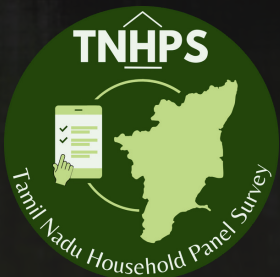


Department of  
Economics  
& Statistics



**Erode**



Tamil Nadu Household Panel Survey  
**Pre-Baseline District Report 2018-19**





**Tamil Nadu Household Panel Survey (TNHPS)  
Pre-Baseline Survey (PBS) District Report 2018-19**

***Erode District***

**February 2024**

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## Summary of PBS Findings

### *Demographic Indicators*

- Erode had a sample size of 7,037 households, of which 63.21 percent of households were from rural areas and 36.79 percent of households were from urban areas of the district.
- The district had a huge demographic dividend with around 60 percent of the population aged between 6 and 45 years. A little less than one-thirds of the population 31.89 percent was between 26-45 years of age.
- The BC and SC social groups were the largest in number, together constituting around 79 percent of the total households in the district.

### *Education*

- The district had a literacy rate of 78.83 percent, which was lesser than the state average of 85.40 percent.
- The gender gap in literacy rate was higher in rural areas at 14.62 percent than in urban areas at 12.13 percent of the district.
- Around 78 percent of the population had formal schooling in the district. Among the population with no formal schooling, around 94 percent did not have functional literacy.

### *Employment*

- The share of the unemployed population was 2.1 percent in the district. More than half the population was employed 55.33 percent and 42.52 percent were not in the labour force.
- Around 76 percent of the male population was employed, and only around 36 percent of the females were employed, which shows the prevailing gender gap in employment.
- Around 62.59 percent of the female population was not involved in the workforce, and among these, the majority of them 73.51 percent were associated with attending to domestic duties as a homemaker.
- A majority of the working population in Erode district were casual labourers in the agricultural sector. More than one-third of the SC population 45.84 percent was engaged in casual labour in the agricultural sector.

- While casual labour in the industrial sector was predominant in urban areas, casual labour in the agricultural sector was most common in the rural areas of the district.

### *Land Ownership and Assets*

- The percentage of households owning agricultural land in the district was lower at 13.62 percent than that at the state level at 19.41 percent.
- Almost a quarter of the households 23.74 percent that owned agricultural land in the district depended on rain-fed irrigation alone.
- Around 78.32 percent of the agricultural land-owning households in the district were holding marginal or small agricultural lands—less than two hectares.
- About a quarter—about 16.62 percent—of the households in Erode district owned at least one agricultural, allied agricultural or fishing asset. This was lower than the state PBS estimate of 20.92 percent.
- While almost all General category households at around 99.15 percent owned at least one household asset, around 18.61 percent of SC households and 15.61 percent of MBC households did not even own a mobile phone.

### *Household Income*

- The mean annual household income of Erode district was ₹1,27,907, which was lower than the state PBS estimate of ₹1,42,752; in the urban areas, it was ₹1,42,204 and in rural areas it was ₹1,09,513. Erode was ranked twelfth out of 32 districts for this parameter.
- The mean income from salaried work (₹2,03,486) was the highest, followed by self-employment (₹1,45,462).
- The Gini coefficient for income inequality in Erode district (0.534) was lower than the state estimate (0.563). Contrary to other districts' estimates, the income inequality across households in rural areas of the district (0.550) was higher than the urban areas (0.516).
- While almost two-thirds—about 64.53 percent—of the General category households in the district expected an increase in income in the next five years, less than half the SC, BC and MBC households expected the same.

### *Housing and Drinking Water*

- Around 69.73 percent of the households in the district were living in their own house, which was lower than the state-level estimate of 75.16 percent. In rural

areas, around 82.45 percent of households lived in their own house whereas in urban areas it was only around 58.19 percent.

- Out of the households that lived in their own houses in the district, 17.26 percent of houses were built under a government scheme. SC households had the highest percentage of houses built under a government scheme in the district compared to other social groups.
- More than two-thirds of the households at about 67.67 percent in the district were living in pucca houses, which was higher than the state-level estimate of 63.42 percent.
- The primary source of water for households in the state was piped water into the dwellings in urban areas and public tap/standpipe in rural areas. Findings in the Erode district indicate the same.

#### *Electricity and Cooking Fuel*

- Erode district witnessed rapid electrification in its rural areas between 2011 and 2018, with an increase from 87.44 percent in 2011 to 97.18 percent in 2018.
- LPG as the primary cooking fuel had increased tremendously in the district from 56.32 percent in 2011 (Census 2011) to 91.53 percent in 2018, and the usage of firewood had reduced noticeably from 32.34 percent in 2011 (Census 2011) to 5.65 percent in 2018.

#### *Sanitation*

- The percentage of households with a latrine within the premises of the house was 78.73 percent in 2018 in the district. Interestingly, a higher percentage of rural households were equipped with latrine facilities than urban households in the district. Erode district was ranked ninth in the state among the 32 districts in terms of this indicator.
- Around 19.71 percent of rural households and 44.74 percent of SC households did not have access to a latrine within the house premises.
- The percentage of total households in the district following open defecation had declined considerably from 41.88 percent in 2011 to 13.34 percent in 2018.

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Profile of Erode District

Erode district is in Tamil Nadu and was formed in 1979 from the bifurcation of Coimbatore district. It is situated in the western part of the state and shares borders with Karnataka to the north, Salem and Namakkal districts to the east, Karur, Tiruppur, and Coimbatore districts to the south, and The Nilgiris to the west. The district is also well known for turmeric production, handloom, power loom, textile products and ready-made garments.

According to the Census, 2011, Erode had a total population of 22.52 lakhs, accounting for approximately 3.12 percent of Tamil Nadu's total population, which was 7.21 crores. The district comprised 6.58 lakh households, with 51.43 percent residing in urban areas. The male population was 50.17 percent, and the female population was 49.83 percent. Erode demonstrated a child-sex ratio of 953.24, exceeding the state average of 943.27. Within the social groups, 16.41 percent of the population belonged to the Scheduled Caste community, while 0.97 percent belonged to the Scheduled Tribe community. The literacy rate in Erode district stood at 72.58 percent, which was lower than the state's average of 80.09 percent. The male literacy rate was reported to be 80.42 percent, while the female literacy rate was much lower at 64.71 percent. These figures indicate that the district lags in terms of female literacy.

In 2018-19, the Net District Domestic Product of Erode was ₹66,32,033 lakhs, which was the sixth highest amongst districts. Its per capita Net District Domestic Product was ₹2,72,644, which was 3rd highest amongst districts and surpassed Tamil Nadu's average of ₹1,83,884 (Department of Economics and Statistics, 2023). In terms of sectoral distribution, around 53 percent of the domestic income comes from the tertiary sector (or service sector), whereas the secondary sector contributes approximately 32 percent. The primary/ agriculture sector makes the smallest contribution, accounting for 15 percent of the total income (Department of Economics and Statistics, 2017).

According to the Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission (2017a), Erode ranked eleventh in terms of the Gender Inequality Index with a low score of 0.065. This suggests that gender-based disparities in health, education, and labour market opportunities are relatively minimal in the district. However, there are still several challenges that the district needs to address. For example, Erode ranked sixteenth in the Multidimensional Poverty Index with a score of 0.52, indicating that a significant proportion of the population face deprivation in multiple dimensions of well-being. However, the extent of multidimensional poverty is moderate when compared to the other districts. The district ranked twenty-first in terms



of the Child Development Index with a score of 0.617 highlighting that it needs to improve the health, nutrition, and education of children. Erode ranks twenty-fifth in terms of the Human Development Index with a score of 0.616, suggesting that the district lacks in terms of overall human development and fairs poorly compared to the other districts.

Overall, Erode is a district with high income and low-income inequality however it performs poorly in other aspects of development.

### *1.2 About the TNHPS and the Pre-Baseline Survey (PBS)*

The Tamil Nadu Household Panel Survey (TNHPS) has been designed as a longitudinal survey, beginning with a Pre-Baseline Survey or the PBS—an extensive household listing activity—followed by a Baseline Survey (Wave 1) and subsequent periodic surveys (Wave 2, Wave 3 etc.). The TNHPS aims to analyse the patterns of change in various socio-economic indicators, including households' income, occupational structures and living conditions.

The PBS collected data on a comprehensive set of socio-economic indicators for the period 2018-19 with the results providing district-level estimates for these indicators and informing the sampling design and the associated sampling frame for the first wave of the TNHPS. In the absence of Census 2021, the PBS estimates act as a valid benchmark for the Government of Tamil Nadu in terms of socio-economic development since 2011. The PBS surveyed around 2,12,282 households in the erstwhile 32 districts of Tamil Nadu across 1,476 Primary Sampling Units—684 rural PSUs and 792 urban PSUs.

This report analyses data from the PBS for the Erode district and presents the findings. Wherever possible, the report compares the district PBS estimates with the most recent census data of Erode (Census, 2011) and the state PBS estimates (TNHPS-PBS, 2021) to assess the socio-economic development of Erode district. The sample size for the district was 7,037 households, among which 4,448 households were from rural areas and 2,589 households were from urban areas. The blocks covered during the survey were: Ammapettai, Anthiyur, Bhavani, Bhavanisagar, Erode, Gobichettipalayam, Kodumudi, Nambiyur, Perundurai, Talavadi and T.N. Palayam.

## 2. Survey Response

For the PBS 2018-19, a total of 7,469 households were selected in Erode district using a multi-stage stratified sampling design<sup>1</sup>. The final sample size for PBS was 7,037 households, of which 63.21 percent of households were from rural areas and 36.79 percent of households were from urban areas of the district. The area-wise distribution of the total sample as well as the survey response is given in Table 2.1.

*Table 2.1 Distribution of Sample Households – Response-wise*

Response of Households	Area Type					
	Rural		Urban		Erode	
	Number of HHs	Percentage	Number of HHs	Percentage	Number of HHs	Percentage
Response	4,448	94.02	2,589	94.56	7,037	94.22
Non-Response	205	4.33	71	2.59	276	3.70
Non-sample	78	1.65	78	2.85	156	2.09
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,731</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,738</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>7,469</b>	<b>100</b>

Erode district had a slightly lower response rate—the willingness of households to participate in the TNHPS-PBS—of 94.22 percent compared to the state response rate of 96.5 percent (TNHPS-PBS, 2021). Around 3.70 percent of households were not willing to participate in the survey. About 2.09 percent of the selected samples were removed as they were not considered households as per the definition used in the PBS<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Detailed explanation of the Sampling Methodology available in the TNHPS-PBS State Report (see TNHPS-PBS, 2021).

<sup>2</sup> A household is defined as a group of persons normally living together and taking food from a common kitchen. The category called non-sample consisted of institutions, houses of NRIs and other buildings where there was no kitchen.

