

Health Care Services in Theni District - A Survey

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Abstract

Theni District was carved out of erstwhile composite Madurai district on 01 January 1997 and ranked 28th in terms of the highest population in Tamil Nadu (around 12 ½ lakhs population). For providing necessary Health Care Services and facilities, the task was entrusted to the Public Health and Family Welfare Department. This establishment takes care of - primary health centers, child health services, maintains environmental sanitation and other vital services. Discussed in this paper certain key components such as Health Service Organization at the District level, Medical Department, Hospitals, Dispensaries, services rendered by organization and individuals, functions of primary health centers, family welfare programs, besides facilities in government hospitals, health checkup programs, counseling, and testing centers and other Health Care Services. The study indicates the necessity to enhance not only the quality of service but also to make it more accessible to the rural and tribal population of the Theni District in Tamil Nadu.

Keywords: Health services, Sanitation, Welfare programmes, Counselling facilities, Dispensaries, Health sub-centers, Blood banks, Child transmission

Introduction

This paper attempts to review the health care services provided to the public, both rural and urban, ever since the emergence of the Theni District (01 January 1997) from the composite Madurai District¹. As of 2011, the Theni district had a population of 1245899 with a sex-ratio of 980 females for every 1000 males². Theni district was ranked 28th in terms of the highest population in the state. The district urban³ population was 53.8%. The decadal population growth was 13.9% during 2001-2011 in the district. The total number of villages in the District is 15979, and the total number of towns⁴ is around 1097. As per the Census Report, the total male population is 625683(50.22%), and the female population is 620216 (49.78%).⁵

1. G.O.Ms. No. 679, Revenue Department, dated 25.07. 1997.

2. District Census Handbook - Theni District, 2011.

3. Theni District Population Census 2011-2020, Tamil Nadu

4. Source: Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner (web), Delimitation Commission of India (web), Rand McNally International Atlas 1994, School of Planning & Architecture (web). Explanation: Districts, cities and towns in the boundaries of 2011

5. Theni District Census 2011-2019 data

Functions of Public Health and Family Welfare Department

The Health and Family Welfare Department in Tamil Nadu⁶ is entrusted with implementing various Medical Care services⁷. They are to give curative medicines to Primary Health Centres, to give Maternity and Child Health Service through Primary Health Services⁸, to control communicable diseases by taking preventive steps against them in the local villages.

This is done to maintain Environmental Sanitation, especially in hotels, and by the construction of latrines in rural areas⁹, to carry out School Programmes to examine school children by Health Supervisors and Medical Officers, to provide for Family Welfare by educating the masses about the benefits of a planned family, to collect vital statistics by reporting births and deaths to the Births and Deaths Registrar, improving birth and death registration work, and collection of morbidity (disease particulars), to impart health education by conducting group discussion and mother classes and to carry out other special programs.

Health Services Organization: District Level in Tamil Nadu

The District in India is the pivot of the administrative structure¹⁰. In some States, a single Chief, the Chief Medical Officer of Health responsible for all community services in the District, heads the District health organization. In some States, there are 2 Chiefs – the District Medical Officer (DMO) or Civil Surgeon who is in-charge of medical services and the District Health Officer or District Health and Family Welfare Officer who is in-charge of health and family welfare. At the District level, health services organizations have been created to

provide medical care services¹¹. The health services organization and the facilities available there in Theni District are explained in the following pages.

Medical Department of Theni District

Consequently, on bifurcation of Madurai District into Madurai and Dindigul Districts, the District Head Quarters Hospital, (Madurai) at Periyakulam was started functioning 02.06.1986¹² and now at Theni, the Periyakulam District Head Quarters Hospital¹³ is started functioning from 13.04.97 onwards.

Hospitals, Dispensaries, Bed Strength, Doctors and Nurses

The details relating to the health institutions of Theni District reveal that there are six Modern Medicine Hospitals, six Indian Medicine Hospitals, and one Homeopathy Medicine Hospital, Six Indian Medicine Dispensaries, 29 Modern Medicine Primary Health Centres, 10 Indian Medicine Primary Health Centres, 162 Modern Medicine Health Sub Centers, one Modern Medicine, and Medical Institutions, 1376 Beds in Modern Medicine Hospitals, 304 Doctors in Modern Medicine Hospitals, 14 Doctors in Indian Medicine Hospitals and one Doctor in Homeopathy Medicine Hospital, 457 Nurses in Modern Medicine Hospitals, One Nurse in Homeopathy Medicine Hospital and one Allied Pathological Unit available in Theni District.¹⁴

Public Health and Medical Services: Organizations and Individual

The details relating to the public health and medical services rendered by organizations and individuals are provided in the following table¹⁵

6. Family Welfare Department, Government of Tamil Nadu

7. Health Services, Theni District

8. List of Primary Health Centres (24x7)

9. Promoting latrine construction and use in rural villages. In addition, 10% of village water and sanitation committee (VWSC) was set up in 1999 to promote toilet construction and use in rural areas

10. India at a Glance - Administrative Division - 2001. Office of the Registrar General of India, New Delhi.

11. Directorate of Medical and Rural Health Services (DMS)

12. G.O.Ms. No. 869 / H dated 30.04.1986

13. Now Theni at Periyakulam District Head Quarters Hospital is started functioning w.e.f. 13.04.97, Consequent on bifurcation of Madurai District into Madurai and Theni District.

