Chapter – IV

PROFILE OF STUDY AREA

The discussions in the earlier chapter envisages that the Vizianagaram district is lagging behind in the levels of the development of primary education. The main objective of the study is to traced out variation in the levels of the development of primary education as well as to formulate feasible and amicable strategies for the over all development of primary level education at grassroots level. Keeping the above aspects under consideration, the study is selected Vizianagaram district in the state of Andhra Pradesh for detailed study. For this purpose, an attempt is made in this chapter to analyse the physical and socio-economic characteristics of the study area. This chapter is divided into two sections, the first section deals with the physical characteristics of the study area while section – II presents the socio-economic characteristics of the study area. The details of the study are as follows:

Site and Situation:

Vizianagaram district was formed as 23rd district in the state of Andhra Pradesh. Vizianagaram was the district head quarters. The district constitutes the portions of both Srikakulam and Visakhapatnam districts. The district is a part of the north coastal plains of Andhra Pradesh and lies between 17°15’ to 19°15’ north latitude and 83° to 83°45 of the eastern longitude. It is bounded on the East by Srikakulam on the south – east by Bay of Bengal and north-west by Orissa state. For administrative convenience, the district is divided into 2 revenue divisions namely Vizianagaram and Parvathipuram. Further, it is divided into 34 revenue mandals in the district.

Historical Background:

Vizianagaram district is the part of the Kalinga is one of the political divisions of ancient India. The Kalinga empire spread from Cuttack in Orissa to Pithapuram in East Godavari district. The Nandas ruled the area between 467 BC to 336 BC. After the Nandas, the Mauryas, the Cholas, the Satavahanas, the Pitribhaktas, the Matharas, the Vasisthas, the Vishnukudins, the Early Eastern
Gangas, the Eastern Chalukyas of Vangi, the Late Eastern Gangas, the Reddis of Rajahmundry and the Velanati Cholas and the Kakatiyas upto 1210 AD. The Kakatiyas under Ganapati Deva defeated the Velanati Chola chief Prithvisvara who was ruling over the territory in 1210. The Gajapatis of Orissa came to rule for about 140 years till the Qutub Shahis conquered the territory around 1574 AD. After the occupation of Golconda by the Mughals in 1687 AD, the area came under the control of Mughals. The Viceroy of the Mughals in Deccan, Nizam-Ul-Mulk Asaf Jah declared his independence in 1724 AD. After the death of Nizam-Ul-Mulk Saubatjung came to power with the backing of the French General Bussy rewarded the French be ceding four circars including the Chicacole circar in 1743.

The unforgettable historical event in the history of the district which occurred was the war between the Rajas of Vizianagaram and Bobbili. Popularly known as ‘Bobbili Yudham’. The war was fought between the Rajah of Vizianagaram aided by the French General Bussy and the Rajah of Bobbili on the 24th January 1757. The bravery and valour of the soldiers of Bobbili displayed in this war as is still remembered by the people of the area. Another important event in the history of the district is the war between the French and the English fought at Chandurthi in 1758 in which the French were defeated and the Northern Circars were made over to the British under a firmana from the Mughal Emperor Shah Alam in 1765 which were placed under the existing chief and council of Vizianagaram. In 1803, a Collectorate was established. The entire district is came under this jurisdiction. Several reverts (fituris) took place due to oppression of tribals and its led to the establishment of separate administrative system known as Agency Administration under the Indian Act XXIV of 1839. The rebellion of Korra Malliah a tribal chief of Salur area against the British rule in 1900. Further, the people hailing from the area took active part in various phases of the movement like a non-cooperation movement, civil disobedience movement, Quit India movement, etc.

After the abolition of the Zamindars in 1948, Visakhapatnam district was found to be unwieldy for administrative purposes. Consequently, Srikakulam district was carved out in 1950 bifurcating it from Visakhapatnam district. In 1979, the talukas of Parvathipuram, Kurupam, Salur, Bobbili, Badangi and
Cheepurupalli from Srikakulam district and some taluks of Visakhapatnam transferring and forms Vizianagaram district.

