CHAPTER IV

A PROFILE OF CHITTOOR DISTRICT
PROFILE OF CHITTOOR DISTRICT

Introduction:

Origin of the Name of the District, Location, General boundaries, Total area and population of the district.¹

The district derived its name from Chittoor, its headquarter town. It is located between the Northern latitude of 1237' and 1408' and between the Eastern longitudes of 7003' and 7955'. It is bounded on the East by Nellore District of Andhra Pradesh and Chengelpet district of Tamilnadu, on the West by Kolar district of Karnataka, on the north to a great extent by Cuddapah district of Andhra Pradesh and on the South by North Arcot and Dharmapuri district of Tamilnadu. According to the census of 1981, Chittoor district ranks fifth in population with 2,737,316 persons. In respect of the area it takes the eighth place with an area of 15,188.56 square kilometers which accounts for 5.51% of the total area of the state. Previously the district consisted 15 taluks viz., 1. TAMBALLAPALLE, 2. VAYALPAD, 3. MADANAPALLE, 4. CHINNAGOTTIGALU, 5. CHENDRAGIRI, 6. SRIKALAHASTI, 7. TOTTAMBEDU, 8. SATYAVEDU, 9. PUTUR, 10. NAGIRI, 11. CHITTOOR, 12. BANGARUPATEM, 13. PUNGANUR, 14. PALAMANEER and 15. KUPPAM. But recently in 1986, this district has divided into 66 Mandal in the place of Taluks. The whole district was divided into three revenue divisions. The History of the District as an Administrative unit and changes in its component parts.

Chittoor District was not a homogenous administrative unit in the past. Its component parts were under the control of various principal dynasties at different periods of time, namely the Mauryas, Satavahanas, Pallavas, Chalukyas of Badami, Rastrakutas, Chalukyas of Kalyani, Cholas, Pandyas, Rayas of Vizayanagara, Qutubshahis, Mughals, Asaf Jahis, Marathas and Hyder Ali and Tipu of Mysore, besides minor dynasties such as the Renadu Cholus, Benas, Vaidumbas, Nolambas, Western Gangas, Yadavaryas and Mathis, Maryana Nawabs of Cuddapah and Nawabs of Arcot. The Zamindars of Karvelinagar, Srikalahasti, Punganur, and Kangundi (Kuppam) also ruled over this district. Chittoor was once a part of North Arcot district and was constituted as a separate district on the 1st April 1911 with headquarters at Chittoor. It then comprised the taluks of Chittoor, Palamaner and Chendragiri transferred from North Arcot district, Madanapalle and Vayalpad from Cuddapah district and the ex- Zamindari areas of Punganur,
Srikalahasti, Puttur and the old Karvetinagar estate (Tiruttani). Later, Kangundi taluk of north Arcot district excluding 22 villages was transferred to Palamaner taluk on the 1st December 1928. This taluk also gained eight villages which were enclosed of Mysore (Karnataka) state, under the prominence and states (Absorption of enclaves) Order 1950. The next important change in the jurisdiction of this district took place on the 1st April 1960. Consequently, on the implementation of what is known as Pataskar's Award on the Madras and Andhra border dispute mainly on linguistic basis. According to this, the district lost a major portion of Tiruttani taluk made up of 282 villages including the towns of Tiruttani and Proddaturpeta and part of Tamilnadu. As against this loss, 76 villages from Tiruvallur Taluk and 72 villages from Ponneri taluk (both in Chengelpat district) were transferred to this district. A new taluk named Satyavedu was created taking these villages along with 19 villages from Tiruttani taluk and 17 from puttur taluk. Pataskar's Award was also responsible for the following changes in the territorial jurisdiction of the district: (i) Twenty one villages from Chittoor taluk were transferred Walajapet taluk of North Arcot district; (ii) eight villages from Chittoor taluk were transferred to Gudiyattam taluk of North Arcot district; (iii) three villages and part of Vyasapuram of Tiruttani taluk were transferred to Arakanam taluk of Chengelpat district; (iv) a small forest area in Palamaner taluk was also transferred from Puttur taluk to Chengelpat district and (v) the village of Gopalakrishnapuram was transferred from Puttur taluk to Chengelpat district. During the same year Kuppam and Bangarupalem independent sub-taluk were constituted. The former was formed by taking 220 villages from Palamaner taluk and three villages from Krishnagiri taluk of Salem district (Tamilnadu), while the latter was formed by transferring 145 villages from Chittoor taluk. The district did not undergo any changes till November 1968, when the independent sub-taluk of Kuppam was upgraded into a taluk. Henceforth, there were no territorial changes in the district. A change in the nomenclature of Kalahasti to Srikalahasti was, however, made in 1969. As per census of 1981 the district consists of 15 taluks under three revenue divisions viz., Chittoor, Chendragiri and Madanapalle.

HILLS:

The district may roughly be divided into two regions, namely (1) the hills and uplands and (2) the plains. The plains, valleys, plateaus and the hills combine to make this district one of the most picturesque in the state. The Eastern Ghats
are the most extensive range of hills in this district. This range enters the district in Kuppam taluk in the South-West corner. It then passes Northwards through the eastern parts of Palamaner and Punganur taluks bending towards the east as far as the hills of Tirupati. At this spot the range intersected by a long valley which passes Northward into Cuddapah district through the villages of Karakambadi and Mamandur. East of this Mamandur valley, the Ghats once more rise and follow a north-easterly direction until they enter Nellore fro Srikalahasti taluk.

The general elevation of this part of the district is about 2500 ft. (762m). The spurs of the Eastern Ghats run through Chittoor taluk into the West of Puttur taluk. A broad and fertile valley runs through Puttur taluk and this is closed on the Eastern side by a range known as the Nagiri Hills which extends a Northward into Srikalahasti taluk. These hills which look as if they were suddenly upheaved by volcanic action, overlook the valley with high precipitous cliffs. The prominent cliff popularly known as Nagiri Nose, is conspicuous for miles around. The imposing Seshachalam Hills, over which the famous pilgrim centre of Tirupati is located, is perhaps one of the most picturesque spots in this part of the country. The Horseley Hills, which have been developed into a hill station in Madanapalle taluk also form part of the plateau engulfing Palamaner, Punganur and Madanapalle, Chinnagottiigallu, Vayalpad taluks and this plateau is part of the Mysore plateau.

Rivers:

There are no perennial rivers in the district. Some of the important minor rivers flowing in the district are the Papaghni, Pincha, Koundinya, Palar, Ponne, Arani, Swarnamukhi, Bahuda, Kalyani and Krisathali. The Papaghni raised in the Nandi Hills of Karnataka State and after flowing through Madanapalle taluk, leaves for Ananthapur District.

The Pincha, a tributary of the Bahuda river rises in the forests of Avulapalle in Punganur taluk. It flows Northward in Punganur and Vayalpad taluks before entering Cuddapah district where it joins the Bahuda.

The Polar river takes its origin near Nandidurga of Karnataka State. After flowing across Kuppam taluk, from North to South, it enters North Arcot District.

