CHAPTER THREE

PROFILE OF THE STUDY AREA

3.1 INDIA

India officially the Republic of India is a country in South Asia. It is the seventh-largest country by geographical area, the second-most populous country with over 1.2 billion people, and the most populous democracy in the world. Bounded by the Indian Ocean on the south, the Arabian Sea on the south-west, and the Bay of Bengal on the south-east, it shares land borders with Pakistan to the west; China, Nepal, and Bhutan to the north-east; and Burma and Bangladesh to the east. In the Indian Ocean, India is in the vicinity of Sri Lanka and the Maldives; in addition, India's Andaman and Nicobar Islands share a maritime border with Thailand and Indonesia.

Figure 3.1: Map of India
3.1.1 States in India

1. Andhra Pradesh  
2. Arunachal Pradesh  
3. Assam  
4. Bihar  
5. Chhattisgarh  
6. Goa  
7. Gujarat  
8. Haryana  
9. Himachal Pradesh  
11. Jharkhand  
12. Karnataka  
13. Kerala  
14. Madhya Pradesh  
15. Maharashtra  
16. Manipur  
17. Meghalaya  
18. Mizoram  
19. Nagaland  
20. Orissa  
21. Punjab  
22. Rajasthan  
23. Sikkim  
24. Tamil Nadu  
25. Tripura  
26. Uttar Pradesh  
27. Uttarakhand  
28. West Bengal

3.2 TAMIL NADU

It is one of the 28 states of India. Its capital is Chennai, the largest city. Tamil Nadu lies in the southernmost part of the Indian Peninsula and is bordered by the union territory of Pondicherry, and the states of Kerala, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh. It is bound by the Eastern Ghats in the north, the Nilgiri, the Anamalai Hills, and Palakkad on the west, by the Bay of Bengal in the east, the Gulf of Mannar, the Palk Strait in the southeast, and by the Indian Ocean in the south.
Tamil Nadu is the eleventh largest state in India by area and the seventh most populous state. It is the fourth largest contributor (as of 2010) to India's GDP and ranks tenth in Human Development Index as of 2006. Tamil Nadu is also the most urbanized state in India. The state has the highest number (10.56%) of business enterprises and stands second in total employment (9.97%) in India, compared to the population share of about 6%.

The region has been the home of the Tamil people since at least 500 BCE. Its official language Tamil has been in use in inscriptions and literature for over 2000 years. Tamil Nadu is home to many natural resources, Hindu temples of Dravidian architecture, hill stations, beach resorts, multi-religious pilgrimage sites and eight UNESCO World Heritage Sites. (Census of India, 2001)

Figure 3.2: Map of Tamil Nadu

![Map of Tamil Nadu](www.mapsofindia.com)
3.2.1 Tirunelveli

Tirunelveli, also known as Nellai, and historically (during British rule) as Tinnevelly, is a city in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu. It is the headquarters of the Tirunelveli District in Tamil Nadu. It is situated 700 kilometres (435 mi) southwest of the state capital Chennai.

Tirunelveli is an ancient city and is home to many temples and shrines, including the largest Shiva temple in Tamil Nadu, the Nellaiappar Temple. It is located on the western side of the perennial Thamirabarani river, whereas its twin municipal city Palayamkottai, is located on the eastern side.(www.tn.gov.in)

Figure 3.2: Map of Tirunelveli

(www.mapsofindia.com)
Tirunelveli, the penultimate southern most district of Tamil Nadu, is described as a microcosm of the State, owing to its mosaic and diverse geographical and physical features such as lofty mountains and low plains, rivers and cascades, seacoast and thick inland forest, sandy soils and fertile alluvium, a variety of flora, fauna, and protected wildlife.

Thenpandiyanadu of the early Pandyas, Mudikonda Cholamandalam of the Imperial Cholas, Tirunelveli Seemai of the Nayaks, Tinnevelly district of the East India Company and the British administration and Tirunelveli district of Independent India was bifurcated on 20th October 1986. The divided districts are called Nellai-Kattabomman district and Chidambaranar (Tuticorin) district. Subsequently the district name was christened as Tirunelveli-Kattabomman district. As per the decision of the Government of Tamil Nadu to call all the districts by the name of the headquarter town, Tirunelveli-Kattabomman district is now Tirunelveli district. Chidambaranar district is now called Thoothukudi district.

