5.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the profile of Andhra Pradesh (AP), and of the three cities which form part of the study region. The cities covered for field study are Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam and Guntur Municipal Corporations in the coastal region of Andhra Pradesh. In the three cities, the role played by Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in extending a wide variety of support services to street children is highlighted.

5.1 Profile of the Andhra Pradesh

Andhra Pradesh lies between $12^0 14' - 19^0 15'$ on the North Latitude and $76^0 50' - 84^0 45'$ on the East Longitude. Orissa and Madhya Pradesh bound it in the North. In the South, the State is bounded by Tamil Nadu, in the West by Maharashtra and Karnataka, and in the East by Bay of Bengal, the state has a coastal area of 974 kms.

The area of Andhra Pradesh is 2,76,754 sq. kms, and its population is 76.21million as per 2001 census and about 72.7 per cent of population is living in rural areas. Provisional results of 2011 population Census reveal that the population of the State has risen to 84.6 million in 2011 with growth rate of 11.1% during 2001-11, compared to the growth rate for all Indian of 17.64%. In the previous decade (1991-2001) growth rate for the state was 14.59%, compared to the all India figure of 21.54%. Growth rate of population for the State has, thus, been moderate in relation to national average, and has declined further. This is a healthy sign. Urbanisation in the State has increased from 27.3% in 2001 to 33.5% in 2011. The corresponding figures for the country are 27.8% in 2001 and 31.2% in 2011. For the state, growth of urban population during 2001 to 2011 is 36.26%, compared to the growth rate of rural population of 1.64%. Sex ratio of females per 1000 males improved from 978 to 992 for the state, compared to all India corresponding figures of 933 and 944, during 2001
and 2011 respectively. Literacy in the State in 2011 with national level given in parentheses is as follows: total 67.77% (74.04%), females 59.74% (65.46%), males 75.56% (82.14%). Male-female literacy gap declined to 15.82% in 2011 compared to 19.89% in 2001 (all India: 16.68% in 2011 compared to 21.59% in 2001). Through the literacy level in the state is lower compared to the national average, decline in the male-female literacy gap noticed in urban and rural areas are noteworthy. Andhra Pradesh stands fifth among the major states of the country in terms of area and population in both the Census periods.  

The principal languages spoken are Telugu and Urdu. The state consists of 23 districts including one metropolitan district, which is known as Hyderabad district. Capital of Andhra Pradesh is Hyderabad consisting of the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad. Agriculture is the main occupation of about 70 per cent of people. Rice is the major food crop and staple food of the State. Other important crops are jowar, bajra, maize, ragi, small millets, pulses, castor, tobacco, cotton and sugar cane.

The State forms the major link between North and South India. The northern area of AP is mountainous; the highest peak Mahendragiri rises 1500 metres above the sea level. The climate is literally hot and humid. Average rainfall of the State is 925 metres. Krishna and Godavari are the major rivers in the State with a 974 km coast line, Andhra Pradesh consists of three regions, namely, Coastal region consisting of nine districts Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishna, Guntur, Prakasam, and Nellore, Rayalaseema region interior to the south of the State, consisting of four districts, Chittoor, Kadapa, Kurnool, Ananthapur, and Telangana region, the interior northern region, consisting of Hyderabad city, and nine adjoining districts, Warangal, Khammam, Ranga Reddy, Adilabad, Mahabubnagar, Medak, Nalgonda, Karimnagar, and Nizamabad.

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1 Census report (2011)
This is an exploratory study of street children in three municipal corporations of Coastal region of Andhra Pradesh. The cities selected for study are the municipal corporation areas of Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam, and Guntur.

5.2 Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC)

5.2.1 About Vijayawada

The Municipality of Vijayawada was constituted on 1st April 1888 with an area of 30 sq. Kms, and was upgraded as a selection grade in the year 1960. The municipality was upgraded to a corporation in 1981. With the merger of Gunadala, Patamata and Bhavanipuram village panchayats, and two villages Payakapuram and Kundavari Kandrika in the corporation in 1985, the total area of the corporation went up to 58 sq. kms.

