

CHAPTER - 1

INTRODUCTION

Away from the Indian mainland, shimmering like an emerald necklace in the Bay of Bengal the Andaman and Nicobar Islands synonymous with the historic Cellular Jail do not need an introduction. However their unique settlement history and distant location warrants a detailed account to understand the present socio-economic situation.

The beautiful Islands of the Andaman and Nicobar Archipelago located in the Bay of Bengal between 92° East to 94° East Longitude and 6° North to 14° North Latitude are 572 in number. They form a chain from Myanmar in the North to Indonesia in the South and have a coastline of 1900 Kms stretching 900 Kms North-South. These Islands are located approx 1100 kms from the Indian mainland but are only 50 Kms from the Coco Islands of Myanmar, 680 Kms from Phuket, Thailand and the southern most point is 163 Kms from Indonesia. They are located in Zone V of the Seismic Zoning Map of India, which is the area of highest seismic intensity and a very High Damage Risk Zone. The Islands lie parallel to a geological fault line to the east, crossing the Andaman Sea from North to South. The movements along this fault line lead to frequent tremors. India's only active volcano on Barren Island and an extinct volcano on Narcodum Island sit directly on the fault line.

The Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands covers an area of 8349 sq. kms. Of the 572 Islands only 36 are inhabited. 92% of its area is under forest cover and the 3.56 lakh population is concentrated in 8% of the land area that is 660 sq. Kms. The population density of the Islands is 43 persons per sq. km. There is only one urban area (Port Blair town & its environs) of 16.6 sq. Kms catering to a population of 116,407 persons.

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands were shrouded in mystery for centuries because of their inaccessibility. However they were known to Mariners since ancient times and found mention in the travelogues of geographers like Ptolemy and Marco Polo. The colonial powers started showing interest in the Islands during the 17th & 18th Centuries as the Islands offered safe anchorages to ships sailing in the Bay of Bengal. The Nicobars changed hands from the Danes to the Dutch and later came under the British Rule. The documented history of the Islands starts with the arrival of Lt. Archibald Blair of the Royal Indian Navy in 1788 when he was commissioned to survey and establish a settlement on the Islands. A settlement was first established at Chatham Island and then shifted to Diglipur but had to be abandoned due to inhospitable climate and sickness in 1796.

The First War of Independence in 1857 brought the Islands into prominence again and the Islands were thought to be the best place for deportation of Mutineers. A settlement was again established at present day Port Blair. The imperial Japanese Navy occupied the Islands from 23rd April 1942 to 9th October 1945 during the First World War. On 30th December 1943 Netaji Subash Chandra Bose hoisted the National Tricolour here and declared the Islands the first Indian Territory to be freed from Foreign Rule.

Since pre-historic times these islands were the homes of aboriginal tribes. In the Andaman group of islands there are tribes of Negrito origin namely Great Andamanese, Onges, Jarawas and Sentinalese. The Nicobarese and Shompens in the Nicobar Group of Islands are of Mongoloid stock. The Nicobarese are the most modernized of the tribes and have been assimilated into the mainstream. The Jarawas and the Sentinalese on the other hand are nearly untouched by modern mankind.

When the islands were reoccupied after the Japanese surrender in 1945 they were backward, largely untouched and even undiscovered in parts. The population of less than 30,000 persons on the Islands was mainly confined to Port Blair and an area of less than 100 sq. miles around it in South Andaman Island and another area of less than 100 sq. miles in Nicobar group of Islands. The policy of the government from Independence to the mid-seventies was to inhabit these Islands and refugees were brought and settled here. The first batch of 202 refugee families from East Bengal was settled in South Andamans in 1949. Later families were brought from Kerala, Bihar, Mahe and Madras. Ex-servicemen families were settled at the Southern most point (Campbell Bay) and Sri Lankan expatriates in Nancowry group of Islands for Rubber plantations. This policy led to a very high rate of population growth in the decades between 1951 and 1981.

All the groups carried with them their languages, religions and cultural traditions. This has given the Islands a very cosmopolitan demographic profile and the Islands reflect the culture of every part of India and are truly called mini-India. This is also one of the reasons that the social problems encountered in communities on the mainland are absent within the same communities as social pressures to adhere to rituals and traditions are by and large absent here.

The Islands can be divided into two major groups. The Northern group is known as the Andamans group and the Southern group as the Nicobars group. These groups are separated from each other by the 156 Km wide Ten Degree Channel. This channel is not only a physical barrier but also separates the two groups culturally.

Conforming to these two Divisions the Islands are Administratively Divided into Andamans District with head quarters at Port Blair and Nicobars District with Headquarter at Car Nicobar.

The Andamans group of Islands can further be divided into North Andamans, Middle Andamans and South Andamans. The Nicobars groups comprise the Car Nicobar & Nancowry group of Islands. The Administrative divisions largely follow these patterns. Wherever possible data has been collected and analyzed at tehsil level because firstly there are only two districts in the Islands and secondly as the territory is not a contiguous stretch of land the dynamics of development and the resultant developments vary from island to island. The seven sub districts or tehsils and their jurisdiction is:

Administrative Divisions 1991

District	Tehsil	Name of inhabited Islands	Area in sq. Km.
Andamans			6408.00
	Diglipur	1. Narcondum Island	884
		2. East Island	
		3. North Andaman (Part)	
		4. Smith Island	
	Mayabunder	North Andaman (Part)	1348.00
		5. Stewart Island	
		6. Curlew Island	
		7. Avis Island	
		8. Interview Island	
		9. Middle Andaman (part)	
	Rangat	Middle Andaman (part)	1070
		10. Porlob Island	
		11. Long Island	
	Port Blair	12. North Passage Island	2021.00
		13. Strait Island	
		14. Baratang Island	
		15. Peel Island	
		16. John Laurance Island	
		17. Havelock Island	
		18. Neil Island	
		19. South Andaman (part)	
		20. Rutland Island	
		21. Little Andaman Island	
		22. Sentinal Island	
	Ferrargunj	South Andaman (Part)	1085.00
		23. Flat Bay Island	
		24. Viper Island	
Nicobars			1841
	Car Nicobar		129.00

District	Tehsil	Name of inhabited Islands	Area in sq. Km.
		25. Car Nicobar Island	
	Nancowry	26. Chowra Island	1712.00
		27. Teressa Island	
		28. Bompoka Island	
		29. Katchal Island	
		30. Nancowry Island	
		31. Kamorta Island	
		32. Trinket Island	
		33. Pilomilo Island	
		34. Little Nicobar Island	
		35. Kondul Island	
		36. Great Nicobar Island	

Source: Census of India, 1991, Series 27, Part II A and Part II B, Directorate of Census Operations, Andaman and Nicobar Islands

CHAPTER - 2
DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

The National Human Development Report, 2001 places the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands 5th among all States and Union Territories in the Human Development Index ranking for 1991 which is a jump of six ranks from the 1981 ranking. The Human Development Index reflects the critical dimensions of well being – longevity, education and command over resources. The Human Development Index in A & N Islands has improved both in rural, as well as in urban areas during the eighties. Whereas the ranking has gone down from 2nd to 4th in urban areas the gains in the rural sector have been substantial and the improvement in the Human Development Index in rural A & N Islands has been more than that in urban areas of A & N Islands. The ranking improved from 12th to 5th rank implying that the regional disparity has narrowed down. The gain in rural areas was to the tune of 0.227 while it was only 0.078 in the case of urban areas and the overall the change was 0.180. This is better than the increase shown at the All India level which is only 0.079 indicating that the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are progressing well on the Human Development front. The only other State/ Union Territory which has recorded equivalent growth is Pondicherry – 0.185.

Another major factor which reflects the well being of a society is the Gender Disparity Index or the proportion of female attainments to that of male for a common set of variables. The Islands progress in this is laudable and the ranking has improved from 21 to 1. The improvement in index value was from 0.645 in 1981 to 0.857 in 1991, which is the highest in the country. This implies that on an average the attainments of women on human development indicators were more than 85 per cent of those of men.

Human Development Index 1981								
	Rural		Urban		Combined		Gender Disparity Index	
	Value	Rank	Value	Rank	Value	Rank	Value	Rank
All India	0.263		0.442		0.302		0.620	
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.335	12	0.575	2	0.394	11	0.645	21

Human Development Index 1991								
	Rural		Urban		Combined		Gender Disparity Index	
	Value	Rank	Value	Rank	Value	Rank	Value	Rank
All India	0.340		0.511		0.381		0.676	
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.528	5	0.653	4	0.574	5	0.857	1

Source : National Human Development Report, 2001, Planning Commission, New Delhi

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands are strictly not comparable to the other States and Union Territories. Though they cover 0.26% (8249 Sq. Kms) of the land mass of the country they support only 0.03% (356,152) of its population and the dynamics of its development are a factor of its location and history. The policy of settlement/colonization has resulted in a high rate of population growth over the decades. This growth has been higher in the Andamans District than in the Nicobar District, because the entry into the Nicobars has been restricted. However there is a steady decrease over the last couple of decades as employment opportunities and availability of land has decreased.

Growth Rate

Trends In Population Growth 1901-2001

Year	Persons in Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Decadal variation for the Union Territory	Decadal variation for Andamans Distt.	Decadal variation for Nicobars Distt.
1901	24,649	-	-	-
1911	26,459	+ 7.34%	- 2.74%	+ 35.43%
1921	27,086	+ 2.37%	+ 0.98%	+ 5.15%
1931	29,463	+ 8.78%	+ 7.91%	+ 10.44%
1941	33,768	+ 14.61%	+ 10.89%	+ 21.60%
1951	30,971	- 8.28%	- 11.04%	- 3.56%
1961	63,548	+ 105.19%	+ 158.33%	+ 21.27%
1971	115,133	+ 81.17%	+ 90.81%	+ 48.77%
1981	188,741	+ 63.93%	+ 69.35%	+ 40.57%
1991	280,661	+ 48.70%	+ 52.54%	+ 28.74%
2001	356,152	+ 26.89%	+ 30.08%	+ 7.29%

Source : Census of India, 1991, Series 27, Part II A and Part II B, Directorate of Census Operations, Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Census of India, 2001, Primary Census Abstract, Registrar General India

The growth rate among the tehsils highlights a very interesting phenomenon. All tehsils with only rural population have grown at less than 20% during the last decade while Diglipur tehsil has grown at a phenomenal 80%.

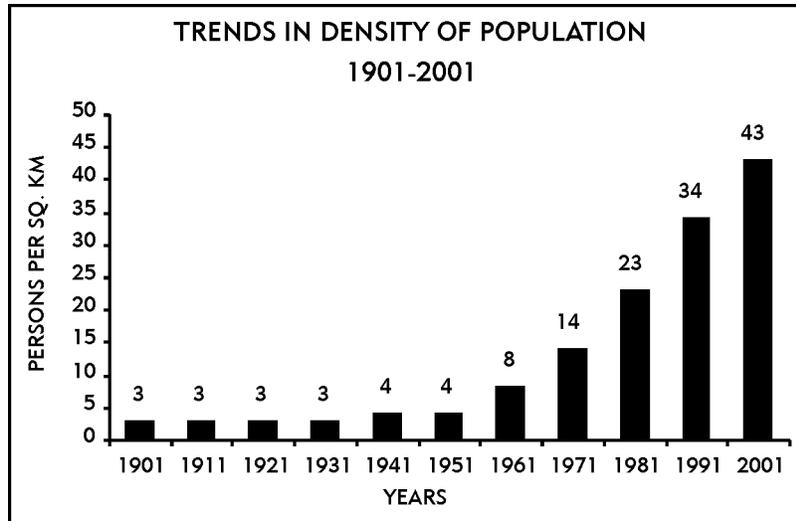
Decadal Population Growth 1991-2001

Area	Population 1991	Population 2001	Total Growth	Decadal Growth	Density of Population
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	208,661	356,152	75,491	26.89%	43
Andamans Distt.	241,453	314,084	72,631	30.08%	49
Diglipur	23,734	42,877	19,143	80.65%	49
Mayabundar	21,570	23,912	2,342	10.85%	18
Rangat	33,368	38,824	5,456	16.35%	36
Port Blair	123,504	159,845	36,341	29.42%	79
Ferrargunj	39,277	48,626	9,349	23.80%	45
Nicobars Distt	39,208	42,068	2,860	7.29%	23
Car Nicobar	19,336	20,292	956	4.9%	157
Nancowry	19,872	21,776	1,904	9.5%	13

Source : Census of India, 1991, Series 27, Part II A and Part II B, Directorate of Census Operations, Andaman and Nicobar Islands
Census of India, 2001, Primary Census Abstract, Registrar General India

Density of Population

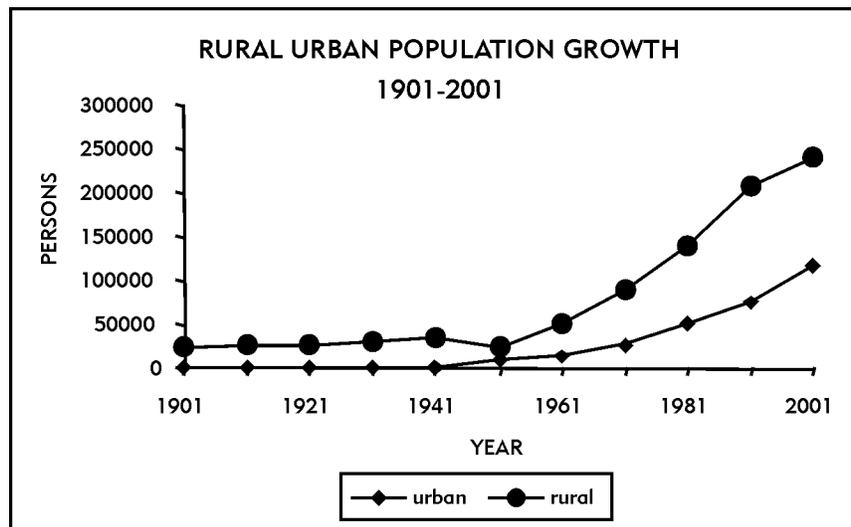
The density of population for the Union Territory is 43 persons per square kilometer. This has been rising steadily since 1961 and corresponds to the growing number of settlements in the Northern Group of Islands.



Source : Census of India, 1991, Series 27, Part II A and Part II B, Directorate of Census Operations, Andaman and Nicobar Islands
 Census of India, 2001, Primary Census Abstract, Registrar General India

Rural – Urban Distribution

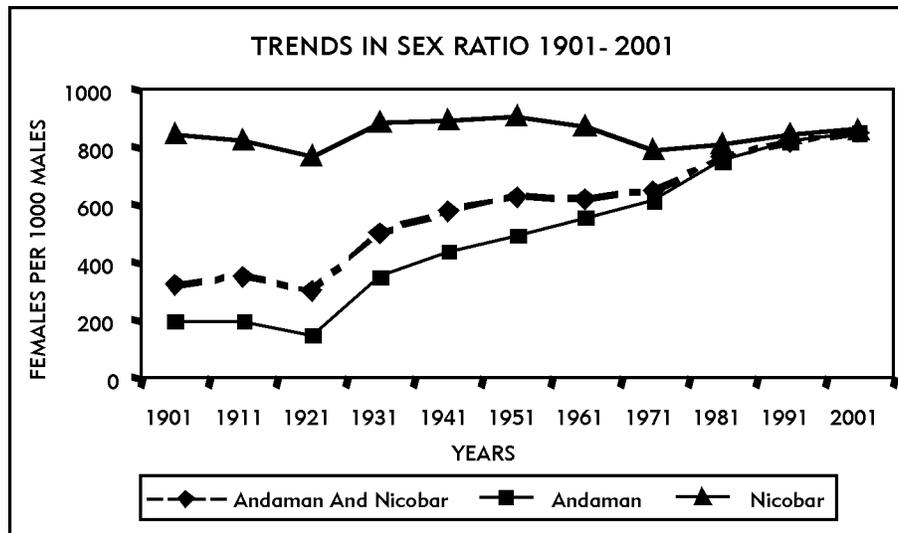
Of the 356,152 persons in the Union Territory one third or 116,198 persons reside in the only urban area of the Islands i.e, Port Blair town and its environs. Of these 64,011 are males and 52,187 are females. 37.0% of the population of Andamans district resides in the Urban area while 68.4% of the population of Port Blair tehsil and 14.0% of the population of Ferrargunj tehsil reside in the Urban area. There is no urban area in the Nicobar District. The growth in urban and rural population of the Union Territory from 1901 to 2001 was as follows.



Source : Census of India, 1991, Series 27, Part II A and Part II B, Directorate of Census Operations, Andaman and Nicobar Islands
 Census of India, 2001, Primary Census Abstract, Registrar General India

Rural – Urban Distribution

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	1901	1911	1921	1931	1941	1951	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001
Andaman and Nicobar	318	352	303	495	574	625	617	644	760	818	846
Andaman	197	197	146	348	433	489	554	615	750	815	844
Nicobar	841	825	769	881	891	900	872	784	811	840	857

Source : Census of India, 1991, Series 27, Part II A and Part II B, Directorate of Census Operations, Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Census of India, 2001, Primary Census Abstract, Registrar General India

The highest Sex Ratio is recorded by Car Nicobar Tehsil (Southern group of Islands) and the lowest by Port Blair Tehsil (South Andaman area).

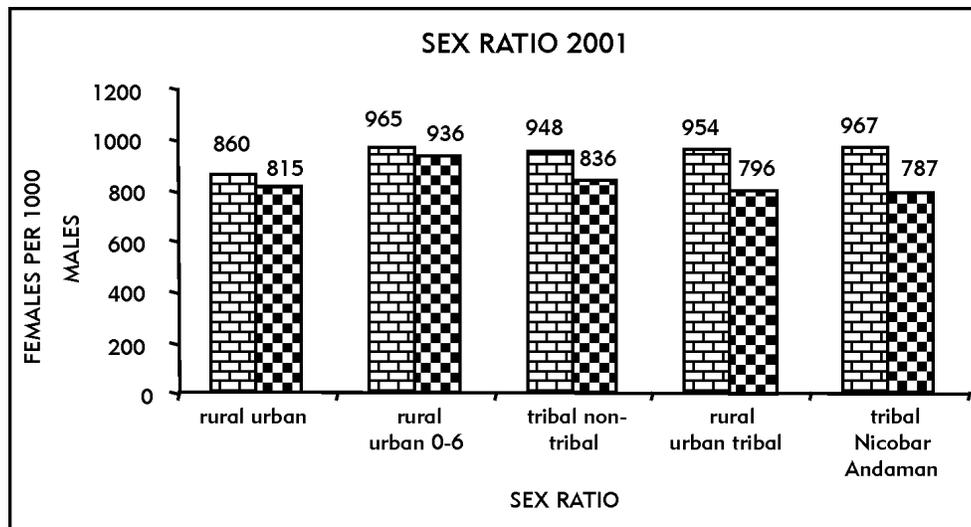
Tehsil – Wise Sex Ratio - 2001

Tehsil	Sex Ratio	Sex Ratio (0-6)yrs
Diglipur	896	957
Mayabunder	876	1018
Rangat	876	978
Port Blair	809	943
Ferargunj	877	969
Car Nicobar	903	934
Nancowrie	816	939

Source : Census of India, 2001, Primary Census Abstract, Registrar General India

The Sex Ratio in the 0-6 years age group is higher at 956 females to 1000 males. The Sex Ratio in the 0-6 years age group for Andamans district is 960 females to 1000 males and it is 937 females to 1000 males for Nicobars district.

The Rural Sex Ratio is higher than the Urban Sex Ratio. It is 860 females to 1000 males for Rural Areas against 815 females to 1000 males for Urban Areas. Also in the age group 0-6 years it is 965 females to 1000 males for Rural Areas to 936 females to 1000 males for Urban Areas. The Tribal Sex Ratio is higher than the non Tribal Sex Ratio. It is 948 females for 1000 males against 836 females to 1000 males. In the Rural Areas the Sex Ratio is 954 females for 1000 males compared to 796 females for 1000 males in urban areas. In the Nicobars District the Sex Ratio for tribal population is 967 females per 1000 males and it is 787 females per 1000 males in Andamans District. Thus the highest sex ratio is enjoyed by the Tribal community within their own area – Nicobars Distt.



Source : Census of India, 2001, Primary Census Abstract, Registrar General India

Age-wise Distribution of Sex Ratio - 2001

Age groups	Total	Rural	Urban
All ages	846	860	815
0-4	957	969	931
5-9	967	966	967
10-14	945	942	952
15-19	848	860	822
20-24	827	875	748
25-29	896	920	853
30-34	797	833	735
35-39	781	811	871
40-44	758	761	751
45-49	723	722	726
50-54	624	654	567
55-59	605	633	544
60-64	713	712	717
65-69	763	749	805
70-74	803	784	871
75-79	765	743	853
80+	931	911	1018
Age not stated	962	936	769

Age at Marriage

The Singulate Mean Age at Marriage is higher in Andaman and Nicobar Islands both in case of male and female population than at the All India level for the 1971, 1981, 1991 decades. The mean age of marriage has also been rising steadily and there was an increase of 2.9 years over a period of 20 years. The 1991 Census indicated negligible incidence of child marriage or marriages of girls below 18 years of age. This is a good sign of the status of women. A higher age of marriage offers a girl the opportunity to attain better education and her body is better able to bear the strain of child bearing.

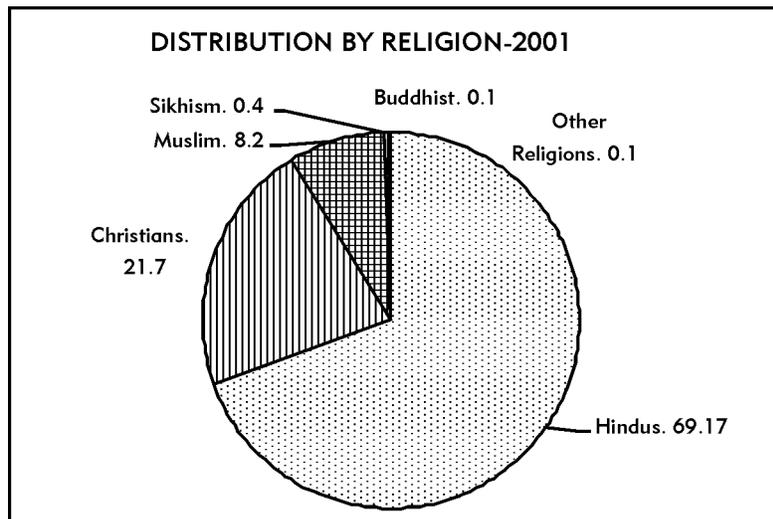
Singulate Mean Age at Marriage 1971-2001

	Males			Females		
	1971	1981	1991	1971	1981	1991
India	22.3	23.3	23.9	17.1	18.3	19.3
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	26.1	26.2	26.2	18.0	19.3	20.9

Source : Handbook on Social Welfare Statistics, 2004, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India, New Delhi

Distribution by Religion

As the Islands were settled by people from different parts of the country a large number of religions are practiced and a large number of languages are spoken. The distribution of population as per the 2001 census as per religion is as follows.



Religion	Number	Proportion of child population in age group 0-6 years
Hindus	246,589	12.7
Christians	77,178	12.7
Muslim	29,265	11.3
Sikhism	1,587	12.4
Buddhist	421	5.9
Other Religions	238	15.1

Source : Census of India, 2001, The First Report on Religion, Registrar General India

The sex ratio among the various religious groups also varies. The highest sex ratio is recorded by the Christians and the lowest by the Buddhists. However this would have to be ignored as there are only 421 persons who have been enumerated as Buddhists. Sikhs is in community which has reported a low sex ratio of only 818. In all religious groups the sex ratio for the 0-6 age group is more than the sex ratio for the entire group.

Sex Ratio As Per Religion - 2001

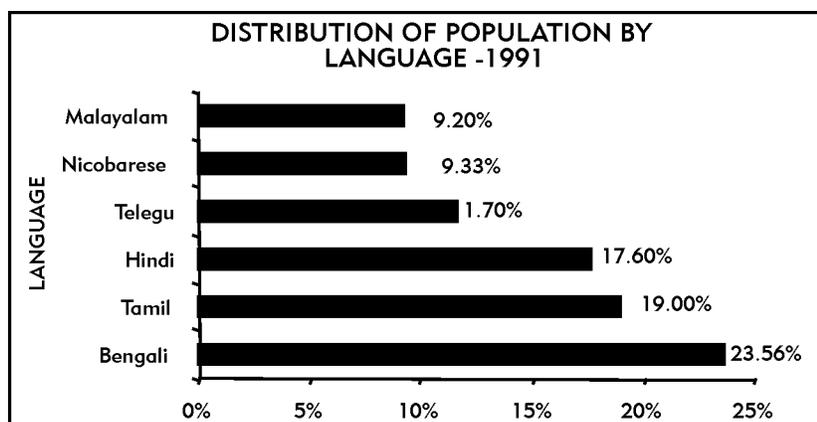
Religion	Sex ratio	Sex ratio (0-6)
Hindus	828	947
Christians	904	990
Muslim	860	979
Sikhism	818	858
Buddhist	358	786
Other Religions	859	1250

Source : Census of India, 2001, The First Report on Religion, Registrar General India

The details of religious distribution among the districts and sub districts as per the 1991 census reflect that 74% of the population of Andamans is Hindus. 89.22 % of the population of Diglipur is Hindus. 69.66% of the population of Nicobars district and 82.5% of the population of Car Nicobar Tehsil is Christian. The highest proportion of Muslims is found in Ferrargunj Tehsil (19.31%) while 2.23% of the population of Nancowry Tehsil in Nicobars District is Sikh. Sikh ex-servicemen were settled in Great Nicobar Island around Campbell Bay.

Distribution By Languages

The main languages spoken in the Union Territory are Bengali, Tamil, Hindi, Telegu, Nicobarese and Malayalam. However a number of other languages dialects are also spoken according to the origin of the settlers. According to the 1991 Census 23.5% of the population is Bengali speaking , 19% Tamil speaking, 17.6% Hindi speaking, 11.7% Telegu speaking, 9.33% Nicobarese speaking and 9.2% Malayalam speaking



Source : Census of India, 1991, Series 27, Part IV B (i) (a)-C Series, Directorate of Census Operations, Andaman and Nicobar Islands

99% of the Bengali speaking population is concentrated in Andamans District with 75% concentrated in Diglipur, Port Blair and Rangat Tehsil. While the Sex Ratio among the Bengali speaking population is high in Diglipur & Rangat (959 & 935 Females per 1000 males respectively) it is only 799 females per 1000 males in Port Blair Tehsil. 92.5% of the Tamil speaking population resides in the Andaman District and 64% in Port Blair Tehsil itself. The sex ratio among this group is the lowest at 700 females per 1000 males. In Port Blair Tehsil it is only 686 females per 1000 males. Tamil Nadu is the nearest and most accessible mainland state. The selective immigration of males is clearly reflected here.

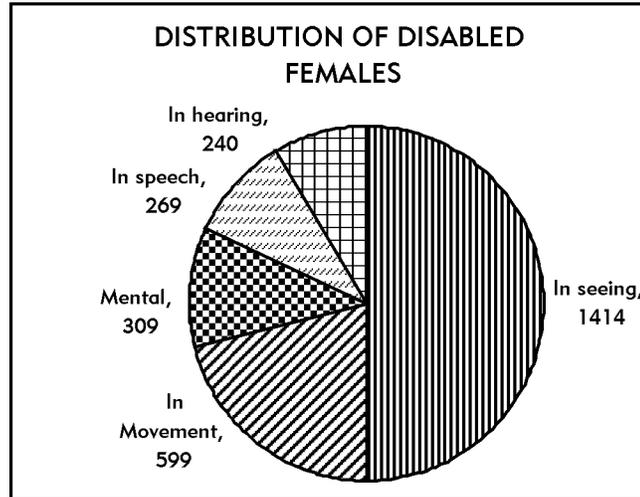
Hindi speaking population is also mostly concentrated in the Andamans District (90.7%) of which 67.6% is concentrated in South Andamans Area (Port Blair & Ferrargunj Tehsil). The Sex Ratio among this group is 819 females per 1000 males. The highest sex ratio is in Port Blair Tehsil 860 females per 1000 males and lowest is in Diglipur 609 females per 1000 males.

The Telegu speaking population is also concentrated in Andamans District (95%) and 65.7% of Telegu speaking people are found in Port Blair Tehsil. The sex ratio among the community is 810 females per 1000 males. The highest Sex ratio is in Mayabunder (853 females per 1000 males) and lowest at 610 females per 1000 males in Car Nicobar.

The Nicobarese are the original inhabitants of the Nicobar groups of islands. 93.6% are found in Nicobars District. They are in a proportion of nearly 2:1 in the Car Nicobar and Nancowry Tehsils. The overall sex ratio is 947 females per 1000 males while in Car Nicobar it is 989 females per 1000 males.

The Malayalam speaking community is another major community with over 95% concentrated in Andamans District. Their major concentration is in Port Blair Tehsil (52.66%) (Sex ratio is 820 females per 1000 males). The sex ratio among the community is 842 females per 1000 males, highest being in Ferrargunj (919 females per 1000 males) and lowest in Nancowry (626 females per 1000 males).

7057 persons as per the 2001 census are disabled in the Union Territory of Andaman And Nicobar Islands. This constituted 0.033% of the total disabled in the country. Of the 7057 persons 4226 are males and 2831 are females constituting 40.11 % of the total disabled of the Union Territory. 5082 persons in the rural areas are disabled and 1975 persons in the urban areas are disabled. 2023 females in the rural areas and 808 females in the urban area are disabled. The proportion by disability is as follows:



Source : Census of India 2001, Tables on Disabled, Registrar General India

Migration

As per the 1991 census 63% persons (170860) of the total population were born in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Of this 88495 were males and 82365 were females. The sex ratio of this group is 930 females per 1000 males. Of the rest, 94,456 persons (33.65%) were born in India but in an area outside Andaman And Nicobar Islands and 15,165 persons were born abroad (0.54%).

