Thanjavur

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

Thanjavur District

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Summary of PBS Findings

Demographic Indicators

- Thanjavur had a sample size of 6,132 households, of which 66.11 percent of households were from rural areas and 33.89 percent of households were from urban areas.

- The district had a huge demographic dividend with around two-thirds of the population aged between 6 and 45 years. Around one-third of the population was between 26-45 years of age.

- The BC social group was the largest in number, constituting around 57 percent of the total households in the district.

Education

- The PBS estimates showed that the literacy rate in the district had increased from 82.64 percent (Census 2011) to 88.55 percent in 2018 and was higher than the state estimate of 85.40 percent.

- A gender gap in literacy rate at 8.77 percent prevailed in the district in 2018, which was lesser than the state gender gap at 10.82 percent. The gender gap was wider in rural areas at 10.73 percent than in urban areas at 5.59 percent.

- More than 95 percent of the specified General category population and more than 80 percent of the SC, MBC, DNC, and BC population in the district had received formal education.

Employment

- The share of unemployed population at 4.83 percent was higher in the district compared to the state estimate of 3.50 percent. Around 45 percent of the population was employed and the rest at 50.11 percent were not in the labour force.

- While around 70 percent of the male population was employed, the female work participation was less than a quarter at 22.33 percent.

- Around 74 percent of the female population was not in the workforce, and among these, majority of them (74.21 percent) were associated with attending to domestic duties as homemakers.

- Since Thanjavur is largely a rural district, around 40 percent of the employed population depended on the agricultural sector for employment—self-employed and casual labour. While casual labour in the service sector was predominant in

urban areas, a significant fraction of the rural population was engaged as casual labourers in the agricultural sector.

- Around 60 percent of the SC and more than half of the DNC population were employed as casual labourers in agriculture.

Land Ownership and Assets

- The percentage of households owning agricultural land in the district was lower than that of the state. A relatively higher percentage of the BC and General category households owned agricultural land in the district compared to other social groups.

- Around 78 percent of the agricultural land-owning households owned irrigated land, which was considerably higher than the state estimate of 50.03 percent. This is because Thanjavur district lies in the Cauvery delta region receiving mostly canal irrigation.

- Around 90 percent of the agricultural land-owning households in the district was holding marginal or small agricultural lands—less than two hectares.

- More than a quarter—about 29 percent—of the households in Thanjavur district owned at least one agricultural, allied agricultural or fishing asset. This was higher than the state PBS estimate of 20.92 percent.

- While more than 95 percent of the General category households and BC households owned at least one household asset, 15.90 percent of SC households did not own any household asset, including a mobile phone.

Household Income

- The mean annual household income of Thanjavur district was ₹97,305.19, which was 31.84 percent lower than the state level PBS estimate of ₹1,42,752; in the urban areas, it was ₹1,34,176.40 and in rural areas it was ₹78,105.51. Thanjavur was ranked twenty sixth out of 32 districts with respect to this parameter.

- The mean income from salaried work (₹1,54,802.40) was the highest, followed by self-employment (₹1,16,343.50).

- The Gini coefficient for income inequality in Thanjavur district (0.520) was lower than the state estimate (0.563).

- While around half of the SC, DNC, MBC, and BC in Thanjavur district expected an increase in their future income, only more than one-third of the General category households expected an increase in their future income.

Housing

- Around 80 percent of the households in the district was living in their own house, which was higher than the state level estimate of 75.16 percent. In rural areas, around 90 percent of households lived in an own house whereas in urban areas it was only around 60 percent.

- Out of the households that lived in an own house in the district, 14.70 percent of houses were built under a government scheme. A relatively higher percentage of SC households in the district had built a house under a government scheme compared to other social groups.

- More than half of the households in the district at 52.62 percent was living in pucca houses, which was lesser than the state level estimate of 63.42 percent.

Drinking Water, Cooking Fuel and Electricity

- The primary source of water for households in the state was piped water into the dwelling in urban areas and public tap/standpipe in rural areas. Likewise, in Thanjavur district as well, piped water into the dwelling was predominant in urban areas and public tap/standpipe in rural areas.

- Thanjavur district witnessed an increase in electrification between 2011 and 2018, with an increase from 91.82 percent in 2011 to 98 percent in 2018, which was higher than the state PBS estimate. The rate of growth of households with electricity was higher in rural areas compared to the urban areas.

- Although the use of LPG as the primary cooking fuel had increased tremendously in the district from 2011 to 2018 encompassing more than two-thirds of the households, firewood was still being used by more than 30 percent of the households in 2018.

- More than 40 percent of rural households and more than half of the SC and DNC households in the district still used firewood as the primary cooking fuel in 2018.

Sanitation

- The percentage of households with latrine within the premises of the house had increased from 45.06 percent in 2011 (Census, 2011) to 76.46 percent in 2018 in the

district. Thanjavur district was ranked twelfth in the state among the 32 districts in terms of this indicator.

- Around 32 percent of rural households and around 55 percent of SC households did not have access to a latrine within the house premises.

- The proportion of total households in the district following open defecation had declined from 50.87 percent in 2011 to 22.12 percent in 2018.

1. Introduction

1.1 Profile of Thanjavur District

Thanjavur district in Tamil Nadu was formed in the year 1956. It is in the central region of the state, with Ariyalur and Tiruchirappalli in the north, Nagapattinam and Tiruvarur in the east, Bay of Bengal and Pudukkottai in the south, and Pudukkottai and Tiruchirappalli in the west.

According to Census (2011), Thanjavur had a total population of 24.06 lakhs, accounting for approximately 3.34 percent of Tamil Nadu's total population, which was 7.21 crores. The district comprised 6.05 lakh households, with 64.61 percent residing in urban areas. The male population was 49.15 percent, and the female population was 50.85 percent. Thanjavur demonstrated a relatively better child-sex ratio of 956.54 compared to the state average of 943.27. Within the social groups, 18.91 percent of the population belonged to the Scheduled Castes, while 0.15 percent belonged to the Scheduled Tribes. The literacy rate in Thanjavur district stood at 82.64 percent, compared to the state's average of 80.09 percent. The male literacy rate was reported to be 89.04 percent, while the female literacy rate was reported to be 76.5 percent.

In the fiscal year 2018-19, Thanjavur's Net District Domestic Product (NDDP) was ₹38,22,224 lakhs, ranking at eighteenth among all districts. The district's per capita NDDP was recorded at ₹1,49,991, ranking it at eighteenth among districts. Nonetheless, the per capita NDDP 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 13 percent to its domestic income, while the secondary (industry) and tertiary (service) sectors contribute approximately 17 percent and 70 percent, respectively (Department of Economics and Statistics, 2017).

According to the Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission (2017a), Thanjavur ranked nineteenth in terms of the Human Development Index with a score of 0.655, a relatively mediocre score. It ranked seventh in the Gender Inequality Index with a score of 0.058, highlighting good performance in closing the gender divide. In terms of the Child Development Index, the district ranked fourth with a score of 0.71, which reflects well upon the district's investment in the development of the younger generation. Additionally, Thanjavur ranked twenty second in terms of the Multidimensional Poverty Index with a score of 0.59, considered to be a modest ranking.

Thanjavur district demonstrates a stable economy with middling NDDP and per capita income rankings. The district exhibits noteworthy progress in child development and gender equality, but addressing human development and multidimensional poverty challenges could further enhance its overall advancement.

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. 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 (PSUs)—684 rural PSUs and 792 urban PSUs.

This report analyses data from the PBS for Thanjavur district and presents the findings. Wherever possible, the report compares the district PBS estimates with the most recent census data of Thanjavur (Census, 2011) and the state PBS estimates (TNHPS-PBS, 2021) to assess the socio-economic development of Thanjavur district. The sample size for the district was 6,132 households, among which 4,054 households were from rural areas and 2,078 households were from urban areas. The blocks covered during the survey were: Ammapettai, Budalur, Kumbakonam, Orathanadu, Sethubhavachatram, Thanjavur, Tiruppanandal, Thiruvaiyaru, Thiruvidaimarudur and Thiruvonam.

2. Survey Response

For the Pre-Baseline Survey (PBS) 2018-19, a total of 6,880 households in Thanjavur district were selected using a multi-stage stratified sampling design[1]. The final sample size for PBS was 6,132 households, of which 66.11 percent of households were from rural areas and 33.89 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		Thanjavur	
	Number of HHs	Percentage	Number of HHs	Percentage	Number of HHs	Percentage
Response	4,054	89.91	2,078	87.64	6,132	89.13
Non-Response	71	1.57	100	4.22	171	2.49
Non-sample	384	8.52	193	8.14	577	8.39
Total	**4,509**	**100**	**2,371**	**100**	**6,880**	**100**

Thanjavur district had a lower response rate—willingness of households to participate in the TNHPS-PBS—of 89.13 percent compared to the state response rate of 96.5 percent. Around 2.49 percent of households was not willing to participate in the survey. About 8.39 percent of the selected samples was removed as these samples were not considered as households as per the definition used in the PBS[2].