The city is divided into 59 political wards. An elected body headed by the Mayor performs the administration of the Corporation. The Commissioner acts as the executive head, and oversees the day to day functioning of the local body. The Commissioner is an IAS officer of Joint Collector rank appointed by the State Government. Staff of the Corporation is over 5,000. Vijayawada is one of the three cities in Andhra Pradesh to be provided with its own Police Commissionerate.

5.2.2 Demographics

At present, total area of the Corporation is 61.8 square kilometres (23.9 sq mi), and the population of the whole city (along with Vijayawada Sub-Urban and Vijayawada Rural) is more than 2.5 million (2010). Population of Vijayawada city alone has crossed one million. It is the third city in population size, after Hyderabad and Visakhapatnam.
Population growth rate per annum of Vijayawada city increased from 1941 substantially, and has shown decline during 1991-2001. It was 4.26% during 1941-51, 4.56% during 1981-91, and has declined to 2.41% during 1991-2001.

Sex ratio (females per 1000 males) in 1901 was 930 but by 2001 Census, it declined to 897, showing a vast decline. The decline in sex ratio indicates low status of women. In the beginning of the century, i.e., in 1901, only 6.59 per cent of total population were literates. But by 1931, literacy rate became double digit, i.e., 10.21 per cent. It reached 28.47 per cent in 1951, and 86 per cent by 2001 Census.

5.2.3 Economy

The gross domestic product (GDP) of Vijayawada for the year 2008 is Rs. 5526 crore. The region around the city has fertile soil, and irrigation is supported by the river Krishna and its canals. Major crops include sugarcane, rice and mango. Vijayawada is famous for automobile body building, garment, iron and hardware small scale industries. The Jawahar Auto Nagar Industrial park in Vijayawada is one of the largest hubs of automobile industry of the state. There are about 1500 automobile accessory units in the city and about 1,00,000 workers are employed in these enterprises. Apart from workers of the city, people from other parts of the state also come to work in the industrial estate. The main markets are situated in the old city (popularly known as One Town) and near Besant Road. It is estimated that everyday nearly Rs.10 crore of garment business takes place in the Vastralatha building alone in One Town. Garments are mainly sold in Besant Road and Governor Pet.

5.2.4 Education

Vijayawada, also called “Vidyala wada” (Place of Education), occupies a large amount of the educational infrastructure of Andhra Pradesh. The city was
named “The Educational Sahara” by a foreign ambassador. Following are statistics of government schools:

High Schools 28 (Including 1 Urdu Medium, 2 Schools both English and Telugu Medium), Upper Primary Schools 15 (Including Urdu Medium) (3 Urdu Medium), Elementary Schools 75 (10 Urdu Medium, 2 English Medium), Students 28,450, Teachers: 622. The corporation runs a number of schools. There are 22 high schools, 15 upper primary schools, 62 elementary schools. The Corporation provides mid-day meals to students of 150 schools (Both Corporation and Aided Schools). Approximately 22,450 students benefit from this scheme.

The first college built in Vijayawada was SRR and CVR College. Andhra Loyola College was established in the year 1953 with Rev. Francis Theo Mathias, SJ as its first Principal. KBN College is another popular college in Vijayawada. The first private engineering college in Andhra Pradesh, V R Siddhartha Engineering College, is located here. School of Planning and Architecture (SPA, V) commenced its courses since 2008.

The NTR University of Health Sciences is the first medical university in India. It is a public university in the city of Vijayawada. It started functioning from 1st November, 1986.

5.2.5 Health

Vijayawada Municipal Corporation is running 22 Urban Health centres, 4 Maternity Hospitals, 12 Ayurvedic, 2 Unani Centres catering to different systems of medicine.

The Vijayawada Municipal Corporation has initiated the safe disposal of hospital waste, which was, started on 19-6-1999. In Vijayawada Municipal Corporation, there are 182 nursing homes, 318 clinics and 2673 hospital beds.
Vijayawada with an estimated poor population of 2.27 lakhs has about 140 slums. The slums are mostly spread over the banks of river Krishna and its canals. 26,000 people have been rehabilitated from vulnerable areas like road margins and canal beams to constructed houses.

