

# **CHAPTER V**

## **LITERACY AND EDUCATION**

LITERACY AND EDUCATION

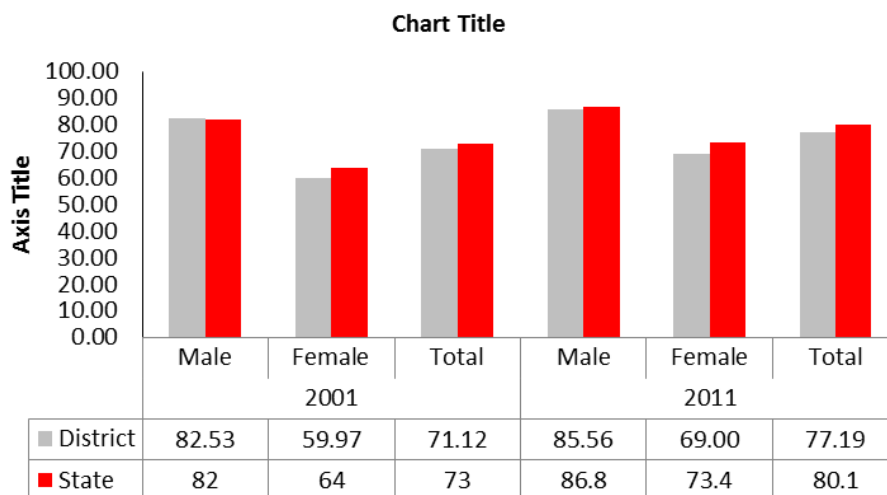
Introduction

Human resource development will lead to human capital formation only with literacy, education, skill building, training etc. It is the basic indicator of status of any nation. If a country is incapable of providing required literacy for its population, it is unfortunate, as it is unable to provide the basic necessity to survive and compete. Education contributes to individual development, and human capital formation. Hence, adequate allocation for SGDP towards primary education in general and secondary and higher education in particular would contribute positively to Human Development.

Literacy

Literacy is the basic requirement for Human Development. The following figure illustrates the growth of literacy rate during 2001 and 2011 for Tamil Nadu and Pudukottai district.

Figure 5.1 Literacy Rate



Source: Census 2001 and 2011

The district literacy rate in 2011, for Pudukottai was 77.19 per cent, which was 3.14 per cent lower than the State literacy rate 80.33 per cent (see Appendix Table 5.1). The gender disaggregated male and female literacy rates were 85.56 per cent and 69.0 per cent and lower than the State by 1.25 per cent and 4.86 per cent respectively during the period 2011. The literacy rate gap between male and female in Pudukottai district is 16.56 per cent.

As far as block-wise variations in the literacy rate achievement is concerned, Pudukkottai block stands at the top. It is higher than the district and State literacy rates. Manamelkudi and Aranthangi blocks also have higher literacy rates than the district and State. All the other blocks have lower literacy rate than the district and State levels. Regarding the male literacy rate, Pudukkottai block stands at the top. Pudukkottai (90.70 per cent), Manamelkudi (89.45 per cent), Aranthangi (89.13 per cent), Thiruvarankulam (88.63 per cent) and, Avudaiyarkoil (87.40 per cent) blocks have higher male literacy rate than the district and State levels.

It is to be noted that, three blocks, viz., Pudukkottai (78.77 per cent), Manamelkudi (75.70 per cent) and Aranthangi (74.15 per cent) have higher female literacy rate than the district and State levels. Thiruvarankulam and Avudaiyarkoil blocks have higher female literacy rate than the district but lower than the State female literacy rate. Rest of the eight blocks in Pudukkottai district, have lower female literacy rate than the district and as well as the State level.

Gandharvakkottai block's overall, male and female literacy rates is very low among the blocks. The male and female gender gap was very high at 20.07 per cent in Ponnamaravathi block. The male and female gender gap ranges from 13.7 per cent to 20.07 per cent in the district. Hence, any State initiative needs to prioritise to reduce the gender gap in literacy on the one hand and improve the overall achievements on the other in Gandharvakkottai and Ponnamaravathi blocks.

## **Elementary Education**

### **Primary Education**

Primary Education is the basic necessity in the early years of human capital formation and knowledge building. Hence, primary education must be the basis and priority. Though India has brought the Right to free and compulsory Education Act 2009, which imposes that every child in the eligible group is supposed to be in Schools,

still there are gaps. Thanks to Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and other initiatives of both the State and Central Governments to improve Literacy and Education through Universalization of Education.

The primary level enrolment in Pudukkottai district during the period 2011-12 to 2013-14 reveals that the enrolment has increased by 2.34 per cent among boys and 3.13 per cent among girls. The overall increase has been three per cent. The gender difference in the district primary enrolment was 0.71 per cent during 2013-14 in favour of girls, which is negligible. The district level of total primary enrolment rate in 2013-14 was 101.89, the district level of boys and girls was 101.54 and 102.25 respectively. The same at the State level was 102.45, 102.49 and 102.42 respectively. There was no big difference between the district and State levels, so it can be said that the district performs almost at par with State as far as primary enrolment rate is concerned.

**Table 5.1 Gender Wise Enrolment in Primary Education**

Sl. No	Blocks/District	Primary								
		Boys			Girls			Total		
		2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
1	Annavasal	98.51	98.51	93.13	99.56	99.56	95.17	99.04	99.03	94.15
2	Arimalam	99.67	99.67	109.40	99.74	99.74	114.95	99.70	99.70	112.17
3	Kunrandarkovil	99.45	99.45	100.72	98.14	98.14	104.15	98.80	98.8	102.43
4	Ponnamaravathi	99.18	99.18	111.73	99.18	99.18	99.18	99.18	99.18	109.70
5	Pudukkottai	99.56	99.56	114.49	98.24	98.37	116.76	98.90	98.96	115.63
6	Thirumayam	99.16	99.16	114.59	99.50	99.50	104.55	99.33	99.33	109.57
7	Viralimalai	98.38	99.85	97.98	99.38	99.38	103.43	98.88	99.62	100.70
8	Aranthangi	99.41	99.41	104.31	99.32	99.32	104.86	99.36	99.36	104.59
9	Avudayarkovil	99.82	99.82	80.76	99.05	99.05	84.02	99.43	99.43	82.39
10	Gandarvakkottai	99.50	99.50	94.91	99.50	99.50	97.26	99.50	99.50	96.09
11	Karambakkudi	99.09	99.09	91.30	99.98	99.98	90.69	99.53	99.53	90.99
12	Manamelkudi	99.14	99.20	103.09	99.10	99.10	104.42	99.12	99.15	103.76
13	Thiruvarankulam	99.23	99.23	103.68	98.23	98.23	101.26	98.73	98.23	102.47
	District	99.24	99.35	101.54	99.15	99.16	102.25	99.19	99.22	101.89

Source: Education Department, Pudukkottai

Block-wise variations in comparison with district level indicate that Pudukkottai block has shown the highest increase during the reference period of 16.92 per cent, followed by Arimalam with 13 per cent increase. Avudaiyarkovil, Karambakkudi,

Annavaasal and Gandharvakkottai register a fall in the primary enrolment rate during the reference period. Thirumayam block records the highest increase in the primary enrolment rate for boys, while Pudukkottai block records the highest increase in the primary enrolment rate for girls. Avudaiyarkovil records a fall in the primary enrolment rate for both boys and girls.

