Chapter X

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS
Summary and Conclusions

Development is a process involving an improvement in the economic and social conditions of a society. It implies an enhancement of the ability to manage human and natural resources leading to an improvement in people's lives. The basic objective of development, as Mehabub ul Huq sees it, is to create an enabling environment in which people can enjoy long healthy and creative lives. For Amartya Sen, Development expands the freedoms that people enjoy. Development requires the removal of major sources of unfreedom, poverty as well as tyranny, poor economic opportunities, as well as systematic social deprivation, neglect of public facilities as well as intolerance or over activity of repressive states.

There are many different ways of considering development, but the two most important are economic development and human development. The process of development is far more extensive and difficult to achieve. Apart from a rise in output, it involves changes in composition of output, shift in the allocation of productive resources, and elimination or reduction of poverty, inequalities and unemployment. Human development measures the extent to which people have access to wealth, jobs, knowledge, nutrition, health, leisure and safety - as well as political and cultural freedom.

After the development of the concept of Human Development Index (HDI), it began to be used by the UBDP in its annual Development Reports. The HDI combines normalized measures of life expectancy, literacy, educational attainment, and GDP per capita for countries worldwide. It is claimed as a standard means of measuring human development—a concept that, according to the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), refers to the process of widening the options of persons, giving them greater opportunities for education, health care, income, employment, etc. The basic use of HDI is to measure a country's development.
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When we talk of development, we have to consider its sustainability. The concept of Sustainable development implies the use of resources aiming to meet human needs while preserving the environment so that these needs can be met not only in the present, but also in the indefinite future.

The fruits of development have not been reaching all sections of the society equally. Inequalities and imbalances in the development have led to a situation where large sections of people in a society are excluded from the process of development. Inclusive Development is the process of ensuring that all marginalized/excluded groups are included in the development process. There is a growing recognition of the need for inclusive development.

Eight Millennium Development Goals have been adopted by the international community in a Millennium Declaration in the year 2000. They were to be a framework for the development activities of over 190 countries in ten regions. The Millennium Development Goals encapsulate the development aspirations of the world as a whole. But they are not only development objectives; they encompass universally accepted human values and rights.

The eight millennium Development Goals are: Eradication of extreme poverty & hunger; Achieving universal primary education; Promotion of gender equality and empower women; Reduction of child mortality; Improvement in maternal health; Combating HIV/AIDS, malaria & other diseases; Ensuring environmental sustainability and Developing global partnership for development.

Development can be quantified by the use of certain indicators. There is no simple, single way to quantify the level of development of a country, region, or people, because there is a great variation in the countries and economies, cultures and peoples. Social scientists use a series of development indicators.
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Andhra Pradesh

Formed in 1956, Andhra Pradesh is one of the prominent states of South India. It is the first state to be formed on linguistic principle, uniting all the Telugu speaking people. It is the fifth largest State in India, in terms of both area and population. With a 7.57 crores in 2001, it accounts for 7.4 percent of the country's population. With a decennial growth of 13.86 (1991 - 2001), the State's population has more than doubled since its formation.

The state is comprised of three regions: the Circars consisting of 9 districts and comprising 41.9 percent of the state's population; Rayalaseema consisting of four districts and comprising 18 percent of the state's population; and Telangana consisting of 10 districts and comprising 40.3 percent of the state's population. The levels of development were uneven at the time of the state's formation and the politicization of these regional disparities have affected the politics since its inception. The demand for a separate statehood for Telangana comes repeatedly to the fore. The 2009 election is being fought with all the parties promising a separate Telangana state.

Andhra Pradesh forms a major cultural and geographical link between the northern and southern parts of India. There are 28,113 villages, 117 towns (including 8 municipal corporations) and 93 census towns in A.P. Approximately 27 percent of the state's population lives in urban and the rest in rural areas. The State has 42 Lok Sabha constituencies, 18 representatives in Rajya Sabha, and the strength of the State's Legislative Assembly is 294. It has the second largest coastline (972 kms) in the country. The average rainfall ranges from approximately 74 cm in the south to approximately 200 cm in the north, but the annual fluctuations are considerable. Most parts of Coastal Andhra and Telangana receive good rains but Rayalaseema is a region of precarious rainfall. Krishna, Godavari and Penna are the main rivers in the state. Nearly 75 percent of the population is engaged in agriculture. Nearly 9
percent of the population are Muslims and 1.8 percent are Christians and the rest Hindus.

The share of agriculture in the net domestic product has declined from 60 percent at the time of the state's formation to about 25 percent in 2001. However, the population depending on agriculture has not proportionately come down creating a pressure on agriculture.

Manufacture of food products, non-metallic mineral products, machinery equipment and metal parts, cotton textiles, chemicals and chemical products, metals and alloy industries, paper and printing industries, beverages and tobacco products are some of the main industries in the state. Much of the industrial growth took place in and around Hyderabad and Visakhapatnam cities. Computer software exports have also seen an impressive growth in recent years. The most prominent of household industry is handlooms.

Though declining, poverty remains a major challenge to the government and society in AP. Surprisingly, the pace of reduction of poverty has slowed down even with a very large scale implementation of poverty alleviation programs. The caste structure in Andhra Pradesh is similar to that existing in most other parts of India.