Section – I: Physical characteristics of Vizianagaram district

a) Physiographic:

The district can be divided into two distinct natural physical divisions i.e. plains and hilly regions. The hilly region is mostly covered with densely wooded forests and comes under agency tract of the district. The plain portion of the district is a well cultivated tract. The areas transferred from Visakhapatnam district are mostly hilly and picturesque area are particularly in the north. The agency tract mostly consists of the hilly regions covered by the Eastern Ghats which run parallel to the coast from the north-east to the south-west. The average height of these hills is over 914 meters. The highest peak is the Shankaran in Srongavarapukota mandal which is over 1615 meters. Similarly, the hilly areas transferred from Srikakulam district consists parts of the former Parvathipuram and Salur taluks. The main hill ranges are Dumakonda, Antikonda, Palakonda, Kodagandi and Gomati Konda. All these individual ranges form parts of Eastern Ghats.

b) Climate:

The climate of the district is characterized by high humidity all the year round with oppressive summer and found seasonal rainfall. The summer season is from March to the middle of June. This is followed by the south-west monsoon season, which lasts up to about second week of October. The period from mid October to the end of November constitutes the post monsoon or retreating monsoon season. December to February is the season of generally fine weather. The climate of the hill parts of the district is different from that of plains. Since hilly regions receive heavier rainfall they are cooler than the plains. The maximum temperature will be recorded during May and the minimum temperature will be during December.
(i) **Temperature**: In the interior low level area of the district, the temperature in summer are about 2 to 3 degrees higher than in the coastal regions. From the middle of the February, the temperature rises rapidly till May which is the hottest month with mean daily maximum temperature at about 35° C and the mean minimum at about 27° C. December and January are the coolest months with mean daily maximum temperature about 28° C and the mean daily minimum temperature at about 18° C. During the fine weather season, the night temperature may sometimes drop down to about 11° C particularly in hill tracts.

(ii) **Rainfall**: The normal annual rainfall for the district is 1131 mm. the district mostly gets rainfall during both the monsoon season of South-West and North-East. June (380 mm) and September (321 mm) are the heavy rainfall months in the year.

(iii) **Soils**: The main soils in the district area red soils, sandy loams and sandy clay and they constitute 96 % of the total area. The thick soil cover might found along the valleys. Different types of rocks are in abundance in the district.

(iv) **Land utilization**: The total geographical area of the district is about 653900 hectares of which maximum extent is found in the category of net area sown (273928 hectares), followed by forests (119303 hectares), land put to non-agricultural uses (77320 hectares), barn and un-cultivatable land (73621 hectares), other fallow lands (65055 hectares), current follow lands (24724 hectares), land under miscellaneous tree crops and grooves not include in the net area sown (11155 hectares), permanent pastures and other grazing lands (4899 hectares) while lowest found in the category of cultivable waste (3826 hectares) respectively.
c) **Water Resources::**

**Rivers:** The district is drained by the rivers of Nagavali, Gosthani, Suvarnamukhi, Champavathi, Vegavathi and Gomukhi which pass through plains and hilly regions.

(i) **Nagavali:** It takes its birth in the steep hills of Rayagada taluk in Orissa state and enters the district in Komarada mandal. It passes through Komarada, Jiyyamavala and Gurugubilli mandals and enters Srikakulam district which finally fall into the Bay of Bengal at Mafuzbandu near Srikakulam. Its total length is 200 km and flows for about 112 km in Vizianagaram district. The total catchment area of this river is about 1.21 million hects. The main tributaries of the river are Vegavathi, Suvarnamukhi, Janjhavathi and Vottigedda.

(ii) **Gosthani:** The river has its origin in the Ananthagiri forest area of the Srungavarapukota, a few kilometers away from the famous Borra caves. The local tradition states that, deep in the caves there is Sivalingam over which there is an idol of cow and that water comes from the uddu of this cow, falls on the Sivalingam and flows down in the form of a river. As the river is said to commence from the uddu of a cow it is called Gosthani. A stream coming from western side and joining the Gosthani river near Borra caves is only a hill stream. After passing through the Jami mandal it enters Visakhapatnam district.

(iii) **Suvarnamukhi:** The river takes its birth in the hills of Salur and take eastern direction and finally joins the Nagavali river in Palakonda mandal of Srikakulam district. It flows mostly in Bobbili area.