Block-wise gender differences in primary enrolment shows that nine blocks have gender differences in the GER Primary in favour of girls; Arimalam (5.55 per cent) and Viralimalai (5.45 per cent) are the top two blocks in this regard. Four blocks record gender difference in the GER Primary against girls and the top two blocks in the regard are Ponnamaravathi (12.55 per cent) and Thirumayam 10.04 per cent. Thanks to the efforts of the Education Department for keeping the primary enrolment near 100 per cent. The reasons for deviations from the district level identified in certain blocks as mentioned above, may need to be identified whether it is due to the migration, or other factors and accordingly relevant strategies must be devised to eliminate the same.

### Completion Rate and Dropout Rate in Primary Education

**Table 5.2(a) Completion Rate**

Sl. No	Blocks/District	Primary								
		Boys			Girls			Total		
		2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
1	Annavaasal	98.64	99.65	98.65	98.51	99.87	98.87	98.58	99.76	98.76
2	Arimalam	99.67	99.74	99.17	98.33	99.82	99.25	99.00	99.78	99.21
3	Kunrandarkovil	99.02	99.86	99.12	99.41	99.64	98.90	99.22	99.75	99.01
4	Ponnamaravathi	99.54	99.90	99.43	98.12	99.51	99.03	98.83	99.71	99.23
5	Pudukkottai	98.69	99.41	98.55	98.41	99.60	98.75	98.55	99.51	98.65
6	Thirumayam	99.59	99.87	99.24	98.17	100.00	99.36	98.88	99.94	99.30
7	Viralimalai	99.41	100.00	99.28	98.12	99.86	99.14	98.77	99.93	99.21
8	Aranthangi	99.14	99.86	99.79	99.32	99.70	99.63	99.23	99.78	99.71
9	Avudayarkovil	99.31	100.00	98.88	98.45	99.93	98.82	98.88	99.97	98.85
10	Gandarvakkottai	99.14	98.65	98.92	98.50	98.47	98.74	98.82	98.56	98.83
11	Karambakkudi	99.24	99.89	98.23	99.11	99.78	98.13	99.16	99.84	98.18
12	Manamelkudi	99.64	99.54	99.98	99.64	99.48	99.92	99.64	99.51	99.95
13	Thiruvarankulam	99.49	99.71	99.43	99.37	99.90	99.63	99.43	99.81	99.53
	District	99.27	99.73	99.13	98.73	99.70	99.09	99.00	99.72	99.11

Source: Education Department, Pudukkottai

The district level completion rate at the primary level for Pudukkottai district (Table 5.2(a)) was marginally higher for boys compared to girls with 0.04 per cent gender gap during the year 2013-14. The total district completion rate for primary was 99.11 for the year 2013-14, which was marginally lower than the previous year. In eight blocks, the completion rate at the primary level was relatively higher for boys compared to girls for the year 2013-14. Block-wise comparison of completion rate at the primary level showed that Manamelkudi had the highest completion rates for both boys and girls in 2013-14, while Karambakkudi had the lowest completion rate for both boys and girls in 2013-14. But, the variations among the blocks during the reference period for all the categories was not much with regard to completion rate at the primary level.

**Table 5.2(b) Dropout Rate**

Sl. No	Blocks /District	Primary								
		Boys			Girls			Average		
		2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
1	Annavasal	0.62	0.17	0.40	0.62	0.06	0.34	0.62	0.12	0.37
2	Arimalam	0.62	0.21	0.37	0.85	0.18	0.43	0.74	0.20	0.40
3	Kunrandarkovil	0.67	0.14	0.39	0.67	0.36	0.30	0.67	0.25	0.34
4	Ponnamaravathi	0.62	0	0.38	0.86	0.29	0.42	0.74	0.15	0.40
5	Pudukkottai	0.62	0.59	0.39	0.82	0.13	0.29	0.72	0.36	0.34
6	Thirumayam	0.39	0	0.35	0.56	0	0.32	0.48	0	0.34
7	Viralimalai	0.57	0	0.40	0.78	0	0.36	0.68	0	0.38
8	Aranthangi	0.61	0	0.43	0.87	0	0.36	0.74	0	0.40
9	Avudayarkovil	0.60	0	0.46	0.86	0.07	0.34	0.73	0.04	0.40
10	Gandarvakkottai	0.65	1.35	0.42	0.82	1.53	0.36	0.74	1.44	0.39
11	Karambakkudi	0.63	0.11	0.32	0.78	0.22	0.41	0.71	0.17	0.37
12	Manamelkudi	0.60	0.46	0.44	0.89	0.52	0.40	0.75	0.49	0.42
13	Thiruvarankulam	0.64	0.19	0.42	0.79	0	0.29	0.72	0.09	0.35
	District	0.60	0.22	0.39	0.69	0.23	0.35	0.65	0.23	0.37

Source: Education Department, Pudukkottai

The block-wise dropout rates of boys and girls at the primary level for the period 2011-12 to 2013-14 has been given in Table 5.2(b). The data reveals that the dropout

rates in general were very low for both boys and girls at 0.39 and 0.35 during 2013-14 and these rates were lower than State level at 0.9 and 1.0 respectively for the same year. Block-wise variations are also quite less ranging between 0.34 to 0.42 in 2013-14. Gandharvakkottai had dropout rates of greater than one for both boys and girls in 2012-13, and same has been brought down to less than one, which is commendable.

## Upper Primary / Middle School Education

As regards to the upper primary enrolment rate in Pudukkottai district for the period 2011-12 to 2013-14 (Table 5.3), there is an increase in the boys enrolment by 0.69 per cent and girls by 2.04 per cent. The overall enrolment showed an increase of 1.34 per cent. Block-wise deviations from the district level has been analysed and it is found that Thirumayam block registered the highest increase of 18.87 per cent in the upper primary enrolment rate during the reference period followed by Pudukkottai (17.81). It has been influenced by the increase in both boys' and girls' enrolments. The highest fall in the upper primary enrolment rate was found in Avidaiyarkovil (13.23 per cent) during the reference period followed by Karambakkudi (9.52 per cent). Pudukkottai block records the highest increase in the upper primary enrolment rate for boys (16.06 per cent) followed by Thirumayam (13.60 per cent). The same for girls was recorded by Thirumayam (24.15 per cent) followed by Pudukkottai (19.55). Avudaiyarkovil recorded the highest decline in terms of upper primary enrolment rate for both boys (14.62 per cent) and girls (11.85 per cent). Annavasal, Viralimalai, Karambakkudi, Ponnamaravathi and Manamelkudi record a fall in the upper primary enrolment rate for boys, while Karambakkudi, Gandharvakkottai, Annavasal and Ponnamaravathi record a fall in the upper primary enrolment rate for girls. Gender difference in upper primary enrolment rate is in favour of Girls during 2013-14 for Pudukkottai district. Similar picture is reflected in Kunrandarkovil, Annavasal, Viralimalai, Pudukkottai, Thirumayam, Ponnamaravathi and Manamelkudi, while the remaining blocks have gender difference against girls. Overall, thanks to the Education Department for keeping the enrolment higher in general and more among girls in particular.

