CHAPTER IV

PROFILE OF THE STUDY AREA
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In this chapter, for a better understanding of this study, it is felt essential to bring out the qualitative and quantitative profile of the area, the background, the key characteristics of the study district, its features and in general its economy.

India

Political independence that came to India in 1947 after a protracted struggle and innumerable sacrifices was an automatic deliverance from centuries old humiliation of foreign subjugation, colonial exploitation and economic stagnation. Appalling poverty, recurrent famines, low expectation of life, high incidence of communicable and contagious diseases, low level of literacy, preponderance of agriculture, absence of industrial infrastructure, scarcity of skilled labourers and growing unemployment were some of the well known characteristics of the economy at the dawn of freedom. India has vast manpower resources. Ranking seventh among the nations of the world in terms of geographical area, India is second only to China in terms of population. At the same time, hierarchical divisions of the society into a caste system and the existence of sharp inequalities of income, wealth as well as opportunities are some of the overriding constraints, adding to the complexity of the situation.

Indian people, however, rose to the occasion and, in their effort to effect economic development without loss of time, chose for themselves three broad objectives, namely growth, equity and self-reliance. The most dominant problem of India has been and continues to be her mass poverty, combined with dormant resource-use. Economic growth is considered to be her pre-eminent solution. The objective of self-reliance stemmed partly from the ‘Swadeshi Movement’ but largely from the need to build up an industrial base for self sustained growth.
Dependence on the foreign countries for food, machinery, fuel and consumer goods could have disastrous consequences. Thus the country’s economic philosophy had to be consistent with her historical experience in the pre-independence phase.

**Geographic and Demographic Features of India**

With a total land frontier of about 15200 sq.km. measuring about 3214 km, from north to south and about 2933 km, from east to west, India ranks the seventh largest country in the world. It is well made off from the rest of Asia by mountain and the sea, thus giving the country a fairly distinct geographical entity. The mainland comprises four regions. Some of the highest peaks in the world are found in Kashmir and Kullu regions in Himalayas. The mountain wall extends over a distance of about 2400 km, with a varying depth of 240 to 320 km. In the east between India and Myanmar and in the west India and Bangladesh, hill ranges are much lower. Garo, Khasi Jaitia and Naga hills, running almost east-west, join the chain to Mizo and Rakhine hills running north-south. Thus India is bound in the north by Himalayas, east by Bay of Bengal and Bangladesh, south by Indian Ocean and west by Arabian sea and Pakistan.

The famous rivers in India are classified as Himalayan rivers, Peninsular rivers, Coastal rivers and rivers of Inland Drainage Basin. Some of the important rivers are Ganga, Brahmaputra, Bhagirathi, Alkanda, Yamuna, Ghargra, Gomti, Gandak, Kosi, Chambal, Godavari, Krishna, Mahanadhi, Narmada, Cauvery, Tapti and Narmada.

The climate of India may be described as tropical monsoon type with wide range of climatic conditions with varied vegetation. According to 2001 census, India has a population of 1027015247 persons and it is increasing roughly around 1.5 per cent per annum. The population density is 324 persons per square kilometer in 2001. The sex ratio is 933 females per 1000 males. As
per 2001 census, the literacy rate is 65.38 per cent and all India level gap between male and female literacy rates has decreased from 24.84 percentage point in 1991 to 21.70 in 2001.

Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu has a hoary antiquity. Even from presangam age, that is from fourth century B.C., it possesses recorded history. Tamil Nadu had remained under the hegemony of the Cholas, the Cheras and the Pandyas till third century AD. While the Pallavas held supremacy on the northern part, the Kalabhras had occupied the southern part of Tamil Nadu till sixth century. Afterwards Pallavas continued to rule with Kancheepuram as their capital till ninth century on the northern part. For four centuries from 9th to 13th Tamil Nadu was under the control of the great Cholas. Then Pandyas starting from Jatavaman Soundara Pandian ruled it later. Then came Muslims Bahamani Sultanate. The Portuguees, the Dutch and the French came in quick succession of the first British settlements in India. The old Madras Presidency, in 1901 covered the bulk of the southern Indian peninsula. The composite Madras State was later reorganised and the present Tamil Nadu was formed. Tamil Nadu is bounded on north by Andra Pradesh and Karnataka, on west by Kerala, on east by Bay of Bengal and on south by the Indian Ocean.