The Ponne, a tributary of the Palar, takes its origin in the rocky hills to the west of the Chendragiri, flows Southwards in Chittoor taluk before joining the Papar North Arcot district.
The Arani river takes off near Thaduku (Taduj-ku) village which is 4.8 kilometers from Puttur and after flowing through Puttur and Satyavedu taluks enters Chengelpat district.

The Swarnamukhi river rises in Chendragiri Hills and, after passing through the broad valley in which the towns of Chendragiri and Tirupati are situated, it reaches Srikalahasti. The shrine at Srikalahasti is situated on the banks of the river. From Srikalahasti, it flows in a North-Eastern direction into Nellore and ultimately joins the sea near Sidhavaram in Gudur taluk, a little North of Pulicat lake.

The Bahuda river rises in the Horseley hills in Madanapalle taluk and after flowing through Vayalpad taluk enters Cuddapah district to join Pennar.

The Kalyani takes its birth in Adaram forest and after flowing through Chendragiri taluk, joins Swarnamukhi in Srikalahasti.

Kusasthali takes its origin in Puttur taluk and flows westwards into Chengelpat district.

Apart from the above rivers, the Pedderu and Chinneru which are small rivers also flows in Madanapalle taluk².

Flora:

The flora of Chittoor district has made considerable progress, although the ecological succession is rather hampered mostly by biotic influence. The climate, topography and geology have played a great role in preserving the flora of the district. The district has hills and plateau and elevation ranges upto 1318 meters. The highest inhabited elevation is that of the Horseley hills with Tirumala (900 meters) as the next one. The climate is on the whole salubrious. The plains portion is hot, but never unbearably so, while the elevated Palamaner plateau enjoys a temperature which rarely rises to more than 32.

The western parts of the district form the rugged eastern scarps of the Mysore plateau with gneissic rocks. Eastwards of the plateau are the numerous clusters of detached hills, some of considerable size and elevation. In the eastern parts of the division, the Cuddapah geological formation occur. The southern end of the Veligondas, the Tirumala Hills, including the Mamandur valley forests
contain a succession of shales, quartzites etc. The tremendous lines of scrap and often vertical cliffs seen in the Seshachalam range hills give a peculiar and grand character to the local landscape. Thus the formations, occurring in Seshachalam and Tirupati hills, mostly carry the red sandal woods with its associates, while the plateau portions carry sandal and the plains dry deciduous forests. In the Chamala, Mamandur and Talakona valleys, soil depth is more and dry ever green vegetation occurs. In the crevices of rocks, Ficus species and other epiphytic species come up which help in the process of breaking up of the rocks and their eventual disintegration.

The rest of the country side, the hill ranges i.e., the reserved forest areas present a dry undulating landscape, more so in the western upland taluks without crops of granite and quartzite. In between the uplands, one comes across depressions caused by the numerous nalle that drain into the Bahuda, Satyavati Pincha, Palar, Swarnamukhi, Kalyani, Talakona, Kusasthali, Neeva etc. Often these streams are bounded to form small tanks from the catchment area downwards and in the ayacuts thus formed wet crops like paddy are sown. Along these were fields and depressions, one comes across green patches of mesophytic type of flora like Syzygium cremini (Neredu), Pongamia glabra (Karuga) and large trees of Terminalia arjuna (Erra maddi and Tella maddi). Large trees of Mango, Phoenix sylvestris (its) and a number of grasses along watercourses are also found. The district is rich in tamarind trees which are found along the highways and in village sites; but the most of them are being cleared to get more areas under plough and for widening the roads. Thus they are getting isolated and scattered on private and government lands.

The rain fall is rather precarious and the district is constantly subjected to drought famine. Most of the precipitation occurs in North-East monsoon, while it is less in South-west monsoon. The Western taluks of Vayalpad, Madanapalle, Punganur, Palamaner, Chinnagottigallu, Tamballapalle and Kuppam are worst affected taluks. Whenever there are depressions in the Bay of Bengal nearer to Madras Coast, the district gets good rain. The average annual rainfall is only 827.5 mm. The annual temperature ranges from 18 to 38C. All the above factors play a direct role in the existing flora of the district.
FAUNA:

The forest of the district, specially those of Tirupati and Bhakrapet ranges were reported to be rich both in flora and fauna even before their reservation. Birds and animals are reported to have found in them a good abode and lived an unhindered and poised life. Jean Baptist Tavernier, a French traveller and Jewel merchant, who passed through these forests in August 1652, had written in his chronicles that the "place is very pleasant and derives its coolness from numerous streams and fountains", and that elephant catching operations were then being conducted in these hills by one of the captains of Mirjumla's army. This may appear rather difficult to believe to those acquainted with the present conditions of the forests and the fauna existing therein now, but it may not be far from the truth, if only it can visualized the amount of havoc which could have been caused by man to the once dense forests during the past three centuries. Not only the big games like elephants bison etc., disappeared, but even the Carnivora like tigers and panthers (Panthera paraudus) not to speak of cheetas, are greatly depleted and are almost extinct. Other common forms of wild life such as samburs and spotted deer also frightfully reduced and only rarely seen them now in heros. The opening of extensive unreserves around all forest reservoirs for cultivation forming new highways passing through or along Nagapatla, Bhakrapet, Tirupati, Mamandur and Napeiv reserve forests the advent of the new moving vehicles and jeeps that can cruise the rugged forest tracts, the proliferation of unlicensed weapons, availability of cheap and poisonous drugs like endrine etc., and some people's unsportive desire for ruthless destruction of wild beasts hall and cumulatively contributed to the present sad state of affairs of reduction in the rare and varied fauna in the forests. Today even the harmless peacocks are reduced in numbers. To give much harassed wild life a chance to recoup all the forests in the district were closed to shooting from 1962.

There are at present no wild life Sanctuary in the district. However, proposals for the creation of Sri Venkateswara Game Sanctuary at Mamandur and for the creation of the second zoological park at Chittoor are under consideration. When these two schemes materialize, it will go a long way in educating the public on the significance and importance of wild-life and in increasing their numbers and affording protection to them.

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Fauna:

In olden days, the forests of this district were full of wild animals and birds living an unhindered and poised life. The advent of the fast moving vehicles and jeeps can curse the rugged forest tracts, the proliferation of unlicensed weapons and some peoples unsportive desire for ruthless destruction of wild beasts have cumulatively contributed to the present sad state of affairs of reduction in the rare and varied fauna in the forests. At present, wild animals like tiger and panther (Panthera pardus) are present in small numbers. sloth-bear (Melursus ursinus) is found still in good numbers in all class I reserves of the district. The other carnivora present in the district are wild-dog (Cuoralpinus), Wild-pig (Sus cristatus), porcupine (Hysti indica), hyena (Hyena striata), jungle cat (Felis chaus), jackal (Canis aureus), fox (Vulpes bengalensis), wolf (Canis lupus), etc. Amongst the herbivora, Sambur (Rusa-unicolour), back buck (Antilope cervicapra), chital (Axis axis), wild sheep (Civis cycloceros), mouse deer (Mamira indica), hare (Lapinum fumidus) rabbit etc., are commonly found. The Avifauna is much better condition than the quadrupeds. A number of species among birds exist in this district, their number swells in winter by swarms of migratory birds. A large gray babbler (Turdoides malcolm), the large gray Dhrike (Lanius excubitor), the king crows, mynas and crows, bee-eaters, hoopoes, swifts, vultures, eagles, kites, owls, sand-grouse quails, partridges, green pigeons, pigeons, peacock etc., are some of the birds found in the district.