**Table 5.3 Gender Wise Enrolment in Upper Primary Education**

Sl. No	Blocks/District	Upper Primary								
		Boys			Girls			Total		
		2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
1	Annavasal	98.51	99.80	90.15	99.56	99.80	93.77	99.03	99.80	91.96
2	Arimalam	99.67	99.50	111.53	99.74	99.50	101.32	99.70	99.50	106.42
3	Kunrandarkovil	99.95	99.70	106.31	98.14	99.70	109.18	99.04	99.70	107.75
4	Ponnamaravathi	99.62	99.80	96.60	99.01	99.80	97.72	99.31	99.80	97.16
5	Pudukkottai	99.56	99.70	115.62	98.24	99.70	117.79	98.90	99.70	116.71
6	Thirumayam	99.16	99.80	112.76	99.50	99.80	123.65	99.33	99.80	118.20
7	Viralimalai	98.40	99.96	90.68	99.38	99.50	101.23	98.83	99.73	95.95
8	Aranthangi	99.37	99.70	103.43	99.32	99.60	103.27	99.34	99.70	103.35
9	Avudayarkovil	99.77	99.50	85.15	99.05	99.50	87.20	99.41	99.50	86.18
10	Gandarvakkottai	99.50	99.80	101.12	99.50	99.80	92.07	99.50	99.80	96.60
12	Manamelkudi	99.11	99.40	95.55	99.10	99.30	99.45	99.10	99.30	97.50
13	Thiruvarankulam	99.33	99.80	100.11	98.23	99.70	99.74	99.28	99.80	99.93
	District	99.31	99.71	100.00	99.13	99.65	101.19	99.26	99.68	100.60

Source: Education Department, Pudukkottai

### Completion Rate and Dropout Rate in Upper Primary /Middle School Education

The district level upper primary completion rate (Table 5.4(a)) has been relatively higher for girls than boys in Pudukkottai with 1.44 per cent gender gap. It is in favour of girls as per 2013-14, where girls performed better than the boys in terms of completion rate. The rate of growth of completion rate between 2011-12 and 2013-14 has been relatively higher for boys, but still the average completion rate is higher among girls.

The inter block variations in upper primary completion rate showed that Kunrandarkovil, Pudukkottai, Thirumayam, Manamelkudi and Thiruvarankulam blocks have performed better than the district level of 94.50 per cent completion rate. Arimalam showed the lowest completion rate of 92.52 per cent in the upper primary for boys during 2013-14. For girls, it is observed that Manamelkudi figured the best performing block with 97.62 per cent completion rate, whereas Arimalam, had the least



completion rate among girls at the upper primary level. The fact is that almost all the blocks have realized an increase in completion rate irrespective of gender.

**Table 5.4(a) Completion Rate**

Sl. No	Blocks/District	Upper Primary								
		Boys			Girls			Total		
		2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
1	Annavasal	91.64	99.56	93.47	93.01	99.49	93.39	92.33	99.53	93.43
2	Arimalam	91.67	99.13	92.52	92.15	99.80	93.20	91.91	99.47	92.86
3	Kunrandarkovil	92.14	98.00	96.58	92.46	98.63	97.20	92.30	98.32	96.89
4	Ponnamaravathi	91.54	98.64	93.33	93.12	98.8	93.49	92.33	98.72	93.41
5	Pudukkottai	92.19	98.02	94.25	93.41	99.29	95.53	92.8	98.66	94.89
6	Thirumayam	92.64	98.47	94.46	94.19	100.00	96.00	93.42	99.24	95.23
7	Viralimalai	91.41	95.85	91.99	93.19	99.45	95.59	92.30	97.65	93.79
8	Aranthangi	92.68	98.66	93.53	93.32	98.72	93.59	93.00	98.69	93.56
9	Avudayarkovil	91.26	98.81	93.18	94.45	99.58	93.94	92.86	99.20	93.56
10	Gandarvakkottai	91.96	98.37	93.26	93.01	99.37	94.26	92.49	98.87	93.76
11	Karambakkudi	91.36	97.22	93.48	93.11	99.1	95.36	92.24	98.16	94.42
12	Manamelkudi	91.69	97.96	97.10	93.69	98.48	97.62	92.69	98.22	97.36
13	Thiruvarankulam	91.74	99.45	95.48	92.24	99.20	95.24	91.99	99.33	95.36
	District	91.84	98.52	94.05	93.18	99.28	94.95	92.51	98.90	94.50

Source: Education Department, Pudukkottai.

The dropout rate for Upper Primary Education is shown in Table 5.4(b). Here also the dropout rates are low except a couple of blocks registering dropout rates at about one per cent. The overall district dropout rate was 0.89 per cent in 2013-14, while the same for boys was 0.87 per cent and for girls was 0.90 per cent. The State level figures for the same were 1.65, 1.64 and 1.67 respectively during the same year, which show that the district is performing better than the State in this respect. The inter block variations in dropout among boys ranges between 0.60 per cent and 1.15 per cent. Among girls, the highest dropout rate was found in Aranthangi with 1.08 per cent and the lowest dropout rate was found in Arimalam with 0.60 per cent. The blocks which showed an increase in the dropout rate during the reference period are Aranthangi for boys and Avudaiyarkovil for girls. All efforts have been made to arrest the dropout rates, and boys' dropout rate

has reduced relatively more than the girls' dropout rate in Pudukkottai district at the upper primary level during the reference period.

