Child Wellbeing, Schooling and Living Standards

REPORT ON THREE VILLAGES
OF
ANDHRA PRADESH

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AN INTRODUCTION TO THE FAS-UNICEF COLLABORATIVE PROJECT ON CHILD WELLBEING, SCHOOLING AND LIVING STANDARDS

In recent years, two prominent though disparate trends have been observed in India: impressive economic growth and wealth creation; and stagnation in key social indicators, particularly among disadvantaged populations, across geographical areas, castes and gender.

While there have been positive trends in respect of certain social indicators, e.g., a significant increase in literacy rates and the enrolment of both boys and girls in primary school, however, progress has been slow in areas requiring systemic changes, such as in the provision of good quality services. In this context, the design of better strategies requires an understanding of the social and economic constraints faced by children and their families, particularly in rural India, where deprivation is more severe than in urban India. To take the case of education and child labour, the persistence of class and caste differences is recognized as an important factor in ensuring equal opportunities to education. While the macro data make overall patterns clear, micro data can actually address the question of identifying specific class and caste constraints.

Since its inception in 2003, the Foundation for Agrarian Studies has been engaged in multidisciplinary theoretical and empirical study of the rural economy and society of India. A defining feature of the Foundation's work is that it is conducted in association with social and political activists and members of mass organizations. From 2005, the Foundation has initiated a Project on Agrarian Relations in India (PARI) in order to study village economy and society in depth (see BOX). In every selected State, our practice is to survey two or three villages in different agro-ecological regions. To date, as part of the project, village surveys have been competed in 18 villages in seven States in India.

It is well established that children in India continue to suffer multiple deprivations, in terms of schooling and education, in terms of health and nutrition, and also in terms of basic household amenities (such as sanitation and water). The FAS UNICEF collaborative programme attempts to complement existing analyses based on large-scale survey and Census data with village level data obtained from the FAS-PARI. An important function of small-scale village-level surveys is to identify emerging relationships and trends that need to be then tested on larger data sets. While the broad patterns of deprivation can be established with large-scale data such as from the Census and the NFHS, village level data allow us to examine inter-relationships between

household and individual variables that affect a child. For example, we can examine the relation between low incomes and child deprivation or between caste status and deprivation.

About FAS PARI (Project on Agrarian Relations in India)

The objectives of the Foundation's Project on Agrarian Relation in India (PARI) are

- *to analyse village-level production, production systems and livelihoods and the socio-economic characteristics of different strata of the rural population;*
- *to conduct specific studies of sectional deprivation in rural India, particularly with regard to the Dalit and Scheduled Tribe populations, women, specific minorities and the income-poor;*
- *and to report on the state of basic village amenities and the access of the rural people to the facilities of modern life.*

The study is being conducted over a period of about six years (it began in 2006). In every selected State, our practice is to survey two or three villages in different agro-ecological regions. The villages studied will ultimately represent a wide range of different agro-ecological regions in the country.

Our team conducts a census-type survey that covers every household and individual in each village. A village-level questionnaire is also canvassed in each village. In addition, a village profile, based on the existing sources of secondary data, is constructed.

UNICEF entered into a partnership with the Foundation for Agrarian Studies (FAS) as part of its social policy programme (part of the ongoing Country Programme 2008-12) in September 2010. In the partnership programme, FAS will provide cross-sectional and micro-level data on the status of children from a variety of agro-ecological settings. The unique FAS-PARI data base of village data, from 14 villages across six States will be used to examine and discuss various types of deprivation among children, and the factors associated with such deprivations.

Specifically, an attempt is being made to link deprivations among children in respect of schooling and access to basic amenities, to household incomes, assets and occupations, and to the particularity of the agro-ecological and socio-economic structure of each village. Together, the Foundation and UNICEF will use this micro-level analysis to detail macro-level trends data on

improvements in child well-being, providing nuance and depth towards understanding the main drivers of change for children.

The output of this collaboration will be a series of publications, detailed reports for six States and one overview report, dealing with aspects of deprivation and living standards among women and children in rural areas.

Each report (for a State) will cover the following features of the survey villages

• Document and examine the pattern of schooling and educational attainment among children of different social groups

• Relate the observed deprivations/attainments to household socio-economic factors such as incomes, assets, occupations, to household living conditions and to individual factors such as mother's occupation and education.

• Examine the incidence of child labour and identify factors at the household level and village level associated with the persistence of child labour

• Examine deprivations suffered by children on account of lack of basic civic amenities within a household, including access to safe water, electricity, toilets and quality housing.

• Identify the types of government benefits obtained by children (e..g scholarships, participation in ICDS).

These reports can help propose areas in which social protection policies need strengthening in order to end deprivations suffered by rural children and will complement UNICEF's work on analysis of child poverty and vulnerability in the economic and social development domains.

Andhra Pradesh was the first State to be studied as part of the Project on Agrarian Relations in India. Census-type surveys were conducted in December 2005 in three villages. The three villages were Ananathavaram, Bukkacherla and Kotahapalle. Ananthavaram in Guntur district is a village in the paddy-dominated tracts of south coastal Andhra. Bukkacherla, which is in Raptadu Mandal, Anantapur district, is a village from a dry, drought-prone area. Kothapalle in Karimnagar districdt is a village representing agriculture where irrigation is from bore-wells and food grain and other crops are grown.

Andhra Pradesh: Ananthavaram Village

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1. LOCATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE[1]

The revenue village of Ananthavaram is located in the Kollur *mandal* of Guntur district in the state of Andhra Pradesh in India. Tenali is the town and the railhead nearest to Ananthavaram, at a distance of 17 kilometers. The village has a concrete all-weather road passing through it. It is on a regular bus route, with a bus available at least every 45 minutes. There are two bus stops in the village. Other means of regular transport for people and goods are transport auto-rickshaws, jeeps and small motor-vans. There is a post office in the village, a ration shop, a branch of the Andhra Bank, a medical store and two public telephone booths. There is, however, no public health care facility, although two private medical practitioners have consultation rooms in the village. The nearest primary health centre (PHC) is at Kollur at a distance of 8 kilometers, and the nearest sub-divisional hospital and private hospitals are at Tenali. The village has three primary schools and a secondary school, but no higher secondary school.

The total geographical area of the village is 1030 hectares, of which 86.5 per cent is irrigated land under cultivation. Only 13.5 per cent of the area of the village is not available for cultivation. No part of the village geographical area is classified as forest or as cultivable waste. All land cultivated is irrigated.

The agro-ecological region under which the village falls according to the NARP classification is the Krishna Godavari zone. Canal irrigation (from the Varalapuram canal of the Krishna river) and ground water irrigation are the major sources of irrigation for the village. Although official data suggest that almost the entire extent of cultivated land in the village was classified as being under canal irrigation, data from our census-type survey of December 2005 show that supplementary irrigation from groundwater was almost the norm on area officially classified as solely under the canal irrigation system. Only 12 per cent of gross cropped area was solely under surface irrigation, 24 per cent was solely dependent on groundwater irrigation and 55 per cent was under irrigation from both sources.

The major crops grown in the village are: paddy, maize, black gram, sesame, sugarcane and betel leaf. In the kharif season, paddy cultivation dominates the sown area of the village. The two most important crops in the rabi season in 2005 were maize and black gram. Sugarcane was cultivated through the year.

[1] This report draws from the book Ramachandran, Rawal and Swaminathan (eds.) (2010), *Socio Economic Surveys of Three Villages in Andhra Pradesh: A Study of Agrarian Relations*, Tulika Books, New Delhi.

Table 1.1 *Location of the village, Ananthavaram*

Village	Ananthavaram
District	Guntur
Block/Tehsil	Kollur
Nearest town	Tenali
Distance from nearest town	17 km
Nearest railway station	Tenali
Distance from nearest railway station	17 km
Bus stop within the village	Yes
Metalled approach road	Yes

Table 1.2 *Description of village infrastructure and amenities, Ananthavaram, 2005*

Item	Number/ description
Number of anganwadi centres within village	3
Number of primary schools (Std I-V) within village	3
Number of middle schools (upto Std VIII) within village	0
Number of secondary schools (upto Std X) within village	1
Number of higher secondary schools (upto Std XII) within village	0
Distance from nearest PHC	8 km
Health Sub centre within village	Yes
Post office within the village	Yes
Bank within the village	Yes

Table 1.3 *Land use and population, Ananthavaram, 2001*

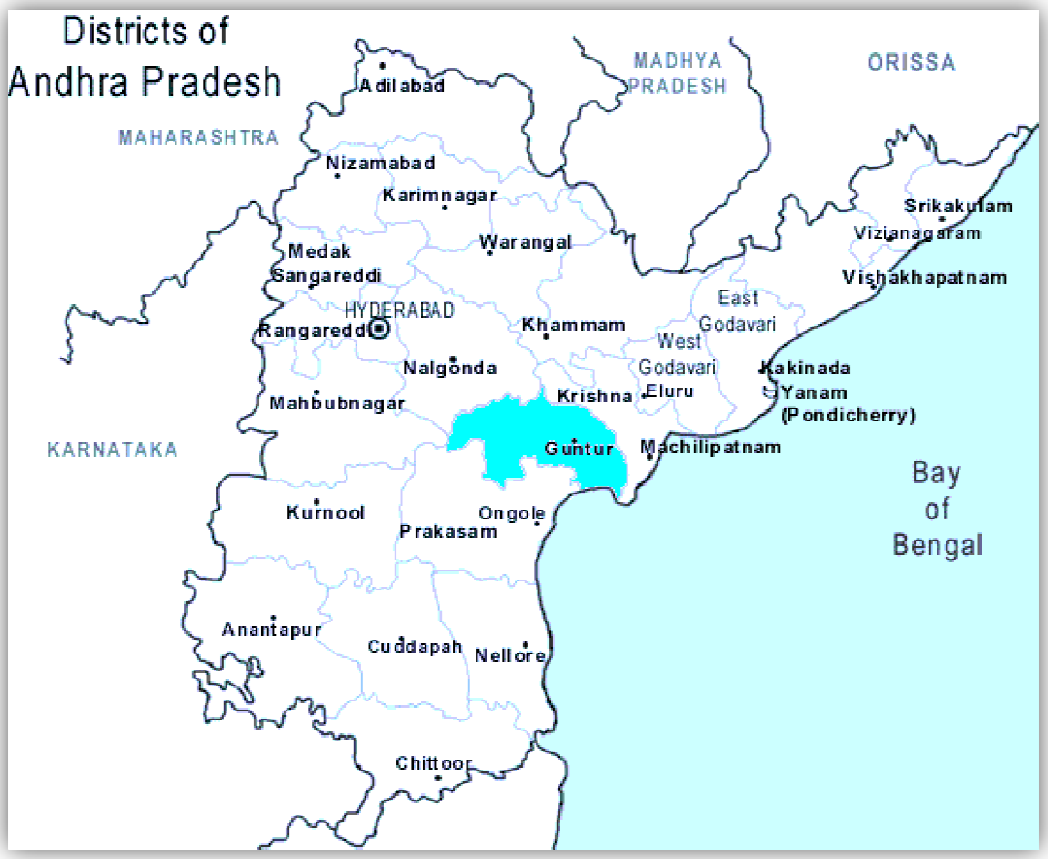
Village			Area (in hectares)	As % of geographical area
Geographical area			1030	100
Land use (as % of geographical area)	Forest		0	0.0
	Area under cultivation	Irrigated	890.7	86.5
		Unirrigated	0	0.0
	Cultivable waste		0	0.0
	Area not available for cultivation		139.3	13.5

Source: Census of India, 2001

Table 1.4 *Agro-economic features of the village, Ananthavaram, 2005*

Agro-ecological region (National Agricultural Research Project classification)	Krishna Godavari zone
Major crops grown (by crop seasons)	Kharif: Paddy Rabi: Maize, Black gram, Sesame Annual crops: Sugarcane, Betel leaf
Major sources of irrigation	Canal irrigation (Varalapuram canal, Krishna river) and groundwater irrigation

Figure 1.1 *Map showing Guntur district in Andhra Pradesh*



2. *DEMOGRAPHY*

2.1 Population, social composition, sex ratios and children per household

There are, in all, 667 households in Ananthavaram. Scheduled castes (SCs) form 42.4 per cent, Other Backward Classes (BCs) 19.6 per cent and Other Caste Hindus 28.5 per cent of all households. Further, 6.6 per cent of households belong to the Scheduled Tribes (STs) while 2.8 per cent of households are Muslim.

Table 2.1 *Distribution of households, by social groups, Ananthavaram, 2005*

Social group	Number of households	As percentage of all households
Scheduled Caste	283	42.4
Scheduled Tribe	44	6.6
BC	131	19.6
Other Caste Hindu	190	28.5
Muslim	18	2.8
Unspecified	1	0.1
All	667	100.0

Table 2.1a provides the distribution of the population of Ananthavaram by caste and sex as per the FAS survey of 2005. The share of SCs in the population is 44.4 per cent.[2] The category of 'Other Caste Hindus' is the second largest social group, accounting for 27.7 per cent of the population of the village. Table 2.2 provides the age group wise distribution of the population by sex. The overall population sex ratio is 1039 females to 1000 males and that for SCs is 991. [3] The juvenile sex ratio (JSR), defined as the number of girls per 1000 boys in the age group 0 to 6 years, is low at 902.[4]

[2] The share of SCs in the village population in 2001 was 39 per cent and that of STs 6.9 per cent according to the Census of India. The corresponding figures for 2005 from our survey are 44.44 per cent and 6.56 per cent respectively. These may reflect some degree of undercounting of SCs in the Census and some caste-differentials in net migration between 2001 and 2005, but given the relatively small numbers involved and the fact that the two sets of numbers refer to two different points in time, too much should not be made of the differences.

[3] . The population sex ratio for Ananthavaram as per the Census of India was 988 in 2001, much lower than our figure for 2005. The sex ratio for Scheduled Castes was 993 in 2001 according to the Census of India, close to our figure of 991 in 2005. The population sex ratio for STs was 982 in 2001 according to the Census of India, while our figure for 2005 is 975. The caveat in the previous foot note applies here as well.

[4] The sex ratio in the 0-4 age group for rural Andhra Pradesh was 959 in 2001 *(Andhra Pradesh Human Development Report, 2007).* The figure is unlikely to differ much from this for the 0-6 age group.

A quarter (26.2) per cent of the population consists of children below 18 years of age. The share of population below 25 years of age is only two-fifths, well below the national average of 54.3 per cent in 1999,[5] and 15.2 per cent of the population consists of senior citizens aged 60 years and above.