5.2.6. Transportation and Communications

Vijayawada City is the largest commercial centre of Krishna district, and it is also an important railway junction being connected to Delhi, kolkata, chennai, Hyderabab Hubli, Gudivada and Machilipatnam. It has an Air Port at Gannavaram about 16 Kms. away and a minor sea port at Machilipatnam. The second largest Bus Station complex in the state is also located in Vijayawada. Vijayawada is the busiest railway junction in India, and is the second biggest junction in Asia. The fact that Vijayawada is well connected through rail and road makes it the main hub of commercial activities.

5.2.7 Sports

Cricket is the most popular sport, with National level cricket matches played at Indira Gandhi Stadium. A new international stadium is being built on a 20-acre site in Mangalagiri which will replace the local stadium as the venue for international and Ranji matches. Badminton, Chess and Volleyball are also popular.

5.2.8. Tourist Spots

The city offers many places to see and spend time on. Some famous landmarks and places to visit in Vijayawada are Prakasam Barrage, Kanaka Durga Temple, Gandhi Hill, Mogalarajapuram Caves, Victoria Museum, Hazarat Bal Mosque, Rajiv Gandhi Park, Gunadala Matha Shrine, and Bhavani Island.
There are some towns and villages nearby Vijayawada like Amaravati, Kuchipudi, Kondapalli, Gudivada, Chodavaram, Undavalli and Machilipatnam that gives a good tourist pleasure.

5.2.9 NGOs Working with Street Children in Vijayawada

Vijayawada Corporation is the third largest city in Andhra Pradesh. Andhra is well known for its legendary dynasties, its rich literature, and its melodious Telugu language. Many street children are driven out of their homes by poverty and abuse; ill treatment by parents, a step-father or step-mother that is hostile to the child, a broken home, a father who is out of work or who is an alcoholic or drug addict. All these kids are attracted by the glamour of the town – the big houses, cinema theatres, hotels and restaurants – quite different from the fields and huts of the villages. They flock to the town hoping to have a better life. They easily pick up small jobs in the city and their initial earnings make them complacent. With a little money in their pocket for a meal, a pack of cigarettes and a movie, they feel like adults. Soon, they fall prey to middle men and gangs and are often caught up in a life of crime and violence. Some of them are deliberately maimed and mutilated.

In 1989 UNICEF report estimated the number of street children to be 19,800. Such a figure includes those who live in the streets or the railway station, those who are orphans and homeless, and those from the surrounding slums who work in the streets. As Vijayawada is a main railway junction in South India, street children are coming to the city from all over India. The survey conducted by the Forum for Child Rights in May, 2001 counted 235 children, on an average 33 a day, who arrived at the Vijayawada railway station over the course of a single week. The survey conducted by the Navajeevan Bala Bhavan in October, 2010 has counted 32 children, on an average 16 a day, who arrived at the Vijayawada railway station over the course of two days. In addition, their lifestyle often puts
them at high risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases like HIV/AIDS. According to the United Nations, a half of Vijayawada’s street children have a sexually transmitted disease or infection; one-third is HIV positive. Many NGOs in the city have been working to rescue the street children.

I . SKCV Children Trust

- The SKCV headquarters is Prema Vihar Village, which is some five miles from Vijayawada city. Situated alongside the banks of river Krishna on 11 acre farm, the SKCV provides a safe haven from the chaos and dangers of life on the street. It is a home to 130 destitute kids. The farm is totally managed by the children, both old and young. There are 35 cattle and orchards. Many girls being helped in the separate girls care Centre in the city, as well as 120 boys in the city comprehensive night and day shelter unit. Many of these children are orphans, and some others have run away from abusive or violent parents or step-parents.

- The source of the SKCV says, “Our organisation is jointly successful in setting up, and supporting, Child Line Toll free number 1098 in Vijayawada Railway Station for earliest intervention for runaway children and street kids in India. This was achieved through proper and ongoing sensitisation of Railway and Police authorities. We are also successful in encouraging the District Collector, Police Commissioner, Municipal Commissioner, Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Assistant Labour Commissioner and other local administrative authorities to act on the problems of street children as part of their annual agenda. This includes a considerable specific annual budget authorised by the local council for street child welfare.”