Characteristics of Immigrants - 1991

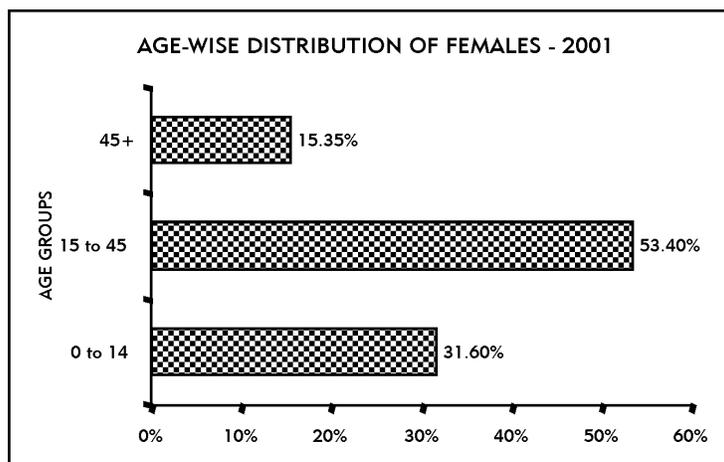
Place of Migration	Population	Male	Female	Sex Ratio
Total Population	280661	154369	126292	833
Born in Andaman And Nicobar	170860	88495	82365	930
Born in India except Andaman and Nicobar Islands	94456	9350	6993	654
Tamil Nadu	28629	18108	10521	581
Bihar	16846	10566	6280	594
Andhra Pradesh	16343	9350	6993	747

Place of Migration	Population	Male	Female	Sex Ratio
Kerala	9751	5690	4061	713
W/Bengal	8675	5261	3414	648
M/Pradesh	4721	2861	1860	650
U/Pradesh	3963	2327	1636	703
Orissa	1132	721	411	570
Born Abroad	15165	8705	6450	742
Bangladesh	12846	7228	5618	777
Myanmar	1113	761	352	462

Source : Census of India, 1991, Series 27, Part V –D Series, Directorate of Census Operations, Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Age Distribution

As per the 1991 census of India there were 1,26,292 females in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Of these 26.60 are in the age group 0-9, 12.8% in the age 10-14 and 49.58% in the age group 15-44 and 11.02% above the age of 45 years.



Source : Census of India, 1991, Series 27, Part IV A-C Series, Directorate of Census Operations, Andaman and Nicobar Islands

An analysis of marital status of women in Andaman and Nicobar Islands as per the 1991 census indicates that 47.80% or 60391 females are married, widowed, divorced or separated. Of the 65897 females never married, 49634 are in the age group of 0-14. Only 16,263 females 15 years or above have never married. This is only 12.87% of the total female in the Union Territory. There are only 167 of women ever married in the age group 10-14 and none in the age group of 0-9 years. This shows that there is no or negligible incidence of child marriage in the islands.

Female Population in Five Year Age Group by Residence - 2001

Age-group	Total Females	Rural	Urban
All ages	163180	110993	52187
0-4	15285	10865	4420
5-9	16739	11554	5185
10-14	18830	13109	5721
15-19	17647	12162	5485
20-24	17334	11401	5933
25-29	17368	11253	6115
30-34	12688	8350	4338
35-39	13340	8738	4602
40-44	8889	5851	3038
45-49	8010	5350	2660
50-54	4863	3336	1527
55-59	3588	2599	989
60-64	2706	1989	717
65-69	2029	1511	518
70-74	1329	1010	319
75-79	665	519	146
80+	803	642	161
Age not stated	1067	754	313

Source : Census of India 2001, Tables on Age, C-14 Registrar General India

Conclusions

- 1) The gains in Human Development Index in rural areas is commendable and the pace should be maintained. Similarly the Gender Disparity Index reflects a very positive picture of women in the Islands. However a 100% attainment to males should be aimed.
- 2) The decadal growth of population should be brought down and the phenomenal increase in Diglipur tehsil can be a cause of concern.
- 3) The sex ratio is the highest among the tribal communities when they are within their own territory and are the dominant community.
- 4) Fortunately there is none or negligible incidence of child marriage in the Islands.

CHAPTER - 3

LITERACY AND EDUCATION

The importance of education in fostering economic growth, social well being and social stability is well recognized. The National Human Development Report, 2001 stressed that, "Education in the present day context is perhaps the single most important means for individuals to improve personal endowments, build capacity levels, overcome constraints and in the process enlarge their available set of opportunities and choices for sustained improvement and well being"

The history of the Educational facilities in the Union Territory started in 1870 when the British Rulers felt the need to communicate with the Indian convicts to make them work as labourers in the penal settlement. An educated British soldier was thus given the responsibility of teaching English to some workers. When this experiment proved to be successful, a regular primary school was started in 1881-82. This laid the foundation of formal education in the Islands. In the beginning of the twentieth century six more primary schools in and around Port Blair were opened. Soon after one was upgraded to English Medium High School and affiliated to the Rangoon University. Separate provisions for imparting primary education to girls were made by 1936. In Nicobar, especially in Car Nicobar, Christian missionaries took up the task of spreading education and by 1939-1940 five missionary schools were functioning there.

Education suffered during the Japanese occupation from 1942-1945. However after their departure in 1946-47, the High School at Port Blair and Primary schools of adjoining villages and a middle school at Car Nicobar reopened. By 1948-1949 the number of institutions had risen to 20 and enrolment to 1620.

Literacy

The Educational infrastructure in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands is at present fairly good and this is reflected in the steady increase in the literacy rate over the years. It ranks 8th among the States and Union Territories in literacy levels in 2001.

Literacy Rate 1981-2001

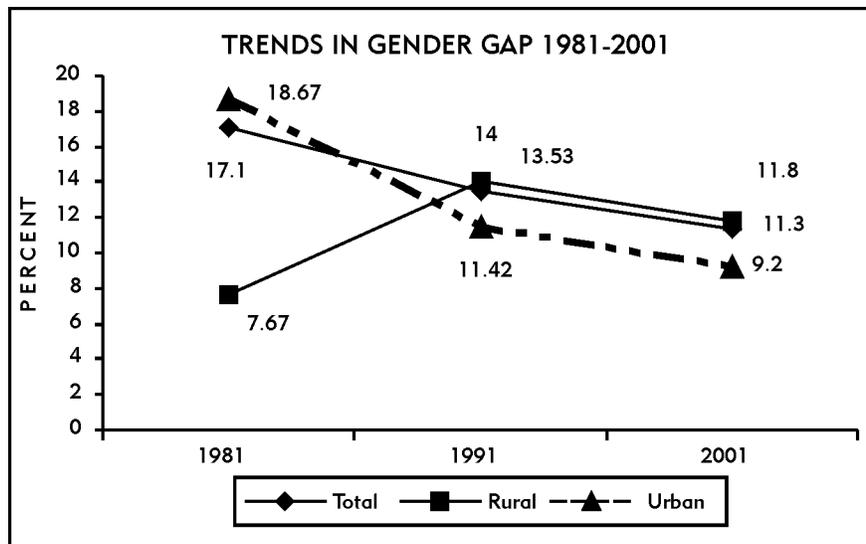
(In percentage)

	1981			1991			2001		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	63.19	70.29	53.19	73.02	78.99	65.46	81.30	86.50	75.20
Rural	58.12	65.79	58.12	69.73	75.99	61.99	78.70	84.10	72.30
Urban	76.17	81.86	63.19	81.69	86.5	75.08	86.60	90.70	81.50

Source : Census of India, 1991, Series 27, Part II A and Part II B, Directorate of Census Operations, Andaman and Nicobar Islands

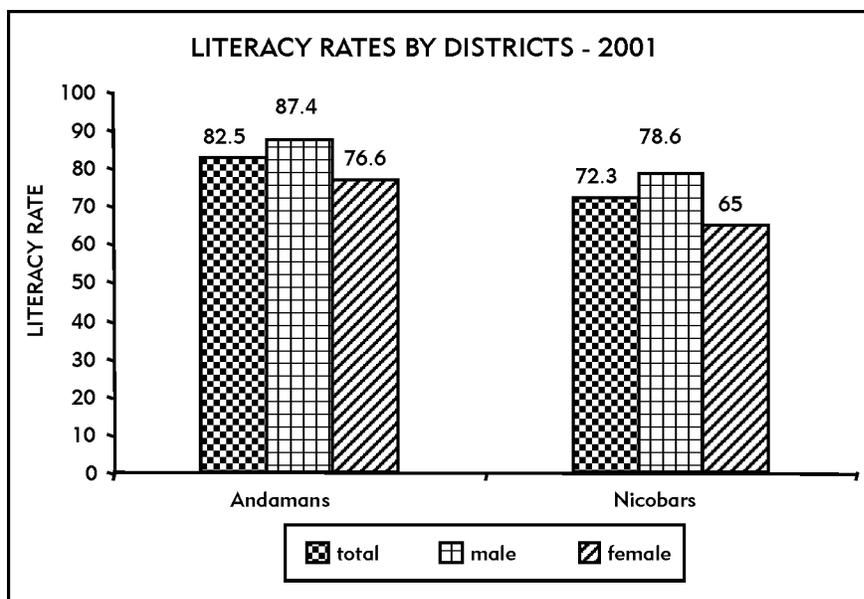
Census of India, 2001, Primary Census Abstract, Registrar General India

During the decade 1981-1991 the total female literacy rate increased by 12.27% while it increased by 9.74% in the 1991-2001 decade. During the decade 1991-2001 the Rural Literacy Rate for females increased by 10.31% while the Urban Literacy Rate for female increased by 6.42% thus reducing the Rural Urban Gap to 9.2% from 13.09% in 1991. The Total Gender Gap has also decreased from 17.1% in 1981 to 13.53% in 1991 to 11.3% in 2001 implying better literacy for females. One very important issue that maybe pointed out is that in 1981 the rural Gender Gap was only 7.6% but increased to 14% in 1991 and was 11.8% in 2001. Though the gender gap is showing a decreasing trend in the last decade it would be an area to keep an eye on.



Source : Census of India, 1991, Series 27, Part II A and Part II B, Directorate of Census Operations, Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Census of India, 2001, Primary Census Abstract, Registrar General India



	Andamans			Nicobars		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	82.5	87.4	76.6	72.3	78.6	65.0
Rural	80.1	85.3	73.8	72.3	78.6	65.0
Urban	86.6	90.7	81.5			

Source : Census of India, 2001, Primary Census Abstract, Registrar General India

Andamans District leads in literacy rate. The Gender Gap in Andamans District has reduced to 10.8% in 2001 from 13.6% in 1991. There was a total increase in female literacy by 9.45%. On the other hand the Nicobars District also recorded an increase of 9.74% in female literacy while the Gender Gap there reduced to 13.0% from 15.46%.

At the Tehsil level the highest Gender Gap is seen in Diglipur Tehsil in 1991 and 2001 and the reduction in Gender Gap is also the lowest there.

Tehsil-wise Literacy - 2001

Tehsil	Decadal variation in female literacy	Gender Gap 1991	Gender Gap 2001	Reduction in Gender Gap
Diglipur	+12.04	15.62	14.00	1.62
Mayabunder	+13.34	14.07	10.20	3.87
Rangat	+ 8.23	12.96	11.10	1.86
Port Blair	+8.96	12.66	9.90	2.76
Ferrargunj	+10.46	12.10	9.60	2.50
Car Nicobar	+10.47	12.20	10.47	1.73
Nancowry	+9.12	15.10	9.12	5.98

Source : Census of India, 1991, Series 27, Part II A and Part II B, Directorate of Census Operations, Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Census of India, 2001, Primary Census Abstract, Registrar General India

As per the 1991 Census there were 1,26,292 females in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Of these 22,852 or 18.09% are in the age group of 0-6 years. Of the remaining 1,03,440 females there were 67,709 (65.4%) literate and 35,731 (34.5%) illiterate.

Distribution of Literate Females and Illiterate Females Age-Wise -1991

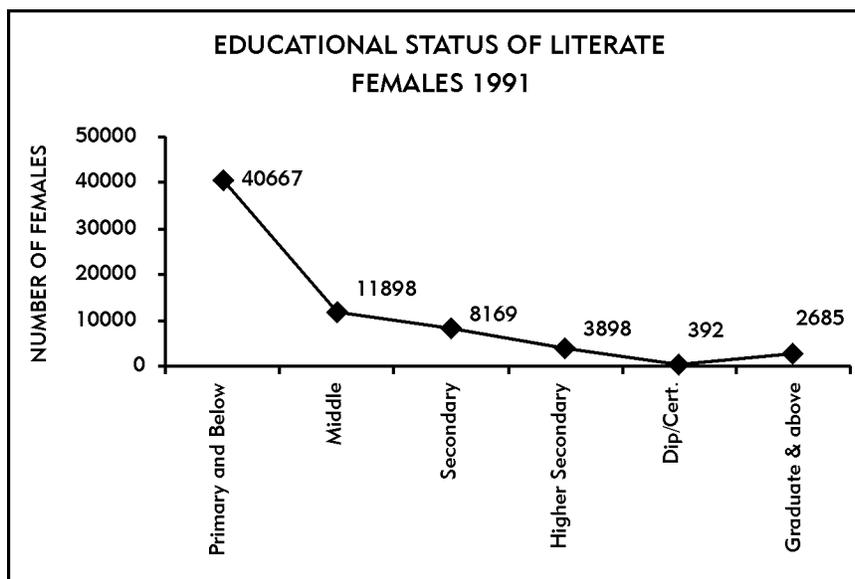
Age Group	Total female	Literate female	Percentage	Illiterate female	Percentage
All age	1,26,292	67,709	53.6	58,583	46.38
0-6	22,852	0	0	22,852	100.00
7	3,523	2,390	67.83	1,133	32.16
8	3,932	3,072	78.12	860	21.87
9	3,291	2,884	87.63	407	12.36
10	3,947	3,444	87.25	503	12.74
11	2,795	2,553	91.34	242	8.65
12	3,634	3,286	90.42	348	9.57
13	2,936	2,732	93.05	204	6.90
14	2,896	2,676	92.40	220	7.59
15-19	12,696	11,256	88.69	1,440	11.34
20-24	12,530	9,260	73.90	3,270	26.09
25-29	13,763	8,552	62.13	5,211	37.86
30-34	9,154	5,181	56.59	3,973	43.40
35-39	9,050	4,210	46.51	4,840	53.48
40-44	5,389	2,119	39.32	3,270	60.68

Age Group	Total female	Literate female	Percentage	Illiterate female	Percentage
45-49	4,605	1,419	32.37	3,114	67.62
50-54	2,787	744	26.60	2,043	73.30
55-59	1,890	471	24.92	1,419	75.07
60-64	1,510	260	17.21	1,250	82.78
65-69	939	157	16.71	782	83.28
70-74	591	76	12.85	515	87.14
75-79	304	45	14.86	259	85.19
80	505	83	16.43	422	83.50
Age Not stated	773	767	99.23	6	0.77

Source : Census of India, 1991, Series 27, Part IV A – C Series, Directorate of Census Operations, Andaman and Nicobar Islands

The level of literacy decreases with age. It goes down from 93.05% and 92.40% at the age of 13 & 14 years to 12.85% to 14.86% at the ages between 70-74 and 75-79. The age-wise census figures for 2001 would be required to substantiate this trend.

30.44% of the literate females in the Union Territory are educated up to the primary level and 29.34% below primary level. This shows that though the Andaman and Nicobar Islands ranks high in literacy levels, the educational status of 59.78% of its literate females is only primary or below primary. Only 27,042 females of the total 1,26,292 females in the Union Territory have been educated above primary level.



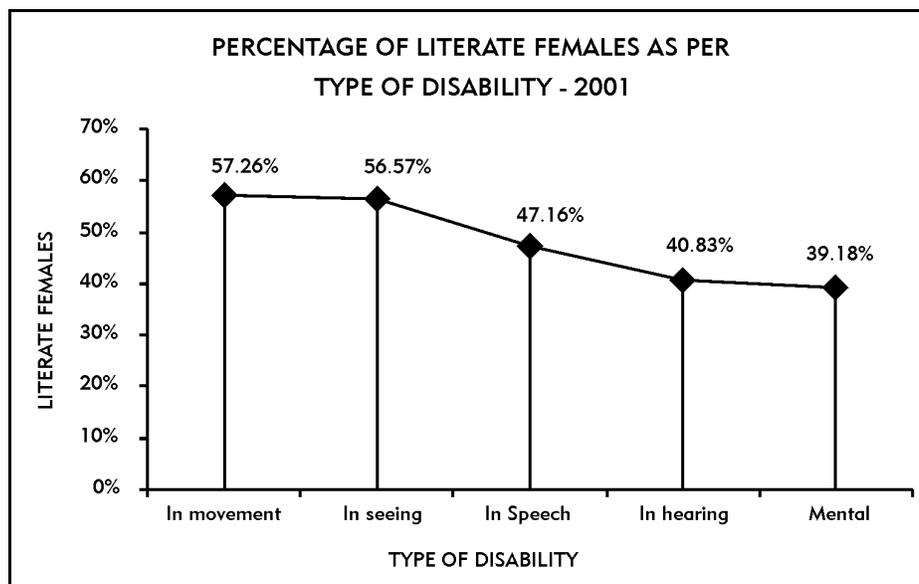
Source : Census of India, 1991, Series 27, Part IV A – C Series, Directorate of Census Operations, Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Of the 7,057 disabled persons in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands 2831 (40.1%) are female. Of these 1,487 (52.52%) are literate. However they form only 33.7% of the total disabled who are literate. Of the disabled females in rural areas only 47.3% are literate while 65.59% of the disabled women in urban areas are literate. This indicates that a disabled female in an urban area is in a more advantageous position as compared to a disabled female in a rural area. Another fact that emerges is that females who are disabled in speech or movement have higher chance of being literate than a hearing disabled female or a mentally disabled female.

Status of Literacy among Female Disabled -Census 2001

Disability	Total Disabled Females	Total Female literates	Rural	Urban
Total	2831	1487	957	530
In Seeing	1414	800	488	312
In Movement	599	343	233	110
In Speech	265	125	75	50
Mental	309	121	85	36
In Hearing	240	98	76	22

Source : Census of India, 2001, Tables on Disabled, Registrar General India



Source : Census of India, 2001, Tables on Disabled, Registrar General India

As per the First Report on Religion, Census of India 2001, the highest literacy rates are found among the Sikh community in the Islands and the lowest among the Christians. The above trend is also true in case of the Female Literacy rate.

Literacy Rate by Religion - 2001

Religion	Literacy Rate	Female Literacy Rate
Hindus	81.7%	75.1%
Muslims	89.8%	86.8%
Christians	77.0%	71.6%
Sikhs	94.1%	90.7%
Buddhists	91.4%	83.0%
Others	87.1%	81.1%

Source : Census of India, 2001, The First Report on Religion, Registrar General India

Illiteracy

There are 1,03,017 illiterate persons in the Islands as per the 2001 census. Of these 46,141 are males and 56,876 are females i.e 55.2% of all illiterate are females. The illiteracy rate for the U.T of Andaman and Nicobar Islands is as under:

Distribution of Illiterates - 2001

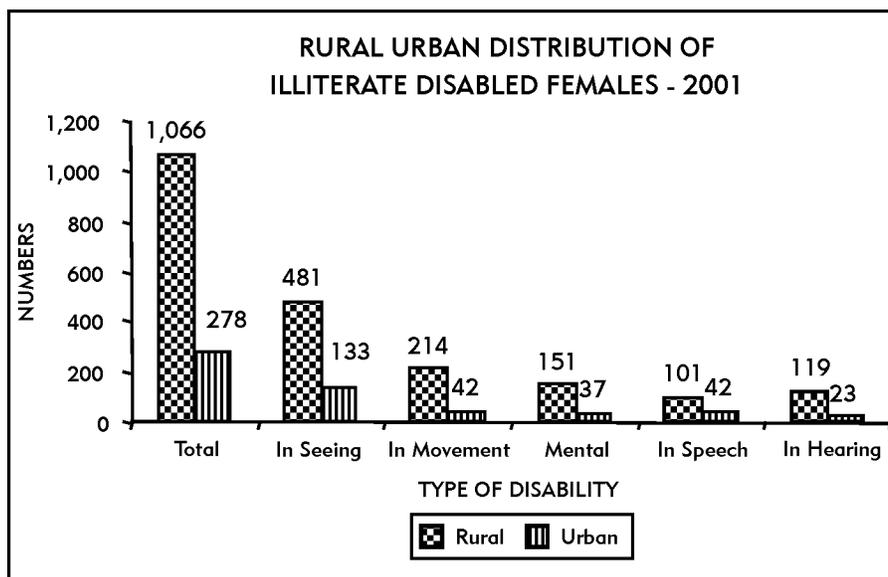
Area	No. of illiterates			Illiteracy rate			Gender Gap
	Persons	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female	
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1,03,017	46,141	56,876	33.1	27.1	40.3	13.2
Andamans	87,484	39,096	48,388	31.8	26.0	38.9	12.9
Diglipur	15,472	6,814	8,658	42.7	35.4	50.9	15.5
Mayabundar	4,227	3,231	3,996	35.1	29.1	42.1	13.0
Rangat	11,717	5,200	6,517	34.5	28.5	41.5	13.0
Port Blair	39,874	17,965	21,909	28.3	22.8	35.2	12.4
Ferrargunj	13,194	5,886	7,308	30.7	25.6	36.7	11.1
Nicobars	15,533	7,045	8,488	42.3	35.5	50.5	15.0
Car Nicobar	6,949	3,091	3,858	38.6	32.6	45.3	12.7
Nancowry	8,584	3,954	4,630	46.0	38.0	55.9	17.9

Source : Census of India, 2001, Primary Census Abstract, Registrar General India

One of the most significant features in the literacy scenario is however the fall in the absolute number of female illiterates between 1991 and 2001. The absolute number of female illiterates in the

Union Territory has decreased from 35,731 in 1991 to 34,930 in 2001 (only females above the age group 7+ being considered). In absolute number there was a decrease of 801 female illiterates. This was a total contribution of 0.01% in the All India decrease in female illiterates.

47.47% disabled persons in the Union Territory are illiterate (2001 census). Of these 50.77% are female disabled. The status of illiteracy among female disabled is as under:



Disability	Total Disabled Females	Total Illiterate Female Disabled	Rural	Urban
Total	2831	1,344	1,066	278
In Seeing	1414	614	481	133
In Movement	599	256	214	42
Mental	309	188	151	37
In Speech	265	144	101	42
In Hearing	240	142	119	23

Source : Census of India, 2001, Tables on Disabled, Registrar General India

Educational Infrastructure

There are 359 schools of all levels in the Island. Of these 209 are primary schools, 56 middle schools, 45 secondary schools and 49 Senior Secondary schools. All schools are co-educational schools except 1 Senior Secondary school exclusively for girls. There are also 24 pre-primary schools. All Secondary & Senior Secondary Schools have pucca building, while 170 Primary schools have pucca buildings and 39 have katcha buildings. There are no separate vocational schools in the Union Territory. However vocational streams are available in three Senior Secondary Schools with other regular courses.

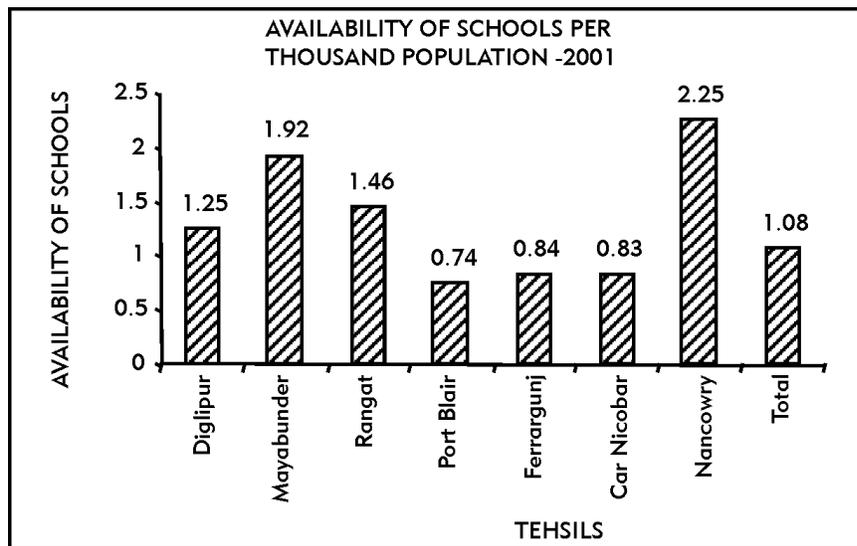
The courses offered in the vocational streams are Information Practices, Secretarial Practices (Typing/stenography in Hindi/English) and Agriculture. Two of the above schools are co-educational and one is a girls school. There are also 47 centres under Education Guarantee Scheme/Alternative Innovative Education which are co-educational. Of the 920 total enrolments in these schools in 2003-04, 465 were girls.

Number of schools Tehsil-wise - 2004

Tehsil	Type and number of schools					
	SR. SEC	SEC	MS	PS	Pre-Prim	Total
Diglipur	3	7	7	37	0	54
Mayabunder	2	5	5	34	0	46
Rangat	8	6	7	35	1	57
Port Blair	22	12	21	42	22	119
Ferrargunj	6	6	6	23	0	41
Car Nicobar	4	3	4	6	0	17
Nancowry	4	6	2	32	1	49
Total	49	45	56	209	24	383

Source : Directorate of Education, Andaman and Nicobar Administration

The availability of schools per thousand population is the highest in the outer areas indicating that the Administration has been making an all out effort to cover all the remote areas as well.



Source : Estimated for the report

Keeping in view the mixed population composition instructions are imparted in five languages in the Union Territory schools – Hindi, Bengali, Tamil, Telugu and English. This is the only State/ Union Territory in the country to offer five mediums of instructions. In order to offer this facility the Administration has tied up with NCERT for translating the CBSE syllabus books into these mediums of instructions.

Availability of and accessibility to school is an important indicator of provision of education. The location of school is a determining factor for the level of educational attainment of a society. In spite of poor connectivity both within and across islands in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, significant improvement has been made in developing infrastructure for elementary education. Distance of schools from habitations is on the average maintained at the minimum to increase accessibility. In case where a school is not available within the habitation, students are paid Rs.4/- per day as bus fare.

Accessibility of Schools - 2004

Level of School	Number	Ave. distance in KM.
Primary	209	1-2
Middle	56	2-3
Secondary	45	3-4
Senior Secondary	49	3-5

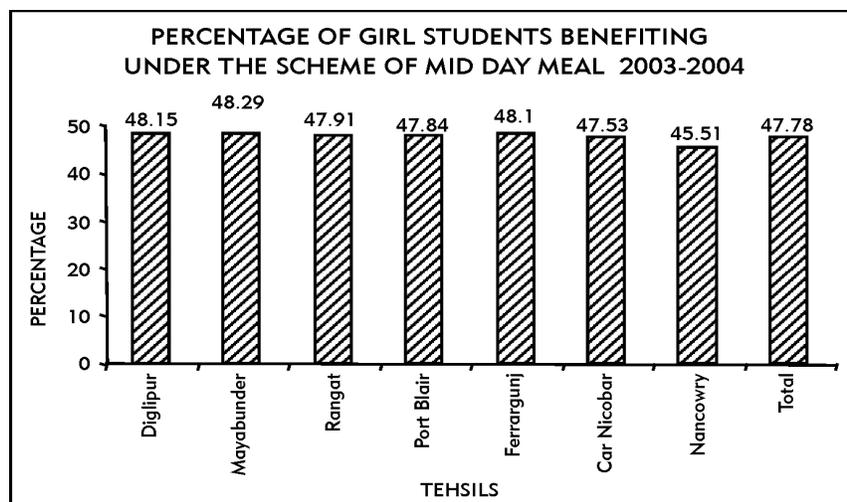
Source : Directorate of Education, Andaman and Nicobar Administration

Mid-day meals are a major incentive for children of socio-economically weaker sections of society. Further they ensure that children get at least one assured and nutritionally balanced meal. The Administration provides mid day meals to all children up to class VIII. The details of number of students who benefited from this during 2003-04 are

Beneficiaries of Mid Day Meals Scheme 2003-2004

Tehsil	Class I-VIII		
	Boys	Girls	Total
Diglipur	3,958	3,676	7,634
Mayabunder	2,348	2,193	4,541
Rangat	3,571	3,285	6,856
Port Blair	11,770	10,797	22,567
Ferrargunj	3,217	2,982	6,199
Car Nicobar	1,498	1,357	2,855
Nancowry	2,027	1,693	3,720
Total	28,389	25,983	54,372

Source : Directorate of Education, Andaman and Nicobar Administration



Source : Directorate of Education, Andaman and Nicobar Administration

On an average 64% of schools have toilet facilities. The availability is higher in the Andamans District, Ferrargunj Tehsil leading with 78.00%. The southern group however does not fare so well. Only 41.17% schools in Car Nicobar have these facilities. As far as distribution of toilets as per the level of schools is concerned the worst affect are primary schools in which only 52.63% schools have toilet facilities. While 78.57% of middle schools and 84.44% of Secondary schools have toilet facility the proportion comes down again in Sr. Secondary Schools. This is a major cause for concern because the dropout of female students at this level can be directly attributable to lack of not only toilet facility but also separate toilet facility in a school.

Schools With Toilet Facilities -2004

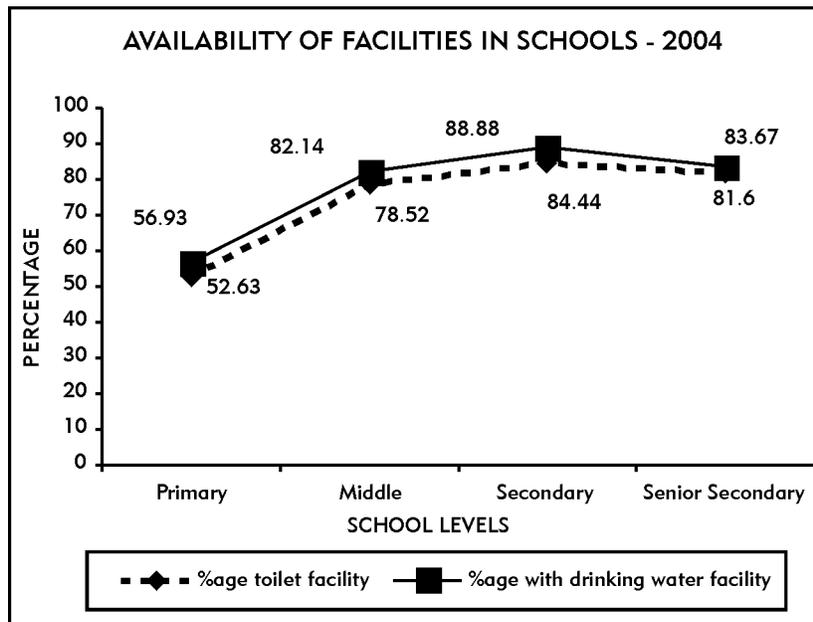
Tehsil	SS	SEC	MS	PS	Schools with toilet facility	Percentage of schools with toilet facility
Diglipur	3	7	6	18	34	62.96%
Mayabunder	2	5	4	14	25	54.34%
Rangat	7	6	6	16	35	62.50%
Port Blair	17	10	18	29	74	76.28%
Ferrargunj	5	5	4	18	32	78.00%
Car Nicobar	2	1	2	2	7	41.17%
Nancowry	4	4	4	13	25	52.02%
Schools with toilet facility	40.5	38	44	110	232	64.62%
Percentage with toilet facility	81.6%	84.44%	78.57%	52.63%	64.62%	

Source : Directorate of Education, Andaman and Nicobar Administration

The situation in drinking water facility in schools is slightly better than in the case of toilet facilities. 68.52% schools have drinking water supply facilities, with primary schools again being the worst sufferers. The Tehsil wise distribution here shows a different story. Mayabunder tehsil fares the worst with only 50.00% schools with drinking water facilities while Car Nicobar fares the best with over 88% having drinking water facilities.

