

CHAPTER VIII

INFRASTRUCTURE

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Introduction

Infrastructure is the cornerstone of development as lack of proper infrastructure forms an impediment to growth and development. Modern infrastructure facilities fall under three major categories of transport, telecommunication and power. Others like financial institutions, common utility buildings, recreational centers are equally important but the development of the major three components would automatically lead to the opening up of other facilities. Lack of job opportunities cause migration towards metropolitan cities where overcrowding leads to pollution and deteriorating living conditions. In such a scenario, proper infrastructure development all over the state even in small towns and cities would encourage people to live in their hometown as all their aspirations would be fulfilled. Globalisation has provided confidence among people that they can live in any corner of the world with good connectivity provided by transport, communication and power. There would be a feel of inclusion in the global structure though they may be very far from the centre of activity like capital towns and major cities.

Infrastructure can be defined as man-made enabling structures developed and operated by private or public sector for improvement of productivity, growth and for enhancing sustainable socio-economic development and thereby human well-being. Transport includes roadways, railways, airways and waterways with all the necessary basic structures, public utility vehicles, and its management and maintenance. Telecommunication network, telephone lines, exchanges, post-office, satellite communication infrastructure are a few components that constitute communication. Power production, transmission, supply and maintenance and electricity distribution comprise the power sector. Other basic public utilities include rivers, tanks, irrigation canals, drinking water supply, housing, sewage and sanitation, educational institutions, public buildings and maintenance. For most infrastructure facilities, construction and

maintenance are implemented by the concerned government itself or through public private partnership or outsourced to private companies. Public private partnership would be a better association as people would be involved in the maintenance of the facilities leading to proper usage, damage control and sense of belonging.

Tamil Nadu has shown a giant leap in the infrastructure development over the past decade owing to the initiatives of the Government. Most cities are connected with highways and their maintenance outsourced to private players. This has created, less travel time, comfortable journey and better mobility of goods. Up-gradation of all airports to international standard and creation of new ones is in the offing. Air travel and air transport of goods have increased in the past decade that many foreign players have entered the scenario to provide competitive prices for the services. Tamil Nadu has exemplary rail connectivity to every corner of the state that even small villages have railway stations to cater to their needs. On the communication front, the revolution of mobile phones have touched every citizen in the state that the cell phone connections may out-number the population of the State. Internet connections are ever increasing day by day and the entry of private companies as service providers has improved the quality and speed of connections. Power production and distribution in Tamil Nadu is far better than most States, as the Government is constantly improving the production output by upgrading the existing units and creating new units. Tamil Nadu stands first in wind energy production all over India, due to incentives and subsidies given as encouragement to windmill owners. Rural electrification data provided by Tamil Nadu statistical hand book 2011: nearly 100 per cent electrification in all hamlets over the State and out of 48,452 hamlets, 335 hamlets are not electrified.

Roads

Distribution of roads in Pudukkottai district during the year 2013-14 is given in Table 8.1 showing a total coverage of 9,555.18 km length of roads as they form a major infrastructure facility in any town or village. Various categories of roads like mud, CC, WBM and BT are listed out for all the blocks of the district with Viralimalai having the maximum length of total roads, 1077.53 km and Karambakkudi next with 1037.36 km. Gandarvakottai falls last with 318.84 km total road length of which 206.83 km BT road. BT road is the highest among the type of roads with a coverage of 4,803.19, followed by mud road with 2,769.64 kms, then WBM road with 1,834.27 km and last CC road with 148.09. It is interesting to note that BT road stands first in all blocks and CC road last. In

a few blocks like Ponnamaravathy and Karambakkudi, mud roads are more than WBM and BT and CC roads. The district had a total coverage of 2011.32 km of Highways apart from the local roads in the district.

Table 8.1 Distribution of Total Road Length (in km.)

Sl. No	Blocks/District /State	Mud	WBM	BT	CC	Total
1	Annavaasal	139.85	185.3	466.62	6.78	798.55
2	Arimalam	144.24	148.66	243.58	5.07	541.55
3	Kunrandarkovil	281.46	132.52	334.28	18.59	766.85
4	Ponnamaravathi	361.32	61.57	293.59	5.88	722.360
5	Pudukkottai	141.46	150.25	375.66	11.73	679.10
6	Thirumayam	71.02	56.095	249.15	6.80	383.07
7	Viralimalai	416.62	232.61	425.25	3.05	1,077.53
8	Aranthangi	188.13	221.51	481.53	34.39	925.56
9	Avudayarkovil	250.35	125.46	405.06	4.62	785.49
10	Gandarvakkottai	53.27	50.40	206.83	8.34	318.84
11	Karambakkudi	433.78	176.14	400.68	26.76	1,037.36
12	Manamelkudi	167.23	50.77	313.15	5.73	536.88
13	Thiruvarankulam	120.91	242.98	607.81	10.35	982.05
	District	2,769.64	1,834.27	4,803.19	148.09	9,555.18
	State*	55,900.24	17,957.11	1,88,835.10	9,560.17	2,72,252.61

