## CHAPTER 2

## BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS OF HOUSEHOLDS

This chapter presents a profile of the demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of NFHS-2 households and describes facilities and services that are available in villages in Tamil Nadu. The chapter also includes some comparisons of NFHS-2 results with results from NFHS-1, the Census of India, and the Sample Registration System (SRS).

### 2.1 Age-Sex Distribution of the Household Population

The NFHS-2 household population can be tabulated in two ways: de facto (the place each person stayed the night before the survey interview) or de jure (the place of usual residence). The de facto and de jure populations in Tamil Nadu may differ because of temporary population movements. Table 2.1 shows the de facto population in the NFHS-2 household sample for Tamil Nadu, classified by age, residence, and sex. The total de facto sample population is 22,086. The sample is 35 percent urban and 65 percent rural.

The age distribution of the population in Tamil Nadu is typical of a population that has been experiencing fertility decline (Figure 2.1). Twenty-nine percent of the population are below 15 years of age, and only 6 percent are age 65 or older. The proportion below age 15 is slightly higher in rural areas ( 30 percent) than in urban areas ( 28 percent).

The single-year age distributions by sex in the de facto population (see Appendix Table B.1) indicate that there is substantial misreporting of ages, including considerable preference for ages ending in particular digits, especially 0 and 5 . One of the most commonly used measures of digit preference in age reporting is Myers' Index (United Nations, 1955). This index provides an overall summary of preferences for, or avoidance of, each of the 10 digits, from 0 to 9 . The index is often used as one indicator of the quality of age reporting on a survey. Values of Myers' Index computed for the age range $10-69$ in the household sample population in Tamil Nadu are 10.5 for males and 5.3 for females. The lower estimate for females is probably due to the emphasis during the interviewer training on obtaining accurate age information for women to correctly determine the eligibility of women for the individual interview. The values of Myers' index from NFHS-2 are much lower than the values from NFHS-1 (revised from the published NFHS-1 estimates). This indicates that age reporting on the Household Questionnaire in Tamil Nadu is better in NFHS-2 than in NFHS-1.

Table 2.2 compares the age distributions by sex from the NFHS-2 de jure sample with the age distributions by sex from the Sample Registration System for 1997. The SRS baseline survey, which is de jure, counts all usual residents in a sample area (Office of the Registrar General, 1999a). The NFHS-2 and SRS age distributions do not differ much for broad age groups.

Tables 2.1 and 2.2 also present sex ratios (females per 1,000 males) in Tamil Nadu from NFHS-2. The sex ratio of the de facto population is 1,034 (Table 2.1). The sex ratio of the de jure population $(1,014)$ in Table 2.2 is slightly lower than the sex ratio of the de facto population $(1,034)$. Table 2.1 shows that the sex ratio of the de facto population is 1,005 in urban areas and

| Table 2.1 Household population by age and sex |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Percent distribution of the household population by age, according to residence and sex, Tamil Nadu, 1999 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Urban |  |  | Rural |  |  | Total |  |  |
| Age | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total |
| < 1 | 1.9 | 1.7 | 1.8 | 2.4 | 2.1 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 2.0 | 2.1 |
| 1-4 | 8.5 | 7.7 | 8.1 | 8.2 | 7.6 | 7.9 | 8.3 | 7.6 | 8.0 |
| 5-9 | 9.1 | 9.2 | 9.1 | 10.3 | 9.7 | 10.0 | 9.8 | 9.5 | 9.7 |
| 10-14 | 10.1 | 8.5 | 9.3 | 10.1 | 9.4 | 9.8 | 10.1 | 9.1 | 9.6 |
| 15-19 | 8.9 | 8.7 | 8.8 | 9.5 | 9.8 | 9.7 | 9.3 | 9.4 | 9.4 |
| 20-24 | 8.8 | 11.1 | 10.0 | 7.8 | 9.9 | 8.9 | 8.2 | 10.4 | 9.3 |
| 25-29 | 10.4 | 10.4 | 10.4 | 8.7 | 9.0 | 8.8 | 9.3 | 9.4 | 9.4 |
| 30-34 | 8.0 | 8.2 | 8.1 | 7.3 | 7.5 | 7.4 | 7.6 | 7.7 | 7.6 |
| 35-39 | 7.9 | 7.0 | 7.5 | 7.4 | 6.5 | 6.9 | 7.6 | 6.6 | 7.1 |
| 40-44 | 6.1 | 5.6 | 5.8 | 5.1 | 5.6 | 5.4 | 5.5 | 5.6 | 5.5 |
| 45-49 | 5.7 | 4.8 | 5.2 | 5.5 | 4.8 | 5.2 | 5.6 | 4.8 | 5.2 |
| 50-54 | 3.4 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 3.6 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 3.4 | 3.4 |
| 55-59 | 2.8 | 5.0 | 3.9 | 3.7 | 5.1 | 4.4 | 3.4 | 5.1 | 4.3 |
| 60-64 | 3.0 | 3.3 | 3.2 | 3.7 | 3.5 | 3.6 | 3.4 | 3.5 | 3.4 |
| 65-69 | 2.2 | 2.5 | 2.4 | 2.6 | 2.8 | 2.7 | 2.5 | 2.7 | 2.6 |
| 70-74 | 1.5 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 2.2 | 1.7 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 1.7 | 1.8 |
| 75-79 | 0.9 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 1.1 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 0.8 | 0.9 |
| 80+ | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.7 | 0.7 |
| Total percent | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Number of persons | 3,852 | 3,871 | 7,723 | 7,009 | 7,354 | 14,363 | 10,860 | 11,225 | 22,086 |
| Sex ratio ${ }^{1}$ | NA | NA | 1,005 | NA | NA | 1,049 | NA | NA | 1,034 |

Note: Table is based on the de facto population, i.e., persons who stayed in the household the night before the interview (including both usual residents and visitors).
NA: Not applicable
${ }^{1}$ Females per 1,000 males

Figure 2.1 Population Pyramid


| Table 2.2 Population by age and sex from the SRS and NFHS-2 <br> Percent distribution of population by age and sex from the SRS and NFHS-2, Tamil Nadu, 1997-99 |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | (997) |  | FHS-2 (19 |  |
| Age | Male | Female | Male | Female | Sex ratio ${ }^{1}$ |
| < 5 | 9.3 | 8.8 | 10.0 | 9.3 | 948 |
| 5-14 | 20.1 | 19.4 | 19.8 | 18.6 | 955 |
| 15-29 | 27.8 | 29.1 | 27.1 | 28.9 | 1,083 |
| 30-49 | 27.2 | 26.7 | 26.5 | 25.0 | 959 |
| 50-64 | 11.3 | 11.5 | 10.5 | 12.2 | 1,176 |
| 65+ | 4.3 | 4.4 | 6.2 | 5.9 | 970 |
| Total | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 1,014 |
| Median age | U | U | 26.2 | 26.2 | NA |
| Note: Table is based on the de jure population, i.e., usual residents. <br> NA: Not applicable <br> U: Not available <br> ${ }^{1}$ Females per 1,000 males <br> Source for SRS: Office of the Registrar General, 1999a |  |  |  |  |  |

1,049 in rural areas, suggesting that rural-urban migration has been dominated by males in Tamil Nadu. According to the 2001 Census of India provisional estimates, the de jure sex ratio for Tamil Nadu is even lower at 986, approximately two year after NFHS-2.

### 2.2 Marital Status

NFHS-2 includes information on the marital status of all household members age six and above. Table 2.3 shows the percent distribution by marital status of the de facto household population, classified by age, residence, and sex. Among females age six and above, 53 percent are currently married and 32 percent have never been married. The proportion never married is higher for males (44 percent) than for females ( 32 percent) and is only slightly higher in urban areas (46 percent for males and 33 percent for females) than in rural areas ( 44 percent for males and 32 percent for females). The proportions divorced, separated, or deserted are small, and widowhood is quite limited until the older ages. Almost half of women age 50 or older are widowed, compared to only 12 percent of males in that age group.

Also of interest is the proportion of persons who marry young. At age $15-19$, less than 1 percent of men have ever married, compared with 24 percent of women, with no significant difference between urban and rural males, but with a lower proportion ever married among urban than rural females ( 19 and 26 percent, respectively). By age $25-29,92$ percent of women have ever been married, compared to only 62 percent of men. Overall, the table shows that women in Tamil Nadu marry at much younger ages than men, and that both men and women marry at younger ages in rural areas than in urban areas.

