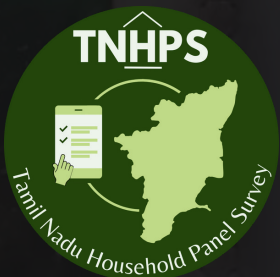


Department of
Economics
& Statistics



Ramanathapuram



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**

Ramanathapuram District

February 2024

**Principal Investigator
& Project Coordinator**

Prof. Kripa Ananthpur

Principal Investigator

Prof. L. Venkatachalam

Principal Investigator

Dr. K. Jafar

**In collaboration with
the Department of Economics and Statistics,
Government of Tamil Nadu**

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Madras Institute of Development Studies
79, Second Main Road, Gandhi Nagar
Adyar, Chennai 600020
Ph: 24411574 / 24412589
www.mids.ac.in

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Summary of PBS Findings

Demographic Indicators

- Ramanathapuram had a sample size of 5,684 households, of which 62.47 percent of households were from rural areas and 37.53 percent of households were from urban areas.
- The district had a huge demographic dividend with almost half the population—about 47.38 percent—aged between 17 and 45 years.
- The BC social group was the largest in the district, constituting around 55 percent of the total households in the district.

Education

- The literacy rate in the district had increased from 80.72 percent (Census, 2011) to 89.77 percent (PBS, 2018). Ramanathapuram was ranked fourth among the then 32 districts in terms of this indicator.
- The difference between the urban and rural literacy rate was 12.21 percent in 2011, which reduced considerably to 2.46 percent in 2018, due to a higher growth in rural literacy rate.
- Female literacy rate had increased at a faster rate between 2011-18 than male literacy rate in the district. The gender gap in literacy rate had declined from 14.29 percent in 2011 to 7.75 percent in 2018. The gender gap in literacy rate was similar in rural areas at 7.76 percent and urban areas at 7.65 percent, unlike other districts where the gender gap was considerably higher in rural areas.
- While more than 80 percent of the BC and MBC populations had attained formal schooling, only around 77 percent of the SC population had done so.

Employment

- The percentage of the employed population in the district—about 45.01 percent—was lower than the state estimate of 50.10 percent, while the share of unemployed population at 4.56 percent was higher compared to the state estimate of 3.50 percent. The rest were not in the labour force at 49.89 percent.
- The percentage of the population that was employed was higher in rural parts of the district than the urban.
- While 69.99 percent of the male population aged 14 and above was employed, the female work participation in the district was only 22.79 percent.

- Around 74.03 percent of the female population aged 14 and above were not in the labour force, and among these, majority of them—about 72.65 percent—were associated with attending to domestic duties as a homemaker.
- While self-employment in agriculture was predominant in rural areas, self-employment in non-agriculture was most common in the urban areas of the district. The industrial sector employed less than 10 percent of the employed population.
- While the largest proportion of the specified SC population in the district was self-employed in agriculture, most of the MBC and BC populations were self-employed in non-agricultural sectors.

Land Ownership and Assets

- Ramanathapuram district was ranked fifth in the state in terms of agricultural land ownership. A higher percentage of DNC and SC category households owned agricultural land in the district compared to the other social groups.
- A majority—about 45.52 percent—of the households that owned agricultural land in the district depended on rain-fed irrigation alone.
- Around 91.25 percent of the agricultural land-owning households in the district were holding marginal or small agricultural lands—less than two hectares.
- Around 24.93 percent of the households in the district owned at least one agricultural, allied agricultural or fishing asset, which was higher than the state estimate of 20.92 percent.
- Ownership of at least one household asset was least among MBC households, where 11.24 percent of them did not even own a mobile phone.
- The percentage of households possessing priority ration cards in the district at 90.79 percent was much higher compared to the state level estimate of 71.14 percent. Interestingly, a higher percentage of urban households possessed priority cards than rural households.

Household Income

- The mean annual household income of Ramanathapuram district was 32.11 percent lesser (₹96,915) than the state estimate (₹1,42,752); in the urban areas it was ₹1,28,282 and in rural areas it was ₹78,236. The district was ranked twenty-seventh out of 32 districts with respect to this parameter.

- The mean income from salaried work (₹1,61,231) was the highest, while that from allied agricultural activities was the lowest (₹17,963).
- The Gini coefficient measuring income inequality across households in the district (0.486) was lower than the state estimate (0.563). Income inequality across households in rural areas of the district was found to be higher than the urban areas.

Housing

- Ramanathapuram district was ranked twelfth among all the districts of Tamil Nadu in terms of percentage of households living in their own house.
- Out of the households that lived in their own house in the district, 13.47 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.
- Around 55 percent of the households in the district were living in pucca houses, which was lower than the state level estimate of 63.42 percent.

Drinking Water, Electricity, and Cooking Fuel

- The primary source of drinking water of households in the district was public tap/standpipe at 44.90 percent, while bottled water was the second most preferred source at 29.99 percent.
- The district witnessed an increase in electrification in both rural and urban areas between 2011-18, with the rate of growth being higher in rural areas.
- Although the use of LPG as the primary cooking fuel had increased in the district from 30.55 percent in 2011 to 71.33 percent in 2018, firewood was still being used by more than a quarter of the households. The district was ranked eleventh in the state in terms of firewood use and twenty-first in terms of LPG use.
- Almost half the SC households used firewood as the primary cooking fuel.

Sanitation

- The percentage of households with latrine within house premises had increased from 36.62 percent in 2011 (Census, 2011) to 75.52 percent in 2018 in the district. Ramanathapuram was ranked fourteenth among the 32 districts in the state in terms of this parameter.

- More than 30 percent of the SC and MBC households did not have latrine facilities within the house premises.
- The percentage of total households in the district following open defecation had declined from 60.03 percent in 2011 (Census, 2011) to 21.63 percent in 2018.

1. Introduction

1.1 Profile of Ramanathapuram District

Ramanathapuram district, situated in the southern region of Tamil Nadu, was established in the year 1956. It shares its borders with Sivaganga and Pudukkottai in the north, the Bay of Bengal in the east and south, and Thoothukudi and Virudhunagar in the west.

According to Census (2011), Ramanathapuram had a total population of 13.53 lakhs, accounting for approximately 4.18 percent of Tamil Nadu's total population, which was 7.21 crores. The district comprised of 3.23 lakh households, with a notable proportion of 69.66 percent residing in rural areas. The district composes of 50.44 percent male and 49.56 percent female. Notably, Ramanathapuram demonstrated a child sex ratio of 961.43, exceeding the state average of 943.27. Within the social groups, 18.39 percent of the population belongs to the Schedule Caste community, while 0.08 percent belongs to the Schedule Tribe community. The literacy rate in Ramanathapuram district stood at 80.72 percent, which was higher than the state's average of 80.09 percent. The male literacy rate was reported to be 87.81 percent, while the female literacy rate was 73.52 percent. These figures indicate that there is potential to improve education, especially among females.

In the fiscal year 2018-19, Ramanathapuram 's Net District Domestic Product was ₹17,47,202 lakhs, ranking at twenty-sixth among all districts. The district's per capita Net District Domestic Product was recorded at ₹1,17,805, maintaining its twenty-sixth rank among districts. Nonetheless, the per capita Net District Domestic Product of the district was significantly below the Tamil Nadu average of ₹1,83,884 (Department of Economics and Statistics, 2023). In terms of sectoral distribution, the primary sector (agriculture and allied) contributes approximately 17 percent to its domestic income, while the secondary (industry) and tertiary (service) sectors contribute approximately 20 percent and 63 percent, respectively (Department of Economics and Statistics, 2017).

According to the Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission (2017a), Ramanathapuram ranked twentieth among districts in terms of the Human Development Index with a score of 0.653. While this suggests a moderate level of overall development, the district also lags in specific areas. It ranked sixteenth in the Gender Inequality Index with a score of 0.075, indicating that gender disparities persist in the district. In terms of Child Development Index, the district ranked 28th with a score of 0.528, highlighting the need to improve health, nutrition, and education of children. Additionally, Ramanathapuram ranked thirtieth in terms of the Multidimensional Poverty Index with a score of 0.63, indicating

that a significant portion of the district's population faced multiple deprivations in various aspects of life and there is a need for comprehensive interventions to address poverty and improve well-being.

Overall, Ramananthapuram is one of the backward districts of Tamil Nadu as it ranks poorly both in terms of District Domestic Product and other indicators of development.

1.2 About the TNHPS and 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. As Census 2021 has not yet commenced, 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 Ramanathapuram district and presents the findings. Wherever possible, the report compares the district PBS estimates with the most recent census data of Ramanathapuram (Census, 2011) and the state PBS estimates (TNHPS-PBS, 2021) to assess the socio-economic development of Ramanathapuram district. The sample size for the district was 5,684 households, among which 3,551 households were from rural areas and 2,133 households were from urban areas. The blocks covered during the survey were: Kadaladi, Mudukulathur, Nainarkoil, Paramakudi, R.S. Mangalam, Ramanathapuram and Thiruvadanai.