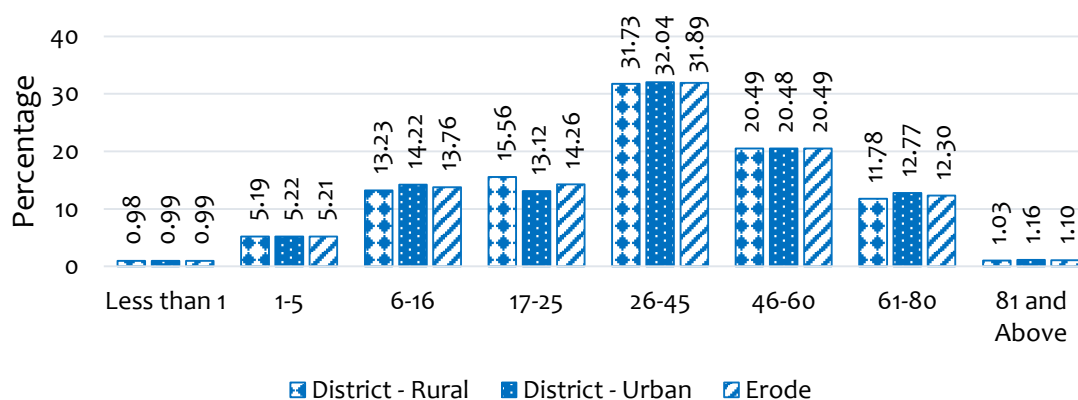
### 3. Key Findings

#### 3.1 Demographic Indicators

As per the PBS estimates, the average household size<sup>3</sup> in the district had reduced from 3.43 in 2011 (Census, 2011) to 3.28 in 2018. The district had a higher male population in 2011 (Census, 2011) and, the female population at 51.14 percent surpassed the male population in 2018 as per the PBS estimates. Around 17.57 percent of the households in the district were headed by females, which was lower than the state estimate of 18.93 percent (TNHPS-PBS, 2021).

Chart 3.1 shows the age-wise distribution of the population in Erode district.

Chart 3.1 Age-wise Distribution of Population



As per the PBS estimates, the proportion of the population in the 17 to 45 years age bracket in the district at 46.15 percent was lower than the state estimates of 48 percent. The proportion of senior citizens—above 60 years—in the Erode district's population at 13.4 percent was higher than that at the state-level estimate of 11 percent (TNHPS-PBS, 2021).

The percentage of the currently married male population at 72.64 percent was higher than the currently married female population at 68.94 percent. The widowed female population at 19.14 percent was notably higher than the widowed male population at 3.75 percent. The percentage of males that never married at 22.55 percent was higher than their female counterparts at 9.59 percent.

<sup>3</sup> Household size is defined as the number of family members currently living in the household during the PBS survey.

The religion-wise distribution of the households in the district as per the PBS estimates shows that 95.62 percent of the households practiced Hinduism, 2.27 percent practiced Islam and 1.59 percent followed Christianity.

Table 3.1 shows the social group-wise distribution of the households in the district.

*Table 3.1 Social Group-wise Distribution of Households*

Social Group	Percentage
SC	22.50
ST	0.14
BC	56.50
MBC	18.77
Denotified Communities (DNC)	0.23
General	0.62
DK/RF	1.24
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

As per the PBS estimates, the highest percentage of households in Erode district belonged to the BC category. The percentages of SC and ST households in the district were 22.50 percent and 0.14 percent respectively in 2018.

It is important to note that the percentage of ST category households in Erode district was only 0.14 percent and only ten ST category households were sampled in the district. Hence, the results of this social group discussed in this report must be interpreted in this context.

### *3.2 Development Indicators*

In this section, we discuss the PBS estimates on various development indicators such as literacy rate and employment status in Erode district.

#### *3.2.1 Education*

The change in literacy rate of Erode district and the state of Tamil Nadu during the period 2011 and 2018 is given in Table 3.2. As per Census 2011, a person aged seven and above who can both read and write with understanding in any language, is treated as literate. In the PBS, literacy rate is measured as those who have formal schooling and those who can read and write a simple sentence.



Table 3.2 Literacy Rates between Census 2011\* and PBS 2018

Gender	Rural		Urban		Erode		Tamil Nadu	
	2011	2018	2011	2018	2011	2018	2011	2018
Male	74.45	79.66	86.17	90.88	80.42	85.59	86.77	90.97
Female	56.21	65.04	72.68	78.75	64.71	72.37	73.4	80.15
<b>Total</b>	<b>65.41</b>	<b>72.23</b>	<b>79.39</b>	<b>84.64</b>	<b>72.58</b>	<b>78.83</b>	<b>80.09</b>	<b>85.4</b>

\*The represented trend should be understood under the context that the Census does 100 percent enumeration whereas in the PBS, the sample is surveyed

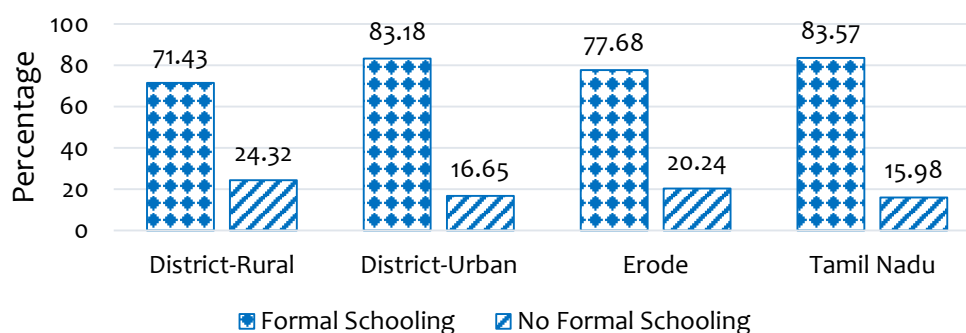
As per Census 2011, the literacy rate in Erode District at 72.58 percent was lower than the state average of 80.09 percent. The PBS estimates show that in the year 2018, the literacy rate in Erode district was 78.83 percent, which was lower than the state estimate of 85.40 percent. Erode district registered a growth rate of 6.25 percent in literacy rates between 2011 and 2018 while the state registered a growth rate of 5.27 percent. The difference in literacy rate between Erode district and the state average was 7.51 percent in 2011, which was reduced to 6.57 percent in 2018. Both male literacy as well as female literacy in the Erode district recorded an increase during the period under consideration. The gender gap in literacy rate has declined from 15.71 percent in 2011 to 13.22 percent in 2018.

The literacy rate in the rural area of Erode district was only 65.41 percent in the year 2011 (Census, 2011) which was less than the overall literacy rate of the district. The literacy rate in the rural area of Erode district increased to 72.23 percent in 2018. The male and female literacy rates have also recorded an increase during the period 2011-18. The urban literacy rate continued to be higher than the rural literacy rate in 2018. The gender gap in literacy rate was lower in urban areas compared to the rural areas of the district.

### 3.2.2 Education Status of Population (Age 7 and above)

In this section, we discuss the education status of the population aged seven and above in Erode district.

Chart 3.2 Formal Schooling of the Population – Area-wise



\*Others and Don't Know/Refuse to Answer categories are not included in any chart, unless their value is substantially high. Therefore, the total might not add up to 100 percent.

Chart 3.2 shows that more than -three-quarters of the specified population in the district had attended formal schooling, which was, however, lower compared to the state estimate. The percentage of the population with formal education in urban areas was much higher than in rural areas of the district.

*Chart 3.3 Formal Schooling of the Population – Gender-wise*

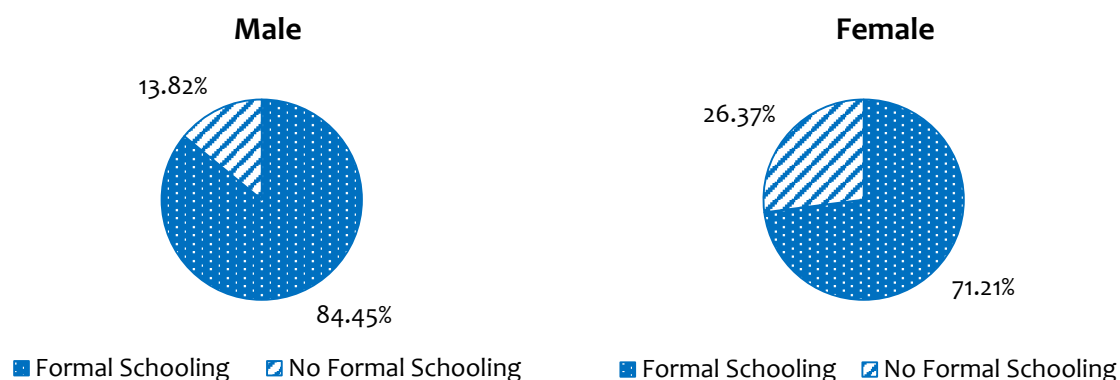


Chart 3.3 shows that the percentage of the population that had acquired formal education in the district was much higher among males compared to females, again denoting a wide gender gap, like in literacy.

A district-level analysis of the PBS on the education attainment status of various social groups is shown below.

*Table 3.3 Formal Schooling of Population - Social Group-wise Percentages*

Education Status	Social Group						
	SC	ST	BC	MBC	DNC	General	Erode
Formal Schooling	66.02	97.72	83.32	74.06	73.46	99.58	77.68
No Formal Schooling	31.94	2.28	15.08	22.52	26.54	0.42	20.24
Others and DK/RF	2.04	0.00	1.60	3.42	0.00	0.00	2.08
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 3.3 shows a wide variation across social groups in the attainment of formal schooling. While almost all the General category population in the district had received formal education, less than two-thirds of the SC population had done so. The results for the ST category must be interpreted in the context of their sample size, as discussed in Section 3.1.

To take this analysis further, Table 3.4 gives detailed information on the current highest level of formal educational attainment of the population that had received formal education.

*Table 3.4 Highest Formal Educational Attainment of Population – Area- Wise Percentages*

Educational Attainment	Area Type		
	Rural	Urban	Erode
Primary (I to V)	22.04	23.11	22.63
Middle School (VI to VIII)	20.75	21.00	20.89
High School (IX to X)	20.05	20.38	20.23
Higher Secondary (XI to XII)	13.53	13.78	13.67
Bachelor's degree	10.52	12.50	11.62
Diploma Degree	3.78	3.32	3.52
Post Graduate Degree	3.68	5.64	4.77
Other Higher Education	0.02	0.07	0.05
Others/DK/RF	5.63	0.20	2.61
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Around 77.42 percent of the district’s population—aged seven and above, with formal education—was either pursuing or had completed primary or secondary schooling. The specified population that was either pursuing or had completed tertiary education—such as a bachelor’s degree, diploma or postgraduate degree and above—was 19.96 percent, which was slightly lower than the state estimate of 20.02 percent. Also, this figure was higher for urban areas than rural areas of the district.

