CHAPTER II

SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE OF THE STUDY AREA
CHAPTER II

SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE OF THE STUDY AREA

2.0. INTRODUCTION

In any research study based on primary data the selection of the study area is crucial. This chapter is devoted for the discussion of socioeconomic profile of Coimbatore District, Tamil Nadu.

2.1. PROFILE OF THE COIMBATORE DISTRICT

Coimbatore is an inland district in the Southern part of the Peninsula. Coimbatore district lies between 10° 10' and 11° 30' of the northern longitude and 76° 40' and 77° 30' of the eastern longitude in the extreme west of Tamil Nadu. It is bounded in the North and East by Periyar District. In the West and South the mountain ranges viz; the Western Ghats and Anamalais provide its boundary. In the West, to the South-West of its Headquarters city (Coimbatore) there is a mountain pass in the Western Ghats. Due to the presence of the mountain pass major parts of the district benefit from the South-West monsoon. Apart from its influence on the climatic conditions in the districts, the pass, which is commonly known as Palghat gap, has an enduring influence on the trade and commerce that are centered in and around Coimbatore city. The opening in the Western Ghats provide a direct access to the traders in the West Coast to the city of Coimbatore and vice versa, thus establishing a constant and continuous intercourse in trade with the west coast.

Coimbatore district, a pacesetter for agricultural progress and pathfinder for industrial development is one of the present 29 districts of Tamil Nadu. The industrially
booming, agriculturally progressive and socially forward-looking Coimbatore district, spreads over an area of 7,469 sq. km., with a population of 35,08,374, is the most advanced part of Tamil Nadu with a distinction of being one among the ten most industrialized districts in the country. This cosmopolitan district has a population drawn from all the four southern states as well as a fairly good number of businessmen and entrepreneurs from other parts of the country as well.

Dotted with textile and hosiery production industries, auto components manufacturing units as well as electrical, electronics and agro-based industrial enterprises, Coimbatore is often referred to as an “upcoming Manchester” and “Mini Japan” of India. The textile township of Tirupur in the district is the biggest exporter of hosiery goods in the country. In the year 1994-95, Tirupur netted Rs. 2000 crores through the export of hosiery goods. No wonder in the cash rich Coimbatore district, the number of motors vehicles per lakh population is over 5,000, double than that of state average. Further, the number of hospital beds per lakh of population is 83 against 78 for the state.

With the rapidly expanding industrial and agricultural sectors, the problem of unemployment is relatively less in Coimbatore district. While in Tamil Nadu as a whole 4,115 persons are employed per lakh population, in Coimbatore the figure is 6,137. The average earning of a worker on the textile sector, the largest source of employment in the district, is Rs 3,000 plus per month. A conspicuous feature of employment in the textile sector here is that women constitute 14 percent of the total work force as against the national average of 4 per cent.
Coimbatore district was declared "target free zone" by the Central Government in recognition of the spectacular achievements in the area of family welfare and social development. It is for the first time in the country that a district has achieved this distinction. This honour implies that no targets will be fixed for the district with regard to birth, infant mortality, child nutrition and women's welfare. Owing to the sustained efforts of an enthusiastic response of a motivated population, the birth rate in the district has been brought down to 15.6 against the state average of 18.5 and the national average of 28. Similarly, the infant mortality rate also is at 28 against 56 for the state. Further, the district has a higher female literacy rate, higher standard of living, and higher per capita income as compared to the other districts of state. The network of Primary Health Centers (PHCs) in the district is so organized that one does not need to go beyond 15 kms. for getting medicare.

Endowed with a little physical and natural resources as well as technical skills and enterprise, the district is making rapid strides in agriculture and allied activities, industry and handlooms, trade, and transport. The administrative set-up of the district consists of one corporation, four Municipalities, nine taluks and 21 blocks.

2.1.1. Natural Resources

A. Climate

Lying as it does at the vase of the Western Ghats and due to the presence of the Palghat Gap the district enjoys a salubrious climate. First two months of the year are extremely pleasant. During March, the sky is clear, but the mercury shows upward trends which continue to the end of May. The highest temperature is recorded early in
May. The Occasional Showers present during these periods do not materially alter the trend of the mercury.

During June to August the influence of the Palghat Gap on the climatic conditions is most conspicuous. With the on set of South-West monsoon the west coast the district comes to benefit considerably through the monsoon winds that cross over to Coimbatore viz., the mountainous pass. Pollachi Taluk, which lies opposite to the Palghat Gap, gets considerable rain during these periods and the rush on of the South-West Monsoon winds through the gap lessens the oppressive heat and makes the climate tolerable though not pleasant.