Forests:

Forests cover about 30.5 percent of the total area in Chittoor district consisting 4,535.14 square kilometers. With a view to conserving and increasing the land under forests, the Government has taken over several estate forests blocks, paying due compensations during the past one decade. The forest blocks are therefore, isolated and widely scattered all-over the district, barring a few in Chandragiri, Palamaner and Kuppam taluks. For purposes of general management, only two types are recognized in the districts viz., class I forests which have been under the control of the Forest Department for the very low beginning and class III forests, which are taken over by the Forest Departments from Panchayat management, for ensuring better protection and sound management.
For administrative control, the district is divided into two forest divisions, namely Chittoor East and Chittoor West. The former is a comparatively heavier division comprising the eastern ranges viz., Chittoor East, Puttur, Karvetinagar, Srikalahasti, Tirupati and Bhakrapet, while the latter consists of five ranges namely Chittoor west, Palamaner, Kuppam, Punganur and Madanapalle.

The floristic compositions in the forests vary from dry deciduous to thorny scrub with occasional patches of dry evergreen growth and can be assumed to have reached the climate climax of the region. The forests of Bhakrapet and Tirupati ranges and those in their vicinity, mainly confined to the imposing Seshachalam Hills, were assumed to be part of the ancient Dandakaranyam as expound in the famous epic Ramayana. Dandakaranyam as implied in its name, was impregnable and was replete with a great variety of birds ad animals besides its luxuriant and varied vegetative forms. Such remarkable Vanas have so far deteriorated physically as to be easily reclaimable and in fact tending to be an assemblage of bald and barren mountains and Hills. The notable forest products are tank foreshore, agave, tamarind, pasture, plots, eucalyptus and red sandalwood.

Climate:

The District has a dry and agreeable climate. The year may be divided into four seasons. The period from December to February is the dry and comparatively cool season. The summer season from March to May is followed by the South-West monsoon season from June to September. October and November constitute the post monsoon or retreating monsoon season.

Rainfall:

The district has a good network of 21 rain gauge stations for periods ranging from 15 to 22 years. The average annual rainfall in the district is 827.5 mm (32.56")$. The rainfall generally decreases from the east towards the west and varies from 555.7 mm (21.87") at Peddatippa Samudram near the western border to 1,187.8mm (47.76") at Satyavedu near the eastern border. The rain fall during the monsoon period from June to September constitutes only about 44 percent of the annual normal rainfall. During may, there is some significant amount of rainfall and it mostly in the form of thundershowers. During the post monsoon season as much as 35 percent of the annual rain fall is received. The period from August to November is the chief rainy season in the district, October being the rainiest
month. The variation in the rainfall from year to year is large. During the last fifty-year period from 1901 to 1950, the highest annual rainfall, amounting to 161 percent of the normal occurred in 1943, while the lowest rainfall which was only 63 percent of the normal rainfall occurred in 1904. During the last fifty-year period, the annual rainfall occurred in 1904, and the annual rainfall in the district was less than 80 percent of the normal in seven years, none of them being consecutive. Considering the rainfall at individual stations, two consecutive years of rainfall less than 80 percent of the normal occurred at 12 out of the 21 stations. Two consecutive years of such rainfall occurred four times at Vayalpad, thrice at Pakala and twice at Chendragiri, Chittoor, Sadum, Piler and Satyavedu during this same fifty years period. Three consecutive years of rainfall, less than 80 percent of the normal occurred once at Ramapuram.

TEMPERATURE:

The district has a meteorological observatory at Arogyavaram. The records of this observatory can be taken as representative of the meteorological conditions in the district except in the eastern portions of the district where the temperature may be a little higher. The period from about the middle of November to middle of February is the coolest part of the year. In December, when the mean temperature is the lowest, the mean daily maximum temperature is 25.3°C (77.5°F.) and the mean daily minimum is 15.4°C (59.7°F). After February, temperatures begin to rise rapidly. April and May are the hottest months with a mean daily maximum temperature of about 34.8°C (94.6). The nights are slightly hotter in May than April, the mean daily minimum in May being 23.9°C (75.0°F). The weather is oppressive in the easter low level tracts of the district during summer. Thunder showers which occur on the days during the afternoons of April and May being welcome relief. With the onset of the South-west monsoon by about the first week of June, day temperature decrease a little and weather in the whole of the south-west and past-monsoon seasons in more agreeable than in the summer season. Night temperature decreases after October. The highest maximum temperature recorded at Arogyavaram was 38.3°C (100.9°F) on the 27 th April 1956 and on the 9th May 1957. The lowest minimum was 10.6°C (51.1°F) on the 1st December 1960.
Humidity:

The relative humidity is about 70 to 80 percent in the mornings about 60 to 65 per cent in the afternoons during the period from July to December. It decreases thereafter. The driest part of the year is the period from February to May when the relative humidities in the afternoons are between 25 to 40 per cent on the average. Relative humidities may be higher in the eastern portions of the district.

Cloudiness:

During the period from June to November, the skies are moderately to heavily clouded and overcast on as few days. During the rest of the year, skies are clear or lightly clouded.

Winds:

Winds are generally light and blow mainly from directions between South-West and North-West during the period from May to September. For the rest of the year, winds are light and variable in the mornings. Afternoon winds are stronger and in the period from October to January, they are mainly North-Easternly or Easterly. In the next three months, afternoon winds are mostly from directions between east and south.

Special weather phenomena:

In October and November, some of the storms and depressions from the Bay of Bengal cross the east coast and affect the district and its neighborhood, causing widespread heavy rain and gusty winds. Thunder storms occur in the summer and post-monsoon seasons.

Mineral resources:

The district is poor in mineral resources. However, the minerals available in the district are iron-ore, steatite, clay and gold. A brief account of these is presented below:

Iron-ore: Iron-ore in the form of hemalite is reported from Sirasanambedu village of Srikalahasti taluk. The reserves of the minerals are estimated to be more than 5,08,000 tonnes. Also iron-ore in association with manganese is reported
from Vedullacheruvu near Renigunta. As the iron content in the mineral available is low, the working of the mines in the district has been given up.

**Steatite:** Low grade steatite is found within a radius of 16 to 19 kilometers from Chittoor. The mineral, which occurs as a pocket deposit, is utilized in fertilizers as a filler and large portion of its is supplied to M/s Parrys and Company at Rani pet in Tamilnadu. On the leases granted during 1969-70, 12 were in operation. The mines are located in Bhakaranarasingarayapeta, Gangadhara, Nellore and Kukkulaturu. The production of the mineral during 1968-69 was 6,428 tonnes.

**Gold:** The Southern extension of the famous Kolar Gold belt lies near Bissanatham (Bisanattam) in Kuppam independent sub-taluk of this district. The width of the belt, which varies from 1.2 to 6 kilometers extends over a length of eighty kilometers in the north-south direction.

**Clay:** The occurrence of clay was reported from Karakambadi in this district. The reserves estimated roughly at 1,01,600 tonnes.