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[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 size[3] in the district had reduced from 3.98 in 2011 (Census, 2011) to 3.64 in 2018. Around 47.74 percent of the population in the district represented males, and 52.26 percent of the population represented females. Around 24.09 percent of the households in the district was 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 Thanjavur district.

Chart 3.1 Age-wise Distribution of Population
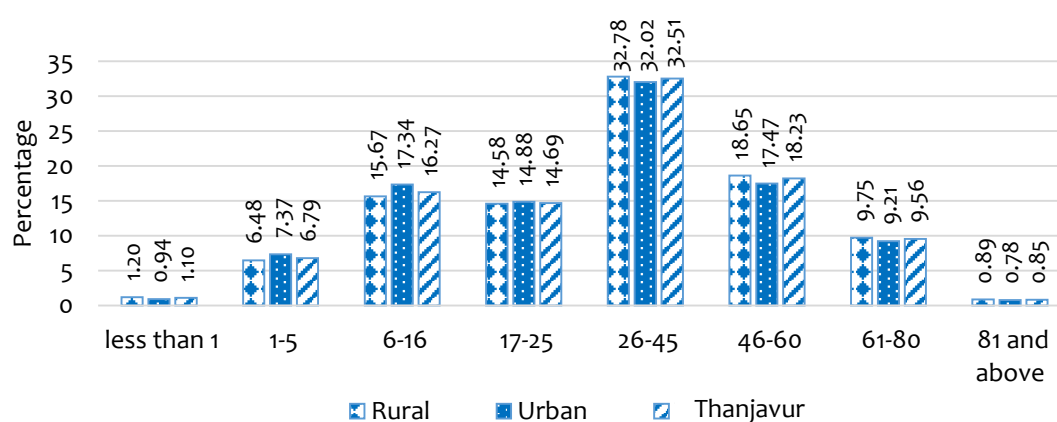
As per the PBS estimates, around one third of the population in the district was in the age group of 26 to 45 years. The population—between age 17 to 60 years—in the district was 65.43 percent, which was similar to the state estimate of 66.00 percent (TNHPS-PBS, 2021).

The percentage of currently married population was higher in urban areas at 70.95 percent compared to the rural areas of the district at 68.63 percent (TNHPS-PBS, 2021). A higher percentage of males got currently married at 71.18 percent compared to females at 67.92 percent. The widowed female population at 17.65 percent was notably higher than the widowed male population at 3.36 percent.

The religion-wise distribution of the households in the district as per the PBS estimates shows that 80.95 percent of the households practiced Hinduism, 16.66 percent practiced Islam and 2.36 percent followed Christianity.

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

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

Table 3.1 Social Group-wise Distribution of Households

Social Group	Percentage
SC	21.74
ST	0.08
BC	57.42
MBC	16.00
Denotified Communities (DNC)	3.45
General	0.97
DK/RF	0.35
Total	**100**

As per the PBS estimates, the highest percentage of households in Thanjavur district belonged to BC category. The percentages of SC and ST households in the district were 21.74 percent and 0.08 percent in 2018.

It is important to note that the percentage of ST category households in Thanjavur district was only 0.08 percent and only twenty-four ST households were sampled in the district. Hence, the results pertaining to this social group that are 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 Thanjavur district.

3.2.1 Education

The change in literacy rate of Thanjavur district 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 including 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

Gender	Rural		Urban		Thanjavur		Tamil Nadu	
	2011	2018	2011	2018	2011	2018	2011	2018
Male	86.57	91.40	93.55	96.49	89.04	93.16	86.77	90.97
Female	71.79	80.67	85.02	90.90	76.5	84.39	73.40	80.15
Total	**79.04**	**85.83**	**89.18**	**93.48**	**82.64**	**88.55**	**80.09**	**85.40**

*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 Thanjavur district at 82.64 percent was higher than the state estimate of 80.09 percent. The PBS estimates showed that in the year 2018, the literacy rate in Thanjavur district had increased to 88.55 percent, which continued to be higher than the state estimate of 85.40 percent. Also, the district had registered a 5.91 percent increase in literacy rate in this period while the state had registered a 5.31 percent increase. In terms of literacy rate, Thanjavur was ranked eighth among the then 32 districts in 2018 (TNHPS-PBS, 2021).

Both male and female literacy rates in Thanjavur district had recorded an increase during the period under consideration, though a wide gender gap still prevailed. The gender gap in literacy rate had declined from 12.54 percent in 2011 to 8.77 percent in 2018, which is lesser than the state gender gap of 10.82 percent in 2018.

Both rural and urban literacy rates recorded an increase between 2011 and 2018, though the rural literacy rate was still 7.65 percent lower than the urban literacy rate in 2018. The gender gap in literacy rate was much higher in rural areas at 10.73 percent than in urban areas at 5.59 percent in 2018.

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 Thanjavur district. The area-wise education status of population in the district is given in Chart 3.2.

Chart 3.2 Formal Schooling of the Population – Area-wise Percentages
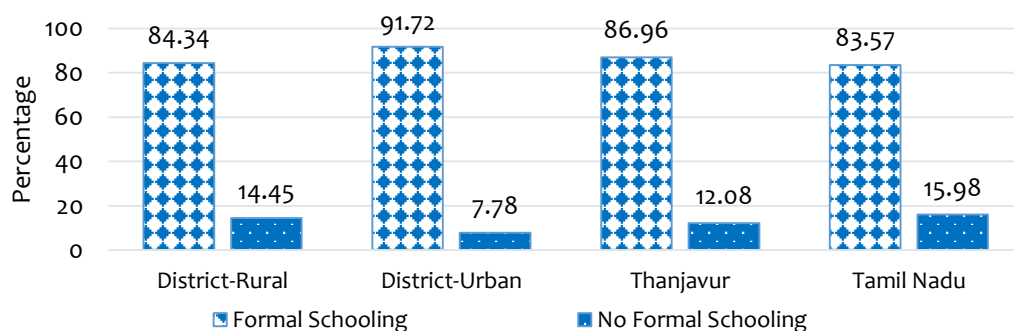
*Others and Don't Know/Refuse to Answer categories are not included in any chart, unless their value is substantially high. Therefore, the total might not add up to 100 percent.

Chart 3.2 shows that almost 87 percent of the specified population in the district had attended formal schooling, which was higher than 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
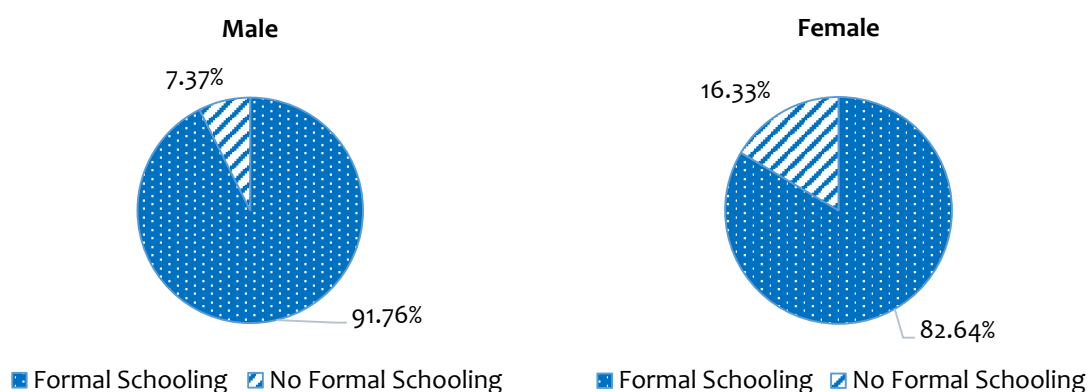
Chart 3.3 shows that the percentage of the population that had acquired formal education in the district was higher among males compared to females, again denoting a gender gap, like in literacy.