**Table 5.4(b) Dropout Rate**

Sl. No	Blocks/District	Upper Primary								
		Boys			Girls			Total		
		2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
1	Annavasal	1.87	0.38	0.85	0.96	0.51	0.80	1.42	0.45	0.83
2	Arimalam	1.78	0.87	0.60	1.88	0.20	0.60	1.83	0.54	0.60
3	Kunrandarkovil	1.46	1.90	0.80	1.24	0.98	0.84	1.35	1.44	0.82
4	Ponnamaravathi	1.36	0.97	0.78	1.12	1.00	0.86	1.24	0.99	0.82
5	Pudukkottai	1.87	1.39	1.04	1.62	0.24	1.06	1.75	0.82	1.05
6	Thirumayam	1.02	1.53	0.85	1.87	0	0.93	1.45	0.77	0.89
7	Viralimalai	1.86	0.61	0.92	0.98	0.18	1.05	1.42	0.40	0.99
8	Aranthangi	1.02	0.34	1.05	1.78	0.16	1.08	1.40	0.25	1.07
9	Avudayarkovil	1.86	1.03	0.90	0.86	0.42	0.99	1.36	0.73	0.94
10	Gandarvakkottai	1.24	1.33	0.63	1.02	0.47	0.74	1.13	0.90	0.68
11	Karambakkudi	1.24	2.78	0.95	1.34	0.90	1.03	1.29	1.84	0.99
12	Manamelkudi	1.62	2.04	0.85	0.94	1.52	0.90	1.28	1.78	0.88
13	Thiruvankulam	1.88	0.44	1.15	1.87	0.80	0.88	1.88	0.62	1.01
	District	1.54	1.15	0.87	1.34	0.58	0.90	1.44	0.87	0.89

Source: Education Department, Pudukkottai

The upper primary completion and dropout rates must be analysed taking the psychological and physiological changes that the adolescents experience. This is the crucial period, which shape the mind of adolescent groups. The boys particularly get distracted, socially remain deviated or join the peer group just to enjoy the adolescent company, which contribute to higher dropout among the boys in Pudukkottai blocks at the upper primary levels.

### **Transition Rate from Primary to Upper Primary and Upper Primary to Secondary**

Table 5.5(a) and Table 5.5(b) shows the block-wise transition rate of primary to upper primary and upper primary to secondary for the years 2011-12 to 2013-14. The

district transition rate of primary to upper primary has been generally good, touching the 99 per cent mark. Between boys and girls, boys transition rate is marginally higher than the girls in 2013-14. The State level rates in this regard were nearing the 100 per cent mark and were marginally higher than the district level rates. For the year 2013-14, four blocks, viz., Annavasal, Viralimalai, Pudukkottai and Thiruvarankulam achieve 100 per cent boys' transition rate from primary to upper primary, whereas in terms of girls only one block, viz., Kunrandarkovil achieved 100 per cent transition rate for the year 2013-14, though the rates of other blocks are closer to 100 per cent. Kunrandarkovil, Aranthangi, Thirumayam, Avudaiyarkovil and Manamelkudi register a fall in the transition rate of boys during the reference period, while all the remaining blocks registered an increase. Kunrandarkovil, Viralimalai, Pudukkottai, Thiruvarankulam, and Avudaiyarkovil registered an increase in the transition rate of girls during the reference period.

**Table 5.5(a) Transition Rate**

Sl. No	Blocks/District	Primary to Upper Primary								
		Boys			Girls			Total		
		2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
1	Annavasal	98.97	100.00	100.00	99.46	99.98	99.00	99.22	99.99	99.50
2	Arimalam	99.18	99.10	99.80	99.48	99.98	99.20	99.33	99.54	99.50
3	Kunrandarkovil	100.00	98.12	98.10	99.87	100.00	100.00	99.94	99.06	99.05
4	Ponnamaravathi	99.08	99.37	99.90	99.89	100.00	99.00	99.49	99.69	99.45
5	Pudukkottai	99.18	100.00	100.00	98.23	99.99	99.20	98.71	99.99	99.60
6	Thirumayam	100.00	98.53	98.50	99.78	99.95	99.20	99.89	99.24	98.85
7	Viralimalai	100.00	100.00	100.00	99.12	99.99	99.20	99.56	99.99	99.60
8	Aranthangi	99.12	99.31	99.30	99.06	100.00	99.00	99.09	99.66	99.15
9	Avudayarkovil	99.24	98.32	98.30	99.24	99.92	99.30	99.24	99.12	98.80
10	Gandarvakkottai	100.00	99.17	99.20	99.57	99.98	99.20	99.79	99.58	99.20
11	Karambakkudi	98.24	99.37	99.40	99.98	99.90	99.00	99.11	99.64	99.20
12	Manamelkudi	99.43	98.20	98.70	99.86	99.96	99.30	99.65	99.08	99.00
13	Thiruvarankulam	98.12	100.00	100.00	98.23	99.98	99.20	98.18	99.99	99.60
	District	99.27	99.19	99.32	99.37	99.97	99.22	99.32	99.58	99.27

Source: Education Department, Pudukkottai.

**Table 5.5(b) Transition Rate**

Sl. No	Blocks/District	Upper Primary to Secondary								
		Boys			Girls			Total		
		2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
1	Annavasal	99.74	97.53	98.83	99.50	97.53	99.51	99.62	97.53	99.17
2	Arimalam	99.45	96.32	98.97	99.00	97.94	98.18	99.23	97.13	98.57
3	Kunrandarkovil	98.50	96.12	98.88	98.75	96.12	98.80	98.63	96.12	98.84
4	Ponnamaravathi	99.78	98.14	98.45	96.00	98.14	96.59	97.89	98.14	97.52
5	Pudukkottai	96.57	95.03	99.00	99.70	98.78	99.38	98.14	96.91	99.19
6	Thirumayam	98.78	97.15	99.00	96.30	97.15	99.59	97.54	97.15	99.29
7	Viralimalai	99.85	99.73	99.00	99.00	99.73	99.52	99.46	99.73	99.26
8	Aranthangi	92.05	98.15	99.00	98.30	99.31	99.18	95.18	98.73	99.09
9	Avudayarkovil	96.03	99.15	99.00	96.75	98.31	99.40	96.39	98.73	99.20
10	Gandarvakkottai	98.45	97.01	98.91	100.00	99.50	99.02	99.23	98.25	98.96
11	Karambakkudi	93.12	97.56	98.71	99.75	97.76	99.37	96.44	97.66	99.04
12	Manamelkudi	98.50	96.95	99.00	98.50	96.95	99.17	98.5	96.95	99.08
13	Thiruvarankulam	99.72	98.79	98.94	100.00	96.78	97.36	99.86	97.79	98.15
	District	97.73	97.51	99.28	98.58	98.00	99.28	98.16	97.75	99.28

Source: Education Department, Pudukkottai

The district transition rate of upper primary to secondary for girls is higher than the boys in 2011-12 and 2012-13 and it is same for boys and girls for the period 2013-14. Eight blocks showed an increase in transition rate between the year 2011-12 and 2013-14 for both boys girls. The total (combined boys and girls) transition rate in the district showed marginal increase from 98.16 per cent in the year 2011-12 to 99.28 per cent during 2013-14. Among the blocks, seven blocks registered an increase in the transition rates during the reference period. Overall, the transition from upper primary to secondary level for Pudukkottai district indicated that all the blocks are performing well in this regard.

## Access to Schools

The block-wise availability of school is given in Table 5.6. On an average, there is a primary school for every four habitations and there is an upper primary school for every fourteen habitations. Among the blocks, in actual numbers, Thiruvarankulam has the highest number of primary schools with 136 schools, followed by Pudukkottai with 131 schools in the year 2013-14. Manamelkudi block has the least number of primary schools (63) followed by Thirumayam with 67 schools during the same year. The number of habitations per school is high in Pudukkottai block, where one school covers about six habitations followed by Viralimalai block with one school covering about four habitations. The highest increase in the number of primary schools can be noticed in Pudukkottai block during the reference period.