The Brahmans and the Vysyas each constitute about 2-3 per cent and the Rajus about one percent of the State's population. The Reddis form 8 -10 and the Kammas occupy a rank of 6 or 7 in terms of population in the state. The BCs constitute 44 percent, Sscs 16 percent and the STs approximately 7 percent of the state's population.

Andhra Pradesh had a string of Congress governments till 1982. NTR started the Telugu Desam party in 1982 and became the chief Minister within a few months of starting the party. 1989 assembly elections ended the 7-year rule of NTR with the congress being returned to power and Dr. Marri ’Chenna
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Reddy became the chief Minister. He was replaced by Sri. N. Janardhan Reddy who was in turn replaced by Sri. Kotla Vijaya Bhasker Reddy. NTR become the chief minister again in 1994, but he was soon thrown out of power by his finance minister and son-in-law Sri. N Chandrababu Naidu. NTR died from a heart attack before the next elections and thus Naidu was able to win a second term before he was defeated by the Congress-led coalition in the May 2004 polls.

Dr. Y S Rajasekhara Reddy’s regime

Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy of the Congress Party is the current chief minister of the state. Dr. Rajasekhara Reddy fought the 2004 Assembly elections in an alliance with a new party called Telangana Rashtra Samithi (or TRS), which hoped to form a separate state called Telangana. In 2004-05 the state began to be recognized as one of those to have implemented speedily the economic reforms programmes initiated by Dr. Y.S. Rajashekhara Reddy’s Government. This ultimately cemented the way for development in Andhra Pradesh. The state experienced a healthy GDP growth rate. At the same time significant developments have taken place in the state over a period of time during the five year rule of the Chief Minister Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy. The performance of the state in many aspects during 2004–08 is much impressive. It may be appropriate to mention why development performance in Andhra Pradesh is being understood in the name of Dr. Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy, the Chief Minister of the State instead of in the name of Government in the State between 2004 and 2009. It is because Dr Reddy is a dynamic person and because of his herculean efforts the Congress secured power in the State but also because he conceptualised the programmes before the 2004 elections and initiated acting with grit and dedication to fulfil the programmes of development and welfare conceptualised by him after the congress party assumed power in 2004.
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The Present Study

In this context, the study is conducted to investigate the performance of the state in terms of economic growth, social development, education, women empowerment and healthcare from 2004 to 2008 and it is an attempt to compare the performance during this period to the situation prior to 2004.

The overall objective of the present study is to describe, analyse and interpret the data pertaining to developmental programmes of the YSR government in Andhra Pradesh. A modest attempt is made in the present study to evaluate and apprise the policies, programs and schemes of the state government under the leadership of Dr. YSR relating to Jalayagnam, agricultural development, women empowerment, education and health. The researcher made an effort to analyse the opinions of the people regarding various development programs that have been implemented during the period 2004-08.

The study is divided into two parts, one based on opinion survey in Andhra Pradesh on the performance of Dr. YSR the Chief Minister and his programmes implemented for the welfare of the people and development of the state. The other one is based on the analysis of secondary data on various programmes like Jalayagnam, Aarogyasri, waiver of interest of loans, free electricity to farmers, educational and agricultural development etc.

The sample for opinion survey was selected on the basis of multistage cluster random sampling method. Andhra Pradesh is broadly divided into three regions viz., Telangana, Coastal Andhra and Rayalseema. So, in the first stage, one district in each of the three regions was selected randomly. In the second stage, four villages and one town were selected in each region and in the third stage, four wards from each town and 50 households from each ward and 100 households from each village were selected. Thus, 200 households from urban and 400 households from the rural areas were selected from each region. The
total sample, therefore, consisted of men and women selected from 1800 households, 600 from each of the three regions of Andhra Pradesh.

Opinion survey was conducted in twelve villages (comprising of several hamlets) spread across Chittoor, Krishna and Warangal districts and Tirupati, Vijayawada and Warangal towns. The three districts selected are agro-ecologically similar but different from each other in their socio-historical developments, agrarian relations and diversification of occupational structures.

Secondary data were collected from various sources such as the census reports, government records, UNDP reports, and other literature available on relevant aspects. Data for the opinion survey was collected with the help of structured interview schedules. The interviews took place in different situations and locations. Some of the interviews took place in the home of the person interviewed. Most often, a big audience of friends and family were present, listening but not interfering with the interview. It was not possible to get privacy, as there were always people moving around, coming and going. Further, as privacy in the western sense is not applicable in the context of rural India, and as the people around seem to know the preferences and opinions of the person interviewed, neither the interviewees nor the interviewer seemed to think of it as a problem.