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

Education Status	Social group						
	SC	ST	BC	MBC	DNC	General	Thanjavur
Formal Schooling	81.88	74.02	89.51	85.85	81.31	96.83	86.96
No Formal Schooling	17.36	25.98	9.89	11.41	18.54	1.80	12.08
Others and DK/RF	0.76	0.00	0.61	2.74	0.15	1.37	0.96
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**

Table 3.3 shows a wide variation across social groups in attainment of formal schooling. More than 96 percent of the General category population had received formal education, while only around 81 percent of the SC and DNC population in the district 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	Thanjavur
Primary (I to V)	22.31	21.66	22.06
Middle School (VI to VIII)	22.59	23.04	22.76
High School (IX to X)	25.25	22.71	24.31
Higher Secondary (XI to XII)	13.24	13.75	13.43
Bachelor's degree	7.52	9.72	8.34
Diploma Degree	4.69	4.42	4.59
Post Graduate Degree	2.99	4.15	3.42
Other Higher Education	0.00	0.00	0.00
Others/DK/RF	1.41	0.54	1.09
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**

Around 82.56 percent of the district's population—aged seven and above, with formal education—were either pursuing or had completed primary or secondary schooling. The percentage of the population that was either pursuing or had completed tertiary education—such as bachelor's degree, diploma, or post graduate degree and above—was 16.35 percent, which was 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		
	Male	Female	Thanjavur
Primary (I to V)	20.38	23.75	22.06
Middle School (VI to VIII)	21.61	23.91	22.76
High School (IX to X)	27.35	21.27	24.31
Higher Secondary (XI to XII)	11.86	15.00	13.43
Bachelor's degree	8.03	8.64	8.34
Diploma Degree	6.68	2.50	4.59
Post Graduate Degree	3.15	3.69	3.42
Other Higher Education	0.00	0.01	0.00
Others/DK/RF	0.95	1.23	1.09
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**

Table 3.5 shows that a higher percentage of females at 83.93 percent in the specified population was either pursuing or had completed primary or secondary schooling compared to males at 81.20 percent. In tertiary education, a higher percentage of females was either pursuing or had completed bachelor's and post-graduate degree compared to males, whereas the case with respect to 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	Thanjavur
Primary (I to V)	21.05	40.56	22.19	23.03	26.20	9.20	22.06
Middle School (VI to VIII)	20.50	32.86	23.31	23.59	22.07	16.36	22.76
High School (IX to X)	27.85	15.46	23.09	24.23	23.76	22.36	24.31
Higher Secondary (XI to XII)	13.51	9.52	13.61	11.81	17.13	17.99	13.43
Bachelor's degree	7.93	1.59	8.97	6.84	5.52	15.90	8.34
Diploma Degree	5.05	0.00	4.67	4.03	3.08	5.54	4.59
Post Graduate Degree	3.19	0.00	3.49	3.37	2.06	11.24	3.42
Other Higher Education	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00
Others/DK/RF	0.92	0.00	0.67	3.09	0.19	1.39	1.09
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**

The social group-wise analysis in Table 3.6 shows that around 89 percent of the DNC population and about 82 percent of the SC, MBC and BC population in the district were either pursuing or had completed only primary and secondary school. The percentage of population with tertiary education—bachelor's degree and above—was quite high among the General category at 32.68 percent, followed by the BC category at 17.13 percent. The results for the ST category must be interpreted in the context of their sample size, as discussed in Section 3.1.

About 12.08 percent of the population had not received formal education in Thanjavur district (refer 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	Thanjavur
Yes	10.30	22.65	13.12
No	87.05	75.05	84.31
DK/RF	2.65	2.30	2.57
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**

Table 3.7 shows the functional literacy status of the population with no formal schooling. Only 13.12 percent of the population without formal schooling had functional literacy. The specified population group in urban areas of the district had a better functional literacy rate at 22.65 percent than the rural areas at 10.30 percent.

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	Thanjavur
Yes	11.33	13.57	16.00	8.36	7.04	49.58	13.12
No	85.43	86.43	81.52	89.22	92.96	34.60	84.31
DK/RF	3.24	0.00	2.48	2.42	0.00	15.82	2.57
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**

Table 3.8 shows the functional literacy status of the population with no formal schooling, across various social group categories. The General category—aged seven and above, without formal education—had the highest percentage of population at 49.58 percent with functional literacy, and functional literacy was low across the other social groups. 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, 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 force[4].

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,

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[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

(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 was 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
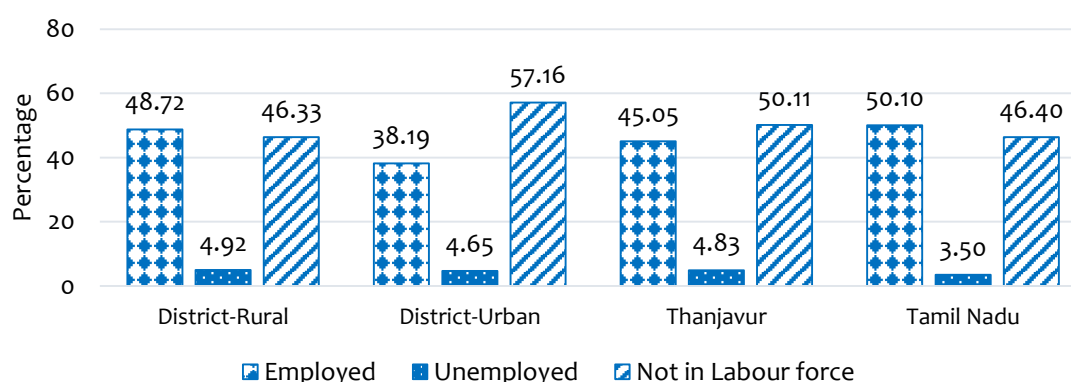
Chart 3.4 shows that the overall percentage of employed population—14 years and above—in the district at 45.05 percent was lesser than the state estimate of 50.01 percent. Also, the share of unemployed population was higher in the district at 4.83 percent compared to the state estimate of 3.50 percent. The percentage of population that was employed was higher in rural areas of the district than in urban areas. The unemployment status in rural areas of the district at 4.65 percent and urban areas at 4.83 percent were higher than the state's rural and urban PBS estimates of 3.6 percent and 3.3 percent respectively. Thanjavur district was ranked thirtieth among all districts in Tamil Nadu in terms of employed population and ranked fourth highest in terms of the unemployed population

Chart 3.5 Employment Status of the Population (Age 14 years and above) – Gender-wise

Male

22.80%

6.45%

70.73%

■ Employed   ■ Unemployed

▨ Not in Labour Force

Female

22.33%

3.39%

74.28%

■ Employed   ■ Unemployed
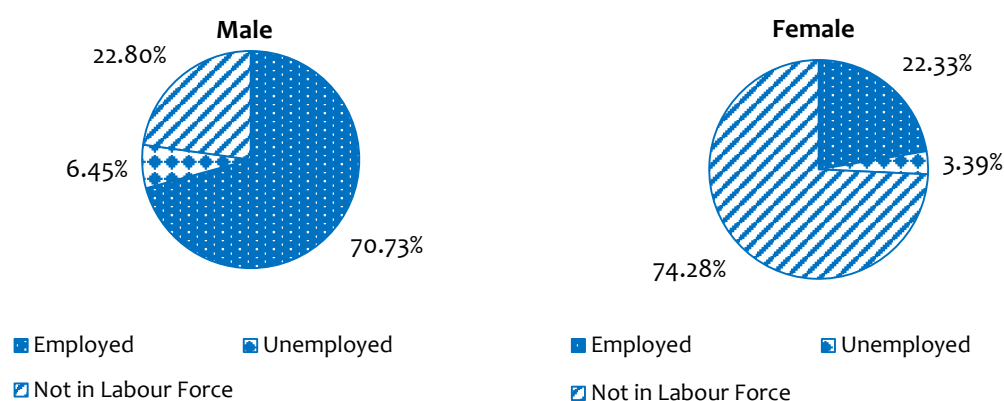
▨ Not in Labour Force

While around 70 percent of the specified male population was employed, the female work participation was only around 22 percent. 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 was lower than the national average of 23.3 percent in 2017-18 (National Statistical Office, 2019), and also lower than the state estimate of 29.96 percent (TNHPS-PBS, 2021). Around 74 percent of the female population was not in the workforce, and among these, majority of them at 74.21 percent were associated with attending to domestic duties as homemakers (see Chart 3.7). As per the state PBS estimates, Thanjavur district was ranked thirtieth in terms of employed female population and ranked fourth highest in terms of unemployed female population.