(iv) **Champavathi:** This river takes its origin in the Eastern Ghats in Srikakulam district and after flowing through Salur area it enters
Vizianagaram mandal. The river finally falls into Bay of Bengal at Kanda village in Pusapatirega mandal of the district.

(v) **Vegavathi:** It originates in Pachipenta hills of Pachipenta mandal and flows in the same direction, almost parallel to the Suvarnamukhi.

(vi) **Gomukhi:** It originates from the Eastern Ghats and flows North-West of Salur. After serving a few villages it joins the Suvarnamukhi.

**Section – II: Socio-Economic and Demographic Characteristics of the Study Area**

a) **Population:**

The total population of the district is about 2249254 of which 1119541 are males and rest 1129713 females. The population increase is 6.55 for the district as against 14.6 per cent for the state. Out of the total, the scheduled caste population is 23802 and scheduled tribe population is 214839 which comes to 10.58 and 9.55 per cent respectively. The population density of the district is 344 per cent per sq. km and it relatively higher contrast to the state figures (277).

b) **Habitation:**

The Vizianagaram district extends over an area of 6539 sq km covering 1851 villages (1554 rural villages + 27 villages included in 12 towns) of which 69 are uninhabited. The total population of the district is 18.37 lakhs which comes to 8.2 per cent and urban population is 4.12 lakhs which comes to 18 per cent of the total population and it is relatively lower contrast to the state (27.3 per cent). Vizianagaram, Salur, Parvathipuram, Bobbili, Gajularega, Kanapaka, Kothavalasa, Sreeramnagar, Nellimarla, Jarjajupeta, Chintalavalasa and Gajapathinagaram are the towns of Vizianagaram district. The first 4 towns are municipalities, Kanapaka is merged in Vizianagaram municipality and the rest are notified as panchayats. All these towns are in plain areas of the district.
The sex ratio of the district is about 1009 females for 1000 males is relatively higher than the state (978). Similarly, the birth rate of the district is about 19.5 births per 1000 population is relatively lower compared to the state figures (229) while death rates is 7.1 deaths per 1000 population is also relatively lower contrast to the state figures (8.5) during this period. The infant mortality rate is also lower 19.59 per 1000 live contrast to the figures of the state (49).

c) **Literacy:**

The total literates in the district are 9.97 lakhs of which male literates are 62.37 per cent and 39.97 per cent are female literates. The percentage of total literacy is 44.3 per cent and it is lower than to the state (60.47 per cent). Similarly, the male literacy is about 54.00 per cent in the district and it is also relatively lower contrast to the state figures (70.32 per cent) while female literacy is about 34.7 per cent and it is also lower when compared to the figures of the state (50.43 per cent).

d) **Work Force:**

The working population of the district is 1174164 of which 71.70 per cent are main workers and 22.30 per cent are marginal workers. The population of the non-workers are 1075090 which is 47.79 per cent of the total population. Of the total workers, cultivators are 331882 (28 %), 471281 (40 per cent) are agricultural labourers, house hold industry workers are 43405 (4 %) and other workers are 327496 (28 per cent).

e) **Agriculture:**

The total extent of gross cropped area in the district is 3.73 lakh hectares of which net cropped area is about 2.74 lakh hectares. The district constitute 2.97 per cent of the gross cropped area and 2.71 per cent of the net cropped area of the state.
f) **Cropping Pattern:**

The maximum extent of the area about 1.08 lakh hectares is under rice, followed by ground nut (0.24 lakh hectares), black gram (0.18 lakh hectares), maize (0.17 lakh hectares), green gram (0.169 lakh hectares), and cotton (0.9 lakh hectares) in the year 2009 – 10. The district contributes 3.13 % of the area of the rice, 1.88 % of groundnut, 6.19 % of green gram, 4.14 % of black gram, 2.17 % of maize, 0.60 % of cotton of the state.

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g) **Production:**

The maximum production about 2.39 lakh tones is found in the category of rice, followed by maize (0.63 lakh tones), ground nut (0.33 lakh tones), cotton lint (0.45 lakh tones), black gram (0.08 lakh tone) produced in the year 2009 – 10. The district contributes 2.21 % of the rice production, 2.29 % of maize, 3.22 % of ground nut and 1.3 % of cotton of the state.

