CHAPTER - VII
CONCLUSION

Tiruchirappalli occupies a central position in the state of Tamil Nadu. It has rich water resources, mineral wealth and skilled and unskilled labour force. It plays an important role in the social, economic and cultural changes of Tamil region. Woraiyur, being the capital of the Sangam Cholas controlled the international trade. The valuable articles including the textiles were exported to foreign countries including ancient Rome and Greece. Tiruchirappalli also played a strategic position during the rule of the Sangam Age, Pandyas, Pallavas, Imperial Cholas, Nayaks, Muslims and British and Post independence era.

As Tiruchirappalli possessed water resources mainly due to the flow of river Cauvery throughout the centuries, the successive governments concentrated on the flood control system, diversion of water and the development of agriculture. Karikala Chola constructed the Grand Anicut in order to regulate flood and divert the water for irrigation in the Cauvery delta region. During the era of Colonisation, the British constructed the Upper Anicut and the Mettur Dam in order to regulate the flow of water, expand the irrigation and to develop agriculture. The Cauvery – Mettur project was a supplement to the existing pattern of distribution and better water management techniques and policies by which the agrarian economy was improved.

The important channel system constructed by the British was the Kattalai High Level canal. The channels serve the purpose of supplying water for irrigation in the upland areas around the river Cauvery valley. The channels are connected with the tanks and finally the excess of water drains in the main river. The British
also introduced various revenue settlement and mode of revenue collection in order to increase the state income. The agrarian policy of the British was intended to increase the agricultural produce and the revenue of the government. The income derived from revenue collection and agriculture helped the British to strengthen their Colonial policy. The intermediaries particularly the zamindars who helped the British in the revenue administration led to the rise of the landlordism in future.

Though Tiruchirappalli has been gifted with much mineral resources, the British did not give importance to the progress of the local industry. Tiruchirappalli region had been noted for traditional handloom textile industry, yet the British colonial policy did not encourage the progress of textile industry. The importation of the high quality finished products at low prices attracted the consumers. The overall industrial slackness at the national level also influenced the local situation and it continued to exist in spite of the boycott of the foreign goods made during the National Movement. In order to facilitate the transportation of arms, weapons, military and provisions, the British developed the railways. It resulted to start a railway workshop at Golden Rock in Tiruchirappalli town. The British also developed the road transport to fulfill their Colonial policy.

The post-independence India faced a lot of problems for the development of agriculture and industry. Productive capacity was sought to be increased through the extension of irrigation and agriculture and community development programmes in the national level. Further the Five Year plans gave importance to the development of irrigation and agriculture in the state level. The Madras Government introduced the Intensive Agricultural programme which subsequently merged with the Five Year plans. For the promotion of agriculture the irrigation
system was developed in the state level particularly in Tiruchirappalli region. However, these measures did not help the state to become self-sufficiency in agricultural production. This was the common phenomena throughout India. Hence, there was arose a necessity to introduce new method for the improvement of agriculture. The introduction of the new strategy for the agricultural development in 1966-67 heralded the era of the Green Revolution in India. The focus of the state policy on agricultural development was on achieving self-reliance in food grains production over a short period by means of a sustainable increase in the productivity of crops. The strategy for achieving this goal was multipronged touching such important facts as bringing into the productive use of degraded and wastelands and further increasing the high yielding varieties of seeds through scientific research.

Agricultural Engineering and Agricultural research programmes were introduced in the regional level. The Farm Science Centre in Navalur Kuttapattu village, National Research Centre on Banana at Podavur, Horticultural Farm at Muthalaipatty and Sugarcane Research Centre at Sirugamani in Tiruchirappalli were started for promoting agriculture in Tiruchirappalli region. Besides, for the extensive utilisation of the land for the improvement of agriculture, the New Kattalai High Level Channel system and Pullambadi Channel system were started. Above all the government of Tamil Nadu provided agricultural loans, supplied fertilizers and seeds to the farmers through the Cooperative Societies. As a result of these measures, the cultivation of different varieties of banana, cereals, and paddy were increased. The regulated markets were started to promote the sales of the agricultural products with reasonable prices. The government also purchased the excess of paddy through Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation at a fixed price and supplied through the public distribution system. All these measures
contributed for the progress of the agrarian economy in the Tiruchirappalli region. Yet the utilization of fertilizers and pesticides affected the environment and reduced the productivity of the soil.