Tehsil	Schools with drinking water facilities - 2004					
	SS	SS	MS	PS	Schools with drinking water facilities	Percentage of with drinking water facilities
Diglipur	3	7	6	20	36	66.66%
Mayabunder	2	4	4	13	23	50.00%
Rangat	7	6	6	20	39	69.64%
Port Blair	17	10	18	23	68	70.10%
Ferrargunj	5	5	4	19	33	80.48%
Car Nicobar	3	2	4	6	15	88.23%
Nancowry	4	6	4	18	32	66.66%
Schools with drinking water facilities	41	40	46	119	246	68.52%
Percentage drinking water facilities	83.67%	88.88%	82.14%	56.93%	68.52%	

Source : Directorate of Education, Andaman and Nicobar Administration



Source : Directorate of Education, Andaman and Nicobar Administration

Enrolment

Enrolment is an indicator of the volume of spread of education in a society. Of the total enrolments in schools from Class-I to Class-XII 48.09% were girl students. The higher enrolment ratio was in Ferrargunj Tehsil while the lowest was recorded in Nancowry Tehsil.

Tehsil-wise enrolment (2003-04)

Tehsil	Girls	Total Enrolment	Percentage of girls
Diglipur	4,615	9,662	47.76%
Mayabunder	3,085	6,342	48.60%
Rangat	4,890	10,255	47.68%
Port Blair	19,466	40,432	48.14%
Ferrargunj	4,049	8,271	48.95%
Car Nicobar	2,103	4,299	48.90%
Nancowry	2,258	4,875	46.31%
Total	40,466	84,136	48.09%

Source : Directorate of Education, Andaman and Nicobar Administration

An analysis of the last three academic sessions shows a positive picture. The number of girl enrolments are increasing even if marginally. The percentage increase in enrolment from 2001-2002 academic session to 2002-2003 academic session was 2.25% while it was 2.10% from 2002-2003 academic session to 2003-2004 academic session. The decrease in enrolment in non formal centers and in adult education centers will not help in decreasing the illiteracy rate. Though under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan efforts are on to enroll every child in the age group 6 – 14 years, the real dent on eradicating illiteracy would be made by these non formal and adult education centres.

Stage-wise Enrolment of Girls 2001-2002 to 2003-2004

School level	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004
Primary (I-V)	19,113	19,022	19,410
Secondary (VI-X)	15,679	15,694	16,111
Senior Secondary (XI-XII)	2,707	3,036	3,362
Vocational Schools (Vocational stream in XI & XII)	58	80	104
Non-formal Centers (EGS/AIE)	650	578	465
Adult Education/ continuing education centers	-	658	453
Total	38,207	39,068	39,915

Source : Directorate of Education, Andaman and Nicobar Administration

Dropout Rate

Dropout rate is the percentage of students dropping out of class in a given year. A higher enrolment with a higher level of drop out rate does not make much sense. According to an all India survey report of NSSO (1995-96), one third of the total dropouts were because of economic considerations such as compulsion to work for wages or looking after younger children. Another one third were because of disinterest among the children and their parents and around 26 percent were on account of school and teaching related factors such as unfriendly atmosphere in schools, doubts about usefulness of schooling and inability to cope with studies. The survey also found that the dropout rate was more in case of economically weaker sections of the society.

The data for dropout for the last three academic sessions was analyzed. At the primary level there was a marked decrease in dropout rate for the girl child. The difference in the dropout rate between the primary and secondary stage was substantial which substantiates the fact that though the literacy level in the Union Territory was as high as 75.20% the educational attainment of nearly 60% of the females was primary or below primary. This is a factor which is of concern. The literacy levels may be going up but the advantages of higher education and the awareness for a better quality of life which come with education may still be far. The extent of dropout (females) at different stages in the last three academic sessions is an indicator of the above. One positive development is that the dropout ratio for girls was lower than boys at Middle School level for 2003-2004 academic session and the tehsils of Port Blair, Ferrargunj, Rangat and Mayabundar recorded a zero dropout ratio for girls for the academic year 2003-2004.

Stage-wise Dropout Ratio for Girls 2001-2002 to 2003-2004

School	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004
Primary (I-V)	N.A	4.0	0.47
Secondary (VI-X)	25.2	24.25	23.72
Senior Secondary (XI-XII)	12.08	12.62	11.08
Vocational Schools (Vocational Schools included in Sr. Sec. School)	N.A	3.13	4.25

Source : Directorate of Education, Andaman and Nicobar Administration

Tehsil-wise General Dropout (Stagewise) for 2003-04

Tehsil	Primary (I-V)		Middle (VI-VIII)	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Diglipur	Nil	Nil	11.50	9.50
Mayabunder	Nil	Nil	8.80	14.10
Rangat	Nil	Nil	14.00	15.00

Tehsil	Primary (I-V)		Middle (VI-VIII)	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Port Blair	11.90	Nil	15.20	10.40
Ferrargunj	5.70	8.80	16.90	6.80
Car Nicobar	7.90	7.50	20.20	Nil
Nancowry	5.90	13.90	15.50	22.70
Total	-	0.47	13.10	10.60

Source : Directorate of Education, Andaman and Nicobar Administration

Information on examination results of the students reveals a dismal performance especially for AISSE (X) with pass percentage at 38.71% in 2003-2004. The pass percentage was 82.11% in AISSCE (XII) classes during 2003-2004, which has increased during the past few years. The lowest pass percentage for AISSE (X) was recorded by Diglipur Tehsil while the highest was by Port Blair Tehsil which too was a very low 46.59%. The highest pass percentage for AISSCE (XII) was reported by Car Nicobar Tehsil and the lowest Mayabunder Tehsil.

Results for Class X and Class XII 2003-2004

Tehsil	AISSE (X)			AISSCE (XII)		
	Appeared	Passed	%age	Appeared	Passed	%age
Diglipur	367	79	21.53	287	257	89.55
Mayabunder	257	77	29.96	119	87	73.11
Rangat	532	165	31.02	408	340	83.33
Port Blair	2258	1052	46.59	1673	1341	80.16
Ferrargunj	413	123	29.78	217	171	78.80
Car Nicobar	275	112	40.73	89	89	100
Nancowry	222	66	29.73	136	120	88.24
Total	4324	1674	38.71	2929	2405	82.11

Source : Directorate of Education, Andaman and Nicobar Administration

Teacher Strength

There are 3539 posts sanctioned for teachers for Primary, Secondary, senior secondary, Vocational and Non Formal centres. As on 15th August, 2004 there were 3382 teachers in position. That means that 95.5% of the posts have been filled. While 98.5% of the posts at primary level are filled, the proportion goes down progressively. Only 95.4% of the sanctioned posts at Secondary level are filled, and 85.75% of the posts at Senior Secondary level are filled. None of the six posts meant for

vocational schools have incumbents in place. The situation in case of Non formal centres is the best where all the 47 posts have been filled.

Male - Female Teacher Ratio 2003-2004

Type of institution	Male	Female	Total	Percentage of female teacher
Pre-primary	2	101	103	98.6%
Primary	420	433	853	56.76%
Middle	355	382	737	51.83%
Secondary	415	477	892	53.48%
Sr. Secondary	951	901	1852	48.65%
Total	2143	2294	4431	51.70%

Source : Directorate of Education, Andaman and Nicobar Administration

Teacher-pupil ratio (TPR) is the number of students per teacher. The teacher pupil ratio is favourable in Andaman and Nicobar Islands at all levels of school. Diglipur Tehsil has the least percentage of female teachers while Port Blair has the highest. The total teacher pupil ratio at 1:19 is a very favourable ratio at school level.

Tehsil-wise Proportion of Female Teachers 2003-2004

Tehsil	Female	Total	Percentage	Teacher pupil ratio
Diglipur	194	497	39.03	1:19
Mayabunder	153	334	45.08	1:19
Rangat	309	666	46.39	1:15
Port Blair	1034	1809	57.16	1:22
Ferrargunj	262	508	51.57	1:16
Car Nicobar	103	202	50.97	1:21
Nancowry	138	318	43.39	1:15
Total	2193	4334	5059	1:19

Source : Directorate of Education, Andaman and Nicobar Administration

Higher Education

There are two degree colleges in this Union Territory for higher education - Jawaharlal Nehru Rajkeeya Mahavidyalaya (JNRM) at Port Blair and Mahatma Gandhi Government College (MGGC) at Mayabunder. JNRM offers courses on B.A., B.Sc., B.Com. M.A. and M.Sc. in various subjects. MGGC, Mayabunder offers only B.A. level courses. There are no post graduation courses in this college. Govt.

Tagore College of Education offers Bachelor of Education Degree at Port Blair. 3 Distance Learning Centres offered by Madras University, Pondicherry University & Indira Gandhi National Open University are functioning in the Islands. During 2003-04 the total enrollment of women in these courses in the Islands was 494.

Enrolment of Females in Distance Learning Courses 2003-2004

University	Course	No. of females enrolled (03-04)
Madras University	—	67
Pondicherry University	Graduation	21
	Post Graduation	22
	Post Graduate Diploma	1
IGNOU	Certificate Courses	21
	Diplomas	19
	UG courses BA/BSc/BTS/ B.Com/BCA	292
	P.G Courses MA/MTM/ MCA	44
Total		494

Source : Directorate of Education, Andaman and Nicobar Administration

For professional courses the Government of India has reserved seats in various colleges on the mainland, where students pursue professional courses which are allotted according to the category they belong and their interest merit in that category. Girls have been topping in AISSCE examinations and their representation in the professional courses is quite high.

In order to impart vocational and technical training, an industrial training institute, and two polytechnics are functioning in the Union Territory. Dr. B.R Ambedkar Government Polytechnic at Port Blair offers courses in civil engineering, mechanical engineering and computer applications. The second government polytechnic offers courses in electronics, fisheries engineering, fishing boat skipper, hotel reception and bookkeeping, house keeping and cookery.

There is an Industrial Training Institute (ITI) at Dollyganj, Port Blair to impart vocational education. The institute offers training in draughtsman, civil, surveyor, fitter, electrician, information technology and electronic system maintenance, motor vehicle mechanic and welder. It also provides training in stenography exclusively for women.

Public Expenditure on Education

Public expenditure on education is one of the determining factors of educational attainment of a region. The Andaman and Nicobar Administration is the major player in the provision of educational facilities in this union Territory. The participation of private sector is insignificant. During the past few

years, public expenditure on education in Andaman and Nicobar Islands constituted over 10 percent of the total public expenditure. The per capita public expenditure on education in Andaman and Nicobar Islands is one of the highest in the country and significantly higher than that of many states and union territories. What is more this has more than doubled from Rs. 1120.95 in 1989-90 to Rs. 2477.71 in 1999-2000. It may be noted that per capita expenditure figures in respect of Andaman and Nicobar Islands do not include expenditure on art and culture and sports.

The public expenditure on elementary education had a major share in total expenditure of education department in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. It has increased from 43.85 percent in 1989-90 to 48.59 percent in 2000-01 indicating that there is an emphasis on universalisation of education. Public expenditure, per student enrolled, on secondary education was more than three times (Rs.18,323) of the expenditure on elementary education (Rs. 6,276) .

Conclusions

- 1) The total and the female literacy rates have been going up however the rural gender gap in literacy which was 7.6% in 1981 increased to nearly double to 14% in 1991. Even in 2001 it was as high as 11.8%. The reasons for this need to be examined. Also as pointed out in the previous chapter the highest growth of population is in Diglipur Tehsil and the highest gap in literacy is also in Diglipur Tehsil. Further the decrease in gender gap from 1991-2001 has also been the lowest here. The reasons for this need to be examined further.
- 2) The level of literacy decreases with age among females in the islands. In case a dent is to be made on illiteracy the infrastructure for Adult education and continuing education would have to be strengthened.
- 3) The Union Territory has shown remarkable progress in the field of literacy but the educational attainment of 60% of its literate females is only primary or below primary.
- 4) A disabled female in an urban area is in a more advantageous position in respect of literacy than one in the rural area.
- 5) The availability of schools in the Islands is quite good. The availability per thousand population in the far flying Islands is better than in the areas around the Capital.
- 6) The availability of toilets and drinking water decreases in the Sr. Secondary schools which could cause a higher drop out rate. The primary schools are the worst affected in infrastructure and the aim under Sarva Shikha Abhiyan to bring every child within the age group 6-14 years to school could easily be negated by this.
- 7) There should be no fall back in filling vacancies of teachers as this can lead to disinterest in students and consequently higher dropout rates.

CHAPTER - 4
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

A society with healthy people has a greater potential to develop. Healthy life is not only an indicator of personal well being of a person but also facilitates achievement of all other objectives of life. A person with better health has greater opportunity to pursue his goals and can devote more time, money and other resources for more productive uses.

Health Indicators

Better health facilities and infrastructure has helped improve the health indicators for the Union Territory. A comparison with the All India figures shows a favourable picture.

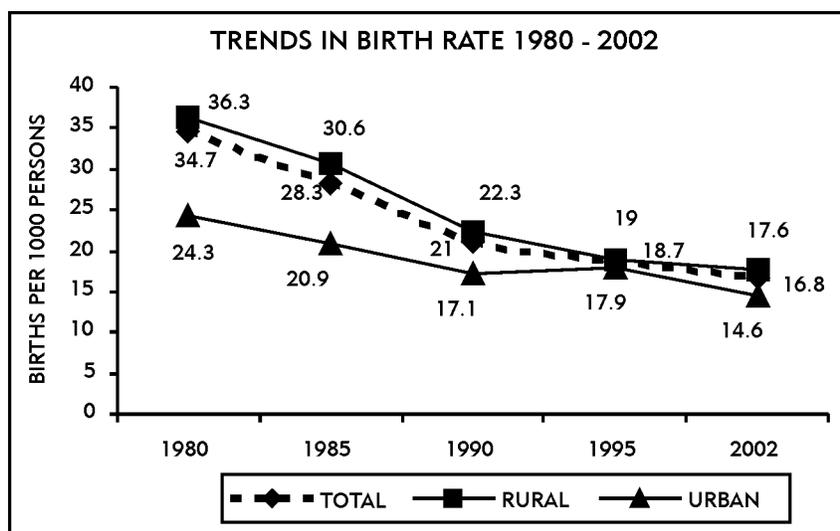
Estimated Birth Rate, Death Rate, Natural Growth Rate and Infant Mortality Rate 2002

		India	Andaman and Nicobar Islands
Birth Rate	Total	25.0	16.8
	Rural	26.6	17.6
	Urban	20.0	14.6
Death Rate	Total	8.1	5.5
	Rural	8.7	6.1
	Urban	6.1	3.8
Natural Growth Rate	Total	16.9	11.3
	Rural	17.9	11.5
	Urban	13.9	10.8
Infant Mortality Rate	Total	63	15
	Rural	69	17
	Urban	40	10

Source : SRS Bulletin Vol. 38 No. 1, April 2004 Registrar General, India

Birth Rate is the number of births per thousand populations. The Birth Rate in the Union Territory is much below the National level. It has the 4th lowest Birth Rate in the country. It is the 5th lowest for rural areas also, but 6 states and Union Territories have a lower Birth Rate than Andaman

and Nicobar Islands in Urban areas. The decline in Birth rate over the last couple of decades has been impressive. The total fertility rate for 2002 as reported by the Directorate of Health Services, Andaman and Nicobar Administration is 1.9/1000.



Source : Estimated Based on continuous enumeration and six monthly cross check-survey, Directorate of Census Operations, Andaman and Nicobar Islands SRS Bulletin Vol. 38 No. 1, April 2004 Registrar General, India

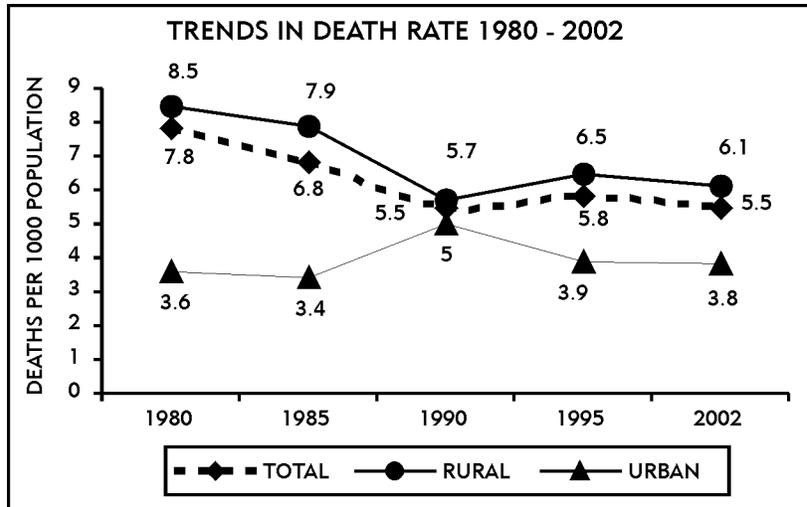
Of the total live births recorded in the Islands in 2002, 3128 were of females and 3375 of males giving a sex-ratio of 927. There were 57 still birth of female child and 56 still birth of male child in 2002.

Live Births and Still Births - 2002

	Total	Male	Female
Live Birth	6503	3375	3128
Still Birth	113	56	57

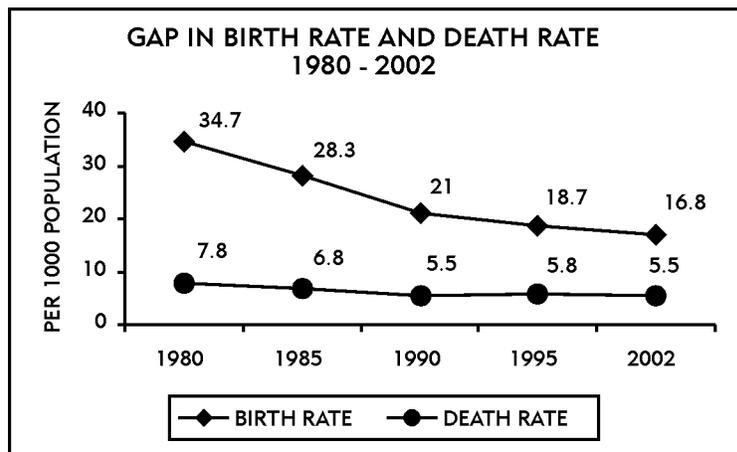
Source : Directorate of Health Services, Andaman and Nicobar Administration

The Death Rate in the Islands has gone down from 8.5 in 1980 to 5.5 in 2002. The Islands rank 8th in this among the States and other Union Territories. For Rural Areas it ranks 9th and 5th among urban areas. Among the Union Territories Chandigarh, Delhi and Lakshdweep all have a death rate less than Andaman and Nicobar Islands. A total of 1446 deaths took place in 2002. Of these 510 were of females than 937 for males. The females were thus placed in a better position than males in this respect.



Source : Estimated Based on continuous enumeration and six monthly cross check-survey, Directorate of Census Operations, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, 2004 SRS Bulletin Vol. 38 No. 1, April 2004 Registrar General, India

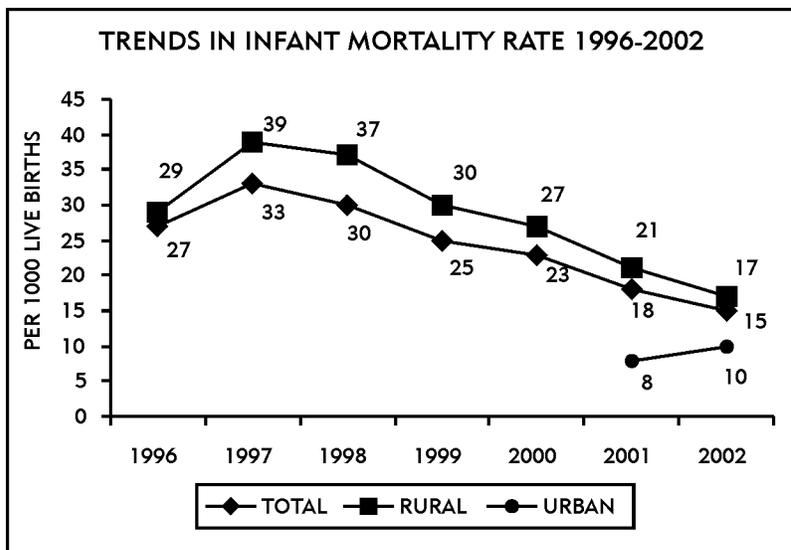
The steep decline in Birth Rate as compared to the Death rate has insured that the gap between them is decreasing. Though the Birth rate has decreased substantially the same has not been visible in Death Rate and the natural growth rate can be further reduced with corresponding decrease in both Birth rate and Death rate. The Natural growth Rate of the Territory is lesser than the All India Rate. However compared to other states and Union Territories it is much higher. States and Union Territories like Pondichery, Goa, Mizoram have achieved much lower rates.



Source : Estimated Based on continuous enumeration and six monthly cross check-survey, Directorate of Census Operations, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, 2004 SRS Bulletin Vol. 38 No. 1, April 2004 Registrar General, India

The Infant Mortality Rate for Andaman and Nicobar Islands for the year 2002 is 15 per 1000 live births. This is against an average of 66 per 1000 live births in 1981. This is the second lowest

among all Union territories in the country and fourth in the country after Kerala, Manipur & Mizoram. At 10 per 1000 live births in urban areas it lags behind only Kerala. The rate of infant mortality in the rural area is however of concern and needs to be taken care of. The decline from 27.44 per thousand in 1986 is significant.



Source : Estimated Based on continuous enumeration and six monthly cross check-survey, Directorate of Census Operations, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, 2004 SRS Bulletin Vol. 38 No. 1, April 2004 Registrar General, India

The maternal mortality rate in Andaman and Nicobar Islands is below 0.5 per 100 live births in 2002 as a result of improved natal care. The institutional delivery rate is 90% and delivery by skilled person is also 90% which reflects the commitment of the Administration to provide health care in the remotest parts of the Islands also.

Family Welfare

Under the National Family Welfare Programme the Andaman & Nicobar Islands has achieved a couple protection rates of 58.16 % in 2002. However due to constant migration of people from the mainland, a higher couple rate protection has not been possible to achieve.

Couple Protection 1999-2000 to 2003-2004

Year	Sterilization	Contraceptives		
		OP Cycles	IUD	Condom Users
1999-2000	1990	632	924	2019
2000-2001	1936	910	1139	1520
2001-2002	2127	1060	1145	1581

Year	Sterilization	Contraceptives		
		OP Cycles	IUD	Condom Users
2002-2003	1840	1884	1485	1998
2003-2004	1293	20128	1715	163788

Source : Directorate of Health Services, Andaman and Nicobar Administration

Performance of the Union Territory in immunization of children against identified preventable diseases was impressive with 95.97% children covered under various antigens in 2001.

Universal Immunisation Programme 1999-2000 to 2003-2004

	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004	
	Target	Ach.								
DPT	6500	4979	6900	6538	6435	6286	6200	6071	6000	12919
OPV	6500	4979	6900	6538	6435	6286	6200	6071	6000	12919
BCCG	6500	5290	6900	6776	6435	6294	6200	6089	6000	6380

Source : Directorate of Health Services, Andaman and Nicobar Administration

Since 1953 the National Health Programmes launched by the Govt. of India have been implemented against Malaria, Filaria, Goiter, Leprosy, Tuberculosis, Blindness, AIDS, Polio and Tetanus. The incidence of malaria which was the most prevalent and dreaded disease in the past has been appreciably brought down. The incidence of nutritional deficiency diseases, diarrhea and communicable disease which were the main cases of mortality & morbidity have been considerably brought down. The territory has been declared as Polio, Diphtheria & Rabies free zone.

There are 73,062 households in the Islands. Provision of basic Infrastructure in the households also adds to the welfare of the family and the women particularly. Despite the remoteness of the Islands the proportion of households which have been provided with basic infrastructure is better than the All India average. The only cause of concern is provision of electricity. Due to the remoteness and scattered nature of the Islands it is not possible to have a central grid, therefore electricity in the Islands is generated by diesel generators. In some Islands which have very few inhabitants and do not have jetty facilities the landing generators and diesel is very difficult. The Administration in such cases is trying to cover these households with non conventional energy sources like solar energy.

Proportion of Households with Basic Amenities -2001

Infrastructure	No. H.H's with infrastructure	Proportion of HH's in A&N	All India level	Rank
Drinking water within premises	34,406	47.1	39.0	9
Tap as source of drinking water	55,709	76.2	36.7	4
Latrine as water closet	11,886	34.61	18.02	6
Availability of separate kitchen	65,257	89.3	64.0	9
Electricity as source of lighting	56,097	76.8	55.8	17

Source : Census of India, 2001, Household Tables, Registrar General, India

Health Infrastructure

The population coverage of health facilities in A&N Islands is very good.

Distribution of Health facilities in Andaman and Nicobar Islands - 2004

	ANDAMANS DISTRICT	NICOBARS DISTRICT	TOTAL
Sub-centre	75	32	107
PHC	16	04	20
CHC	03	01	04
Urban Health Centre	05	00	05
District Hospital	01	01	02
Homoeo Dispensaries	05	03	08
Ayurvedic Dispensary	01	00	01
Referral Hospital	01	00	01
Total	107	41	148

Source : Directorate of Health Services, Andaman and Nicobar Administration

During the British Colonial period, there was a hospital at Ross Island to cater to the needs of the British. Another hospital at Bambooflat was meant for Tuberculosis and infectious diseases patients and a third hospital functioned at Dundas Point, South Andaman for convicts and other population. During Japanese occupation the hospital at Ross was closed and shifted to Middle Point and Quarry Hill in Port Blair. Later after independence the entire hospital was shifted to the front portion of the Cellular Jail and foundation of the present day G.B. Pant hospital was laid from there.

In the early past independence era, rural hospitals at Long Island, Nancowry, Car Nicobar, Rangat and Mayabunder and few dispensaries manned by unregistered compounder /senior male nurses were established in out lying areas.

From here the journey to the present medical facilities and infrastructure is laudable. On an average one Sub Centre covers a population of 2,400, one Primary Health Centre (PHC) covers a population of 13,000 and a population of 64,000 is covered by one Community Health Centre (CHC). There are 137 doctors under the Directorate of Health Services and 349 nurses. The Doctor population ratio is 1:2600 and Nurse population ratio is 1:1020. There are 1005 beds available in the hospitals and the bed population ratio is 1:355.

Bed Strength - 2004

Name of Institution	Andaman Distt	Nicobar Distt	Urban Area	Rural Area	Total
Referral Hospital	450	-	450	-	450
Distt. Hospital	42	112	-	154	154
CHC's	158	43	-	201	201
PHC's	165	45	-	210	201
Total	815	200	450	565	1015

Source : Directorate of Health Services, Andaman and Nicobar Administration

Keeping in view the isolation of the inhabited islands, its peculiar topography and communication bottlenecks, all PHC's & CHC's have been provided with a laboratory, X-Ray machine & blood transfusion facilities. Besides these, captive power generator sets, ambulance, refrigerators & Freezers for maintaining cold chain and are managed by Doctors, staff nurses and Para-Medical Staff.

Availability of all medical infrastructure in the Islands is on very liberal norms due to the low population density and poor connectivity and communication. In order to provide the best medical care and in order to overcome the problems of connectivity in the Southern group Islands a ship M.V Shompen has been converted into a hospital ship and is stationed there. Also the G.B Pant hospital in Port Blair and John Richardson Hospital in Car Nicobar has telemedicine facility with Sri Ramachandra Medical College, Chennai and Sankara Netralaya, Chennai. This facilitates medical consultation with specialist doctors through teleconferencing and video conferencing. There are also facilities for evacuating emergency patients from outer islands to Port Blair by diverting sailing of ships or by helicopter. Also under the National Illness fund BPL patients are evacuated to Chennai for treatment in cases where treatment in the Islands is not available.

Patients evacuated from outer Islands by helicopter 1992-2001

Year	Number
1992	34
1993	35
1994	7
1995	22
1996	8
1997	7
1998	3
1999	4
2000	—
2001	2

Source : Directorate of Health Services, Andaman and Nicobar Administration

During the 10th Five year Plan period the target is to add 23 new sub-centres, 5 PHC's, 1 CHCs, 2 Urban Health Centres, 4 Ayurvedic dispensaries and 10 Homoeo Dispensaries.

DETAILS OF DOCTORS 2004

DOCTORS	TOTAL
SAG	4
Medical Specialist	3
Surgical Specialist	2
ENT Specialist	1
Anesthetist	2
Gynecologist	4
Pediatrician	2
Pathologist	1
Ortho Surgeon	1
Ophthalmologist	2
Radiologist	1
Dermatologist	1
Psychiatrist	1
TB & Chest Specialist	1

DOCTORS	TOTAL
Dental Surgeon	6
Homeo Physician	8
Ayurvedic Physician	1
Public Health Specialist	1
Medical Officer	1
Total Doctors	102

Source : Directorate of Health Services, Andaman and Nicobar Administration

Conclusions

- 1) The health indicators are fairly good but the substantial decrease in Birth Rate is not supported by an equal decrease in Death Rate. The effort should be to attain the levels attained by Kerala and some of the North Eastern states. In a territory with a small population this maybe possible.

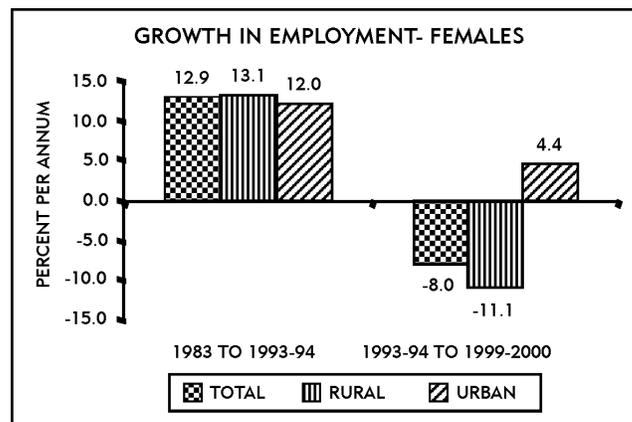
CHAPTER - 5

EMPLOYMENT

Growth in employment is a desirable outcome of the development process, and captures the economic attainment and hence the level of well being of the people.