Table 2.4 shows estimates of the singulate mean age at marriage (SMAM), which can be calculated from age-specific proportions single in a census or household survey. SMAM is calculated from the de jure population in NFHS-2 in order to arrive at estimates that are more comparable to those derived from the censuses, which are modified de jure counts. According to the SMAM measure, men in Tamil Nadu tend to marry women who are six years younger than themselves. The census and NFHS-2 data indicate that the age at marriage has been rising for

| Table 2.3 Marital status of the household population <br> Percent distribution of the household population age 6 and above by marital status, according to age, residence, and sex, Tamil Nadu, 1999 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Marital status |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Age | Never married | Currently married | Married, gauna not performed | Widowed | Divorced | Separated | Deserted | Total percent |
| URBAN |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6-12 | 100.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 100.0 |
| 13-14 | 100.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 100.0 |
| 15-19 | 99.8 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 100.0 |
| 20-24 | 83.4 | 15.9 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.7 | 100.0 |
| 25-29 | 43.7 | 55.9 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.4 | 100.0 |
| 30-49 | 6.3 | 92.0 | 0.0 | 0.6 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.8 | 100.0 |
| 50+ | 1.0 | 89.3 | 0.0 | 9.1 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 100.0 |
| Total | 45.7 | 52.0 | 0.0 | 1.7 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.4 | 100.0 |
| Female |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6-12 | 99.9 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 100.0 |
| 13-14 | 100.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 100.0 |
| 15-19 | 80.9 | 19.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 100.0 |
| 20-24 | 40.8 | 57.9 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 0.9 | 100.0 |
| 25-29 | 11.6 | 85.5 | 0.0 | 1.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1.7 | 100.0 |
| 30-49 | 2.5 | 86.6 | 0.0 | 7.7 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 2.2 | 100.0 |
| 50+ | 1.5 | 47.1 | 0.0 | 50.0 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 1.3 | 100.0 |
| Total | 33.0 | 53.4 | 0.0 | 12.1 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 1.2 | 100.0 |
| RURAL |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Male |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6-12 | 99.9 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 100.0 |
| 13-14 | 100.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 100.0 |
| 15-19 | 99.1 | 0.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 100.0 |
| 20-24 | 79.0 | 20.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 100.0 |
| 25-29 | 34.2 | 63.8 | 0.0 | 1.0 | 0.0 | 0.4 | 0.6 | 100.0 |
| 30-49 | 4.2 | 93.5 | 0.0 | 1.0 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.8 | 100.0 |
| 50+ | 0.7 | 85.7 | 0.0 | 13.3 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 100.0 |
| Total | 43.6 | 52.7 | 0.0 | 3.1 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 100.0 |
| Female |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6-12 | 99.6 | 0.4 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 100.0 |
| 13-14 | 99.6 | 0.4 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 100.0 |
| 15-19 | 74.2 | 25.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 100.0 |
| 20-24 | 27.3 | 71.3 | 0.0 | 0.7 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 100.0 |
| 25-29 | 6.2 | 87.7 | 0.2 | 2.9 | 0.4 | 0.6 | 2.0 | 100.0 |
| 30-49 | 1.8 | 83.3 | 0.1 | 10.7 | 0.5 | 0.9 | 2.6 | 100.0 |
| 50+ | 0.3 | 49.4 | 0.1 | 48.2 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 1.5 | 100.0 |
| Total | 32.0 | 52.9 | 0.1 | 13.2 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 1.3 | 100.0 |

both men and women, but faster for women than for men. There has been, however, only a small change in the age at marriage in the seven years between NFHS-1 and NFHS-2. Marriage ages in NFHS-2 are higher in urban areas than in rural areas, with urban women and men marrying about one year later than their rural counterparts. As estimated from NFHS-2, the SMAM for females in Tamil Nadu is 20.9 (21.7 in urban areas and 20.4 in rural areas).

| Percent distribution of the household population age 6 and above by marital status, according to age, residence, and sex, Tamil Nadu, 1999 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Age | Marital status |  |  |  |  |  |  | Total percent |
|  | Never married | Currently married | Married, gauna not performed | Widowed | Divorced | Separated | Deserted |  |
| TOTAL |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Male |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6-12 | 99.9 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 100.0 |
| 13-14 | 100.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 100.0 |
| 15-19 | 99.3 | 0.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 100.0 |
| 20-24 | 80.7 | 18.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.4 | 100.0 |
| 25-29 | 38.0 | 60.7 | 0.0 | 0.6 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 100.0 |
| 30-49 | 5.0 | 92.9 | 0.0 | 0.9 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.8 | 100.0 |
| 50+ | 0.8 | 86.8 | 0.0 | 12.0 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 100.0 |
| Total | 44.4 | 52.5 | 0.0 | 2.6 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.4 | 100.0 |
| Female |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6-12 | 99.7 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 100.0 |
| 13-14 | 99.7 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 100.0 |
| 15-19 | 76.3 | 23.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 100.0 |
| 20-24 | 32.3 | 66.4 | 0.0 | 0.5 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.6 | 100.0 |
| 25-29 | 8.2 | 86.9 | 0.1 | 2.3 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 1.9 | 100.0 |
| 30-49 | 2.1 | 84.5 | 0.1 | 9.6 | 0.5 | 0.8 | 2.5 | 100.0 |
| 50+ | 0.7 | 48.6 | 0.1 | 48.8 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 1.4 | 100.0 |
| Total | 32.3 | 53.1 | 0.0 | 12.8 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 1.3 | 100.0 |
| Note: Table is based on the de facto population, i.e., persons who stayed in the household the night before the interview (including both usual residents and visitors). The marital status distribution for females by age cannot be directly compared with the published distribution for NFHS-1 because the ages in the current table are based entirely on the reports of the household respondents, whereas in NFHS-1 the ages of ever-married women age 13-49 were taken from the Woman's Questionnaire. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |


| Table 2.4 Singulate mean age at marriage |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Singulate mean age at marriage by sex from selected sources, Tamil Nadu, 1961-1999 |  |  |  |
| Source | Singulate mean age at marriage (SMAM) |  |  |
|  | Male | Female | Difference |
| 1961 Census | 25.3 | 18.4 | 6.9 |
| 1971 Census | 26.1 | 19.6 | 6.5 |
| 1981 Census | 26.1 | 20.3 | 5.8 |
| 1991 Census | 26.4 | 20.9 | 5.5 |
| 1992 NFHS-1 |  |  |  |
| Urban | 27.3 | 21.3 | 6.0 |
| Rural | 25.9 | 20.0 | 5.9 |
| Total | 26.4 | 20.5 | 5.9 |
| 1999 NFHS-2 |  |  |  |
| Urban | 27.1 | 21.7 | 5.3 |
| Rural | 26.4 | 20.4 | 5.9 |
| Total | 26.6 | 20.9 | 5.8 |

Note: Table is based on the de jure population. The male SMAM minus the female SMAM may not correspond exactly to the difference in SMAM due to rounding.

### 2.3 Household Composition

Table 2.5 shows the percent distribution of households by various characteristics of the household head (sex, age, religion, and caste/tribe), as well as by household type and the number of usual household members, for urban and rural areas as well as for Chennai. The table is based on the de jure population because household type and the number of usual household members pertain to the usual-resident population. The table shows that 83-86 percent of household heads are male, regardless of area of residence (rural, urban or Chennai).

The median age of household heads is 45 years in rural areas and in the state as a whole. The median age is slightly lower (44 years) in urban areas and in Chennai. Over two-thirds (68 percent) of household heads are age 30-59 and only 11 percent are less than age 30. Eighty-nine percent of household heads are Hindu, 5 percent are Muslim, and 5 percent are Christian (almost identical to the distribution in NFHS-1). Muslims constitute 10 percent of urban households, but less than 3 percent of rural households. The proportion of Christian household heads is twice as high in urban areas as in rural areas ( 8 percent vs. 4 percent, respectively).

