CHAPTER – V
PROFILE OF THE STUDY AREA
5.1 Introduction

This chapter is presented in three sections. Section-I deals with the profile of the Vizianagaram district in terms of location, landscape, climate, flora and fauna, demographic features, education, agriculture, irrigation, industry and other related aspects. Section-II presents the profile of the Gantyada Mandal of Vizianagaram District. The Profile of Vasadi Village in Gantyada Mandal is presented in Section III.

5.1.1 History of the District

The history of Vizianagaram district can be traced back to ancient India. It is connected with hoary past of Kalinga, one of the political divisions of ancient India. The Kalinga Empire extended from Cuttack in Orissa to Pithapuram in East Godavari District. As far back as in the 4th Century BC, the Nandas ruled the area between 467 BC and 336 BC. They were followed by the Mauryas, the Chedis, the Satavahanas, the Pitribhaktas, the Matharas, the Vasisthas, the Vishnukundins, the early Eastern Gangas, the Reddis of Rajahmundry and the Velanati Cholas till the Kakatiyas appeared on the political scene by 1210 AD. Recorded evidence shows that some local dynasties like the Rapatri Chiefs, and the Gangas of Narayanapura (situated in the Bobbili block), the Gangas of Jantarunadu (situated in the Sruingavarapukota block), ruled over parts of the district from the 12th century to the middle of the 15th century at different periods of time.

This region came under Kakatiyas when Velanati Chola Chief, Prithvisvara was defeated by Ganapathi Deva in 1210 AD. However Eastern Gangas under AnangaBhima III, recoverd this and ruled up to 1443 AD. The Gajapathis of Orissa defeated Eastern Gangas and ruled for about 140 years till the Qutab Shahis conquered the territory around 1574 AD. Subsequently, the region came under the control of the Mughals after their
MAP 5.1: STATE OF ANDHRA PRADESH, INDIA
MAP 5.2: VIZIANAGARAM DISTRICT
Occupation of the Golconda in 1687 AD. When the Viceroy of the Mughals in Deccan, Nizam-ul-Mulk-AsafJah declared his independence in 1724 A.D., the area came under the rule of the AsafJahis.

In 1753, the successor of AsafJah, Salabat-Jung rewarded the French by ceding four Circars including the Chicacole Circar. An important event in the history of the district which occurred by about this time was the war between the Rajas of Vizianagaram and Bobbili, popularly known as ‘BobbiliYuddham’. The War was fought between the Rajah of Vizianagaram aided by the French General Bussy, and the Rajah of Bobbili on the 24th January 1757. The bravery and valour of the soldiers of Bobbili in this war is still remembered by the people of the area and is rendered in folk art viz. Burrakatha.

Another important event in the history of the district was the War between French and the English fought at Chandurthi in 1758 in which the French were defeated and the Northern Circars were handed over to the British under a firmana from the Mughal Emperor, Shah Alam in 1765. This region was placed under the then existing chief and Council at Vizagapatam i.e. the present Visakhapatnam. In 1794, the Chiefs and Councils were abolished and Vizagapatam was arranged into three divisions each under a collector. The entire area of the present area of Vizianagaram district fell under the second division. However, the three divisions were merged and a Collectorate for the whole district was established in 1803 after the introduction of the permanent settlement in the area.

With the abolition of the Zamindari system in 1948, Visakhapatnam district was bifurcated into Visakhapatnam and Srikakulam districts for administrative convenience. Thus Srikakulam district was carved out in 1950. However, in view its historical significance, backwardness and economic potential, Vizianagaram district was carved out of Visakhapatnam and Srikakulam districts in 1979. The Taluks of Srongavarapukota, Vizianagaram, Gajapathinagaram, Bhogapuram from Visakhapatnam district and Parvatipuram, Kurupam, Salur, Bobbili, Badangi and Cheepurupalli from Srikakulam district are transferred to Vizianagram District.
5.1.2 Location and Landscape

The District of Vizianagaram was formed on the 1st June, 1979 with the headquarters at Vizianagaram (as per G.O. MS.No.700/Revenue (u) Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh, dated 15th May 1979) covering areas carved from Srikakulam and Visakhapatnam districts. The district is a part of the Northern Coastal plains of Andhra Pradesh and it is situated within the geographical coordinates of 17°–15’ and 19°–15’ of the Northern latitude and 83°–0’ to 83°–45’ of the Eastern longitude. The district of Vizianagaram is bounded on the East by Srikakulam district, on the West and South by Visakhapatnam district, on the South-East by Bay of Bengal and on the North by Orissa state. The total geographical area of district is 6,539 Sq. Kms and the district has a coastal line of 28 Kms. There are two revenue divisions viz; Vizianagaram division and Parvathipuram division and 34 mandals in the district.

