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Tribal Demography in Thiruvannamalai District of Tamil Nadu – A Study

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Abstract

Thiruvannamalai is one of the world famous cities as it has the strong traditional heritage from the past. The physical features of Thiruvannamalai turn the attention of the people from the various direction of the world. It is considered as the heart of the world. It is the abode of the all souls and it is the place where physical share of the Lord Siva to Parvathi and so it is the place of the spiritual centre. Thiruvannamalai district has many glorious attributes such as fertile topography, tourist locations, various spiritual centers for edification of the mind and life system, festivals which are symbols of the cultural activities of the people, forest resources, water resources for fertile land and agriculture, many hill traces of the Eastern Ghats and Jawadhu hills which is abode of the tribes and a good administrative set up. The demography is the most important tool for any country for gauging level of the nation. The demography status of national, state and district level have been brought forth in this article. There are eighteen blocks situated in Thiruvannamalai district of Tamil Nadu and there are 860 villages are located in eighteen blocks in Thiruvannamalai district. Out of 860 villages, the tribal concentrated villages are only 528 and the remaining villages are

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non tribal areas. 90.54% of tribes are living in Jawadhu Hills block and it is the maximum tribal concentrated area in this district. Next to Jawadhu Hills, Thandrapattu has secured 9.52% of tribes are living and placed in second in this district. The total number of the tribes in this district is 87096. Out of it, number of male tribe is 44021 and female tribe is 43075 and so the sex ratio of the tribe in this district more or less equal with small variation. The total tribal percentage while comparing with other people is 4.27%. Notwithstanding the quantity of the tribal people in this district is low, it is unavoidable to concentrate on it.

Keywords: *Traditional, heritage, spiritual, Demography, glorious, fertile, topography edification. Jawadhu hills, concentration and variation.*

Administrative set up of Thiruvannamalai District

Thiruvannamalai is one of the 38 districts of Tamil Nadu. It was once a part of North Arcot district. Thiruvannamalai district was bifurcated from North Arcot District of Tamil Nadu on 30.09.1989. This district is surrounded by Kanchipuram, Villupuram, Dharmapuri and Vellore in the east, south, west and north as its boundaries respectively. It has three revenue districts, such as Thiruvannamalai, Arni and Cheyyar. It has also twelve taluks such as Thiruvannamalai, Kilpennathur, Chengam, Thandarampattu, Kalasapakkam, Polur, Arni, Chetpet, Cheyyar, Vembakkam, Vandavasi, and Jamunamarathur. It has also 18 Panchayat Union Blocks namely Anakkaoor, Arni, Chengam, Chetpet, Cheyyar, Jawadhu Hills, Kalasapakkam, Kilpennathur, Peranamallur, Polur, Pudhupalayam, Thandarampet, Thellar, Thuringapuram, Thiruvannamalai, Vandavasi, Vembakkam and West Arni¹ Thiruvannamalai district also has four Municipalities namely Thiruvannamalai, Arni, Cheyyar and Vandavasi. There are eight town panchayats situated in Thiruvannamalai district such as Kalambur, Chetpet, Kannamangalam, Vettavalam, Kilpennathur, Pudhupalayam, Peranamallur and Desur.² Thiruvannamalai district has two Parliamentary Constituencies (PC) as Thiruvannamalai (PC No.11) and Arni (P.C No.12) and eight Assembly Constituencies (AC) such as Chengam (AC No 62), Thiruvannamalai (AC No 63), Kilpennathur (AC No.64), Kalasapakkam (AC No.65), Polur (AC No.66) Arani (AC No.67), Cheyyar (AC No.68) and Vandavasi (AC No.69). Out eight assembly constituencies, two reserve constituencies have been reserved to person belonging to scheduled caste.³ Thiruvannamalai district ranked 13th highest in terms of population size in Tamil Nadu. It has recorded the population

