The effective functioning of any institution largely depends on the socio-economic environment in which it is functioning. It is especially true in case of institutions which are functioning for the
development of rural areas as well as rural poor. Hence, an attempt is made in this chapter to present a socio-economic profile of Anantapur district a drought-prone area in Rayalaseema regions of Andhra Pradesh which happens to be one of the areas of operation of the Non-Governmental Organizations viz; Rural Development Trust, the Timbaktu Collective and the RUDSET which were selected for present study.

Profile of Anantapur District

Anantapur is one of the four districts of Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh. Anantapur offers some vivid glimpses of the pre-historic past. It is generally held that the place got its name from ‘Anantasagaram’, a big tank, which means ‘Endless Ocean’. The villages of Anantasagaram and Bukkarayasamudram were constructed by Chilkkavodeya, the Minister of Bukka-I, the ruler of Vijayanagar Empire. Some authorities assert that Anantasagaram was named after Bukka's queen, while some contend that it must have been known after ‘Anantarasa Chikkavodeya’ himself, as Bukka had no queen by that name.

Anantapur is familiarly known as ‘Hande Anantapuram’. ‘Hande’ means chief of the Vijayanagar period. Anantapur and a few other places were gifted by the Vijayanagar rulers to Hanumappa Naidu of the Hande family. The place subsequently came under the Qutub Shahis, Mughals, and the Nawabs of Kadapa, although the Hande chiefs continued to rule as their subordinates. It was occupied by the Palegar of Bellary during the time of Ramappa but was eventually won back by his son, Siddappa. Morari Rao Ghorpade attacked Anantapur in 1757. Though the army resisted for some time, Siddappa ultimately bought off the enemy for Rs.50, 000.¹

Anantapur then came into the possession of Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan. Tipu hanged all the male members of the Siddappa family except Siddappa who escaped from his confinement at Srirangapatnam. After Tipu's death, it was once again taken back by Siddappa. Siddappa submitted himself to Nizam because of the treaty of 1799, who took the total control of the area. He was later pensioned off when British occupied the territory.²
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 of Kadiri, Mudigubba, Nallamada, N.P.Kunta, Talupula, Nallacheruvu, O.D.Cheruvu, Tanakal, Amadagur and Gandlapenta (previously Kadiri Taluk) from Kadapa district in the year 1910.³

During the year 1956, the present Revenue Mandals of Rayadurg, D.Hirehal, Kanekal, Bommanahal and Gummagatta of Bellary district were added to Anantapur district.

Presently the district has been divided into 3 Revenue Divisions consisting of 63 Revenue Mandals (Anantapur Division 20, Dharmavaram Division 17 and Penukonda Division 26).

Topography of the District

Anantapur district lies between 13°-40 and 15°-15' Northern Latitude and 76°-50' and 78°-30' Eastern Longitude physically.

The district may be divided into 3 natural divisions. They are,⁴

1. Northern Mandal of Rayadurg, Kanekal, Beluguppa, Gooty, Guntakal, Vajrakarur, Uravakonda, Vidapanakal, Yadiki, Tadipatri, Putlur and Yellanur containing larger areas of black cotton soils.

2. Kalyandurg, Kambadur, Settur, Brahmasamudram, Ramagiri, Kanaganapalli, C.K.Palli, Dharmavaram, Bathalapalli, Tadimarri, Mudigubba, Anantapur, Kudair, Pamidi and Peddavadugur in the center which are mainly made up of arid treeless, expense of poor red soils.

3. High level land of Penukonda, Roddam, Somandepalli, Hindupur, Lepakshi, Chilamathur, Madakasira, Rolla, Gudibanda and Agali which connects with Mysore plateau at higher elevation of the rest of the district. This part has average sandy red soils of normal productivity.

Boundaries of the District

This district is bounded by Bellary and Kurnool districts on the North, Kadapa and Kolar districts 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.

Demographic Profile of the District

As per 2011 census, Anantapur district has a population of 40.83 lakhs and a population density of 190 persons/sq. km which is growing at a decadal growth rate of 12.16 per cent. The District is largely dominated by rural population comprising of 71.19 percent of the total district population. The district has an average literacy rate of 56.1 percent, which is lower than the average literacy rate of the state (average literacy rate – 61%). Male population with nearly 68 per cent literacy rate dominates the literate population in the district. According to the 2011 census, Anantapur has nearly 7.8 lakh households with an average household size of five members. The growth of population in Anantapur since 1941 is given in the Table: 4.1.

Table- 4.1
Population of Anantapur District-1941-2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Rural Population</th>
<th>Urban Population</th>
<th>Total Population</th>
<th>Population Growth in %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1941</td>
<td>1019639</td>
<td>146590</td>
<td>1166229</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>1139998</td>
<td>221558</td>
<td>1361556</td>
<td>16.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>1459837</td>
<td>307627</td>
<td>1767464</td>
<td>29.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>1739531</td>
<td>375790</td>
<td>2115321</td>
<td>19.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>2017095</td>
<td>530917</td>
<td>2548012</td>
<td>20.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>2435761</td>
<td>748053</td>
<td>3183814</td>
<td>24.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>2720915</td>
<td>919563</td>
<td>3640478</td>
<td>14.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>2936359</td>
<td>1146956</td>
<td>4083315</td>
<td>12.16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Office of Chief Planning Officer, Anantapur

The Table: 4.1 shows that the population of the district increased more than three times in seven decades. During the same period the growth of rural population increased less than three times, whereas the urban population increased more than six times. It indicates that the people in the district are
migrating to towns for several reasons. It is important to note that the decennial growth population during 1991-2001 was sharply declined from 24.95% to 14.34%. It further declined to 12.16% in 2011.