Tamil Nadu’s population stood at 62,110,839 as of 00.00 hours of March 1, 2000 (Census of India 2001). The State is sixth most populated State of the Indian Union besides, Uttar Pradesh, Maharastra, Bihar, West Bengal, and Andhra Pradesh. It accounts for 6.05 per cent of the country’s population. The density of population at 478 persons per square kilometer, up from 429 in 1991 and much higher than the all India density of 324, makes it the eleventh most densely populated State as per 2001 census.

The State’s literacy rate increased from 62.66 per cent in 1991 to 73.47 per cent in 2001. The female literacy rate increased from 51.33 percent in 1991
to 64.53 per cent in 2001 and male literacy grew along with population slowly from 73.75 per cent in 1991 to 82.83 per cent in 2001. The population sex ratio defined as the girls per 1000 boys in the age group of 0-6 years had a decline from 948 in 1991 to 939 in 2001 (V.B. Athreya, 2001).

**Tiruchirappalli**

Tiruchirappalli is situated on the banks of the bountiful river Cauvery, in the central region of the State and is even considered fit to be the second capital of Tamil Nadu. During the past three decades the establishment of the giant public sector undertaking, the BHEL (Bharat Heavy Electrical Limited), the Regional Engineering College now known as the National Institute of Technology, Ordnance Factory, the Bharathidasan University and several arts and science colleges helped Tiruchirappalli to emerge as an expanding town. But unfortunately, the existence of the crisscrossing meter and broad gauge railway lines, Uyyakondan, Cauvery and Kudamuritti rivers skirting the town, and vast stretches of military and Central Government owned land in the heart of the town, has resulted in uncontrolled growth of business and trade in the Mainguard Gate and Teppakulam area, which today has resulted in severe chaotic traffic conditions and in consequence, has even started adversely affecting the volume of trade and business itself.

Notwithstanding the tremendous growth in trade and business which attracts over 1 lakh floating population daily to Tiruchirappalli town, due to lack of coordinated plan on the part of the authorities and reluctance of the people to subject even to a minimum level of discipline, the development of Tiruchirappalli town has been lopsided in the past few years and warrants immediate corrective steps, so that the steep slide in the quality of life could be arrested.
Industrial Scenario

There have been both development and structural changes in the industrial growth of Tamil Nadu. The policies of the Central Government basically depending on foreign capital and export orientation have been mostly responsible for the structural change. In 1965, there were 5052 registered industrial activities which have gone up to 19406 in 1998. There has been a 90 fold increase in the productive capital from Rs. 557.26 crore to Rs. 4992438 crore. Value of production has shown a 133 fold increase from Rs. 89653.63 crore in 1998. As per 1993 estimates, Tamil Nadu stood at fifth place with respect to registered industrial activities, third place in industrial infrastructure, third place in terms of number of small scale industrial (SSI) units. But Tamil Nadu showed a fast industrial growth during 1960 to 1980 but later met with a structural slow down. In fact the slow down has been experienced by agriculture and allied activities, textiles etc, whereas chemical, power, and engineering activities had their shares increased. A distinctive feature of Tamil Nadu industrial growth is its fast growth of SSI sector. During 1980-81, there were 33777 SSI units which went up to 354939 units during 1999-2000. Not only the number has increased but the pattern and nature have also changed. During 1980-81, an average investment with SSI was Rs. 65000 which has reached Rs.299000 during 1999-2000. However, the new policies have thrown several challenges to SSI sector, particularly the rules and regulations of WTO may check the growth of SSI sector more than anything else as protection is a barrier to trade as per WTO.