14. Joint Director, Health, Periyakulam, 2008-09.

15. J.D., (Periyakulam) and D.D. Health Service, Theni, 2008-2009.

S. No.	Items	Numbers
1.	Hospitals	71
2.	Government Hospitals	6
	District Head Quarters Hospital	1
	Taluk Hospitals	3
	Non-Taluk Hospitals	2
3.	District T.B. Centre	1
4.	Dispensaries	8
5.	Nursing Home	20
6.	Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic	4
7.	Allopathy	27
8.	Ayurvedic& Siddha	8
9.	Homeopathy	9
10.	Government Medical College Hospital, Theni	1

The details relating to the Public Health and Medical Services rendered by organizations and individuals are provided in the above table, which indicates that there are 71 Hospitals, six Government Hospitals such as one District Head Quarter Hospital, three Taluk Hospitals and two Non-Taluk Hospitals, one District T.B. Centre, eight Dispensaries, 20 Nursing Homes, four Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, 27 Allopathy Hospitals, eight Ayurvedic and Siddha Hospitals, nine Homeopathy Hospitals and one Government Medical College Hospital in Theni District¹⁶.

Primary Health Centres and Primary Health Sub-Centres

The following table indicates Primary Health Centres and Sub Centres functioning in Theni, Periyakulam, Andipatty, K.Myladumparai, Cumbum, Uthamapalayam, Chinnamanur, and Bodinayakanur ¹⁷

S. No.	Name of the Block/ Municipality	Primary Health Centres	Sub-Centres
1.	Theni	3	17
2.	Periyakulam	6	27

3.	Andipatty	3	23
4.	K.Myladumparai	3	14
5.	Cumbum	3	20
6.	Uthamapalayam	4	22
7.	Chinnamanur	3	17
8.	Bodinayakanur	4	22
	Total	29	162

Distribution of Medical Personnel

The details relating to the distribution of medical personnel are provided in table¹⁸

S. No.	Persons	Number
1.	Doctors	271
2.	Nurses	426
3.	Technical Persons	263
4.	Others	633

Progress of Family Welfare Programmes

The following table provides Family Welfare Programme¹⁹

S. No.	Name of the Programme	Target	Achievement
1	Sterilization	8500	7221
2	IUD	7000	4920
3	Conventional Contraceptives Issued	5500	1711 (users) 206055 (Pieces)
4	Users of Oral Pills	3800	1985 (users) 27499 (cycles)

16. Theni Medical College. The Hindu Newspaper, 10 December 2004.

17. Deputy Director Health, Theni, 2008-2009.

18. Joint Director, Health, Periyakulam, 2008-2009.

19. J.D.(Periyakulam) and D.D. Health Service, Theni, 2008-2009.

Air Condition Operation Theatres in Government Hospitals²⁰

S. No	Name of the Institutions	Theatre Available	A.C. Theatre	Details of AC Operation Theatre
A	District Hospital: Government Periyakulam	05	05	MOT - 1, Eye - 1, PPC - 1, Gen. - 1, A&E - 1, Total - 5
B	1) Govt. Hospital, Andipatty	01	01	MOT - 1
	2) Govt. Hospital, Bodi	01	01	MOT - 1
	3) Govt. Hospital, Uthamapalayam	01	01	MOT - 1
C	1) Govt. Hospital, Cumbum	02	02	PPC - 1, MOT - 1
	2) Govt Hospital, Chinnamanur	01	01	MOT - 1
Total		11	11	11

Government Hospitals with Blood Banks facilities in Theni District

The following table provides the list of Government Hospitals having Blood Banks²¹

No.	Name of the Govt. Hospital
1.	Govt. Head Quarters Hospital, Periyakulam (Blood Bank)
2.	Govt. Hospital, Bodi. (Blood Storage Centre)
3.	Blood Storage Centre at Government Hospital Cumbum
4.	Blood Storage Centre at Government Hospital, Uthamapalayam

Master Health Checkup Scheme²²

The Government in their G.O.Ms.No.341/Health & Family Welfare dated 02.07.1999 have

20. Health & Family Welfare Department Policy Note On Health And Family Welfare 2004-2005

21. Other than Government blood banks, there are 20 private blood banks in Theni district.

22. Master Health Checkup Packages in Theni - Diagnostic Centres

introduced the “Master Health Checkup Scheme” in all Government Head Quarters Hospitals in Tamil Nadu. The Master Health Checkup is free to all low-income people. The others have to pay Rs.250.00 for their checkup. A separate file consisting of 12 pages with the details of all investigations is done with the reference for further treatment to be given to all persons on completion of checkup.

