

CHAPTER III

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE OF
DHARMAVARAM REGION**

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This chapter presents a brief outline of the **socio-economic** background of **Dharmavaram** town and its hinterland. Information **pertaining** to demography, occupational structure, land use patterns, cropping **patterns**, irrigational levels, land holdings distribution, commerce and trade **is** presented. The underlying assumption is, information on these lines would facilitate better understanding of the town-country networks functioning against this back drop.

The description of hinterland is followed by Dharmavaram town.

Hinterland:

The following mandals constitute the hinterland of Dharmavaram. They are Dharmavaram, **Bathalapalli**, Tadimarri, Chennekothapalli, Ramgiri, **Kothacheruvu**, Puttaparathi, Kanaganapalli, Bukkapatnam and Mudigubba.

Location and Physical setting:

The present study area lies between 14 and 15 North latitude and 77 and 78 Eastern latitude. This constitute the central part of Anantapur 2 district in the Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh. Most of the area is made up of arid poor red soils. Since this is also a part of **Deccan** plateau, hills, shrubs, bushes, and unequal terrain is common, thereby a significant proportion of land is uncultivable.

Soils:

The soils around **Dharmavaram** consists of red loams and red sand soils. The soils in the region are less fertile with poor ground water levels.

Climate and Rainfall:

The period from December to February is the dry and cool season. The summer season extends from March to **May**, followed by the South-West monsoon season from June to September. October and November form the **North-East**

monsoon season. The rainfall is mainly confined to the **South-West** monsoon. The highest rainfall usually is recorded in the months of August and September. The average rainfall of the region is 532 mm or 21 inches.³ The mean daily maximum temperature is 39 c and the mean daily minimum temperature is 16.9^oc.⁴

Due to low rainfall and absence of any permanent irrigation facilities in terms of canals, the underground water level of the region is very low. However, in the sand tracks of the red soil due to its softness, the water retention power of the soil is high and thereby suitable to **rainfed** crops more particularly groundnut and pulses. The fields in the region produce bumper groundnut and is one of the highest groundnut cropped region in the entire country and is next only to Gujarath state.

Demographic Background:

The total population of hinterland according to 1991 census is 3,76,399, of which 52 percent are males and 48 percent are females. Further, 13.7 percent are S.Cs and 6 percent are S.Ts.

The population density of Dharmavaram hinterland according to 1991 census is 142.

The number of residential houses in the region is 75,276. The **average** size of the household is five.

Literacy:

The literacy levels in the hinterland of Dharmavaram is 31 percent. Within this, 22 percent are males and 9 **percent** are females.

Occupational Classification:

Of the total population of 3,76,399 , 48 percent are main workers, 3 percent are marginal workers and the remaining 49 percent are non-workers.

Of the 48 percent main workers, 21.6 percent are cultivators, that is, actual farmers and 19.3 percent are agricultural labourers. The remaining 7 percent are distributed in various **activities** viz., livestock, manufacturing, processing, construction, trade & commerce and other services.

Land use pattern:

From the table 3.1 we can observe that, the total geographical area of the study region is 7,97,414 acres. The total cropped area in Dharmavaram region is 3,66,677 acres which is 46 percent of the total geographical area. The net sown area is 3,54,966 acres which is 44.50 percent of the geographical area. Forests cover only 10.5 percent of lands, where as barren and uncultivable lands constitute 13 percent of the area. However, fallow lands are as high as 18.5 percent of the total geographical area. The Dharmavaram region's land use pattern when compared with whole Anantapur district is more or less same in all factors except that of gross area sown. While the gross sown area at the district level is 50.5 percent, it is only 46 percent in the Dharmavaram region.

We can also observe that the land use patterns in Dharmavaram region during the past seven years **have** not undergone any significant changes. The only noticeable change is in the net sown area, where it increased from 38 percent in 1985-86 to **44.5** percent in 1991-92 and in gross sown area from 39 percent in **1985-86** to 46 percent in 1991-92-

Table 3.1.
LAND USE PATTERN IN DHARMAVAM REGION

(Percentages)

