The Sri Krishnadevaraya University is located at Anantapur District. The larger clientele of the University are drawn from Anantapur District. Hence, it is pertinent to have insights about both Anantapur District and Sri Krishnadevaraya University.

Profile of Anantapur District:

Anantapur district was formed in the year 1882 having been separated from Bellary district. Later on, it was expanded with the addition of Revenue Mandals. The district has been divided into 3 Revenue Divisions, consisting of 63 Revenue Mandals (Anantapur Division 20; Dharmavaram Division 17; and Penukonda Division 26).

Boundaries and Topography:

Anantapur district lies between 13°- 40', and 15° - 15' Northern Latitude and 76° - 50' and 78° - 30' Eastern Longitude. It is bounded by Bellary, Kurnool Districts on the North, Cuddapah and Kolar District of Karnataka on South-East and North respectively. The District is roughly oblong in shape, the longer side running North to South with a portion of Chitradurg District of Karnataka State intruding into it from West between Kundurpi and Amarapuram Mandals.
The District may be divided into 3 natural divisions. They are (1) Northern Mandals of Rayadurg, Kanekal, Beluguppa, Gooty, Guntakal, Vajrakarur, Uravakonda, Vidapanakal, Yadiki, Tadipatri, Putlur and Yellanur containing large areas of black cotton soils. (2) Kalyandurg, Kambadur, Settur, Brahmasamudram, Ramagiri, Kanaganipalle, C.K.Palle, Dharmavaram, Bathalapalle, Tadimarri, Mudigubba, Anantapur, Kudair, Pamidi and Peddavaduguru in the centre in which are mainly made up of arid treeless, expense of poor red soils. (3) High level land of Penukonda, Roddam, Somandepalle, Hindupur, Lepakshi, Chilamathur, Madakasira, Rolla, Gudibanda, and Agali which connects with Mysore Plateau at higher elevation of the rest of the district. This part is average sandy red soils of normal productivity.

**Hills** : The forests in the district are thin and scanty. There are numerous isolated peaks and rocky clusters which are devoid of any vegetation.

**Rivers** : The important river in the district is **Penner**. It has the origin in the Nandi Hill of Karnataka State. Where it is called 'Uttarapinakini'. The other rivers are **Jayamangala River**, **Chitravathi River**, another significant river in the district enters near Kondikonda
village of Chilamathur mandal. **Vedavathi** or **Hangari** River also an important river in the district.

Apart from these, streams like Kushavathi, Swarnamukhi, Maddileru, Pandameru, Papagni are important water supply sources in the district. There is one major irrigation project i.e., T.B.H.L.C. and 3 medium irrigation projects are Upper Pennar Project (U.P.P.); Bhairavanithippa Project (B.T.P.); Chennarayaswamygudi Project (C.G.P.).

**Rainfall and Climate**: The district of Anantapur has fairly good elevation which provides the district with tolerable climate throughout the year. It has a gradual rainfall from the south-north towards the valley of Pennar in Peddavadugur, Peddapappur and Tadpatri mandals. There is a gradual rise in Hindupur, Parigi, Lepakshi, Chilamathur, Agali, Rolla and Madakasira mandals in the south to join the Karnataka Plateau where the average elevation is about 2000 feet above the mean sea level. It is about 1100 feet at Anantapur and the lowest 900 feet is at Tadipatri.

The geographical position of the district in the middle of the Peninsula render it, the driest part of the State and hence, agricultural conditions are more
often precarious. Monsoons also evade this part due to its unfortunate location. Being far from east coast, it does not enjoy the full benefits of North-East Monsoons and being cut off by the high western ghats, the South-Western monsoons are also prevented from penetrating and questioning the thirst of these parched soils. It is therefore seen, the district is deprived of both the monsoons and subjected to droughts due to bad seasons.

The normal rainfall of the district is 520.4 mm, by which it secures least rainfall when compared to Rayalaseema and other parts of Andhra Pradesh.

March, April and May are warm months when the daily maximum temperature ranges between 29.1°C to 38.4°C. November, December and January are cooler months when temperature falls about 17.2°C. Hindupur, Parigi, Lepakshi, Chilamathur, Agali, Rolla and Madakasira mandals being at high elevation are cooler than the rest of the mandals in the district.

Soils: The soils in Anantapur district are predominantly red except of Kanekal, Bommanahal, Vidapanakal etc. Thus 76% of soils are red and 24% are black.

Demographic Particulars:

The total population of the district is 31.80 lakhs as per 1991 census. The rural population is
24.32 lakhs while the urban population is 7.48 lakhs.