**Table 5.6 Availability of School**

Sl. No	Blocks/District	Number of Habitations	Number of Primary Schools		Number of Upper Primary /Middle Schools	
			2011-12	2013-14	2011-12	2013-14
1	Annavaasal	417	115	124	27	29
2	Arimalam	234	68	78	14	17
3	Kunrandarkovil	259	80	92	18	18
4	Ponnamaravathi	298	91	93	18	19
5	Pudukkottai	717	84	131	35	38
6	Thirumayam	260	62	67	21	25
7	Viralimalai	461	100	109	25	26
8	Aranthangi	426	92	118	50	51
9	Avudayarkovil	317	72	82	21	21
10	Gandarvakkottai	244	60	68	28	27
11	Karambakkudi	310	91	96	29	29
12	Manamelkudi	235	50	63	19	19
13	Thiruvarankulam	515	117	136	25	26
	District	4,693	1,082	1257	330	345

Source: Education Department, Pudukkottai

In terms of upper primary schools, Aranthangi has the highest number of schools (51) and Arimalam has the least number of schools with 17. Gandharvakkottai block has one upper primary school covering nine habitations, while Thiruvarankulam has one upper primary school covering 20 habitations. The number of schools have been provided on the basis of the population in each village. Access to school has been the major factor for rural children to enroll. Even if there is a school close to their residence, the children may remain absent for various other reasons including parental absence

when both parents go out for work or to look after the household activities to provide income to the poverty stricken children. Hence, the intervention may focus on providing day care centres for babies. Such day care centres must link with the households where dropout occurs, so that reasons for dropout could be identified and addressed accordingly.

## Pupil – Teacher Ratio in Primary and Upper Primary

**Table 5.7 Pupil Teacher Ratio**

Sl. No	Blocks/District	Pupil Teacher Ratio		
		Govt.	Aided	Pvt Financed
1	Annavasal	22	51	37
2	Arimalam	17	33	25
3	Kunrandarkovil	21	34	33
4	Ponnamaravathi	18	21	41
5	Pudukkottai	20	30	27
6	Thirumayam	14	28	22
7	Viralimalai	21	39	71
8	Aranthangi	20	28	34
9	Avudayarkovil	16	38	38
10	Gandarvakkottai	19	32	38
11	Karambakkudi	21	27	33
12	Manamelkudi	20	40	30
13	Thiruvankulam	19	34	27
	District	19	31	32

Source: Education Department, Pudukkottai (2013-14)

The Table 5.7 gives the Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) in Pudukkottai district, which indicates that the district level was 19, 31 and 32 for the Government, Aided and Private Financed School categories. It informs that the Government Schools had better PTR compared to the Aided and Private Financed School categories. The inter-block variations reveal that in most of the blocks the PTR is higher, while in some blocks, Viz., Thirumayam, Avudayarkovil and Arimalam, it was lower than the district level in the Government Schools category. In the Aided Schools category, Ponnamaravathi was the only block, which had PTR like Government Schools category (21). In this category, the highest PTR of 51 was found in Annavasal block followed by Manamelkudi block (40). In the remaining blocks, the PTR was around the district average. In the Private

Financed Schools category, Thirumayam is the only block, which had PTR (22) nearing the Government Schools category. The highest PTR in this category was found in Viralimalai block at 71, which is quite alarming. Thirumayam, Arimalam, Pudukkottai, Thiruvankulam and Manamelkudi blocks had PTR lower than the district level in this category. In all the other blocks, the PTR is higher than the district level and is also quite higher than the Government Schools.

## Secondary Education

**Table 5.8 Enrolment in Secondary Education**

Sl. No	Blocks /District	Secondary							
		No.		Boys		Girls		Total	
		2012-13	2013-14	2012-13	2013-14	2012-13	2013-14	2012-13	2013-14
1	Annavasal	11	19	100.98	95.33	99.41	94.15	100.20	94.75
2	Arimalam	8	11	101.12	47.22	98.98	38.56	100.05	42.71
3	Kunrandarkovil	7	7	100.86	99.08	98.25	106.16	99.56	102.47
4	Ponnamaravathi	10	11	101.26	99.87	98.62	106.60	99.94	103.14
5	Pudukkottai	18	24	100.49	268.89	99.43	283.30	99.96	275.91
6	Thirumayam	6	9	101.89	47.09	98.92	69.56	100.40	57.62
7	Viralimalai	10	7	101.50	99.78	98.84	108.75	100.17	104.18
8	Aranthangi	19	19	100.30	164.85	99.75	165.27	100.02	165.05
9	Avudayarkovil	6	10	101.29	77.23	99.45	66.28	100.37	71.65
10	Gandarvakkottai	4	7	102.94	54.34	95.49	43.14	99.22	48.87
11	Karambakkudi	8	12	101.65	148.98	98.38	147.47	100.01	148.17
12	Manamelkudi	9	9	100.61	52.61	99.37	54.38	99.99	53.49
13	Thiruvankulam	17	19	100.28	111.93	99.71	113.04	100.00	112.45
	District	133	164	101.17	95.66	98.81	95.97	99.99	95.82

Source: Education Department, Pudukkottai.

The Table 5.8 provides the block-wise number of secondary schools and the enrolment in the secondary education. It can be seen that there were 133 secondary level schools in Pudukkottai district in 2012-13, which had increased to 164 in 2013-14. In terms of the total enrolment ratio at the secondary level, Pudukkottai district recorded 95.82 per cent during 2013-14. The boys' and girls' enrolment at the secondary level were 95.66 per cent and 95.97 per cent during 2013-14. It could be noted that there has

been a fall in these rates compared to the previous year, i.e., 2012-13. Among the blocks, gross enrolment is highest in Pudukkottai followed by Aranthangi and Karambakkudi. Similar trend can be seen in the boys and girls rates also. This can be attributed to high number of leading schools in these blocks. Due to this, students from neighbouring blocks join school in these blocks. The lowest rates in this regard can be found in Arimalam and Gandharvakkottai blocks.

The Gender-wise enrolment shows that boys enrolment at the secondary level is lower than the girls enrolment. The gender gap was 0.23 per cent at the High School level. On the other hand, the gender gap at the Higher Secondary Level had shown still wider difference compared to High School level, indicating that the girls enrolment tends to decline as one moves up the ladder of higher level of school education. Girls' enrolment at Higher Secondary level was below the district level.