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

Work Type	Area Type		
	Rural	**Urban**	**Thanjavur**
Self Employed Agriculture	10.15	3.78	8.27
Self Employed Non-Agriculture	6.29	22.99	11.23
Self Employed Allied Agriculture	0.91	1.29	1.02
Casual Labourer Agriculture	41.36	7.16	31.24
Casual Labourer Industry	8.32	8.43	8.35
Casual Labourer Service	15.88	28.84	19.71
Casual Labourer (Others)	0.58	0.13	0.45
Salaried Worker Government	3.25	5.81	4.01
Salaried Worker Private	11.42	20.35	14.06
Multiple Occupation	1.52	0.75	1.29
Other	0.28	0.39	0.31
DK/RF	0.05	0.08	0.06
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**

Since Thanjavur is primarily a rural district, around 40 percent 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 was salaried workers in the private sector at 21.82 percent as per the state estimates (TNHPS-PBS, 2021), majority of the working population in Thanjavur district were casual labourers in the agriculture sector. While casual labour in service 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 Percentages

Work Type	Social Group						
	SC	ST	BC	MBC	DNC	General	Thanjavur
Self Employed Agriculture	3.58	0.00	10.72	8.24	9.61	12.85	8.27
Self Employed Non-Agriculture	2.23	18.90	14.80	13.76	5.61	27.58	11.23
Self Employed Allied Agriculture	1.03	0.00	1.14	0.74	1.08	0.00	1.02
Casual Labourer Agriculture	60.65	29.31	17.92	20.99	52.07	0.00	31.24
Casual Labourer Industry	3.92	0.00	8.91	15.45	6.15	1.37	8.35
Casual Labourer Service	11.98	33.44	24.11	20.67	11.78	18.21	19.71
Casual Labourer (Others)	0.51	0.00	0.40	0.63	0.04	0.00	0.45
Salaried Worker Government	4.16	13.38	4.16	3.04	1.96	19.81	4.01
Salaried Worker Private	10.92	4.98	16.14	13.71	10.36	18.34	14.06
Multiple Occupation	0.93	0.00	1.21	2.24	1.34	0.00	1.29
Other	0.09	0.00	0.37	0.52	0.00	1.83	0.31
DK/RF	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**

Thanjavur being a rural district provided employment opportunities in the agriculture sector to most of the SC, MBC, and DNC populations in the district. The SC population involved as casual labour in agriculture in the district at 60.65 percent was much higher than the state estimates of 33.33 percent of SC population (TNHPS-PBS, 2021). Next to agriculture, casual labour in service sector was the most opted employment by SC, DNC, MBC, and BC population in the district. Those belonging to the General category were predominantly self-employed in non-agriculture. The results for the ST category must be interpreted in the context of their sample size, as discussed in Section 3.1.

Chart 3.6 Status of Population Currently not in the Labour Force – Area-wise
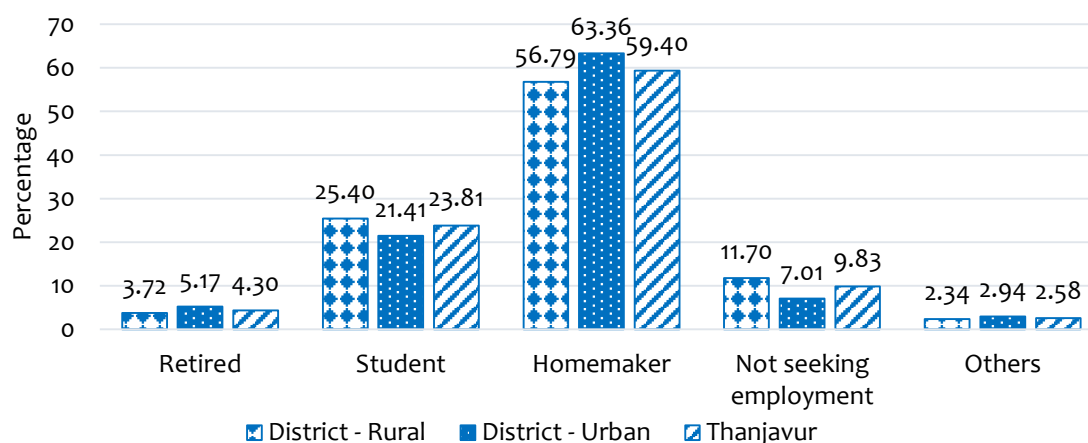
Chart 3.6 shows that, similar to the trend at the state level (TNHPS-PBS, 2021), more than half the population that was not in the labour force in the district comprised homemakers involved in unpaid domestic duties of the household, followed by students. The proportions of the population that were either not seeking employment or studying, was 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 Status of Population Currently not in the Labour Force – Gender-wise Percentages
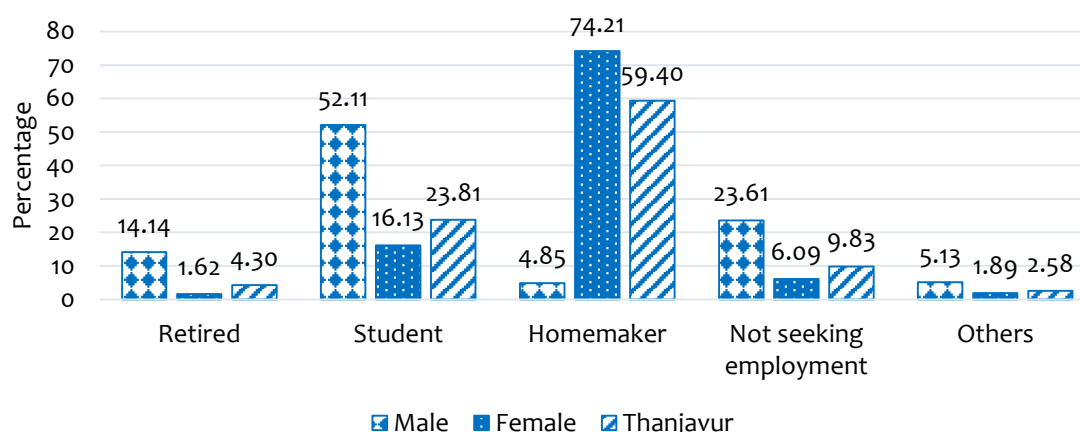
While Chart 3.3 represents the lower female involvement in formal education, Chart 3.7 shows the staggeringly lower female involvement in higher education compared to men as only 16.13 percent of the female not-in-labour-force population were students. Similar to the state trend, majority of the male 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**	**Thanjavur**
Retired	3.34	10.92	4.67	3.87	1.20	12.33	4.30
Student	33.48	36.19	21.39	21.44	34.01	11.39	23.81
Homemaker	50.52	48.67	61.22	63.97	49.02	61.64	59.40
Not seeking employment	10.66	4.21	10.33	6.11	14.48	7.84	9.83
Others	1.96	0.00	2.31	4.62	0.43	6.80	2.58
DK/RF	0.03	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.86	0.00	0.08
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**

Table 3.11 shows that within all social groups, the percentage of homemakers was the largest compared to other categories in the district. The SC and DNC categories had a higher percentage of not-in-labour-force population as students compared to the other social groups. Although majority of the employed SC and DNC population were casual labourers in agriculture (see Table 3.10), the not-in-labour-force population belonging to the student category was high for these two social groups, probably suggesting increasing awareness on the importance of education. The results for the ST category must be interpreted in the context of their sample size, as discussed in Section 3.1.

3.3 Socio-Economic Indicators

The PBS estimates for various socio-economic indicators of Thanjavur 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 Thanjavur 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 was collected on the ownership of agricultural land only. The fourth round of 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
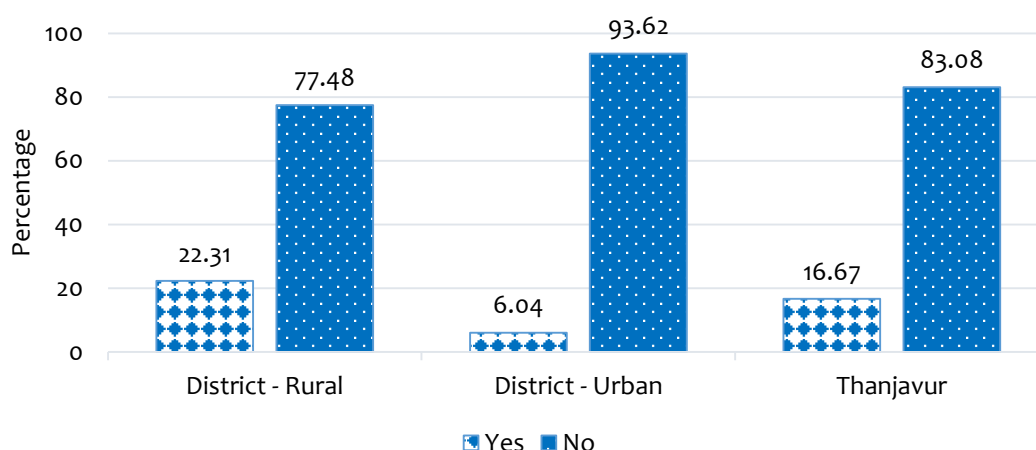
Though Thanjavur is a largely rural and agricultural district, the percentage of households owning agricultural land in the district was lower than that at the state level at 19.41 percent. The district was ranked twenty second in the state in terms of agricultural land ownership (TNHPS-PBS, 2021). Area-wise comparison shows that a lower 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	Thanjavur
Only Irrigated Agriculture Land	80.49	62.17	78.26
Only Unirrigated Agriculture Land	14.59	30.41	16.52
Both Irrigated and Unirrigated Agriculture Land	4.56	4.77	4.59
DK/RF	0.35	2.64	0.63
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**

Table 3.13 shows that as per the PBS estimates, more than three quarters of the agricultural land-owning households owned irrigated land, which was considerably higher than the state estimate of 50.03 percent (TNHPS-PBS, 2021). A higher percentage of rural households owned irrigated agricultural land compared to the urban households in the district. Canals and dams are the major sources of irrigation in Thanjavur district (Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission, 2017b).