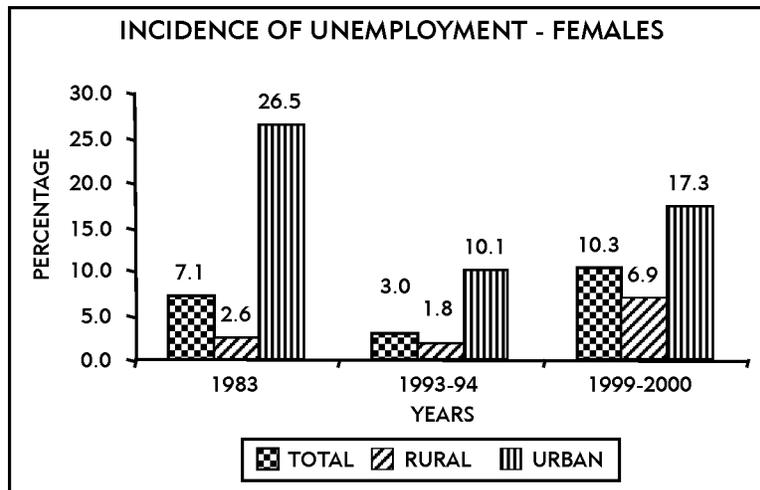
As per the National Human Development Report, 2001 between 1983 to 1993-94 employment in Andaman and Nicobar Islands grew at 6.1 percent, which was third highest in the country after Nagaland and Mizoram and substantially higher than national average of 2.1 percent. Growth in employment in rural areas (6.6 % per annum) was substantially higher than in urban areas (4.7% per annum). During this period growth in female employment (12.9% per annum) was more than three times than that of male employment (3.9% per annum). The growth in female employment was 13.1% per annum for rural areas and 12.0% per annum for urban areas. The growth of employment has been estimated as compound annual growth in the persons employed in the age group 15 years and above on the usual principal and subsidiary status

During 1993-94 to 1999-2000, growth in employment in the Islands declined sharply to -0.7 % against the all India average of 1.6% and major set back was faced in growth of female employment. The growth was negative at -8.0 % per annum while the growth in male employment was 2.4% per annum. This can be attributed mainly to the decline in growth of employment in rural areas for both males (from 4% to 2.1%) and females (from 13.1% to -11.1%) and for females (12% to 4.4%) in urban areas. The negative growth of employment for females in the rural areas and the declining growth in urban areas are a serious cause of concern.



Source : National Human Development Report, 2001, Planning Commission, New Delhi

The National Human Development Report, 2001 defines the incidence of unemployment as the percentage of persons unemployed in the age group 15 years and above on the usual principal and subsidiary status to the total number of persons in the labour force. With the increase in employment during 1983 to 1993-94 the incidence of unemployment decreased from 1983 to 1993-1994 and increased from 1993-1994 to 1999-2000 as a consequence of decreased employment. The female unemployed as a percentage of the labour force increased from 1993-94 to 1999-2000 and it was higher in case of urban areas (17.3 %) than rural areas (6.9 %)



Source: National Human Development Report, 2001, Planning Commission, New Delhi

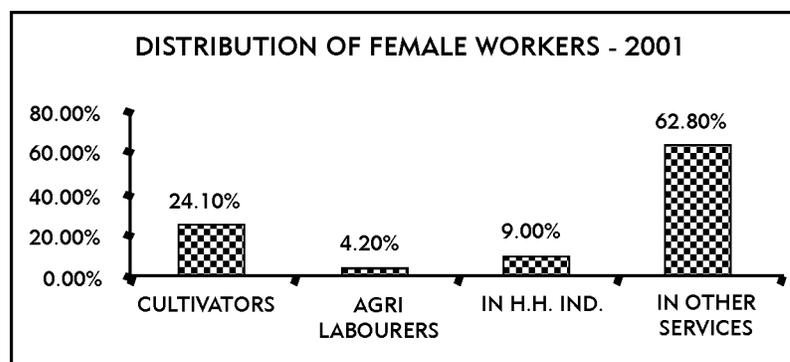
During the decade 1991-2001 the population of the Union Territory increased by 75,491 persons and the total number workers increased by 37,353 persons, that is half the percentage of population increase. In the Islands 219,898 persons are non workers and depend on 136,254 persons to feed them. 38.25% of the population is engaged in work. Of the 1,92,972 males in the territory 1,09,162 males (56.6%) are engaged in work while only 27,092 (or 16.6%) females out of 1,63,180 females are engaged in work. 39.2% persons are engaged in rural areas and 36.3% are engaged in urban areas. However in case of females the work participation rate is 18.7% for rural areas and 12.2% for urban areas. 15% of the workers are engaged as Cultivators, 3.8% as Agricultural Labourers, 5.2% in Household Industries and 75.3% in Other Services.

Work Participation Rate - 2001

Area	Population- 2001			No. of workers (Main+ Marginal)			Work participation Rate (Main+ Marginal)		
	Person	Male	Female	Person	Male	Female	Person	Male	Female
Total	356152	192972	163180	136254	109162	27092	38.3	56.6	16.6
Rural	239954	128961	110993	94052	13305	20702	39.2	56.9	18.7
Urban	116198	64011	52187	42202	35812	6390	36.3	55.9	12.2

Source : Census of India, 2001, Primary Census Abstract, Registrar General India

Of the 27,092 female workers 16,258 are main workers and 10,834 are marginal workers that is only 10% of total females are engaged as main workers while 6.6% are engaged as marginal workers. Of the total female workers 24.1% are cultivators, 4.2% are Agricultural labourers, 9.0% work in Household industries and 62.8% are employed in other services.



Source : Census of India, 2001, Primary Census Abstract, Registrar General India

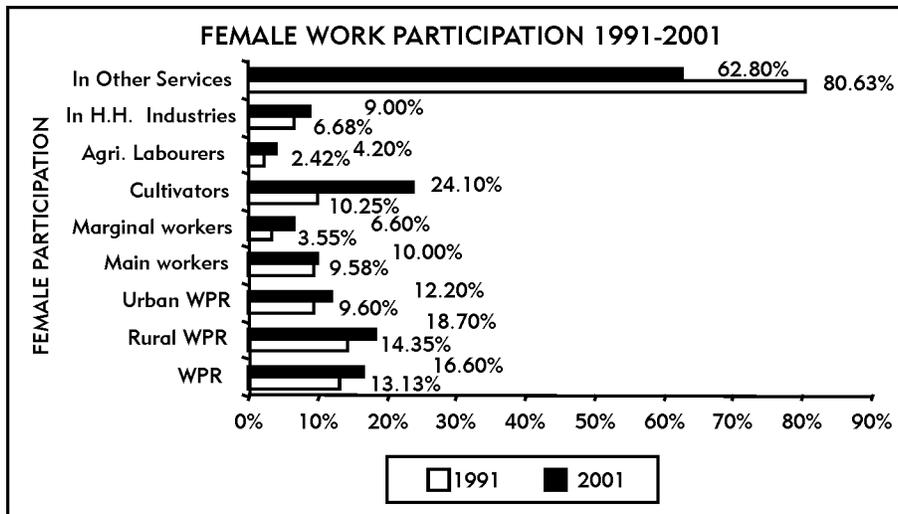
Comparison of Female Work Participation for 1991-2001

	1991	2001
Total females	1,26,292	1,63,180
Total female workers (Main + Marginal)	16,584	27,092
Non workers	1,09,708	1,36,088
Female work participation rate (Main + Marginal)	13.13%	16.6%
Female work participation rate for rural area (Main + Marginal)	14.35%	18.7%
Female work participation rate Urban area (Main + Marginal)	9.60%	12.2%
Percentage of Main workers	9.58%	10.0%
Percentage of Marginal workers	3.55%	6.6%
Percentage of female workers as cultivator (Main + Marginal)	10.25%	24.1%
Percentage of female workers as Agricultural Labourers (Main + Marginal)	2.42%	4.2%
Percentage of female workers in Household Industries (Main + Marginal)	6.68%	9.0%
Percentage of female workers in other services. (Main + Marginal)	80.63%	62.8%

Source : Census of India, 1991, Series 27, Part II A and Part II B, Directorate of Census Operations, Andaman and Nicobar Islands Census of India, 2001, Primary Census Abstract, Registrar General India

The Work Participation Rate (WPR) of females has gone up by 3.47% since the 1991 census. While the work participation rate for rural areas has gone up from 14.25% to 18.7% the urban work

participation rate for females has gone up from 9.60% to 12.2%. However the disturbing factor is that the increase in main workers was only 0.42% while it was 3.05% in case of marginal workers. Further though the participation of females increased as cultivators, agricultural labourers and in household industry it decreased in other services.



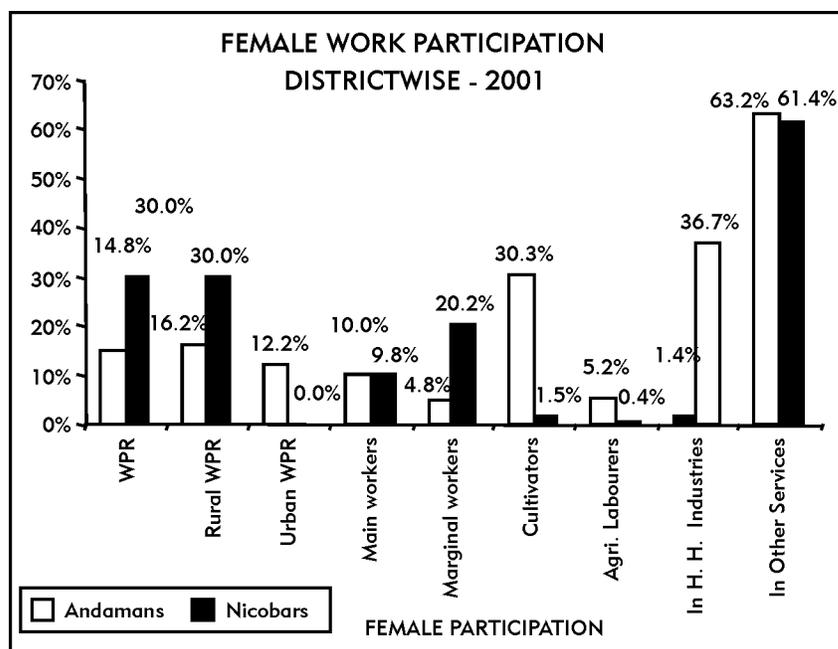
Source : Census of India, 2001, Primary Census Abstract, Registrar General India

At the district level 14.8% of the females in Andaman District are workers whereas 30% of the females in Nicobars District are workers. However the position inverts itself when main and marginal workers are considered. 10.0% females are main workers in Andamans District while 4.8% of the females are marginal workers. On the other hand 98% of females are main workers in Nicobars district and 20.2% of the females are marginal workers.

Distribution of female workers District-wise - 2001

	Andamans	Nicobars
Total females	1,43,765	19,415
Total female workers	21,270	5,822
Non workers	1,22,495	13,593

Source : Census of India, 2001, Primary Census Abstract, Registrar General India



Source : Census of India, 2001, Primary Census Abstract, Registrar General India

An inter Tehsil Analysis shows that the highest female work participation is in Car Nicobar Tehsil while the lowest is in Ferrargunj Tehsil. However in all Tehsils only 8% -11% of female workers are main workers. Even in Car Nicobar tehsil where the female work participation rate is 40.4%, 28.9% are marginal workers. In North Andamans area more than 50% of the female workers are in cultivation. This percentage decreases as one moves from north to south in Andamans district. The percentage of Agricultural labourers is quite low in all tehsils except Ferrargunj tehsil where 19.8% of the female participate as Agricultural Labourers. House hold industries in the Southern group of Islands attract about 36.5% of female workers. However the maximum females are in other services.

Distribution of Workers Tehsil-wise - 2001

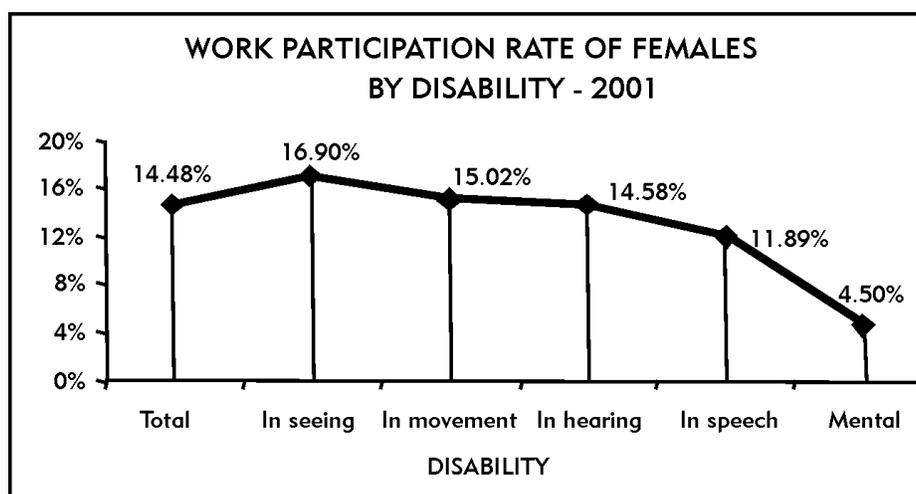
	Total Female	Total worker	Total work Part. rate	F/work Part. rate	Main worker	Marginal worker	Cultivator	Agri. Lab	H.H. Industry	Other services
Diglipur	20260	4127	39.5	20.4	10.2	10.1	65.1	4.7	0.9	29.2
M/bundar	11164	2307	39.9	20.7	9.7	10.9	57.8	4.2	0.7	37.3
Rangat	18132	2774	35.2	15.3	8.1	7.2	35.7	3.9	1.6	58.9
Ferrargunj	22726	2576	33.4	11.3	6.9	4.4	11.3	19.8	2.8	66.0
Port Blair	71483	9486	37.7	13.3	11.4	1.9	12.0	2.0	1.3	84.7

	Total Female	Total worker	Total work Part. rate	F/work Part. rate	Main worker	Marginal worker	Cultivator	Agri. Lab	H.H. Industry	Other services
C/Nicobar	9629	3894	52.5	40.4	11.5	28.9	0.8	0.2	36.8	62.2
Nancowry	9786	1928	41.5	19.7	8.1	11.9	2.9	0.9	36.5	59.7

Source : Census of India, 2001, Primary Census Abstract, Registrar General India

Disabled Female Workers

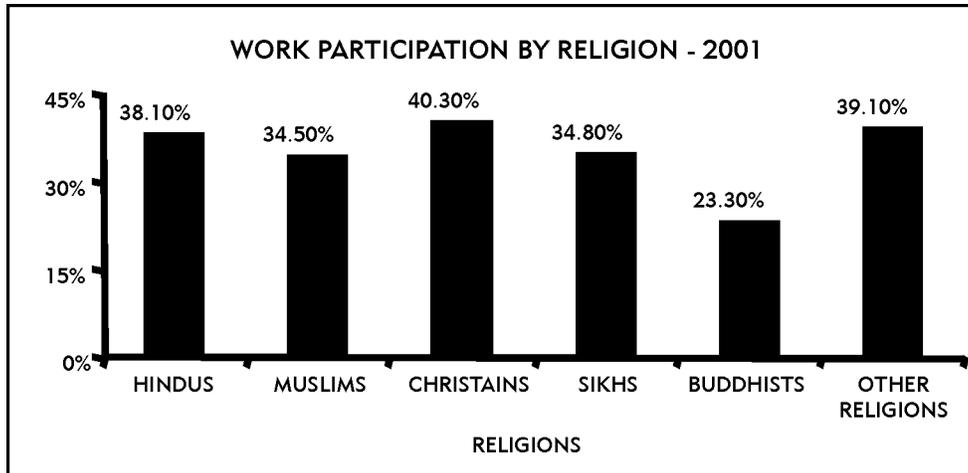
410 disabled females of the 2831 disabled females in territory are workers. The remaining 1966 are non workers. This implies that only 14.48% of the disabled females are working. The distribution of workers among the disabled females shows that females suffering from seeing disability have the highest proportion of workers while those suffering from mental disability have the lowest proportion of workers.



Source : Census of India, 2001, Tables on Disabled, Registrar General India

Religion

The First Report on Religion, Census of India, 2001 has reported the Work Participation Rate among the various communities as per religion. The highest work participation has been reported by Christians – 40.3% and the least by Buddhists 23.3%.



Source : Census of India, 2001, The First Report on Religion, Registrar General India

Government Service

The Andaman and Nicobar Administration is a major employer in the Islands. There are 34,794 sanctioned posts with the Administration. Of these 9095 posts are of Industrial Workers. With 4.6 as Household size. 1,60,052 persons or 44.93% of the population is dependent on the Administration for employment. Of these 5229 or 15% are female employees. Of these 1.8% hold Group A posts, 1.2% hold Group B posts, 76.51% are employed in Group C posts and 20.34% are in Group D. Of the female officials in Group C, 57.33% are school teachers. If an analysis of total Employment Scenario is taken then 27.66% of Group A employees are females. A substantial number of them are doctors. 7.9% of all Group B employees are females, 39% of all Group C employees are females and 13.76% of all Group D employees are females. This indicates that the maximum females are employed in Group C and D posts. Very few females are in the decision making positions. This data does not include persons employed as Temporary Status Mazdoors, Daily Rated Mazdoors, short term contract employees etc.

There is one Employment Exchange and five sub-employment exchanges functioning in the Union Territory. The number of women who have registered and been selected through it are.

	Scheduled Tribes		Others	
	Registered	Selected	Registered	Selected
2001-02	36	5	1940	50
2002-2003	102	11	1648	102
2003-04	69	19	2155	215

Source : Directorate of Employment and Training, Andaman and Nicobar Administration

The Employment in the Union Territory has been based to a large extent on forest based activities as forests cover nearly 92% of the land mass of the Islands. However the Supreme Court in an endeavor to sustain the ecology of the region has directed vide order dated 7/5/2002 that the

forests may be protected and as a consequence all wood based industries have been closed with effect from 31-3-2003. The effect of the closure of these industries on employment has till now not be gauged. This will have had not only a direct effect on women employment but indirectly also it would have affected women when the male bread winners would have been left unemployed. The need is to assess the number of women so affected is of utmost importance and need to formulate the strategy to rehabilitate them requires to be worked on and implemented.

Conclusions

- 1) The negative growth of employment for females in the rural areas and the declining growth in urban areas are a serious cause of concern during 1993-94 to 1999-2000 period. Efforts should be made to curb this trend.
- 2) The increase in incidence of unemployment of women in the urban areas is reflected in the decrease in participation of women in other services. Though 75.3% of the work force is engaged in other services the proportion of females engaged in other services has gone down from 80.63% to 62.8% from 1991-2001. As the Island Development Authority under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister has identified the areas of High Value Agriculture, Fisheries, Information Technology and Tourism as the core sectors for development of the Islands, the employment opportunities for females in other services related to these core sectors is of utmost importance.
- 3) The increase of female participation as main workers was only 0.42% while it was 3.05% in case of marginal workers. This is not a good sign of the status of female workers and the majority of female workers in Nicobars are marginal workers.
- 4) Only 14.48% of the disabled females are workers. The economic independence of these females is very important. There is a need to identify special works for such females and encourage them to take up such activities.
- 5) Though there are a fairly large number of females in the Government service the number who are in decision making capacity are far and few. At present the second rung of officers is from the Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar, Lakshadweep and Diu, Daman and Dadra Nagar Haveli Civil Services, whose officers at best spend only two to three years in the Islands. Also very few women from this service ever serve in this territory. Therefore there is a virtual gap in female participation as Directors of Departments or Secretaries in the Administration. The participation of local females in the decision making hierarchies would be possible when a State service is started for the Islands and local girls are encouraged to join it.

CHAPTER - 6

THE TRIBAL WOMEN

There are six Scheduled Tribes in the Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The tribal communities live in separate Islands and the areas inhabited by them are notified as reserved areas under the provisions of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation, 1956. Entry of any person other than a member of the aboriginal tribe is prohibited in the reserved area so notified and is possible only after a tribal area entry pass is issued by the Deputy Commissioner of the area.

Of the six Scheduled Tribes, the Nicobarese are advanced and have assimilated into the mainstream while the others are at the primitive stage of development. They are the highest in number among the scheduled tribes. The Nicobarese are a farming community. They raise plantations of coconuts, arecanuts, grow tubers, fruits and vegetables and raise pigs.

Among the primitive tribes Onges and Andamanese have been settled at Little Andaman and Strait Island respectively. They are being introduced to simple agricultural practices gradually while they continue to retain their hunting and gathering vocations. The Shompens in Great Nicobar are semi-nomadic. They are hunters and gathers and raise horticulture crops at their habitats. The Jarawas and Sentinels are hunting and gathering tribes and depend on forest and marine resources for their subsistence.

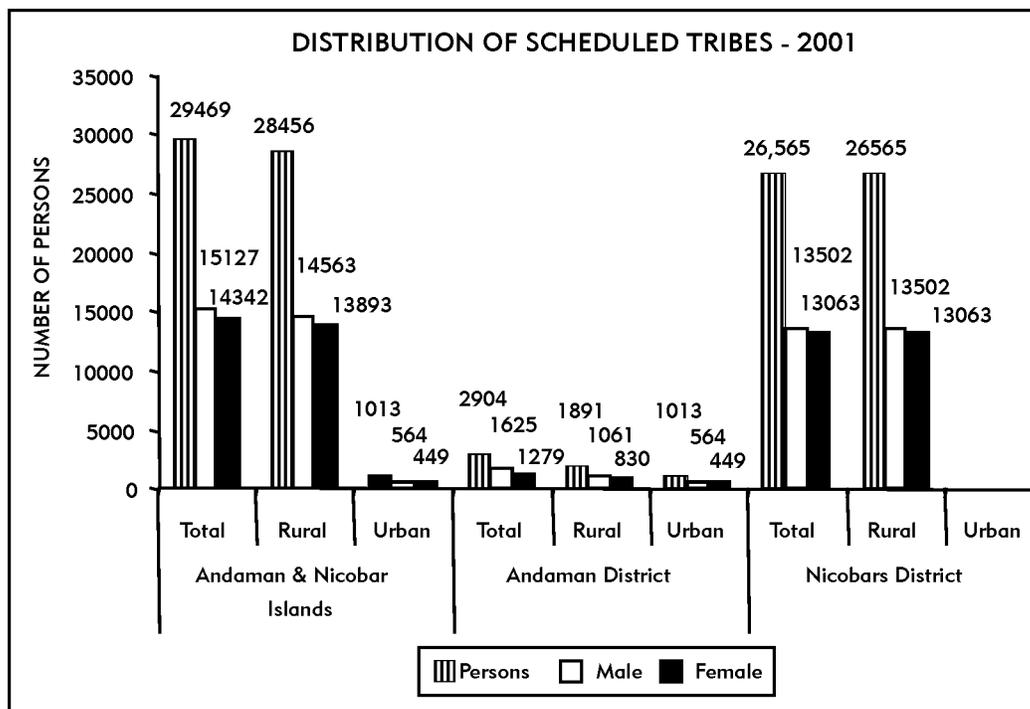
Tribe	Area of Habitation	Population
Great Andamanese	Strait Island	49
Onges	Dugong Creek & South Bay in Little Andaman	95
Jarawas	West coasts of South & Middle Andaman	266 (estimated)
Sentinelese	North Sentinal island	100 (estimated)
Shompens	Great Nicobar Island	398

Source : Directorate of Tribal Welfare, Andaman and Nicobar Administration

Demographic Profile

As per the 2001 census 29,469 persons of the 3,56,152 persons in the Union Territory belong to Scheduled Tribes. Of these 28,456 reside in rural areas and 1,013 in urban areas. The Scheduled Tribe population comprises 15,127 males and 14,342 females. It forms 8.3% of the total population of the islands. Male tribal are 7.8% of the total male population of the Islands while female tribal are 8.27% of the total female population.

The Andamans District supports 2904 tribal persons or 0.9% of population is tribal. On the other hand Nicobars District has 63.1 % or 26,565 tribal persons.



Source : Census of India, 2001, Primary Census Abstract, Registrar General India

The highest proportion of Scheduled Tribe Population is found in Car Nicobar (78.4%) and Nancowry Tehsil (49.0%).

Trend in population growth 1901-1981

Figures in parenthesis are estimated figures.

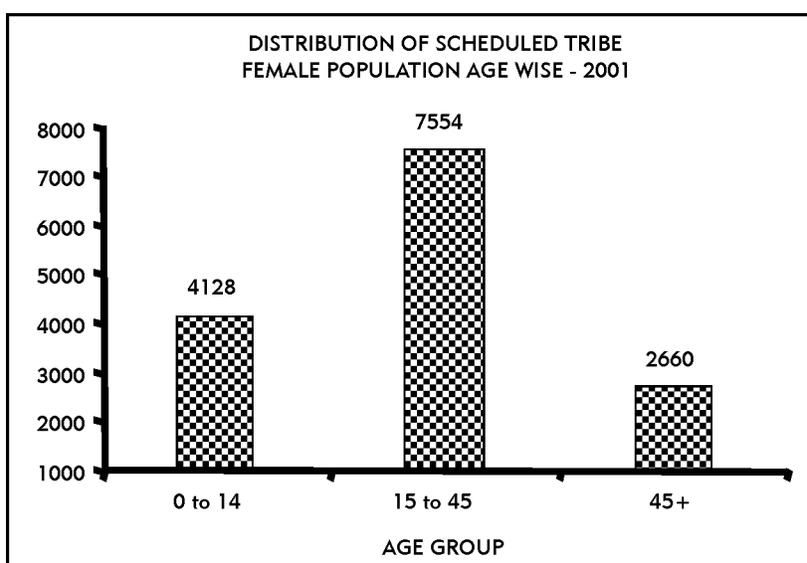
	1901	1931	1961	1971	1981
Great Andamanese	625	90	19	24	26
Onges	(672)	(256)	129	112	97
Sentinalese	(117)	(5)	(5)	(82)	
Jarawas	(468)	(70)	(500)	(275)	31

	1901	1931	1961	1971	1981
Nicobarese	5462	9589	13903	17874	21984
Shompens	(348)	(200)	71	92	223
Total			14762	18162	22361

Source : Directorate of Tribal Welfare, Andaman and Nicobar Administration

Age Structure

According to the data on Age structure of Scheduled tribes released by the Census of India, 2001 of the 14,342 females belonging to the scheduled tribes 28.78% are in the age group 0-14 years, 52.2% are in the age group 15-44 years and 18.5% are 45 years or older.



Source : Census of India 2001, Tables on Age, C-14 ST, Registrar General India

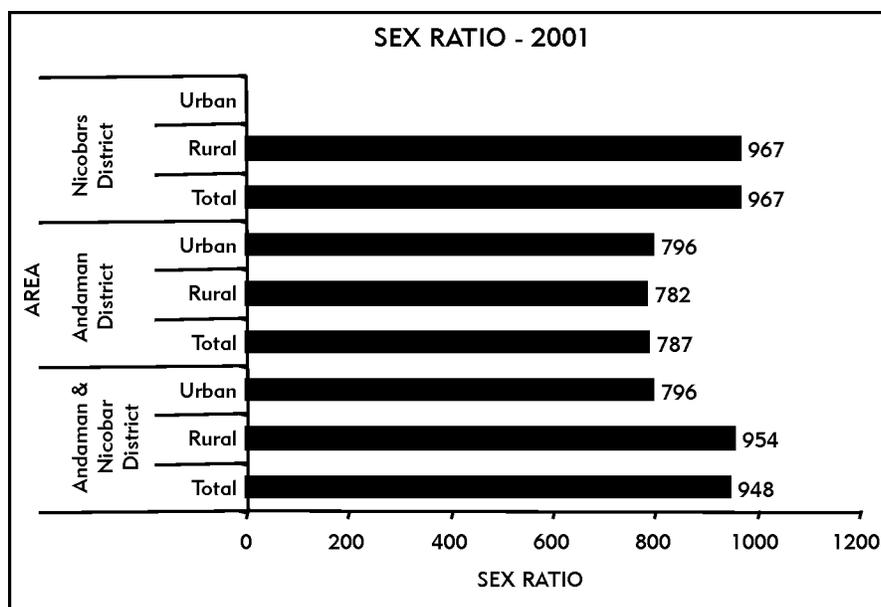
As per the 2001 census the Sex ratio among the Scheduled Tribes is higher than the sex ratio for the entire population. It is 948 females to 1000 males as against the Union Territory over all sex ratio of 846 females per 1000 males. Scheduled Tribes Sex ratio is 787 females to 1000 males in Andamans District and 967 females per 1000 males in Nicobars District. The sex ratio varies with the proportion of Scheduled Tribes to the population of the region and in areas of Scheduled Tribes dominance, the sex ratio is higher. It is 1009 females to 1000 males in Car Nicobar tehsil and 909 females to 1000 males in Nancowry Tehsil.

Distribution of Sex Ratio Age Wise -2001

Age group	Total	Rural	Urban
All ages	948	953	796
0-4	958	963	785
5-9	895	895	1236
10-14	920	913	1210
15-19	960	951	1224
20-24	1005	1025	769
25-29	1098	1127	709
30-34	988	1010	537
35-39	1000	999	1093
40-44	936	960	351
45-49	751	753	689
50-54	888	894	500
55-59	835	842	200
60-64	1020	1025	333
65-69	954	951	
70-74	959	959	
75-79	715	715	
80+	1049	1049	
Age not stated	566	640	200

Source : Census of India 2001, Tables on Age, C-14 ST, Registrar General India

There is no perceptible trend in sex ratio. However it must be remembered that these figures are a reflection mainly of the trends among the dominant tribe that is, Nicobarese and does not fully reflect the position among the other tribes which have a minimal representation. An analysis of the primitive tribes has been made later to reflect their position.



Source : Census of India, 2001, Primary Census Abstract, Registrar General India

The Gender Distribution among the four primitive tribal groups with which the Administration has contact was as under as in March 2004.