Table 2.1a *Distribution of population by caste and sex, Ananthavaram, 2005*

Caste cum religious social groups	Number			As percentage of all		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Scheduled Caste	533	538	1071	43.4	45.5	44.4
Scheduled Tribe	78	80	158	6.4	6.8	6.6
BC	231	220	451	18.8	18.6	18.7
Other Caste Hindu	356	311	667	29.0	26.3	27.7
Muslim	29	32	61	2.3	2.7	2.5
Unspecified	1	1	2	0.1	0.1	0.1
All	1228	1182	2410	100.00	100.00	100.00

Table 2.2 *Distribution of population by age and sex, Ananthavaram, 2005*

Age group	Population			As percentage of total population		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
0 to < 3 years	37	30	67	3.0	2.5	2.8
3 years to 6 years	55	72	127	4.5	6.1	5.3
7 years to 9 years	51	48	99	4.2	4.1	4.1
10 years to 14 years	106	109	215	8.6	9.2	8.9
15 years to 17 years	63	60	123	5.1	5.1	5.1
18 years to 24 years	164	164	328	13.4	13.9	13.6
25 years to 34 years	175	159	334	14.3	13.5	13.9
35 years to 49 years	264	243	507	21.5	20.6	21.0
50 years to 59 years	118	125	243	9.6	10.6	10.1
60 years to 69 years	109	86	195	8.8	7.2	8.1
≥ 70 years	86	86	172	7.0	7.2	7.1
All	1228	1182	2410	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 2.3 presents the distribution of households by household size group. Only 24 households out of a total of 667 have more than six members, but at the other end, nearly 8 per cent of all households are single-person households. Over 88 per cent of all households have a size of 5 or less. The average household size is only 3.6. [6]

[5] The figure for India is from http://www.indiademographics.com/46/specimen.aspx

[6] The average household size in Ananthavaram in 2001 was 3.72 according to the Census of India, close to our figure of 3.61 for 2005. However, the Census of India reported 834 households in Ananthavaram in 2001 whereas there were 667 households in 2005 by our count.

Table 2.3 *Distribution of households by household size, Ananthavaram, 2005*

Household size	Number of households	As percentage of all households	Average size of the household
1	53	8.0	1
2	133	19.9	2
3	133	19.9	3
4	169	25.3	4
5	100	15.0	5
6	55	8.3	6
7	15	2.2	7
≥ 8	9	1.4	9
All	667	100.0	3.6

Table 2.3a presents the data on the number and percentage of households without children by social group.

As many as 303 households have no child (i.e. person below the age of 18 years). The proportion of households with no child is the least for STs at 31.8 per cent. The figure is 39.2 per cent for SCs, 44.4 per cent for Muslims and 48.1 per cent among BCs (Backward classes). Among Other Caste Hindus, 55.8 per cent of households belong to this category. The rather high percentage of households without children among the Other Caste Hindus may reflect the practice among a high proportion of these households of sending children to study in urban residential schools far away from the village.

Table 2.4 presents data on the average number of children by size of household for all households with at least two members. There is no instance of any person below 18 years of age living alone as the sole member of a household. The average number of children per household, using a cut-off age of 17 completed years to define children and including all 667 households, is 0.9. It is 1.7 if single person households are excluded.[7] Only 37 out of 667 households report having three or more members below the age of 18 years.

The demographic features of Ananathavaram discussed above reflect the fact that Ananthavaram, like much of Andhra Pradesh, has undergone a demographic transition which is significant and continuing, though it has not reached the stage that one observes in Kerala, and to a slightly lesser extent, in Tamil Nadu. With reduction in birth rates and a rise in longevity, the

[7] However, if one takes only households with at least one member below the age of 18 years, the average number of children per household is 2.9.

proportion of young persons in the rural population is much less than is the case with rural areas in states that have not undergone a significant demographic transition.[8] The generally small household size reflects the preponderance of nuclear families and a modest fertility rate.[9]

Table 2.3a *Number and proportion of households without children, by social group, Ananthavaram, 2005*

Social group	Number of households without children	Total number of households	Households without children as percentage of total households
Scheduled Caste	111	283	39.2
Scheduled Tribe	14	44	31.8
BC	63	131	48.1
Other Caste Hindu	106	190	55.8
Muslim	8	18	44.4
Unspecified	1	1	100.0
All	303	667	45.4

Table 2.4 *Average number of children per household by household size, Ananthavaram, 2005*

Household size	Number of households	Average number of children
1	53	0.0
2	133	0.1
3	133	0.5
4	169	1.4
5	100	1.6
6	55	1.9
7	15	2.2
≥ 8	9	3.2
All	667	0.9

NOTE 1: Children (in all references in this document) are defined as persons in the age group 0 to 17 years, unless otherwise specified.

Table 2.5 provides information on distribution of children based on whether they are staying with both/either/neither parent(s). Over five per cent of girls fewer than 18 years of age stay

[8] However, life expectancy in Andhra Pradesh improved only modestly from 61.8 years in 1993-94 to 63.9 years in 2004-05 even as the all India figure moved from 61.8 years to 65.4 years over the same period. *(Andhra Pradesh Human Development Report, 2007)*

[9] The total fertility rate for Andhra Pradesh came down from 3.4 in 1991 to 1.8 in 2005-06. The corresponding figures for India are 3.6 and 2.3 respectively. *(Andhra Pradesh Human Development Report, 2007)*

with family members other than their parents. Children staying with mother (and not with the father) account for nearly 7 per cent of all children but the obverse figure is less than 2 per cent.

Table 2.5 *In whose home do children live?, Ananthavaram, 2005*

Children living in the same household with	Number of children			As percentage of all children		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Both parents	263	288	551	84.3	90.2	87.4
Mother, not father	23	21	44	7.4	6.6	7.0
Father, not mother	5	6	11	1.6	1.9	1.7
Neither parents but with other family members	17	4	21	5.5	1.3	3.3
Spouse/spouse's parents	2	0	2	0.6	0.0	0.3
Unspecified	2	0	2	0.6	0.0	0.3
All	312	319	631	100.0	100.0	100.0

2.2 *Activity Status of children*

Tables 2.6 present information on the activity status of children in the village in the age group of 6 to 14 years. There are 350 children in the age group of 6 to 14 years, consisting of 173 girls and 177 boys. No child is engaged in work on household operational holding or own household enterprise other than that relating to animal resources.[10] 23 children, consisting of 15 girls and 8 boys, are engaged in work outside the household-paid and unpaid- for an employer. Of these, as can be seen from tables 2.7 and 2.8, the largest contingent-consisting of 14 girls and 5 boys- is from SC households. The remaining four children are: two boys belonging to ST households, one boy from a Muslim household and one girl from a BC household.

[10] Even if activity relating to animal resources is included as 'work', it makes little difference. Only three boys-all out of school- were engaged in such activity. No girl was so engaged. Two of these boys were from SC households and one from an OBC household. All three came from households in the third asset quintile.

Table 2.6 *Children in the age group 6 to 14 years engaged in specific types of activities, by sex, Ananthavaram, 2005*

Type of activity	Number			As percentage of all children in age group		
	Girls	Boys	All	Girls	Boys	All
Work outside the household for an employer (paid and unpaid)	15	8	23	8.7	4.5	6.6
Work on household operational holdings	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Work in any household enterprise other than animal resources	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
All	15	8	23	8.7	4.5	6.6

Table 2.7 *Boys in the age group 6 to 14 years engaged in specific types of activities, by social group, Ananthavaram, 2005*

Social group	Number			As percentage of all children in age group		
	Work outside the household for an employer (paid and unpaid)	Work on household operational holding	Work in any household enterprise other than those involving animal resources	Work outside the household for an employer (paid and unpaid)	Work on household operational holding	Work in any household enterprise other than animal resources
Scheduled Caste	5	0	0	6.2	0.0	0.0
Scheduled Tribe	2	0	0	10.5	0.0	0.0
BC	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other Caste Hindu	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Muslim	1	0	0	25.0	0.0	0.0
All	8	0	0	4.5	0.0	0.0

Table 2.8 *Girls in the age group 6 to 14 years engaged in specific types of activities, by social group, Ananthavaram, 2005*

Social group	Number			As percentage of all children in age group		
	Work outside the household for an employer (paid and unpaid)	Work on household operational holding	Work in any household enterprise other than animal resources	Work outside the household for an employer (paid and unpaid)	Work on household operational holding	Work in any household enterprise other than animal resources
Scheduled Caste	14	0	0	15.7	0.0	0.0
Scheduled Tribe	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
BC	1	0	0	3.6	0.0	0.0
Other Caste Hindu	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Muslim	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
All	15	0	0	8.7	0.0	0.0

To identify the economic status of households to which working children belong, we have categorized all households into five quintiles based on the value of total assets owned.[11] The maximum, minimum, median and mean asset values of each asset quintile in Ananthavaram are presented in Table 2.11. It is observed that the top two asset quintiles are far apart from the bottom three in terms of the average value of assets. Indeed, the top asset quintile is in a different league compared to the rest of the distribution: the mean value of assets in the top quintile was eleven times higher than that of the fourth quintile. The distribution of households across asset quintiles and social group shows that SC and ST households are over-represented in the bottom asset quintiles, while Other Caste Hindu households dominate the top asset quintiles (Table 2.10). While 54.7 per cent of the Other Caste Hindu households are in the top asset quintile, there is *no* ST household in Q5, and only 6 of the 283 SC households in the village are in Q5.

Table 2.9 *Details of the asset quintile, Ananthavaram, 2005*

Asset quintile	Maximum	Minimum	Average	Median
Q1	16,140	120	7913.3	7,158
Q2	40,150	16,170	26059.9	24,100
Q3	90,350	40,490	63191.4	61,580
Q4	340,860	90,850	180362.9	164,620
Q5	40,455,400	344,975	1967645.7	896,850

[11] Assets include land and waterbodies, houses and buildings, trees, animals, other means of production, means of transport, domestic durable goods, and other assets such as grain stock and inventories. Assets do not include financial assets and gold. Assets are valued at present value, reported by households.

Table 2.10 *Distribution of households, by social group and asset group, Ananthavaram 2005*

Social group	Number of households (as percentage of all households in asset quintile)						As percentage of all households in caste group					
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	All	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	All
Scheduled Caste	70 (52.2)	84 (62.6)	79 (59.4)	44 (33.1)	6 (4.5)	283 (42.4)	24.7	29.7	27.9	15.5	2.1	100
Scheduled Tribe	26 (19.4)	14 (10.5)	3 (2.3)	1 (0.8)	0 (0.0)	44 (6.6)	59.1	31.8	6.8	2.3	0.0	100
BC	15 (11.2)	24 (17.9)	27 (20.3)	43 (32.3)	22 (16.5)	131 (19.6)	11.5	18.3	20.6	32.8	16.8	100
Other Caste Hindu	15 (11.2)	8 (6.0)	21 (15.8)	42 (31.6)	104 (78.2)	190 (28.5)	7.9	4.2	11.1	22.1	54.7	100
Muslim	8 (6.0)	4 (3.0)	3 (2.2)	3 (2.2)	0 (0.0)	18 (2.7)	44.4	22.2	16.7	16.7	0.0	100
Unspecified	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.8)	1 (0.2)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	100	100
All	134 (100)	134 (100)	133 (100)	133 (100)	133 (100)	667 (100)						

Tables 2.11 and 2.12 present the distribution of working children by the asset quintiles for boys and girls respectively. None of the children from the top two asset quintiles figure in the list of working children. This is true even if we regard three boys out of school who work in animal tending as 'working children' (See footnote 10). In other words, no child from the wealthier households (top 40 per cent) is a working child.

Table 2.11 *Boys in the age group 6 to 14 years engaged in specific types of activities, by asset quintiles, Ananthavaram, 2005*

Asset quintile	Number			As percentage of all children in age group		
	Work outside the household for an employer (paid and unpaid)	Work on household operational holding	Work in any household enterprise other than animal resources	Work outside the household for an employer (paid and unpaid)	Work on household operational holding	Work in any household enterprise other than animal resources
Q1	6	0	0	12.5	0.0	0.0
Q2	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Q3	2	0	0	4.7	0.0	0.0
Q4	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Q5	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
All	8	0	0	4.5	0.0	0.0

Table 2.12 *Girls in the age group 6 to 14 years engaged in specific types of activities, by asset quintiles, Ananthavaram, 2005*

Asset quintile	Number			As percentage of all children in age group		
	Work outside the household for an employer (paid and unpaid)	Work on household operational holding	Work in any household enterprise other than animal resources	Work outside the household for an employer (paid and unpaid)	Work on household operational holding	Work in any household enterprise other than animal resources
Q1	6	0	0	13.0	0.0	0.0
Q2	3	0	0	9.1	0.0	0.0
Q3	6	0	0	15.0	0.0	0.0
Q4	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Q5	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
All	15	0	0	8.7	0.0	0.0

2.3 *Age at marriage*

There is sometimes a presumption that a significant proportion of girls in rural India get married well before the legal age of marriage of 18 years. This is not generally the case in Ananthavaram. It is clear from Table 2.13 that there is little incidence of child marriage in Ananthavaram, except among the STs. Four girls-three belonging to STs and one to SCs-were currently married and under 18 years of age. Six males-one Muslim and the other 5 STs-below the age of 21 years were currently married. The incidence of marriage below the legal age of marriage is about one-seventh among STs and negligible in the rest of the population.

Table 2.13 *Persons currently married in the age group below 18 years for women and below 21 years for men, by sex and social group, Ananthavaram, 2005*

Social group	Female (< 18 years)		Male (< 21 years)	
	Number of married	as % of all males below 21 years	Number of married	as % of all males below 21 years
Scheduled Caste	1	0.7	0	0.0
Scheduled Tribe	3	15.0	5	13.2
BC	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other Caste Hindu	0	0.0	0	0.0
Muslim	0	0.0	1	9.1
All	4	1.3	6	1.5

3. *EDUCATION*

3.1 *School Attendance*

The first school in the village was established in 1915 by the Lutheran church. At the time of our survey, this school functioned as a government primary school. There are four schools in the village today: three primary schools and a high school. All have *pucca* buildings. All three primary schools were managed by the local Mandal Parishad, were co-educational with instruction in the Telugu medium, and covered Grades 1 to 5. Although the pupil–teacher ratio in each school was 30 or less, not one school had a regular head teacher at the time of the survey.

There are several schemes in operation in the village schools, including the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and the mid-day meal programme. When collecting data, we attempted specifically to identify children who attended school regularly, distinguishing them from children who were not enrolled in school and from children enrolled in but not regularly attending school. The data in the tables that follow represent children in the first category, that is, children enrolled and attending school regularly.

Tables 3.1 to 3.8 present detailed information on school attendance by age group, sex, social category and asset quintile.

Table 3.1 and Figure 3.1 present data on attendance by age group and Table 3.2 present data on gross enrolment ratios (GERs), separately for boys and girls. It is clear that all children do *not* attend school regularly. The percentage of attendance falls sharply in the transition from the 6-10 years age group to 11-14 years age group for girls but not for boys. It falls sharply for both boys and girls in the transition from the age group of 11-14 year to that of 15-16 years. There is a further sharp fall in attendance percentages for both boys and girls in the next transition from the age group of 15-16 years to that of 17-18 years. The fall for girls is steeper than that for boys. The GER for girls falls sharply in the transition from primary (standards 1-5) to elementary (standards 6-8) stage but rises for the high school (standards 9-10) stage before falling sharply for the higher secondary stage (standards 11-12). For the boys, the fall in GER is steady across all three stage transitions. For standards 11-12, the higher secondary classes, the GER is only around 20 percent for both boys and girls.