In spite of the contribution of South-West monsoon the quantum of rainfall in Coimbatore district is neither sufficient nor can it be predicted. Summer rains occur during March to May, and South-West monsoon during June to September; North-East monsoon appears during October-December and winter rains during January-February. Maximum rainfall is recorded in Pollachi taluk due to the strategic position it occupies at the mouth of the Palghat Gap.

B. Soil

Soils of the district are mostly of black cotton variety but red loams are also found in Avanashi and Coimbatore taluks. The soil in Coimbatore taluk is found enriched with organic matter from the hill ranges. There are rich tracts of red loam in Palladam and Pollachi taluks. The soils in Pollachi taluk are mostly of sandy loam often mixed with gravel. The red soils around the Anamalais are found to be very rich and fertile.
C. Rivers

Noyyal is the important river in this district. It rises in the Vellingiri hills to the west of Coimbatore and flows through the center of the district from west to east passing through Coimbatore and Palladam taluks before entering Periyar District. Two other rivers of consequence are Palar and Aliyar which rise in the Anamalais and flow westward through Pollachi Taluk. Amarvathi river flows through Udumalaipettai Taluk before it crosses into Periyar and Tiruchirapalli district.

Yet another river of consequence is the Bhavani which rises in the Silent Valley ranges in Kerala. Before entering the district it is reinforced by Siruvani which is a perennial stream rising in the Attapadi ranges in Kerala. As Bhavani enters Coimbatore district in Mettupalayam Taluk after being reinforced by Siruvani, its freshes are supplemented by river Kundah that rises in the Kundah ranges of the Nilgiris. Bhavani runs through Avanashi Taluk before it enters the Periyar District.

D. Forestry

Coimbatore is perhaps one of the very few districts in the State which can boast of considerable areas of dense forests. More than 20 per cent of the total districts area is under forest. The district has 146,905 hectares of reserve forests and together with reserve lands etc. The total extent is about 154,974 hectares. The forests here abound in commercially significant items such as Teak, Sandalwood, Rosewood, Vagai, and Pillaimaruthu etc. Bamboo is also available in plenty. The Nilgris slope viz., the Mettupalayam range is rich in sandalwood trees and bamboo. The Bolampathy and Todogan Valley are notable for Vagai and Pillaimarthu. Other Forests in the districts are
spread over Punachi, Udumalaippettai and Tunacadavu ranges. They vary from rich
tropical evergreen forests of Punachi range to jungles of shrubs in Udumalaipettai or
Pollachi ranges. The Cinchona Department was raising a cinchona plantation here. Of
late it produces tea under TAN-TEA. Several private tea plantation and coffee plantations
are situated in this Anamalai hill track.

2.1.2. Human Resources

Coimbatore district occupies seventh place in Tamil Nadu in terms of population
size and it is having 6.28 percent of the State population. According to 1991 Census, the
total population of the district is 35.08 lakh, of which 51.23 percent of the population
constitutes male and the remaining 48.77 percent of the population is female. For the
district as whole, the rural population accounts for 47.41 percent, while the corresponding
figure at the State level is 65.85.

The sex ratio in Coimbatore district is 952 as against 974 in Tamil Nadu. In rural
area it is 965.75 while at the urban area it is still less, i.e., 940.04. According to 1991
census, the over all density of population in the district is 500.44 persons per square km,
which is higher than the State level density of population (429). In rural area of the
district, the density of population is 277.55 while the same at urban area is 1813.35. The
density of households per square km in the district is 122.67 as against 96 the State level.
In urban area it is very much higher (425.78) than in rural area, where it is only 71.21
houses per square km.
A. Education

According to 1991 census, the literacy level in the district is 66.35 percent. The male literacy rate is 76.45 whereas the female literacy is 55.73. The rural and urban literacy are 54.59 and 77.06 respectively. It occupies the seventh place in the State among the districts in terms of literacy.

B. Workers Distribution

The 1991 census classified the population into three categories, viz, main workers, marginal workers, and non workers depending upon the main activity of each individual. Out of the total population of 35.08 lakhs in Coimbatore district, 15.83 lakhs were workers consisting of main workers (15.52 lakhs) and marginal workers (0.31 lakhs), and the remaining population (19.25 lakhs) was non-workers.

