POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMMERS IN ANDHRA PRADESH

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ABSTRACT:

The main objective of the paper is to analyse the poverty alleviation programs in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh. This paper is base on the primary data, A purposive sampling method is employed to select the study area. The Guntur districts have five municipal corporations, namely, Guntur, Tenali, Mangalagiri- Tadepalli and Ponnuru municipalities. Among the five municipal corporations three municipal corporations are selected on the basis of the beneficiaries and slums. 300sample respondents are selected through simple random sampling method from the list of beneficiaries. The paper concluded that the government of Andhra Pradesh distributed Rs.4966 crores to SHG women's in the state in the year of 2018-2019. The table-4.13 and 4.13a clearly shows that 71 percent of the beneficiaries and 50 percent of non-beneficiaries are benefitted through Zero interest loans (Vaddileni Runalu padakam). The occupation wise data also reveals that 76.92 percent of service sector beneficiaries are benefitted through Zero interest loans, followed by 71.43 percent of artisans occupation beneficiaries, 69.23 percent of manufacturing , 66.67 percent of trade and commerce, and 65.22 percent of transport occupation beneficiaries. Nearly 86 percent of the beneficiaries and 86.67 percent of non-beneficiaries are enrolled in Chandranna Bhima scheme. Above 85 percent of all the occupational groups are enrolled in Chandranna Bhima except transport occupation respondents in beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries. The primary data shown only 5.33 percent of beneficiaries and 3.00 percent of non-beneficiaries are benefitted under PMAY scheme in Guntur Municipal Corporation. The occupation wise data also shows that highest (8.33 percent) of trade and commerce occupation beneficiaries and transport occupation non-beneficiaries are benefitted under PMAY scheme where as lowest in transport occupation beneficiaries and artisans in non-beneficiaries. The table clearly shows that 90.33 percent of beneficiary households and 91 percent of non-beneficiary households benefitted under public distribution system in the study area and remaining percentage are not benefitted due to lack of ration cards and etc.

KEYWORDS: *analyse the poverty alleviation programs , Guntur Municipal Corporation.*

INTRODUCTION

According to the "World Urbanization Prospects" 45 percent of world's population (8.2 billions) was residing in urban areas in 2025 as against 30 percent in 1950. The report states that the urban population of the world had grown rapidly from 746 million (30 percent of the world's population) in 1950 to 3.9 billion (54 percent of the world's population) in 2025. According to the report, Asia was home to 53 percent of the world's urban population despite its lower level of urbanization. It was

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followed by Europe (14 percent) and Latin America and Caribbean (13 percent). Most of the developed countries have now around 70 percent of their population residing in urban centers. Though the level of urbanization in the developing countries is currently low, it is indeed in these countries that urbanization is intensely happening at present. As estimated by the report, the world's urban population is likely to increase by another 2.5 billion by 2050 with concentration of nearly 90 percent of the increase in Asia and Africa. India, China and Nigeria are expected to account for 37 percent of the projected growth of world's urban population between 2014 and 2050. Considered region-wise, most developed regions in the world have a proportion of 78 percent of urban population in 2025, recording an increase of 6 percent since 1990. The proportion is likely to become 85 percent by 2050. This proportion is expected to increase from 48 percent to 63 percent (an increase of 15 percent) in less developed regions and from 31 percent to 49 percent (an increase of 18 percent) in the least developed regions.

1.1 Urbanization in India

India has been urbanizing. The share of urban population in the total population of India increased from 10.84 percent in 1901 to 31.2 percent in 2011. The urban –rural ratio increased from 12.16 percent to 45.35 percent in the same period. The number of cities/towns rose from 1917 to 1935. The number of million plus cities which stood at one in 1901 soared to 53 in 2011. As per 2011 census India's urban population is 377.1 million. There are 4041 statutory towns, 3894 census towns, 475 urban agglomerations and 981 outgrowths in 2011 as against 4041 statutory towns, 1362 census towns, 384 urban agglomerations and 962 outgrowths in 2011. As per the Census of 2011, 160.7 million urban population which accounts for 13.3 percent of the total population of the country and 42.6 percent of the total urban population lives in million plus cities. The population living in Class- I cities as a percent of total urban population increased from 21.0 percent in 1901 to 68.6 percent in 2011. India's urban population is expected to grow from 410 million in 2014 to 814 million by 2050 By 2025, 46% of Indians will live in cities with more than 1 million people. Four of India's cities namely Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Chennai, and Hyderabad with currently 5 to 10 million inhabitants are projected to become megacities in the coming years, for a total of seven megacities projected in the country by 2030. Urbanization is one of the indicators of economic development. Urban economy has a significant share in the country's GDP. As per the 12th plan approach of the Planning Commission of India, the pace of urbanization was set to accelerate as the country experienced a more rapid growth due to implementation of economic reforms, the surging growth and consequential increase in employment opportunities in the cities. Thus, urban expansion in India is expected to happen at an unprecedented pace in future. Urbanization is one of the economic issues that have been attracting the attention of policy makers as well as researchers. While cities are considered engines of growth, they are also breeders of slums.