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h) **Land size holdings:**

The total farmers in the district is about 429239 of which maximum number about 324099 (75.5 per cent) are marginal farmers followed by small farmers 68272 (15.91 per cent) and rest 36868 (8.5 per cent) are other farmers. Similarly, the total extent of land size holdings in the district is about 858797 acres of which maximum extent 321359 (37.41 per cent) is under other farmers, followed by marginal farmers extent of 302183 acres (35.19 pee cent) while lowest found in small farmers extent of 235255 acres (27.39 per cent). The average land size holdings about 0.93 acres for marginal farmers, 3.44 acres for small farmers, 8.71 acres for other farmers and 2.00 acres for farmer as a whole respectively.

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i) **Agricultural Machinery and Implements:**

There are about 238555 wooden ploughs, 40787 steel ploughs, 32 sugarcane crushers, 32 power operated sprayers, 737 tractors and 33427 animal carts are used agriculture purpose in the study area.
j) **Irrigation:**

The total grass cropped area in the district is 3.73 lakhs hectares of which 1.53 lakh hectares (41.02 per cent) has irrigation facility. The major and medium irrigation sources in the study area are Thotapally regulator, Denkada, Tatipudi reservoir, Vegavathi Anicut, Pedda Arikalamma Anicut, Vattigedda, Vengalaraya Sagaram, Andra, Pedda Gedda reservoir and other minor irrigation schemes. The registered ayacut under these projects is 48346 acres.

The total gross irrigated area of the district is about 152998 hectares of which maximum extent of irrigated area 64862 (42.12 per cent) is found under tanks, 36265 hectares (23.55 per cent) is under canals, 47915 hectares (21.11 per cent) is under wells, 4243 hectares (2.75 per cent) is under other sources and 713 hectares (0.46 per cent) is under lift irrigation respectively.

k) **Live stock resources:**

There are about 491674 cattle, 259804 buffaloes, 388152 sheep, 204680 goats, 25962 pigs and 1965212 poultry is found in the study area.

l) **Fisheries:**

The total quantum of inland fish production is about 1544.09 tonnes. The total value of the fish production is about ₹ 221.76 lakhs. The major varieties of the inland fish are barbus, carps, prawn, murrells, etc. In respect of marine fish, the total quantum of production is about 8611.00 tonnes. The total value of the production is ₹ 1202.43 lakhs. The major species of the marine fish are mackerel and shrimp, etc.,

m) **Forest Resources:**

The total forest area in the district is about 119303 hectares. The forest areas predominantly found in the mandals of Gummalakshmipuram, Kurupam, Pachipenta, Salur, Mentada, etc. The total plantation in forest
areas is 585 hectares. The major varieties are teak, bamboo, casuarinas, firewood, etc. The total forest revenue in the district is ₹ 82.07 lakhs.

n) **Industries:**

There are about 23 large and medium scale industries are found in the study area. The total capital investment of these units is about ₹1475.07 lakhs and it provides employment to 24717 persons. The total value of the product is about ₹ 183385.53 lakhs. The important industries worth mentioning are NISNOS, Ferroalloys Corporation (Faccor), Shreeramnagar, Garividi, M/s Jindal Stainless Ltd., Kothavalasa, M/s GSC (India) Ltd., L. Kota, M/s Sri Chakra Cement Ltd., Jami, M/s Matrix Lab, Pusapatirega, M/s Perpetual Energy Systems Ltd., Sethanagaram, M/s Charoen Portland (India) Pvt. Ltd., M/s Mahamayya Industries, L. Kota, M.s HBL Power Systems, Ltd., Pusapatirega, M/s. NCS Ltd., Sethanagaram, M/s SMS Pharmaceuticals, Pusapatirega, M/s Steel Exchange India (P) Ltd., L. Kota, etc. The large and medium scale industries are predominantly found in the mandals of Sethanagaram (3), L.Kota (2), Pusapatirega (5), Kothavalasa (1), Bobbili (2), Vizianagaram (2), Garividi (1), Salur (1), Bhogapuram (2) and Merkamadidam (2).

