructure and other services. One of the major aspects of connectivity is roads - the means of transportation for millions of Indians. In this aspect, National Highways and State Highways pass through a length of 148.4 km and 278.4 km respectively through the district connecting the district to the various parts of the State and the Nation. The other district and rural roads account for 78.75 km and rural roads and agricultural marketing broad roads account for 2,998.40 km. Other than road connectivity, the district is connected by the Indian Railways with a total route length of 53 kms.

Electricity is another major service by itself other than being an enabler to many other services. So, it is critical that electricity is made available to all. In this regard it is pertinent to note that there is no power station within the district. In terms of rural electrification, according to the Statistical Hand Book of Tamil Nadu 2013 the district is 100 per cent electrified, i.e., 765 revenue villages and 4,096 hamlets with a population of 12,96,383 are electrified. In terms of urban electrification, eight town panchyats with a total population of 92,161 and 2 municipalities with 1,78,627 population are electrified. Totally 1,61,759 street lights have been provided throughout the district.

Moving on to the next essential service which is of paramount importance is banking. Pudukkottai district has 136 Co-operatives societies with 3,16,806 members and 151 commercial banks with a 1,36,868 account holders. The district has 71 nationalized commercial banks, 27 private commercial sector banks and 21 Central Co-operative banks. The district also has five Regional Rural Banks and nine Land Development Banks. Out of the total commercial bank branches, 72 are in rural areas and 26 in semi-urban areas.

In the world of Information Technology revolution, communication has become even more significant. Around 14 per cent of the households have Telephone connections in the district. On an average every block has nearly 10 Post Offices.

Income

The per capita income of Pudukkottai district (Table 1.3) stood at Rs.24,973 in 2004-05, which was about 36 per cent less than the State average of Rs.33,998 during the same year. The per capita income of the district and the State increased by 8.44 per cent and 9.52 per cent on an average during the period 2004-05 to 2011-12 to Rs.43,890 and Rs.63,996 respectively. The percentage difference between the two is just above one per cent during the reference period, but in terms of absolute numbers, the district seems to be lagging behind the State with a difference of about Rs.20,000 (during 2011-12). The percentage of Below Poverty Line (BPL) households in the district was 1,47,620 in 2012-13. The percentage of BPL households in the two municipalities is 49.43, the average of the blocks is 40.74 per cent, and the average of the eight town panchayats is 31.22 per cent. The average district BPL is 41.21 percent. All these figures are on the higher side, which seems to be a major issue that needs urgent attention.

Table 1.3 Per Capita Income at constant (2004-2005) prices
(In Rupees)

Year	District	State
2004-05	24,973	33,998
2005-06	28,597	38,435
2006-07	31,154	43,941
2007-08	32,623	46,293
2008-09	33,644	48,473
2009-10	36,937	53,359
2010-11	40,341	59,967
2011-12	43,890	63,996

Source: Department of Economics and Statistics, Tamil Nadu

Social Sector

Health

Health is one of the major determinants of human development, while Human Development Index tries to capture this taking into account the longevity of life and certain other indicators like Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR). It is very important that other aspects of health such as the birth rate, death rate,

diseases and vaccination should also be taken into consideration. In this respect in Pudukkottai district, the Crude Birth Rate (CBR) was 15.9 in 2013-14, which was equal to that of Tamil Nadu in the same year, (Figure 1.1). The IMR in Pudukkottai district in 2013-14 was 12, which was much lower than the Tamil Nadu IMR of 21 (Figure 1.2). So, in terms of CBR, the district seems to perform on par with the State level and in terms of IMR, the district seems to perform better than the State level.