The growth rate of population of Anantapur district for two census periods is given below:

**TABLE 2.1**

**DECADEL GROWTH OF POPULATION OF ANANTAPUR DISTRICT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Census Period</th>
<th>Total Population</th>
<th>Percentage of growth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>21,15,321</td>
<td>19.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>25,48,012</td>
<td>20.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>31,80,863</td>
<td>24.93</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are 940 inhabited villages. There are 14 villages with more than 10,000 population excluding towns. There are 11 towns in Anantapur district as per 1991 census.

The density of population of the district is 172 per sq.km against 241 of the State. The population of rural and urban to the total population of the district workout to 76.5% and 23.5% in 1991 census as against 79.2% and 20.8% of 1981 census. There are 946 females per 1000 males in 1991 census.
The working force in the total population of the district forms 46.2% as per 1991 census out of which 32.20% are in agricultural sector.

**Educational Profile of Anantapur District:**

The Anantapur district is not forward in literacy compared to other districts in Andhra Pradesh. According to 1991 census the literacy rate is 35.7% only.

However, Anantapur District has one of the oldest educational centres which drew students from the nearby towns who pursued their graduate studies in the famous Government Degree College, Anantapur, which had a long academic history in the region. The post-independent era saw establishment of two Universities in the eighties one at Puttaparthy and another at Anantapur.

**Universities:**

There are 2 Universities in the district, viz., Sri Krishnadevaraya University, which is an affiliating university and the other is Sri Satya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, a deemed University. Regarding Degree Colleges the district has 16 Degree Colleges and 18 independent Junior Colleges. The district has one Government Engineering College and 2 Polytechnic Colleges.
Secondary Schools:

The Secondary Schools in the district are 272 which composed of Government Schools 16, Zilla Parishad Schools 212, Municipal High Schools 20, Aided Schools 15 and Unaided Schools 9.

Junior Colleges:

There are 14 Junior Colleges attached to High Schools viz., 12 Government Junior Colleges and 2 Aided Junior Colleges.

Upper Primary Schools and Primary Schools:

The Upper Primary Schools in the district are 216, which composed of Government Schools 184; Zilla Parishad/Mandal Praja Parishad 12; Aided Upper Primary Schools 2; Unaided Schools 18.

There are 2,748 Primary Schools in Anantapur district which composed of Government Schools/Mandal Praja Parishad Schools 2,503; Municipal Elementary Schools 151; Aided Schools 30 and Unaided Schools 55.

Regarding Residential Schools (Ashram Schools) in the district, there are 3 Residential Schools viz., (1) A.P.Residential School (Boys), Kudiganahalle,
(2) A.P. Residential School (Girls), Gooty, and
(3) A.P. Residential School (B.C. Boys), Lepakshi.

The Welfare Schools are 5 in number. There are also one Government Residential (Blind's School) and Abhyudaya Elementary Schools 5 and Oriental High Schools 3.

**Teachers:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. High Schools</td>
<td>2,125</td>
<td>558</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Upper Primary</td>
<td>536</td>
<td>207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Primary</td>
<td>3,237</td>
<td>1,270</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TABLE 2.2**

**ENROLMENT OF CHILDREN IN SCHOOLS IN ANANTAPUR DISTRICT:**

1991 CENSUS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>1,66,131</td>
<td>1,30,462</td>
<td>2,96,593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Upper Primary</td>
<td>31,383</td>
<td>21,489</td>
<td>52,872</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>High Schools</td>
<td>66,169</td>
<td>39,023</td>
<td>1,05,192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Junior Colleges</td>
<td>8,579</td>
<td>3,920</td>
<td>12,499</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Combined High Schools**

Source: District Planning Office.
Vocational Education:

15 High Schools have started courses in vocational education.

Non-Formal Education:

Children between 9 to 14 years old are eligible for admission into Non-Formal Education centres. There are 11 Non-Formal Education centres in Anantapur district.

The following is the enrolment of Non-Formal Education centres:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phase-I</td>
<td>14,775</td>
<td>14,085</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phase-II</td>
<td>1,954</td>
<td>846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>16,725</td>
<td>14,931</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SRI KRISHNADEVARAYA UNIVERSITY:

The Sri Krishnadevaraya University is located 10 Kms away from Anantapur town of Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh. The University campus has an extensive area of 600 acres surrounded by cluster of villages.