Source: PDOs, AD (IP), Corporation, Municipality; *Statistical Handbook of Tamil Nadu 2013

Electricity

Table 8.2 presents the status of electrification in all the blocks of Pudukkottai district in 2013-14. The district has 811 revenue villages, 4096 hamlets and 8 towns. The district had a total population of 16,18,345 as per the Census 2011. In terms of the number of street lights, the district had a total number of 1,78,165. Among the blocks, Viralimalai has the highest number of street lights with 20,762, followed by Pudukkottai block (18,780). The lowest number of street lights were found to be in Karmbakudi (8,880), followed by Manamelkudi (9,220). The least populous block Thirumayam with 45 revenue villages and 260 hamlets was well electrified with 15,220 street lights. Thiruvarankulam with the highest number of hamlets (486) and third highest population

had only 10,737 street lights. The overall view of the data shows a near 100 per cent electrification in the district of Pudukkottai.

Table 8.2 Status of Electrification (in no.)

Sl.No	Blocks/District	Revenue Village	Hamlets	Towns	Total Population	No. of Street Lights
1	Annavaasal	57	412	2	1,44,991	15,465
2	Arimalam	51	243	1	86,112	13,185
3	Kunrandarkovil	44	242	1	97,267	11,252
4	Ponnamaravathi	49	297	1	1,08,479	12,272
5	Pudukkottai	82	326	0	2,31,074	18,780
6	Thirumayam	45	260	0	82,816	15,220
7	Viralimalai	54	463	0	1,40,227	20,762
8	Aranthangi	102	420	0	1,87,390	17,862
9	Avudayarkovil	96	317	0	85,547	13,408
10	Gandarvakkottai	37	126	0	86,720	11,122
11	Karambakkudi	50	292	1	1,10,604	8,880
12	Manamelkudi	71	212	0	86,672	9,220
13	Thiruvarankulam	73	486	2	1,70,419	10,737
	District	811	4,096	8	16,18,345	1,78,165

Source: TNEB, Tiruchirappalli, *Census 2011

Communication System

The data presented in Table 8.3 brings out the statistics of taluk-wise telecommunication in Pudukkottai district for the year 2013-2014. The total number of telephone exchanges in the district were 45 and Aranthangi had the maximum of 12 exchanges. Pudukkottai and Karambakkudi had the the least number of telephone exchanges with one each. The number of PCOs stood high in Pudukkottai with 336 centres, Aranthangi with 321, Ponnamaravaty with 206 and Manamelkudi with no PCOs. Pudukkottai had recorded the maximum number of land line connections of 6,500, followed by Aranthangi with 5,233, Thirumayam 2,734, Ponnamaravathy 2,538 and the last Karambakkudi 397. Total number of landline connections were 24,109, while that of mobile phone were 1,35,273. Aranthangi again held the record for the number of mobile connections with 32,212. Consequently, it houses the maximum mobile towers in its taluk (321). Next, Pudukkottai had the maximum mobile users with 31,712 units, but it houses only 25 mobile towers. Avudaiyarkovil had the maximum number (385) of WLL

connections followed by Alangudi and Illupur (251 each). Pudukkottai had 144 WLL connections, which is lesser than most other taluks like Thirumayam 152, Gandharvakottai 200, Kulathur 216, etc. Only Karambakkudi had no WLL connections and mobile towers though its mobile phone users were 2,097 being the least of all.

Table 8.3 Telecommunication System

Sl. No	Blocks/ (Taluks wise)/District	No. of Tel.exch ange	No. of PCO	No. of land line	No. of WLL Connections	No. of Mobile Phone Connections	No. of Mobile phone Towers	Population Covered
1	Pudukkottai	1	336	6,500	144	31,712	25	2,29,294
2	Thirumayam	8	131	2,734	152	14,252	131	1,58,860
3	Gandharvakottai	2	91	789	200	4,169	91	89,926
4	Ponnamaravathi	6	206	2,538	120	13,409	206	1,08,579
5	Alangudi	3	111	1,612	251	9,212	111	1,70,361
6	Aranthangi	12	321	5,233	235	32,212	321	1,95,798
7	Avudaiyarkoil	4	62	734	385	3,878	62	87,306
8	Manamelkudi	3	0	1,306	112	6,900	85	86,589
9	Karambakkudi	1	26	397	0	2,097	0	1,106,12
10	Illupper	3	75	1,206	251	9,732	75	2,18,961
11	Kulathur	2	88	1,060	216	7,700	88	1,62,439
	District	45	1447	24,109	2,066	1,35,273	1,195	16,18,725

Source: Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, Pudukkottai.

