

UNIT – 5

POPULATION OF TAMIL NADU:

People of a country are the greatest assets for development. People living in an area together are known as population. The study of population is known as demography. People are considered as resources because of their ability to change available natural resources into value added products. Human potential, knowledge and energy are used for the betterment of individuals, the society and the nation. Every individual contributes to the nation's development. Therefore, the size of population and its individual capacity in terms of education, health and work force decides the pace of national development. For this reason, people of the country should be nurtured in proper manner to maintain the quality and quantity.

Population of Tamil Nadu:

As per 2011 Census, the population of Tamil Nadu was about 7, 21, 38,958 of which 3, 61, 58,871 was males and 3,59,80,087 was females. Tamil Nadu as a whole has 5.96% of the total national population (India).

The Census of India, a central governmental organization, is engaged in collecting, tabulating and publishing all statistics related to population, once in ten years.

Demography indices

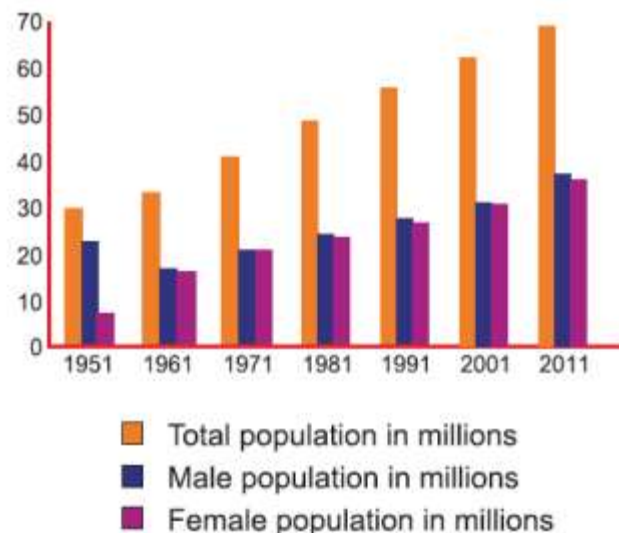
- ✚ **The crude birth rate** – the annual number of live births per 1,000 people.
- ✚ **The crude death rate** – the annual number of deaths per 1,000 people.
- ✚ **The infant mortality rate** – the annual number of deaths of children less than 1 year old per 1,000 live births.
- ✚ **The sex ratio**- the number of females per 1,000 of males.
- ✚ **Life expectancy** – the number of years an individual at a given age would be expected to live at present mortality levels.

✚ **Total fertility rate** - represents the numbers of children that would be born to a woman if she were to live to the end of her childbearing years and bear children in accordance with current age-specific fertility rates.

The Total Fertility Rate of Tamil Nadu birth and death rates for Tamil Nadu for the year 2006 is 15.9 and 7.6 per thousand population, respectively. Infant mortality rate has reached 37 to 1,000 live births by 2006.

Growth of population

From the bar diagram given, it is inferred that the population of Tamil Nadu has doubled over a period of 60 years from 1951 to 2011.



The difference between birth and death rates gives the natural increase of population of regions. When expressed in percentage it is known as the growth rate. The annual growth rate is 1.1%, which is lower than that of India.

When birth rate is continuously high, a nation has to provide education and health facilities for more number of children. Other environmental problems also increase with high population. Tamil Nadu has shown a considerable rate of reduction in growth rate in recent years.

Distribution of population

Chennai possesses the largest share of 6.4% of the total population of Tamil Nadu. This is followed by Coimbatore, Vellore and Salem districts. Perambalur has the least population of (0.078%).

Factors influencing the distribution of population

- ✚ Generally, plains with suitable climate support a huge population.
- ✚ Coastal plains with mild temperatures and good opportunities for economic activities support huge population.
- ✚ Job opportunities in large towns and cities attract both literates as well as illiterates.
- ✚ Dry regions generally support a small population.
- ✚ Mountainous regions with steep slopes and forest cover support a small population as well.

In general, the variations in population among different regions are identified by **population density**. Density of population is a means of finding out the number of persons living in one unit area, which is generally expressed as persons per square kilometre. It gives an idea of how crowded a region is. The following table gives the density of population in Tamil Nadu, by districts of the states.

Table: Tamil Nadu: District wise density of population

No. of persons per square km	Density	Districts (density is given in brackets)
Less than 400	Low	Nilgiris(288), Ramanathapuram(320), Perambalur(323), Sivagangai(324), Dharmapuri(332), Pudukkottai(348), Dindigul(357), Krishnagiri(370), Karur(371), Thuthukkudi(378), Ariyalur(317), Erode(397), Thiruvannamalai(399)
400 – 800	Medium	Theni (433), Virudhunagar(454), Tirunelveli(458), Tiruppur(476), Villupuram(482), Namakkal(506), Thiruvarur(533), Tiruchirappalli(602), Vellore(646), Salem(663), Nagapattinam(668), Thanjavur(691), Cuddalore(702), Coimbatore(748).
Above 800	High	Madurai(823), Kancheepuram(927), Thiruvallur(1049), Kannyakumari(1106), Chennai(26903).