3.2.2 Puranic Association

The Tirunelveli Sthalapurana prescribes a tradition for the origin of the name Tirunelveli. The puranic version goes that one Vedasarma, a staunch devotee of Shiva, on his pilgrimage from the North to the South was invited by Lord Shiva in his dream to his abode on the banks of the sacred river Tamiraparani. The delighted devotee came to „Sindupoondhurai on the banks of the river and stayed there with his family. Once there was a famine which forced Vedasarma to collect paddy by way of begging and continuing his daily prayers. One day he spread out the paddy to dry under the sun before the Lord, and went for his ablutions in Tamiraparani. He prayed to the Lord for rain
which he thought could be a remedy for the famine. His prayer was answered and when he was bathing, a thunder storm broke-out and it rained heavily. Vedasarma rushed to the place where he had spread the paddy. He witnessed a miracle. Despite rain around the area, the paddy that he had spread did not get even a single drop of rain and did not get soaked. Since then according to the purana the town is called as “Tiru-nel-veli” (Sacred hedged paddy).

3.2.3 Origin of the District

On acquisition from the Nawab of Arcot in 1801, the British named it as Tinnevelly district though their headquarters was first located in Palayamkottai the adjacent town, where they had their military headquarters during their operations against the Palayakars. Two reasons may be attributed for naming it after Tirunelveli. One is because, it was and is the chief town of the district and the other is that it was already called Tirunelveli Seemai under the Nayaks and Nawabs. Both Tirunelveli and Palayamkottai grew as the twin towns of the district.

3.2.4 Geographical Location

Tirunelveli District having geographical area of 6759 sq.kms, in the Southeastern portion of Tamil Nadu is triangular in shape. It lies between 8°.05’ and 9°.30’ of the Northern latitude and 77°.05’ and 78°.25’ of Eastern longitude. (www.census2011.co.in)

3.2.5 Tirunelveli Population

As of 2011 census of India, Tirunelveli had a total population of 474,838. Males constitute 49% of the population and females 51%.

Male -234,643; Female - 240,195
As of 2001 the India census, Tirunelveli had a population of 411,298. Males constitute 49% of the population and females 51%. The city has an average literacy rate of 78%, higher than the national average of 59.5%; male literacy is 83%, and female literacy is 73%. In Tirunelveli, 10% of the population is under six years of age. Among the Municipal Corporations, Tirunelveli has been identified with a gender ratio skewed towards males, with 1,024 females for every 1,000 males. The growth rate of Urban Agglomeration is 20.22%.

The city covers an area of 108.65 km$^2$. The population density of the city had increased to 3781 persons per km$^2$ in 2001 from 2,218 persons per km$^2$ in 1971. The disabilities in the city as per the 2001 census are 1,308,246, out of which 645,142 are males and 663,104 female. Hindus are the most in urban population. They are followed by Muslims and then Christians. The main language spoken in the city is Tamil although the usage of English is relatively common. The vast majority of official dealings and the medium of instruction in most educational institutions are in English. (Census of India, 2001)

3.2.6 Sex Ratio

The sex ratio of Tirunelveli city is 1024 per 1000 males. In education section, total literates in Tirunelveli city are 391,972 of which 201,509 are males while 190,463 are females. Average literacy rate of Tirunelveli city is 90.98 percent of which male and female literacy was 94.99 and 87.08 percent. (India Today, 2007)
Table 3.1: Population Statistics in Tirunelveli

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Persons</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TIRUNELV</td>
<td>3072880 1518595</td>
<td>1554285</td>
<td>2703492</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELI</td>
<td>1552235 765687</td>
<td>786548</td>
<td>1395246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1520645 752908</td>
<td>767737</td>
<td>1308246</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3.2: Sex Ratio in Tirunelveli

