

An economic analysis of human development in Tiruchirappalli town

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ABSTRACT

Human development (HD) that encompasses quality of life, the level of well being and access to basic social services, is an input as well as a key ingredient in the development process. Human Development is development that not only generates economic growth but, distributes its benefits equitably; regenerates the environment rather than destroying it; empowers people rather than marginalizing them (UNDP, 1994). It is now fully recognized that the ultimate end of all development strategies must be people and their welfare: and economic growth is only a means towards that end (Haq, 1993). Human Resources take active role in the modern economic scenario of any country. The abundant physical resources alone cannot benefit the growth of the country without human resources component, which transforms physical resources into productive resources. Human resource should also be looked after properly and continuously regarding various aspects like development and economic, social and psychological aspects. This paper deals with the dimensions of Human Development Index among the sample households.

Key Words : Human development, Human resources, Productive capacity

INTRODUCTION

Human resource development has been acknowledged to be a key factor in the process of economic growth, as the character and pace of economic and social development of any country are ultimately determined not by its capital of its material resources but by human resources. Clearly a country, which is unable to develop the skills and knowledge of its people and to utilize them effectively in the national economy, will be unable to develop anything else.

Human Resources play a dominant role in modern economics towards the achievement of stated goals in both organizations and nation. It is often felt that, though the exploitation of natural resources, availability of physical and financial resources and international aid play prominent roles in the growth of modern economies. None of these factors is more significant than efficient and committed manpower. The country like India with an abundance of physical resources will not benefit itself unless human resources make use of them properly.

Dimensions of Human Development :

Human development is broadly defined as a process of enlarging people's choices, as well as

How to cite this Article: Maria Sophiya, P. (2018). An economic analysis of human development in Tiruchirappalli town. *Internat. J. Appl. Soc. Sci.*, 5 (11) : 1830-1837.

raising the level of their well being. Theoretically, these choices can be infinite and vary over time and space. Among these, the choice to acquire knowledge and to be educated; and to have access to resources needed for a decent level of living are identified as three most critical and socially valuable indicators (Human Development Reports, UNDP and National Human Development Report 2001. Government of India). Therefore, the development process is being viewed in terms of efficiency with which it uses an economy's productive capacities, involving both physical and human resources, as a means to attain the desired social ends and not just material attainments and, on the other hand, to see the extent to which the outcome to this process generates a buildup of the economy's productive potential so as to put development on a path of sustainable improvement in well being. With the broadening in the conceptualization of well being of individuals and societies, there has been, in recent times, a renewed focus on the importance of development of social service sector followed by the economic service sectors, more particularly the need to obtain desirable socio economic outcomes in the course of development.

The principal indicators of human development may be identified as;

1. Average Life Expectancy, which in turn is the resultant of general availability of and access to subsistence, nutritional food, medical and health facilities, and of immunity from internal disorders, wars, environmental, natural and other hazards to life.

2. Educational status of population broadly related to by the proportion of literate adult population above fifteen and the man-years of schooling of children (below fifteen)

3. Capacity to purchase consumption goods and services.

Vital Statistics in Tamil Nadu :

The State Government of Tamil Nadu has been following a comprehensive policy for investment in social overheads as prerequisite for economic development. Between the fifth and eight plans the state has allotted 32.84 per cent of its plan outlay to this head of expenditure. It increased by ten fold from Rs. 308 Cr in V plan to Rs. 3780 Cr in the VIII plan. In terms of Social Development Tamil Nadu is well ahead of countries status. The resulting impact on the quality of life is evident from the Table 1.1.

Table 1.1 : Trends in Vital Events- Birth Rate, Death Rate and Infant Mortality Rate (per thousand)

Year	Birth Rate		Death Rate		Infant Mortality Rate	
	Tamil Nadu	India	Tamil Nadu	India	Tamil Nadu	India
1971	31.4	36.9	14.4	14.9	113	129
1981	28.0	33.9	11.8	12.5	91	110
1991	20.8	29.5	8.8	9.8	57	80
2001	19.1	25.4	7.7	8.4	49	66
2008	NA	24	NA	8	NA	57
2009	NA	23	NA	7	NA	55

Source: Statistical Hand book of Tamil Nadu 2008, Department of Economics and Statistics, Chennai-6. and Population Reference Bureau 2008,2009.

