

CHAPTER IX

SUMMARY AND WAY FORWARD

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Introduction

- Pudukkottai district is divided into two revenue divisions, viz., Pudukkottai and Aranthangi and 13 blocks viz., Annavasal, Arimalam, Kunradarkovil, Ponnamaravathi, Pudukkottai, Thirumayam, Viralimalai, Aranthangi, Avudayarkovil, Gandarvakkottai, Karambakkudi, Manamelkudi, and Thiruvarankulam consisting of 763 revenue villages and 498 Village Panchayats.
- The per capita income of Pudukkottai district was Rs.24,973 in 2004-05 and increased to Rs.43,890, whereas for the State it was Rs.33,998 during 2004-05, which increased to Rs.63,996. On comparison with the previous years, it can be seen that though the per capita income of the district is less than the State in real terms, the growth rate of the district for the year 2011-12 is 8.79 per cent which is more than the State's growth rate of 6.71 per cent.
- The percentage of Below Poverty Line (BPL) households in the district was 1,47,620 in 2014. The lowest poverty level can be seen in Aranthangi with 30.97 per cent of the HHs below the poverty line followed by Kundrandarkoil with 31.85 per cent. Highest poverty levels can be seen in Ponnamaravathi and Pudukkottai with 51.13 per cent and 48.18 per cent. All these figures are on the higher side, which seems to be a major issue that needs urgent attention.
- The sector wise Gross District Domestic Product (GDDP) for Pudukkottai district provides a glimpse into the contribution by each sector to the output. The primary sector declined in actual numbers during 2007-08 and 2008-09, then it increased

continuously. The other two sectors secondary and tertiary increased gradually all the years. In the year 2008-09, the secondary sector's increase was very marginal.

- The primary, secondary and tertiary GDDPs were Rs.1, 10, 717 lakhs, Rs1, 61, 601 lakhs and Rs.4, 09, 255 lakhs in 2011-12 respectively. The share of primary sector to the GDDP was 16. 24 per cent in 2011-12. The secondary sector 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 per cent.
- The major contribution of the tertiary sector to GDDP is increasing gradually, 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 similar to the State and National levels.

Status of Human Development

Human Development Index

- The HDI of Pudukkottai district's various blocks shows that Pudukkottai block departs from all other blocks in the district with 0.730 HDI value. Aranthangi can be categorized separately as it gets a HDI value of 0.655, and another category can be formed of the Thirumayam (0.596) and Annavasal (0.527).
- The remaining blocks are way behind in the development sphere. Gandharvakottai and Karambakkudi stand last in terms of HDI as they perform poorly, compared to the district level in several indicators used in the HDI.
- These poorly performing blocks need immediate attention in terms of development initiatives.
- The particular areas (indicators) where attention is required have been pointed out in the earlier discussion regarding HDI in Chapter 2 and those particular areas may be targeted in the respective blocks in order to improve the level of human development there.

Gender Inequality Index

- The GII of the various blocks of Pudukkottai district reveals the variations in terms of gender-wise achievements. Annavasal block performs better with lowest GII value of 0.006 followed by Pudukkottai block (0.013). Eight blocks have GII

value more than 0.050 indicating more gender inequality in these blocks compared to the other blocks in the district.

- Thiruvankulam block with a GII value of 0.105 is the most gender unequal block among the various blocks in Pudukkottai district followed by Arimalam with 0.096. This is due to reason that they have very high MMR, low Female Literacy Rate, high gender gap in Literacy Rate, low Female WPR in Non-Agricultural Sector and high gender gap in Agricultural Wage Rate.
- All these blocks may not have uniform issues, the indicators where the gender gap is wide have been indicated in the earlier discussion and those particular areas may be targeted in the respective blocks in order to achieve gender equality. What needs to be done uniformly in all these blocks is gender sensitization.