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tirunelveli City</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>474,838</td>
<td>234,643</td>
<td>240,195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literates</td>
<td>391,972</td>
<td>201,509</td>
<td>190,463</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children (0-6)</td>
<td>43,988</td>
<td>22,511</td>
<td>21,477</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Literacy (%)</td>
<td>90.98</td>
<td>94.99</td>
<td>87.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex ratio</td>
<td>1024</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Sex ratio</td>
<td>954</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(www.census2011.co.in)
An official Census 2011 detail of Tirunelveli, a district of Tamil Nadu has been released by Directorate of Census Operations in Tamil Nadu. Enumeration of key persons was also done by census officials in Tirunelveli District of Tamil Nadu. In 2011, Tirunelveli had population of 3,072,880 of which male and female were 1,518,595 and 1,554,285 respectively. There was change of 13.66 percent in the population compared to population as per 2001. In the previous census of India 2001, Tirunelveli District recorded increase of 8.93 percent to its population compared to 1991.

The initial provisional data suggest a density of 458 in 2011 compared to 403 of 2001. Total area under Tirunelveli district is of about 6,703 sq.km. Average literacy rate of Tirunelveli in 2011 were 82.92 compared to 76.09 of 2001. If things are looked out at gender wise, male and female literacy were 89.66 and 76.38 respectively. For 2001 census, same figures stood at 85.21 and 67.43 in Tirunelveli District. Total literate in Tirunelveli District were 2,298,262 of which male and female were 1,223,964 and 1,074,298 respectively. In 2001, Tirunelveli District had 1,829,064 in its total region. With regards to Sex Ratio in Tirunelveli, it stood at 1024 per 1000 male compared to 2001 census figure of 1042. The average national sex ratio in India is 940 as per latest reports of Census 2011 Directorate. (www.census2011.co.in)

Table 3.3: Age Group Statistics of Adolescents in Tirunelveli District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Groups</th>
<th>Persons in Tirunelveli District</th>
<th>Persons in Tamil Nadu</th>
<th>Persons percentage District</th>
<th>Persons percentage State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-14</td>
<td>741842</td>
<td>16710874</td>
<td>27.23</td>
<td>26.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-29</td>
<td>772521</td>
<td>17704221</td>
<td>28.36</td>
<td>28.37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 3.4: No. of Family Cards in Tirunelveli (Rural And Urban)

Year: 2010-2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>No. Family Cards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>439776</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>393885</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District Total</td>
<td>833661</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: District Supply Office, Tirunelveli

3.3 Educational Level

Educational Level Education is source for acquiring skills, developing knowledge and improving productivity. The details regarding education in the district are given in Table 3.5.

Table 3.5: Schools For General Education, Students And Teachers

Year: 2010-2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the Institutions</th>
<th>No. of Institution</th>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Teachers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Boys</td>
<td>Girls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School &amp; Higher Sec. School</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>114343</td>
<td>123562</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle school</td>
<td>429</td>
<td>115109</td>
<td>115130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school</td>
<td>1481</td>
<td>75071</td>
<td>73292</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>2221</td>
<td>304523</td>
<td>311984</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: DEO, Tirunelveli, Tenkasi, Cheranmahadevi, Add.C.E.O, SSA, & IMS
3.4 Adolescent Boys

The behavior of boys is of growing concern, particularly when you consider that a significantly larger number of boys are medicated to control their behavior, males make up the overwhelming percentage of our prison population, that a larger number of boys are failing at school and are dropping out especially when they hail from a family with low socio economic status and with family violence.

Abnormal Behavior at Adolescence stage

☐ Defiance to all authority

☐ Lack of friends

☐ Withdrawal from all social activity

☐ Focus on violent books, shows, or characters

☐ Persistent refusal to do chores and other simple tasks

☐ Lack of dreams and goals for the future.(shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in)

Behaviour problems

➔ Teenagers and their parents complain about each other’s behaviour. Parents often feel they have lost any sort of control or influence over their child. Adolescents want their parents to be clear and consistent about rules and boundaries, but at the same time may resent any restrictions on their growing freedom and ability to decide for themselves.