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

Agricultural Land Ownership	Social Group						
	SC	ST	BC	MBC	DNC	General	Thanjavur
Yes	12.66	0.00	19.09	15.11	10.21	18.73	16.67
No	87.13	100	80.65	84.58	89.53	81.27	83.08
DK/RF	0.21	0.00	0.26	0.31	0.26	0.00	0.25
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**

An analysis of the social group-wise ownership of agricultural land showed that a relatively higher percentage of the BC and General category households owned agricultural land in the district compared to other social groups. Though 25 percent of the ST households in the state-owned agricultural land (TNHPS-PBS, 2021), none of the twenty-four ST households surveyed in the district owned agricultural land.

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**	**Thanjavur**
Marginal (0.01 - 0.99)	74.16	69.50	73.62
Small (1 - 1.99)	15.76	18.73	16.10
Semi Medium (2 - 3.99)	6.85	5.88	6.74
Medium (4 - 9.99)	2.15	2.94	2.24
Large (10 and above)	1.08	2.95	1.30
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**

Table 3.14 shows that 89.72 percent of the agricultural land-owning households in the district belonged to marginal or small farmer categories with less than two hectares. This figure is similar to the state level estimate of 89.33 percent (TNHPS-PBS, 2021). The share of semi-medium and medium landholdings was lesser than that of the state at 7.64 percent and 2.26 percent, but the share of large land holdings was higher than that of the state at 0.77 percent.

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 tractor, pump set, dairy animals, poultry birds, mechanized and non-mechanized boats, amongst the households of Thanjavur district.

Chart 3.9 Ownership of Agricultural, Allied agricultural and Fishing Assets – Area-wise Percentages
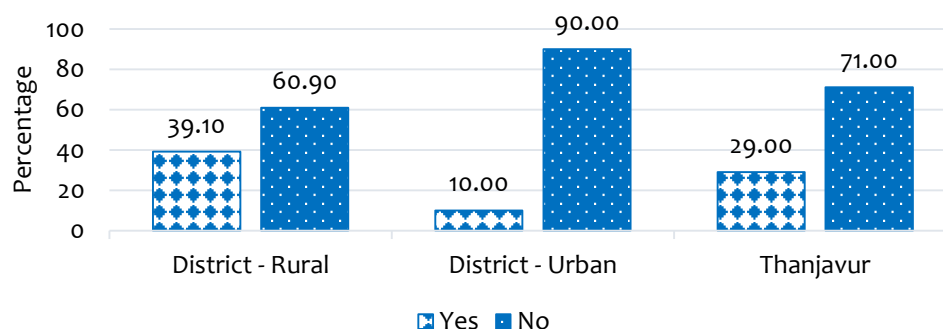
Chart 3.9 shows that 29 percent of the households in Thanjavur district owned at least one agricultural, allied agricultural or fishing asset. This estimate was higher than the state PBS estimate of 20.92 percent (TNHPS-PBS, 2021). The ownership of such assets was higher in rural areas than urban areas. The ownership pattern was higher in both rural and urban areas of the district compared to the state rural and urban estimates of 32.69 percent in rural and 7.67 percent in urban areas (TNHPS-PBS, 2021).

3.3.3 Presence of Household Assets

Chart 3.10 shows the percentage of households in Thanjavur 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 phone and two-wheeler was the predominantly owned assets in rural areas whereas a combination of refrigerator, two-wheeler and mobile phone was largely owned in the urban areas.

Chart 3.10 Ownership of at least one Household Asset – Area-wise
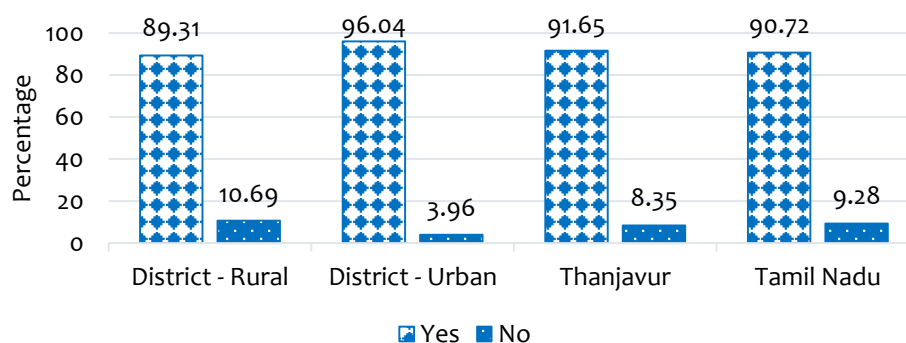
The percentage of households owning at least one household asset in Thanjavur district was marginally higher than the state estimate. Within the district, the urban areas had a higher percentage of households owning at least one household asset than the rural areas.

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

Presence of Household Assets	Social Group						
	SC	ST	BC	MBC	DNC	General	Thanjavur
Yes	84.10	64.98	95.09	89.92	88.10	97.37	91.65
No	15.90	35.02	4.91	10.08	11.90	2.63	8.35
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

The PBS estimates show that more than 95 percent of BC households and General category households owned at least one household asset. However, 15.90 percent of SC households did not even own a mobile phone. The results for the ST category must be interpreted in the context of their sample size, 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 subsidized items from the Public Distribution System and subsidized LPG connection, for instance.

Chart 3.11 Possession of Ration Card
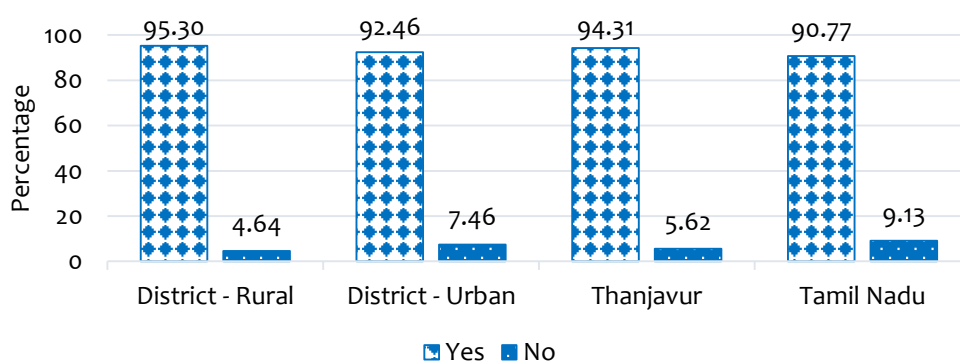
The percentages of households that possessed ration card in the rural and urban areas of Thanjavur district are given in Chart 3.11. The district estimates on the percentage of households that possessed a ration card was higher than the state estimate. Within the district, a higher percentage of rural households at 95.30 percent possessed ration card 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**	**Thanjavur**
Yes	93.46	91.70	94.84	94.26	96.33	93.49	94.31
No	6.35	8.30	5.11	5.74	3.67	6.51	5.62
DK/RF	0.19	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**

Social group-wise estimates on the possession of ration card at the household level are shown in Table 3.16. More than 90 percent of households belonging to all social groups possessed ration cards in the district.

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 Thanjavur district are given in Chart 3.12.

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

Chart 3.12 Type of Ration Card at the Household Level
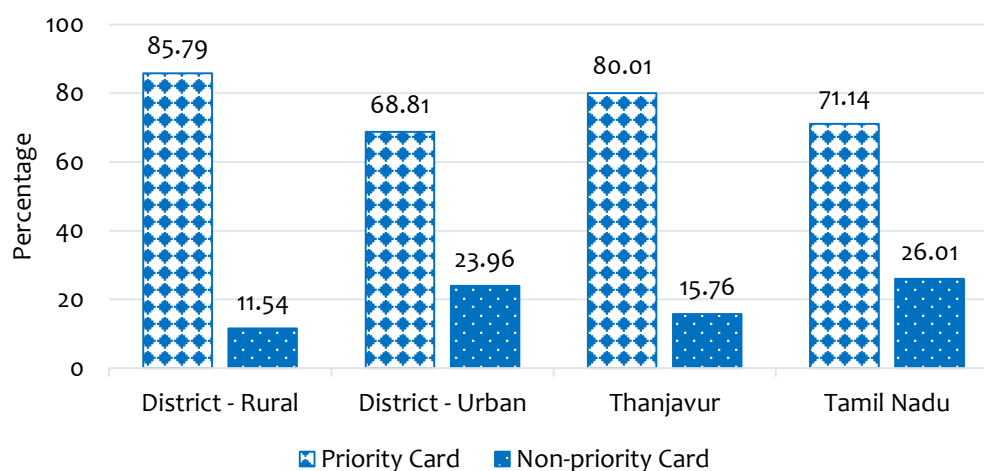
3.4 Household Income

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 Thanjavur 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 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 Thanjavur district.