Child Development Index

- The CDI of Pudukkottai district's 13 blocks shows moderate variations among the blocks with regard to child development. As in the case of HDI, Pudukkottai block performs best in terms of CDI with 0.766 index value.
- Thirumayam, Viralimalai and Aranthangi can be categorised in the range 0.600 – 0.700; Annavasal, Thiruvankulam, Manmelkudi, Arimalam and Ponnamaravathi can be classified in the range 0.500 – 0.600; while, Karambakkudi, Gandharvakkottai and Avudaiyarkovil can be classified in the range 0.400 – 0.500.
- The blocks in the range 0.400–0.600 need immediate attention with regard to child development.
- The immediate measures to be taken are in the education front, like strengthening of enrolment, improving transition rates and curtailing dropouts. Also the provision of nutritious meals at anganwadis to improve the malnourishment level of the children needs to be strengthened.
- Awareness campaign regarding the importance of female child needs to be strengthened in all the blocks of the district in order to improve the Child Sex Ratio.

Multidimensional Poverty Index

- The MPI of the various blocks of Pudukkottai district shows the different levels of deprivation in the blocks. Here, Thirumayam and Pudukkottai perform better

compared to the other blocks with MPI values 0.239 and 0.317 respectively. These blocks with lower MPI values indicate lower deprivation in these blocks compared to the other blocks of Pudukkottai district.

- The blocks with the higher MPI values indicate higher deprivation. Five blocks fall in the range 0.400-0.500, while six blocks, viz., Gandharvakkottai (0.678), Viralimalai (0.645), Ponnamaravathi (0.624), Manamelkudi (0.600), Karambakkudi (0.597) and Thiruvarankulam (0.525) fall in the range 0.500 – 0.700.
- These blocks perform poorly or worse than the district level in all the indicators except one or two indicators.
- The discussion regarding the particular issues in each block regarding MPI in Chapter 2 can be used to take initiatives in the appropriate directions in the respective blocks in order to address the issues of deprivation.
- Overall, the status of human development in the various blocks of Pudukkottai district suggests that Pudukkottai block performs well in all indices followed by Thirumayam and Aranthangi may be considered to some extent in this regard. Annaval and Avudaiyarkovil blocks seem to be performing averagely, while the remaining blocks need attention in various areas.
- The better performing blocks are only performing better compared to the other blocks, there are areas where the better performing blocks also need attention. So, interventions in the necessary areas as indicated in the discussions need to be focused upon in the respective blocks for achieving balanced development in the district.

Employment, Income and Poverty

- Pudukkottai District, formed in early 1970, still continues to be a relatively (compared to other districts in Tamil Nadu) backward district. Though many development programmes, have been started, the relative backwardness continues, of course, with natural growth and hence, not much improvement in the per capita income (compared to the State level) can be noticed.
- In the sectoral GDDPs, it is encouraging to note that the secondary sector or the manufacturing sector is growing faster in the district compared to the primary sector as it performs poorly.

- A substantial increase is noticed in the WPR between 2001 and 2011 in Arimalam, Viralimalai and Karambakkudi but they differ widely in terms of economic structure.
- Whereas it is also noticed that only a small increase in the percentage of main workers and decrease in the percentage of non-workers and marginal worker but, the reduction is much smaller than the increase in the percentage of total workers.
- The total female workers are more in Karambakkudi followed by Viralimalai but lower in male work participation rate whereas, in Pudukkottai and Manalmeerkudi have low female and high male work participation rate.
- The total worker population has increased in the district as well as in all the blocks. In the Cultivators category, five blocks show an increase over the period 2001 to 2011, while eight blocks record a decline.
- In the case of agricultural labourers, all the 13 blocks record an increase in 2011 over 2001. There is a decline in the percentage of cultivators and household industrial workers.
- Overall, the size of the work force has increased over the years with much variation among blocks, while the work force participation rate remains somewhat the same between 2001 and 2011.
- In terms of households provided with employment under MGNREGA in the year 2013-14, Kunrandarkovil block tops the chart with provision of jobs to 89 per cent households under MGNREGA. Eight blocks perform better than the district level of 58 per cent. Three blocks, viz., Thirumayam, Manamelkudi and Thiruvankulam performs below the 50 per cent level. None of the blocks provides job at the 90 percent level.
- Highest poverty levels can be seen in Ponnamaravathi and Pudukkottai. On the whole, the performance of the district is very poor in terms of poverty. The poverty in the district seems to be wide spread and pervasive among all the blocks, which should be a cause of concern.
- In the block-wise Social Groups and Operational Land Holdings for the year 2009-10, Viralimalai block has the highest number of Landless Labourers and highest in the Less Than One Hectare category and also high in More than One Hectare land because it has very high number of SC households.