The British government in India provided discriminating protection to some selected industries since the year 1823. This protection was accompanied by the most favored nation clause for the British goods. Despite this, because of the pioneering zeal and fostering care of the early Indian entrepreneurs some industries such as cotton, textile, sugar, paper and to some extent iron and steel developed in India. But the industrial pattern of India on the eve of the introduction of Five Year Plan (1950) was marked by low capital intensity, predominance of small enterprises and limited development of factory sector. When India had become independent there was confusion in the minds of people as regards to the policy of industrialization to be adopted in the country.

The framing the Industrial policies, the introduction of Mixed economy and the facilities provided for the large scale industries marked a turning point in the economic history of India. The National as well as the state level policies and programmes affected the industrial scenario of Tiruchirappalli region. Industrial policy of independent India was first announced in 1948. The Industrial Policy Resolution of 1948 contemplated the establishment of mixed economy, where a sphere was reserved for the private sector and another was left for public sector to be owned and controlled by the government. To accelerate the rate of growth and to speed up industrialisation, the Industrial Policy of 1956 decided for the establishment of heavy industries. In order to promote the growth of small scale industries, investment limit for small-scale sector was raised in the national level. The government adopted the Liberalisation Policy in 1991 to remove the existing
economic crisis. To enforce the devices of liberalisation the government of India announced a New Industrial Policy in 1991.

In the regional context, the Government of Tamil Nadu adopted certain measures to improve the industries. The introduction of subsidy scheme, the dual pricing system in the sugar industry, the modernisation of power loom industry, promotion of the small scale industries, creation of the cooperative societies to promote handloom industry, fixing the prices of the cement, creation of industrial estates and promotion of the sick industries were the important policy measures of the government of Tamil Nadu for the development of industries.

Industrial policies were formulated by modifying the earlier policies and were directed towards removing distortions of the past, so that the goal of fast economic developments could be achieved. Massive increase in employment opportunities, utilization of local resources and exploration of new sectors hitherto untapped and development of backward areas were the basic objectives of the industrial policy pursued by the Government of Tamil Nadu. Industrial development in Tamil Nadu was the result of the support extended by government right from the Second Plan onwards. The private investments were also encouraged in Tamil Nadu to promote industries. In Tamil Nadu, financial institutions such as the MIDS, TIIC, TIDCO and SIPCO were started to provide loans to the industries.

The government policy together with the local environment led to the growth of the large scale, medium level, small scale industries and the cottage industries. The Electrical Industry, Sugar Industry, Cement Industry, Handloom Industry, Power loom Industry and Khadhi and village industry were developed.
The reputed electrical industry is the BHEL. The auxiliary industries supply the important products to the BHEL. It has captured the international market. There are two types of sugar industry. The first one is owned by the private sector and another type is the Cooperative sector. The cement industry also captured the National and International market. In the field of Textiles, the mills, the handloom and the power loom witnessed a sizable growth. The handloom and power loom were operated through the Cooperative societies and private agencies. In the beginning of A.D. 1991 the handloom industry and Khadhi and village industry witnessed a declining stage.

In fact during the post Independence period, importance was given for the growth of the agriculture and industry. In many respects the agriculture and industrial growth are interconnected. The sugar cane which was cultivated in Tiruchirappalli became raw materials to the sugar factories. The bye-products of the sugar factory are used for preparation of fertilizers, acids and electricity. The industrial development leads to urbanisation. The development of transports and increase of employment opportunity contributed for the development of urban centres. The growth of industry offered employment opportunity to a large number of people. The industrial development occurred in Tiruchirappalli region also contributed for the progress of international trade. In fact the agricultural development provided the employment opportunity and livelihood to the rural population. The Industrial sector provides employment opportunity to the skilled labourers and professionals mainly in the urban areas. As a result of the development of industry in Tiruchirappalli region urbanisation developed, employment opportunity increased, national and international trade enhanced and thereby contributed for the rise of national income and the development of the
regional economy. Yet are progress of industry led to water and air pollution and other environmental issues.