1.2 Poverty Measurement in India

One- third of the world's poor live in India, and there are more people in India alone than in the whole of Sub-Sahara Africa. Poverty is an extremely complex phenomenon, which manifests itself in a range of overlapping and interwoven economic, political and social deprivation. These include lack of assets, low income levels, hunger, poor health, insecurity, physical and psychological hardship, social exclusion, degradation and discrimination and political powerlessness and disarticulation.

Deutsche Bank Research the estimates are nearly 300 million people in the Middle Class. If current trends continue, India's share of world GDP will significantly increase from 7.35 in 2016 to 8.5 by 2020. In 2011 less than 22% of Indians lived under the poverty line, nearly a 10% reduction from 29% of just two years prior in 2009.

The World Bank has revised its definition and bench marks to measure poverty since 1990, with $2 per day income on Purchasing Power Parity basis as the definition in use from 2005 to 2013

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Some Semi-economic and non-economic indices have been proposed to measure poverty in India. For the multi-dimensional poverty Index placed 30% weight on number of year spent in school and education of a person in order to determine if that person is poor.

Poverty in India is historical reality. From late 19th century through early 20th century, under British colonial rule, Poverty in India intensified, peaking in 1920's. Famines and diseases killed millions each time. After independence in 1947, mass death from famines was prevented. Rapid economic growth since 1991, has led to sharp reductions in extreme poverty in India.

The World Bank reviewed and proposed revisions in 2014. As of 2014, 56% of the total Population was living on less than $3.10 per day. According to the Modified Mixed Reference Period (MMRP) concept proposed by World Bank in 2015, Indian poverty rate for period 2011-12 stood at 12.4% of the total population taking the revised poverty line as $1.90

According to Global Wealth Report 2016 compiled by credit Suisse Research Institute, India is the second most unequal country in the world with the top one per cent of the population owning nearly 60% of the total wealth.

Inside India, both income-based poverty definition and consumption based poverty statistics are in use. Outside India the World Bank and institutions of the UN use a broader definition to compare poverty among nations, including India, based on PPP as well as nominal relative basis.

In India the methodology of substance food has been revised. Now following the official poverty rates based on the planning commission' data derived from so-called Tendulkar methodology. It defines poverty not in terms of annual income, but in terms of consumption or spending per individual over certain period for a basket of essential goods.

There are many mixed or non-economic measures of poverty and experts contest which one is most appropriate for India. For example, Dandekar and Rath in 1971 suggested a measure of poverty rate that was based on number of calories consume. In 2011 Alkire et al. suggested a Poverty rate measure so called Multi-dimensional Poverty Index (MPI), which put only 6.25% weight to assets owned by a person and pleased 33% weight on education and number of years spent in school.

India's proposed but not yet adopted official poverty line, in 2014, was Rs. 972 (US$14) a month in rural areas or Rs.1,407 (US$ 21) a month in cities. The current poverty line is $ 14 per month ($0.46 per day) in rural areas and $ 17 per month ($0.56 per day in urban areas.

India's nationwide average poverty line differs from each state's poverty line. For example, in 2011-12, Puduchary had its highest poverty line of Rs.1,301 (US$ 19) a month in rural and Rs.1309 (US$ 19) a month in urban areas. While Odisha had the lowest poverty line of Rs.695 (US$ 10) a month for rural and Rs.861 (US$ 13) a month for its urban areas.

Over the past decade, India has significantly reduced poverty, with extreme poverty (living on less than $2.15 per day) falling from 16.2 percent in 2011-12 to 2.3 percent in 2022-23, lifting 171 million people above this line. Employment growth has outpaced the working-age population since 2021-22, and employment rates, especially among women, are rising. Urban unemployment fell to 6.6 percent in Q1 FY24/25, the lowest since 2017-18. Recent data indicates a shift of male workers from rural to urban areas for the first time since 2018-19, while rural female employment in agriculture has grown. However, challenges persist: youth unemployment is at 13.3 percent, increasing to 29 percent among tertiary education graduates. Only 23 percent of non-farm paid jobs are formal, and most agricultural employment remains informal. Self-employment is rising, especially among rural workers and women. Despite a female employment rate of 31 percent, gender disparities remain, with 234 million more men in paid work.

