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**Demographic Appraisal Of Tamilnadu**  
**1981**  
**(Provisional)**

*Collected*  
*1982*



**1982**

Issued by  
**THE COMMISSIONER OF STATISTICS**  
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DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH STUDIES

DEMOGRAPHIC APPRAISAL OF  
TAMIL NADU 1981 (PROVISIONAL)

1982

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## P R E F A C E

In this "Demographic Appraisal of Tamil Nadu 1981" an attempt has been made to study certain select Demographic Indicators such as Trends in Population, Growth Rate, Sex Ratio, Density of Population, Rural and Urban Composition of Population, Literacy, Population at work etc. with special reference to Tamilnadu.

Comparative studies have also been made between Tamilnadu and other States of India, highlighting salient features wherever possible. On certain topics, district-wise differentials have been discussed.

The materials collected and presented in this booklet are based on the 1981 provisional Census data released by the Director of Census Operations, Tamilnadu, and hence the findings brought out in this booklet have certain limitations in its scope and usage. It is hoped that this booklet will be found useful by the laymen and the scholars alike.

This booklet has been prepared by Tmt. R. Rukmani, Statistical Inspector assisted by Tmt. N.K. Prabha, Statistical Inspector under the guidance of Thiruvallargal M.K. Ram, Deputy Director of Statistics and A. Srinivasan, Assistant Director of Statistics of the Demographic Research Division of the Department of Statistics.

MADRAS-600 006.  
Dated: 5.12.1981

Sd./- V. RAMAMURTHY,  
COMMISSIONER OF STATISTICS.

## DEMOGRAPHIC APPRAISAL OF TAMIL NADU

### INTRODUCTION:

Demographic information is acquired in four ways; by complete enumerations, sample surveys, registration systems, and continuing registers. Complete enumeration or censuses are taken by obtaining information concerning every inhabitant of the area. The word "Census" is derived from the Latin "Censere", meaning "to value" or "tax". A Census is a periodic operation carried out by the Government or an agency in a country or area to collect information on population. The first modern Census system, that is, a continuing complete count taken accurately at regular intervals-began in Sweden in 1749.

Tamil Nadu's Census history dates back to as early as 1687 when a count of people in and around Fort. St. George was ordered by the Court of Directors. Subsequently, attempts were made to estimate the population in Tamil Nadu in the following years.

|      |      |      |
|------|------|------|
| 1802 | 1831 | 1856 |
| 1822 | 1837 | 1861 |
| 1826 | 1851 | 1866 |

In the year 1871, the first Imperial Census was held throughout India. After this, population count was undertaken in India and in the erst-while Madras Presidency once in 10 years.

The 1951 Census had the proud privilege of being the first count of the people conducted by the Republic of India. The 1981 Census is the Fourth decennial population count in the country since Independence.

# CENSUS ADMINISTRATION:

The population data are being collected under the Indian Census Act of 1948 by the Government of India. The general Census set up in the country is as follows:

Registrar General and  
Census Commissioner of  
India in the Union-  
Ministry of Home Affairs (All India Level)

Director of Census Operations: (State/Union  
Territory level)

District Census Officer: (District Level)  
Tahsildars and Municipal Charge Officers in  
Commissioners : their respective  
Jurisdiction.

## CENSUS DATA

The sunrise of 1st March 1981 is the reference date for the present Census. The enumeration commenced, on February 9, 1981 and lasted for 20 days i.e. till 28th February, 1981. In the 1981 Census, an individual slip for every individual and a Household schedule for every household were canvassed.

A detailed analysis of the demographic data pertaining to Tamil Nadu are dealt with in the next few chapters based on the 1981 Provisional results released by the Director of Census Operations, Tamilnadu. Comparative studies have been made between Tamil Nadu and other States of India, highlighting certain salient features wherever necessary. On certain topics, district-wise differentials have been discussed.

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## CHAPTER - II

This Chapter deals with Statistical analysis of the size of population, population concentration or dispersal and sex ratio of the State's Population.

### Population Size:

The results of the various Census counts of the population of Madras Presidency since 1802, as it was then constituted are given below.

TABLE 2.1

Trend in Population - 1802-1891

| Census Year | Population in Millions |
|-------------|------------------------|
| 1802        | 9.5                    |
| 1822        | 13.5                   |
| 1826        | 15.0                   |
| 1831        | 15.5                   |
| 1837        | 13.9                   |
| 1851        | 22.3                   |
| 1856        | 23.1                   |
| 1861        | 24.7                   |
| 1866        | 26.5                   |
| 1871        | 31.6                   |
| 1881        | 31.2                   |
| 1891        | 39.6                   |

Source: Census of India 1961 Vol.IX-Madras  
Part I-A (i) - General Report.

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In the following table the population of the reorganised Tamilnadu since the turn of this century are given.

TABLE 2.2

Population of Tamil Nadu (1901-1981)

| Census Year | Population in Millions |
|-------------|------------------------|
| 1901        | 19.3                   |
| 1911        | 20.9                   |
| 1921        | 21.6                   |
| 1931        | 23.5                   |
| 1941        | 26.3                   |
| 1951        | 30.1                   |
| 1961        | 33.7                   |
| 1971        | 41.2                   |
| 1981        | 48.3 (P)               |

P = Provisional

Source: I. Census of India 1961: Vol.IX Madras Part IIA General Population Tables.

II. Paper I of 1981 Provisional Population Tables.

The population size of Tamil Nadu enumerated at the Census 1901 and adjusted for the boundaries of the present State after reorganisation was 19.3 millions. It rose to 33.7 millions in 1961. The population of Tamil Nadu has risen from 41,199,168 in 1971 to 48,297,456 in 1981 thus registering an increase of 17.23 per cent during the decade 1971-81.

Tamil Nadu ranks seventh among the States in India with 48.3 million persons. The State's population forms 7.06 per cent of the total Indian population.

According to 1981 Census, among all other States in India, Uttar Pradesh ranks first, having the largest population of 110.9 millions which is 16.21 per cent of the total population of India. Nagaland is the smallest State having a population of 0.8 millions accounting for 0.11 percent of the total Indian population.

The State-wise population for 1971 and 1981 is given in the following table.

TABLE 2.3

State-wise Population of India (1971 & 1981)

| STATE             | Population  |             |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------|
|                   | 1971        | 1981 (P)    |
| INDIA             | 547,949,809 | 683,810,051 |
| 1. Uttar Pradesh  | 88,341,144  | 110,858,019 |
| 2. Bihar          | 56,353,369  | 69,823,154  |
| 3. Maharashtra    | 50,412,235  | 62,693,898  |
| 4. West Bengal    | 44,312,011  | 54,485,560  |
| 5. Andhra Pradesh | 43,502,708  | 53,403,619  |
| 6. Madhya Pradesh | 41,654,119  | 52,131,717  |
| 7. Tamil Nadu     | 41,199,168  | 48,297,456  |
| 8. Karnataka      | 29,299,014  | 37,043,451  |
| 9. Rajasthan      | 25,765,806  | 34,102,912  |
| 10. Gujarat       | 26,697,475  | 33,960,905  |
| 11. Orissa        | 21,944,615  | 26,272,054  |

| STATE                        | Population |            |
|------------------------------|------------|------------|
|                              | 1971       | 1981 (P)   |
| 12. Kerala                   | 21,347,375 | 25,403,217 |
| 13. Assam                    | 14,957,542 | 19,902,826 |
| 14. Punjab                   | 13,551,060 | 16,669,755 |
| 15. Haryana                  | 10,036,808 | 12,850,902 |
| 16. Jammu & Kashmir          | 4,616,632  | 5,981,600  |
| 17. Himachal Pradesh         | 3,460,434  | 4,237,569  |
| 18. Tripura                  | 1,556,342  | 2,060,189  |
| 19. Manipur                  | 1,072,753  | 1,433,619  |
| 20. Meghalaya                | 1,011,699  | 1,327,874  |
| 21. Nagaland                 | 516,449    | 773,281    |
| 22. Sikkim                   | ...        | 315,682    |
| <u>UNION TERRITORIES</u>     |            |            |
| 1. Delhi                     | 4,065,098  | 6,196,414  |
| 2. Goa, Daman and Diu        | 857,771    | 1,082,117  |
| 3. Arunachal Pradesh         | 467,511    | 628,050    |
| 4. Pondicherry               | 471,707    | 604,136    |
| 5. Mizoram                   | —          | 487,774    |
| 6. Chandigarh                | 257,251    | 450,061    |
| 7. Andaman & Nicobar Islands | 115,133    | 188,254    |
| 8. Dadra & Nagar Haveli      | 74,170     | 103,677    |
| 9. Lakshdeep                 | 31,810     | 40,237     |

\* Projected figures (P) Provisional

In the following table, district-wise population in Tamil Nadu from 1901 to 1981 is presented.