*Table 3.5 Highest Formal Educational Attainment of Population: Gender-wise Percentages*

Educational Attainment	Gender of the Member		
	Male	Female	Erode
Primary (I to V)	21.23	24.21	22.63
Middle School (VI to VIII)	20.75	21.02	20.89
High School (IX to X)	21.48	18.84	20.23
Higher Secondary (XI to XII)	12.33	15.18	13.67
Bachelor's degree	12.67	10.45	11.62
Diploma Degree	4.98	1.89	3.52
Post Graduate Degree	4.52	5.06	4.77
Other Higher Education	0.02	0.08	0.05
Others/DK/RF	2.02	3.28	2.61
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 3.5 shows that a higher percentage of females at 79.25 percent were either pursuing or had completed primary or secondary schooling compared to males at 75.79 percent. In tertiary education, a higher percentage of females were either pursuing or had completed post-graduate degrees compared to males, whereas the case for diploma degree percentages was the reverse.

*Table 3.6 Highest Formal Educational Attainment of Population - Social Group-wise Percentages*

Educational Attainment	Social Group						
	SC	ST	BC	MBC	DNC	General	Erode
Primary (I to V)	22.75	26.39	22.58	23.46	20.26	3.97	22.63
Middle School (VI to VIII)	25.64	10.10	19.64	20.73	20.78	10.11	20.89
High School (IX to X)	22.42	15.21	19.61	19.90	30.09	26.41	20.23
Higher Secondary (XI to XII)	14.15	11.13	13.30	14.42	16.31	19.97	13.67
Bachelor's degree	6.93	14.61	13.53	9.31	8.57	21.75	11.62
Diploma Degree	2.80	10.83	3.61	3.80	2.39	2.99	3.52
Post Graduate Degree	2.32	11.73	5.78	3.96	1.59	12.63	4.77
Other Higher Education	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	2.18	0.05
Others/DK/RF	3.00	0.00	1.89	4.42	0.00	0.00	2.61
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

The social group-wise analysis in Table 3.6 shows that most of the SC and DNC population in the district were either pursuing or had completed only primary and secondary school. The percentage of the population with tertiary education—bachelor’s degree and above—was quite high among the General category at 39.55 percent, but only around 12 percent for the SC and DNC categories. Similar to the national and state level trend, the percentage of the population with higher educational qualifications in the district was lower among SC, MBC and DNC categories. The results for the ST category must be interpreted in the context of their sample size, as discussed in Section 3.1.

About 20.24 percent of the population had not received formal education in Erode district (refer to Chart 3.2); the PBS investigated the ability of those who could read and write a simple sentence with understanding or functional literacy.

*Table 3.7 Functional Literacy of Population with No Formal Schooling – Area-wise Percentages*

Functional Literacy	Area Type		
	Rural	Urban	Erode
Yes	3.29	8.77	5.69
No	96.63	91.06	94.20
DK/RF	0.07	0.17	0.11
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 3.7 shows the functional literacy status of the population with no formal schooling in the district. Only 5.69 percent of the population without formal schooling had functional literacy. The specified population group in urban areas of the district had better functional literacy than the rural areas.



*Table 3.8 Functional Literacy of Population with No Formal Schooling - Social Group-wise Percentages*

Functional Literacy	Social Group						
	SC	ST	BC	MBC	DNC	General	Erode
Yes	4.93	56.53	5.43	7.21	2.20	0.00	5.69
No	94.93	43.47	94.45	92.74	97.80	100	94.20
DK/RF	0.14	0.00	0.12	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.11
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 3.8 shows the functional literacy status of the population with no formal schooling, across various social groups. Functional literacy was low across all social groups. None of the two General category respondents without formal schooling surveyed in the district possessed functional literacy. Similarly, the results for the ST category must be interpreted in the context of their sample size, as discussed in Section 3.1.

### 3.2.3 Employment Status

This section looks at the employment status of the household members, the types of employment that they are engaged in, the unemployment rate at the district level and a comparison of these findings with the state PBS estimates. In the PBS, the population aged 14 years and above has been classified as employed, unemployed and not in the labour force<sup>4</sup>.

The employed category—population aged 14 years and above—includes the following:

- (i) People who are self-employed in agriculture,
- (ii) People who are self-employed in allied agricultural activities,
- (iii) People who are self-employed in non-agricultural activities,
- (iv) People who worked as casual labourers in agriculture,
- (v) People who worked as casual labourers in industry,
- (vi) People who worked as casual labourers in the service sector,
- (vii) People who worked as casual labourers in other domains,
- (viii) People who worked as salaried employees in the government sector,

<sup>4</sup> Percentage of population employed = (Number of employed persons 14 years and above/Total population of the district 14 years and above) \*100

Percentage of population unemployed = (Number of unemployed persons 14 years and above/Total population of the district 14 years and above) \*100

Percentage of population not in the labour force = (Number of persons 14 years and above not in workforce/Total population of the district 14 years and above) \*100

- (ix) People who worked as salaried employees in the private sector,
- (x) People who are involved in multiple occupations, and
- (xi) People who are involved in other types of work.

The unemployed category includes those aged 14 years and above, who did not work but were actively seeking and/or available for work.

The not in the labour force category consists of the following:

- (i) People who attended educational institutions,
- (ii) People who attended domestic duties only,
- (iii) Rentiers, pensioners, remittance recipients, etc.,
- (iv) People who are not able to work due to disability and
- (v) Others (including begging, etc.).

Chart 3.4 Employment Status of Population (Age 14 years and above) – Area-wise

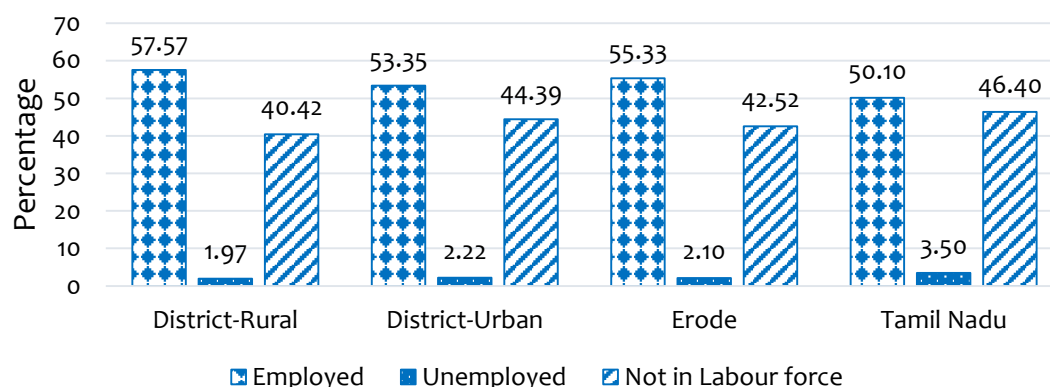


Chart 3.4 shows that the overall percentage of the employed population—14 years and above—in the district was higher than the state estimate. Also, the share of unemployed population was much lower in the district compared to the state. The percentage of the population that was employed was higher in rural parts of the district than in the urban. The unemployment status in rural areas of the district at 1.97 percent was lower than the state’s rural PBS estimate of 3.6 percent. Similarly, the district urban unemployment status at 2.22 percent was higher than the state urban PBS estimate of 3.3 percent. Erode district was ranked third among all districts in Tamil Nadu in terms of the employed population and ranked second lowest in terms of the unemployed population.

Chart 3.5 Employment Status of the Population – Gender-wise

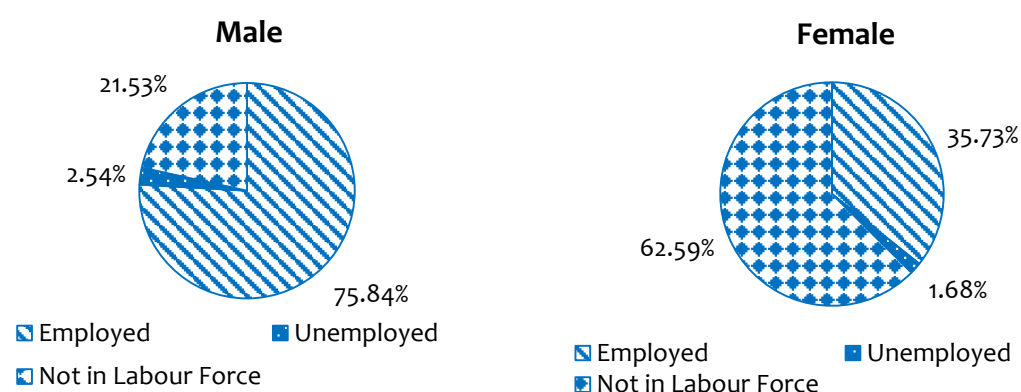


Chart 3.5 shows the gender-wise employment status of the population aged 14 years and above. While a little more than three quarters—about 75.84 percent—of the specified male population was employed, the female work participation was only 35.73 percent. Decreased female labour force participation has been well documented at the national level (Das et al., 2015; Desai, 2017; Desai & Joshi, 2019). However, the district female work participation was higher than the national average of 23.3 percent in 2017-18 (National Statistical Office, 2019), and the state PBS estimate of 29.96 percent. Around 62.59 percent of the female population was not in the workforce, and among these, the majority of them 73.51 percent were associated with attending to domestic duties as homemakers (see Chart 3.7). As per the state PBS estimates, Erode district was ranked eighth in terms of employed female population and ranked sixth lowest in terms of female unemployment.

Table 3.9 Work Type of Employed Population – Area-wise Percentages

Work Type	Area Type		
	Rural	Urban	Erode
Self Employed Agriculture	6.97	4.71	5.82
Self Employed Non-Agriculture	7.82	21.57	14.83
Self Employed Allied Agriculture	2.45	1.54	1.98
Casual Labourer Agriculture	35.95	8.53	21.97
Casual Labourer Industry	16.46	24.94	20.78
Casual Labourer Service	9.43	10.77	10.11
Casual Labourer (Others)	0.56	2.02	1.31
Salaried Worker Government	4.24	5.00	4.63
Salaried Worker Private	14.57	19.70	17.19
Multiple Occupation	1.02	0.76	0.89
Other	0.09	0.19	0.14
DK/RF	0.44	0.26	0.35
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Although Erode is becoming an urbanised district, the majority of the labour force depends on the agricultural sector for employment. While the greatest proportion of the working population in the state were salaried workers in the private sector at 21.82 percent, as per the state estimates (TNHPS-PBS, 2021), the majority of the working population in Erode district were casual labourers in the agricultural sector. While casual labour in the industrial sector was predominant in urban areas, casual labour in the agricultural sector was most common in rural areas of the district.