Table 3.1 *Number and proportion of children attending school, by age group, by sex, Ananthavaram, 2005*

Age group	Number of children			As percentage of all children		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
6 to 10 years	73	73	146	81.1	86.9	83.9
11 to 14 years	59	78	137	71.1	83.9	77.8
15 to 16 years	21	21	42	45.6	46.7	46.2
17 to 18 years	15	16	31	27.8	33.3	30.4
All	168	188	356	61.5	69.6	65.5

Figure 3.1 *Proportion of children attending school, by age group, by sex, Ananthavaram 2005*

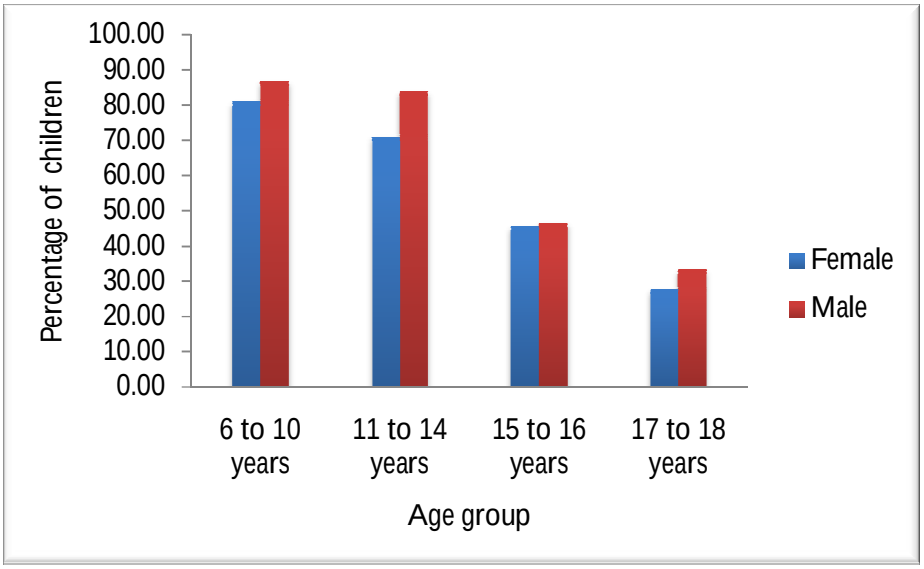


Table 3.2 *Gross enrolment ratio of children, by level of schooling, by sex, Ananthavaram, 2005*

School level	Number enrolled			GER		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Std I to V	110	107	217	104.8	100.0	102.4
Std VI to VIII	53	75	128	63.9	80.6	72.7
Std IX to X	57	37	94	79.2	58.7	69.6
Std XI to XII	15	14	29	19.5	20.6	20.0

NOTE 2: Gross enrolment ratio is the total enrolment in the specific level of education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the official school-age population corresponding to the same level of education in given school-year.
The Annual Report of The Ministry of Human Resource Development, India, 2008-09 provides data on GER for three levels. The school levels and corresponding school-age for three levels specified by the MoHRD are as follows:
Standard I to V: 6 to 11 years
Standard VI to VIII: 11 to 14 years
Standard IX to X: 14 to 16 years
Standard XI to XII: 16 to 18 years

Thus, two notable features of the data are, first, that school attendance is *not* universal in the age group 6 to 14 years; and, secondly, that the drop-out rate rises sharply after the age of 14 years. Despite the fact that every residential quarter in the village had a school, school attendance was not universal. Thirdly, there was a systematic gender difference in school attendance.

DISABILITY AND SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IN ANANTHAVARAM

Disability poses a great challenge for a child's education in India villages. Seldom are disabled children sent to schools. Of the nine disabled children in Ananthavaram, only one child, a deaf and dumb eleven year old boy, attends school. This boy is enrolled in the second standard in the village primary school and could just sign his name at the time of our survey.

Education for children in families with disabled members in poor households is also affected, as they have to look after their disabled siblings. Let us take the case of twelve year old P. P has two disabled siblings, a fourteen year old brother and a seven year old sister, both deaf and dumb. They live with their widowed mother and grandmother. P does not go to school.

Similar is the case of ten year old T. She stays with her widowed grandmother, and fifteen year old uncle, who is deaf and dumb. T is literate and has completed third standard, but has dropped out of school to take on care work.

TENANCY AND SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IN ANANTHAVARAM

Village level data show that school attendance was over 90 per cent for children from families where the head was engaged in business activity or was an owner cultivator. However, only 67 per cent of boys and girls of households where the head reported tenant cultivation as the main occupation attended school. This is indeed a low attendance rate. The attendance rate was low for girls from households engaged in manual labour.

Proportion of children (6 to 14 years) attending school by occupation of household head, Ananthavaram, December 2005

Primary occupation of head of household	Percentage of children attending school		
	Boys	Girls	Total
Owner cultivator	95	95	95
Business activity	100	85	91
Salaried employment	82	88	83
Tenant cultivator	67	67	67
Transport workers (self employed and salaried)	91	79	74
Manual labour	82	66	75

Tenancy is an important feature of agrarian relations in Ananthavaram. Tenants comprise 65 per cent of cultivating households, and 52 per cent of the extent of operational holdings of land is under tenancy arrangements. Among the landless households or households with small holdings of owned land, many leased in for paddy cultivation on a fixed rent basis. The rent on this type of contract was a punishing 78 per cent of the average yield of paddy. In the kharif season, agriculture was loss-making for these tenants. Some income could be gained where a rabi crop was sown.

It is evident that tenant households, in an oppressive rent regime with very narrow margins and with pressure to maintain livestock, draw upon child labour to contribute to their labour needs on operational holdings.

(Extracted from: Ghosh, Paramita and Ramachandran, V. K. (2010), *Literacy and Schooling in Rural India: Case Studies from Andhra Pradesh*, Paper presented at the International Conference on Environment, Agriculture and Socio-economic Change in India, organised by University of Tokyo and Centre for Asian Studies, Kyungpook National University, held at Centre of Asian Studies, Kyungpook National University, Daegu, Korea, March 29-30)

3.2 *School Attendance by Social Group and Asset Quintile*

Tables 3.3 to 3.5 and Figures 3.2 and 3.3 present data on percentage of attendance by age group for all children as well as separately for girls and for boys, disaggregated by social group. Attendance ratios are below 100 per cent *for all* social groups, even in the age group of 6 to 10 years. Tribals fare more poorly than others. In the age group of 11-14 years, SC girls fare poorly, with an attendance ratio of only 57.1 per cent. While SC boys in this age group are on par with their BC counterparts, the category 'Muslims and other Caste Hindus' reports the highest attendance percentage for boys at 96.2 per cent. For the age groups 15-16 years and 17-18 years, a clear hierarchy emerges. The category 'Muslims and other caste Hindus' is way ahead of other

social groups in terms of attendance percentages for boys as well as girls. BCs have a higher attendance percentage than SCs in the case of boys while the reverse is the case for girls, but the absolute numbers of children involved are rather small.

Table 3.3 *Children attending school, by age group, by social group, Ananthavaram, 2005,* (number and percent)

Age group	ST		SC		BC		Other castes and religions	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
6 to 10 years	15	75.0	70	84.3	29	85.3	32	86.5
11 to 14 years	6	75.0	60	69.0	26	86.7	45	88.2
15 to 16 years	1	25.0	19	38.0	8	42.1	14	77.8
17 to 18 years	1	9.1	15	26.8	4	25.0	11	57.9
All	23	53.5	164	59.4	67	67.7	102	81.6

Table 3.4 *Boys attending school, by age group, by social group, Ananthavaram, 2005,* (number and percent)

Age group	ST		SC		BC		Other castes and religions	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
6 to 10 years	10	83.3	33	91.7	17	81.0	13	86.7
11 to 14 years	5	71.4	36	80.0	12	80.0	25	96.2
15 to 16 years	1	50.0	9	34.6	5	55.6	6	75.0
17 to 18 years	1	50.0	8	25.0	3	37.5	4	66.7
All	17	73.9	86	61.9	37	69.8	48	87.3

Table 3.5 *Girls attending school, by age group, by social group, Ananthavaram, 2005,* (number and percent)

Age group	ST		SC		BC		Other castes and religions	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
6 to 10 years	5	62.5	37	78.7	12	92.3	19	86.4
11 to 14 years	1	100.0	24	57.1	14	93.3	20	80.0
15 to 16 years	0	0.0	10	41.7	3	30.0	8	80.0
17 to 18 years	0	0.0	7	29.2	1	12.5	7	53.9
All	6	30.0	78	56.9	30	65.2	54	77.1

Figure 3.2 *Proportion of boys attending school, by age group, by social group, Ananthavaram, 2005*

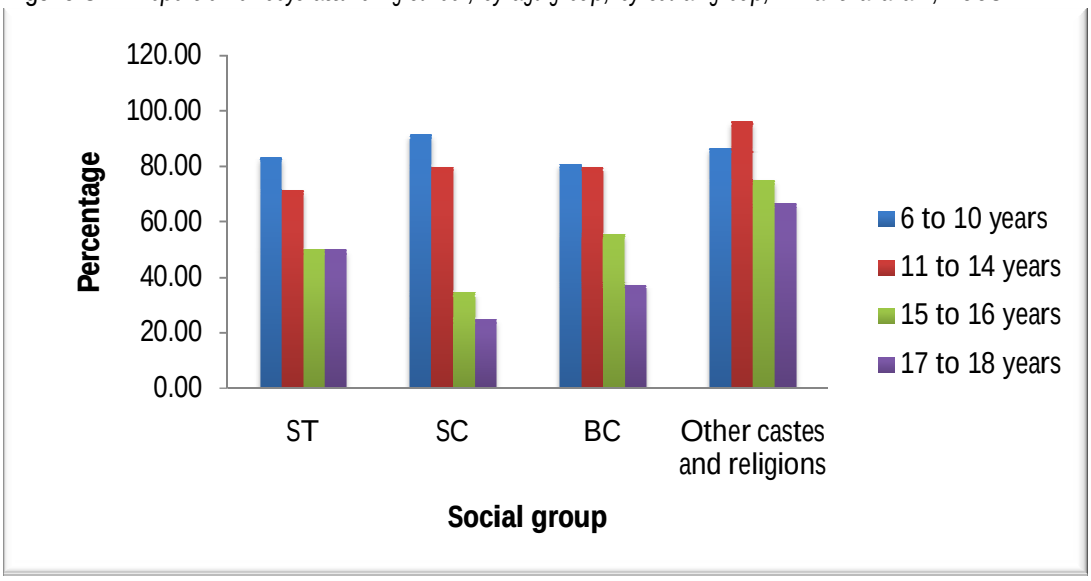
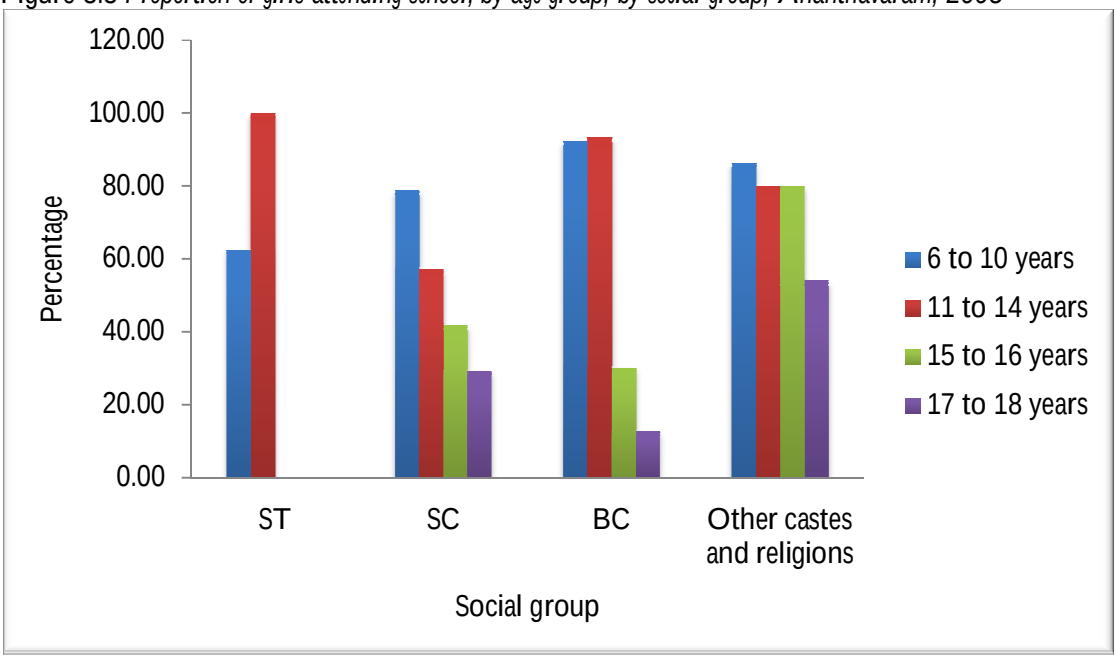


Figure 3.3 *Proportion of girls attending school, by age group, by social group, Ananthavaram, 2005*



Again, to relate school attendance to socio-economic status, Tables 3.6 to 3.8 and Figures 3.4 and 3.5 present data on percentage of attendance by age group for all children as well as separately for girls and for boys, disaggregated by asset quintile. Predictably, the highest asset quintile shows the highest overall attendance percentage for the age group of 6-18 years in the case of both boys and girls. In general, the bottom three asset quintiles report significantly lower attendance ratios overall than the top two. This is true for both boys and girls, and the difference in attendance percentages between the bottom three asset quintiles and the top two is especially

large in the case of girls. The other interesting feature that emerges is that gender differentials in attendance ratios for the age group of 6 to 18 years are very small for the top three quintiles and rather large for the bottom two quintiles. In other words, girls from poorer households face a double exclusion/discrimination of wealth and of gender.

Table 3.6 *Children attending school, by age group, by asset quintile, Ananthavaram, 2005,* (number and percent)

Age group	Q1		Q2		Q3		Q4		Q5	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
6 to 10 years	37	74.0	35	87.5	29	82.8	19	86.4	26	96.3
11 to 14 years	31	70.5	21	72.4	35	72.9	23	92.0	27	90.0
15 to 16 years	4	26.7	9	39.1	9	29.0	10	90.9	10	90.9
17 to 18 years	3	23.1	5	19.2	7	21.2	7	41.2	9	69.2
All	75	61.5	70	59.3	80	54.4	59	78.7	72	88.9

Table 3.7 *Boys attending school, by age group, by asset quintile, Ananthavaram, 2005,* (number and percent)

Age group	Q1		Q2		Q3		Q4		Q5	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
6 to 10 years	15	71.4	20	100.0	17	85.0	8	88.9	13	92.9
11 to 14 years	21	77.8	14	87.5	16	69.6	14	100.0	13	100.0
15 to 16 years	2	40.0	5	50.0	5	26.3	6	85.7	3	75.0
17 to 18 years	1	100.0	3	25.0	6	30.0	4	36.4	2	50.0
All	39	72.2	42	72.4	44	53.7	32	78.1	31	88.6

Table 3.8 *Girls attending school, by age group, by asset quintile, Ananthavaram, 2005,* (number and percent)

Age group	Q1		Q2		Q3		Q4		Q5	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
6 to 10 years	22	75.9	15	75.0	12	80.0	11	84.6	13	100.0
11 to 14 years	10	58.8	7	53.9	19	76.0	9	81.8	14	82.4
15 to 16 years	2	20.0	4	30.8	4	33.3	4	100.0	7	100.0
17 to 18 years	2	16.7	2	14.3	1	7.7	3	50.0	7	77.8
All	36	52.9	28	46.7	36	55.4	27	79.4	41	89.1

Figure 3.4 *Proportion of boys attending school, by age group, by asset quintile, Ananthavaram, 2005*

