CHAPTER-4
CHAPTER – 4
PROFILE OF ANDHRA PRADESH AND STUDY AREA

This chapter is devoted to present the profile of Andhra Pradesh and the sample district. This Chapter is divided into two sections. Section-I presents the profile of the Andhra Pradesh and Profile of the Guntur district is given in Section-II.

Fig. 4.1 MAP OF ANDHRA PRADESH

Fig. 4.1 MAP OF ANDHRA PRADESH
4.1. Profile of Andhra Pradesh:

Andhra Pradesh was formed on 1st November 1956, with Hyderabad as its capital. It lies between 12°38' and 19°55' N and 76°45' and 85°45' E and is bounded by Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa in the north, Karnataka in the west, the Bay of Bengal in the east and Tamil Nadu in the south. Andhra Pradesh is the fifth largest state, spreading over an area of 275,045 sq km and accounting for 8.4% of India's territory. It has a 974 km coastline, which is the second longest after Gujarat. Andhra Pradesh is divided into three distinctive characteristic regions - Rayalaseema, Coastal Andhra, and Telangana. Rayalaseema covers 24.47%, Telangana 41.5%, and Coastal Andhra 33.78% of the total geographical area of the state. Administratively, the state is divided into 23 districts. Andhra Pradesh has a total population of 7.57 core population as per the 2001 census, of which 73% live in rural areas. The density of population in 275 per sq km is below the national average of 324 sq km. The literacy rate for male population is 70.32, while for the female population, it is 50.43%. About 35% of the state's domestic product comes from primary sector, i.e., agriculture, forestry, etc., 19% from secondary sector (manufacturing sector) and 45% from tertiary sector (service sector). About 76% of the workforce includes cultivators and agriculture labourers in the state. The sex ratio is 978 females per 1000 males. The population growth rate in the state showed a decline (13.8 percent) compared to the previous decade (24 percent over 1981-1991). Literacy rates improved from 44 percent (1991) to 61 percent (2001).
The hilly areas cutting across the Coastal Andhra and Telangana regions are dominated by tribal communities and can be considered as another region of the state, owing to its unique set of problems and underdevelopment. Coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema regions were part of the Madras Presidency until 1953, when they were formed as a separate state of Andhra. Telangana was part of the erstwhile Hyderabad State ruled by the Nizams, and merged with Andhra state to form the second state along linguistic lines (Orissa was the first) in the country.

Physiographically, the state can be divided into three zones, viz., Coastal Plains, Eastern Ghats and Peneplains. The state being a part of peninsular India is seismically highly stable.

Coastal Plains: Towards the eastern side of the state the sea coast extends from Srikakulam in the north to Nellore in the south. The length of the coastline running along the Bay of Bengal is about 980 km. The coastal plains are bordered by the Eastern Ghats towards the landward side.

Peneplains: The topography of the Peneplain region consists of rounded with low hills and the Deccan Plateau. The Eastern Ghats slope towards the eastern border of this area. These Peneplains are formed due to intense weathering and denudation over a long period. Soils in this area are generally red sandy loams. Black soil also exists in the central and north-eastern regions. The Peneplains exist in districts of Anantapur, Kurnool and in all the districts of Telangana. The climate is generally hot and humid. The average rainfall in the state is about 925 mm. The Krishna and the Godavari are the major rivers in the state AP is the largest maritime state in India.
The 23 districts of Andhra Pradesh are further sub-divided into 1,104 revenue mandals for administration, revenue collection and implementation of development programmes. The Mandals in turn, constitute village Panchayats. There are no intermediate administrative divisions between the district and the development block as in most other states. The demographic profile of the state has one of the lowest urbanization rates amongst the southern states (second to Kerala) with urbanisation being more pronounced during the 1971-1991 period. The annual growth rate of the rural population has shown a steady decline and is currently estimated at 1.4 percent.

Two belts of low population distribution are seen, the first covering most of the areas of Adilabad and Khammam districts and passing through the hilly areas of Karimnagar, Warangal, West Godavari, East Godavari and Visakhapatnam districts, and the second in the Telangana Region. These belts enclose the districts of Medak, Nalgonda and Nizamabad which have medium density of population. The highly populated districts of the state include East Godavari, West Godavari spread across the delta region of river Godavari, and Krishna and Guntur districts in the delta region of the Krishna River. These four districts account for less than 25 percent of the state’s total population. Vizianagaram, Adilabad and Nizamabad districts have low population and together account for only 9 percent of the state population.

The literacy levels in the state had shown a very slow increase over the past decades, except for the 1981-91 decade when the percentage increase crossed the single digit growth of the previous decades. Provisional figures of the 2001 Census
indicate an overall literacy rate of 61.1 percent, with male literacy at 70.8 percent and female literacy at 51.1 percent.

This is a major improvement in one decade, though it still lags behind national rates - 65 percent overall and 76 percent and 54 percent for men and women respectively. This improvement is reflected in the district-level data where the backward districts of Rayalaseema and Telangana are seen to have made major improvements over 1991 figures. There has also been an overall narrowing of gender differentials due to major improvements in female literacy figures. But overall, the backward districts of North Coastal Andhra, Telangana and Rayalaseema continue to lag behind developed districts of Coastal Andhra.

4.2. Tribal Groups in Andhra Pradesh

Andhra Pradesh is home to 35 communities officially designated as Scheduled Tribes (STs). They numbered 50,24,104 in the 2001 Census. Out of the 35 STs, recently two communities, namely, Nakkala/Kurvikaran, Dhulia/Paiko/Putiya (in the districts of Vishakhapatnam and Vizianagaram) have been denotified in the state. Twelve tribes, namely, Bodo Gadaba, Gutob Gadaba, Bondo Poraja, Khond Poraja, Parangiperja, Chenchu, Dongaria Khonds, Kutiya Khonds, Kolam, Kondareddis, Konda Savaras and Thoti have been recognized as Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs).

Except Kondareddis and Thoti, the population statistics of other PTGs are not available separately as these are notified as sub-groups/sections of main communities. The population of KondaReddis and Thoti is 83,096 and 2,074 respectively, as per the 2001 Census.
4.3. Population Size and Distribution of Tribes

The STs of Andhra Pradesh constitute 6.75 percent of India's tribal population. Although the state's STs comprise only 6.59 percent of the state's population, they account for the largest tribal concentration in Southern India. The Scheduled Areas of Andhra Pradesh, covered by the Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) approach, are spread over 31,485 sq km in 5936 villages (11,855 habitation) in the districts of Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Warangal, Khammam, Adilabad and Kurnool. The 35 reported ST communities are mainly concentrated in nine districts declared as Scheduled Areas by special government order in 1950. Sixty percent of the STs live in forest areas in the Eastern Ghats, on the banks of the river Godavari. Two-thirds of the ST populations in the State of Andhra Pradesh live in these areas. This constitutes 11% of the total geographical area of the state. Among the 23 districts, Khammam has the highest ST population (26.47%), followed by Adilabad (16.74%), Visakhapatnam (14.55%), Warangal (14.10%) and Nalgonda (10.55%). This zone forms the traditional habitat of 31 tribal communities in Scheduled Areas (sprawling 30,030 sq km) and the rest outside. The other three tribal groups, i.e., Lambada, Yerukala and Yanadi mostly live outside the Scheduled Areas. Out of the 35 STs, Sugalis are numerically the largest ST with a population of 2,077,947 constituting 41.4 percent of the state's ST population. They are followed by Koya 568,019 (11.3 percent), Yanadis 462,167 (9.2 percent), Yerukulas 437,459 (8.7 percent) and Gonds 252,038 (5 percent). These five ST communities account for 76 percent of the total ST population in the state. Of the total ST population, 92.5
percent live in the rural areas. Among the major STs, Gonds have the highest (97.6 percent) rural population, followed by Koya (95.5 percent), Sugalis (93.7 percent), Yanadis (86.4 percent) and Yerukulas (77.5 percent). Districtwise distribution of ST population shows that they are mainly concentrated in the districts of Khammam, Visakhapatnam, Warangal, Adilabad and Nalgonda. These five districts constitute 48.9 percent of the total ST population of the state.

4.4. List of Officially Recognised Scheduled Tribe Groups in the State

1. Andh, Sadhu Andh (Agency areas of Adilabad District).

2. Bagata (Agency areas of Visakhapatnam District).

3. Bhil (Agency areas of Srikakulam and Vizianagaram Districts - North Coastal Area).


5. Gadabas, Bodo Gadaba, Gutob Gadaba, Kallayi Gadaba, Parangi Gadaba, Kathera Gadaba, Kapu Gadab (Agency areas of Visakhapatnam District - North Coastal Area).


