Chapter I

Introduction
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1.1 Introduction

Development is an all-round concept involving a number of factors like capital, human resources and organisational skills. All the countries of the world stress the need for development. The World Bank has stressed that development should be the concern for all the sections of a society. Development in the normal sense refers to an increase in the real per capita income. At the same time development should bring social justice and also eradication of some of the economic ills like poverty, inequality and unemployment.

Economic development without social development has no relevance. Social development and economic development should go hand-in-hand. Moreover, the social and economic aspects of development are identical in many respects. Economic development has deeper implications in the context of the present information age. Apart from the international bodies like the I.M.F., I.B.R.D and I.D.A., there are national bodies like the Reserve Bank of India, a host of Development Banks and Planning Commission which are interested in promoting economic development. Though there has been planning in India for more than fifty years, there are gaps in the economic development.

The noted economist Amartya Sen has pointed out that economic theory should have strong foundations in order to build development. He has suggested that economic philosophy should be integrated with public affairs. It is not possible to have an economic ideology without referring to practical problems faced by the society.

Myrdal has built an economic theory which stresses both regional and national aspects. He uses the notions of ‘backwash’ and ‘spread effect’. He has defined ‘backwash effect’ as “all relevant adverse changes..... of economic expansion in a locality........ cared outside that locality”.¹ There are many backwash effects like migration, capital movement and trade. For example, young and active people move from one locality to another for the sake of employment. Similarly, capital movement also tends to increase regional inequalities. There is always a case for increased business activities in places where development takes place. The migration of people from the rural to urban areas and also from towns to cities shows that there are backwash effects. This is because the domestic trade operates with a fundamental bias in favour of the

developed region and disfavour of less developed region. There is a need for involving the Voluntary Agencies and NGO's actively and effectively in the promotion of development. According to Kurien, the religion too has an active role to play with a positive attitude to accelerate the process of development.\(^2\)

The religious institutions have been playing an important role in the development of the economy. This is more so in the case of South Asia.\(^3\) One of the challenging aspects of the present century is the dialogue between economists and the organisers of various institutions. For example, a famous economist Alfred Marshall suggested that the institution should come forward to help economic development. At the same time, Marshall has pointed out that, the institutions are also benefitted by the development of the society. Later on, another institutional economist by name Thorstein Veblen has also pointed out the relationship between economic development and institutional development.

The economic history of many nations reveals that development cannot take place with the help of the assistance of the government only. Apart from the government, various N.G.O's like religious institutions, Social Service Organisations and Voluntary Agencies have to play an important role in the development of the nation. Moreover, the Voluntary Agencies can involve the local people in the development of the area.

Before Independence, the Christian Missions in India secured more financial assistance from foreign countries. But the trend changed after Independence and the Indian Church wanted to stand on its own legs. At the same time the role of the Church in the development of the society has increased. The CSI. Tirunelveli Diocese increased its activities in various fields like social development, development of youth, children and women. In this connection the Diocese felt that a knowledge about the whole area of Tirunelveli Diocese was necessary to prepare a plan of development. With this idea, the Evangelistic Work Committee collected a lot of statistics from the Christians as well as non-Christians. The statistical data helped the Diocese to frame a plan of development of the society. Apart from Gospel work, the Diocese Institution carried out other activities like education, health development and other social welfare schemes.

1.2 Reasons for Selecting this Topic

The Tirunelveli Diocesan Trust Association (CSI) has promoted the socio-economic conditions of the people in the last fifty years. Therefore, a study on the role of Tirunelveli

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\(^3\) *Institution and Economic Change in South Asia*, Delhi, 1996, p. 14.
Diocesan Trust Association (CSI) in the Socio-Economic Development has been chosen as the topic for research.

The Tirunelveli Diocesan Trust Association (CSI) has been playing the role of a growth agent in terms of providing human capital like education and health facilities. It has also generated employment opportunities and other welfare measures for the different sections of people.

The researcher selected the Role of the Tirunelveli Diocesan Trust Association (CSI) in the Socio-Economic Development of the people from 1947-48 because the year 1947 is significant for many reasons. Historically India attained her freedom in 1947. Ecclesiastically, the Protestant Missions in South India were united and the Church of South India was formed in 1947.