Statement of the problem :

Trichy Corporation is responsible for providing basic infrastructure facilities like water supply, drainage, storm water drainage, streetlights, roads, basic health care and education. On one side, there are communicable diseases, which have become more difficult to combat. While on the other

increasing longevity and the changes in life style have resulted in the widespread prevalence of non-communicable diseases. The obvious conundrum is that the improvement of health care system has not kept pace with the needs of a vast majority of people. Hence, the researcher attempted to analyse the human development in Trichy town. The findings of the study may act as a catalyst to promote and sustain effective human development in the study area.

Objectives of the study :

The objective of the present study is;

1. To focus on the dimensions of Human Development Index among the sample households.

Hypothesis :

H_0 : Education of the households are independent of their status of employment level.

METHODOLOGY

Sources of data :

Primary data :

Researcher has used the interview schedule for collecting primary data from the Head of sample households. A primary survey was carried out in the selected localities. A detailed interview schedule was designed for the household survey. The interview schedule collected from 100 households in the selected town.

Secondary data :

The broad profile of the study area in which the data have been collected from the Tamil Nadu Economic Appraisal and Statistical Hand Book of Tamil Nadu have formed the sources of secondary data. Besides, relevant books, journals, websites and other studies relating to health and human development were used.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Age :

Age is an important criterion in the estimation of health status and human development of a person. Table 1 reflects the age-wise distribution of sample households.

Sr. No.	Age	No. of households	Per cent
1.	21-30	8	8.00
2.	31-40	54	54.00
3.	41-50	21	21.00
4.	51-60	11	11.00
5.	61 and above	6	6.00
	Total	100	100

Source: Survey Data

Table 1 reflects that, out of 100 sample households 21 per cent of them fall in the age group of 41-50 years followed by 54 per cent in the age group of 31-40 years. It is found that the age group of 51-60 years and 61 and above accounts for 11 per cent and 6 per cent, respectively. It is also

inferred that 8 per cent of respondents belong to the age group of 21-30 years in the study area.

Among the selected sample in Trichy city larger number of sample households are found in the age group of 31-40 (54 %) followed by 41-50 (21 %). It is noted that the lowest number of households is found in the age group of 61 and above groups.

Sex :

Sex plays an important role in determining and maintaining the health status of the people. Generally, gender is classified into men, women and transgender. The gender-wise distribution of the sample households is presented in Table 2.

Table 2 : Sex wise distribution of sample households			
Sr. No	Sex	No. of households	Per cent
1.	Male	58	58
2.	Female	42	42
	Total	100	100

Source: Survey Data

Out of 100 sample households, 58.00 per cent of them are men and 42.00 per cent are women. It indicates that the head of households are largely male members of the society.

Educational status :

True education promotes character building that culminates in performance excellence and perfection. Education provides knowledge, intelligence, humanism, good behaviour and social relation. Table 3 illustrates the educational status of the head of the households in the study area.

Table 3 : Distribution of sample households according to their Educational Status			
Sr. No.	Education	No. of households	Per cent
1.	Uneducated	18	18
2.	Primary level	42	42
3.	Secondary level	16	16
4.	Graduate level	24	24
	Total	100	100

Source: Survey Data

Table 3 depicts that 18 sample households belonging to no formal education, but 42 had primary education, 16 had secondary education, 24 had collegiate education. Maximum of the households are studied only primary education only.

Occupational analysis :

The occupation status differs on the basis of educational attainment. Data on the occupational status of the sample households from presented in Table 4. The occupation of the head of the households is divided into three categories such as salary/wage earners, professionals, and businessman.

It is significantly found from Table 4 that, among the five categories of occupational status, the share of wage/coolie category is found to be larger compared with the other types of occupation which constitute 22 households. Out of 100 households, 31 were businessman, 29 were professionals,

Table 4 : Distribution of sample households according to their Occupational Status			
Sr. No.	Employment status	No. of households	Per cent
1.	Wage / coolie	22	22
2.	Salary earners	18	18
3.	Professionals	29	29
4.	Businessman	31	31
	Total	100	100

Source: Survey Data

18 were salary earners. It is noted, among the categories of occupation, the salary/wage earner category constitutes a very significant proportion compared to others. The reason expressed by the sample households is the expansion of emerging urbanization in the study area.

The above Table 5 explains the reporting the results of a chi-square test of independence: A chi-square test of independence was performed to examine the relation between education and employment of the households. The relation between these variables was significant, $X^2(2, N = 100) = 112.826, p < .01$. Uneducated households were likely to be in a wage / coolie earners.