7. Goudu (Khammam, East and West Godavari Districts).


11. Kattunayakan (Warangal, Khammam).


13. Konda Dhoras, Kubi (Khammam, East and West Godavari Districts.)

15. Kondareddis (Khammam, East and West Godavari Districts).


21. Manna Dhora (Khammam).

22. Mukha Dhora, Nooka Dhora (Khammam, East and West Godavari Districts).


25. Porja, Parangiperja (Agency areas of Visakhapatnam District and North Coastal Area).


27. Rona, Rena (Agency areas of North Coastal Area).

28. Savaras, Kapu Savaras, Maliya Savaras, Khutto Savaras (Agency areas of Srikakulam and Vizianagaram Districts - North Coastal Area).


32. Yenadis, Chella Yenadi, Kappala Yenadi, Manchi Yenadi, Reddi Yenadi.
33. Yerukulas, Koracha, Dabba Yerukula, Kunchapuri Yerukula, Uppu Yerukula (Mahaboobnagar, Warangal, and West Godavari).

34. Nakkala, Kurvikaran (Agency areas of Srikakulam and Vizianagaram Districts North Coastal Area).

35. Dhulia, Paiko, Putiya (in the districts of Vishakhapatnam and Vizianagaram).

In some districts, the tribal population is spread thinly and they live along with non tribal communities. The indigenous tribes are mostly concentrated in contiguous tracts of the above districts that have been designated as Scheduled Areas administered by the Integrated Tribal Development Agencies (ITDAs). There are around one million ST households in the state and about half of them live in 5,936 villages in the nine ITDA areas. The Scheduled Areas are inhabited by an estimated 2.8 million tribals who are entitled to the benefits of TSP projects and protective legislations. In conformity with the national TSP strategy, Andhra Pradesh tribal population is divided into four categories:

(i) Those living in tribal concentration areas in the scheduled villages and adjoining areas, i.e., the TSP areas administered by ITDAs. Each of the above nine districts has one ITDA named after the tribal concentration block where it is headquartered;

(ii) PTGs, i.e., communities who live in near isolation in inaccessible habitats in and outside the Scheduled Areas who are at the pre-agricultural stage of the economy;

(iii) those living in small pockets outside the scheduled areas, i.e., Modified Area Development Agency (MADA) areas and tribal clusters; and

(iv) Dispersed Tribal Groups, i.e., those dispersed throughout the state.
### Table 4.1 Distribution of the Table Basic Information about Scheduled Tribes in the State

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Andhra Pradesh Population (2001)</th>
<th>762 Lakh</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ST Population</td>
<td>50.24 Lakh (6.59%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male – 25.48 lakh,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female – 24.76 lakh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST population in tribal areas</td>
<td>30.47 lakh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST Population in plain areas</td>
<td>19.77 lakh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tribal groups</td>
<td>35 tribal group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs)</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrated Tribal Development Agencies (ITDA)</td>
<td>10 Seethampeta, Parvathipuram, Paderu, R.C. Varam, K.R. Puram, Bhadrachalam, Eturumaram, Uttoo, Srisailam and Nellore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITDA area</td>
<td>31,485.34 sq kms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modified Area Development Approach (MADA) pockets</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clusters</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scheduled villages</td>
<td>5938</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Scheduled Villages</td>
<td>809</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of habitations in ITDA area</td>
<td>11855</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total No. of SHGs in tribal areas</td>
<td>475646</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total No. of ST members enrolled</td>
<td>10,46,371</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: Office of the Registrar General, Government of India 2001)

#### 4.5. Sex Ratio

The overall sex ratio of the ST population is 972 females per 1000 males, which is marginally lower than 978 reported for the state population as a whole at 2001 Census. The overall sex ratio of the ST population has registered an increase over 960 reported at the 1991 Census. The sex ratio of above 1000 among ST population in the five contiguous districts namely, Srikakulam (1009), Vizianagaram (1025), Visakhapatnam (1003), East Godavari (1011) and West Godavari (1018) have returned higher sex ratio among STs. In the remaining 18 districts it varies between 994 (Nizamabad) and 921 (Nalgonda).
below shows the sex ratio and child sex ratio (0-6) at the national, state and numerically the largest five STs at 2001 Census:

Table 4.2 The Statement below shows the sex ratio and child sex ratio (0-6)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>All Sts (India)</th>
<th>All STs (Andhra Pradesh)</th>
<th>Sugalis</th>
<th>Koya</th>
<th>Gond</th>
<th>Yanadis</th>
<th>Yerukulas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Ages 0-6</td>
<td>978</td>
<td>972</td>
<td>939</td>
<td>1006</td>
<td>1013</td>
<td>957</td>
<td>984</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-6 Ages 0-9</td>
<td>973</td>
<td>972</td>
<td>944</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>999</td>
<td>950</td>
<td>971</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: Office of the Registrar General, Government of India 2001)

As shown in the statement, the child sex ratio (0-6) of ST population of Andhra Pradesh is equal to the child sex ratio of ST population at the national level. Among the numerically major STs, Sugalis and Yanadis have lower sex ratio both in overall and 0-6 age group populations than the state ST population and the other major STs.

4.6. Literacy Level

Literacy and level of education are two basic indicators of the level of development achieved by a group/society. Literacy results in more awareness besides contributing to the overall improvement of health, hygiene and other social conditions. According to 2001 Census, the percentage of literate persons (those who can read and write with understanding), aged 7 years and above, among ST population of Andhra Pradesh is 37 percent, which is lower than 60.5 percent reported for state population as a whole. The literacy data shows that the ST population of the state has made significant improvement in literacy during the decade 1991-2001. The literacy rate, which was 17.1 percent in 1991, has increased by 19.9 percentage points in 2001. But in comparison to other states/UTs, the position of ST population of Andhra Pradesh is not satisfactory. It is just above
Uttar Pradesh (35.1 percent) and Bihar (28.2 percent), which are bottom two states in literacy rate for ST population among all states/UTs. At the district level, the highest literacy rate has been recorded in Hyderabad (55.4 percent) and the lowest in Mahabubnagar (25.8 percent). Among the major STs, Yerukulas have reported the highest literacy rate (45.4 percent), followed by Koyas (41.8 percent), Gonds (36.4 percent), Yanadis (35.3 percent) and Sugalis (34.3 percent). Female literacy rate of 26.1 percent among the ST population is a matter of concern as almost a fourth of ST females are illiterate in the state.

As against the general literacy rate of 61.01 percent, literacy among the tribals is 17.16 percent and among tribal women it is 8.68 percent. The highest literacy rate is in the district of Anantapur (26.73 percent), followed by Kurnool (24.86 percent) and the least (10.06 percent) is in Mahabubnagar District. The highest female literacy is in Hyderabad (32.28 percent), while the least is in Mahabubnagar District (3.10% percent). Literacy and other basic development indicators among the PTGs like the Khonds, Chenchus, Gadabas, and others are even less than this average. The growth rate of ST population in the decade 1991-2001 at 19.6 percent has been higher if compared to the overall growth rate of 14.6 percent of the state population as a whole. Among the numerically major STs, a highest growth rate of 36 percent has been recorded in the case of Sugalis, followed by Koyas (24.4 percent), Gonds (18.9 percent), Yanadis (16.8 percent) and Yerukulas (12.8 percent).
### Table 4.3 Educational Levels Attained by Major STs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of ST</th>
<th>Literate Without Educational Level</th>
<th>Below Primary</th>
<th>Primary</th>
<th>Middle</th>
<th>Metric/Secondary/Higher Secondary/Intermediate, etc.</th>
<th>Technica l &amp; Non-technical Diploma</th>
<th>Graduate &amp; Above</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All STs</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>42.0</td>
<td>28.4</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>12.3</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugalis</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>43.6</td>
<td>25.7</td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>13.3</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koya</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>43.4</td>
<td>29.2</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gond</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>50.0</td>
<td>25.1</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yanadis</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>47.0</td>
<td>29.7</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yerukulas</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>32.2</td>
<td>30.8</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>17.7</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: Office of the Registrar General, India 2001)

Out of total literates, 48.3 percent are literates without any educational level or have attained below Primary level. The literates, who have attained education up to Primary level and Middle level, constitute 28.4 percent and 8.5 percent respectively. 12.3 percent are having educational level up to Metric/Higher Secondary, etc. levels, implying that every 8th ST literate is a Matriculate. Literates with educational level of Graduation and above are 1.8 percent. Individually, Yerukulas (3.3 percent) have the highest percentage of Graduate and above educational level. The educational level table also shows that the drop out is conspicuous after the Primary level and again after Metric/Secondary levels.

Population in the age group 5-14 years are the potential students. Only 60.7 percent of the ST population in this age group has been attending various educational institutions.