Financial Institutions

The data set out in Table 8.4 lists the financial institutions in the Pudukkottai district with a split up of all 13 blocks in the year 2013-14. Of the total 136 Co-operative societies, Aranthangi has 19, Gandharvakottai 15, Avudaiyarkovil and Thiruvarankulam 12 each, Annavasal 11, Pudukkottai and Viralimalai 10 each, Kunranarkovil, Ponnamaravathi, Karambakkudi and Manamelkudi nine each, Thirumayam 6, and Arimalm with the least of 5. Thiruvarnkulam has the maximum membership of 46,164 and Manamelkudi the least with 14,825. The total members of the district are 3,41,830 in co-operative societies, while that of account holders in commercial banks are 1,36,868 only. Though the number of banks are more (151) as against the societies (136), membership is more in societies. Annavasal with 26 tops the chart banks followed by Ponnamaravathy and Gandharvakottai 18 each, Aranthangi and Arimalam 14 each,

Viralimalai 12, Avudaiyarkovil 10 and Thiruvarankulam 5, the least. Aranthangi with 14 banks has the major number of account holders of 12,674 and Annavasal with 26 banks has only 5368 account holders.

Table 8.4 Commercial and Co-operative Banks

Sl. No	Blocks/District	Number of Co-Operative Societies	Number of Members	Commercial Banks	Number of Account Holders
1	Annavasal	11	35,762	26	5,368
2	Arimalam	5	17,149	14	5,306
3	Kunrandarkovil	9	25,659	8	10,913
4	Ponnamaravathi	9	28,791	18	14,487
5	Pudukkottai	10	31,879	7	8,787
6	Thirumayam	6	24,766	6	9,432
7	Viralimalai	10	26,476	12	12,674
8	Aranthangi	19	26,268	14	24,067
9	Avudayarkovil	12	17,206	10	4,685
10	Gandarvakkottai	15	25,034	18	7,425
11	Karambakkudi	9	21,851	7	7,564
12	Manamelkudi	9	14,825	6	6,305
13	Thiruvarankulam	12	46,164	5	19,855
	District	136	3,41,830	151	1,36,868

Source: Lead Bank Officer and Managing Director, PCC Bank, Pudukkottai

Insurance

Table 8.5 Insurance Companies

Sl. No	Name of the Companies	No. of Branches	Polices Issued
1	United Insurance Co. Ltd.	1	9,200
2	The New India Assurance Company Ltd.,	1	24,185
3	National Insurance Company Ltd.,	1	9,722
4	Life Insurance Corporation Ltd, Pudukkottai.	3	51,075
	Total	6	94,182

Source: Concerned Institution. Pudukkottai.

Table 8.5 shows the list of insurance companies and the policy holders in the whole district. The LIC of India has 3 branches, United India, The New India Assurance, and National Insurance have one each. LIC has the major policy holders of 51,075, followed by New India Assurance with 24,185, then United India with 9,200 and last,

National Insurance with 9,722. On the whole there are about 94,182 policy holders for a total population of 16.1 lakh, i.e., 5.8 per cent of the total population.

Transport Facilities

Pudukkottai is well connected by road and railways. The State Transport Corporation runs vehicles throughout the day connecting all towns and villages in and around Pudukkottai. Pudukkottai bus stand is a B grade bus station located in the centre of the town forming a nodal point for long distance and short distance buses plying through the town. NH 210, 226 and State highways 26 and 71 connect the district to other far off towns. Pudukkottai railway station is connected to Chennai and Rameshwaram on a daily basis and by weekly trains to Varanasi, Bhuvaneshwar, Puducherry and Kanyakumari. Apart from the above mentioned express trains, passenger trains run every day connecting Tiruchirappalli, Mannargudi, Karaikudi and Rameshwaram. The nearest airport is the International Airport at Tiruchirappalli, which is 55 kms away, connected by National Highway 210.

Conclusion

The above chapter describes the various infrastructural facilities available in the blocks of Pudukkottai district. Viralimalai had the maximum length of total roads, 1077.53 km and Karambakkudi was with 1037.36 km. Gandarvakottai was last with 318.84 km total road length. In a few blocks like Ponnamaravathy, Aranthangi and Karambakkudi, mud roads were more than WBM and BT and CC roads. Pudukkottai district with 4096 hamlets had 1,78,165 street lights in 2013-14. The least populous block Thirumayam with 45 revenue villages and 260 hamlets was well electrified with 15,220 street lights. Thiruvarankulam with the highest number of hamlets (486) and third highest population had only 10,737 street lights. Only 21.12 per cent of the population