The economic development of the country and the advancement of civilization depend on the transportation system. The rail transport and the road transport are extensively used by the common people. In the beginning of the twentieth century the condition of the road in India was very poor. The road development committee observed that the development of rural population would be achieved by increasing the road transport. The policy decisions based on several recommendations made by various committees led to the development of the road transport. The public sector participation in passenger road transport service commenced with the enactment of the Road Transport Corporations Act, 1950 under which a State Government could establish a road transport corporation for the whole or any part of the state. Tamil Nadu played an important role in the development of roads. The roads link the large cities, towns, industrial centres and the remote villages.

The Indian Railways is the country’s biggest nationalized enterprise, and one of the largest railway systems of the world. After Independence, the Railways are functioning under the Ministry of Railways. The Railways would setup Railway Development Fund to finance the construction of new lines, to provide passenger amenities, and to spend on labour welfare work. Tiruchirappalli district is well served by the main line of the Southern Railway. Tiruchirappalli junction is one of the important railway junctions in the Southern Railway. The construction of the chord line between Villupuram to Tiruchirappalli encouraged the private entrepreneurs to start several industries where the raw materials available. This resulted in the growth of several industries in the area between these two stations. Most of the large scale and medium scale Industries are connected with the railway lines.
Thus the transport plays an important role in the transformation of the economy of the Tiruchirappalli region. The transport helps for the movement of the goods and passengers and ultimately contributed for the economic growth of this region. Growth and expansion of Transport helped for the movement of people and goods from one place to another. The transport fulfilled the needs of the industries, factories and rural and urban people. The road and railway transport helped to carry raw materials, heavy machines and agricultural products to other places. The transport also contributes for the development rural and agro based industries. Thus transport helped the producers and the traders to carry things to the markets and other places of needs and the consumers to get the things very quickly.

The economic growth of Tiruchirappalli region resulted to the emergence of urban centres. The expansion of transport, the development of industries, migration of people and the growth of markets and banking sector contributed for the urbanization process. The urbanisation created rural and urban disbarity. Yet the process of urbanisation provided an income generating employment opportunity. However, as Tiruchirappalli region is basically depended on the agrarian economy, the rural based agrarian products were either sold in urban centres or exported to other districts and the states. Thus the urbanisation process often satisfied material requirements of both urban and rural areas. The growth of the slums is the most important adverse effect of the urbanization. The overcrowding, pollution, lack of sanitation and housing and drinking water problems are the other issues of the urbanization.

The government policy together with the other environmental factors contributed for the growth and development of industry, agriculture, transport and
urbanization in Tiruchirappalli region. The growth and expansion of the industrial sector led to the development of urbanisation process, increase of employment opportunity, progress of regional economy and the increase of the international trade. Yet the development of industry in Tiruchirappalli has an adverse effect. The expansion of the industrial sector and the urbanization affected the agricultural production. In many places the agricultural land was converted for industrial and residential sites. Further, the growth of industry resulted to environmental degradation mainly due to industrial pollution.

This study reveals that the British introduced various types of revenue collection and improved agriculture in order to strengthen their colonial policy. The primary intention of the Government of India in the post-Independent period is to maintain socialism and democracy and it influenced the economic sector. The agriculture was increased by the introduction of Green Revolution. Although policy of the state government led to increase agricultural based production, the soil lost its fertility. The policy of the Central and State Governments led to the development of the large scale, medium scale and small scale industries in Tiruchirappalli region. Yet it adversely affected the environment. After the beginning of the era of globalization the multinational companies increased in Tamil Nadu which has an effect on the regional economy. The failure of regular monsoon, the scarcity of water in the Cauvery and the development of civil construction resulted to reduce the agricultural areas in the recent times.