*Table 3.10 Percentage of Employed Population Engaged in Different Types of Livelihood Activities – Social Group-wise*

Work Type	Social Group						
	SC	ST	BC	MBC	DNC	General	Erode
Self Employed Agriculture	0.55	0.00	9.60	2.94	8.83	0.00	5.82
Self Employed Non-Agriculture	4.25	10.18	19.84	15.62	12.28	15.98	14.83
Self Employed Allied Agriculture	1.01	0.00	2.72	1.26	0.00	0.00	1.98
Casual Labourer Agriculture	45.84	0.00	10.56	22.92	36.32	1.05	21.97
Casual Labourer Industry	20.02	16.22	21.84	18.69	9.48	1.09	20.78
Casual Labourer Service	9.99	8.83	7.75	16.53	17.10	8.25	10.11
Casual Labourer (Others)	1.11	0.00	1.19	1.69	0.00	0.00	1.31
Salaried Worker Government	4.27	28.04	5.02	3.63	0.00	14.86	4.63
Salaried Worker Private	11.85	36.72	20.06	15.15	13.82	55.61	17.19
Multiple Occupation	0.78	0.00	1.14	0.44	2.17	0.00	0.89
Other	0.09	0.00	0.09	0.26	0.00	3.16	0.14
DK/RF	0.24	0.00	0.21	0.86	0.00	0.00	0.35
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

The agricultural sector in the district provides employment opportunities for most of the SC, DNC, and MBC population, while the highest proportion of the BC population was engaged as casual labour in the industrial sector. The SC population involved as casual labour in agriculture in the district at 45.84 percent was higher than the state PBS estimates of 33.33 percent of the SC population in the same occupation (TNHPS-PBS, 2021). Next to agriculture, casual labour in the industrial sector was the most opted employment by the SC population in the district. Those belonging to the General category were predominantly involved in salaried work in the private sector.

Chart 3.6 Composition of Population Not in the Labour Force – Area-wise

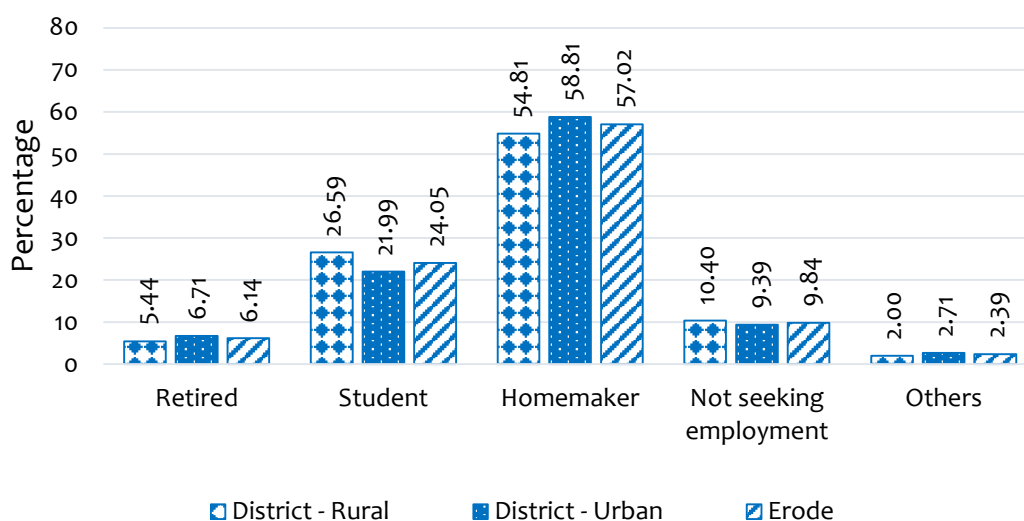
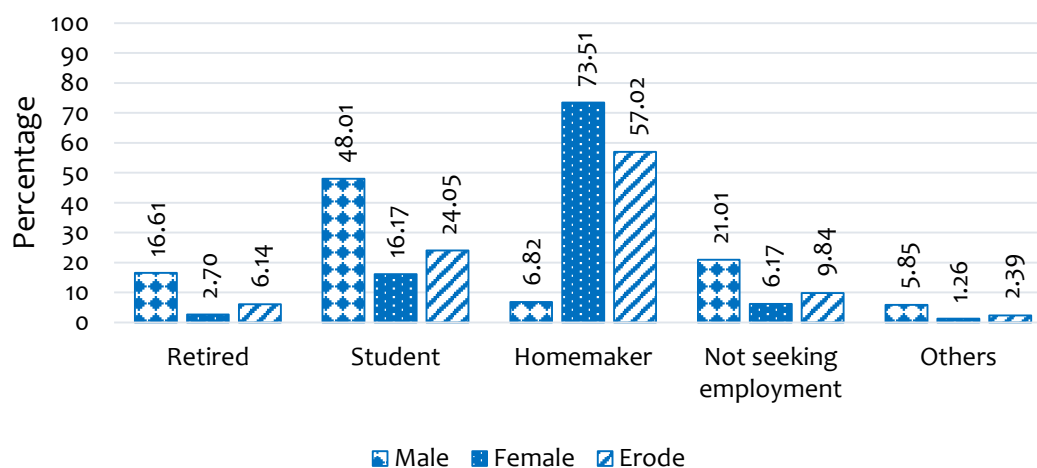


Chart 3.6 shows that similar to the trend at the state level, more than half the population that was not in the labour force in the district comprised homemakers involved in unpaid domestic duties of the household, followed by students. The proportions of the population that were not seeking employment or were students were higher in rural areas than urban areas, whereas the percentages of retired people and homemakers were higher in urban areas than rural areas.

Chart 3.7 Composition of the Population Not in the Labour Force (Age 14 years and above) – Gender-wise Percentages



The gender-wise distribution of the population currently not in the labour force aged 14 and above is given in Chart 3.7. While Chart 3.3 represents the lower female involvement in formal education, Chart 3.7 shows the staggeringly lower female involvement in higher education compared to men as only 16.17 percent of the female not-in-labour-force population were students. Similar to the state trend, the majority of the male not-in-

labour-force population were students, whereas a majority of females were homemakers. It must be noted that the study did not capture unpaid domestic labour or any other form of unpaid labour carried out by women.

The composition of the population not in the labour force analyzed according to social groups is given in Table 3.11.

*Table 3.11 Composition of Population Not in the Labour Force - Social Group-wise Percentages*

Current Status	Social Group						
	SC	ST	BC	MBC	DNC	General	Erode
Retired	7.32	8.45	5.91	5.67	0.00	12.86	6.14
Student	25.93	9.45	22.64	26.53	40.89	20.44	24.05
Homemaker	51.24	75.53	59.14	55.82	40.52	54.03	57.02
Not seeking employment	11.55	6.57	9.97	7.59	18.59	11.11	9.84
Others	2.94	0.00	1.98	3.57	0.00	1.56	2.39
DK/RF	1.03	0.00	0.36	0.83	0.00	0.00	0.56
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 3.11 shows that within all social groups, the percentage of homemakers was the largest compared to other categories in the district. The DNC and MBC categories had a higher percentage of the non-working population as students compared to the other social groups. Although a majority of the employed SC, DNC and MBC population were casual labourers, especially in the agricultural sector (see Table 3.10), the not-working population belonging to the student category was high for these two social groups, probably suggesting increasing awareness of the importance of education.

### 3.3 Socio-Economic Indicators

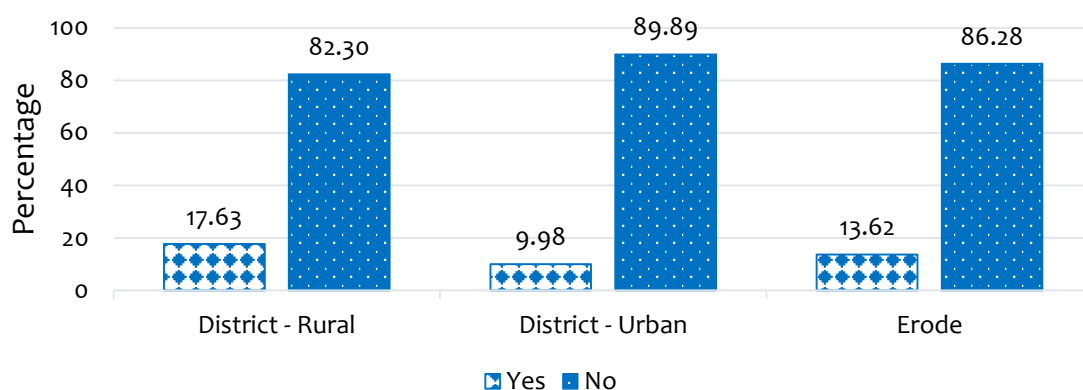
The PBS estimates for various socio-economic indicators of Erode district such as ownership of agricultural land, household assets and income are discussed in this section.

#### 3.3.1 Ownership of Agricultural Land

The PBS estimates of ownership of agricultural land at the household level in the rural and urban areas of Erode district are given in Chart 3.8. The TNHPS PBS definition of land ownership does not include leased-in land or other forms of holdings. Data were collected on the ownership of agricultural land only. The fourth round of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS, 2015-16) was a secondary source of data that followed the same definition for ownership of agricultural land.



Chart 3.8 Ownership of Agricultural Land



Erode is a district that is a combination of agriculture and industry, and it is gradually transforming into an urban district. The percentage of households owning agricultural land in the district was lower than that at the state level estimate at 19.41 percent. The district was ranked twenty-fifth in the state in terms of agricultural land ownership. Area wise comparison shows that only 17.63 percent of the households in rural areas owned agricultural land compared to the state average of 29 percent, whereas 9.98 percent of households own agricultural land in urban areas compared to the state average of 8.61 percent (TNHPS-PBS, 2021).

Table 3.12 shows the percentage of agricultural land-owning households in the district that depended on irrigation or rain.

Table 3.12 Type of Agricultural Land Owned by the Households – Area-wise Percentages

Type of Agricultural Land	Area Type		
	Rural	Urban	Erode
Only Irrigated Agriculture Land	58.89	72.01	63.94
Only Unirrigated Agriculture Land	27.51	17.70	23.74
Both Irrigated and Unirrigated Agriculture Land	13.24	8.52	11.42
DK/RF	0.35	1.77	0.90
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 3.12 shows that, as per the PBS estimates, more than 60 percent of the households that owned agricultural land in Erode district depended on irrigation for agriculture. A higher percentage of urban households owned irrigated agricultural land compared to the rural households in the district. Canals and wells are the major sources of water for irrigation in Erode district (Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission, 2017b). Canals account for 57 percent of the total area of irrigated agricultural land and dug wells account for 32.55 percent of the total area of irrigated agricultural land. The proportion of households having irrigated agricultural land was higher in the district at 63.94 percent compared to the state PBS estimate of 50.03 percent (TNHPS-PBS, 2021).