Table 24 SIZE OF POPULATION IN TAMIL NADU BY DISTRICTS 1901 - 1981

| District            | 1901     | 1911     | 1921     | 1931     | 1941     | 1951     | 1961     | 1971     | 1981 (P) |
|---------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1. Madras           | 552899   | 575377   | 591536   | 733552   | 886485   | 1416056  | 1729141  | 2469449  | 3266034  |
| 2. Chengalpattu     | 1337945  | 1432748  | 1506515  | 1646612  | 1811230  | 1958090  | 2196412  | 2907599  | 3611871  |
| 3. North Arcot      | 1722132  | 1932958  | 2030642  | 2298855  | 2613526  | 2899592  | 3146326  | 3755797  | 4402087  |
| 4. South Arcot      | 2105809  | 2362566  | 2320085  | 2454507  | 2608753  | 2776767  | 3047973  | 3617723  | 4199892  |
| 5. Dharmapuri       | 718642   | 752086   | 718600   | 838830   | 970076   | 1091591  | 1332251  | 1677775  | 1993290  |
| 6. Salem            | 1264269  | 1308638  | 1412400  | 1589950  | 1894170  | 2279383  | 2471857  | 2992616  | 3429322  |
| 7. Periyar          | ..       | ..       | ..       | ..       | ..       | ..       | ..       | 1797016  | 2057496  |
| 8. Coimbatore       | 1844404  | 1976049  | 2100727  | 2339807  | 2691057  | 3154296  | 3557471  | 2576162  | 3051135  |
| 9. Nilgiris         | 112882   | 118618   | 126519   | 169330   | 209709   | 311729   | 409308   | 494015   | 628231   |
| 10. Madurai         | 1699597  | 1917279  | 1996869  | 2185071  | 2474012  | 28911968 | 3211400  | 3938197  | 4530028  |
| 11. Tiruchirappalli | 2065065  | 2238889  | 2329639  | 2513928  | 2594125  | 2943878  | 3190123  | 3192134  | 3606033  |
| 12. Thanjavur       | 2248059  | 2366056  | 2329927  | 2385931  | 2563386  | 2982674  | 3245882  | 3550063  | 4057230  |
| 13. Pudukkottai     | ..       | ..       | ..       | ..       | ..       | ..       | ..       | 947351   | 1155684  |
| 14. Ramanathapuram  | 1533782  | 1674502  | 1729221  | 1850667  | 1991670  | 2081640  | 2421615  | 2860207  | 3330339  |
| 15. Tirunelveli     | 1687897  | 1824590  | 1941713  | 2083208  | 2287333  | 2505003  | 2730279  | 3200515  | 3559174  |
| 16. Kanniyakumari   | 350248   | 422260   | 494125   | 581851   | 676975   | 826380   | 996915   | 1222549  | 1419110  |
| STATE               | 19252630 | 20902616 | 21628518 | 23472099 | 26267507 | 30119047 | 33686953 | 41199168 | 48297456 |

P = Provisional

Source: I. Census of India 1971 Part IIA General Population Tables.  
II. Census of India Paper I of 1981 Provisional Population Totals.

The absolute and relative growth of population in Tamil Nadu and All India for the period from 1901 - 1981 are presented in the table given below.

TABLE 2.5

Trend in Population Growth in Tamil Nadu and India  
(1901 - 1981)

| YEAR        | India       |       | Tamil Nadu |       |
|-------------|-------------|-------|------------|-------|
|             | Population  | Index | Population | Index |
| 1901        | 238,337,313 | 100.0 | 19,252,630 | 100.0 |
| 1911        | 252,005,470 | 105.7 | 20,909,616 | 108.6 |
| 1921        | 251,239,492 | 105.4 | 21,628,518 | 112.3 |
| 1931        | 272,867,430 | 117.0 | 23,472,099 | 121.9 |
| 1941        | 318,539,060 | 133.7 | 26,267,507 | 136.4 |
| 1951        | 360,950,365 | 151.5 | 30,219,047 | 156.4 |
| 1961        | 439,072,582 | 184.2 | 33,686,953 | 175.0 |
| 1971        | 547,949,809 | 229.8 | 41,199,168 | 214.0 |
| 1981<br>(P) | 683,810,051 | 286.9 | 48,297,456 | 250.9 |

(P) = Provisional

Source: Hand Book on Demography, Department of Statistics.

It is seen from the above table that during 1901-1981 the population of Tamil Nadu has increased by 151 per cent while at the all India level it has increased by 187 per cent.

A comparative picture of the growth rates of population for all the States in the two decades viz. 1961-1971 and 1971-1981 are, in Table 2.6.

TABLE 2.6

Statewise Population Growth Rate 1961-71 & 1971-81

| State               | % Growth Rate |             | * of Population |
|---------------------|---------------|-------------|-----------------|
|                     | 1961 - 1971   | 1971 - 1981 |                 |
| 1                   | 2             | 3           |                 |
| INDIA               | + 24.66       | 24.79       |                 |
| 1. Andhra Pradesh   | + 20.60       | 22.76       |                 |
| 2. Assam            | + 34.37       | 33.06       |                 |
| 3. Bihar            | + 21.26       | 23.90       |                 |
| 4. Gujarat          | + 29.34       | 27.21       |                 |
| 5. Haryana          | + 31.36       | 28.04       |                 |
| 6. Himachal Pradesh | + 21.76       | 22.46       |                 |
| 7. Jammu Kashmir    | + 29.60       | 29.57       |                 |
| 8. Kerala           | + 25.89       | 19.00       |                 |
| 9. Madhya Pradesh   | + 29.66       | 25.15       |                 |
| 10. Maharashtra     | + 27.26       | 24.36       |                 |
| 11. Mysore          | + 24.07       | 26.43       |                 |
| 12. Nagaland        | + 39.64       | 49.73       |                 |
| 13. Orissa          | + 24.99       | 19.72       |                 |
| 14. Punjab          | + 21.00       | 23.01       |                 |
| 15. Rajasthan       | + 27.63       | 32.36       |                 |
| 16. Tamil Nadu      | + 22.01       | 17.23       |                 |
| 17. Uttar Pradesh   | + 19.82       | 25.49       |                 |
| 18. West Bengal     | + 27.24       | 22.96       |                 |
| 19. Meghalaya       | + 32.02       | 31.25       |                 |

Computed in the Department of Statistics

The decennial percentage growth rate of population in Tamil Nadu for all the districts for the decades since 1901-1911 upto 1971-81 are given below.

TABLE 2.7

DISTRICT-WISE PERCENTAGE OF DECADELY VARIATION IN  
POPULATION 1901 - 11 TO 1971-81

|                         | Percentage Decadel Variation in Population |         |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| State/<br>District      | 1901-11                                    | 1911-21 | 21-31 | 31-41 | 41-51 | 51-61 | 61-71 | 71-81 |
| TAMIL NADU              | 8.57                                       | 3.47    | 8.52  | 11.91 | 14.66 | 11.85 | 22.30 | 17.23 |
| 1. Madras               | 3.90                                       | 3.04    | 23.87 | 20.26 | 59.80 | 22.09 | 45.20 | 26.63 |
| 2. Chengal-<br>pattu    | 7.20                                       | 5.08    | 9.16  | 9.80  | 7.69  | 11.98 | 30.18 | 29.10 |
| 3. North-<br>Arcot      | 12.24                                      | 5.05    | 13.21 | 13.69 | 10.95 | 8.51  | 19.37 | 17.21 |
| 4. South-<br>Arcot      | 12.19                                      | 1.80    | 5.79  | 6.23  | 6.44  | 9.77  | 18.69 | 16.09 |
| 5. Dharnapuri           | 4.65                                       | 4.45    | 16.73 | 15.65 | 10.53 | 22.05 | 25.94 | 18.81 |
| 6. Salem                | 3.51                                       | 7.93    | 12.57 | 19.13 | 20.34 | 8.44  | 21.07 | 14.61 |
| 7. Periyar              | 6.04                                       | 8.60    | 6.07  | 15.16 | 14.05 | 7.20  | 20.40 | 14.50 |
| 8. Coimbatore           | 8.11                                       | 4.31    | 16.20 | 14.89 | 19.84 | 17.20 | 24.76 | 18.44 |
| 9. Nilgiris             | 5.08                                       | 6.66    | 33.84 | 23.85 | 48.65 | 31.30 | 20.70 | 27.17 |
| 10. Madurai             | 12.81                                      | 4.15    | 9.42  | 13.22 | 16.89 | 11.05 | 22.63 | 15.03 |
| 11. Tiruchi-<br>rapalli | 8.52                                       | 4.12    | 0.68  | 12.80 | 14.31 | 8.97  | 19.66 | 12.97 |
| 12. Thanjavur           | 5.43                                       | 2.02    | 2.86  | 7.43  | 15.93 | 8.78  | 17.63 | 14.29 |
| 13. Pudukkottai         | 6.54                                       | 4.20    | 5.64  | 8.55  | 13.07 | 6.58  | 26.24 | 21.99 |
| 14. Ramanatha-<br>puram | 9.17                                       | 3.27    | 7.02  | 7.62  | 4.52  | 16.33 | 18.11 | 16.44 |
| 15. Tirunel-<br>veli    | 8.10                                       | 6.42    | 7.29  | 9.80  | 9.52  | 8.99  | 17.22 | 11.21 |
| 16. Kanniya-<br>kunari  | 17.54                                      | 17.02   | 17.75 | 16.35 | 22.07 | 20.64 | 22.63 | 16.08 |

Source: Paper I of 1981 provisional population  
als - Census of India 1981.

The term "Sex Ratio" is used to denote the number of females per 1000 males in a relevant population.

The Sex Ratio in Tamil Nadu is 978 in 1981 which is incidentally the same as in 1971. Regarding all India, it can be said that sex ratio continues to be adverse to women. There are now 935 women for every 1000 men which shows only a slight improvement in the position that prevailed 10 years ago when the Sex Ratio was 930. The nearest that the ratio came to parity was in 1901 when it stood at 972.

TABLE 3.1

SEX RATIO OF POPULATION IN TAMIL NADU AND INDIA  
1901 - 1981

| YEAR | Sex Ratio (Females per 1000 males) |         |
|------|------------------------------------|---------|
|      | Tamil Nadu                         | India   |
| 1.   | 2.                                 | 3.      |
| 1901 | 1044                               | 972     |
| 1911 | 1042                               | 964     |
| 1921 | 1029                               | 955     |
| 1931 | 1007                               | 950     |
| 1941 | 1012                               | 945     |
| 1951 | 1007                               | 946     |
| 1961 | 992                                | 941     |
| 1971 | 978                                | 930     |
| 1981 | 978                                | 935 (P) |

(P) = Provisional

Source: Demographic Appraisal - 1971,  
Department of Statistics,  
Madras-6.

In Tamil Nadu the Sex Ratio was in favour of females from 1901 to 1951. This was the case in respect of Kerala, Orissa, Manipal, Goa, Daman and Diu, Lakshadweep and Mizoram. But in respect of other states the Sex Ratio was just the opposite. But from 1961 onwards there was a reverse in Tamil Nadu, when the masculine composition of the population increased. In the following table State-wise Sex Ratio for 1971 and 1981 and District-wise Sex Ratio in Tamil Nadu and their percentage variations are given.