- A registered Charitable Trust in India, UK and Holland, the Trust works directly with kids who have no other form of support. SKCV is presently
running/planning seven major child development Street Children Rescue Centres in South India. They are:

- A Night Shelter and Day Care Centre for children still on the streets
- A 24 hour Three Ward Charitable Hospital with emergency facility
- A Non-Formal School for street children
- A Residential and Day Care Centre for Street Girls
- Two Comprehensive Children’s Villages with complete facilities for both girls and boys
- An Organic Farm & Dairy Project managed by street children
- Comprehensive Vocational Training Programmes for older children especially computer training.

II. Forum for Child Rights and Child Line

Forum for Child Rights and CHILDLINE is a common platform of NGOs working for the cause of street children in Vijayawada for collective action towards children at risk. Its vision is to promote the Rights of the Child as enshrined in the UN Charter: Survival, Protection, Development and Participation. Its mission is to make Vijayawada a child-friendly city. The Forum runs CHILDLINE 1098 – a 24 hour Helpline for children in distress. CHILDLINE has been functioning since 20 November 2000. So far, CHILDLINE has reached out to 7,479 children, with programmes supported by Government of India and NGOs.

III. Care and Share organization

Care and Share has involved in the rescue and rehabilitation of street children since 1995. Now it has many wings such as Happy Home, Sweet Home, Ginny’s Home, Toti’s Home, and Daddy’s Home. It educates over 6,000 children who are below the poverty level in Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh, INDIA). It helps street children, children of sex workers, physically challenged kids and shelters
abandoned newborns and assists juveniles detained in the Observation Home (local reformatory). It has built and run 9 schools in different slums. Since 1995 it has rescued over 1,000 street children, 165 infants, HIV+ and AIDS orphans of Vijayawada.

From 2,000 the rescued children have been sheltered in “Daddy’s Home.” Due to the dramatic increase of AIDS the new 40 acre campus “Butterfly Hill” is in construction for the many new orphans and HIV+ children in need of a home. Care and Share serves 5,000 meals a day for kids in Daddy’s Home and Butterfly Hill and for those in the rest of facilities scattered around the city and slums where it also has a daily milk programme for 500 kindergarten children since 2,000. Most of these children have free medical visits, worm tablets and access to Care and Share vaccination programmes.

Care and Share have chosen this area because Vijayawada is one of the cities with the highest number of street children in Southeast Asia due to the fact that it is a railroad and highway junction which connects India from North to South and East to West. Children running away from home easily land up in the Vijayawada train station. Andhra Pradesh is also one of the Indian states with the highest concentration of people suffering with AIDS.

IV. Don Bosco Navajeevan Bala Bhavan

The Don Bosco Community established Navajeevan in 1989, at the invitation of the Municipal Corporation of Vijayawada, to rescue and rehabilitate Street Children. Those children, who cannot find their homes for various reasons, are encouraged to choose from possibilities of rehabilitation—regular education/training in various trades and other life-coping skills which would inculcate in them self-esteem and self-confidence to be self-reliant. These deprived children are thus integrated into society’s main-stream as responsible citizens.
Recognizing Don Bosco Navajeevan Bala Bhavan’s work for the cause of street children, Govt. of India conferred The National Award for Child Welfare 1996 on NBB. The Govt. of Andhra Pradesh recognized it as a Fit Institution in 1997. So far Navajeevan could rescue 33,714 children from the street and integrate 17,961 of them with their families.

The Vision and Mission of Navajeevan are as follows:

Vision

“A child friendly society where all children enjoy their RIGHTS.”


2. Practicing Non discrimination and Best Interests of the child

Mission

“To ensure rights of ‘Young at Risk’ through micro and macro level efforts of Rescue, Rehabilitation, Community based action, Capacity building, Advocacy and Lobbying.”

At present Navajeevan has:

1. Week-long street presence for the rescue of street children at Vijayawada railway station and other important places within the city.
2. Round the clock shelter for street children & one night shelter.
3. Counselling as the hub of all the activities and Home Integration
4. Re-orientation camps for children of various age groups
5. De-addication programme for children addictd to psychotropic substances
6. Navajeevan takes direct care of more than 1,200 children, boys and girls attending schools, colleges and various skills-training, accommodated in
Chiguru (Boy-Children Village), 14 Moggas (Groups Care Homes of 10 to 12 children taken care of by a family), and 2 Hostels.