The Work Participation Rate (WPR), defined as the percentage of total workers (main workers plus marginal workers) to total population, of the district accounted to 45.13 percent, as per 1991 Census. The WPR among males and females was 62.48 and 26.91 percent respectively. In rural area, more than half of the population (53.19) is workers, as against one third (37.87) of the population in urban area (62.13) than in rural area (46.81).

The main workers are distributed among the three broad sectors of the economy, viz., agriculture, industry, and service sectors. The nine industrial classifications of the main workers are grouped under the three sectors referred above. The proportion of main workers engaged in agricultural sector is indicative of primary activity. The proportion of
non-agricultural activities has been considered as an indicator of modernization and economic transformation.

The proportion of main workers engaged in agricultural sector, industrial sector, and service sector are 44.50, 30.19 and 25.31 respectively. The corresponding figures at Tamil Nadu level are 61.52, 16.48 and 22. When compared to State level figures, the percentage of workers engaged in agricultural sector is less at the district and the percentage of workers engaged in non-agricultural sector is more in the district showing a healthy trend. It indicates the industrially progressive nature of the district.

In the sex-wise distribution of main workers, 35.97, 34.83 and 29.2 percent of male workers and 66.23, 18.15, and 15.62 percent of female workers are engaged in agricultural, industrial, and service sectors respectively. The corresponding figures at the Tamil Nadu state level for workers are 54.94, 18.45, and 26.61 and female workers are 76.60, 11.94, and 11.46 respectively. In agricultural sector, the percentage of female workers (66.23) is more than male workers (35.97).

In the distribution of workers in rural-urban areas, the percentage of workers in agricultural sectors are more in rural (68.97) than in urban (14.12). The percentage of workers engaged in non-agricultural sector, viz., industrial and service sector are more than (44.36 and 41.52) in urban area than in rural area (18.78 and 12.25). The percentage of female workers in agricultural sector is more than male workers both in rural and urban areas.
2.1.3. Agriculture

Soils of the district are mostly of black cotton soil but red loam is also found in Avanashi and Coimbatore taluks. The soil in Coimbatore taluk is found enriched with organic matter from the hill ranges. There are rich tracts of red loam in Palladam and Pollachi taluks. The soils of Pollachi taluk are mostly of sandy loam often mixed with gravel. The red soil around the Anamalai is found to be very fertile.

2.1.4. Industry

Next to Chennai, Coimbatore is the most industrialized district in the State. About 56 percent of the main workers are engaged in non-agricultural sector for their livelihood, as per the 1991 census. The textile industry, engineering industry, and handlooms have contributed much towards stabilizing the industrial base of the district economy.

Among the major industries that have made a mark in the district, cotton textile industry is the most important. The growth and concentration of textile industry in the district has helped the growth of industries engaged in the manufacture of machinery and tools for use in textile industry. The establishment of SITRA (South India Textile Research Association) at Coimbatore has helped the growth of textile industry on scientific lines.

The other fields in which the district has made pioneering advances are the manufacture of cement, rayon pulp, and the synthetic gems. A few other industries which have been developed in the district are: light engineering industries, automobile ancillary, rice mills, card clothing, radio manufacture, manufacture of buttons and blades and
coffee curing. The Government Cinchona factory has also been functioning in the district. The District Industries Centre and Small Industries Service Institution have taken effective steps for promotion of Small Scale Industries (SSI) units in Coimbatore district.

The handloom products of Coimbatore district are quite well known. Sarees, dhoties and towels produced by the principal weaving centres of Ondipudur, Puliampatti, Udumalpet, Annur, and Madathukulam are being sold through Co-optex, handloom houses, and leasing merchants.

2.1.5. Trade and Commerce

Responding to the rapid growth of agricultural and industrial activity, the trade and commerce have also assumed much importance. The Jasmines of Thudiyalur, Potatoes of Mettupalayam, hosieries and vessels of Tirupur and a host of other agricultural and industrial products marketed to and from Coimbatore, Pollachi, Avanashi and other centres have in turn offered scope for development of transport, trade and other tertiary sector activities. This has also led the growth of infra structural facilities like roads and railway, post and telecommunications, educational and technological institutes, supply of power, banks as well as cooperatives in terms of which too the districts has much to offer. Important items of import into the district are oil seeds, coal and petroleum products, while major items of export are cotton textile, handloom products, timber, rice and coffee, etc. By virtue of its strategic location, Coimbatore city has become the center for trade with the west coast. The district has a well developed system of communication network. Coimbatore city is directly linked with the important trade centres in the State as well as in the country by air, rail, and road.
2.1.6. Energy Sources

