

STATUS OF PUDUCHERRY

1. Human Development Index

- The HDI score for Puducherry was 0.676 in 1996 which has increased to 0.725 in 2006.
- The value of the index in respect of the indicator “Long and Healthy Life” (HI) has declined over the decade due to worsening of the Infant Mortality Rate in the U.T of Puducherry
- The score for the Indicator “Knowledge” (EDI) has increased moderately during the period from 1996 to 2006 by 0.067
- U.T of Puducherry had reached the highest score on the indicator “A Decent Standard of Living” (YI) in 2006 i.e more than 0.800
- There was significant overall improvement in performance on HDI over the decade.
- Union Territory had achieved highest HDI Category I (Best Performers- 0.701 and above) in 2006 and had moved from Category II (Second level performers - 0.601 to 0.700) in 1996 to category I in 2006
- U.T of Puducherry was 7th in rank in 1996 and moved forward and stands at 5th rank in HDI in 2006 gaining 2 ranks

2. GENDER DEVELOPMENT INDEX

- The GDI score for Puducherry was 0.661 in 1996 which has increased to 0.721 in 2006.
- The value of the index in respect of the indicator “Long and Healthy Life”(HI) has declined by 0.053 due to worsening of the Infant Mortality Rate over the decade.

- The value of “Knowledge” (EDI) index has increased by 0.074 during the decade
- U.T of Puducherry had reached the highest score on the indicator “A Decent Standard of Living” (YI) in 2006 i.e 0.759
- There was significant overall improvement in performance of GDI over the decade.
- Union Territory had achieved highest GDI Category I (0.701 and above) in 2006 and thus has moved from Category II(0.601 to 0.700) in 1996 to category I in 2006
- U.T of Puducherry was 6th in rank in 1996 and moved forward to 4th rank in GDI in 2006 gaining 2 ranks

3. GENDER EMPOWERMENT MEASURE

- The GEM score for Puducherry was 0.406 in 1996 and increased to 0.585 in 2006.
- The value of the index in respect of the indicator “Political Participation ”(PI) has increased substantially by 0.303 over the decade.
- U.T of Puducherry had reached the highest score on the indicator “Power Over Economic Resources” (PoERI) in 2006 i.e 0.464
- U.T of Puducherry had reached the highest score on the indicator “Economic Participation and Decision making Power ” (EI) in 2006 i.e 0.624
- There was significant overall improvement in performance on GEM over the decade.

- Union Territory had achieved highest GEM i.e 0.558 and comes under Category I ((above 0.485 to 0.564 - Best Performers) in 2006 and thus it had moved from Category III(third level performers - 0.316 to 0.415) in 1996 to category I in 2006
- U.T of Puducherry was 17th in rank in 1996 and moved forward to 3rd rank in GEM in 2006 gaining 14 ranks

ANALYSIS :-

MERITS

The HDI and GDI and GEM indices of the Union Territory of Puducherry show best performance during the decade 1996 to 2006.

The Union Territory has reached the highest score in all the three indices and is in category I (Best Performers) A largest improvement in the value of the indicator “A Decent standard of Living Index” (YI) was achieved by Puducherry in respect of HDI over the decade ((+) 0.130) and GDI ((+) 0.114)

The Union Territory ranks 5th, 4th, and 3rd in HDI, GDI and GEM respectively among the States/Union Territories.

DEMERITS

Although the value of the Dimension “A long and Healthy Life”(HI) in HDI and GDI is higher i.e at 0.725 and 0.721 respectively , it is to be noted that it has declined by 0.048 and 0.053 respectively over the decade. The decline in the value of the Index was due to worsening of the Infant Mortality Rate over the decade.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE

State/UT	IMR 2006			IMR 1996		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Puducherry	20	36	28	10.9	18.1	14.6

- It can be seen from the above table that the IMR both under male and female had almost doubled during the decade. As such in respect of the U.T of Puducherry, special cognizance need be given to Health especially to contain the high Infant Mortality Rate in Puducherry .
- GDI is not only less than the HDI (0.019) but it is also higher than the national average differential between HDI and GDI (0.015) which reflect the existence of gender disparities in the U.T of Puducherry. –

State/UT	HDI-GDI Score 2006	HDI-GDI Score 1996	Change in HDI-GDI Gap in scores (1996-2006)	Rank in HDI-GDI score 2006	Rank in HDI-GDI score 1996
Puducherry	0.019	0.015	(-) 0.004	26	12
All India	0.015	0.016	0.001		

- The above table reveals that there is a slight increase in the differentials between HDI and GDI (0.004) and this differential is prominent in the indicators “Knowledge”(EDI) and “A Decent Standard of Living” (YI) based on earned income. This reveals that special attention should be given by State Government to women education and access to resources by women in the U.T of Puducherry.
- The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments led to the reservation of women of one-third seats in Panchayat Raj Institutions and Local Bodies. Therefore policy based affirmative action or positive discrimination has tried to empower women by ensuring their participation in decision making in democratic institutions at the local level in the U.T of Puducherry. As such, the percentage of participation of women at Gram Panchayat level is 36.14%. Whereas there is no women representative for Parliament and to the Assembly of the U.T of Puducherry during 2006.
- Low scores attained on GEM Dimension 3 “Power over Economic resources” draw attention to the severe gender disparities that exist with regard to access to resources and assets and historical discrimination faced by women in access to land, livestock credit and other productive resources, despite their unpaid and unrecognised contribution to agriculture and farm and non farm family based economic activities in the U.T of Puducherry.

COMPARISON WITH ALL INDIA

Sl.No	State/U.T	2006			1996		
		HDI	GDI	GEM	HDI	GDI	GEM
1.	Puducherry	0.725	0.706	0.558	0.676	0.661	0.406
2.	All India	0.605	0.590	0.497	0.530	0.514	0.416

- The HDI, GDI, and GEM indices of Puducherry are higher than that of All India indicating the best performance of the indices and shows us that the Union Territory has progressed substantially in translating its growth rates into a better quality of life for both Women and Men.

- However, the improvement in HDI and GDI over the decade in Puducherry is lower than that of the improvement in National average

- There is slight increase in differential between HDI and GDI during 2006. In general, Union Territory of Puducherry has higher gap between HDI and GDI than the All India Level reflecting the existence of Gender imbalance in the U.T