- Among Other Social Groups, Kundrandarkoil has the highest number of Landless Labourers, Aranthangi has the highest number of farmers having Less than One Hectare of land.
- Pudukkottai has the highest number of farmers having More than One Hectare of Land.
- The land holding pattern is tilted towards the upper castes, while the SCs remain casual labourers. So, development in this district requires some big-push, a large public sector investment, which is absent since the beginning.
- People living in arid areas like Pudukkottai should be provided with more employment opportunities throughout the year as agriculture depends on the vagaries of monsoon.
- The major and persistent problem of Pudukkottai district is the backward dry farming. Some private bore-well irrigation sources have come up, thanks to the efforts made by rich politically powerful sections of the society. But, they are not sufficient, for, they have their own drawbacks.
- Hence, public sector investment to irrigate the dry lands is urgently required. The relative backwardness and persistent Poverty and unemployment has worsened the living conditions of the people.

Demography, Health and Nutrition

- The CBR in the district has decreased from 17.1 in 2009 to 15.9 in 2014. The CBR declined in 11 blocks of Pudukkottai district between 2009 and 2014.
- CDR has declined in the district thanks to improved health awareness and accessing health care services system developed by the State Government. Life Expectancy at birth in the district among female was higher than male and equaled the State levels.
- Over all Sex Ratio (1015) and Child Sex Ratio (960) in the district during 2011 were higher than that of the State and the Country, owing to the measures taken by the State to mitigate mortality during child birth, female infanticide and increased health awareness for nutritional status among children and pregnant women.
- Anyhow, it could not be denied that there was boy preference vehemently present in the district which could be changed only over a period of time with

incessant and insistent statutory and non-statutory measures to be administered by Government departments and NGOs.

- IMR in the district has decreased from 15.2 in the year 2009 to 12.0 in the year 2014, thanks to four fold increase in the number of physicians in the PHCs and GHs by the State Government.
- Women employment, education for women and high female worker participation in the economic growth were the reasons for the decrease in the IMR till 2010. Post-natal mortality was higher than the neo-natal mortality in the district showing that there was not enough child care for the newly born. Adequate counseling to married couples and pregnant mothers would fetch desirable results in this regard.
- MMR of the district (82) was higher than that of the State (68) and had not changed between 2009 and 2014. A closer analysis of this problem brought out a fact that MMR was due to the hypertension at delivery time and high anemic status of pregnant mothers.
- Large number of these MMR related problems could be prevented by addressing the above said issues. Health Information System, High Health Intelligence Quotient, Linkages of Primary Health Centers with District Level and State Level Health Organizations and training selected villagers and ICDS staff as health workers need to be initiated.
- Water and Sanitation seemed inseparably intertwined to ensure sustenance of health in the state. In Pudukkottai district 95 per cent of habitations were covered with access to drinking water facility. But, better leak detecting techniques and repair of broken taps or replacement of the same, would improve the drinking water supply in the district.
- Rain Water Harvesting insisted by the State Government has started bearing fruit in the district. Ground Water Level in the district has gone up.
- Waste water and Garbage disposal system in the district are to be handled with more care. Unmindful dumping wastages in the rain water storms and solid medical wastages in the local water bodies spoil the quality of water and overall health and hygiene.
- In Pudukkottai district 56.48 per cent of the households had access to toilet facility. There are households which have built toilets using government schemes to avoid open defecation.