**ECONOMY:**

The economy of the Chittoor District is primarily agrarian nearly 85 per cent of the total population depends upon agriculture. Groundnut is the foremost commercial crop accounting 2,22,071 hectares, 43 per cent of the total cropped area. Annual output of the groundnut is 2,90,333 tonnes, in 1972-73. The district ranks second in the groundnut production in the State. Sugarcane is another important commercial crop. High yielding varieties of paddy are popular. Tomatoes are produced in large quantities and exported to Bangalore, Madras and Hyderabad. Of late, there is a rapid development of sericulture in the western taluks of the Chittoor district. Ragi and Bajra are the other important crops raised in the district. Pulses are cultivated as mixed crop with groundnut and Bajra under dry conditions. Chittoor district is famous for mangoes. It is one of the major mango growing districts in the entire state of Andhra Pradesh.

**Livelihood pattern:**

According to the census of 1951, a substantial percentage of the district population (75.2 per cent) depended chiefly on agricultural sources and only 224.8 per cent on non-agricultural sources for their livelihood. Statistics percent in
Annexure 47 (p. 286) reveals the distribution of the district population among the eight livelihood categories. A further analysis of the population into self-supporting, earning and non-earning dependents based upon the economic status of the individuals has shown that both in the agricultural and non-agricultural categories, the female population is larger among the non-earning dependents. The same is presented in Annexure 47 (p. 287). Moreover, in order to have an idea if the economic status of the individuals, the census of 1951 has again classified the self-supporting persons in the non-agricultural sector into employees and independent workers. Particulars of these are given in Annexure 49 (p. 288). The census of 1961 however, classified the district population into broad categories i.e., workers and non-workers. It is interesting to note that in classifying the population emphasis was laid on the concept of socially meaningful work and not arbitrarily on fiscal income or dependency. Even the family workers who do not directly receive any income but attend to work along with the other members of family, have been treated as workers. Accordingly 54.5 per cent of the district population constitutes the workers, while the remaining 45.5 per cent represents the non-working population. The workers are again distributed into nine industrial categories. The details of the distribution of the district population as workers and non-workers are presented in Annexure 50 (p. 289). The analysis of these statistics has shown that the proportion of workers is greater than non-workers. It is also observed that agricultural workers (both cultivators and agricultural laborers) constitute 78 per cent of the total working population. A sample analysis of 20 per cent of the census households, classified according to their interests in land, has revealed that a majority of the house holds (over 85 per cent) in rural areas depend upon lands owned or held from Government. The details of the above analysis are presented in Annexure 51 (p. 291). The non-agricultural occupations (other than cultivation and agricultural labor) provide employment for about 22 per cent of the working population.

National planning and community development:

One of the important factors that influence the economic prosperity of this district in recent years was the implementation of the developmental schemes under the three Five Year Plans from 1951 to 1966. These development programmes were primarily aimed at achieving a higher standards of living through the development of agriculture, irrigation, power, industries, communication and social
services. During the second plan period an amount of Rs. 675.12 lakhs was invested in different sectors of the economy. Of this, agricultural programmes claimed more than 34 per cent of the total investment, followed by the schemes connected with irrigation and power (30.00 per cent, transport (1.8 per cent) and industries (1.3 per cent) social services (23.8 per cent) miscellaneous schemes (8.6 per cent). In the III plan period also, greater importance was given to agricultural programmes. More stress was also laid on schemes connected with irrigation and reclamation, health and rural sanitation and communications and transport in the district. Greater importance was also given to the uplift of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes, development of cottage industries and education. It is expected that with the implementation of these programmes agricultural production will be increased to the optimum so that the ideal of self-sufficiency in food production may be progressively achieved. It is also hoped that the per capita income may increase and the proportion of population depending precariously and slowly on agricultural is reduced.

Planning led to an enormous increase in the activities of the Government and it was found essential that those who were to be benefited by these schemes should learn to express the needs and get them translated into programmes that can be implemented. Thus, the idea of Panchayat Raj slowly began to take shape. The pattern of community development programme inaugurated in October 1952 has been gradually developed to suit the needs of the rural India. The community development programme in this district was inaugurated on 4th of April, 1954, when the National Extension Service Block at Nagir and the Community Development Block at Vayalpad were started. The main object of the fullest development of material and human resources of the area through popular involvement. With the enactment of the Andhra Pradesh Panchayat Samithis and Zilla Parishads Act of 1959, Zilla Parishad at the District level and Panchayat Samithi at the block level came into being with effect from the 1st November 1959 and the Chittoor Zilla Parishad was formed on the 1st December 1959. Since then all developmental works beneficial to the community and the coming within the ambit of community development programme, were entrusted. Thus the introduction of the principle of democratic decentralization at the district and block levels, the responsibility and the initiative in the economic and social development in the rural areas are vested with popular institutions namely, Zilla Parishad at the District level and the Panchayat Samithi at the block level and the Panchayat
at the village level. The Zilla Development Board recently constituted as a result of the recommendations of the M.T. Raju, Committee to strengthen developmental administration.

Population:

The population of the district according to 1981 census is 27.47 lakhs. Of this, the rural population accounts for 22.85 lakhs or 83 per cent. The share of the rural population in the total population is higher in the district compared to the state of Andhra Pradesh (76.75 percent) and India (76.27 percent) in 1981\(^9\). On average, each taluk has nearly 90 villages. About 60 percent of the villages have a population exceeding 1000 per village. The district is thinly populated compared to the state and the country, but it is the most populous district in the Rayalseema region. The density of the population in the district is 181 per sq. km according to the census of 1981 as against 195 in the state and 207 in the country. But there is a wide variation in the density of population among different taluks in the district. It ranges between 126 to 342. Scheduled Castes population accounts for 17.5 percent of the total district population. Scheduled Tribes population is relatively lower in the district. Their share in the total population is only 2.9 per cent as per 1981 census.

Literacy:

The rate of literacy is fairly high in the district and it ranks 7th among all the districts of the state. As per the 1981 census with 31.5 percent of literacy the district shows a slightly higher rate than the average literacy rate of the state (29.9 per cent). There is an increase of over 6 percent in literacy during the decade 1971-81.