In Coimbatore district there are six hydel power stations with a total capacity of 465 MW. Of the six power houses, four power houses, viz., Aliyar Power house, Sarkarpatty Power house I, Sholayar Power house I and II are located in Pollachi and Udumalpet taluks and the Kundah Power house I and II are situated near Pilloor reservoir in Mettupalayam taluk. There are two electricity systems namely Pykara electricity system and Udumalpet electricity system. The district has been divided into two zones. While the north zone is controlled by Pykara electricity system, the south zone is controlled by Udumalpet electricity system.

In tune with the national objective of easing the pressure on conventional sources of energy, the district administration is attaching much importance to the renewable sources such as bio-gas, windmills, etc. Bio-gas plants are found to be suitable in view of the climatic factors and the entrepreneur nature of the people. Thus, Coimbatore district has been named an intensive district in respect of promoting gobar gas plants. Another new source of energy is windmill. Although it is said that the average wind velocity in most part of the district is above the minimum required for operating the windmill, the commercial viability is yet to be fully ascertained. The Tamil Nadu Agricultural University is conducting research on this.

2.1.7. Finance

The financial demands of the fast growing economic activities are meet by banks, co-operative, land development banks, and other development-cum-financial institutions.
Commercial banks have established a wide network of branches so as to provide adequate financial support to the economic activities in the district. Canara Bank is the lead bank of the district and it projects an annual credit plan for the district every year. The plan is designed to ensure a balanced growth and programmed flow of credit to all sectors. There are 309 branches of different banks in the district.

The Tamil Nadu State Cooperative Bank finance the 276 Primary Cooperative Agricultural Banks of the district through Central Cooperative Bank, Coimbatore for issuing crop loan to the tune of Rs.10 crores every year. Further the Central Cooperative Bank facilities, credit facilities to the farmers for the agricultural purpose through their 21 branches in the district to the tune of Rs. 1.5 crores every year.

2.2. HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN COIMBATORE DISTRICT

Coimbatore District is a very rich in both public and private sector in health care services provided by hospitals, clinics, hospital beds, modern medical facilities, qualified medical staff, medical colleges, paramedical facilities, pharmacists and transport facilities like roadways, rail route and airport etc. Coimbatore is often referred as an “upcoming Manchester” and Mini Japan of India. The recent census 2001 says the total population of Coimbatore is 4,224,107 among this 2,156,280 are males and 2,067,827 are females. The sex ratio of Coimbatore, 959 females out of 1000 males. The density of population is 566. Child population in the area is (below 6 years) 433,350, out of this 222,078 are males, 211,272 are females. The total literacy ratio is 76.95, male literacy ratio is 83.82 and the female literacy rate is 69.80. Coimbatore is the cash rich district in Tamil Nadu state.
The number of Hospital beds per lakh of population is 83 against 78 for the state. Owing to the sustained efforts of an enthusiastic response of a motivated population, the birth rate in the district has been brought down to 15.6 against the state average of 18.5 and then national average of 28. Similarly the infant mortality rate is low at 28 against 56 for the state. Further the district has a higher female literacy rate, higher standard of living, and higher per capita income as compared to the rest of state. The network of Primary Health Center (PHC’s) in the district is so organized that one does not need to go beyond 15 kms, for getting medicare.

The following data clearly shows the supply side of the health care services in the district. District Head-Quarters hospital attached with government medical college, and a private owned medical college with modern medical hospital and modern facilities, are available in the district. Apart from this there are 33 Government sponsored hospitals, 64 dispensaries, 71 PHC’s, 469 SC’s, 2564 beds, 336 doctors and 1684 nurses. In Indian Medicine there are 7 Hospitals, 2 Dispensaries, 17 PHC’s, 26 beds, 27 Doctors and 3 nurses.

2.3. PROFILE OF THE SAMPLE BLOCK:

2.3.1 Developed Blocks

A. Udumalpet

Udumalpet block is large and highly populated and economically better placed of the district. The population of the block as per the 1991 census is 1,40,004 persons consisting of 71,405 males and 68,599 females. There are 66.21% of the populations living in the rural area, while 33.79% of populations are living in the urban area.
Agriculture is the mainstay of the block. The literacy rate of the block is 49.85. The female literacy rate is 39. The block benefits extensively from PAP and Udumalpet canals and a vast area has been brought under multiple cropping. Paddy occupies in the largest area. Other important crops are cholam, sugar cane, groundnuts, pulses, and vegetables.