Great Andamanese

Age group	Male	Female	Total	Sex ratio
0-10	09	07	16	777
11-20	07	03	10	428
21-30	04	07	11	1750
31-40	02	01	3	500
41-50	02	02	4	1000
51-60	02	01	3	500
61 +	0	02	2	
Total	26	23	49	884

Source : Directorate of Tribal Welfare, Andaman and Nicobar Administration

Onges

Age group	Male	Female	Total	Sex ratio
0-10	20	10	30	500
11-20	08	10	18	1250
21-30	05	05	10	1000

Age group	Male	Female	Total	Sex ratio
31-40	05	03	08	6000
41-50	08	05	13	625
51-60	05	05	10	1000
61 +	03	03	06	1000
Total	54	41	95	759

Source : Directorate of Tribal Welfare, Andaman and Nicobar Administration

Shompens

Age group	Male	Female	Total	Sex ratio
0-10	50	33	83	666
11-20	29	29	58	1000
21-30	39	36	75	923
31-40	58	21	79	362
41-50	27	09	36	333
51-60	32	10	42	312
61 +	18	07	25	388
Total	253	145	398	573

Source : Directorate of Tribal Welfare, Andaman and Nicobar Administration

Jarawas

Age group	Male	Female	Total	Sex ratio
0-14	61	68	129	1114
15-44	56	45	101	803
45 and over	18	18	36	1000
Total	135	131	266	970

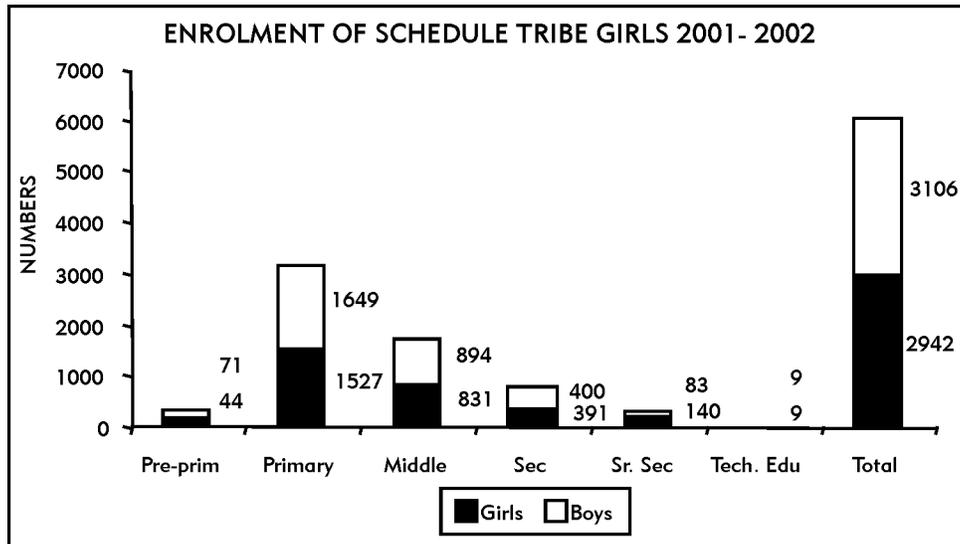
Source : Jarawa Expert Committee Report, 2004

The above figures could be a cause of concern. The sex ratio in the 0-10 age group is quite low in the primitive tribes. The administration would have to be vigilant as these groups are very small and a continuing decreasing trend could lead to extinction of the tribes.

Education

There are 59 educational Institutions in the tribal areas. There are 2 Ashram schools, 32 Primary Schools, 10 Middle Schools, 10 Secondary Schools and 5 Senior Secondary Schools. All the above

institutions are funded from the Union Territory's budget. The two Ashram schools are at Shompen complex for Shompens and one at Trinket for Nicobari tribal communities. Besides these there is a Kendriya Vidyalaya and a Navodaya Vidyalaya in the tribal areas. NCERT syllabus is followed in all government schools. As per the 1991 census the female literacy rate among tribal communities is 48.74%.



Source : Directorate of Education, Andaman and Nicobar Administration

Of the total enrolment of Scheduled Tribes students 48.64% are girls, which is a good ratio. A tehsil-wise analysis of enrolment shows that the enrolment of girls is lower in Nancowry tehsil (46.07%) as compared to Car Nicobar Tehsil (49.19%).

The trends for dropout rates indicate that drop out rates for tribal students have been falling especially at Primary and middle level but it varies from year to year.

Tehsil-wise Drop out (Stage-wise) 2003-04 ST Girls

	Primary	Middle
Port Blair	Nil	Nil
Ferrargunj	Nil	Nil
Rangat	Nil	Nil
Mayabunder	Nil	Nil
Diglipur	Nil	Nil
Car Nicobar	Nil	Nil
Nancowry	19.00	29.60

Source : Directorate of Education, Andaman and Nicobar Administration

In order to retain more children in school Nicobari primers have been developed and introduced up to Class III. The primers for higher classes are being developed by the Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore. There is a proposal to bring out a dictionary in Nicobari language and also codify it. Primers have also been prepared in the languages of Great Andamanese, Onges and Shompens which will be introduced for imparting formal education. A dictionary in the language of the Jarawas has been prepared to facilitate communication between them and the functionaries of the government.

In order to facilitate Adult Education among tribal communities, 22 Jana Shiksha Nilayam are functioning. The total enrolment of adults including neo literates here is 1225. Also under the Special Adult Literacy Drive (SALD) 320 adults have been made literate.

Of the 272 teachers from Schedule Tribe population 130 are female teachers. Of these 59 are posted and working in Car Nicobar tehsil and 63 in Nancowry tehsil. Of remaining 8, 6 are working in Port Blair and 1 each in Ferrargunj and Mayabunder Tehsils. The endeavor is to post the tribal teachers to their local areas to mitigate any hardships to them.

Health

The Health care infrastructure for the tribal communities is quite sufficient. There is one 112 bedded District Hospital, one Community Health Centre, four Primary Health Centres, thirty-two sub centres, and three Homeo Dispensaries. In addition to this a sub-centre with a full time Pharmacist has been established at Strait Island where the Great Andamanese are settled. A Medical Officer and an Auxiliary Nurse cum Midwife from the nearest island (Long island) visit the settlement once a week to examine patients. There is also one sub centre in Dugong Creek where Onges are settled. It is under the charge of a full time Medical officer, Pharmacist and Auxiliary Nurse cum Midwife. For the benefit of the twenty Onges settled in South Bay, a Medical Officer from Primary Health Centre, Hut Bay and an Auxiliary Nurse cum Midwife from Harminder Bay visit the settlement once a week. Also one Hospital ship has been placed in the Southern group of islands to look after the health needs of the tribal communities.

Taking into account the remoteness and isolation of the Islands inhabited by the tribal communities, the norms of population for setting up of medical institutions have been diluted. For example a sub-centre has been set up at Pillowmillow for a population of 50 persons, a Primary Health Centre for a population of 1500 at Teressa Island, a Community Health Centre at Nancowry for a population of 15,000 and a District hospital for a population of 26,000.

Disease patterns of Primitive Tribes

Great Andamanese

A survey on health and nutrition was conducted in 1976 and 1989 and the results indicated that they suffered from Tuberculosis, Syphilis and Anemia. The mean hemoglobin level was estimated to be 9.9 gm for male and 8.5 gm for female. There were deficiencies of calorie intake, vitamin and iron

in their food. There was however an extremely low rate of dental caries. Another special survey carried out by the Directorate of Health Services, Andaman and Nicobar Administration found a very good health status in comparison to the past years.

Onges

Their population showed an increased trend during 1981-1991. The value of the Body Mass Index (BMI) was found to be on the higher side reflecting that they were well built and there was no mal-nutrition. The value of estimation of Hemoglobin among both the sexes was at par with the rural Indian population.

Jarawas

Their weight for height ratio in different age groups is found to be within normal range according to NCHS standard. A study conducted shows that 45.5% of the eligible couples are in the age group of 35 to 44 years and 39.5% are within 15 to 24 years. This age group will have a long reproductive life to reproduce and sustain the population growth of Jarawas. They are prone to fungal infections of the skin, cuts and wounds of the lower extremities, respiratory tract infections, anemia, mild degree of malnutrition and Hepato Splenomegaly.

Shompens

The Shompens diet contains plenty of animal protein. The nutritional status as reflected by 3 body build indices has been found to be satisfactory. Fungal, viral infections and malaria are common among them. They are reported to be generally anemic and suffer from respiratory tract infections, ascariasis, Filarasis and Dental caries. The population of the Shompens is also decreasing due to the health problems and reluctance on their part in availing the health facilities provided by the Administration.

Nicobarese

They are a flourishing tribe and their health status is very good. They are around 26,000 in number and the tribe has grown over the decades. The education incentives have helped and at present of Doctors belonging to this community are working in the Southern and Andaman group of islands.

Sentinals

No contact has been possible with them till now therefore information about their health status is not available.

The overall health status of the tribal communities is good. Incidence of leprosy is rare. Only 7-8 cases have been detected among Nicobarese, and a few HIV positive cases have been detected also among the Nicobarese.

Crime against Tribal Communities

No major crime has been reported against persons belonging to the tribal communities. An All India comparison of the same also reflects the same. The Islands rank 17th in crime against scheduled tribes on the basis of Rate of total cognizable crimes and 27th on the basis of Percentage share. The Administration has formulated a committee and cell to monitor any atrocities against the tribal communities.

Incidence of Crime Committed against Scheduled Tribes – 2002

Crime	India	Andaman and Nicobar Isl.
Murder	189	0
Rape	597	0
Kidnapping	69	0
Dacoity	37	0
Robbery	62	0
Arson	58	0
Hurt	788	0
Protection of Civil Rights Act	47	0
Prevention of Atrocities Act	1800	0
Other Offences	3127	1
Total	6774	1

Source : Crime in India 2002, NCRB, MHA, GOI, New Delhi.

Conclusions

- 1) The population growth and sex ratio of the Nicobarese is reasonable. However the position of the other tribes is not so satisfactory. The census figures highlight only the trends of the majority and as the primitive tribes are miniscule the issues affecting them would need a deeper study. The low sex- ratio in the 0-10 age group among the primitive tribes is an area of concern.
- 2) The health status of the tribes' per-se does not highlight any serious areas of concern. However the issue of re-productivity among the primitive tribes is of major concern
- 3) The lower enrolment of girl students in Nancowry tehsil needs to be boosted up and the dropouts among the girls at as low a level as primary requires to be stemmed.

CHAPTER - 7

SPECIAL ISSUES

The Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands is separated from the Indian mainland by 1200 Kms of sea. The connectivity to the Islands is only by sea and air. Indian Airlines operates five days a week both from Chennai and Kolkatta, while Jet Airways operates daily from Chennai. The frequency of flights may vary according to the passenger flow or the weather conditions. Till recently only Boeing 737's have been operating on these routes, and due to load factor they have only a limited capacity. No Apex or concessional fares are available on this route and a one way ticket costs approximately Rs.8,600/-.

Connectivity by sea is through shipping services operated by Shipping Corporation of India and the Directorate of Shipping Services, Andaman & Nicobar Administration. Five ships operate on the mainland-island sector and connect Port Blair with Chennai, Visakhapatnam and Kolkatta. The ships have a capacity of 1200 passengers. The time taken for each sailing on a direct route between Port Blair and Chennai is 60 hours and via Car Nicobar and Campbell Bay is 110 hours. The time taken for Kolkatta on a direct route is 54 hours depending on tide and current and via Mayabundar is 65 hours. The time taken for Visakhapatnam is 54 hours by ship. The frequency per month is 5-6 trips on the Port Blair Chennai sector, 3-4 trips on Port Blair – Kolkatta sector and once a month on Port Blair – Vizag sector. Once every month the Port Blair- Chennai voyage is routed via Car Nicobar and via Hut Bay, Nancowry and Campbell Bay once in two months. Once in a month the Port Blair – Kolkatta voyage is routed through Mayabundar. All these timings and schedules are subject to fair weather conditions and availability of ships. Schedules can be changed if ships are sent to dry-dock for annual maintenance.

Within the Islands there are 3 modes of connectivity – land, water and air. The Andaman Trunk Road runs for 333 Kms from Port Blair in South Andaman to Diglipur in North Andaman. It traverses through the forest reserve areas and Jarawa territory. It is not a continuous stretch and is broken by two straits Middle Strait and Humphery Strait which have to be crossed by vehicle/passenger ferry. As per the Prof. Shekhar Singh Committee Report to the Supreme Court, the stretches of the road which run through the Jarawa territory have to be closed to ensure protection of the Jarawas. Other major roads are the Little Andaman Trunk Road in Little Andaman and the North-South Road and East-West Road in Great Nicobar Islands. These roads are the only means of long distance intra island land connectivity.

Between the Islands, the shipping services are in the Inter Island Sector providing services between Port Blair and the distant group of islands with medium size vessels, the Foreshore sector providing services between Port Blair and nearby islands with small size vessels and the Harbour Ferry Services providing service within the sheltered water and narrow creeks with ferry vessels. These vessels operate at the speed of 8-9 knots per hour as compared to the mainland vessels which operate at 12.5 knots per hour. There are a total of 72 vessels with the Administration in all the four sectors.

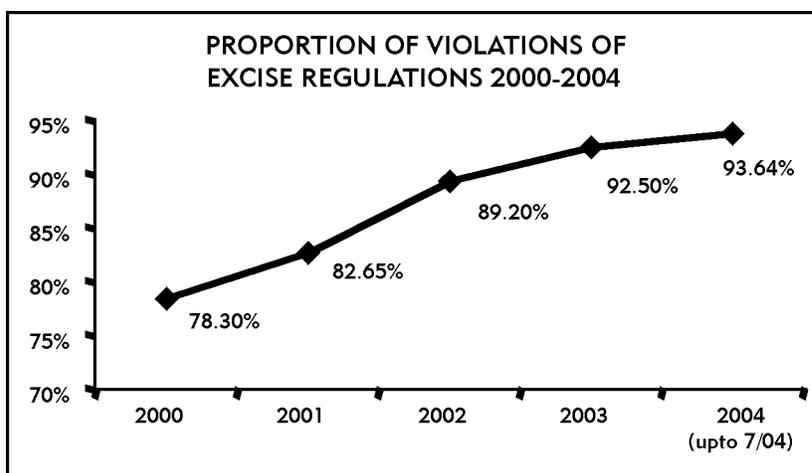
The third mode is through the Pawan Hans Helicopter services which have been started recently. The helicopter can carry up to 7 passenger till Car Nicobar and 5 passengers beyond. The service is run as per schedule depending on the weather conditions. Helicopter services are also pressed into service whenever there is any emergency.

The foregoing paragraphs are a curtain raiser to the peculiar situation that prevails in the Islands. Though the problems faced on the mainland by the population and women in particular are by and large absent here but the The problems faced in the Islands are peculiar to their location and consequent lack of connectivity. The major problems due to the above factors and cited by the women activists and NGO representatives in their interaction with the National Commission for Women are

- Alcoholism
- Suicide
- Polygamy/Desertion
- Crime against women
- Lack of family courts.

Alcoholism

Alcoholism is reported to be rampant in the islands. Though no reliable statistics are available it could be a consequence of the isolation factor. If an analysis of the violations under special laws is taken then it is found that the violations under Excise Regulations have been increasing and reflects the increasing incidence of alcoholism. It has gone up from 78.0% of violations under special laws in the year 2000 to 93.64% in the present year. This could be due to any or both the factors namely, the incidence of bootlegging has risen or the police has become more vigilant.



Year	Violations under special laws	Violations under Excise Regulation
2000	2907	2279
2001	3580	2959
2002	4316	3850
2003	6003	5553
2004 (upto 7/04)	3698	3463

Source : Andaman and Nicobar Police

This rise is an unhealthy trend and could be a major cause of domestic violence. An interesting factor which is revealed is that women and children too are involved in sale of liquor. Nearly 15% of the violations under the excise regulation have been committed by women and children.

No. of Women & Children Arrested under Excise Regulation 2000-2004

Year	No. of persons arrested	Females	Children	Percentage
2000	2340	417	31	19.14%
2001	3099	484	10	15.90%
2002	3914	672	1	17.19%
2003	5569	789	-	14.16%
2004 (up to 7/04)	3475	443	-	12.74%
Total	18,397	2805	42	15.47%

Source : Andaman and Nicobar Police

Detail of cases registered under the Excise Regulation 2000-2004

Year	Total number of cases detected	Total number of working still recovered	Total number of illicit liquor recovered in 750 ml bottles	Total number of Brandy/Whisky (IMFL)/Beer recovered in 750 ml bottles	Handia recovered in Kgs
2000	2279	98	38979	5010 (IMFL) 179 (BEER)	4772
2001	2959	137	67527	7602 (IMFL) 333 (BEER)	5304
2002	3850	165	86733	10957(IMFL) 1369 (BEER)	7950
2003	5523	216	100608	14838(IMFL) 188(BEER)	9100
2004 (upto 7/04)	3463	103	40142	9362 (IMFL) 121(BEER)	2965

Source : Andaman and Nicobar Police

Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation (ANIIDCO) runs 16 licensed wine shops in the territory of the islands. Of these 11 shops are in Port Blair. Dry days are observed in these shops on salary days, 7th of every month and National Holidays. As there is no land use regulation in force in the Port Blair town and as there is mostly mixed land use many of these shops are located near residential areas, thus providing early access to liquor. It was further reported that liquor is also easily available in other shops, like pan shops and tea shops which is supported by the number of bootlegging cases.

Suicide

Andaman and Nicobar Islands ranks second only to Pondicherry in respect of suicides in the country.

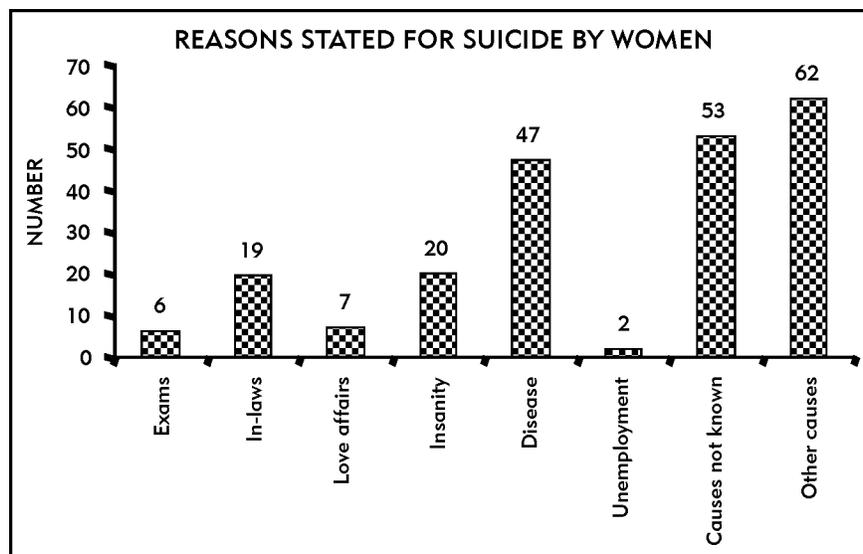
Suicides - 2000

	No. of suicide	Percentage share in total suicide	Estimated mid year population in lakhs	Rate of suicides	Rank
India	1,08,593	100	10021.42	10.84	
A&N	128	0.12	3.88	32.99	2

Source : Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India 2000, National Crime

Research Bureau

There have been 583 suicides in the Islands since 2000. In these years women contributed 36%-38% of all total suicides. The variation in the last five years has not been much. On analyzing the reasons for suicide it was found that in 53% of the cases the reason is not clear, it is reported as either causes not known or other causes. At the All India level these contribute to 33.44% of the causes for suicides. These two major factors need more in-depth study to enable help to be extended and to bring down the suicide rate among the women.



Year	Total Suicides	Females	Percentage of women suicides
2000	128	49	38.28%
2001	129	50	38.75%
2002	144	53	36.80%
2003	113	43	38.05%
2004 (up to 7/04)	69	21	30.43%
Total	583	216	37.04%

Source : Andaman and Nicobar Police

Polygamy

There is an influx of persons to the Islands in search of employment. A large number of these are single males. The migration figures also support this. The sex ratio for the immigrants is only 654 females per thousand males compared to the sex ratio of 930 females per thousand males among the persons born in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Of the major communities migrating into the

Islands Biharis have a sex ratio of 594, Telugus 747 females per thousand males, Keralites 713 females per thousand males, Tamilians 581 females per thousand males, Bengalis 648 females per thousand males and Bangladeshis 777 females per thousand males. This factor could have encouraged a number of men to marry local females.

Though no statistics are available with the Administration the Women Activists in their interaction with the Chairperson and Members of the National Commission of Women reported that a large number of polygamous relationships were entered into by such men coming from the mainland. The polygamous nature of the relationship in a large number of cases was not in the knowledge of the local women. Sometimes these men would also desert the woman after cohabiting with her and even after having children and return to the mainland. No records of men's antecedents were available to the women thereby leaving her with no option but live life alone.

As per the 1991 Census of India there were 408 persons in the Union Territory who were either divorced or separated. Of these 185 were males and 223 were females. This is when the Sex Ratio in 1991 was only 818 females to 1000 males. The number of divorced or separated women being greater than the number of similarly placed men could be an indicator that there are cases of desertions by men from the mainland. However primary surveys and data from Census 2001 would be required to establish this trend.

Age-wise Distribution of Divorced and Separated Persons - 1991

Age Group	Total	Males	Females	Percentage of Females
0-9	0	0	0	0
10-14	6	3	3	50%
15-44	260	87	173	66.5%
44+	142	95	47	33%
All Ages	408	185	223	54.65%

Source : Census of India, 1991, Series 27 Part IV A - C Series, Socio Cultural Tables, Directorate of Census Operations, Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Crime against Women

The islands are by and large peaceful and there are not many law and order problems. Till now no communal problems have been reported. However if the incidence rate to total cognizable crimes (IPC) is taken the islands have a higher rate of total cognizable crimes than the All India ratio and ranks 19th in criminality. However if total cognizable crimes are taken then it ranks 2nd in Criminality.

Incidence & Rate of Total Cognizable Crimes (IPC) in 2002

	Incidence of total cognizable crimes	Percentage contribution to All India Total	Estimated mid year Popn. (in lakh)	Rate of total cognizable crimes	Rank of criminality
India	1780330	100	10506.40	169.5	
A&N Isl.	608	0.0	3.65	166.6	19

Source : Crime in India 2002, NCRB, MHA, GOI, New Delhi.

Incidence & Rate of Total Cognizable Crimes (TCC) in 2002

	Incidence of total cognizable crimes	Percentage contribution to All India Total	Estimated mid year Popn. (in lakh)	Rate of total cognizable crimes	Rank of criminality
India	3750842	100	10506.40	357.0	
A&N Isl.	4316	0.1	3.7	1182.5	2

Source : Crime in India 2002, National Crime Record Bureau, MHA.

There is negligible incidence of crime against children. The National Crime Records Bureau places the Islands in the 29th rank among other States and Union Territories with respect to crimes perpetrated against children. There were 2 rape and 1 kidnapping case in 2002, 2 rape, 2 kidnapping, 1 sexual harassment/molestation and 1 eve teasing case in 2003 and 1 rape 2 kidnapping 2 sexual harassment and 1 eve teasing case in 2004. These cases have been counted among the crimes perpetrated against women.

Incidence & Rate of Crimes Committed Against Children In 2002

	Incidence of total cognizable crimes	Percentage contribution to All India Total	Estimated mid year Popn. (in lakh)	Rate of total cognizable crimes	Rank of criminality
India	10469	100	10270.15	1.0	
A&N Isl.	3	0.0	3.7	0.8	29

Source : Crime in India 2002, NCRB, MHA, GOI, New Delhi.

The National Crime Bureau has published the Incidence (I), Rate (R) and Percentage (P) contribution of crimes committed against women in all States and Union Territories to All India crimes committed against women in 2002. Andaman and Nicobar Islands rank 31st among all States and Union Territories in this enumeration.

Incidence of Crime Committed against Women - 2002

Crime	India			Andaman and Nicobar Islands		
	Estimated mid year Popn. 10506.40 lakhs			Estimated mid year Popn. 3.65 lakhs		
	Incidence	Rate	Percentage	Incidence	Rate	Percentage
Rape	16373	1.6		2	0.5	0.0
Kidnapping & Abduction	14506	1.4		1	0.3	0.0
Dowry Deaths	6822	0.6		0	0.0	0.0
Cruelty by Husband & Family	49237	4.7		4	1.1	0.0
Molestation	33943	3.2		17	4.7	0.1
Eve teasing (molestation)	10155	1.0		3	0.8	0.0
Importation of girls	76	0.0		0	0.0	0.0
Sati Prevention Act	0	0.0		0	0.0	0.0
Immoral Traffic (P) Act	11242	1.1		0	0.0	0.0
Indecent Representation of Women (P) Act	2508	0.2		0	0.0	0.0
Dowry Prohibition Act	2816	0.3		0	0.0	0.0
Total	147678	14.1		27	7.4	0.0

Source : Crime in India 2002, NCRB, MHA, GOI, New Delhi.

Incidence & Rate of Crimes Committed Against Women In 2002

	Incidence of total cognizable crimes	Percentage contribution to All India Total	Estimated mid year Popn. (in lakh)	Rate of total cognizable crimes	Rank of criminality
India	147678	100	10506.40	14.1	
A&N Isl.	27	0.0	3.7	7.4	31

Source : Crime in India 2002, NCRB, MHA, GOI, New Delhi.

The incidence of crime perpetuated against women is fairly low. Only about 5.3% of the total crimes under IPC are directed against women. The trend of declining percentage and incidence of crime against women is a healthy sign of their safety and security.

Crimes against Women 2000 - 2004

Year	Total crimes	Against women	Percentage
2000	752	50	6.64%
2001	658	41	6.23%
2002	608	35	5.75%
2003	644	32	4.96%
2004 (up to 7/04)	396	12	3.03%
Total	3058	170	5.5%

Source : Andaman and Nicobar Police

Types of Crimes Perpetuated against Women 2000-2004

Crime Head	2000		2001		2002		2003		2004 (up to 7/04)	
	Rep	Worked out	Rep	Worked out	Rep	Worked out	Rep	Worked out	Rep	Worked out
Murder	2	2	6	5	6	6	8	6	1	
Attempt to murder	2	2	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	
Rape	5	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	4	1
Abetment to suicide	2	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	
C.H. not amounting to murder	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	
Molestation	23	22	20	20	17	16	9	9	2	2
Kidnapping & abduction	3	2	2	2	1	1	2	1	2	1
Eve teasing	1	1	1	1	3	2	2	2	1	1
Cruelty by husband or his family	12	7	9	6	4	2	7	4	1	1
Total	50	41	41	37	35	31	32	26	12	6
Workout Percentage	82%		90.24%		88.57%		81.25%		50%	

Source : Andaman and Nicobar Police

The main crime directed against women is molestation. It forms nearly 50% of the crimes. The second highest crime is cruelty by husband or his family.

Lack of Family Courts

As per the Government of India instructions family courts are provided for every 10 lakhs of population. Since the population of the islands is less than that no family courts have been set up.

Non availability of such courts denies a woman her rights for she has two options either to travel to the mainland where such courts exist or not to raise her voice. She often opts for the latter choice because it takes time and money to reach the mainland and fight her case. The matter needs to be looked into so that justice is not denied to the affected women and family disputes get resolved in the Family Courts expeditiously.

Conclusions

- 1) The rising incidence of alcoholism is supported by data on violations under the excise regulation. Alcoholism is a cause for domestic violence and affects women adversely. The punishment for violators under excise regulations should not be only a monetary fine; imprisonment as per law should be imposed as penalty to act as a deterrent. The fact that women and children are also involved in bootlegging is not a good sign. Location of the licensed liquor shops near residential areas should be avoided.
- 2) The territory ranks second in suicide in India. Women contributed about 37% of all total suicides in the last five years. In 53% of the cases the reason for suicide is not clear; it is reported as either causes not known or other causes. This needs to be researched more thoroughly and link if any to the isolation factor needs to be established.
- 3) Though there are no figures available on polygamy and desertion of women by men from the mainland but the fact that the sex ratio among immigrants is only 654 females per thousand males and the fact that the territory has more divorced and separated women than males points to the fact that the males from the mainland could be indulging in polygamous relationships and consequent desertions.
- 4) Crime against women is about 6% of the total crimes and half the cases are of molestation. The work out rate is above 80% in all cases of crime against women. There is negligible incidence of crime against children.
- 5) Family courts need to be opened in the Union Territory
- 6) Social problems like dowry, child marriage, female feticide, sati, trafficking in girls normally faced by society on the mainland are by and large absent here. The Administration in a bid to promote tourism is contemplating twinning the cities of Phuket in Thailand and Port Blair. Some sections of the society have voiced fears about adopting the Phuket model of tourism and its consequences. (Extracts from SANE NEWS attached in Annexure).

CHAPTER - 8

VIEWS EXPRESSED BY NGO'S

The National Commission for Women visited the Andaman and Nicobar Islands from 19th to 20th August, 2004 to evaluate the status of development of women in the Union Territory. The team was headed by Dr. Poornima Advani Chairperson, National Commission for Women. She was accompanied by Mrs Baby Rani Maurya and Miss Anusuiya Uike Members, National Commission for Women. The team held an interactive session with the NGO's, Women Activists, Lawyers, elected representatives on the 19th August, 2004. The issues raised by the NGO's, women activists and elected representatives during the interaction were as follows:

1. A large number of cases of desertions of wife and children by men who come to the islands for employment were reported. No action can be initiated against such men because of lack of proof. Registration of marriages should be made compulsory to curtail polygamy/polyandry and also enable the administration to maintain data bank on the antecedents of males so as to be able to trace them in case of desertion
2. It was reported that there is a large incidence of alcoholism in the Islands. Liquor is easily available, though the orders regulating the timing of the shops including wine shops exist. Alcoholism has ruined mainly the lives of lower and middle class families. The women cell in the police department should be properly activated and lawyers should be given an opportunity to come and undertake counseling and re-conciliation work there.
3. A number of wine shops have been opened by ANIIDCO (Andaman & Nicobar Island Integrated Development Corporation) within residential areas or in the vicinity of schools. The Supreme Court guidelines on the above are not being strictly followed. ANIIDCO should not give licenses for these wine shops.
4. Facilities to the handicapped persons should be enhanced. Posts reserved for handicapped/ persons with disability should be filled.
5. It was reported that there is a high incidence of suicide cases in the islands which may be due to the isolation caused by the location of the islands. It was also felt that it was superimposed with polygamy / desertion. In the absence of special trauma counseling the problems get aggravated leading to depression and finally suicide.

6. The islands are connected to the mainland only through and sea. While concessional rates are available to the islanders on the ships no such facilities are extended for the air travel. All government servants are entitled for free sea passenger to the mainland and large number of them avail this facility by paying the difference between the sea fare and the air fare. This facility however is not available on reaching the age of superannuation. The senior citizen facilities are only extended by the Indian Airlines and other air services on attaining the age of 65 years. Therefore women belonging to the islands and possessing islander identity card may be declared Senior citizens to and from Port Blair for the purposes of air travel at the age of 60.
7. Widow and old age pension should be disbursed through the panchayats obviating the need of traveling long distances by the beneficiaries to collect the same.
8. TA & DA should be paid to social workers who visit Port Blair on duty and accommodation facilities should be provided for women when they visit the capital. This may or may not be in connection with any official duty.
9. A statutory Commission for Women may be set up on the lines of the National Commission for Women.
10. Identity cards to the President and Executive Members of Mahila Mandals should be issued to facilitate their interaction with officials at different levels.
11. There is an urgent need for re-survey of BPL families so that beneficiaries of old age and widow pensions could be identified.
12. It should be made compulsory that the Patta for property should be issued in the joint name of both husband & wife so that husband is not in a position to dispose of the property adversely affecting the women.
13. Some times FIRs relating to crimes against women are not registered. Though two lady constables have been posted in all police stations of the A&N Islands, there is need for gender sensitization of police forces.
14. Police have not made much head way in the day light Murder cases of Smt. Vasantha & Smt. Sharada Devi. Culprits in these cases should be traced and action should be taken against them.
15. It was reported that Daily Rated Mazdoors working on roads and in quarries are being paid differentially. While men are paid Rs. 100/- per day women are paid Rs.80/- per day. Disparity in wages should be ended.
16. Men working quarries are given uniform while women are not. Women too should be given uniform.

