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# **Literacy Differentials in Tamil Nadu: A District Level Analysis**

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## **Introduction:**

Education is considered as an investment in human capital and the mean to enhance productivity and employability. It improves the capability of individuals and results in empowerment of them. Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948, identified literacy as a basic human right. Needless to state that increasing literacy rates leads to better health care and improved quality of life. According to the Census of India, a person is identified as literate who can both read and write with understanding in any language. The literacy rate in India since independence has been witnessing gradual significant increase. The state-specific analysis revealed that in states like Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarkhand the group disparity among the youngest age cohort has disappeared that it suggested the effective implementation of adult literacy to attain full literacy (Shukla and Mishra 2019). Among the 28 states and seven union territories, Tamil Nadu which ranked in twelfth position in 2001 census has been pushed to fourteenth place in 2011 census.

## **Objectives**

The present paper makes an attempt to examine the trends in literacy rates in Tamil Nadu and the disparities across districts in Tamil Nadu. The specific objectives are:

- to trace the trends in literacy rate in Tamil Nadu in comparison with all India
- to examine the disparity in literacy rates among the districts in Tamil Nadu
- to analyse the rural and urban differences in literacy rates in Tamil Nadu and
- to understand the discrepancy in literacy rates among different age groups

## **Methodology**

Literacy rate and population statistics collected from Census 2001 and 2011 data were used for the study.

A. **Relative Disadvantage Index** was developed by Jayaraj and Subramanian, 2002. To measure the regional and sex differentials Relative Disadvantage Index (RDI) was computed (Shukla and Mishra 2014).

$$RDI = \left( \frac{\alpha_i}{1-\alpha_i} \right) \left( \frac{H_i}{H} - 1 \right) \text{ if } \alpha_i \geq H \text{ and}$$

$$RDI = \left( \frac{H_i - H}{1-H} \right) \text{ if } \alpha_i < H$$

Where, i-number of groups

$\alpha_i$  - share of group 'i' in the total population

H - aggregate literacy rate

$H_i$  - average literacy rate of group i

A group 'i' is relatively disadvantaged whenever RDI is negative,  $H_i < H$

B. The **share of the illiteracy** among the age groups was calculated. Three groups classified based on age were Child (7-14 age), Adult (15-59 age) and Elderly (60+ age).

$$\text{Share of Illiteracy} = \frac{\text{Number of Illiterates in the Define Age Group}}{\text{Total Population in the Define Age Group}} \times 100$$

## Results and Discussion

### Trends in Literacy Rate in Tamil Nadu and All India:

Crude literacy rate in 1901 was 5.35, 9.83 and 0.6 percent for persons, males and females respectively that increased to 18.33, 27.16 and 8.86 percent in 1951 which was 65.38, 75.85 and 54.16 in 2011.

**Table 1 Literacy Rate in India and Tamil Nadu 1961-2011**

Year	Tamil Nadu				India			
	Persons	Males	Females	Gap	Persons	Males	Females	Gap
1961	36.39	51.59	21.06	30.53	28.30	40.40	15.35	25.05
1971	45.40	59.54	30.92	28.62	34.43	45.96	21.97	23.99
1981	54.39	68.05	40.43	27.62	43.57	56.38	29.76	26.62
1991	62.66	73.75	51.33	22.42	52.21	64.13	39.29	24.84
2001	73.47	82.33	64.55	17.78	64.83	75.26	53.67	21.59
2011	80.33	86.81	73.86	12.95	74.04	82.14	65.46	16.68

Note: Literacy rates for 1961 and 1971 related to population aged five years and above. The rates for the years 1981 to 2011 related to the population aged seven years and above.

Source: Census various years

From Table 1 it is evident that the literacy rate in Tamil Nadu has always been above national level in general. The progress of literacy rate in the state has been achieved a decade before when the nation realised the same in particular. But the male-female gap in the literacy rates has been higher in Tamil Nadu than in India, which has also reversed since 1991. This was mainly due to introduction of midday meals scheme in 1960s and rigorous implementation of it since 1982, after which female literacy showed a progress that led to reduction in gender gap. The literacy programme targets set for Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-12) were to achieve 80 percent literacy and reduce gender gap in literacy to 10 percentage points. Tamil Nadu has achieved literacy rate above 80 percent and in gender gap it is almost nearing the target. Since 1981, the gender gap in literacy in Tamil Nadu has recorded significant improvements (TNHDR 2017).

Besides the overall success, the relative position of the state and the gender gap indicates the inherent need to address the literacy rate not only in aggregate view but also in terms of disaggregated analysis among the population groups.