2. Survey Response

For the Pre-Baseline Survey (PBS) 2018-19, a total of 6,467 households in Ramanathapuram district were selected using a multi-stage stratified sampling design¹. The final sample size for PBS was 5,684 households, of which 62.47 percent of households were from rural areas and 37.53 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		Ramanathapuram	
	Number of HHs	Percentage	Number of HHs	Percentage	Number of HHs	Percentage
Response	3,551	88.29	2,133	87.24	5,684	87.89
Non-Response	30	0.75	40	1.64	70	1.08
Non-sample	441	10.96	272	11.12	713	11.03
Total	4,022	100	2,445	100	6,467	100

Ramanathapuram district had a lower response rate—willingness of households to participate in the TNHPS-PBS—of 87.89 percent compared to the state response rate of 96.5 percent. Around 1.08 percent of households were not willing to participate in the survey. About 11.03 percent of the selected samples were removed as they were not considered as households as per the definition used in the PBS².

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

² 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.

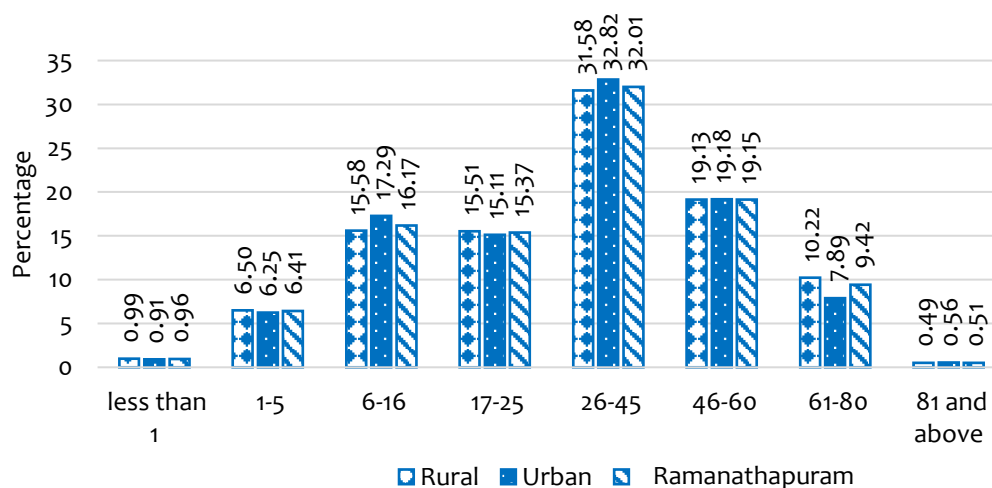
3. Key Findings

3.1 Demographic Indicators

As per the PBS estimates, the average household size³ in the district had reduced from 4.19 in 2011 (Census, 2011) to 3.53 in 2018. As per the PBS estimates, 52.40 percent of the population in the district were female, and 47.59 percent of the population were male. Around 24.26 percent of the households in the district were headed by females, which was higher than the state estimate of 18.93 percent (TNHPS-PBS, 2021).

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

Chart 3.1 Age-wise Distribution of Population – Area-wise Percentages



As per the PBS estimates in 2018-19, around 32 percent of the population in the district was in the age group of 26 to 45 years. The category between age 17 to 60 years in the district was 66.53 percent, which was slightly higher than the state estimate of 66.00 percent (TNHPS-PBS, 2021). The proportion of senior citizens—above 60 years—in the district's population at 9.93 percent was lower than that at the state level at 11 percent (TNHPS-PBS, 2021).

The percentage of currently married population in the district was 71.55 percent in 2018. The widowed female population was notably higher than the widowed male population.

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

A greater proportion of males in the district had never married compared to females.

The religion-wise distribution of the households in the district as per the PBS estimates shows that 78.36 percent of the households practiced Hinduism, 17.10 percent practiced Islam and 4.54 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	22.19
ST	0.04
BC	54.53
MBC	13.50
Denotified Communities (DNC)	9.45
General	0.25
DK/RF	0.03
Total	100

As per the PBS estimates, the highest percentage of households in Ramanathapuram district belonged to the BC category. The percentages of SC and ST households in the district were 22.19 percent and 0.04 percent in 2018.

It is important to note that the percentages of ST and General category households in the district were only 0.04 percent and 0.25 percent respectively, and only three ST households and eleven General category households were sampled in the district. Hence, the results pertaining to these social groups discussed in the 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 Ramanathapuram district.

3.2.1 Education

The change in literacy rate of the 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 that have formal schooling and those that can read and write a simple sentence.

Table 3.2 Literacy Rates between Census (2011) and PBS (2018) – Area-wise Percentages

Gender	District - Rural		District - Urban		Ramanathapuram		Tamil Nadu	
	2011	2018	2011	2018	2011	2018	2011	2018
Male	85.29	93.03	93.58	95.35	87.81	93.84	86.77	90.97
Female	68.68	85.27	84.77	87.70	73.52	86.09	73.40	80.15
Total	77.03	88.92	89.24	91.38	80.72	89.77	80.09	85.40

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

As per Census (2011), the literacy rate in Ramanathapuram district at 80.72 percent was slightly higher than the state estimate of 80.09 percent. The PBS estimates showed that in the year 2018, the literacy rate in the district had increased to 89.77 percent, which continued to be higher than the state estimate of 85.40 percent. The district had registered a 9.05 percent increase in literacy rate in this period while the state had registered a 5.31 percent increase. In terms of literacy rate, Ramanathapuram was ranked fourth among the then 32 districts in 2018.

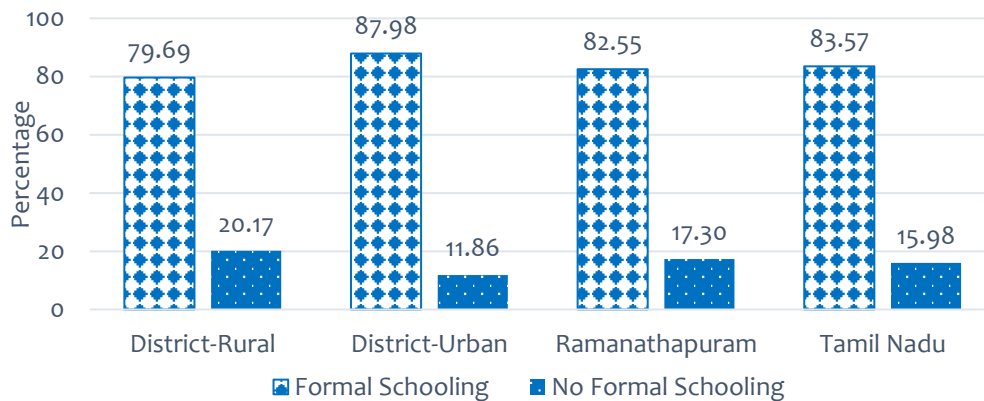
Both male and female literacy rates in the district had recorded an increase during the period under consideration, with female literacy rate witnessing a greater increase. A wide gender gap still prevailed. The gender gap in literacy rate had declined from 14.29 percent in 2011 to 7.75 percent in 2018, which is lower than the state gender gap of 10.82 percent in 2018.

Both rural and urban literacy rates recorded an increase between 2011 and 2018. The difference between the urban and rural literacy rate was 12.21 percent in 2011, which considerably reduced to 2.46 percent in 2018. The gender gap in literacy rate was similar in rural areas at 7.76 percent and urban areas at 7.65 percent, contrary to the other districts' estimates, where the gender gap was considerably higher in rural areas.

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 Ramanathapuram district.

Chart 3.2 Formal Schooling of the Population – Area-wise Percentages



*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 82.55 percent of the specified population in the district had attended formal schooling, which was slightly lower compared to the state estimate. The percentage of population with formal education in urban areas was higher than in rural areas of the district.

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

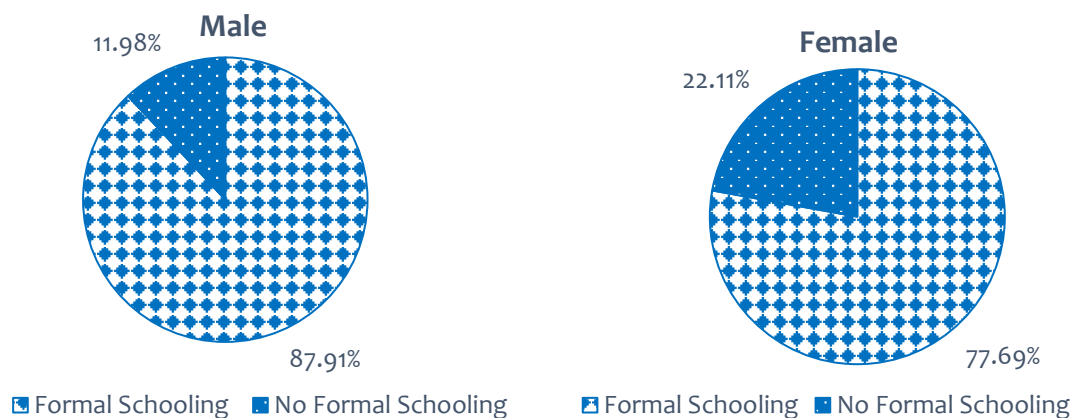


Chart 3.3 shows that the percentage of the population that had acquired formal education in the district was much higher among males compared to females, again denoting a wide gender gap, like in literacy.