1.3 Significance of the Study

The CSI, Tirunelveli Diocese plays an important role in the day-to-day activities of the people. It is a socio-religious institution which provides opportunities both for the spiritual and economic development of the people in the Diocese area which consists of Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi Districts. It has an impact on the people of both urban and rural areas of these two districts. Hence it is necessary to study the impact of such an organisation on the socio-economic development of the people in the study area. As an institution with the religious background, it has already exercised a powerful influence on the life and problems of the people in the study area. This pioneer effort will promote further researches in economic aspects of non-governmental organisations in other places.

In modern days, no institution can survive only on the basis of religious philosophy or doctrines. Every religious institution has to play an important role in promoting the socio-economic conditions of the people. Moreover, such institutions established and administered by the Diocese reveal that they are really aiming at increasing the standard of living of the people. Moreover, the welfare measures have a long period of history and hence are more viable for a detailed study.

This study will be an interesting one and will also stimulate the society to pave the way for socio-economic development vis-a-vis educational advancement. In modern days, regional studies play an important role in the development of various regions. The study of this Diocese provides a vast scope for similar studies in other Dioceses. Further, this will also provide a basis for a comparative study of the various Dioceses in the State at the macro-economic level. This study also throws light on the problems and prospects of big non-governmental organisations.
on religious platforms. This study, therefore, aims at examining the various financial, economic and administrative problems involved in the running of a religious-cum-voluntary agency.

1.4 Past and Present Socio-Economic Development Methods and its Effects

In the early days the Diocese provided education and health facilities along with religious activities. Through these welfare activities, the Diocese wanted to increase the socio-economic development of the people in its area. Later, the Diocese was interested in promoting employment opportunities both in urban and rural areas through several employment-oriented schemes. The Diocese started Welfare Schemes like Widows' Fund, Rural Work Training, Famine Relief Scheme, Welfare Relief Scheme, Cyclone Relief Scheme, Water Relief Scheme, Self Help Scheme, Adult Education Scheme, Adult Literacy Scheme, Agricultural Development Scheme, Kitchen Gardening Scheme, Grow More Trees Scheme, Drought Welfare Scheme, Digging of Wells Scheme, Deepening of Wells Scheme, Human Resource Development Scheme, Diocesan Employees' Deposit Scheme, Diocesan Employees' Family Benefit Scheme, Students' Scholarship Scheme, etc. The Diocese is also interested in Child Welfare and hence it started many homes for children with the help of Foreign Agencies.

The Tirunelveli Diocesan Trust Association (CSI) also started Thrift Society and Village Libraries to help the people. The Department of Mission and Evangelism helped the poor people, especially the widows. The Women’s Fellowship of the CSI. Tirunelveli Diocese is also undertaking Social Welfare Activities for the betterment of the women. The Tirunelveli Diocesan Trust Association (CSI) carried out these various welfare activities through the Funding Agencies from abroad and its own fund. The welfare activities of the Diocese have definitely improved the socio-economic conditions of the people of the Diocese.

1.5 Research Gap

The Tirunelveli Diocesan Trust Association (CSI) is a non-profit organisation performing a number of socio-economic activities. However, no research has been done on the socio-economic aspects of the Diocese. Only historical studies have been made about this Diocese. In order to fill up the gap, the researcher has made an attempt to study the socio-economic development of the people in the Tirunelveli Diocesan Trust Association study area from 1947-48 to 1997-98.

1.6 Objectives of the Study

This study has the following important objectives:

i. To analyse the historical background of the Tirunelveli Diocesan Trust Association from the socio-economic angle;
ii. To examine the educational facilities provided by the Tirunelveli Diocesan Trust Association;

iii. To examine the various Social Welfare Programmes of the Tirunelveli Diocesan Trust Association;

iv. To examine the extent to which the Tirunelveli Diocesan Trust Association Social Welfare Programmes have helped the people in the study area to uplift their economic status;

v. To examine the amount of direct and indirect employment opportunities generated by the Tirunelveli Diocesan Trust Association;

vi. To analyse the revenue and expenditure patterns of the Tirunelveli Diocesan Trust Association and

vii. To suggest suitable remedial measures and policy measures for effective functioning of the TDTA managements with a view to uplift the socio-economic conditions of the people in the study area.