The density of population of the district is 213 per Sq.km, against (308) of the state. The population of rural and urban to the total population of the district works out to 71.19 percent and 28.81 percent as per 2011 Census as against 75 per cent and 25 per cent of 2001 Census. There are 977 Females per 1000 Males in the district as per 2011 Census.

The working force in the total population of district forms 48.83 per cent as per 2011 census out of which 26 per cent are in the agricultural sector. The Chart 3.1 clearly shows about the population of Anantapur district from 1941 to 2011.

Rainfall & Climate

The district of Anantapur has a fairly good elevation which provides the district with tolerable climate throughout the year. It has a gradual fall from the South North towards the valley of the Pennar in Peddavadugur, Peddapappur and Tadipatri 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 (MSL). It is about 1100 feet at Anantapur and the lowest is 900 feet at Tadipatri.

The geographical position of the Peninsula renders it, the driest part of the state and hence, agriculture conditions are more often precarious. Monsoons also evade this part due to its unfortunate location. Being far from the East coast, it does not enjoy the full benefits of North East monsoons and being cut off by the high Western Ghats, the South West monsoon are also prevented from penetrating and punching 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 553 mms. by which it secures least rainfall when compared to Rayalaseema and other parts of Andhra Pradesh. The normal rainfall for the South West monsoon period is 338 mms. which forms about 61.2 per cent of the total rainfall for the year. The failure of the rains in this South West monsoon period of June to September will lead the district to drought by failure of crops. The rainfall for North East monsoon period is 156 mms. Only, this forms 28.3 per cent of the total rainfall for the year (October to December).
The other months are almost dry. March, April and May are warm months when the normal daily maximum temperature ranges between 29.1°C to 40.3°C. November, December and January are cooler months when the temperature falls to about 15.7°C. Hindupur, Parigi, Lepakshi, Chilamathur, Agali, Rolla and Madakasira mandals being at high elevation are more cooler than the rest of the mandals in the district.\(^6\)

**Forests**

The forests in the district are thin and scanty. The Muchukota hills about 35 km. in length run from North of Gooty town upto extreme Southern corner of Tadipatri and Yadiki mandals. Another line of hills starts from West of Gooty mandal and run 80 km called by name Nagasamudram hills. The Mallappakonda range begins at Dharmavaram and runs into Karnataka State.

The Penukonda range which starts in the South of Dharmavaram through Penukonda and Hindupur proceeds to Karnataka State. In Madakasira, the hills divide Rolla and Agali mandals into Southern and Northern portions. There are numerous isolated peaks and rocky clusters which are devoid of any vegetation.\(^7\)

**Important Rivers in the District**

The important rivers flowing in the district are Penna, Jayamangala, Chitravathi, Vedavathi or Hagiri. Apart from these streams like Kushavathi in Chilamathur mandal, Swarnamukhi in Agali mandal, Maddileru in Nallamada, Kadiri and Mudigubba mandals, Pandameru in Kanaganipalli, Raptadu, Anantapur B.K.Samudram and Singanamala mandals, Papagni in Tanakal mandal are important water supply sources to various large and medium irrigation tanks in the district.

**Types of Soils**

The soils in Anantapur district are predominantly red except Kanekal, Bommanahal, Vidapanakal, Uravakonda, Vajrakarur, Guntakal, Gooty, Pamidi, Peddavadugur, Yadiki, Tadipatri, Yellanur, Peddapappur and Putlur mandals. In these mandals red and black soils occur almost in equal proportion. Thus, 76 per cent red soils, 24 per cent are black soils.\(^8\)
Utilization of land

The total geographical area of the district is 19.13 lakh hectares. The data in Table 4.2 reveals that the area under forests in the district is 10.17 percent of total geographical area in 2003-04. It slightly increased to 10.28 percent in 2004-05 and remained constant in 2005-06. Again it increased to 10.30 percent in 2006-07 and remained constant in 2007-08. During first three years of study barren and uncultivable land decreased gradually from 10.31 percent in 2003-04 to 9.16 percent in 2005-06. But in 2006-07 it increased to 9.89 percent and again decreased to 9.59 percent during last year of study. On the other hand, land under non-agricultural use is also gradually increased during first four years of study from 5.50 percent to 6.29 percent. But in the last year of study it decreased only 0.03 percent. The same trend can be observed in case of cultivable waste. It is important to note that the permanent pasture and other grazing lands are gradually declining during five years of study. The drought conditions in the district resulted in the gradual decrease of plantation crops, which reduced from 1.96 percent in 2003-04 to 0.47 percent in 2007-08. The current and other follow lands area is showing declining trends during five years of the study. The net area sown is increased during first three years of study but it sharply declined nearly 8.8 percent in 2006-07. Again it increased in 2007-08. The total cropped area and area sown more than once are also showing the same trends.
### Table 4.2