Year	Total Geo- graphical Area (acrea)	Forest	Barren & unculti- vable land	Permanent paaturea	Land Under Misc. Treaa	Cultivable Waste	Land Put to Non- Agricul- tural Uses	Currant Follow lands	othar follow landa	Nat Araa Sown	Araa Sown Hora Onoa	Total- Cropped Araa
1985-86	793759	10.6	15	1.6	1	3.5	9	12	9.5	38	1	39(307916)
86-87	703760	10.6	16	1.6	1	3.5	9	16	9.5	35	.5	35.5(281130)
87-88	793759	10.6	16	1.6	1	3.5	9	11.5	9.6	38.5	.5	39(307538)
88-89	707213	10.6	16	1.6	.5	2	9	10	7	44.6	.1	44.5(354015)
89-90	700411	10.6	14	1.6	.5	2.6	9	8.5	6.5	47	2	49(389220)
00-01	700411	10.6	14	1.6	.5	2.6	9	12	7	43	1.6	44.5(351859)
01-02	707414	10.6	13	1.5	.6	2.5	9	12	6.6	44.5	1.5	46(366677)
	796389	10.5	14.6	1.5	.6	3	9	11.5	8	41.6	1	42.5(336679)

ftouroe: Compiled from the Data available at Chief Planning Officer, Anantapur.

Irrigation Sources and Extent of Irrigation:

As Dharmavaram is devoid of any perennial rivers and due to low rainfall (Anantapur district in which our study region **falls**, is the second most drought prone region in entire India after **Jaisalmar** district of Rajasthan) there are no large scale irrigation facilities. The only river which flows through the region is "**chitravathi**" a tributary of penna river which remains dry in most of the year.

The rainfall of Dharmavaram region is much below that of the district and state averages. Much of the rainfall depends on the south-west monsoons which again depends on cyclones. As per the World Bank other government reports due to decreasing rainfall the water table of the region is gradually going down and may become desert if adequate steps are not taken. Another important reason for rapid decrease of ground water tables is the excess use of tube wells which pulls out water in a rapid way when compared to recharging. The water level recharging through repairing of village tanks, construction of bunds, channels is irregular and minimum. Whatever minimum land that is irrigated is through dug wells, tube wells and village tanks. It is reflected if we observe from the table 3.2 that in the year 1991-92 of the total cropped area, only 14 percent, i.e., around 50,000 acres has irrigation facilities. Within these, a majority of land (68%) is under dug wells, 20 percent is irrigated through tanks and 5 percent through tube wells. These sources mostly depend on rainfall. Thus, the entire agriculture in Dharmavaram is almost a gamble with monsoon. The increase and decrease in the net and gross sown depends on the rainfall trends of each year.

Table 3.2
IRRIGATION SOURCES AND EXTENT OF IRRIGATION IN DHARMAVARAM REGION
 (Percentages)

Year	Canals	Tanks	Tubewells	Dugwells	Other Souroas	Nat Irrigation Araa	% of Nat sown araa (or) % of Nat Cropped araa
1965-66	-	.5	14.5	83	2	30330	10
66-67	-	3.5	1	95	.5	34695	12.5
67-66	-	12	4.5	82.5	1	30761	10.1
88-89	10	22	3	62	3	45616	12.9
69-90	1	35.5	3.5	53.5	6.5	42678	11.4
91-92	3.5	20	5	68	3.5	46257	13.0

* Other Sources include Kunts, Springs, lift irrigation, Community tube wells, private surface irrigation
 Data for the Year 1990 - 91 is not available
 Source: Compiled from the Data available at Chief Planning Officer, Anantapur.

An observation of the irrigation patterns during the past **seven years** reveals that, the irrigation under tanks is increasing while that **of tube wells and dug wells** is decreasing. This might be due to decreasing **levels** of water tables in the region and consequent failures of tube wells.

Coming to the cropping pattern, under irrigated lands, mostly **paddy** and mulberry are grown in kharif and groundnut, mulberry, sunflower, orange, batavia and vegetables are grown in rabbi season.

The mulberry cultivation which is cultivated in 6000 acres (**1.5%** of the total net sown area) was started since early 1980s due to the support of State and Central governments and numerous advantages **interms** of income, employment, and cropping intensity. Each year around 500 to 600 acres is increasing in mulberry cultivation. The sunflower is another new crop in Dharmavaram. It is mostly started in late 1980s.

Coming to the intensity of cropping, as mentioned earlier, only 50,000 acres have irrigation facilities. Of this, area irrigated more than once, is around 10,000 acres. Within this, 6000 acres is under mulberry cultivation. In the rest of the irrigated area the predominant crops grown are paddy, groundnut, sunflower, oranges and batavia. Only in the 6000 acres in which mulberry is grown, the intensity of cropping is high. On an average per year three crops are grown on each acre of mulberry crop.

