

EDUCATION IN TAMIL NADU:

Tamil Nadu is one of the most literate states in India. The state's literacy rate is 80.33% in 2011, which is above the national average. A survey conducted by the Industry body Assam ranks Tamil Nadu top among Indian states with about 100% Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in primary and upper primary education.

The structure of education in the state is based on the national level pattern with 12 years of schooling (10+2+3), consisting of eight years of elementary education, that is, five years of primary and three years of middle school education for the age groups of 6-11 and 11-14 years, respectively, followed by secondary and higher Secondary education of two years each besides two years of pre-primary education. The entry age in class 1 is 5+. Pre-primary classes form age group 3 to 4. The higher secondary school certificate enables pupils to pursue studies either in universities or in colleges for higher education in general academic streams and in technical and professional courses.

There were a total of 12,855,485 children enrolled across the state as of 2010, with the split up of 9,797,264 students in primary, 1,873,989 in secondary and 1,184,232 in higher secondary classrooms.

Tamil Nadu Board of Secondary Education, established in 1910, is under the purview of the Department of Education, Government of Tamil Nadu, India. The Tamil Nadu State Board of School Examination evaluates students' progress by conducting three board examinations-one at the end of class 10 and the others at the end of class 11 & 12. The scores from the class 12 (combined with the class 11) board examinations are used by universities to determine eligibility and as a cut-off for admissions into their programmes.

Tamil & English are Common Medium Languages. Most private schools' medium of instruction is English, while the schools run by the Government are primarily Tamil medium.

Peculiar Cases: The Kendriya Vidyalaya's run by the central government have a dual medium of instruction: English and Hindi.

All recognized schools belong to one of the following accreditation systems:

- ✚ Tamil Nadu State Board - for all years of study
- ✚ Indian Certificate of Secondary Education - for all years of study
- ✚ Central Board of Secondary Education - for all years of study
- ✚ Matriculation System for classes K - 10 and automatically rolled over to Tamil Nadu State Board for classes 11 and 12.
- ✚ Tamil Nadu Anglo-Indian School Leaving Certificate for classes K - 10 and automatically rolled over to Tamil Nadu State Board for classes 11 and 12.

Exceptions to the above rule include a few schools that follow the Montessori method, International Baccalaureate, IGCSE or the American system.

The Minister of Education, who is a member of the state legislature, is in overall charge of education in the state. The following Directorates implement those education aspects which are under the control of the School Education Department.

- ✚ Directorate of Elementary Education
- ✚ Directorate of Government Examinations
- ✚ Directorate of Matriculation Schools
- ✚ Directorate of Non-formal and Adult Education
- ✚ Directorate of Public Libraries
- ✚ Directorate of School Education
- ✚ Directorate of Teacher Education, Research and Training
- ✚ State Project Directorate, District Primary Education Programme and SSA
- ✚ Teachers Recruitment Board
- ✚ Tamil Nadu Text-book Corporation
- ✚ State Project Directorate, Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA).

Government of Tamil Nadu's scheme:

Some of the schemes introduced by the Tamil Nadu government in school education are:

- ✚ Computer education
- ✚ Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)
- ✚ Girls education
- ✚ Integrated Education for the Disabled (IED)
- ✚ Kasturba Gandhi Ballka Vidyalaya (KGBV)
- ✚ Mid-day Meal Scheme
- ✚ National Programme of Education for Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL)
- ✚ Educational satellite (EDUSAT)
- ✚ Distribution of free textbooks
- ✚ Distribution of free uniforms
- ✚ Distribution of free bus passes.

Tamil Nadu has 37 universities, 552 (in 2014) engineering colleges. And 1150 arts college, 2550 schools and 5000 hospitals. Tamil Nadu Directorate of Technical Education (TNDTE) under the control of the Tamil Nadu Higher Education Department deals with Diploma, Post Diploma, Degree, Post Graduate courses and Research programmes. It also regulates the establishment of technical institutions including commerce institutions such as Typewriting, Shorthand and Accountancy.