7. Livelihood Advancement Skills Training (LAST) for 150 adolescent girls in a year.

8. 2 Residential and 4 Day Bridge Course Centers preparing rescued child workers for regular schooling

9. Follow-up of 600 children joined in Government-run Social Welfare Hostels and local schools

10. Launched Alternative Care where couples are identified to be foster parents for an individual child.

11. Launched ‘Child Safety Net Project,’ in 10 villages of Penamaluru mandal of Krishna district, to build village level institutional measures (Neighborhood Children Parliaments, Activists Groups and Child Protection Teams) to promote and protect the rights of each child on an equitable basis, starting with the child care institutions.

12. Facilitated the effective implementation of Juvenile Justice Act through its State level ‘JJ Desk’, with special emphasis on government run Observation Homes and Children’s Homes.

13. Young at Risk for NBB are: Street children/youth, child workers, children in conflict with law; children addicted to substance abuse and children from marginalized communities especially girl children.
5.3 Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC)

5.3.1 About Visakhapatnam

Visakhapatnam (Vizag) is the second largest city in Andhra Pradesh with an area of 550 sq. kms. It is primarily an industrial city, apart from being a port city. It is also a home to the Eastern Naval Command. The City has made rapid development in the past decade. The city sometimes goes by its now mostly defunct colonial British name, Waltair. During the colonial era, the city’s hub was the Waltair railway station, and that part of the city is still called Waltair. It’s a home to several state owned heavy industries; one of the most advanced steel plants, and the city has one of the country’s largest ports and its oldest shipyard. It has the only natural harbour on the eastern coast of India. Visakhapatnam has become Greater Visakhapatnam Corporation (GVMC) in 2009.

5.3.2 Demographics

With the merger of Gajuwaka municipality and 32 villages in the vicinity in the Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation, the population of the city and the metro may be between 1.6 to 1.8 million by 2010. Males constitute 50% of the population and females 50%. The city has an average literacy rate of 70%, higher than the national average of 65% in 2001. Male literacy is 74%, and female literacy is 64%. 10% of the population is younger than six years. Visakhapatnam is listed as one of the 100 Fastest Growing Cities of the World.

5.3.3 Education

Visakhapatnam is considered a centre for education in Andhra Pradesh. There are several educational institutions in the city. Apart from state-run schools for the poor, there are many private institutions, missionary schools and colleges. The city also has National Institute of Oceanography. Andhra University is one of
the oldest Universities in India. The AU College of Pharmacy is the second oldest pharmacology institute in India. Andhra Medical College, established in 1902, is the home of various teaching hospitals. The Gandhi Institute of Technology and Management (GITAM) located at Rushi konda on the sea shore recently attained the status of a deemed university.

5.3.4 Vizag City Economy

From being a tiny hamlet of local fishing communities during the early days of the Indian Independence Struggle and for a few decades later, the city exploded economically; in fact the rise has been so dramatic that the city was identified as one of the ten fastest growing cities in the world economically and demographically.

The city is emerging two tier soft ware development centre, which registered over 100% growth in the I.T. sector over the last year, contributing millions of dollars to the economy. The city has around 50 small and medium software and call centre units, of which about 10 units started their operations during the year 2005-07. Software exports from the Visakhapatnam in 2007 were worth Rs. 245 crore (2.45 GRs) 502 crore in 2008, and Rs. 900 crore in 2009 - an increase of nearly 90% every year. Various national and international I.T. and banking giants have set up or will be setting up offices in the city.

The city has a port called Vizag Port. The city has an Industrial Park at Autonagar promoted by APIIC (Andhra Pradesh industrial infrastructure corporation) and VSEZ called as Vizag Special Economic Zone started in 1989. The city is the headquarters for Waltair division of East Coast Railway. The Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (APIIC) has awarded the bid to construct a Knowledge City to Unitech Limited in an area of 700 ha, with an
investment of Rs. 35 thousand crore (350 GRs). India aims to build its first strategic oil reserve facility at Visakhapatnam by October 2011.