#### Land Utilisation  (From 2003-04 to 2008-09)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Forests</td>
<td></td>
<td>194678</td>
<td>196797</td>
<td>196797</td>
<td>196978</td>
<td>196978</td>
<td>196978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Barren &amp; Uncultivable Land</td>
<td></td>
<td>197211</td>
<td>178499</td>
<td>175344</td>
<td>189205</td>
<td>183451</td>
<td>185105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Land Put To Non-Agricultural Uses</td>
<td></td>
<td>105320</td>
<td>112855</td>
<td>113492</td>
<td>120310</td>
<td>119810</td>
<td>120791</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Cultivable Waste</td>
<td></td>
<td>51003</td>
<td>49296</td>
<td>50276</td>
<td>56115</td>
<td>52819</td>
<td>52829</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Permanent Pastures And Other Grazing Lands</td>
<td></td>
<td>35480</td>
<td>20023</td>
<td>20356</td>
<td>9045</td>
<td>8951</td>
<td>8952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Land Under Miscellaneous Tree Crops &amp; Groves Not 'Included In Net Area Sown</td>
<td></td>
<td>37600</td>
<td>17925</td>
<td>18060</td>
<td>9924</td>
<td>9652</td>
<td>7416</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Current Fallowals</td>
<td></td>
<td>205625</td>
<td>161056</td>
<td>136973</td>
<td>305645</td>
<td>143119</td>
<td>167560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Other Fallow Lands</td>
<td></td>
<td>123466</td>
<td>105812</td>
<td>98534</td>
<td>102470</td>
<td>84254</td>
<td>88502</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Net Area Sown</td>
<td></td>
<td>963109</td>
<td>1071228</td>
<td>1103659</td>
<td>923308</td>
<td>1113966</td>
<td>1082867</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>TOTAL GEOGRAPHICAL AREA</td>
<td></td>
<td>1913491</td>
<td>1913491</td>
<td>1913491</td>
<td>1913000</td>
<td>1913000</td>
<td>1913000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Total Cropped Area</td>
<td></td>
<td>1001938</td>
<td>1135888</td>
<td>1169238</td>
<td>975432</td>
<td>1187767</td>
<td>1153739</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Area Sown More Than Once</td>
<td></td>
<td>38829</td>
<td>64660</td>
<td>65579</td>
<td>52124</td>
<td>73801</td>
<td>70872</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Irrigation Facilities

The district occupies the lowest position in respect of irrigation facilities with only 14.08 per cent of the gross cropped area during 2006-2007 was irrigated. Out of the gross irrigated area of 1.37 Lakh hectares canals accounted for 17.37 per cent, tanks 1.36 per cent, tube wells 70.83 per cent, wells 10.02 per cent and other sources 0.42 per cent. All the principal sources except canals are non-precarious.

Natural Resources

The district is not rich in the forest wealth. The name ‘Forest’ in Anantapur district does not indicate any dense tree population with thick foliage of vermiciform of pastures.

Mineral Resources of the District

Gold

At Ramagiri village in Ramagiri mandal, gold is found to occur in the cholite schist's and phylslite along with western part of Dharwar schist's belt in the district. The place extends over a length of 14 kms. Exploratory mining in the area is pruned about 467 meters of ore shoots with an average width of 100cms/ton. Mining operations are expected to be conducted by Bharat Gold Mines Limited.

Diamonds

Diamonds are said to be available near Vajrakarur. They mainly occur in pipe rocks.

Other Minerals

Barytes, high grade lime stones, iron ore and steatite are the minerals occurring in the district. There are however no large sized minerals occurring in the district. There are 2 large scale cement factories (M/s. L&T Ltd., and M/s. Penna Cement Ltd..) in Tadipatri mandal and producing lakhs tonnes of cement in private sector.

Administrative Profile
Anantapur district is divided into three divisions – Anantapur, Dharmavaram and Penukonda, comprising of 63 Mandal Parishads, 970 Minor Panchayats, 31 Major Panchayats and 7 Municipalities. The 63 Mandals in Anantapur district are shown in Map: 4.1.
Profile of NGOs in Anantapur District

The success of any efforts made for rural development depends upon the active participation and willing co-operation of the rural people through Self-Help organizations and voluntary agencies. In recent years, the voluntary agencies and Non-governmental Organizations have acquired greater importance and significance than before because the administration has not been able to reach the people, especially the poor and weaker sections. They have been able to make their presence felt from the local to the national level and now at the international level also. Many of them have pioneered works in areas, which were ignored by the process of national development planning.

Voluntary action stimulated and promoted by voluntary agencies engaged in development play a significant role at the grass roots level in the Indian social milieu; The NGOs and Government Departments are also struggling hard to organize the people through social mobilization process for eliciting their participation in the successful implementation of the development programmes. Some have succeeded in the process and some are still struggling in progressive direction. Table 4.3 gives a clear picture of number of registered NGOs in Anantapur district since 1976 to 1990.
### Table 4.3

Registered NGOs in Anantapur District before Economic Liberalisation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>No. of Newly Registered NGOs</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1976</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1977</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1981</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1982</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>11.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>1983</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>1984</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>1985</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>1986</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>1987</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>22.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>1988</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>24.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>1989</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>11.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>11.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>54</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Registration Office, Anantapur.

Table 4.3 indicates that the total number of NGOs registered in Anantapur district was 54 during twelve years period. Among them 25 were registered in 1987 and 1988. In 1982, 1989 and 1990 equal number (6) of NGOs were registered. In the remaining seven years 1 to 2 NGOs were registered. The list of Non-governmental Organizations operating in the district is appended.
NGOs Formation after Liberalisation

Since the 1980s, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have emerged as an important force on the world stage working to democratize decision-making processes, protect human rights and provide essential services to the most needy. Underpinning this expanded role in global governance has been certain disillusionment with the role of the state in facilitating sustainable human development and the belief that more flexible, motivated and decentralized structures have the required skills and responsibility to undertake this role.  

In recent years, the arena of NGO action has expanded rapidly from local and national settings to the international level. The institutional transformations that are occurring in the context of globalization have seen international actors—such as United Nations agencies, regional organizations, finance and trade institutions and transnational corporations—as well as inter-governmental "summits" assume an increasingly prominent role in global governance. NGOs have been late-comers to this evolving system of global governance but are now finding ways to influence the international decision-making process associated with development issues.