Land Holding Details:

From the table 3.3 we can notice that, of the 74,580 holdings **in** the Dharmavaram region, 58 percent are of small and marginal farmers, 39 percent holdings are of semi-medium and medium farmers and the **rest** 3

percent of the holdings are of large farmers.

Table 3.3
LAND HOLDINGS IN **DHARMAVARAM** REGION

(On Acres)

Type of Land Holding/Farmer	Number of Holdings	Percentage of Total Holdings	Area Under this category	Percentage of Total area
Marginal and Small	(21365+21946) =43311	58	1,09,965	25
Semi medium & medium	(20807+8015) =28822	39	2,45,214	54
Large	(2012+435) =2447	03	99,478	22
Total	74580	100	4,54,657	100
District Level	4,31,839	100	29,40,735	100

Average size of an holding = 6.1 acres

Source: Agricultural Census, 1991, Office of the Chief Planning Officer, Anantapur.

Though 58 percent of the holdings are with small and marginal farmers, they own only 25 percent of the total area of the land. And the semi-medium and medium farmers hold 54 percent of the land and the large farmers who though hold only 3 percent of the holdings covers 22 percent of the total area.

Cropping Pattern:

From the table 3.4 we can notice that in the year 1991-92 around 86 percent of the cropped land is under groundnut crop and 5 percent is under paddy cultivation. In the rest 9 percent of the land, mulberry, sunflower

Table 3.4
CROPPING PATTERN IN DHARMAVARAM REGION

(Percentages)

Year	Caraala	Major Millets	Minor Millets	Pulses	Ground nut	Mulberry	Sugarcane	Cotton	Fruits	Vegetables	Sunflower	Total Cropped Area (Acres)
1986-86	2.7	3.6	1.2	6	84	.8	.2	.04	1.3	.2	—	307156
86-87	3	4	0	4.5	85	.9	.2	.02	1.6	.2		281130
87-88	2.6	3.6	1	6	64	1	.2	.02	1.6	.2	--	308244
88-89	7	1.5	5	3.5	84	1	.2	--	1.5	.2	—	380484
89-90	6	1	1	3	83.5	1	.3	--	1.6	.6	--	389890
90-91	3	1.2	0.4	3.2	87.5	1	.2	--	1.8	.4	.8	351659
91-92	6	9	0.2	3	85.9	1.6	.2	--	1.6	.6	1.2	388877
Average	4.6	2	5	4	85	1	2	.01	1.6	3	.3	340746

Source: Compiled from the Data Available at Chief Planning Officer, Anantapur.

and millets are cultivated.

If we observe the cropping pattern patterns of the past seven years we can notice that, the area under **millets** and pulses is decreasing, while there is increase of the area under **cereals**, groundnut, mulberry and sun flower.

In Dharmavaram region, food crops are grown only in around 11 percent of the total cropped area and in remaining 88 percent of the cropped area, commercial crops like groundnut, mulberry, sunflower, batavia and oranges are grown. This is a basis for increased rural-urban linkages.

Thus, most of the Agro-based industries other than silk related are groundnut mills and rice mills.

AGRO-BASED INDUSTRIES:

Groundnut Mills:

At present there are 26 **groundnut** mills in Dharmavaram town besides 20 mills in the **hinterland**.

Of the 26 mills existing in Dharmavaram town, 10 are oil producing mills and the rest 16 are decorticating mills. According to 1961 census, there were 3 Groundnut oil mills in Dharmavaram town and 2 in its hinterland. By 1970 their strength increased to 10. In the 1970-80 decade, 5 more mills came up. However in the 1980-90 decade as many as 11 mills were established.⁸ The increase in the number of mills is more rapid from 1985 and all the recently established mills are owned by landlords from the hinterland of Dharmavaram and not by urban Vaishya caste members who own most of the earlier groundnut mills.⁹

The groundnut cultivated lands of Dharmavaram and adjoining regions are fertile thereby the output of the groundnut is high, durability of the seed is high, and the quality of oil from the groundnut of this region is high. Thereby there is greater demand for the seeds and oil of this region throughout India. This may be one of the important reasons for the existence of more number of mills in Dharmavaram when compared to other small towns in Anantapur district.