An analysis of the social group-wise ownership of agricultural land by households in Table 3.13 showed that DNC households were the predominant agricultural landholders in the district. Hardly any of the SC or General category households owned agricultural land. However, as mentioned earlier, only ten ST households were surveyed in the district. Hence, the results on this social group must be interpreted in this context.

*Table 3.13 Ownership of Agricultural Land - Social Group-wise Percentages*

Agriculture Land Ownership	Social Group						
	SC	ST	BC	MBC	DNC	General	Erode
Yes	1.49	32.46	19.35	11.03	58.82	0.54	13.62
No	98.34	67.54	80.59	88.87	41.18	99.46	86.28
DK/RF	0.18	0.00	0.06	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.10
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Based on the size of agricultural land, the PBS classified the land owned by the households into marginal, small, semi-medium, medium, and large. Of the households that owned agricultural land, the percentage of households under each size category is given in Table 3.14.

*Table 3.14 Size of Agricultural Land Owned by Households – Area-wise Percentages*

Size of Agricultural Land (in Hectares)	Area Type		
	Rural	Urban	Erode
Marginal (0.01 - 0.99)	50.86	53.36	51.79
Small (1 - 1.99)	28.25	23.66	26.53
Semi Medium (2 - 3.99)	15.61	15.71	15.65
Medium (4 - 9.99)	4.67	6.18	5.23
Large (10 and above)	0.62	1.09	0.79
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 3.14 shows that 78.32 percent of the agricultural land-owning households in the district were holding marginal or small agricultural lands—less than two hectares. This figure is less than the state-level estimate of 89.54 percent. The share of semi-medium, medium and large landholdings was higher than the state estimates at 7.49 percent, 2.22 percent and 0.75 percent respectively.

### *3.3.2 Ownership of Agriculture, Allied and Fishing Assets*

In this section, we discuss the ownership of agricultural, allied agricultural and fishing assets such as tractors, pump sets, dairy animals, poultry birds, and mechanized and non-mechanized boats, amongst the households of Erode district.

Chart 3.9 Ownership of Agriculture, Allied and Fishing Assets – Area-wise

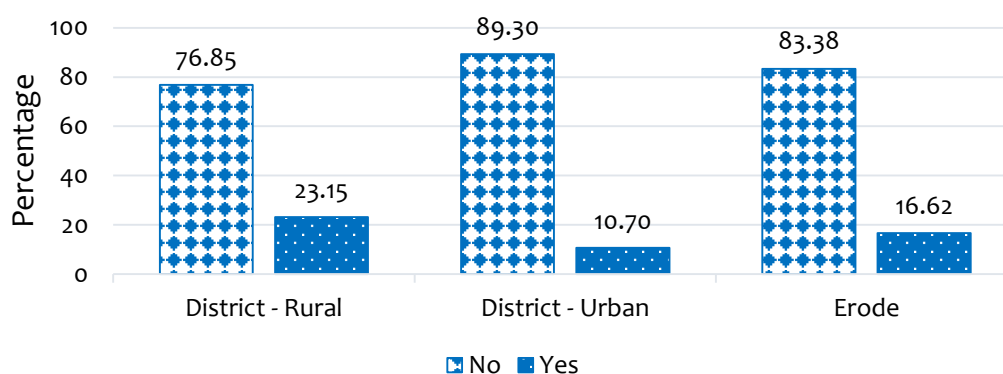
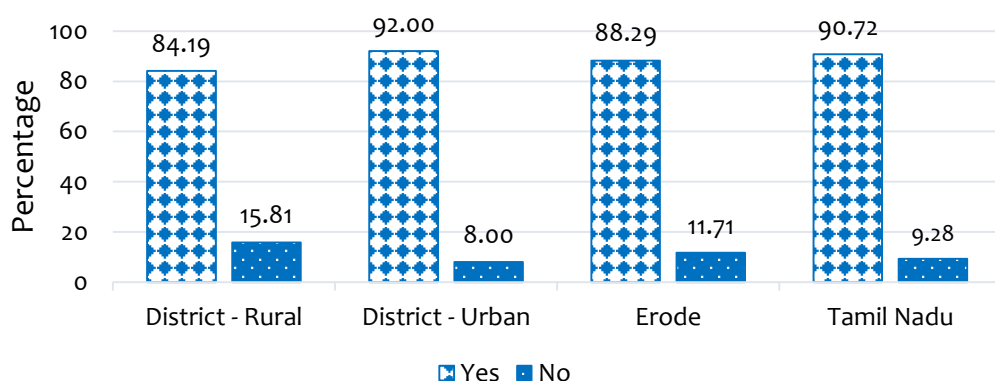


Chart 3.9 shows that 16.62 percent of the households in Erode district owned at least one agricultural, allied agricultural or fishing asset. This estimate was lower than the state PBS estimate of 20.92 percent. The ownership of such assets was higher in rural areas than in urban areas. The ownership pattern was lower in rural areas of the district compared to the state rural estimate of 32.69 percent. However, the district urban estimate of 10.7 percent was higher than the state urban estimate of 7.67 percent (TNHPS-PBS, 2021).

### 3.3.3 Presence of Household Assets

Chart 3.10 shows the percentage of households in Erode district that owned at least one household asset. Household assets include Air Conditioner (AC), refrigerator, two-wheeler, four-wheeler, and mobile phones. The state PBS estimates found that the combination of mobile phones and two-wheelers was the predominantly owned asset in rural areas whereas a combination of refrigerators, two-wheelers and mobile phones was largely owned in urban areas.

Chart 3.10 Ownership of at least one Household Asset – Area-wise



The percentage of households owning at least one household asset in Erode district at 88.29 percent was slightly lower than the state estimate of 90.72 percent. Within the district, the urban areas had a higher percentage of households owning at least one household asset compared to the rural areas.

Table 3.15 Presence of at least one Household Asset - Social Group-wise Percentages

Presence of Household Asset	Social Group						
	SC	ST	BC	MBC	DNC	General	Erode
Yes	81.39	100	92.42	84.39	82.00	99.15	88.29
No	18.61	0.00	7.58	15.61	18.00	0.85	11.71
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

The social group-wise ownership of household assets in Erode district is given in Table 3.15. The PBS estimates showed that while a substantial percentage of General category households—about 99.15 percent—owned at least one household asset, only 81.39 percent of SC households and 82 percent of DNC households in the district owned any such asset. This means that around 18.61 percent of SC households and 15.61 percent of MBC households did not even own a mobile phone.

### 3.3.4 Possession of Ration Card

Possession of a ration card can be treated as a determinant of socio-economic status at the household level. It plays a vital role in the inclusion—or exclusion—of households from the government welfare schemes such as the availability of subsidized items from the Public Distribution System and subsidized LPG connection, for instance. The percentages of households that possessed a ration card in rural and urban areas of Erode district are given in Chart 3.11.

Chart 3.11 Possession of Ration Card

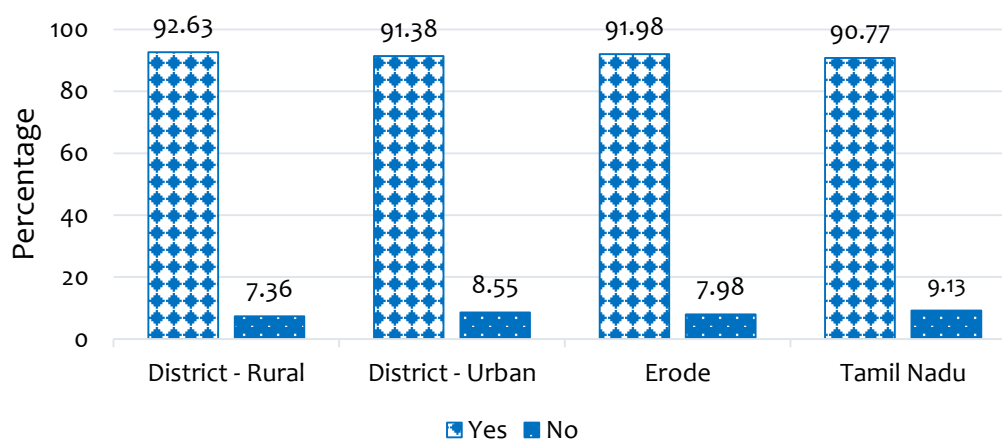


Chart 3.11 shows that the percentage of households that possessed a ration card in the district was similar to the state estimate. Within the district, a higher percentage of rural households possessed ration cards compared to the urban households.

Social group-wise estimates on the possession of ration cards at the household level are shown in Table 3.16. More than 80 percent of households belonging to all social groups possessed ration cards in the district.

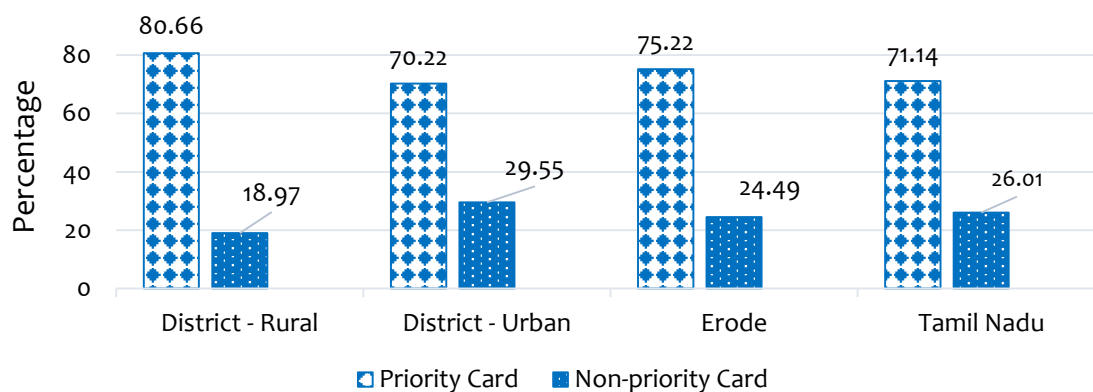
*Table 3.16 Possession of Ration Card at the Household Level - Social Group-wise Percentages*

Possession of Ration Card	Social Group						
	SC	ST	BC	MBC	DNC	General	Erode
Yes	90.31	82.50	93.75	90.54	92.96	89.28	91.98
No	9.69	17.50	6.23	9.36	7.04	10.72	7.98
DK/RF	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.04
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

### 3.3.5 Type of Ration Card

According to the National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2013, ration cards are broadly categorized into Priority Households (PHH) and Non-Priority Households (NPHH). Households with priority ration cards are the target group of various social welfare schemes such as Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) among others. The percentages of households possessing priority and non-priority ration cards in rural and urban areas of Erode district are given in Chart 3.12.