Profile of the Sample

The mean age of the sample selected for the opinion survey was 38.94 and the median age was 38.10. Fifty-four percent were men and the rest women. OCs constituted 35 percent, BCs 47 percent, SCs 11 percent and STs 7 percent of the sample. Twelve percent had no land and and 16 percent had less than one acre of land. The median income of the respondents was Rs. 4745 per annum.
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AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Agriculture is the mainstay for the economy of AP. Godavari, Krishna and Pennar rivers and their tributaries cover nearly 75 per cent of its territory. Agricultural productivity in the state is largely dependent on rainfall. Due to several reasons, some of which include lack of finances and clearance from central government, inter-state and intra-state disputes over the allocation of river water etc., there has been decline in irrigation potentiality from 10.68 lakh hectares in 1980 to 7.27 lakh hectares in 2000-01. During the same period, there has been a proliferation of bore-wells or tube wells leading to ground water depletion. The percentage of area under food crops is higher in Coastal Andhra when compared to Telangana and Rayalaseema. However, the proportion of area under non-food crops has been increasing over the years. This is due to the changes in cropping pattern as a result of commercialisation of agriculture.

Jalayagnam

The state government under the leadership of Dr. Y S Rajasekhara Reddy launched an ambitious mega irrigation project called Jalayagnam. It includes a number of irrigation projects, construction of dams across rivers, construction of new reservoirs and lift irrigation systems and to divert water from major rivers through canals. It also includes linking up of two major rivers: the Godavari and the Krishna to provide irrigation facilities.

The Jalayagnam programme plans to complete 32 major and 17 medium irrigation projects, which are estimated to cost the exchequer of Rs. 65,000 crores to provide irrigation to an extent of 7,100,000 acres (28,000 Sq.Km) besides stabilization of existing ayacut of 3,600,000 acres (15,000 Sq.Km), while providing drinking water to a population of 1.2 crore and generating power to the tune of 2700 MW to meet industrial and agricultural needs.
It is planned to complete eight of these projects within 2 years, thus bringing 16.58 lakh acres under cultivation. These are Vamsadhara Stage-2 Phase-1, Tatipudi Lift Irrigation Project, Pushkaram Lift Irrigation Project, Telugu Ganga, Somasila, Chokkarao Lift Irrigation Project (Godavari Lift), Alisagar Lift, Gupta Lift. It is programmed to complete 18 projects within 5 years and provide irrigated water to a fresh ayacut of 5 million acres. Projects like Sripadasagar (Yellampalli), Chokkarao Project Stage-2 (Godavari Lift), Rajiv Sagar Lift (Dummugudem), Link Canal from Nagarjuna Sagar Project to its Reservoir, and Indira Sagar (Polavaram) are considered to be milestones in the history of State Irrigation. State Government is determined to complete modernization of Pulivendula Branch Canal and Mylavaram Projects as well as Lendi Project within two years. Linking of Godavari and Krishna by constructing Indira Sagar Project and Rajiv Sagar project across River Godavari were to become a landmark achievement in the entire country, thus paving way to new era in water utility. Janjhati irrigation (Rubber Dam) project in Vizianagaram district, first of its kind to be built with Austrian Technology, was inaugurated during 2005. This type of dam is first of its kind in our country. The State Government has sanctioned execution of 110 lift irrigation schemes to create an additional ayacut of 1.62 lakh acres. During 2004-05, 60 Lift Irrigation schemes were commissioned creating a potential for irrigating 43000 acres; besides revival of 160 Lift Irrigation schemes with an ayacut of 80000 acres. Rs.5200 crore Master Plan of huge number of minor irrigation schemes is being implemented for creating an additional ayacut of 1.5 million acres, and stabilization of the existing ayacut of 5 lakh acres.

The budgetary allocation to Irrigation was raised from Rs.1840 crore in 2003-04 to Rs.10,400 (40 per cent of the State's own revenue) for irrigation sector during 2005-06. An amount of Rs.1200 crore is being spent by the state government under A.P. Micro Irrigation Project to properly utilize the water resources without any wastage and the restoration of all defunct projects. Electricity to all these schemes is supplied free of cost.
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Nearly 39 percent of the amount spent on Jalayagnam has been in Telangana and 30 percent has been spent in Rayalaseema.

The State Government has also taken up a massive modernization program of Nagarjunasagar project with World Bank assistance to bring an additional 4.03 lakh acres under irrigation in five years.

During 2005-06, agriculture and allied sectors have made considerable progress yielding good results owing to the government efforts. While it is difficult even to achieve 3% or 4% growth in the primary sector, in 2005 the state witnessed a growth of 5.72% in primary sector. This is 2% more than the estimated growth of primary sector at National level. Food grains production in the Kharif season of 2005-06 registered a growth of 8.62percent. At present, the contribution of primary sector to GSDP, is around 23.7% and this sector is providing livelihood to 72.7% of the population.

Vijayanagaram District is the first to benefit from Jalayagnam. A rubber dam across Jhanjhavathi was completed before the targeted date providing irrigation water to 9,000 acres in 5 Mandals in the District.

However, there are a number of controversies surrounding Jalayagnam programme including the rehabilitation of people displaced (more than 1.5 lakh people are expected to be displaced by the Polavaram dam on the river Godavari alone). The financing of dams the cost of which runs into thousands of crores, the disruption of environmentally important locations and the allegation of the opposition parties of large scale misuse of funds in the program. These controversies did not deter the YSR government which saw in Jalayagnam a way to solve the irrigation problems of the farmers of the state.