An Eyesore

Today Tiruchirappalli is a blend of history and tradition-a pilgrim centre as well as a thriving commercial city. At the foot of the majestic Rock Fort, the most important landmark, an eyesore today, includes, Burma Bazaar shops, vegetable and fruit vendors, etc. Hundreds of offices are now occupying the once famous Clive’s Hostel. Highly expensive foreign articles which are sold in Burma Bazaar, and the aggressive marketing strategy shown by some of the
most popular textile showrooms besides the brass, stainless steel shops, not to speak of the Rock Fort itself, are attracting thousands of people to the area daily. But due to encroachment of all approach roads like the Singarathope street, Nandi Kovil Street, East Bouleward Road, and Andal Street, it is extremely difficult for the vehicles to reach the spot. The vendors, street hawkers and platform shops occupy the entire width of the road and driving even in a cycle is a challenge to any good rider. The big shops in the area feel that due to very high congestion, slowly but surely, a section of people prefer to go to some other parts of the town for making their purchases.

The Teppakkulam, the pride of the town once, is now an eyesore, since it is considered a dustbin for putting all the refuse and garbage from the scores of vegetables and fruit shops, and vendors daily. Though ministers and officials have announced that they would save the tank by distilling the same and putting up railings, as usual they have been empty promises. After upgradation of Tiruchirappalli as corporation the tank was cleaned and floating boats were introduced for time pass and entertainment of people.

Traffic Congestions

The Gandhi Market, which is one of the biggest vegetable and groceries wholesale and retail markets, attracting over 1000 lorries to the town daily, is also situated just one km, from the Mainguard Gate area. The Market is highly congested and ill-planned to meet the modern expanding business, causing traffic jam very frequently. The merchants spread their goods on the road not only for packing but processing too worsening the traffic congestion and the hygienic condition of the whole area.

The City Corporation had drawn up a plan to shift the market to the nearby sub-jail complex spread over an area of about seven acres, with the help from the World Bank. But the jail authorities are demanding a compensation of about Rs. 4.5 crores for the site and the century old building in the campus.
A Peer into a Versatile Workshop

The Golden Rock Workshop popularly known as the Ponmalai Workshop, established 65 years ago, is one of the most versatile railway workshops in the country. Within a year of the decision of the Indian Railways for conversion of all the meter gauge lines into broad gauge lines the workshop got itself ready to meet the needs of the coming decades. The workshop was located in the town of Nagapattinam before the First World War. It was owned by the South Indian Railway Company, which was operating from Tiruchirappalli at that time. However, after the World War it was decided to shift the workshop to Golden Rock near Tiruchirappalli.

World Bank Aid

The World Bank after a careful scrutiny of the performance of the workshop and needs of the every expanding railway network, sanctioned in 1986, Rs. 28 crores for modernisation programme, and the same has been completed recently. The World Bank appraisal team praised the excellent manner in which the project was completed which was worthy of emulation by other units. During the modernisation about Rs.18 crores were spent on the mechanical side, to streamline and augment the equipment handling systems, Rs. 6 crores on civil construction, Rs. 3.4 crores on electrical work, and Rs.1.4 crores on providing computer facility to production, planning, material management, plant maintenance system and rolling stock position.

Residential Development in Tiruchirappalli

Tiruchirappalli is the fourth largest town of Tamil Nadu having a population of about 2388831 persons as per 2001 census. Among them males constitute 49.98 per cent and female 50.01 per cent. Srirangam and Golden Rock Municipal towns and some more town panchayats are well developed. The population of the urban complex is about 11 lakhs.
Tiruchirappalli is an important place from time immemorial and had been the centre of activities for many historical events from the days of the early Cholas till the later British. Tiruchirapalli is today important due to its geographical central location in Tamilnadu.