### 4.7. Livelihoods of the Tribe

The economy and livelihood practices of the tribals are closely associated with the ecological factors and habitats which they inhabit. Among the plain tribes, the Yerukulas are the traditional basket makers and swine herders. They are known as the ex-criminal tribe of Andhra Pradesh. They live mostly in multi -caste
villages, maintaining symbiotic relations with the non-tribals. The Yanadis' habitats are mostly found on the banks of rivers, lakes, tanks and canals. Their main livelihood is fishing. Besides this they also catch the field rats exclusively for their own consumption purpose. The settlements of the Lambadas are found in separate hamlets, locally termed as Tandas. Most of their habitats are located nearer to hillocks or in the places with green pastures where they could rear cattle. Earlier, the Lambadas were known to be nomads, but in modern times, they are becoming sedentary cultivators, and rearing of cattle has become their secondary occupation. They are mostly distributed in the Telangana region and sparsely in Rayalaseema and the coastal areas. The Yerukulas are found throughout the state whereas the Yanadis are mostly concentrated in Nellore District and sparsely distributed in Coastal Andhra region.

Among the hill tribes, Chenchu, Kolam, Thoti, Konda reddi, Khond, Porja, Savara and Gadaba are classified as primitive tribes. The habitats of the primitive tribes are located on hill tops and slopes where plain landscape is totally absent. These tribes largely depend on shifting cultivation and minor forest produce collection. The Chenchus are considered to be the most primitive and they still largely depend on food gathering. However, some of the Chenchus are presently in the transitional stage - from food gathering to food producing. The traditional habitats of the Chenchus are found in contiguous forest tracts of Nallamalai Hills. Much area of the Nallamala hills through which Krishna River flows is presently declared as the Tiger Project Area.
Most of these communities are found inhabiting the border districts of the state in the north and the northeast. The tribals live in forests and use forest land for cultivation. They collect forest produce which varies from forest to forest to supplement what they grow on land. Land is used for living and livelihood. The lives of the tribals are influenced by their habitat, level of traditional and ancient knowledge, and the skills they possess in using the resources that are available. Land is the mainstay of the tribal people. Any discussion on the lives of tribals, irrespective of what aspect is being discussed is incomplete when the issue of land is left out. Not only their economies and livelihoods, but also their social relations, respective role of men and women, nature of struggles, their relationship with the state, with non-tribals, their religious rituals, are all closely related to land issues - particularly the land in and around forests.

Unlike the social structure of caste groups in the state, the tribal social organization is generally based on totemic clans. The various tribal groups claim mythical affinity with certain species of natural phenomenon of specific animate or inanimate objects and they regard these animate or inanimate objects as their ancestors. Such belief system and its associated practices are known as totemism. These totemic objects are considered as sacred and killing or eating of their flesh is a taboo. If their totemic animal dies, the concerned clan members observe all kinds of rituals and ceremonies and bury it as if it were their own dead kith and kin. The totem clans are found among Jatapus of Srikakulam and Vizianagaram districts, in all the 15 tribal groups of Visakhapatnam district; among Koyas of Godavari gorges and Gonds, Kolams, Pardhans and Thotis of Adilabad District.
The present economy of the tribals in AP is a consumption-subsistence economy with its main occupations being settled agriculture, podu (shifting) cultivation and collection of Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP), which totally comprise 88% of their occupation status. A vast variety of food grains, millets, pulses like rice, ragi, maize, jowar, legumes, vegetables and fruits are cultivated in the valleys and uplands/hills most of which are consumed domestically. Pulses and spices like chilly are the main source of cash flow from agriculture. In some of the areas closer to plains, the tribals have learnt to cultivate cash crops such as cotton, cashew, tubers, brinjal, tomato, ginger, turmeric and chilli.

The tribal economy, however, is in a state of transition. The complete isolation of the past has long since passed; interaction with and dependence on the outside is gradually increasing. However, Thus being backward and illiterate, the tribals are ill-prepared to deal with the outer world, and thus fall easy prey to exploitation by the non-tribal traders. Due to low productivity and lack of food security, the tribals have become dependent on the traders. But price manipulation and indiscriminate money lending has led many tribals into a debt trap from which they cannot escape. This has been due to the deterioration in the tribal eco-system which means that the former survival strategies have become less sustainable. Thus, the tribals are in a transition phase from a forest centered lifestyle to a rural, settled cultivation lifestyle, but the production from agriculture is not commensurate with the food requirements, whilst the scope for supplementation by way of intake of natural foods is diminishing due to depletion of the forests. The tribals are caught in a situation where they are on the one hand losing command over the natural
resources, and are unable to take command over the new resources at their disposal on the other.

The types of forest-based livelihoods of the poorest sections of communities are: TFP based (57%), fodder for goats and sheep (26%), fuel wood sale (12%) and wood-based craft making (5%). Among the three regions, households dependent on NTFP collection and sale are more in Telangana (73%) and Coastal (47%) regions, whereas in Rayalaseema Region the forest dependence is more for fodder to feed goats and sheep (51%). Head loading (fuel wood collection and sale) as a livelihood option is more prevalent in the North Coastal Region (20%) than in Telangana (7%) and Rayalaseema (8%) regions where it is a dwindling option due to degradation of forests. About 40 to 70 percent of the income for the tribal and other resource-poor communities is from the collection and sale of NTFPs. There are more than 65 different kinds of NTFPs available in the forests of Andhra Pradesh.

4.8. Work Participation Rate (WPR)

The Work Participation Rate (WPR) is the percentage of workers to the total population. The WPR of the ST population is 53.9 percent according to the 2001 Census, which is almost equal to 54.3 percent recorded in 1991. The WPR among males is 55.7 percent and females are 52 percent; more than half of the males/females have been returned workers among ST at 2001 Census. At the individual caste level, by and large, a consistent pattern is noted in the WPR. The highest WPR of 56.5 percent is reported for Yanadis and lowest among Yerukulas (50.5%). The Yerukulas have also recorded the lowest female WPR of 45.2 percent.
4.9. Category of Workers

There has been a decline in the main workers from 93.9 percent during the 1991 Census to 79.3 percent during the 2001 Census. This, in turn, has resulted in a corresponding increase in the marginal workers from 6.1 percent in 1991 to 20.7 percent in 2001. Out of the total number of workers, “agricultural labourers” constitute 49.3 percent, which is significantly higher when compared to 36.9 percent recorded for ST population at the national level. “Cultivators” accounting for 34.3 percent and 13.5 percent, have been returned as “other workers”. The remaining 3 percent have been workers in “household industry”. At the individual caste level among the major STs, the Yanadis have the maximum 76.2 percent of “agricultural laborers

4.10. Marital Status

Marital status is one of the important determinants of fertility and growth of a population. The 2001 Census data on marital status show that 48.7 percent persons among the STs of Andhra Pradesh are “never married”. The “currently married” constitute 46.9 percent, while 4 percent are “widowed” and only 0.5 percent are “divorced and separated”. A majority of the girls and boys among STs in Andhra Pradesh are getting married after attaining the legal age of marriage. However, marriages of ST girls below 18 years (3.2 percent) are higher than that recorded among ST population at the national level (2.1 percent). Similarly, the incidence of marriage among boys below 21 years at 3.6 percent is also higher than 2.8 percent aggregated for ST population at the national level. The mean number of children ever born per ever married ST woman of all ages as well as 45-49 years
age group are 2.7 and 3.6 respectively, which are lower than corresponding figures of 3.2 and 4.1 for the ST population at the national level.

4.11. Religion

The 2001 Census data show that Hindus constitute 49,84,478 (98.9 percent) of ST population of Andhra Pradesh, followed by 35,983 Christians (0.7 percent) and 4,643 Muslims (0.1 percent).

4.12. Forests in Andhra Pradesh

Andhra Pradesh has about 63,814 sq km (23% of the total geographic area) under forests. The state is ranked third in the country in terms of area under forest – including reserved, protected, and unclassified – and these fall under five ecosystems in the state:

1. Southern Tropical Moist Deciduous forests, mostly in the Eastern Ghats;
2. Southern Tropical Dry Deciduous forests in the Godavari and Krishna valleys;
3. Southern Tropical Thom forests in Anantapur, Cuddapah, Chittoor, Nellore, Parkasam, Nalgonda, Mahbubnagar, Medak and Ranga Reddy districts;
4. Littoral forests; and
5. Tidal swamps and mangrove forests in the coastal districts of Srikakulam, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishna, Prakasam, Guntur and Nellore.

In the state, there are four national parks spread over an area of 0.33 mha and 21 wildlife sanctuaries over 1.25 mha. There are also 13 deer parks and four zoological parks. Thus, a total of about 1.58 mha amounting to 5.76 percent of the total geographic area of the state is protected.
There are 26,586 villages in the state of which 5,080 have forest for land use; the forest area in these villages is 2.57 mha and the total population in these villages is 10.67 million persons (21.95 percent of the state's rural population). Only 26 percent of these 5,080, with forest villages have more than 500 ha of forested area.

4.13. History of Tenure – Forest and Tribal People in Andhra Pradesh

The forest area under consideration happened to be in two administrative domains prior to the formation of the state in 1956. While the forests of the northeastern districts Srikakulam, Visakhapatnam, East and West Godavari were administered by a separate line of administration instituted by the British, the forests in the northern districts Adilabad, Khammam, Nizamabad, and Warangal were under the Nizam’s administration. The forests of Kurnool – the Nallamala Range inhabited by the Chenchus had a troubled history of being under individual rulers, followed by the Nizam. Until the formation of Andhra Pradesh in 1956, the tribal areas of these regions were governed by two distinct administrative systems.