➔ If disagreements are common and normal, when should you worry? Experience suggests that children are at greater risk of getting into trouble if their parents don't know where they are. So, try to make sure that you know where they are
going and what they are up to. If you really don't know, you need to find out. (shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in)

School problems

Refusal to go to school can be due to:

- difficulties in separating from parents
- being perfectionist, and becoming depressed because they can't do as well as they would want to
- disturbed family life, with early separation from or death of parent.

An established pattern which may have started at primary school. These children often have physical symptoms, such as headache or stomach-ache. (shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in)

Those who go to school, but then play truant, are usually unhappy at home and frustrated at school. They prefer to spend their days with others who feel the same way.

Emotional problems will often affect school work - worrying about yourself or about what is going on at home makes it difficult to concentrate. Pressure to do well and to pass exams may come from parents or teachers, but adolescents usually want to do well and will push themselves. Excessive nagging can be counter-productive. Exams are important, but they should not be allowed to dominate life or to cause unhappiness.

Bullying can cause all of the above. Around 1 in 10 secondary school children is bullied at some point; about 1 in 20 is bullied every week. Short children are more likely to be bullied. If you are worried that this is happening, talk to the school to make sure that they enforce their bullying policy. (shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in)
3.5 Children from Violent homes in Tirunelveli District

Growing up in a violent home is one of the most terrifying and traumatic experiences a child can go through. It’s an experience that a child will not forget. It’s an experience that can affect every aspect of a child’s life, growth and their development. Living in a violent home can cause children not to do well in school.

There is a definite correlation between domestic violence and child abuse. Growing up in a violent home can set patterns for children patterns that can cause them to commit violence and abuse, and continue the cycle of violence and abuse. Children living in violent homes are often too frightened and embarrassed to speak out. Kids who grow up in violent environments are more apt to have health problems, use poor judgment, and have social and emotional issues. They are also more apt to become high school dropouts, substance abusers, pregnant teens, gun users, and become juvenile and adult criminals. (www.loveourchildrenusa.org/growingupwithviolence.php)

Children who suffer from abuse can become adults with a host of additional problems such as poor self-esteem, staying in dead-end jobs or worse not being able to keep a job. There are high unemployment rates among adult abused children. They can be full of anger, can mistrust in relationships, and are more apt to be bullies, commit road rage, and more horrific violent acts, and contribute to the high cost of our mental health and welfare programs. We know that domestic violence causes serious harm to the millions of women who are abused, yet too little attention has been paid to the harm suffered by their children who witness domestic abuse.

Kids who grow up in violent homes can be helped through Intervention, prevention, and support programs. But there is much more to be done to keep them safe.
We must educate the public, advocate for more arrests, and stronger punishments for offenders. (www.loveourchildrenusa.org/growingupwithviolence.php)

Caste Discrimination and poverty are the main problems faced by the children in Tirunelveli District. These children are most exploited and abused and face discrimination at the hands of the upper caste community and lag behind or outside the sphere of quality education, health, development and participation. The United National Convention on the Rights of Children (UNCRC) core principles of promoting survival, development, protection and participation of children still remain a distant reality for the lower caste children. The children are not sent to school because of the poor socio economic status. Many children with low financial background having dropped out of school are part of the labour force in the industries, construction sites and brick kiln sites, many children work as bonded agricultural labourers or rope makers, domestic labourers or work in restaurants or tea shops. The children face rampant discrimination and social exclusionary practices like the two tumbler system, forced to clean toilets in schools, calling them by derogatory names and treating them as untouchables takes these children deeper in the web of exploitation and marginalisation. The look of these children indicates that they are impoverished, malnourished and anaemic. (Parthiban, 2010)