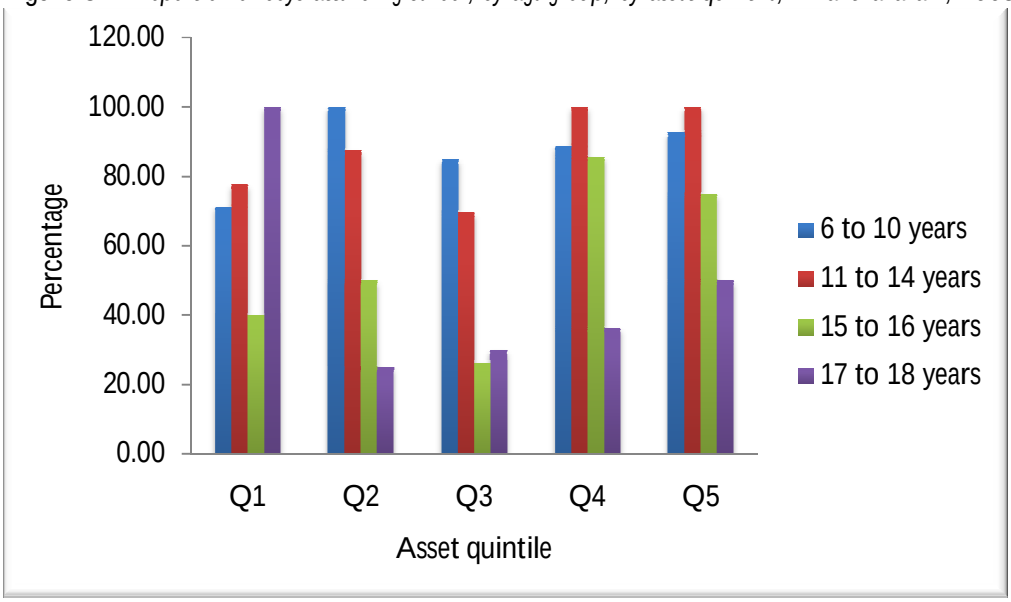
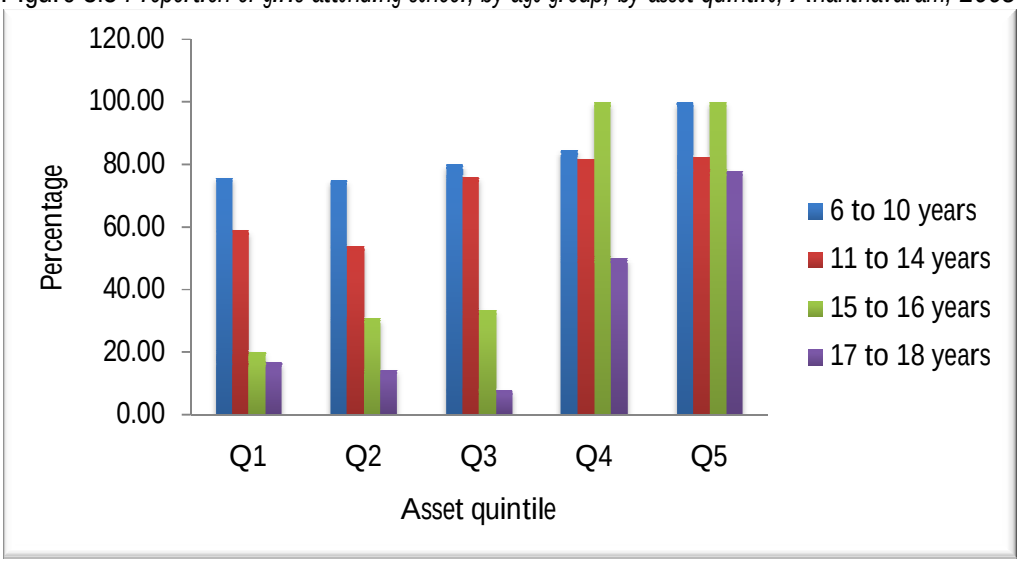


Figure 3.5 *Proportion of girls attending school, by age group, by asset quintile, Ananthavaram, 2005*



3.3 *School Attendance and Work*

We had noted earlier that 23 children in Ananthavaram in *the age group of 6 to 14 years*, 15 of whom were girls and eight boys, were engaged in paid or unpaid work outside the household for an employer. Table 3.9 presents data on children *aged 6 to 18 years* by their school attendance and work status. The number of children in the age group of 6 to 18 years engaged in work is 76, consisting of 42 girls and 34 boys. Of these, two boys and two girls are both attending school and working. The remaining 72, consisting of 40 girls and 32 boys, are working and *not* attending

school. Of 473 children in the age group of 6 to 18 years, only 338 are in school. While 179 boys and 159 girls are in school, 77 girls and 58 boys are out of school.

The number of what has been called the 'nowhere' children, that is neither in school nor at work, is 63, consisting of 37 girls and 26 boys. Thus, a little over 15 per cent of girls and nearly 11 per cent of boys in the age group of 6 to 18 years are neither in school nor working. Even if one were to include 'work relating to animal resources' in defining working children, as noted in footnote 9, only three boys in the village-*all out of school*- are involved in animal tending. No girl is engaged in this work. Thus, 37 girls and 23 boys would unambiguously fall within the category of 'neither in school nor working'. It is of course possible that some girls thus described may in fact be taking care of younger children or older persons or otherwise engaged in household chores/care work that we have not included as work here.

Table 3.9 *School attendance among children aged 6 to 18 years, by sex and work status, Ananthavaram, 2005,* (number and percent)

Children	Not attending school				Attending school			
	Not working		Working		Not working		Working	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Boys	26	44.8	32	55.2	177	98.9	2	1.1
Girls	37	48.1	40	52.0	157	98.7	2	1.3
Total	63	46.7	72	53.3	334	98.8	4	1.2

NOTE 3: Work (in all references in this document) is defined as three specific types of activities:
a. Work outside the household for an employer (paid and unpaid)
b. Work on household operational holding
c. Work in any household enterprise other than animal resources.
Any person 18 years or below engaged in any of the three activities above is considered to be "working".

If one considers the age group of 6 to 14 years, 81 per cent of children aged 6 to 14 years attended school and did not work; 2 per cent attended school but also participated in work. Of all children, 7 per cent did not attend school and were working, while 10 per cent did not attend school but were reported to be not working either. The main point to note from these data is that 7 per cent of children (5 per cent of boys and 8 per cent of girls) in the age group 6 to 14 years were in the labour force. This represents a high incidence of child labour. Many scholars argue that all children not attending school should be regarded as being in some form of work. If

we were to make that assumption, the incidence of child labour would be 10 per cent (8 per cent for boys and 12 per cent for girls).[12]

Figure 3.6 *Distribution of boys (6 to 18 years), by school attendance and work status, Ananthavaram, 2005*

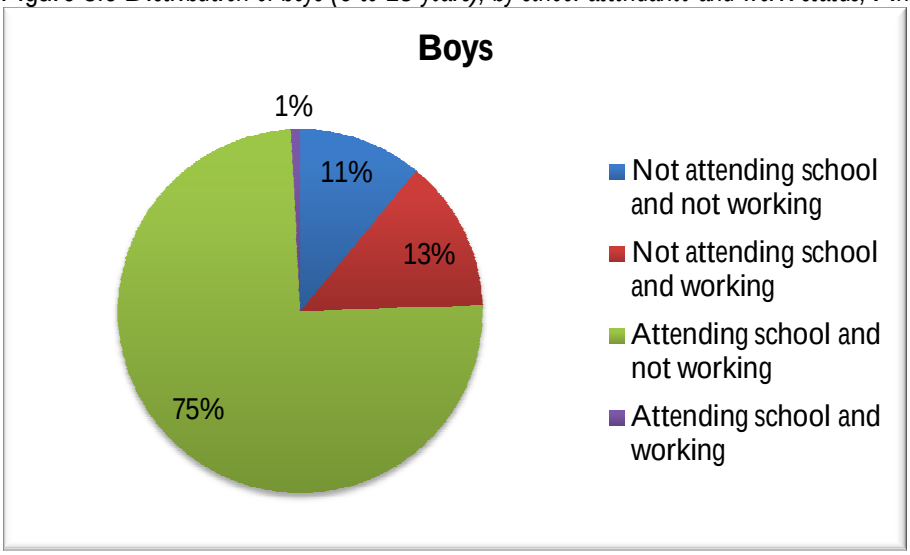
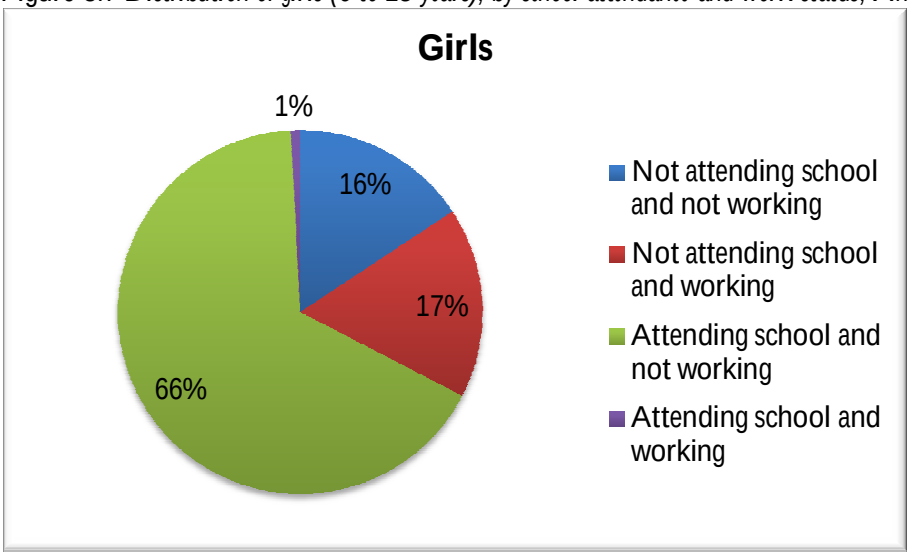


Figure 3.7 *Distribution of girls (6 to 18 years), by school attendance and work status, Ananthavaram, 2005*



3.4 *Anganwadi*

Table 3.10 provides information on children below six yeas of age enrolled in an anganwadi. Out of 194 children six years or younger, only 9 children -5 girls and 3 boys aged between 3 and 6 years, and one girl below the age of 3 years- were enrolled in an anganwadi. No child from BC or

[12] Ramachandran, Rawal and Swaminathan (2010), Chapter 9.

Other Caste Hindu households was enrolled in an anganwadi. This is indeed disturbing and calls for appropriate intervention.

Table 3.10 *Proportion of children below 6 years going to Anganwadi centers, by social group, by sex, Ananthavaram, 2005,* (number and percent)

Social group	Less than 3 years						3 to 6 years					
	Female		Male		Persons		Female		Male		Persons	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Scheduled Caste	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	9.4	1	3.7	4	6.8
Scheduled Tribe	1	25.0	0	0.0	1	11.1	0	0.0	1	11.1	1	9.1
BC	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	20.0	0	0.0	2	8.0
Other Caste Hindu	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Muslim	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	25.0	1	16.7
All	1	2.7	0	0.0	1	1.5	5	9.1	3	4.2	8	6.3

A recent visit revealed significant change in respect of the functioning of Anganwadis. There are now three anganwadi centres in the village. The first one has 25 children, as per the official enrolment, but only eight were present on the day of our visit. The second centre had 16 children on the rolls and six present on the day of our visit, and in the third centre, 12 out of 25 children enrolled were present. The anganwadi worker was present in two centres.

3.5 *Literacy*

Tables 3.11 to 3.16 present the data on literacy in Ananthavaram. Table 3.11 presents the distribution, by literacy level, of the population aged 7 years and above. The overall percentage of population aged 7 years and above that can read and write is 60.1. The percentage for males is 66.8 per cent and that for females is 53.7 per cent.[13] As can be seen from Table 3.12 and Figure 3.8, the percentage of population that can read and write varies significantly across social groups. STs have the lowest percentage among males, and are only marginally ahead of Muslims in the case of females. In all social groups, the percentage of females who can read and write is lower than that of males, for the age group of 7 years and older. SCs have a substantially lower percentage than BCs in the case of females. The female literacy rate among BCs, in turn, is much lower than that for other caste Hindus.

[13] The Census of India reports the percentage of literates aged 7 years and above for Ananthavaram in 2001 as 70.1 per cent, 77.9 per cent and 74.0 per cent respectively for females, males and persons. These appear to be gross over-estimates. However, the literacy rates for Ananthavaram for females/males/persons emerging from our survey of 2005, are far higher than the corresponding figures for rural Guntur district as well as rural Andhra Pradesh in 2001 as per the Census of India

It is only among the Other Caste Hindus that the gender gap is relatively low at 3.9 percentage points. The gender gap in terms of percentage points is high for all other groups: 14.9 for BCs, 18.0 for SCs, 20.3 for STs and a very high 31.4 in the case of Muslims. Obviously, male literacy rates vary within a smaller band than do female literacy rates, but even among males, there is wide variation across social groups, from a low of 43.9 per cent among STs to a high of 82.1 per cent among Other Caste Hindus.

Table 3.11 *Distribution of population (7 years and above), by literacy level, by sex, Ananthavaram, 2005*

Literacy level	Female		Male		All	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Cannot read and write	303	26.7	193	17.9	496	22.4
Can only sign name	192	16.9	148	13.7	340	15.3
Can read but cannot write	29	2.6	17	1.6	46	2.1
Can read and write	610	53.7	721	66.8	1331	60.1
Unspecified	2	0.2	1	0.1	3	0.1
All	1136	100.0	1080	100.0	2216	100.0

Table 3.12 *Proportion of population (7 years and above), who can read and write by social group, by sex, Ananthavaram, 2005*

Social group	Number			Literacy rate		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Scheduled Caste	212	302	514	43.4	61.4	52.5
Scheduled Tribe	17	29	46	23.6	43.9	33.3
BC	108	135	243	51.9	66.8	59.3
Other Caste Hindu	266	239	505	78.2	82.1	80.0
Muslim	6	15	21	22.2	53.6	38.2
Unspecified	1	1	2	100.0	100.0	100.0
All	610	721	1331	53.7	66.8	60.1

Figure 3.8 *Literacy rate of population in the age group 7 years and above, by sex, by social group, Ananthavaram, 2005,* in per cent