The turnover of the Dharmavaram groundnut mills is around Rs. 28 to **30** crores. Each year they buy around **Rs.30** crores worth of product. They produce **Rs.10** crore worth of oil. Half of the product after

dechotomising, the seeds are exported and the rest half is crushed to get oil.

In decorticating units, the groundnut is shelled and the seed is either exported or sold to the oil producers. The oil producers besides buying the seed from decorticating units purchase groundnut directly from ryots, shell and crush it in their factories and export the oil. As the groundnut is a predominantly rain fed crop cultivated in **Kharif season, the yield is obtained during December to February. Thereby all the groundnut mills function at their peak from December to May and in the rest of the months work load will be less. The raw material for the factories is usually secured from within the district and also is purchased from the neighbouring districts viz. Kurnool, Cuddapah and Chittoor and sometimes from Mysore region.**

As mentioned earlier, as the quality of the groundnut seed in the region is better, the seeds are more preferred in many places within Andhra Pradesh and in the rest of India. The seeds are supplied to Guntur, Kalahasti region, Karnataka, Culcutta and parts of Gujarath. Oil is supplied all over India.¹³ Rainfall plays a major role in the economy of the region on which depends the entire groundnut crop, outen and oil quality.

In Dharmavaram around 350 people are employed directly and indirectly in all these mills. These mills are a great source of sales tax and income tax in the region.

The recent increase in the number of mills is mainly due to investment by rural people in urban industrial **activities**. Another reason is the availability of large funds from Banks. The Dharmavaram State Bank of India branch alone has financed for 13 oil mills and given loans to an extent of **Rs.15** lakhs. **Further**, State Finance corporation also has given loans for these mills.

Besides these groundnut mills, **there are 10 rice mills which draws** product from the surrounding hinterland. Further **there are around 20 to 25** rice mills in various villages and **mandal** head quarters of the hinterland. In total there are around 51 rice, flour, **dall** and oil mills in Dharmavaram town. Further, there are 4 cotton ginning mills, 5 printing presses, 5 coffee works, 11 saw mills.¹⁷

DHARMAVARAM TOWN

Location:

Dharmavaram town is centrally located in Anantapur district at 14 **-25** North latitude and **77°43** East longitude. Dharmavaram is a railway junction on the Bangalore - **Guntakal** broad gauge line and is located on the **Guntakal-Pakala** metre gauge section. It is the head quarters of the Revenue Division in the district and is about 40 **kms** south of Anantapur, the district headquarters. It is located 354 Kms from Hyderabad, the capital of Andhra Pradesh.¹⁸

History:

Yadayar **swami** who was staying in Vudayagiri came to chilamuttnur and after consulting Karnam Thummala **Mallarasu** decided to build a village near Chilamuttnur. He built the village in 1153-54 and named it as Dharmavaram based on the name of his mother Dharmamba.¹⁹ Yadayar also built a tank which is now called as Kriyashati Yadayar tank. He also brought a statue of God Sri Chennakesava Swami and placed it in Dharmavaram. Later on Dharmavaram was one of the four villages given by **Aliyamaraya** to Hande Hanumappa in reward for the help rendered to him in the struggle for power. Thus, it came into the hands of the Hande chief from Vijayanagar. From 1573. the place came under the palegar of **Rayadurg** Dharmavaram. subsequently came under Golconda, Hyder Ali, Tippu and was later occupied by the British. The town was constituted into a Municipality in the year 1964.²⁰

The tank of Dharmavaram lies on the banks of **Chitravathi** river.