However, Vizianagaram district can be divided into two distinct natural physical divisions: 1) Plains and 2) Hilly regions. The hilly region is mostly covered with densely wooded forests and comes under agency tract of the district. The plain portion of the district is a well cultivated tract. The areas transferred from Visakhapatnam district are mostly hilly and picturesque especially in the North. The agency tract mostly consists of the hilly regions covered by the Eastern Ghats, which run parallel to the coast from the South West to North East. The average height of these hills is over 914 Meters, although there are several peaks of even 1,219 Meters High. In the Parvathipuram division the hills are lower than elsewhere and consist of steep and rugged lines devoid of plateau.

5.1.3 Climate

The climate of the District is characterized by high humidity throughout the year with oppressive summer and good seasonal rainfall. The summer season is during the months of March to June. This is followed by the south-west monsoon season which continues up to September. The period from mid-October to the end of the November constitutes the post-monsoon season. December to February is the season with generally fine weather. The climate of the hilly parts of the district is different from that of the plains.
5.1.4 Rainfall

The normal annual rainfall of the district is 1131mm. The district receives rainfall during both the monsoon seasons i.e. South-West and North-East. The normal rainfall during South-West monsoon (June to September) amounts to 71 percent of the annual rainfall. The North-East monsoon rainfall during October and December accounts for 11 percent of the annual rainfall. August and September are the rainiest months in the year. Thus the district gets the benefit of both the South-West and North-East monsoons.

5.1.5 Rivers

The district has six perennial rivers viz., Nagavali, Suvarnamukhi, Gomukhi, Champavathi, Vegavathi and Gosthani. Nagavali is the main river in Vizianagaram district which flows in about 112 Kms, covering an ayacut of 2,832 Hectares. The total catchment area of this river is 8,963.95 Sq. Kms. The River Gosthani has its origin in Ananthagiri forest area of Srunagavarampukota, a few kilometers away from the famous Borra Caves (an important tourist spot). Suvarnamukhi River takes its birth in the hills of Salur and takes Eastern direction and finally joins Nagavali River in Palakonda mandal of Srikakulam District. Vegavathi River originates in Pachipenta hills of Pachipenta mandal and flows in the same direction parallel to Suvarnamukhi and finally joins Nagavali. The river Gomukhi originates from the Eastern Ghats and flows North-West of Salur and joins Suvarnamukhi at Seethanagaram. Champavathi River takes its origin in the Eastern Ghats in Vizianagaram District. The river finally falls into Bay of Bengal at Konada Village in Pusapatirega Mandal in Vizianagaram District.

5.1.6 Forest Cover

Vizianagaram District is rich in its forest wealth. The District has an agency tract with thick forests along the hills and plains. The total forest area in the district is 1, 17,345 hectares, which constituted 90 percent of the total geographical area of the district. Timber, tamarind, cashew, bamboo and minor forest produce like soap nuts, beedi leaves, shikakai and wild fruits are grown here. In recent years commercial plantations like coffee plantation are being raised in large scale to increase the forest wealth and to provide gainful employment to the tribals in the district.
5.1.7 Mineral Resources

The district of Vizianagaram is rich in mineral wealth. The important minerals present in the district are manganese, limestone kankar, graphite, sillimanite, mica, clay etc.

a) Manganese

Manganese is one of the most important minerals used in the iron and steel industry. Manganese ore occurs in this district at several places including Garbham, Kodur, Devada, Duvvam, Cheepurupalli, Perumali, Markondaputti, Gadasam, Bankuravalasa, Diguvamendingi, Eguvamendingi, Chintalavalasa and Nellimarla.

b) Kankar Limestone

Kankar limestone is generally found on the surface under a thin mantle of soil in a flat country surrounded by seasonal streams which is least dissected. Kankar limestone is found at places including Regati, Kunchigumadam, Daspeta, Chinna Nagulavalasa, Govindapuram, Kandivalasa, Sathivada and Borrapeta in substantial quantity.

c) Graphite

Graphite is found at 1.2 Km. South-West of Doliyamba Village in association with garnet ferrous Quartz vein intruding Khondalite. Graphite is also found near Marupalle to the East of Howrah-Madras line on the National Highway No.43 between Gajapathinagaram and Manapuram.