UNRISD work on the institutional and social effects of globalization has highlighted the concern that certain international economic, finance and trade organizations are enjoying greater freedom and power, but often without any commensurate increase in social responsibility. There are high hopes that the role of NGOs on the world stage will act to correct this potentially dangerous imbalance. But are NGOs sufficiently effective to perform this role. Table 4.4 gives the details of NGOs formed in Anantapur district after liberalization of Indian Economy.

Table-4.4
Registered NGOs in Anantapur District before Economic Liberalisation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>No. of Newly Registered NGOs</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1991</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1992</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1993</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>7.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1994</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>12.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>1995</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>15.54</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 4.4 shows an improvement in the registration and formation of NGOs after liberalisation. During the first seven years after liberalisation 54.05 percent of NGOs were formed in the district. Thereafter the number of newly registered NGOs was declined with minor variations.

Profile of Sample NGOs

The brief profile of sample NGOs namely Rural Development Trust, Rudset and Timbaktu Collective is presented in the following paragraphs.

Rural Development Trust

Vincent Ferrer (1920-2009) and Anne Ferrer founded Rural Development Trust popularly called RDT in 1969 with Anantapur in Rayalaseema Region of Andhra Pradesh as its Central Headquarters. It is a non-governmental organization registered under Indian Registrations Act 1908.

RDT has been carrying out various need-based welfare and integrated programs of development to improve quality of life of rural poor especially marginalized and underprivileged sections namely Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Backward Castes (BC) and persons with disability (PWDs).
It has been implementing its program activities cut across various sectors in 1727 villages spread across 61 Revenue Mandals in 5 districts of Andhra Pradesh, South India. It includes 34 Mandals of Anantapur District followed by 11 in Kurnool, 7 in Prakasam, 7 in Mahaboobnagar and 2 in Nalgonda District of Andhra Pradesh. Among them there are 223 villages of Chenchu Tribes of Nallamala forest areas spread across 27 Mandals in 4 districts of Srisailam Region. The Project area of RDT is administratively divided into 4-Regions namely Bukkarayasamudram (BKS), Bhathalapalli, Kadiri and Srisailam.

The programme interventions of the organisation cover major sectors such as Education, Women, Community Health including HIV/AIDS, Hospitals, Community Habitat, CBR (Community-based Rehabilitation) and Ecology. RDT believes that Sports and Cultural events are very much necessary for the growth, self esteem and confidence of rural children and has been undertaking suitable program activities to bring out hidden talents of rural children in Sports/Games and cultural aspects.

It has 1396 full time staff comprised of senior and middle level managerial staff, professional/technical cadre, grass root and support level who are experienced and trained in their respective fields of work. There are also 1707 volunteers such as community health workers (CHWs) and Community Based Teachers (CBTs) who are trained by the organization at the village level.

Vincent Ferrer had established Foundation Vincent Ferrer (FVF) based in Spain in 1996 with a view to carrying out its work and sustaining the impact of the interventions of RDT. Both FVF-RDT work together and share the same Mission and Vision of bettering the lives of the most deprived sections in society.

In continuation of its efforts for resource mobilization for the cause of poor and needy, RDT has set up its first ‘Resource Mobilization Centre’ in Mumbai in September 2012 with a view to sensitizing like-minded persons in India to participate in the struggle of the poor and needy to come out of poverty and to have a dignified life on par with others.
Anne Ferrer is the present Executive Director while Moncho Ferrer, son of Mr. & Mrs. Ferrer, is the Program Director of RDT. A management team called Core Team sets the direction and strategy for the organization. It also guides the various program interventions of RDT apart from sustaining the motivation of various cadre staff to work in accordance with its guiding principles (Dharma).

Profile of RUDSETI

Unemployment is the prime challenge India is facing in the process of its development. Lakhs of youth are entering the job market every year after completing their school/collegiate education. The entry of automation and mechanization in every sphere of commerce and administration due to the advent of science and technology has further accentuated the problem. On the rural side, the employment potential in agricultural economy also appears to have reached a saturation level leading to large scale migration of manpower from rural areas to urban areas adding woes and pressure to already over strained civic infrastructure.

Millions of unemployed youth particularly from rural and semi-urban background who could not access higher/professional education but oriented towards white collar jobs are driven to despair for not finding a job. Of late, these distressed youth are attracted towards antisocial activities for their livelihood. This tremendous waste of human resources and mismatch of potentiality with productive deployment has baffled the planners and administrators. All these clearly indicate the need for promoting self-employment entrepreneurial ventures among the unemployed youth.

Genesis

It is under these circumstances that Rural Development & Self Employment Training Institute (RUDSETI) a unique initiative in mitigating the problem of unemployment was taken a way back in 1982 jointly by Sri Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwara Educational Trust, SyndicateBank and Canara Bank under the visionary leadership of Padmabhushan Dr. D. Veerendra Heggade, Dharmadhikari of Dharmasthala. The collective thinking gave concrete shape in providing an institutional framework in the form of Rural Development & Self Employment Training Institute in 1982. RUDSETI is registered under Karnataka Societies Registration Act 1960. The name and style “RUDSETI” with its logo is registered
Encouraged by the success of Ujire experiment, RUDSETI has now established 26 units in 16 States. Up to June 2012, RUDSETI has trained 2.92 lakhs youth of which 2.07 lakhs trainees have settled with their self employment ventures, thus constituting 71% to the settlement rate, which is really a matter of pride for RUDSETI. RUDSETI's collaboration with developmental agencies, institutions, voluntary organizations and government departments viz. NABARD, SIDBI, DICs, DRDAs, NBCFDC etc. to achieve the common objectives has proved mutually beneficial.

**Profile of Timbaktu Collective**

The ‘Timbaktu Collective’ is a registered voluntary organization. It was initiated in 1990 by a small group of activists with the idea of developing alternative models of sustainable development in the drought prone Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh, India.

