

2.20. Education

2.20.1. Tamil Nadu has been consistently in the forefront in implementation of educational programmes over the years. Tamil Nadu is next only to Kerala and Maharashtra in overall and female literacy among the major states in the country. The overall literacy rate has gone up from 62.7% in 1991 to 73.47% in 2001. The female literacy rate has gone up by more than 13 %age points from 51.33% in 1991 to 64.55% in 2001. The ratio of male literacy to female literacy has come down from 1.40 in 1991 to 1.27 in 2001, revealing the narrowing of gender inequality in the State. In Tamil Nadu the plan expenditure on education, which was only, Rs.3.82 crore during the First Five Year Plan has increased to about Rs.1861.06 crore during Tenth Plan. For the Eleventh Plan 2007-12, the outlay for education is proposed to be increased substantially to about Rs.3811.92 crore.

School Education

2.20.2. The School Education Department is moving towards Universalisation of Secondary Education apart from Universalisation of Elementary Education.

2.20.3. The success story of Tamil Nadu under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) has become a model to be emulated at the national level. The Population Census revealed that the gender gap in literacy rate was high at 22 %age points in rural Tamil Nadu as compared to the urban areas (13 %age points). Various measures through Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Elementary Education and Directorate of School Education have been taken up in bridging the gender gap. But as far as sex ratio of Tamil Nadu is concerned, it is in comfortable position when compared to many states and union territories. In order to bridge the gap, many social welfare schemes have been implemented to attract the girl children and also vocational component has been introduced as an integral part of girls education under SSA.

2.20.4. Dropout Rate in Tamil Nadu - Government has provided education for all children in the age group of 6 to 14 and takes various measures to

improve the Secondary and Higher Secondary Education. The drop out rate at various levels has been considerably reduced over the years. The School Education has been structured in Tamil Nadu as 4 levels, namely Primary, Upper Primary, Secondary and Higher Secondary. The drop out rates at three levels over the years are provided in the following table:

Table: 2.10 Drop Out Rate in Tamil Nadu

Year	Primary stage	Upper Primary stage	High School stage
2002-03	12	13	57.37
2003-04	8	10	57.29
2004-05	5.79	8.64	55.51
2005-06	3.81	7.58	42.45

2.20.5. Recently, free supply of textbooks for all children from 1st to XII Standard, Two eggs per week along with regular noon meal for all children from 1 to 8 classes and Education Improvement Day celebration on the eve of Kamarajar's birthday are some of the steps taken in the State for reducing dropouts in schools. The drop out rate during 2006-07 is expected to be zero at primary level, less than 3% at upper primary level, and less than 30% at High school level.

2.20.6. During 2007-08, a total outlay of Rs.72317.76 lakh is proposed for the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA) in the ratio of 75:25. The state share for SSA for the year 2007-08 is Rs.54238.32 lakh. The scheme will be continued upto 2010. The following objectives are to be realized through the implementation of the above scheme.

- ? Achieving enrolment of all school age children and to provide 5 years of schooling for all these children before 2007 and 8 years of schooling before 2010.
- ? Bridge all genders and social category gaps as primary stage by 2007 at elementary education level by 2010.
- ? Universal retention by 2010.
- ? Focus on elementary education of satisfactory quality with emphasis on education for life.

2.20.7. The important activities being carried out are as follows:

- ? Upgradation of 126 Educational Guarantee Scheme centres into New Primary Schools.
- ? Upgradation of 234 Primary schools into Upper Primary Schools.
- ? 234 Educational Guarantee Scheme Centres in unserved habitations
- ? Construction of 126 Primary schools buildings.
- ? Construction of 546 Upper Primary Buildings
- ? Construction of 12,464 additional classrooms
- ? 1075 Cluster Resource Centre buildings.
- ? Innovative Building as a Learning Aid (BaLA) project to be incorporated in classroom construction.
- ? Electrification to 3,910 Primary and Upper Primary Schools.
- ? Coverage of 1,11,989 Out-of-School children in 4,890 Bridge Courses centres and 436 Residential Camps etc.
- ? Inclusive Education for the Disabled programme for 1,13,009 children.
- ? 18 days of In-service Teacher Training to all teachers at Primary and Upper Primary levels.
- ? Vocational skills training to 1.16 lakh girls at Upper Primary level.
- ? Constitution of State Institute of Education Management and Training (SIEMAT)
- ? Purchase of computers for schools and Computer Aided Learning in coordination with Intel, Microsoft and Azim Premji Foundation; CAL (Computer Aided Learning) centres in 412 Cluster Resource Centres.
- ? 2.96 lakh girls at Upper Primary Level to be covered under National Programme of Education for Girls at Elementary level (NPEGEL)
- ? EDUSAT to be extensively used for Programme implementation, monitoring and training.

Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)

2.20.8. The children in the age group of 3-5 years come under ECCE. The ECCE centers are preparatory centers for regular schooling of children. Based on needs, some of these centers are upgraded into pre-primary schools.

SC/ST Children

2.20.9. Special coaching classes / remedial teaching are organized for low achievers and slow learners among the SC/ST children for one hour in the evening after school hours in select subjects. Exposure visits to places of historic and educational importance are also being arranged to kindle curiosity and interest among children for learning. Vocational skills and life skills development activities are also being arranged as additional inputs.

Computer Education

2.20.10. The State's focus is on Computer Aided Learning (CAL). Under this programme, Block Resource Centres (BRC), Cluster Resource Centres (CRC) and select Middle Schools function as learning centers which are equipped with computer systems to provide training on CAL to teachers and Computer Aided Learning to children at the Upper Primary Level.

Integrated Education for the Disabled (IED)

2.20.11. Integrated Education for the Disabled is being implemented through NGOs in all the Districts. NGOs who are already experienced in this field have been chosen to implement the programme. Two Special teachers are appointed per Block to give training to teachers and also to give onsite supports to teachers who have disabled children in their classrooms. Medical camps are conducted and assistive devices are being provided. This is being done in collaboration with other related District Rehabilitation Department. Resource room has been set up in each BRC to facilitate learning and physical well being of the disabled children.

Girls' Education

2.20.12. Concerted efforts towards bringing girl children to the school and ensuring that they complete eight years of schooling are undertaken in the State. In this regard, as a special intervention, Vocational skills training for Girl children at the upper primary level is being taken up.

2.20.13. Bridging Gender gap - In order to reduce the gender gap, schemes such as National Program for Education of Girls at Elementary level (NPEGEL) and (Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya) (KGBV) under SSA Girl

Education component have been introduced. These schemes have attracted, especially the girl children towards schools and they complete the upper primary stage without dropping from the system.

National Programme of Education for Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL)

2.20.14. NPEGEL Scheme is being implemented in 29 Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs) in 11 Districts. This is a special programme implemented exclusively for the welfare of girls.

Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV)

2.20.15. KGBV Scheme is also being implemented in 22 Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs) in 10 Districts. Residential Schools have been opened to enroll out-of-school girls.

Special Literacy Programme for Women

2.20.16. This scheme was introduced during 2005-06 in the Directorate of Non-formal & Adult Education to give literacy training programme for women. The six districts covered under this programme were Dharmapuri, Villupuram, Erode, Salem, Krishnagiri and Perambalur and it was later extended to all districts during 2006-07. For the year 2007-08, it is proposed to cover 1.12 lakh beneficiaries in all districts of the State.

District Institute of Education and Training (DIET)

2.20.17. Setting up of DIETs is a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme. There are 29 DIETs in Tamil Nadu. DIETs function with seven branches viz. Pre-service, Work Experience, District Resource Unit, Planning and Management, Educational Technology, In-service and Curriculum Material Development and Evaluation. It imparts pre-service education to 2400 students in the first year and 2400 students in the second year. It organizes in-service training programmes for the professional development of teachers, Framing of syllabus and Curriculum, Revision of textbooks, catering to the changing professional needs of teachers in the context of advancements in the field of Science and Technology, planning, coordinating, conducting and evaluating training programmes are some of the activities of DIETs.

Higher Education

2.20.18. Tamil Nadu is one of the most advanced States in the country in the field of higher education. The institutions of higher education in Tamil Nadu have, for over a century, enjoyed a pre-eminent reputation among the colleges and universities in India. There are 670 (Arts and Science) colleges and other specific subject colleges in the State, out of which 132 are meant for women. There are 13 Universities under the aegis of Higher Education Department. Tamil Nadu has the largest number of autonomous colleges and the highest number of NAAC – accredited institutions. The Government colleges have been converted into the constituent colleges of the respective Universities to which they are affiliated w.e.f. 16.10.2002. With a view to providing access to higher education for large segments of population, “Tamil Nadu Open University” has been started during the year 2002-2003 and has enrolled more than 50,000 students under various courses.

2.20.19. The Tamil Nadu Government proposes to take action to provide uniform standard education of good quality for all students and provide special educational concessions to the districts where literacy rates are low so as to bring them on par with the educational levels of other districts.

2.20.20. An agreed outlay of Rs.836.42 crore is provided for General Education in the Annual Plan 2007-08. Of this, the outlays earmarked for Scheduled Caste Sub Plan and Tribal Sub Plan are Rs.167.28 crore and Rs.15.56 crore respectively.