3.6 All Women Police Stations in Tirunelveli

In town we have one All Women Police Station at Palayamkottai; Tirunelveli. Seven All Women Police Stations are present in the rural areas of Tirunelveli in which Women Police Personnel are mainly working to attend women’s grievances in places like Nanguneri, Valliyoor, Ambasamudram, Tenkasi, Alangualm and Sankarankoil in Tirunelveli District.
The notion of justice for women—more specifically, women’s access to justice—in Tirunelveli heavily relies on constitutional mandates that entrust the police with the role of ensuring that crimes against women are reported and investigated. According to a Thompson Reuters poll from just this year, India is the 4th most dangerous place in the world for women. Clearly, the extent to which India has attained success in guaranteeing the safety of and providing a sense of security to its women remains highly debatable. (Centre for Social Research, 2011)

Like in Tamil Nadu and following in Tirunelveli it will make possible for women officers to investigate crimes against women—and for victims of such crimes to be attended to by women officers. According to the Chief Minister, these police stations will deal with increasing crimes against women and encourage women to join the police force.

Police stations in India are notoriously hostile environments, leaving some victims feeling less secure than before their visit. In particular, victims of rape, sexual harassment and trafficking have reported revictimisation by the very police officers tasked with helping them. In the largely patriarchal Indian society, most women still consider discussing personal or sexual matters with a stranger—especially a man—improper. (Centre for Social Research, 2011).

For these reasons and more, the investigator is excited to see the all-women police station initiative towards the help rendered to the child. On the one hand, all-women police stations might seem like a short-term, top-down fix to deeper and more widespread gender imbalances—much like women-only metro cars soothe the symptoms of patriarchy, not abolish its root causes. However, gender sensitisation is an ongoing and
gradual process, with the final product impossible to perfectly determine ahead of time. So while all-women police stations don’t address the root causes of inequity, they are likely one vital component of a more inclusive, long-term strategy toward ensuring women receive the justice they deserve. Not to mention that these stations, which basically effect a quota, will allow more women to pursue careers in the police force, still a deeply patriarchal institution itself. (Centre for Social Research, 2011).

It’s important to ensure that the police personnel in these all women police stations are well equipped to handle the magnitude of cases that could pour into these police stations and should be specially trained in tacking issues of violence against women. Hence providing women victims with comfortable environments via all-women police stations, equipping women and men in the police force with better facilities to tackle gender based violence, and endeavoring to make wider and more long-lasting change through gender sensitisation of police officers will have to go hand in hand to transform India into a country where crime victims of all genders access and receive justice. (Centre for Social Research, 2011).

3.7 District Social Welfare Office (Protection Office)

The Department of Social Welfare was set up to provide required impetus for the holistic Development of Women and Children in the State of Tamil Nadu. The Department's Primary object is to formulate plans, policies and programmes for the welfare of woman and children, implement innovative programmes in areas of welfare and support services for the destitute Women and Children and elderly citizens. The Protection officer of Tirunelveli is Ms. R. Vasanthi, Protection Officer. They does services as follows;
monitor proper implementation of the schemes to ensure that the benefits of the scheme reach only the poor and the deserving

Enact policies for enhancing child survival reducing malnutrition and morbidity and promoting health childhood by providing services like nutrition immunization health checkup, referral services and pre-school education.

The Department is implementing various marriage schemes, running Service Home, Orphanage and industrial Co-operative tailoring and tailoring training institutes. (tirunelveli.nic.in/publicutility.html)

**Specific Rights of Children**

Children accused of any offence will be dealt with according to the provisions of the Juvenile Justice Act. They will not be held in custody along with adult offenders, and in the event of being convicted for an offence for the first time will be released on probation. (tirunelveli.nic.in/publicutility.html)

**3.8 Non Governmental Organizations in Tirunelveli**

1. Actin Group For Rural Organisations
2. Azpa Club
3. Claret Arulagam
4. Community Action For Social Transformation
5. Health Trust
6. Hope Foundation
7. Kudisai
8. Mangala Trust
9. Navajeevan Trust
10. Puratchi Trust

11. Sincere Social Services

3.9 Child Welfare Organizations in Tirunelveli

- Hope Foundation
- Children Home under Tirunelveli Social Service Society