Twenty-four percent of household heads belong to scheduled castes, 1 percent to scheduled tribes, and 73 percent to other backward classes ( $\mathrm{OBC}^{1}$ ). The proportion of household heads belonging to any of these disadvantaged groups is 94 percent in urban areas ( 89 percent in Chennai) and over 99 percent in rural areas. More than two-thirds of all households ( 68 percent) are nuclear family households (consisting of an unmarried adult living alone or a married person or couple and their unmarried children, if any). Nuclear households are equally common in urban and rural areas. The average household size is 4.2 persons ( 4.3 in urban areas and in Chennai, and 4.2 in rural areas).

### 2.4 Educational Level

The level of education of household members may affect reproductive behaviour, contraceptive use, the health of children, and proper hygienic practices. Table 2.6 shows the percent distribution of the de facto household population by literacy and educational level, according to age, residence, and sex. (This table and all subsequent tables and figures in this report are based on the de facto sample, unless otherwise specified.)

In Tamil Nadu, 42 percent of females and 20 percent of males age six and above are illiterate. Comparable figures from NFHS-1 are 44 percent of females and 23 percent of males, indicating a slight increase in literacy in seven years. Much more rapid increases in literacy over time are implied from examining differences by age. For example, the proportion of males who are illiterate declines from 41 percent of those age 50 and above to only 5 percent at age 10-14. For females, the proportion illiterate falls from 76 percent at age 50 and above to 8 percent at age $10-14$. Moreover, the proportion who have completed each level of education is higher among younger than older males and females.

[^0]| Table 2.5 Household characteristics |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Percent distribution of households by selected characteristics of the household head, household type, and household size, according to residence, Tamil Nadu, 1999 |  |  |  |  |
| Characteristic | Urban | Rural | Total | Chennai |
| Sex of household head |  |  |  |  |
| Male | 85.6 | 83.0 | 83.9 | 85.9 |
| Female | 14.4 | 17.0 | 16.1 | 14.1 |
| Age of household head |  |  |  |  |
| < 30 | 12.0 | 11.1 | 11.4 | 13.0 |
| 30-44 | 40.0 | 38.1 | 38.7 | 38.2 |
| 45-59 | 29.7 | 29.2 | 29.4 | 30.3 |
| 60+ | 18.3 | 21.6 | 20.5 | 18.6 |
| Median age | 44.2 | 45.2 | 44.9 | 44.3 |
| Religion of household head |  |  |  |  |
| Hindu | 80.9 | 93.3 | 89.1 | 84.9 |
| Muslim | 10.2 | 2.8 | 5.3 | 7.8 |
| Christian | 8.3 | 3.7 | 5.3 | 5.7 |
| Sikh | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.3 |
| Jain | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 1.0 |
| Zoroastrian/Parsi | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.2 |
| Missing | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.2 |
| Caste/tribe of household head |  |  |  |  |
| Scheduled caste | 17.5 | 26.6 | 23.5 | 21.5 |
| Scheduled tribe | 0.3 | 1.2 | 0.9 | 0.8 |
| Other backward class | 76.6 | 71.7 | 73.4 | 67.1 |
| Other | 5.6 | 0.4 | 2.2 | 10.3 |
| Don't know/missing | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.4 |
| Household type |  |  |  |  |
| Nuclear household | 68.1 | 68.0 | 68.1 | 67.9 |
| Non-nuclear household | 31.9 | 32.0 | 31.9 | 31.9 |
| Household with no usual members | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.2 |
| Number of usual members |  |  |  |  |
| 0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.2 |
| 1 | 4.4 | 6.8 | 6.0 | 5.1 |
| 2 | 10.9 | 13.3 | 12.5 | 11.5 |
| 3 | 18.0 | 17.0 | 17.3 | 16.3 |
| 4 | 27.0 | 22.9 | 24.3 | 26.8 |
| 5 | 19.4 | 19.4 | 19.4 | 20.8 |
| 6 | 9.5 | 10.7 | 10.3 | 9.5 |
| 7 | 5.4 | 5.4 | 5.4 | 5.0 |
| 8 | 2.6 | 2.2 | 2.3 | 1.8 |
| 9+ | 2.8 | 2.4 | 2.5 | 3.0 |
| Mean household size | 4.3 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 4.3 |
| Total percent | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Number of households | 1,797 | 3,484 | 5,281 | 347 |
| Note: Table is based on the de jure population. |  |  |  |  |

Table 2.6 Educational level of the household population
Percent distribution of the household population age 6 and above by literacy and level of education, and median number of completed years of schooling, according to age, residence, and sex, Tamil Nadu, 1999

| Age | Educational level ${ }^{1}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  | Total percent | Number of persons | Median number of years of schooling |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Illiterate | Literate, < primary school complete | Primary school complete | Middle school complete | High school complete | Higher secondary complete and above | Missing |  |  |  |
| URBAN |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | Male |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6-9 | 7.4 | 89.8 | 2.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 100.0 | 283 | 2.6 |
| 10-14 | 3.8 | 17.9 | 57.2 | 20.9 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 389 | 6.3 |
| 15-19 | 6.1 | 2.5 | 17.5 | 32.1 | 25.1 | 16.7 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 344 | 9.5 |
| 20-29 | 9.7 | 3.1 | 19.8 | 18.5 | 18.4 | 30.3 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 743 | 9.9 |
| 30-39 | 12.2 | 3.7 | 17.7 | 17.8 | 21.7 | 27.0 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 613 | 9.8 |
| 40-49 | 12.3 | 4.9 | 18.4 | 16.3 | 24.4 | 23.7 | 0.1 | 100.0 | 454 | 9.7 |
| 50+ | 20.5 | 9.4 | 23.6 | 12.8 | 22.3 | 11.3 | 0.2 | 100.0 | 559 | 7.0 |
| Total | 11.0 | 13.4 | 22.5 | 17.3 | 17.5 | 18.3 | 0.1 | 100.0 | 3,385 | 8.3 |


| Female |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 6-9 | 11.6 | 85.8 | 2.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 100.0 | 271 | 2.7 |
| 10-14 | 3.0 | 16.8 | 57.7 | 22.0 | 0.4 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 329 | 6.5 |
| 15-19 | 9.6 | 4.0 | 18.2 | 25.7 | 28.8 | 13.6 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 337 | 9.4 |
| 20-29 | 20.4 | 3.0 | 17.8 | 18.8 | 11.5 | 28.6 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 833 | 8.9 |
| 30-39 | 25.3 | 4.4 | 20.5 | 17.5 | 15.0 | 17.0 | 0.2 | 100.0 | 587 | 7.9 |
| 40-49 | 34.6 | 7.0 | 22.5 | 14.0 | 15.0 | 6.9 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 402 | 5.7 |
| 50+ | 55.6 | 7.3 | 17.3 | 9.3 | 7.7 | 2.6 | 0.2 | 100.0 | 662 | 2.0 |
| Total | 26.3 | 12.5 | 21.4 | 15.7 | 11.5 | 12.5 | 0.1 | 100.0 | 3,421 | 6.3 |
| Total |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6-9 | 9.5 | 87.9 | 2.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 100.0 | 553 | 2.7 |
| 10-14 | 3.4 | 17.4 | 57.4 | 21.4 | 0.4 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 718 | 6.4 |
| 15-19 | 7.8 | 3.2 | 17.8 | 29.0 | 26.9 | 15.2 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 681 | 9.5 |
| 20-29 | 15.3 | 3.0 | 18.7 | 18.7 | 14.8 | 29.4 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 1,576 | 9.3 |
| 30-39 | 18.6 | 4.1 | 19.1 | 17.6 | 18.4 | 22.1 | 0.1 | 100.0 | 1,201 | 8.8 |
| 40-49 | 22.8 | 5.9 | 20.3 | 15.2 | 20.0 | 15.8 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 856 | 8.1 |
| 50+ | 39.5 | 8.2 | 20.2 | 10.9 | 14.4 | 6.6 | 0.2 | 100.0 | 1,221 | 5.2 |
| Total | 18.7 | 12.9 | 21.9 | 16.5 | 14.5 | 15.4 | 0.1 | 100.0 | 6,806 | 7.4 |