### **District wise Literacy Rate in Tamil Nadu:**

The number of districts in Tamil Nadu was 30 in 2001 and two more districts Krishnagiri and Tiruppur were added in 2011.

Table 2 reveals the superiority of Tamil Nadu over India in literacy rate. In 2001 census, 67 percent of the districts had overall literacy rate above 70 percent. The 33 percent districts which had literacy rate below 70 percent improved to the extent that in 2011 census only one district (Dharmapuri) was found in that category. Among males, literacy rate was above 70 percent in both the decades. A contrary picture of 87 percent districts below 70 percent in female literacy rate in 2001 which had reduced to 41 percent in 2011 census.

Another matter of concern is that in 2001, in three districts Viluppuram, Ariyalur and Dharmapuri the total, male (Salem replaced Ariyalur) and female literacy rates were found below national level. It has doubled in 2011 for total including Salem, Erode and Krishnagiri and male Ariyalur, Erode and Krishnagiri added. For females it increased to seven districts including Tiruvannamalai also.

Kanniyakumari topped in all classifications (except 2011 males), while Dharmapuri stood least in all categories.

From Table 3 it is evident that rural urban divide persists in literacy status. About 22 districts (76 percent) had rural literacy rate below 70 percent in 2001 whereas none of them in the category in urban parts. In 2011, a drastic improvement was found in rural literacy rate, districts below 70 percent literacy rate reduced to 23 percent.

Besides the state's achievement, the progress in literacy of certain districts in comparison with national average does not show a convergence. As per 2001 census, three rural districts of Dharmapuri, Erode and Salem and eleven urban districts of Virudhunagar, Karur, Tiruvannamalai, Perambalur, Dindigul, Dharmapuri, Ariyalur, Theni, Namakkal, Salem and Erode had registered literacy rate below national level. In 2011 the number has increased further as four rural districts (adding Krishnagiri) and twelve urban districts (Viluppuram and Tiruppur fell in the place of Perambalur). In the low performance of the above mentioned districts, the number of urban districts was three times higher than the rural ones. The substantial increase in literacy rate since 1991 was accompanied by a progressive reduction in inter-village variation. Both reflect the success of public investment in school education and other non-formal literacy programmes. Villages with higher literacy tend to be larger in size, have a higher sex ratio and are more diversified in employment (Vaidyanathan and Srinivasan, 2015).

Kanniyakumari topped in all classifications while Erode (except 2001 rural), stood least in all categories.

The analysis of headcount ratio disclosed that females and ruralites had literacy rate at a lesser level, with the intensity of rural females more severe. Hence a relative comparison of these two categories across their counterparts was made.

**Table 4 Relative Disadvantage Index of Tamil Nadu by Sex and Region**

Census	Females			Rural		
	All	Rural	Urban	All	Males	Females
<b>2001</b>	-0.34	-0.32	<b>-0.37</b>	-0.27	<b>-0.30</b>	-0.26
<b>2011</b>	-0.33	-0.32	<b>-0.36</b>	-0.33	<b>-0.36</b>	-0.32

Source: Computed from Census 2001 and 2011 data

Table 4 brings out a different pattern of literacy status in regard to relative comparison. Here again the disadvantage in both the periods is negative for females of the state, which implies that females are relatively disadvantaged against males. But the disadvantage has slight downfall in 2011, revealing an improvement in the status. This is substantiated by the gender disaggregated analysis of Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) reveals that girls have exceeded boys by end of the decade. The initial years show a higher GER for boys and by 2006-07, the girls were on par with them. 2010-11 data shows that the GER for girls is 112.2 per cent as opposed to 111.8 per cent for boys. This analysis of NER shows

an increasing trend over the past nine years. The Net Enrolment Ratio (NET) of students has substantially increased from 93 per cent in 2002-03 to 99.60 per cent in 2010-11. In 2002-03, NER of boys was 93 per cent and that of girls was 92 Per cent. This situation reversed in 2010-11; the ratio among boys (99.57%) had become lower than that among girls (99.63%), thereby showing an improvement in the gender gap (TNHDR 2017).

Another important aspect observed is that the rural both the relative disadvantage among the males and females are an increase, with male outnumbering female. For males, the dispersion in total and urban literacy rates across districts is higher in 2011 than in 2001, while for females the inter-district variation has narrowed in 2011 compared to 2001(TNHDR 2017). The male female difference in literacy rate below the national level has decreased overall from 17 to 6 districts and in rural it has declined to 2 from 5 districts earlier. In case of gender gap among the urban districts, the number below national average is on an increase from 17 to 18 (Appendix I). This is likely due to the migration from rural to urban regions (TN rural population 2001-55.96 percent; 2011-51.11 percent) by the landless agricultural labourers, elderly who move to their children and creation of urban slums proliferating more poverty and illiteracy. It underlines the priority to progress in this forefront and reiterates the need for reformation of social inclusion of female irrespective of the habitat.