In the survey, the researcher asked the respondents to express their opinion on Jalayagnam. Sixty percent of the sample responded positively, while 32 percent were dissatisfied with the program. Rayalaseema was most favourably disposed while Telangana was least favourable to Jalayagnam. Men
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were significantly more favourable compared to women. Rural people were more likely to be favourable to the program than their urban counterparts.

The YSR Government has extended support to the farmers at every stage, right from sowing to marketing i.e., by providing the crop loans, organic manure, power, irrigation, crop insurance etc. In the year 2007-2008, the government provided 11 lakh quintals of seed to the farmers with a subsidy of Rs.103 crores. Owing to the success of the ‘Seed Village Scheme’ the usage of Certified Seed has increased to 57 percent.

A comprehensive insurance scheme is being implemented to protect the farmers from floods, droughts and pestilence. In 2004, Kharif season 19 crops have been covered under the scheme. Rs.205 crores has been released towards the premium under the scheme during 2005. In addition, a record amount of Rs.493 crores of compensation was paid by the insurance companies in settlement of farmers’ claims during the Kharif 2005. The Government is also implementing National Agricultural Insurance Scheme with village as unit on a pilot basis in the districts of Karimnagar, Mahaboobnagar, Prakasam, Kadapa and Ananthapur. Under this scheme, village is taken as a unit for computing crop losses which is more beneficial to farmers. Insurance claim of Rs.1129 crores were paid till 2007 by the Government.

AP has improved its position in food grain from the 6th position to 3rd position. Oil seeds production is expected to record a growth of 61.80 percent. 2003-04., the food production of 135 lakh tons in 2003-4 is expected to increase to 197 lakh tons in 2007-08. The contribution of Agriculture to the state GDP which stood at 2.89 percent in the nine years before 2004 has sprinted to 8.3 percent in the year 2007-08. The growth rate in other sectors along with that of the agriculture had facilitated the GSDP of Andhra Pradesh to clock a rate of 10.6 percent.
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An effort was made in the present study to ascertain the opinion of the people on the welfare programs for the farmers. 37 percent of the sample felt that the programs were excellent/satisfactory. While people belonging to Rayalaseema were very favourable to the welfare programs to the farmers, those belonging to Telangana were least predisposed to be positive to the programs. Men were more favourable compared to women. Rural people are more likely to feel that the programs for the farmers are excellent/satisfactory compared to urbanites.

Power

Power is an important infrastructure for the economic development of the State and the YSR government has given top priority to this sector. YSR promised free power for the farmers during the election campaign of 2004 and as promised, the government has provided an additional subsidy of Rs. 437.59 crores for supply of free power to farmers. The outstanding arrears of agricultural consumers to a tune of Rs. 1,244.40 crores have also been waived as a relief to them.

During 2008-09, the additional Capacity is expected to be 386.25 MW with the commissioning of 280 MW of Konaseema Power Project and 106.25 MW share from NTPC Talcher. During this year, it is programmed to commission four 400 KV sub-stations, eight 220 KV Sub-stations, thirty-three 132 KV Sub-stations, two hundred and ten 33 KV Sub-stations and electrify 7,153 habitations. The Transmission & Distribution losses, which were 23.83% at the end of March 2004, are proposed to be reduced to 20.47% by March 2005. The projected capital expenditure on transmission and distribution sector as per Tariff Order would be Rs 1,390 crores against Rs. 1,059 crores last year. APGENCO has taken up execution of Rayalaseema Thermal Power Project Stage-II with a capacity of 420 MW at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,640 crores, Priyadarshini Jurala Hydro Electric Project, a joint project with Government of Karnataka with a capacity of 234 MW (AP's Share 117 MW) at an estimated
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cost of Rs. 547 crores, Vijayawada Thermal Power Station Stage IV with a capacity of 660 MW at an estimated cost of Rs. 2,706 crores, Bhoopalsapally Thermal Power Station with a capacity of 500 MW at an estimated cost of Rs. 2,128 crores. The total Budget allocation for the year 2004-05 for Power sector is estimated to be Rs. 2,300.89 crores against Rs. 2,096.55 crores budgeted in the previous year.

Heavy rains during the 2004-05 year have given a fillip to both the agricultural as well as the power sector. In order to pass on the benefit of lower cost of production of power consequent to increased hydro electric power generation, the Government has adjusted the fuel surcharge imposed on the power consumption bills of the domestic consumers for the period from December 2004 to November 2005, due to which consumers have benefited to an extent of Rs.179 crores.

Further, the government was able to reduce the transmission losses to 21.16% on account of improved power transmission and distribution. Power sector of Andhra Pradesh was rated number one in the country by CRISIL for the year 2004-05, which proves the efficient management of the power sector. As a result of this efficient power transmission and distribution system the government could reduce the power subsidy from Rs.1600 crores during 2005-06 to Rs.1405 crores in 2006-07.

With the free power to 30 lakhs agricultural pump sets, farmers of Andhra Pradesh have been successfully exploiting the massive rainfall showered in the State for the last Five years. On the day, YSR took over power on May 14th, 2004 took landmark decision to waive farmers’ electricity arrears to the tune of Rs.1259/- crores, withdrew thousands of cases pending against farmers and supply free power to agriculture pump sets.