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

Table 3.3 Formal Schooling of Population (Age 7 and above) - Social Group-wise Percentages

Education Status	Social Group						
	SC	ST	BC	MBC	DNC	General	Ramanathapuram
Formal Schooling	77.11	100.00	85.05	83.50	79.12	90.91	82.55
No Formal Schooling	22.75	0.00	14.82	16.24	20.88	0.00	17.30
Others and DK/RF	0.14	0.00	0.13	0.27	0.00	9.09	0.15
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Table 3.3 shows a wide variation across social groups in attainment of formal schooling. While more than 80 percent of the BC and MBC populations had attained formal schooling, only around 77 percent of the SC population had done so. The results for the ST and General categories must be interpreted in the context of their sample size, as discussed in Section 3.1. All the eight ST respondents surveyed in the district had attended formal schooling.

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 Qualification	Area Type		
	Rural	Urban	Ramanathapuram
Primary (I to V)	28.26	21.42	25.74
Middle School (VI to VIII)	22.91	20.18	21.91
High School (IX to X)	22.32	22.05	22.22
Higher Secondary (XI to XII)	14.95	16.56	15.54
Bachelor's degree	6.90	11.69	8.66
Diploma Degree	2.97	3.95	3.33
Post Graduate Degree	1.51	3.96	2.41
Others/DK/RF	0.18	0.19	0.19
Total	100	100	100

Around 85.41 percent of the district's population with formal education had completed schooling up to higher secondary level. The percentage of population that had completed tertiary education—such as bachelor's degree, diploma, or post graduate degree and above—was 14.40 percent. The state estimate for this parameter is 20.02 percent (TNHPS-PBS, 2021). 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 Qualification	Gender		
	Male	Female	Ramanathapuram
Primary (I to V)	24.29	27.23	25.74
Middle School (VI to VIII)	21.63	22.19	21.91
High School (IX to X)	23.96	20.44	22.22
Higher Secondary (XI to XII)	14.35	16.77	15.54
Bachelor's degree	8.52	8.80	8.66
Diploma Degree	4.81	1.81	3.33
Post Graduate Degree	2.31	2.52	2.41
Others/DK/RF	0.12	0.25	0.19
Total	100	100	100

Table 3.5 shows that a higher percentage of females at 86.63 percent in the specified population had completed schooling up to higher secondary level compared to males at 84.23 percent. In tertiary education, a higher percentage of females had completed bachelor's or post-graduate degree compared to males, whereas the case with respect to diploma degree percentages was the reverse.

To understand the social group-wise disparity in education attainment in the district, the PBS estimated the percentage of population under each category across various education levels.

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

Educational Qualification	Social Group						
	SC	ST	BC	MBC	DNC	General	Ramanathapuram
Primary (I to V)	25.66	39.91	25.52	27.17	25.75	1.00	25.74
Middle School (VI to VIII)	21.18	8.05	21.88	25.23	19.43	5.09	21.91
High School (IX to X)	23.66	32.09	21.95	19.94	24.37	6.54	22.22
Higher Secondary (XI to XII)	13.69	19.95	16.03	16.11	15.69	18.69	15.54
Bachelor's degree	8.80	0.00	8.75	7.29	8.79	48.48	8.66
Diploma Degree	4.41	0.00	3.12	2.34	3.68	2.01	3.33
Post Graduate Degree	2.41	0.00	2.60	1.59	2.30	9.09	2.41
Others/DK/RF	0.19	0.00	0.15	0.32	0.00	9.09	0.19
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Table 3.6 shows that more than 80 percent of the population in SC, BC, MBC, and DNC categories in the district had completed schooling only up to higher secondary level. The percentage of population with tertiary education—bachelor's degree and above—was high among the SC population at 15.81 percent. The SC state level estimate for this

parameter is 15.52 percent (TNHPS-PBS, 2021). The results for the ST and General categories must be interpreted in the context of their sample size, as discussed in Section 3.1.

About 17.30 percent of the population had not received formal education in Ramanathapuram 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	Ramanathapuram
Yes	45.81	28.70	41.77
No	54.14	71.30	58.20
DK/RF	0.04	0.00	0.03
Total	100	100	100

Table 3.7 shows the literacy status of the population with no formal schooling. Around 41.77 percent of the population without formal schooling had functional literacy. The specified population group in rural areas had better functional literacy rate than the urban areas of the district.

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

Functional Literacy	Social Group				
	SC	BC	MBC	DNC	Ramanathapuram
Yes	38.19	44.87	46.33	33.19	41.77
No	61.81	55.09	53.53	66.81	58.20
DK/RF	0.00	0.04	0.14	0.00	0.03
Total	100	100	100	100	100

*Since there were no ST and General category respondents without formal schooling, these social groups are not captured in the table.

Table 3.8 shows the literacy status of the population with no formal schooling, across various social groups. Functional literacy was high across all social groups, compared to other districts' estimates.

3.2.3 Employment Status

This section looks at the employment status of the household members, types of employment that they are engaged in, the unemployment rate at the district level and 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 force⁴.

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,
- 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.).

⁴ 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

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

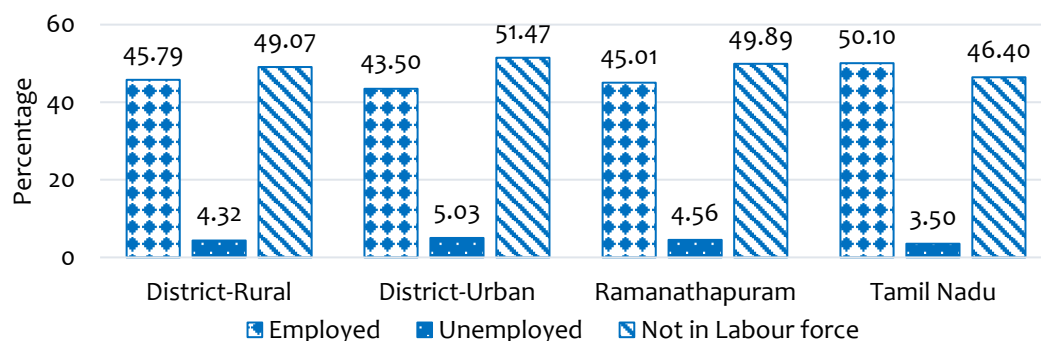


Chart 3.4 shows that the overall percentage of the employed population—14 years and above—in the district was much lesser than the state estimate. The share of unemployed population was higher in the district compared to the state. The percentage of population that was employed was higher in rural parts of the district than the urban. The unemployment status in rural areas of the district at 4.32 percent was higher than the state’s rural estimate of 3.60 percent, and the district urban unemployment status at 5.03 percent was also significantly higher than the state urban estimate of 3.30 percent (TNHPS-PBS, 2021). Ramanathapuram district was ranked thirty-first among the 32 districts in Tamil Nadu in terms of employed population and ranked sixth highest in terms of the unemployed population (TNHPS-PBS, 2021).

Chart 3.5 Employment Status of the Population – Gender-wise Percentages

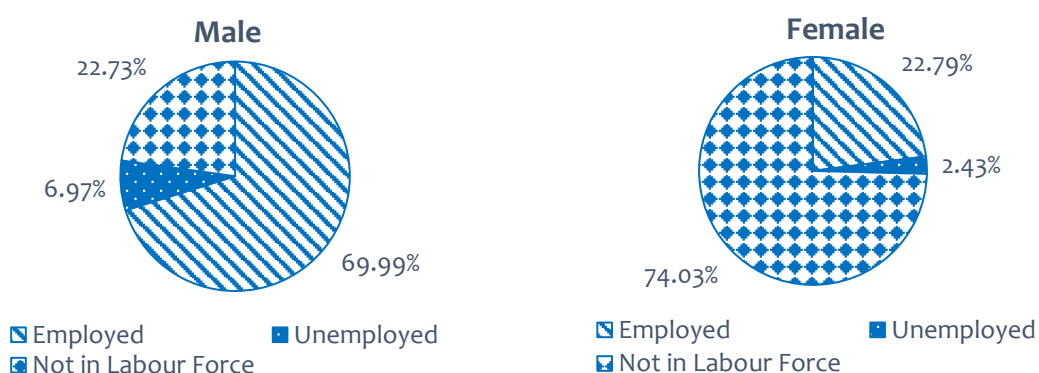


Chart 3.5 shows the gender-wise employment status of the population aged 14 years and above. While almost 70 percent of the male population was employed, the female work participation was less than a quarter of the female population. Decreased female labour force participation has been well documented at the national level (Das et al., 2015; Desai, 2017; Desai & Joshi, 2019). The district female work participation (22.79 percent) was lower than the national average of 23.3 percent in 2017-18 (National Statistical Office, 2019), as well as the state PBS estimate of 29.96 percent (TNHPS-PBS, 2021). Around 74.03 percent

of the female population was not in the workforce, and among these, majority of them—about 72.65 percent—were associated with attending to domestic duties as homemakers (see Chart 3.7). Ramanathapuram district was ranked twenty-ninth in terms of employed female population and ranked thirteenth in terms of female unemployment.

