Chapter 4

FEATURES OF THE STUDY AREA

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4.1 ANDHRA PRADESH

The state of Andhra Pradesh is the study area of the present thesis which was earlier a state in India created on October 1, 1953 from the Telugu speaking northern districts of Madras Presidency in the name of Andhra Rastram with the Kurnool as the capital. On November 1, 1956 it was merged with the Telangana region of Hyderabad state to form the united Telugu-speaking state of Andhra Pradesh (Province of Andhras) with Hyderabad as the capital city of the state.

4.2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Andhra Pradesh is said to have been the home to the Pre-Dravidian dark coloured inhabitants. Andhra region witnessed the rule of Chandragupta Maurya during which it established itself as an independent kingdom. After Ashoka, the Mauryan Empire disintegrated giving opportunity to establish smaller kingdoms. In about the third century BC the Satavahanas ruled for about five centuries. The Satavahanas established a strong rule with territories extending upto Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. They were overpowered by the Ikshvakus by the third century AD. During this period Brahmanism is said to have been revived. This reduced the influence of Buddhism which was fostered by the Satavahanas. By the end of the third century AD the Pallavas of Kanchi put an end to the rule of the Ikshvakus. Art and Architecture advanced during their rule. By 4th
century AD the Anandas established their rule which lasted till 6th century. During the 7th century the Eastern Chalukyas exercised their power for many centuries. Literature was advanced during this period with promotion of the Telugu script.

The Kakatiyas who were the feudatories of the Eastern Chalukyas became independent in about the 12th century. During the rule of Delhi Sultanate, Muslims repeatedly attempted to invade Andhra. In 1332 AD Ulugh Khan established the Reddi Kingdom of Kondavidu; the Velama kingdom. The Vijayanagar Kingdom also ruled independently. The rule of Muhammad Tughlag witnessed the rise of the independent Muslim Power at Bijapur under the Bahamani Sultanate. In 1518 the Sultan Qili Qutub Shah declared independence and founded the Qutub Shah dynasty which existed till 1687. During this period literature, art and architecture advanced.

The city of Hyderabad (now the capital of Andhra Pradesh) was founded in 1591 by Muhammad Quli Qutub Shah. The Mughals put an end to the Qutub Shahi rule in 1687. After this the Asafjahis called Nizams emerged. They influenced Andhra Pradesh throughout the 18th century till Andhra Pradesh was ceded to the East India Company. Gradually the whole of Andhra Pradesh except Hyderabad was under the British till 1947. Even as India got Independence on 15th August 1947, the Telangana region was part of Hyderabad State, which was independent. The other two regions-Coastal Andhra and Rayal Seema were in the Madras State. Andhra Pradesh had witnessed many struggles between 1947 and 1956 before it emerged as the first linguistic State of India in 1956 with Hyderabad as State-capital.
4.3 GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

Andhra Pradesh is the fifth largest state in India and forms the major link between the north and the south of the country. It is the biggest and most populous state in the south of India with an area of 275,045 sq. km. and a long coastal belt of 972 KMs. The state is dotted with hill ranges from the north to the south, running erratically down the middle of the country dividing it into western and eastern or coastal Andhra. These hills are integral geographical entities that influence culture and history. In the north, there are Simhachalam and Annavaram hills, in the middle are the Srisailam ranges and in the south the Tirumalai-Tirupati hills.

The state has two great rivers, Godavari and Krishna which spring from the Western Ghats in Maharashtra and flow eastward to enter the Bay of Bengal. The Godavari enters the state direct from Maharashtra, but the Krishna goes through Karnataka where it flows for a considerable distance before entering Andhra Pradesh. Besides these two big rivers, there are the Tungabhadra, the Pennar and many small rivers and rivulets. The river Pennar originates in the Karnataka plateau. Like all the peninsular rivers and even those which arise in central India, like the Narmada, Sone and Chambal, all these are rain fed as there is no snow below the Himalayas. Andhra Pradesh has considerable topographical variations with dense forest in the north east and flat paddy lands in the coastal plains with several noteworthy beaches along the Bay of Bengal, and the stark boulder-strewn region around Hyderabad.
4.4 LOCATION AND BOUNDARIES

Andhra Pradesh lies between 12°41' and 22° longitude and 77° and 84°40' latitude.

It is bounded by Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Orissa in the north, the Bay of Bengal in the east, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka in the south and Maharashtra in the west.

Figure 4.1: Andhra Pradesh Location in India

4.5 THREE REGIONS OF THE STATE

There are three main regions in Andhra Pradesh - (1) Northern Circars or Coastal Andhra comprising Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishna, Guntur, Ongole and Nellore districts; (2) Rayalaseema or Ceded districts comprising Chittoor, Cuddapah, Anantapur and Kurnool districts; and (3) Telangana comprising Mahbubnagar, Ranga Reddy, Medak, Nizamabad, Aadilabad, Karimnagar, Warangal, Khammam, Nalgonda and Hyderabad districts.