TABLE 3.2

FEMALES' SEX RATIO IN INDIA BY STATES 1971 AND 1981

| STATE               | Females per 1000 males. |         | Percentage variation |
|---------------------|-------------------------|---------|----------------------|
|                     | 1971                    | 1981(P) |                      |
| INDIA               | 930                     | 935     | + 0.5                |
| 1. Andhra Pradesh   | 977                     | 975     | - 0.2                |
| 2. Assam            | 897                     | 900     | + 0.3                |
| 3. Bihar            | 954                     | 947     | - 0.7                |
| 4. Gujarat          | 934                     | 942     | + 0.8                |
| 5. Haryana          | 866                     | 877     | + 1.3                |
| 6. Himachal Pradesh | 958                     | 988     | + 3.0                |
| 7. Jammu & Kashmir  | 878                     | 953     | + 7.9                |
| 8. Kerala           | 1016                    | 1034    | + 1.7                |
| 9. Madhya Pradesh   | 941                     | 941     | --                   |
| 10. Maharashtra     | 930                     | 939     | + 0.9                |
| 11. Karnataka       | 957                     | 963     | + 0.6                |
| 12. Nagaland        | 872                     | 867     | - 0.4                |
| 13. Orissa          | 988                     | 982     | - 0.6                |
| 14. Punjab          | 865                     | 886     | + 2.3                |
| 15. Rajasthan       | 911                     | 921     | + 1.2                |

| STATE             | Sex Ratio |         | Percentage Variation |
|-------------------|-----------|---------|----------------------|
|                   | 1971      | 1981(P) |                      |
| 16. Tamil Nadu    | 978       | 978     | - -                  |
| 17. Uttar Pradesh | 879       | 886     | + 0.7                |
| 18. West Bengal   | 891       | 911     | + 2.1                |
| 19. Meghalaya     | 942       | 956     | + 1.4                |
| 20. Tripura       | 943       | 948     | + 0.5                |
| 21. Manipur       | 930       | 972     | - 0.8                |
| 22. Sikkim        | --        | 836     | - -                  |

(P) Provisional

Source: Computed in the Department of Statistics, Madras-6.

TABLE 3.3

District-wise Sex Ratio in Tamil Nadu - 1971-81

| District           | Sex Ratio |         | Percentage Variation |
|--------------------|-----------|---------|----------------------|
|                    | 1971      | 1981(P) |                      |
| 1. Madras          | 904       | 934     | + 3.2                |
| 2. Chengalpattu    | 949       | 957     | + 8.3                |
| 3. North Arcot     | 971       | 981     | + 1.0                |
| 4. South Arcot     | 969       | 973     | + 4.1                |
| 5. Dharmapuri      | 969       | 961     | - 0.8                |
| 6. Salem           | 963       | 950     | - 1.4                |
| 7. Periyar         | 965       | 953     | - 1.2                |
| 8. Coimbatore      | 951       | 950     | - 0.1                |
| 9. Nilgiris        | 944       | 959     | + 1.6                |
| 10. Madurai        | 986       | 977     | - 0.9                |
| 11. Tiruchirapalli | 987       | 987     | --                   |
| 12. Thanjavur      | 994       | 989     | - 0.5                |
| 13. Pudukkottai    | 1011      | 1008    | - 0.3                |
| 14. Ramanathapuram | 1042      | 1025    | - 1.7                |
| 15. Tirunelveli    | 1042      | 1044    | + 0.2                |
| 16. Kanniyakumari  | 972       | 987     | + 1.5                |
| TAMIL NADU         | 978       | 978     | --                   |

(P) Provisional

Source: 1981 Census of India Paper I Provisional population totals.

DENSITY

It is seen from the above table that in Ramanathapuram, Tirunelveli and Pudukkottai districts the number of females out number males. In 1971, Ramanathapuram and Tirunelveli districts had the highest sex ratio i.e. 1042. As per 1981 Census, Tirunelveli district has the highest Sex Ratio of 1044 followed by Ramanathapuram with 1025.

The high Sex Ratio of the above two districts may perhaps be due to out migration of male working population to Thanjavur and other neighbouring districts, drift of male literate population in the working age group to Madras city and to other urban areas in search of educational and employment opportunities. This migration of male population to Madras city may perhaps, be the reason for the lowest sex ratio of 904 in 1971 in Madras City. Though it has increased to 934 as per 1981 Census, still Madras City has the lowest sex ratio among the districts of Tamilnadu. This may be due to large scale inflow of male population from the districts, seeking employment opportunities, for higher studies etc. and hence the State Head Quarters has the minimum Sex Ratio of the entire Tamil Nadu. Apart from Madras, Chengalpattu, North Arcot, South Arcot, The Nilgiris, Tirunelveli and Kanniyakumari have recorded an increase in sex ratio while the remaining districts have shown a decline.

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As per 1971 Census, Madras city had the highest density of population with 19,299 persons living in the space of one sq.km. followed by Kanniyakumari District with 729. From the 1981 Census data, it is found that Kanniyakumari has the highest density with 843, while Dharmapuri as in 1971, has the lowest density of 207. The district-wise density particulars are presented in the following table.

TABLE 4.1

DISTRICT-WISE DENSITY OF POPULATION IN TAMILNADU  
1971 & 1981

| DISTRICT           | Density of population per sq. km. |               |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|
|                    | 1971                              | 1981          |
| 1. Madras          | 19293                             | Not available |
| 2. Chengalpattu    | 354                               | 457           |
| 3. North Arcot     | 306                               | 359           |
| 4. South Arcot     | 332                               | 386           |
| 5. Dharmapuri      | 174                               | 207           |
| 6. Salem           | 346                               | 397           |
| 7. Periyar         | 219                               | 251           |
| 8. Coimbatore      | 345                               | 409           |
| 9. Nilgiris        | 194                               | 246           |
| 10. Madurai        | 312                               | 359           |
| 11. Tiruchirapalli | 288                               | 325           |
| 12. Thanjavur      | 429                               | 490           |
| 13. Pudukkottai    | 203                               | 248           |
| 14. Ramanathapuram | 227                               | 265           |
| 15. Tirunelveli    | 280                               | 311           |
| 16. Kanniyakumari  | 726                               | 843           |
| TOTAL<br>TAMILNADU | 317                               | 371           |

Source: 1981 Census of India Paper I of provisional population totals.

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RURAL - URBAN COMPOSITION

Census data are generally compiled separately for rural and urban areas. . . . . On the basis of certain criteria, the urban areas are determined for Census purposes and the rest of the areas are classified as rural.

Urbanisation, in general is a remarkable social phenomenon of modern civilization. It may be defined as the tendency of inhabitants to move towards population concentrated in urban areas which is an universal phenomenon. The degree of concentration, however, differs from country to country or from place to place depending upon certain factors such as industrialisation, employment opportunities housing conditions, health and medical facilities, climate, social and political institutions. Thus urbanisation is considered to be an important index of economic growth.

DEFINITIONS:

As per 1961 Census, all Municipalities, Cantonments, and Townships were deemed to have urban characteristics and declared as towns. In respect of other areas, three tests were applied (i) Population of the area should not be less than 5000 (2) 75% of the male population should depend on non-agricultural resources for their livelihood and (3) there should be density of 1000 persons per square mile. All areas which satisfy any two of the three tests and which in the opinion of the District Collector of urban characteristics were also declared as urban.

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The Critical consideration for the Census 1971 is as follows:

1. all places with a Municipality, Corporation or notified Town area.
2. all other places which satisfy the following conditions.
  - a. a minimum population of 5,000
  - b. at least 75% of the male working population engaged in non-agricultural sector.
  - c. a density of population of at least 400 persons per square km. (i.e. 1000 persons per square mile)

In the 1981 Census, the definition of an urban limit is more or less the same as in the 1961 and 1971 Census with some minor variations. The urban areas as per 1981 Census are

- a. All places with a Municipality, Corporation or Cantonment Board or notified town area.
- b. All other places which satisfied the following criteria.
  - i. a minimum population of 5000
  - ii. at least 75% of the male working population engaged in non-agricultural (an allied) activity.
  - iii. a population of at least 400 per km.<sup>2</sup> (or one thousand per square mile)

The above definition of urban areas slightly differs from that of 1961 and 1971 Censuses. Males working in activities such as fishing, logging etc. were also treated as workers engaged in non-agricultural activity and therefore contributed to the 75% criteria fixed in the 1961 and 1971 Censuses. In 1981 Census these activities are treated as on par with cultivators and agricultural labours. In 1971 and earlier Censuses,

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urban areas included some places with population below 5,000 also on the basis of certain considerations like density, social and historical importance, etc. In 1981 however, this criterion was strictly applied and no area was included on local considerations. A common indicator to measure the urbanisation level in population is by means of percentage of population living in urban areas to the total population. The following table gives percentage of urban population to total population in the States of India in 1971 and 1981.

TABLE 5.1

Percentage of Urban Population to Total Population  
1971 & 1981

| STATE               | % of Urban Population to total Population |       |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------|
|                     | 1971                                      | 1981  |
| INDIA               | 19.91                                     | 23.73 |
| 1. Andhra Pradesh   | 19.32                                     | 23.25 |
| 2. Bihar            | 10.00                                     | 12.46 |
| 3. Gujarat          | 27.74                                     | 31.08 |
| 4. Haryana          | 17.66                                     | 21.96 |
| 5. Himachal Pradesh | 6.99                                      | 7.72  |
| 6. Karnataka        | 24.31                                     | 28.92 |
| 7. Kerala           | 16.24                                     | 18.78 |
| 8. Madhya Pradesh   | 16.29                                     | 20.31 |
| 9. Maharashtra      | 31.17                                     | 35.03 |
| 10. Manipur         | 14.03                                     | 26.44 |
| 11. Meghalaya       | 14.53                                     | 18.03 |
| 12. Nagaland        | 9.30                                      | 15.54 |
| 13. Orissa          | 8.41                                      | 11.82 |
| 14. Punjab          | 23.73                                     | 27.72 |
| 15. Rajasthan       | 17.64                                     | 20.93 |
| 16. Sikkim          | --                                        | 16.23 |
| 17. Tamilnadu       | 30.26                                     | 32.98 |
| 18. Tripura         | 10.41                                     | 10.98 |
| 19. Uttar Pradesh   | 14.02                                     | 18.01 |
| 20. West Bengal     | 24.75                                     | 26.49 |

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TABLE 5.1 (Contd.)

| State                          | % of Urban population to total population |       |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------|
|                                | 1971                                      | 1981  |
| <u>STATE/UNION TERRITORY</u>   |                                           |       |
| <u>UNION TERRITORIES</u>       |                                           |       |
| 1. Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 22.77                                     | 26.36 |
| 2. Arunachal-Pradesh           | 3.70                                      | 6.32  |
| 3. Chandigarh                  | 90.54                                     | 93.60 |
| 4. Dadra and Nagar Haveli      | Nil                                       | 6.67  |
| 5. Delhi                       | 89.70                                     | 92.84 |
| 6. Goa, Daman & Diu            | 26.44                                     | 32.46 |
| 7. Lakshadweep                 | ..                                        | 46.31 |
| 8. Mizoram*                    | ..                                        | 25.17 |
| 9. Pondicherry                 | 42.04                                     | 52.32 |

Source: Computed in the Department of Statistics  
Madras-600006

(P) Provisional

\* Mizoram was carved out of Assam after 1971 census  
\* Excludes Jammu and Kashmir and Assam.