Like any other city in Tamil Nadu, Tiruchirapalli is facing manifold problems of rapid and mass urbanisation. Though it has been less in its growth upto 1961 compared to Coimbatore and Madurai, the developments that had taken place in and around Tiruchirapalli, as a result of the location of heavy industries like Bharat Heavy Electrical Limited, Small Arms Factory etc. and educational institutions such as National Institute of Technology, K.A.P. Viswanathan Government Medical College, many more Government aided and self-financed engineering and arts and science colleges and many polytechnics including Government polytechnic have brought its wake, congestion, transport bottlenecks, housing scarcity, development of slums among major arteries and unplanned urban sprawl.

**History of the Town**

Many historic battles were fought at Tiruchirappalli and Srirangam towns. They were used as battle fields by many kings. Though, the fort does not seem to have been built till the time of Nayak rule during the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries, the town and its suburbs were important since historical times. Tiruchirappalli was under the Chola regime from the period of Sangam age. After the earlier Cholas, the region was under the rule of Cheras, Pandyas and Pallavas in that order. In the thirteenth century, the Hoysala dynasty appears to have held a stay in the region for some time with its provincial capital at Samayapuram.

The phenomenal growth of Tiruchirappalli in particular during the recent past may be attributed to its recognition not only as a place of commercial importance but also as a seat of higher education. The diversification of its
economic base through the establishment of Heavy Boiler Plant, Small Arms Project, Cotton and Textile Mills and many ancillary industrial units earned the name as a growing industrial centre. The strategic location of the town in the heart of Tamil Nadu at the confluence of important road, rail and air transportations brought the prominent position. As the most important town of the Cauvery delta there are added advantages in bringing the headquarters of the State which will certainly act as an impetus for further rapid growth of the town in the decades to come.

**Demographic Details**

The population density of Tiruchirappalli is 531 persons per square kilometer which is lower than the State’s population density. Rural population accounts for 53.35 per cent of total population and urban accounts for 46.65 per cent. The sex ratio of the district in terms of numbers of females per 1000 males is 1002 in rural and 999 in urban areas which are higher than the sex ratios of the State. Cultivators account for 23.82 per cent in main workers and 9.16 per cent in total population. Workers in household industries in this district account for 4.3 per cent while urban workers account for 2.54 per cent and rural 1.76 per cent. Among them, males constitute 2.13 per cent and females 2.17 per cent in urban areas in the total main workers in the district.

**Tiruchirappalli City Corporation**

Tiruchirappalli is governed by the corporation of Tiruchirappalli which takes care of the local government. The Mayor, Councillors, Commissioner, City Engineer, Corporation Doctor and all the employees serve to provide all amenities to people and tourists.

**Literacy Rate**

79.16 per cent of population are literates in Tiruchirappalli district, in which, males account for 87.19 per cent and females for 71.19 per centas per 2001 census.
Climate

The climate generally is hot, except during the monsoon months of October to December, it is also dry. The average temperature ranges from 19.7 °C to 39.4 °C.

Rainfall

Tiruchirappalli City receives an average annual rainfall of 27 inches and the bulk of rainfall is received during the north-west monsoon period that is from October to December. On an average, the number of rainy days in a year ranges from 35 to 40 days. There are rains during summer period also (March, April and May) but such occasions are rare, which generally occur due to the influence of southwest monsoon in June.

Important Tourist Centres in Tiruchirappalli District

Sri Ranganatha Swami Temple, Srirangam

The district's most important pilgrim centre is located in an island just 7 km from Tiruchy. Srirangam, surrounded by the waters of river Cauvery on one inside and its tributary Kollidam on the other, is a 600 acre island-town enclosed within the seven walls of the gigantic Sriranganathaswami Temple.