Besides, this, there are about 547 units are registered under Factories Act in the study area. The total employment in these units are 28878. The factories are predominantly found in the mandals of Vizianagaram (81), Kothavalasa (44), Parvathipuram (39), S rngavarapukota (32), Bobbili (30), Nellimarla (28), Cheepurupalli (22), Salur and Bobbili (18 each), L. Kota and Pusapatirega (18 each), Bondapalle, Vepada, Lankamudidam (17 each). In respect of rice mills, the total number of rice mills under trading category is about 130 and 556 under non-trading category. The more number of rice mills found in the mandals of Gurugubilli, Parvathipuram, Baljipeta, Bobbili, Salur, Merkamadidam, Gajapathinagaram, Garividi, Cheepurupalli, Bondapalle, Gantyada, S. Kota, Jami, Vizianagaram, Pusapatirega, etc.
Regarding small scale industries, there are about 3621 units found in the district. The total investment of these units is about ₹24980 lakhs. It provides employment for about 36768 workers. The maximum number of units found in the category of food products (264), followed basic metal industries (189) and non metal mineral products (125). Similarly, the highest employment provided in food products (12673), repairing / servicing (3570), basic metal industries (3051), wooden products (2982), jute / hump / metta / coir (2430), etc. Maximum investment is reported in the categories of food products (₹6843 lakhs), repairing / servicing (₹2852 lakhs), metal industries (₹2795 lakhs), wooden products (₹2442 lakhs), metal products (₹1747 lakhs), jute / hump / metta / coir (₹1319 lakhs) respectively. More number of units found in the mandals of Vizianagaram (1325), Bobbili (263), Parvathipuram (244), Nellimarla (198), Salur (168), S. Kota (137), Cheepurupalli (130), and Kothavalasa (112).

In respect of cottage industries, the total number of units in the district are about 98 and provide employment for 685 persons. The total investment is about ₹583.28 lakhs. The major categories of cottage industries are tent house, and clay bricks (20 units each).

*o) Mining:*

The total minerals production in the study area is about 8.76 lakh tones of which maximum production is found in the category of road metal and building stone (4.71 lakh tones), followed by manganese ore (2.43 lakh tones), gravel (0.68 lakh tones) and quartzite (0.65 lakh tones). The total value of the minerals production is about ₹7667.3 lakhs. The minerals resources predominantly found in the mandals of Komarada, Jiyyammavalasa, Gurugubilli, Parvathipuram, Makkuva, Bobbili, Salur, Pachipenta, Ramachandrapuram, Therlam, Merkamudidam, Dattarajiru, Cheepurupalli, Gurla, Vepada, Kothavalasa, Jami, Vizianagaram, Nellimarla, Pusapatirega and Bhogapuram.
p) **Facilities:**

i. **Education:** There are about 2431 primary schools, 428 upper primary schools, 382 high schools, 95 junior colleges, 39 degree colleges, 12 BEd Colleges, 11 ITIs, 8 polytechnic colleges, 8 engineering colleges, 3 pharmacy colleges, 1 medical college, 1 post graduate centre providing educational facilities in the study area. The average population per institution is about 964 for primary school, 5474 for upper school, 6133 for high schools, 24661 for junior college, 60073 for degree college, 195239 for BEd college, 212988 for ITI, 292855 for polytechnic college, 292858 for engineering college, 780355 for pharmacy college, 2342868 for medical college, 2342868 for university respectively. The total student strength in these institutions is about 399841. The total teaching staff in these institutions is 15890.

ii. **Health:** There are about 11 hospitals, 60 PHCs, 4 Government hospitals, 10 other dispensaries, 184 doctors and 1086 beds are available in the district. The average served population 212988 per hospital, 39047 per PHC, 585717 per government hospital, 1234286 per dispensary, 12733 per doctor, 2158 per bed respectively.

q) **Transport and Communication:**

i. **Railway:** The total length of railway track in the district is about 260.44 km. The entire track is broad-gauge. The total number of railway stations in the study area is about 31. The average served population per station is about 75576.

ii. **Road:** The total road length in the study area is about 5310 KM of which maximum length of roads are black topped (54.37 per cent), followed by un-mettalled roads (34.31 per cent), mettalled roads (9.82 per cent) and concrete / cement (1.50 per cent) respectively. The study area has 200 km of national highways, 122.41 km of state highways, 695.87 km of major district roads, 947.66 km of
other district roads (come under Road and Buildings), 215.61 km of Zilla Parishad roads and 3128.25 km of village roads respectively.