density of 398 persons per square kilo meter and it has also recorded the sex ratio 994 and it is lower than state sex ratio. The scheduled caste population constitutes 23% to the total population of the district.⁴ The tribal population of the district is only 3.7% to the total population of the district. The district has recorded the literacy rate of 74.2%. Cheyyar taluk has 215 as inhabited villages and Arani has 48 as inhabited villages which are considered as highest and lowest inhabited villages in Thiruvannamalai district respectively.⁵ Padavedu village (L.C (Location Code) No. 00427300) situated in Polur taluk of Thiruvannamalai district has the highest population 15,163 and Radhapuram Reserve Forest Area (L.C No. 80026800) situated in Thandrapattu taluk has the least population 10 in the district. Pattaraikadu village (L.C No. 80024400 which is located in Polur taluk is the largest village with an area of 96.22.67 hectares and Eruvattani (L.C. No. 00438600) in Polur taluk is the smallest village with an area of 13.23 hectares in Thiruvannamalai district.⁶

Demography is the vocabulary based on Greek language which has the two words such as Demos and Grapy mean people and science respectively. The word Population and Demography seem both alike. But these are not same and differed with one another. Population is the actual collection of individual dwelling in a particular area in short period. Demography is the scientific and statistical study of character, changes, dynamics, quality and quantity of the population. There are many problems arising both in low and high populated countries. The governments which run the countries face too difficult to control the issues. There are many problems connecting to growth of population.

1.1 Importance of Demography

Demography is an important scale for measuring a value of the particular group of the society. Next to China, India is the second highest populated country in the world according to 2011 census. The above mentioned two countries are considered as the biggest world markets. India has 2.4% of land area out of total areas of the world. It has 17.5% of Population out of total world population. The ratio of the population is bigger than that of land. An Indian became one of every six persons in the world.⁷ Uttar Pradesh is the highest populated state in India and it has more than 199.5 million people. Next to it, Maharashtra, Bihar and West

Bengal are considered as the highest populated states in India. The least populated state in India is Sikkim and it has 6,07,688 and it does not cover not even one percentage of total national population. According to 2011 census, India's population of density is 382 per square kilo meter. India is one of the ten countries which are the most density populated countries in the world. Bihar is more density populated state in India and Arunachala Pradesh is the least density populated state in India. In Union territories, New Delhi is the more density populated and Andaman Nicobar Island is the least density populated union territory in India.⁸

Tribal Demography in India – Panoramic View State wise Scheduled Tribe Population⁹

Sl. No	States of India	No of Household	Population	Male	Female	Child 0 - 6	Literacy	Sex Ratio
	India	21,511,528	104,545,716	52,547,215	51,998,501	16.01 %	58.95 %	990
1	Madhya Pradesh	3,122,061	15,316,784	7,719,404	7,597,380	18.46 %	50.55 %	984
2	Orissa	2,163,110	9,590,756	4,727,732	4,863,024	15.86 %	52.24 %	1029
3	Maharashtra	2,156,957	10,510,213	5,315,025	5,195,188	14.78 %	65.73 %	977
4	Rajasthan	1,787,715	9,238,534	4,742,943	4,495,591	18.40 %	52.80 %	948
5	Chhattisgarh	1,743,277	7,822,902	3,873,191	3,949,711	15.33 %	59.09 %	1020
6	Gujarat	1,699,510	8,917,174	4,501,389	4,415,785	15.85 %	62.48 %	981
7	Jharkhand	1,699,215	8,645,042	4,315,407	4,329,635	16.97 %	57.13 %	1003
8	Andhra Pradesh	1,417,289	5,918,073	2,969,362	2,948,711	13.03 %	49.21 %	993
9	West Bengal	1,160,069	5,296,953	2,649,974	2,646,979	13.17 %	57.93 %	999
10	Karnataka	875,742	4,248,987	2,134,754	2,114,233	13.19 %	62.08 %	990
11	Assam	755,194	3,884,371	1,957,005	1,927,366	14.12 %	72.06 %	985
12	Meghalaya	460,775	2,555,861	1,269,728	1,286,133	19.86 %	74.53 %	1013
13	Nagaland	334,967	1,710,973	866,027	844,946	14.86 %	80.04 %	976
14	Jammu and Kashmir	260,401	1,493,299	776,257	717,042	20.30 %	50.56 %	924
15	Tripura	257,119	1,166,813	588,327	578,486	15.03 %	79.05 %	983
16	Bihar	251,749	1,336,573	682,516	654,057	18.70 %	51.08 %	958
17	Manipur	214,636	1,167,422	588,279	579,143	13.21 %	72.58 %	984
18	Mizoram	209,154	1,036,115	516,294	519,821	15.50 %	91.51 %	1007
19	Tamil Nadu	196,373	794,697	401,068	393,629	13.08 %	54.34 %	981
20	Uttar Pradesh	187,688	1,134,273	581,083	553,190	18.21 %	55.68 %	952