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

Work Type	Area Type		
	Rural	Urban	Ramanathapuram
Self Employed Agriculture	34.08	2.80	23.79
Self Employed Non-Agriculture	12.26	39.31	21.15
Self Employed Allied Agriculture	1.84	0.87	1.52
Casual Labourer Agriculture	11.74	4.70	9.42
Casual Labourer Industry	5.33	13.66	8.07
Casual Labourer Service	7.77	7.27	7.60
Casual Labourer (Others)	8.10	6.28	7.50
Salaried Worker Government	2.81	8.75	4.76
Salaried Worker Private	9.75	15.43	11.62
Multiple Occupation	6.14	0.86	4.40
Other	0.08	0.07	0.08
DK/RF	0.11	0.00	0.08
Total	100	100	100

Since Ramanathapuram is primarily a rural district, more than one-third of the employed population depended on the agricultural sector for employment—self-employed and casual labour. 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), majority of the working population in Ramanathapuram district were self-employed in agriculture. While self-employment in agriculture was predominant in rural areas, self-employment in non-agriculture was most common in the urban areas of the district. The industrial sector employed less than ten per cent of the employed population.

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

Work Type	Social Group						
	SC	ST	BC	MBC	DNC	General	Ramanathapuram
Self Employed Agriculture	30.39	0.00	20.74	22.81	23.58	0.00	23.79
Self Employed Non-Agriculture	6.76	0.00	25.16	41.90	12.07	76.09	21.15
Self Employed Allied Agriculture	2.00	0.00	1.63	0.29	1.24	0.00	1.52
Casual Labourer Agriculture	21.81	0.00	5.53	2.18	5.77	0.00	9.42
Casual Labourer Industry	7.39	0.00	8.41	4.99	12.19	0.00	8.07
Casual Labourer Service	5.44	0.00	9.49	6.21	5.60	0.00	7.60
Casual Labourer (Others)	9.93	50.00	7.65	5.24	3.01	0.00	7.50
Salaried Worker Government	4.69	0.00	4.89	2.99	6.60	0.00	4.76
Salaried Worker Private	6.89	0.00	11.45	11.33	25.32	23.91	11.62
Multiple Occupation	4.63	50.00	4.90	1.86	4.28	0.00	4.40
Other	0.08	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.35	0.00	0.08
DK/RF	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.08
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

While the largest proportion of the SC population in the district was self-employed in agriculture, most of the MBC and BC populations were self-employed in non-agricultural sectors. Notably, the largest share of the DNC population was engaged in salaried work in the private sector. There were only two ST individuals and eighteen General category individuals surveyed in the specified population in the district and hence the results pertaining to these two groups must be interpreted in this context, as discussed in Section 3.1.

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

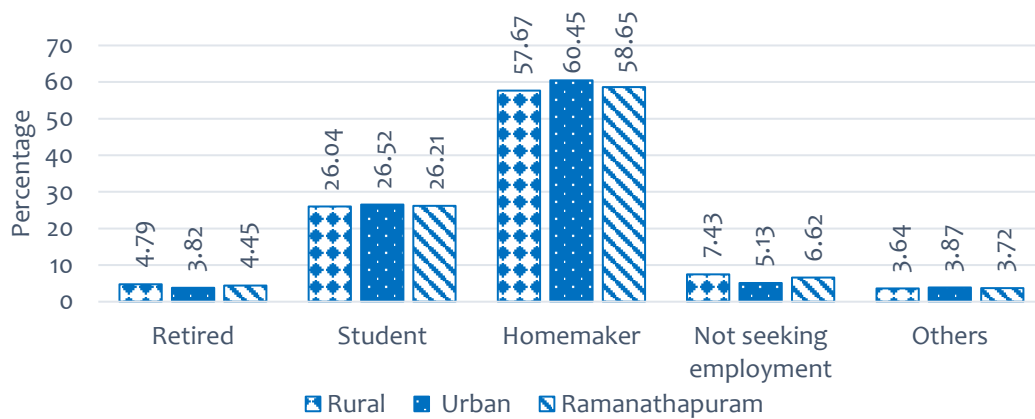
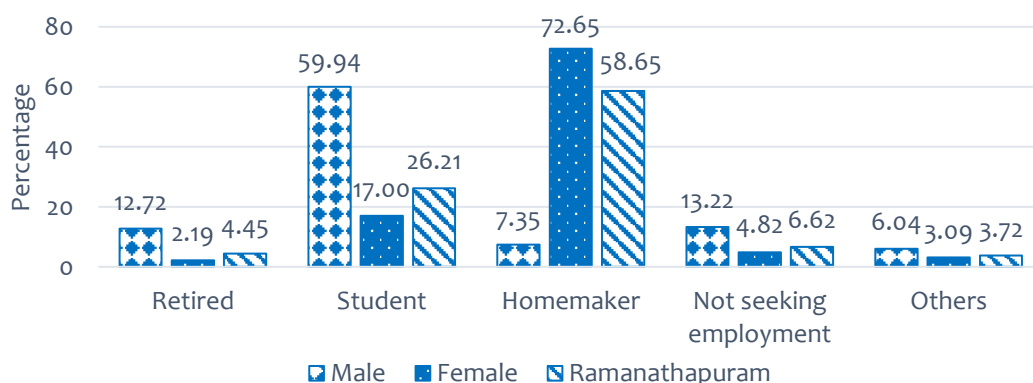


Chart 3.6 shows that, similar to the trend at the state level (TNHPS-PBS, 2021), a majority of the population that was not in the labour force in the district comprised homemakers involved in unpaid domestic duties of the household, followed by students. The proportions of the population that were not seeking employment or had retired were higher in rural areas than urban areas, whereas the percentages of students and homemakers were higher in urban areas than rural areas.

Chart 3.7 Composition of the Population Not in the Labour Force – 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 17 percent of the female not-in-labour-force population were students. Similar to the state trend, 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.

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	Ramanathapuram
Retired	1.46	0.00	5.80	3.34	3.18	17.31	4.45
Student	32.97	85.10	24.44	23.99	27.54	2.91	26.21
Homemaker	51.75	14.90	59.53	65.23	57.28	62.47	58.65
Not seeking employment	6.99	0.00	6.59	4.68	9.03	0.00	6.62
Others	6.57	0.00	3.51	1.41	2.98	0.00	3.72
DK/RF	0.27	0.00	0.14	1.35	0.00	17.31	0.35
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

The composition of the population not in the labour force analysed according to social groups is given in Table 3.11. Within all social groups, the percentage of homemakers was the largest compared to other categories in the district. The SC group had a higher percentage of not-working population as students compared to the other social groups. There were only five ST individuals and fifteen General category individuals in the not-in-labour-force population surveyed in the district, hence the results for these two social groups must be interpreted in this context, as discussed in Section 3.1.

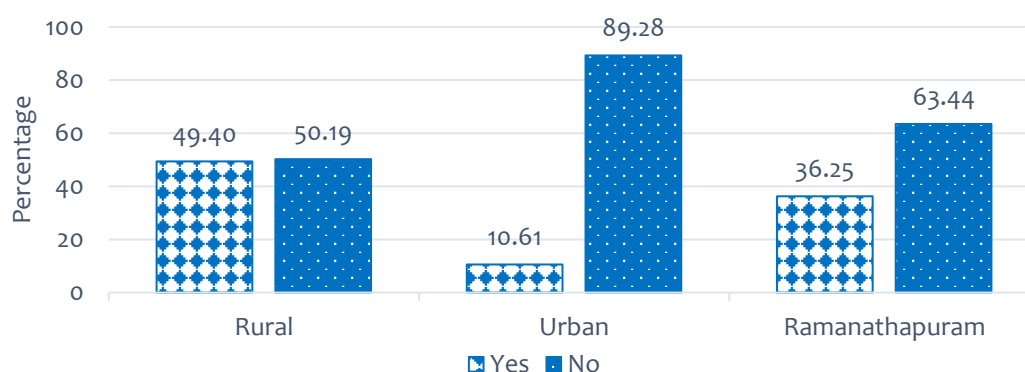
3.3 Socio-Economic Indicators

The PBS estimates for various socio-economic indicators of Ramanathapuram district such as ownership of agricultural land, household assets and income are shown 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 Ramanathapuram district is 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 – Area-wise Percentages



Ramanathapuram is a predominantly rural and agricultural district. The percentage of households owning agricultural land in the district was significantly higher than that at the state level estimate of 19.41 percent. The district was ranked fifth in the state in terms of agricultural land ownership (TNHPS-PBS, 2021). Such ownership was much higher in rural areas than urban areas. A considerably higher proportion of households in rural and urban areas of the district owned agricultural land compared to the respective state level rural and urban estimates at 29 percent and 8.61 percent respectively (TNHPS-PBS, 2021).