Amidst this tale of progress in scientific forestry across the territory of modern Andhra Pradesh, there existed differences in management and legislation pertinent to the forest areas in the British-administered Presidency, the ceded districts and the Telangana Region.

In the Telangana Region, the forests were under the control of the revenue administration till the Nizam created a Forest Department in 1857. Prior to 1857, forests were exploited through the permit system under which permit holders were allowed to cut trees without much control on the manner and extent of felling.
However, the customary rights of communities residing in or near the forests to first use minor forest produce, timber for housing and agriculture, fuel wood are reported to have been respected. The Abkari administrative system in the state also conferred rights to certain communities over select species. When the Forest Department was established (which was for several years placed under non-professional officers), only thirteen species were placed under its control, leaving the rest to be managed by the Revenue Administration.

The period following independence (after 1947) saw the takeover of the British-Managed system of forest administration by the Indians. The legislation to abolish Zamindari tenure systems (1961) led to large areas of forests coming to vest with the Forest Department (FD). However, this period is reported to have been one of the worst periods for forests and forest dwellers as there was large-scale immigration and encroachment of land by the non-tribals from the plains, and most of the forests transferred to the FD after the land ceiling were fully worked and cleared of any economic timber before transfer. The major programme of the FD became regeneration of the forests in these patches. The tasks of consolidation of forests, unification of laws and extension of scientific management on a reasonably uniform basis became a major preoccupation for the forest officers. The National Forest Policy enunciated by the Indian Government in 1952, attempted to extend the 1894 policy and make good omissions noticed, especially the protective functions of forests. In the newly formed state of Andhra Pradesh, regulation of land in the Scheduled Areas was made uniform across the state through the Andhra Pradesh Scheduled Areas Land Transfer Regulation (APSALTR) in 1959. This Act provided
the right for civil courts to adjudicate on tribal land issues and increased litigation and subsequent land alienation, as the tribals were ill-informed to fight such cases. Subsequent amendments enacted in 1970 and 1971 prohibited all transfer of land in scheduled areas – not only tribal to non-tribal but also non-tribal to non-tribal – and prohibited attachment of tribal land in any money decrees.

4.14. Marginalisation of Tribals in the State

During the pre-colonial period, lower population density and low value of timber, led to the gradual process of rolling back forest frontier as there was more demand for agricultural land. Under the Mughals, there was a growing demand for construction timber, and the price of timber began to rise.

During the Pre-British rule, the tribal areas were far from the reach of the administration. However, the extension of centralized British administration over these areas gradually deprived tribals of their autonomy. The British colonial policies exposed the tribals to the pressures of the plains’ commercial interests. Outsiders such as traders, moneylenders, followed by settlers successfully acquired large tracts of the aboriginals’ land through different clandestine transactions, exploitative practices, land grabbing, etc. However, in the Nizam areas, the policy of the State of Hyderabad itself was the cause of alienation of lands in tribal areas to outsiders. The Nizam invited the outsiders for acquisition of lands and payment of tax to the state. In this process, the outsiders dispossessed the tribal communities and appropriated the land.

The state gradually gained monopoly control over forest areas from the early colonial period, and as forests were Reserved Forests the people’s rights were
curtailed and they were driven out. The first step in the administrative control of forests in India began in the South. As a result of the report of the Forest Committee set up in 1805, a proclamation was made declaring royalty rights over teak in the south and prohibiting unauthorised felling of the trees. The Indian Forest Act of 1865 was the first attempt at a legislation relating to forests in India by the British. Such steps were envisaged to prevent acts which caused injury or destruction to the forests. Thus, control over the forests was attained, and restrictions were imposed on usage by communities. This started in the way back in 1805. In Hyderabad State, the forests were considered subservient to the interest of agriculture and were consequently administered by the district officials, and cultivations in the forests were permitted. However, in the year 1893, the government declared vast tracts covered by forest growth as Protected Forests and placed them under the sole charge of the Forest Department, removing the administrative powers of district revenue officials. Further, to have legal control over the forests, a Forest Act was enacted in 1900. The effort of the department was directed mainly towards the survey and reservation of forest areas, the introduction of felling schemes and works of improvement, systematic exploitation of forest produce, etc. So the historic injustice was caused not only during reservation process under the Indian Forest Act 1927 and the subsequent survey and settlement operations in 1979 in Andhra, but even prior to this. The tribal people are facing serious problems with regard to utilisation and rights over forest resources. Due to the increasing pressure on forests by various interest groups, there is a corresponding pressure on the tribals to reduce their dependency on forests. This is creating serious situations of conflict,
as tribal life is symbiotic with land and forests and their livelihood and culture are
based on their relationship with the natural wealth around them. The tribals are
being harassed for using forest lands and are being evicted from many places such
as Khammam, Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram, Adilabad and Srisailam. In
Khammam District, in one particular village, the Forest and Police Departments
allegedly branded the tribals on their shoulders as an indication that they were
destroying the forests.

There are ambiguities in forest-revenue land demarcation. In places like
Nellore District, a lot of land on Velugonda Hills is indicated as “poramboku” in
revenue records and as Reserved Forest (RF) as per the Forest Department (FD).
These lands do not have any forest growth. The FD is taking up palm oil plantation
in these RF lands (which is not a forest species). However, landless tribals are either
booked in criminal cases or prohibited from using these lands for agricultural
cultivation. In some areas like in Visakhapatnam District, the lack of clear forest
boundaries is making the tribals vulnerable to the exploitation of both the forest and
revenue departments. The Forest-Revenue Boundary dispute is a perpetual problem
in Adilabad and Warangal districts, leading to booking of cases by the Forest
Department and tension in these tribal villages.

In Visakhapatnam Agency and Nallamala areas, there is the unique problem
of Enclosure Villages. There were many tribal villages that were not enumerated in
the forest surveys. Due to such sheer negligence, the villages were not given
revenue status and to this day, they do not have pattas for their lands. They face
constant harassment from local forest officials, as they do not possess land records.
In Buttapur (Adilabad District) and in Nellore District, the tribals (Yanadis) were given lands decades ago under the social forestry scheme and are cultivating there. But due to lack of pattas, they are being harassed by the police and forest departments and also do not have access to bank loans as they cannot prove their ownership. Attacks on tribals, their properties and livestock by wildlife are not compensated by the Forest Department (FD). Several cases are pending where tribals have been either killed or disabled and yet have not received any monetary compensation as due to them under the Wildlife Act.

In districts like Visakhapatnam, East Godavari and Vizianagaram, where there is high prevalence of podu cultivation, the tribals are facing threats of eviction by the FD. The Joint Forest Management (JFM) programme now renamed as the Community Forest Management (CFM) programme of the AP Forest Department has caused grievous violations with regard to tribal rights. One major violation is the displacement of tribals from their podu lands by reclaiming them into the forests through the JFM programme. The official reports of the FD and the World Bank (which has funded the project) reveal that 37,000 hectares of forestland has been reclaimed from the people. In Srisailam area, the Rajiv Gandhi Tiger Sanctuary has led to eviction of tribals from their original homes. They have not been properly settled so far. In the Srisailam Tiger Sanctuary area, the Chenchus, who are traditional hunter-gatherers, go into the forest everyday for all their needs. They are being harassed by the FD for trespassing into the sanctuary.
4.15. Dispossession of Tribals by Development Projects in the State

At the national level, the tribals constitute at least 55 percent of the persons displaced by development projects such as irrigation systems, hydroelectric projects, mining operations, power-generating units and mineral-based industries. In the name of development, the tribals are displaced from their traditional habitat and are deprived of their livelihoods. The track record of governments on the resettlement and rehabilitation front leaves a lot to be desired. Even according to the official estimates, only 29 percent of the affected have been rehabilitated. In the recent past, some development projects in AP have become highly controversial due to their implications on tribal land and livelihoods. The present Congress Government identified 26 irrigation projects with an estimated cost of Rs.460 billion. Some of these projects, under various stages of implementation, have become more controversial as they will displace tribal villages and submerge forest areas. The Polavaram Project is the most contested of the ongoing projects as far as the tribal livelihoods are concerned. This multipurpose mega project on the Godavari at Polavaram in West Godavari District is expected to irrigate 727,000 acres. The project would displace 276 villages and uproot 44,574 families in three districts; and tribals comprise almost 50 percent of the population of these villages.