5.3.5. Transport

**Visakhapatnam Airport**: The Visakhapatnam is the busiest Airport in coastal Andhra Pradesh. Visakhapatnam is well connected with daily flights from Hyderabad, Chennai, Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Tirupathi and Kolkata.

**Road**: Visakhapatnam has a good network of roads. There are frequent buses to all districts of the Andhra Pradesh and some other states.

**Railway**: The railway station at Visakhapatnam stands on the Chennai Central-Howrah station route.

**Sea**: Visakhapatnam Port: Situated on the east coast of India, serves as the gateway for waterways for the state of Andhra Pradesh. Visakhapatnam has one of the country’s largest ports and its oldest shipyard on the eastern coast of India.

5.3.6 Tourist Attractions

Visakhapatnam has a range of tourist attractions including beaches, cliffs, parks on the hilltop facing the sea, long drives along the beach road, a zoological park and wildlife sanctuary, a submarine museum, hill stations, limestone caves, mountain ranges and colourful valleys, all within 100 km from the city. Kailashagiri is a park developed by VUDA on a hilltop adjacent to the sea offers views of the Bay of Bengal, Vizag city and the Eastern Ghats. A ropeway connects this park from the bottom of the hill.
5.3.7 NGOs Working with Street Children in Visakhapatnam

Visakhapatnam, the only major industrial and harbour city of the state of Andhra Pradesh, is also the second largest city in the state. The harbour and other industrial developments bring in people from all over the state, in search of employment and better prospects. The children of the migrant population form bulk of the street children and child labourers.

Till recently street children have remained the most neglected section of our society. The magnitude of the problem has been realized now, and it is demonstrated that these children can be trained to be independent and as contributing citizens of the society. Many issues figure on the agenda of the NGOs working with street children. Providing training and education to street children to make them self reliant with dignity is one of the important objectives of these NGOs working in Visakhapatnam.

1. YMCA Project for Street Children

The Young Men’s Christian Association started its project on street children on the 7th April, 1991 with the main aim of providing care, shelter, education and recreation to them. Another aim of the project is to make street children self reliant and responsible future citizen of the nation. They pick up children who are homeless, runaways, or the destitute from places such as railway-stations, parks, bus-complexes and from other busy public places. The children after being admitted in the institution are provided with food, accommodation, health and recreational facilities.

At the YMCA Project, the children are encouraged to learn different trades like tailoring, scooter mechanism, book binding, carpentry and printing. At the time of the study, the centre had 40 street children. The agency personnel make efforts to trace the parents and convince them. Boys in the age group of 5-16
years live together in this home. They hail from places like Nellore, Vijayawada, and even west Bengal.

**II. Visakha Bala Tejassu**

Visakha Bhala Tejassu with the support of Action Aid has been actively working and rescuing the street children from the railway station of Vizag for the last five years. In order to scale up their activity, a study was conducted to chalk out a plan for reaching out to maximum number of children.

It conducted the survey on platform children in Vizag in 2010. The survey lasted for 7 days and identified 291 children. 31 per cent of the children are addicted to smoking, 17 per cent to inhaling solution, and 27 per cent to gutkha. Majority of the children are in the age group of 11-17 years. Children intolerant to physical harassment tend to run away and they constitute 37 per cent of children found belong this category.

**III. Donbosco Navajeevan Bala Bhavan**

Donbosco Navajeevan Bala Bhavan (DBNJ) is a registered charitable society for the young at risk. It engages in activities for the welfare of the young, especially the poor and the marginalized. It is a child friendly centre started in the city of Vizag in 1999. DBNJ strives to reach out to every child in difficult situation with unconditional love and support. This mission finds its expression in activities such as shelter, counselling, job placement, education, training and rehabilitation for street children.

Their vision is to make Vizag a child friendly city where all the young in difficult situations are ensured of their rights to non-discrimination and rights to life, rights to survival. Their mission is to promote and advocate the rights of the children and young people in difficult circumstances, such as street children, out of school children, child workers, and children affected with HIV/AIDS and
besides children who are addicted to drugs and children who have been victims of violence and exploitation.