The success of free power programme in the State has made the heads turn around as more States are now showing keen interest in it. Government
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has provided a subsidy of Rs.1929 crores, Rs.2063 crores and Rs.3745 crores to agricultural sector from 2004-05 to 2006-07 respectively. Apart from this an additional subsidy of Rs.2600 crores was allocated for additional power purchases for the financial year 2007-08. It provided Rs.2385 crore towards power subsidy including domestic, industry and free power to farms in the 2008-09 budget as against Rs.2425 crores in the previous year. There has been no hike in power tariff for the 1.47 crores domestic power consumers in Andhra Pradesh despite the spiralling fuel cost and power purchase cost. AP has joined the club of states, which have lowest domestic tariff of Rs.2.30 per unit in the country. In spite of financial constraints and huge burden on the state exchequer the government provided on Rs.3141 crores power subsidy to agricultural sector besides waiving the surcharges payable by the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes domestic consumers the extent of Rs 189 crores.

In the opinion survey undertaken by the researcher, 92 percent of the respondents felt that the supply of free electricity to farmers is excellent/satisfactory. Rayalaseema people were most favourably disposed to the scheme while Coastal Andhra and Telangana were almost equal in being favourable to it. Males and ruralites are more favourable compared to women and urbanites.

Women empowerment

Indira Kranti Patham is a state-wide women centered development programme aimed at poverty reduction, enabling the rural poor to improve their livelihoods and quality of life through their own organizations. It integrates the activities of DWCRA and Velugu. Its basic objective to implement various programmes for strengthening the self-help Groups. It aims to cover all the rural poor households in the state with a special focus on the 30 lakh poorest of the poor households. It is implemented by Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP), Dept of Rural Development, Govt of AP. SERP is an autonomous society registered under the Societies Act, and implements the project through District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) at the District
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level. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh is the Chairperson of the Society. IKP builds on the more than a decade long, state-wide rural women’s self-help movement. The focus is on deepening the process, providing an institutional structure and developing a framework for sustaining it for comprehensive poverty eradication. It is the single largest poverty reduction project in South Asia.

It works with 4,76,930 Self Help Groups federated into 28,080 Village Organizations (VO) and 700 Mandal Samakhyas (MS). The project’s mandate is to build strong institutions of the poor and enhance their livelihood opportunities so that the vulnerabilities of the poor are reduced. Community Investment Fund (CIF) is the major component of the project, which is provided to the SHGs/ VO/ MSs to support wide range of activities for socioeconomic empowerment of the Poor.

IKP is the most prestigious of all the poverty eradication schemes of the State Government. IKP covers all villages and all rural poor households, estimated at 90.0 lakhs out of 142.0 lakh rural.

Pavala vaddi

The government of AP introduced the Pavala Vaddi scheme during the year 2004 – 05 to provide interest subsidy on the loans taken by SHGs and reduce the financial burden on them. The scheme is applicable to all loans taken after july1, 2004 under the SHG bank linkage program.

The SHG- Bank linkage was Rs.5193 crore as against a target of Rs.5124 crore recording 101.34 percent achievement during 2007-08. The total financial inclusion proposed is two villages in each bank branch during 2008-09, i.e., 8248 villages. As of now total financial inclusion was implemented in 2674 villages with a loan component of Rs.1284 crore relieving 3.5 lakh families from high cost debt burden during 2007-08.
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In the year 2007-08 Pavala vaddi (0.25% rate of interest per month) subsidy of Rs.112.30 crore was provided to nearly 5,54,359 groups. East Godavari (131%), Chittoor (124%), Nizamabad (117%), Krishna (116%), Khammam (115%) were the best performing districts in the SHG movement, while the Mahbubnagar (68%), Karimnagar (71%), Kadapa (80%), Warangal (88%) and Adilabad (74%) were among the least performing districts.

The SHGs have been engaged in the marketing of forest produce like gum, rubber, tamarind and spices collected by tribal women. The SHGs are also engaged in procurement of Maize from farmers. Agricultural and NTFP commodities to the tune of 42.50 lakh tons worth Rs.277.88 crore were procured up to November, 2007. The government wants to add some more farm products for procurement through the SHGs. The SHG women were also selected to work as Arogya volunteers in villages to spread the message of family planning and AIDS in villages. 80,000 women volunteers for AIDS were trained. The SHG’s are empowered for the distribution of rice among 12 lakh BPL families in the state. Andhra Pradesh Government has been registering land grants to the poor in the name of women only. Women SHGs are encouraged to undertake trading maize, neem seeds, Lac, groundnuts, Cashew-nuts and turmeric crops as well. 4442.20 acres of land was purchased and handed over to 4795 poor families up to November, 2007. Under food security schemes the SHGs are procuring quality rice and selling them to the poor families at subsidized rates.17,19,698 families are covered under this programme. SHGs are involved in identifying school dropouts and bringing them back to bridge schools. 83,589 disabled persons were brought under 19,727 SHGs for enabling them in various group activities. SHGs are spreading awareness in NPM farming among agriculturists to bring 5.00 lakh acres of NPM farming in the state. Rs.459.23 crores pension was distributed to 43.60 lakh pensioners up to November, 2007.
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In the survey conducted by the researcher, 89 percent of the respondents said that the Pavala vaddi scheme is excellent/satisfactory. Twelve percent said that the scheme is unsatisfactory. Rayalseema people are in the lead in the excellent (39 percent) and satisfactory category (35 percent). Among those who found the program unsatisfactory, Coastal people are in the lead with 69 percent, followed by Telangana (21 percent) and Rayalaseema. 61 percent of the women and 39 percent of the men found the scheme excellent while 62 percent of the men and 38 percent of the men viewed the scheme as satisfactory. Males (71 percent) outnumber women (21 percent) in the dissatisfied category as well. The chi-square value indicates that these differences are significant. Rural people seem to be more positive towards the Pavala vaddi scheme compared to urban people.