Substantial difference between the male literacy (43.1%) and female literacy (20%) and between rural literacy (21.7%) and urban literacy (54.5%) is noticed in the district.
Literacy in Chittoor District (1981)

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<th>Female (%)</th>
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</table>

Movement of People:

The district is not prosperous as half of it is covered by hills and forests. Yet it holds out some attraction to the immigrants for the following reasons. The town Tirupati wherein the famous temple of Sri Venkateswara is located, was developed very fast during this period. The establishment of the general universities-Sri Venkateswara University, Sri Padmavathi University, Sanskrit Vidyapeet must have also contributed its might in attracting the immigrants. The Tirupati Cotton Mills limited with a good employment potential attracted considerable number of immigrants. In 1961, 44,472 persons representing 2.32 percent of the total population of the district were born in other districts of the state and immigrated to this district subsequently. The people numbering 99,457 and 842 from other states and outside India respectively have also immigrated to this district. The indigenous character of the population is demonstrated by the fact that 13,71,296 people representing 71.62 percent of the district's population were born in the very places of their enumeration, while 3,98,572 representing 20.81 percent were born outside the places of their enumeration but within the district. Among those immigrants from the other states, women out numbered the males and accounted for a proportion of more than 60 percent coming mostly from Tamilnadu and Karnataka States through matrimonial alliances. Earlier, we had occasion to refer to the high significant imbalance in sex ratio of the district and it should not, therefore surprise that Chittoor has to find a considerable number of brides for its young men from the country of the other states. The district also receives the largest number of immigrants from Nellore and Cuddapah districts. In regard to immigrant males, they are drawn not only from the adjoining districts of Nellore, Cuddapah and Ananthapur but also from the coastal districts and Telangana region, and the incentive for all of them has been mostly economic. In so far as immigration from
outside India is concerned, the figure 842 is negligible as it forms only 0.04 percent of the population of the district. Even with regard to inter district movement of population, Chittoor sends out more number of persons than it receives. According to the 1961 census, 44,472 persons came into the district as against 54,405 who went out leaving a net differential of 9,933 emigrants. To take the picture with regard to the movement of people complete, we have to refer to the influx of displaced persons also, through it happens to be a microscopic figure. The partition of the country in 1947 contributed 11 displaced persons from Prakasam to this district spread over the period from 1947 to 1951. Of these, 61 were from West Pakistan and 55 from East Pakistan (Bangladesh).

Occupations:

According to 1981 census, the total population of Chittoor district was 27,47 lakhs. Of which nearly 83 percent was reported to be living in villages. It is interesting to note that the total working population was estimated at 11,48 lakhs constituted 41.79 percent of the total population. Of which 75.12 percent were cultivators and agricultural labourers.

The details of the occupational distribution of the workers in non-agricultural occupations in the district are concentrated in the following categories namely (1) craftsmen, production process workers and laborers not elsewhere classified (2) farmers, fishermen, hunters and related works, (3) services, sports and recreation workers and (4) sale workers.

The workers falling under these four categories constitute more than 83 percent of the working population engaged in non-agricultural occupations. The proportion of workers engaged as (a) administrative, executive and managerial workers (b) professional, technical and related workers, (c) workers in transport and communication occupation and (d) farmers, fishermen, hunters, loggers and related workers are higher in the district than the proportion of workers in similar categories in the state.

Public Services:

The census of 1961 has also estimated the number of persons under the category of administrative, executive and managerial workers at 9,005. As many as 4,655 persons were categorized as administrative and executive officials. Of
whom 615 belonged to the State Government, 389 to the central Government and 74 to the Local bodies, while 3,502 were recorded as village officials. Of the persons reported as Directors and Managers and working proprietors, 152 belonged to the financial institutions and 147 of them were employed in the urban areas. It is interesting to note that out of 4,174 individuals who have reported as Directors, Managers and worker proprietors (others) 271 were employed in construction, 2,567 in manufacturing, 255 in transport and communication, 1,010 in recreation, entertaining and catering services.

The census has revealed that there were 8,049 persons reporting as clinical and related workers, working out to 352 persons for every 10,000 of the workers employed in non-agricultural occupations in the district. More than 6,000 were employed in the urban areas. This category includes 705 book-keepers and cashiers, 180 stenographers and typists and 235 general and other ministerial assistants, besides 1,939 miscellaneous office workers like record keepers, dispatchers, packers and binders. In addition, there were 2,880 unskilled office workers. Most of these persons have come from the lower and middle income groups in the society and they play an important role in the socio-economic and political life of the district.

The Government provides certain amenities for their employees such as provident fund and benefits, leave facilities, loans and advances, dearness allowance, free medical aid what are called N.G.O. clinics as well as Government hospitals and dispensaries and accommodation. All permanent servants on reaching superannuation receive pensions as well as gratuity. Many of these facilities are provided by the local bodies to their employees as well. The Government has also permitted the employees to have their associations and unions to look after their special interests. The employees belonged to the State Government are the members of the Non-Gazetted Officers' Association in the State, while the persons working in the Panchayat Raj institutions at the block and district levels are the members of the Andhra Pradesh Panchayat Raj Ministerial Employees Association. The workers employed in the Municipalities and other similar institutions have their own association and unions.

Learned Professions:

In the category of learned professions, teachers constitute an important group. The census of 1961 has reported that there were in all 6,273 teachers in the
district, of whom, 4,170 were reported to be working in the middle and primary schools, 1,040 in secondary schools and 349 in the university and its constituent colleges. Besides these, there were 710 teachers who have not been classified. The teachers have their own professional organization to strive for their professional interests.

In 1961, there were in all 806 persons working as physicians, surgeons and dentists in the district, of whom 89 belonged to the allopathic, 275 to the ayurvedic and 84 to the homeopathic systems of the medicine. In addition there were 316 unqualified medical practitioners. As many as 211 persons have also reported as nurses. Of these, as many as 117 were in urban areas. Midwives and health visitors in the district were placed at 185. Almost all the allopathic medical practitioners in the district are the members of the Indian Medical Association.

Census of 1961 has also shown that there were in all 233 Jurists including 175 legal practitioners and advisors. Of these 11,130 professional, technical and related workers, 350 were shown as architects, engineers and surveyors, including 163 civil engineers, 15 mechanical engineers and 23 architects, engineers and surveyors not elsewhere classified. It is interesting to note that of the 610 persons returned as artists, writers and related workers, 157 were actors and related workers, and 242 were musicians and related workers.

Domestic and personal services:

The number of persons employed in occupations connected with transport and communications as recorded at 1961 census was 6,807 of whom 3,067 were drivers in road transport (including 1,154 drivers of animal drawn vehicles) and 233 were drivers and firemen in the railways. The number of persons working as postmen and messengers in the district was put as 759, while the telephone, telegraph and telecommunication operators were shown as 67. The census of 1961 has enumerated the house-keepers, cooks, maids and related workers numbering 2,066 under the category of domestic servants, of whom 1,022 were employed in the urban areas on the basis of monthly payment.

Under the miscellaneous occupations persons engaged in working clothes, according to the census of 1961 were 17,791 including 1,333 reporting from the urban areas of the district. Many of these workers belong to the community known as Rajakas or washermen. It is the only category that most of them were earning
dependents. Payments are made in cash in the urban areas. It is recorded that these people were given service inams in the past with hereditary rights. With the growth of urbanization, washing of clothes has turned out to be an attractive commercial proposition and led to the establishment of laundries in towns and big villages. Trade unionism has influenced these people also and helped them in establishing their own associations and unions in the urban areas.

Barbers, another important community, apart from their profession as hairdressers, also serve the villages, and town alike as pipers. According to the census of 1961, there were 3,647 barbers and related workers in the district and most of them were concentrated in rural areas. They have their own local associations to protect their interests.

The census of 1961 has regarded that there were 2,280 jewellers, goldsmiths and silversmiths in the district. A majority of them were found in the rural areas. When the Gold Control Order was introduced in 1963, many of them lost their hereditary occupations since then they have organized themselves into unions and associations to protect and promote their interests. It is also estimated that there were 1,745 blacksmiths and hammersmiths and 5,494 carpenters, joiners and cabinet-makers in the district. Most of the people falling into these categories are called viswa-brahmans. Of the 4,909 tailors, furriers and related workers reported at the 1961 census, 1,746 were in the urban areas. The tailors have their establishments and marts employing two to five persons as full-time workers in the urban areas, while in the rural areas tailoring in only a part-time job for many.