4.16. Tribal Movements in Andhra Pradesh

Tribal revolts took place in British Andhra against colonialism as well as indigenous privileged sections. Tribal movements happened because of the inherent contradictions between the state and tribes; between tribal people and moneylenders; and tribal people and non-tribal land-owning classes. The British
introduced laws in favour of individual rights over land, forest acts, courts of law, revenue, and forest and excise machinery from the district level to the smallest village. This process dismantled the collective structures and established individual rights over resources. The Rampa Revolt of 1802-03 was inhumanely suppressed by the British and was projected as anti-social. The tribal movements were not merely against moneylenders or migrants to tribal areas as often portrayed by European Scholars but were against alien rule and were a quest for identity and self-rule. Legal acts came into existence after every show of resistance by the tribals in the country, but were implemented inadequately. The movement led by Komaram Bheem during 1938-41 in the agency area of Hyderabad State was for rights over land and forest. The European anthropologist Heimendorff brought forth the problems faced by the adivasis of this region to the attention of Nizam Government. As a result, in 1946, the Gonds, Kolam, and Pardhan adivasi communities gained legal land rights over their lands. In spite of this, the adivasis could not be at peace because of encroachment on their land by non-tribals from neighbouring districts and states such as Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. Progressive legislation like the Land Transfer Regulation Act (LTRA) 1959 could not stop illegal encroachment on tribal land, which continued with the connivance of political parties and forest bureaucracy, taking advantage of the ignorance and illiteracy of the tribals.

The late 1960s was a period of agrarian tensions. 1969-72 witnessed the Srikakulam tribal revolt and the Naxalite movement. The tribal land issue came to be focused upon through the Srikakulam Revolt which arose because of the
oppressive social order in which social relations were dominated by local and settler landlords, moneylenders, contractors and corrupt bureaucracy. The movement succeeded in social liberation and was also economically effective. Active and politically conscious women participated in small groups. The gains secured by the revolt were four-fold: relief from the power of money lenders; regaining mortgaged lands and wastelands from landlords and government; relief from bonded labour, with a hike in wages; and elimination of restrictions and extractions imposed by the forest officials. As a result of this movement, the government brought an amendment to the LTRA in 1970, which is popularly called the “1/1970” Act. According to this Act, land in the Scheduled Area belongs to the tribals. The Srikakulam movement contributed significantly to the struggles that took place in the subsequent decade of eighties, in terms of spirit and message. The Godavari valley tribal struggles like Adilabad-Indervelli Gond revolt in North Telangana and also in the North Coast Agency region took place from 1976 onwards led by the radical left (CPI ML group). The Scheduled Areas of Telangana Region witnessed mobilization of tribes especially in the districts of Adilabad and Khammam. The Gonds of Adilabad were exploited by the landlords and immigrant peasants from the plains. There was militant mobilization of tribals on the issues of land and moneylending by non-tribal trader-cum-moneylenders. At the same time, the tribals of Kondamodulu fought a heroic battle in the Papi hills against non-tribal landlords who controlled thousands of acres of tribal land. When the Girijana Sangham formed by the tribes challenged the power of non-tribal landlords, the state machinery did not come to the rescue of tribals, but took the side of landlords.
Ultimately, the Girijana Sangham could forcibly take possession of 2000-4000 acres. Land restoration by the state arising out of the 1970 Act was considerable till 1979. However, in East Godavari District, the land which has been conferred on non-tribals was the highest and much more than the land restored to tribals in the other tribal areas of the state. The failure of the state in land restoration motivated tribals to organize themselves under various social movements to get their lands back.

By the mid-1970s the, Srikakulam uprising had moved up the Godavari Valley into the plains of Telangana. Peasant struggles were organized under the leadership of radical left and “Rytu coolie sanghams” (peasant and agricultural labour organisations), which struggled against social oppression and feudal practices; for a hike in wages and for land. “Social boycott” against the landlords was the popular form of struggle. Land is seen as a livelihood for tribals. The process of transforming land into a commodity and acquiring economic and political power over it has been the single agenda of the ruling class which made possible the entry of non-tribals into tribal areas. Coal mining, paper industries, trade and commerce were the major ventures in the forest areas and organs of the state like the revenue, police, excise, development, and forest departments made inroads into tribal areas. Thus non-tribal encroachment into tribal lands and forest has been the root cause for continuing tribal struggles. The “Tudum Debba” movement from the mid-1990s has been agitating for categorization of tribals according to their relative socio-economic status for the purpose of reservation within the Scheduled Tribes. The tribals have been further marginalised by recent
polices of Government of India. Though legislations empowering the tribals such as the PESA (Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas) and Land Acts (Recognition of Forest Rights) 2006 have been passed, their rights are not conceded. With economic reforms, commercialization has entered through trade and industrial activity into tribal areas because of their rich mineral resources. This process is making them lose their rights over land and resources. Besides, World Bank projects like the JFM and CFM have not improved access to resources except for wage benefits. Tribal development programmes have also created class differences among them. All these changes in the lives of the tribals in recent times have become issues for struggle.

4.17. Tribals and Forest Policy

Right from colonial times, forest laws and forest policies have been anti-tribal. The tribal is perceived as an encroacher and an enemy of the forest, who plunders the forest for his selfish needs. With the Indian Forest Act 1878, Forest Act 1927 and State enactments after independence in India, the state gradually gained monopoly over forests. Forests were declared to be Reserve Forests from where tribals were driven out. Cultivating land, collecting Non-Timber Forest Produce and felling of trees became illegal. Tribals who occupied these forests earlier, lost their habitat, their land, livelihood and all else that they had. No title deeds or any other rights were given in these forests. Over a period of time, the tribals and other poor people’s access to forest land and forest produce has been severely curtailed; the tribals were removed from their familiar and settled livelihoods. Large forest areas were either declared as Reserve forests, or as
sanctuaries and national parks. Construction of dams, reservoirs and hydro-electrical projects further resulted in huge displacement of tribals on thousands of hectares of forest lands. Many tribal villages were washed out in the process. Compensation and rehabilitation have touched only the fringe of the problem. The price the tribals seem to pay for the so called development appears very high. As the, tribals seem to be struggling for survival.

4.18. Forest Policy- 1988

The National Forest Policy 1988 declared that the primary task of all agencies responsible for forest management, i.e., the Forest Department's Girijan Cooperative Corporation (marketing agencies for NTFP), and any other community-based organizations, should be to associate the tribal people in the protection, regeneration and development of forests, as well as to provide gainful employment to the people living in and around forests. Consequent to the 1988 Forest Policy, the Central Ministry of Environment and Forest issued detailed guidelines to State Governments on June 1, 1990 to involve village committees living close to the forests, in the protection of forests and the development of degraded forest land. It also prescribed usufructuary rights (custodial rights) to participatory village communities to meet their demand of forest produce and active participation in afforestation programmes. This was the beginning for an active interface between the forest/village communities, voluntary agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and the Forest Department for the revival, restoration and development of degraded forests (GOI, 1-6-1990 Ministry of Environments & Forests). The Programme came to be called Joint Forest
Management (JFM). West Bengal was the first to adopt the principle of involving local communities in forest management. Although the state had started the programme in 1972 in Midnapore District, JFM was officially started in 1989 in South Bengal. It was followed by Haryana, Bihar, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, Jammu Kashmir and Andhra Pradesh between 1990 and 1992. The Government of Andhra Pradesh passed the JFM order on August 28, 1992, which was amended in 1996.

4.19. Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) and Tribal Rights

The association and dependency that tribals have with forest goes beyond cultivating forest land. Some forests are rich with various other resources such as fruits, nuts, herbs, leaves, bamboo and gum. They are presently referred to as Non-timber Forest Produce (NTFP), which provide supplementary food to the tribals and some of them can even be sold for cash. Each forest region contains unique NTFP. Seventy percent of India’s NTFP is collected from six states of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh. Around 65 percent of the country’s tribal population lives in these regions. Most of the collection of NTFP is done in the lean agriculture months of March to July where other employment is not available. Tribals depend on NTFP for their livelihood. Survey in Andhra Pradesh shows that on an average, tribals derive 10-50 percent of their income from NTFP. Beedi leaves, gum, karaya, adda leaves, broom, tamarind, soap nuts, are among the important NTFP available in the state.

State policy on NTFP is also in consistent with the goal of tribal protection. NTFP policy of individual states is not consistent with this. For instance, in the
State of Andhra Pradesh, Girijan Co-operative Corporation (GCC) was set up to give monopoly to the state over NTFP under a law called A.P. Scheduled Areas Minor Forest Produce (Regulation of Trade) Regulation, 1979. These regulations impose restrictions on the purchase, sale, curing, processing, storage and transport of any NTFP. GCC is the monopoly agent for purchase of 35 NTFP varieties in Scheduled Areas of the state. The prime objective of the GCC is to procure NTFP from tribals and market it to their best advantage. It has the right to fix prices for the products it procures. It generally fixes prices at the wholesale rates, which is not fair to the tribals, whose time, labour and risks taken in collecting NTFP are not sufficiently covered. In fact, the price is so low and unprofitable for them that, they often cheat on the GCC and sell the NTFP in the weekly markets organized in centrally located villages, or at Mandal headquarters. However, they also report that GCC uses appropriate weights for their produce with which they were happy.