Table 5 : Education of the sample household* Employment status of the sample household Cross tabulation						
Count		Employment status of the sample household				Total
		Wage / coolie	Salary earners	Professionals	Businessman	
Education of the sample household	Uneducated	15	0	0	3	18
	Primary level	7	18	0	17	42
	Secondary level	0	0	10	6	16
	Graduate level	0	0	19	5	24
Total		22	18	29	31	100
Chi-Square Tests						
		Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)		
Pearson Chi-Square		112.826 ^a	9	.000		
Likelihood Ratio		124.472	9	.000		
Linear-by-Linear Association		23.411	1	.000		
N of Valid Cases		100				

a. 7 cells (43.8%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 2.88

Availability of housing amenities :

The amenities available in the houses help to promote and foster quality of life of the sample households. Table 6 represents the housing infrastructure facilities of the sample household houses.

The modern gadgets like television, mixer and grinder are used in almost all sample households. It is seen that 3 and 97 households use gadgets like water heater and refrigerator facilities in their houses, accounting for 3.00 per cent and 97.00 per cent, respectively. It is found that less than 100 sample households use modern gadgets like air conditioner, microwave oven, and inverter.

Table 6 : Availability of Amenities among Sample Households Houses			
Amenities	No. of Sample Household	Per cent to total	Total number of households
Air Conditioner	12	12.00	100
Refrigerator	97	97.00	100
Television	100	100.00	100
Micro Wave Oven	2	2.00	100
Mixer and Grinder	100	100.00	100
Inverter	63	63.00	100
Computer	98	98.00	100
Water Heater	3	3.00	100

Source: Survey Data

Income Analysis :

Income is an important factor, which determines the standard of living and development of human being in all aspects. The substance and sustenance of quality of life fully depends on the economic factor namely, income. The following Table 7 presents data on monthly income of the sample households in the sample wards. Income category of the sample households is divided into three groups such as low-income, middle income and high-income groups.

Table 7 : Distribution of sample households according to their income category			
Sr. No.	Size of the family members	No. of households	Per cent
1.	Low Income	37	37
2.	Middle Income	44	44
3.	High Income	19	19
	Total	100	100

Source: Survey Data

Table 7 shows that, out of 100 sample households only 37 (37 %) come under the low-income group. It is shared by a very fewer number of households compared to other income group. Among the 100 households the middle income and high-income respondents constitute 44 per cent and 19 per cent, respectively. It is found that the majority of members in the sample households belong to large income groups.

Monthly expenditure pattern :

Sample households spend their money income for many purposes. Sample households keep a reserve of cash with them for meeting transactions, precautionary and speculative motives. The details of monthly expenditures on various items of the sample households are depicted in Table 8.

It is diagnosed from Table 8 that the share of food consumption expenditure is 23.14 per cent per month. It is important to note that the maximum amount of income is spent only on food consumption. The repayment of loan and contingency expenditure occupy a share of 7.73 per cent and 6.90 per cent, respectively which accounts for VI and VII rank. The traveling expenditure occupies IX rank, which account for 4.60 per cent. The sample households spend only 3.83 per cent for their health care. The Miscellaneous expenses consist of 10.91 per cent of the income level of the households. Among all the expenditures of a family, the share of food consumption and

Table 8 : Monthly Expenditure pattern of sample households (per month)		
Expenditure Items	Amount spent (in %)	Rank
Food	23.14	I
Clothing	4.23	VIII
Education	15.06	II
House Rent	11.56	III
Electricity/Fuel	8.12	V
Health care	3.83	X
Repayment of Loan/Interest	7.73	VI
Functions and Emergency	6.90	VII
Transport	4.60	IX
Entertainment	3.92	XI
Miscellaneous Expenses	10.91	IV

Source: Computed from Survey Data.

education occupies highest proportion compared with other categories of expenditure. It is inferred that the sample households share a greater amount of information intelligence in respect of education, housing as compared to other types of expenditure.

Findings :

The study found out the Life expectancy of Tiruchirappalli population, 6% of population live under the age group of 61 and above when compared to the other age group.

The study reveals that the literacy rate of Tiruchirappalli population, 42% of respondents finished their education up to primary level.

The study found out that the income level of the respondents was 44% of the people come under the middle income group.

Suggestion :

The government should provide proper vaccinations to all the people in order to avoid the chronic diseases all over the country.

The government comes forward to provide education to all the people.

The government should provide employment opportunities to all the people in order to improve the income of the people.

Conclusion :

Residents of trichy town enjoy easy and better access of education, income, employment, housing, nutrition and health expenditures, though the poor and the unskilled still depend on the enviable position of public health care providers in the form of referrals and statutory requirements.

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