- Women and girls either use the sanitary complexes built mostly in the outskirts of their residential places or remote places in the evening hours which make them fall prey to snake bites or other pest attacks.
- Male are very precarious about using toilet facilities. Open air defecation is very common in the district which makes the people more prone to water related diseases. Awareness about the benefits of toilet usage and strict statutory measures could bring forth desirable results in this regard.
- The prevalence of HIV has declined in the district. But, the HIV patients found in the age groups of 30-39 and 40-49 (both male and female) are to be addressed with appropriate package of treatment. Counselling and followup measures could help solve the problems.
- In Pudukkottai district, Aranthangi had registered the highest number of TB cases between 2007 and 2012. Rehabilitative ventures through TB Sanatoriums could improve the situation.
- Air Pollution caused by Granite Quarries was the major cause for increasing Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), Bronchial Asthma related restrictive lung diseases and thereby increasing TB cases in the district. Corrective measures should be initiated to mitigate the problems. Satellite Sanatoriums need to be started more in the district.
- In view of addressing the neo-natal mortality, post-natal care, health of women, water and sanitation status and other health related issues, target and area specific schemes were to be implemented with war speed.
- Integrated approaches between Health and Education Departments co-ordinated by district authority would fetch results.
- People Participatory Approach and Peoples Movement initiated by NGOs and Socially Interested Groups (SIGs) in safeguarding water bodies and environment and Health could make strides in the growth.
- There has been impressive growth in physical infrastructure and personnel in public health care in the district.

Literacy & Education

- The literacy rate for Pudukkottai district was 77.19 per cent, which was 3.14 per cent lower than the State literacy rate of 80.33 per cent as per Census 2011. The male and female literacy rates of the district were 86.56 per cent and 69 per cent

in 2011 respectively, which shows an increase of nearly 10 per cent in female literacy rate and three per cent in male literacy rate compared to the 2001 Census. 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 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.
- The primary level enrolment in Pudukkottai district during the period 2011-12 to 2013-14 reveals that the enrolment has increased by 2.13 per cent among boys and 3.10 per cent among girls. The overall increase has been 2.70 per cent.
- Block-wise variations in comparison with district level indicate that Pudukkottai block has shown the highest increase during the reference period of 16.73 per cent, followed by Arimalam with 12.47 per cent increase. Avudaiyarkovil, Karambakkudi, Annavasal and Gandharvakkottai register a fall in the primary enrolment rate during the reference period.
- Block-wise gender differences in primary enrolment showed that Thirumayam registered the maximum difference of 10.04 per cent against girls followed by Ponnamaravathi (4.05 per cent). Arimalam (5.55 per cent) and Viralimalai (5.45 per cent) recorded gender differences in the primary enrolment rate are in favour of girls.
- 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).
- 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 was marginally higher than the girls in 2013-14.
- Overall, the transition from upper primary to secondary level for Pudukkottai district indicated that all the blocks were performing well in this regard.

- 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.
- The Government Schools had better PTR compared to the Aided and Private Financed School categories. The inter-block variations reveal that the PTR was higher than the district level in most of the blocks, while in some blocks like Thirumayam, Avudayarkovil and Arimalam, it was lower than the district level in the Government Schools category.
- The lowest PTR in private schools was found in Thirumayam followed by Arimalam and Thiruvarankulam. Viralimalai has relatively more number of students per teacher at the primary and upper primary levels in the private schools.
- Much variation in the enrolment rate at the secondary level can be noticed among the blocks in the year 2013-14, while such variation was absent in the year 2012-13. Arimalam, Thirumayam, Avudaiyarkovil, Gandharvakkottai and Manamelkudi are the blocks in the district, which has performed poorly in terms of secondary enrolment for both boys and girls.
- The Gender-wise enrolment showed that girls' enrolment at the secondary level was lower than the boys' enrolment. The gender gap was 0.31 per cent at the secondary level.
- 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.
- All the schools are equipped with drinking water and desk and chair facilities in the Higher Secondary Schools but Thiruvarankulam and Ponnamaravathy, do not have access to girls' toilet and Manamelkudi and Thiruvarankulam have reported relatively more schools without electricity.