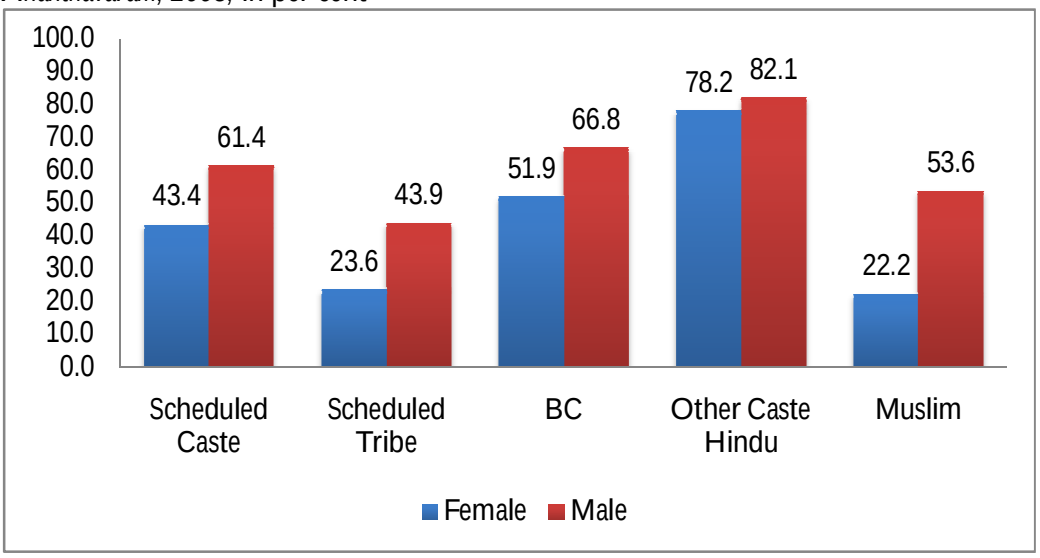
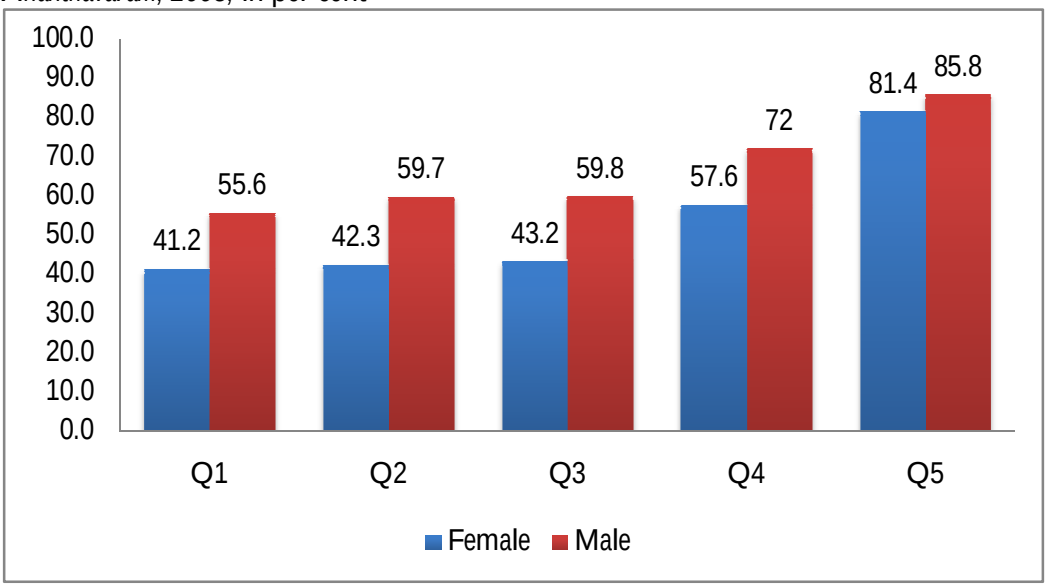


Table 3.13 and Figure 3.9 bring out the fact that the top quintile in terms of assets has a considerably higher literacy rate than the others in the case of both females and males. Once again, the male literacy rate varies in a smaller band across asset quintiles than does the female literacy rate. The gender differential in literacy rates remains high for all asset quintiles except the highest. Very strikingly, women in the wealthiest 20 per cent of households are at a big advantage as compared to the next asset group. The high levels of inequality in wealth imply that the top 20 per cent are in a different league than the next 20 per cent. The average value of asset holdings of the top quintile (Q5) is eleven times the average value of assets of the fourth quintile (Q4).

Table 3.13 *Proportion of population (7 years and above), who can read and write by asset quintile, by sex, Ananthavaram, 2005*

Asset quintile	Number			Literacy rate		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Q1	91	100	191	41.2	55.6	47.6
Q2	94	126	220	42.3	59.7	50.8
Q3	99	153	252	43.2	59.8	52.0
Q4	125	154	279	57.6	72.0	64.7
Q5	201	188	389	81.4	85.8	83.5
All	610	721	1331	53.7	66.8	60.1

Figure 3.9 *Literacy rate of population in the age group 7 years and above, by sex, by asset quintiles, Ananthavaram, 2005*, in per cent



If one looks at the picture for the population 18 years and older, shown in Table 3.14 and Figure 3.10, the literacy rates are understandably lower than for the population aged 7 years and older, for all social groups and in the case of females as well as males. It is interesting to note, however, that the gap between the rates for the two age groups is higher for females than for males for SCs and BCs, reflecting the historical legacy of greater educational deprivation among females. It is also evident that male literacy rates have improved more rapidly than those of females in the recent past, and females among STs are yet to benefit significantly from the spread of schooling.

Table 3.14 *Proportion of population (18 years and above), who can read and write by social group, by sex, Ananthavaram, 2005*

Social group	Number			Adult literacy rate		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Scheduled Caste	132	215	347	34.8	56.0	45.5
Scheduled Tribe	10	14	24	17.2	29.8	22.9
BC	74	104	178	42.8	64.6	53.3
Other Caste Hindu	210	197	407	75.0	79.8	77.2
Muslim	5	12	17	20.0	52.2	35.4
Unspecified	1	1	2	100.0	100.0	100.0
All	432	543	975	47.2	62.9	54.8

Note: We are using the term adult for all persons aged 18 years and older.

Figure 3.10 *Literacy rate of population (18 years and above), by sex, by social group, Ananthavaram, 2005* (in per cent)

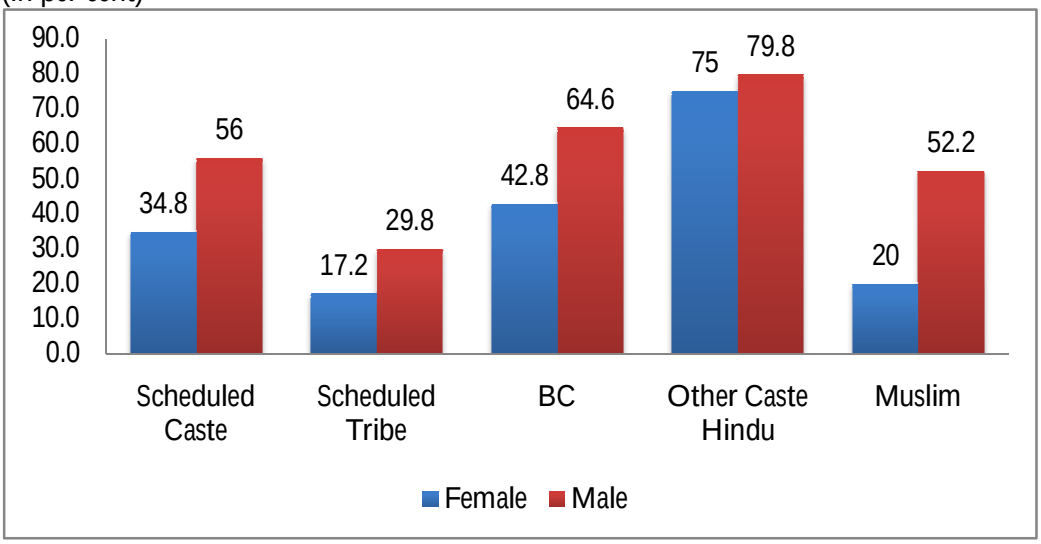
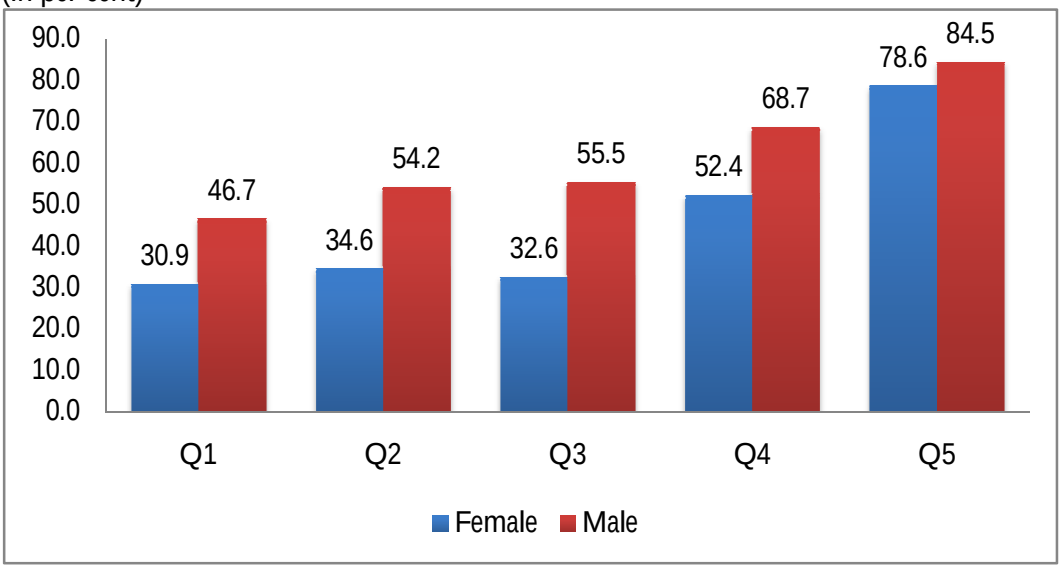


Table 3.15 and Figure 3.11 show the distribution, by asset quintile, of persons aged 18 years and above who can read and write, in both absolute numbers and as percentage of the relevant population. The top quintile shows both the highest rates of literacy and the lowest gender differential. The bottom three quintiles show both low literacy rates and large gender differentials. The second highest quintile does better than the bottom three in terms of literacy rates, but show similar gender differentials.

Table 3.15 *Proportion of population (18 years and above), who can read and write by asset quintile, by sex, Ananthavaram, 2005*

Asset quintile	Number			Per Cent		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Q1	51	63	114	30.9	46.7	38.0
Q2	62	91	153	34.6	54.2	44.1
Q3	57	106	163	32.6	55.5	44.5
Q4	100	125	225	52.4	68.7	60.3
Q5	162	158	320	78.6	84.5	81.4
All	432	543	975	47.2	62.9	54.8

Figure 3.11 *Literacy rate of population (18 years and above), by sex, by asset quintiles, Ananthavaram, 2005* (in per cent)



The proportional distribution of persons who can read and write by age cohort, shown in Table 3.16, shows the progress made over the years in improving the literacy levels of the population. However, despite some advance in overall terms, the distance between Other Caste Hindu and the rest of the population in literacy achievement remains large, Table 3.12 shows.

Table 3.16 *Proportion of population who can read and write, by age cohorts, by sex, Ananthavaram, 2005*

Age group	Number			Per Cent		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
6 to 17 years	181	182	363	76.7	76.8	76.7
18 to 34 years	207	238	445	61.1	73.7	67.2
35 to 49 years	117	148	265	44.3	60.9	52.3
50 to 65 years	80	105	185	37.9	52.5	45.0
> 65 years	28	52	80	27.5	53.6	40.2
All	613	725	1338	53.2	65.9	59.4

3.6 *Years of Schooling*

A useful measure of adult achievement with respect to school education is the median of years of schooling in a group. The distribution of median years of schooling for the population aged above 16 years by social group is presented in Table 3.17. The extent of educational deprivation is stark. At least half the tribal population above 16 years of age has had no schooling at all. This is also true for females from SC and Muslim households. Half of all females aged over 16 years from BC households have had only two years of schooling. Leaving out the one observation

where the social group status is unspecified, it is only the Other Caste Hindus who do relatively well, with median years of schooling of 9 and 7 years respectively for males and females aged over 16 years. The mean years of schooling exceed the median for all social groups except other caste Hindus for both males and females. This reflects the high degree of inequality with regard to schooling within each of these social groups which went together with their generally low levels of schooling. In the case of the Other Caste Hindus, there seems to be a somewhat wider spread of schooling within the group for both females and males.

Table 3.17 *Median number of completed years of schooling for population above 16 years, by social group, by sex, Ananthavaram, 2005*

Social group	Female	Male	Persons
Scheduled Caste	0	4	2
Scheduled Tribe	0	0	0
BC	2	5	4
Other Caste Hindu	7	9	7
Muslim	0	3	2
Unspecified	8	8	8
All	2.5	5	4

Table 3.17a *Average number of completed years of schooling for population above 16 years, by social group, by sex, Anathavaram 2005*

Social group	Female	Male	Persons
Scheduled Caste	2.8	4.7	3.8
Scheduled Tribe	1.5	2.8	2.1
BC	3.6	5.6	4.5
Other Caste Hindu	6.3	7.2	6.7
Muslim	1.4	4.7	3.0
Unspecified	8.0	8.0	8.0
All	3.9	5.5	4.7

Table 3.18 provides the distribution of median years of schooling by asset quintile for the population aged above 16 years. The results are in line with expectations, with the median years of schooling being zero for women over 16 years of age from households in the bottom three quintiles. The distance between the top quintile and the rest is considerable, both for males and for females. The mean years of schooling exceed the median for both females and males in the bottom three quintiles, signifying the coexistence of low levels of schooling and a large degree of inequality in schooling within the quintile. In the case of the top two quintiles, the median exceeds the mean for both males and females, suggesting a wider spread of schooling within each of the quintiles.

Table 3.18 *Median number of completed years of schooling for population above 16 years, by asset quintile, by sex, Ananthavaram, 2005*

Asset Quintile	Female	Male	Persons
Q1	0	3	1
Q2	0	3.5	2
Q3	0	4	2
Q4	4	7	5
Q5	7	10	9
All	2.5	5	4

Table 3.18a *Average number of completed years of schooling for population above 16 years, by asset quintile, by sex, Ananthavaram 2005*

Asset quintile	Female	Male	Persons
Q1	2.7	4.2	3.4
Q2	2.5	4.5	3.4
Q3	2.7	4.5	3.6
Q4	4.3	6.1	5.2
Q5	6.9	7.7	7.3
All	3.9	5.5	4.7

To sum up, it is clear that the situation in Ananthavaram with respect to schooling is as dismal as that with respect to literacy. The extent of deprivation is especially very large among tribals, Dalits, Backward classes and poorer households. Women of practically all social groups and asset categories fare worse than their male counterparts, and the gender differentials are large across all social groups other than the category of 'Other Caste Hindus'.

3.7 *Educational Achievements*

Table 3.19 provides the distribution of the number and percentage of graduates in the population aged 25 years and older by social group. Table 3.20 provides corresponding data by asset quintile.

Two social groups- STs and Muslims-do not have a single graduate, male or female, in the age group of 25 years and above. Overall, only 5.6 per cent of males and 2.3 per cent of females over 25 years are graduates. With respect to females, BCs and Other Caste Hindus do the best, while in the case of males, the Other Caste Hindus have the highest percentage of graduates, followed by SCs. Surprisingly, BCs lag behind the SCs, though not by much. Of the 21 Scheduled Caste

graduates in Ananthavaram, 8 were in the teaching profession, 6 were in other salaried employment, 4 were in agriculture (as workers and peasants) and three were unemployed.

With respect to asset quintiles, the top quintile dominates, accounting for more than half of male as well as female graduates. The percentage of male graduates in the population aged over 25 years is as high as nearly 12 per cent in the highest quintile. The second highest quintile does better than the ones below with regard to males, but its performance in respect of females is not very different from the three lower quintiles.

Table 3.19 *Graduates in the age group 25 years and above, by social group, by sex, Ananthavaram, 2005*

Social group	Number of graduate			As percentage of total population (25 years and above)		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Scheduled Caste	6	15	21	2.0	5.1	3.5
Scheduled Tribe	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
BC	4	6	10	2.9	4.5	3.7
Other Caste Hindu	7	18	25	2.8	8.2	5.3
Muslim	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unspecified	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
All	17	39	56	2.3	5.6	3.9

NOTE 4: Graduates are persons who have completed B.A/B.Com/B.Sc or equivalent degree. Persons with diploma in various technical and vocational courses are not included.