With local self governance as the underlying theme, the Collective has been working on issues of ecological restoration and natural resource management, empowerment and rights to women, dalits, children and people with disabilities. As part of its strategy the Timbaktu Collective has formed numerous village based organisations of the rural poor and promoted various producer owned, mutually aided business enterprises.

While the registered office of the Collective is located in Bangalore, India, the field office is located in Chenne Kotha Palli Village of Anantapur district, A.P., India.

Timbaktu Collective is a collective of activists, who had been working in different voluntary organisations for one to two decades. During this involvement, individual members of the Collective had been variously involved in participatory training, cultural action, people's theatre, education,
documentation, organising rural poor, campaigns, networking and support services. As a group of
activists, they had been meeting at various fora, and had, over a period of time shared a critique of
modern developments in the global and local context, as well as their own work. These discussions and
reflections on their work, exposed the inadequacies of a purely class understanding of today's society on
which rested - the logic and strategy of most of their work.

The idea at that time was to initiate an experiment in creating an agro-forest habitat. With this in
mind, a 32 acre piece of degraded land in Anantapur District of Andhra Pradesh was purchased with a
total personal fund of Rs.1, 10,000 and two full time workers employed. This land was named `Timbaktu'.

From such humble beginnings, the Collective has grown to a medium sized organization with 105
full time working members, many volunteers and an annual budget of approximately Rs.3 crores.

Their vision is to stop the degradation pf the land in Anantapur district and to find ways to reverse
it. They want to green the hills and the land and to develop alternative lifestyles. Lifestyles that are
sustainable and provide more liberty and happiness, than those based upon exploitation. The small
farmers see their land degrade and the wells drying up, but they don't know what to do, so they just
continued their patterns of self-destruction. So they want to find a path that leads out of this vicious circle,
not without but together with them.

The poorest are always those who are struck first and hardest by economic struggles. Their
focus is to help the marginalized people: the women, the Dalits, the small farmers, the wage labourers,
the poor, those who otherwise disappear in some statistics about poverty, malnourishment, or illiteracy.
They want to help the people to contact again with their environment, with their land, with their tradition
and culture, with nature and their community.

The purpose of the Timbaktu Collective is to enable rural children, women and men to live with
dignity, self-respect and knowledge, rooted in native wisdom, traditional industry, crafts and arts, in a
meaningful and joyous manner.
Approach and Vision of Timbaktu Collective

Timbaktu Collective’s approach is to support the regeneration and re-construction of lives of a community living in a harsh physical context and extreme poverty through community based organizations and people’s organizations. In twenty two years the organization has worked towards moving in the direction of the vision of celebrating life and living in diversity.

Over the years, Timbaktu Collective has focused on local self-governance and formation of community- based organizations of the poor with the following vision:

❖ Rejuvenate village communities
❖ Regenerate the natural resources
❖ Revitalize cosmologies and sustainable life styles
❖ Organise and empower women
❖ Educate and mobiles youth, Dalits and Disabled
❖ Create spaces and learning centres for children
❖ Participate in and create networks of voluntary, civil society, community based and mass organizations at district, state and national levels.

Work of the Timbaktu Collective

The Collective is a nucleus of alternatives. The perspective and overall plan covers a wide range of activities, all aiming towards bringing in a more ecological and self-sustaining basis to the lives of its members and the people it is working with.

Over the years, the Timbaktu Collective has put special emphasis on ecological restoration, natural resource management, empowerment of women and alternative education for drop out children, awareness building and leadership development among the youth, dalits and the disabled. It works with the marginalized peoples and communities of rural Anantapur district. It began its work in 10 villages of Chenne Kotha Palli Mandal and has now expanded its activities to 140 villages in Chenne Kotha Palli,
Roddam and Ramagiri Mandals of Anantapur district in Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh.

The Collective works with 140 villages in 3 Mandals of Anantapur district. The main activities of the Collective are eco-restoration, promotion of organic farming, alternative banking, women empowerment, alternative education, child rights, leadership training of youth and services to people with disability.

The main activities of the Collective fall within the following categories:

- Ecological restoration and Natural Resource Management.
- Women empowerment through creation of Alternative Banking institutions.
- Alternative education for children.
- Awareness building and leadership development among local youth, dalits and the disabled for self betterment.
- Capacity building for local self governance.

Gender Equality
Timbaktu Collective follows an active policy in preferential recruitment of women. However it has been difficult to find women for the Coordinator positions. Experience shows that many have left due to personal priorities. The organization is trying to promote women to leadership positions from within the organization. About 40 % of the staff is women. The working relationship appears to be collegial and healthy within the organization as well as with the community. Overall, the organizational processes are ‘feminine’ with emphasis on process, relationships, good balance between family and work life, organic growth processes and connectedness between the various sectors. The researcher felt that perhaps not enough stress is laid on the ‘masculine’ way of structures, systems, though there is awareness that organizational growth means more stress needs to be placed on systems.

Profile of the Sample Mandals
Six Mandals, two each in three Revenue Divisions of Anantapur District have been chosen for the purpose of present study. Accordingly, the profiles of Narpala and Rapthadu
mandals in Anantapur Revenue Division, Bathalapalli and Kanaganapalli Mandal of Dharmavaram Revenue Division, Bukkapatnam and Nallamada Mandals of of Penukonda Revenue Division have been presented.

The profile of each Mandal has been presented with reference to variables such as geographical area, gender-wise population, age wise population, SC and ST population, social category of population, rainfall, utilization of land and educational institutions in the mandal.