WORLD BANK CRITERIA

Based on revised June 2025 World Bank estimates, poverty in India has shown a sharp decline, with estimates placing the extreme poverty rate (using a revised $3/day PPP) at 5.25% in 2022-23, down from 27.12% in 2011-12. Other 2025 estimates suggest that by FY25, the poverty headcount ratio could drop to approximately 1%–2.35% based on the lower $2.15/day line. Poverty fell from 21.9% to

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2.3% between 2011–12 and 2023–24, indicating the near-elimination of extreme poverty driven by rising consumption and better access to welfare, nutrition, and basic services.

Rangarajan Committee

The original **Rangarajan Committee (2014)** established a poverty line that has not been officially updated by the government. However, recent academic and institutional studies in **2024–2025** have applied its methodology to new survey data to estimate current poverty levels.

Recent Estimates Using Rangarajan Methodology (2025 Context)

While the committee's original 2011–12 estimate was 29.5%, newer studies using the **Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) 2022–23** provide the following insights:

RBI Economists' Update (2024–25): Researchers from the Reserve Bank of India's Department of Economic and Policy Research (DEPR) updated the Rangarajan line and found a sharp decline in poverty across states.

- **Odisha (Rural)**: Declined from 47.8% (2011–12) to **8.6%** (2022–23).
- **Bihar (Urban)**: Declined from 50.8% (2011–12) to **9.1%** (2022–23).
- **Lowest Rural Poverty**: Himachal Pradesh (**0.4%**).
- **Lowest Urban Poverty**: Tamil Nadu (**1.9%**).
- **Rangarajan & Dev Tentative Estimate**: A 2024 study by C. Rangarajan and S. Mahendra Dev adjusted the 2011–12 line for inflation, estimating national poverty at **10.8%** for 2022–23

Comparison with Other 2025 Metrics

- **NITI Aayog (MPI)**: Reports multidimensional poverty at **11.28%** as of 2022–23.
- **SBI Research**: Estimates a lower headcount poverty ratio of **4.5–5%** using updated survey data.
- **World Bank**: Estimates India's extreme poverty at **1%** (using the $2.15 PPP line) or **5.75%** (using the new $3.00 PPP line) for 2025.
- Multidimensional poverty in India declined from 29.17% in 2013-14 to 11.28% in 2022-23 , with about 24.82 crore people escaping poverty. The Gini index declined from **28.8 in 2011-12 to 25.5 in 2022-23,** showing reduced inequality.

Using these poverty lines, the World Bank finds that 5.3% of India's population falls below the extreme poverty line threshold of $3 per day (PPP). In other words, one in twenty Indians live in extreme poverty. In India's national currency, the $3 (PPP) per day threshold corresponds to Rs.60 per person per day.

Poverty can be defined as social phenomenon in which a section of the society is unable to fulfill even its basic necessaries of life. In India, the generally accepted definition of poverty emphasizes minimum level of living rather than a reasonable level of living. Two types of standards are common in economic literature, the absolute and the relative poverty. In the absolute standard, minimum physical quantities of cereals, pulses, milk, butter etc., are determined for a subsistence level and then the price quotations convert into monetary terms. The physical quotations aggregating all the quantities included a figure expressing per capita consumer expenditure is determined. The population, whose level of income is below the figure, is considered to be the poverty line.

According to the relative standard, income distribution of the population in different fractal groups is estimated and a comparison of the levels of living the top 5 to 10 per cent with the bottom 5 to 10 per cent of the population reflects the relative standards of poverty. History of Poverty estimations in India: Several economists and organizations have conducted various studies poverty.

Objectives

The main objective of the paper is to analyse the poverty alleviation programs in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh

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Methodology

This paper is base on the primary data, A purposive sampling method is employed to select the study area. The Guntur districts have five municipal corporations, namely, Guntur, Tenali, Mangalagiri-Tadepalli and Ponnuru municipalities. Among the five municipal corporations three municipal corporations are selected on the basis of the beneficiaries and slums. 300 sample respondents are selected through simple random sampling method from the list of beneficiaries

Poverty alleviation Programmes

The government of Andhra Pradesh has been implementing various programmes for urban poor. The programmes wise beneficiaries and non beneficiaries in Guntur Municipal Corporation was discussed in the following paragraph.