Table 2.6 Educational level of the household population (contd.)
Percent distribution of the household population age 6 and above by literacy and level of education, and median number of completed years of schooling, according to age, residence, and sex, Tamil Nadu, 1999

| Age | Educational level ${ }^{1}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  | Total percent | Number <br> of persons | Median number of years of schooling |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Illiterate | Literate, < primary school complete | Primary school complete | Middle school complete | High school complete | Higher secondary complete and above | Missing |  |  |  |
| RURAL |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | Male |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6-9 | 14.6 | 82.7 | 2.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 100.0 | 577 | 2.6 |
| 10-14 | 5.6 | 17.6 | 60.8 | 15.3 | 0.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 710 | 6.1 |
| 15-19 | 5.8 | 5.2 | 20.6 | 37.4 | 23.0 | 8.0 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 666 | 9.0 |
| 20-29 | 18.2 | 5.1 | 20.9 | 23.3 | 15.8 | 16.7 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 1,158 | 8.5 |
| 30-39 | 30.3 | 6.9 | 23.4 | 17.3 | 12.3 | 9.7 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 1,028 | 6.0 |
| 40-49 | 33.5 | 9.5 | 24.6 | 12.1 | 13.0 | 7.2 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 748 | 5.6 |
| 50+ | 50.3 | 12.7 | 23.4 | 6.5 | 5.2 | 1.9 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 1,236 | 3.1 |
| Total | 25.4 | 16.2 | 25.1 | 15.9 | 10.3 | 6.9 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 6,123 | 5.7 |


| Female |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 6-9 | 15.4 | 81.9 | 2.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 577 | 2.6 |
| 10-14 | 10.1 | 15.1 | 57.1 | 17.5 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 694 | 6.1 |
| 15-19 | 21.8 | 4.5 | 19.6 | 31.3 | 15.8 | 7.0 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 724 | 8.2 |
| 20-29 | 42.7 | 5.2 | 18.5 | 15.6 | 8.6 | 9.5 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 1,389 | 5.4 |
| 30-39 | 60.8 | 5.9 | 18.2 | 7.9 | 4.5 | 2.7 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 1,024 | 2.2 |
| 40-49 | 71.9 | 3.6 | 14.5 | 5.2 | 4.4 | 0.5 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 769 | 0.0 |
| 50+ | 86.7 | 4.3 | 6.1 | 1.8 | 0.8 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 100.0 | 1,328 | 0.0 |
| Total | 49.8 | 12.7 | 18.3 | 10.9 | 5.0 | 3.3 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 6,507 | 3.1 |
| Total |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6-9 | 15.0 | 82.3 | 2.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 100.0 | 1,153 | 2.6 |
| 10-14 | 7.8 | 16.4 | 59.0 | 16.4 | 0.4 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 1,404 | 6.1 |
| 15-19 | 14.1 | 4.9 | 20.1 | 34.2 | 19.2 | 7.4 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 1,390 | 8.6 |
| 20-29 | 31.5 | 5.1 | 19.6 | 19.1 | 11.9 | 12.8 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 2,548 | 6.9 |
| 30-39 | 45.6 | 6.4 | 20.8 | 12.6 | 8.4 | 6.2 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 2,052 | 5.0 |
| 40-49 | 53.0 | 6.5 | 19.5 | 8.6 | 8.6 | 3.8 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 1,517 | 3.1 |
| 50+ | 69.2 | 8.3 | 14.4 | 4.1 | 2.9 | 1.0 | 0.1 | 100.0 | 2,564 | 0.0 |
| Total | 38.0 | 14.4 | 21.6 | 13.3 | 7.5 | 5.1 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 12,630 | 4.8 |

Table 2.6 Educational level of the household population (contd.)
Percent distribution of the household population age 6 and above by literacy and level of education, and median number of completed years of schooling, according to age, residence, and sex, Tamil Nadu, 1999

| Age | Educational level ${ }^{1}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  | Total percent | Number of persons | Median number of years of schooling |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Illiterate | Literate, < primary school complete | Primary school complete | Middle school complete | High school complete | Higher secondary complete and above | Missing |  |  |  |
| TOTAL |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Male |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6-9 | 12.3 | 85.0 | 2.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 100.0 | 859 | 2.6 |
| 10-14 | 4.9 | 17.7 | 59.5 | 17.3 | 0.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 1,100 | 6.2 |
| 15-19 | 5.9 | 4.3 | 19.6 | 35.6 | 23.7 | 10.9 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 1,010 | 9.2 |
| 20-29 | 14.9 | 4.3 | 20.5 | 21.4 | 16.8 | 22.1 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 1,902 | 8.9 |
| 30-39 | 23.6 | 5.7 | 21.3 | 17.5 | 15.8 | 16.2 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 1,642 | 7.9 |
| 40-49 | 25.5 | 7.8 | 22.3 | 13.7 | 17.3 | 13.5 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 1,202 | 6.8 |
| 50+ | 41.0 | 11.6 | 23.4 | 8.5 | 10.5 | 4.9 | 0.1 | 100.0 | 1,795 | 4.7 |
| Total | 20.3 | 15.2 | 24.2 | 16.4 | 12.8 | 11.0 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 9,509 | 6.4 |


| Female |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 6-9 | 14.2 | 83.1 | 2.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 847 | 2.6 |
| 10-14 | 7.8 | 15.7 | 57.3 | 19.0 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 1,023 | 6.2 |
| 15-19 | 17.9 | 4.3 | 19.2 | 29.5 | 20.0 | 9.1 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 1,061 | 8.5 |
| 20-29 | 34.3 | 4.4 | 18.2 | 16.8 | 9.7 | 16.7 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 2,223 | 6.7 |
| 30-39 | 47.9 | 5.4 | 19.1 | 11.4 | 8.3 | 7.9 | 0.1 | 100.0 | 1,611 | 4.8 |
| 40-49 | 59.1 | 4.8 | 17.3 | 8.2 | 8.0 | 2.7 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 1,171 | 1.1 |
| 50+ | 76.3 | 5.3 | 9.8 | 4.3 | 3.1 | 1.0 | 0.2 | 100.0 | 1,990 | 0.0 |
| Total | 41.7 | 12.6 | 19.4 | 12.5 | 7.2 | 6.5 | 0.1 | 100.0 | 9,928 | 4.5 |


| Total |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 6-9 | 13.2 | 84.1 | 2.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 100.0 | 1,707 | 2.6 |
| 10-14 | 6.3 | 16.7 | 58.5 | 18.1 | 0.4 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 2,122 | 6.2 |
| 15-19 | 12.1 | 4.3 | 19.4 | 32.5 | 21.8 | 10.0 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 2,071 | 8.8 |
| 20-29 | 25.4 | 4.3 | 19.2 | 18.9 | 13.0 | 19.2 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 4,124 | 8.1 |
| 30-39 | 35.6 | 5.5 | 20.2 | 14.5 | 12.1 | 12.1 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 3,252 | 5.9 |
| 40-49 | 42.1 | 6.3 | 19.8 | 11.0 | 12.7 | 8.1 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 2,373 | 5.2 |
| 50+ | 59.6 | 8.3 | 16.3 | 6.3 | 6.6 | 2.8 | 0.1 | 100.0 | 3,785 | 0.0 |
| Total | 31.2 | 13.9 | 21.7 | 14.4 | 10.0 | 8.7 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 19,436 | 5.5 |

Note: This table and all subsequent tables (unless otherwise indicated) are based on the de facto population. Illiterate persons may have been to school, but they cannot read and write. Total includes 2 rural females with missing information on age, who are not shown separately.
${ }^{1}$ In this report, 'primary school complete' means 5-7 completed years of education, 'middle school complete' means 8-9 completed years of education, 'high school complete' means 10-11 completed years of education, and 'higher secondary complete and above' means 12 or more completed years of education.

A higher percentage of males than of females have completed each level of schooling. The median number of years of schooling is 6.4 for males and 4.5 for females; however, the education gap between males and females has narrowed considerably over time. For example, the median years of schooling for those age 50 and above is 4.7 for males and zero for women (meaning that the majority have never been to school), while for those age 10-14, the median is 6.2 years for both males and females.

Education levels are much higher in urban areas than in rural areas. The proportion illiterate is about twice as high for rural females ( 50 percent) and males ( 25 percent) as for urban females ( 26 percent) and males ( 11 percent).