Another factor also adversely affects the price procured by the tribals in Andhra Pradesh - the influx of similar types of stocks from border areas of neighbouring states such as Orissa, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. Tamarind and adda Leaves from Orissa and Madhya Pradesh have increased the supply of the products resulting in a fall in the price. Market for sheekakai and soap nuts faces threat from Karnataka and Chennai. The next serious problem is the complexity of issues related to forest lands and the tribals’ access to these resources. Ambiguities over revenue-forest boundaries have given opportunities for both departments to victimize the tribals on false cases. Notification of forest lands created a number of problems where tribals living within forest enclosures were not demarcated as areas
under community use making them illegal encroachers into forest lands. In the districts of Visakhapatnam and East Godavari this is a very widespread problem.

The first four plan periods were characterised by development programmes launched under the CDP and NEP, which combined tribal development along with multi-sided activities and placed the Tribal Welfare Department at a position subservient to other departments. The Andhra Pradesh State Abolition Land Transfer Regulation (APSALTR) removed the powers of the social security officers in the Telangana area and provided increased control by the revenue administration manned mostly by non-tribals. The introduction of administrative and development systems meant for the developed tracts into the tribal environs which had a different ecological and social setting, resulting in the deterioration of the tribals’ position. The Committee on Special Multipurpose Tribal Blocks, 1960, reported that the programmes lacked any specific tribal bias with the result that non-tribals residing within the area benefited more. The development schemes of the Tribal Welfare Department aimed at development of agriculture on lands occupied by tribals and failed to take into account the symbiotic nature of the tribal-forest relationship. Also, the pattas provided by the revenue administration were either contested or not accepted by the FD, resulting in conflicts and reported action by the FD. The developments in transport, communication facilities and industry also made the forest areas vulnerable as they pulled in large numbers of non-tribals for their creation, who stayed on after. Also, the relations between the non-tribal land owners and the hill tribes were exploitative in nature and gave rise to increased discontent amongst the tribesmen. The period between 1965 and 1975 is reported to
have been the period of maximum influx from the plains. This period is also noted for militant activities of the naxalites, whose class struggles in Srikakulam and the surrounding agency areas earned them the sympathy and support of the exploited population and also reflected the shortcomings of state policy.

The political decision of the State Government to notify the Lambadas as ST (1977) resulted in increased influx of Lambada families from neighbouring districts and Maharashtra to encroach forested areas. The survey of forestland during 1963-1965 and the decision to regularise the pre-1964 encroachments came into effect by 1972, but failed to evict the post-1964 encroachments. These disputes were still being contested when the Lambadas were notified in 1977 and about 20,000 acres made out (Rangachari and Mukherji, 2000) as patta to them during 1978-1979, which exceeded all lands allotted to tribals during 1956-1978. The Lambadas who were more aggressive and financially better placed, sparked off the next wave of influx into the forested areas, causing more encroachments in the post-1980 period.

The tribals of Telangana who were most affected by the notification of Lambadas and the subsequent encroachment, seemed to lose faith in the administration and the Telangana jungles provided the space for the second wave of Marxist-Leninist movements. The People’s War Group developed into the most formidable Naxalite formation in the country during 1980-1990 and also spread to the neighbouring forested areas of Orissa and Madhya Pradesh. While regularisation of encroached land was welcomed, accompanying evictions were often resisted with force. The activities of the Naxalites in organising armed insurrections and supporting the dispossessed resulted in FD staff, as well as other
administrative staff exercising virtually no control in the hill areas during 1980-1985. Also, there was significant redistribution of land carried out by the Naxalites during this period along with initiatives for agrarian justice like increasing minimum wages.

### 4.20. Land Tenure in Tribal Areas

The tribals in the state, in general, belong to small and marginal farm categories. The total number of tribal holding as per 1985-86 Agricultural Census is 7,648, which constitutes less than 8% of the total holdings in the state. In terms of area, the STs operate 17,234 thousand hectares which is a little more than one-tenth of the total operated area in the state.

The tribals, especially in the north coastal (Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam and East Godavari) and north Telangana (Adilabad, Khammam, Karimnagar and Warangal) districts traditionally practiced shifting cultivation. The cycle of cropping, other details of agriculture and different social practices were regulated through a well-defined and structured system of local governance, which is similar to the panchayat system at the village level. The practice of shifting cultivation, though not only environment friendly did not cause much loss as long as the population was limited and the cycle of shifting had wide gaps. The cycle however gradually started reducing with the growth in local population. The state’s policy on reservation of forested areas for forestry purposes affected the tribals’ dependency on forest for their livelihood as their access to forest for cultivating crop decreased considerably. To provide land to tribals and to settle the land tenure, the government took a number of measures such as abolition of private estates,
conversion of muttadari and mahalguzari rights into Ryotwari rights. Further, disseveration of forest lands was also done in some cases to assign land to tribal Agriculturists. But the policy of dis-reservation of forests and converting the land-use from forestry to agriculture resulted in encroachments. The initiatives in the 60s and mid 70s which accorded tribal status to the community of lambadas led to their migration from Maharashtra to Adilabad District, where they did not enjoy such a status. Similar migration took place from Orissa into the neighbouring Visakhapatnam District around the same time where tribals displaced by Hydel projects migrated to Andhra Pradesh in search of land and employment.

Since mid 80s, the law and order situation, especially in the tribal areas of Andhra Pradesh, had deteriorated due to the increase in activities of extremists (locally called naxalites) and other anti-social elements. Many times, Forest Officers were reduced to being mute spectators to the large-scale plundering of forests that took place. In1987, the situation was so bad that in an ambush, many senior police officials were killed in Alampalli in Adilabad District. This attracted the attention of the government. Various incidents clearly pointed out that land, in general, and forestland, in particular, was the major issue for tribal unrest, which was exploited by the extremist elements and that this was also the reason attributed for the ambush. A decision was taken in November 1987 to identify all the encroachments that existed prior to 1980 for considering their dis-reservation. (the cut off date being the date on which the Government of India had passed the Indian Forest Conservation Act, according to which no forest land was to be diverted for non-forestry activity without the prior approval from the Government of India).
This further encouraged encroachments. It is estimated that nearly 1,00,000 ha of forestland was encroached consequent to this decision by the government to consider this reservation of pre-1980 cultivations. After nearly seven years from the cut off date, the virtual impossibility of making any distinction between pre-1980 and post-1980 encroachments, and the worsening law and order situation added to the misery of foresters. Realizing the potential ill effects of such large-scale encroachments, the government subsequently (in 1995) withdrew its decision of 1987 to consider regularizing pre-1980 cultivations. In this entire bargain nearly 25% of forestland was encroached in Adilabad District itself.

Efforts made by the government to evict the encroachments by treating the encroachers as lawbreakers and dealing with them by invoking punitive measures under the AP Forest Act 1967 did not yield any positive results. On the contrary, such measures resulted in conflicts and tensions among the foresters and villagers. The community of foresters lost public sympathy and they were the italics in tribal areas. However, with the advent of Joint Forest Management (JFM) since mid 90s, a greater harmony was established between the foresters and the tribals. There was also a reduction in fresh encroachments as the livelihood issues of the forest-dependent communities were addressed. Sincere efforts were made to educate the tribals of ill effects of destroying forests and on unscientific and unsustainable cultivation of food crops. The concept of declining crop productivity; decreasing soil fertility; enhancement of soil erosion, etc., were also explained. By providing viable alternatives during the implementation of JFM, nearly 37,000 ha of forestland under possession and cultivation of the local people was reclaimed.
through afforestation, and put under productive tree crops through Vana
Samrakshana Samiti (VSS). However the above data is only an estimate; the village
and family-specific data will have to be gathered during the course of site-specific
planning through the process of micro-planning. Thus, persuasion and motivation,
coupled with education, have yielded positive results that could not be achieved
through coercion.

The tribal people in the state have historically been vulnerable to large-scale
exploitation from non-tribals from the plains and due to severe neglect from the
government. In spite of the existence of constitutional safeguards and reservations,
the apathy of the State Government has led to vast areas of land in the agency
(tribal) areas being transferred to non-Adivasis or non-tribals. This is particularly
prevalent in the foothills where the majority population is tribal; yet the areas have
been excluded from Scheduled Areas, implying that the tribals do not enjoy the
legal protections enjoyed by those in the hills. The official record of the Tribal
Welfare Department for the year 2001-2002 states that out of the 69,170 cases of
land alienation in the state, only 23,635 have been restored to tribals, which
indicates the pace at which cases are disposed where tribal lands are concerned.

Non-forest activities like setting up of industries, mining projects,
construction of big reservoirs and other “development” projects led to large-scale
and multiple displacement of tribal population who were forced to migrate. They
face constant harassment for being “criminals” and are forcefully evicted from
lands occupied by them. Their rights and access to forest resources are curtailed by
government and local communities who were the earlier settlers. Such problems are
highly prevalent in districts like Visakhapatnam where cross-border migration from neighbouring Orissa due to projects like Bailadilla, NALCO, HAL and other Mining projects, DBK railway line, five reservoir projects, tourism industry and government infrastructure have led to severe pressure on land and forests.