21	<u>Arunachal Pradesh</u>	176,394	951,821	468,390	483,431	15.86 %	64.58 %	1032
22	<u>Kerala</u>	119,788	484,839	238,203	246,636	11.23 %	75.81 %	1035
23	<u>Himachal Pradesh</u>	80,678	392,126	196,118	196,008	12.22 %	73.64 %	999
24	<u>Uttarakhand</u>	51,888	291,903	148,669	143,234	11.84 %	73.88 %	963
25	<u>Sikkim</u>	44,299	206,360	105,261	101,099	10.62 %	79.74 %	960
26	<u>Dadra and Nagar Haveli</u>	32,640	178,564	88,844	89,720	16.01 %	61.85 %	1010
27	<u>Goa</u>	32,067	149,275	72,948	76,327	9.99 %	79.14 %	1046
28	<u>Lakshadweep</u>	10,665	61,120	30,515	30,605	11.54 %	91.70 %	1003
29	<u>Andaman and Nicobar Islands</u>	6,910	28,530	14,731	13,799	13.47 %	75.58 %	937
30	<u>Daman and Diu</u>	3,198	15,363	7,771	7,592	11.54 %	78.79 %	977
31	<u>Punjab</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
32	<u>Chandigarh</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
33	<u>Haryana</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
34	<u>Delhi</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	<u>Puducherry</u>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Growth of tribal population from 1950 to 2011¹⁰

Sl No	Decadal year	Tribe in Lakhs	% of ST in total population
1	1951	225	6.23
2	1961	302	6.87
3	1971	380	6.94
4	1981	538	7.58
5	1991	678	8.08
6	2001	843	8.20
7	2011 onwards	1042	11.3

There are 28 states and 8 Union territories in India, Out of these, Ladak is a new union territory formed in 2019. The various tribal groups in India have scattered in 30 states and union territories and remaining areas are free tribal areas such as Punjab, Chandigarh, Haryana, Delhi and Puducherry. Madhya Pradesh is the only state having the highest tribal population (7,719,404) and Goa is the state having the lowest tribal population (1,47,275). Likewise the union territories Dadra Nagar Haveli and Daman Diu have the highest (1,78,564) and lowest (15,263) tribal population respectively. Next to Madhya Pradesh, Orissa,

Maharashtra and Rajasthan have higher population. The highest tribal literacy states are Mizoram (91.51), Nagaland (80.04) Sikkim (79.74), Goa (79.14), and Tripura (79.05) and Andhra Pradesh is the only state having the lowest tribal literacy rate (49.21).

The National level tribal literacy rate is 58.95%). The sex ratio of the tribes in Rajasthan (948), Jammu Kashmir (924), and Andaman Nicobar Islands (937) are below 950. In these places the female sex is lower and male sex is higher. But the states Kerala (1035), Arunachala Pradesh (1032), Orissa (1029), Chhattisgarh (1020), Meghalaya (1013), Dadra Nagar Haveli (1010), Mizoram (1007), Jharkhand (1003) and Lakshadweep (1003) have higher female sex than male sex.