5.1.8 Flora and Fauna

The district receives rains from both the monsoons and the climate is tropical. The forests exhibit a variety of trees in quality, composition and density depending upon the soil moisture, climate, altitude, slope and distance from the sea. The floristic diversity is noticed in the quality and density of forests which range from 6 meters in poorer areas to over 20 meters in better areas. The forest types found in the district are: 1. Southern tropical moist-mixed deciduous forests, 2. Northern tropical dry deciduous forests-Sal type, 3. Southern tropical dry mixed deciduous forests, 4. Dry deciduous green forests, 5. Dry evergreen forests. The forest plays an important role in the economy of Vizianagaram District.

Fauna in the district is fairly high in the interior hilly regions, but it is heavily threatened with extinction. The reasons for the depletion are mainly due to shrinkage of habitat and uncontrolled poaching. The principal animals and birds found from along the sea-
coast to the high plateau are Yellow bat, Sloth bear, Wild buffaloes, Mongoose, Cheetah, Fox, Hare, Hyena, Jackal, Blue rock, House crow, House sparrow, Pigeon, Myna Pitta etc.,

5.1.9 Population

According to the All-India Census of 2011 the total population of Vizianagram district is 23,42,868 with a density 358 persons per sq. Kms. The district has witnessed rapid growth in population during 1970s and 1980s. Data relating to the growth of population in Vizianagaram District are presented in table 4.1. From the table it may be observed that the decadal growth of population in the district was very low up to the year 1961. However, during the period 1971 to 1991 the district has witnessed a tremendous growth in population, which jumped from 12.26 per cent to 17.00 per cent during this period. However, the growth of population of the district has declined during the last two decades i.e.to 6.55 percent in 2001 and further to 4.16 percent by 2011. This is attributed mainly to the low birth rate, large scale out migration, high infant mortality and overall death rate since the district is the most backward district in the North coastal region of Andhra Pradesh.
## Table 5.1: Decadal Growth of Population and Density in Vizianagaram District

(1901-2011)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Decadal variation (+) increase</th>
<th>Density of population (per Sq Km)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No. of Persons</td>
<td>Percentage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>9,58,778</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1911</td>
<td>10,07,388</td>
<td>48,610</td>
<td>5.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1921</td>
<td>10,18,268</td>
<td>10,880</td>
<td>1.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1931</td>
<td>11,19,891</td>
<td>1,01,623</td>
<td>9.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1941</td>
<td>12,35,800</td>
<td>1,15,909</td>
<td>10.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>13,47,764</td>
<td>1,11,964</td>
<td>9.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>14,15,961</td>
<td>68,197</td>
<td>5.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>15,89,558</td>
<td>1,73,597</td>
<td>12.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>18,04,196</td>
<td>2,14,638</td>
<td>13.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>21,10,943</td>
<td>3,06,747</td>
<td>17.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>22,49,254</td>
<td>1,38,311</td>
<td>6.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>23,42,868</td>
<td>93,614</td>
<td>4.16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Director of Census Operations, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.

According to the 2011 census, out of the total population of the district, 11, 61,913 are males and 11, 80,955 are females. Sex-wise analysis of the population shows that females out number males i.e. there are 1066 females for every 1000 males. While females account for 50.41 percent of the total population their male counter parts account for 49.59 per cent.
Though Vizianagaram city is traditionally a rich educational and cultural centre in the state of Andhra Pradesh, Vizianagaram district has been comparatively backward in the field of education. Data relating to literacy in Vizianagaram district in comparison to Andhra Pradesh and all India are presented in table 4.2. From the data it may be observed that the total literacy of Vizianagaram district was very low at the time of the formation of the district. According to 1981 census the literacy rate in Vizianagaram district was 21.74 percent as against the state literacy of 34.08 percent and all India literacy level of 41.44 percent. Further, the literacy rates for males and females in Vizianagaram District are lower compared to Andhra Pradesh and all India level. The male literacy in Vizianagaram district in 1981 was only 30.98 percent compared to male literacy at the state level of 44.60 percent and all India level of 53.48 percent. In the case of female literacy the District accounts for mere 12.55 percent as against 23.25 percent at the state level and 28.47 percent at the all India level. Similar trend is observed in the subsequent periods also. It may be observed from the data that even after three decades Vizianagaram district is having low rates of literacy compared to the state level and all India level. According to the 2011 census, the total literacy of Vizianagaram district is 59.49 percent as against the state literacy level of 67.66 percent and all India literacy level of 74.04 percent. The literacy rate of males is estimated as 69.04 percent in Vizianagaram district as against 75.56 percent at the state level and 82.14 percent at the all-India level. With regard to female literacy, Vizianagaram district accounts for 50.16 percent as against 59.74 percent at the state level and 65.46 percent at the all India level. Thus the data shows that Vizianagaram district is relatively backward in terms of literacy of both males and females compared to the state level and all-India level.