17. In a number of cases where both husband and wife are working it is seen that they are posted to different places. In some cases there is no direct link between the two Islands they are posted and this disrupts their family life. In this case the administration should ensure as far as possible that both are posted in the same place.
18. A number of Islands do not have proper educational and medical facilities. In such cases if the government servant is posted and transferred to new station retention of government accommodation should be allowed to ensure least disruption to the family and studies of the children.
19. A few NGO's highlighted that though the Administration has fixed tenures for postings but in many cases the concerned officials are not posted to the next zone in the hierarchy, thus over staying on a tenure posting was not common and affecting the plans and smooth sailing of the families.
20. As the islands have limited medical facilities to treat major illness like Kidney transplant or cardio vascular diseases financial assistance should be given to BPL families for availing treatment on the mainland.
21. No facilities of operation theatre are available in the North Andaman groups of islands. Also no specialists are posted there. In case of major illness patients have to be evacuated to Port Blair. There have been incidences where some patients have expired on route to Port Blair. Adequate facilities for operations and consultations with specialists should be made.
22. Though there is no known red light area in the Islands, 135 HIV cases had been reported in the islands. Six college going educated girls were also reported as HIV positive. This is a major concern and there is an urgent need for awareness of the population and training of workers working in aids control society.
23. It is reported that some of the person working in the stone quarries are suffering from Tuberculosis. Pollution control measures should be implemented and medical facilities should be extended to these workers.

CHAPTER - 9

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES

There is no separate department for the welfare and development of women and children in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. There is a Department of Social Welfare headed by a Secretary and Director which looks after issues relating to all vulnerable groups. Along with that there is a State Social Welfare Advisory Board headed by a Chairperson.

Since Andaman & Nicobar Islands are a Union Territory without legislature all policies of the Government of India and Central Acts are applicable here. The Five Year Plans and Annual Plans are formulated with the approval of the Planning Commission. Though no separate schemes are enunciated for women development, there are provisions for extending financial help to women under various schemes. The various incentives being offered under different sectors are as under.

Education

Incentives offered to **all students** are.

1. Free text books to students of BPL families as per the guidelines provided by the Government of India for Rural and Urban areas separately.
2. Hostel stipend to all Hostlers at the rate of Rs.300/- per month.
3. Cooked Mid-day Meal to the students of classes I to VIII and providing snacks to students of pre-primary classes.
4. Free travel concession to those students who attend schools situated at a distance of 4 Kms or more from their residence.
5. Scholarships and Financial Assistance to purchase higher studies on mainland.
6. Reservation of seats in professional and higher courses in various institution of the mainland.
7. A New Scheme viz "Enhancement of Merit of Student from rural and tribal area" has been introduced to provide quality education at reputed schools at Port Blair and in the medium of the students' choice with Free Boarding and Lodging facilities.
8. Efforts are being made to ensure that all girl students of classes I-VIII are provided with free text books under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

In case of **Disabled children** financial assistance is provided to all disabled children irrespective of their parent's income.

The incentives offered are:

- i) Transport Allowance @ Rs.50/- per month, Rs. 500/- per year
- ii) Stationary Allowance @ Rs.400/- per year.
- iii) Equipment Allowance @ Rs.400/- per year.
- iv) Uniform Allowance @ Rs.200/- per year.
- v) Escort allowance @ Rs.75/- per month Rs.750/- per year. Only disabled children 75% disability is offered this (Orthopedic students).
- vi) Reader allowance @ Rs.50/- P.M. Rs.500/- per year (only for Blind students)

For **Tribal students** all the above incentives are offered. In addition there is provision for

1. Free text books, stationery and Uniforms.
2. Attendance Scholarship @ Rs.15/- for all tribal girls.
3. Post Matric Scholarship to students studying in Mainland.
4. Post Matric Scholarship for class XI and XII.
5. Every year tribal girls are sent to Banasthali in Rajasthan for higher studies.

Health and Family Welfare

The schemes implemented under the health Sector for the direct benefit of Women are.

1. National Family Welfare programme.

The Family Planning Programme was started in this territory in 1965-66. It remained a fully voluntary and the main effort was to provide services like sterilization, IUD insertion, distribution of contraceptives, MTP, immunization, Antenatal, Intra-natal, Postnatal services and Prevention of Nutritional anemia. It was felt that health of women in the reproductive age group and children between the ages of 0-5 years is of crucial importance for effective tackling of the population growth which led to the change in approach from Family Planning to Family Welfare. The prime objective of the programme is to stabilize the population at a level consistent with the needs of National Development.

Following the International Conference on Population Development (ICPD) in Cairo in 1994, Reproductive Child Health (RCH) approach has been adopted in Family Welfare Programme. The concept of RCH is to provide need based, client centered, demand driven, high quality and integrated services to the beneficiaries.

The services provided under RCH programme are.

a) Essential obstetric

- Early Registration of pregnancies in the first 12 to 16 weeks of pregnancy.
- A minimum of three ante-natal check up by an Auxiliary Nurse cum Midwife
- Counseling, detection of complication and referred to FRU/PHC

b) 24 Hours Delivery service at Primary health Centres/Community Health Centres

- Round the clock delivery service is provided in all Primary Health Centres
- 20 additional Auxiliary Nurse cum Midwife and 50 sahayikas have been appointed.

c) MTP services

- Safe motherhood consultant appointed to provide safe abortion/MTP services in Primary Health Centres /Community Health Centres on fixed days.
- Medical Officers of Primary Health Centres trained in MTP is phased manner.
- Ante-Natal and Post natal services are provided in Primary Health Centres.

d) Dais Training

It aims to reduce maternal mortality, morbidity and neo natal mortality. It is proposed to train 100 dais to provide skilled assistance during delivery.

Achievements under Family Welfare Programme 1991-92 to August 2004

Year	Sterilization	IUD	Oral Pills User	CC Users
91-92	1909	1694	483	1859
92-93	1911	1805	606	2423
93-94	1832	1506	409	2578
94-95	1792	1603	921	2660
95-96	1666	1473	971	2878
96-97	1756	1266	896	1396
97-98	1960	1145	805	2544
98-99	1977	1202	873	2122
99-2000	1943	924	633	2019
2000-2001	1936	1139	910	1520
2001-02	2127	1145	1060	1581

Year	Sterilization	IUD	Oral Pills User	CC Users
2002-03	1845	1502	1570	2157
2003-04	1304	1715	1618	2275
2004-05	371	270	613	659

Source : Directorate of Health Services, Andaman and Nicobar Administration

2) National Maternal Benefit Scheme

National Maternal Benefit Scheme of the Government of India is being implemented in the Union Territory since 2001-2002. The scheme envisages grant of lump sum cash assistance of Rs.500/- per pregnancy to pregnant women below poverty line up to the first two live births if they are 19 years of age and above. The maternity benefit is disbursed in one installment, 12 to 18 weeks prior to delivery. For smooth implementation of the scheme wide publicity is made through local news papers and All India Radio. Under this scheme there have been 119 women beneficiaries though the target was 2000 women during 2003-04. It is implemented through Medical Officers of various Community Health Centres, District Hospitals apart from State Family Welfare Section of the Directorate of Health Services.

3) Planned Families by 2000 A.D

This scheme was introduced from January 1996 with the main objective to promote small family norm, to improve literacy among women, to delay the marriage age of women and to provide social security to women in old age. Girls between the age groups of 13-21 who are permanent residents of these islands or residing in this UT for more than 10 years are eligible for registration under the scheme. The scheme provides educational incentives of Rs.2000 after passing 10th standard, incentives of Rs. 2000 for delaying marriage up to 21 years and additional sum of Rs.500 for every additional year of delaying marriage beyond 21 years of age for four years.

Under the social security of women, at the age of 50 a women is entitled to get a sum of Rs.30,000 if she has two living children and Rs.65,000 if she has only one child or no child. Another component of the scheme is providing Rs.5000 to those eligible couples who accept permanent method of family planning after having two or less children. The target was 4000 beneficiaries in 2003-04

Planned Families by 2000 A.D - Beneficiaries in 2003-2004

Category	Beneficiaries
13 years category	632
Literacy Incentive	922
Delayed Marriage	499
Additional Delayed Marriage	1467
Total	3520

Source : Directorate of Health Services, Andaman and Nicobar Administration

Planned Families by 2000 A.D - Achievements since 1995-96

	13 years	18 years	21 years	Education Incentive	Delayed Marriage	Eligible Couple	Addl. Delayed Marriage
95-96	2791	742	-	-	-	183	-
96-97	3179	2994	1394	-	-	466	-
97-98	2266	854	22	-	-	1002	-
98-99	1823	993	-	625	441	1410	-
99-2000	1919	504	-	543	579	1316	-
2000-01	1757	-	-	1135	549	1049	-
2001-02	1528	-	-	939	623	-	-
2002-03	1253	-	-	1139	634	-	-
2003-04	632	-	-	922	499	-	1467
Up to 31 st July 2004	178	-	-	125	72	-	226
Total	17326	6087	1676	5428	3397	5426	1693

Source : Directorate of Health Services, Andaman and Nicobar Administration

4) Targeted Intervention among Female Sex Workers in Port Blair

This programme envisages

- STI/RTI treatment.
- Condom promotion
- Behaviour change through communication
- Referral services to Social Counseling and testing centres.

Under this scheme voluntary counseling and testing centre have been opened at 9 PHC's/CHC's/Hospitals with female counselor for the benefit of Women in A&N Islands. 250 girls were targeted and 150 girls benefited under this programme.

De Addiction

The Andaman and Nicobar Police in cooperation with various Departments have taken up the cause of de-addiction as alcoholism is a major social problem prevailing in the Islands.

"Muktangan" a renowned NGO based at Pune, working in the field of de-addiction was identified to offer consultancy services. As part of the programme, a de addiction centre was opened at G.B. Pant Hospital. A training camp for 40 volunteers was organized at Science Centre, Port Blair from 2nd

August, 2004 to 5th August, 2004. A ten day addiction treatment camp was held at PHC Ferrargunj where 27 addicts were given in house treatment.

As part of the campaign, various awareness programmes were held at Police Stations, Panchayati Raj Institutions, Educational Institutions etc. covering about 2000 persons till date.

TRIBAL WELFARE

Under the 9th Five Year Plan two schemes for welfare of S.T Women were started.

1. Vocational Training to Scheduled Tribe Women.

As per the recommendations of the National Commission for Women, a vocational training centre in computer education was initially set up at Car Nicobar for ST girls in the 9th Five Year Plan. Subsequently, it was decided to admit Scheduled Tribe Boys also. It is a one year course with 20 seats on payment of a stipend of Rs.300/- per month. 56 Scheduled Tribe candidates of which 35 were girls have completed their training so far. During the current financial year 2004-05, a batch of 18 tribal candidates comprising 13 girls are undergoing training.

2. Ashram for stay of Scheduled Tribe Women

As per the recommendation of the National Commission for Women, one Ashram for Nicobari Women at Kamorta Island in Nancowry Tehsil was taken up during the 9th Five Year Plan and completed during the current 10th Five Year Plan. It has been baptized as Mahila Vasati Grah and handed over to the Tribal Council, Nancowry for management. Another Ashram is being opened at Campbell Bay in Great Nicobar, for which four Type I quarters have been allotted by the Administration. The Tribal council, Pilobhabhi, Great Nicobar Island will manage this facility with grant-in-aid to be provided by the Administration. There is also to construct such Ashram at Car Nicobar and Katchal to provide accommodation to tribal women of far off and remote tribal villages when they visit the District Headquarters or sub-divisional head quarters.

Prevention Of Atrocities Against Scheduled Tribe Women

The incidence of atrocities against Scheduled Tribe women is negligible. There is one case of atrocity on Scheduled Tribe women pending trial in the court of the Sessions Judge, Port Blair however the measures taken to check and control atrocities on Scheduled Tribe women by the Non tribals are.

- 1) A special cell consisting of I.G.Police as Chairman, SP of both district and Director (T.W.) as members have been constituted to look after the cases of atrocities against Scheduled Tribes.
- 2) A Union Territory level vigilance and monitoring Committee comprising of the Lt. Governor as Chairman, M.P, Chief Secretary, IGP, Adhyaksh, Zilla Parishad, Chairpersons of 8 Tribal Councils of Nicobars District, Secretary (SW) as Members and Secretary (TW) as Member Secretary has been constituted to review the implementation of the provisions of Scheduled Caste & Scheduled Tribe (POA) Act, 1989.

Women Empowerment

a) Panchayats

As per the 73rd Amendment Act, 1992, the Andaman & Nicobar Islands (Panchayat) Regulation 1994 was promulgated in October 1995. At present there are 67 Gram Panchayats, 7 Panchayat Samities and 1 Zilla Parishad. As per the Panchayat Regulation 1994 women are actively participating in Local Self Government 1/3rd of the total seats are reserved for women in all 3 tiers. In the five year tenure of Zilla Parishad the first and third year are reserved for Women and the rest are open. The first General Elections to PRIs were held in September 1995 and the second in September 2000. As the Panchayat Regulation does not cover the tribal areas there are no tribal representatives on it. The Women representation in PRI's is as under

Gram Panchayat Members	-	238
Pradhans	-	23
Samiti Members	-	25
Zilla Parishad Members	-	10

As separate training facilities are not available in the Islands training is imparted to members either in collaboration with training institutes on the mainland or Departments of the Administration.

b) Municipal Council

As per the 74th Amendment Act the Port Blair Municipal Council held elections in September 2000. 6 women were elected to the Council. The First year of the 5 year term is reserved for women.

Police and Jail

In order to improve the status of women and to protect their values, the following steps have been taken by the A&N Police.

- A Committee comprising the S.P (Distt.) as Chairman, Director of Education, Medical Superintendent of G.B, Pant Hospital, Psychiatrist of G.B Pant Hospital, Assistant Public Prosecutor, Chairman Social Welfare Advisory Board, and Sub-Divisional Magistrate was formed.
- The Women Police Officers fully equipped with policing infrastructure are adequately posted in all the Police Stations to deal with the women of all age groups.
- To ameliorate the problems of the women a Women Cell namely "All Women Police Station" exclusively managed by women Police personnel has been established at Police Station Aberdeen (Port Blair) which deals with problems related to torture, harassment of women by husband or in-laws, family disputes, cruelty and violence against women, dowry disputes etc.
- A Separate Register is maintained of Criminal Cases of Kidnapped and Missing Minor Girls in all Police Stations and all Police Out Posts. All cases of kidnapped and missing girls are treated as a Special Report Case.

Jail

There is a District Jail with a separate capacity of 30 female inmates. There are 4 rooms with attached toilet and bath and 500 sq. mtrs. open space in front of their rooms available with a vocational training centre meant only for women prisoners. They have their separate kitchen. Medical facilities are available within the Jail premises and in case of serious illness the inmates are shifted to G.B. Pant Hospital. Adult Education classes are held. Vocational training in Dress Designing and Embroidery is imparted to the inmates and the wages so earned are credited to them in their bank account which forms part of their rehabilitation after release from the Jail. Wages are paid at the rate of Rs.24/- per day. They are allowed access to TV/Radio, Yoga, Religious Discourses, and Library etc.

A complaint box is provided to them and a mobile complaint box is also provided. Periodic direct meetings with Senior Officers are also held.

Rural Development

1) Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY)

This is a centrally sponsored scheme. The main objective of the programme is to provide additional Wage employment in the rural areas and also food security, alongside the creation of durable community assets and infrastructure developments. It is available for all rural poor (BPL and APL) who are in need of wage employment and are willing to take up manual or unskilled work in and around his or her habitation. However preference is given to poorest among poor. 7095 mandays have been envisaged under this scheme.

2) Indira Awaas Yojana

The objective of this scheme is to construct/upgrade houses for Below Poverty line rural households. In this assistance has been given for 449 houses in the name of wife and husband for 368 new houses and 81 up gradations.

3) Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana

The objective is to bring the assisted poor families above the poverty line by organizing them into Self Help Groups, their training and capacity building and provision of income generating assets through Bank Credit and Government subsidy. Under this scheme in 2003-2004 two groups of 9 women benefited. Since 1999 – 2000 33 groups of 143 women have benefited.

SOCIAL WELFARE

I. Financial Assistance for Self – Employment/Medical Treatment/ Purchase of Aids/Appliances @ Rs. 3000/-per head one time grant once in three years

Aims and Objectives : -

- (a) To provide financial help to the physically handicapped persons for rehabilitations, purchase of aids/ appliances and medical treatment at mainland hospitals.

- (b) To reduce the dependence of physically handicapped persons on other members of the family for daily routine work and also to improve their mobility and locomotion.
- (c) To restore in them the feeling of self confidence and self respect.

Eligibility: -

- (a) The permanent residents of the Union Territory of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands or domicile of this Island who have resided in this territory for a period of not less than 10 years at the time of making the application.
- (b) Persons who are in need of financial help for rehabilitation or artificial aids, gadgets or tools or medical treatment to mainland hospital to reduce the effect of their handicap, recommended by a qualified doctor of government hospital for such assistance.
- (c) Persons who are unemployed are eligible for such assistance.
- (d) Persons who are not receiving any assistance from any government / semi-government / local bodies.

	Year	Total No. of Beneficiaries	Male	Female
01.	2000-2001	40 Persons	24	16
02.	2001-2002	63 Persons	40	23
03.	2002-2003	229 Persons	140	89
04.	2003-2004	129 Persons	80	49
05.	2004-2005	113 Persons	70	43
	TOTAL	574 Persons	354	220

II. Scholarship and Transport Allowances to the handicapped students. The details of assistance given as under :-

Eligibility :

- (a) Students' up to 10th class @ Rs.250/- per month.
- (b) Students studying 11th & 12th class @ Rs.300/-per month.
- (c) Students studying in Govt. College Bachelor Degree @ Rs. 400/- PM.
- (d) Post Graduate Students of B.Ed @ Rs. 400/- p.m.
- (e) Students of TTI, ITI, Polytechnic @ Rs. 400/- p.m.
- (f) Students studying in mainland of MBBS, Engineering, Agriculture, MBA Post graduation @ Rs. 750/- PM
- (g) Students of graduate, post graduate and Diploma courses @ Rs. 750/- p.m.

Sl.No.	Year	Total No. of Beneficiaries	Male	Female
01.	1998-1999	12 Persons	5	7
02.	1999-2000	1 Persons	1	0
03.	2000-2001	3 Persons	1	2
04.	2001-2002	1 Persons	0	1
05.	2002-2003	9 Persons	7	2
06.	2003-2004	6 Persons	3	3
	TOTAL	32 Persons	17	15

III. Permanently disabled allowance to the Permanently Disabled Person having 100% disability @ Rs. 350/- per month

Aim:

- (i) The aim of the scheme of assistance is to provide financial allowances to the permanently disabled persons by way or a monthly allowance thus reducing their dependence on the other members of their family for their maintenance.
- (ii) To restore in them the feeling of self confidence and self respect.

Eligibility: -

- (i) Persons who are permanent residents of the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands or are domiciled and have resided in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands for more than 10 years at the time of making the application. A certificate in this respect is to be obtained from Revenue Authority.
- (ii) Persons who are unemployed and are having permanent disability (100% disability) and should be certified by the Government Medical Board.
- (iii) Persons who are in receipt of scholarship, allowance or any other assistance from Govt. / local bodies will not be eligible for getting financial allowance under the scheme.
- (iv) Persons of any age, sex are entitled for the allowance.

Sl.No.	Year	Total No. of Beneficiaries	Male	Female
01.	2001-2002	88 Persons	50	38
02.	2002-2003	145 Persons	90	55
03.	2003-2004	180 Persons	120	60
04.	2004-2005	195 Persons	70	125
	TOTAL	608 Persons	330	278

IV. Unemployment Allowance to the unemployed handicapped persons @ Rs.100/- per month to the persons between the age of 18 to 35 years

Aim: -

- (i) The aim of this scheme is to provide financial help to physically handicapped unemployed persons by way of a monthly allowance, thus reducing their dependence on the other members of the family for their maintenance.
- (ii) To restore in them the feeling of self- confidence and self respect.

Eligibility: -

- (i) Persons who are permanent residents of the Union Territory of Andaman an Nicobar islands or are domiciled and have resided in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands for more than 10 years at this time of making an application . A certificate in this respect is to be obtained from Revenue Authority.
- (ii) Persons who are registered in the local employment exchange since last two years but have not secured any employment till the date of making of an application.
- (iii) The physical infirmity of the persons does not fall below 40, and should be certified by the Medical Board.
- (iv) Persons who are in receipt of scholarships or any assistance from Administration / local bodies will not be eligible for unemployed allowance.
- (v) Persons who are unemployed but have not attained the age of 35 years are eligible.
- (vi) Persons who are registered in the local employment exchange but containing study are not eligible.

Sl.No.	Year	Total No. of Beneficiaries	Male	Female
01.	2001-2002	83 Persons	33	50
02.	2002-2003	103 Persons	70	33
03.	2003-2004	102 Persons	60	42
04.	2004-2005	112 Persons	70	42
	TOTAL	400 Persons	233	167

V. Old Age Pension @ Rs. 100/- P.M to the Persons above Sixty years

Eligibility : -

- (i) Only a person who has attained the age of 60 years.

- (ii) A person having an income not exceeding Rs. 60/- P.M from all sources including income from the property. If any owned, shall also be deemed to be a destitute for the purpose of this sub-rule.
- (iii) Only those who are domiciled in the Union Territory of A&N Islands having resided in this Territory for not less than 5 years immediately preceding the date of application will be eligible for financial assistance under the scheme.

Sl.No.	Year	Total No. of Beneficiaries	Male	Female
1	2004-05	1412	747	665

National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS)

The National Assistance Programme is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme has come into force w.e.f 15th August 1995. The National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) has three components, only the NOAPS for the person of 65 years of age and above are eligible to get Pension under this scheme @ 75/- PM.

Eligibility:-

- a) The applicant male or female shall be 65 years or above.
- b) The applicant must be a destitute in the sense of having little or no regular sources of income or through financial support from family members or other sources.
- c) The amount of Old Age pension is Rs. 75/- Per month.

Sl.No.	Year	Total No. of Beneficiaries	Male	Female
1	2004-05	443	363	180

CHAPTER - 10

SUMMING UP

The Human Development Report, 2001 placed the Andaman and Nicobar Islands first in the Gender Disparity Index. The attainment of women in respect to men is 85%. The position of women in the territory may be better than their counterparts in the other areas but there is scope for better attainment. A large number of problems here are due to the peculiar location of the territory and the problems of connectivity. Where on the one hand the need to adhere to social rituals and traditions of parent communities which are detrimental to the society are absent, on the other hand the feeling of isolation leads to other problems. Being a territory with a limited population the delivery of education and health facilities even in remote islands with a very small population has been possible. But there are some issues which will necessitate intervention for a better attainment of and for women.

1. The decreasing decadal growth rate in the Islands is a good sign as it will reduce the pressure on the fragile ecology of the islands, but the area which could be of concern is Diglipur Tehsil which has grown at the rate of 80% in the 1991-2001 decade. This area needs to be kept under vigil because undue pressure on land and services could lead to women being rendered unemployed in the area. 65% female workers in Diglipur Tehsil are cultivators and a high influx of males could easily affect their employment. Already there is negative growth of female employment in rural areas.
2. The territory ranks high in female literacy rate. It is 75.20%. However the rural gender gap in literacy is as high as 11.8% and the educational attainment of 60% of its literate females are only primary or below primary. Rate of literacy should not be the only criteria for evaluating the attainment of women. Their educational status cannot be overlooked if they are to become productive members of society. One reason for girl students not attending schools could be lack of basic infrastructure which is lacking in not present in all schools. At Secondary and Sr. Secondary levels this becomes a very important consideration in retaining girls in schools.
3. The proportion of women employed in the tertiary sector is decreasing. Though 75.3% of the work force is engaged in the tertiary sector the proportion of females engaged in the tertiary sector has gone down from 80.63% to 62.8% from 1991-2001. In an area which is ecologically fragile and where the scope in traditional primary sector and manufacturing sector is limited, the scope for employment is visible only in areas like Information Technology, industry tourism and High value Agriculture and Fisheries. All these areas are skill intensive. The educational

status of women needs to be enhanced to enable them to enter these core development areas identified by the Island Development Authority.

4. Though there are a fairly large number of women employees in the Government service the number who are in decision making capacity are far and few. At present the second rung of officers is from the Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar, Lakshadweep and Diu, Daman and Dadra Nagar Haveli Civil Services, whose officers at best spend only two to three years in the Islands. Also very few women from this service ever serve in this territory. Therefore there is a virtual gap in female participation as Directors of Departments or Secretaries in the Administration that is the real decision making levels. The participation of local females in the decision making hierarchies of the Administration would be possible when a State service is established for the Islands and local girls have an opportunity and are encouraged to join it.
5. One important constituent of the society in the Islands are the tribal communities. Their welfare and growth is imperative for their survival. The population, growth and sex ratio of the Nicobarese is reasonable. However the position of the other tribes is not so satisfactory. The low sex-ratio in the 0-10 age group among the primitive tribes is an area of concern. If a positive sex ratio is not maintained it could also lead to their extinction due to their miniscule numbers.
6. The rising incidence of alcoholism is not good for the society. Alcoholism is a cause for domestic violence and affects women adversely. The fact that women and children are also involved in bootlegging is not a good sign. The de-addiction programmes stated by the Administration are the need of the hour.
7. The territory ranks second in suicide in India. Women contributed about 37% of all total suicides in the last five years. In 53% of the cases the reason for suicide is not clear; it is reported as either causes not known or other causes. This needs to be researched more thoroughly and a link if any to the isolation factor needs to be established.
8. Though there are no figures available on polygamy and desertion of women by men from the mainland, the fact that the territory has more divorced and separated females than males points to the fact that the males from the mainland could be indulging in polygamous relationships and consequent desertions. There is need to curb such a trend and make administrative and legal provisions if necessary.
9. Non availability of family courts denies a woman her rights leaving her with two options either to travel to the mainland where such courts exist or not to raise her voice. She often opts for the latter choice because it takes time and money to reach the mainland and fight her case. The matter needs to be looked into so that justice is not denied to the affected women and family disputes get resolved in the Family Courts expeditiously.

**REPORT OF THE VISIT OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN
TO THE UNION TERRITORY OF ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS
FROM 19TH TO 20TH AUGUST, 2004**

The National Commission for Women visited the Andaman and Nicobar Islands from 19th to 20th August, 2004 to evaluate the status of development of women in the Union Territory. The team was headed by Dr. Poornima Advani Chairperson NCW. She was accompanied by Mrs Baby Rani Maurya and Miss Anusuiya Uike Members NCW. The team held an interactive session with the NGO's, Women Activists, Lawyers, elected representatives on the 19th August, 2004.

The issues raised by the **NGO's Women Activists etc** during the interactive session were as follows

1. There are a large number of cases of polygamy by males coming to the Islands from the mainland. No action can be initiated against them because of lack of proof. A number of women have been abandoned by such males even after they have had children.
2. It was reported that there is a large incidence of alcoholism in the Islands. Liquor is easily available, though the orders regulating the timing of the shops including wine shops exist. Alcoholism has ruined mainly the lives of lower and middle class families. The women cell in the police department should be properly activated and lawyers should be given an opportunity to come and undertake counseling and re-conciliation work there.

A number of wine shops have been opened by ANIIDCO (Andaman & Nicobar Island Integrated Development Corporation) within residential areas or in the vicinity of schools. The Supreme Court guidelines on the above are not being strictly followed. ANIIDCO should not be given licenses for these wine shops.

3. Facilities to the handicapped should be enhanced. Posts reserved for handicapped/persons with disability should be filled.
4. The islands are connected to the mainland only through and sea. While concessional rates are available to the islanders on the ships no such facilities are extended for the air travel. All government servants are entitled for free sea passenger to the mainland and large number of them avail this facility by paying the difference between the sea fare and the air fare. This facility however is not available on reaching the age of superannuation. The senior citizen

facilities are only extended by the Indian Airlines and other air services on attaining the age of 65 years. Therefore women belonging to the islands and possessing islander identity card may be declared Senior citizens to and from Port Blair for the purposes of air travel at the age of 60.

5. It was reported that there is a high incidence of suicide cases in the islands which may be due to the isolation caused by the location of the islands. It was also felt that it is superimposed with polygamy / desertion. In the absence of the counseling the problems get aggravated leading to depression and suicide.
6. Widow and old age pension should be disbursed through panchayats obviating the need of traveling long distances by the beneficiaries to collect the same.
7. TA & DA and accommodation facilities may be provided to the social workers who are coming to Port Blair on duty.
8. A Commission for Women may be set up.
9. Self Help Groups are facing a problem in marketing their produce because of insufficient demand in the islands. Steps should be taken to ensure that these groups can remain economically viable.
10. Identity card for President and executive members of mahila mandals for facilitating interaction with officials may be issued.
11. There is a need for re-Survey of BPL families so that beneficiaries of old age and widow pensions could be identified.
12. Patta should be issued in the joint name of both husband & wife so that the husband is not in a position to dispose off the property adversely affecting the women.
13. Many times FIRs relating against women are not registered. Though two lady constables have been posted in all police stations of the A&N Islands, there is need for gender sensitization police forces.
14. Police have not made any head way in Murder cases of Mrs. Vasantha & Sharada Devi.
15. There should be reservation of seats for girls for professional courses in the A&N quota in various colleges on the mainland.
16. Teachers should not be posted and transferred between the academic year.
17. Disparity in wages in quarry for men and women should be same for the same work.
18. Administration should ensure that as far as possible that husband and wife are posted in the same place. Retention of Government accommodation at last place of posting may be allowed. Transfers as per transfer policy covering all zones should be implemented.

19. Complaint committee to deal with sexual harassment at work place does not have third party representation. The committee does not meet regularly.
20. School buses were operated by the State Transport Services 10-12 years back. These may be restarted.
21. As the islands have limited medical facilities to treat major illness financial assistance should be given to BPL families for availing treatment on the mainland.
22. Adequate facilities for operations and consultations with specialists should be made in North Andaman.
23. Some of the workers of the stone quarries are suffering from Tuberculosis.
24. An incentives of Rs. 2000/- is being given on the birth of a female child among the Onge tribe. This may be enhanced to encourage the numbers of the tribe to grow.