Table 2.7 and Figure 2.2 show school attendance rates for the school-age household population by age, sex, and residence. In Tamil Nadu as a whole, 90 percent of children age 614 are attending school, up from 82 percent in NFHS-1. The attendance rate drops off sharply (to 48 percent) at age $15-17$. For the age group 6-17, the attendance rate is 83 percent for males, 77 percent for females, and 80 percent for the state as a whole. Overall, attendance rates for males are only slightly higher in urban than in rural areas, whereas attendance rates for females are much higher in urban areas than in rural areas. In urban areas, attendance rates are very similar for both sexes. In rural areas, however, attendance rates are higher for males than females at all ages, and the gap is particularly pronounced at age 15-17. At age 15-17, attendance rates are higher in Chennai than in urban areas as a whole, particularly for males.

| Table 2.7 School attendance |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Percentage of the household population age 6-17 years attending school by age, residence, and sex, Tamil Nadu, 1999 |  |  |  |  |
| Age | Urban | Rural | Total | Chennai |
| MALE |  |  |  |  |
| 6-10 | 96.4 | 95.5 | 95.8 | 96.9 |
| 11-14 | 87.6 | 83.3 | 84.8 | 85.9 |
| 15-17 | 55.6 | 52.8 | 53.7 | 67.0 |
| 6-14 | 92.4 | 90.2 | 90.9 | 91.8 |
| 6-17 | 84.4 | 81.6 | 82.6 | 85.6 |
| FEMALE |  |  |  |  |
| 6-10 | 98.0 | 94.5 | 95.6 | 96.0 |
| 11-14 | 87.1 | 76.3 | 79.6 | 87.0 |
| 15-17 | 57.9 | 35.5 | 42.4 | 61.0 |
| 6-14 | 93.4 | 86.3 | 88.5 | 92.0 |
| 6-17 | 84.7 | 73.3 | 76.9 | 84.4 |
| TOTAL |  |  |  |  |
| 6-10 | 97.1 | 95.0 | 95.7 | 96.5 |
| 11-14 | 87.4 | 79.8 | 82.3 | 86.5 |
| 15-17 | 56.8 | 43.6 | 47.8 | 64.0 |
| 6-14 | 92.8 | 88.2 | 89.8 | 91.9 |
| 6-17 | 84.5 | 77.4 | 79.7 | 85.0 |



Table 2.8 shows reasons for children never attending school or not currently attending school (for those who have dropped out of school), as reported by the respondent to the Household Questionnaire. For boys, by far the main reason for never attending school is a lack of interest in studies, while for girls, the main reasons for never attending school are that they are required for household work, that they are not interested in studying, that they are required to care for siblings, or that education is not considered necessary. For both boys and girls who used to attend school, but have dropped out, the main reason for not currently attending school is that the child is not interested in studies. Other important reasons are that the child is required for outside work or for work on a farm or family business (both of which are cited more often for boys than for girls) and that the child is needed for household work (cited more often for girls than for boys). The high cost of schooling is the third most important reason for dropping out of school for both boys and girls. In Tamil Nadu, the need for children to remain out of school in order to work on a family farm or business, to work outside for payment in cash or kind, or to do household work is mentioned frequently as the main reason for not currently attending school for both boys or girls; more than one-fourth of boys and girls are not currently attending school because of these work-related reasons. Some girls are not in school because they got married, but this is cited as the main reason for not currently attending school for only 7 percent of girls who have dropped out of school. Another reason mentioned more often for girls than for boysespecially as a reason for never attending school-is that education is not considered necessary.

Table 2.8 Reasons for children not attending school
Percent distribution of children age 6-17 years who never attended school by the main reason for never attending school and percent distribution of children age 6-17 years who have dropped out of school by the main reason for not currently attending school, according to residence and sex, Tamil Nadu, 1999

| Reason | Urban |  | Rural |  | Total |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| Main reason for never attending school ${ }^{1}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| School too far away | * | * | (3.0) | 1.2 | 2.2 | 1.6 |
| Transport not available | * | * | (3.0) | 0.0 | 2.8 | 0.0 |
| Education not considered necessary | * | * | (9.1) | 16.6 | 7.3 | 14.8 |
| Required for household work | * | * | (0.0) | 27.4 | 6.3 | 25.5 |
| Required for work on farm/family business | * | * | (0.0) | 1.2 | 0.0 | 1.1 |
| Required for outside work for payment in cash or kind | * | * | (0.0) | 2.4 | 0.0 | 2.1 |
| Costs too much | * | * | (12.1) | 4.7 | 9.5 | 6.8 |
| Required for care of siblings | * | * | (3.1) | 16.7 | 2.3 | 14.9 |
| Not interested in studies | * | * | (42.4) | 19.0 | 44.9 | 19.2 |
| Other | * | * | (27.3) | 10.8 | 24.8 | 13.4 |
| Don't know/missing | * | * | (0.0) | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.5 |
| Total percent | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Number of children | 14 | 12 | 40 | 101 | 54 | 113 |
| Main reason for not currently attending school ${ }^{2}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| School too far away | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.5 | 1.1 | 0.3 | 0.8 |
| Transport not available | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1.1 | 0.0 | 0.8 |
| Further education not considered necessary | 0.0 | 2.9 | 0.5 | 1.1 | 0.3 | 1.5 |
| Required for household work | 3.4 | 12.0 | 3.5 | 18.9 | 3.5 | 17.3 |
| Required for work on farm/family business | 1.6 | 2.1 | 9.0 | 4.0 | 6.7 | 3.6 |
| Required for outside work for payment in cash or kind | 16.5 | 5.3 | 19.0 | 6.2 | 18.2 | 6.0 |
| Costs too much | 11.9 | 21.6 | 7.0 | 11.3 | 8.5 | 13.6 |
| No proper school facilities for girls | 0.0 | 4.6 | 0.0 | 2.9 | 0.0 | 3.3 |
| Required for care of siblings | 0.0 | 2.3 | 0.5 | 1.5 | 0.3 | 1.7 |
| Not interested in studies | 44.4 | 25.9 | 46.0 | 32.0 | 45.5 | 30.6 |
| Repeated failures | 7.5 | 7.9 | 6.0 | 4.4 | 6.5 | 5.2 |
| Got married | 0.3 | 4.1 | 0.0 | 7.3 | 0.1 | 6.6 |
| Other | 2.4 | 3.6 | 3.5 | 3.6 | 3.1 | 3.6 |
| Don't know/missing | 12.1 | 7.6 | 4.5 | 4.7 | 6.9 | 5.4 |
| Total percent | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Number of children | 110 | 98 | 241 | 331 | 351 | 429 |

${ }^{1}$ For children who never attended school
${ }^{2}$ For children who have dropped out of school
( ) Based on 25-49 unweighted cases
*Percentage not shown; based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases

### 2.5 Housing Characteristics

Table 2.9 provides information on housing characteristics by residence and region. Seventy-nine percent of households in Tamil Nadu have electricity (up from 64 percent in NFHS-1). The proportion of households with electricity is 91 percent in urban areas and 73 percent in rural areas. Ninety percent of households in Chennai have electricity.

