

17. MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

With a view to sustaining the overall development by eradicating facets of poverty in different dimensions in the global countries, all the member countries numbering 147, gathered at the UN Millennium Summit in New York in September 2000 and designed eight development goals along with 18 time bound targets and 48 indicators for measuring the progress.. Since then, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have become the most widely accepted yardstick of development efforts by Governments. The MDGs represent the collective desire of all the nations across the globe to provide a better future for the millions of citizens affected by poverty. These Goals include the following time bound targets relating to key achievements in human development :

- i. halving income - poverty and hunger
- ii. achieving universal primary education
- iii. attaining gender equality
- iv. reducing infant and child mortality by two-thirds
- v. reducing maternal mortality by three quarters
- vi. reversing the spread of HIV / AIDs and other communicable diseases
- vii. ensuring environmental sustainability and halving the proportion of people without access to safe water
- viii. developing global partnership for an overall development

These above targets are to be achieved by 2015 by all the member countries from their levels in 1990(United Nations 2000). While all the countries in the World have committed to attaining these targets embedded in MDGs by 2015, India realising the large geographical and socio-economic variations. disaggregated the MDGs .

Box : India: MDGs vis-a vis Human Development Goals

The Union Planning Commission has outlined India's Human Development Goals and targets for the next decade, which are more ambitious than MDGs. The measurable targets of the above are:

- reduction of poverty ratio by 5 percentage points by 2007 and 15 percentage points by 2012
- providing gainful employment to the additional labour force
- all children in school by 2003 and compulsory five years schooling by 2007
- atleast 50 per cent gender gaps reduction in literacy and wage rates by 2007
- reducing decadal growth rate (2001-2011)of population to 16.2 per cent
- increasing the overall literacy rate of the nation to 75 per cent by the end of Tenth Plan Period
- Reducing IMR to 45 per '000' live births by 2007 and further to 28 by 2012
- Reducing MMR to 2 per '000' live births by 2007 and further to one by 2012
- increase forest and tree cover to 25 by per cent 2007 and 33 per cent by 2012
- providing potable drinking water to all villages within the Plan period
- cleaning all major polluted rivers by 2007
- achieving zero level increase of HIV/AIDS prevalence by 2007
- reducing the prevalence of malarial fever by fixing certain targets : Annual Blood Examination Rate over 10 %, Annual Parasite Incidence 1.3 or less and 50% reduction of morbidity due to malaria by 2010

Source: Tenth Five Year Plan, Planning Commission, Government of India

The first country Report on MDGs captured India's achievements, challenges and policies with reference to goals and targets. The report revealed the substantial improvement in the lives of the people over the years. The millennium targets are sought to through planned implementation of the welfare programmes at the National and State levels. National Employment Guarantee Act, Sarva Siksha Abhiyan, Total Literacy Campaign of the National Literacy Mission, 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments for women reservations, women empowerment in National Common Minimum Programme, National Health Mission, Total Sanitation Campaign and Bharat Nirman are some of the important programmes launched by Government of India for achieving the MDGs throughout the country.

Progress with reference to various goals:

Halving Poverty and Hungry:

In order to achieve the goal of halving income-poverty and hunger, India has to reduce the population below BPL from 37.5 per cent in 1990 to 18.75 per cent in 2015 at the National level and from 40.90 per cent to 20.45 per cent at the State level. But at the end of 1999-2000, the poverty head count ratio was 26.1 per cent at the National and 21.12 per cent in the State. Against this, the poverty ratio in Tamil Nadu was 22.5 per cent as per NSS data for the year 2004-05.

National Rural Employment Act implemented in 2004 is a positive step to reduce the poverty ratio further. The distribution of rice and other essential commodities through the well knit Public Distribution System in Tamil Nadu ensures Food Security in the State. The system prevailing in Tamil Nadu is stated to be the best in terms of accessibility, usage, consumer satisfaction and availability. In order to provide easy accessibility, Fair Price Shops were opened and operated through agencies like Cooperatives, Civil Supply Corporation and Self Help Groups. The aim of the Government is to have at least one fair price shop in each revenue village located in such a way that no cardholder is required to walk more than two kms. for getting essential commodities.