In 1951 census, the percentage of tribal population in total population is 6.23, in 1961 Census, it is 6.87, in 1971 Census, it is 6.94, in 1981 census, it is 7.58, in 1991 census, it is 8.08, in 2001 census, it is 8.20 and in 2011 census, it is 11.3. Though there is continuous decadal development in the percentage, there is big change in the period of 2011 onwards. Though the decadal population of the tribes is slowly increasing, it is not equal to that of the general population. As per the 2011 Census, India has a total of 705 tribes. These tribes include both large and small tribes. Amongst such a vast number of tribes in India, we have listed the major tribes of India that have a large population and are found in a number of states.

Tribal demography in Tamil Nadu

The tribal population in India is 84.51 million, which constitutes 8.14% of tribal population. As per the 2011 Census, India has a total of 705 tribes. These tribes include both large and small tribes. Fifty percentages of India's tribal people lives in the forests and forest fringes and their economy is linked with the forests. Tamil Nadu has 7.21 lakh tribal populations as per 2011 census which constitutes 1.10% of the total population. There are 36 tribes and sub tribes in Tamil Nadu. Literacy rate of the population is 27.9%. Most of the tribes in Tamil Nadu are cultivators, agriculture laborers or dependent on forests for their livelihood. There are six primitive tribes in Tamil Nadu. The tribal groups in Tamil Nadu are distributed in almost all the districts and they have contributed significantly in the management of the forests.¹¹

District Wise Tribal Population (as per 2011 Census)¹²

SI No	Name of the District	Total Tribal Population	2001	2011	% of tribes in change
1	Chennai	4646732	6728	10061	0.22
2	Kanchipuram	3998252	26508	41210	1.03
3	Tiruvallur	3728104	37858	47243	1.27
4	Cuddalore	2605914	11773	15702	0.60
5	Villupuram	3458873	63920	74859	2.16
6	Vellore	3936331	63040	72955	1.85
7	Thiruvannamalai	2464875	72760	90954	3.69
8	Salem	3482056	103921	119369	3.43
9	Namakkal	1726601	51416	57059	3.30
10	Dharmapuri	1506843	59549	63044	4.18
11	Erode	2251744	17693	21880	0.97
12	Coimbatore	3458045	29103	28342	0.82
13	The Nilgiris	735394	28373	32813	4.46
14	Tiruchirappalli	2722290	18912	18198	0.67
15	Karur	1064493	1450	575	0.05
16	Perambalur	565223	3307	2584	0.46
17	Ariyalur	754894	8529	10722	1.42
18	Pudukottai	1618345	792	1283	0.08
19	Thanjavur	2405890	3641	3561	0.15
20	Nagapattinam	1616450	3420	3756	0.23
21	Tiruvarur	1264277	2673	3034	0.24
22	Madurai	3038252	5972	11096	0.37
23	Theni	1245899	1686	1835	0.15
24	Dindigul	2159775	6484	8064	0.37
25	Ramanathapuram	1353445	1078	1105	0.08
26	Virudhunagar	1942288	2357	2294	0.12
27	Sivagangai	1339101	1083	790	0.06
28	Tirunelveli	3077233	8358	10270	0.33
29	Thoothukudi	1750176	3494	4911	0.28
30	Kanniyakumari	1870374	5443	7282	0.39
31	Krishnagiri	1879809	-	22388	1.19
32	Tirupur	2479052	-	5458	0.22
	STATE LEVEL	72147030	651321	794697	1.10