The following data clearly shows the socio-economic indicators. The density of population in the area 323. The percentage of urban population to total population is 11. The number of females per 1000 males is 968. The percentage of SC’s & ST’s to total population is 22 and 1 respectively. The average size of household is 4. The percentage of workers to total population is 54.

The number of revenue villages is 51. The number of town panchayat and numbers of panchayats are 1 and 38 respectively. There are 71 primary schools, 12 middle schools, 5 high schools and 6 higher secondary schools. There is one hospital, 5 primary health centres and 37 sub-centres. There are 30 post-offices, 15 telegraph offices, 1 police station, 61 fair price shops, 79 cooperative societies and 3 veterinary hospitals are available.

There are 3 allopathic government hospitals, 1 siddha and 1 ayurveda dispensaries, and 10 allopathic doctors and 2 Indian medicine doctors and 24 nurses are available. The number of inpatients treated is 810 and number of out patients treated is 212,835. Social welfare programme like Nutritious noon meal programme exists and the total beneficiaries are 11,910. There are 85 Noon Meals centres in schools and 54 in Balvadi.
Udumalpet block also offers good scope for various animal husbandry activities. Calf rearing, cattle breading and mini-dairy schemes are developing. There is a handloom weaver’s society. Mat weaving, brick kilns, Cycle workshops and light engineering units are on a noteworthy scale. Udumalpet is an important textile center with many big cotton and waste cotton mills.

A regulated market, covered under the Coimbatore market Committee is functioning at Udumalpet. The block is well equipped in terms of transport, communication, supply of agricultural inputs, Veterinary and other facilities and seed farms and demonstration plots as well as technical and organizational skills. Moreover, udumalpet town is one of the important centres of the district with substantial trading and industrial activity.

B. Karamadai

Karamadai block is one among the economically more active blocks of the district. It has an area of 381 sq.kms. and a population of 1,42,828 persons with 72,904 males and 69,924 females. The density of the population is 530.95 sq.km. The rural density is 339.72 and the urban density is 3071.47. The sex ratio in the block wise 959.66. The rural percentage of the population 59.51, and the urban percentage of the population 40.49. The literacy rate is 51. The female literacy rate is 40.9. There are 5 PHC’s and 19 SC’s rendering the health services in the block. Agriculture is an important activity in the block with wells and canals (Bhavani river) being the two main sources of irrigation. Paddy, sugarcane, cotton, pulses, tobacco, and banana are the main crops. Areca nut, betel vine, and mulberry cultivation are also fast developing. Since the ground
water potential is limited the scope for further expansion of minor irrigation activities is also limited.

There is much of organized industrial activity in the block. Apart from the South India Viscose at Sirumugai, there are units like Madras Forgings, Tan India Wattle Extract Company, Ramakrishna Steel Industries, Rajalakshmi Mills, Indo-Swiss synthetic Gem. Numerous rice and oil mills, and service/repair workshops are there. Among the cottage industries, basket making, mat weaving, jaggery making and tobacco processing are popular. There are numerous handloom weavers in and around Sirumugai. Mettupalayam is an important marketing center for most of the agricultural produce grown in the Niligiris district. There is a concentration of road transport operators at Mettupalayam.

C. Perur

Perur Block is very nearest block to the center of the town. The area of the block is 613.64 sq.km. The total population of the block is 112,281. Among these 59,550 are males 52,731 are females. The SC and ST populations are 16,841. The percentage of total literacy 69.93. The female literacy is 63.73%. There are 3 PHC’s and 8 SC’s are available in the block. Most of the households are easily accessible to the town and enjoying the modern health facilities by both public and private sector. The transport facilities are also available through out the day and night.
2.3.2 Backward Blocks

A. Gudimangalam

Gudimangalam is wholly a rural block. There are 24 village panchayats, but no town panchayat. The block has a population of 67,200 persons consisting of 33,689 males and 33,511 females. The density of population per square kilometer is 217. The number of females per thousands males is 996. All the 100 percent of the people are living in the rural area. The literacy rate of the block is 46.983. The female literacy rate is 35.56. The percentage of SC’s to total population 22.75. The average size of household is 4. The percentage of workers to total population is 60.55. The percentage of female workers to total workers is 43.66. The percentage of agricultural workers to total workers is 33.13. The percentage of agricultural labours to total agricultural workers is 54.71. The percentage of workers in manufacturing industry to total workers is 2.49. Bovine population per sq.km is 27. The area of the block is 809.70 sq.kms. The total literate is 31.8 percent. There are 24 numbers of revenue villages and 23 number of village panchayats are in the block. There are 54 primary schools, 3 high school and 2 higher secondary schools. There are 2 block level hospitals, 4 PHC’s and 23 SC’s are in the block.