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

Type of Agricultural Land	Area Type		
	Rural	Urban	Ramanathapuram
Only Irrigated Agriculture Land	36.44	39.05	36.69
Only Unirrigated Agriculture Land	44.99	50.36	45.52
Both Irrigated and Unirrigated Agriculture Land	18.48	9.26	17.57
DK/RF	0.10	1.33	0.22
Total	100	100	100

Table 3.12 shows that, as per the PBS estimates, a majority—about 45.52 percent—of the households that owned agricultural land in Ramanathapuram district depended on rain-fed irrigation alone. A higher percentage of urban households owned irrigated agricultural land compared to the rural households in the district. Tanks are the major source of irrigation in the district (Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission, 2017b). The proportion of households having irrigated agricultural land was lower in the district at 36.69 percent compared to the state estimate of 50.03 percent.

An analysis of the social group-wise ownership of agricultural land by households in Table 3.13 showed that a relatively higher percentage of the DNC and SC households owned agricultural land in the district compared to other social groups. Though 25 percent of the ST households and 10.81 percent of the General category households in the state owned

agricultural land (TNHPS-PBS, 2021), none of the five ST and eleven General category households surveyed in the district owned agricultural land.

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

Agricultural Land Ownership	Social Group						
	SC	ST	BC	MBC	DNC	General	Ramanathapuram
Yes	43.78	0.00	32.40	26.69	55.71	0.00	36.25
No	55.67	100.00	67.42	72.71	44.17	100.00	63.44
DK/RF	0.55	0.00	0.18	0.60	0.12	0.00	0.31
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

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 the Households – Area-wise Percentages

Size of Agricultural Land (in Hectares)	Area Type		
	Rural	Urban	Ramanathapuram
Marginal (0.01 - 0.99)	75.51	78.02	75.74
Small (1 - 1.99)	15.62	14.42	15.51
Semi Medium (2 - 3.99)	7.44	5.69	7.28
Medium (4 - 9.99)	1.15	1.28	1.16
Large (10 and above)	0.28	0.59	0.31
Total	100	100	100

Table 3.14 shows that 91.25 percent of the agricultural land-owning households in the district were holding marginal or small agricultural lands—less than two hectares. This figure is higher than the state level estimate of 89.33 percent. The shares of semi-medium, medium, and large landholdings were lesser than that of the state- which were 7.64 percent, 2.26 percent and 0.77 percent respectively.

3.3.2 Ownership of Agricultural, Allied Agricultural 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, mechanised and non-mechanised boats, among the households of Ramanathapuram district.

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

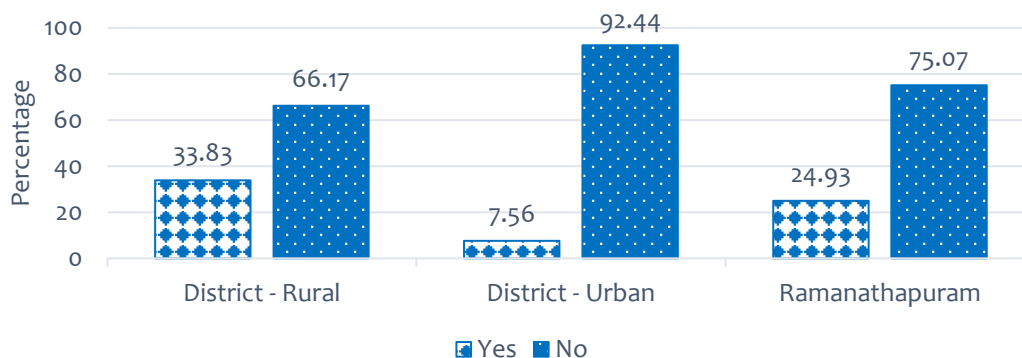
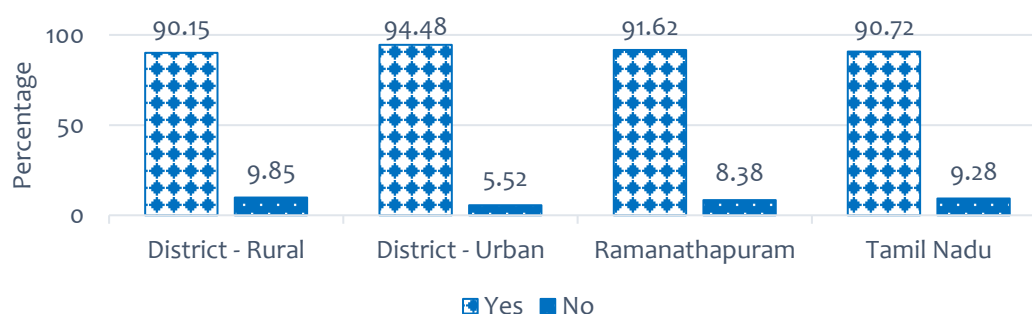


Chart 3.9 shows that 24.93 percent of the households in Ramanathapuram district owned at least one agricultural, allied agricultural and fishing asset. This estimate was higher than the state estimate of 20.92 percent (TNHPS-PBS, 2021). The ownership of such assets was higher in rural areas than urban areas. The ownership pattern was higher in rural areas of the district compared to the state rural estimate of 32.69 percent, but the district urban estimate was lower 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 Ramanathapuram district that owned at least one household asset. Household assets include Air Conditioners (AC), refrigerators, two-wheelers, four-wheelers, and mobile phones. The state estimates found that the combination of mobile phone and two-wheeler were the predominantly owned assets in rural areas whereas the combination of refrigerator, two-wheeler and mobile phone was largely owned in the urban areas (TNHPS-PBS, 2021).

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



The percentage of households owning at least one household asset in Ramanathapuram district was higher than the state estimate. 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	Ramanathapuram
Yes	91.46	92.94	91.92	88.76	94.07	100.00	91.62
No	8.54	7.06	8.08	11.24	5.93	0.00	8.38
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

The social group-wise ownership of household assets in Ramanathapuram district is given in Table 3.15. The PBS estimates showed that more than 90 percent of the DNC, BC and SC households owned at least one household asset. Such ownership was least among the MBC households, where 11.24 percent of them did not even own a mobile phone. The results for the ST and General categories must be interpreted in the context of their sample size of three and eleven households respectively in the district, as discussed in Section 3.1.

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 inclusion—or exclusion—of households from the government welfare schemes such as the availability of subsidised items from the Public Distribution System and subsidised LPG connection, for instance. The percentages of households that possessed a ration card in rural and urban areas of Ramanathapuram district are given in Chart 3.11.

Chart 3.11 Possession of Ration Card – Area-wise Percentages

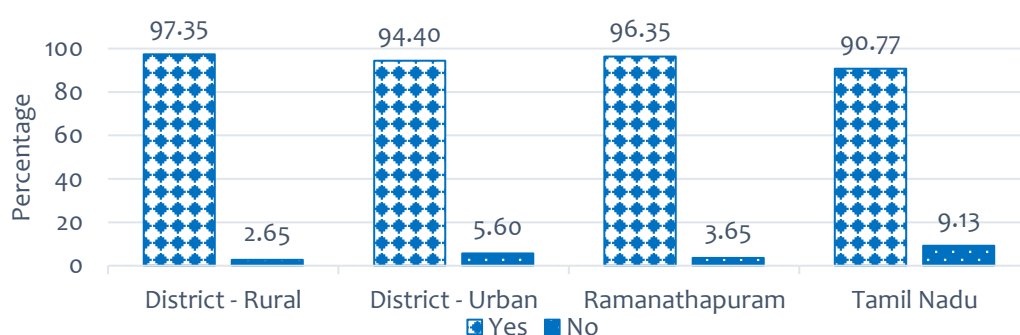


Chart 3.11 shows that the percentage of households that possessed a ration card in the district was higher than the state estimate. Within the district, a higher percentage of rural households possessed ration cards compared to the urban households.

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

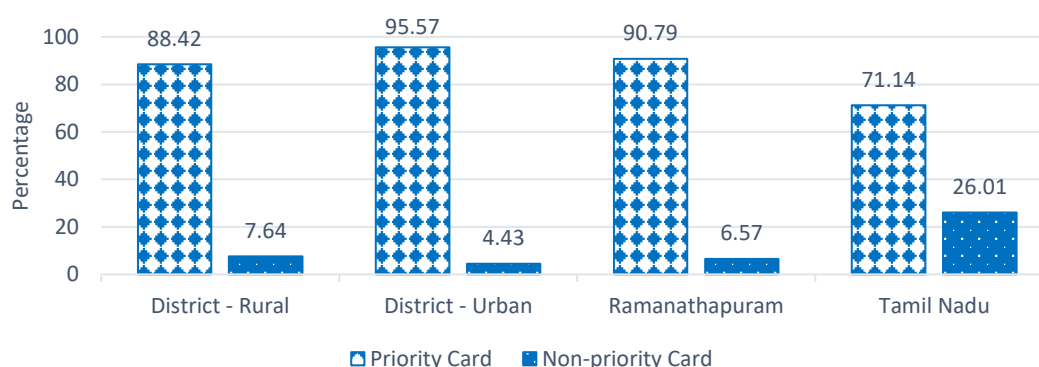
Possession of Ration Card	Social Group						
	SC	ST	BC	MBC	DNC	General	Ramanathapuram
Yes	97.34	78.32	95.85	96.54	97.82	55.54	96.35
No	2.66	21.68	4.15	3.46	2.18	44.46	3.65
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Social group-wise estimates on the possession of ration card at the household level is shown in Table 3.16. More than 90 percent of households belonging to the SC, BC, MBC and DNC groups possessed ration cards in the district. The results for the ST and General categories must be interpreted in the context of their sample size of three and eleven households respectively in the district, as discussed in Section 3.1.