Similarly rural males depict a higher disadvantage compared to females. But the disadvantage has been increasing in all categories over the decade in same units. This is due to the fact that the decadal point increase among females in literacy rate is higher than among rural male residents in general (Appendix II).

To probe further the reasons the share of illiterates among different age groups were discussed.

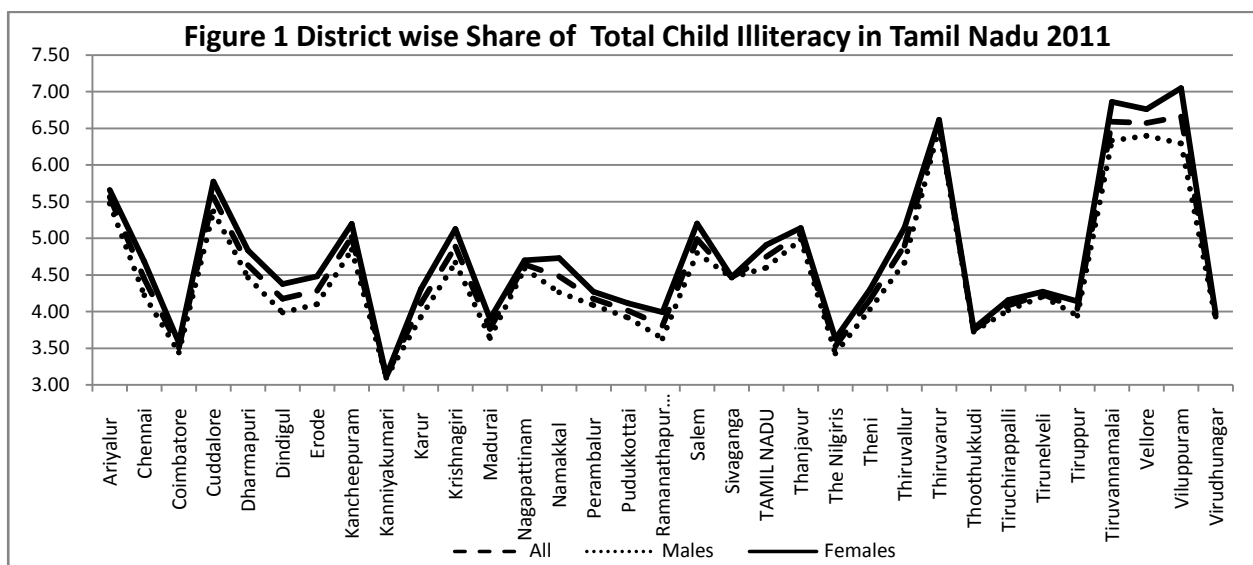
**Table 5 District wise Share of Illiteracy in Tamil Nadu among Age Groups**