Table 3.20 *Graduates in the age group 25 years and above, by asset quintile, by sex, Ananthavaram, 2005*

Asset quintile	Number of graduates			As percentage of total population (25 years and above)		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Q1	1	4	5	0.8	3.6	2.1
Q2	2	5	7	1.5	3.8	2.6
Q3	2	3	5	1.3	2.1	1.7
Q4	2	7	9	1.3	4.8	3.0
Q5	10	20	30	5.5	12.0	8.6
All	17	39	56	2.3	5.6	3.9

Table 3.21 provides the distribution of persons aged 25 years and above who have completed twelve years of formal education by social group and sex. Table 3.22 provides the corresponding data by asset quintile.

Overall, only 11.6 per cent of males and 4.7 per cent of females in the population aged 25 years and above have completed twelve years of formal education. The percentages for females are much lower than for males in all social groups. No tribal or Muslim woman aged 25 years or above has completed twelve years of formal education. Even among the Other Caste Hindu males, only one-sixth have done so.

The distribution by asset quintile shows that the bottom three asset quintiles do poorly. In the highest asset quintile, nearly a quarter of the males and close to one-tenth of the females aged 25 years or older have completed twelve years of formal education, while the corresponding proportions for the second highest quintile are quite modest at 11.6 per cent and 3.8 per cent respectively. Interestingly, the bottom asset quintile outperforms the next three quintiles in respect of females.

Table 3.21 *Population in the age group 25 years and above who have completed 12 years of formal education, by social group, by sex, Ananthavaram, 2005*

Social group	Number			As percentage of total population (25 years and above)		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Scheduled Caste	12	25	37	3.9	8.6	6.2
Scheduled Tribe	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
BC	6	17	23	4.4	12.8	8.5
Other Caste Hindu	17	37	54	6.9	16.8	11.5
Muslim	0	2	2	0.0	11.1	5.0
Unspecified	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
All	35	81	116	4.7	11.6	8.0

Table 3.22 *Population in the age group 25 years and above who have completed 12 years of formal education by asset quintile, by sex, Ananthavaram, 2005*

Asset quintile	Number			As percentage of total population (25 years and above)		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Q1	6	7	13	4.8	6.3	5.5
Q2	2	9	11	1.5	6.8	4.1
Q3	3	8	11	2.0	5.6	3.8
Q4	6	17	23	3.8	11.6	7.5
Q5	18	40	58	9.9	24.0	16.7
All	35	81	116	4.7	11.6	8.0

Table 3.23 presents the distribution of the number and percentage of population aged 25 years and above who have completed 10 years of formal education by sex and social group. The corresponding information by asset quintile is presented in Table 3.24.

Among Muslims and STs, there is no female in the specified age group with ten years of formal education. About one-sixth of Muslim and SC males and one-quarter of BC males have completed ten years of formal education, while a much larger percentage of Other Caste Hindu males - 43.2 per cent - have done so. However, even among Other Caste Hindus, only 22.2 per cent of females in the specified age group have completed ten years of formal education.

Table 3.23 *Population in the age group 25 years and above who have completed 10 years of formal education, by social group, by sex, Ananthavaram, 2005*

Social group	Number			As percentage of total population (25 years and above)		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Scheduled Caste	23	52	75	7.5	17.8	12.5
Scheduled Tribe	0	1	1	0.0	2.9	1.4
BC	11	34	45	8.0	25.6	16.6
Other Caste Hindu	55	95	150	22.2	43.2	32.1
Muslim	0	3	3	0.0	16.7	7.5
Unspecified	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
All	89	185	274	11.8	26.5	18.9

Table 3.24 *Population in the age group 25 years and above who have completed 10 years of formal education, by asset quintile, by sex, Ananthavaram, 2005*

Asset quintile	Number			As percentage of total population (25 years and above)		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Q1	7	16	23	5.6	14.4	9.7
Q2	6	23	29	4.4	17.3	10.8
Q3	8	21	29	5.3	14.8	9.9
Q4	18	45	63	11.3	30.8	20.7
Q5	50	80	130	27.6	47.9	37.4
All	89	185	274	11.8	26.5	18.9

With respect to performance by asset quintiles in this regard, the bottom three quintiles-all of which perform similarly-do half as well as the fourth quintile, which in turn does roughly half as well as the top quintile. Thus, the inter-quintile inequality in performance between quintiles is low among the bottom three quintiles, but thereafter, the inter-quintile inequality between consecutive quintiles is sharp. The gender gap is high in all quintiles. The fact that, even in the

highest asset quintile, more than three-fifth of all persons aged 25 years and above have not completed ten years of schooling highlights the dismal state of education in Ananthavaram village.

3.8 *Households with Children*

The presence or absence of literate adults in a household may influence the decision to send children to school. In this sub-section, we look at the distribution of *households with children* by the presence or absence of adults with specified levels of education.

Table 3.25 provides the distribution of *households with children* without literate adults by social group. ST and Muslim households are the most deprived on the average, with 40 per cent of them not having a literate adult male. The extent of deprivation in this regard among SCs and BCs is similar at 27.3 per cent and 22.1 per cent respectively, and is substantially lower than that for STs and Muslims. At the other end, only 7.1 per cent Other Caste Hindu households have no literate adult male. The proportion of households without a literate female adult is the highest for STs (two-thirds) followed by Muslims (one-half). The corresponding figures are 31.4 per cent for SCs and 14.7 per cent for BCs. In the case of Other Caste Hindus, however, the percentage of households without a literate adult female is 4.8 per cent, even less than the corresponding figure for households without a literate male adult. For SC, ST and Muslim households, the percentage without a literate adult female exceeds that without a literate adult male, but this is not the case with BCs. It is to be noted that a sizeable proportion of Muslim and ST households-30 per cent each- do not have any literate adult and the corresponding proportion for SC households is also high at 12.8 per cent. In the case of BCs, nearly 6 per cent of households with children do not have any literate adult. Even among other caste Hindu households, there are two with no adult literate.

Table 3.26 provides the distribution of *households with children* without literate adults, by asset quintile. In the bottom two quintiles taken together, over one-seventh of the households have no literate adult. Over one-third have no literate adult female. The proportion of households with children not having a literate adult male in the first two quintiles is nearly one-third. Higher asset quintiles also show significant extents of such educational deprivation, though the corresponding proportions are smaller. But even in the highest asset quintile, nearly 5.6 per cent of households have no literate adult male. Nearly 3 per cent have no literate adult female. Overall, 11 per cent of all households have no literate adult, one-quarter have no literate female adult and nearly the same proportion have no literate male adult.

Table 3.25 *Distribution of households with children by absence of adult literates, by social groups, Ananthavaram, 2005*

Social group	Without female literate		Without male literate		Without any adult literate	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Scheduled Caste	54	31.4	47	27.3	22	12.8
Scheduled Tribe	20	66.7	12	40.0	9	30.0
BC	10	14.7	15	22.1	4	5.9
Other Caste Hindu	4	4.8	6	7.1	2	2.4
Muslim	5	50.0	4	40.0	3	30.0
All	93	25.6	84	23.1	40	11.0

Table 3.26 *Distribution of households with children by absence of adult literates, by asset quintile, Ananthavaram, 2005*

Asset quintile	Without adult female literate		Without adult male literate		Without any adult literate	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Q1	26	35.6	25	34.3	10	13.7
Q2	24	32.9	22	30.1	12	16.4
Q3	31	42.5	22	30.1	13	17.8
Q4	10	13.7	11	15.1	5	6.9
Q5	2	2.8	4	5.6	0	0.0
All	93	25.6	84	23.1	40	11.0

Table 3.27 provides the distribution of households with children with at least one male graduate by social group and Table 3.28 presents the corresponding distribution by asset quintile. Overall, only 6.3 per cent of households with children report having at least one male graduate. None of the Muslim and ST households in this category have a male graduate. Even in the case of Other Caste Hindus, only one-tenth have at least one male graduate. Interestingly, the percentage of households with at least one male graduate for SCs at 7.0 per cent exceeds that for BCs at 4.4 per cent. This may reflect the effect of positive discrimination in favour of SCs in education.

The top two quintiles account for 16 of the 23 households reporting at least one male graduate as a member of the household. The third quintile has none, and the bottom two have a total of 7, accounting for 5 per cent of the households in three two quintiles.

Table 3.27 *Households with children with at least one male graduate, by social group, Ananthavaram, 2005*

Social group	Number	As percentage of all households (with children) within the social group
Scheduled Caste	12	7.0
Scheduled Tribe	0	0.0
BC	3	4.4
Other Caste Hindu	8	9.5
Muslim	0	0.0
All	23	6.3

Table 3.28 *Households with children with at least one male graduate, by asset quintile, Ananthavaram, 2005*

Asset quintile	Number	As percentage of all households (with children) within asset quintile
Q1	3	4.1
Q2	4	5.5
Q3	0	0.0
Q4	6	8.2
Q5	10	13.9
All	23	6.3

Tables 3.29 and 3.30 present the distribution of households with children with at least one female having passed the tenth class, by social group and asset quintile respectively. Overall, a little over one-quarter of all the households in this category report at least one female member as having passed the tenth class. However, there is wide disparity across social groups and asset quintiles. None of the ST and Muslim households have even a single female who has passed the tenth class. The proportions for SCs and BCs are also modest at one-fifth and one-quarter respectively. It is only in the case of Other Caste Hindus that a majority of households with children report having at least one female member who has passed the tenth class. The distribution across quintiles shows that more than three-fifths of the households in the top quintile and nearly two-fifth in the next highest have reported having at least one female who has passed the tenth class. For the bottom three asset quintiles, this proportion comes down to one-tenth.

Table 3.29 *Households with children with at least one female 10th pass by social group, Ananthavaram, 2005*

Social group	Number	As percentage of all households (with children) within the social group
Scheduled Caste	33	19.2
Scheduled Tribe	0	0.0
BC	17	25.0
Other Caste Hindu	47	56.0
Muslim	0	0.0
All	97	26.7

Table 3.30 *Households with children with at least one female 10th pass, by asset quintile, Ananthavaram, 2005*

Asset quintile	Number	As percentage of all households (with children) within the asset quintile
Q1	9	12.3
Q2	6	8.2
Q3	10	13.7
Q4	28	38.4
Q5	44	61.1
All	97	26.7

Overall, the picture that emerges of education in Ananthavaram is one of considerable deprivation. The most deprived social groups with regard to levels of schooling and educational achievement of both adults and children are STs and Muslims. They are closely followed by the SCs. The BCs, while generally less deprived than the SCs, Muslims and STs are not a great deal better off. The group of 'Other Caste Hindus' stands apart in being relatively the most advanced in terms of the educational levels and years of schooling of both adults and children. The distance between them and the other social groups is substantial. However, even among them, the achievements are modest in absolute terms and school attendance is not universal. In all social groups, there is gender inequality in schooling and levels of educational achievement with respect to both adults and children. The gender disparity is the least in the case of Other Caste Hindus and is large among all other social groups.

In terms of asset quintiles, only the top asset quintile stands apart in terms of schooling and educational achievement of both children and adults. The second highest quintile is a distant second, though it does much better than the bottom three. This is not surprising since the highest household asset holding in the second highest asset quintile is only 3, 40,860 rupees whereas the top quintile has a minimum household asset value of 3, 44, 975 rupees and a

maximum of 4, 04, 55,400 rupees! The highest household asset holding in the third asset quintile is only 90, 350 rupees. One can safely say that the bottom three asset quintiles consist of 'non-rich' households as do a portion of the households in the second highest quintile.[14] It needs to be noted, however, that even in the highest asset quintile, the educational achievements are modest in absolute terms.

SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE IN ANANTHAVARAM

Ananthavaram has three primary schools under the management of the Mandal Parishad and a high school under the Zilla Parishad. In addition to government schools, there are a couple of private schools in the neighbouring villages including a residential school at Chilumuru, 2.5 km away. The first primary school in the village was established in 1915 by the Lutheran church.

However, achievements in respect of literacy rates were not high in the village and there remain large gender and caste differences. Ananthavaram, which is located in a region with a long history of educational development, an impact has been felt on women of caste Hindu families, but has not 'trickled down' to the deprived social groups. The caste division has not been bridged. Many caste Hindus have high educational qualifications, such as engineering and medical degrees, while the Scheduled Tribe and Scheduled Caste children are excluded from school education. Child labour is a factor hindering school attendance in the village.

(Extracted from: Ghosh, Paramita (2008), *"Education for All" An Unfulfilled Dream: Case Study from Rural India*, Paper prepared for First ISA Forum of Sociology, Barcelona, Spain, September, 2008)

[14] There is a fair degree of correlation between the social group status and asset quintile status of a household. While SC households account for 42.4 % of all households, only 2.1 % of SC households make it to the top asset quintile. At the other end, other caste Hindu households, account for 28.5 % of all households, but 54.7 % of these households are in the top quintile. The OBCs account for 19.6 % of all households and 16.8 % of them are in the top quintile. Put differently, 78.2 % of households in the top quintile are from the other Hindu castes and only 4.5 % are from the SCs. The OBCs account for a little less than 17 % of households in the top quintile, not very different from their share of all households in Ananathavaram. No Muslim or ST household makes it to the top quintile. Two-thirds of Muslim and nearly all of ST households are confined to the bottom two asset quintiles.

4. *AMENITIES*

Basic housing and household amenities are essential to human development. Housing, electrification, sanitation, and the provision of safe water to drink and for domestic use are essential not just for human health and dignity but also for enhancing productive activity. In this subsection, in order to focus on the state of amenities as they relate to children, we present and discuss data on amenities *for households with children.* This needs to be kept in mind throughout.

4.1 *Housing*

Table 4.1 and Figure 4.1 present data on the distribution of households with children by social group and type of housing. Overall, 48.35 per cent of all these households live in pucca houses.[15] As in the case of other parameters, the Other Caste Hindus are relatively the most well off with regard to the type of shelter. Of these households, 94.1 per cent live in pucca houses as compared to 10 per cent for STs and 18.6 per cent for SCs. BC and Muslim households fare better than SCs and STs, with 80.9 per cent of BC and 70 per cent of Muslim households living in pucca houses. At the other end, the proportion living in katcha houses is very high for STs at 70 per cent and SCs at 52.9 per cent. In short, the majority of children in SC and ST households live in katcha structures.

[15] If one looks at the figure for *all* 667 households in Ananthavaram, the percentage is higher at 55 %. On the other hand, the figures for rural Andhra Pradesh and rural India are much lower, no matter which source we use-Census 2001, NSS 2002 or NFHS 2005-06. The Census figure of 47 % for rural Andhra comes close to the figure of *48.35 %* for *households with children* in our 2005 survey, but that is of no significance!

Table 4.1 *Distribution of households with children, by type of housing, by social groups, Ananthavaram, 2005* (in percent)

Social group	Katcha	Pucca	Semi-pucca	Unspecified	All
Scheduled Caste	52.9	18.6	27.9	0.6	100.0
Scheduled Tribe	70.0	10.0	20.0	0.0	100.0
BC	13.2	80.9	5.9	0.0	100.0
Other Caste Hindu	3.6	94.1	2.3	0.0	100.0
Muslim	20.0	70.0	10.0	0.0	100.0
All	34.6	48.4	16.7	0.3	100.0

NOTE 5: Pucca houses are houses with both roof and walls constructed of permanent materials. Katcha houses are houses with both roof and walls constructed of temporary materials. Semi-pucca houses are those with either roof or walls constructed of permanent materials. (This is the standard definition followed by the Census of India and the National Sample Survey Organisation, Government of India).
Pucca materials include cement, concrete, over-burnt bricks, hollow cement or ash bricks, stone, stone blocks, jack boards (cement plastered reeds), iron, zinc or other metal sheets, timber, tiles, slate, corrugated iron, asbestos cement sheet, veneer, plywood, artificial wood of synthetic material and polyvinyl chloride (PVC) material.
Non-pucca materials include unburnt bricks, bamboo, mud, grass, leaves, reeds thatch, polythene, and plastic.