**Table 5.9 Dropouts in Secondary Education**

Sl. No	Blocks /District	Secondary								
		Boys			Girls			Total		
		2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
1	Annavaasal	12.04	11.59	3.70	4.05	1.60	3.49	8.17	6.72	3.59
2	Arimalam	18.58	7.81	1.27	11.78	4.47	1.01	15.37	6.08	1.15
3	Kunrandarkovil	19.48	21.70	4.27	7.49	8.56	2.06	13.44	15.05	3.25
4	Ponnamaravathi	13.69	13.93	6.30	10.54	7.84	3.05	11.90	10.61	4.66
5	Pudukkottai	17.02	12.73	3.99	4.58	6.16	2.15	10.22	9.11	3.07
6	Thirumayam	14.03	13.11	5.92	0.43	6.87	3.00	4.78	8.70	4.27
7	Viralimalai	12.33	13.64	4.96	11.08	9.33	2.47	11.74	11.53	3.70
8	Aranthangi	8.87	21.98	3.23	9.75	9.59	1.21	9.33	15.52	2.27
9	Avudayarkovil	0.00	0.00	6.62	0.00	0.00	2.26	0.00	0.00	4.58
10	Gandarvakkottai	10.09	15.73	0.81	3.69	9.37	0.61	6.97	12.43	0.73
11	Karambakkudi	7.26	1.67	3.39	11.78	1.36	1.78	9.60	1.51	2.62
12	Manamelkudi	0.00	0.00	4.22	11.79	5.31	6.07	5.98	0.95	5.16
13	Thiruvankulam	15.93	9.65	3.88	7.78	6.22	1.91	12.05	8.01	2.93
	District	11.49	11.04	4.27	7.29	5.90	2.06	9.20	8.17	3.25

Source: Education Department, Pudukkottai.



In Table 5.9, block-wise dropouts in secondary education for the period 2011-12 to 2013-14 has been figured out. At the district level, the overall dropout rate at the secondary level has reduced from 9.20 per cent in 2011-12 to 3.25 per cent in 2013-14. Similarly boys' and girls' dropout rates have also reduced from 11.49 per cent and 7.29 per cent to 4.27 per cent and 2.06 per cent during the same period respectively. It is good to see that in Gandharvakkottai block both boys and girls dropout is lowest in 2013-14. Contrarily, Manamelkudi block has the highest dropout rate for girls and Avudaiyarkovil has the highest dropout rate for boys in the same year. The highest difference in dropout rate between boys and girls can be seen in Avudaiyarkovil and the least in Annavasal.

### Box 5.1 Initiatives for Improvement in Quality of Education

The quality of education mainly depends on the interaction between the teacher and the student. Gap between the teacher and the student is one of the reasons for the deteriorating quality in education. Parents wish to admit their children in private schools rather than government schools due to declining quality. In this scenario, Activity Based Learning (ABL) summative and formative systems have been introduced to overcome these problems as part of the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA). ABL training is handled by both resource teachers and Block Resource Teacher Educators (BRTes). Initially, all BRTes were trained by the resource teachers working in Chennai schools. Later, BRTes and resource teachers together become a resource group for training teachers in the district. While BRTes provide the details of theoretical aspects of ABL, practicing teachers share their experience through demonstrating ABL classroom activities. Training programmes are conducted, based on specific content to enrich ABL classroom activities and enhance the teacher's performance in implementing the ABL methodology. Training is focused on ABL cards, Villupattu, puppet show, use of self learning material, supplementary reader, logo, charts, self attendance chart, binding wires and low level blackboard. Follow-up activities after training have been provided through regular visits by the BRTes. During the visits, they organise review meetings, and discuss maintenance of records at the school level such as the consolidated reports of student achievement, self attendance charts, weather charts, and children's workbooks. Schools are also graded and monitored through a 2-point rating scale containing 12 items.

To enhance the quality of education, Pudukkottai district has 13 Block Resource Centres (BRCs) and 145 Cluster Resource Centres (CRCs). Out of the total number of CRCs 107 are Primary and 38 are Upper Primary. Teachers handling classes I -VIII are given opportunities to express their novelties in teaching during monthly meeting, which leads to innovation in teaching and learning.

## Box 5.2 Reading Writing Skills among Primary and Upper Primary School Children

Effective reading writing skills are as important for effective communication as speaking and listening skills. Reading skills serve as a foundation for writing. Developed and mastered, effective reading skills give people the opportunity to learn new information about the world, people, events, and places, to enrich their vocabularies, and improve their writing skills. In India, around 40 per cent of the children cannot read or write a paragraph without any struggle. In this scenario, ABL has been introduced by the government. This activity based learning moderately influences the students' reading and writing skills. A separate supplementary reader book is issued to each student for improving the reading capability. For developing writing skills among the students, a separate black board has been allotted to each student in primary education. BRTes have been appointed by the Government of Tamil Nadu for analyzing reading and writing skills among the children. BRTes visit the schools once in fifteen days and examine the progress of the students in reading and writing skills. Apart from this, summer camps, non-residential and residential bridge courses are conducted regularly in the district to improve the reading and writing skills of the children. The Education Department has initiated the concept of Village Education Committee (VEC), which mobilises the community participation in bring positive outcomes in the teaching learning front. These are the current initiatives implemented towards encouraging the reading and writing skills in all the blocks of Pudukkottai district.

### Access to Higher Secondary Schools

The blockwise availability of high schools and higher secondary schools would give some understanding about the access to secondary education (see Appendix Table5.2). There are totally 164 high schools and 139 higher secondary schools in the district in the year 2013-14. It is noticed there are 25 more high schools than higher secondary schools. Among the blocks, Pudukkottai block has the highest number of high schools, while Aranthangi has the highest number of higher secondary schools. In terms of the ratio of schools to habitations (access ratio), the district level is 3.49 for high schools and 2.96 for higher secondary schools. The access ratio needs to be improved, in order to check the dropouts in the secondary and higher secondary levels. The lowest ratio of high schools to habitations is found in Viralimalai block and the lowest ratio of higher secondary schools to habitations is found in Avudaiyarkovil block. In terms of the secondary access ratio Arimalam ranks the first and Aranthangi stands first in higher secondary access ratio. It is interesting to note that Viralimalai and Aranthangi blocks

have more number of higher secondary schools compared to high schools. In Kunrandarkovil and Manamelkudi blocks, the number of high schools and higher secondary schools are the same. In the remaining blocks, the number of high schools have been more than the higher secondary schools.

## Basic Infrastructure

Table 5.10 provides the details regarding the school infrastructure for the year 2013-14. Pudukkottai block possesses the maximum number of schools (212) and Avudaiyarkoil has the least, which is half the number of schools of Pudukkottai (101). Higher Secondary schools with access to basic infrastructure for Pudukkottai for 2013-14 indicates that more than 50 per cent of the schools have three class rooms and above. There is no category-wise data available, to find out whether Government or Aided or Private schools have more than three class rooms. In terms of number of schools, Pudukkottai tops the position with more than 200 schools followed by Aranthangi. These two blocks have the maximum number of class rooms, with more than three class room category.