| Table 2.9 Housing characteristics |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Percent distribution of households by housing characteristics, according to residence, Tamil Nadu, 1999 |  |  |  |  |
| Housing characteristic | Urban | Rural | Total | Chennai |
| Electricity |  |  |  |  |
| Yes | 91.1 | 72.5 | 78.8 | 89.6 |
| No | 8.9 | 27.5 | 21.2 | 10.4 |
| Total percent | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Source of drinking water |  |  |  |  |
| Piped | 73.1 | 64.8 | 67.6 | 63.3 |
| Hand pump | 15.5 | 18.4 | 17.4 | 30.6 |
| Well water | 6.9 | 13.3 | 11.2 | 3.5 |
| Surface water | 2.1 | 3.3 | 2.9 | 0.0 |
| Other | 2.4 | 0.2 | 1.0 | 2.5 |
| Total percent | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Time to get drinking water |  |  |  |  |
| Percentage < 15 minutes | 76.7 | 64.5 | 68.7 | 81.6 |
| Median time (minutes) | 4.3 | 9.4 | 9.2 | 0.0 |
| Method of drinking water purification ${ }^{1}$ |  |  |  |  |
| Strains water by cloth | 13.4 | 6.9 | 9.1 | 14.7 |
| Uses alum | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.2 |
| Uses water filter | 11.9 | 1.6 | 5.1 | 15.1 |
| Boils water | 28.5 | 8.2 | 15.1 | 38.2 |
| Uses electronic purifier | 0.8 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 3.0 |
| Uses other method | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.5 |
| Does not purify water | 54.4 | 84.5 | 74.3 | 42.8 |
| Sanitation facility |  |  |  |  |
| Flush toilet | 71.9 | 12.6 | 32.8 | 89.1 |
| Pit toilet/latrine | 2.8 | 0.3 | 1.2 | 1.6 |
| Other | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| No facility | 25.3 | 86.9 | 65.9 | 9.3 |
| Total percent | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Main type of fuel used for cooking |  |  |  |  |
| Wood | 28.1 | 84.2 | 65.1 | 5.7 |
| Crop residues | 0.2 | 2.1 | 1.4 | 0.0 |
| Dung cakes | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| Coal/coke/lignite/charcoal | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.2 |
| Kerosene | 37.5 | 6.9 | 17.3 | 54.0 |
| Electricity | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.3 |
| Liquid petroleum gas | 33.0 | 6.2 | 15.3 | 37.7 |
| Biogas | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 1.3 |
| Other | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.9 |
| Missing | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| Total percent | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Type of house |  |  |  |  |
| Kachha | 16.7 | 42.8 | 33.9 | 9.3 |
| Semi-pucca | 38.6 | 38.3 | 38.4 | 32.8 |
| Pucca | 44.6 | 18.8 | 27.6 | 57.5 |
| Missing | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.5 |
| Total percent | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Persons per room |  |  |  |  |
| < 3 | 76.8 | 71.4 | 73.2 | 69.9 |
| 3-4 | 16.5 | 20.0 | 18.8 | 19.8 |
| 5-6 | 5.7 | 6.9 | 6.5 | 8.8 |
| 7+ | 1.0 | 1.7 | 1.4 | 1.1 |
| Don't/missing | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.4 |
| Total percent | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Mean number of persons per room | 2.1 | 2.3 | 2.2 | 2.3 |
| Number of households | 1,797 | 3,484 | 5,281 | 347 |
| ${ }^{1}$ Totals add to more than 100.0 because households may use more than one method of purification. |  |  |  |  |

Water sources and sanitation facilities may have an important influence on the health of household members, especially children. NFHS-1 and NFHS-2 included questions on sources of drinking water and types of sanitation facilities. NFHS-2 found that 68 percent of households use piped drinking water (up sharply from 51 percent in NFHS-1), while 17 percent drink water from hand pumps, and 11 percent drink water from wells. As in the case of electricity, there are urbanrural differences in sources of drinking water. The proportion of households with piped drinking water is 73 percent in urban areas and 65 percent in rural areas. Piped water is somewhat less common for households in Chennai than for urban households as a whole. Most households have easy access to drinking water. Sixty-nine percent of households either have a source of drinking water in their residence/yard or take less than 15 minutes to get drinking water, including the time to go to the source, get water, and come back. About one-quarter of households purify their drinking water ( 46 percent in urban areas and 16 percent in rural areas). About 3 in 5 households in Chennai use some method for purifying their drinking water. The most popular methods of water purification are boiling water and straining water through a cloth.

Regarding sanitation facilities, only one-third of households have a flush toilet (using either piped water or water from a bucket for flushing), up from 26 percent in NFHS-1; only 1 percent have a pit toilet or latrine; and 66 percent have no facility. Again there are large urbanrural differences: 72 percent of urban households have a flush toilet, compared to only 13 percent of rural households. Eighty-nine percent of households in Chennai have flush toilets. The prevalence of pit toilets and other types of toilets is very limited, so that almost all households that do not have flush toilets have no toilet facilities at all.

Several types of fuel are used for cooking in Tamil Nadu, with wood as the most common type. In the state as a whole, 65 percent of households rely mainly on wood, 17 percent on kerosene, and 15 percent on liquid petroleum gas. Again there are large urban-rural differences. Urban households are more likely to use kerosene ( 38 percent) or liquid petroleum gas ( 33 percent) than wood ( 28 percent), while rural households rely much more heavily on wood (84 percent). Households in Chennai are more likely than urban households as a whole to use kerosene and liquid petroleum gas.

Regarding type of house construction, 34 percent of households live in houses that are kachha (made with mud, thatch, or other low-quality materials-down from 37 percent in NFHS-1), 38 percent live in semi-pucca houses (using partly low-quality and partly high-quality materials), and 28 percent live in pucca houses (made with high-quality materials throughout, including the roof, walls, and floor). Forty-five percent of urban households and 58 percent in Chennai live in pucca houses, compared with 19 percent of rural households.

Crowded housing conditions may affect health as well as the quality of life. Twentyseven percent of households in Tamil Nadu live in houses with three or more persons per room. The mean number of persons per room is 2.2 (down from 2.5 in NFHS-1). The mean number of persons per room does not vary much by residence.

Table 2.10 shows a number of measures related to the socioeconomic status of the household (ownership of land, house, and livestock). Overall, 70 percent of households do not own any agricultural land, almost the same percentage as in NFHS-1. As expected, ownership of agricultural land is lower among urban than rural households; 90 percent of urban households do not own any agricultural land, compared with 60 percent of rural households. In rural areas,

| Table 2.10 Household ownership of agricultural land, house, and livestock |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Percent distribution of households owning agricultural land and percentage owning a house and livestock by residence, Tamil Nadu, 1999 |  |  |  |  |
| Asset | Urban | Rural | Total | Chennai |
| No agricultural land | 90.3 | 59.9 | 70.3 | 97.7 |
| Irrigated land only |  |  |  |  |
| < 1 acre | 0.8 | 5.0 | 3.6 | 0.0 |
| 1-5 acres | 4.6 | 18.3 | 13.7 | 0.6 |
| 6+ acres | 1.0 | 2.3 | 1.9 | 0.4 |
| Nonirrigated land only |  |  |  |  |
| < 1 acre | 0.7 | 2.4 | 1.8 | 0.0 |
| 1-5 acres | 1.8 | 6.7 | 5.0 | 0.4 |
| 6+ acres | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| Both irrigated and nonirrigated land |  |  |  |  |
| < 1 acre | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| 1-5 acres | 0.1 | 2.9 | 2.0 | 0.1 |
| 6+ acres | 0.3 | 1.6 | 1.2 | 0.2 |
| Missing | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.6 |
| Total percent | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Percentage owning a house | 62.1 | 91.8 | 81.7 | 55.7 |
| Percentage owning livestock | 6.3 | 35.9 | 25.9 | 1.1 |
| Number of households | 1,797 | 3,484 | 5,281 | 347 |

among those who own agricultural land, most (76 percent) have at least some irrigated land. The proportion of households owning a house is 82 percent overall, 62 percent in urban areas, 92 percent in rural areas, and 56 percent in Chennai. Just over one in four households ( 26 percent) own livestock. The proportion of households owning livestock is 6 percent in urban areas, 36 percent in rural areas, and only 1 percent in Chennai.

The possession of durable goods is another indicator of a household's socioeconomic level, although these goods may also have other benefits. For example, having access to a radio or television may expose household members to innovative ideas or important information about health and family welfare; a refrigerator prolongs the wholesomeness of food; and a means of transportation allows greater access to many services outside the local area. Table 2.11 shows that the majority of households in Tamil Nadu have a clock or watch (79 percent), an electric fan ( 55 percent), and a cot or bed ( 52 percent). Other durable goods often found in households are radios/transistors ( 50 percent), chairs ( 50 percent), bicycles ( 48 percent), tables ( 32 percent), black and white televisions ( 26 percent), pressure cookers ( 23 percent), and mattresses ( 21 percent), with smaller proportions owning mopeds, scooters, or motocycles ( 14 percent), colour televisions (12 percent), sewing machines (10 percent), telephones or refrigerators ( 7 percent each), water pumps ( 6 percent), bullock carts ( 2 percent), and cars or tractors ( 1 percent each). Urban households are much more likely than rural households to own most of these durable goods. However, a higher proportion of households in rural areas than in urban areas own a bullock cart, a thresher, or a tractor, all of which are used mainly for cultivation. Fifty-nine percent of households use mainly aluminium kitchenware and almost all of the rest use stainless