Table 5.2: Literacy in Vizianagaram District vis-à-vis Andhra Pradesh and all India.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>year</th>
<th>Vizianagaram District</th>
<th>Andhra Pradesh</th>
<th>All India</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>30.98</td>
<td>12.55</td>
<td>21.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>46.00</td>
<td>22.50</td>
<td>34.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>63.00</td>
<td>40.73</td>
<td>51.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>69.04</td>
<td>50.16</td>
<td>59.49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.1.11 Agriculture

Agriculture being the mainstay of the people of the district, the prosperity and development of the Vizianagaram district is mainly dependent on agriculture. Vizianagaram District is predominantly agricultural with 72.6 percent of the workers engaged in agriculture and about 83 percent of the population living in rural areas that depends on agriculture and allied activities. Nearly 80 percent of its area is cultivated under purely rainfed conditions. The rest of the area which is termed as irrigated area is mostly on the rainfall residue in the district. Paddy is cultivated mainly during the Kharif season. The major dry crops are groundnut, bajra, ragi, sugar cane, pulses etc. The average crop yields obtained in the Vizianagaram district are low compared to other districts in the state.

5.1.12 Irrigation

Vizianagaram District has no major irrigation projects. However, there are some medium irrigation projects. Thatipudi Reservoir scheme which benefits an ayacut of irrigated area of 15,365 hectares spread over three mandals viz., Gantyada, Jami and S.Kota. The Vottigedda Reservoir Scheme benefits an ayacut area of 6,191 hectares. Paradhi ayacut scheme benefits an ayacut area of 3,179 hectares. Surapadu ayacut provides water facility to 574 hectares. Vegavathi ayacut is spread over 18 villages and it benefits an ayacut area of 1,195 hectares. Seethanagaram ayacut irrigates a total of 1,367 hectares, in Seethanagaram Mandal. Nagavali right side and left side canals provide water to ayacut area of 2,428 hectares.

Peda Ankalam ayacut irrigates a total of 2,966 hectares spread over two mandals viz., Balijipeta and Vangara. Vengalaraya Sagar Project covers three mandals namely Makkuvu, Seethanagaram and Bobbili and irrigates a total of 8,479 hectares. Andra Project provides water facility to 8,935 hectares in Andra and Gajapathinagaram mandals. Denkada irrigation scheme benefits an ayacut 4430 hectares spread over in two mandals viz., Denkada and Bhogapuram.

5.1.13 Industries

Industrialisation is considered a key to economic development of any country or region. The growth of industry and employment opportunities in cities induces migration of people from the rural areas to cities and this result in rapid growth of the cities. Vizianagram
district is predominantly agricultural, and as such industrial development in the district is largely agro based. There are a few medium scale industrial units in the district such as jute mills at Salur, Bobbili, Nellimarla, Vizianagaram and sugar factories at Bheemasinghi and Bobbili. There is one Ferro Alloys industry at Sri Ramnagar, Garividi. There are resource-based industries such as bricks and tile making industries around Kothhavalasa. Besides this sponge iron units of M/s Gold star Alloy limited and M/s Maa Mahamaya Industries are situated at Jindal Nagar of kothavala Mandal. Prawn feed manufacturing unit of M/s C.P.Acque limited, maize starch unit of M/s Vizianagar Biotech and Pharmaceutical unit of M/s matrix Industries are located at Poosapatirega Mandal and M/s Miracle soft are at Bhogapuram Mandal and Bio-mass power plant of M/s Perpetual systems at Seethanagaram mandal are prominent industrial establishments such as general engineering motor workshops, rolling mills, R.C.C spun pipes, ground nut oil mills, saw mills, aluminum utensils, body building units of lorry, cycle rickshaw and auto rickshaw etc, are also located in and around Vizianagaram. The district has no basic or heavy industry.