In recent years, hotel management has become a paying trade. According to the 1961 census, there were in all 740 persons reported to be working as waiters, bar-tenders and servers and related workers. Of these, as many as 736 were found to be working in the urban areas. It is also considered that workers employed in these establishments are better placed economically than the persons employed in household establishments. The hotel workers and owners in the district have come together and formed their respective unions and associations to protect their rights and interests.
Language:

Chittoor, predominantly unilingual district because Telugu is the language spoken by 14,60,438 or 76% of the total population, spoken by 2,89,447 persons, know Tamil rather distant second followed by urdu (1,30,226), Kannada (15,834), lambadi (8,276). Marathi (3,982), Malayalam (1,371), Hindi (1,322), Korava (1062), Saurashtra (926), Yerukala (735), Gujarathi(265), English (231), Korava Kannadarm (215) and so on. The proportion of the people speaking the most important language or dialects of every 1,000 of populations is presented at Annexure 13 (p. 228) Chittoor District Gazetteers), from which it may be noticed during the last five decades proportion of Telugu, Urdu and Lambadi speaking persons has been increased by 44,26 and 2 respectively every 1,000 of population, whereas Tamil, Kannada and Marathi is declined by 66,6 and 1 respectively.

The phenomenon of bilingualism is presented to be a considerable extent in this district. Out of the total number of 3,24,704 persons speaking a subsidiary language, it is estimated that 2,26,287 speak Telugu, 49,431 speak Tamil, 36,263 speak English, 4,924 speak Urdu and 4,016 speak Kannada. This is one more proof, if proof were needed, of the solid sway of Telugu over the district. The Telugu spoken in the district has some admiration of Tamil words and the intonation seems to be slightly more elongated and differed from those of the people living in Nellore and Cuddapah district. The script most widely used in the district is naturally the modern Telugu script. Some of the other scripts in use are Tamil, Urdu, Devanagari, Kannada and Roman.

Religions and castes:

The religious groups in the district, as already mentioned, are numerically speaking the Hindus, Muslims and Christians. The Hindus consist of the Brahmns, Kshatriyas, Vysyas and Sudras, the four castes under the traditional varnasramadharma, besides the Harijans. They are again subdivided into a number of sub-castes. There are also the scheduled tribes who can not be categorized with these castes but are nevertheless integral part of the Hindu community. There are also the Lingayaths or Virasaivas who are exclusive worshipers of Siva and wear the Sivalingam. They are followers of the great religious reformer. Basaveswara, who rejected the Brahminical practices, including caste. By and large they pursue agriculture.
The traditional distribution of occupations which constituted the ralsandeter for the four principal castes must be regarded to have been greatly altered. In this respect it may be stated that the varnasramadharma has yielded to Yugadharma. The Brahmin has no more a monopoly of learning and priesthood than the Vaisya of trade, the Kshatriya of Governance or the Sudra tilling the land. The process of what the Indian sociologist Dr. M.N. Srinivas called 'Sanskritisation' and secularization can be seen among the Hindus of this district also, leading to a blurring of the rigid frontiers between one caste and another. Nevertheless, we can even now broadly identify certain castes or groups with specific occupations. The Vaisyas and Berichettes of the district are, for example, largely engaged in trade and agriculture and some in money-lending. The Reddies, Kammas, Balijas and Vclamas distributed all over the district, and largely land owning and cultivating. The Reddies are a widely, diffused cultivating caste, a majority of whom are ordinary cultivators. The Balijas are cultivators and hold all sorts of land tenures. The Kammas are another cultivating caste. The Madigas, the Malas who form the two principal sub-castes under Harijans and largely labourers, both agricultural and non-agricultural. Some of them also hold land as tenants. Tanning and shoemaking are also presumed by many of the Harijans. More recently, some have taken to pulling of cycle rickshaws in the urban areas. These classes also perform services pertaining to the public needs of the villages as a whole.

There are also some other groups associated with district professions or trades. For instance, the yadavas, who seriously object to being called Gollas are primarily a cattle graziers and have a distinctly agricultural background. Dwelling generally on the plains they move during the dry season to the forest-clad hills which yield abundant pasture for their flocks. Many have taken of late to the cultivation and trade. The Idigas to toddy-tappers, had been rehabilitated the tapping and selling of sweet toddy (neera) has revived for these people their professional opportunities. The Kykala, Sale, Semia and Jandra are the chief weaver castes. The Kamsalas (smiths) also called the viswabrahmins, constitute primarily of goldsmiths, copper smiths and brass smiths. The Vadrangis are carpenters. The Besthas are largely fishermen. Many of them are engaged in trade. The Boyas who were originally a community of palgons are agriculturists. The Dommaras, an inteinerant class of acrobats, exhibit their feats as they wander about the country. The Medars are basket makers. They are also the functional
groups of the Rajakas (washermen), Nayi Brahmins (Brahmins), Kummars (potters) and Vaddes (earth-diggers and stone cutters).

tribes:

In this district, by far the largest tribe is that of the Yanadis. The origin of Yanadis is obscure. The North Arcot Manual (1981) records that the Yanadis as a race are very primitive in their habits, living entirely in the jungles, where they collect firewood, roots, barks, honey and other requirements. The Yanadi tongue is a tribal dialect similar to Kannada, Telugu and Tamil in construction. The old Gazetteer on Nellore district treats them in greater detail. In Irulas, another jungle tribe, ordinarily speak Tamil. They resemble much the Yanadis. Many members have taken to agriculture in the neighboring villages but the majority still keeps to the hills. The Sugalis or Lambadas constitute the chief immigrant tribe in this district. They have settled down in the upland taluks of this district. Their language is lambadi. They are strong and robust. They are divided into Tandas each with a headman after whom the Tanda is named. The Yerukalas speaking Yerukala a polygot dialect, are a semi-nomadic tribe, which is known under various names such as korava or koracha. The Gazetteer on Nalgonda district deals with both the Lambadas (Sugalis) and the Yerukalas in greater detail.

According to the census of 1981, the total population of the Scheduled tribes is 78834 or 2.88 percent in the total population of the district of whom, 40688 males and 38146 are females.

The Muslims who are numerically next to the Hindus in this district belong mostly to the Sunni sect. Generally speaking, the muslims are not found confined to any particular profession. They are to be found in almost all walks of life. The important groups among them are Sheik, Syed, Mughal and Pathan. The sheiks out number the others. The Dudekulas, the cotton cleaning group can hardly be distinguished from the Hindus in a professional sense.

The Christians:

Almost all Indian Christians are converted from the Hindus fold. There are both catholics and protestants. The latter however are numerically larger and belonged to the church of South India, placed under the Dioceses of Rayalaseema.
and also Madras. The earliest protestant Mission in this district was the Arcot Mission of the Reformed Church in America, started in 1851 A.D. by the Scudder Mission. The Mission did much useful work in the field of education and medical relief. The Hermannsburg Evangelical Lutheran Mission commenced its work in 1853 AD at Srikalahasti.