This amount of Rs.250.00 collected from the patient is being utilized for Hospital Stoppage (Rs.100.00) and Hospital Maintenance (Rs.150). The Scheme is being implemented in the Government Head Quarters Hospital, Periyakulam, with effect from 01.10.1999. A separate room is allotted for Doctors, and Nurses are posted. The importance and implementation of the scheme were published in Newspapers. The notice board was displayed on the premises of the Hospital.

C.T. Scan Centre Facility

C.T. Scanner at Government Head Quarters Hospital, Periyakulam started functioning with effect from 24.05.2002. The Theni District Collector inaugurated the opening ceremony of the C.T. Scan service on 24.05.2002. Whole-body C.T. Scanner of AUKLET model of TOSHIBA imported from Japan, with the accessory Automatic Film Processor Imported from Germany was installed by the TNMSC Limited, Chennai at Government Head Quarters Hospital, Periyakulam.²³

The total cost of a whole-body C.T. scanner with all accessories is around Rs.73, 90,000/-. The Charges for taking C.T. Scan are for— patients—plain—Rs.350.00 and for out-patients – plain—Rs.500.00; for contrast, an additional amount of Rs.200 will be collected. If the Contrast Scan is taken within seven days after Plain Scanning, an additional charge of Rs.200.00 alone will be collected. If the Contrast is taken after seven days, the charges collected will be Rs.350+200 for In-Patients and Rs.500+200 for Patients. The Scan Report is being issued by the Radiologist on the day of the Scan taken itself.

23. G.O. (3D) No.5, Health dept. dated 09.03.2002.

STD Clinic

STD Clinic is started functioning at Government Head Quarters Hospital, Periyakulam.²⁴ One Medical Officer and One Health Visitor are working in the STD Clinic.

Voluntary Counseling and Testing Centre (VCTC)

The VCTC is functioning in Government Head Quarters Hospital, Periyakulam²⁵ w.e.f. 01.10.2001 as per orders of the Project Director, Tamil Nadu State AIDS Control Society, Chennai. One Medical Officer, Two Counsellors, and One Lab Technician are working in the VCTC. The basic estimates involved in the VCTC is a confidential discussion between the client and trained counselor, and the focus is on emotional and social uses related to possible of actual HIV infection. Pre-test counseling and testing and post-test counseling and testing are provided in the center. A sum of Rs.10/- is being collected from the patient for testing. The Tamil Nadu State AIDS Control Society²⁶ has sanctioned budget from the year 2001-2002 to till date.

Child Transmission - Government Head Quarters Hospital, Periyakulam

The PPTCT²⁷ is functioning in Government Head Quarters Hospital, Periyakulam w.e.f. 01.10.2002 as per orders of the Project Director, Tamil Nadu State AIDS Control Society, Chennai. One Medical Officer, One Counsellor, and One Lab Technician

24. G.O.Ms.No.1441/H/dept. dated 20.07.88.

25. Joint Director of Medical and Rural Health Service

26. Health & Family Welfare Department Policy Note on Health and Family Welfare 2011-2012

27. For further details refer, A Program on Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission

are working in the PPTCT. Few more facilities may be added in taluk centers.

Other Health Care Services

The other health care services, such as adequate food and housing²⁸, safe drinking water, protection against communicable diseases, etc., are carried out through Municipalities and Panchayati Raj Institutions²⁹.

It may be concluded that the preceding survey and presentation stand to indicate that the Health Care Facilities available in the Theni District require further updating and up-gradation. The urban population is fortunate enough to make use of these facilities, whereas the rural populations, in most cases, do not have easy access to the health care facilities available. More specifically, those tribal populations in the district experience enormous constraints in availing these facilities. The necessary initiative is urgently required to ensure these health care facilities to those in the hilly tracts of the Theni District.

28. G.O.Ms.No.301 Public Health and Preventive Medicine - Prevention of Food Adulteration Act 1954 - Ban on Manufacture, Storage and selling and distribution of Pan Masala, Gutka and Chewing tobacco (orders issued 07.11.2001)

29. The Government of India is assisting the States in providing Water Supply to the rural areas through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Rural Drinking Water Programme from 2009 onwards. The Newly formed Ministry of Jal Shakti is committed to provide piped water supply house hold connections to all rural households by 2024. In Tamil Nadu, as on 01.04.2019, as per IMIS, there are 1,00,014 rural habitations of which 96,796 habitations are fully covered and 3218 habitations are partially covered.

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