There are 21 “Gopurams”, among which the Rajagopuram is the tallest in South India. The 72m high 13 tired Gopuram was built in 1987 that dominates the landscape for miles around, while the remaining 20 gopurams were built between the fourteenth and seventeenth centuries. Originally, there was just a small shrine where the temple is today, but it was added on and expanded by the Cholas, Cheras, Pandyas, Hoysalas, the Vijayanagar Kings and Nayaks of Madurai and today Srirangam stands as the biggest temple complex in the country.
**Temple Museum**

Ivory sculptures of Lord Vishnu in various poses and the images of Nayak Kings with consorts donated by Nayak Kings who ruled Madurai and Thanjavur during the 17th century are available here. Pavai lamps and dresses of Marati period, the Nataraja image in a pearl made screen, Coins of British, Dutch, Tiruvancore, Hyderabad and Gwalior princely States are available. Palm leaf inscriptions, stone sculptures, very big temple lamps and copper plates of Vijayanagar Kings are also available.

**Rock Fort**

Tiruchirappalli’s most famous landmark is 83-m high rock which is the only outcrop in the otherwise flat inland of the city. The most amazing fact about the rock is that it is one of the oldest in the world. The sheer abruptness of its rise is an attention grabber. But the actual centre of attraction is not the fort itself, of which very little remains, but the temple at the summit. Four hundred and twenty steps carved out of rock lead to the top where there are inscriptions dating back to the third century B.C. The fort played an important part during the Carnatic wars and according to an inscription, it mainly contributed to lay the foundation of the British empire in India. At the top of the rock is the Uchipillaiyar Koil, a temple dedicated to Lord Vinayaka from where one can enjoy a panoramic view of Tiruchirappalli. A flight of steps leads to the Mathrubutheswarar or Thayumanaswami temple which is dedicated to Lord Siva where the “lingam” is the projection of the rock itself. There are two Pallava cave temples that have beautiful sculptures of the sixth and seventh centuries. At the foot of the Rock Fort are a tank and a pavilion which are used during the float festival of the temple. Facilities for boating in the tank is available. Near the tank is the house where Robert Clive lived when he was in Tiruchirappalli. The house is now part of Tiruchirappalli’s famous St. Joseph College. The eighteenth century’s Christ Church built by Schwartz of Denmark is nearby.
The Rock Fort Hillock is said to be 2300 million years old. Ponmalai, Nadumalai, Edamalaipattimalai, Rapattimalai, Kuttimalai, Thiruverumbur Erumbeeswarar malai, Thuvakudi malai and Rock Fort Hillock are protruding portions of the rock plates existing below. The materials like quartz used in glass making and feldspar used in ceramic are found in this Rock formation. There is no trace of life in this Rock like the one found in the Ariyalur belt nearby. While the age of the earth is 4600 million years, the age of Rock Fort hillock is just half while the age of Himalayas is only 40 million years.

**Mariamman Temple at Samayapuram**

Samayapuram Mariamman Temple is situated on Tiruchirappalli-Chennai NH 45, just 20 km north of Tiruchirappalli town. Every Sunday, Tuesday and Friday, hundreds of devotees throng the temple and perform poojas. The offerings are in various forms. The most common offering is the “Mavilakku Mavu” made of jaggery, rice flour, dhal and ghee. Samayapuram is an important pilgrim centre for all village people of this region. Car festival (April-May) and Flower festival/ Poochorithal (February-March) are very famous in this temple along with the festivals during Vaikasi( Pancha Prahara Urchavam) and Thai Poosam festival associated with the Renganathar at Srirangam.

The associated temple named Ujjaini Om Kaliyamman at Magalikudi lies at 500 m. It is said that King Vikramathithan who ruled Ujjain prayed the deity and took holy bath in the Sakthitheertham perennial well here. Full moon days and new moon days are pious days here.

**Vekkaliamman Temple**

Woraiur was once the capital of the Cholas. The Vekkaliamman temple is unique and is having no roof for the presiding deity, the reason being the Goddess here has saved the people here from the Sand-rain and turbulent wind showered at this place by the curse of the Lord Siva here on the request of the
pious devotee Saint Sarama Munivar. She said that she would have the roofing only when all the people of this town get the same. One shrine devoted to Lord "Pongusani" is worth to mention. It lies no far from Nachiyar Kovil and Panchavarneswarar temple.