According to the table enumerated above, The Nilgiris district has the highest tribal population and it constitutes 4.46% out of the total population. Next to the Nilgiris district, Dharmapuri secures 4.18% out of the total population and stands second position. Thiruvannamalai (3.69%), Salem (3.43%) and Namakkal (3.30) are the districts which have more than 3% and less than 4%. There are 19 districts have the lowest tribal population below 1%. But Villupuram district constitutes 2.16 percentages and stands neither lowest nor highest position. The decadal growth of tribal population is decreasing from 2001 census to 2011 census in the districts of Tiruchirappalli (18912 -18198), Thanjavur (3641-3561), Perambalur (3307 – 2584), Virudhunagar (2357 – 2294), Kurur (1450 – 575) and Sivagangai (1083- 790). There might have been tribal migration from one district to another district in Tamil Nadu and the birth rate is lower than death rate of the tribes in particular districts. The tribal population of 2011 census is 794697 out general population 7,21,47,030 and secures 1.10% of the total population. There are 36 groups of tribes are living in various districts of Tamil Nadu. They are as follows. 1. Adiyar, 2. Aranadan, 3. Eravallan, 4. Irula, 5. Kadar, 6. Kammara, 7. Kanikaran, 8. Kaniyan, 9. Kattunayakkan, 10. Kochuvelan, 11. Konda Kapus, 12. Konda redid, 13. Koraga, 14. Kota, 15. Kudiyan, 16. Kurichan, 17. Kurumbas, 18. Kuruman, 19. Mahamalar, 20. Malai arayan, 21. Malaipandaram, 22. Malaivedan, 23. Malaikuravan, 24. Malaisar, 25. Malayali, 26. Malaikondi, 27. Mannan, 28. Mudugar, 29. Muthuvan, 30. Palleyan, 31. Palliyan, 32. Palliyar, 33. Paniyan, 34. Sholagar, 35. Todas and 36. Urali.

Union wise Tribal Population in Thiruvannamalai District ¹³

S. No	Name of the Unions	No of villages	No of tribal villages	Total No of Tribal population	Male	Female	Total population of the union	% of tribal population
1	Thiruvannamalai	69	33	3784	1892	1892	179905	2.10 %
2	Kilpennathur	45	25	2477	1263	1214	104216	2.37%
3	Thurinjapuram	47	27	1662	841	821	123213	1.34%
4	Polur	40	15	476	240	236	135345	0.35%
5	Kalasapakkam	45	19	440	224	216	120612	0.36%
6	Chetpet	49	18	364	188	176	94387	0.38%
7	Chengam	44	23	2458	1206	1252	142114	1.72%
8	Pudhupalayam	37	22	1118	598	520	89491	1.24%

9	Thandarampattu	47	37	17018	8601	8417	178648	9.52%
10	Jawadhu Hills	11	11	47081	23952	23129	51999	90.54%
11	Cheyvar	53	36	1136	562	574	94259	1.20%
12	Anakkavur	55	44	1289	635	654	78799	1.63%
13	Vembakkam	64	43	1349	646	703	127752	1.05%
14	Vandavasi	61	43	2172	1085	1087	110990	1.95%
15	Thellar	61	52	2229	1103	1126	97938	2.27%
16	Peranamallur	57	41	1145	553	592	85475	1.33%
17	Arani	38	20	521	248	273	115884	0.44%
18	West Arani	37	19	377	184	193	108022	0.34%
	Total	860	528	87096	44021	43075	2039049	4.27%

There are eighteen blocks situated in Thiruvannamalai district of Tamil Nadu. Total number of villages found in this district is 860. Thiruvannamalai is the only block consisting 69 villages as maximum villages and Jawadhu Hills block has only 11 villages as the minimum number of villages in this district. Out of eighteen blocks, four blocks have more than 60, three blocks have more than 50, seven blocks have more than 40, three blocks have more than 30 and only one block that is Jawadhu Hills has only 11 villages. Out of 860 villages in Thiruvannamalai district, the tribal concentrated villages are only 528 and the remaining villages are non tribal areas. 90.54% of tribes are living in Jawadhu Hills block and it is the maximum tribal concentrated area in this district. Next to Jawadhu Hills, Thandrampattu has secured 9.52% of tribes are living and placed in second in this district. Apart from that, the percentage of the tribal concentration in all 18 blocks of Thiruvannamalai district is 2 to 3% in three blocks, 1 to 2% in eight blocks and below 1% in five blocks. The total number of the tribes in this district is 87096. Out of it, number of male tribe is 44021 and female tribe is 43075 and so the sex ratio of the tribe in this district more or less equal with small variation. The total tribal percentage while comparing with other people is 4.27%. The quantity of the tribal people in this district is less, it is unavoidable to concentrate on it.

End Notes

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