**Table 5.10 Infrastructure**

Sl. No	Blocks /District	Total No. Of schools	With 3 Class Rooms	more than 3 Class Rooms	Without Toilet	Without Girls Toilet	Without Electricity	Without Compound Wall	Without Drinking Water	With Desk and Chair
1	Annavasal	183	96	87	0	0	1	64	0	0
2	Arimalam	115	48	67	0	0	0	31	0	0
3	Kunrandarkovil	123	54	69	0	0	0	29	0	0
4	Ponnamaravathi	133	70	63	0	1	2	34	0	0
5	Pudukkottai	212	62	150	0	0	1	41	0	0
6	Thirumayam	106	40	66	0	0	2	21	0	0
7	Viralimalai	152	58	94	0	0	2	47	0	0
8	Aranthangi	211	75	136	0	0	2	19	0	0
9	Avudayarkovil	101	30	71	0	0	0	15	0	0
10	Gandarvakkottai	106	47	59	0	0	1	52	0	0
11	Karambakkudi	147	82	65	0	0	1	57	0	0
12	Manamelkudi	119	57	62	0	0	4	44	0	0
13	Thiruvankulam	198	80	118	0	1	3	56	0	0
	District	1,906	799	1,107	0	2	19	510	0	0

Source: Education Department, Pudukkottai

There is no school in any block in Pudukkottai, which does not have access to toilets as per reported data. It is indeed a great achievement. But, there are two blocks Thiruvarankulam and Ponnamaravathy, which do not have access to girls' toilet. This gender gap tends to influence the gender inequality index. There are 19 Schools in the entire district which do not have electricity facilities. Manamelmudi and Thiruvarankulam have reported relatively more schools without electricity. All the schools are equipped with drinking water and desk and chair facilities in the Higher Secondary Schools.

## Hostel Facilities

Tamil Nadu Government provides hostel facilities for girls under two categories, Backward Class and Adhidraavidar Welfare. The students from rural areas and those who are in remote areas are supported with such hostel facilities. Hostel facilities will encourage more girls to join the education stream.

Table 5.11 gives the details of the hostels in Pudukkottai district for the year 2013-14. The hostel facilities are available in 84 schools in Pudukkottai out of the total 1906 schools.

**Table 5.11 Hostels**

Sl. No	Blocks (Including Taluk Area)/District	No. Schools	Total Number of Students	No. of Students in Hostels
1	Annavasal	1	100	98
2	Arimalam	3	150	217
3	Kunrandarkovil	7	1,420	722
4	Ponnamaravathi	3	155	387
5	Pudukkottai	15	1,107	1,230
6	Thirumayam	3	119	255
7	Viralimalai	5	376	250
8	Aranthangi	15	810	916
9	Avudayarkovil	4	179	374
10	Gandarvakkottai	5	256	420
11	Karambakkudi	5	353	299
12	Manamelmudi	4	220	310
13	Thiruvarankulam	14	755	660
District		84	6,000	6,138
Source: District Adhi Dravidar Welfare Officer and District Backward Officer				

Pudukkottai and Aranthangi blocks have the maximum number of schools covered with Backward Class and Adiravidar Welfare hostel facilities. However, Backward Class and Adiravidar Welfare Hostels of Pudukkottai block accommodate the maximum number of students followed by Aranthangi. There is a difference in the actual capacity of the student accommodation and the actual number of students. Kunuandarkovil has the maximum accommodation for the Adiravidar students, followed by Gandarvakottai and Ponnamaravathy blocks. Compared to the Backward Class Hostels, the gap between the capacity and actual accommodation was more in the Adiravidar Hostels. In Kundrandarkoil, only around one third of the capacity has been filled. In the entire district, both the hostels, put together, the hostel facility has been provided to 10,157 students.

### Box5.3 Technology Initiatives in School Education

Technology initiative programmes have been implemented since the introduction of SSA. In Pudukkottai district computer aided learning in schools is empowering the students in the technologized world. To further develop the level of computer aided learning (CAL), the concerned authorities have adopted ICT oriented education. The main goal of CAL is to incorporate latest technologies that enhance teaching-learning process. In order to achieve this, 186 CAL centres are currently functioning in Pudukkottai district in 186 schools. In this direction, internet connections have been provided to 14 schools in the district, which is a small number and needs to be increased rapidly. This scheme would be helpful to improve connectivity in the classrooms and assist collaborative learning. This system sets up avenues for the teachers and students to exchange unique teaching and learning processes. Apart from this, in an effort to reduce the study materials of school children, audio-visual based learning material has been given to all schools. For reducing communication gap between Headmasters and administrations, a special SIM card has been provided to all Headmasters. A science mobile van has been going around the district to provide science lab facility in primary education. It visits each school every fortnight.

In order to get upto date information, regarding infrastructure of the schools, school-based Annual Information System, called Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE 2012) has been introduced. This system helps to get data online and keep track of infrastructural facilities by the concerned authorities.

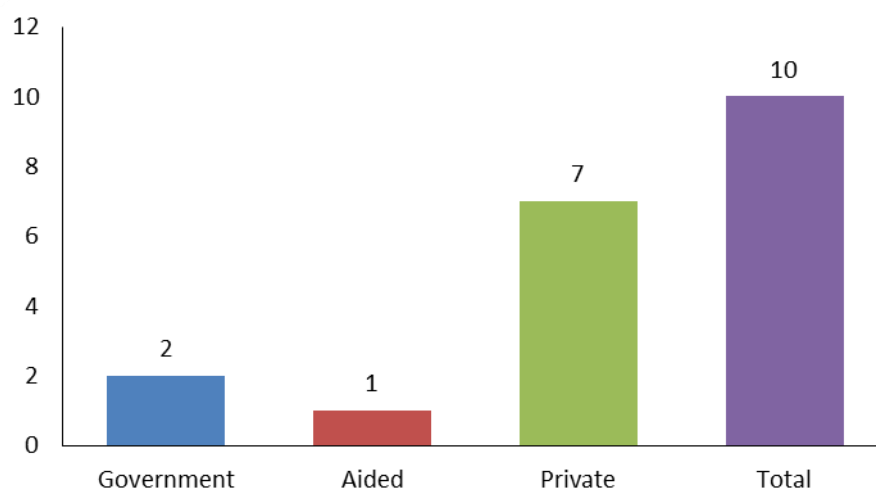
## Higher Education

### Arts and Science Colleges

Access to Higher Education in both Arts and Science and Technical Education reveals that Arts and Science Colleges are only in four blocks, which include Pudukkottai, Ponnamaravathy, Aranthangi and Thiruvarankulum (see Appendix Table 5.3).

