

Growth And Development Of Sivaganga District

R.AMBIKA

Ph.D. Research Scholar (Full-Time)
Department of History
Alagappa University
Karaikudi

Dr.K.KRISHNAMOORTHY

Assistant Professor
Department of History
Alagappa University
Karaikudi

Abstract

Sivaganga District was a part of old Ramanathapuram District. The Sethupathy of Ramanathapuram lost his personal freedom and the British took control of the administration of Ramanathapuram in 1795. This district is covering an extent of 4189 sq.km, and consists of 521 revenue villages. People at risk are those who have come from a cooler climate to a hot climate. You may have such a person(s) visiting your family during the heat wave season. The District Human Development Report of Sivaganga district has made an attempt to analyze and understand the status of the human development in the various blocks of the district.

Introduction

Sivaganga District was a part of old Ramanathapuram District. The old Ramanathapuram District played a dominant role in the history of South India. In the early centuries, Ramanathapuram District formed part of Pandian Kingdom till the end of the 15th Century. After the fall of Nayaks, two of the Polygars viz Sethupathy of Ramanathapuram and Rajas of Sivaganga became prominent rulers of this part. Towards the middle of 18th Century the Europeans namely French, British entered into this part. The Sethupathy of Ramanathapuram lost his personal freedom and the British took control of the administration of Ramanathapuram in 1795. It was converted into a Zamindari in 1803 and Mangaleswari Natchiar became the first zamindar. During this period, the Raja of Sivaganga also revolted against the British. The famous Maruthu Brothers, Periya Marudhu and Chinna Marudhu assisted the Raja of Sivaganga in the revolts against the British. After the death of the Raja of Sivaganga (Muthu Vaduganadhar), the queen passed on the sovereignty

to Marudhu Brothers, who ruled Sivaganga peacefully and devoted on payment of regular revenue to the East India Company in 1801.

Physical Features

This district is covering an extent of 4189 sq.km, and consists of 521 revenue villages. The soil, Red sandy soil is generally found in most parts of the district which is not congenial for agricultural purposes. As this district is lacking forest, wealth, mineral resources, and transport facilities etc., Industrial growth is not appreciable. The headquarters of this district viz. Sivaganga and the adjacent Kalayarkoil village are noted for their historical importance, in as much as this area was ruled by the famous Marudhu Brothers, who were also the martyrs of independence in early 19th century.

Climate And Rainfall

This district is frequently hit by drought. Hot and dry weather prevails for about 9 months in a year. During this year this district experienced 369.34mm of rainfall as against 301 mm (normal rainfall) in the South West Monsoon, 161.72mm of rainfall against 422.7mm (normal rainfall) in the North East Monsoon, 69.2 of rainfall against 17.9 mm (normal rainfall) in the Winter Season and 117.45mm against 121.2 mm (normal rainfall) in the Summer Season. This rain helped the agriculturists to show self-sufficiency in the production of cereals, particularly paddy, ragi, cholam and chillies.

Irrigation:

This district is not blessed with perennial source of river water supply; the rain fed tanks are the main source of Irrigation. There are about 678 major tanks and 4288 Minor tanks in this district. Next to tanks, about 13558 wells are used for irrigation.

Agriculture:

The gross area under cultivation during the year was 98080 Hectares. Net area cultivated is 96099 Hectares and cropping intensity is 100%. Paddy was the main crop cultivated in the district. Millets, Groundnut and Sugarcane were also cultivated during the year to a considerable extent.

Industries:

Tamil Nadu Chemical Industries at Karaikudi, Central Electro Chemical Research Institute at Karaikudi, Sakthi Sugar Factory at Padamathur, M.M. Forgings Ltd and Tamilnadu Gears and Softs at Singampunari are the major industries in this district. Graphite is the only major mineral that is being mined by M/s Tamil Nadu Mineral Limited (TAMIN). This district also noted for handloom industry and manufacturing of stainless steel at Karaikudi and Manamaduraicentre, Bricks, Brick tiles and Pot making centres at Manamadurai and Thiruppuvanam area and Coir Manufacture industries (Handmade) is providing larger employment to the rural and urban women in the Singampunari and S. PudurBlocks .

Co-Operation:

There is one Central Co-operative Bank with a membership of 358 persons. There are 124 Primary Agricultural Co-operative Banks with membership of 344295 persons, Employee Co-operative Societies –56 with membership of 16757, Primary and Students Co-operative Stores -8 with membership of 6407 and other Co-operative Societies in the district. Further there is a Dairy Farm, which produces milk, Ghee, Buttery and Pasteurized Milk. There are 291 Co-operative Milk Societies in the district.

Demography Health and Nutrition

Sivaganga had a population of 11,53,747 in 2001 and it increased to 13,39,101 in 2011 with a decennial growth of 16.1 per cent. As a percentage of the State's population, Sivaganga district population was 1.9 per cent in 2001 and remained the same in 2011. Tamil Nadu had a Child Sex Ratio of 943 in 2011 as per census of India estimates, while the district had a Child Sex Ratio of 960 in 2011, which was higher than the State level.

Acclimatization

People at risk are persons who have come from a cooler weather to a hot climate. You may have such a personstaying your family during the warmth wave season. They should not move near in open field for aold-fashioned of one week till the body is adapted to

heat and should drink adequately of water. Acclimatization is achieved by steady exposure to the hot atmosphere during heat wave.

Minimum Standards for Relief Camp

Relief shelters and rehabilitation camps shall be set up in order to accommodate people affected by a disaster. The camp shall be temporary in nature, with basic necessities. People in the camp shall be encouraged to return to their respective accommodation once the normalcy is returned. The factors like terrain, climatic conditions at the site of disaster etc., will also impact the retirement and ability of the administration and other stakeholders to deliver relief. These constraints should also be kept in view while prescribing minimum standards of relief.

Social Security

Provision of monetary benefits to the target population through the social security initiatives of the Government infuses confidence among the population, specially the aged and the vulnerable sections. Also empowerment of women through education and employment would bring down the crime rates further and lead to zero crime rate in near future. • People living in arid areas like Sivaganga should be provided with more employment opportunities throughout the year keeping in mind social security needs of such people.

Conclusion

The District Human Development Report of Sivaganga district has made an attempt to analyze and understand the status of the human development in the various blocks of the district. In terms of the basic development indicator, i.e., Per Capita Income, the district seems to lag far behind the State level. In terms of the Literacy Rate, it seems to be marginally below the State level and exhibits gender gap substantially. The analysis of the HDI showed that some blocks that were expected to secure better ranks fell back and the cause could be attributed to health indicators that had large variations. The more urbanized blocks seemed to perform poorly in terms of these indicators.

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