Section – II

MAP OF THE GUNTUR DISTRICT

This section is intended to focus on the profile of Guntur district, for the sample district of the present study. It mainly, focuses on geographic, socio-economic and demographic features of the district. In addition to that, various programmes and implementing agencies working on the poverty alleviation and development aimed at general population as well as Scheduled Tribes (STs) population in the district are highlighted. In order to present this section in a systematic way, it has been divided into 1. Geographic Profile, 2.Agro-Economic Profile, 3.Socio-economic profile.
4.2.1. Geographic Profile

The geographic profile broadly covers the origin and formation of the district, location and administrative units, climatic conditions, rainfall, principle rivers and soils. They are elaborated as following.

4.2.2. Origin and Formation of the District

Guntur district was formed on the 1st October, 1904 with headquarters at Guntur after bifurcating Krishna and Nellore districts. Prior to 1859, there was Guntur district with headquarters at Guntur but with a different jurisdiction.

In 1859, the district was abolished and was divided between Machilipatnam and Rajahmundry districts which were renamed as Krishna and Godavari. In 1904, Guntur district was constituted into a separate independent district with the areas of the erstwhile taluks of Tenali, Bapatla, Guntur, Sattenapalli, Narasaraopet, Vinukonda, Palanadu of old Krishna district and Ongole taluk from Nellore district (Census of India, 1911). This district thus formed in 1904 and was retained intact till February, 1970 Guntur district is part of Krishna delta, In February 1970, while forming a new district with Ongole as its headquarters, parts of Bapatla and Narasaraopet taluks and whole of Ongole taluk were taken to Prakasam district (Census of India, 1971).

4.2.3. Location and Administrative Units

Guntur District is located between the Northern Latitude of 15.18° and 16.50° and Eastern Longitude of 79.10° and 80.85°. It is bounded on the North by the Nalgonda district, on the South by the district of Prakasam, On the East by the Bay of Bengal and the district of Krishna and on the West by the districts of
Prakasam and Mahabub Nagar. The district has got a coast line of 42 kms. Comprising parts of Repalle, Nizampatnam, Nagaram and Bapatla Mandals (Census of India, 2001).

It has occupied an area of 11,328.23 sq.kms. Accounting for 4.12 per cent of the total area of the State with a population of 44,65,144 consisting of 22,50,279 male population and 22,14,865 female population as per the Census of 2001. The district is made up of 3 Revenue divisions, 57 mandals and 729 Revenue villages. Of the total 729 villages, 706 villages are inhabited. There are 10 towns and one Municipal Corporation in the district.

4.2.4. Climatic Conditions

The district suffers from hot climate. Basing on the variation of weather conditions the duration of the year may be divided into four seasons. The summer season starts by about the middle of February and continues till the first week of June. The heat in April and May is oppressive. The north-east monsoon breaks the hot spell in June and makes the weather bearable. The southwest monsoon season follows thereafter and extends up to the end of September October and November months that constitute the post monsoon or retreating monsoon season. The period from December to the middle of February is generally marked by fine weather. Since the entire district is irrigated, humidity is high and water scarcity is rare even in the summer.

4.2.5. Rain Fall

The district gets the benefit of both South-West and North-East monsoons contributing 63 per cent and 28 per cent of the total rainfall respectively. The
rainfall in the district generally decreases from the East to West while the rainfall in the monsoon season accounts for 57 per cent of the annual rainfall, the rains in the retreating monsoon season accounts about a third of the annual total. The average rainfall in the district is 815.7 cm.

4.2.6. Principle Rivers

The important rivers that traverse the district are the Krishna, the Gundlakamma, the Chandravanka and the Naguluru. The river Krishna forms the dividing line between Guntur and Nalgonda districts on the one side and Krishna and Mahaboob Nagar districts on the other. It travels about 250 kms through the district along the Northern boundary of the district and greater part of the eastern boundary and finally falls into Bay of Bengal. The Gundlakamma rises in Cumbum in Prakasam district and traverses the Vinukonda taluk of the district. The Naguleru River rises in the hills near Nayakurali Kanuma in the Vinukonda taluk and joins the river Krishna. There are many streams of importance in this district.

4.2.7. Soils

The soils in the district in general are very fertile and they are broadly categorised as block cotton soils, red loamy and sandy loamy soils. The black cotton soil constitutes 70 per cent of the total area of the district. Red soil and sandy loamy soils constitute 24 per cent and 6 per cent of the total area respectively. The red soil is found along the Guntur-Guntakal railway line and nacreous or sandy soils are found in the coastal belt of the district. Alluvial soil is found in small extent along the banks of Krishna River.
4.3.1. Agro-Economic Profile

Agro-Economic profile provides information with regard to land under cultivation, irrigational facilities, crops grown, social stratification of the operational holdings, live-stocks, minerals and mines, industries and access to various amenities in the district.

4.3.2. Land under Cultivation

Of the total geographical area of the district, nearly 1,62,000 hectare (14.30 per cent) is covered by the forests. The barren and uncultivable waste land is about 34,000 ha. And the land put to non-agricultural use is 1,56,000 ha.

The cultivable waste land is 36,000/- Ha. constituting 3.17 per cent of the total geographical area of the district. The net area sown is 5,43,026 Ha. The forests of the district are not of great importance except as the principle source of firewood.

4.3.3. Irrigational Facilities

The projects and reservoirs cater to the irrigation needs of the farming. The main source of irrigation in the district is canals. The other sources of irrigation, as per Minor Irrigation Census of 2001, are dug wells of 13,391, Tube-wells of 19,192, Deep tube wells of 2,454, Surface How sources of 234 and lift irrigation sources of 1,550

The district has got 4,76,487.6 ha. of ayacut area through minor, medium and major irrigation systems. Of the total 6,13,312.8 hectares of net area sown, the gross area irrigated is 3,54,458 Ha. constituting about 57 per cent Canals of Krishna Water Department (KWD), Nagarjuna Sagar Project (NSP) and Guntur Channel scheme irrigate more than 3,40,205 Ha. accounting for 95.98 per cent of
the total area irrigated. Thus the net irrigated area is 3,37,016 Ha. Irrigation by canals is accounted for 91 percent of the net irrigated area.

The remaining 4.02 per cent of the total irrigated area covered under tanks is 2,335 hectares and under tube wells is 41,498 hectares. Dug wells and other sources accounted for the respective 6,238 hectares and 9,567 hectares of the total irrigated area of the district.

4.3.4. Crops Grown

The predominant crops grown in the district are paddy, jowar and bajra, among cereals, black gram, green gram and red gram, among pulses, cotton, chillies, turmeric and tobacco, among non-food and other commercial crops. During the year 2002-03, 1,61,941 hectares of area is covered under forests constituting 14.3 per cent of the total geographical area. The net area sown is 5,43,026 hectares forming 47.9 per cent of the total geographical area while the total cropped area in the district is 7,29,814 hectares. The area sown more than once during the year 2002-03 is 1,86,788 hectares (16.89 per cent). Thus the net area sown in the total arable land is 76.8 percent,

4.3.5. Social Stratification of Operational Holdings

The total number of operational holdings of social groups in the district are 6,90,281 including of institutional, joint and individual holdings with 6,88,058 hectares of area operated.

The number of holdings and area operated by STs and STs is 52,675 holdings with an area of 32,203 hectares and 18,730 holdings with an area of 18,247 hectares respectively. The area operated by the STs in the total area operated in the district constitutes only 4.68 per cent.
4.3.6. Livestock

Guntur district is rich in livestock. According to the recent accounts, it has a livestock population of 45,35,857 consisting of cattle of 1,37,484 and buffaloes of 10,22,456. And goat and sheep are accounted for 6,37,612 and 7,70,671 respectively. Besides, there is poultry population of 27,61,651. The district ranks first in the state in the production of milk and milk products like butter and ghee. The infrastructural facilities made available by the animal husbandry department for animal health care in the district are 1 VDC, 16 veterinary hospitals, 100 livestock supervisory units, 158 rural veterinary dispensaries and 5 sheep extension centers. Of the total institutions, 211 are provided with artificial insemination facility.

4.3.7. Minerals and Mines

The district is rich in mineral resources. Important among them are Limestone, Clay, Quartz, Copper and Lead. Limestone is being utilised by cement factories at Macherla, Pondugala and Dachepalli. Copper mines are located at Agnigundala in Ipur Mandal. And nearly 1.5 million sq.mt. of Napa slab reserves are available in the district.

4.3.8. Industries

The majority of the industries operating in the district are agro-based. The district has got 39 large and medium scale industries with capital investment of about Rs. 537.62 crore. And they have been providing employment to 10,234 persons. Moreover, there are 4,353 small scale and tiny Industries with capital investment of 286.73 crore providing employment to 43,483 people. Besides that
there are 9 Industrial estates and one Auto Nagar functioning in the district.