*Chart 3.12 Type of Ration Card at the Household Level*



The percentage of households possessing priority ration cards in the district was higher compared to the state-level estimate. A higher percentage of rural households possessed priority cards than urban households.

### 3.4 Household Income

#### 3.4.1 Annual Household Income from Various Sources in the year 2017-2018

In this section, we analyze the annual income of households in Erode district from various sources in the financial year 2017-2018. The sources of income include income earned from agriculture, allied agriculture, salaried work, self-employed labour, wage labour and other sources. The category 'other sources' consists of income sources such as pensions, remittances, investments, and other mixed categories. Table 3.17 shows the mean income of households that depended on various sources of income in Erode district.

*Table 3.17 Mean Annual Household Income from Different Sources in the FY 2017-2018 (INR)*

Source	Rural	Urban	Erode	Tamil Nadu
Agriculture	73,395	87,441	79,293	61,830
Allied Agriculture	23,542	34,472	27,374	38,576
Salaried	1,84,284	2,16,909	2,03,486	2,29,857
Self Employed	1,59,418	1,40,818	1,45,462	1,47,403
Wage Labour	42,586	53,492	47,878	47,734
Other Sources	52,159	1,00,789	78,497	97,646
<b>Income from all Sources</b>	<b>1,09,513</b>	<b>1,42,204</b>	<b>1,27,907</b>	<b>1,42,752</b>

The mean household income was higher among the households with salaried income and lower among the households that depended on allied agricultural activities. Overall, the mean annual household income of Erode district (₹1,27,906.50) was lower than the state estimate (₹1,42,752). Among the then 32 districts, Erode was ranked twelfth in terms of mean annual household income (TNHPS-PBS, 2021).

The mean household income in the rural areas of Erode district was ₹1,09,513, which was higher than the state rural estimate of ₹92,765 (TNHPS-PBS, 2021). The mean household income was higher among the households that depended on salaried income. Lower mean income was reported among the households that engaged in allied agriculture and wage labour.

The mean household income in the urban areas of Erode district was ₹1,42,203.70, which is lower than the state urban estimate of ₹1,99,629 (TNHPS-PBS, 2021) but higher than the district rural estimate of ₹1,09,513. The mean household income was higher among the households that depended on salaried income. Lower mean income was reported among the households that depended on allied agriculture.



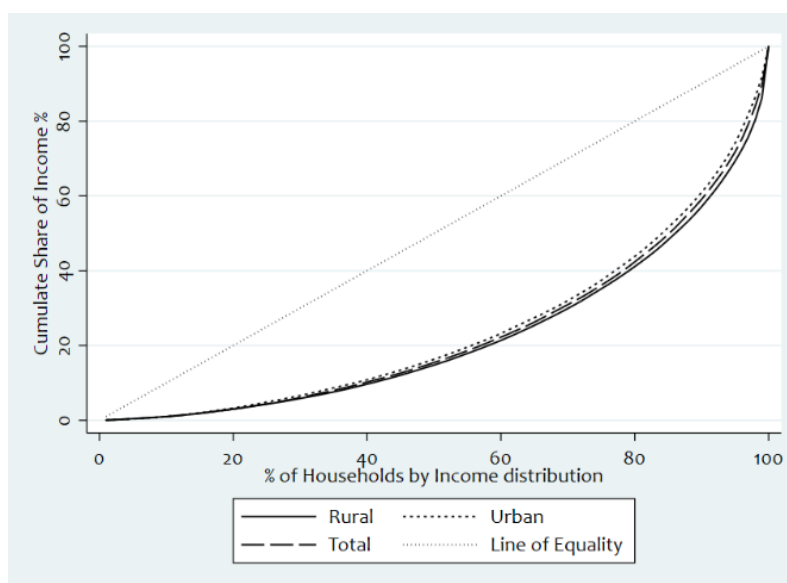
### 3.4.2 Income Inequality in Erode District

The Gini coefficient measures inequality levels in income or wealth where the coefficient value of 0 denotes perfect equality and 1 denotes perfect inequality (across households). The income inequality in the Erode district (0.534) was lower than the state estimate (0.563)<sup>5</sup>. Contrary to other districts' estimates, the income inequality across households in rural areas of the district (0.550) was found to be higher than the urban areas (0.516).

*Table 3.18 Gini Coefficient of Income Inequality- Area-wise*

Area	Gini Coefficient
Rural	0.550
Urban	0.516
Erode	0.534
<b>Tamil Nadu</b>	<b>0.563</b>

*Chart 3.13 Lorenz Curve and Income Inequality*



The Lorenz curve is a graphical representation of inequality in the distribution of income or wealth of households. Chart 3.13 shows that in Erode, the bottom 60 percent of the households held around 20 percent of the total income; the bottom 80 percent of households held around 40 percent of the total income and the top 20 percent of households held around 60 percent of total income.

<sup>5</sup> Other studies have estimated the Gini coefficient for Tamil Nadu, for instance - Chandrasekhar et al (2021) estimated the Gini coefficient of income inequality for Tamil Nadu as 0.378 in 2018-19 using data from the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) (2018-19).

### 3.4.3 Households' Expectation of Change in their Income in the Next 5 Years

Besides the present income of the households (in the year 2017-18), the PBS also investigated the households' expectation of change in income in the next five years. The expectation of a household head on the change in the household's income in the future depends on various factors such as the probability of a household member's entry (or exit) to (or from) the labour market, expected possession of financial and non-financial assets and so on. These variables can capture the level of optimism—or pessimism—that each household has about its future economic status.

*Table 3.19 Households' Expectation of Change in Income in the Next 5 Years – Area-wise Percentages*

Expectation of Change in Household Income	Area Type			
	Rural	Urban	Erode	Tamil Nadu
Higher	38.27	46.65	42.66	50.06
Lower	20.13	6.56	13.02	8.17
About the same	26.72	33.47	30.26	31.66
DK/RF	14.87	13.33	14.06	10.11
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

While 46.65 percent of the urban households in the district expected their income to increase in the following five years, the percentage of households expecting a decline in their future income was higher in rural areas compared to urban areas. Around 30.26 percent of the households in the district anticipated their future income to remain the same.

*Table 3.20 Households' Expectation of Change in Income in the Next 5 Years - Social Group-wise Percentages*

Expectation of Change in Household Income	Social Group						
	SC	ST	BC	MBC	DNC	General	Erode
Higher	42.09	57.96	42.55	44.77	26.90	64.53	42.66
Lower	8.81	0.00	14.64	11.60	0.00	1.13	13.02
About the same	30.09	38.79	30.26	31.34	27.20	23.26	30.26
DK/RF	19.02	3.25	12.54	12.29	45.90	11.08	14.06
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

While 64.53 percent of the General category households in Erode district expected an increase in their future income, less than half the SC, MBC, BC, and DNC households expected the same.

### 3.5 Basic Infrastructure

In this section, we discuss the PBS estimates for variables such as ownership and type of houses, electrification status, drinking water and sanitation. Comparisons with the Census (2011) and the state PBS estimates are also given.

#### 3.5.1 House Ownership Status

The area-wise percentages of households that live in their own house or stay at a rented house are given in Chart 3.14.

Chart 3.14 Ownership Status of the Households' Dwelling/House – Area-wise

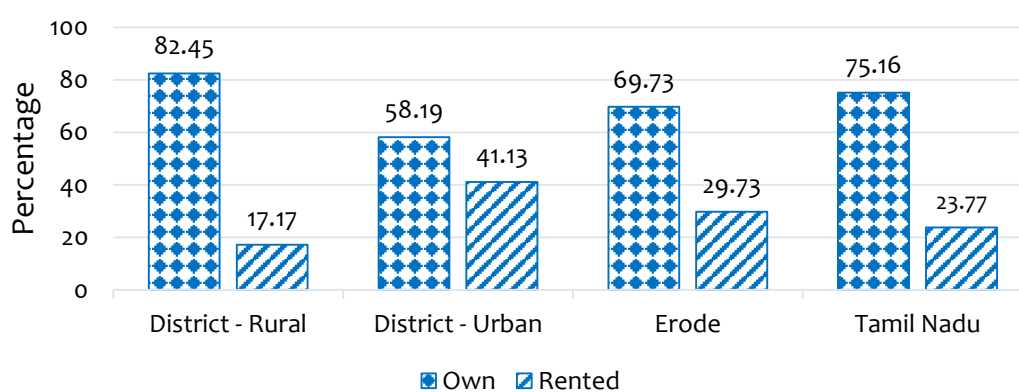


Chart 3.14 shows that the proportion of households living in their own house in the district was lower than the state-level estimate. Erode district was ranked twenty-sixth among the then 32 districts of Tamil Nadu in terms of percent of households living in their own house (TNHPS-PBS, 2021). While a substantial percent of households in rural areas about 82.45 percent lived in their own house, a large proportion of urban households 41.13 percent have relied on rented houses for their stay. Only less than one percent of households were living in other houses such as relative's houses, encroachments etc. This data does not capture the ownership of a house in a different geographical location.

Table 3.21 Ownership Status of the Households' Dwelling/House - Social Group-wise Percentages

Ownership Status	Social Group						
	SC	ST	BC	MBC	DNC	General	Erode
Own	86.28	34.14	65.09	66.89	63.78	60.25	69.73
Rented	13.14	65.86	34.46	32.31	36.22	39.75	29.73
Others	0.58	0.00	0.41	0.73	0.00	0.00	0.5
DK/RF	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.03
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 3.21 shows that more than 80 percent of SC households in the district lived in their own house, while 65.09 percent of BC and 60.25 percent of General category households were doing the same.

A detailed analysis of the ownership of houses showed that out of the 69.73 percent of households (see Chart 3.14) that lived in their own house in the district, 17.26 percent of houses were built under a government scheme, which was higher than the state PBS estimate of 14.12 percent (TNHPS-PBS, 2021). The social group-wise analysis of this parameter is given below.

*Table 3.22 House Constructed Under Government Scheme – Social-Group wise Percentages*

House Constructed Under Government Scheme	Social Group						
	SC	ST	BC	MBC	DNC	General	Erode
Yes	43.52	9.52	4.68	13.96	21.07	0.00	17.26
No	56.48	90.48	95.32	85.96	78.93	100	82.73
DK/RF	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.01
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

In Erode district, SC households had the highest percentage of houses built under a government scheme compared to other social groups. Though 1.7 percent of the house-owning General category households in the state of Tamil Nadu had constructed a house under a government scheme, none of the twenty-seven General households owning a house had done so in Erode district.

### 3.5.2 House Type

Based on the material used for the wall/roof or the quality of the house, the PBS classifies a house as kutccha, pucca or semi-pucca. The percentage of houses that come under each type is given below.