The above data indicate that in general the percentage of urban population to total population in India has increased by 3.82 points between 1971 and 1981. Tamil Nadu occupies the second place among the States in the matter of urbanisation, the first being Maharashtra. In 1971 also, Maharashtra was the only State which recorded a higher percentage of urban population than Tamil Nadu.

A comparative picture of urbanisation in India and in Tamilnadu from 1951 Census is presented in the following table.

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TABLE 5.2

PERCENTAGE OF URBAN POPULATION IN INDIA AND TAMIL NADU

| YEAR | INDIA | TAMILNADU |
|------|-------|-----------|
| 1951 | 17.29 | 24.35     |
| 1961 | 17.97 | 26.69     |
| 1971 | 19.91 | 30.26     |
| 1981 | 23.73 | 32.98     |

Source: Census of India 1981 Paper I

Level of Urbanisation in Tamil Nadu:

The level of urbanisation is measured by means of "proportion of population living in urban areas (expressed as %) to total population". The following table gives the level of urbanisation in Tamil Nadu from 1901 to 1981.

TABLE 5.3

Level of Urbanisation in Tamil Nadu - 1901 - 1981

|                                | 1901  | 1911  | 1921  | 1931  | 1941  | 1951  | 1961  | 1971  | 1981  |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Urban Population (in Millions) | 2.69  | 3.10  | 3.35  | 4.14  | 5.08  | 7.13  | 8.99  | 12.46 | 15.93 |
| Total Population (in Millions) | 19.25 | 20.90 | 21.63 | 23.47 | 26.27 | 30.12 | 33.69 | 41.20 | 48.30 |
| Level of Urbanisation          | 13.99 | 14.84 | 15.49 | 17.66 | 19.36 | 24.35 | 26.69 | 30.26 | 32.98 |

Note: Computed in the Department of Statistics Madras-600 006.

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An analysis of the 1981 Census data shows that every third person in Tamil Nadu is an urban dweller. The figures show that 15.9 million people, out of the total population of 48.3 million in the State are inhabited in Urban areas. As per 1971 Census data, State's urban population was 12.5 millions out of the total population 41.2 millions. The decadal increase in the urban population of Tamil Nadu during 1971-81 is 27.7 per cent as against an overall increase of 17.2 per cent in the total population of the State during the decade.

In the following table the growth of towns and cities from 1901 to 1981 are presented.

TABLE 5.4

GROWTH OF TOWNS AND CITIES IN TAMIL NADU 1901-1981

| Year | Number of Cities and towns in Tamilnadu |
|------|-----------------------------------------|
| 1901 | 133                                     |
| 1911 | 162                                     |
| 1921 | 189                                     |
| 1931 | 222                                     |
| 1941 | 257                                     |
| 1951 | 297                                     |
| 1961 | 339                                     |
| 1971 | 439                                     |
| 1981 | 434                                     |

Source: Census of India, 1981 Paper I(Supplement)

Out of 434 Urban units in the State in 1981 Chengalpattu district which almost wraps around Madras has the largest number of urban units (66) in the State. The other districts which comprises large number of urban units are Tirunelveli (52) and Salem (44).

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In the following table, the district-wise number of urban units and the number of urban population in 1981 and their percentage to States urban population are given.

TABLE 5.5

URBAN UNITS AND URBAN POPULATION IN THE DISTRICT OF TAMIL NADU 1981

| DISTRICT           | Number of Urban Units | Urban Population | Percentage to States Urban Population |
|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| TAMIL NADU         | 434                   | 15,927,952       | 100.00                                |
| 1. Madras          | 1                     | 32,66,034        | 20.51                                 |
| 2. Chengalpattu    | 66                    | 14,05,534        | 8.82                                  |
| 3. North Arcot     | 34                    | 10,14,540        | 6.37                                  |
| 4. South Arcot     | 17                    | 6,60,166         | 4.15                                  |
| 5. Dharmapuri      | 7                     | 1,87,087         | 1.18                                  |
| 6. Salem           | 44                    | 9,92,050         | 6.23                                  |
| 7. Periyar         | 18                    | 4,53,938         | 2.85                                  |
| 8. Coimbatore      | 36                    | 15,40,634        | 9.67                                  |
| 9. The Nilgiris    | 15                    | 3,06,484         | 1.92                                  |
| 10. Madurai        | 32                    | 16,44,996        | 10.33                                 |
| 11. Tiruchirapalli | 29                    | 9,41,819         | 5.91                                  |
| 12. Thanjavur      | 32                    | 9,36,202         | 5.88                                  |
| 13. Pudukottai     | 8                     | 1,53,632         | 0.96                                  |
| 14. Ramanathapuram | 38                    | 9,41,914         | 5.91                                  |
| 15. Tirunelveli    | 52                    | 12,37,692        | 7.77                                  |
| 16. Kanniyakumari  | 5                     | 2,45,230         | 1.54                                  |

Source: Census of India 1981, Paper I of supplement.

Madras city, being a district by itself is fully urban and accounts for about one fifth of the State's total urban population. There are other districts also which have sizeable urban population in Tamil Nadu. They are Madurai (1.6 millions) Coimbatore (1.5 millions) Chengalpattu (1.4 millions) Tirunelveli (1.2 millions) and North Arcot (1.0 million). The districts with very low urban population are Dharmapuri (i.e. 1.8 lakhs) Pudukkottai (1.5 lakhs) and Kanniyakumari (2.4 lakhs)

The following table shows the percentage of Urban Population to Total Population in the districts of Tamil Nadu in 1971 and 1981.

TABLE 5.6

Percentage of Urban Population to the Total Population in the Districts of Tamil Nadu

| District           | % of urban population to the total population |        | Increase during the period 1971 - 81 |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------------|
|                    | 1971                                          | 1981   |                                      |
| TAMIL NADU         | 30.26                                         | 32.98  | 2.71                                 |
| 1. Madras          | 100.00                                        | 100.00 | --                                   |
| 2. Chengalpattu    | 32.42                                         | 38.91  | 6.49                                 |
| 3. North Arcot     | 20.85                                         | 23.05  | 2.20                                 |
| 4. South Arcot     | 14.18                                         | 15.72  | 1.54                                 |
| 5. Dharmapuri      | 8.58                                          | 9.39   | 0.81                                 |
| 6. Salem           | 26.58                                         | 28.92  | 2.34                                 |
| 7. Periyar         | 18.21                                         | 22.06  | 3.85                                 |
| 8. Coimbatore      | 47.71                                         | 50.49  | 2.78                                 |
| 9. The Nilgiris    | 49.24                                         | 48.79  | - 0.45                               |
| 10. Madurai        | 33.62                                         | 36.31  | 2.69                                 |
| 11. Tiruchirapalli | 23.76                                         | 26.12  | 2.36                                 |
| 12. Thanjavur      | 21.74                                         | 23.07  | 1.33                                 |
| 13. Pudukkottai    | 12.74                                         | 13.29  | 1.15                                 |
| 14. Ramanathapuram | 26.11                                         | 28.28  | 2.17                                 |
| 15. Tirunelveli    | 32.17                                         | 34.77  | 2.60                                 |
| 16. Kanniyakumari  | 16.72                                         | 17.28  | 0.56                                 |

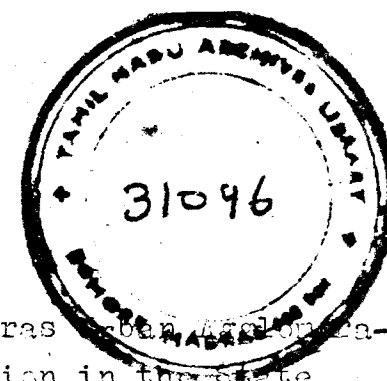
Note: Computed in the Department of Statistics, Madras-600 006.

It is seen from the above table that in the districts of Tamil Nadu, Coimbatore district has recorded the highest percentage of urban population (50.49). The other districts with a high concentration of urban population are Nilgiris (48.79%), Chengalpattu district (38.91) and Madurai (36.31%). The district with a very low percentage of Urban population are Kanniyakumari (17.28), South Arcot (7.72) Pudukkottai (13.29) and Dharmapuri (9.39). Generally as discussed earlier there is an upward trend in the level of Urbanisation during 1971-81. Out of the total population of 48.3 millions, 15.9 millions are urban dwellers which amounts to 33 per cent. In 1971 the State's urban population was 12.5 million out of the total population of 41.2 millions which works out to 30.3%. The decadal increase in the urban population of Tamilnadu during 1971-81 is 27.71 percent as against an increase of 17.2% in the total population of the State.

#### Urban Agglomeration

Urbanisation would normally depend upon many factors such as industrialisation and economic development, and this process results in the growth of sub-urban areas. Such contiguous urban spread are treated as an integrated urban area and defined as 'Urban Agglomeration' in the 1971 census and was followed in 1981 Census also with some minor variations as discussed earlier.

An urban agglomeration may be defined as follows. It must form "a contiguous urban spread constituting a town and its adjoining urban outgrowth of two or more physically contiguous towns together with continuous well recognised urban outgrowth, if any, of such towns". In addition to 32 urban agglomerations in 1971, two new urban agglomerations viz. Neyveli and Karur have been formed during 1981 Census.



