



Full Length Research Article

SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND OF THE RESPONDENTS OF ERODE CITY CORPORATION OF TAMIL NADU, INDIA - A SURVEY

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ABSTRACT

A study was carried out in Erode, a tier-II city of Tamil Nadu with the objective to study the social and educational background of the respondents. Multistage sampling procedure was adopted to select 120 household respondents. Relevant data were collected through personal interview with the help of a pilot-tested interview schedule. An *ex-post facto* research design was adopted to find out the results. Socio-economic background of the respondents of Erode City showed that nearly 50 per cent of the respondents were in the age group of 30-50 and 82.5 per cent of the respondents were female. Majority of the respondents fell in the income group of Rs. 30,000 - 70,000/annum and only 7.5 per cent of the respondents earned more than Rs.70000 per annum. Around 77.5 per cent of the sampled respondents were living in the nuclear type families. Respondents living in the own house (35 per cent) was less than those living in rented houses (65 per cent). Majority of the families had a family size of less than 5 members (85 per cent). Educational qualification of the highest numbers of respondents (32.5 per cent) was in the range of less than high school and none of the respondents were post graduates.

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INTRODUCTION

The researcher wanted to survey the social environment and educational background of the Erode city of Tamil nadu state of India. Erode is the administrative headquarters of Erode District in Tamil Nadu. It is surrounded by the hills of Urugumalai, Athimalai and Chennimalai. Amaravathy, Noyyal, Bhavani, and Cauvery are the rivers that flow through Erode. The district relies on the textile industry, turmeric industry and oil industry for employment. The district has two industrial estates. The district also has several tanneries, lock manufacturing units and large number of cotton spinning mills. Erode is located at 11.21°N 77.44°E. It encompasses an area of 8.44 km². It is situated at the center of the South Indian Peninsula around 80 kms east of Coimbatore. It is around 400km away from Chennai. The climate in Erode is hot and dry all through the year. Erode is segregated divided into 4 Zones, each containing 15 Wards. It has two state assembly constituencies. Surampatti, Kasipalayam (E), Veerappan Chatram, Periya Semur are the Zonal Headquarters for each of the four Zones.

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The city has a semi-arid climate with hot and dry weather all through the year. April, May and June are the hottest months, while December and January are the coldest. The temperature in Erode ranges from 27° to 36° C. Erode receives scanty rainfall with the average rainfall in Erode being around 812 mm. The populace of Erode as per the 2011 census stood at 2,251,744. It had a sex ratio of 993 per 1000. As per the figures of 2006, Erode had 46 public and private schools in Erode. There were four technical institutes in the city. The average city literacy ratio is 72.58%. The total number of literates stood at 1,492,662. Thus, Erode can boast of remarkable achievement.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

An *ex-post facto* research design was adopted to find out the social and educational background of the people of Erode city of Tamil Nadu state. This city represent all traditions, religions, castes, etc. of the state. A sample of 120 respondents were selected by simple random sampling method and the data pertaining to the individuals profile were collected personally through pre-tested interview schedule and were analysed and discussed accordingly. The analyses of the data were carried out through conventional, tabular and functional methods using SPSS (2003) and Teklebrha, 2013.

Table 1. Social and Educational Background of the Respondents of Erode City

Particulars	Frequency n=120	Percentage
Age		
Young <30 years	39	32.5%
Middle 30-50 yrs	60	50.0%
Old >50 yrs	21	17.5%
Sex		
Male	21	17.5%
Female	99	82.5%
Income		
Low (Rs.<30,000/annum)	27	22.5%
Medium(Rs. 30,000 -70,000/annum)	84	70.0%
High (>70,000/annum)	09	7.5%
Type of Family		
Nuclear	93	77.5%
Joint	27	22.5%
Type of Residence		
Own house	42	35.0%
Rented house	78	65.0%
Family size		
<5 members	96	80.0%
>5 members	09	7.5%
5 members	15	12.5%
Education		
Illiterate	03	2.5%
Upto Primary education	21	17.5%
Less than High school	39	32.5%
Equivalent to High school	30	25.0%
Degree holder	27	22.5%
Post-graduate	--	--

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results are shown in Table 1. Nearly 50 per cent of the respondents (70%) were in the age group of 30-50 and 82.5 per cent of the respondents were female. Majority of the respondents fell in the income group of Rs. 30,000 - 70,000/annum and only 7.5 per cent of the respondents earned more than Rs.70000 per annum. Around 77.5 per cent of the sampled respondents were living in the nuclear type families. Respondents living in the own house (35 per cent) were less than those living in rented houses (65 per cent). Majority of the families had a family size of less than 5 members (85 per cent). Educational qualification of the highest numbers of respondents (32.5 per cent) was in the range of less than high school and none of the respondents were post graduates. The limitations in this study were directly related to the truth in answering about the income of the respondents. The results of this survey indicates that the level of education is the major influencing factor in determining the level of income, owning houses, etc. but the level of education has not influenced the family size.

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