*Chart 3.15 Type of House – Area-wise*

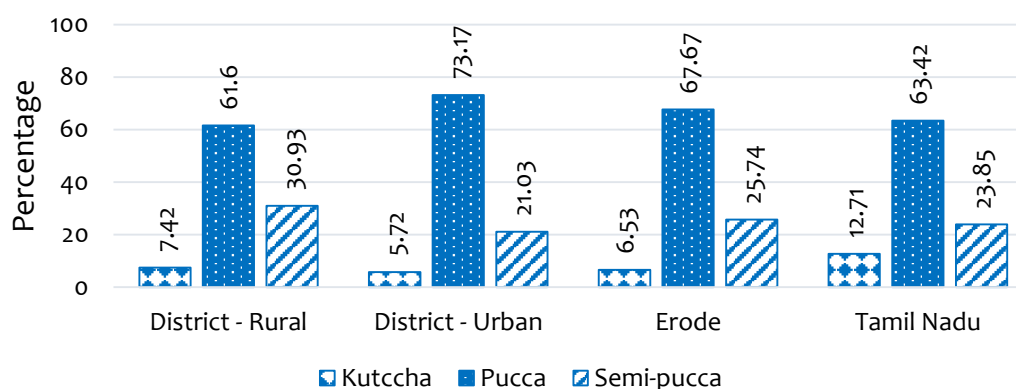


Chart 3.15 shows that more than two-thirds of the households in Erode district were living in pucca houses. The percentage of urban households living in pucca houses in the district was much higher than rural households but lower than the state urban estimate of 75.22 percent (TNHPS-PBS, 2021). The district estimate of households living in pucca houses was higher than the state estimate.

### 3.5.3 Primary Drinking Water Source

In this section, we discuss the PBS findings on the primary source of drinking water for the households in the district. The primary sources<sup>6</sup> of water are bottled water, piped water into dwelling, piped water to yard or plot, public tap or standpipe and tube well or borehole. Other water sources include protected wells, unprotected wells, rainwater collection and surface water (tank/pond/river/dam).

Chart 3.16 Primary Source of Drinking Water for Households

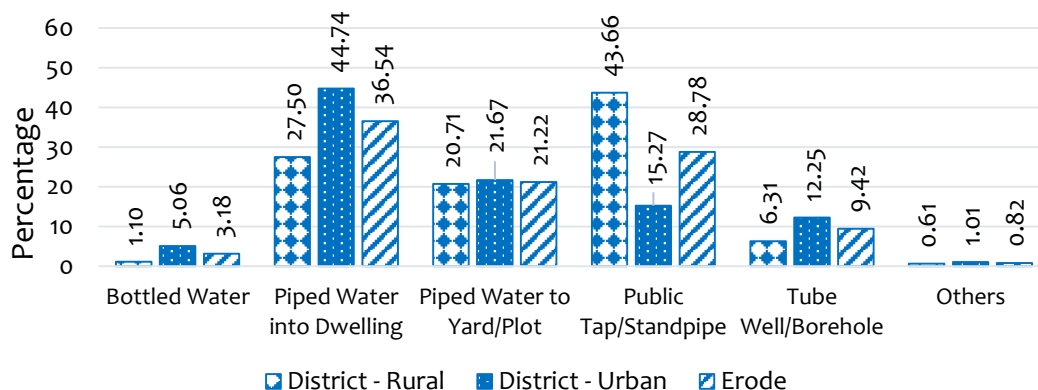


Chart 3.16 shows that 36.54 percent of households in Erode district were using piped water in their dwelling as their primary source of drinking water, which is lower than the state estimate of 32.04 percent. The state PBS estimates showed that piped water into the dwelling in urban areas at about 37.02 percent and public tap/standpipe in rural areas at 44.51 percent were the primary water sources of households (TNHPS-PBS, 2021). A similar trend was observed in Erode district as well.

### 3.5.4 Electricity

Tamil Nadu has witnessed mass electrification during the last decade. A comparison of households with an electricity connection between the Census (2011) and the state PBS estimates in 2018 (TNHPS-PBS, 2021) showed that the state was close to achieving

<sup>6</sup> Primary source - Water that is availed for the greater part of the year

complete electrification in the case of urban areas. The electrification status had improved in rural areas as well.

Chart 3.17 shows the electrification status of households in the Erode district, along with a comparison to the electrification status during the Census (2011).

*Chart 3.17 Comparison of Households with Electricity between Census (2011) and PBS 2018*

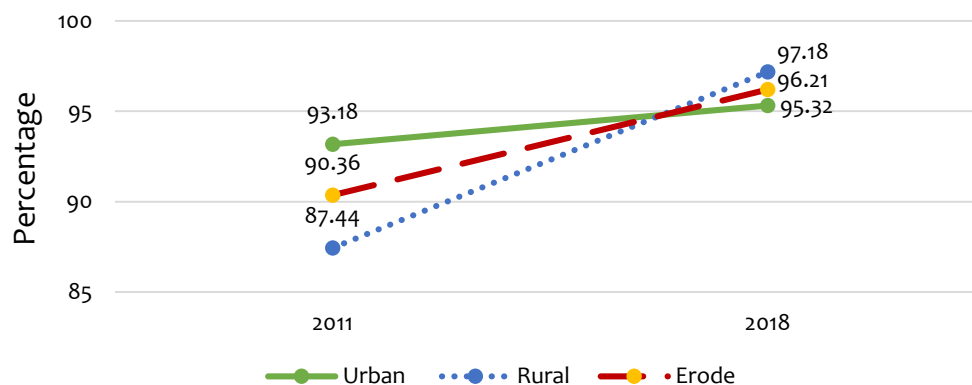
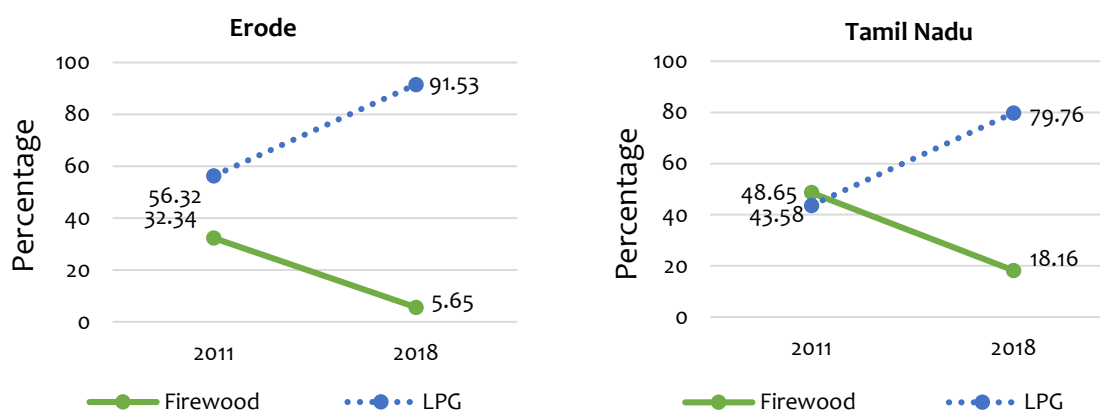


Chart 3.17 shows rapid electrification in rural areas of Erode district between 2011-2018. The rate of growth of households with electricity was higher in rural areas compared to the urban areas. The electrification status in the district at 96.21 percent was lower than the state estimate of 97.6 percent (TNHPS-PBS, 2021).

### 3.5.5 Primary Cooking Fuel

A comparison of the Census (2011) and the PBS estimates on the main fuel<sup>7</sup> used for cooking by the households in the district is given in Chart 3.18.

*Chart 3.18 Comparison of Primary Cooking Fuel - Erode and Tamil Nadu*



<sup>7</sup> Primary Cooking Fuel: Fuel that is used for the greater part of the year



Chart 3.18 shows that the use of LPG as the primary cooking fuel had increased tremendously in the district from 2011 (Census 2011) to 2018, and the usage of firewood had reduced noticeably between the two-time points. Compared to other districts of Tamil Nadu, Erode district was ranked third in terms of LPG use and ranked thirtieth in terms of firewood used as primary cooking fuel (TNHPS-PBS, 2021).

*Chart 3.19 Comparison of Primary Cooking Fuel – Rural and Urban*

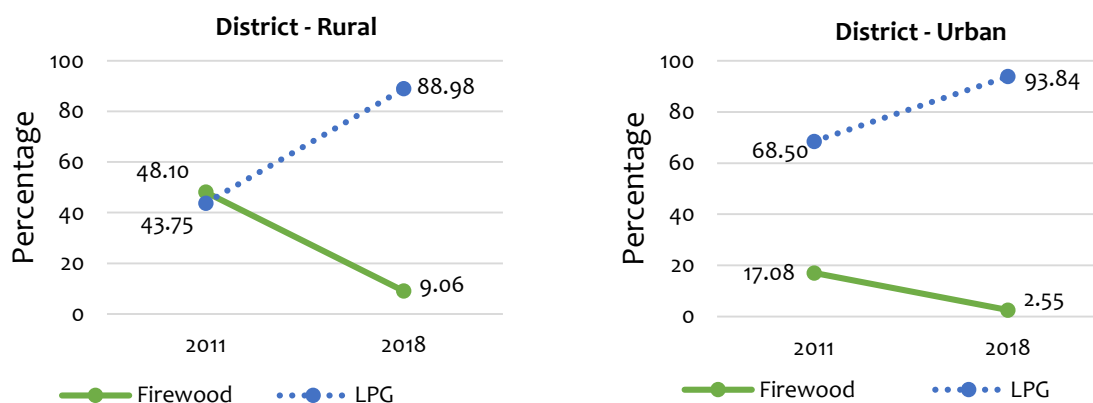


Chart 3.19 shows that the predominant fuel in rural areas in the district had changed drastically from firewood to LPG in the period 2011-18. LPG uptake had increased further in urban areas, and the uptake of firewood witnessed a drop of 14.53 percent during the same period.

Table 3.23 shows the use of various fuels for cooking among households of different social groups in Erode district.