IV. Programmes of Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation,

The Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation drafted a city plan of action for survival, protection and development of children in Visakhapatnam city under the name ‘Baala vikas’ in the year 1993. Though it was started under the aegis of Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation, it is an autonomous body with the mayor of the city as chairperson and it comprises of concerned members form government departments, NGOs, and community volunteers and organizations working together towards the survival, protection and development of children in the city.

The target groups of Baala Vikas are all the children in the city in the 0-15 years of age group with special focus on the children in especially difficult circumstances (CEDC) including street children and migrant children. The programmes for the children in especially difficult circumstances (CEDC) are:

1) Institutional rehabilitation for the destitute, orphans and the streets children through YMCA, Prema Samajam, Don Bosco Navajeevan Bala Bhavan, Visakha Bhala Tejassu etc.

2) Community based non–institutional provision of integrated support services and facilities for the development of the children belonging to other categories were also visualized.

V. PAPA – Street Children Home

In the year 1999, members of 14 Non-Governmental (National and International) Organizations like Lions, Rotarians, Waltair Round Table 92, Mahila Action Help Society and others along with members of the Police
Department of Visakha Police, started a home for street children under the aegis of the then Commissioner of Police of Visakhapatnam, Sri. Kode Durga Prasad, IPS, under the leadership of the Founder President, Lion Vasudeva Rao, Kola.

The main activities of the PAPA are as follows:

- To assist street-children in the age group 3-14 years, providing them with basic necessities like food, shelter, education and good healthcare aimed at sustaining their long-term development.
- To transform them from an individual with no sense of discipline or responsibility to caring and responsible citizens of our society.
- To help them grow up in an atmosphere of happiness, love and to develop their personalities into full and harmonious norms of society.
- To reunite them with their families under ‘Back Home Policy’ subject to the condition that both the parties are willing and there is a congenial atmosphere at home.
- Children not interested in schooling are given vocational training. When found fit they are shown placements to help them sustain themselves. Thus, capable of making a living on their own, they are returned to the society under our ‘Rehabilitation Programme.’

Afore cited NGOs have been for the cause of welfare of street children in the city of Visakhapatnam. Their contribution is highly laudable and needs due recognition.
5.4 Guntur Municipal Corporation

5.4.1 About Guntur Corporation

Guntur is the fourth largest city in Andhra Pradesh. Guntur is a centre of learning and the administrative head quarters of Guntur district. The city is also a centre for business, industry, and agriculture. The region is identified as a major transportation and textile hub in India. Additionally, the Guntur area economy has an agricultural component that is internationally known for its exports of Chillies, Cotton, and Tobacco. The city rapidly became a major market for agricultural produce from the hinterland due to the opening of the railway link in 1890. The expansion continued post independence as well and was concentrated in what is now called “New Guntur.” The current size of the city has an inner radius of about 6 miles (9.7 km). The City-region comprises the surrounding suburban and rural areas spanning in all the directions. New townships are mushrooming in these areas.

5.4.2 Demographics

As per the 2001 India census, Guntur had a population of 514,707. Males constitute 50% of the population and females 50%. Guntur has an average literacy rate of 68%, higher than the national average of 65%: male literacy is 74%, and female literacy is 62%. 11% of the population in the city is under 6 years of age. Population of the city has crosses 7 lakh by 2010

5.4.3 Academics

Guntur is one of the first cities to provide higher education and graduate programs in India. The Acharya Nagarjuna University is one of the largest universities in the country, and covers various institutions from 2 districts. There are a number of graduate schools, colleges, and high schools providing basic and
higher education (agricultural, arts, bio-med, engineering, management, medical, nursing, pharmaceutical, sciences, technology) in the region. The Guntur Institute of Medical Sciences is one of many premier institutes in the city region. The Vedic University near Guntur specializes in the teaching of Vedic Sciences, other related philosophies.