The earliest Catholic Mission in this district was started in 1598 at Chendragiri and a church was built there by the members of the order of St. Caetano at Goa. The Mission however did not thrive and was given up in 1615 A.D. The next Mission work Catholics was started by the Jesuit Roman Catholic Priests who had a church at Punganur as early as 1735 A.D. The Catholics of this district are placed under the Nellore and Vellore Dioceses. The Christians in this district have taken a variety of professions though a larger number is engaged in the teaching, nursing and preaching professions. Eventhough the Christianity does not recognize any caste system, nevertheless, the influence of the caste to which they belonged before conversion from Hindus does operate in their general social life, and particularly in the matter of matrimonial alliances. Converts from the same caste tends the group together in such and ogamons practices.

Social Life :

As a result of the stress of the socio-economic pattern of modern life and recent legislation affecting the pattern of land ownership as well as succession to property, the traditional pattern of joint family system, so characteristics of Indian life has been considerably weakened and its physical structure is on the decline throughout the district. The abolition of Zamindaris and the ceiling on land which can be owned by a family have also shaken the joint family to its roots. It however survives in the discharge of filial and family obligations even if the members are scattered by the socio-economic forces of modern times. The Hindu Succession Act of 1956 has also led in a few instances in the district to transfer the property through wills. Inheritance among the Muslims is governed by the Personal Law among the Christians by the Indian Succession Act of 1925.10

Impact of New Forces :

While discussing the State of the joint family system earlier in this chapter,there was occasion to refer to the impact of agrarian changes on social life. The structure of the society has undergone a significant change in the past
few years with the abolition of the Zamindaris and the tiller of the soil becoming its owner, an almost revolutionary change in the class structure of the district has come about. This process has been greatly strengthened and accelerated by political changes, particularly universal adult franchise (suffrage) which has armed the common man with the vote. There is toady in the district as an acceptance of social equality and the sharing of opportunities which have some what eased village tensions and has emphasized the need for peaceful living. The Zamindars also have largely disappeared as a class and tended to take other professions and trades. The loosening of the caste system (with its rigid notions of high and low) has also greatly added to the transformation of the feudal and ascriptive society into a more equalitarian structure.

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

History of Local Self-Government in the District:

The history of Local Self-Government in the district stretches back to a little over 100 years when it was a part of the erstwhile Madras presidency. Even if one ignored the local fund created in A.D. 1866 when the District Road Cess Act was passed authorizing the levy of a cess of half an anna in the rupee on the rental value of occupied land for the purpose of laying and maintaining roads. For the clear and more enlarged conception of local administration, we have to come as far as A.D. 1865 when the Madras Towns Improvement Act establishing municipalities was passed. Soon after, the Madras Local Funds Act was passed in A.D. 1871 establishing Local Fund Boards. Under both these Acts, the intention was to establish a common fund for roads, education, public health and sanitation. The present district of Chittoor came under the jurisdiction of three circle boards, viz., Madanapalle, Chittor and Vellore, which were created under the Madras Local Funds Act of 1871. In all the circles created in the erstwhile Madras Presidency, roads, educational and medical institutions were transferred to the Local Fund Board and were made a charge on their funds. The income of the Circle Board of the district chiefly consisted of land cess, tolls, road cess and provincial grants. The next major landmark in the district in the field of local administration was the establishment of a District Board under the Madras Local Boards Act of 1884 which repealed the earlier Act of 1871. The present district of Chittoor then came under the jurisdiction of the District Board of Vellore formed under this Act. The revenue officers in charge of the division shall be the
ex-officio president of the newly constituted District Board. A separate district Board for Chittoor was, however, formed in 1911-12, after the formation of Chittoor district.

The next important landmark was the passing of the Madras Local Boards Act of 1920, deofficialising to some extent the structure and functioning of these Local Bodies. The Collector and Revenue Divisional Officer ceased to be the ex-officio president of the District and Taluk Boards respectively. The elected component of the membership was to be not less than three-fourths of the total. It may be said that under this legislation, the Local Boards became virtually autonomous reducing the possibility of Governmental interference only to the event of emergency or proved maladministration. The Taluk Boards were given the option under this Act to levy an additional land cess of three pies in the rupee in addition to the land cess shared equally by them with the District Board. They were also empowered to impose three new taxes, namely, the profession tax, the companies tax and the pilgrim tax. The next legislation was the Madras Local Boards (Amendment) Act of 1930 which made the office of the Presidents elective and also effected the provincialisation of the services under the Local Boards. It provides for (a) the extension of franchise to every income-tax assesses, (b) appointment of a District Panchayat Officer, (c) constitution of a village Development Fund and (d) holding of general triennial elections to the Local Boards. It abolished nominations and introduced direct elections to the District Board and provided for the removal of presidents and vice-presidents by a vote of no-confidence. The Chittoor District Board was re-constituted under this amendment act in December 1932. The Taluk Boards were however, abolished in 1934 and their rights and responsibilities were entrusted to the District Board. The Village Development Fund was also similarly abolished. It is interesting to mention here that the District Board had the eminent Indian Educationist and illustrious ex-vice-Chancellor of the Andhra University, the late C. R. Reddy as its president in the mid 1930s.

The District Board was superseded in September 1942 and placed under the charge of the Collector who functioned as its Special Officer. It was reconstituted in January 1943, with a nominated body of 26 members. The nominated District Board was once again superseded in July 1946 and was reconstituted in September 1949.
In view of the formation of the Andhra State in 1953, elections to the District Boards were deferred and the District Board of Chittoor again passed into the hands of the Special Officer in June 1953. Thus, till the formation of the Zilla Parishad, in 1959 the Collector functioned again as the Special Officer of the Board.

Municipalities.¹²

The passing of the India Act xxvi of 1850 was the first attempt at the creation of municipalities in the districts. The Act authorized the Government to constitute any town into a municipality in case its inhabitants were desirous of making better provisions for public health and other amenities. The executive authority was vested in commissions consisting of the Magistrate and a certain number of persons appointed by the Governor-in-council. The Government contributed a sum equal to that raised by the inhabitants for this purpose. The next step in this direction was the Madras Towns Improvement Act of 1865, a reference to which has already been made. This Act was applied to all towns with a population of 5,000 or more. The subsequent legislative landmarks in the sphere of municipal administration were the Madras District Municipalities Acts of 1884 and 1920. It was, however, the Act of 1884 which introduced for the first time the concept of ‘municipality’. Under this Act the municipal council was to consist of not less than twelve members with their term of office fixed at three years.