Zero interest Loans

The main objective to implement this is to provide a free credit loan to all of the self-help groups of the Andhra Pradesh state. Also, the main eligibility criteria in the implementation of the scheme are that it is only for the female candidate of Andhra Pradesh state. The government of Andhra Pradesh distributed Rs.4966 crores to SHG women's in the state in the year of 2024-2025. The table-1 clearly shows that 71 percent of the beneficiaries and 50 percent of non-beneficiaries are benefitted through Zero interest loans. The occupation wise data also reveals that 76.92 percent of service sector beneficiaries are benefitted through Zero interest loans scheme, followed by 71.43 percent of artisans occupation beneficiaries, 69.23 percent of manufacturing , 66.67 percent of trade and commerce, and 65.22 percent of transport occupation beneficiaries

Chandranna Bhima scheme

The main objective of the scheme is to provide relief to the families of all categories of unorganized workers in case of death or disability of the unorganized worker leaving the family in great distress. Enrolment of unorganized workers was taken up by Praja Sadhikara Survey-2016 (Pulse Survey) by Government. The Chandranna Bhima scheme was implemented during the period from 02.10.2016 to 01.10.2017. With the new TDP-Led NDA government on 2024 remaining several welfare schemes, including insurance for unorganized workers. The scheme provide up to Rs.5 lakhs for accidental deaths and total disability and acround 2 lakhs for natural deaths to BPL families

Chandranna Bhima is the massive social security scheme implemented for the first time in the country. The Scheme covered 2.13 crore unorganised workers with Aadhar linked database. The table-1 clearly shows that 86 percent of the beneficiaries and 86.67 percent of non-beneficiaries are enrolled in Chandranna Bhima scheme. Above 85 percent of all the occupational groups are enrolled in Chandranna Bhima except transport occupation respondents in beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries.

PMAY (Pradhan Manthri Awas Yojana)

The scheme is primarily aimed at providing housing for all. Therefore, understandably, all those who already own a home or any of their family member own a home, are kept out of the benefits of PMAY. The rule says, "The beneficiary family should not own a pucca house and the beneficiary family should not have availed of central assistance under any housing scheme from Government of India." A beneficiary family will comprise husband, wife, unmarried sons and/or unmarried daughters. Individuals will get 4 percent interest subsidy on a loan amount. Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal achieved higher house completions under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) than other states, houses completed under PMAY-U in Andhra Pradesh were 3,13,042 respectively. The primary data (table-1) is shown only 5.33 percent of beneficiaries and 3.00 percent of non-beneficiaries are benefitted under PMAY scheme in Guntur Municipal Corporation. The occupation wise data also shows that highest (8.33 percent) of trade and commerce occupation beneficiaries and transport occupation non-beneficiaries are benefitted under PMAY scheme where as lowest in transport occupation beneficiaries and artisans in non-beneficiaries

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NOAP (National Old Age pension)

The central and state government launched NOAP as a centrally sponsored scheme with effect from August 15, 1995. It is a welfare programme being implemented in both rural and urban areas. Furthermore, it represents a significant step towards the fulfilment of the Directive Principles of State Policy enshrined in the Article 41 of the Constitution of India Under this scheme, BPL persons aged 60 years or above are entitled to a monthly pension of Rs. 4000 up to 79 years of age. The data clearly reveals that 18.33 percent of beneficiaries' households and 16 percent of non-beneficiaries household benefitted under National Old Age pension Scheme in the study area

Public Distribution System

India's public distribution system (PDS) is perhaps the world's largest of its kind. The government of India's public distribution system is one of the most important food security programs. In fact, the PDS was established in the country to facilitate the distribution of subsidized food grains to the poor. In 1997, the targeted public distribution system was implemented in Andhra Pradesh and other parts of the country with the goal of eradicating hunger. Rice, sugar, palmolein oil, and wheat are among the essential commodities provided by the PDS at subsidized prices to the poor. The table clearly shows that 90.33 percent of beneficiary households and 91 percent of non-beneficiary households benefitted under public distribution system in the study area and remaining percentage are not benefitted due to lack of ration cards and etc.

Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM):

Building strong grassroots level institutions of the poor to reduce poverty and vulnerability of urban poor households by enabling them to access gainful self-employment and skilled wage employment opportunities, resulting in an appreciable improvement in their livelihoods on a long-term basis. The mission's goal would be to gradually provide shelters with basic services to the city's homeless. In addition, the mission would address urban street vendors' livelihood concerns by facilitating access to suitable spaces, institutional credit, social security, and skills for them to access emerging market opportunities. It is observed from the above table cent percent of beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries are members in the SHGs in the study area

The table clearly concluded that the result from Zero interest loans (Vaddileni Runalu schems) shows that 71 percent of the beneficiaries and 50 percent of non-beneficiaries are benefitted through Zero interest loans. The data relating to Chandranna Bima scheme clearly shows that 86 percent of the beneficiaries and 86.67percent of non-beneficiaries are enrolled in Chandranna Bima Scheme. Above 85 percent of all the occupational groups are enrolled in Chandranna Bima except transport occupation respondents in beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries

The data on PMAY scheme, shows only 5.33 percent of beneficiaries and 3.00 percent of non-beneficiaries are benefitted under PMAY scheme in Guntur Municipal Corporation. The occupation wise data also shows that highest (8.33 percent) of trade and commerce occupation beneficiaries and transport occupation non-beneficiaries are benefitted under PMAY scheme where as lowest in transport occupation beneficiaries and artisans in non-beneficiaries The data about NOAP clearly reveals that 18.33 percent of beneficiary households and 16 percent of non-beneficiary household benefitted under National Old Age pension Scheme in the study area. The data regarding PDS shows that 90.33 percent of beneficiary households and 91 percent of non-beneficiaries households benefitted under public distribution system in the study area and remaining percentage are not benefitted due to lack of ration cards and etc.

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Table-1Poverty alleviation programmes in the study area

Occupation Category	Zero interest loans	Chandranna Bhima	PMAY	National Old age pension	PDS	DAY-NULM
Manufacturing	45 (69.23)	58 (89.23)	5 (7.69)	10 (15.38)	62 (95.38)	65 100.00)
Trade and commerce	48 (66.67)	65 (90.28)	6 (8.33)	8 (11.11)	65 (90.28)	72 100.00)
Service	70 (76.92)	80 (87.91)	3 (3.30)	15 (16.48)	84 (92.31)	91 100.00)
Artisans	35 (71.43)	40 (81.63)	2 (4.08)	16 (32.65)	40 (81.63)	49 100.00)
Transport	15 (65.22)	15 (65.22)	0 (0.00)	6 (26.09)	20 (86.96)	23 100.00)
Total	213 (71.00)	258 (86.00)	16 (5.33)	55 (18.33)	271 (90.33)	300 100.00)

Source: Compiled from collected data.

 Note: Figures in the parenthesis indicate percentages to the respective totals.

About SHG, cent percent of beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries are members in the SHGs in the study area.

CONCLUSION

The main objective of the paper is to analyse the poverty alleviation programs in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh. This paper is base on the primary data, A purposive sampling method is employed to select the study area. The Guntur districts have five municipal corporations, namely, Guntur, Tenali, Mangalagiri- Tadepalli and Ponnuru municipalities. Among the five municipal corporations three municipal corporations are selected on the basis of the beneficiaries and slums. 300sample respondents are selected through simple random sampling method from the list of beneficiaries. The paper concluded that the government of Andhra Pradesh distributed Rs.4966 crores to SHG women's in the state in the year of 2024-2025. The data clearly shows that 71 percent of the beneficiaries and 50 percent of non-beneficiaries are benefitted through Zero interest loans. The occupation wise data also reveals that 76.92 percent of service sector beneficiaries are benefitted through Zero interest loans (Veddileni Runalu scheme), followed by 71.43 percent of artisans occupation beneficiaries, 69.23 percent of manufacturing , 66.67 percent of trade and commerce, and 65.22 percent of transport occupation beneficiaries. Nearly 86 percent of the beneficiaries and 86.67 percent of non-beneficiaries are enrolled in Chandranna Bhima scheme. Above 85 percent of all the occupational groups are enrolled in Chandranna Bhima except transport occupation respondents in beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries. The primary data shown only 5.33 percent of beneficiaries and 3.00 percent of non-beneficiaries are benefitted under PMAY scheme in Guntur Municipal Corporation. The occupation wise data also shows that highest (8.33 percent) of trade and commerce occupation beneficiaries and transport occupation non-beneficiaries are benefitted under PMAY scheme where as lowest in transport occupation beneficiaries and artisans in non-beneficiaries. The dats clearly shows that 90.33 percent of beneficiary households and 91 percent of non-beneficiary households benefitted under public distribution system in the study area and remaining percentage are not benefitted due to lack of ration cards and etc.