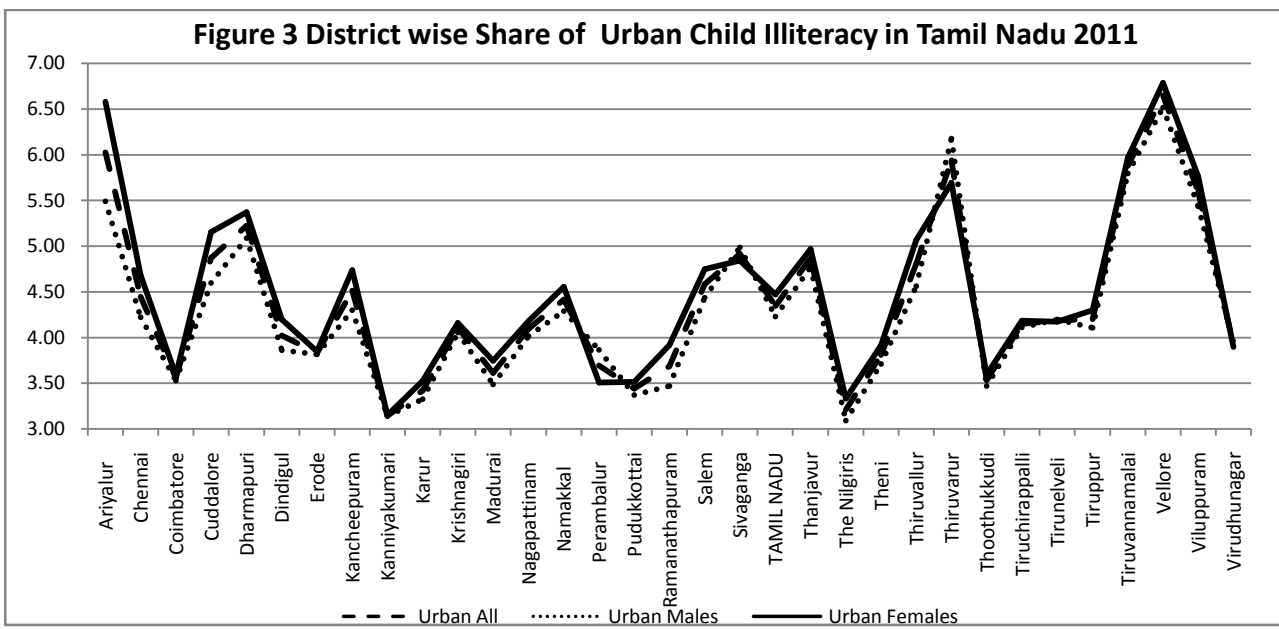
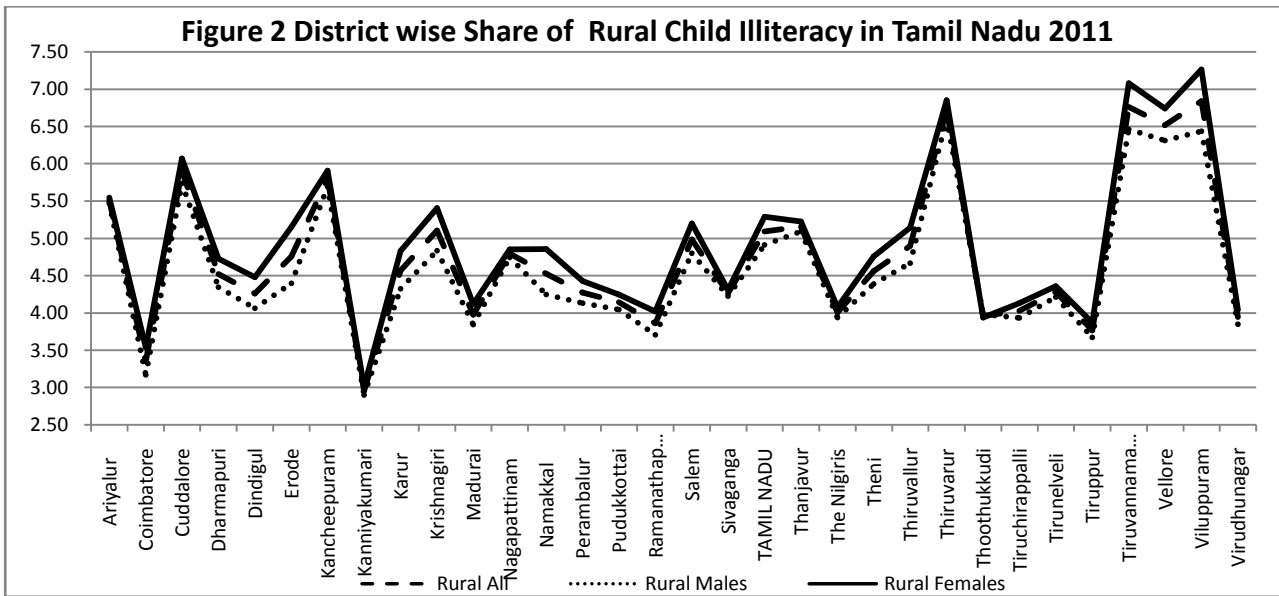
Age Group	Total			Rural			Urban		
	All	Males	Females	All	Males	Females	All	Males	Females
<b>2001</b>									
<b>Child</b>	8.98	7.98	10.03	9.80	8.43	11.26	7.82	7.34	8.32
<b>Adult</b>	26.47	16.83	36.10	34.87	22.57	46.96	16.33	10.00	22.76
<b>Elderly</b>	56.88	39.41	74.13	67.42	49.66	85.28	42.03	24.64	58.75
<b>2011</b>									
<b>Child</b>	4.75	4.60	4.91	5.09	4.91	5.29	4.35	4.23	4.47
<b>Adult</b>	18.18	11.79	24.52	24.83	16.19	33.39	11.36	7.27	15.41
<b>Elderly</b>	50.17	34.18	65.39	63.60	46.38	80.14	34.63	19.91	48.49

Source: Computed from Census 2001 and 2011 data

Table 5 depicts that the incidence of illiteracy had direct relation with age. In all classifications the illiteracy rate has declined in 2011 census. The lesser illiteracy rate among the children is a ray of hope for the next generation, which is be due to the effective implementation of literacy programme in the state. The Tamil Nadu government has been successful in bringing down the infant mortality rate below the national average and as a result the total fertility rate (TFR) has also declined over time through behaviour change. As a result the number of children at primary level in Tamil Nadu started declining in the 1990s. Thus, even if the government now maintains its current level of expenditure it should be able to improve the quality of the teaching-learning experience (Santosh Mehrotra, 2006). In both the census a similar pattern of rural females as most disadvantaged and urban males as advantaged are recorded.

