

## LITERACY STATUS AMONG URBAN POOR IN ANDHRA PRADESH (A STUDY ON VIZAG URBAN SLUMS)

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### ABSTRACT

India's education system faces numerous challenges. Successive governments have pledged to increase spending on education to 6 per cent of GDP, but actual spending has hovered around 4 per cent for last few years. My present study based on secondary data. Deals with urban poor people in the Visakhapatnam city of Andhra Pradesh. In this article argues the linkage between economic factors and low levels of literacy create in urban poor communities in the vizag city urban slums in Andhra Pradesh.

**KEYWORDS:** Challenges, Linkage, Spending, Urban Poor

### INTRODUCTION

In the Andhra Pradesh major municipalities like Visakhapatnam city Census figures for 2001&2011 for Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation and the rest of the state reveal that general literacy and female literacy have improved. Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation leads in literacy in Andhra Pradesh, with 86.60 percent in 2011. Male literacy in the agglomeration is approximately 89.96 percent, while female literacy is considerably lower at 69.59 percent. The transport infrastructure has permitted industrial investment and growth in the region. In addition to the International and national linkages, the Corporation has undertaken several initiatives to Upgrade the municipal roads and public utilities and amenities to international standards. The urban slums people are living with low economic standard because their children's does not go to school.

### MAJOR OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- Trace out the physical infrastructure condition of urban poor
- Relation between educational and Infrastructural facilities in urban poor
- Policies and suggestions.

### METHODOLOGY

I used the secondary data from district statistical book and Master plan of the greater Visakhapatnam city and Visakhapatnam Urban Development reports also recent social surveys. For the discussion of the literacy status of vizag urban poor people's within the vizag city.

### DESCRIPTION

Urban poverty in Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation is presented. More than one-fifth of Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation's population resides in slums, squatters and other poor settlements. Their

contribution to city's economy has been also been growing over the period. In the absence of developed land and clear policy to address their problems, the poor suffer from many inadequacies in terms of access to basic services, socio-economic needs. It is necessary, therefore, to articulate policies and programmes to mainstream the slum communities with the city, both in terms of infrastructure provision and social and economic development.

### About Population

Visakhapatnam has experienced high growth in population and the same trend is expected to continue over the next two decades. It is projected that by 2021 Visakhapatnam would emerge as one of the major cities in the country. Most of this growth would take place in Greater Visakhapatnam area away from the city core.

### Community Facilities among Urban Poor

<sup>i</sup>The community facilities in the slums comprise of schools, community halls, etc. No other amenities are available in the slum areas. The existing community infrastructure facilities in slums of Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation are as follows.

**Table 1: Existing Position of Community Facilities Available in Slums of GVMC**

S. No.	Community Hall (No`s)		
	Balwadi	Government Schools	Community Halls
1.	126	128	127

### Status of Literacy among Urban Poor within the City

<sup>ii</sup>Population of Visakhapatnam in 2011 is 1,730,320; of which male and female are 875,199 and 855,121 respectively. Although Visakhapatnam city has population of 1,730,320; its urban / metropolitan population is 0 of which 0 are males and 0 are females. Male literacy in the agglomeration is approximately 83.46%, while female literacy is considerably lower at 69.59%. In education section, total literates in Visakhapatnam city are 1,698,896 of which 878,959 are males while 699,937 are females. Average literacy rate of Visakhapatnam city is 82.66 percent of which male and female literacy was 88.02 and 77.18 percent. Total children (0-6) in Visakhapatnam city are 158,924 as per figure from Census India report on 2011. There were 81,119 boys while 77,805 are girls. The child forms 10.21 % of total population of Visakhapatnam City.

In Andhra Pradesh <sup>iii</sup>Thirty-nine percent of the population 7 years and above are non-literate; it is 48.4 percent for females and 29.9 percent for males (Table 2.4). The gender gap in literacy rate is narrow for the two broad age groups 7-9 years and 10-14 years. However for the age group 15-19 years, there is considerable gender gap in literacy rate by 10 percentage points (Table 2.4), also shown in Figure 3. The information on main reasons for dropping out of school was also collected in DLHS-3. For girls below 18 years as many as 30.1 percent stated that they were required for household work followed by 19.6 percent who cited disinterest in studies as the main reason for dropping out of school (Table 2.6). On the other hand, 29.1 percent of boys cited disinterest in studies as the main reason for dropping out of school followed by 20.9 percent who stated they were required for household work.

<sup>iv</sup>In terms of overall literacy rate, Kerala is the best performing state with 93.9 percent literacy whereas Bihar with a literacy rate of 63.8 percent has fared the worst. The top and bottom contenders in terms of rural literacy rate are Kerala with a figure of 92.9 percent and Andhra Pradesh registering 61.1 percent respectively. Urban India figures indicate that

Mizoram has recorded the highest literate population at 98.1 percent while Uttar Pradesh is in last place with a urban literacy of 77.0 percent. During the last 3-4 years) India is expected to reach very close to the target level by 2015. In the extremely crucial field of 'improving maternal health' between 1990 and 2015 India is supposed to reduce by three quarters the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR). The latest estimate of MMR brought by the Office of RGI puts the MMR at 178 per 100,000 live births in 2012. This is a substantial improvement from an estimated MMR level of 437 per 100 000 live births in 1990-91.

<sup>v</sup>Through a two-way process comprising text analysis of the policy framework of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan programme and analysis of empirical data collected through interaction with policy implementers, teachers, students, experts, etc, this article puts forth the argument that urban education system has failed partly because of the inability of the implementers to plan, manage and facilitate the programme.

## CONCLUSIONS

Poverty reduction plans are reduced illiterate rate in the city. Those are following given below conclusions.

With about one third of the population living in slums, urban poverty is a major issue confronting the GVMC area. *"The vision of Vizag is to become a city without slums by 2021"*.

- The goals formulated to achieve the vision are:
  - All poor will have access to qualitative and affordable basic services;
  - 100 % literacy;
  - Universal access to primary health care and no one should die of preventable diseases;
  - Livelihood to all urban poor.
  - Security of tenure and Affordable Housing
- The strategy formulated for reducing poverty in GVMC is:
  - Provision of land tenure security
  - Community empowerment
  - Linking livelihoods to city's economy
  - Development of housing through partnerships - PPP
  - Formulation of Notification and Identification Policy
  - Relocation of slums located in hazardous and vulnerable Areas
- Provision of basic infrastructure - both physical (water, roads, sanitation and sewerage) and social infrastructure (clinics, schools, training facilities, etc
- To Provide Best Civic Infrastructure to make the best Transport System in India by 2030 along with total up gradation of Poor Settlements with proper Drainage.
- To create a social infrastructure with premier Health & Educations facilities by 2021 with safety & security. With

the above Vision in mind, the GVMC has formulated an Agenda to reach the above Goals within the specified time.

## REFERENCES

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4. <sup>iv</sup> Status of literacy online web page.
5. <sup>v</sup> Monika Banerjee, (2014), Elementary Education of the Urban Poor **Policy Context, Text and Practice in Delhi**, EPW, SEPTEMBER 13, 2014 vol xlix no 32.