As per 1981 Census, the Madras Urban Agglomeration has the largest urban concentration in the state having 42,76,635 persons and it consists of the core town of Madras and 48 other constituent towns. This urban complex recorded a growth rate of 63.02% during 1961-71 and 34.91% during 1971-81. It is the fourth biggest urban centre in the country, the first three being Calcutta UA (9.17 million) Greater Bombay City (8.20 millions) and Delhi UA (5.75 millions). In Tamil Nadu, Coimbatore Urban Agglomeration with 17 urban units with a population of 917,155 comes next to Madras. Madurai Urban Agglomeration has a population of 904,362 with 10 constituent units. Thiruchirapalli and Salem are the other two important Urban Agglomerations having a population of 607,815 and 515,021 respectively. It may be seen that the total number of urban units in 1981 Census has been given as 434. Wherever applicable, these units were grouped into "Urban Agglomerations" on the basis of concepts referred to earlier. These 434 units were condensed into 34 Urban Agglomerations and 211 District units, which may either be a town without sub-urban growth or an Urban Agglomeration. These units were divided into 6 size classes depending upon their urban population. Number of Urban Agglomerations and number of cities towns comprised in each size class as per 1981 Census are presented in the

455-211 N81

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following table.

TABLE 5.7

CLASSIFICATION OF URBAN AGGLOMERATIONS AND TOWNS BY  
POPULATION SIZE - 1981

| Population size                  | Number of<br>Urban Agglo-<br>merations | Number of<br>Cities/<br>Towns |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Class I 100,000 and<br>above  | 14                                     | 6                             |
| 2. Class II 50,000 to<br>99,999  | 13                                     | 24                            |
| 3. Class III 20,000 to<br>49,999 | 3                                      | 60                            |
| 4. Class IV 10,000 to<br>19,999  | 3                                      | 79                            |
| 5. Class V 5,000 to<br>9,999     | 1                                      | 36                            |
| 6. Class VI less than<br>5,000   | -                                      | 6                             |
|                                  | 34                                     | 211                           |

Source: Census of India 1981 - Paper I  
(Supplement)

The following table shows the total population  
of towns that comprised in each of the six size classes and  
also their percentages.

TABLE 5.8

| Class with<br>Population<br>size    | 1981 (P)        |                 | 1971            |                 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|                                     | Popula-<br>tion | Percen-<br>tage | Popula-<br>tion | percen-<br>tage |
| 1. Class I<br>1,00,000 and<br>above | 9905500         | 62.19           | 7197540         | 57.74           |
| 2. Class II<br>50,000 to<br>99,999  | 2546769         | 15.99           | 1765092         | 14.16           |

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| Class with Population<br>size       | 1981 (P)        |                 | 1971            |                 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|                                     | Popula-<br>tion | Percen-<br>tage | Popula-<br>tion | Percen-<br>tage |
| 3. Class III<br>20,000 to<br>49,999 | 1994388         | 12.52           | 1882968         | 15.11           |
| 4. Class IV<br>10,000 to<br>19,999  | 1177991         | 7.40            | 1232432         | 9.89            |
| 5. Class V<br>5,000 to<br>9,999     | 280817          | 1.76            | 345647          | 2.77            |
| 6. Class VI<br>Below<br>5,000       | 22479           | 0.14            | 41155           | 0.33            |
| Total                               | 15927952        | 100.00          | 12464834        | 100.00          |

(P) Provisional

Source: General Population Tables Part II, A 1971  
and Part I supplement, Census of India 1981.

It is seen from the above table that 62.19% of  
the State's Urban Population live in cities (i.e. Class  
I towns) in 1981 as against 57.74% in 1971. The percentage  
of urban population living in Class II towns is 15.99 in  
1981 as against 14.16 in 1971. In the other classes of  
towns viz. III to VI the percentage of population in  
1981 is less than that prevailed in 1971. It can be  
inferred from this that the urban population is increasingly  
getting concentrated in big urban centres of over 50,000  
population.

While analysing the decadal growth of population  
of the six classes of towns, it is noticed that during  
1971-81, the population of Class I, II & III towns have  
gone up by 37.62%, 44.29% and 5.92% respectively.

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In the following table, the Urban Population by sex in each size class is presented.

TABLE 5.9

## SIZE CLASS-WISE URBAN POPULATION BY SEX-1981

| Size Class   | Persons  | Males   | Females | *Sex-ratio |
|--------------|----------|---------|---------|------------|
| All Classes  | 15927952 | 8140147 | 7787805 | 957        |
| 1. Class I   | 9905508  | 5097472 | 4808036 | 943        |
| 2. Class II  | 2546769  | 1292209 | 1254560 | 971        |
| 3. Class III | 1994388  | 1000472 | 984916  | 976        |
| 4. Class IV  | 1177991  | 589789  | 588202  | 997        |
| 5. Class V   | 280817   | 140490  | 140327  | 999        |
| 6. Class VI  | 22479    | 10715   | 11674   | 1090       |

\* Computed in the Department of Statistics, Madras-6.

From the above table it can be inferred that higher the population size, lower is the Sex-Ratio. This is true in the case of Class I cities where the Sex-Ratio is 943, while in Class II towns the ratio is 971. In Class III towns the ratio is still higher i.e. 976. In Class IV, V and VI the Sex Ratio further increases i.e. 997 in Class IV 999 in Class V and 1090 in Class VI.

The District-wise rural urban population and their percentages to total population in Tamilnadu are furnished in the following table.

TABLE 5.10

## DISTRICTWISE POPULATION OF TAMIL NADU BY RURAL-URBAN SECTOR - 1981

| District/State     | Rural      |                                | Urban      |                                |
|--------------------|------------|--------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------|
|                    | Population | Percentage to total population | Population | Percentage to total population |
| TAMIL NADU         | 32,369,504 | 67.02                          | 15,927,952 | 32.98                          |
| 1. Madras          | N.A.       | N.A.                           | 3,266,034  | 100.00                         |
| 2. Chengalpattu    | 2,206,337  | 61.09                          | 1,405,534  | 38.91                          |
| 3. North Arcot     | 3,387,547  | 76.95                          | 1,014,540  | 23.05                          |
| 4. South Arcot     | 3,539,726  | 84.28                          | 660,166    | 15.72                          |
| 5. Dharmapuri      | 1,806,203  | 90.61                          | 187,087    | 9.39                           |
| 6. Salem           | 2,437,772  | 71.08                          | 992,050    | 28.92                          |
| 7. Periyar         | 1,603,558  | 77.94                          | 453,938    | 22.06                          |
| 8. Coimbatore      | 1,510,501  | 49.51                          | 1,540,634  | 50.49                          |
| 9. Nilgiris        | 321,747    | 51.21                          | 306,484    | 48.79                          |
| 10. Madurai        | 2,885,032  | 63.69                          | 1,644,996  | 36.31                          |
| 11. Tiruchirapalli | 2,664,214  | 73.88                          | 941,819    | 26.12                          |
| 12. Thanjavur      | 3,121,028  | 76.93                          | 936,202    | 23.07                          |
| 13. Pudukkottai    | 1,002,052  | 86.71                          | 153,632    | 13.29                          |
| 14. Ramanathapuram | 2,388,425  | 71.72                          | 941,914    | 28.28                          |
| 15. Tirunelveli    | 2,321,482  | 65.23                          | 1,237,692  | 34.77                          |
| 16. Kanniyakumari  | 1,173,880  | 82.72                          | 245,230    | 17.28                          |

N.A. Not applicable

Source: Census of India 1981 - Paper I of Supplement.

LITERACY

In Tamil Nadu the percentage of literates has gone up from 39.46 to 45.78 during 1971-81. The percentage of literates among males has increased by about 5 points from 51.78 to 57.19 between 1971 and 1981. The percentage of literates among females has also increased by about seven points from 26.86 per cent to 34.12 per cent indicating that female literacy rate is trying to catch up with that of males. At all India level the percentage of literacy is 36.17 in 1981. The literates and general literacy rates by States in 1971 and 1981 Censuses are given in the following table.

TABLE 6.1

Literates and the General Literacy Rates by States-1971-81

| States/All India     | Total Literates |             | * Percentage of Literates to total population |       |
|----------------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------|
|                      | 1971            | 1981        | 1971                                          | 1981  |
| INDIA                | 161,377,780     | 237,991,932 | 29.46                                         | 34.80 |
| 1. Andhra Pradesh    | 10,689,665      | 15,989,266  | 24.57                                         | 29.94 |
| 2. Assam             | 4,295,564       | . . .       | 28.27                                         | . . . |
| 3. Bihar             | 11,237,613      | 18,163,410  | 19.94                                         | 26.01 |
| 4. Gujarat           | 9,555,239       | 14,858,075  | 35.79                                         | 43.75 |
| 5. Haryana           | 2,699,179       | 4,605,649   | 26.89                                         | 35.84 |
| 6. Himachal-Pradesh  | 1,105,825       | 1,777,201   | 31.96                                         | 41.94 |
| 7. Jammu and Kashmir | 857,964         | . . .       | 18.58                                         | . . . |
| 8. Kerala            | 12,898,072      | 17,571,819  | 60.42                                         | 69.17 |
| 9. Madhya Pradesh    | 923,081         | 14,502,063  | 22.14                                         | 27.82 |
| 10. Maharashtra      | 19,752,608      | 29,695,721  | 39.18                                         | 47.37 |
| 11. Manipur          | 353,090         | 601,943     | 32.91                                         | 41.98 |
| 12. Meghalaya        | 298,312         | 441,077     | 29.49                                         | 33.22 |
| 13. Karnataka        | 9,235,127       | 14,228,947  | 31.52                                         | 38.41 |
| 14. Nagaland         | 141,518         | 324,700     | 27.40                                         | 41.99 |
| 15. Orissa           | 5,745,399       | 8,964,625   | 26.18                                         | 34.12 |

| State/All India   | Total Literates |            | Percentage of Literates to total Population |       |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------|---------------------------------------------|-------|
|                   | 1971            | 1981       | 1971                                        | 1981  |
| 16. Punjab        | 4,562,123       | 6,791,547  | 33.67                                       | 40.74 |
| 17. Rajasthan     | 4,914,293       | 8,201,615  | 19.07                                       | 24.05 |
| 18. Tamilnadu     | 16,256,393      | 22,111,593 | 39.46                                       | 45.78 |
| 19. Tripura       | 482,082         | 856,688    | 30.98                                       | 41.58 |
| 20. Uttar Pradesh | 19,173,970      | 30,358,013 | 21.77                                       | 27.38 |
| 21. West Bengal   | 14,711,739      | 22,271,867 | 33.20                                       | 40.88 |
| 22. Sikkim        | . . .           | 106,780    | . . .                                       | 33.83 |

\* Computed in the Department of Statistics, Madras-6.