**Subramaniya Temple at Vayaloor**

Arulmigu Subramaniyaswami Temple lies at Kumara Vayaloor, 12 km from Tiruchirappalli, near Kuzhumani, the village with lush green fields. It is one of the famous Lord Karthic temples of this area. The Kandar Sasti festival during October - November is celebrated in a grand manner for Lord Muruga here. The presiding deities are named as Adinathar and Adinayaki. During all Sastis (6th day from new/ full moon day) Karthigai Deepam, Thaipoosam, Panguni Uthiram, full moon days, first day of English and Tamil New years thousands of devotees are visiting this temple. It is well connected by bus to Tiruchirappalli town.

**Our Lady of Lourdes Church**

This church is located near the RockFort and Teppakulam. Church of Our Lady of Lourdes is the replica of the Basilica of Lourdes, the world famous place of pilgrimage in Southern France. It is a remarkable feat of Indian craftsmanship and stained glass drawings.

**Natthersa Mosque**

Baba Natharvali occupied a unique position in the ranks of the Islamic saints of the world. He was named as Muthaharudeen at first. He was in Hijiri 347, in one of the idle eastern countries. Even though he was the sultan, he was having no attachment to pleasures of royal life of pomp and splendour right from his early age. He descended from his throne, crowning his brother, Syed Jalaudeen and undertook holy pilgrimage for propagation of Allah's glory according to Islamic tenets.
During this time, he had wrought a lot of miracles to the astonishment of the people, who came into contact with him. This apart with his 900 kalandars, he set foot in Tiruchirapuram, which is now known as Tiruchirappalli. He led a pious saintly life with his kalandars in a flower garden in Tiruchirappalli. Saint Baba Natharvali's body was laid to rest in a room in the easwaran temple. Constructed with four doors according to Vedic sastras and seppulingam is a witness to ghee lamp burning near the grave of Baba. The saint breathed his last on the 15th of the month of Ramzan in Hijiri 417 and with a view to remember this day, the first 17 days in the month of Ramzan every year Kanduri Urs is celebrated in a highly grand scale. It is a unique feature to see Muslims, Hindus and Christians assembled to pay their homage and warm respects to Baba Natharvali on the eve of the Kanduri festival and to seek his graceful blessings.

*Mukkombu Picnic Centre*

Mukkombu is a beautiful excursion centre, just 18 km from Tiruchirappalli on the river banks of Cauvery and Kollidam. This place is also called Upper dam. It is an attraction for the tourists and also for the people of all ages by its park, greenish garden scenic park, toy train, merry go round, fishing facility and boating facility.

*Ponnaniyaru Dam*

Ponnaniyaru dam is situated south of Tiruchirappalli. It is 24 km from Manapparai and 9 km from Vaiyampatti. Ponnaniyaru dam is built across Perumal malai and Chemmalai. This dam site is an ideal place for excursion. Short Treks in the nearby hillock- Environment Camps - Nature Cure centres - Fishing (in season) - Forest Rest House etc. are available.

*Puliyancholai Tourist Centre*

On the foot hills of Kollimalai, a place of scenic beauty is the Puliyancholai, which is 72 km away from Tiruchirappalli via Thuraiyur filled with full of greenish trees and tamarind groves. This forest region is cool and
green with added attraction of the stream. The stream is the natural bathing area for the tourists throughout the year. There is a water fall in the higher hills which is called Akaya Gangai. Besides, the water here has medicinal value. The eighteenth day of the Tamil month Adi is the time for worshipping the river here and more people visit Puliyan cholai that day. Accommodation in two resorts and one dormitory building is available here. Puliyan cholai to Agasa Gangai Falls (Hill top) is five hours hard Trek. One can have fantastic views of million year old carved rocks, Dolmens, Pithukkuli Cave, differently shaped big stones, forest produces on the way and at the Top plain - honey, Guava, Orange, Mustard, Fenugreek, Garlic, Paddy, Maze, Millets, Jack fruits (more than 12 varieties) etc., (www.tn.gov.in/tiruchytourism)