Universal Primary Education:

With a view to attaining the goal of universal primary education, the enrolment rate should be increased to 100 per cent and the drop out rate to be wiped out by 2015. The State achieved 98.93 per cent enrolment rate in the primary level in 2004-05. The drop out rate in the State at 13.85 per cent was against 34.89 per cent at the national level during 2002-03. For achieving cent per cent enrolment at the primary school level, Government of India introduced Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) throughout the country in the year 2003. The SSA aims to complete five years of primary schooling by 2007 and eight years of elementary schooling by 2010. It also envisages to achieve universal retention by 2010. Improvement in enrolment rates has increased the overall literacy rate (7+years age) of the State from 62.7 per cent in 1991 to 73.5 per cent in 2001 as against an increase from 52.2 per cent to 65.4 per cent at the National level during the period under reference.

In order to improve the nutritional status of the economically disadvantaged children and to increase their literacy rate Puratchi Thalivar MGR Nutritious Noon Meal

Programme was introduced in the State since July,1982. Broad basing the above scheme had stimulated the literacy rate to move in a positive manner, as a potential incentive by increasing the primary school enrolment on the one hand and reducing the drop-outs on the other.

Gender Equality in Education:

The gender bias in providing education has led to a gap in literacy rates between male and female. The literacy rate of male and female in 1991 was 74 and 51 respectively, which later increased to 84 and 64 in 2001. The promotion of female participation at all levels will propel to reach equal female male level by 2015. The female education was felt needed for attaining equality in education. The male female proportion in the primary education of the State was 54:46 in 1990-91 and 51:49 in 2000-01 and in the secondary education it was 57:43 and 52:48 in the corresponding period. The implementation of SSA seeks to bridge the gender gaps at primary education level by 2007 and elementary education level by 2010. Special Literacy programmes for women implemented in educationally backward districts on a pilot basis would also be expected to reduce the existing gender gap.

Reducing Infant Mortality Rate:

Reducing the mortality rate of infants and under 5 age group invites much attention. In India, the death rate of 125 per thousand live births in 1988-92 has to be brought down to 42 by 2015. It has come down from 80 per thousand live births in 1990 to 60 in 2003 and further to 58 in 2004. There are large inter-state and intra-state variations in the country on the IMR ranging from 14 in Kerala to 96 in Orissa. The IMR of the State has shown remarkable reduction due to the implementation of various programmes. Important among them being the World Bank assisted ICDS Projects of various phases which reduced the malnutrition in the community and improved the percentage of normal children from 41.4 per cent in 1992-93 to 60 per cent in 2004-05. The IMR in the State got reduced from 53 in 1998 to 44 in 2002 and further to 31 in 2005-06 (NFHS-3).

Reducing Maternal Mortality Rate:

The policy of the Government to take care of the pregnant women till lactating period was initiated long back. At the national level it was envisaged to bring down MMR (per one lakh live births) from 437 in 1991 to 109 at the end of 2015.

With a view to reducing the risks of maternal deaths, the expectant mothers are advised to take delivery assistance from the skilled health personals. The proportion of institutional deliveries increased from 25.5 per cent in 1992-93 to 39.8 per cent in 2002-03 at the all India level and in the State it increased from 64.2 per cent in 1992-93 to 90.4 per cent in 2005-06 (NFHS-3).

Combat HIV / Malaria and other Congenial Diseases:

In India the prevalence of HIV among the pregnant mother was at a lower rate compared to other developing countries. However, the rate has increased from 74 per lakh of pregnant women in 2002 to 86 in 2003. This trend has to be reversed through the MDG.

The malarial and TB deaths are consistently coming down. In Tamil Nadu, during 1990s a total of 1.20 lakh cases were recorded out of which 59.6 per cent were from the urban areas. Due to intensive control measures like active and passive surveillance, Vector control measures etc. taken by the Public Health Department, the incidence of malaria case has been drastically brought down to 35000 in 2002. Geographical information system (GIS) is being developed in Tamil Nadu for carrying out epidemiological mapping of the villages and for identifying vulnerable areas and seasonal pattern of disease outbreak. The State AIDS Project cell formed in 1993 was reconstituted as Tamil Nadu State AIDS Control Society (TNSACS) in 1994 to tackle the problem of AIDS in a more effective manner with the guidance and support of various committees and sub-committees. The economic costs of HIV has been the subject of Research .

Ensuring Environment Sustainability and access to safe drinking water:

In view of the persistent efforts taken by the government to preserve natural resources, the total land area covered by different forests is kept at 20.64 per cent as assessed in 2003. The reserved and protected forest at the all India level together accounted for 19 per cent of the land area and this rate is maintained for biological diversity. In Tamil Nadu, the proportion of forest area in the total area worked out to 16.17 per cent in 2003-04 as against 15.58 per cent in 1979-80. The afforestation programmes are effectively implemented in the State and the deforestation activities either for fuel purpose or for construction have been curtailed. Proportion of households using forest logs as fire wood has come down considerably.