| Table 2.11 Household ownership of durable goods and standard of living |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Percentage of households owning selected durable goods and percent distribution of households by type of kitchenware and the standard of living index, according to residence, Tamil Nadu, 1999 |  |  |  |  |
| Asset | Urban | Rural | Total | Chennai |
| Durable goods |  |  |  |  |
| Mattress | 36.5 | 13.5 | 21.3 | 42.9 |
| Pressure cooker | 45.2 | 11.2 | 22.7 | 49.4 |
| Chair | 69.5 | 39.6 | 49.8 | 73.7 |
| Cot/bed | 63.9 | 45.6 | 51.8 | 65.8 |
| Table | 52.6 | 20.6 | 31.5 | 61.6 |
| Clock/watch | 91.9 | 71.6 | 78.5 | 90.9 |
| Electric fan | 80.4 | 42.5 | 55.4 | 83.6 |
| Bicycle | 51.6 | 46.6 | 48.3 | 47.0 |
| Radio/transistor | 60.7 | 44.4 | 49.9 | 57.8 |
| Sewing machine | 17.3 | 5.6 | 9.6 | 15.3 |
| Telephone | 14.5 | 3.3 | 7.1 | 19.1 |
| Refrigerator | 14.9 | 2.4 | 6.7 | 23.4 |
| Television (black and white) | 39.2 | 18.6 | 25.6 | 41.4 |
| Television (colour) | 25.4 | 5.4 | 12.2 | 32.6 |
| Moped/scooter/motorcycle | 21.9 | 9.5 | 13.7 | 23.2 |
| Car | 2.3 | 0.5 | 1.1 | 5.2 |
| Water pump | 11.0 | 3.7 | 6.2 | 10.8 |
| Bullock cart | 0.5 | 2.5 | 1.8 | 0.0 |
| Thresher | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Tractor | 0.1 | 1.0 | 0.7 | 0.0 |
| None of the above | 3.6 | 14.0 | 10.5 | 4.5 |
| Main type of kitchenware used |  |  |  |  |
| Clay | 0.3 | 0.9 | 0.7 | 0.5 |
| Aluminium | 44.2 | 66.3 | 58.8 | 27.7 |
| Cast iron | 0.4 | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.0 |
| Brass/copper | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.3 |
| Stainless steel | 54.8 | 32.6 | 40.2 | 71.5 |
| Don't know/missing | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Total percent | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Standard of living index |  |  |  |  |
| Low | 23.1 | 51.0 | 41.5 | 18.4 |
| Medium | 51.1 | 40.3 | 44.0 | 51.5 |
| High | 24.6 | 7.7 | 13.5 | 28.4 |
| Missing | 1.2 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.7 |
| Total percent | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Number of households | 1,797 | 3,484 | 5,281 | 347 |

steel kitchenware. Aluminium kitchenware is more popular in rural areas ( 66 percent) than in urban areas (44 percent), whereas stainless steel kitchenware is more popular in urban areas (55 percent) than in rural areas ( 33 percent). Stainless steel kitchenware is used by the vast majority of households in Chennai ( 72 percent).

Table 2.11 shows a summary household measure called the standard of living index (SLI), which is calculated by adding the following scores:

House type: 4 for pucca, 2 for semi-pucca, 0 for kachha;
Toilet facility: 4 for own flush toilet, 2 for public or shared flush toilet or own pit toilet, 1 for shared or public pit toilet, 0 for no facility;

Source of lighting: 2 for electricity, 1 for kerosene, gas, or oil, 0 for other source of lighting;
Main fuel for cooking: 2 for electricity, liquid petroleum gas, or biogas, 1 for coal, charcoal, or kerosene, 0 for other fuel;

Source of drinking water: 2 for pipe, hand pump, or well in residence/yard/plot, 1 for public tap, hand pump, or well, 0 for other water source;

Separate room for cooking: 1 for yes, 0 for no;
Ownership of house: 2 for yes, 0 for no;
Ownership of agricultural land: 4 for 5 acres or more, 3 for 2.0-4.9 acres, 2 for less than 2 acres or acreage not known, 0 for no agricultural land;

Ownership of irrigated land: 2 if owns at least some irrigated land, 0 for no irrigated land;
Ownership of livestock: 2 if owns livestock, 0 if does not own livestock;
Ownership of durable goods: 4 each for a car or tractor, 3 each for a moped/scooter/motorcycle, telephone, refrigerator, or colour television, 2 each for a bicycle, electric fan, radio/transistor, sewing machine, black and white television, water pump, bullock cart, or thresher, 1 each for a mattress, pressure cooker, chair, cot/bed, table, or clock/watch.

Index scores range from $0-14$ for a low SLI to $15-24$ for a medium SLI to 25-67 for a high SLI. By this measure, 42 percent of households in Tamil Nadu have a low standard of living, 44 percent have a medium standard of living, and 14 percent have a high standard of living. The proportion with a low standard of living is much lower in urban areas ( 23 percent) than in rural areas ( 51 percent), and the proportion with a high standard of living is much higher in urban areas ( 25 percent) than in rural areas ( 8 percent). The proportion of households with a high standard of living is slightly higher in Chennai ( 28 percent) than in urban areas of the state as a whole ( 25 percent).

### 2.6 Lifestyle Indicators

The NFHS-2 Household Questionnaire asked about certain aspects of the lifestyle of household members. Table 2.12 shows the percentages of men and women age 15 and above who chew paan masala or tobacco, drink alcohol, or smoke. These lifestyle indicators are of considerable interest because the use of paan masala, tobacco, and alcohol all have detrimental effects on health.

The respondent to the Household Questionnaire reported on these lifestyle indicators for all persons in the household and, therefore, the results should be interpreted with caution because the household respondent may not be aware of use that takes place outside the household environs. In addition, to the extent that social stigma may be attached to the use of some of the substances, underreporting is likely.

| Table 2.12 Lifestyle indicators |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Percentage of usual household members age 15 and above who chew paan masala or tobacco, drink alcohol, currently smoke, or have ever smoked by selected background characteristics and sex, Tamil Nadu, 1999 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Background characteristic | Chew paan masala or tobacco | Drink alcohol | Currently smoke | Ever smoked ${ }^{1}$ | Number of household members |
| MALE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Age |  |  |  |  |  |
| 15-19 | 2.1 | 0.5 | 3.2 | 3.5 | 1,053 |
| 20-24 | 6.9 | 8.2 | 11.8 | 12.3 | 906 |
| 25-29 | 8.6 | 19.8 | 26.6 | 29.0 | 1,028 |
| 30-39 | 10.9 | 26.6 | 35.3 | 38.4 | 1,693 |
| 40-49 | 14.6 | 30.3 | 40.6 | 43.4 | 1,231 |
| 50-59 | 21.9 | 32.5 | 37.8 | 44.3 | 780 |
| 60+ | 27.9 | 21.6 | 27.0 | 31.2 | 1,063 |
| Residence |  |  |  |  |  |
| Urban | 6.4 | 16.4 | 24.7 | 27.6 | 2,743 |
| Rural | 16.5 | 22.7 | 28.3 | 31.0 | 5,009 |
| Chennai | 8.7 | 19.3 | 25.2 | 27.2 | 560 |
| Education |  |  |  |  |  |
| Illiterate | 24.7 | 34.5 | 38.9 | 42.7 | 1,815 |
| Literate, < middle school complete | 16.0 | 23.7 | 34.3 | 38.2 | 2,202 |
| Middle school complete | 7.3 | 15.5 | 20.3 | 22.1 | 1,422 |
| High school complete and above | 4.3 | 9.4 | 14.8 | 16.3 | 2,312 |
| Standard of living index |  |  |  |  |  |
| Low | 20.5 | 29.1 | 36.8 | 39.5 | 2,614 |
| Medium | 10.6 | 19.2 | 25.1 | 28.1 | 3,739 |
| High | 4.5 | 7.1 | 13.5 | 15.7 | 1,307 |
| Total | 13.0 | 20.5 | 27.0 | 29.8 | 7,752 |
| FEMALE |  |  |  |  |  |
| Age |  |  |  |  |  |
| 15-19 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1,060 |
| 20-24 | 1.7 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 1,133 |
| 25-29 | 3.6 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 1,041 |
| 30-39 | 7.6 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 1,615 |
| 40-49 | 18.1 | 0.6 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 1,189 |
| 50-59 | 21.0 | 1.1 | 0.9 | 1.1 | 968 |
| 60+ | 26.8 | 1.3 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 1,057 |
| Residence |  |  |  |  |  |
| Urban | 4.4 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 2,815 |
| Rural | 14.5 | 0.6 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 5,249 |
| Chennai | 3.7 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 528 |
| Education |  |  |  |  |  |
| Illiterate | 20.2 | 0.9 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 3,972 |
| Literate, < middle school complete | 4.0 | 0.0 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 1,680 |
| Middle school complete | 1.3 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 1,053 |
| High school complete and above | 0.0 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 1,353 |
| Standard of living index |  |  |  |  |  |
| Low | 17.5 | 0.9 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 3,017 |
| Medium | 8.3 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 3,650 |
| High | 3.6 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 1,319 |
| Total | 11.0 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 8,064 |
| Total male and female | 11.9 | 10.3 | 13.4 | 14.8 | 15,816 |
| Note: Total includes 2 males and 6 females with missing information on education and 92 males and 78 females with missing information on the standard of living index, who are not shown separately. ${ }^{1}$ Includes household members who currently smoke |  |  |  |  |  |

Twelve percent of persons age 15 and above are reported to chew paan masala or tobacco. This proportion rises steadily with age from 2 percent of men and less than 1 percent for women at age 15-19 to 28 percent of men and 27 percent of women at age 60 and above. Chewing of paan masala or tobacco is more common in rural areas than in urban areas. It is inversely related to both education and the standard of living.