There are 35 artisan complexes, 65 industrial co-operative societies in the district. As per annual survey of industries conducted by Government of India 2000-01, there are 1,691 factories under organised manufacturing sector with an input of Rs. 2,865.45 crores, producing output of Rs. 3,433.85 crores with net value added of Rs. 506.20 crore.

4.3.9. Access to Various Amenities

Access to various amenities shows the level of economic development of the population. The distribution of households by the sanitary facilities available shows that 40.10 per cent of the total households in the district have bathroom facility within the house and 36.7 per cent of households have latrine facility within the house. And by the type of water outlet, 8.3 per cent of households are found with closed drainage, 55.7 per cent with open drainage and the remaining 36.6 per cent without drainage.

The distribution of households by the type of fuel used for cooking indicates that 63.5 per cent of households are using firewood and 6.2 per cent using crop residue, cow dung and coal combine as fuel. And 4.4 per cent of households are using kerosene and the remaining 24.9 per cent using LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas) as fuel for cooking.

The distribution of households with sources of drinking water indicates that 17.94 per cent of the households have wells, 34.42 per cent have tap water and 44.0 per cent have hand pumps and tube wells, 2.24 per cent are using rivers and canals as source of drinking and the remaining 1.39 per cent of the people are depending on spring and other sources.
The distribution of households availing banking services shows that the only 27.8 per cent of total households are using banking services. The percentage of households having radio or transistor is 21.3 per cent, 35.8 per cent have televisions, 8.4 per cent have telephone facility, 32.8 per cent have bicycle, 7.1 per cent have scooters or motor cycles and the remaining 0.8 per cent of the households have owned car. With none of the specified assets, there are 45.0 per cent of the total households in the district.

4.4.1. Socio-Economic Profile

Socio-economic profile highlights the demographic features, density of population and sex ratio, literacy level, rural and urban composition, occupational pattern and work participation rate of both general and STs population in the district.

4.4.2. Demographic Features

According to the Census of 2001, the population of Guntur district is 44,65,144 comprising of 22,50,279 male population and 22,14,865 female population. The decennial growth rate of population during the period from 1991 to 2001 is 8.72 per cent. The population of STs, as per the Census of 2001, is 2,08,156 comprising of 1,06,100 male population and 1,02,056 female population. The percentage of STs in the total population of the district is 4.66 The STs population grew much faster than general population in the district during the period from 1991 to 2001 (see Table-4.1). During 1991-2001, the general population has increased at the rate of 14.63 per cent while STs Population has increased at the rate of 42.7 per cent which is much higher than the growth of
general population. This alarming rate of growth of STs has occurred in the decade between 1991 and 2001 (see Table-1).

4.3.3. Density and Sex Ratio

The density of population as per the Census of 2001 is 397 per sq. km. There are 984 female populations per 1,000 male populations in the district which is higher than the State average sex ratio. The total population of STs is accounted for 8,18,005 consisting of 4,14,712 male population and 4,03,293 female population with sex ratio of 872 lower than the district sex ratio of general population. The STs constitute 18.32 per cent of the total population in the district.

4.4.4. Literacy Status

The literacy level in the district as per the Census of 2001 is 62.5 per cent as against the State average of 60.47 per cent. Of the total population, 71.2 per cent of male population is literate and 57.70 per cent of female population is literate. In the Census year of 1991, the literacy among general population is 46.35 per cent. The rate of literacy among STs compared to general population is very low. It can be observed from Table-4.2. that the literate population among STs is 16.62 per cent. Interestingly, like decennial growth for population between 1991 and 2001, the percentage of literacy among STs has increased to 31.32 per cent in 2001 from 16.62 per cent in 1991 with net decennial increase of 53.70 per cent. Interestingly, the gap between general population and STs in terms of literacy is much higher as per the Census accounts of 1991 and it has decreased dramatically during the Census of 2001.
Table - 4.4 General and Scheduled Tribes Population in Guntur District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>General Population</th>
<th>Scheduled Tribes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Persons</td>
<td>Males</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>34,34,724</td>
<td>17,42,102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>41,06,999</td>
<td>20,84,480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>44,65,144</td>
<td>22,50,279</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Table - 4.5 Literate Populations in Guntur District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>General Population</th>
<th>Scheduled Tribes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>7,87,841</td>
<td>4,50,563</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(45.25)</td>
<td>(26.60)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>10,03,130</td>
<td>6,17,234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(56.54)</td>
<td>(35.85)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>14,07,402</td>
<td>10,48,563</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(71.02)</td>
<td>(53.7)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


4.4.5. The Rural and Urban Composition

The rural and urban composition of general population and STs Population is presented in Table-4.3. Though the economy is expanding and transforming rapidly, the rural and urban composition of population has remained almost the same between 1991 and 2001. In the year 1981, people living in rural areas are 72.47 per cent and the remaining 26.53 per cent of people are living in the urban
areas. Later in 2001, the percentage of rural population has slightly declined to 71.2 per cent that caused a little bit of change in the percentage of urban population. Thus the percentage of urban population has increased to 28.80 per cent in 2001.

The district is more advanced in terms of educational facilities and literacy rate when compared to the other districts. There is good number of educational institutions catering the needs of not only the people in district but also to the people of neighbors’ districts.

Table - 4.6 Rural and Urban Populations in Guntur District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>General Population</th>
<th>Scheduled Tribes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>Urban</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>24,89,022 (72.47)</td>
<td>9,45,702 (27.53)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>29,15,983 (71.07)</td>
<td>11,86,938 (28.93)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>31,79,384 (71.20)</td>
<td>12,85,760 (28.80)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Figures in Parenthesis indicate Percentages.

In case of the population of STs, against the natural declining trends in the percentage of general population living in the rural areas, the per cent of people living in the rural areas has tended to increase from 78.52 per cent in 1991 to 81.89 per cent in 2001. And the urban population has declined from 21.48 per cent in 1991 to 18.11 per cent in 2001.
4.4.6. Occupational Pattern

As per the census of 2001, in the general population of the district, there are 18,69,886 main workers. Of the total main workers, 3,70,987 are cultivators and 8,33,431 are agricultural labour. In case of STs, there are 3,62,878 main workers comprising of 2,76,206 agricultural laborers and 15,311 cultivators (see Table-4.4). It clearly indicates that the majority of STs are agricultural labourers. In the total population of STs, the main workforce constitutes 44.36 per cent compared with 41.8 per cent of general population. The agricultural labour among the general population is only 44.57 per cent, as per Census of 2001, which is lower than 76.12 per cent of the population of STs.

4.4.7. Work Participation Composition

The work participation composition of both general and STs populations is presented in Table- 3.5. It reveals that in the general population, as per the Census of 1991, the percentage of total main workers is recorded to be 45.75 per cent. And the marginal and non-workers are estimated to be 2.12 per cent and 52.14 per cent of the total general population respectively. In the same year, in case of STs, there are 2,93,015 main workers, 11,804 marginal workers and 2,68,588 non-workers, constituting 51.10 per cent, 2.06 per cent and 46.84 per cent of the total population of STS respectively.
Table 4.7 Occupational Pattern Of General And Scheduled Tribes Population In Guntur District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>General Population</th>
<th></th>
<th>Scheduled Tribes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Population</td>
<td>Total Main Workers</td>
<td>Cultivators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1991</td>
<td>41,02,922 (45.75)</td>
<td>18,78,952 (9.36)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>44,65,144 (41.80)</td>
<td>18,69,886 (19.84)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Note: Figures in Parenthesis indicate Percentages.

It clearly shows that the total main workers are more in the STs when compared to general population. In case of non-workers there are 46.84 percent among STs which is less than non-workers among general population with 52.14 per cent.

Sum up

From the foregoing description, it may be concluded that the climatic and geographical conditions are conductive for the economic development of the district. The district has most fertile soil with wide range of irrigational facilities. It is density populated and majority of people are dependent on agriculture living in the rural areas. It tops in the state in terms of livestock and dairy products. It has been famous for cultivating good yielding commercial crops manufacturing units providing employment in many ways. It is in the forefront of all the districts of state with regard to the educational and medical facilities.
When it comes to the STs, they are backward, comparing with other population in the district. Majority of STs are agriculture labour living in rural areas and literacy among them is low compared with others. Access to and ownership of income generating assets is very low. They lack the basic amenities. To eradicate poverty among the ST population, a good number of measures and programmes are undertaken. Some of the programmes intended to eradicate poverty are merged and some new programmes and agencies are brought into existence. And in all the programmes of poverty eradication, due importance was given to STs.

For the socio-economic development of STs, a special entity called Guntur District Scheduled Tribes Development and Finance Corporation (GDSTDFC) was established. In addition to that, there are other poverty eradication programmes being implemented by various agencies in the district.
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25 Ibid., pp. 84-88