The Revenue Divisional Officer concerned was to be an ex-officio councillor, while all the other councillors were either wholly appointed or partly elected, at the discretion of the Governoring Council. The main sources of revenue of these municipalities were the tax on lands and buildings, water tax, tax on vehicles and animals, tolls prescribed in the schedule of the Act and license fees on offensive or dangerous trades. The Act of 1920 brought about a perceptible change in the pattern of Municipal Administration and it provided not only for a larger proportion of elected members but also an increase in the powers and resources of municipalities. Under this Act, the strength of a municipal council was fixed on the basis of the population of the municipality, subject to a minimum of 16 and a maximum of 36, and not less than three-fourths of the members of the councils were to be elected. It also provided for adequate representation of minority communities in the council by means of nomination. Yet another important
landmark in the history of Municipal Administration was the passing of the Madras District Municipalities (Amendment) Act in 1930 which provided for the election of all the Municipal Councillors, dispensing with nominations. It also removed the disqualification of women to stand for elections and authorized the extension of franchise to every tax payer. It provided for the reservation of seats for women and for minority communities such as the Muslims, Indian Christians, Scheduled Castes, Europeans and Anglo-Indians. It made the offices of the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman elective and brought about provincialisation of municipal services. In consonance with the right of adult franchise conferred by the Constitution of India in 1950, the first election to municipalities on the basis of adult suffrage were held in 1952. The latest legislation in respect of municipalities is the integrated Act of 1965 called the Andhra Pradesh Municipalities Act, which is applicable to both the Andhra and Telangana areas of the State. The new Act provides greater scope for the elected Councillors to play their role effectively and at the same time reduce the intervention of the Government to the minimum necessary in the public interest. The Chief Executive Officer of the municipality has been redesignated ‘secretary’ under this Act instead of ‘Commissioner’ as before. A provision has also been made declaring the Members of the Legislative Assembly and the Council, who are voters in the municipality concerned, to be ex-officio members and for electing in alderman to each municipal council. A brief history of the evolution and achievements of each one of the four municipalities in the district is presented in the following paragraphs:

TIRUPATI MUNICIPALITY:

Tirupati was constituted into a Municipality on the 1st April, 1886 with 12 members, under the Amendment Act of 1930. The strength of the council rose to 16 by 1935-36. The strength of the council once again increased to 20 in 1948-49, of which one seat each was reserved for the Muhammadans, Scheduled Castes and women. During 1950-51, the seat reserved for the Muhammadans was abolished and it was converted into a general one. At present the strength of the council is 24, comprising 20 elected Councillors, 2 aldermen and 2 ex-Officio Councillors (one M.L.A., and one M.L.C.). It is now maintaining 44-20 kilometers of roads, 2 secondary and 19 elementary schools, an allopathic dispensary, a maternity and child welfare centre, two parks and two rest houses.
Chittoor Municipality:

Chittoor was constituted into a municipality on the 9th of January 1917 under the Madras District Municipalities Act of 1884. The council was reconstituted in 1921-22 under the Act of 1920 when the strength of the council was fixed at 16, of which 4 were nominated. Under the Amendment Act of 1930, the town was divided into 15 wards. The strength of the council was also increased to 20, of which five seats were reserved viz., two for Muhammadans. The subsequent history of the municipality is marked by its suppression in 1936 for two years due to unsatisfactory administration. It was reconstituted again in May 1939. The strength of the council was increased to 21 during 1947-48. it was classified as II grade municipality in 1950. The strength of the council was again raised to 24 in September 1952. Due to the increase in population, the strength of the council was further increased to 28 in 1967, of which 3 were reserved for women and two for the Scheduled Castes. Besides these, the council is having two ex-Officio Councillors and two aldermen. It now maintains 34-35 kilometers to roads, a second class traveller's bungalow, 22 elementary and 3 secondary schools and 3 parks. The present area of the municipality is 21-23 square kilometers.

Srikalahasti Municipality:

Srikalahasti was constituted into a Municipality in October 1958. From the beginning, the strength of the municipal council has been 20, of which 2 seats were reserved for women, two for the Scheduled Castes and one for the Scheduled Tribes. Under the Act of 1965, the local M.L.A. became an ex-Officio Councillor and an alderman was elected. The area of the municipality is 12-20 square kilometers. It maintains 28-93 kilometers of roads, an ayurvedic dispensary, a maternity centre, 5 Upper Primary and 14 Elementary Schools and 3 parks. It is a III grade municipality.

Madanapalle Municipality:

Madanapalle was constituted into a Municipality in April 1961, with an area of 4-83 square kilometers covering the villages of Kammapalle, Bandamceda-Kammapalle, Madanapalle urban area and the three hamlets of Ponnetipalyam, namely, Sugalithanda, Nakkalavaridimma and Madigapalle. Elections were conducted for the first time in May 1964 and a Municipal Council with 20 members (of whom two seats were reserved, one for women and the
other for Scheduled Castes) was constituted. Under the Andhra Pradesh Municipalities Act of 1965, an alderman was also elected. It is a III grade Municipality and maintains 34 kilometers of roads, 4 Upper Primary Schools, 8 Elementary Schools and a park.

PUNGANUR MUNICIPALITY:

The latest Municipality in Chittoor District, Punganur, came into existence on January, 1985. The strength of the Municipal council was 20, out of which 3 seats were reserved for SC, 1 for ST and four for Backward Classes. The area of this Municipality was 12.80 KM. The length of the roads under its jurisdiction is 21,2000 meters. the total number of Government Hospitals was one with 30 beds. In this municipal town there was one ITI (Industrial Training Institution), and one Government degree College, and one Government junior college and there was also one rural educational institute. This Municipality belongs to the 3rd Grade.
### Table - IV (i)

List of News Papers and Periodicals published from Chittoor District

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<td>13.</td>
<td>Prajavahini</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Chittoor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Kala Chakram</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Madanapalle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>Peddamanushulu</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Chittoor and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Madanapalle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>Adarsini</td>
<td>K. Yellaiah</td>
<td>Srikalasasti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>Kothavelugu</td>
<td>D. Krishna Reddy</td>
<td>Punganur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td>Palleseema</td>
<td>M.R. Chandra</td>
<td>Chittoor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### TABLE: IV (ii)

**AREA AND DENSITY OF POPULATION - 1981**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Taluk</th>
<th>Area (Kms)</th>
<th>Density (Km²)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chittoor</td>
<td>1011</td>
<td>320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangarupalem</td>
<td>812</td>
<td>188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palamaner</td>
<td>1061</td>
<td>159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuppam</td>
<td>756</td>
<td>179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Punganur</td>
<td>1724</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madanapalle</td>
<td>2172</td>
<td>161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vayalpad</td>
<td>2051</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chendragiri</td>
<td>1409</td>
<td>255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Srikalahasti</td>
<td>1586</td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satyavedu</td>
<td>1003</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puttur</td>
<td>1550</td>
<td>240</td>
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</table>

**District** 15143 181

### TABLE: IV (iii)

**PATTERN OF POPULATION GROWTH BETWEEN 1901-81**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Decade</th>
<th>Andhra Pradesh (%)</th>
<th>Chittoor District (%)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1900-11</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1911-21</td>
<td>-0.1</td>
<td>2.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>1921-31</td>
<td>13.0</td>
<td>10.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1931-41</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td>12.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>1941-51</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>11.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1951-61</td>
<td>15.7</td>
<td>14.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>1961-71</td>
<td>20.6</td>
<td>19.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971-81</td>
<td>21.0</td>
<td>21.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
REFERENCES


2. Ibid. P.4.


4. Ibid. pp 16,17.


6. Ibid. p. 23.


8. Ibid. p.20.


11. Ibid. p.54.

12. Ibid p.56.