ANANTAPUR DISTRICT PROFILE

Historical background:

It is very difficult to isolate the political history of Anantapur district from that of the rest of the tract known as the "Ceded Districts". This whole area was trodden by such great figures as Vikramaditya, Malik Kafur, Harihara, Bukka, Shivaji, Hyder Ali and his son Tipu and finally by Sir Thomas Munro himself. Very little was recorded about this area and what was recorded is not sufficient to make a continuous story.

Anantapur derives its name from the big irrigation tank Ananthasagaram (boundless ocean) constructed by Chikadevaraya, the minister of Bukka - I (A.D. 1344 - 1377) the Vijayanagara ruler. Anantasagaram was named after Bukka's queen. The district derives its name from Anantapur, its head quarters town. Anantapur district was formed in the year, 1882 separating it from Bellary district. The district was later expanded with the addition of two new taluks from neighbouring Cuddapah and Bellary districts.

Physical Features

The district lies southwest part of the state, approximately between 13°14' north and 76°47' east 78°26'. It is bounded on the north by Kurnool district, on the east by Cuddapah and on the south and west by Karnataka state. Its elevation towards the south is 2200 feet while it gradually declines to about 1000 feet at Gooty in the north and to 900 feet at Tadpatri in north-east. The eastern side of the district is particularly hilly.
The total area of the district is 19,130 Sq.Kms. being the largest in the State and has a population of 3,183,814 persons according to 1991 census.

Rivers:

Penneru is the most important river in the district. Kumudvati and Jayamangali are important tributaries which join Penneru within the borders of the district. Chitravati is the next important river in the district. Kushavati and Madduleru are its important tributaries. Hagar or Vedavati and Papagni are two more important rivers flowing in the district.

Climate & Rainfall:

The year may be divided into four seasons. The period from December to February is dry and comparatively cool season. The summer season is from March to May and is followed by the south-west monsoon season from June to September. Being far away from the east coast, the district does not enjoy the full benefit of the north-east monsoon and being cut off by the high Western Ghats, the south-west monsoon is also prevented. Due to this unfortunate location this district is deprived of both the monsoons. October and November form the retreating monsoon season.

The annual actual rainfall was 665.3 MM. during the year 1989-90 against the average annual rainfall of 544.00 MM.

Administration:

The district has been divided into three Revenue Divisions viz. Anantapur, Dharmavaram and Penukonda. At present there are 63 Revenue Mandalas in the district. The district has 11 towns and 965 villages of which 24 are uninhabited. There are 2415 hamlets indicating an average 3 hamlets for each revenue village. All villages are covered under 997 Gram panchayats.
**Industrialisation:**

The district is industrially backward with the lowest number of workers employed in registered factories. The industrial development is concentrated mostly in urban areas. The district has 4987 factories employing about 38,000 workers. The district industry centre has been functioning since 1978. There are eight industrial estates at Anantapur, Tadipatri, Kadiri, Guntakal, Gooty, Hindupur and Dharmavaram. There are 4 mini-industrial estates to benefit the Scheduled Caste beneficiaries. There are 28 large and medium scale industries and 4,507 small-scale industries with investment of Rs.12,113.47 lakhs and Rs.3,658.04 lakhs respectively.

**SOILS:**

The soils in the Southern division i.e., Hindupur and Penukonda are predominantly red in colour. In the Northern divisions the red and black soils are almost in equal proportion red soil constitute 76 percent and black soil 241 percent of the total area in the district. The soils are shallow, poor in nutrients with high water absorption capacity but poor in retention of moisture. 30 percent of lands are saline and alkaline, especially under tank ayacut and river banks.