Figure 1.1 Crude Birth Rate

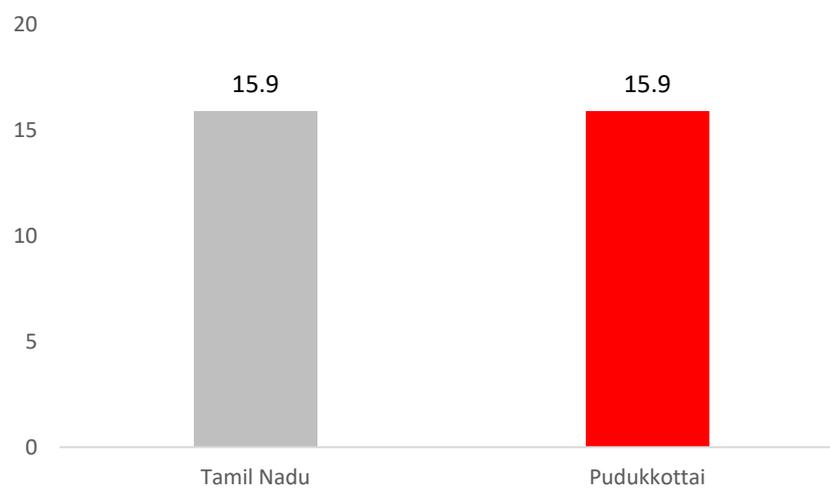
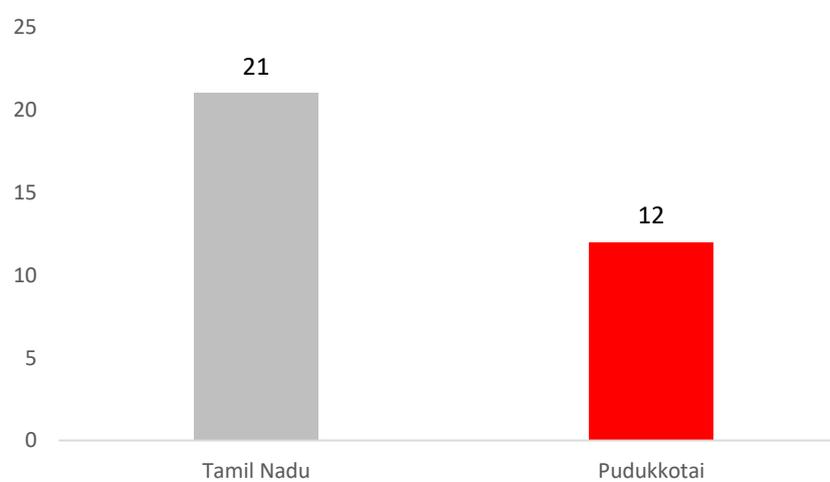


Figure 1.2 Infant Mortality Rate



Source: Health Department, Tamil Nadu and Pudukkottai (2013-14)

Literacy and Education

Literacy and education are the building blocks of human development and very vital in shaping the outcomes of various other indicators. In this regard it is important to know the performance of the district. The district literacy rate is much lower than the State literacy rate. The literacy rate of the district increased from 71.12 per cent to 77.19 per cent during the period 2001 to 2011 i.e, the rate of increase was 6 per cent. In which, the male literacy rate increased by 3 per cent and the female literacy rate increased by 9 per cent in the same period. The growth of female literacy rate was much higher than the male literacy rate, but the literacy gap between male and female was 16.56 per cent. The literacy gap between male and female had reduced from 22.56 per cent to 16.56 per cent during the period 2001 to 2011. The district had 1336 Primary Schools, 189 Middle Schools and 191 Secondary and Senior Secondary Schools.

The primary level completion rate for boys and girls were 99.27 per cent and 99.73 per cent respectively. The upper – primary completion rates for boys and girls were 91.84 per cent and 93.18 per cent. The completion rates of boys and girls at both levels did not show any gender difference, but the completion rates at the upper – primary level are lower than the primary level.

District Human Development Report

The State Planning Commission, Government of Tamil Nadu published the first Human Development Report at the State level for Tamil Nadu in 2003 and followed it up with the pilot preparation of Human Development Reports at the district level. This is the second in the series of Human Development Reports at the State and district levels. The present Human Development Report of Pudukkottai district consists of the profile of the district, status of human development; employment income and poverty; demography, health and nutrition; literacy and education; gender; social security; infrastructure; and summary and way forward. The focus of this Report is on inter-block disparities in indicators of well-being such as income, health, education and gender which would help the district authority to identify and address the different issues at different levels and in turn it would also help to frame a policy for balanced growth of all the blocks of the district and in turn, of the whole State. The State's development in the past has shown a move towards convergence in terms of several human development outcomes of the socially excluded groups and this Report is also aimed in this direction.