A large number of women are running fair price shops. Out of the total 40,897 fair price shops, 12,889 (31.5 per cent) are held by women. Training and Technology Department (TTDCs) was established in 22 rural districts for imparting training on production and marketing and maintenance of books etc. They are being used as vocational training centres for women as well. In addition, 23 Mahila Pranganams are also being utilized for training the women. Medical insurance for women and their families is helping the rural poor to improve their health. During the three years the scheme is in operation, each family can avail of medical services costing up to Rs.60,000/- . During 2006-07, 1.18 lakh people got benefitted in the scheme. So far on payment of a premium of Rs. 2.22 lakh, the rural women got medical treatment billed at Rs.5.80 crore.

The scope of National Social Assistance Programme was expanded to include about 4 million poor. About 25 lakh widows in the 40-64 age group in the BPL households are likely to be benefited from the scheme. Persons with severe and multiple disabilities in the required age group in BPL families are
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estimated to be at 15.65 lakh. The present scheme covers only persons aged 65 years or higher, estimated to be around 1.57 crore.

The State government is distributing social welfare pensions under Indiramma to old people, widows and distressed and disable persons through Mandal Samakhyas and village organizations. The pension amount is also increased from Rs.75/- to Rs.200/- per month per person. During 2008-09, the amount of Rs.362.63 crore was distributed to 49 lakh pensioners up to July 2008. Every month the beneficiaries get pension delivered at their doorstep.

The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has conceptualized Abhaya Hastham as a Co-contributory Pension Scheme for the women above the age group of 18, belonging to the Self Help Groups in Andhra Pradesh. The scheme envisages contribution of Rs.30/- per month by SHG women and Government’s co-contribution of Rs.30/- per month into her Pension account. Abhaya Hastham offers 3 kinds of benefits to its members, namely monthly pension on crossing 60 years of age, death and disability insurance cover including Scholarship to the children of the women, lump sum transfer of corpus which is accumulated in her account to the nominee in the event of her death. It is expected that about 1 crore 25 Lakh women are likely to join the Scheme.

Indira Kranti Patham has forged a partnership with a corporate foundation, Livelihood Advancement Business School (LABS) of Dr. Reddy’s Foundation for improving the employability skills of women and linking the young women to service sector jobs. Vulnerable youth like girl widows, single mothers, and children of landless labourers are identified by Mandal Samakhyas. These girls and boys from poorest of the poor (PoP) families are trained and then linked to deluxe hotels, up market malls and rural BPOs.

However, the working of the IKP is not without controversies. There is also some criticism of the working of the SHGs and their contribution towards
helping poor women. Some private agencies are entering into this field for their own profit by exploiting the poor. Poor marginalized women who were considered non-bankable are now seen as a source of profit making by private individuals and organizations set up as micro-finance companies.

**Education**

Several innovative educational programmes covering from primary education to Higher and Professional education from 2004 under the stewardship of the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Dr. Y.S.Rajasekhara Reddy have been initiated. These programmes not only tried to bring about gender parity in education but also schemes like 'Badi Bata' not only increased enrolment at primary level but also decreased the drop-out rate both among boys and girls. Starting of Gurukul Schools has helped many a rural students to acquire knowledge on par with urban students and prepare them to face competition in the employment market. Free scholarships, reimbursement of fees have not only helped the families and students not only from SCs, BCs and minorities but also from economically backward families in other castes. 4 percent reservation in educational institutions for Muslims has led to their educational advancement substantially. Special educational programmes specifically for the Tribal Communities in the State have advanced the status of education in these communities.

However it may be said that in the field of education still the state has to travel a long way in achieving the Millennium Development Goal of achieving Universalisation in education, gender parity and inclusiveness.

**HEALTH**

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has initiated several schemes for providing access to healthcare facilities in rural areas. It took Initiative to provide free heart surgeries for children below 12 years suffering with ailments including holes in the heart.
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Arogyasri

A holistic health insurance scheme by the name “Arogya Sri” was introduced to provide Medicare to families living BPL. It is a comprehensive health programme dedicating three new public services to the people of Andhra Pradesh in public-private-partnership mode. As of December 2007, the State government has brought 23.12 lakh BPL families comprising of 85.33 lakh population under Rajiv Arogyasri and the premium amount of Rs.60 crore including the service tax Rs.330 per family has been paid and service is ensured for the poor in more than 78 corporate hospitals in the state. A total of 1,76,918 rural poor were provided medical check ups in 828 health camps and 15,000 were sent to referral hospitals for treatments as part of the scheme till December 2007. All eligible families are being provided with Rajiv Arogyasri Bhima Health card. By November 2008 a total of 1.82 crore insurance cards have been issued covering 6.60 crore population (82 percent of the population) under the purview of the scheme. As on February 20th, 2009 a record 1,98,319 operations have been conducted and a sum of Rs.673 crore spent. Nearly 14,55,307 patients screened under the scheme (in-patients under this scheme are 2,32,249 and out-patients are 2,43,076).

