CHAPTER II

VILLAGE PROFILE
Village Profile

The Anantapur District is situated in the southern most region of Rayalaseema area of Andhra Pradesh. It is bounded by Kurnool District on the North; Cuddapah District on the East; Chittoor District on the South East and by Karnataka State on the South and West of the district. The Anantapur district stretches between 13°-14' and 15°-15' of the Northern Latitude and between 76°-15' and 78°-30' of the Eastern longitude. It spreads over 19125 Sq.Kms in area.

The district is divided into 3 administrative revenue divisions and then into taluks. Generally taluks also represent the development blocks. The three administrative revenue divisions are Anantapur, Dharmavaram, and Penukonda.

Rainfall

The average rainfall in the district is around 554 mm. The Anantapur district is declared to be one of the six districts in India affected by severe drought frequently and thereby causing precarious crop yield in the areas where there are no irrigation facilities.

Soil condition

82% of the soil in the district consist of red soil and 18 per cent black soil. The soil can be classified as
black, clay, black loamy, black sand, red clay, red loamy and red sand.

**Climate:**

The variation in the climatic conditions is large between summer maximum temperature which touches 42°C in the month of April and May - and the lowest temperature of 16°C in winter months of December and January.

**Irrigation:**

There are 3 major rivers viz., the Pennar, the Hageri and the Chitravathi. The streams that follow in the district are the Papagni, the Maddileru, the Kushavathi and the Jayamangeli. The Tadakaleru and the Pandameru are two small rivers that flow in the district. Besides the above, project irrigation facilities are also available in the district. They are the Tungabhadra high level canal and the mid-Pennar reservoir which have irrigation potential for about 1.25 lakh acres. The upper Pennar Project near Peruru, the Pennar Kumadavathi project and the Bhairavani Thippa project cover an extent of 28,500 acres. In addition to these there are 137 P.W.D and 455 Panchayat tanks in the district.

**Agriculture:**

Out of the total population of 26.18 lakhs, over 1/5
(20%) are cultivators. Out of the total cultivated area of 23 lakh acres, nearly 2.5 lakh acres are held by the small and marginal farmers, possessing less than 5 acres of land. There is a sugar factory in the public sector functioning in Hindupur and the command area extended to three taluks- Hindupur, Penukonda and Madakasira. The main crops cultivated in the district are Paddy, Jowar, bajra, ragi, Korra while vegetable oil seeds mainly groundnut - is grown in the district besides other oil seeds.

Industries:

There are nearly 9000 handloom weavers and 8000 silk weavers apart from many other rural and cottage industries, giving bread and butter to the poor in the district. There is a sugar factory in Hindupur, a public enterprise. The other large scale industries in the district are cotton - spinning mills - one at Guntakal under cooperative sector, and another at Hindupur under joint stock company. Further there are a large number of slab polishing units concentrated mostly in Taipatri block, though some more units are functioning in other blocks here and there. There is a bulb manufacturing unit in Anantapur. In the entire district about 9,500 people find employment in various industries.
Communication:

There is 257 KM of broad gauge railway (lines running across the district) and 246 KM meter gauge railway (lines also) passing through the district. The road length under Z.P. control is around 6200 KM of different kinds of road apart from a stretch of National High Way of 134 KM and a good part of other roads under the control of Roads and Buildings. There are 932 post offices, 54 telegraph offices and 60 telephone exchanges situated in the district.

Education:

There are 2542 primary schools and 146 upper primary schools, 178 High Schools, 26 Junior Colleges, and 13 Degree colleges for general education. There are also institutions for technical education.

Medical:

A good network of medical facilities are available all over the district. There are 12 taluk hospitals and one district head quarters hospital, 22 primary health centres, 13 Local Fund dispensaries and 49 Ayurvedic dispensaries in the various parts of the district.
Veterinary and Marketing:

There are 122 Veterinary institutions functioning in the district in different grades. The two milk chilling plants at Anantapur and Hindupur procure milk through 5 milk routes.

Sericulture:

The Anantapur district is perhaps the first district in Andhra Pradesh to successfully conceive the practice of sericulture, because of the neighbouring state, Karnataka which has extensive sericulture cultivation. There is an area of nearly 43,000 acres under Mulberry cultivation in this district. More and more people are diverting their agricultural activities towards sericulture wherever they have irrigation facilities.

Village Profile

Physical features of village 'A':

The village 'A' (Developed village) selected for the study is situated at a distance of 9 Kms from Anantapur town. It comes under Singanamala block of Anantapur district. It consists of 110 house-holds and has a total population of 560. This village is bounded in the East by Pulakunta, in the west by Upparapalli, in the North by Siddarampuram and
in the South by Itikalapalli.

The village people grow various crops such as paddy, ragi, mulberry, grape, and groundnut. With the help of bore wells the villagers carry on cultivation. Mulberry is given prime importance in this village since it is commercially fetching.

The village has a primary school which was started in 1961 with a single teacher. Till 1981 the village did not possess a school building of its own. Classes were conducted in Chavadi and in Anjaneya temple. In 1981 under National Rural Employment Programme the construction of school building was completed and inaugurated in the same year.

The village has both 'pucca' and 'kutcha' houses. The village has a post-man who brings letters to the village, but not a post-office. The village is also electrified. For medical facilities the villagers go to the nearby town situated at a distance of 9 Kms.

The provision of credit facility, through Andhra Bank under Integrated Rural Development Programme, has been extended to the people of this village. As a result of
financial assistance extended, the village has taken up also sericulture from 1982 onwards.

The village has got transportation facility. At present one private bus is operating from Anantapur town to this village. Bullock carts are the chief means of transportation facility in the village. Sidderampuram and Anantapur are the two nearest market centres for this village.

The villagers celebrate festivals like Dasara, Ugadi and Sri Rama Navami. The village has Anjaneya temple, Eswara temple, Potalappa temple and Peddamma temple.

**Physical features of village 'B':**

The village 'B' (underdeveloped) selected for the study is situated at a distance of 45 Kms from Anantapur town. The village comes under Singanamala block of Anantapur district. In the East the village is bounded by Tabjola village, in the West by Ulikallu village, in the South by Singenaguttapalli and in the North by Right bank of Pennar River. The village 'B' also belongs to the same block as 'A'. The village 'B' is a remote village and is not connected by a pucca road. The village is situated 6 Kms away from the main road. Village 'B' is lacking all the facilities that are available in the village 'A' which are believed
to be responsible for inducing occupational change.

Village 'B' consists of 100 house-holds with a population of 490.

The village has no proper irrigation facility. The main occupation of the village is masonry (stone-cutting). The village does not have elementary school. The children of this village go to the neighbouring village for schooling, situated at a distance of 1 1/2 Kms. The village is also deprived of the services of post-man. The people of this village will have to travel a distance of 6 Kms upto Rache-palli to avail bus facility to reach urban centres. The village has not been covered so far either by Drought prone Areas Programme or Integrated Rural Development Programme. Not even a single bank has come forward to extend credit facility to the villagers.

They grow crops like Paddy and groundnut with the help of rainfall. Pedda Pappur and Singanamala are the two market centres for this village.

The villagers celebrate festivals like Ugadi and Sankranti. They also celebrate and participate in fairs like Choudamma Jatara and Peddamma Jatara.