5.4.4. Economy

   a) Cotton-Tobacco-Chillies-City

   Guntur city is a major commercial centre in India. Cotton, tobacco and chillies are some of the major commodities that are exported from here to different parts of the world. The city hosts the largest Asian market for red chillies. The Tobacco Board, India, a part of the Government of India, is headquartered in Guntur. The Chillies that are grown in this region are some of the hottest in the world, and are in constant competition with Chillies from Mexico for first place.

   b) Industrialization

   The industrial development in the Guntur Region is of medium scale. On a positive note, the region has minimal industrial and related pollution as compared to major cities in the country. It has skilled and educated workforce. Some of the industries in the area are: textile mills, Sangam Dairy, Cement factories, Chemical and Biotechnology parks, Andhra Fertilizers, jute mills, granite industries, diamond and other ore processing (Hindustan Zinc Limited), Auto-Nagar and software/IT Companies.

5.4.5 Culture and Diversity

   With the culture and traditions of ageless Sanatana Dharma/Vedic Civilization (known as Hinduism) and its principles, the Guntur Region had a
place for all religions, castes, sects and creeds. Guntur is known for its diverse
culture. One of the purportedly lost tribes of Israel called Bene Ephraim, has a
presence in Guntur, with even a Jewish synagogue. Religious faiths such as Islam
and Christianity lead a harmonious, peaceful existence.

5.4.6 Language

Telugu is the main language of communication in the city. One of the
earliest/purest forms of Telugu language can be noticed in this region. Other
languages such as English and Hindi are used in the city as well.

5.4.7. Transportation

a) Railways

Guntur junction is one of the Divisional headquarters and a major transit
point of the Indian railway system. All four metro cities and most state capitals
can be accessed through this transit point. Two other major transit points close to
Guntur are: Tenali and Vijayawada.

b) Roadways

The city is the regional headquarters of the State Road Transport System. It
is connected to all the major cities of the country through various national and
state highways. There are major highways such As Chennai–Guntur–Kolkata
highway, Guntur-Nagarjunasagar-Hyderabad highway, and the Guntur–
Vinukonda–Kurnool highway. Within the city the traffic primarily flows using the
inner, outer ring-roads, few bridges, and main roads.
5.4.8 NGOs Working with Street Children in Guntur

Guntur is the fourth largest city in Andhra Pradesh. Guntur is a centre of learning and the administrative capital of Guntur district. The city is also a centre for business, industry, and agriculture. The region is identified as a major transportation and textile hub in India. Additionally, the Guntur area economy has an agricultural component that is internationally known for its exports of chillies, cotton, and tobacco. It is a railway junction. Hence, street children are coming from all over India to take shelter in Guntur. Street children have been taking shelter in bus station, railway station, Gandhi Park, market and busy centres in Guntur. Some NGOs are working on street children in Guntur.

I. Don Bosco Navajeevan

Don Bosco Navajeevan has been working on street children in Guntur from 2004. It identified 4150 street children between 2004 and 2010. 3162 children have been registered in the organization. The organization provides food, cloth, medical care, formal education in addition to organizing awareness camps, skill training (carpentry, welding, motor mechanic, driving, motor vehicle service, press technology, tailoring, electrical and electronics) and child right campaigning. They have also done 143 home placements.

II. Kothapet Mahila Mandali

Kothapet Mahila Mandali, Guntur has been working on street children since 1990. They have been helping the street children through Integrated Street Children Programme. Run way children take shelter here and they are provided with food and clothing. The children are given counselling and taught the importance of life. They are trained in different skills such as tailoring, mechanism and carpentry, driving etc. The organization ends up providing shelter only to 300 children, every year, due to budgetary constraints.
“Street children are suffering for their families, when they are supposed to go to schools.” The Andhra Jyothi, the daily-news-paper estimated that in Guntur city there are about 800 street children. Most of these children are beggars. Some of them earn money by cleaning the railway compartments, and they use that money for their enjoyment like smelling white fluid distillers (whitener) as a drug and some of them also go for sexual enjoyment.

5.5 Summing Up

When the parallels among the three cities selected for study in coastal Andhra Pradesh Region of Andhra Pradesh are drawn, Vijayawada happens to be the city where the highest amount of work on street children is being undertaken, while Guntur city is lagging behind with meagre activity on street children. Visakhapatnam, of course, is seen on the picture with moderate activity on street children.