METHODOLOGY AND PROFILE OF TAMILNADU
India

Andhra Pradesh
Krishnagiri
Karnataka
Piruvemnam

Kerala
Thiruvananthapuram
Cuddalore

Mannar
Sithuvam

Tamilnadu

Andhra Pradesh
Chennai
Kancheepuram

Karnataka
Salem
Dharmapuri

Kerala
Thiruvananthapuram
Cuddalore

Mannar
Sithuvam

Tamilnadu

Andhra Pradesh
Chennai
Kancheepuram

Karnataka
Salem
Dharmapuri

Kerala
Thiruvananthapuram
Cuddalore

Mannar
Sithuvam

Tamilnadu

Andhra Pradesh
Chennai
Kancheepuram

Karnataka
Salem
Dharmapuri

Kerala
Thiruvananthapuram
Cuddalore

Mannar
Sithuvam

Tamilnadu

Andhra Pradesh
Chennai
Kancheepuram

Karnataka
Salem
Dharmapuri

Kerala
Thiruvananthapuram
Cuddalore

Mannar
Sithuvam

Tamilnadu

Andhra Pradesh
Chennai
Kancheepuram

Karnataka
Salem
Dharmapuri

Kerala
Thiruvananthapuram
Cuddalore

Mannar
Sithuvam

Tamilnadu
CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY AND PROFILE OF TAMIL NADU

This chapter presents the methodology followed in the study and the background information on the study area. The nature of the universe, size of the sample, selection of the sample, tools of data collection, statistical tools employed for data analysis and limitations of the study are given in detail. The second part of the chapter consists of comprehensive information of the study area that is the state of Tamil Nadu, India with specific focus on socio-economic development and the presence of NGOs.\(^1\)

Sampling

The researcher could collect a list of 2,800 NGOs actively working in Tamil Nadu. The list was prepared from the various publications published on behalf of different networks and from internet.\(^2\) Earlier, the researcher tried to compile the list from the Government Departments like the Social Welfare Ministry or the Registration Department. But they either provided incomplete list or just provided a list, as registered by the NGOs. Such a list would have given a false list as many who registered as charitable trusts are not operative. Therefore, the list is a compilation from the various books published by the networks and a website.

---

\(^1\) NGOs in TN, PRIA, New Delhi, July, 2004

\(^2\) NGO list is compiled from the following sources: T. Illsnchezhian, INFO guide, APAC- VHS, Chennai, June, 2004


http://164.100.97.14/ngo/State.asp
Out of 2800 NGOs spread across 30 districts in Tamil Nadu, 10% of them had to be selected for identifying the respondents. Therefore, 280 organisations were selected from 30 districts. As the number of NGOs varies from district to district, 10% of the total number of NGOs from each district was selected for sampling. Thus, the sampling is a Stratified Random Sampling.

Therefore, 280 respondents represented 280 NGOs from across 30 districts in Tamil Nadu. The pre-tested and carefully crafted questionnaire was sent, along with the request letter and a stamped reply-envelope, to each of the selected respondents. Any NGO personnel who worked in the position of project officer, project coordinator, project manager or field coordinator was asked to fill up the questionnaire and send the same to the researcher. The researcher sent repeated reminders until he got 250 copies of filled in questionnaire out of 280 copies of questionnaire sent.

**Design of the Questionnaire**

Having gone through the literature available on the subject and having consulted management experts, development consultants and the NGO leaders who have hands-on experience, the researcher drafted the questionnaire. Care was taken to ensure that the questionnaire covers all areas pertaining to the study. As the study is pioneering in the field of NGO management and in the context of non availability of related literature in India, the researcher had to look for research briefs through net. The net research played a major role in drafting a comprehensive questionnaire.
Competency standards were developed in the form of statements and were grouped into nine competency dimensions/categories: vision, perspectives, project planning and organising, directing/controlling, boundary management skills, leadership skills, problem-solving and decision-making, managing change and self-management. The questionnaire also included a question of prioritising the training needs of the respondents.

The draft questionnaire was administered to a group of 20 NGO personnel to check, if the questionnaire was adequate enough to capture all aspects of management practices in NGOs and if all questions could be understood by the respondents. Having incorporated their feedback, the researcher handed over the questionnaire to management experts to be sure about its completeness and its relevance. The respondents self-assessed their competency levels in the five point scale presented in the questionnaire.

**Reliability of the Questionnaire**

Reliability of the questionnaire is tested based on split-half method and the value is found to be .9696, which assures a high degree of reliability of the questionnaire.