Twenty-one percent of men age 15 and above drink alcohol, compared with only a negligible proportion of women (less than 1 percent). The proportion of men who drink alcohol rises with age up to age $50-59$, where it reaches a high of 33 percent, then falls to 22 percent among those age 60 and above. The proportion of men who drink is higher in rural areas ( 23 percent) than in urban areas ( 16 percent). Alcohol consumption is higher among illiterate men than among literate men. Men in households with a low standard of living are four times as likely to drink alcohol as men in households with a high standard of living.

Among men age 15 and above, 27 percent currently smoke. This proportion rises from 3 percent at age 15-19 to 41 percent at age 40-49 and then falls to 27 percent at age 60 and above. Smoking among men is slightly more common in rural areas (28 percent) than urban areas ( 25 percent). Smoking is more than twice as high among illiterate men as among men who have completed at least high school, and is almost three times higher among men with a low standard of living than among men with a high standard of living. Ninety-one percent of men who ever smoked were still smokers at the time of the survey. The pattern of differentials for ever-smokers closely resembles the pattern for current smokers. Less than 1 percent of women are reported to have ever smoked.

### 2.7 Availability of Facilities and Services to the Rural Population

The NFHS-2 Village Questionnaire collected information from the sarpanch (village head), other village officials, or other knowledgeable persons in the village on facilities and services in the village. One important set of questions was on the distance of the village from various types of health facilities, including Primary Health Centres (PHCs), sub-centres, hospitals, and dispensaries or clinics. Table 2.13 summarizes findings on distance from a health facility. The unit of analysis is ever-married women age 15-49 who reside in rural areas.

Only 15 percent of rural women live in a village with a Primary Health Centre, 42 percent live in a village with a sub-centre, and 49 percent live in a village with either a PHC or a sub-centre. The proportions who live in a village with other health facilities are 12 percent for hospitals and 22 percent for dispensaries or clinics. Fifty-six percent of women live in a village that has some kind of health facility. Median distances from particular health facilities are 5.7 km from a Primary Health Centre, 3.4 km from a hospital, and 3.5 km from a dispensary or a clinic. Five percent of rural women need to travel at least 5 kilometres to reach the nearest health facility.

Table 2.14 shows the proportion of residents of rural areas of Tamil Nadu who live in villages that have various facilities and services. Sixty-seven percent of rural residents live in villages that have a primary school, 38 percent live in villages with a middle school, 29 percent live in villages that have a secondary school, and 21 percent live in villages with a higher

| Table 2.13 Distance from the nearest health facility |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Percent distribution of ever-married rural women age 15-49 by distance from the nearest health facility, Tamil Nadu, 1999 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | Health fac |  |  |  |
| Distance | Primary Health Centre | Subcentre | Either PHC or sub-centre | Hospital ${ }^{1}$ | Dispensary/ clinic | Any health facility |
| Within village | 14.5 | 41.6 | 49.2 | 11.9 | 22.3 | 56.4 |
| < 5 km | 28.1 | 44.2 | 42.2 | 46.3 | 39.5 | 38.5 |
| $5-9 \mathrm{~km}$ | 33.7 | 8.8 | 6.7 | 23.4 | 21.8 | 5.1 |
| 10+ km | 21.5 | 0.0 | 1.9 | 18.4 | 16.4 | 0.0 |
| Don't know/missing | 2.1 | 5.4 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Total percent | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Median distance | 5.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 3.4 | 3.5 | 0.0 |
| Note: The category ' $<5 \mathrm{~km}$ ' excludes cases where the facility is within the village. When median distance is calculated, 'within village' cases and cases with a facility less than 1 km from the village are assigned a distance of zero. <br> PHC: Primary Health Centre <br> ${ }^{1}$ Includes community health centre, rural hospital, government hospital, and private hospital |  |  |  |  |  |  |

secondary school. Sixty-four percent of rural residents live in villages that have an anganwadi ${ }^{2}$ (a nursery school for children age 3-6) and 17 percent live in villages with an adult education centre. More than one-quarter of rural residents live in villages that have a private doctor, 17 percent live in villages with a visiting doctor, and 30 percent live in villages with a mobile health unit. Almost 100 percent live in villages that are at least partly electrified.

Although only 16 percent live in villages with an STD booth (for long distance telephoning within India), 77 percent live in villages that have at least one household with a private telephone. Seventy-three percent of rural residents live in villages that have cable television service (compared with 28 percent nationwide) and 87 percent live in villages that have a community television set, providing further evidence of the wide exposure to electronic mass media in rural Tamil Nadu. Forty-nine percent of rural residents live in villages with a mahila mandal, a women's community group. Other facilities that are available in villages where more than half of rural residents live are fair price shops, paan shops, and youth clubs. The most widely available rural development programmes as reported by the respondents to the Village Questionnaire are the Integrated Rural Development Programme, the Training Rural Youth for Self-Employment programme, and the Indira Awas Yojana.

[^1]| Table 2.14 Availability of facilities and services |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Percentage of rural residents living in villages that have selected facilities and services, Tamil Nadu, 1999 |  |  |  |
| Facility/service | Percentage of residents | Facility/service | Percentage of residents |
| Primary school | 67.3 | At least one village household has a telephone | 77.0 |
| Middle school | 38.3 | Mill/small-scale industry | 28.4 |
| Secondary school | 28.9 | Credit cooperative society | 14.0 |
| Higher secondary school | 21.3 | Agricultural cooperative society | 34.0 |
| College | 0.0 | Fishermen's cooperative society | 2.4 |
|  |  | Milk cooperative society | 32.0 |
| Anganwadi | 63.6 | Kirana/general market shop | 31.0 |
| Adult education centre | 16.6 | Weekly market | 14.7 |
|  |  | Fair price shop | 78.0 |
| Primary Health Centre | 13.7 | Paan shop | 94.4 |
| Sub-centre | 42.0 | Pharmacy/medical shop | 24.9 |
| Hospital ${ }^{1}$ | 11.7 | Mahila mandal | 49.3 |
| Dispensary/clinic | 21.3 | Youth club | 55.9 |
|  |  | Community centre | 38.9 |
| Private doctor | 26.6 | Community television set | 87.1 |
| Visiting doctor | 16.5 | Cable connection | 72.6 |
| Village health guide | 1.1 |  |  |
| Traditional birth attendant | 65.0 | Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) | 87.5 |
| Mobile health unit | 30.0 | National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) | 3.9 |
|  |  | Training Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM) | 33.2 |
| Electricity | 98.6 | Employment Guarantee Scheme (EGS) | 3.2 |
| Bank | 27.8 | Development of Women and Children of Rural Areas (DWACRA) | 11.5 |
| Post office | 54.3 | Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) | 30.6 |
| Telegraph office | 19.8 | Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojana (SGNY) | 1.3 |
| STD (Subscriber Trunk Dialling) phone booth | 16.2 | Total population | 14,527 |
| Note: Table is based on the de jure population. ${ }^{1}$ Includes community health centre, rural hospital, government hospital, and private hospital |  |  |  |


[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ Other backward classes are castes and communities that have been designated by the Government of India as socially and educationally backward and in need of special protection from social injustice.

[^1]:    ${ }^{2}$ Anganwadi workers provide integrated child development services and may also engage in the promotion of family planning.