1. Brief Profile of Narpala Mandal

Narpala is one of the drought prone mandal of Anantapur district. The total geographical area of the mandal is 297 sq.kms and it has 19 revenue villages. According to 2001 census the total population of mandal is 33,739 out of that 17,244 are men (51.10 percent) and 16,495 are women (48.90 percent). Among the total population, the number of Scheduled Castes is 5,673 (16.81 percent) and the number of Scheduled Tribes is 117 (0.034 percent). Among them the Scheduled Castes women population is 2,763 (48.70 percent) and Scheduled Tribes women population is 55(47.00 percent). The literacy rate of the men is 65 percent and women is 35 percent in this mandal. The sex ratio in this mandal is 957 women per 1000 men.

Rainfall

The annual normal rainfall in the Mandal is 631 mms, the annual rainfall in the Mandal shows above the normal during 2005-06 and 2007-08 as 579.8 mms, 721.8 mms respectively. But it does not take place constantly. The Mandal received 1291 mms, which is more than normal during 2007-2008. The lowest rainfall of 30.8 mms was recorded during 2002-2003. It was recorded below the normal during 2003-2004 and 2004-2005and 2006-2007.

Utilization of Land

The geographical area of the Narpala Mandal is about 30,394 Hectares. Nearly 4,410 hectares (15 %) is under forest land in this Mandal. Nearly 2024 hectares is useful for cultivation that is 8 percent
out of the geographical area. The land of net area sowed was recorded for 11,798 hectares in 2005-2006 that is 38.80 percent out of geographical area. The total cropped area is about 15,607 hectares which constitutes 61 percent out of total area. The land of 2,725 hectares is under fallow situation that is 11 percent of the total geographical area of the Narpala Mandal. The land of 2,505 hectares is uncultivated and barren and 8.20 percent of the land is barren out of the total geographical area of this Mandal.

**Farming and main crops**

The cultivation in the Mandal happens for seasons namely Kharif and Rabi. The first season commences from June and Rabi season starts from September. The major crops in the mandal are paddy, jowar, ragi, Bengal gram, red gram, etc. Around 1,483 hectares of land was cultivated under a food crops that constitutes 9.70 percent of net area during 2005-2006. The important non–food crops including groundnut, sunflowers castor, chillies, mulberry, etc., are sowed in 1,995 hectares of land.

**Education and Health Facilities**

The total number of Primary Schools in the Mandal is 32 under different managements. All 32 schools are under the management of Mandal Parishad.

The total number of Upper Primary Schools is 10 and all 09 Schools are under Mandal Parishad Management and remaining 1 school is under private management. The total number of High Schools is 4, all of them are under the Management of Mandal Parishad. There is no Junior College in the Mandal under Private Management. There are two Primary Health Centers and five Private Clinics in the Mandal.
2. Brief Profile of Rapthadu Mandal

Rapthadu is one of the drought prone mandal of Anantapur district. The total geographical area of the mandal is 315 sq.kms and it has 14 revenue villages. According to 2001 census the total population of mandal is 49,780 out of that 25,466 are men (51.15 percent) and 24,314 are women (48.85 percent). Among the total population, the number of Scheduled Castes is 5,956 (11.96 percent) and the number of Scheduled Tribes is 603 (1.21 percent). Among them the Scheduled Castes women population is 2,895 (48.60 percent) and Scheduled Tribes women population is 299 (49.58 percent). The literacy rate of the men is 69 percent and women are 40 percent in this mandal. The sex ratio in this mandal is 955 women per 1000 men.

Rainfall

The annual normal rainfall in the Mandal is 646 mms, the annual rainfall in the Mandal shows above the normal during 2005-06 and 2007-08 as 579.8 mms, 721.8 mms respectively. But it does not take place constantly. The Mandal received 725 mms, which is more than normal during 2007-2008. The lowest rainfall of 30.8 mms was recorded during 2002-2003. It was recorded below the normal during 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 and 2006-2007.

Utilization of Land

The geographical area of the Rapthadu Mandal is about 34,319 Hectares. Nearly 5,917 hectares (17.20 %) is under forest land in this Mandal. Nearly 2024 hectares is useful for cultivation that is 8 percent out of the geographical area. The land of net area sowed was recorded for 13,362 hectares in 2005-2006 that is 39 percent out of geographical area. The total cropped area is about 15,607 hectares which constitutes 61 percent out of total area. The land of 2,725 hectares is under fallow situation that is 11 percent of the total geographical area of the Rapthadu Mandal. The land of 4,870 hectares is uncultivated and barren and 14.20 percent of the land is barren out of the total geographical area of this Mandal.

Farming and main crops

The cultivation in the Mandal happens for seasons namely Kharif and Rabi. The first season commences from June and Rabi season starts from September. The major crops in the mandal are
paddy, jowar, ragi, Bengal gram, red gram, etc. Around 1,483 hectares of land was cultivated under food crops that constitutes 9.70 percent of net area during 2005-2006. The important non-food crops including groundnut, sunflowers castor, chillies, mulberry, etc., are sowed in 5,759 hectares of land.

**Education and Health Facilities**

The total number of Primary Schools in the Mandal is 43. Among them 37 schools are under the management of Mandal Parishad and 6 schools are under Private Management.

The total number of Upper Primary Schools is 12 and among them 9 Schools are under Mandal Parishad Management and remaining 3 schools are under private management. The total number of High Schools are 10, among them 7 schools are under the Management of Zilla Parishad and another 3 school are under Private management. There is one Junior College and one Degree college in the Mandal and both are under Private Management. There are one Primary Health Center and six Private Clinics in the Mandal.