Emergency Management and Research Institute (EMRI) services

Though emergency care is frequently being addressed in India, it could not cater to all sections of the community. But now with the emergence of EMRIs, a full-fledged emergency care is being provided across the country.

They include the innovative programs like EMRI mobile clinics and ambulance service to rural poor to improve hospital deliveries and reduce infant mortality through 108 Helpline and 104 to provide “Fixed Day Health Service”. In 2008-09, the Government has provided budget allocation of Rs.29 crore for health care in remote and interior areas to set up two ANM training centers and provide additional new buildings for 60 primary health centres.
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The tie-up with the EMRI and Arogyasree programme was launched by Dr. Y.S.R. An allocation of Rs.1000 crore is provided for the integrated programme. Innovative programmes like EMRI through a 108 toll free line as well as Helpline for medical, police and fire emergencies and 104 helpline has been launched to provide 'Fixed Day Health Service' in rural areas. As per the available statistics nearly 50,000 lives were saved so far and the 108 service received 1.2 lakh calls per day. It signed MoUs with 2578 private hospitals, to accept emergency victims free of cost, ambulances made 10 trips per day on an average. Among the beneficiaries, 47 percent are BCs; 24 per cent SCs; 12 per cent ST and 17 per cent are OCs.

Eighty percent of the respondents in the survey conducted for the purpose of the present study felt that the Arogyasri scheme is excellent/satisfactory. The opinion of Telangana was most favourable and that of Coastal Andhra least favourable to the Arogya sri scheme. Males and the rural people were more positive compared to women and urban people towards the scheme.

Mobile clinics

The State Government has launched the fixed day mobile clinics in the remote villages to benefit the tribal and illiterate poor. The scheme provides for 475 mobile units. Each unit covers a population of 1500 on a fixed day in a month using IT to network with mobile vans, PHCs, Area Hospitals and ASHA workers.

Rajiv Health Mission

Yet another health initiative was launched by the Chief Minister to induce reforms in health sector, titled as the Rajiv Health Mission. The mission provides among other benefits to the poorest of poor, funds worth Rs.360 crore for improving the health systems in rural areas which deliver the health services across the state.
Aarogyaraksha

Population stabilization cannot be achieved without maternal wellbeing and child survival. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has designed a scheme called Aarogyaraksha that provides insurance coverage to the acceptors of family planning with 2 children for the whole family for a limited period. The objective of the programme is to increase the confidence of couples about child survival who desire to have a small family.

The progress in health sector so far achieved was mainly due to the novel initiatives taken up by the State Government under the leadership of Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, the Chief Minister.

There is a 'turnaround' in economic growth of A.P. in recent years. The fiscal performance of A.P. compares favourably with other states. There seems to have been a turnaround in the total revenue of the state in recent years. It increased from 12 to 14 per cent of GSDP in the late 1990s to 16.4 and 18.0 per cent in 2006-07 and 2007-08 (RE) respectively. The debt-GDP ratio increased from 24 per cent in late 1990s to 37 percent in 2005-06. In spite of this increase, the rank of A.P. in debt-GDP ratio was only eighth (in ascending order) among 29 states. In other words, 21 states in India have higher debt-GDP ratio than Andhra Pradesh. There has been a slight improvement in fiscal deficit and in revenue deficit which turned into surplus in the state in recent years.

Similarly, fiscal performance in terms of revenue generation and reduction in fiscal deficit, particularly revenue deficit has improved significantly in the last few years. However, the focus should be on inclusive growth as there is still a considerable degree of poverty, lower human development and significant regional disparities in A.P.

Agriculture is the core of the state's economy. The contribution of this sector in last five years (2001 – 05) in gross state domestic product (GSDP) is
around 14 percent. The GSDP from this sector at current prices for the year 2005-06 is Rs.32,391 crore as against Rs.29,263 crore in 2004-05, showing an impressive growth rate of 10.69 per cent. The GSDP of this sector at constant prices (93-94) in 2005-06 is estimated at Rs.15,862 crore as against Rs.15,104 crore in 2004-05 by registering a growth rate of 5.02 percent.