Agricultural is the main occupation benefiting much from the PAP canals. Paddy, cholam, groundnut, pulses and vegetables are the main crops. Coconut development is covered under the on-going NABARD schemes. Since the block is affected by higher velocity western ghat winds, crops which withstand the wind velocity, like coconut have been encouraged. Mulbery cultivation is picking up. Plantation is grown on a substantial
scale. Grape wine cultivation also offers a good scope. The oil-seeds development programme covering groundnut, gingelly and sunflower is under implementation.

Allied agricultural activities have not developed much. The industrial activities of the block are limited to two spinning mills, two waste cotton mills, and Lucerne powder factory, which are concentrated in Pethappampatti, the block headquarter. Handloom weaving is also carried on the block.

**B. Madukkarai**

Madukkarai block is situated on the outskirts of Coimbatore city. The block is bound by Perur Union on the North, Sultanpet Union on East, Kinathukadavu Union on the South, and Kerala state border on West. Madukkarai lies on the 10th kilometer of the Madras-Calicut road from Coimbatore. The area of the Union is 427.48sq.km. The population of the block as per 1991 census is 95,803 persons consisting of 48,827 males and 46,976 females. There are more than 400 tribal families in Puthupathi and Chinnampathi areas. There are 66.08% population are living in the rural areas and the remaining 33.92% population are living in the urban areas. The block’s literacy rate is 54.9. The female literacy rate is 44.6. There are 9 panchayats, 5 town panchayats and 1 township. There are 39 hamlets in the block. The block is mostly rural in atmosphere. Regarding the health condition 3 government PHC’s, 9 SC’s and 5 private dispensaries are there. The total number of females to the thousand male populations is 962. The density of population is 335.62. The rural density is 255.47 and urban density is 863.16. There are 46 elementary schools 4 high schools and 2 higher secondary schools.
Cholam, pulses, groundnut and sugarcane are the major crops of the block. Vegetables are grown in Chavadi and Pichanur areas. Mulberry is cultivated in Palathurai. The quarrying unit of the Associated Cement Companies (ACC) situated at Madukkarai account for a major share of the work force in the block. The other industrial units functioning in the block are cement pipe manufacturing units, brick units, stone crushing units, light engineering units, and textile mills. Handlooms, jaggery manufacturing units, bakery units, small-scale printing presses, and other cottage units are also developing.

C. Sultanpet

Sultanpet is interior agriculture oriented block of the district. The block has a population of 67,142 persons as per 1991 census with 33,953 males and 33,189 females. The area of the block is 281.68 sq.km. The 100% of the total population are living in the rural areas. The sex ratio of the block is 977.50. The density of the population is 238.36 sq.km. The literacy rate is 54.6. The female literacy rate is 34.4. There are 2 PHC’s and 18 SC’s in the block. Wells are the main source of the irrigation and the area under the PAP canal is very much limited. Paddy, cholam, cotton, groundnut, pulses, tobacco are the important crops grown in this block. The coconut, banana, chillies and onion are the major irrigated crops. The ground water potential of the block has already been tapped fully and the scope for major irrigation is limited. Sericulture is fast developing. There is not much industrial activity in this block.
2.4. DEVELOPED AND BACKWARD BLOCKS - A COMPARISON

There is a significant disparity between developed and backward blocks in terms of socio-economic indicators like population, percentage distribution of population in rural areas and urban areas, sex ratio, density of population, households, educational institutions, availability of health care services like hospitals, primary health centres, sub centres, doctors, nurses, paramedical staff, pharmaceuticals and other modern medical facilities. 28% of the total urban populations are utilizing the 70% of the medical facilities available by both public and private sector. Nearly 72% of the rural populations are utilizing only 30% of the health care services.

From the above discussion and the statistical information, it is obvious that there is a wide gap between the developed and backward blocks in all respects. Therefore, it justifies the approach of the study to analyze the utilization of health care services in the study area by developed blocks and backward blocks (social class) separately.
REFERENCES:


49