Figure 4.1 *Distribution of households with children, by type of housing, by social group, Ananthavaram 2005,* in per cent

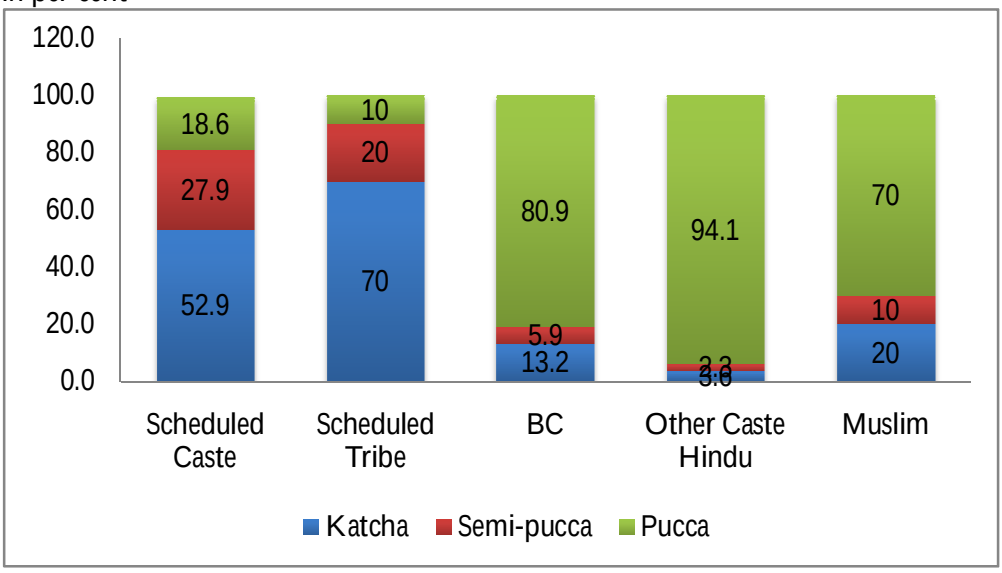


Table 4.2 and Figure 4.2 present the distribution of households with children by type of housing and asset quintile. Among the households in the top quintile, 93.0 per cent live in pucca houses. The percentage living in pucca houses generally increases as one moves from lower to higher asset quintiles. The somewhat surprising dip in this figure from 31.5 per cent for the bottom

quintile to 16.4 per cent for the next higher quintile reflects the provision of pucca shelters under a government housing scheme for SCs, many of whom are landless and therefore fall into the bottom quintile. It is interesting to note that, even in the highest asset quintile, more than 4 per cent live in katcha houses.

Table 4.2 *Distribution of households with children, by type of housing, by asset quintile, Ananthavaram, 2005* (in percent)

Asset quintile	Katcha	Pucca	Semi-pucca	Unspecified	All
Q1	48.0	31.5	20.5	0.0	100.0
Q2	65.8	16.4	17.8	0.0	100.0
Q3	39.7	35.6	24.7	0.0	100.0
Q4	15.1	65.8	17.7	1.4	100.0
Q5	4.2	93.0	2.8	0.0	100.0
All	34.6	48.4	16.7	0.3	100.0

Figure 4.2 *Distribution of households with children, by type of housing, by asset quintile, Ananthavaram 2005,* in per cent

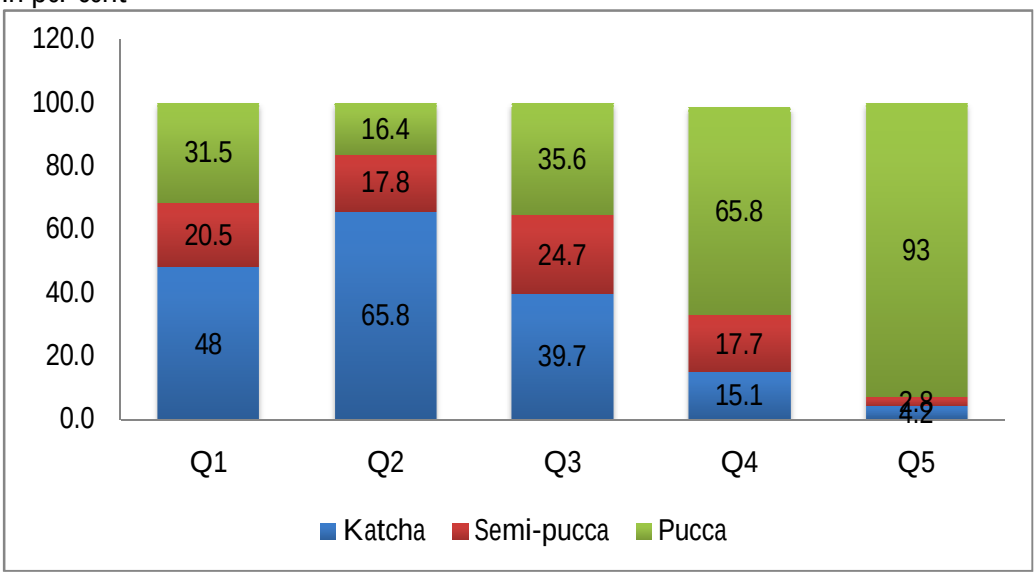


Table 4.3 and 4.4 provide information on the distribution of households with children living in single room houses by social group and asset quintile respectively. In all, 179 households out of 364-nearly 50 per cent- live in single room houses. The percentage is very high for STs and Muslims at 86.7 per cent and 80 per cent respectively. The percentage for BCs is close to the overall average while SCs fare a little worse. The gap between all other social groups and Other Caste Hindus comes out sharply as only 22.6 per cent of the latter live in single room houses. Inequality in this dimension of housing is sharp across wealth quintiles. Less than 10 per cent of households in the top quintile live in single room houses as compared to over 70 per cent in the

case of the bottom two quintiles taken together. More than half of the households in the third quintile also live in single room houses, while the corresponding proportion for the fourth quintile is close to two-fifths. It goes without saying that living in a single room is not conducive to the development of a child, be in educational development through lack of space for quiet study, or emotional and psychological development.

Table 4.3 *Number of households with children living in single room houses by social groups, Ananthavaram, 2005*

Social group	Number of households	As percentage of all households with children
Scheduled Caste	93	54.1
Scheduled Tribe	26	86.7
BC	33	48.5
Other Caste Hindu	19	22.6
Muslim	8	80.0
All	179	49.2

Table 4.4 *Number of households with children living in single room houses by asset quintile, Ananthavaram, 2005*

Asset quintile	Number of households	As percentage of all households with children
Q1	53	72.6
Q2	50	68.5
Q3	41	56.2
Q4	28	38.4
Q5	7	9.7
All	179	49.2

NOTE 6: A room indicates a separate living quarter. Kitchen and covered verandah are not considered as rooms.

4.2 *Access to electricity for domestic use*

Data on the distribution of households with children by access to electric connection for domestic use and social group/asset quintile are presented in Tables 4.5 and 4.6.

With 86 per cent of all households having an electric connection for domestic use, access is fairly widespread across all social groups and asset quintiles.[16] However, it is the case that ST and SC households have relatively poorer access, at 70 per cent and 80.8 per cent respectively. There are 172 SC households with children of whom 33 lack access to electricity for domestic use. Higher

[16] Our figure of 86 % for *households with children* is close to the NFJS figure of 85.4 % for rural Andhra in 2005-06, but higher than the corresponding NSS 2002 figure of 78.1 % and the Census 2001 figure of 59.7 %.

asset quintiles have greater access than lower ones, but even in the highest two quintiles, some households are without electric connection for domestic use.

Table 4.5 *Households with children with electric connections for domestic use, by social group, Ananthavaram, 2005*

Social group	Number of households	As percentage of all households with children
Scheduled Caste	139	80.8
Scheduled Tribe	21	70.0
BC	61	89.7
Other Caste Hindu	82	97.6
Muslim	10	100.0
All	313	86.0

Table 4.6 *Households with children with electric connections for domestic use, by asset quintile, Ananthavaram, 2005*

Asset quintile	Number of households	As percentage of all households with children
Q1	52	71.2
Q2	56	76.7
Q3	65	89.0
Q4	70	95.9
Q5	70	97.2
All	313	86.0

4.3 *Drinking Water*

Table 4.7 shows the distribution of households with children by primary source of drinking water. Nearly 96 per cent of the households under consideration draw drinking water from a hand- pump.

Table 4.7 *Distribution of households with children by primary source of drinking water, Ananthavaram, 2005*

Source	Number of households	As percentage of all households with children
Handpump	349	95.9
Powered tubewell	7	1.9
Tap	7	1.9
Unspecified	1	0.3
All	364	100.0

Tables 4.8 and 4.9 present the distribution of households with children by access to a covered source of drinking water. There is practically no variation across social groups or across asset

quintiles, and near-universal coverage.[17] Only one household out of the 364 households with children- a Muslim household- lacks access to a covered source of drinking water. This household belongs to the fourth highest asset quintile.

Table 4.8 *Households with children with access to covered source of drinking water, by social group, Ananthavaram, 2005*

Social group	Number	As percentage of all households with children
Scheduled Caste	172	100.0
Scheduled Tribe	30	100.0
BC	68	100.0
Other Caste Hindu	84	100.0
Muslim	9	90.0
All	363	99.7

Table 4.9 *Households with children with access to covered source of drinking water, by asset quintiles, Ananthavaram, 2005*

Asset quintile	Number of households	As percentage of all households with children
Q1	73	100.0
Q2	73	100.0
Q3	73	100.0
Q4	72	98.6
Q5	72	100.0
All	363	99.7

Tables 4.10 and 4.11 present the distribution of households with children by distance of the site of the household from a drinking water source, by social group and asset quintile respectively. Overall, slightly under half of these households have access to a source of drinking water within the homestead. But such access varies considerably across social groups and asset quintiles. Most of the Other Caste Hindu households and a majority of the BC and Muslim households have a source of drinking water within the homestead. Only one-third of SC households have a source of drinking water within the homestead. *None* of the ST households have a drinking water source within the homestead. Looking at the distribution by quintile, nearly 90 per cent of the households with children in the top quintile and two-thirds of those in the next highest quintile have a drinking water source within the homestead. Only a third of the households in the third quintile and about a quarter of those in the bottom two quintiles have a drinking water source

[17] The percentage of rural households with access to a safe source of drinking water is 86.1 %, 84 % and 76.9 % by NFHS 2005-06, NSS 2002 and Census 2001 respectively. The corresponding percentages for rural India are all lower than those for Andhra Pradesh.

within the homestead. The distance dimension of access to drinking water thus shows some degree of inequality, both across social groups and across asset quintiles.

Table 4.10 *Number of households with children, by distance from source of drinking water, by social group, Ananthavaram, 2005*

Social group	Within homestead	≤ 500 metres	> 500 metres	Unspecified
Scheduled Caste	56	114	0	2
Scheduled Tribe	0	29	0	1
BC	37	31	0	0
Other Caste Hindu	76	8	0	0
Muslim	5	4	0	1
All	174	186	0	4

Table 4.11 *Number of households with children, by distance from source of drinking water, by asset quintiles, Ananthavaram, 2005*

Asset quintile	Within homestead	≤ 500 metres	> 500 metres	Unspecified
Q1	19	53	0	1
Q2	16	56	0	1
Q3	29	44	0	0
Q4	47	24	0	2
Q5	63	9	0	0
All	174	186	0	4

4.4 *Lavatories*

Tables 4.12 and 4.13 and Figures 4.3 and 4.4 show the distribution of households with children by access to a lavatory, cross-tabulated by social group and asset quintile respectively.

Overall, the absence of proper sanitation is shocking: only 43 per cent of all households with children have access to a lavatory.[18] But the access varies substantially across social groups and asset quintiles. At one end, the Other Caste Hindus has almost universal access to a lavatory. Only 5 out of 84 of these households lack access to a lavatory. At the other end, none of the 29 ST households have access to a lavatory. Nearly four-fifths of SCs and three-fifths of Muslims and nearly half of the BCs lack access to a lavatory. As for asset quintiles, only the top quintile shows nearly universal access, with more than 90 per cent of the households having access to a lavatory. Nearly 78 per cent of all households with children in the bottom three quintiles do not

[18] The percentage of households in rural Andhra using a latrine facility was 26.9 % by NFHS 2005-06, 22 % by NSS 2002 and 18.1 % by Census 2001. The corresponding figures for rural India were 26 %, 24 % and 21.9 % respectively.

have access to a lavatory. Even in the second highest quintile, the proportion lacking access is a high 43.8 per cent.

Table 4.12 *Households with children without access to lavatories, by social group, Ananthavaram, 2005*

Social group	Number of households	As percentage of all households with children
Scheduled caste	135	78.5
Scheduled Tribe	29	96.7
BC	33	48.5
Other Caste Hindu	5	6.0
Muslim	6	60.0
All	208	57.1

Figure 4.3 *Households with children without access to lavatories, by social group, Ananthavaram, 2005*

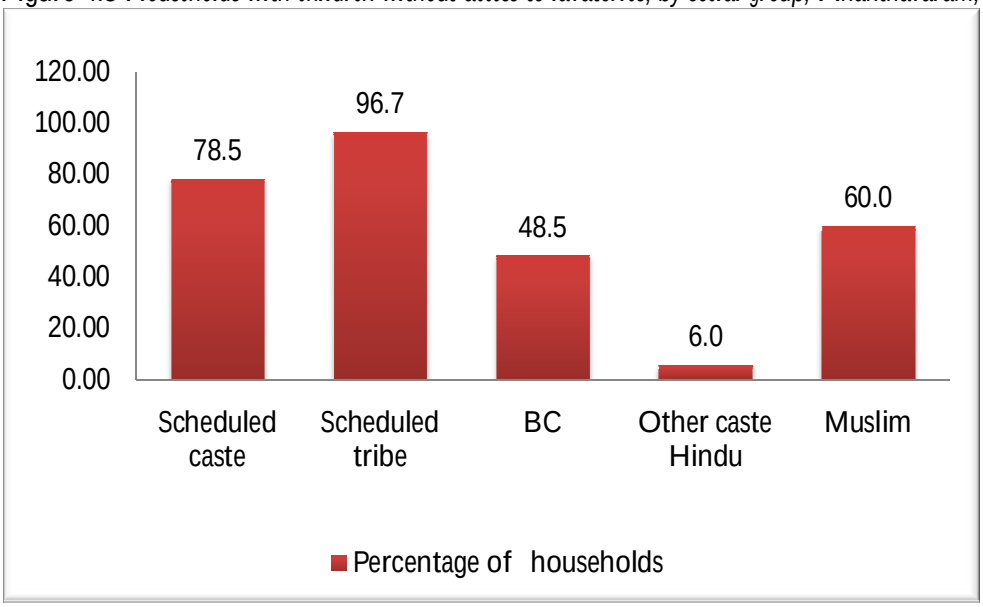
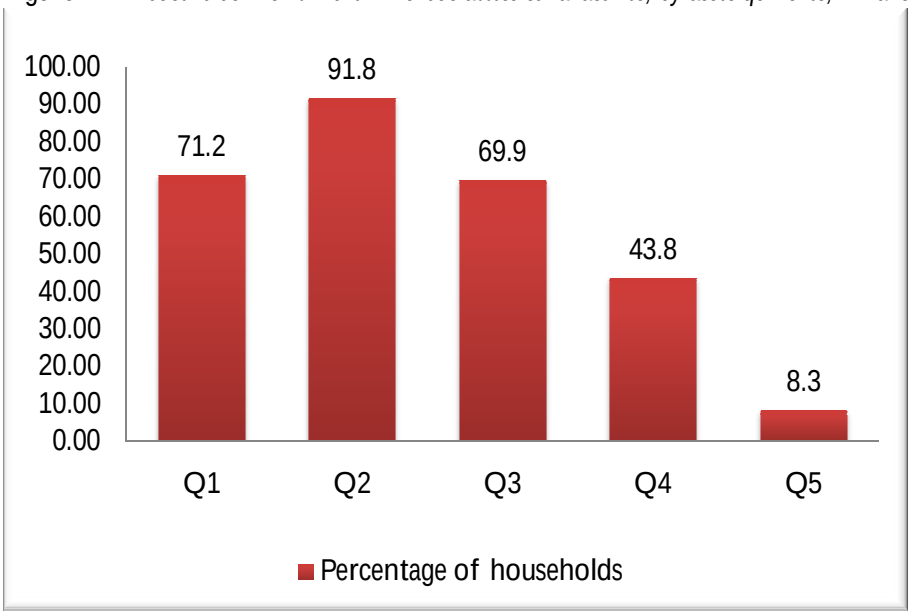