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 card are the target group of various social welfare schemes such as Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) among others. The percentage of households possessing priority and non-priority ration cards in the rural and urban areas of Ramanathapuram district are given in Chart 3.12.

Chart 3.12 Type of Ration Card at the Household Level – Area-wise Percentages



The percentage of households possessing priority ration cards in the district was much higher compared to the state level estimate. Interestingly, a higher percentage of urban households possessed priority cards than rural households of the district.

3.4 Household Income

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

In this section, we analyse the annual income of households in Ramanathapuram 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 pension, remittances, investments, and other mixed categories. Table 3.17 shows the mean income of households that depended on various sources of income in Ramanathapuram district.

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

Source	Rural	Urban	Ramanathapuram	Tamil Nadu
Agriculture	48,398	59,481	49,158	61,830
Allied Agriculture	14,090	39,220	17,962	38,576
Salaried	1,26,337	1,92,940	1,61,231	2,29,857
Self Employed	86,809	1,08,781	1,00,593	1,47,403
Wage Labour	30,186	54,042	37,608	47,734
Other Sources	62,185	90,327	71,041	97,646
Income from all Sources	78,236	1,28,282	96,914	1,42,752

The mean annual household income of Ramanathapuram district was 32.11 percent lesser than the state estimate of ₹1,42,752. Among the then 32 districts, Ramanathapuram was ranked twenty-seventh in terms of mean annual household income (TNHPS-PBS, 2021). The mean household income was higher among the households with salaried income and lower among the households that depended on allied agricultural activities.

In rural areas of Ramanathapuram district, the mean household income was ₹78,236, which was lower 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 agricultural activities.

In urban areas of Ramanathapuram district, the mean household income was ₹1,28,282, which was lower than the state urban estimate of ₹1,99,629 (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 depended on allied agricultural activities.

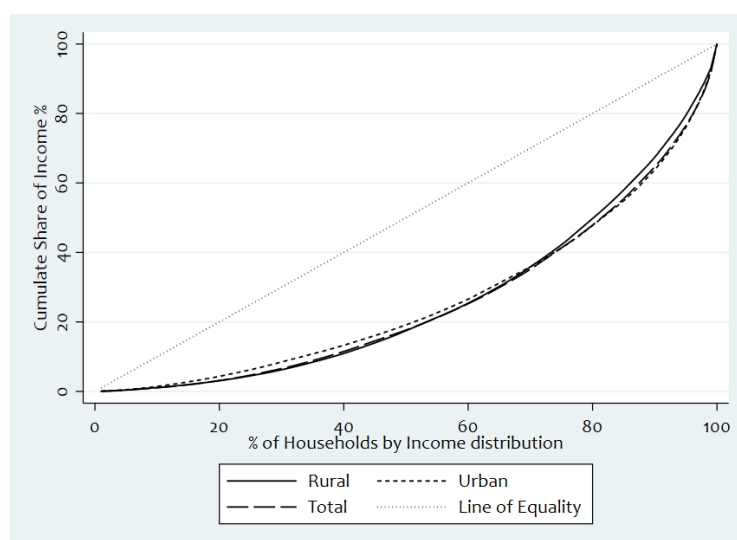
3.4.2 Income Inequality in Ramanathapuram District

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 Ramanathapuram district (0.486) was lower than the state estimate (0.563)⁵. Interestingly, income inequality across households in rural areas of the district was found to be higher than the urban areas.

Table 3.18 Gini Coefficient of Income Inequality- Area-wise

Area	Gini coefficient
Rural	0.475
Urban	0.470
Ramanathapuram	0.486
Tamil Nadu	0.563

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 Ramanathapuram district, the bottom 60 percent of the households held around 25 percent of the total income; the bottom 80 percent of households held around 50 percent of the total income and the top 20 percent of households held around 50 percent of the total income.

⁵ 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 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 had about their future economic status.

Table 3.19 shows the area-wise percentage of households expecting an increase, decrease or no change in income in Ramanathapuram district.

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

Expectation of Change in Future Income	Area Type			
	Rural	Urban	Ramanathapuram	Tamil Nadu
Higher	55.43	81.18	64.16	50.06
Lower	4.00	2.37	3.45	8.17
About the same	27.49	14.12	22.96	31.66
DK/RF	13.08	2.33	9.43	10.11
Total	100	100	100	100

Almost two-thirds of the households in Ramanathapuram district expected an increase in their income in future. Majority of the households in both rural areas and urban areas were expecting that their income in future would increase in the coming five years. Less than a quarter of the households expected 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 Future Income	Social Group						
	SC	ST	BC	MBC	DNC	General	Ramanathapuram
Higher	66.71	92.94	65.75	48.59	70.88	77.77	64.16
Lower	2.20	0.00	2.62	7.36	5.12	22.23	3.45
About the same	25.43	7.06	21.59	26.57	20.66	0.00	22.96
DK/RF	5.66	0.00	10.04	17.47	3.35	0.00	9.43
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

While a high proportion of DNC and BC households expected an increase in their future income compared to other social groups, more than a quarter of the MBC households expected their future income to remain the same. The results for the ST and General categories must be interpreted in the context of their sample size, as discussed in Section 3.1.

3.5 Basic Infrastructure

In this section we discuss the PBS estimates of variables such as ownership and type of houses, electrification status, drinking water and sanitation.

3.5.1 House Ownership Status

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

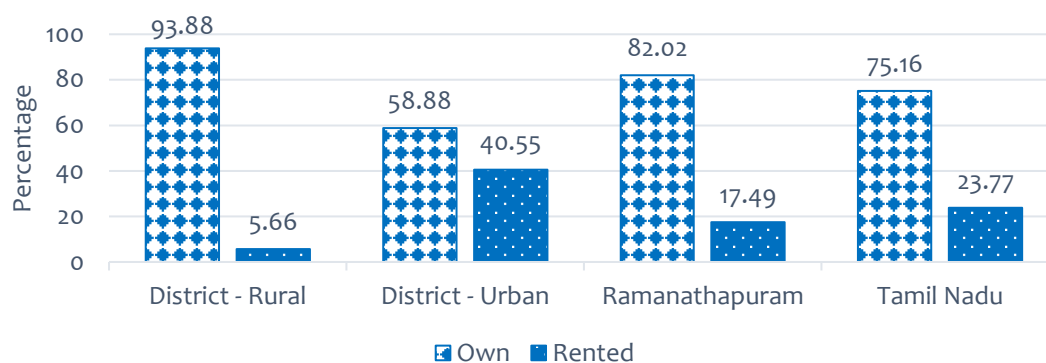


Chart 3.14 shows that the proportion of households living in their own house in the district was much higher than the state level estimate. Ramanathapuram district was ranked twelfth among the then 32 districts of Tamil Nadu in terms of percentage of households living in their own house (TNHPS-PBS, 2021). While most of the households in rural areas lived in their own house, a large proportion of urban households were relying on rented houses for their stay. Only less than 0.49 percent of households were living in other houses such as relative's house, 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	Ramanathapuram
Own	93.40	71.26	75.39	83.43	92.23	54.32	82.02
Rented	6.39	28.74	23.82	16.57	7.54	45.68	17.49
Others	0.21	0.00	0.77	0.00	0.23	0.00	0.49
DK/RF	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Table 3.21 shows that while more than 90 percent of the SC and DNC households lived in their own house, only about three quarters of the BC households did so, probably because of their greater presence in urban areas (see Table 3.1). The results for the ST and General categories must be interpreted in the context of their sample size, as discussed in Section 3.1.

A detailed analysis of ownership of houses showed that out of the 82.02 percent households (see Chart 3.14) that lived in an own house in the district, 13.47 percent of houses were built under a government scheme, which was lower than the state 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 a Government Scheme - Social Group-wise Percentages

House Constructed under a Government Scheme	Social Group						
	SC	ST	BC	MBC	DNC	General	Ramanathapuram
Yes	26.18	0.00	7.42	13.00	12.66	0.00	13.47
No	73.63	100.00	92.58	87.00	87.34	100.00	86.49
DK/RF	0.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

In Ramanathapuram district, SC households had the highest percentage of houses built under a government scheme compared to other social groups. Though 34.7 percent of the ST households in the state had constructed a house under a government scheme, the single house-owning ST household surveyed in the district had not done so. None of the eight General category households living in an own house surveyed in the district had built a house under a government scheme.

3.5.2 House Type

Based on the material used for 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 are given below.