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

Source	Rural	Urban	Thanjavur	Tamil Nadu
Agriculture	63,884	97,123	67,416	61,830
Allied Agriculture	17,380	44,344	21,274	38,576
Salaried	134,411	183,023	154,802	2,29,857
Self Employed	82,164	140,568	116,344	1,47,403
Wage Labour	38,279	55,794	42,761	47,734
Other Sources	77,683	129,094	102,196	97,646
Income from all Sources	**78,106**	**134,176**	**97,305**	**1,42,752**

The mean annual household income of Thanjavur district was 31.84 percent lesser than the state PBS estimate of ₹1,42,752. The mean household income was higher among the households with salaried income and lower among the households that depended on allied agricultural activities. Among the then 32 districts, Thanjavur was at twenty sixth place in terms of this parameter (TNHPS-PBS, 2021).

The mean household income in the rural areas of Thanjavur district was ₹78,105.51, which was lower than the state rural estimate of ₹92,765 (TNHPS-PBS, 2021). The mean household income was higher among the households with salaried income. Lower mean income was reported among the households that engaged in allied agricultural activities.

The mean household income in the urban areas of Thanjavur district was ₹1,34,176.40, which was lower than the state urban estimate of ₹1,99,629 (TNHPS-PBS, 2021). The mean household income was higher among the households who depended on salaried income. Lower mean income was reported among the households that engaged in allied agricultural activities.

3.4.2 Income Inequality in Thanjavur 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 Thanjavur district (0.520) was lower than the state estimate (0.563)[5]. Income inequality across households in urban areas of the district (0.506) was found to be similar to that of the rural areas (0.501).

Table 3.18 Gini Coefficient of Income Inequality- Area-wise

Area	Gini coefficient
Rural	0.501
Urban	0.506
Thanjavur	0.520
Tamil Nadu	**0.563**

Chart 3.13 Lorenz Curve and Income Inequality
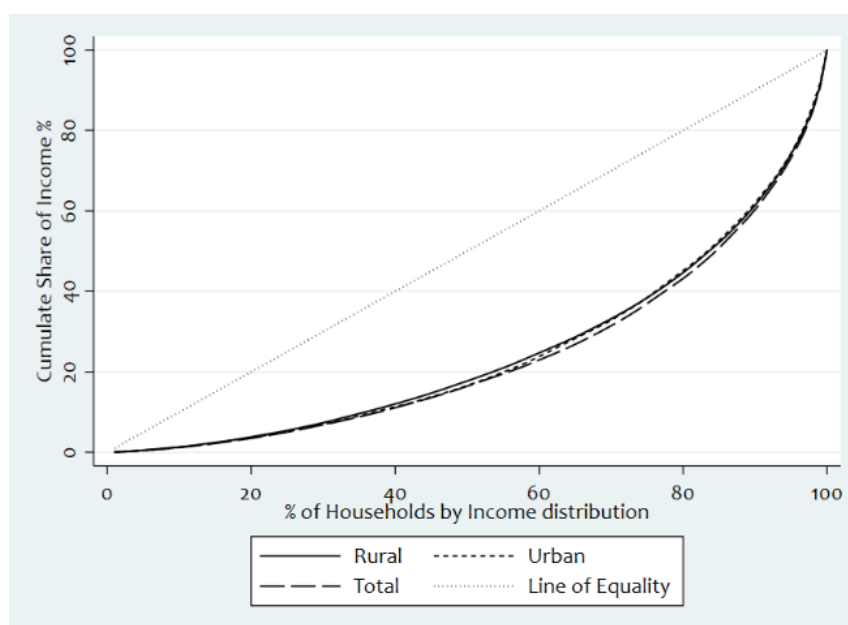
Lorenz curve is a graphical representation of inequality in the distribution of income or wealth of the population. Chart 3.13 shows that in Thanjavur district, the bottom 60 percent of the household held 25 percent of the total income; the bottom 80 percent of households held close to 45 percent of the total income and the top 20 percent of households have around 55 percent of the total income.

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[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 had 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) into (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 their 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	Thanjavur	Tamil Nadu
Higher	51.16	48.46	50.22	50.06
Lower	9.17	8.04	8.78	8.17
About the same	34.48	37.75	35.62	31.66
DK/RF	5.19	5.75	5.38	10.11
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**

While around half of the 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 the urban areas. Also, more than one-third 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	Thanjavur
Higher	50.68	66.53	49.64	51.49	53.42	36.61	50.22
Lower	9.55	0.00	8.16	11.11	3.89	9.76	8.78
About the same	34.31	33.47	36.32	34.12	38.56	38.00	35.62
DK/RF	5.46	0.00	5.88	3.28	4.12	15.63	5.38
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**

While around half of the SC, DNC, MBC, and BC in Thanjavur district expected an increase in their future income, only more than one-third of the General category households expected an increase in their future income. The results for the ST category 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

The area-wise percentages of households that live in an 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
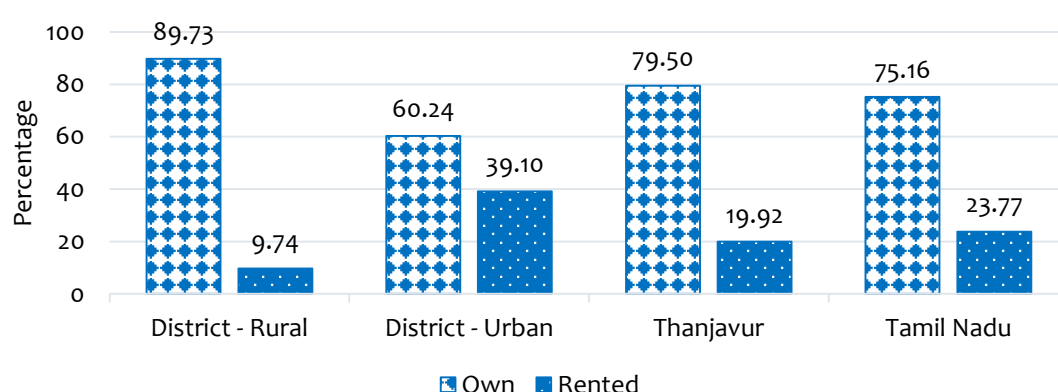
Chart 3.14 shows that the proportion of households living in their own house in the district was higher than the state level estimate. Thanjavur district was ranked sixteenth among the then 32 districts of Tamil Nadu in terms of percentage of households living in their own house (TNHPS-PBS, 2021). While most of the households in rural areas lived in their own house, a large proportion of urban households was relying on rented houses for their stay. Only less than one percent of households was 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	Thanjavur
Own	92.95	91.00	73.55	81.80	91.41	67.61	79.50
Rented	6.60	9.00	25.67	18.00	8.59	32.39	19.92
Others	0.45	0.00	0.78	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.55
DK/RF	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.02
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**

Table 3.21 shows that more than 90 percent of SC and DNC households in the district lived in their own house, while only around two-thirds of the General category households were doing the same.

A detailed analysis of ownership of houses showed that out of the 79.5 percent households (see Chart 3.14) that lived in an own house in the district, 14.70 percent of houses were built under a government scheme, which was slightly higher 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 the Government Scheme	Social Group						
	SC	ST	BC	MBC	DNC	General	Thanjavur
Yes	37.16	38.48	6.05	10.45	7.22	0.00	14.70
No	62.80	61.52	93.93	89.55	92.78	100	85.28
DK/RF	0.04	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**

A relatively higher percentage of SC households in the district had built a house under a government scheme compared to other social groups. None of the General category households with their own house in the district had built a house under a government scheme. The results for the ST category must be interpreted in the context of their sample size, as discussed in Section 3.1.

3.5.2 House Type

Based on the material used for wall/roof or quality of the house, the PBS classifies houses as Kutccha, Pucca or Semi-pucca. The percentage of houses that come under each type are given below.

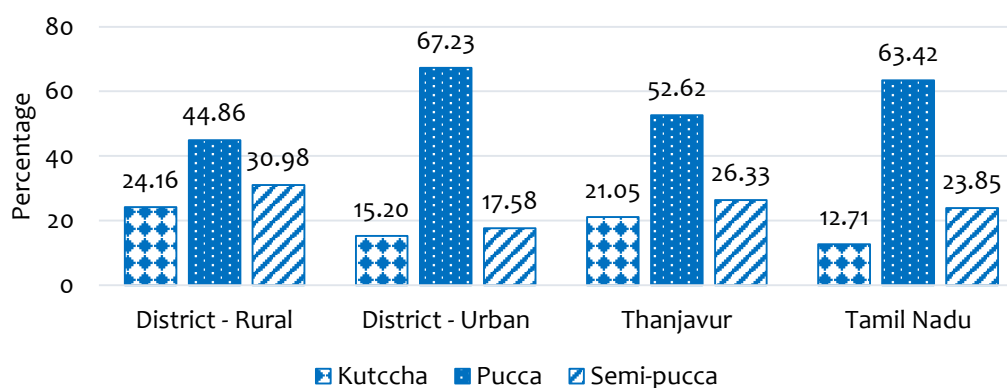*Chart 3.15 Type of House – Area-wise*

Chart 3.15 shows that more than half the households in Thanjavur district were living in pucca houses. This district estimate was lower than the state estimate on the percentage of households living in pucca houses at 63.42 percent. The percentage of Pucca houses in rural and urban areas of the district was lesser than their respective state rural and urban estimates at 52.93 percent and 75.22 percent respectively (TNHPS-PBS, 2021).