**Agriculture:**

Dry land forming continues to be the mainstay of the people of the district. Anantapur district has largest gross cropped area in the state (23 lakh acres). The principal crop raised in the district is groundnut, and Paddy is cultivated in 2.05 lakh acres. In recent years the mulbery cultivation is fast expanding in the district. The total area under mulbery cultivation was about 25,474 acres and cocoon yields was about 12,000 tonnes per annum providing a very good scope for silk industry.
The cultivated area under wells and tanks is very much dependent on the rainfall. The lands under wells and tanks fail many a year on account of droughts. Thungabhadra High level canal is the only dependable irrigation source in the district irrigating 365 lakh acres spreading through 152 villages. The three medium irrigation projects, upper Pennar project with an ayacut of 8,472 acres benefiting 13 villages, Bhyravanithippa Project with an ayacut of 21,390 acres benefiting 14 villages and Cagudi project with an ayacut of 898 acres benefiting 4 villages are useful only during the years of heavy rains.

Transport and Communication:

Anantapur district has 9,306 Kms of road and 589 kms of railways line. The district is linked with Chennai, Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore and Hyderabad by the Railways. Guntakal is one of the biggest railway junctions in the country. APSRTC provides commuting facilities in the district. There is good number lorries in the district supporting the movements of goods. There are 920 post offices, 93 Telegraph officers and 104 Telephone exchanges. Number of cities in the country are connected through STD facilities. Anantapur town is provided with nine TV relay station with 150 Kms radius of operation and a FM radio station. Anantapur district has also got an air port at Puttaparthi.

Literacy:

The percentage of literacy rate in the district is 35.1 There are as many as 875 primary schools, 180 High schools, 29 Junior colleges, 14 Degree colleges, 16 Industrial training Institutes, 2 Polytechnic colleges, 1 Engineering college, and 2 Universities spread over the district.
Demographic characteristics:

The total population of the district was 31.83 lakh as per 1991 census. The rural population was 24.36 lakh while the urban population was 7.47 lakh. The growth rate of population of Anantapur district for three census periods is given under below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Rural</th>
<th>Urban</th>
<th>Growth rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>21,15,321</td>
<td>17,39,531</td>
<td>3,75,790</td>
<td>19.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>24,43,012</td>
<td>20,17,095</td>
<td>5,30,917</td>
<td>20.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>31,83,781</td>
<td>24,36,741</td>
<td>7,47,040</td>
<td>25.34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The density of population of the district was 167 per sq. km. against 241 per sq.km for the state. This district occupies second place in Rayalaseema region with reference to density of population and tops in geographical area. The population of Anantapur district is predominantly rural. The population of rural and urban population to the total population of the district nearly about to 79.2 percent and 20.8 percent in 1991 census respectively. There were 947 females per 1000 males.

The percentage of total workers and non-workers in the district was 46.70 and 33.30 respectively. The main workers of the district were 9,24,016 in which 29.62 percent cultivators, 40.45 agricultural labourers 24.27 other workers and 5.65 household workers (Census of India, 1991). The scheduled caste and scheduled Tribe population constitutes 14.19 percent and 3.49 percent respectively.
THE DISTRICT AT A GLANCE

1. Geographical area : 19,125 Sq.Km.
2. Total Population : 31,83,781
3. Males : 16,35,353
4. Females : 15,48,428
5. Urban Population : 7,47,040
6. Rural Population : 24,36,741
7. Scheduled Castes : 4,36,178
8. Scheduled Tribes : 1,01,874
9. Literates : 11,36,350
10. Cultivators : 4,51,537
11. Agricultural Workers : 3,82,430
12. Other workers : 2,21,649
13. Revenue Divisions : 3
14. Revenue Mandals : 63
15. Towns : 11
16. Municipalities : 7
17. Villages : 965
18. Uninhabited Villages : 30

(Source : 1991 Census, Anantapur District Profile)
The Scheduled Castes in the district
The Scheduled Castes census in the district is as follows:

**SCHEDULED CASTE CENSUS OF ANANTAPUR 1991**
**ANANTAPUR DISTRICT**

1. **No. of households with S.C members**
   - Rural: 76224
   - Urban: 12046
   - Total: 88270