The Sri Krishnadevaraya University which came into being in July 1981, has a long tradition of teaching and research dating back to 1967 when it first began as
### TABLE 2.3

**STATEMENT SHOWING THE LITERACY ACCORDING TO 1991 CENSUS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Literacy Rate</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Men</td>
<td>Women</td>
<td>Men</td>
<td>Women</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. India</td>
<td>84,39,30,861</td>
<td>43,75,97,929</td>
<td>40,63,32,932</td>
<td>63.9%</td>
<td>30.4%</td>
<td>52.11%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Andhra Pradesh</td>
<td>6,63,04,854</td>
<td>3,34,30,631</td>
<td>3,28,74,223</td>
<td>58.38%</td>
<td>34.93%</td>
<td>45.11%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Anantapur District</td>
<td>31,83,781</td>
<td>16,48,692</td>
<td>15,35,089</td>
<td>46.81%</td>
<td>23.45%</td>
<td>35.00%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Post-Graduate Centre of Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati. The P.G. Centre in 1967 has five departments, viz., (1) Department of English, (2) Department of Telugu, (3) Department of Chemistry, (4) Department of Physics, (5) Department of Mathematics. Later on the Department of Economics and Department of Commerce were started.

It became an autonomous Post-Graduate Centre in 1976. In this autonomous Post-Graduate Centre, Department of Rural Development, Department of Zoology, and Department of Botany were comprised and Department of Bio-Sciences was started.

The University, as an outgrowth of S.V.U. Autonomous Post-Graduate Centre, was set up in 1981 as a fulfledged unitary institution. After Sri Krishnadevaraya University came into being on 25th July 1981, as a unitary University, it has developed enormously during Sixth and Seventh Five Year Plan periods.


In addition to the above courses, the following courses were also started viz., Polymer Technology, Computer Course, Public Administration, Adult Education, Sericulture.

There are 24 Departments in Sri Krishnadevaraya University College offering Post-Graduate Courses and M.Phil and Ph.D programmes. It has about 2,000 students and 500 Research Scholars.

In the year 1987, about 45 colleges located in the districts of Kurnool and Anantapur have been disaffiliated from Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati, affiliated to Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Anantapur, from the academic year 1987-88. Now the University has 71 affiliated colleges and 23,051 students are studying in these colleges.

NEED FOR PRIVATE STUDY:

The Indian Education Commission in 1964-65, discussed the issue in detail and made some useful observation. It rightly said "There must be method of
taking education to the millions who depend upon their own efforts to study courses and provide the right answer for these situations. Hence Private Study system in Universities came into existence.

Education should be made accessible to all, irrespective of financial, social and psychological conditions. Life-long education is also emphasised not only for all but also for all stages of life. People engaged in various vocations or deprived of education at any stage of their life may like to get education of their choice. Thus, equalisation of educational opportunities should be ensured through diversified sources and multi point entries so that democracy can transcend the entire educational system throughout the world.

Private Study is an effective alternative to formal education in an University. It has immense significance for emerging learning society in general and educationally developed and developing society in particular. It has its message both for both life long education as well as universalisation of education. It is necessary for meeting the ever increasing demand for higher education. Private Study is the potential means of equalisation of educational opportunities and a useful
medium for promoting diversified as well as vocational education. Private Study is the source of inspiration for the disappointed and a providence for the deprived. Private Study is therefore democratic as well as socialist in nature. After Independence, India faced the colossal problems of educating teeming millions of students. Although a large number of colleges were set up to cope up with ever increasing demands, it was not possible to provide adequate facilities of education in the Universities. The Planning Commission made thinking about the problems and appointed an Expert Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. D.S. Kothari to explore the possibility of starting Private Study in Universities.

PRIVATE STUDY AT SRI KRISHNADEVARAYA UNIVERSITY, ANANTAPUR:

With an aim to extend the educational opportunities to the students of this region Private Study stream was introduced in the year 1984 in five subjects viz., Economics, English, History, Maths, Commerce, Sociology, Political Science, and Telugu. This stream became quite popular among the student community and working population as a channel for attainment of Post-Graduate education. This has become a source of inspiration for those who could not enter the regular stream. To those who are in
the workforce the Private Study has been helping them to benefit themselves in the respective occupations through betterment of academic attainments in the form of Post Graduate degrees.

The enrolment of students in eight disciplines with male and female breakup is presented in Table 2.4. This data pertains to the enrolments over a decade 1984 to 1994 thereby giving a vivid picture regarding the trend of enrolment for P.G. studies in the Private Study stream.

It can be observed that the overall enrolment in all the disciplines has been consistently on the rise during the decade, except for two years 1991, 1993 during which it dipped a little but only to get shot up in the next year i.e., 1993-94. The women's enrolment trend indicates that it had a humble beginning with an overall enrolment percentage of 19.67 in the year 1984-85 has made a steady progress. It rose upto 31.19 per cent by the year 1988-89; and it has reached to 45.21 per cent by the year 1993-94. This indicates the growing enthusiasm for enrolment among women in the Private Study stream.