**Data Collection**

The copies of the pre-tested questionnaire were mailed to the selected respondents with a covering letter sufficiently introducing the topic and the purpose of the research along with self-addressed envelope. The copies of the questionnaire were addressed to the chief functionaries of the organisations requesting them to forward to the respondent who falls into the category of NGO personnel for the purpose of the research. One respondent from each of
the selected NGOs was requested to fill up the questionnaire. Though the respondents were given one month to fill up and return the questionnaire, only 10% of the questionnaires were returned duly filled in. The researcher had to remind the other respondents several times to get the required number of filled in questionnaire.

Apart from the data collection process through administering questionnaire to the respondents, the researcher also took efforts to meet fifteen development professionals and chief functionaries of the NGOs, to enrich the data collection process as well as to get more qualitative input on the research.

As it is a pioneering research in the realm of civil society within which the researcher had situated the role and functions of NGOs, it was very difficult to find the relevant literature and supporting materials. The researcher had to spend more time looking out for books and materials in various libraries and documentation centres. The effort to access various websites of both the organisations operating in India as well as abroad, the resources and publications of the various research institutions and development consultancies were useful. More valuable and significant were the resources of the specialised agencies of United Nations such as UNDP, ILO and UNICEF.
Tools of Analysis

When the filled in copies of the questionnaire were received, the data were tabulated, collated and analysed using the SPSS package. Getting the expertise of the statistics analyst, the data were analysed for interpretation. The following statistical tools were selected for analysis of data, keeping in view of the purpose and scope of the research:

Correlation Analysis

It is a statistical measure for finding out the degree or strength of association between two or more variables. Here association means the tendency of the variables to move together.

Cross Tabulation

Cross tabulation was used to find out how one variable impacts the other variable.

Kruskal –Wallis Test

Kruskal –Wallis is equivalent to one way ANOVA in non parametric case. The purpose of Kruskal-Wallis Test is to compare three or more averages. The results of Kruskal-Wallis Test for various variables are given in the research.

Chi-Square

Chi-Square test is to assess the significance of the difference between the observed frequencies and the expected frequencies obtained from hypothetical measure. It is denoted as $X^2$ which is a statistical measure and it is developed by Fisher.
Mann Whitney Test - Vision and Gender

Mann Whitney Test is applied to see the correlation between only two variables.

Friedman Test

Friedman Test is a non-parametric test used for testing, if there is any significant preference in ranking the need of training and development of a list of competencies (Issues and Perspectives – Reporting and Documentation).

Socio – Economic and Political Scenario in Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu is located in the south-eastern corner of the country. It is considered a relatively advanced state of India from many angles – demographic, economic, social and cultural. Despite being not richly endowed with natural resources, it has the fifth largest economy for any state in the country. This is because its human resources are relatively better developed.

According to provisional data of the 2001 Census of India., the population of the state was 62.11 millions, accounting for 6% of the country’s population. Of them, 31.27 millions were males and 30.84 millions females. The resulting sex ratio of 986 is not as against the female population of the state as is the case with the national average. The population density of 478 persons per square kilometre in the state is nearly one and a half times the national density. The rate of population growth in Tamil Nadu has been brought down steeply to about half of that for India as a whole – 11.19% as compared to 21.34% over the decade 1991 – 2001. This remarkable control of population growth is attributable to the strenuous efforts of the government
administration as well as non-governmental organisations in spreading knowledge on advantages of a small family and in getting the idea accepted by the people.

The economy of Tamil Nadu is fairly well-developed and diversified. The average growth rate has been consistently above the national rate. The per capita state domestic product in 1999-2000 has been estimated at Rs.12,314/-, which was 20% higher than the per capita national income of Rs.10,321/-. The composition of the state domestic product shows that the contribution of agriculture and allied activities was 24%, industry 28% and services 48%. Agriculture is the mainstay of the population providing employment to nearly two-thirds of the workforce. Dry farming conditions prevail in about half the land holdings, which are fragmented in nature and sub-marginal in size. Even so, agricultural sector has recorded progress due to increased exploitation of ground water for irrigation and deployment of seed-fertilizer technology for crop production. The main food crops grown are rice, pulses and oil seeds; sugarcane, cotton and tea are among the cash crops grown; major forest products include timber, sandalwood, pulpwood and fuel wood.

In industry, Tamil Nadu occupies an important place among the states in terms of the number of factories and value of output. Major industries of the state include textiles, leather, chemicals, automobiles and ancillaries. The industrial sector is witnessing significant changes following the policy of liberalization and globalization introduced in 1991. Foreign investors have shown interest to invest in the state, particularly in information technology
and automobiles; Tamil Nadu is an important exporter of tanned skins, hides, leather goods, cotton yarn, textiles, engineering goods, tea and coffee.

Judged by indicators of social development too, the state stands in a better position. According to the 2001 population census, the literacy rate was 73.5%, a full 8 percentage points above the national literacy rate. The difference is even larger at 10 percentage points in female literacy rate. The state has the second lowest birth rate and the fourth lowest infant mortality rate. Tamil Nadu is becoming well-known for its institutions of higher learning and multi-speciality hospitals.