5.2. A brief Profile of Gantyada Mandal

Gantyada mandal is located at a distance of 18 kms from the district headquarters Vizianagaram. The mandal is surrounded by Bondapalli and Vizianagaram mandals in the East, Jami mandal in the South, S.Kota and Araku mandal in the West and again Bondapalli mandal in the North. Location of the mandal is presented in Map no.3. It is connected by an all-weather motorable road to its to its district headquarters Vizianagaram city which is also the nearest railway station. The mandal has 45 villages in its jurisdiction including 35 Gram Panchayats. Total area under irrigation in the mandal is 16,788 acres which includes 7585 acres under Thatipudi reservoir constructed on Gosthani River and 9203 acres under Tank irrigation. The mandal has 11,343 acres
MAP 5.3: GANTYADA MANDAL, VIZIANAGARAM DISTRICT
under dry land farming and 14,163 acres under Poramboke (fallow government land). There are four major crops grown in the mandal. There are four major crops grown in the mandal viz. Rice, Sugarcane, Mango and Banana. Rice or Paddy crop is the major crop cultivated in an area of 5,456 acres followed by 405 acres under Banana and 178 acres under Sugarcane. Mango plantation is the major horticulture crop grown in the mandal in an area of 4,091 acres. The mandal has one medium reservoir called Thatipudi Reservoir, 26 major irrigation tanks, 357 minor irrigation tanks and 820 dug wells.

According to 2001 census, the mandal has 16,650 households with a total population of 67,546 out of which 33,908 are males and 33,638 are females. The total scheduled caste population of the mandal is 7903, out of which 4074 are males and 3829 are females. ST population of the mandal is 2224 out of which 1168 are males and 1056 are females. Total literates in mandal are 33,409 out of which 19,302 are males and 14,107 are females. The mandal being a rural mandal, the occupational distribution includes 17,085 cultivators, 13,494 marginal farmers, 2294 small farmers and 9597 agricultural labourers.

Drinking water supply in the mandal is met after the commissioning of Thatipudi reservoir to all 53 revenue villages of the mandal. There are 443 bore wells in use besides 138 open wells being used as a source of drinking water. As per the revenue records farmers in the mandal use 431 electrical motors for irrigation out of which 219 motors are provided with free electricity by government while 212 motors have been charged for electricity.

With respect to education, the mandal has 43 middle primary education (M.P.E) schools, 7 upper primary (U.P) schools, 10 high schools, 4 junior colleges, 1 degree college, 2 B.Ed. colleges, 1 D.Ed. College, 1 college for M.B.A. programme, 1 boys hostel for S.C students and 3 hostels for B.C students.

With respect to health infrastructure, there are 2 Primary Health Centers at Gantyada and P.M.Palem. There are 3 veterinary dispensaries in the mandal. With respect to the Public Distribution System (PDS), the mandal has 43 Fair price Shops (F.P.S.) for distributing cheap
rice to the poor which serve 16,044 white card holders, 2260 RAP (Rachha Banda Annapoorna) cards and 34 Annapurna cards. According to the government reports made available by district authorities the requirement of essential commodities in the mandal includes 2339.64 quintals of Rice, 32,755 liters of Palm oil and 20,194 kgs of Red Gram.

There are 7 banks in the mandal and 340 households have been given loan eligibility cards by the authorities for availing low-interest loans. The mandal has no major or minor industry and as such it is an agrarian rural mandal.

5.3. Vasadi Village in Gantyada Mandal- a brief Profile

Our sample village Vasadi is a moderately developed and middle income village in Gantyada mandal. The village is flanked by Kotha Velagada village in the North-East, Konda Thamarapalli village in the South-East, Buradapadu village in the South, Donkada village in the West and Srungavarapukota mandal in the North. It is connected by an all-weather motorable metal road to mandal headquarters located at Gantyada (5 kms) and district headquarters (20 kms) at Vizianagaram which is also the most used railway station by villagers connecting the Howrah-Chennai rail network. Andhra Pradesh Road Transport Corporation runs bus service every 30 minutes to the village from Vizianagaram and Srungavarapukota making travel comfortable and quick to the villagers. All the roads inside the village are made of cement-concrete with drains built though not well serviced and cleaned.