### Arts and Science College

Figure 5.2 Arts and Science Colleges

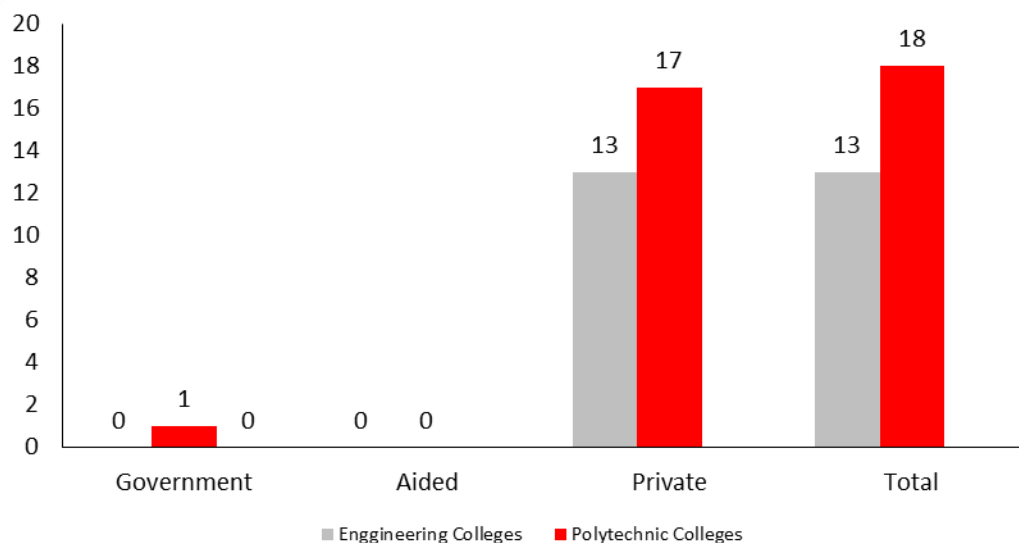


Source: District Statistical Hand Book 2012-13, Pudukkottai.

In three colleges, the female students are more than the male students. In Thiruvarankulam, the male students are more than the female students. The gender gap has been unfavourable to male, which has to be analysed with respect to the admission in technical courses. Block-wise analyses of distribution of Engineering Colleges present a completely different picture. Of the 13 blocks, six blocks have engineering colleges, which include Annavasal, Pudukkottai, Thirumayam, Viralimalai, Aranthangi and Gandarvakottai (see Appendix Table 5.4). Thanks to privatization of education, which has permitted several private institutions to establish colleges in economically backward blocks such as Gandarvakottai, Annavasal etc., this is primarily due to the low land price and access to transport facilities.

## Technical Education

**Figure 5.3 Engineering and Polytechnic Institutions**



Source: District Statistical Hand Book 2012-13, Pudukkottai.

A comparison of block-wise access to Arts and Science Education and Engineering Education informs that Pudukkottai and Aranthangi are the two blocks, which have both arts and science and engineering colleges. Gender-wise distribution in engineering colleges shows that male enrolment has been higher than female. The gender gap in Engineering College enrolment has been wide in Pudukkottai. The enrolment in Pudukkottai district has been higher in Engineering colleges than Arts and Science Colleges indicating that parents and students prefer technical education to Arts and Science.

Block-wise access to Polytechnic education shows a considerable difference compared to Arts and Science and Engineering Colleges, where nine out of 13 blocks have polytechnic institutions. The blocks which have Engineering Colleges also have Polytechnic Institutes. Avudaiyarkoil, Karambakkudi, Manalmelkudi and Thiruvarankulum blocks do not have Polytechnic Institutes. Gender-wise enrolment in Polytechnic shows that there are more male than female enrolments, particularly so, in Viralimalai block, where the gender gap is maximum.

Except Thirvuvarankulum block, where two Arts and science colleges are present, the other three blocks do not have any educational institutions. Avudaiyarkoil, Karambakkudi and Manalmelkudi are backward with respect to Higher Education as there are no institutions of Higher Education. Apart from Arts and Science Colleges, Engineering Colleges, and Polytechnic institutions, there is another category of 'Other Institutions' which include the Centres or Institutes offering Diploma Courses, P.G. Diploma Courses, etc. More female students in Arts and Science colleges and more male students in Engineering and Polytechnic colleges indicate the gender stereotyping perception among parents. Due to financial constraints, women are confined to their houses or they are made to join low fee courses than men, who are preferred for hard core courses with higher fee structure.

Pudukkottai district has relatively performed better in terms of gender equality in enrolment in primary and secondary and higher secondary schools. Higher Education access needs to be improved in each block having at least one college per block. Improving the basic facilities and increasing the PTR, increasing the class room infrastructure to have at least one class room for one standard and distributing more class rooms based on the number of students, will help Pudukkottai to achieve better indicators on Literacy and Education and contribute to the improvement in HDI.

## **Conclusion**

As far as block-wise variations in the literacy rate achievements are concerned, Pudukkottai block stands at the top. It is higher than the district and State literacy rates. Manamelkudi and Aranthangi blocks also have higher literacy rates than the district and State. Gandharvakkottai block's overall, male and female literacy rates are very low among the blocks. Primary level enrolment in Pudukkottai block is the highest and Avudaiyarkovil is the lowest. Karambakkudi, Annavasal, and Gandharvakkottai blocks are other low performing blocks in the primary level enrolment. Residential schools with free food shelter may help to increase the enrolment ratio in these blocks. Block-wise gender differences in primary enrolment shows that nine blocks have gender differences in the GER Primary in favour of girls; Arimalam (5.55 per cent) and Viralimalai (5.45 per cent) are the top two blocks in this regard. Four blocks record gender difference in the GER Primary against girls and the top two blocks in the regard are Ponnamaravathi (12.55 per cent) and Thirumayam 10.04 per cent.



Completion rate at upper primary education in most of the blocks of Pudukkottai district is lower than the primary level, especially in Arimalam, Ponnamavarathi, Viralimalai, Aranthangi and Gandharvakkottai blocks, completion rate is less than 94 per cent. Dropout rates in such blocks needs to be watched out. Block-wise deviations from the district level has been analysed and it is found that Thirumayam block registered the highest increase of 18.87 per cent in the upper primary enrolment rate during the reference period followed by Pudukkottai (17.81). The highest fall in the upper primary enrolment rate was found in Avidaiyarkovil (13.23 per cent) during the reference period followed by Karambakkudi (9.52 per cent). In blocks, viz., Avudaiyarkovil, Karambakkudi and Manamelkudi, upper primary level enrolment has gone down during 2013-14 with no change in the number of schools. Whereas, Kundrandarkovil has low number of middle schools but has high level of enrolment at the upper primary level. Cluster schooling in such blocks will solve such problems of high enrolment in blocks with low number of schools and high number of schools in blocks with low enrolment. Arimalam, Thirumayam, Avudaiyarkovil, Gandharvakkottai and Manamelkudi have low enrolment in the secondary level during 2013-14.

The Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) of Thirumayam, Avudayarkovil and Arimalam, blocks are much lower than the district level in Government Schools category. Increasing dropouts in such blocks need to be checked. Schools at higher secondary level should aim to give quality education in these blocks. They have low level of infrastructure, which is a major constraint. Hostel facilities, library facilities and technical facilities in schools should be managed through School – College – University – Tie ups to overcome the constraint.