The first two States with high percentage of literacy are Kerala (69.17) and Maharashtra (47.37). Tamilnadu with 45.78 percentage of literates holds the third rank among all the States in the matter of literacy. The percentage of literates in Tamil Nadu is 10 points more than that for the country as a whole which is significant.

TABLE 6.2

DISTRICT-WISE LITERATES BY SEX IN TAMILNADU - 1971-1981

| District/State   | Literate Population |                     |                    |                     |                     |                    |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
|                  | 1971                |                     |                    | 1981                |                     |                    |
|                  | Persons             | Males               | Females            | Persons             | Males               | Females            |
| TAMILNADU        | 16256393<br>(39.46) | 10783783<br>(51.78) | 5472610<br>(26.86) | 22111593<br>(45.78) | 13965132<br>(57.19) | 8146461<br>(34.12) |
| 1. Madras        | 1531406<br>(61.78)  | 915488<br>(70.41)   | 615918<br>(52.25)  | 2164988<br>(66.29)  | 1237439<br>(73.28)  | 927549<br>(58.80)  |
| 2. Chengal-pattu | 1155136<br>(39.07)  | 772791<br>(51.17)   | 382345<br>(26.30)  | 1697574<br>(47.00)  | 1077742<br>(58.41)  | 619832<br>(35.08)  |
| 3. North-Arcot   | 1301921<br>(34.66)  | 905028<br>(47.55)   | 395893<br>(21.39)  | 1746162<br>(39.67)  | 1158779<br>(52.16)  | 587387<br>(26.9)   |

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Table 6.2 (Contd.)

|                    | Literate Population |                    |                   |                    |                    |                   |
|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
|                    | 1971                |                    |                   | 1981               |                    |                   |
|                    | Persons             | Males              | Females           | Persons            | Males              | Females           |
| 4. South Arcot     | 1125397<br>(31.14)  | 809738<br>(44.05)  | 317009<br>(17.80) | 1512496<br>(36.01) | 1030491<br>(48.41) | 482005<br>(23.27) |
| 5. Dharmapuri      | 574453<br>(22.32)   | 269841<br>(31.66)  | 104612<br>(12.67) | 570438<br>(28.62)  | 391934<br>(38.55)  | 178504<br>(18.28) |
| 6. Salem           | 949002<br>(31.71)   | 650511<br>(42.68)  | 298491<br>(20.33) | 1325316<br>(38.64) | 866077<br>(49.23)  | 459239<br>(27.49) |
| 7. Periyar         | 562107<br>(31.28)   | 395466<br>(43.62)  | 166641<br>(18.50) | 811639<br>(39.45)  | 536310<br>(50.91)  | 275329<br>(27.42) |
| 8. Coimbatore      | 113892<br>(44.21)   | 73344<br>(56.67)   | 40548<br>(31.11)  | 1594929<br>(52.27) | 989953<br>(63.26)  | 604976<br>(40.71) |
| 9. Nilgiris        | 232342<br>(47.03)   | 148613<br>(58.48)  | 83729<br>(34.90)  | 350219<br>(55.75)  | 214143<br>(66.79)  | 136076<br>(44.24) |
| 10. Madurai        | 1634860<br>(41.51)  | 1091901<br>(55.07) | 542959<br>(27.77) | 2110173<br>(46.58) | 1347430<br>(58.82) | 762743<br>(34.06) |
| 11. Tiruchi        | 1238548<br>(38.80)  | 851402<br>(52.40)  | 387109<br>(25.02) | 1629646<br>(45.19) | 1050996<br>(57.90) | 578650<br>(32.31) |
| 12. Thanjavur      | 1430675<br>(40.30)  | 966170<br>(53.55)  | 464505<br>(26.96) | 1984824<br>(48.92) | 1347397<br>(61.16) | 737427<br>(36.55) |
| 13. Pudukkottai    | 297443<br>(31.40)   | 216932<br>(46.05)  | 80511<br>(16.90)  | 438340<br>(37.93)  | 301494<br>(52.39)  | 136846<br>(23.58) |
| 14. Ramanathapuram | 1136629<br>(39.74)  | 766476<br>(54.72)  | 370153<br>(25.36) | 1486486<br>(44.63) | 957124<br>(58.19)  | 529362<br>(31.41) |
| 15. Tirunelveli    | 1434809<br>(44.83)  | 895581<br>(57.13)  | 539228<br>(33.02) | 1807868<br>(50.79) | 1078208<br>(61.91) | 729660<br>(40.14) |
| 16. Kanniyakumari  | 711676<br>(58.21)   | 397453<br>(64.12)  | 314223<br>(52.14) | 880495<br>(62.05)  | 479615<br>(67.14)  | 400880<br>(56.88) |

Note: (Figures in Parenthesis refer to the percentage of literates to total population of each sex)

From the above table, it may be seen that Madras district ranks first among all the other districts in Tamil Nadu, with a literacy rate of 62% in 1971 Census and 66% in 1981 Census. Next comes Kanniyakumari district with 58% and 62% respectively. The Nilgiris, Coimbatore and Tirunelveli districts come next to Kanyakumari with a literacy rate of 50%. Chengalpattu, Madurai, Tiruchi, Thanjavur and Ramanad districts fall in the range of 40 to 50%. The other districts of North Arcot, South Arcot, Salem, Periyar and Pudukkottai are in the range of 30 to 40%. Dharmapuri district has the lowest literacy rate with 22% in 1971 and 29% in 1981. The highlight of 1981 Census is that the percentage of literates among females has increased by 7 points while that of males has increased only by about 5 points.

CHAPTER VII - WORKERS

Definition:

A worker is defined differently in different Censuses. In 1961 Census a person was defined as a worker if he was engaged in any seasonal work like cultivation, livestock, dairying, household industry or if a person had some regular work of more than one hour a day throughout the greater part of the working season or if the person had regular employment in any trade, profession, service, business or commerce even if the person was employed during any of the fifteen days preceding the day of enquiry. In 1971 Census a worker was defined as a person whose main activity was participation in economically productive work by his physical or mental activity or if he had participated in any regular work, on any one of the days during the reference period of one week and if he had stated that it was his main activity and or a person who was reported to be engaged in any seasonal work in the last one year even if he was not economically active in the week prior to enumeration. Thus in 1961 and 1971 Censuses different approaches viz. usual status and current status were adopted with reference period of one year and one week for seasonal and regular work respectively. But in the 1981 Census, the concept of worker have been modified from the previous Censuses to give full details. The dichotomy of worker/non-worker of 1961 and 1971 Censuses is discarded in favour of the 1981 Census. A trichotomy of Main Workers, Marginal Workers and Non-Workers is adopted. These differences in the

concepts adopted at different Censuses may, perhaps be responsible for the decline in the working force.

For the trichotomy of workers adopted in 1981 Census the following criterion has been adopted.

1. For Main Workers, the time criterion of engagement in work for the major part of the year be at least 183 days is adopted. For those who worked for some time during the last year but not for the major part are treated as Marginal Workers. Those who had never worked during the last year are Non-Workers. The Main Workers of 1981 Census can be expected to correspond to the Workers of 1971 and the Main Workers and Marginal Workers of 1981 put together to correspond to the Workers of 1961. Thus as per 1981 Census, the term work has been defined as "participation of physical or mental in any economically productive activity". It also involves not only actual work but also effective supervision and direction of work and the reference period is the one year preceding the date of enumeration.

Persons who are engaged in household duties only, a fulltime student without being engaged in any work, a pensioner or a retired person who did not have to work, were treated as Non-workers.

As per 1981 Census 18.9 millions people have been recorded as Main Workers. The corresponding figure in 1971 was 14.7 millions thus registering an increase of 4.2 million workers over that of 1971. In the following table, sex-wise percentage of workers to population in rural and urban areas are given.

TABLE 7.1

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF WORKERS BY SEX IN TAMILNADU-1971-1981

| YEAR       | Percentage of Main Workers to total population |       |         |
|------------|------------------------------------------------|-------|---------|
|            | Persons                                        | Males | Females |
| 1981 Total | 39.2                                           | 55.4  | 22.6    |
| Rural      | 43.0                                           | 57.8  | 28.1    |
| Urban      | 31.3                                           | 50.4  | 11.2    |
| 1971 Total | 35.8                                           | 56.0  | 15.1    |
| Rural      | 38.2                                           | 58.6  | 17.6    |
| Urban      | 30.2                                           | 50.3  | 9.1     |

It may be seen from the table 7.1 that the worker participation rate is higher in the rural areas both by males and females.

The district-wise distribution of Workers with their percentage to total population are given in the following table.

TABLE 7.2

District-wise distribution of Workers in Tamilnadu-1971 & 1981

| District/<br>State | 1981<br>Main<br>Workers | 1971<br>Main<br>Workers | Percentage of Main<br>Workers to total<br>population |       |
|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-------|
|                    |                         |                         | 1971                                                 | 1981  |
| TAMILNADU          | 18908774                | 14741967                | 35.78                                                | 39.15 |
| 1. Madras          | 895029                  | 696379                  | 28.18                                                | 27.40 |
| 2. Chengalpattu    | 1264612                 | 980755                  | 33.96                                                | 35.01 |
| 3. North Arcot     | 1706234                 | 1333169                 | 35.50                                                | 38.76 |
| 4. South Arcot     | 1618996                 | 1255163                 | 34.69                                                | 38.55 |
| 5. Dharmapuri      | 835239                  | 610878                  | 36.41                                                | 41.90 |
| 6. Salem           | 1528498                 | 1182279                 | 39.51                                                | 44.56 |
| 7. Periyar         | 1014438                 | 768045                  | 42.74                                                | 49.30 |
| 8. Coimbatore      | 1325925                 | 1018357                 | 39.53                                                | 43.46 |
| 9. Nilgiris        | 240042                  | 191813                  | 38.83                                                | 38.21 |
| 10. Madurai        | 1917626                 | 1453938                 | 36.92                                                | 42.33 |
| 11. Tiruchirapalli | 1475262                 | 935674                  | 37.66                                                | 40.91 |
| 12. Thanjavur      | 1475382                 | 982962                  | 33.33                                                | 36.36 |
| 13. Pudukkottai    | 416204                  | 271157                  | 34.16                                                | 36.01 |
| 14. Ramanathapuram | 1359721                 | 1020345                 | 35.67                                                | 40.83 |
| 15. Tirunelveli    | 1453469                 | 1171516                 | 36.60                                                | 40.84 |
| 16. Kanniyakumari  | 382097                  | 350494                  | 28.67                                                | 26.93 |

Periyar district has the highest percentage of main workers with 49.30 in 1981. In 1971, Coimbatore district had the highest percentage of main workers. Next to Periyar, Salem, Coimbatore and Madurai districts have higher percentage of main workers. Very low participation rates are found in Madras (27.4%) and Kanniyakumari (26.9%). In 1971 also these two districts had lower participation rates.