MAP OF INDIA
SHOWING
ANDHRA
PRADESH



DHARMAVARAIF TOWN IN ANANTAPUR DISTRICT

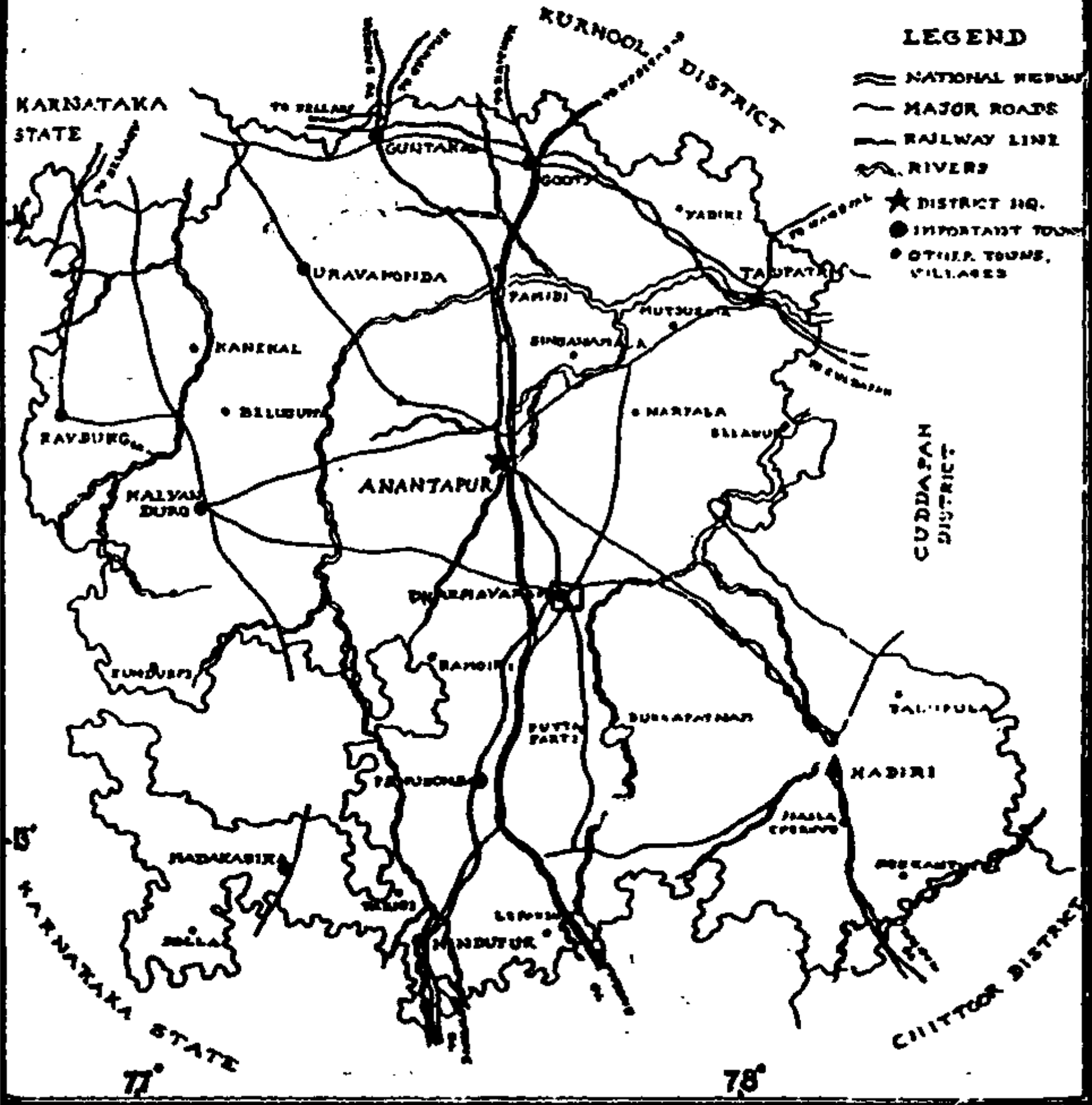
MAP OF ANDHRA
PRADESH SHOWING
ANANTAPUR
DC.



SCALE
3 cm = 25 km.

LEGEND

- NATIONAL HIGHWAY
- MAJOR ROADS
- RAILWAY LINE
- RIVERS
- DISTRICT HQ.
- IMPORTANT TOWN
- OTHER TOWNS, VILLAGES



Around 2000 acres of land is irrigated under this **tank**. The excess water flows to Chitravathi which meets Penna river and flows into Bay of Bengal near Nellore.²¹

General Features of Dharmavaram Town:

Population:

The total population of the town according to 1991 census is 78,961 of which 40,714 (52%) are males and **38,247(48%)** are females. In Dharmavaram nearly 5 percent belong to Scheduled Castes and 1 percent to Scheduled Tribes. The population growth since 1951 is presented in the below given table.

Table:3.5

Population Growth of Dharmavaram Town

Year	Population	Decade variation	Growth rate (%)
1951	14,703	+2616	21.64
1961	20,405	+5702	30.78
1971	30,876	+10471	51.32
1981	50,969	+20093	65.08
1991	78,961	+27992	54.92

Source: Census of India, 1991.