In the meeting with the Officers of the Andaman and Nicobar Administration Dr. Poornima Advani gave a brief sketch of the activities of the Commission. She further stated that the Commission is a statutory body established under National Commission for Women Act 1990 is mandated to evaluate the progress of Development of Women in the states and UT's in the country. Further the Commission has also been assigned the function of participating in socio-economic development of the women in the country. She directed that it is mandatory for the government to inform National Commission for Women in all the policy matters concerning women and accordingly she at her level has been writing to the various governments that non consultation with the Commission in such matters is violation of the Act. Thereafter the discussion centered round the points which had emerged during the meeting held with the NGO's, Activists, Sarpanches etc. on 19-8-2004. The directions of the Commission on these issues were:

- A. Registration of marriages should be made compulsory to curtail polygamy/polyandry and also enable the administration to maintain data bank on the antecedents of males to trace them in case of desertion. As the administration does not have legislative powers, till the enactment of a fresh law making registration of marriage compulsory or the amendment of the existing act the problem of polygamy may be publicized. The awareness to register under the Hindu Marriage Act or Special Marriage Act may be created among the women through anganwadi workers, colleges etc.
- B. The Commission suggested that while prosecuting the cases of illicit sale of liquor if the charges are proved, the guilty should not be allowed to escape with a monetary fine but a sentence of imprisonment should be imposed so that it acts as a deterrent and has a negative impact on others. It was also decided that one of the outlets of ANIIDCO which was relocated 6-7 months ago in Nayagaon would be relocated in a place away from the residential area in consonance with the extant instructions of the Supreme Court decision on the matter.

- C. There are a number of schemes for the disabled with the Administration. The number of women who have benefited under them may be made available to the Commission.
- D. It was suggested that women belonging to the islands and possessing islander identity card may be declared Senior citizens to and from Port Blair for the purposes of air travel at the age of 60.
- E. In the absence of the special trauma counseling the problems in the Islands get aggravated leading to depression and suicide. The Commission directed that probable suicide cases must receive good trauma counseling. The Administration should take active measures to prevent high incidence of suicide by exploring the possibilities for establishing help lines for potential suicide cases. It was important to catch the menace at the early stage and de-addiction centres established by the Administration are positive steps towards it. More positive steps should be taken especially in the isolated islands and interior areas.
- F. The Commission supported the decentralized disbursement of Pension.
- G. Poor connectivity between the Islands necessitated the payment of TA & DA to social workers who visit Port Blair on duty and accommodation facilities should be provided for women when they visit the capital. This may or may not be in connection with any official duty.
- H. A statutory Commission for Women may be set up on the lines of the National Commission for Women. The Act for setting up of a Commission may be enacted and the matter may be taken up with the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- I. Steps should be taken to ensure that The Self Help Groups remain economically viable.
- J. Identity cards may be issued to bestow a medium of identification to Presidents of Mahila Mandals.
- K. The Commission was of the view that re- survey of BPL Families should be undertaken. In view of the special circumstances of the Islands it should be ensured that parameters set by Ministry of Rural Development for identification of BPL families do not adversely affect the women. In such a case the matter may be taken up with the Ministry and the National Commission For Women may be informed.
- L. The Commission recommended issue of joint Patta in cases allotment of land.
- M. The Commission was of the view that in some cases FIRs are not registered because people are unaware that an action could constitute an offense under the law. It is therefore important that awareness among women is created that offenses like multiple marriages are an offence under the Cr.PC and IPC. In cases of attempted suicide videography of dying declaration should be compulsory which will help in identifying the culprits and can be used as evidence at the stage of court hearings.

- N. Culprits in these cases should be traced and action should be taken against them.
- O. As the islands do not have professional colleges the Govt. of India has allocated seats in the professional colleges in the mainland which are allotted according to merit and according to categories to which the applicants belongs. The Commission desired that seats for girls may be reserved separately from the above allotment.
- P. Teachers should not be posted and transferred between the academic year especially teachers teaching higher classes as this adversely affects the studies of the students.
- Q. The Commission directed that disparity in wages should be ended. Minimum Wages Act and the Equitable Wages Act should be enforced.
- R. The Commission desired that that as far as possible husband and wife are posted in the same place. Retention of Government accommodation at last place of posting may be allowed and Transfers as per transfer policy covering all zones should be implemented. This would ensure least disturbances to families.
- S. The Commission observed that Complaint committee to deal with sexual harassment at work place does not have third party representation and the committee does not meet regularly.
- T. The Administration may consider restarting of school buses in areas where the school was not in walking distances.
- U. Whatever facilities possible the Administration should extend all medical facilities to the poor families.
- V. The matter of health status of the five primitive tribes in the islands was discussed. Andaman Adim Janjati Vikas Samiti formulates and implements schemes for the benefit of primitive tribes. It was desired that a scientific study to evaluate their decreasing numbers may be conducted. An expert Committee has been formulated consisting of 7 anthropologists to study the Onge tribe. As the expert committee does not have female representation, the Commission desired that the committee be reconstituted with adequate female representatives.
- W. The Islands have no family court. As per the norms a population of 10 lakhs is required for opening a family court. The Commission desired that a family court be constituted even if it required diluting the norms. It was informed that the District Judge also functions as a family court. However no counselors are attached with the judge. The Commission desired that a counselor of repute may be appointed with the District Judge till a family court is set up.
- X. Under the Dowry Prohibition Act and Rules framed thereunder the Director social welfare has been notified as the Dowry Prohibition Officer has been declared as the Dowry Prohibition Officer. It was therefore desired by the Commission that the information about the same may be disseminated to the public through self help groups, angawadis and through the media.

- Y. The problem of unemployment has increased in the islands due to closure of wood based industries consequent upon the Supreme Court orders dated 7th May 2002. As per the orders all wood based industries were closed by 31st March 2003. This displaced 500 female workers. The Administration may formulate a special scheme for training and employment of these displaced female workers.
- Z. Though there is no special reservation for women in the Administration age relaxation of 5 years is extended to female applicants. They are eligible till the age of 37 years as against an age of 32 years for male employees.
- AA. The shelter for destitute women being built under the SWADHAR scheme is a very good gesture. However the Commission felt that the definition of destitute women should be enunciated keeping in mind the special conditions of the islands so that abandoned women with inadequate income are not deprived of the benefits under the scheme.

On the above issues the **Andaman and Nicobar Administration's** views were as follows

1. Chief Secretary highlighted that the Administration was governed by Central Acts and rules framed thereunder by the Central Government and they did not have any legislative power to formulate any policies of their own. Therefore, in view of the peculiar situation prevailing in the islands because of its geographical and socio-economic conditions the problems of polygamy/ desertions would be brought to the notice of the Central Government for taking appropriate action to legislate. For this purpose a reference to the Ministry of Home Affairs would be made at the administrative level. Till the enactment of a fresh law making registration of marriage compulsory or the amendment of the existing act the problem of polygamy would be publicized. The awareness to register under the Hindu Marriage Act or Special Marriage Act would be created among the women through workers anganwadis, colleges etc.
2. It was noted that Lt. Governor was taking a keen interest in holding de-addiction camps with a view to curtail the menace of alcoholism. It emerged that the Administration was aware of the sale of illicit liquor. The Administration would press for a sentence of imprisonment in excise violation cases so that it acts as a deterrent and has a negative impact on others. It was also decided that one of the outlets of ANIIDCO which was relocated 6-7 months ago in Nayagaon would be relocated in a place away from the residential area in consonance with the extant instructions of the Supreme Court decision on the matter.
3. The Administration has schemes under which Rs.350/- month is given to the persons with 100% disability and assistance of Rs. 100/- month is given to unemployed disabled. The assistance is also given to disabled girls to the tune of Rs. 3000/- as a lumpsum for traveling to the mainland in search of employment. The exact number of women who have benefited under the schemes would be made available to the Commission.

4. It was confirmed that the Indian Airlines is already extended the facilities since the last couple of months.
5. This is a major concern for the Administration. It was decided that probable suicide cases must receive good trauma counseling. The Administration would take active measures to prevent the high incidence of suicide cases by exploring the possibilities for establishing help lines for potential cases. It is important to catch the menace at an early stage and de-addiction centres established by the Administration are positive steps towards it. More positive steps would be taken especially in the isolated islands and interior areas. The Administration would also explore the Govt. of India's schemes for funding and pattern of implementation.
6. Pensions at present are disbursed through Mukya Sevikas at the Angawadis and CDPO's of Social Welfare Department. It is already decentralized and it would serve no purpose in transferring their disbursement through the panchayats.
7. The Administration agreed to look into the matter of payment of TA /DA and accommodation for female social workers on duty to Port Blair and make adequate provisions as per the rules.
8. The matter for establishing a statutory Commission for Women on the lines of the National Commission for Women is already under consideration.
9. There is not much marketable surplus for the Self Help Groups. The products are mostly absorbed in the local market. There may be some cases in the outer islands which may not be able to sell their produce in the local market. However under the SWADHAR scheme a shelter for destitute women is being built. It was felt that the definition of destitute women should be enunciated keeping in mind the special conditions of the islands so that abandoned women with inadequate income are not deprived of the benefits under the scheme.
10. The Dy. Commissioner's office issues Identity cards to woman sarpanchs, However the Social Welfare Advisory Board may take a view about issuing such identity cards to Presidents of Mahila Mandals.
11. Administration would try and create awareness about the offence of multiple marriage and its consequences.
12. The Commission was informed that the last BPL survey was held in 1997. The Administration has carried out a fresh survey on the basis of the parameters evolved by Ministry of Rural Development. However, the data so obtained has not been published so far.
13. The recommendation of the Commission for giving joint pattas was accepted by the Administration. However it was observed that at this stage the Administration has not much revenue land for allotments but the Commission was assured that the Administration would ensure that whenever any allotment in future is made joint pattas would be issued.

14. The murder cases of Smt. Vasantha & Smt. Sharada Devi have already been transferred to CBI six months back. A Forensic Laboratory has been opened by the Police last year. There are plans to expand its functioning in the near future.
15. In the merit lists for professional colleges girls top the lists and 50% of the seats are being bagged by girls. The need for any further reservation was therefore not felt.
16. The policy for teachers posting is being followed as far as possible subject to vacancy position.
17. The minimum wages have been notified for different categories as per the notification dated 19th June 2003. There is no discrimination against women in these prescribed wages.
18. It was decided that the complaint committee to deal with sexual harassment at work place would be reconstituted including the third party/ NGO.
19. The Administration is paying Rs. 4/- per student per day as bus fare where the school was not within walking distance.
20. Under the National Illness Assistance Fund poor families are given financial assistance to seek medical aid on the mainland. As the BPL list has not been notified by the Administration a certificate from the Tehsildar suffices.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS IN THE MEETING OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR WOMEN WITH OFFICERS OF THE ADMINISTRATION

National Commission for Women

1. Dr. Poonima Advani, Chairperson, National Commission for Women
2. Mrs. Baby Rani Maurya, Member, National Commission for Women
3. Ms. Anusuiya Uike, Member, National Commission for Women
4. Mr. H. Kumar, Sr. Research Associate, NCW
5. Mrs. Anuradha S. Chagti, Research Advisor, NCW
6. Mrs. Pearl Devdas, Rapporteur, NCW

Andaman and Nicobar Admn.

1. Mr. Anshu Prakash, Chief Secretary (I/C) & Secy (Social Welfare)
2. Mr. Naresh Kumar, Commr (PWD & Shipping)
3. Mr. S. S. Chaudhary, Chief Conservator of Forests
4. Mr. Vasudev Rao, DIG, A&N Police
5. Mr. Puneet Goel, Secy (Finance)
6. Mr. A. Anbarasu, Secy (Tourism/Labour)
7. Mr. Uddipta Ray, Secy (Education)
8. Mr. R.P. Pal, Secy (Civil Supplies)
9. Mr. A.K. Raha, Secy (Law)
10. Mr. Gyanesh Bharati, Deputy Comm. (Andamans)
11. Mr. A.K. Singh, S.P. (Andamans)
12. Mr. V.K. Jha, Spl. Secy (Perl./Vig)
13. Mr. G.C. Khattar, Chief Engineer
14. Dr. Namita Ali, Director Health Services
15. Mr. S.A. Awaradi, Director Tribal Welfare & Panchayat
16. Mr. Tarsem Kumar, Supdt. Jail
17. Mr. C. Uday Kumar, Director Social Welfare
18. Mr. Rama Rao, Labour Commr.
19. Mr. Basu Kumar, Secy, PBMC
20. Mr. C. M. Singh, CEO, Zilla Parishad
21. Mr. Krishnamurty, Dy. Supdt. Jail
22. Mrs Pritam Nanda, Chairperson, Social Welfare Advisory Board

SANE NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2003

A Tale of Two Cities

Once upon a time, there were two cities called Phu and Por, separated by a narrow stretch of sea.

The city of Phu was an apparently prosperous one, with a mighty King and equally powerful followers, where entertainment and luxury out-ruled other issues, where beaches and seas attracted tourists from all over the world, and where drugs and flesh-trade was rampant, under the purposeful ignorance of the mighty ruler, where the housewives of powerful people were rewarded for being dutiful and caring of their husbands and other women were considered as potential means of earning profit.

As the days went by, the King of prosperous Phu struck upon a wonderful idea. He was eying the neighboring city of Por, still pristine in its beauty. He planned twinning the city of Phu with Por. This, he thought, would enhance trade and flow of tourists to the new territory enriching Phu. But alas! Little did the king of Por and his followers think about the consequence of this royal wish. Supported by a few like-minded people from the city of Por, the twinning of the two cities went about.

There was a miraculous profit in tourism, lots of revenue flowing in, the twin city of Phu-Por was now known worldwide. There were thousands of people coming in. The kings of the two cities were more than happy. And the years went by like this.

But not far behind the celebrations, sat the Department of Health of the city of Por, with their heads in their hands. The cases of dreaded diseases like AIDS shot up at an alarming rate. The local culture of the simple Por people degenerated.

The Law keepers of the Islands raised their hands in surrender to the increasing rates of prostitution and drug peddling. They were at a loss in finding ways to curb crime.

The virgin beaches lost their beauty, the environmentalists gave up, the indigenous tribes vanished, the island became a concrete jungle with innumerable bill boards and advertising placards (the only remnants of wood!) screaming out to the tourists inviting them for entertainment of all sorts.

Years flew by and the people stopped coming to Por. The fear of losing their lives to deadly diseases, the idea of visiting a place devoid of any natural beauty or mystery, did not seem to interest them anymore.

Thus today the twinned cities of Phu-Por lay idle, with their once prosperous kings, like our elders say, sit old and tired today.

Only if the cities had realized that this idea of twinning of the cities was, in the words of the great Mahatma Gandhi, 'a post-dated cheque on a crashing bank'!

Thus ends the tale of two cities, the cities that stand as an example of cardinal folly, of excessive greed and utter mismanagement. The Por people remember the King of Por as one 'whose honour rooted in dishonour stood and faith unfaithful kept him falsely true.'

The Genesis of Twinning

The Chief Secretary A&N Administration Shri Pradeep Singh IAS, had written to the Port Blair Municipal council to establish sister city relationship between Port Blair & Phuket. His letter said, "The aim of this scheme is for twinning the city of Port Blair with the city of Phuket to promote international understanding and strengthening relationship between Port Blair and Phuket through tourism, education and culture, urban development, solid waste management, commerce and investment. The twinning of the cities shall benefit the citizens of Port Blair through exchanges, studies towards solving problems being faced by Port Blair due to rapid urbanization and sustainable development..."

In response to the Chief Secretary's proposal, the Port Blair Municipal Council on September 3, 2003 passed a resolution that said, "The Port Blair Municipal Council is pleased to the request of the Chief Secretary, A&N Islands for twinning the city of Port Blair with Phuket in Thailand to establish a bond of friendship, understanding, goodwill through tourism education, culture, urban development, solid waste management and investments.

The Council also resolved to keep an initial budgetary provision of Rs. 30 Lakhs in the Annual Plan for the year 2003-04 to make the twinning exercise and its implementation a success."

Vending Sex: an alternative model

The importance of carnal desires were never overlooked in our country. Never so in our tradition. We descend from an era where desire of flesh was accepted up-front, not pushed in a dark corner. It was nothing to be ashamed of. Look at Konark, Khajuraho and Kamasutra. Neither were the women. The women were treated as equals. Probably that was the reason the need for women empowerment and women liberalization were never felt. The equality of sex needed no proof. Each had its own entity, with their respective responsibilities and duties. Never did one try to impinge the other.

We have descended from people who saw many great empires. The Maurya was one such. We have our own gurus like Kautilya (ca. 300 BC) - the great scholar in politics, diplomacy and sociology,

whose intrigues and political strategies are still being followed today. With a tradition as rich as this, we do not have to depend on models practised in foreign nations.

Kautilya recognized that carnal desire in man was there from the day that the proverbial Adam and Eve partook the proverbial fruit of knowledge. He did not hesitate to call a spade a spade. Unlike the modern 'civilized' society that turns a blind eye to the craving for sex and sweeps the dirt under the carpet to let it accumulate, Kautilya attacked it head on and came up with pragmatic solutions.

While many tribal societies of the world whether in Samoa, in the Indian North-East or Madhya Pradesh and even the Nicobars nearer at home, had given social acceptance, the mainstream Indians and the 'mainstream civilized people in most of the world' had chosen to remain silent on the issue. The consequence of such a hypocritical attitude is that we think of sex, we dream of sex, but we choose not to discuss it openly and not even to acknowledge that our lust for sex exists. Look at any advertisement for any product in our society. Don't most of these tickle our sexual instincts and try to capitalize on it?

Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, our beloved Prime Minister has sometimes been compared to Kautilya for his diplomatic skills. Before borrowing a model from foreign countries that is alien to the Indian ethos, we urge him to kindly consider the home grown model prescribed by Chanakya. We will find that Kautilya had anticipated the problems encountered even by the 21st Century societies and had proposed remedies for it.

Instead of trying to follow an exotic prescription, we urge the respected Prime Minister to use the Kautilyan remedy and even export it to the other countries including Thailand who are plagued by the problems generated by their model.

Let us try to remember that 3 millenniums ago Kautilya had recommended appointment of a Chief Controller of Entertainment by the State to oversee, supervise and Control the sex industry for recreation. Thailand is debating on legalization prostitution only now.

It was only in 1969 that Desmond Morris classified human sexual behaviour in ten different functional categories, namely procreation sex, pair formation sex, pair maintenance sex, physiological sex, exploratory sex, self rewarding sex, occupational sex, tranquilizing sex, commercial sex and status sex. Kautilya was familiar with Vatsayana even then.

Chanakya, named Kautilya because of his sophisticated intellect, met the challenge boldly and prescribed remedies that would satisfy the primal passions of the people while benefiting the state, the vendors and the consumers. Let us now take a look at Kautilya's prescription.

Providing sexual entertainment to the public using prostitutes was an activity strictly controlled by the State. The state had to bear the expenditure for training courtesans, prostitutes and actresses. A beautiful, young and talented woman, whether a member of the courtesan family or not, was appointed as the Head of the brothel with a deputy under her. She was given a grant to take care of

the expenses. If the Head of the brothel goes away or dies, her daughter or sister takes over. Or the madam can beforehand appoint a deputy. If no such arrangements are made, the establishment shall directly come under the King and Chief Controller.

The prostitutes enjoyed a respectable position in the society and with the king. The salary they received was equal to that received by senior civil servants.

Just as the rights of the prostitutes were safeguarded against, they were liable to certain regulations too. In case they desired to exit or quit they were pay a compensation. The compensation was in lieu of the expenses made by the State to train the prostitutes. The compensation levied from a Grade I prostitute was 24,000 Panas. Panas was then the currency used. The value of Pana can be guessed by realizing that a Govt. servant of the lowest grade got a salary of 5 Panas per month. The Chief Engineer got 166 Panas a month. Any offence or forceful act done by any citizen on the prostitutes was punishable and liable to a stiff penalty.

The establishment was to render full accounts to the Chief Controller of Entertainment. Independent prostitutes, who were neither given grants nor required to produce detailed accounts, had to pay a tax of 1/6th of their income. And interestingly, in situations of financial distress both groups had to produce extra revenue.

Punishments

In all cases, the punishment prescribed shall be imposed for the first offence, it shall be doubled for the second and trebled for the third. If the offence is committed a fourth time, any punishment may be awarded, as the King pleases.

Violations by a prostitute

Handing over ornaments and jewellery to an unauthorized person	4 1/4 panas
Abusing a client	2 panas
Causing Physical injury to a client	24 panas
Showing dislike to a client after receiving payment	48 panas
Refusing to sleep with an overnight client	8 times the fee
Killing a client	Death by burning alive or by drowning

Offences against a prostitute

Cheating a prostitute or robbing her of her ornaments or belongings	8 times the fee
Raping a prostitute	12 panas

Abducting, confining or disfiguring depending on the status of the victim 1000 to 2000 panas
Killing a mother, daughter or a prostitute in an establishment Highest punishment specified

Miscellaneous

For having sexual relations with the exclusive mistress of another Training 48 panas

“The state shall bear the expenditure on training courtesans, prostitutes and actresses in the following accomplishments:

Singing, playing musical instruments, conversing, reciting, dancing, acting, writing, painting, mind reading, preparing perfumes and garlands, shampooing and making love.”

Salary

A Grade I Courtesan drew a salary just below that of a Divisional Commander of the armed forces but 50% more than the Chief Engineer, or Armed Forces or Camp Superintendent.

The Grade II Courtesans drew a salary equivalent to the Chief Engineer or Armed Forces or Camp Commandants.

Even the Grade III Courtesans were paid the same salary as Heads of Departments in Civil Service or Intelligence Officers in Secret Service.

While the Grade I Courtesan drew a salary of 3000 Panas, that of the Chief Superintendent of the Productive Forests was only 4000 Panas, Magistrates 8000 Panas and Princes, Ministers and Governor-Generals 12,000 Panas.

Information on Kautilya’s Arthashastra (ca. 300 BC) is derived from “The Arthashastra”, an English translation by L.N.Rangarajan (an IFS Officer who served as the Indian Ambassador to Greece, Sudan, Tunisia, Norway and Iceland).

Mr. Rangarajan in the preface of the book, says, “The precepts of Kautilya on the social, political and economic structure of the ideal State are relevant even today.”

Kautilya says, “In the happiness of his subjects lies the King’s happiness; in their welfare his welfare. He should not consider as good only that which pleases him but treat as beneficial to him whatever pleases his subjects.”

The twinning of Phuket with our Islands will inevitably bring rampant prostitution to these Islands. This is a fact which remains strong and uncontested, even if some try to deny it.

In this scenario, shouldn’t we also adopt the policies of this great policymaker?

If Kautilya's model was to be followed today, very little modifications may have to be made. Mind reading will be read as Psychology. The curriculum will include training in avoidance of sexually transmitted diseases, and a crash course in Ayurvedic Massage!

If we are successful in this model, we may set up specialized institutions where even foreign students who are willing to learn the art would be welcome. We may award a diploma to the Grade III learners, a Graduate Degree to the Grade II and Masters Degree to the Grade I learners! We might even come up with a Doctorate for the few extra-ordinary practitioners! Let sky be the limit! There must be grants that should be made available to them. They should also be given a position and rank in the society which will be equal to other important people in the Islands.

If we are looking towards making a profit by putting the virginity, the health status of its people, its heritage in terms of aboriginal tribes, the very safety and identity of these pristine islands on stake, let's make the effort a full-hearted one. When we are inviting disaster and are ready to pay the price for it, let us set an example!

Jarawa in Danger of AIDS

In a low-tech society like Jarawa, AIDS can spread like wildfire with a single infected person. Yes, with a single infection, even if they are not promiscuous. The infected one will certainly contaminate his spouse. Their custom of shaving the head with glass or shells can spread the infection. Being bare bodied and hyperactive in the forest and creeks, everyday they get many abrasions and bruises on their bodies. The custom of welcoming a person by embracing and sitting on the lap will cause mixing of body fluids and result in the spread of the infection in short order.

Twining of the two cities could be a prescription for death for the tribes of the Islands, if not for our friendly, simple easygoing local people also.

Excerpts from the "Phuket Gazette"

Saturday, 27th September 2003

Andaman NGOs slam plans for Phuket links

Port Blair: Two environmental lobby groups in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands have slammed plans for trade and tourism links between the islands and Phuket. Such links, they allege, would turn the islands from an idyllic tropical backwater into a sex tourism hotspot.

"The Andamans do not have any professional sex workers, [but] we may soon need thousands of them," claimed the Society for Andaman & Nicobar Ecology (SANE).

"Presently, tourism in Thailand [is] heavily dependent on the sex industry. Most of the tourists visiting Phuket are single white males and if, after [establishing links] the Andaman & Nicobar Administration is planning to bring those tourists here, we will definitely need thousands of professional sex workers very soon," said Samir Acharya, Secretary of SANE. Subhasis Ray, General Secretary of Healthy

Environment by Less Pollution (HELP), another NGO, alleged that women from Myanmar are regularly smuggled in and sold to sex trade operators in Thailand. "We certainly do not want this type of tourism industry here in Port Blair," he added.

However, the administrators of the islands, which belong to India, disagree. K. Mahesh, Secretary of the Municipal Council of Port Blair, the island's capital, said he did not believe the theories advanced by the NGOs.

"It is not possible that if we [form links between] Port Blair and Phuket we will invite only single white males looking for sex. We have definite provisions in India to stop the sex trade coming to the Andamans.

"If something [like that looks to be happening], then our country's laws will take care of it well in advance."

But Mr Acharya argued that tourism would inevitably bring the sex trade with it. "Wherever there is demand there is supply. This is the same in the case of sex trade. Phuket has homosexual clubs, transvestite clubs and rampant flesh-trade." He added that the arrival of sex tourism would also bring Aids with it.

The Assistant Director of the islands' Aids Control Society also confessed to being worried about tourism links.

Dr. R. Tulsidasan said, "Presently, we don't have many cases of Aids in the Andamans. If [tourism links are formed] the flow of crowds will not only be from Phuket. Many Indian tourists will also visit Phuket. Since the sex industry [in Phuket] is booming, they may bring Aids with them."

In Phuket, Pamuke Achariyachai, Chairman of the Phuket Chamber of Commerce, who has been at the forefront of talks to form trade links with the Andamans, reacted with shock and irritation to the NGOs' allegations.

He pointed out that the only discussions so far had been about trade, particularly about Phuket filling the Andamans' need for cement.

"I am very surprised that they think Phuket sells sex tourism," he said. "The last time that the President of the Port Blair Chamber of Commerce [Mohamed Jedwet] came to Phuket we discussed trade only, though he was very impressed with the level of development of Phuket and with its tourism industry.

"He said that, if possible, he would like to further the relationship, in terms of both trade and tourism," K. Pamuke said.

"Let's not forget," he added, "that there are good and bad NGOs."

K. Pamuke said that he would write to Mr Jedwet to help the people of the Andamans understand the situation in Phuket better so that the image of Phuket would not be destroyed.

"But if they think that this is what Phuket is like, there is no need for us to form any links."

The 300 or so Andaman and Nicobar Islands are about 250 kilometers northwest of Phuket, and nearly 400 kilometers from India, making trade with Phuket a tempting proposition.

The islands have long been a major base for the Indian Navy and until recently were closed to visitors. Some of the islands are still out of bounds.

Monday, 29th September 2003

Drugs top priority for new Governor

Phuket Town: A more intense campaign against illegal drugs will be the top priority when the new Governor CEO, Udomsak Usawarangkura, arrives in Phuket tomorrow, ready to step behind his desk on Wednesday.

Coincidentally, October 1 also marks the beginning of a two-month nationwide campaign to eradicate illegal drugs from Thailand. It is hoped that by December 2, all 76 provinces will be able to declare that the campaign has been successful.

Vice-Governor Pongpow Ketthong told the Gazette today that the provincial government started a crackdown on illegal drugs in February. Since then, he said, almost 80% of drug takers and dealers who were arrested or volunteered for treatment have been rehabilitated.

On Wednesday, his first day in office, the new Governor CEO, accompanied by 200 to 300 local officers, will go to the Thavorn Grand Hotel to hear a national broadcast against drugs by Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

"The new Governor will also announce the Phuket policy to eradicate illegal drugs," V/Gov Pongpow said. "The policy will be successful if people in every community help to look after their own people and do not always rely on officials."

Tomorrow will be a settling-in day for the island's new administrative chief, with a visit to the Heroines' Monument and a lunch planned with some of his senior staff at his new home.

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**A SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS
OF WOMEN & GIRLS IN
ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS**

By
ANURADHA S. CHAGTI



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FOREWORD

The existential pathos of a woman's life has been inimitably captured by the great Hindi poet, Shri Maithilisharan Gupta, in a memorable couplet which says, "Alas, woman! Thy destiny is eternal sacrifice, eternal suffering!"

Despite the exalted position given to women in some of India's religious texts and the exceptional attainments of individual women in fields as diverse as philosophy, statecraft and even warfare, the profile of the average woman through the ages has been that of a perpetually poor, perpetually pregnant and perpetually powerless being.

Independent India has tried to redeem the situation by proclaiming equality of the sexes as a Fundamental Right under the Constitution and directing state policy towards removing the various disabilities that thwart women in realising their potential. Five decades of Independence have also seen a plethora of laws passed by the State and Federal Governments to protect women from violence and discrimination and to strengthen their entitlements in the social and economic fields. Numerous committees and commissions have x-rayed the position of women, the advances made by them and the obstacles faced by them, and they have made umpteen recommendations to improve the situation. Scores of schemes have been floated by various Ministries of the Government to address women's problems, particularly those relating to education, health, nutrition, livelihood and personal laws. In the institutional area, independent administrative departments to give undivided attention to women's problems have sprung up at the Centre as well as in the States. Development corporations were an innovation of the Eighties to energise economic benefit schemes. The Nineties saw the setting up of the National Commission for Women (NCW) and State Commissions in various States to inquire into the working of various legal and constitutional provisions concerning women, to investigate cases of violation of women's rights and generally to advise on the socio-economic policy framework in order to mainstream women's concerns. In recent years, the Governments, Central and State, have also articulated comprehensive policies for the empowerment of women through



a variety of instruments and approaches focusing on an explicit vision of equal partnership of women in all walks of life.

Credit must also be given to a robust women's movement which has often given forceful expression to women's aspirations and joined issue with all the organs of state — legislative, executive and judicial — for reviewing the age-old prescriptions of a patriarchal society. Often they have networked effectively with the international community and fora in the quest for worldwide solidarity on issues affecting women. These interactions have often times changed the idiom of discourse on women's right to justice and development.

The half-century of struggle and reform has undoubtedly had considerable impact on women's world. Some of the key indicators of development have perked up significantly; women's life expectancy has risen; education levels have improved; economic participation has grown. But there are areas of darkness too; crimes against women, both at home and outside, continue unabated; traditional economic occupations have withered in the face of global competition; there is increasing commodification of women's persona and vulgarisation of their image in the media's marketplace. The new economic regime, where Sensex swamps sensibility, has meant the precipitate withdrawal of the state from many fields leaving the weak, including women, in the cold. Similarly laws change; minds don't. Therefore between progressive legislation and sensitive enforcement falls a long shadow. Critics also point out that whatever advances have been made remain confined to urban India and the vast hinterland resists change obstinately.