In respect of bus service, the total number of buses operated by APSRTC is 385 and carried about 57.00 lakhs passengers. The total earnings of the service is about ₹ 9041.76 lakhs. The vehicle strength in the district is about 156008 of which maximum number 2-wheelers (134061) followed by auto-rickshaws (9890), cars (7992), tractors and trailers (6440), goods vehicles (5405) and busses (436) respectively.

Regarding communication, there are about 3 head post offices, 66 sub post offices, 554 branch post offices, 4403 PCOs and 73 mobiles towers. The served population is about 780956 for head post office, 35498 for sub post office, 4229 for branch post office, 26032 for telephone exchange, 61 for telephone connection, 212988 for telegraph office, 532 for PCO and 32094 for mobile tower.

r) **Credit Facilities:**

There are about 95 primary agricultural societies and 15 cooperative banks are providing credit services in the study area. The average served population is about 24661 for society and 156191 for cooperative bank.

s) **Veterinary Services:**

There are 93 rural live stock units, 18 assistant directors, 53 veterinary assistant surgeons, 30 junior veterinary officers, 64 live stock assistants, 11 veterinary hospitals and 50 dispensaries providing the veterinary services in the study area. The average served population is about 25192 for rural live stock unit, 130159 for assistant director, 44205 for veterinary assistant surgeon, 78095 for junior veterinary officer, 36607 for live stock assistant, 202988 for veterinary hospitals and 46857 for dispensary respectively.
**Tourism and Culture:**

The important religious, historical and tourist places in the study area are Pydithalli Ammavri temple, Tripurantakia Swamy temple, Jaganadha Swamy temple, Sunichi Temple, Kanyaka Parameswari temple, Vizianagaram Fort, Ganta Stambham, Moti Mahal, Dudh Khanna, Alakananda Palace, Korukonda Palace, Perla Lane, Bobbili Fort, Rajamahal, Bobbili Guest House, Ramathertham, Govindapuram, Thotapalli, Gosthani Sarovar Vihar, Punyagiri, Dharmavaram and Samvara are important places located in and around Vizianagaram.

The prominent people in the distract are: Gurajada Appa Rao, known as the morning star of Telugu literature. The Gurajadas famous drama Kanyasulkam was staged first time in 1892 and became an instant hit. The drama expressed Gurajada’s personal crusade against the social evils such as child marriage and dowry.

Adibatla Narayanadas – one of the most respected figures popular as Harikatha Pithamaha (grand father of hari katha). He was a prodigal son of Vizianagaram who was a versatile genius in poetry, music and dance.

Dwaram Venkata Swamy Naidu – was born into a family of musicians in 1893. His inherent talent on violin earned him the sobriquet of Fiddle Naidu at the tender age of 14. He was awarded many titles including the Sangeetha Kalanidi by Madras Music Academy in 1941 and the Padmasree by Government of India in 1959.

Kodirama Murthy Naidu – the excellent wrestler born in 1885. He worked as physical education teacher in branch college in Vizianagaram. He was also called the *Kaliyuga Bheema* was famous for his physical power. He got profound knowledge in *Vayu-stambana* and *Jala-Stambana*. He displayed his phenomenal strength in different parts of world and performed before King George II during the British emperor’s visit to India in 1911. He was awarded with Indian Sando for his excellence.
It is evident from the above discussions that, the Vizianagaram district has historical importance since ancient periods to modern periods. The socio-economic and cultural characteristics are unique and different to the other areas. The district has good natural resources particularly for the development of agriculture, dairying, live stock, mining and forest sectors. However, the existing levels of the development of the above mentioned sectors are not upto the mark. Still, the lower levels of literacy reported in the entire district. The discussions in the earlier chapter is also indicated that the functional status of the primary education is also not upto the mark. Keeping the above aspects under consideration, an attempt is made to analyse the primary education scenario in the district at grassroot levels. The details of the study are presented in the succeeding chapter.