From the table, it may be understood that eight districts exhibited high population density. Seventeen districts have medium densities and five districts fall under low population density. Chennai, the capital city, a centre for administration, education, industry, trade, commerce and recreation, has the highest density of population. Sivagangai has the lowest density of population.

Composition of Population in Tamil Nadu:

As per 2011 census, 37% of population in Tamil Nadu is below 20 years, 54% is between 20 and 60 years, and 9% is above 60 years. Percentage of Schedule Castes and Schedule Tribes is 20% and 1.1% respectively.

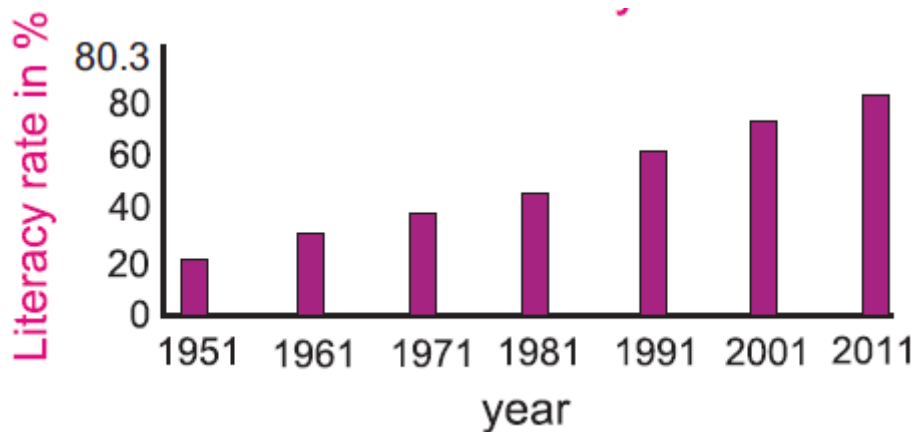
In Tamil Nadu there are about 88% Hindus, 5.5% Muslims, and 6% Christians and the rest are of religions such as Sikhs, Buddhist and Jains. The state has a sex ratio of 996 women for 1000 men. The highest sex ratio is in Thuthukodi (1042) and the least is in Dharmapuri (946). Fifteen districts record more females than males.

In Tamil Nadu, 51.55% of the people live in rural areas and 48.45% of the population live in urban centres.

Literacy:

The literacy in Tamil Nadu has greatly increased in the period 1951 to 2011. The overall literacy of Tamil Nadu is 80.09%. Among the districts, Dharmapuri has the least literacy of 68.5%. Kanyakumari has the highest 91.75% of literates. Chennai, Thuthukudi and the Nilgris have 80% literates. Among the Schedule Castes and Schedule Tribes 55% and 35% of them are literates.

Tamil Nadu – Literacy rate:



The state has considerably reduced the school dropouts. Education for all is the prime ambition of the government. Among men, 726 out of every 1000 are literates. Likewise among women 571 out of every 1000 are literates. Among the districts, Kanyakumari has the highest literacy rate with 803 for every thousand men and 758 for every thousand women.

Occupation:

According to 2011 Census, the total number of workers in Tamil Nadu account for 44.67%; non-workers accounts for 55.33%. Among the workers, 41.5% work in the primary sector, followed by 27.7% in the secondary sector and 30.8% in the tertiary sector.

Classification of workers:

It may be noticed from the table that agricultural workers are seen to, be reducing in number. Construction workers and tertiary workers are increasing year after year which indicates the trend of increasing urbanization in Tamil Nadu. In the year 2000, the unemployment rate for the state was 2.4%.

