**Project Report**

The definition of Social Progress Index by the Social Progress Imperative is given as: **Social progress is the capacity of a society to meet the basic human needs of its citizens, establish the building blocks that allow citizens and communities to enhance and sustain the quality of their lives, and create the conditions for all individuals to reach their full potential.**

There are three main dimension that constitute social progress:

* Basic Human Needs
* Foundations of Wellbeing
* Opportunity.

During the recent torrential rains and floods in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu, a lot of the short comings of the state’s infrastructure became visible. This calls for corrective measures to be taken so that such a situation can be prevented in future. Steps need to be taken to improve the infrastructure of the state and to ensure availability of basic needs and amenities to all.

The first step involves the collection and analysis of information. The availability of information about the society is very important. This information includes everything from the number of people living in a street or locality to availability of water and electricity, etc. Analysing this information can be very helpful in finding gaps in the information and can help identify what is lacking in a particular society and what steps need to be taken. Hence, the project aims to use this information and help in disaster mitigation by making informed decisions.

The Social Progress Index findings reveal that societies achieve widely divergent levels of social progress. Social Progress Index scores can be disaggregated to show performance by dimension and component. Performance often varies across areas, with most societies showing both strengths and weaknesses across the components. We can examine societies’ relative performance on specific dimensions and components.

The Social Progress Index, by separating the measurement of social performance from that of economic performance, allows a rigorous empirical understanding of the relationship between economic development and social progress. It can also inform our understanding of how social progress can drive economic growth.

The Social Progress Index for Tamil Nadu includes the 33 districts in the state and the state as a whole. The overall Social Progress Index for the state measures at 45.83 while the state values for the three dimensions are 41.95 for Basic Human Needs, 48.53 for Foundations of Wellbeing and 47 for Opportunity. The top three overperforming districts in the state based on Social Progress Index are Chennai, Coimbatore and Kanniyakumari respectively. Similarly, the top three underperforming districts in the state are Dharmapuri, Perambalur and Viluppuram respectively. While these districts are among top over and under performers in the values for the overall Social Progress Index, it is not necessary that these districts are among the top for the three dimensions, components or the indicators. This shows that the strengths and weaknesses are different for every district. This comparison allows us to assess different districts and take appropriate measures to improve the social progress of the districts.

**Overperformers and Underperformers by SPI and Dimensions**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Overperformers** | **Underperformers** |
| **Social Progress Index** | Chennai | Dharmapuri |
| Coimbatore | Perambalur |
| Kanniyakumari | Viluppuram |
| **Basic Human Needs** | Chennai | Ramanathapuram |
| Coimbatore | Perambalur |
| Kanniyakumari | Dharmapuri |
| **Foundations of Wellbeing** | Kanniyakumari | Tiruvannamalai |
| Coimbatore | Theni |
| Chennai | Viluppuram |
| **Opportunity** | Chennai | Viluppuram |
| Kanniyakumari | Dharmapuri |
| Thiruvarur | Krishnagiri |

The above table shows that for the overall Social Progress Index, the overperformers are Chennai, Coimbatore and Kanniyakumari and the underperformers are Dharmapuri, Perambalur and Viluppuram.

For the Basic Human Needs dimension, the overperformers are Chennai, Coimbatore and Kanniyakumari and the underperformers are Ramanathapuram, Perambalur and Dharmapuri.

For the Foundations of Wellbeing dimension, the overperformers are Kanniyakumari, Coimbatore and Chennai and the underperformers are Tiruvannamalai, Theni and Viluppuram.

For the Opportunity dimension, the overperformers are Chennai, Kanniyakumari and Thiruvarur and the underperformers are Viluppuram, Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri.

**Graphical Models to represent SPI and Dimensional Values**