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 Thanjavur district. The primary sources[6] of water are: bottled water, piped water into dwelling, piped water to yard or plot, public tap or standpipe, tube well or borehole. Other water sources include protected well, unprotected well, rainwater collection and surface water (tank/pond/river/dam).

Chart 3.16 shows that 36.18 percent of households in Thanjavur district was using public tap or standpipe as their primary source of drinking water, which was higher than the state estimate of 32.84 percent (TNHPS-PBS, 2021). 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). Likewise, in Thanjavur district, piped water into the dwelling was predominantly used in urban households and public tap/standpipe was predominantly used in rural households.

Chart 3.16 Primary Source of Drinking Water of Households

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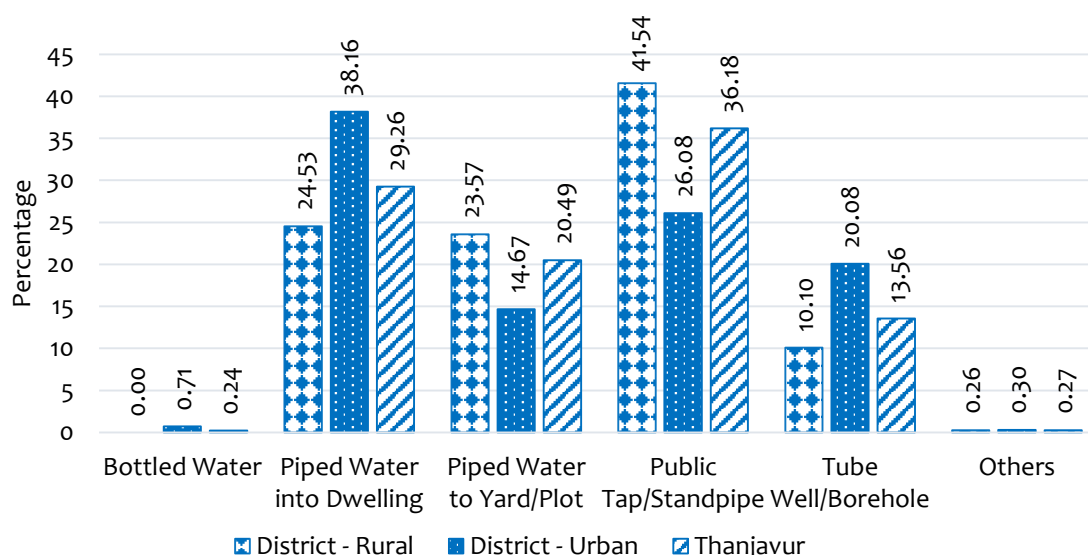
[6] Primary source - Water that is availed for the greater part of the year

3.5.4 Electricity

Tamil Nadu had witnessed mass electrification drive during the last decade. A comparison of households with electricity connection between Census (2011) and the state PBS estimates in 2018 (TNHPS-PBS, 2021) shows that the state is close to achieving complete electrification in case of urban areas. The electrification status has improved in rural areas as well.

Chart 3.17 Comparison of Households with Electricity between Census (2011) and the PBS 2018
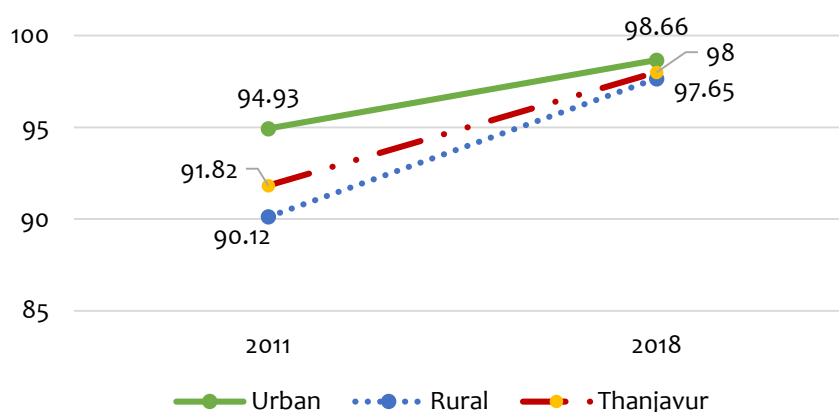
Chart 3.17 shows the electrification status of households in Thanjavur district, along with a comparison to the electrification status during Census (2011). It shows rapid electrification in Thanjavur district between 2011-2018. The rate of growth of households with electricity was higher in rural areas compared to urban areas. The electrification status in the district was higher than the state estimate of 97.6 percent (TNHPS-PBS, 2021).

3.5.5 Primary Cooking Fuel

A comparison of Census (2011) and the 2018 PBS estimates on the main fuel[7] used for cooking by the households in the district is given in Chart 3.18.

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[7] Primary Cooking Fuel: Fuel that is used for the greater part of the year.

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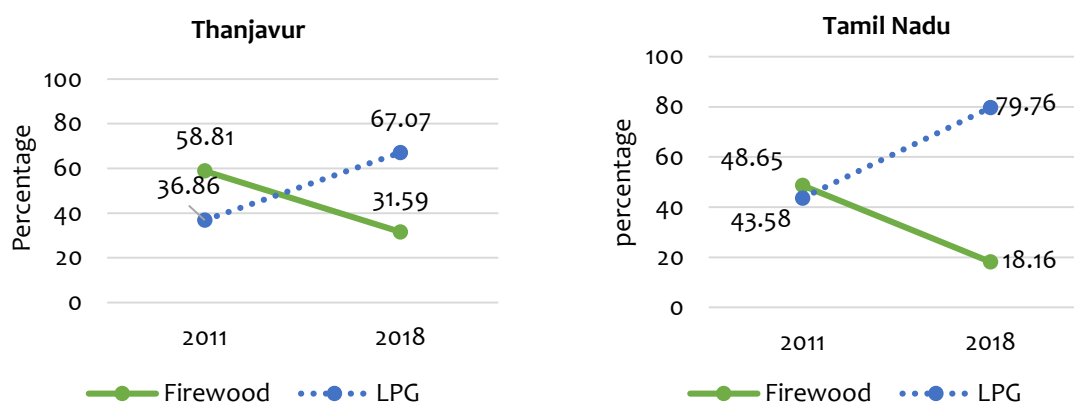
Thanjavur

Tamil Nadu

Chart 3.18 shows that although the use of LPG as the primary cooking fuel had increased tremendously in the district from 2011 (Census 2011) to 2018 encompassing more than two-thirds of the households, firewood was still used by more than 30 percent of the households. Compared to other districts of Tamil Nadu, Thanjavur district was ranked twenty sixth in terms of LPG use and ranked seventh in terms of firewood use as primary cooking fuel (TNHPS-PBS, 2021).

Chart 3.19 Comparison of Primary Cooking Fuel – Rural and Urban

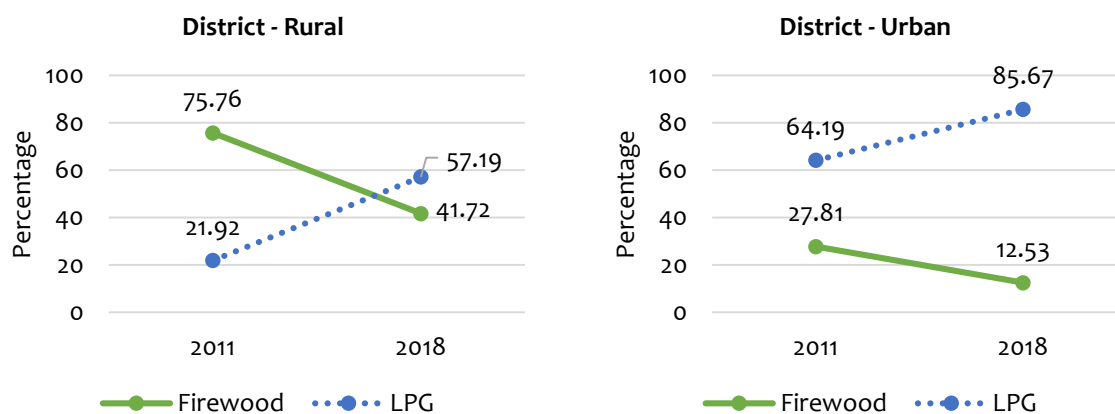**District - Rural**

District - 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, but firewood was still being used by more than 40 percent of the rural households. LPG uptake had increased further in urban areas, and that of firewood had dropped to a minuscule amount during the same period.