This study is an analysis of the role of the Tirunelveli Diocesan Trust Association (CSI) in the socio-economic development of the people in various aspects like education, health and employment in the study area. The Diocese as a socio-religious institution is providing opportunities both for the development of the spiritual and economic aspects. The Tirunelveli Diocesan Trust Association (CSI) has made a commendable impact on the urban and rural areas of the Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi districts. Hence, it is necessary to study the impact of the organisation on the socio-economic development of the people in the study area. The Tirunelveli Diocesan Trust Association has already exercised a powerful influence on the life and problems of the people in the study area. The study can promote further studies on the relationship between institutions and socio-economic development. The role of institutions is always positive in achieving the desired goals. It also provides a vast scope for similar studies in other Dioceses. Moreover, regional studies play an important role in modern days because of the differences among the people in terms of caste, creed, colour and religion.

Globalization, Liberalization and Privatization have become the hallmarks of modern days. Moreover, development cannot be achieved by governmental agencies only. The religious institutions have understood the significant aspect of development. Hence, the present study will stimulate the society to pave the way for the socio-economic development through educational advancement coupled with health care and social service. This study is significant because the study area covers 1136 congregations consisting of 137 pastorates and 2,75,628 members paying the membership fee, namely sangam, and 139 full-time Clergymen and 3 Clergymen serving
on high work basis. There are 4 Deacons assisting the Clergymen. The number of the Diocese workers, Church workers, Pastorate workers and others come around 5000.⁴

Comparative performance analysis is a modern technique through which the performance of one area is judged with that of another area. Moreover, there are many Dioceses in South India in general and Tamil Nadu in particular. Hence, a comparative study should be made on the performance of various Dioceses.

There are so many social problems and difficulties faced by the non-governmental agencies in implementing social and economic welfare schemes. This study aims at examining the various financial, economic, social and administrative problems involved in the implementation of these schemes.

1.7 Hypotheses

The following are the hypotheses of this study "The Role of Tirunelveli Diocesan Trust Association (CSI) in the socio-economic development of the people in Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi Districts between 1947-48 and 1997-98".

i. The Women’s Fellowship (Mothers’ Union) and the DME of the Tirunelveli Diocesan Trust Association play a vital role to rehabilitate the deserted women;

ii. The various activities of the Tirunelveli Diocesan Trust Association (CSI) promoted the economic development of all the regions in the study area.

1.8 Plan of Chapter

This thesis is an in-depth study of the role of Tirunelveli Diocesan Trust Association on the socio-economic development of Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi districts. The study has been presented in nine chapters.

The first chapter is an introduction to the subjects dealing with objectives, study area, hypotheses, significance and limitations.

The second chapter is devoted for review of the literature.

The third chapter provides for description of the profile of the study area and the methodology adopted, concepts used and limitations of the study.

The fourth chapter gives a brief historical analysis of the Tirunelveli Diocesan Trust Association (CSI) highlighting the various stages of its growth. It is necessary to understand the social and historical foundations on which the Tirunelveli Diocesan Trust Association (CSI) is based. It also provides an insight into the impact of the welfare activities of the Tirunelveli

⁴ CSI Tirunelveli Diocesan Council Report, 1997-98, p.1
Diocesan Trust Association (CSI) on the population of the Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi Districts.

The fifth chapter deals with an analysis of the socio-economic status and quality of life of the direct and indirect beneficiaries of the Tirunelveli Diocesan Trust Association (CSI) with the help of primary data.

The sixth chapter deals with the analysis of educational, health and social welfare activities of the Tirunelveli Diocesan Trust Association.

The seventh chapter deals with the analysis of the revenue and expenditure of the Tirunelveli Diocesan Trust Association in the study period.

The eighth chapter deals with the problems and prospects of the Tirunelveli Diocesan Trust Association.

The last chapter is a summary of the major findings and policy suggestions for the better and more efficient functioning of the Tirunelveli Diocesan Trust Association.

1.9 Limitations of the Study

Most of the members of the Tirunelveli Diocesan Trust Association area have been working in places outside the study area. This study has not covered those people who have studied in the Diocesan educational institutions, but are employed elsewhere.