From the table 3.5 we can observe that ~~the~~ population of the town increased from 14,703 in 1951 to 78,961 in 1991 registering a growth rate of 437 percent during the last four decades. In 1961 the town had a population of over 20,000 with a growth rate of about 39 percent. In 1971 and 1981 Dharmavaram recorded rapid growth rates of 51 percent and 65

percent respectively. Though in 1991 the growth rate decreased to 55 percent, the town recorded an all time high growth in terms of raise in absolute increase of population of nearly 28,000 between **1981-91** decade.

Nearly an estimated 60 percent of population in the town are from weavers caste who are mainly from Thogata and Padmasali sects. Muslims constitute 7 to 8 percent of the population. Other important groups are Vaishyas, **Balijas, Kammas** and Reddys.

Population Density:

As **Dharmavaram** began growing rapidly from 1961, the population density of it is increasing tremendously. It rose from 847 in 1971 to 1399 in 1981 and as high as 2168 by 1991 census.

Literacy:

Of the total population of 78,961, 45 percent (**35,443**) are literates. Of this, 29 percent (22,999) are males and 16 percent (12,444) are females.

In Dharmavaram there is one Degree college, one Junior college, 5 high schools, 31 primary and upper primary schools. Of the 31 lower level schools, 19 are run by Municipality and the remaining 12 are under private management.

Medical and Health Facilities:

There is a Government Hospital with about 45 beds. Besides this there are 2 nursing homes and 20 clinics and dispensaries run by private practitioners. The Government hospital is located in its own building in

the heart of the town near the Municipal office and is being **attended** by five **doctors**, two nurses and two mid wives. The average number of out-patients treated by this hospital is about 500 per day. There are about 30 medical shops to cater the medicinal needs of the town and hinterland. People from about 15 kilometers from hinterland come to Dharmavaram for medical and health checkups **and treatment**. The opening of 300 bed super speciality hospital in Puttaparthi, 32 **kms** away **from** Dharmavaram will significantly improve the health conditions of the people of Dharmavaram region.

Rainfall, Temperature and Water Resources:

The average rainfall of Dharmavaram town for the past thirty years is 532.2 mm which is slightly less than the District average i.e., 544 mm. Most of the rainfall is due to the **South-West** monsoons and occurs between the months of July and September. In the remaining period of the year the weather remains mostly dry with moderate rains in November. The maximum temperature in the town is 41 c and the minimum is 16.9 c.

In Dharmavaram town there are around 203 public taps besides 2150 private taps. The main source of water is **Kunuturu** rivulet besides the famous Dharmavaram tank.²⁷ **If** the rains are sufficient and when tank is full the town has no water problem. However as the region usually experiences less and erratic rains and in the absence of perennial rivers. Dharmavaram very often face severe water problem. To **mention**, during January and February months of 1993,²⁸ Dharmavaram was **facing** acute shortage of water due to insufficient rains in the previous year. **There** was too much pressure on the local member of the legislative **assembly**. According

to him, efforts are being made to find out permanent solution to **Dharmavram's** water problem. As a part of this he got permission from the concerned authorities to dig bores in the nearby **Chitravathi** river and supply water to the town through pipe line system.

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Transport and Communication:

Dharmavaram is a railway junction on the **Bangalore-Guntakal** Broadgauge line and is located on the **Guntakal-Pakala** metre gauge section. All the express trains going towards Bangalore and Tirupathi pass through Dharmavaram. Dharmavaram being located in the central part of the district has good road transport facility to all towns in the district. Further, another important feature is all the buses which start from Puttaparthi pass through Dharmavaram. **APSRTC** runs bus services to all major and important towns in Andhra Pradesh and many major cities in South India from Puttaparthi. These bus services are extremely useful for Dharmavaram silk traders and various silk agents who come to Dharmavaram to undertake silk business transactions.

About 2 lakh passengers are alighting the trains and an equal number are boarding the trains in Dharmavaram in a calendar year. About 10,000 quintals of goods are being imported into the towns from the **out-stations** in a calendar year and about 4500 quintals of goods are being exported from the town in a year. The bulk of the imported goods are food **grains**, pulses, and cement. The major items of exports are groundnut seeds & oil. As many as 264 bus services are being operated daily by the APSRTC **from Dharmavaram** to other places & **vice-versa**, carrying a total of about 13,000 passengers a day on both directions.