The proportion of population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation has to be halved by 2015. The efforts taken by the State in this regard are remarkable. The slum population in all the cities are increasing due to the large scale migration from the rural areas. Perhaps the provision of urban facilities in the rural areas would help to contain crowding of cities.

Developing global partnership:

This goal has been set by the United Nation for the overall development of the country through global partnership on various spheres. This is actually meant for the developed nations to provide assistance to the developing countries. In this context, Government of India has the following views regarding the role of developed nations (MDGs-India Country Report, 2005, Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, Government of India).

- The financial support needed to achieve the target as assessed by a high level panel on 'Financing for Development is placed at an additional amount of US \$50 billion per annum till 2015
- However, a huge gap exists between development assistance required to meet the MDGs and the amount already pleaded by the developed countries so far
- Unless aid provided by donors are translated into actual delivery of events, achieving MDGs will remain as an elusive goal
- To deal with the problem of debt, the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative was launched by the World Bank and IMF which was approved by 180 countries. India is of the view that the initiative should be through additional funding from

the developed countries and the flow of concessional assistance should not be reduced

- India has shown substantial progress in recent years in seeking private sector participation in using new technologies especially in information and communications. The overall tele-density of our country has increased remarkably from 0.67 per cent in 1991 to 9.4 per cent in 2005. The tele-density of the State has also increased from 6.25 in 2002-03 to 15.36 per cent in 2004-05. Use of personal computers has also increased from 5.4 million in 2001 to 14.5 million in 2005 and there are 5.3 million internet subscribers as on March 2005. This accounts for 2.3 internet users per 100 population and 0.5 per 100 subscribers.
- In order to have a overview of the MDGs and the accepted Targets and Indicators better the following Table is presented.

Table :1 Tracking MDGs : Targets and Indicators

Goal	Eradicating Extreme Poverty
Target	Reducing the proportion of people living on less than a \$ a day by half. Reducing the proportion of people suffering from hunger
Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proportion of pop. Below \$1/ Day. 2. Poverty Gap Ratio, \$1/day 3. Prevalence of underweight children of under 5 years of age 4. Proportion of pop. below Minimum Level of Dietary Energy Consumption.
Goal	Achieving Universal Primary Education
Target	Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling.
Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Net enrolment ratio in primary education 2. Prop. of pupils starting Grade 1 who reach grade 5 3. Literacy rate of 15-24 years old.
Goal	Promoting gender equality and empower women
Target	Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015
Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education. 2. Ratio of literate women to men 15-24 years old 3. Share of women in Wage Employment in the Non-agricultural Sector 4. Prop. of Seats held by Women in National Parliaments
Goal	Reducing child mortality
Target	Reduce by 2/3rds the mortality rate among children under five.
Indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Under-Five Mortality Rate 2. Infant mortality rate 3. Proportion of 1 year old Children Immunised Against Measles
Goal	Improving maternal health
Target	Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio
Indicators	Maternal Mortality Ratio - Proportion of Births attended by Skilled Health Personnel.