The incidence of child illiteracy was 8.98 percent in 2001 which has declined to 4.75 percent in 2011. Though it has reduced half the percentage over the decade among the females more than males, female children rank high in illiteracy. Among the district wise analysis it was detected that Villiupuram, Thiruvarur and Thiruvanamalai were in the top order of rural child illiteracy (Figure 2) while Vellore, Ariyalur and Thiruvarur peaked in urban child illiteracy (Figure 3). Thiruppur, Coimbatore and Kanniyakumari in rural and Karur, The Nilgriris and Kanniyakumari in urban were in the least positions. The causative factors of child illiteracy could be that they are working or have to work, lack of demand for education which depends on socio-cultural, economic situation, education of the parents or inadequate schools.





Source: Computed from Census 2011 data

The assumption is that failure to attend school is due to ignorance, carelessness and negligence on the part of parents and not because of socio economic conditions (Tanveer and Shumila, 2012). Availability in functional status of schools is the prime factor in improving the levels of literacy. But it is not a sufficient factor in ensuring children enrolments. The schools available must also be socially and economically accessible for all children. As even in government schools, the child has to incur hidden cost not recognised by the state, which claims that it provides free and compulsory education. If parents cannot afford these costs, the children do not enter schools or drop out.



## **Implications:**

- Males and urban literacy rate in all the districts has recorded above 70 percent
- But the literacy rates in six districts for males, seven districts for females and four and twelve districts in rural and urban regions have registered their rates lesser than national level
- Urban females were in a more disadvantaged position compared to their counterparts.
- Nine percent of child illiteracy is a matter of concern and need to be addressed immediately.

## **Conclusion:**

Tamil Nadu a state in better position in terms of literacy rate has transformed the positive spill over effect of it towards the health sector also. But the single digit child illiteracy can be overcome not only by physical existence of schools. It can be made to zero percent by making schools functioning efficiently and accessible to all irrespective of their socio-economic status resulting in educational inclusion for all individuals in the state.

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**Table 2 Categorisation of Districts in Tamil Nadu on Basis of their Literacy Rate by Sex**

Rates	All		Males		Females	
	2001	2011	2001	2011	2001	2011
> 90	-	Kanniyakumari, Chennai	Kanniyakumari, Chennai	Chennai, Kanniyakumari, The Nilgiris, Thoothukkudi	-	-
80 - 90	Kanniyakumari, Chennai, Thoothukkudi, The Nilgiris	Thoothukkudi, The Nilgiris, Kancheepuram, Thiruvallur, Coimbatore, Nagapattinam, Madurai, Tiruchirappalli, Thiruvallur, Thanjavur, Tirunelveli, Ramanathapuram, Virudhunagar	The Nilgiris, Thoothukkudi, Tiruchirappalli, Madurai, Thiruvallur, Tirunelveli, Nagapattinam, Kancheepuram, Coimbatore, Thanjavur, Virudhunagar, Sivaganga, Theni, Cuddalore Ramanathapuram, Pudukkottai, Vellore,	Kancheepuram, Nagapattinam, Madurai, Tiruchirappalli, Theni, Thiruvallur, Tirunelveli, Karur, Thiruvallur, Coimbatore, Thanjavur, Sivaganga, Vellore, Ramanathapuram, Tiruppur, Virudhunagar, Cuddalore, Pudukkottai, Dindigul, Tiruvannamalai, Perambalur, Namakkal, <b>Ariyalur, Viluppuram, Erode, Salem</b>	Kanniyakumari, Chennai	Kanniyakumari, Chennai, Thoothukkudi
70 - 80	Tiruchirappalli, Madurai, Coimbatore, Thiruvallur, Thiruvallur, Kancheepuram, Nagapattinam, Sivaganga, Tirunelveli, Virudhunagar, Theni, Thanjavur, Vellore Cuddalore, Pudukkottai, Ramanathapuram,	Sivaganga, Vellore, Tiruppur, Cuddalore, Theni, Pudukkottai, Dindigul, Karur, Namakkal, Perambalur, Tiruvannamalai, <b>Salem, Erode, Viluppuram, Krishnagiri, Ariyalur</b>	Dindigul, Karur, Tiruvannamalai, Perambalur, Namakkal, Ariyalur, Erode, <b>Viluppuram, Salem, Dharmapuri</b>	<b>Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri</b>	Thoothukkudi, The Nilgiris	Kancheepuram, The Nilgiris, Coimbatore, Thiruvallur, Nagapattinam, Madurai, Tiruchirappalli, Thiruvallur, Thanjavur, Tirunelveli, Vellore, Ramanathapuram, Virudhunagar, Tiruppur, Sivaganga, Cuddalore
60 - 70	Dindigul, Karur, Namakkal, Perambalur, Tiruvannamalai, Erode, Salem, <b>Ariyalur, Viluppuram, Dharmapuri</b>	<b>Dharmapuri</b>	-	-	Madurai, Tiruchirappalli, Coimbatore, Kancheepuram, Thiruvallur, Nagapattinam, Thiruvallur, Tirunelveli, Theni, Thanjavur, Vellore, Sivaganga, Virudhunagar, Cuddalore, Ramanathapuram	Theni, Pudukkottai, Dindigul, Karur, Namakkal, Perambalur, <b>Tiruvannamalai, Salem, Erode, Krishnagiri, Viluppuram, Ariyalur</b>
< 60	-	-	-	-	Pudukkottai, Dindigul, Karur, Namakkal, Tiruvannamalai, Salem, Erode, Perambalur, <b>Viluppuram, Ariyalur, Dharmapuri</b>	<b>Dharmapuri</b>