**3. Brief Profile of Kanaganapalli Mandal**

Kanaganapalli is one of the drought prone mandal of Anantapur district. The total geographical area of the mandal is 283 sq.kms and it has 13 revenue villages. According to 2001 census the total population of mandal is 39,158 out of that 20,120 are men (51.38 percent) and 19,398 are women (48.62 percent). Among the total population, the number of Scheduled Castes is 6,424 (16.40 percent) and the number of Scheduled Tribes is 1,280 (3.26 percent). Among them the Scheduled Castes women population is 3,187 (49.61 percent) and Scheduled Tribes women population is 615 (48.04 percent). The literacy rate of the men is 65 percent and women are 31 percent in this mandal. The sex ratio in this mandal is 963 women per 1000 men.

**Rainfall**

The annual normal rainfall in the Mandal is 530 mms, the annual rainfall in the Mandal shows above the normal during 2005-06 and 2007-08 as 579.8 mms, 721.8 mms respectively. But it does not take place constantly. The Mandal received 796 mms, which is more than normal during 2007-2008.
lowest rainfall of 30.8 mms was recorded during 2002-2003. It was recorded below the normal during 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 and 2006-2007.

**Utilization of Land**

The geographical area of the Kanaganapalli Mandal is about 28,823 Hectares. Nearly 1,342 hectares (4.70%) is under forest land in this Mandal. Nearly 2024 hectares is useful for cultivation that is 8 percent out of the geographical area. The land of net area sowed was recorded for 18,013 hectares in 2005-2006 that is 63 percent out of geographical area. The total cropped area is about 15,607 hectares which constitutes 61 percent out of total area. The land of 2,725 hectares is under fallow situation that is 11 percent of the total geographical area of the Kanaganapalli Mandal. The land of 4,025 hectares is uncultivated and barren and 14 percent of the land is barren out of the total geographical area of this Mandal.

**Farming and main crops**

The cultivation in the Mandal happens for seasons namely Kharif and Rabi. The first season commences from June and Rabi season starts from September. The major crops in the mandal are paddy, jowar, ragi, Bengal gram, red gram, etc. Around 1,483 hectares of land was cultivated under a food crops that constitutes 9.70 percent of net area during 2005-2006. The important non–food crops including groundnut, sunflowers castor, chillies, mulberry, etc., are sowed in 15,793 hectares of land.

**Education and Health Facilities**

The total number of Primary Schools in the Mandal is 27 under different managements. All 27 schools are under the management of Mandal Parishad.

The total number of Upper Primary Schools is 16 and all 16 Schools are under Mandal Parishad Management. The total number of High Schools is 5, four of them are under the Management of Mandal Parishad and one school is under Govt. of Andhra Pradesh. There is one Junior College in the Mandal under Govt. Management. There is one Primary Health Center and four Private Clinics in the Mandal.

**4. Brief Profile of Bathalapalli Mandal**
Bathalapalli is one of the drought prone mandal of Anantapur district. The total geographical area of the mandal is 272 sq.kms and it has 14 revenue villages. According to 2001 census the total population of mandal is 44,243 out of that 22,601 are men (51.08 percent) and 21,642 are women (48.92 percent). Among the total population, the number of Scheduled Castes is 5,045 (11.40 percent) and the number of Scheduled Tribes is 1,953 (4.41 percent). Among them the Scheduled Castes women population is 2,422 (48.00 percent) and Scheduled Tribes women population is 966 (49.46 percent). The literacy rate of the men is 66 percent and women is 35 percent in this mandal. The sex ratio in this mandal is 958 women per 1000 men.

**Rainfall**

The annual normal rainfall in the Mandal is 607 mms, the annual rainfall in the Mandal shows above the normal during 2005-06 and 2007-08 as 579.8 mms, 721.8 mms respectively. But it does not take place constantly. The Mandal received 722 mms, which is more than normal during 2007-2008. The lowest rainfall of 30.8 mms was recorded during 2002-2003. It was recorded below the normal during 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 and 2006-2007.

**Utilization of Land**

The geographical area of the Bathalapalli Mandal is about 29,338 Hectares. Nearly 2,275 hectares (7.80 %) is under forest land in this Mandal. Nearly 2024 hectares is useful for cultivation that is 8 percent out of the geographical area. The land of net area sowed was recorded for 5,981 hectares in 2005-2006 that is 20 percent out of geographical area. The total cropped area is about 15,607 hectares which constitutes 61 percent out of total area. The land of 2,725 hectares is under fallow situation that is 11 percent of the total geographical area of the Bathalapalli Mandal. The land of 2,152 hectares is uncultivated and barren and 7.30 percent of the land is barren out of the total geographical area of this Mandal.

**Farming and main crops**

The cultivation in the Mandal happens for seasons namely Kharif and Rabi. The first season commences from June and Rabi season starts from September. The major crops in the mandal are paddy, jowar, ragi, Bengal gram, red gram, etc. Around 1,483 hectares of land was cultivated under a
food crops that constitutes 9.70 percent of net area during 2005-2006. The important non–food crops including groundnut, sunflowers castor, chillies, mulberry, etc., are sowed in 4,326 hectares of land.

Education and Health Facilities

The total number of Primary Schools in the Mandal is 75 under different managements. All 73 schools are under the management of Mandal Parishad and 2 schools are under Private Management.

The total number of Upper Primary Schools is 9 and 6 Schools are under Mandal Parishad Management and 3 schools under private management. The total number of High Schools is 7, all of them are under the Management of Mandal Parishad. There is one Junior College in the Mandal under private Management. There is one Primary Health Center and three Private Clinics in the Mandal.