Chart 3.15 Type of House – Area-wise Percentages

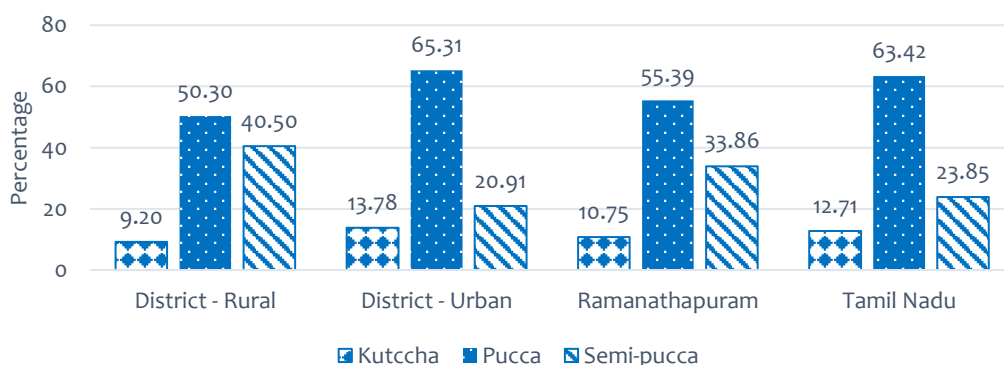


Chart 3.15 shows that majority of households in Ramanathapuram district were living in pucca houses. But this was lesser compared to the state estimate. The percentage of urban households living in pucca houses in the district was higher than rural households.

3.5.3 Primary Drinking Water Source

In this section, we discuss the PBS findings on the primary source of drinking water of the households in the district. The primary sources⁶ 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 well, unprotected well, rainwater collection and surface water (tank/pond/river/dam).

Chart 3.16 Primary Source of Drinking Water of Households – Area-wise Percentages

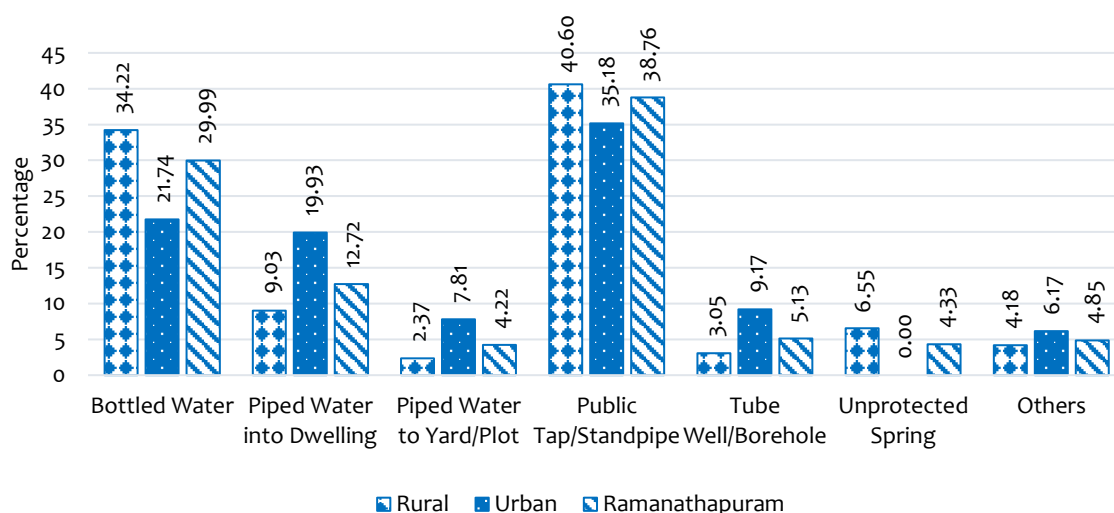


Chart 3.16 shows that 38.76 percent of households in Ramanathapuram district were using public tap or standpipe as their primary source of drinking water, which is higher than the state estimate of 32.84 percent (TNHPS-PBS, 2021). While the state estimates showed that piped water into the dwelling in urban areas at 37.02 percent and public tap/standpipe in rural areas at 44.51 percent were the primary water sources of households (TNHPS-PBS, 2021), in Ramanathapuram district, public tap/standpipe were predominantly used both in urban and rural households. A high percentage of rural and urban households were observed to be using bottled water as a primary source of water in this district.

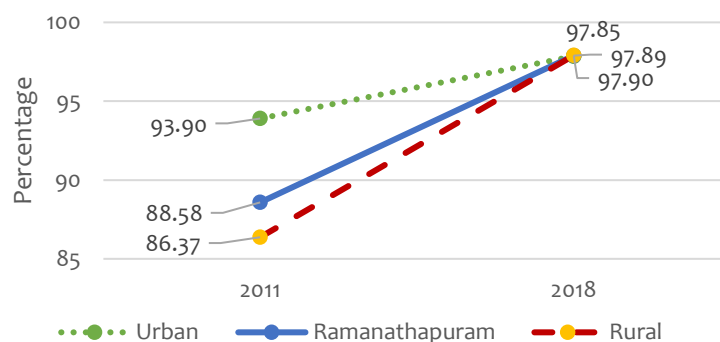
3.5.4 Electricity

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

⁶ Primary source - Water that is availed for the greater part of the year

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

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

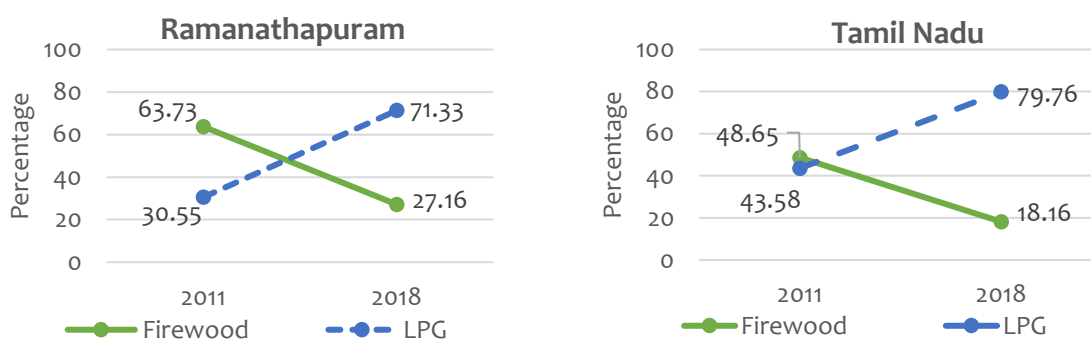


The percentage of households with electricity connection had increased in both rural and urban areas of Ramanathapuram district during the period 2011 to 2018, with the rate of growth of households with electricity being higher in rural areas. Ramanathapuram district was ranked twelfth among the then 32 districts in terms of electrification as per the state estimates (TNHPS-PBS, 2021).

3.5.5 Primary Cooking Fuel

A comparison of Census (2011) and the PBS estimates on the main fuel⁷ used for cooking by the households in the district is given in Chart 3.18.

Chart 3.18 Comparison of Primary Cooking Fuel – Ramanathapuram and Tamil Nadu



⁷ Main Fuel - Fuel that is used for the greater part of the year

Chart 3.18 shows that the primary cooking fuel in the district had undergone a drastic change from firewood to LPG. Yet, more than a quarter of the households were still using firewood. Compared to other districts of Tamil Nadu, Ramanathapuram district was ranked twenty-first in terms of percentage of households using LPG as the primary fuel and eleventh in terms of those using firewood (TNHPS-PBS, 2021).

Chart 3.19 Comparison of Primary Cooking Fuel – Area-wise Percentages

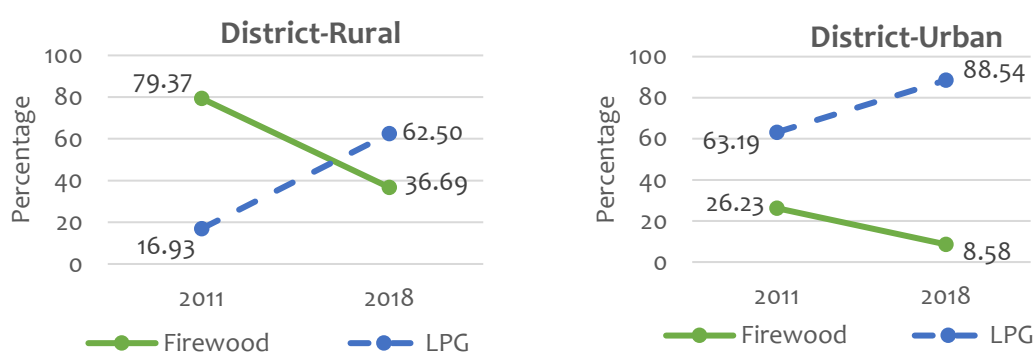


Chart 3.19 shows that the predominant fuel in rural areas in the district had changed drastically from firewood to LPG in the period 2011-18, though more than one-third of rural households still used firewood as the main fuel. LPG uptake had increased further in urban areas, and that of firewood had dropped to less than ten per cent during the same period.