Note: Districts marked in Bold have literacy rate less than national level

Source: Census 2001 and 2011

**Table 3 Categorisation of Districts in Tamil Nadu on Basis of their Literacy Rate by Region**

Rates	Rural		Urban	
	2001	2011	2001	2011
>90	-	Kanniyakumari		Kanniyakumari, Chennai, Thoothukkudi
80-90	Kanniyakumari	Thoothukkudi Nagapattinam The Nilgiris Thiruvarur	Kanniyakumari, Tiruchirappalli, Thoothukkudi, Madurai, Pudukkottai, Thiruvarur, Chennai, Sivaganga Kancheepuram, Thiruvallur, Thanjavur, Ramanathapuram, The Nilgiris, Nagapattinam, Coimbatore, TN, Cuddalore, Tirunelveli, Vellore, Viluppuram	Tiruchirappalli, Thiruvarur, Madurai, Kancheepuram, Thiruvallur, Ramanathapuram, Thanjavur, Sivaganga, Nagapattinam, Pudukkottai, The Nilgiris, Coimbatore, TN, Cuddalore, Tirunelveli, Krishnagiri, Perambalur, Vellore, <b>Viluppuram, Karur, Tiruppur, Tiruvannamalai, Virudhunagar, Dindigul, Ariyalur, Theni, Dharmapuri</b>
70-80	Thoothukkudi, Thiruvarur, The Nilgiris, Nagapattinam, Tirunelveli, Thanjavur	Tirunelveli, Thanjavur, Ramanathapuram, Tiruchirappalli, Kancheepuram, Virudhunagar, Sivaganga Vellore, Pudukkottai, Thiruvallur, Madurai, Cuddalore, TN, Theni, Coimbatore, Perambalur, Dindigul, Tiruvannamalai, Namakkal, Ariyalur	<b>Virudhunagar, Karur Tiruvannamalai, Perambalur, Dindigul, Dharmapuri, Ariyalur, Theni, Namakkal, Salem, Erode</b>	<b>Salem, Namakkal, Erode</b>
60-70	Tiruchirappalli, Ramanathapuram, Virudhunagar, Pudukkottai, Madurai, Vellore, Kancheepuram, Thiruvallur, Sivaganga, TN, Theni, Cuddalore, Coimbatore, Tiruvannamalai, Dindigul, Perambalur, Namakkal, Karur, Ariyalur, Viluppuram	Tiruppur, Viluppuram, Karur, <b>Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri, Salem, Erode</b>	-	-
<60	<b>Dharmapuri, Erode, Salem</b>	-	-	-