Tamil Nadu is the abode of an ancient civilisation. It is estimated that a full-fledged Mesolithic type of culture existed around 4000 B.C. The main language of the state is Tamil, which is one of the oldest languages of the world with a long literary tradition. The towering temples that dot the land, the Tamil and carnatic systems of music and the bharathanatyam style of dance bear testimony to the high cultural standards of the Tamils.

In the second half of the nineteenth century, there has been an organised effort among the Tamils to revitalise the Tamil Language and culture, introduce social reform and attain political autonomy. These activities, labelled the dravidian movement, have been directed against the brahminical priesthood and the varna hierarchy. In 1926, Periyar E.V. Ramaswamy Naicker started the Self-Respect Movement to give pride and dignity to non-brahmin youth. In 1944, the Dravida Kazhagam (D.K.) came into existence and in 1949 C.N. Annadurai formed the Dravida Munnetra Kazahagam (D.M.K.). Despite all efforts at reform, the caste system and its
associative discriminatory practices are still fairly strong in Tamil Nadu. However, the mobility of the non-brahmin communities in socio-economic development is remarkable, because of the efforts of dravidian movement.

An important medium of the dravidian movement was the Tamil cinema. In fact, even today, cinema and politics hold great sway over the masses, one reinforcing the influence on the other. Tamil Nadu was the first state in India to come under the rule of a regional party, when the DMK won the elections of 1967. Since then, the state politics has been dominated by the two dravidian parties, the DMK and the AIDMK. The latter is an offshoot of the DMK and was formed by M.G. Ramachandran, a matinee-idol, who broke away from the DMK. The differences between the two parties are more due to the personal animosities of their leaders rather than any ideology. These two parties have been forming the government almost alternately, each party winning one election with a landslide majority and losing the next one equally disastrously; the national parties like the Congress and the B.J.P. have to ally themselves with one of the two parties to record their presence in the legislature. There are no patterns for forging alliances, it being a free walk for the national as well as the numerous state level parties. Splitting of political parties due to personal ambitions of individual leaders is a common feature in the State, as is the case in other parts of the country. A recent trend in the political scenario is the formation of caste-based parties.

For administrative purposes, the state is divided into 31 districts. In 1991, there were only 21 districts and the increase in their number since then is due to the division of larger districts into two or more during the intervening period. Chennai, the capital of the state, is a purely urban district, while all
the others have rural and urban areas. Although there are differences among the districts in the level of socio-economic development, the gap among them cannot be considered as too yawning.

**NGOs in Tamil Nadu**

Voluntarism and service in Tamil Nadu dates back to Sangam period and increased in the subsequent period when Jainism was very much prevalent in Tamil Nadu. The organised form of voluntary efforts spread very much after the arrival of the British in Tamil Nadu. The different streams promoted voluntarism and social service in TN; the Christian missionaries started social work in the field of education, health; the dravidian movement inspired youth who formed grassroots associations to promote self-respect and awareness among backward class communities. However, the present form of NGOs has been promoted in the twentieth century by youth, whose radicalism moved them towards communities and made them set up grassroot organisations.

Today it is estimated that there are approximately 88,689 NGOs in Tamil Nadu. 15 lakh (1.5 million) persons are engaged in NGOs out of which 10.73 lakhs are working as volunteers. The NGO sector is dependent on high number of volunteers. The total manpower engaged in the sector is equivalent to full time employment of 6.49 lakhs, which is about 4.3% of total non-agricultural employment in the State. Annual receipts by the NGOs is on an average of Rs.2,056/- crores (Rs.20.56 billions). The main areas of activities of the societies are community services, health, and education and others. NGOs accounted for over 80% of the societies in 1999-2000. A large number of societies registered during the last two decades were local associations of residents, traders, coolie workers and the like serving the interests of small
groups of persons. The chances of a society ceasing to function in the first five years are 20% which indicates that the infant mortality rate is rather high.

NGO sector would be even bigger if account is taken of government-sponsored non-profit institutions, which are excluded from the estimate. The sector is wide, complex and heterogeneous. The activities of NGOs cover a wider range, from education to sports. Structurally the NGO sector may be conceived of consisting of three segments: a ‘large’ segment of non-formal units; another ‘large’ segment of formal (registered) units and; a ‘small’ segment of very large units, both registered and non-registered. It is this last segment, which contributes almost the entire paid employment, receipt and expenditure of the sector. Although the major contribution to the economy will come from the large well established units, the other two segments are important in that they help to inculcate the spirit of voluntarism among small groups of persons at the grassroot level all over the State.