Andhra Pradesh is the first State in computerizing all Employment Exchanges operations by providing on-line services to the job seekers and employers. In view of decreasing public employment, four new initiatives have been taken up by the Employment Exchanges in Andhra Pradesh. 8,670 candidates were placed under pre-recruitment training for Defence and Para Military forces during the year 2004 and 548 candidates during the year 2005 and 504 in 2006 (up to September). 1,132 candidates were placed through Job Melas during 2004 and 1,281 during 2005 and 1739 candidates in 2006 (up to September). 6,554 candidates were guided under adoption of one Government High School and one Junior College in each district for providing career guidance to the students of terminal class during 2004 and 61,227 during 2005 and 24,109 candidates in 2006 (up to September). Training was arranged for 994 urban un-skilled unemployed during 2004 and 609 during 2005 and 652 in 2006 (up to September). In 2008-09, the AP Government has appointed to 11,286 posts through the APPSC as against 49,365 posts are advertised (notified) in the year 2008 - 09. In the year 2007-08, 20,193 posts are filled through the DSC and 20,000 posts are proposed to be filled in 2008 - 09.

Opinion survey

The respondents in the survey conducted by the researchers were asked to express their opinion on the overall performance of the YSR government. About 65 percent of the respondents said they found the performance excellent/satisfactory. Rayalaseema was most favourable, followed by Coastal Andhra and Telangana in evaluating the overall performance of the YSR government. Women have a more favourable opinion compared to men with
regard to judging the overall performance. Similarly, rural people are more positive compared to the urban people in evaluating the overall performance.

Nearly one-fifth of the respondents gave YSR first rank among Chief Ministers of AP. Two-fifths gave him rank II, and the remaining two-fifths gave rank III and above. Rayalaseema, Coastal Andhra and Telangana came in that order in giving each of the top three ranks to YSR. Among those who gave first rank, women were more (58 percent) while men were more in giving rank II (52 percent) and III (53 percent). Predominantly rural respondents gave YSR rank I (70 percent), Rank II (69 percent) and Rank III (61 percent) compared to urban people.

Fifty-six percent of the sample felt that YSR fulfilled the election promises while forty percent said that the election promises were not fulfilled. The remaining were undecided. Coastal Andhra, Rayalaseema and Telangana respondents came in that order in saying that YSR fulfilled election promises. More men (51 percent) thought that YSR fulfilled election promises. But, at the same time, there were more men than women who said that he did not fulfill the election promises. Among the undecided category also men were more. These differences were not significant implying that there might be no differences between men and women in their opinion regarding the fulfillment of election promises. Twenty-eight percent thought that YSR is honest, 24 percent thought he is out-spoken, 25 percent regarded him as a visionary and the remaining 23 percent thought he has no respect for the opposition.

Nearly two-fifths thought YSR benefitted Kadapa district alone while the remaining three-fifths considered that he benefitted the whole of AP. Coastal Andhra, Rayalaseema and Telangana people in that order believed that YSR benefitted Kadapa, while Rayalaseema, Coastal Andhra and Telangana in that sequence said he benefitted the whole of AP. Men (61 percent) are more likely than women to think that YSR benefitted Kadapa alone.
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The views of the respondents regarding Jalayagnam, welfare programs for the farmers, free power, Pavala vaddi and Arogyasri were discussed earlier in the chapter at appropriate places while summarizing those schemes and programs.

The loan waiver scheme was appreciated by 71 percent of the respondents, with 37 percent calling it as excellent and 34 percent saying that it was satisfactory. Nearly one-fifth of the respondents were of the opinion that it was unsatisfactory. Men (55 percent) were more appreciative of the loan waiver scheme than the women. Approximately 67 percent of those who were positive were rural people.

Eighty-five percent of the respondents were favourable to the scheme of distribution of pension to the people below the poverty line with 37 percent saying that it is excellent and 48 percent calling it as satisfactory. Among the three regions, Rayalaseema was most positive while Telangana least positive towards the scheme. Women were more appreciative of the pension scheme than men and rural people were more positive than urban people.

An overwhelming majority of the respondents felt that the Rs. 2/- per Kg rice is excellent/satisfactory. Eleven percent said it is unsatisfactory. On the whole Telangana people were more favourable (when we combine the people who regarded it as excellent or satisfactory) and the those belonging to Coastal Andhra were least favourable to the scheme. Men were more favourable than women and rural people were more positive than urban people towards the Rs.2/- per kilo rice program.

71 percent expressed the opinion that the implementation of Free Education, Scholarship and Fee Reimbursement for the students is excellent/satisfactory. About a quarter of the respondents felt that the implementation of the scheme was not satisfactory. Telangana was more
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

favourable than the other two regions in this regard. Men and the rural people were more positive to the program than women and urban people.

Regarding the UPADHI and NREGP schemes, the opinion of a majority (85 percent) was favourable (Combining those who said the schemes were excellent/satisfactory). Rayalaseema was most positive and Telangana least positive towards the schemes. Women were slightly, but, significantly more favourable to the scheme compared to men. Rural people were predominantly more positive towards the schemes than urban respondents.

The researcher took all pains to overcome the limitations, but could not altogether avoid them. It is to be admitted that the secondary data relevant to the study are very much limited. Available records have provided piecemeal information from the secondary sources. Latest statistics are not available and the available statistics are mostly limited to the period 2005 or 2006. Further, the study is limited to three districts selected randomly from among the twenty-three districts from the three different regions. Though the sample size of 1800 is considered as large for a Ph.D., study, it is very restricted compared to the population of AP. Hence, some of the results of the study may not be applicable to other districts in other parts of the Andhra Pradesh, though care was taken to make the sample representative.