Source: Census 2001 and 2011

**Appendix I Categorisation of Districts in Tamil Nadu on Basis of the Gender gap in the Literacy Rate by Region**

	2001			2011			2011			2011		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>rural</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>urban</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>rural</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>urban</b>	<b>Rank</b>
TN	17.99		21.87		12.98		13.33		16.99		9.48	
India	18.0		24.6		13.4		16.68		19.88		9.75	
1.00	5.57	Kanniyakumari	5.50	Perambalur	5.61	Salem	3.75	Namakkal	3.23	Kanniyakumari	3.86	Kanniyakumari
2.00	9.57	Chennai	15.32	Viluppuram	9.57	Perambalur	7.07	Perambalur	12.49	Thoothukkudi	7.07	Chennai
3.00	13.19	Thoothukkudi	18.11	Erode	10.07	Ramanathapuram	9.81	Thoothukkudi	13.12	Nagapattinam	7.08	Thoothukkudi
4.00	15.53	Coimbatore	18.89	Virudhunagar	11.28	Coimbatore	10.14	Cuddalore	13.57	Thiruvarur	8.00	Thiruvarur
5.00	15.94	Kancheepuram	19.34	Karur	11.51	Thiruvarur	10.87	Ramanathapuram	14.78	Thanjavur	8.25	Kancheepuram
6.00	16.82	Madurai	20.15	Ariyalur	11.94	Viluppuram	11.37	Salem	14.97	Tirunelveli	8.31	Tiruchirappalli
7.00	16.87	Thiruvallur	20.34	Thoothukkudi	12.35	Nagapattinam	12.21	Erode	15.10	Krishnagiri	8.52	Madurai
8.00	16.89	The Nilgiris	20.44	Namakkal	12.59	Chennai	12.41	Thanjavur	15.43	Kancheepuram	8.52	Thanjavur
9.00	16.93	Nagapattinam	20.70	Tiruchirappalli	12.60	Sivaganga	12.54	Tiruvannamalai	15.74	The Nilgiris	8.53	Krishnagiri
10.00	17.24	Tiruchirappalli	21.59	Kanniyakumari	12.75	Dindigul	12.56	Karur	16.36	Thiruvallur	8.61	Thiruvallur
11.00	17.53	Thiruvarur	21.89	Pudukkottai	12.94	Tirunelveli	12.73	Dindigul	16.55	Coimbatore	8.81	Ramanathapuram
12.00	17.77	Thanjavur	22.06	Coimbatore	13.03	Vellore	12.86	Madurai	16.61	Ramanathapuram	9.05	Coimbatore
13.00	17.78	Tirunelveli	22.15	Tiruvannamalai	13.04	Madurai	13.26	Virudhunagar	17.30	Vellore	9.09	Sivaganga
14.00	19.19	<b>Salem</b>	22.35	Thiruvallur	13.53	Dharmapuri	13.66	Tiruppur	17.33	Tiruchirappalli	9.20	Nagapattinam
15.00	19.20	<b>Vellore</b>	22.49	The Nilgiris	14.24	<b>Tiruchirappalli</b>	14.29	Thiruvallur	17.43	Tiruppur	10.13	<b>Pudukkottai</b>
16.00	19.66	<b>Ramanathapuram</b>	22.55	Tirunelveli	14.41	<b>The Nilgiris</b>	14.55	Coimbatore	17.85	Namakkal	10.50	<b>Perambalur</b>
17.00	20.17	<b>Erode</b>	22.77	Nagapattinam	14.55	<b>Erode</b>	14.81	Krishnagiri	17.94	Virudhunagar	10.59	<b>The Nilgiris</b>
18.00	20.31	<b>Virudhunagar</b>	23.54	Sivaganga	14.85	<b>Thanjavur</b>	15.02	Theni	18.10	Pudukkottai	10.98	<b>Cuddalore</b>
19.00	20.55	<b>Namakkal</b>	23.59	Dharmapuri	14.98	<b>Tiruvannamalai</b>	15.09	Nagapattinam	18.22	Dharmapuri	11.03	<b>Vellore</b>
20.00	20.69	<b>Theni</b>	23.82	Madurai	15.34	<b>Kanniyakumari</b>	15.57	Kancheepuram	18.24	Erode	11.13	<b>Tiruppur</b>
21.00	20.88	<b>Dindigul</b>	23.85	Thiruvarur	15.91	<b>Ariyalur</b>	15.71	Sivaganga	18.25	Salem	11.50	<b>Dindigul</b>
22.00	20.95	<b>Dharmapuri</b>	23.97	Cuddalore	15.96	<b>Karur</b>	15.79	The Nilgiris	18.26	Theni	11.51	<b>Tirunelveli</b>
23.00	21.38	<b>Cuddalore</b>	24.43	Theni	15.97	<b>Kancheepuram</b>	15.90	Tirunelveli	18.33	Perambalur	11.89	<b>Viluppuram</b>
24.00	21.40	<b>Sivaganga</b>	24.53	Dindigul	16.21	<b>Theni</b>	16.06	Ariyalur	18.36	Cuddalore	12.22	<b>Virudhunagar</b>
25.00	22.58	<b>Pudukkottai</b>	24.89	<b>Ramanathapuram</b>	17.06	<b>Thiruvallur</b>	16.07	Chennai	18.42	Viluppuram	12.26	<b>Dharmapuri</b>
26.00	22.67	<b>Viluppuram</b>	25.01	<b>Kancheepuram</b>	17.15	<b>Thoothukkudi</b>	16.56	Kanniyakumari	18.62	Dindigul	12.36	<b>Salem</b>
27.00	22.87	<b>Karur</b>	25.12	<b>Salem</b>	17.17	<b>Virudhunagar</b>	16.96	<b>Dharmapuri</b>	19.00	Madurai	12.68	<b>Tiruvannamalai</b>
28.00	23.46	<b>Perambalur</b>	25.66	<b>Thanjavur</b>	17.23	<b>Namakkal</b>	17.05	<b>Pudukkottai</b>	19.13	Tiruvannamalai	12.98	<b>Ariyalur</b>
29.00	23.55	<b>Tiruvannamalai</b>	27.22	<b>Vellore</b>	17.34	<b>Pudukkottai</b>	17.40	<b>Viluppuram</b>	19.16	Sivaganga	13.19	<b>Karur</b>
30.00	26.04	<b>Ariyalur</b>	0.00	<b>Chennai</b>	17.99	<b>Cuddalore</b>	17.67	<b>Vellore</b>	20.31	<b>Ariyalur</b>	13.37	<b>Theni</b>
31.00							17.79	<b>Thiruvarur</b>	20.79	<b>Karur</b>	13.49	<b>Erode</b>
32.00							19.49	<b>Tiruchirappalli</b>	0.00	<b>Chennai</b>	13.51	<b>Namakkal</b>