2. **Total Scheduled Caste Population**
   - Male: 451810
     - Rural: 386018
     - Urban: 65792
     - Total: 451810
   - Female: 232055
     - Rural: 198595
     - Urban: 33460
     - Total: 232055
   - Population: 219755
     - Rural: 187423
     - Urban: 32332
     - Total: 219755

3. **Literates**
   - Male: 93388
     - Rural: 65513
     - Urban: 27875
     - Total: 93388
   - Female: 69036
     - Rural: 51291
     - Urban: 17745
     - Total: 69036
   - Population: 24352
     - Rural: 14222
     - Urban: 10130
     - Total: 24352

4. **Total main Workers**
   - Male: 218733
     - Rural: 197908
     - Urban: 20825
     - Total: 218733
   - Female: 125908
     - Rural: 110955
     - Urban: 14953
     - Total: 125908
   - Total: 92825
The Locale:

The study was conducted in Anantapur town of Anantapur District. Anantapur, the head quarters of the district, is on the Guntakal-Bangalore meter-gauge line. 42 miles south of Guntakal it is the seat of the District Collector with most of the district and even some regional offices locted there. It is also the Divisional and the Taluk head quarters its municipality was established in 1869, and its present annual income is about Rs. 8 Lakhs. The town is connected by regular bus service not only with all taluk head quarters in the district but also with Bellary, Kurnool, Chittoor, Hyderabad and Bangalore. Its present area is about 7.25 square miles. The village of Anantasagaram and Bukkaraya Samudram were established on either side of the Anantasagaram tank which is one of the biggest in the district with an ayacut of 2511 acres half of which lies within Anantapur limits and the rest within that of Bukkarayasamudram. The tank is fed by the Pandameru and Paddy is extensively cultivated under it. The water works for supply of drinking water to the town are located on the bank of Pandameru near the village Raptadu. A part of the tank bund called 'Musalammakatta' is believed to have been so named after one Musalamma of Bukkarayasamudram who sacrificed herself to close a breach in the bound.

Anantapur is familiarly known as Hande Anantapuram after the Hande Chiefs of the Vijayanagar period. The town falls into two areas, the old town and the extension separated by the Marava Vanka. Apart from being the district head quarters, Anatapur is also an important educational centre with a number of secondary, professional and technical training institutions. The Government Head Quarters Hosptiel was established sometime before 1884. The town was electrified in 1938. There are also a number of Theaters, Clubs, Sports Stadium and a National Park for the recreation and entertainment of the people.
CENSUS OF 1991  
ANANTAPUR TOWN

1. TOTAL NO. OF HOUSEHOLDS : 34614  
2. TOTAL POPULATION  
   MALE 90070  
   FEMALE 84854  
   TOTAL POPULATION 174924  
3. LITERATES  
   MALE 61649  
   FEMALE 42315  
   TOTAL POPULATION 103964  
4. TOTAL MAIN WORKERS  
   MALE 42690  
   FEMALE 6804  
   TOTAL POPULATION 49494
SCHEDULED CASTES CENSUS OF 1991
ANANTAPUR TOWN

1. NO. OF HOUSE HOLDS WITH S.C MEMBERS: 1855

2. TOTAL SCHEDULED CASTES POPULATION:
   MALE 5096
   FEMALE 4842
   TOTAL POPULATION 9938

3. LITERATES:
   MALE 3304
   FEMALE 2000
   TOTAL POPULATION 5304

4. TOTAL MAIN WORKERS:
   MALE 2160
   FEMALE 702
   TOTAL POPULATION 2862

The foregoing discussion in this chapter about the Scheduled Caste respondents reveal the following. The respondents are living in Anantapur town of Anantapur district. The study area is urban place situated in a district which is typically drought prone and not one of the well developed districts in the state, yet there has been noticeable change among the Scheduled Castes living in the town. The change by and large may be due to urban character of the study area. An attempt is made in the next Chapter 'The Socio Economic Profile' to trace the educational and economic attainments of the Scheduled Caste Women respondents in the study area.