The analysis is further carried out to depict discipline-wise women enrolment trends. In English and Telugu the female percentage to the total enrolment began
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>Telugu</th>
<th>Economics</th>
<th>History</th>
<th>Pol.Sci</th>
<th>Commerce</th>
<th>Maths</th>
<th>Sociology</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Grand Total</th>
<th>Percentage of female enrolment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M F F</td>
<td>M F F</td>
<td>M F F</td>
<td>M F F</td>
<td>M F F</td>
<td>M F F</td>
<td>M F F</td>
<td>M F F</td>
<td>M F F</td>
<td>M F F</td>
<td>M F F</td>
<td>M F F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984-85</td>
<td>33 20 11</td>
<td>5 23 5</td>
<td>79 12</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>9 27 5</td>
<td>45 16</td>
<td>294</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>365</td>
<td>19.67</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985-86</td>
<td>65 32 45</td>
<td>11 49 23</td>
<td>160 69</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>46 71 19</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>614</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>1540</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986-87</td>
<td>76 48 51</td>
<td>18 63 39</td>
<td>232 72</td>
<td>346</td>
<td>162 102</td>
<td>53 76 22</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>1087</td>
<td>453</td>
<td>1540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987-88</td>
<td>85 52 55</td>
<td>19 65 41</td>
<td>240 98</td>
<td>365</td>
<td>179 105</td>
<td>56 81 29</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>1141</td>
<td>515</td>
<td>1656</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988-89</td>
<td>90 61 53</td>
<td>25 75 42</td>
<td>260 110</td>
<td>385</td>
<td>162 110</td>
<td>68 78 31</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>1196</td>
<td>542</td>
<td>1738</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989-90</td>
<td>95 62 62</td>
<td>21 81 49</td>
<td>280 130</td>
<td>404</td>
<td>182 130</td>
<td>71 89 32</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>1292</td>
<td>599</td>
<td>1891</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990-91</td>
<td>125 75 77</td>
<td>36 116 54</td>
<td>295 155</td>
<td>504 192</td>
<td>90 41 64 30</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>36 1352</td>
<td>619</td>
<td>1961</td>
<td>1874</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991-92</td>
<td>105 72 72</td>
<td>31 101 49</td>
<td>290 140</td>
<td>409 187</td>
<td>112 47 90 62</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>31 1255</td>
<td>619</td>
<td>1829</td>
<td>1829</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992-93</td>
<td>102 43 23</td>
<td>20 52 20</td>
<td>301 154</td>
<td>455 186</td>
<td>126 64 115 32</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>34 1276</td>
<td>553</td>
<td>1829</td>
<td>1829</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993-94</td>
<td>130 110 36</td>
<td>27 37 24</td>
<td>369 206</td>
<td>678 250</td>
<td>132 44 168 60</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>62 1732</td>
<td>783</td>
<td>2515</td>
<td>45.21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
with 37.74 and 31.25 in the year 1983-84 and they reached the percentage of 45.83 and 42.86 respectively by the year 1993-94. In the Social Sciences, Economics and History registered the initial a low female enrolment percentages of 17.86 and 13.19 respectively; and have reached 39.34 and 35.83 during the decade. On the other hand Sociology started with relatively a better female enrolment percentage of 26.23 in 1983-84 and it dipped to 22.87 in 1988-89; but by the end of the 1993, it has risen upto 25.41 per cent. The female percentage to total enrolment in Political Science has shown a downward trend beginning with 31.89 in 1986-87 to 29.62 in 1989-90 to 26.94 by 1993-94. The fact is that the female enrolment had remained more or less stable while the male enrolments shown an upward and sometimes erratic, rise and fall. In the Commerce discipline the female percentage to total enrolment began with a modest 10.59 and has reached upto 38.20 by the mid year and it reached downwards to 25.00 per cent in 1993-94. The reason might be due to some of the papers which need personal coaching and tuition from qualified teachers. Even in Mathematics the enrolments show consistently upward trend till the mid year and afterwards show an erratic rise and fall.
The overall inference regarding enrolments is that the Private Study stream caters to the needs of both male and female seekers of higher education. Women's enrolment in particular show consistently increasing rate of enrolment in all the disciplines during the decade 1984 to 1994, though at times in certain disciplines a slight dip or a sudden rise is glaringly noticeable. The underlined fact is that female enrolments by and large have been consistently growing over the years. The more popular courses for enrolment among women and of course, languages, followed by History, Economics and Sociology.

After a decade of offering Post Graduate education in some disciplines through Private Study stream an attempt is made to know to what extent this stream helps women to attain Post-Graduate degrees thereby giving them easy access to Higher Education system while they continue in their jobs or other activities. This study also seeks to examine the socio-economic profile of women enrolled in this stream besides analysing their perceptions and attitudes towards education in general. It is with these objectives that the present study 'Women and Higher Education is made as a Sociological Survey of Women enrolled for Private Studies in Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh.'