Source: Computed from census 2001 and 2011

**Appendix II Categorisation of Districts in Tamil Nadu on Basis of their Increase in Literacy Rate between 2001 and 2011 Census**

<b>Rates</b>	<b>ALL</b>	<b>Rural</b>	<b>Urban</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>
<5	Kanniyakumari, Thoothukkudi,Chennai	Thoothukkudi,Kanniyakumari	Dharmapuri,Pudukkottai, Tiruchirappalli,Thoothukkudi, Ariyalur,Madurai, Kanniyakumari,Sivaganga, Cuddalore,The Nilgiris, Thiruvarur,Thiruvallur, Kancheepuram,Virudhunagar, Viluppuram,TN,Vellore, Thanjavur,Namakkal, Ramanathapuram,Coimbatore, Chennai,Tiruvannamalai	Thoothukkudi,Pudukkottai,Theni, The Nilgiris,Tiruchirappalli, Kanniyakumari,Madurai,Chennai, Thiruvarur,Virudhunagar, Tiruvannamalai,Tirunelveli, Ariyalur,Cuddalore,TN,Thiruvallur, Coimbatore,Dindigul,Vellore, Thanjavur,Sivaganga, Ramanathapuram, Nagapattinam,Karur,Perambalur	-
5-10	The Nilgiris,Tiruchirappalli, Madurai,Theni,Pudukkottai, Thiruvarur,Tirunelveli, Virudhunagar,TN,Vellore, Tiruvannamalai,Dindigul, Coimbatore,Cuddalore, Thiruvallur,Dharmapuri, Thanjavur,Namakkal,Erode, Nagapattinam,Ariyalur,Karur, Kancheepuram,Sivaganga, Ramanathapuram,Salem, Viluppuram,Perambalur	Pudukkottai,Theni,Madurai, Tiruchirappalli,Thiruvarur, The Nilgiris,Coimbatore,Karur, Tiruvannamalai,Thiruvallur, Virudhunagar,Vellore,TN,Erode, Dindigul,Tirunelveli,Dharmapuri, Ariyalur,Nagapattinam, Ramanathapuram,Namakkal, Thanjavur,Cuddalore,Salem, Perambalur,Viluppuram, Kancheepuram,Sivaganga	Theni,Tirunelveli,Karur, Dindigul,Nagapattinam, Salem,Erode,Perambalur	Namakkal,Erode,Kancheepuram, Dharmapuri,Viluppuram,Salem	Kanniyakumari,Thoothukkudi,Chennai, The Nilgiris,Tiruchirappalli,Madurai, Theni,Tirunelveli,Thiruvarur,TN, Pudukkottai,Virudhunagar,Dharmapuri, Vellore,Dindigul,Namakkal,Erode, Nagapattinam,Tiruvannamalai, Thanjavur,Coimbatore,Cuddalore, Thiruvallur,Salem
>10	-	-	-	-	Karur,Sivaganga,Ramanathapuram, Kancheepuram,Ariyalur,Viluppuram, Perambalur

Source: Census 2001 and 2011