5. Brief Profile of Bukkapatnam Mandal

Bukkapatnam is one of the drought prone mandal of Anantapur district. The total geographical area of the mandal is 268 sq.kms and it has 8 revenue villages. According to 2001 census the total population of mandal is 40,701 out of that 20,873 are men (51.28 percent) and 19,828 are women (48.72 percent). Among the total population, the number of Scheduled Castes is 3,870 (9.50 percent) and the number of Scheduled Tribes is 3,382 (8.30 percent). Among them the Scheduled Castes women population is 1,859 (48.03 percent) and Scheduled Tribes women population is 1,591 (47.04 percent). The literacy rate of the men is 68 percent and women are 40 percent in this mandal. The sex ratio in this mandal is 950 women per 1000 men.

Rainfall

The annual normal rainfall in the Mandal is 700 mms, the annual rainfall in the Mandal shows above the normal during 2005-06 and 2007-08 as 579.8 mms, 721.8 mms respectively. But it does not take place constantly. The lowest rainfall of 30.8 mms was recorded during 2002-2003. It was recorded below the normal during 2003-2004 and 2004-2005and 2006-2007.

Utilization of Land

The geographical area of the Bukkapatnam Mandal is about 29,426 Hectares. Nearly 12,129 hectares (41.20 %) is under forest land in this Mandal. Nearly 2024 hectares is useful for cultivation that
is 8 percent out of the geographical area. The land of net area sowed was recorded for 9,807 hectares in 2005-2006 that is 33 percent out of geographical area. The total cropped area is about 15,607 hectares which constitutes 61 percent out of total area. The land of 2,725 hectares is under fallow situation that is 11 percent of the total geographical area of the Bukkapatnam Mandal. The land of 2,336 hectares is uncultivated and barren and 7.90 percent of the land is barren out of the total geographical area of this Mandal.

**Farming and main crops**

The cultivation in the Mandal happens for seasons namely Kharif and Rabi. The first season commences from June and Rabi season starts from September. The major crops in the mandal are paddy, jowar, ragi, Bengal gram, red gram, etc. Around 1,483 hectares of land was cultivated under a food crops that constitutes 9.70 per cent of net area during 2005-2006. The important non–food crops including groundnut, sunflowers castor, chillies, mulberry, etc., are sowed in 9,369 hectares of land.

**Education and Health Facilities**

The total number of Primary Schools in the Mandal is 39 under different managements. Among them 37 schools are under the management of Mandal Parishad, 1 school is under State Govt. management and 1 school is under Private Management.

The total number of Upper Primary Schools is 11 and 9 Schools are under Mandal Parishad Management and 9 schools under private management. The total number of High Schools is 9, among them 6 are under the Management of Mandal Parishadand, 1 school is under Govt. of A.P. and remaining 2 schools are under Private Management. There is one Junior College in the Mandal under private Management. There is one Degree College and one D,Ed college under Govt. Management. There are three Primary Health Centers and two private Clinics in the Mandal.

**6. Brief Profile of Nallamada Mandal**

Nallamada is one of the drought prone mandal of Anantapur district. The total geographical area of the mandal is 420 sq.kms and it has 12 revenue villages. According to 2001 census the total population of mandal is 46,740 out of that 23,950 are men (51.24 percent) and 22,790 are women (48.76 percent).
Among the total population, the number of Scheduled Castes is 11,147 (23.84 percent) and the number of Scheduled Tribes is 2,992 (6.40 percent). Among them the Scheduled Castes women population is 5,518 (49.50 percent) and Scheduled Tribes women population is 1,463 (48.89 percent). The literacy rate of the men is 65 percent and women is 41 percent in this mandal. The sex ratio in this mandal is 952 women per 1000 men.

**Rainfall**

The annual normal rainfall in the Mandal is 458 mms, the annual rainfall in the Mandal shows above the normal during 2005-06 and 2007-08 as 579.8 mms, 721.8 mms respectively. But it does not take place constantly. The Mandal received 717 mms, which is more than normal during 2007-2008. The lowest rainfall of 30.8 mms was recorded during 2002-2003. It was recorded below the normal during 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 and 2006-2007.
Utilization of Land

The geographical area of the Nallamada Mandal is about 39,977 Hectares. Nearly 1,060 hectares (2.70 %) is under forest land in this Mandal. Nearly 2024 hectares is useful for cultivation that is 8 per cent out of the geographical area. The land of net area sowed was recorded for 18,408 hectares in 2005-2006 that is 46 percent out of geographical area. The total cropped area is about 15,607 hectares which constitutes 61 per cent out of total area. The land of 2,725 hectares is under fallow situation that is 11 per cent of the total geographical area of the Nallamada Mandal. The land of 1,833 hectares is uncultivated and barren and 4.60 percent of the land is barren out of the total geographical area of this Mandal.

Farming and main crops

The cultivation in the Mandal happens for seasons namely Kharif and Rabi. The first season commences from June and Rabi season starts from September. The major crops in the mandal are paddy, jowar, ragi, Bengal gram, red gram, etc. Around 1,483 hectares of land was cultivated under a food crops that constitutes 9.70 per cent of net area during 2005-2006. The important non–food crops including groundnut, sunflowers castor, chillies, mulberry, etc., are sowed in 15,423 hectares of land.

Education and Health Facilities

The total number of Primary Schools in the Mandal is 34. All 34 schools are under the management of Mandal Parishad.

The total number of Upper Primary Schools is 15 and among them 13 Schools are under Mandal Parishad Management and remaining 2 schools are under private management. The total number of High Schools are 4, among them 3 schools are under the Management of Zilla Parishad and another one school is under Govt. of A.P management. There is one Junior College in the Mandal under Govt. Management. There are one Primary Health Center and four Private Clinics in the Mandal.
References


4. *Ibid*, p. 2


8. *Ibid*, p.5