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

Table 3.23 Primary Cooking Fuel in Household - Social Group-wise Percentages

Primary Cooking Fuel	Social Group						
	SC	ST	BC	MBC	DNC	General	Ramanathapuram
Firewood	48.49	7.06	19.46	23.46	27.27	3.74	27.16
LPG	50.67	92.94	78.66	74.65	72.25	96.26	71.33
Kerosene	0.42	0.00	1.22	1.60	0.48	0.00	1.02
Others	0.14	0.00	0.42	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.27
DK/RF	0.28	0.00	0.24	0.23	0.00	0.00	0.23
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

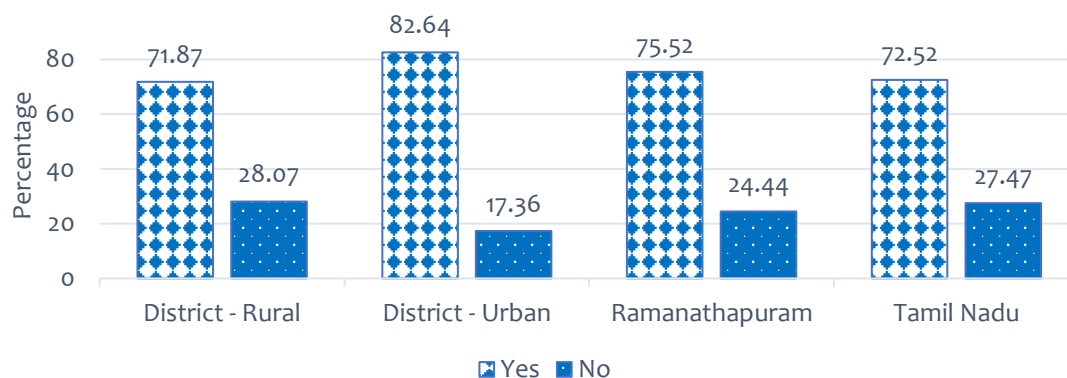
*Others Include Electricity, Gobar Gas, Solar Energy, etc.

Table 3.23 shows that lesser percentage of SC and BC households were using LPG as primary cooking fuel compared to the state estimates of 70.00 percent and 85.9 percent respectively (TNHPS-PBS, 2021). Firewood use was high among the SC households, followed by the DNC and MBC households. The results for the ST and General categories must be interpreted in the context of their sample size, as discussed in Section 3.1.

3.5.6 Sanitation

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

Chart 3.20 Presence of Latrine within the Premises of the Household – Area-wise Percentages



The percentage of households with latrine within house premises had increased from 36.62 percent in 2011 (Census, 2011) to 75.52 percent in 2018. Ramanathapuram district was positioned fourteenth in the state among the 32 districts in terms of this indicator (TNHPS-PBS, 2021). The percentage of households equipped with latrine facilities in the district was higher than the state level estimate. Latrine facilities within the house premises was higher in urban areas than the rural areas of the district. It is pertinent to note that almost a quarter of the households in the district 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	Ramanathapuram
Yes	62.25	100.00	82.29	68.41	77.00	96.26	75.52
No	37.57	0.00	17.71	31.59	23.00	3.74	24.44
DK/RF	0.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Table 3.24 shows the presence of latrine within the premises of the household across various social groups. Less than 70 percent of the SC and MBC households had latrine facilities within the house premises. The percentages of SC and MBC households with latrine access in the district were higher than their respective state level estimates of 52.2 percent and 67.5 percent respectively (TNHPS-PBS, 2021).

The presence of latrine facilities in the premises of households residing in different types of houses in the rural and urban areas of Ramanathapuram district are compared in Chart 3.21.

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

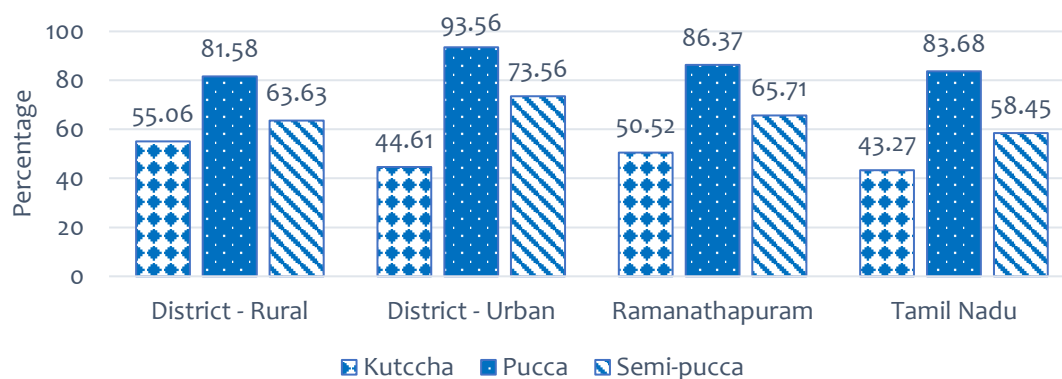


Chart 3.21 shows that the percentage of pucca houses with latrine facilities was higher than for semi-pucca and kutccha houses in the district. The percentages of latrine facilities in kutccha, pucca and semi-pucca houses in the district were higher than their respective state estimates. A higher percentage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

The percentage of total households in the district following open defecation had declined from 60.03 percent in 2011 (Census, 2011) to 21.63 percent in 2018 (TNHPS-PBS, 2021). The alternative practices of defecation followed by 24.44 percent of the district’s households (see Chart 3.20) that did not have a latrine within the premises of the house is shown in Chart 3.22.

Chart 3.22 Alternate Practices of Defecation by the Households without Latrine – Area-wise Percentages

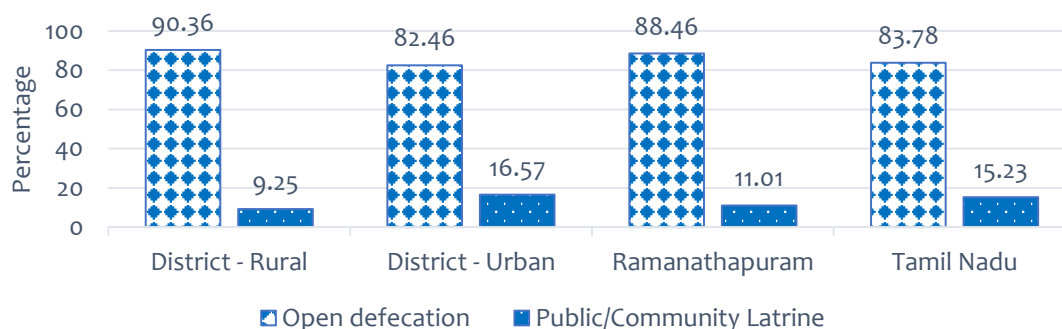


Chart 3.22 shows that 88.46 percent of households without latrine within the premises of the house in the district were following open defecation, which was higher than the state

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, Ramanathapuram district was ranked nineteenth in terms of the percentage of total households following open defecation.

4. Conclusion and Recommendations

The Pre-Baseline Survey (PBS) 2018-19 of Ramanathapuram district was conducted from the sample of 5,684 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.

Ramanathapuram is a coastal district that is primarily engaged in agriculture, followed by the fishing industry. It is a backward district in most metrics of development, although it performs extremely well in terms of literacy rate. The district has a ranking of fourth in Tamil Nadu, with a 4-point percentage lead over the state average. The disparity between the urban and rural literacy rates was 12.2 percent in 2011, which reduced to a commendable 2.5 percent in 2018. Interestingly, unlike other districts, the female rural and female urban literacy rates are almost the same. The district ranks fifth in agricultural land ownership.

Ramanathapuram is ranked thirty-first in terms of percentage of population employed, and 6th in percentage of unemployed population. This figure indicates the stark need for new employment opportunities to absorb participants in the labour market. Policy intervention in terms of promoting the establishment of MSMEs in the district could prove effective in generating employment and boosting the annual household income. There are a variety of medium-scale enterprises involved in light-engineering and household articles. The percentage of female employed population is also staggeringly low, with a rank of twenty-ninth in the state. The development of small and micro enterprises in the fishing industry such as production of fish pickles and dried fish, which are known to have higher female involvement, could help improve female employment. Economic development of Ramanathapuram is vital as the annual mean income in Ramanathapuram as it is ranked fourth-lowest in the state. Supporting and modernising the fisheries sector by providing better fishing equipment and resources to the fishing community could prove useful as it is one of the backbones of Ramanathapuram's economy.

The district still has over a quarter of its population using firewood as the primary fuel for cooking. It ranks eleventh in firewood usage and twenty-first in LPG usage, with almost half of the Scheduled Caste community utilising firewood as their primary fuel. District-wide schemes availing subsidised LPG are of key importance as the annual household income is low. A special focus must be given to the marginalised community for such schemes. Although the district's performance in the presence of latrine within the house premises indicator is average, the Scheduled Caste and Most Backward Caste communities

have disproportionately lower access to latrine facilities in the house. Targeted schemes for these marginalised communities could help improve their situation in the district.

Overall, Ramanathapuram is a district that scores low on many indicators of development. The low economic output and employment opportunities have held the district back; the district is in immediate need of an economic revival through the development of agricultural and fishing-based industries. Schemes targeting marginalised communities can improve their lives at the household level.

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**A collaborative project between
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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.



For more information, please contact:
TNHPS Research Manager
Madras Institute of Development Studies
79, Second Main Road, Gandhi Nagar, Adyar
Chennai 600020 Ph: 24411574 / 24412589
www.mids.ac.in
Email : researchmanager.tnhps@gmail.com