There are 1621 households in the village with a total population of 3142 (Census 2011) out of which 1550 are males and 1592 are females constituting 2240 voters on the electoral rolls of the election commission. It has 502 children in the age group of 0 to 6 years out of which 257 are male and 245 are female. With regard to literacy the village accounts for 1870 literates aged 7 years and above out of whom 945 are males and 925 are females.
MAP 5.4: VASADI VILLAGE IN GANTYADA MANDAL
The village is inhabited by mostly backward caste and Scheduled caste communities. Out of the total 1621 households, 890 households belong to Koppula Velama caste (BC), 440 households belong to Scheduled caste (SC), 140 households belong to Turpu Kapu (BC-D), 65 households belong to washerman (Chakali) caste (BC-A), 49 households belong to Padmasali (BC-B), 26 households belong to upper castes and 11 households belong to Scheduled Tribes (STs).

Vasadi village has a total of 588 acres of geographical area out of which 373 acres are wet land, 66 acres are dry land and 149 acres are Poramboku (government fallow land). The village lands are irrigated by Thatipudi Reservoir and a total of 385 acres are irrigated under it in the village. Major crops grown are paddy, vegetables and green gram. According to village elders, the reservoir water is not given in sufficient quantity for even one crop due to heavy siltation in the reservoir and also due to very poor maintenance of irrigation canals. There are 100 farmers in the village with land holding size between 2 to 5 acres and 15 farmers who own more than 5 acres. The village produces a large quantity of fresh milk and supplies 500 liters of milk every day to Visakha dairy at ` 25 per liter. Dairy farming has turned out to be a remunerative secondary source of income for farmers in the village. Increased milk production in turn increased the incomes of farmers who supply 18 liters on an average from each household every day.

Drinking water is supplied to the village through pipes and stand posts from Thatipudi Reservoir and there is no problem of fluoride and Arsenic in the village. An NGO based in Vizianagaram called 'World Vision India' has invested ` 4 Lakhs for setting up mineral water unit to supply villagers clean water at a nominal cost of ` 5 for 20 litre. There are at present 44 septic toilets in the village and due to the support of the NGO 50 more are being built. The NGO – World Vision has provided plastic net caps to cover the ventilation pipes of the toilets to ward off mosquitoes and foul smell. Most of the men go for open as part of their morning walk and some women use toilets in their homes sparingly. World Vision NGO is building community toilets in the village with the arrangement of owning and maintaining one toilet by three families. Most of the households could not build toilets due to poverty and non-receipt of government subsidies. Open defecation on both the sides of the metal road has created very insanitary atmosphere right at the entrance of the village with foul smell, flies and mosquitoes. A visitor is greeted by foul smell, muck and garbage heaps on the village roads.
The health infrastructure in the village is in a very bad condition as the building meant for Primary Health Center (PHC) in a dilapidated condition and the doctor and ANM are rare visitors in the PHC forcing the villagers to go to private doctors in S.Kota and Vizianagaram at considerable cost. Viral fevers, diarrhea and jaundice are common diseases during the monsoon period. State government’s ‘call at emergency medical ambulance known as 108 services’ has been of great help to villagers which ferries them to the government hospital in Vizianagaram. Mosquito menace and foul odor are vexing problems in the village due to unclean drains, water logging, open defecation and absence of garbage lifting and safe disposal mechanism. Drains are cleaned once in a month and solid waste is lifted once in three months resulting in severe insanitary conditions in the village.

The village has a primary school and a high school where students can study from class I to X and students from neighbouring villages also come and study. There are 5 male teachers and 5 lady teachers in the school but the toilet facilities for both boys and girls are in bad condition as they are dirty due to poor maintenance. According to students the quality of teaching in the school is quite good and the results obtained at the state level school year-end examination are very impressive. There are 20 graduates in the village that includes 5 women and the village boasts of 15 engineers including 6 women. There are 15 school teachers from the village who are working outside the village. There are 6 retired teachers and 5 health inspectors in the village.

The villagers have a serious complaint that due to postponement of panchayat elections, the village does not have a Sarpanch and a village secretary has been appointed by the government to administer the services in the village. Villagers complain that the secretary hardly visits the village and shows scant attention to the problems of the villagers. This has resulted in severe insanitary conditions, poor hygiene and absence of health care in the village.

Reference