Tamil Nadu workers and Non-workers

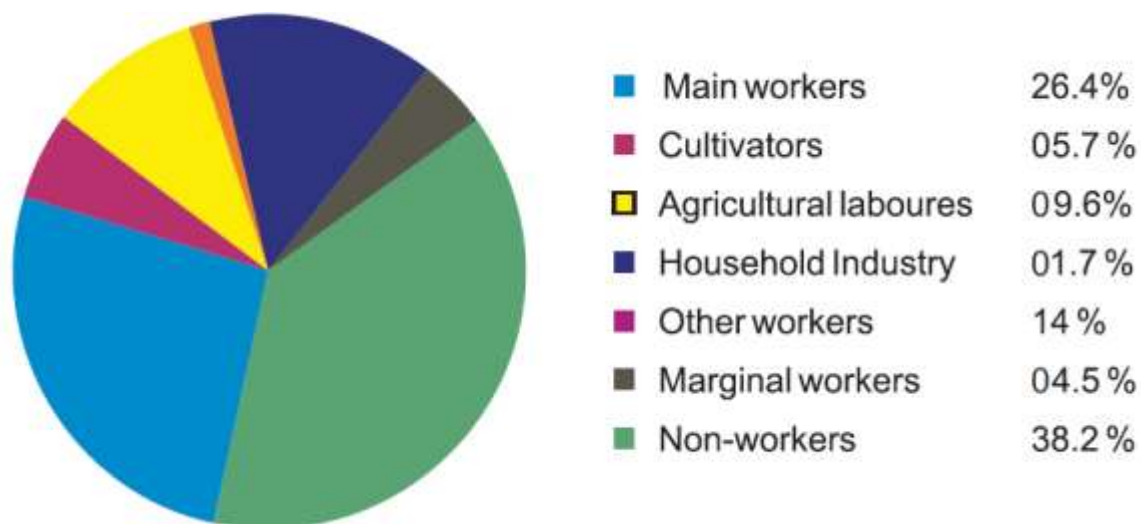


Table: Classification of Workers and Distribution

Workers	1961 (in %)	1991(in %)	2001(in %)
Cultivators	42.0	25.0	18.4
Agricultural labourers	18.4	36.0	31.1
Household, Industry, Manufacturing	13.4	03.6	05.3
Other workers	26.2	35.0	45.2

Source: Tamil Nadu Human Development Report.

POVERTY IN TAMIL NADU:

Tamil Nadu has made significant progress in terms of poverty reduction over the last few decades. In the period 1973-74 to 1987-88 the percentage of people living below poverty line in Tamil Nadu was higher than the all-India average. However since then, there has been a dramatic decrease in poverty levels since that time. In 1973-74 the poverty level was 54.94 percent, it declined to 43.39 per cent in 1987-88 and further to 21.12 per cent in 1999-2000. Moreover, the incidence of poverty was relatively higher in rural areas till 1987- 88 where as it declined steadily during the nineties thanks effective implementation of various poverty alleviation programmes

Table-3: Trend in Incidence of Poverty in Tamil Nadu Vis-a-Vis All-India

Year	Rural		Urban		Combined	
	Tamil Nadu	All India	Tamil Nadir	All India	Tamil Nadir	All India
1973-74	57.43	56.44	49.40	49.01	54.94	54.88
1977-78	57.68	53.07	48.69	45.24	54.79	51.32
1983	53.99	45.65	46.96	40.79	51.66	44.48
1987-88	45.80	39.09	38.64	38.20	43.39	38.86
1993-94	32.48	37.27	39.77	32.36	35.03	35.97
1999-2000	20.55	27.09	22.11	23.62	21.12	26.10

Source: Tamil Nadu Human Development Report.

At the National level, the incidence of poverty declined from 44.48 per cent in 1973- 74 to 26.10 percent in 1999-2000. At the State level, the major States like Orissa, Bihar, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu had more than 50 per cent of their population below the poverty line in 1983. By 1999-2000, while Tamil Nadu and West Bengal had reduced their poverty ratios by nearly half (Tamil Nadu 21.12%), Orissa and Bihar continued to be the two poorest States in the poverty ratio of 47 and 43 per cent respectively.

The districts were also grouped into three broad categories, namely high poverty districts (more than 40 per cent of the population living below poverty line), moderately poor districts (30 to 40 per cent living below poverty line) and low level poverty districts (below 30 per cent). As seen from Table below, six districts were

considered to be high poverty level districts in 1993-94. Four were moderate districts and eleven low poverty districts. It is noticeable is that Chennai which is a high per capita income district nonetheless had a moderate level of poverty. Moreover, Dharmapuri, a low per income district, is classified as a low poverty district. Another puzzling case is that of Thoothukudi which had high per capita income as well as high poverty level.

Table-7: Districts According to Level of Poverty

Poverty Ratio Range	No. of Districts	Names of Districts
High Poverty (above 40%)	6	Cuddalore, Tiruvannamalai, Dindigul, Thoothukudi, Kanniyakumari and Tirunelveli
Moderate poverty (30 – 40%)	4	Vellore, Salem, Thanjavur and Madurai
Low Poverty (below 30%)	11	Kancheepuram, Dhjarmapuri, Nilgiris, Tiruchy, Pudukkottai, Sivagangai, Coimbatore, Virudhunagar, Ramanathapuram, Nagapattinam, and Erode.

Source: Tamil Nadu Human Development Report, State Planning Commission.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN TAMIL NADU:

Tamil Nadu is one of India's richest states since 1994; the state has seen a steady decline in poverty. Today, Tamil Nadu has lower levels of poverty than most other States in the country. After 2005, Tamil Nadu was among India's fastest growing states, with growth being driven mainly by services.

National average of unemployment rate stands at 50 and Tamil Nadu ranks 22nd with unemployment rate of 42 per 1000.

Tamil Nadu's unemployment rate increased 43.5 percentage points, rising to 49.8% in Apr 2020, according to a survey conducted by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE). Over a longer time period, unemployment has moved from 0.9% in May 2019 to its current rate.