- Access to education in sufficient levels would encourage more students to join the educational stream. Efforts are needed in identifying the gray areas of intervention, which will take Pudukkottai district to achieve better participation of students in schools and colleges, improve the performance and contribute to Human Development Indicators.
- The commitment and involvement in the Educational Department is commendable, which may need to be sustained with the support, networking and collaboration of civil society, parents and other social structures.
- The minimum gap existing in certain backward blocks may be improved with further intervention. The State is committed to universalize education for which it has been a pioneer in introducing activity based learning, providing nutritious noon meals, making special efforts to improve the performance of slow learners, enhance the participation of both boys and girls such that there will be zero dropout and cent per cent transition from lower to higher levels of education.
- There has been also initiative to reduce and eliminate the gender gaps through various schemes including SSA, Kusturbha Gandhi Balika Vidhalaya (KGBV). Also the days are not far to realize cent per cent enrollment and zero per cent dropout in school education.
- The enrollment in higher education however has been poor and also there is presence of gender gap. It is recommended that additional hostel facilities may be provided to enable rural and tribal boys and girls to get education and a need-assessment survey may be conducted to arrive at the actual needs of the students.
- The participation of the community including parents, SHGs and civil society organizations to work with line departments would be a prerequisite to sustain the initiatives already being taken in this regard.
- Further, employability linked with quality of education is the need of the hour and hence, the teachers need to provide enabling environment for the students to access the various opportunities that are in store.

Gender

- The female population of the district was 8,15,157, which is 50.37 per cent of the total population. As the percentage of female population is more than the 50, the sex ratio is tilted towards female at 1,015, which is a good trend but the female literacy rate was 69 per cent and was lower than the male literacy rate in the

district as well as the female literacy rate at the State level as per the Census 2011. Whereas the district female school enrolment at the primary level stood at 103.46 in 2013-14, which was better than the district male and State female rates of 102.22 and 102.42 respectively.

- The MMR of the district was 82 in the year 2013-14, which is far behind the State rate of 68. The percentage of women in the non-agricultural sector was four times lower than the agricultural sector in Pudukkottai district as per the Census 2011.
- The percentage of women in non-agricultural sector has been lower than both the State and National levels. It indicates that only less than 10 per cent of the women were able to assume non-farm employment, which is supported by the fact that relatively more women are in farm employment. So, except the share in population and literacy rate and employment in agriculture, the participation of women needs to be improved to reduce the gender gap.
- Only when women are employed in paid employment, it will prepare them to participate in decision making position. Any scheme for their empowerment needs to concentrate on increasing the economic participation of women and recognition of such employment.
- Pudukkottai block tops with maximum number of SHGs (1600) followed by Aranthangi, Thiruvarankulam and Viralimalai with above 1500 SHGs. The lowest number of SHGs has been found in Thirumayam (572) with twice less than the top blocks.
- Female participation in State Government employment (36.1 per cent) has been little higher than private companies (28.1 per cent) during 2011-12.
- The representation of women in local bodies and assembly illustrates that Avudaiyarkoil tops with 44.37 per cent followed by Manamelkudi, Pudukkottai, Aranthangi and Thirumayam blocks which are the top five blocks in women's political participation.
- Viralimalai and Kundrandarkoil receive the least representation among all the blocks with lower percentage of women in Local Bodies and Assembly in Pudukkottai district during 2011.
- In a broader sense, gender has been integrated as a category of analysis, but there are several areas where the gender disaggregated data is not available.

- The indicators taken for analysis, be it access to resources, collective participation among grass root women, or poor economic and political participation would yield fruits only when more variables are included and that too qualitative indicators.
- The gender analysis of achievement of women in relation to men with respect to access to credit and control over resources, employment, participation in SHG, politics, etc., revealed that there has been progress during 2011-12. All such progress could happen due to positive discrimination to compensate for historical and social disadvantaged position of women.
- The progress experienced need to be converted into real empowerment, be it economic or political participation.
- The existing incentives and provisions to empower women in all fields right from education to political participation need to be continued with integration of qualitative focus, to bring about changes in perceptions.
- Attitudes and mindset with realization of qualitative change, the mere quantitative change expressed in numbers may not help as the independent participation of women in every field is necessary.
- The gender stereotypical perspective that boys' education will bring direct returns and girls' would not, must be erased through qualitative interventions such as compulsory component of education on the traditional social norms and cultural impositions and their contexts, the changing gender roles and the expectations from both home and career for men and women, the entry of women into male domains and the acceptance, etc.