The District-wise distribution of working population for rural and urban sectors with their percentages are given in the following table.

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TABLE 7.3

DISTRIBUTION OF WORKING POPULATION WITH THEIR PERCENTAGES FOR RURAL AND URBAN SECTORS IN  
TAMIL NADU - 1981

|                | TOTAL MAIN WORKERS |         |         |               |         |         | Rural (Percentage) |          | Urban (Percentage) |         |       |       |
|----------------|--------------------|---------|---------|---------------|---------|---------|--------------------|----------|--------------------|---------|-------|-------|
|                | Persons            | Males   | Females | Urban Persons | Males   | Females | Per-sons           | Per-sons | Males              | Females |       |       |
| TAMIL NADU     | 13930585           | 9415711 | 4514874 | 4978189       | 4104386 | 873803  | 43.04              | 57.84    | 28.06              | 31.26   | 50.42 | 11.22 |
| Madras         | ..                 | ..      | ..      | 895029        | 783047  | 111982  | ..                 | ..       | ..                 | 27.40   | 46.37 | 7.10  |
| Chengalpattu   | 849423             | 608334  | 241089  | 415189        | 356400  | 58789   | 38.50              | 54.44    | 22.14              | 29.54   | 48.97 | 8.67  |
| North Arcot    | 1404272            | 971598  | 432674  | 301962        | 256954  | 45008   | 41.45              | 56.87    | 25.77              | 29.76   | 50.08 | 8.98  |
| South Arcot    | 1436476            | 1017209 | 419267  | 182520        | 159554  | 22966   | 40.58              | 56.76    | 23.99              | 27.65   | 47.44 | 7.09  |
| Dharmapuri     | 776914             | 545372  | 251512  | 58325         | 49872   | 8453    | 43.01              | 59.25    | 26.14              | 31.18   | 51.87 | 9.29  |
| Salem          | 1158603            | 763540  | 394963  | 369895        | 296200  | 73695   | 47.53              | 61.09    | 33.25              | 37.29   | 58.19 | 15.26 |
| Periyar        | 839543             | 548661  | 290882  | 174895        | 137988  | 36907   | 52.36              | 66.96    | 37.09              | 38.53   | 58.97 | 16.78 |
| Coimbatore     | 768459             | 493544  | 274915  | 557466        | 446148  | 111318  | 50.87              | 64.33    | 36.93              | 36.18   | 55.92 | 14.98 |
| Nilgiris       | 131535             | 80759   | 50776   | 100507        | 78679   | 29828   | 40.88              | 49.87    | 31.77              | 35.40   | 49.57 | 20.19 |
| Madurai        | 1397313            | 860534  | 536779  | 520313        | 425317  | 94996   | 48.43              | 59.29    | 37.44              | 31.63   | 50.67 | 11.79 |
| Tiruchirapalli | 1190923            | 791125  | 399798  | 284339        | 239710  | 44629   | 44.70              | 59.27    | 30.07              | 30.09   | 49.91 | 9.67  |
| Thanjavur      | 1208512            | 894956  | 313556  | 266870        | 231008  | 35862   | 38.72              | 57.05    | 20.20              | 28.51   | 49.05 | 7.71  |
| Pudukkottai    | 374328             | 277187  | 97641   | 41376         | 36386   | 4990    | 37.41              | 55.68    | 19.36              | 26.93   | 46.86 | 6.57  |
| Ramanathapuram | 1036305            | 656038  | 380267  | 323416        | 243883  | 79533   | 43.39              | 56.01    | 31.24              | 34.34   | 51.50 | 16.98 |
| Tirunelveli    | 1045703            | 635547  | 410156  | 407766        | 304815  | 102951  | 45.04              | 56.37    | 34.35              | 32.95   | 49.64 | 16.51 |
| Kanniyakumari  | 311776             | 271207  | 40569   | 70321         | 58425   | 11896   | 26.56              | 45.86    | 6.97               | 28.68   | 47.54 | 9.72  |

Source: Census of India Paper I of Supplement, 1981.

As stated earlier, trichotomy of Main Workers, Marginal Workers and Non-Workers adopted in 1981 Census and their respective population are presented in the following table.

TABLE 7.4

DISTRICT-WISE CLASSIFICATION OF WORKERS IN TAMILNADU (1981)

| District                | Total Main<br>Workers<br>I - IX | Cultivators<br>I | Agricultural<br>labourers<br>II | Household<br>industry, handicrafts,<br>factories, etc.<br>III, IV, V (a) | Other workers<br>III, IV, V (b)<br>& VI to IX | Marginal<br>Workers | Non-workers |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| TAMILNADU               | 18908774                        | 5553806          | 5947614                         | 968666                                                                   | 6433688                                       | 1666597             | 27722085    |
| 1. Madras               | 895029                          | 10347            | 5667                            | 32874                                                                    | 846141                                        | 45851               | 2325154     |
| 2. Chengal-<br>patu     | 1264612                         | 286786           | 409789                          | 78722                                                                    | 489315                                        | 119863              | 2227396     |
| 3. North-<br>Arcot      | 1706234                         | 606411           | 552210                          | 111032                                                                   | 436581                                        | 129307              | 2566546     |
| 4. South-<br>Arcot      | 1618996                         | 622395           | 625675                          | 44953                                                                    | 325973                                        | 137148              | 2443748     |
| 5. Dharm-<br>puri       | 885239                          | 464066           | 230077                          | 15380                                                                    | 125716                                        | 52473               | 1105578     |
| 6. Salem                | 1528498                         | 473768           | 448343                          | 130054                                                                   | 475433                                        | 109506              | 1791818     |
| 7. Periyar              | 1014438                         | 276824           | 383574                          | 60864                                                                    | 293176                                        | 146071              | 896987      |
| 8. Coimbatore           | 1325925                         | 211482           | 409945                          | 60929                                                                    | 643509                                        | 193760              | 1531450     |
| 9. Nilgiris             | 240042                          | 7273             | 14386                           | 1037                                                                     | 217346                                        | 3270                | 354919      |
| 10. Madurai             | 1917626                         | 499709           | 749649                          | 64598                                                                    | 603670                                        | 165071              | 2447331     |
| 11. Tiruchi-<br>rapalli | 1475262                         | 576703           | 461226                          | 62001                                                                    | 375332                                        | 109336              | 2021435     |
| 12. Thanjavur           | 1475382                         | 367019           | 678851                          | 42944                                                                    | 386568                                        | 99665               | 2482183     |
| 13. Pudukko-<br>ttai    | 416204                          | 232317           | 86105                           | 8894                                                                     | 88888                                         | 56378               | 683102      |
| 14. Ramanatha-<br>puram | 1359721                         | 521792           | 336196                          | 72362                                                                    | 429374                                        | 209367              | 1761251     |
| 15. Tirunel-<br>veli    | 1453469                         | 355688           | 418484                          | 160011                                                                   | 519286                                        | 61264               | 2044441     |
| 16. Kanniya-<br>kumari  | 382097                          | 46226            | 137440                          | 21051                                                                    | 177380                                        | 28267               | 1008746     |

Source: Census of India 1981, Paper I of supplement.

TABLE 7.5

Percentage of main workers in Agriculture, Household Industry and other workers to total workers 1971 and 1981