The overall picture is thus a mixed one leaving the profile of the average Indian woman not substantially altered. But in this vast country there is no average Indian woman. As in all other matters, diversity marks the Indian woman's picture too. How society and economy are coping with the forces of modernisation differs substantially from region to region. The geography of a state provides its own constraints and opportunities; history gives its own moorings to values and momentum to change. Thus the regional profile is superimposed on the national profile. The NCW has therefore commissioned these studies to gauge how women's life has been changing or not changing in different States of the country, and to situate these studies in the historical and geographical context of each region or State so that progress can be measured across time and across space. Such spatial comparisons can highlight what lessons there are to be learnt from the 'leading' areas and equally they help in focusing the attention on the 'lagging' areas. Regionally disaggregated data helps in benchmarking progress of different regions, areas or districts, and can be used for improving performance by attempting to raise the performance levels of the laggards to the average of the State and then matching the State's average to the national average. Interesting insights can also be gleaned from the experience of implementing agencies, both governmental and non-governmental, in dealing with different problems. Some of these may be rooted in the soil of the region and may not lend themselves

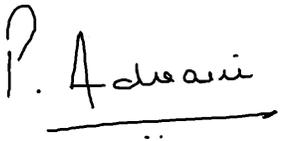
to replication but many others can be useful examples to emulate. That is how Best Practices become common practices.

These studies have been carried out by different research groups having special knowledge and interest in the area — its people, its history, its administration, its cultural ambience etc. They have interacted with official agencies as well as with leading NGOs working with women in the respective areas. The NCW has given a helping hand by providing information from its own database where available and also by interacting with the government of the State to set the stage for these exercises. The result is in your hands.

The research effort in respect of Andaman & Nicobar was anchored by Anuradha S. Chagti while the NCW team comprising **Dr. Poornima Advani**, Chairperson; **Mrs. Baby Rani Maurya**, Member; **Ms. Anusuiya Uike**, Member and Mr. H. Kumar, Senior Research Officer facilitated the dialogue with the Andaman & Nicobar Islands Administration.

It is our hope that this effort will eventually result in the compilation of a comprehensive index of gender development focusing on the key issues in women's lives thus enabling comparisons of achievements and gaps regionally and nationally. This will help scholars and administrators alike.

Place : New Delhi
Dated : 7.12.2004


(POORNIMA ADVANI)

GENDER PROFILE OF ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS AND INDIA ON SELECT INDICATORS

Administrative Units -2001

	Number of districts	Number of sub-districts	Number of towns (including Census Towns)	Number of villages (including uninhabited villages)
India	593	5,470	5,161	638,588
A & N Isl.	2	7	3	547

Source : Census of India, 2001, Primary Census Abstracts, Registrar General, India

Population Distribution - 2001

	Area	Total Population		
		Persons	Male	Female
India	Total	1,028,610,328	532,156,772	496,453,556
	Rural	741,660,293	381,141,184	360,519,109
	Urban	285,354,954	150,135,894	135,219,060
A & N Isl.	Total	356,152	192,972	163,180
	Rural	239,954	128,961	110,993
	Urban	116,198	64,011	52,187

Source : Census of India, 2001, Primary Census Abstracts, Registrar General, India

Decadal Growth, Density of Population and Urban Population-2001

	Percentage Decadal Growth 1991-2001	Population Density	Percentage of Urban Population
India	21.34	324	27.78
A & N Isl.	26.89	43	32.67

Source : Census of India, 2001, Population Data Sheet, Provisional Results, Registrar General, India

Population by Sex and Sex Ratio -2001

	Population			Sex Ratio
	Persons	Male	Female	
India	1,028,610,328	532,156,772	496,453,556	933
A & N Isl.	356,152	192,972	163,180	846

Source : Census of India, 2001, Primary Census Abstracts, Registrar General, India

Population in the Age Group 0-6 years by Sex and Sex Ratio (0-6) -2001

	Population			Sex Ratio(0-6)
	Persons (0-6)	Male (0-6)	Female(0-6)	
India	163,819,614	84,999,203	78,820,411	927
A & N Isl.	44,781	22,885	21,896	957

Source : Census of India, 2001, Primary Census Abstracts, Registrar General, India

Sex ratio of Total Population and Child Population in the Age Group 0-6: 1991-2001

	Sex Ratio (Females per 1000 Males)					
	Total Child		Child Population Age Group 0-6		Population Aged 7 and above	
	1991	2001	1991	2001	1991	2001
India	927	933	945	927	923	935
A&N Isl.	818	846	973	957	790	830

Source : Census of India 1991 and Census of India, 2001, Primary Census Abstracts, Registrar General, India

Sex Ratio Census 1951-2001

	1951	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001
India	946	941	930	934	927	933
A&N Isl.	625	617	644	760	818	846

Source : Census of India 1991 and Census of India, 2001, Primary Census Abstracts, Registrar General, India

Total Population, Population of Schedule Tribes and their Proportions to the Total Populations-2001

	Population		Proportion of ST population
	Total Population	Scheduled Tribes (ST) Population	
India	1,028,610,328	84,326,240	8.2
A & N Isl.	356,152	29,469	8.3

Source : Census of India, 2001, Primary Census Abstracts, Registrar General, India

Number of Literates and Literacy Rates by Sex -2001

	Number of Literates			Literacy Rate		
	Persons	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female
India	560,687,797	336,533,716	224,154,081	64.8	75.3	53.7
A&N Isl.	253,135	146,831	106,304	81.3	86.3	75.2

Source : Census of India, 2001, Primary Census Abstracts, Registrar General, India

Decadal Change in the Absolute Number of Female Illiterates-2001

	No. of female illiterate		Decadal decrease in no. of female illiterate	Percentage contribution in decrease
	1991	2001		
India	200068077	189554886	10513191	100.00
A&N Isl.	35731	34930	801	0.01

Source : Census of India, 2001, Population Data Sheet, Provisional Results, Registrar General, India

Literacy Rate by Sex 1981-2001

	1981			1991			2001		
	Persons	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female
India	43.61	56.50	29.85	52.19	64.20	39.19	65.38	75.85	54.16
A&N Isl.	63.19	70.29	53.19	73.02	78.99	65.46	81.18	86.07	75.29

Source : Census of India 1991 and Census of India, 2001, Primary Census Abstracts, Registrar General, India

No. of Recognized Educational Institutional 2001-2002

	Primary/Junior Basic Schools	Middle/Sr. Basic School	High School/ Higher Sec.	Colleges for Gen. Edn.	College for Prof. Edn.	New/Deemed University
India	615740	206544	125367	8361	2340	261
A&N Isl.	208	55	92	2	1	6

Source : Annual Report 2002-03, Min of Human Resource Development, New Delhi

Gross Enrolment Ratio in Classes I-V, VI-VIII & I- VIII of schools for General Education 2000-01

	Classes I-V (6-11 years)			Classes VI-VIII (11-14 years)			Classes I-VIII (6-14 years)		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
India	104.91	85.92	95.66	66.68	49.94	58.64	90.26	72.36	81.58
A&N Isl.	87.83	91.07	89.34	89.61	87.01	88.36	88.46	88.59	88.99

Source : Selected Educational Statistics, 2000-01. Min of Human Resource Development, New Delhi

Gross Enrolment Ratio of S.T students in schools for General Education 2000-01

	Classes I-V (6-11 years)			Classes VI-VIII (11-14 years)			Classes I-VIII (6-14 years)		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
India	116.92	85.47	101.13	72.46	47.70	60.24	102.53	73.52	88.04
A&N Isl.	83.69	57.65	69.30	78.21	60.32	68.58	81.75	88.56	69.05

Source : Selected Educational Statistics, 2000-01. Min of Human Resource Development, New Delhi

Gross Drop-Out Rate in Classes I-V, I-VIII & I-X of Schools of General Education, 2000-01

	Classes I-V			Classes I-VIII			Classes I-X		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
India	39.71	41.90	40.67	50.33	57.95	53.67	66.41	71.51	68.58
A&N Isl.	1.04	3.64	2.27	31.75	30.90	31.35	50.56	48.26	49.44

Source : Selected Educational Statistics, 2000-01. Min of Human Resource Development, New Delhi

Higher Secondary Schools
Number of Teachers, Enrolment & Teacher Pupil Ratio (2000-2001)

	No. of Teachers			Percentage of trained teacher	No. of female teachers per 100 male teachers	Enrolment			Teacher Student ratio
	Men	Women	Teachers			Boys	Girls	Total	
India	530678	225120	755798	90	42	15938263	10287347	26225610	35
A&N Isl.	986	917	1903	98	93	19,206	18011	37217	20

Source : Selected Educational Statistics, 2000-01. Min of Human Resource Development, New Delhi

Secondary Schools
Number of Teachers, Enrolment & Teacher Pupil Ratio (2000-2001)

	No. of Teachers			Percentage of trained teacher	No. of female teachers per 100 male teachers	Enrolment			Teacher Student ratio
	Men	Women	Teachers			Boys	Girls	Total	
India	653580	352285	1005845	89	54	17795561	13210355	31005916	31
A&N Isl.	435	417	852	100	96	8586	7533	16119	19

Source : Selected Educational Statistics, 2000-01. Min of Human Resource Development, New Delhi

Middle Schools
Number of Teachers, Enrolment & Teacher Pupil Ratio (2000-2001)

	No. of Teachers			Percentage of trained teacher	No. of female teachers per 100 male teachers	Enrolment			Teacher Student ratio
	Men	Women	Teachers			Boys	Girls	Total	
India	820319	506333	1326652	87	62	29099198	20741587	49840785	38
A&N Isl.	362	359	721	97	99	7179	6528	13707	19

Source : Selected Educational Statistics, 2000-01. Min of Human Resource Development, New Delhi

Primary Schools
Number of Teachers, Enrolment & Teacher Pupil Ratio (2000-2001)

	No. of Teachers			Percentage of trained teacher	No. of female teachers per 100 male teachers	Enrolment			Teacher Student ratio
	Men	Women	Teachers			Boys	Girls	Total	
India	1221420	675371	1896791	86	55	45603098	35422966	81026064	43
A&N Islands	421	456	877	94	108	9228	8147	17375	20

Source : Selected Educational Statistics, 2000-01. Min of Human Resource Development, New Delhi

Distribution of Population by Workers and Non - Workers by Sex -2001

	Total Worker			Total Non - Worker		
	Persons	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female
India	402,234,724	275,014,476	127,220,248	626,375,604	257,142,296	369,233,308
A&N Isl.	136,254	109,162	27,092	219,898	83,810	136,088

Source : Census of India, 2001, Primary Census Abstracts, Registrar General, India

Distribution of Population by Main Workers and Marginal Workers by Sex -2001

	Main Worker			Marginal Worker		
	Persons	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female
India	313,004,983	240,147,813	72,857,170	89,229,741	34,866,663	54,363,078
A & N Isl.	113,607	97,349	16,258	22,647	11,813	10,834

Source : Census of India, 2001, Primary Census Abstracts, Registrar General, India

Distribution of Workers by Categories of Workers by Sex - 2001

		Cultivators		Agricultural Labourers		Household Industry Workers		Other Workers	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
India	Persons	127,312,851	31.7	106,775,330	26.5	16,956,942	4.2	151,189,601	37.6
	Males	85,416,498	31.1	57,329,100	20.8	8,744,183	3.2	123,524,695	44.9
	Females	41,896,353	32.9	49,446,230	38.9	8,212,759	6.5	27,664,906	21.7
A & N Isl.	Persons	21,461	15.8	5,169	3.8	7,086	5.2	102,538	75.3
	Males	14,937	13.7	4,043	3.7	4,655	4.3	85,527	78.3
	Females	6,524	24.1	1,126	4.2	2,431	9.0	17,011	62.8

Source : Census of India, 2001, Primary Census Abstracts, Registrar General, India

No. of persons employed per 1000 persons according to Usual Status (Principal & Subsidiary) by Sex & Residence during 1999-2000

	Number of employed per 1000 population					
	Rural			Urban		
	Male	Female	Person	Male	Female	Person
India	531	299	417	518	139	337
A&N Islands	547	180	371	632	206	422

Source : Employment & Unemployment in India 1999-2000 Key results NSS 55th Round NSSO, Min. of Statistics & Programme Implementation, New Delhi

No. of unemployed per thousand persons according to usual status by sex and Residence Status during 1991-2000

	Number of unemployed per 1000 population					
	Rural			Urban		
	Male	Female	Person	Male	Female	Person
India	11	4	7	26	9	18
A&N Islands	19	14	16	25	54	39

Source : Employment & Unemployment in India 1999-2000 Key results NSS 55th Round NSSO, Min. of Statistics & Programme Implementation, New Delhi

Distribution of Hindus - 2001

	Total Population	Hindu Population	Proportion of Hindu Population	Sex Ratio	Sex Ratio (0-6)	Proportion of Child Population in the age group (0-6)
India	1028610328	827578868	80.5	931	925	15.6
A&N Islands	356,152	246589	69.2	828	947	12.7

Source : Census of India, 2001, The First Report on Religion, Registrar General India

Literacy Rate and Work Participation Rate among Hindus - 2001

	Literacy rate	Female Literacy Rate	Work Participation Rate
India	65.1	53.2	40.4
A&N Islands	81.7	75.1	38.1

Source : Census of India, 2001, The First Report on Religion, Registrar General India

Distribution of Muslims - 2001

	Total Population	Muslim Population	Proportion of Muslim Population	Sex Ratio	Sex Ratio (0-6)	Proportion of Child Population in the age group (0-6)
India	1028610328	138188240	13.4	936	950	18.7
A&N Islands	356,152	29265	8.2	860	979	11.3

Source : Census of India, 2001, The First Report on Religion, Registrar General India

Literacy Rate and Work Participation Rate among Muslims - 2001

	Literacy rate	Female Literacy Rate	Work Participation Rate
India	59.1	50.1	31.3
A&N Islands	89.8	86.8	34.5

Source : Census of India, 2001, The First Report on Religion, Registrar General India

Distribution of Christians - 2001

	Total Population	Christians Population	Proportion of Christians Population	Sex Ratio	Sex Ratio (0-6)	Proportion of Child Population in the age group (0-6)
India	1028610328	24080016	2.3	1009	964	13.5
A&N Islands	356,152	77,178	21.7	904	990	12.7

Source : Census of India, 2001, The First Report on Religion, Registrar General India

Literacy Rate and Work Participation Rate among Christians - 2001

	Literacy rate	Female Literacy Rate	Work Participation Rate
India	80.3	76.2	39.7
A&N Islands	77.0	71.6	40.3

Source : Census of India, 2001, The First Report on Religion, Registrar General India

Distribution of Sikhs - 2001

	Total Population	Sikhs Population	Proportion of Sikhs Population	Sex Ratio	Sex Ratio (0-6)	Proportion of Child Population in the age group (0-6)
India	1028610328	19215730	1.9	893	786	12.8
A&N Islands	356,152	1587	0.4	818	858	12.4

Source : Census of India, 2001, The First Report on Religion, Registrar General India

Literacy Rate and Work Participation Rate among Sikhs - 2001

	Literacy rate	Female Literacy Rate	Work Participation Rate
India	69.4	63.1	37.7
A&N Islands	94.1	90.7	34.8

Source : Census of India, 2001, The First Report on Religion, Registrar General India

Distribution of Buddhists - 2001

	Total Population	Buddhists Population	Proportion of Buddhists Population	Sex Ratio	Sex Ratio (0-6)	Proportion of Child Population in the age group (0-6)
India	1028610328	7955207	0.8	953	942	14.4
A&N Islands	356,152	421	0.1	358	786	5.9

Source : Census of India, 2001, The First Report on Religion, Registrar General India

Literacy Rate and Work Participation Rate among Buddhists - 2001

	Literacy rate	Female Literacy Rate	Work Participation Rate
India	72.7	61.7	40.6
A&N Islands	91.4	83.0	23.3

Source : Census of India, 2001, The First Report on Religion, Registrar General India

Distribution of Other Religions - 2001

	Total Population	Other Religions Population	Proportion of Other Religions Population	Sex Ratio	Sex Ratio (0-6)	Proportion of Child Population in the age group (0-6)
India	1028610328	6639626	0.6	992	976	18.0
A&N Islands	356,152	238	0.1	859	1250	15.1

Source : Census of India, 2001, The First Report on Religion, Registrar General India

Literacy Rate and Work Participation Rate among Other Religions - 2001

	Literacy rate	Female Literacy Rate	Work Participation Rate
India	47.0	33.2	48.4
A&N Islands	87.1	81.1	39.1

Source : Census of India, 2001, The First Report on Religion, Registrar General India

Female Population in Five Year Age Group by Residence - 2001

India			
Age-group	Total Females	Rural	Urban
All ages	496453556	360887965	135565591
0-4	53327552	41251212	12076340
5-9	61581957	47361547	14220410
10-14	59213981	43779577	15434404
15-19	46275899	32313405	13962494
20-24	43442982	30271422	13171560
25-29	41864847	29307967	12556880
30-34	36912128	26140100	10772028
35-39	34535358	24076920	10458438
40-44	25859582	18144732	7714850
45-49	22541090	15931329	6609761
50-54	16735951	11964907	4771044
55-59	14070325	10398315	3672010
60-64	13930432	10505243	3425189
65-69	10334852	7746050	2588802
70-74	7180956	5382484	1798472
75-79	3288016	2418019	869997
80+	4119738	3033313	1086425
Age not stated	1237910	861423	376487

Female Population in Five Year Age Group by Residence - 2001

Andaman and Nicobar Islands			
Age-group	Total Females	Rural	Urban
All ages	163180	110993	52187
0-4	15285	10865	4420
5-9	16739	11554	5185
10-14	18830	13109	5721
15-19	17647	12162	5485
20-24	17334	11401	5933
25-29	17368	11253	6115
30-34	12688	8350	4338
35-39	13340	8738	4602
40-44	8889	5851	3038
45-49	8010	5350	2660
50-54	4863	3336	1527
55-59	3588	2599	989
60-64	2706	1989	717
65-69	2029	1511	518
70-74	1329	1010	319
75-79	665	519	146
80+	803	642	161
Age not stated	1067	754	313

Source : Census of India 2001, Tables on Age, C-14 Registrar General India

Scheduled Tribe Female Population Five Year Age Group by Residence - 2001

India			
Age-group	Total Females	Rural	Urban
All ages	41685411	38292947	3392464
0-4	5211156	4857120	354036
5-9	5862337	5446013	416324
10-14	5134198	4695771	438427
15-19	3784060	3403771	380289
20-24	3484792	3153222	331570
25-29	3406107	3096432	309675
30-34	3049958	2791639	258319
35-39	2775277	2527688	247589
40-44	2059405	1886451	172954
45-49	1758872	1619365	139507
50-54	1288440	1191809	96631
55-59	1081419	1012322	69097
60-64	1064092	996063	68029
65-69	720966	676384	44582
70-74	476923	445931	30992
75-79	197119	184655	12464
80+	236232	219927	16305
Age not stated	94058	88384	5674

Scheduled Tribe Female Population Five Year Age Group by Residence - 2001

Andaman and Nicobar Islands			
Age-group	Total Females	Rural	Urban
All ages	14342	13893	449
0-4	1256	1223	33
5-9	1343	1296	47
10-14	1529	1483	46
15-19	1467	1407	60
20-24	1348	1268	80
25-29	1452	1386	66
30-34	1142	1113	29
35-39	1262	1215	47
40-44	883	870	13
45-49	767	747	20
50-54	461	457	4
55-59	392	391	1
60-64	400	399	1
65-69	312	311	1
70-74	164	164	0
75-79	83	83	0
80+	64	64	0
Age not stated	17	16	1

Source : Census of India 2001, Tables on Age, C-14 ST, Registrar General India

Distribution of the Disabled by the Type of Disability, Sex and Residence - 2001

India				
	Sex	Total	Rural	Urban
Total Disabled	Persons	21,906,769	16,388,382	5,518,387
	Males	12,605,635	9,410,185	3,195,450
	Females	930,134	6,978,197	2,322,937
In Seeing	Persons	10,634,881	7,873,383	2,761,498
	Males	5,732,338	4,222,717	1,509,621
	Females	4,902,543	3,650,666	1,251,877
In Speech	Persons	1,640,868	1,243,854	397,014
	Males	942,095	713,966	228,129
	Females	698,773	529,888	168,885
In Hearing	Persons	1,261,722	1,022,816	238,906
	Males	673,797	549,002	124,795
	Females	587,925	473,814	114,111
In Movement	Persons	6,105,477	4,654,552	1,450,925
	Males	3,902,752	2,975,127	927,625
	Females	2,202,725	1,679,425	523,300
Mental	Persons	2,263,821	1,593,777	670,044
	Males	1,354,653	949,373	405,280
	Females	909,168	644,404	264,764

Distribution of the Disabled by the Type of Disability, Sex and Residence - 2001

Andaman & Nicobar Islands				
	Sex	Total	Rural	Urban
Total Disabled	Persons	7057	5082	1975
	Males	4226	3059	1167
	Females	2831	2023	808
In Seeing	Persons	3321	2283	1038
	Males	1907	1314	593
	Females	1414	969	445
In Speech	Persons	652	451	201
	Males	383	275	108
	Females	269	176	93
In Hearing	Persons	545	463	82
	Males	305	268	37
	Females	240	195	45
In Movement	Persons	1870	1388	482
	Males	1271	941	330
	Females	599	447	152
Mental	Persons	669	497	172
	Males	160	261	99
	Females	309	236	73

Source : Census of India 2001, Tables on Disabled, Registrar General India

Distribution of the Disabled by the Type of Disability, Sex, Literacy Status and Residence - 2001

India							
	Sex	Literate			Illiterate		
		Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
Total Disabled	Persons	10,801,232	7276755	3524477	11105537	9111627	1993910
	Males	7330091	5091686	2238405	5275544	4318499	957045
	Females	3471141	2185069	1286072	5829993	4793128	1036865
In Seeing	Persons	5301316	3429812	1871504	533565	4443571	889994
	Males	3414027	2287731	1126295	2318311	1934985	383326
	Females	1887289	1142080	745209	3015254	2508586	506668
In Speech	Persons	594431	390344	234087	1046437	853510	192927
	Males	394825	266313	238512	547270	447653	99617
	Females	199606	124031	75575	499167	405857	93310
In Hearing	Persons	544748	402083	142665	716974	620733	96241
	Males	375492	286586	88906	298305	262416	35889
	Females	169256	115497	53759	418669	358317	66352
In Movement	Persons	3502924	2501178	1001746	2602553	2153374	559179
	Males	2554053	1860193	69386	1348699	114934	233765
	Females	9483871	643985	307886	1253854	1038440	215414
Mental	Persons	857813	553338	304475	1406008	1040439	365569
	Males	591694	390862	200832	762959	558511	204448
	Females	266119	162476	103643	643049	481928	161121

Distribution of the Disabled by the Type of Disability, Sex, Literacy Status and Residence - 2001

Andaman & Nicobar Islands							
	Sex	Literate			Illiterate		
		Total	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban
Total Disabled	Persons	4410	2980	1430	2647	2102	547
	Males	2923	2023	900	1303	1036	267
	Females	1487	987	530	1344	1066	278
In Seeing	Persons	2177	1389	788	1144	894	250
	Males	1377	901	476	530	413	117
	Females	800	488	312	614	481	133
In Speech	Persons	363	247	116	389	204	85
	Males	238	172	66	145	103	42
	Females	125	75	50	144	101	43
In Hearing	Persons	189	240	49	356	223	33
	Males	191	164	27	114	104	10
	Females	98	76	22	142	119	23
In Movement	Persons	1278	901	377	592	487	105
	Males	935	668	267	336	373	63
	Females	343	133	110	256	214	42
Mental	Persons	203	203	100	366	294	72
	Males	182	118	64	178	143	35
	Females	121	85	36	188	151	37

Source : Census of India 2001, Tables on Disabled, Registrar General India

Distribution of Disabled by type of Disability, Sex, Economic Status and Residence-2001

India			
Type of Disability	Sex	Workers	Non Workers
Total Disabled	Persons	7556049	14350720
	Males	1855438	6957026
	Females	197440	7393694
In Seeing	Persons	4247162	6387719
	Males	3082844	2649494
	Females	1164318	3738225
In Speech	Persons	529514	1111354
	Males	383068	559027
	Females	146446	552327
In Hearing	Persons	491048	770674
	Males	349362	324435
	Females	141686	446239
In Movement	Persons	1801793	4303684
	Males	1461142	2441610
	Females	340651	1862074
Mental	Persons	486532	1777289
	Males	372193	982460
	Females	114339	794829

Distribution of Disabled by type of Disability, Sex, Economic Status and Residence-2001

Andaman & Nicobar Islands			
Type of Disability	Sex	Workers	Non Workers
Total Disabled	Persons	2455	4602
	Males	2045	2181
	Females	410	2421
In Seeing	Persons	1355	1966
	Males	1116	791
	Females	239	1175
In Speech	Persons	149	503
	Males	117	266
	Females	32	237
In Hearing	Persons	208	337
	Males	173	132
	Females	35	205
In Movement	Persons	639	1231
	Males	549	722
	Females	90	509
Mental	Persons	104	565
	Males	90	270
	Females	14	295

Source : Census of India 2001, Tables on Disabled, Registrar General India

Number of Households, Population and Household Size - 2001

	Number of households	Population	Household size
India	191963935	1,028,610,328	5.3
A & N Isl.	73062	356,152	4.6

Source : Census of India, 2001, Primary Census Abstracts, Registrar General, India

Households with Source of Lighting as Electricity - 2001

	Total	Source of Lighting as Electricity	Rank	Proportion of household	Rank
India	191963935	107209054		55.8	
A & N Isl.	73062	56097	32	76.8	17

Source : Census of India 2001, Tables on Household Assets, Registrar General India

Households with Availability of Separate Kitchen within the House - 2001

	Total	Availability of Separate Kitchen	Rank	Proportion of household	Rank
India	191963935	122,939,364		64.0	
A & N Isl.	73062	65,257	32	89.3	9

Source : Census of India 2001, Tables on Household Assets, Registrar General India

Households with Tap as Source of Drinking Water - 2001

	Total	Tap as Source of Drinking Water	Rank	Proportion of household	Rank
India	191963935	70,448,827		36.7	
A & N Isl.	73062	55709	31	76.2	4

Source : Census of India 2001, Tables on Household Assets, Registrar General India

Households with Source of Drinking Water within the Premises - 2001

	Total	Source of Drinking Water within the Premises	Rank	Proportion of household	Rank
India	191963935	74803269		39.0	
A & N Isl.	73062	34406	31	47.1	9

Source : Census of India 2001, Tables on Household Assets, Registrar General India

Households with Latrine as Water Closet - 2001

	Total	Latrine as Water Closet	Rank	Proportion of household	Rank
India	191963935	34598446		18.02	
A & N Isl.	73062	11886	34	34.61	6

Source : Census of India 2001, Tables on Household Assets, Registrar General India

Estimated Birth Rate, Death Rate, Natural Growth Rate and Infant Mortality Rate 2002

		India	Andaman and Nicobar Islands
Birth Rate	Total	25.0	16.8
	Rural	26.6	17.6
	Urban	20.0	14.6
Death Rate	Total	8.1	5.5
	Rural	8.7	6.1
	Urban	6.1	3.8
Natural Growth Rate	Total	16.9	11.3
	Rural	17.9	11.5
	Urban	13.9	10.8
Infant Mortality Rate	Total	63	15
	Rural	69	17
	Urban	40	10

Source : SRS Bulletin Vol. 38 No. 1, April 2004 Registrar General, India

Singulate Mean Age at Marriage 1971-2001

	Males			Females		
	1971	1981	1991	1971	1981	1991
India	22.3	23.3	23.9	17.1	18.3	19.3
A&N Islands	26.1	26.2	26.2	18.0	19.3	20.9

Source : Handbook on Social Welfare Statistics, 2004, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India, New Delhi

Incidence & Rate of Total Cognizable Crimes (TCC) in 2002

	Incidence of total cognizable crimes	Percentage contribution to All India Total	Estimated mid year population (in lakh)	Rate of total cognizable crimes	Rank of criminality
India	3750842	100	10506.40	357.0	
A&N Islands	4316	0.1	3.7	1182.5	2

Source : Crime in India 2002, National Crime Record Bureau, MHA.

Incidence & Rate of Total Cognizable Crimes (IPC) in 2002

	Incidence of total cognizable crimes	Percentage contribution to All India Total	Estimated mid year population (in lakh)	Rate of total cognizable crimes	Rank of criminality
India	1780330	100	10506.40	169.5	
A&N Islands	608	0.0	3.65	166.6	19

Source : Crime in India 2002, NCRB, MHA, GOI, New Delhi.

Incidence & Rate of Crimes Committed Against Children In 2002

	Incidence of total cognizable crimes	Percentage contribution to All India Total	Estimated mid year population (in lakh)	Rate of total cognizable crimes	Rank of criminality
India	10469	100	10270.15	1.0	
A&N Islands	3	0.0	3.7	0.8	29

Source : Crime in India 2002, NCRB, MHA, GOI, New Delhi.

Incidence & Rate of Crimes Committed Against Women In 2002

	Incidence of total cognizable crimes	Percentage contribution to All India Total	Estimated mid year population (in lakh)	Rate of total cognizable crimes	Rank of criminality
India	147678	100	10506.40	14.1	
A&N Islands	27	0.0	3.7	7.4	31

Source : Crime in India 2002, NCRB, MHA, GOI, New Delhi.

Incidence & Rate of Suicides in 2000

	Incidence of total cognizable crimes	Percentage contribution to All India Total	Estimated mid year population (in lakh)	Rate of total cognizable crimes	Rank of criminality
India	108593	100	10021.42	10.84	
A&N Islands	128	0.12	3.88	32.99	2

Source : Accidental Death & Suicides in India 2000, NCRB, MHA, GOI, New Delhi.

Human Development Index 1981								
	Rural		Urban		Combined		Gender Disparity Index	
	Value	Rank	Value	Rank	Value	Rank	Value	Rank
All India	0.263		0.442		0.302		0.620	
A&N Islands	0.335	12	0.575	2	0.394	11	0.645	21
Human Development Index 1991								
	Rural		Urban		Combined		Gender Disparity Index	
	Value	Rank	Value	Rank	Value	Rank	Value	Rank
All India	0.340		0.511		0.381		0.676	
A&N Islands	0.528	5	0.653	4	0.574	5	0.857	1

Source : National Human Development Report, 2001, Planning Commission, New Delhi

Number and percentage of Population Below Poverty Line 1983 to 1999-2001

	1983		1993-94		1999-2000	
	No. of persons	%	No. of persons	%	No. of persons	%
India	3228.97	44.48	3203.68	35.97	2602.50	26.10
A&N Islands	1.11	52.13	1.06	34.47	0.82	20.99

Source : National Human Development Report, 2001, Planning Commission, New Delhi