*Table 3.23 Primary Cooking Fuel in Household - Social Group-Wise Percentages*

Primary Cooking Fuel	Social Group						
	SC	ST	BC	MBC	DNC	General	Erode
Firewood	14.54	0.00	1.92	6.66	13.10	0.00	5.65
Kerosene	1.87	0.00	2.01	3.08	0.00	3.13	2.27
LPG	83.46	100	95.58	89.35	86.90	96.02	91.53
Others	0.11	0.00	0.42	0.88	0.00	0.85	0.44
DK/RF	0.02	0.00	0.06	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.12
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

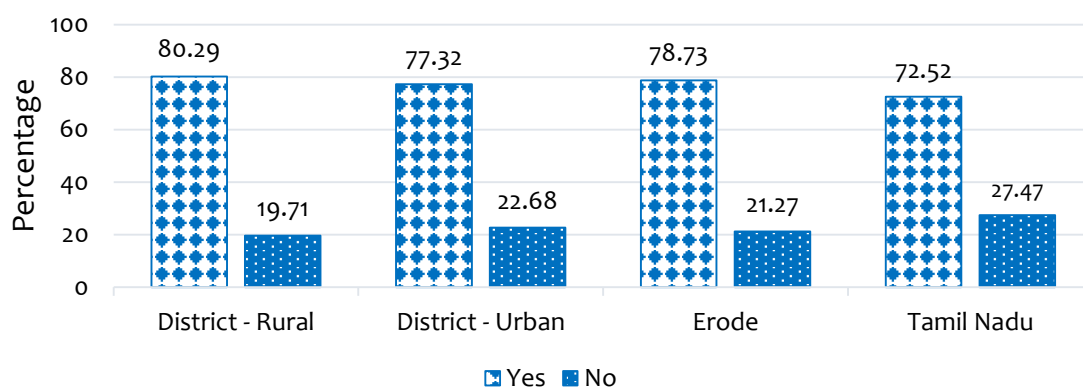
\*Others Include Electricity, Gobar Gas, Solar Energy, etc.

Table 3.23 shows that a majority of the General category, MBC, BC, and SC households used LPG as the primary cooking fuel, about 14.54 percent of SC households still used firewood as the primary cooking fuel.

### 3.5.6 Sanitation

The PBS estimates on households with and without a latrine in the district are given in Chart 3.20.

Chart 3.20 Presence of Latrine within the Premises of the Household



The percentage of households equipped with latrine facilities in the district at about 78.73 percent was higher than the state-level estimate of 72.52 percent. Erode district was positioned ninth in the state among the 32 districts in terms of this indicator (TNHPS-PBS, 2021). Interestingly, a higher percentage of rural households were equipped with latrine facilities than urban households in the district. It is pertinent to note that 22.68 percent of the urban households did not have access to a latrine within their house premises.

Table 3.24 Presence of Latrine within the Premises of the Household - Social Group-wise Percentages

Latrine within House Premises	Social Group						
	SC	ST	BC	MBC	DNC	General	Erode
Yes	55.26	100	89.78	72.75	94.25	93.74	78.73
No	44.74	0.00	10.22	27.25	5.75	6.26	21.27
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 3.24 shows the presence of a latrine within the premises of the household across various social groups. The percentages of SC and MBC households with latrine access in the district were higher than their respective state level estimates at 52.2 percent, 56.0 percent and 67.5 percent respectively (TNHPS-PBS, 2021). Yet, 44.74 percent of the SC households and 27.25 percent of the MBC households did not have a latrine within the house premises. All the ten ST households surveyed in the district had a latrine within their house premises.

Chart 3.21 Presence of Latrine in the Premises of Different Types of Houses – Area-wise Percentages

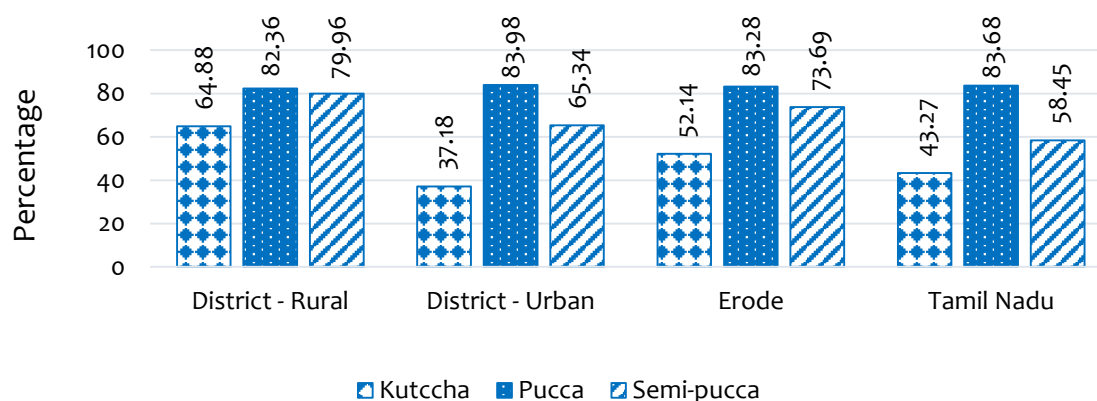


Chart 3.21 shows that the percentage of pucca houses with latrine facilities was higher than for semi-pucca and kutccha houses in the district. The percentages of latrine facilities in kutccha and semi-pucca houses in the district were higher than their respective state estimates, while the percentage of pucca houses with latrine facilities in the district was slightly lesser than the state estimate. A higher number of pucca houses in urban areas in the district had latrine facilities than in rural areas, but interestingly, the percentage of kutccha and semi-pucca houses with a latrine was higher in rural areas than in urban areas of the district.

The percentage of total households in the district following open defecation had declined considerably from 41.88 percent in 2011 (Census, 2011) to 13.34 percent in 2018 (TNHPS-PBS, 2021). The alternative practices of defecation followed by 21.27 percent of the district’s households (see Chart 3.20) that did not have a latrine within the premises of the house are shown in Chart 3.22.

Chart 3.22 Alternate Practices of Defecation by the Households without Latrine

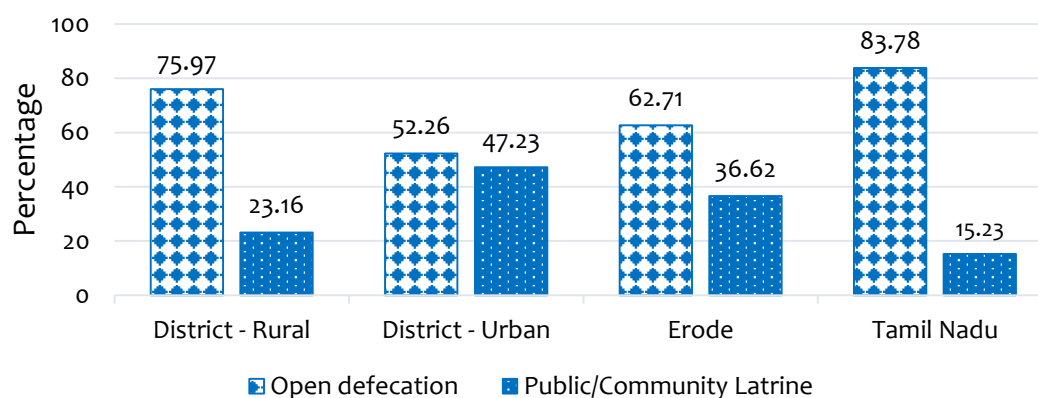


Chart 3.22 shows that 62.71 percent of households without a latrine within the premises of the house in the district were following open defecation, which was lower than the state level estimate. The practice of open defecation by these households was higher in rural areas compared to urban areas of the district. As per the state PBS report, Erode district was ranked twenty-seventh in terms of the percentage of total households following open defecation.

## 4. Conclusions and Recommendations

The Pre-Baseline Survey (PBS) 2018-19 of Erode district was conducted from a sample of 7,037 households in the district who were willing to participate in the survey. The survey focused on five major indicators: i) demographic indicators, ii) development indicators, iii) socio-economic indicators, iv) household income and v) basic infrastructure.

The socio-economic development of the Erode district calls for careful examination, given its dual nature. In terms of the percentage of the employed population, the district secured the third position, trailing only Tiruppur and Virudhunagar districts. Additionally, it exhibited a commendable performance with the second-lowest unemployment rate, surpassed only by Tiruppur district. Noteworthy is the district's substantial reliance on private salaried employment, supplementing traditional subsistence work. A salient observation pertains to the higher rate of female workforce participation compared to the state estimate. The income inequality in Erode district (0.534) was lower than the state estimate (0.563).

This economic improvement aligns intriguingly with housing patterns in the Erode district. The majority of households in possession of residences inhabit pucca houses, surpassing the state estimate. Rural areas within the district also manifest a higher percentage of pucca households compared to their state counterparts. Remarkably, a considerable proportion of owned houses in the Erode district were constructed under government schemes, exceeding the state estimate. In the domain of energy consumption, the Erode district ranks third, following Chennai and Coimbatore districts, in terms of minimizing firewood usage as the primary cooking fuel. Moreover, the percentage of households equipped with in-house latrine facilities in the district surpasses the state average. In the context of open defecation, the Erode district exhibits an impressive performance, securing the sixth-lowest rank according to state reports.

Despite remarkable strides in economic indicators, specific dimensions within the Erode district necessitate further research and development. In a ranking among the then 32 districts, Erode was placed thirtieth in terms of literacy rate, trailing behind Tiruppur and Dharmapuri districts. Approximately 20 percent of the district's population lacked formal education, with over 90 percent of this subgroup experiencing functional illiteracy. Despite the high female work participation, a distinct gender gap in literacy rates, exceeding the state average, was evident in the district in 2018. Notwithstanding enhanced educational infrastructure, the district requires a comprehensive strategic initiative aimed at elevating both formal and functional literacy rates.

In the broader context of housing, the district secured a twenty-sixth rank among all Tamil Nadu districts concerning the percentage of households living in their own houses. While a predominant number of rural households resided in owned houses, a significant proportion of urban households relied on rented accommodations pointing towards the need to boost affordable urban housing. Intriguingly, the percentage of urban households in the district with piped water supply into dwellings surpassed the state estimate.

These nuanced findings highlight the imperative for targeted research and policy interventions to address disparities in literacy rates, gender gaps and housing patterns within the Erode district.



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**A collaborative project between  
Department of Economics and Statistics &  
Madras Institute of Development Studies**

The Tamil Nadu Household Panel Survey (TNHPS) is designed as a longitudinal survey where a set of sample households in Tamil Nadu will be surveyed at specific intervals to analyse the change in their socio-economic conditions over time. The TNHPS aims to analyse how individuals, families, communities, and society are transforming in Tamil Nadu. Understanding this transformation is important for informed policy-making and for society in today's modern world where open links with other states and countries lead to enormous movement of people, ideas, technology, capital, and goods and services. The Pre-Baseline Survey (PBS) elicited information from 2,12,282 households across different districts of Tamil Nadu on a comprehensive set of socio-economic indicators. This serves as the sampling frame for the Baseline Survey (BLS) of subsequent rounds of comprehensive surveys of 7,45,653 individuals in the state.

Based on the information collected during the PBS 2018-19, this report provides a baseline on key socio-economic and demographic indicators of the district along with brief notes on the methods and processes followed in collecting, processing and analysis of data. As the first state-level initiative for collecting comprehensive household panel data through digital data collection methods, TNHPS emerges as an important source of information for evidence-based policymaking in the state.



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