Dharmavaram bus Depot is reaching its target laid down by the state RTC unit for the past five years. It is reaching its **daily** target collections of Rs 1,80,000.³¹ The existing buses are inadequate, since commuters to Dharmavaram are very high because of its intensive silk industrial linkages & transactions not only with its hinterland **but** also with the entire district and various parts of the State.³²

Dharmavaram also has well laid down Telephone and Telegraph facilities. It also has S.T.D facilities. Further, there are as many as six dish antenna cable operation centres catering to the needs of rapidly increasing television viewership.

Occupational Classification:

Of the total population of 78,961, 33 percent (26,162) are main workers, 1 percent (949) are marginal workers and the rest 66 percent (51,850) are non-workers.

Of the 33 percent main workers, 7.5 percent of them work in household manufacturing sector. This is mainly in household silk reeling and twisting units. 6 percent are engaged in commerce and trade sector. Also 4 percent of them are agriculture labours and nearly 4 **percent** work in miscellaneous services.³³

Commerce and Trade:

Silk industry and **agro-based** industries are the basic **economic** activities of the Dharmavaram town. Hence, the activities of these

Industries constitute the major commerce **and trade of Dharmavaram town.**

Table 3.6 concludes the same.

Table:3.6

Export, Import and Manufacture of Three Most Important Commodities of Dharmavaram

Year	Import	Export	Manufacture
1981	Silk yarn	Silk sarees	Silk sarees
	Groundnuts	Groundnut oil	Groundnut oil
	Rice & Pulses	Groundnut oil	Iron Almyrahs

Source: Census of India, 1981, Town Directory of Andhra Pradesh.

A detailed account of the growth and functioning of the groundnut and rice mills is already presented in pp 52 to 54 of the present chapter.

The following table gives details of various kinds of commercial shops and units existing in Dharmavaram town.

General stores	75 to 80
ferti l izer shops	15 (there are 20 shops in hinterland)
cloth stores	100
garments	10
crocker y and electronic	10
agro servicing and sales units	23
brandy shops	28
iron shops (hardware and paints)	06
rice mi lls	10
saw mi lls	11

brick making units	= 12
cinema theaters	= 09
hotels	= 20
lodges	= 10

There are 8 banks in Dharmavaram town. In 1992-93 State Bank of India has given loans to 400 weavers. Per year on an average this bank gives new loans to 50 weavers.³⁴

Vaishya bank is the leading bank in the town for giving loans to silk saree merchants. During the year 1992-93 there were 47 accounts of silk merchants in this bank alone.³⁵

As already mentioned nearly 60 percent of population in Dharmavaram is from weaver caste particularly from Thogota and Padmasali sects. The basic values of this community towards their work and occupation occupies an important place while discussing the development of trade and commerce of Dharmavaram town. People of this community are hard working, peace loving. Weavers have an indigenous ethic of brotherhood and the sense of equality. Weavers feel the dignity of labour to utilise their skill, **craftsmanship**, and their social status is evaluated on the basis of their **hard** work. Weavers have commitment and sincerity towards their work. Weavers and silk merchants in Dharmavaram are peace loving, hard working and have total devotion towards their work. Though they have affiliations towards political parties, they show little **interest** in direct political activities

and in the local conflicts.³⁸ The weavers of North Coramandal area also have the same qualities.³⁹ These qualities of **most** of the weavers and silk merchants played an important role in developing a sort of work culture in

Dharmavaram **where** people are devoted to their occupations and are hard working. This to some extent influenced weavers, silk merchants and other sections to utilise all the help provided by the State Government and develop silk industry and strengthen the economy of the Dharmavaram town.

A detailed description of the economic structure of town particularly those **pertaining** to silk industry and other related sectors is presented in the following chapter and in chapter **VII**.