Social Security

- Pudukottai district considered to be one of the backward districts of Tamil Nadu owing to its lack of water resources has done well in provision of social assistance to its citizens.
- The population above 60 years was 1,64,370 in 2011, which was 10.16 per cent of total population. Among the 60 plus group the female outnumbered the male to a smaller degree – 82,929 females (50.45 per cent) as against 81,441 males (49.55 per cent). This clearly brings out the need for social security measures for the target population.

- Totally 39,144 persons got OAP out of which, 33,359 persons aged above 60 years, 4,558 destitute widows and 1,227 disabled persons got OAP.
- Pension exclusively for other women like deserted women and unmarried women would benefit women to manage their lives independently and respectfully.
- Population of such dry, arid area needs more assistance for their subsistence, as people depend on rain for their work and earnings.
- On the improvement of female status with two flagship programs like Maternity assistance and marriage aid, the Government scheme of marriage assistance needs to reach more areas as only 2,999 persons have availed it in 2013-14.
- Pudukkottai district data on assistance to differently abled shows various categories of differently abled persons getting financial assistance such as persons with locomotor disability (12,072), hearing impaired (4,273), mentally retarded (3,743), cerebral palsy (939), visually impaired (1055), multiple disorder (797), leprosy (478), mental illness (722) and AU (2).
- It could be said that the overall security for girls and women has improved over the years by the reduction in the number of cases registered in the police stations across the district.
- Empowerment of women through education and employment would bring down the crime rates further and lead to zero crime in the near future.

Infrastructure

- 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.
- Distribution of roads in Pudukkottai district during the year 2013-14 shows a total coverage of 9,555.18 km length of roads.
- Electrification and street lights are more or less evenly distributed depending upon the area and population and the telecommunications system seems to be spread out well in the district except Karambakkudi, which has no mobile towers.
- Pudukkottai has seven and Annavasal has 26 commercial banks and similarly Pudukkottai has only 9 and Aranthangi has 21 co-operative societies in its

precincts. It is unlike other districts where district headquarters receive major development programs than other blocks.

- Pudukottai, once the seat of the ruling Pudukottai Rajas, houses many old palaces and buildings and also has Sittanavasal, a Jain cave temple with archeological value, improvement of connectivity both by road and rail would attract more tourists and create more employment to the locals. Consequently, other facilities like banks, hotels, cabs, guides, would develop leading to high standard of living.
- World famous, Karaikudi Chettinad houses belong to this district and most houses are now being converted into resorts or hotels. Better road connectivity and other infrastructure facilities would pave way for more tourists opting to stay in these houses.
- Development of industrial sector, which is not water intensive, would create more jobs for the people. Construction of canals and pipes to provide potable water throughout the year could be the best step taken for improvement of this district. Programs to sensitize female population about the marriage assistance scheme would lead to motivation of female education till schooling and further graduation.
- Thus, policy to develop all blocks concomitantly is necessary so as to make the district a forward one in development.

Conclusion

The District Human Development Report has laid emphasis on the overall development of the various sectors of the district focusing on the development outcomes in terms of human development, gender parity, child development and poverty. The core indicator of development still remains the Per Capita Income, which in Pudukkottai district has increased by 9.52 per cent over the past decade; however it has a long way reach the State level. The district BPL HHs stood at 41.21 per cent, which is also a big concern. Some transformation can be noticed in terms of the contribution of each sector to the GDDP; the expansion of the tertiary sector and the shrinkage of the primary sector, so Pudukkottai district seems to move from an agricultural base to a service sector driven economy. Regarding outcomes in terms of the various indices, overall, the status of human development in the various blocks of Pudukkottai district suggests that Pudukkottai block performs well in all indices followed by Thirumayam and

Aranthangi may be considered to some extent in this regard. Annavasal and Avudaiyarkovil blocks seem to be performing averagely, while the remaining blocks need attention in various areas.