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## **FOREWORD**

I am happy to note that Directorate of Economics and Statistics has brought out the Publication "Women and Men in Puducherry – 2010-11"

Indian Constitution guarantees equality to all citizens before Law and it also empowers the State to adopt measures of positive discrimination in favour of women. India has witnessed gender inequality from its early history due to its social, cultural and religious practices. In the post independence era, the main aim of the plans and programmes was to promote the welfare of women. During the eighties, a distinct shift in the approach of the Government has been made from welfare to development. Recently it is widely recognised that women empowerment holds the key to human development.

Gender statistics forms the basis for policy discussions and provides the rationale for allocation of resources. The Publication "Women and Men in Puducherry – 2010-11" contains detailed up to date statistical information on various aspects of the status of Women and Men in Puducherry".

I hope this publication would be useful to planners, policy makers and all those concerned to assess the impact of various policies and programmes of the Government aimed to improve the status of women in the Union Territory of Puducherry and to take appropriate measures for fostering gender equality in all spheres of development.

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