Figure 4.2: The three regions of Andhra Pradesh
Source: National Informatics Centre, Govt. of India (Composed Map), 2008.
Rayalaseema is close to the coastal districts and the Telangana region is of the former princely state of Nizam's Hyderabad, which is close to Maharashtra's Marathwada region and some parts of Karnataka.

4.6 A BRIEF HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

According to the Census of India 2001, the Andhra Pradesh State has a population of 76.21 million, with a Sex Ratio 978 (as compared to 933 for the country). There are 23 districts, 1127 blocks and 28,123 villages. The State has population density of 277 per sq. km. (as against the national average of 312). The decadal growth rate of the state is 14.59% (against 21.54% for the country) and the population of the state is growing at a slower rate than the national rate. The Total Fertility Rate of the State is 2.0. The Infant Mortality Rate is 56 and Maternal Mortality Ratio is 195 (SRS 2001 - 03) which are lower than the National average.

As has been suggested, health status is not entirely a function of the health services or the policy related there of, but is a result of several psycho-social and techno-economic parameters. The administrative setup also plays a very significant role in promoting health in any region. Differences in the health status are witnessed between the developed and the developing countries at the global level while, similar differences exists between the rural and urban settings within a country or within a particular state of a country. Thus it is proposed to highlight these aspects in regard to Andhra Pradesh which is the study area of the present thesis.
To afford familiarity with the rural Andhra Pradesh which is the basic concern of the present study several statistical tables, which are self explanatory in nature have been prepared and they have been put in the Appendix so that the flow of the Analysis is not hampered. In structuring these tables, the information on various parameters relating to AP has been obtained and distributed as between the 23 districts of the state of AP. Administratively speaking the State is divided into three regions namely, Coastal Andhra (comprising 9 districts) – Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Vishakhapatnam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishna, Guntur, Prakasam and Nellore; Rayala Seema (comprising 4 districts) – Chittoor, Kadapa, Anantapur and Kurnool; and Telangana (comprising 10 districts) – Hyderabad, Mahabubnagar, Ranga Reddy, Medak, Nizamabad, Adilabad, Karimnagar, Warangal, Khammam and Nalgonda. The Hyderabad district is totally urban and although included for this preliminary presentation, it would not find a place in subsequent analysis since the study relates only to rural Andhra Pradesh.

The statistical information in the Appendix Tables relate to Revenue Divisions, Mandals, Villages and Gram Panchayats (Table No. 1); Municipalities, Corporations and Assembly Constituencies (Table No. 2); Rural and Urban distribution of the Population (Table No.3); and Particulars of Slum Population (Table No. 4); and Geographical Area and Land Utilisation (Table No. 5). These details appear very relevant in the context of developing general familiarity of the study area.

The lifestyle of population depends largely on the religion wise distribution of population and hence this aspect has been brought out in Table No. 6 in which the
population is divided between three main religions namely the Hindus, Muslims and the Christians. The economically disadvantaged sections of the population normally belongs to Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) population and considering this fact several constitutional provisions have also been made. This aspect has been presented in Table No. 7.

The work culture also would be one of the significant indicators in determining the health status and hence the work participation rates both in the Rural and Urban Andhra Pradesh have been presented in Table No. 8. More importantly the workers engaged in agricultural sectors which predominantly constitute the rural scenario have been brought out in the Table No. 9. While on the occupational structure the details regarding the workers engaged in the household industry has also been worked out and presented in Table No. 10.

Education will play a significant role in determining the health status and hence with an emphasis placed on the sex-wise literacy rate, in Table No. 11 the rural and urban literacy rates have been brought out. The scheduled caste and scheduled tribe population are the most disadvantaged and challenged segments of the rural population in the state of Andhra Pradesh and hence it was thought desirable to bring out all these details by relating them to the literacy rates of SC and ST population (Table No. 12).

The composition of the population as between males and females (Sex-Ratio) and also child population (0 – 6 years of age) could be a significant in determining the health
status and the details regarding these aspects have been brought out in Table No. 13. The data relates to the women welfare in the state of AP have been presented in Table No. 14.

It is not proposed to offer any detailed comments in regard to the subjects handled and the parameters mentioned in the statistical tables detailed above. It is hoped that all these details relating to related parameters highlighted in the present study and disaggregated as between different districts of the state of AP and the three administrative regions in which the districts are located will offer a fairly exhaustive background of the study area to which the present thesis is related to.

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