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

Primary Cooking Fuel	Social Group						
	SC	ST	BC	MBC	DNC	General	Thanjavur
Firewood	57.57	71.45	20.89	30.47	59.66	3.48	31.59
LPG	40.71	28.55	77.71	68.60	40.24	96.14	67.07
Kerosene	1.40	0.00	0.92	0.72	0.10	0.38	0.95
Others (Gobar gas, electricity, etc,)	0.19	0.00	0.37	0.21	0.00	0.00	0.28
DK/RF	0.14	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**

Table 3.23 shows that while most of the General category and more than three quarters of the MBC category households used LPG as the primary cooking fuel, more than half of the SC and DNC households still used firewood as the primary cooking fuel. The results for the ST category 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 are given in Chart 3.20.

Chart 3.20 Presence of Latrine in the Premises of Different Types of Houses
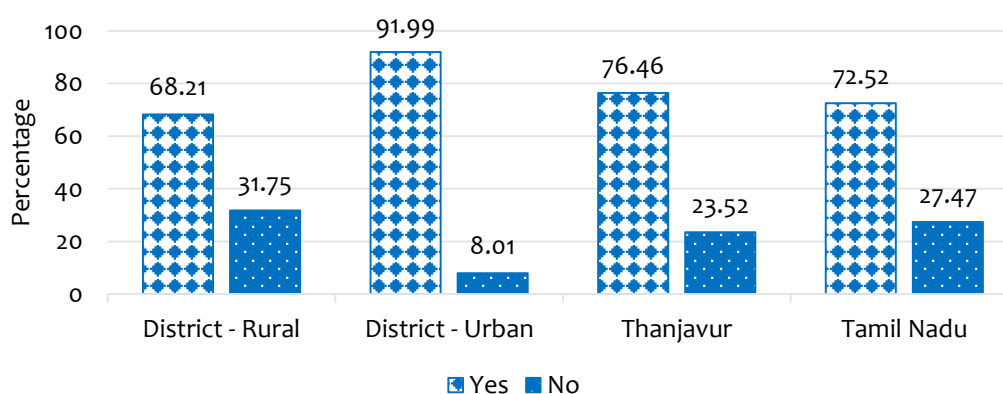
The percentage of households with latrine within house premises had increased from 45.06 percent in 2011 (Census, 2011) to 76.46 percent in 2018. As per the state estimates, Thanjavur district was positioned twelfth among the 32 districts in terms of this indicator (TNHPS-PBS, 2021). The percentage of households equipped with latrine facilities in the district was higher than the state level estimate. It is pertinent to note that almost one-third of the rural 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	Thanjavur
Yes	45.23	27.85	87.01	82.11	64.10	100	76.46
No	54.77	72.15	12.97	17.89	35.64	0.00	23.52
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. While all the General households had a latrine within the premises of the house, more than half of the SC households did not have latrine facilities within the premises of the household.

The presence of latrine facilities in the premises of households owning different type of houses in Thanjavur district is compared in Chart 3.21.

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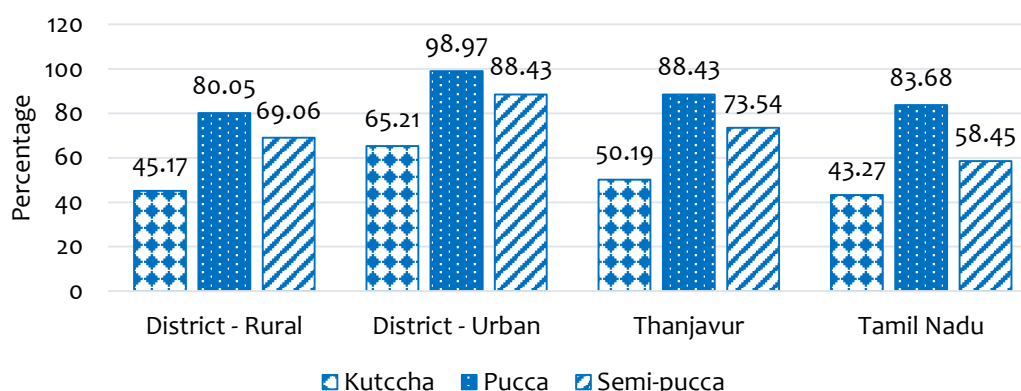

Chart 3.21 shows that the percentage of pucca houses with latrine facilities was higher than for semi-pucca and kutccha houses in the district. The percentage of latrine facilities in kutccha, pucca and semi-pucca houses in the district was higher than their respective state estimates. A higher number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

The percentage of total households in the district following open defecation had declined from 50.87 percent in 2011 (Census, 2011) to 22.12 percent in 2018 (TNHPS-PBS, 2021). The alternative practices of defecation followed by 23.52 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
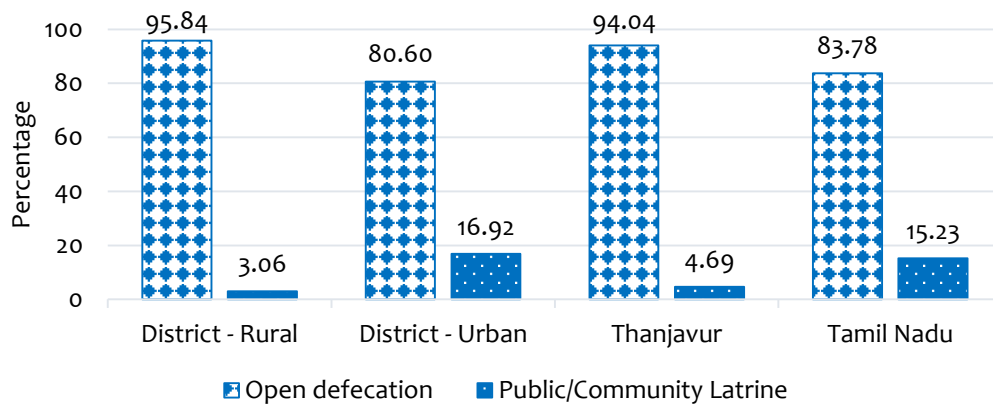

Chart 3.22 shows that 94.04 percent of households without latrine within the premises of the house in Thanjavur district practiced open defecation, which was significantly higher than the state level estimate. The practice of open defecation was higher in rural areas than `urban areas of the district. As per the state PBS report, Thanjavur district was ranked seventeenth in terms of the percentage of total households practicing open defecation.

4. Conclusions and Recommendations

The Pre-Baseline Survey (PBS) 2018-19 of Thanjavur district was conducted from a sample of 6,132 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.

In 2018, Thanjavur district exhibited a commendable performance in several key indicators. The district surpassed the state estimate in literacy rates, securing the eighth position among 32 districts. Despite a gender gap of 8.77 percent in literacy, it was relatively smaller than the state's gender gap of 10.82 percent. Moreover, Thanjavur district outperformed the state estimates in terms of households owning agricultural, allied agricultural, or fishing assets. Additionally, a higher proportion of households in Thanjavur owned irrigated agricultural land compared to the state estimate.

Housing indicators in the district also reflected positive trends, with higher percentages of households owning their own houses and possessing at least one household asset, both surpassing state estimates. In terms of electrification, Thanjavur district secured the tenth rank among the 32 districts. The district also exhibited higher rates of latrine ownership on household premises compared to the state estimate. This focused analysis underscores Thanjavur district's commendable performance across various socioeconomic indicators in 2018.

While improvements are evident in certain indicators, it is essential to acknowledge persisting challenges requiring policy intervention in the Thanjavur district. While the majority of households in the district reside in pucca houses, the estimate falls below the state average. The prevalence of households using LPG as the primary cooking fuel is lower than the state estimate, with nearly one-third still relying on firewood. It is worth mentioning that over half of SC and DNC households persist in using firewood for cooking. Despite a higher percentage of households with on-premises latrines compared to the state estimate, approximately 22 percent of households in the district continue to practice open defecation.

Approximately 12 percent of the population lacks formal education, and more than 80 percent of this subgroup struggles with functional illiteracy. The district's employed population (14 years or older) falls below the state estimate, ranking thirty-first in terms of employment rate, trailing behind only Ramanathapuram and Kanniyakumari districts.

Furthermore, the district's female labour participation rate lags behind the state's estimates. Additionally, Thanjavur district reports a mean annual household income lower

than the state's average, indicating the need for targeted interventions to address intra-district economic disparities. These identified challenges emphasize the necessity for focused policy initiatives to enhance educational attainment, employment opportunities, and income levels in Thanjavur district.

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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.