NOTES:

- Report** of Town Planning Scheme for **Dharmavaram**, Director of Town & and Country Planning, **Hyderabad**, 1988, p 1.
- ² Geographically and historically Andhra Pradesh is divided into three regions. They are Andhra, Rayalaseema and Telangana.
- ³ Anantapur district in which **Dharmavaram** region falls, has the lowest rainfall in Andhra pradesh and even at all-India level it is second lowest. See **N.Purendra Prasad.**, 1994., pp 49-50.
- ⁴ Hand Book of Statistics, Anantapur District, 1992-93. Compiled by Chief Planning Officer, Anantapur; p 55.
- Reddy.A.V., "A Report on the Recurring Droughts of Anantapur-Impending danger of Desertification (Mimeo), p 82.
- 0-2.46 acres = Marginal farmers.
2.47- 4.93 acres = Small farmers.
4.94- 9.87 acres = Semi-Medium.
9.88- 24.70 acres = Medium.
24.71 & above = Large farmers.
- ⁷ As per the data provided by Assistant Labour officer, Dharmavaram, Assistant Commercial Tax Officer, Dharmavaram, and Adinarayana, President of Dharmavaram Groundnut Oil Mill Owners **Association**.
- ⁸ Adinarayana, Op.cit.
- ⁹ **Ibid.**
- Field notes. Interviews with Assistant Directors of Agriculture and Marketing departments, and Adinarayana, op.cit.
- Annual report of Groundnut Mill owners Association, Dharmavaram, 1992.
- ¹² Census reports 1961, p 341.
Field Notes, Discussions with Adinarayana, op.cit.
- ¹³ Field Notes. Interview with Transport Division, Dharmavaram Railway Station, President, Lorry owners Association, and Adinarayana, op.cit.
- ¹⁴ Reports of the Assistant Labour Officer. Dharmavaram.
Field notes. **Interview** with Adinarayana, Op.cit. The researcher **personally** visited seven groundnut mills. The average workers **strength in** each unit is 12.
- Field note. Interview with Assistant **Commercial** officer, **Dharmavaram**
- Data provided by Manager, State Bank of India. **Dharmavaram**
- ¹⁷ **Office** of the Assistant Labour Officer. Dharmavaram. **op.cit** and Administrative reports of Dharmavaram Municipality. 1991-92.
- Director of Town & Country Planning, 1988, **op.cit.**, p 1.

¹⁹Silver Jubilee Souvenir on **Dharmavaram** Municipality, Office of the Municipal **Commissioner**, Dharmavaram.

²⁰**Ibid.**

²¹**Ibid.**

Reports of the Assistant Director, **Department** of Sericulture. Field note. Annual reports and pamphlets of silk weavers **association**, Dharmavaram. Interviews with various members of silk industry also confirmed the same.

²²**Fieldnote.** Interviews with senior citizens and silk industry related people.

24

Field notes. Interviews with Dr.Subba Rao, General Secretary of the Private Practitioners Association, Dharmavaram. Also see Director, Town & Country Planning, op.cit. p 14.

25

Field note. Interviews with Dr. Subba Rao, op.cit and Superintendent, Government Hospital, Dharmavaram.

Puttaparthi is the place where Bhagavan Sathya SaiBaba resides.

27

Administrative reports of Dharmavaram Municipality, 1992-1993, op.cit.

28

Researcher was in the field during this period.

29

When the thesis writing was in progress, the bores were dug and water is being supplied to Dharmavaram town.

30

Director of Town & Country Planning, op.cit. p 16.

31

Manager, APSRTC, Dharmavaram.

32

Ibid.

33

This information drawn from census reports fails to provide the actual occupational scenario of Dharmavaram town. This is because, most of the silk industrial activities **are** run through informal and **non-registered** units. Most of the weavers households would answer to census enumerators that only one member in the family is actually working and earning and others particularly women and children **are** non-workers.

The researcher experienced the same while the weavers households survey was conducted. However, when they **came** to know that I am not a government person, they expressed the inner details of their household working patterns in greater detail. This is true with related to silk reeling and twisting units also.

34

Field Note. Interview with Manager. State Bank of India. **Dharmavaram**

Annual reports of the Vaishya Bank. **Dharmavaram**, 1992-93.

³⁶Artherburn J.Yvonne, 1982, pp 151-152.

³⁷**Mohammed. P. H.**, 1993, p 49.

³⁸**Weavers of Gudekal** also possess the same qualities. Mohammed in his study of Gudekal weavers, says that weavers of Gudekal show very little interest in the political activities or local conflicts. Values like sincerity, hard work, dedication to work (the attitude of work is worship) still show their influence on the weavers and their way of life
Mohammed.P. H., 1993, pp 46-49.

³⁹ For details please see Chapter 3, Caste, Custom and Community: The Social world of the **Weavers.Swarnalatha P.**, 1991.