<p>Goal</p> <p>Target</p> <p>Indicators</p>	<p>Combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases</p> <p>Halt and begin to reverse</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the spread of HIV / AIDS 2. the prevalence and death rates associated with Malaria and major diseases <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. HIV prevalence among 15-24 year old Pregnant Women. 2. Condom use rate of the contraceptive prevalence rate and pop. aged 15-24 years with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV / AIDS 3. Ratio of school attendance of orphans to school attendance of non-orphans aged 10-14 years 4. Prop. of pop. in Malaria Risk areas using effective Malaria Prevention and Treatment Measures 5. Prevalence and Death Rates Associated with TB 6. Proportion of TB Cases detected and cured under directly-observed treatment short courses
<p>Goal</p> <p>Target</p> <p>Indicators</p>	<p>Ensuring Environmental sustainability.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. .Integrate the principles of sustainable dev. into country policies and programmes; reverse loss of environmental resources. 2. Reducing by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water 3. Achieve significant improvement in lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, by 2020. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Forested land as %age of land area 2. Ratio of Area Protected to maintain biological Diversity to Surface Area 3. Energy supply (apparent consumption; Kg oil equi.) per \$1000 GDP 4. Carbon Dioxide Emissions (per capita) and consumption of ozone depleting CFCs. 5. Prop. of the pop. with Sustainable Access to and Improved Water Source 6. Prop. of the Pop. with access to improved sanitation 7. Slum pop. as %age of urban population
<p>Goal</p> <p>Target</p> <p>Indicators</p>	<p>Developing a global partnership for development.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction - both nationally and internationally 2. Address the special needs of the least developed countries includes tariff and quota free access for least developed countries' exports; enhanced programme of debt relief for HIPC's and cancellation of official bilateral debt and more generous ODA for countries committed to poverty reduction 3. Address the special needs of landlocked countries and small island developing States. 4. Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and inter-national measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term 5. In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth. 6. In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, esp. information and communications <p>Official development assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Net ODA as %age of OECD/DAC donors' gross national product (targets of 0.7% in total and 0.15% for LDCs) - Prop. of ODA to basic social services (basic education, primary health care, nutrition, safe water and sanitation) - Prop. of ODA that is untied.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prop. of ODA for environment in small island developing States. - Prop. of ODA for transport sector in landlocked countries. <p>Market access</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prop. of exports (by value and excluding arms) admitted free of duties and quotas. - Average tariffs and quotas on agrl. products and textiles and clothing. - Domestic and export agrl. subsidies in OECD countries. - Prop. of ODA provided to help build trade capacity <p>Debt sustainability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prop. of official bilateral HIPC debt cancelled. - Total no. of countries that have reached their HIPC Decision Points & no. that have reached their completion points (Cumulative). - Debt Service as a %age of Exports of Goods and Services. - Debt Relief Committed under HIPC Initiative - Unemployment of 15-24 year olds, each sex and total. - Prop. of pop. with Access to affordable, essential drugs on a sustainable basis. - Telephone lines and cellular subscribers per 100 pop. - Personal computers in use and internet users per 100 pop.
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Table:2 Status of Tamil Nadu and All-India

Sl.No.	Indicators	Tamil Nadu	All-India
1	Human Development Index (HDI)Value, -2001(calculated for 15 States) -1991(calculated for 32 States)	0.531 0.466	0.472 0.381
2	HDI Rank, -2001 (Out of 15 States) -1991(Out of 32 States)	3 14	
3	Human Poverty Index -1991	29.28	39.36
4	Human Poverty Index Rank -1991 (Out of 32 States)	12	
5	Gender Disparity Index -1991	0.813	0.676
6	Gender Disparity Index Rank -1991(Out of 32 States)	6	
	Demography		
7	Total Population - 2001(lakhs)	624.06	1026.70
8	Sex Ratio –2001	987	933
9	Dependency Ratio-1991 - Rural - Urban - Combined	13 11 12	13 10 12
10	Dependency Ratio - 2001 - Rural - Urban - Combined	16 14 15	
11	Sex Ratio, 2001 - Overall - 0-6 years	988 940	933 935
	Income		
12	Per capita NSDP (1993-94 Prices),1998-99	11775	9647
13	% age of persons in Labour Force,1999-2000	66	62
14	% age of Females in Labour Force,1999-2000	48	39
15	%age of BPL Population,1999-2000	21	26

	Education		
16	Literacy Rate - 2001 (%)	73	65
	Male Literacy Rate	82	76
	Female Literacy Rate	65	54
17	Rural Literacy Rate - 2001 (%)	67	59
	Rural Male Literacy Rate	77	71
	Rural Female Literacy Rate	56	47
18	Urban Literacy Rate	82	80
	Urban Male Literacy Rate	88	86
	Urban Female Literacy Rate	76	73
19	Gross Enrolment Ratio (Class I - V) - 1999-2000	101	95
	Boys	103	104
	Girls	99	85
20	Teacher Pupil Ratio (Primary) 1999-2000	36	43
	Health		
21	Life Expectancy at Birth 1992-96	64	61
	Rural	62	59
	Urban	68	66
22	IMR – 2000	51	68
23	Under 5 Mortality Rate – 1991	67	94
	Male	64	91
	Female	70	101
24	MMR - 1998 (per 1 lakh live births)	79	407
25	Total Fertility Rate	2	3
26	% of children underweight (-2SD), 1998-99	37	47
27	% of houses with access to drinking water - 1991	67	62
28	% of houses with access to toilet facilities - 1997	37	49
	Environment		
29	% of recorded forest area to total geographical area (1996-98)	17	23

Source: Government of Tamil Nadu Website.