| District/<br>State |    | Culti-<br>vators | Agricul-<br>tural<br>labourers | Workers in<br>household<br>Industry |       |      | Other<br>Workers |       |       |
|--------------------|----|------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------|------|------------------|-------|-------|
|                    |    | 1971             | 1981                           | 1971                                | 1981  | 1971 | 1981             | 1971  | 1981  |
| 1                  | 2  | 3                | 4                              | 5                                   | 6     | 7    | 8                | 9     |       |
| TAMIL NADU         | P. | 31.26            | 29.40                          | 30.46                               | 31.45 | 4.54 | 5.12             | 33.74 | 34.03 |
|                    | M. | 34.51            | 31.98                          | 24.15                               | 23.16 | 4.17 | 4.44             | 37.17 | 40.42 |
|                    | F. | 18.90            | 22.93                          | 54.39                               | 52.26 | 5.97 | 6.83             | 20.74 | 17.98 |
| MADRAS             | P. | 0.23             | 1.16                           | 0.24                                | 0.63  | 1.57 | 3.67             | 97.96 | 94.54 |
|                    | M. | 0.23             | 0.79                           | 0.22                                | 0.40  | 1.48 | 2.64             | 98.07 | 96.17 |
|                    | F. | 0.16             | 3.72                           | 0.45                                | 2.25  | 2.64 | 10.89            | 96.75 | 83.14 |
| CHENGAL-<br>PATU   | P. | 25.07            | 22.68                          | 34.64                               | 32.40 | 5.26 | 6.23             | 35.03 | 38.69 |
|                    | M. | 27.99            | 25.00                          | 28.15                               | 23.61 | 5.58 | 6.26             | 38.28 | 45.13 |
|                    | F. | 11.12            | 15.22                          | 65.67                               | 60.71 | 3.70 | 6.10             | 19.51 | 17.97 |
| NORTH-<br>ARCOT    | P. | 38.26            | 35.54                          | 31.23                               | 32.36 | 4.11 | 6.51             | 26.40 | 25.59 |
|                    | M. | 43.55            | 40.75                          | 22.23                               | 21.07 | 4.27 | 6.78             | 29.75 | 31.40 |
|                    | F. | 17.50            | 22.14                          | 66.17                               | 61.40 | 3.05 | 5.82             | 15.28 | 10.64 |
| SOUTH ARCOT        | P. | 41.73            | 38.44                          | 37.00                               | 38.65 | 1.95 | 2.78             | 19.32 | 20.13 |
|                    | M. | 46.02            | 44.19                          | 29.93                               | 28.34 | 2.17 | 3.01             | 21.28 | 24.46 |
|                    | F. | 17.06            | 23.14                          | 72.64                               | 66.08 | 0.87 | 2.16             | 9.43  | 8.62  |
| DHARMAPURI         | P. | 57.26            | 55.56                          | 26.31                               | 27.55 | 1.34 | 1.84             | 15.09 | 15.05 |
|                    | M. | 61.51            | 61.06                          | 20.66                               | 19.00 | 1.45 | 1.71             | 16.38 | 18.23 |
|                    | F. | 39.04            | 41.92                          | 50.49                               | 48.75 | 0.89 | 2.17             | 9.58  | 7.16  |
| SALEM              | P. | 34.72            | 31.00                          | 28.03                               | 29.33 | 9.17 | 8.57             | 28.08 | 31.10 |
|                    | M. | 37.68            | 31.93                          | 21.98                               | 21.99 | 9.08 | 8.69             | 31.26 | 37.39 |
|                    | F. | 24.88            | 28.88                          | 48.19                               | 45.93 | 9.46 | 8.29             | 17.47 | 16.90 |
| PERIYAR            | P. | 31.85            | 27.29                          | 34.27                               | 37.81 | 7.64 | 6.00             | 26.24 | 28.90 |
|                    | M. | 35.29            | 30.62                          | 27.22                               | 28.89 | 7.82 | 6.03             | 29.67 | 34.46 |
|                    | F. | 21.30            | 20.31                          | 55.87                               | 56.50 | 7.09 | 5.93             | 15.74 | 17.26 |
| COIMBATORE         | P. | 16.94            | 15.95                          | 30.16                               | 30.92 | 4.63 | 4.60             | 48.27 | 48.53 |
|                    | M. | 19.07            | 16.52                          | 23.08                               | 22.44 | 4.84 | 4.68             | 53.01 | 56.36 |
|                    | F. | 10.34            | 14.56                          | 52.05                               | 51.55 | 4.01 | 4.39             | 33.60 | 29.50 |
| NILGIRIS           | P. | 4.93             | 3.03                           | 7.51                                | 5.99  | 0.48 | 0.43             | 87.08 | 90.55 |
|                    | M. | 5.84             | 3.91                           | 6.85                                | 5.32  | 0.66 | 0.49             | 86.65 | 90.28 |
|                    | F. | 3.05             | 1.30                           | 8.87                                | 7.31  | 0.19 | 0.32             | 87.98 | 91.07 |
| MADURAI            | P. | 28.91            | 26.06                          | 36.19                               | 39.09 | 3.19 | 3.37             | 31.71 | 31.48 |
|                    | M. | 31.90            | 27.75                          | 28.87                               | 29.28 | 3.34 | 3.27             | 35.89 | 39.69 |
|                    | F. | 19.38            | 22.60                          | 59.56                               | 59.06 | 2.72 | 3.58             | 18.54 | 14.76 |

|                |    | 2     | 3     | 4     | 5     | 6     | 7     | 8     | 9     |
|----------------|----|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| TIRUCHIRAPALLI | P. | 41.80 | 39.09 | 27.49 | 31.27 | 3.31  | 4.20  | 27.40 | 25.44 |
|                | M. | 45.42 | 42.79 | 19.83 | 21.20 | 3.47  | 4.28  | 31.28 | 31.73 |
|                | F. | 29.09 | 30.51 | 54.40 | 54.62 | 2.73  | 4.01  | 13.78 | 10.86 |
| THANJAVUR      | P. | 26.73 | 24.88 | 43.80 | 46.01 | 2.59  | 2.91  | 26.88 | 26.20 |
|                | M. | 30.04 | 28.82 | 37.54 | 37.34 | 2.67  | 2.77  | 29.75 | 31.07 |
|                | F. | 10.50 | 12.17 | 74.52 | 73.97 | 2.20  | 3.37  | 12.78 | 10.49 |
| PUDUKKOTTAI    | P. | 57.91 | 55.82 | 19.91 | 20.69 | 1.96  | 2.14  | 20.22 | 21.35 |
|                | M. | 60.49 | 58.57 | 15.69 | 13.95 | 2.03  | 2.07  | 21.79 | 25.41 |
|                | F. | 44.59 | 47.41 | 41.71 | 41.23 | 1.61  | 2.33  | 12.09 | 8.98  |
| RAINAD         | P. | 36.45 | 38.37 | 26.96 | 24.73 | 5.72  | 5.32  | 30.87 | 31.58 |
|                | M. | 40.45 | 41.00 | 20.69 | 16.97 | 4.29  | 3.59  | 34.57 | 38.44 |
|                | F. | 24.64 | 23.25 | 45.44 | 39.90 | 9.95  | 8.71  | 19.97 | 18.14 |
| TIRUNELVELI    | P. | 24.82 | 24.47 | 30.80 | 28.79 | 9.01  | 11.01 | 35.37 | 35.73 |
|                | M. | 28.82 | 27.83 | 24.27 | 22.22 | 5.27  | 4.78  | 41.64 | 45.17 |
|                | F. | 14.20 | 18.32 | 48.14 | 40.83 | 18.93 | 22.43 | 18.73 | 18.42 |
| KANNIYAKUMARI  | P. | 16.58 | 12.10 | 36.08 | 35.97 | 5.38  | 5.51  | 41.96 | 46.42 |
|                | M. | 18.28 | 13.59 | 37.24 | 37.51 | 3.73  | 3.45  | 40.75 | 45.45 |
|                | F. | 2.15  | 2.73  | 26.19 | 26.28 | 19.42 | 18.45 | 52.24 | 52.54 |

P = Persons; M = Males; F = Females

Source: Census of India, 1981 Paper I of Supplement

From the above table it is seen that Cultivators form 29.40% of the total workers in 1981 whereas in 1971 it was 31.26%. But when we observe the other categories, the ratio of workers in 1981 is higher than in 1971. It can be said that in Tamil Nadu about 61 per cent of workers are having agriculture as their main occupation. Only 5 per cent of the total workers are engaged in household industry and 34 per cent are engaged in other works. An important feature of 1981 Census is that 52.3% of females are agricultural labourers as against 54.4 per cent in 1971.

The following Table shows the percentage of workers in each category to total workers with rural-urban break-ups for 1971 and 1981.

TABLE - 7.6

PERCENTAGE OF WORKERS IN EACH CATEGORY TO TOTAL WORKERS 1971 and 1981 - TAMIL NADU

| Classification of Workers   | Percentage of workers in each Category to total workers |       |       |       |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
|                             | 1971                                                    |       | 1981  |       |
|                             | Rural                                                   | Urban | Rural | Urban |
| All main workers            | 100.0                                                   | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| (i) Cultivators             | 40.3                                                    | 5.0   | 38.4  | 4.1   |
| (ii) Agricultural Labourers | 38.1                                                    | 8.2   | 39.9  | 7.9   |
| (iii) Household Industry    | 3.6                                                     | 7.1   | 4.1   | 8.0   |
| (iv) Other Workers          | 18.0                                                    | 79.7  | 17.6  | 80.0  |

@ As per 1981 Census

In the rural areas the ratio of workers engaged in Agriculture and Household industry have registered an increase over that of 1971. But in the urban areas Household Industry workers and other workers have increased in 1981.

In this study an attempt has been made to study certain select demographic indicators viz. Growth rate, Sex-Ratio, Density, Level of Urbanisation, Literacy, and Work participation rate of the population of Tamil Nadu based on the provisional results of the 1981 Census. Certain important findings of the study are summarised below.

POPULATION:

i. Tamil Nadu's population was 19.3 millions in 1901 and in 1981 it rose to 48.3 millions, recording more than a two fold increase over a period of 80 years.

ii. The Growth rate for the country as a whole is 24.79 during the period 1971-81.

iii. In Tamil Nadu, Madurai district with 9.38% of the population of the State occupies the first place among the districts in population. The hill district of The Nilgiris is the smallest one where 1.3% of State's population is concentrated.

iv. The Growth rate ranged from 8.57 per cent in 1901-1910 to 17.23 per cent in 1971-81 for Tamil Nadu.

v. The Density of population of Tamil Nadu was 317 persons per sq.km. in 1971 which has increased to 371 persons in 1981.

RURAL-URBAN COMPOSITION:

In Tamil Nadu as per 1981 Census, 15.9 millions, out of the total population of 48.3 millions are living in urban areas which amounts to nearly 33%, i.e. every third person in Tamil Nadu is an urban dweller. The remaining 67% of population live in rural areas. The decadal increase in urban population of Tamil Nadu during 1971-81 works out to 27.7%.

Tamil Nadu occupies the second place among other States in the matter of urbanisation. Among all the States in India, Maharashtra stands first with 35.03% of the total population of that State living in Urban areas.

SEX RATIO:

In Tamil Nadu, the Sex-Ratio was in favour of females from 1901 to 1951. But from 1951 there was a reverse. As per 1981 Census for all India, the Sex Ratio is 935. In Tamil Nadu, the Sex Ratio is 998 which is the same as in 1971.

LITERACY:

Tamil Nadu occupies third rank among all States in the percentage of literacy with 45.78. The first two States are Kerala with 69.17% and Maharashtra with 47.37%. The National literacy rate for 1981 is 36.17%.

In Tamil Nadu the percentage of literacy among males has increased by 5 points while the literacy among females has increased by 9 points. In the matter of literacy Madras City stands first (66.29%) followed by Kanniyakumari district (62.05%).

WORKERS:

A new feature adopted in 1981 Census is that the dichotomy of worker/non-worker evolved during 1961 and 1971 Censuses have been discarded and instead a trichotomy consisting of Main Workers, Marginal Workers and Non-Workers has been adopted about which a detailed analysis is presented in an earlier chapter.

As per the above definition, the overall workers participation rate for Tamil Nadu is 39.2% in 1981. The male participation rate comes to 55.4% while that of females is 22.6%. In the case of females the participation rate has increased in 1981 to 22.6% while the rate was 15.1% in 1971.

In the case of both males and females the work participation rate is higher in rural areas than in Urban

areas. In the rural areas the ratio of workers in agriculture and household industry has increased in 1981 over that of 1971. In the urban areas, the percentage of workers under "Household Industry and other workers has increased from 7.1 percent in 1971 to 8.0 percent in 1981.

7:55.211 N81

N82