Table 4.13 *Households with children without access to lavatories, by asset quintiles, Ananthavaram, 2005*

Asset quintile	Number of households	As percentage of all households with children
Q1	52	71.2
Q2	67	91.8
Q3	51	69.9
Q4	32	43.8
Q5	6	8.3
All	208	57.1

Figure 4.4 *Households with children without access to lavatories, by asset quintiles, Ananthavaram, 2005*



Our examination of the endowments of households with children in respect of certain basic household amenities - *domestic electricity connections, pucca houses in which to live, safe water sources within households and access to latrines* - shows that the general picture was one of inadequate achievement for the majority, and inequality across social groups and asset classes. Again, the top asset quintile and the social group of Other Caste Hindus are much better provided for than the rest, but these households account for at most 20 per cent of the population.

The most disturbing feature, with respect to the provision or lack thereof of amenities, has been in respect of providing the village and households with lavatories. The vast majority of the population has to defecate in open spaces, an affront to human dignity and hazard to human health, particularly for women and children.

DO INCOMES MATTER?

It is interesting to examine the relation between incomes and access to basic amenities. To illustrate, households were classified into three income groups, based on total household income. The first and lowest income category comprises households with total incomes of less than Rs 30,000 a year, which roughly corresponds to the official rural poverty line for 2004-05.[1] The second category is that of households with incomes from Rs 30,000 to Rs 100,000 and the third category of those with incomes over a lakh of rupees.

In Ananthavaram, of all low-income Other (non Scheduled Caste, non Scheduled Tribe) Households, 68 per cent had toilets; the proportion rose to 100 per cent in the highest income category. However, among Dalits, only 16 per cent of the low income households had toilets and even among those with one lakh a year, only two-thirds had a toilet facility. In other words, the chances of having a toilet rose at higher income levels, but differentially for Dalits and Other Households. Similarly, access to a source of drinking water within the homestead rose with income group though differentially for Dalits and Other Households in Ananthavaram

Our data on the pattern of access to amenities for households at different income levels indicate that incomes alone do not ensure an improved standard of living, unless, of course, incomes are very high. There are households below the official poverty line that have certain amenities that households with incomes above the poverty line lack. Although there is a tendency in all the villages, with a few exceptions, for the proportion of households with a specified amenity to increase as we move from a lower to a higher income level, there are big variations in the extent of improvement with a shift to a higher income group.

Secondly, the relation between income and access to basic amenities is dissimilar for Scheduled Castes and Other Households. In many of our survey villages, even the richest Dalit households did not have access to all basic amenities, while this is not so among Other Households. In Ananthavaram, the highest-income Dalit family did not have a pucca house.

Thirdly the public good nature of provision of certain basic amenities implies that an individual's access depends not just on individual incomes but on common facilities. Take the case of piped water. A house can have provision for piped water indoors only if there is access to piped water in the neighbourhood. The new international literature on social exclusion recognizes the importance of a neighbourhood dimension, that is, the presence or absence of community resources in the neighbourhood, in the prevalence of social exclusion. It is well known that, on account of historical deprivation, Dalit households face specific problems with respect to availability and access to public infrastructure and common resources. The location of Dalit hamlets at a distance form the main village, for example, affects access to amenities like drinking water.

Source: Madhura Swaminathan and Shamsher Singh, Exclusion in Access to Basic Amenities: Evidence from Fourteen Villages, in V. K. Ramachandran (ed.) Dalits Households in Village Economies, Tulika Books, New Delhi (forthcoming).

5. *ECONOMIC SITUATION OF WOMEN*

5.1 *Marital Status*

Table 5.1 shows the marital status of women aged 18 years and above in Ananthavaram as per the FAS survey of 2005.Widows constitute one-fifth of all adult women.

Table 5.1 *Distribution of women (18 years and above) by current marital status, Ananthavaram, 2005*

Current marital status	Number of women	As percentage of all women
Never married	66	7.2
Currently married	662	72.3
Widowed	175	19.1
Separated/ divorced	13	1.4
All	916	100.0

5.2 *Women in the workforce*

Table 5.2 provides the distribution of the proportions of working population among males and females 18 years and older by social group. Table 5.3 provides the data on work participation rate of women aged 18 years and older by marital status. Table 5.4 presents a picture of the activity profile of women aged 18 years and older.

In all social groups, the proportion of women in the working population to all women in the age group under consideration is much lower than the corresponding proportion for men. However, among STs, SCs and BCs, the percentage of women aged 18 years and older who are in the working population exceeds 50 per cent, being the highest for STs at 81 per cent, followed by SCs at 66.6 percent The lowest percentage of women over 14 in the working population to all women in the age group is 16.3 per cent for Other Caste Hindus. Among the males, Muslims and STs Report the highest proportions in the working population and other caste Hindus the lowest. The work participation rates of women are low among the never-married and widowed categories and high for currently married and divorced/separated categories. All these results are in line with expectations. Of the 916 women aged 18 years and above, as many as 334 women have been engaged in agricultural wage employment. 96 women have reported working as cultivators. The numbers of women reporting participation in other activities-animal husbandry, non-agricultural wage employment, non-agricultural self employment, salaried employment and other activities-are quite small.

Table 5.2 *Proportion of working population (18 years and above), by sex, by social group, Ananthavaram, 2005* (in percent)

Social group	Female	Male	Persons
Scheduled Caste	66.6	85.9	76.3
Scheduled Tribe	81.0	92.2	86.0
BC	53.8	82.0	67.4
Other Caste Hindu	16.3	77.0	44.6
Muslim	42.3	95.8	68.0
All	49.2	83.3	65.8

Table 5.3 *Work participation rate of women (18 years and above), by marital status, Ananthavaram, 2005* (in percent)

Marital status	WPR
Never married	37.9
Currently married	53.3
Widowed	39.4
Divorced/ separated	61.5
All	49.7

Table 5.4 *Activity profile of women (18 years and above), Ananthavaram, 2005*

Occupation	Number of women participating in the activity	As percentage of all adult women
Cultivation	96	10.5
Agricultural wage employment	334	36.5
Animal husbandry	20	2.2
Non-agricultural wage employment	38	4.2
Non-agricultural self employment	29	3.2
Salaried employment	21	2.3
Other	3	0.3

Note: The percentage of women in all activities do not add up to the WPR because individuals may be involved in more than one activity, and animal husbandry is not included as work in our definition

5.3 *Women as Heads of Households*

Tables 5.5 and 5.6 present the distribution of female and male heads of households by social group and asset quintile respectively. There is not a great deal of variation in the percentage of female-headed households across social groups, except for the somewhat surprising result that the percentage is highest for Muslims, and by a large margin.[19] The percentage of female heads of

[19] The number of Muslim households is, however, quite small

households is significantly higher among SCs and STs as compared to BCs and Other Caste Hindus. The distribution by asset quintiles shows that the percentage of female-headed households is higher in the bottom three quintiles taken together than in the top two. It is the lowest in the top quintile and the highest in the bottom quintile. In other words, among the poor a significant proportion of the households are female headed households. The intervening three quintiles do not differ much from one another in this regard.

Table 5.5 *Distribution of heads of the households, by sex, by social group, Ananthavaram, 2005*

Social group	Number		Percentage	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
Scheduled Caste	41	242	14.5	85.5
Scheduled Tribe	8	36	18.2	81.8
BC	17	114	13.0	87.0
Other Caste Hindu	24	166	12.6	87.4
Muslim	5	13	27.8	72.2
Unspecified	0	1	0.0	100.0
All	95	572	14.2	85.8

Table 5.6 *Distribution of heads of the households, by sex, by asset quintile, Ananthavaram, 2005*

Social group	Number		Percentage	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
Q1	31	103	23.1	76.9
Q2	19	115	14.2	85.8
Q3	15	118	11.3	88.7
Q4	18	115	13.5	86.5
Q5	12	121	9.0	91.0
All	95	572	14.2	85.8

Table 5.7 presents the distribution of female heads of households by marital status. Table 5.8 presents the distribution of female heads of households by age group. An overwhelming proportion of female heads of households – 90.5 per cent – are widows. This suggests that it is normally only upon the death of the male head that his spouse comes to be regarded as head of the household. Only 5 per cent of the female heads of households are currently married. It is as if widowhood is almost a necessary-though not a sufficient-condition for a woman to be regarded as head of a household. This should of course not be surprising in our patriarchal society.

Looking at the distribution by age group, nearly half of all female heads are above 60 years and nearly three-quarters are 50 years or older.[20] It is evident that it takes unusual circumstances for a woman to be regarded as a head of a household. The typical female head of household is likely to be over sixty and widowed.

Table 5.7 *Distribution of female heads of households, by marital status, Ananthavaram, 2005*

Marital status	Number	Percentage
Currently married	5	5.3
Widowed	86	90.5
Divorced/ separated	4	4.2
All	95	100.0

Table 5.8 *Distribution of female heads of households, by age group, Ananthavaram, 2005*

Age group	Number	Percentage
up to 34 years	5	5.2
35 to 49 years	21	22.1
50 to 60 years	24	25.3
Above 60 years	45	47.4
All	95	100.0

Viewed in terms of work force participation, activity profile, educational status and power within the household, women in Ananthavaram, like their counterparts elsewhere in rural (and to a large extent, urban) India face a great deal of discrimination and are deprived in important ways.

[20] In contrast, in the case of male heads of households, one-sixth were below 35 years of age and 53.5 % were below 50 years of age. Only 20 per cent were sixty years or older.

CHILDREN IN FEMALE HEADED HOUSEHOLDS

Here are three stories from among the poorest female-headed households in Ananthavaram.

Naina Leela is a young widow who lives with her mother and two sons. She is a landless agricultural labourer and earns her wages working on paddy and maize fields. Her two sons, aged 13 and 11, both study in the Zilla Parishad High School at Ananthavaram. This may only be possible because her mother receives a regular employee pension of Rs 2000 a month from the Electricity department where her father worked. This is much higher than the State's widow or destitute or old age pension.

Lanka C is also a young widow and landless agricultural labourer, living with three children. None of the children has ever attended an educational institution. Her two children, aged 14 and 7, are deaf and dumb and the middle child, a daughter aged 12 does not attend school. The caring duty has fallen on the daughter in this family, who has had to give up schooling to take care of her siblings.

Pulavarthi, another widow, and landless agricultural labourer from the Madiga caste is very poor. She lives in a katcha hut and the family's only earnings are from her labouring out on fields. She has two daughters: Raji the elder one is 14 and illiterate and never went to school, but Papa, the younger one, is studying and residing at a Missionary school in Tenali.

These stories illustrate how, on the one hand, the benefits of social security from employment in the organised sector can help support a family and how, on the other hand, the lack of social security (for widows and disabled) combined with the total absence of any care or schooling facility for the disabled in villages can be detrimental to children's lives.

Andhra Pradesh: Bukkacherla Village

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1. LOCATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Bukkacherla village is located in Raptadu mandal, Anantapur district. The mandal headquarters, Raptadu, is 9 km away, and Anantapur, the nearest town and railhead as well as the district headquarters, is 15 km away. The approach road to the village is a katcha road and difficult to travel on during the monsoon. There is no bus to the village, though autorickshaws and motor-vans from Gandlaparthy, a village 6 kilometers away- pass through, depending on passenger demand. There is a post office in the village, a ration shop and one pay-telephone booth. There are no regular stores but there is a weekly market. There is a cooperative bank in the village of Gandlaparthy. The nearest commercial bank is at Anantapur. The nearest Primary Health Centre is at Raptadu. For any other medical service, private and public, people have to go to Anantapur. The only school in the village provides for education upto the seventh standard.

At the Census of 2001, the population of Bukkacherla was 1,383 persons (712 males and 671 females). Bukkacherla had a population density of 71 persons per sq km. In 2001, the sex ratio for the village population was 942 for all persons and 1000 for Scheduled Caste persons.

The area of the village, according to the Census of India 2001, is 1945 hectares. Of this, nearly 10 per cent (190.3 hectares) is not available for cultivation while a little over 2 per cent consists of culturable waste. The remaining land is under cultivation. Only 9.2 per cent of the area under cultivation (178.1 hectares) is irrigated. The remaining 1537.3 hectares are unirrigated. In terms of agro-ecology, the village is located in the scarce rainfall zone of Rayalaseema as per NARP classification. The main source of irrigation is groundwater.

The village has a diversified cropping pattern. Groundnut, red gram, cowpea, green gram, sesame, bajra, jowar, beans (intercropped with groundnut) and paddy are all grown in the kharif season. Paddy, groundnut, fruits and vegetables are grown during the rabi season.[21]

[21] For further details of the agrarian economy of Bukkacherla, see Ramachandran, Rawal and Swaminathan (eds.) (2010), *Socio Economic Surveys of Three Villages in Andhra Pradesh: A study of Agrarian Relations,* Tulika Books, New Delhi.

Table 1.1 *Location of the village, Bukkacherla 2005*

Village	Bukkacherla
District	Anantapur
Block/Tehsil	Raptadu
Nearest town	Anantapur
Distance from nearest town	15 km
Nearest railway station	Anantapur
Distance from nearest railway station	15 km
Bus stop within the village	No
Metalled approach road	No

Table 1.2 *Description of village infrastructure and amenities, Bukkacherla 2005*

Item	Number/description
Number of anganwadi centres within village	2
Number of primary schools (Std I-V) within village	-
Number of middle schools (upto Std VIII) within village	1 (upto Std. VII)
Number of secondary schools (upto Std X) within village	0
Nearest secondary school	6 km.
Number of higher secondary schools (upto Std XII) within village	0
Distance from nearest PHC	8 km
Post office within the village	Yes
Bank within the village	Yes (Co-operative Bank)

Table 1.3 *Land use and population, Bukkacherla 2001*

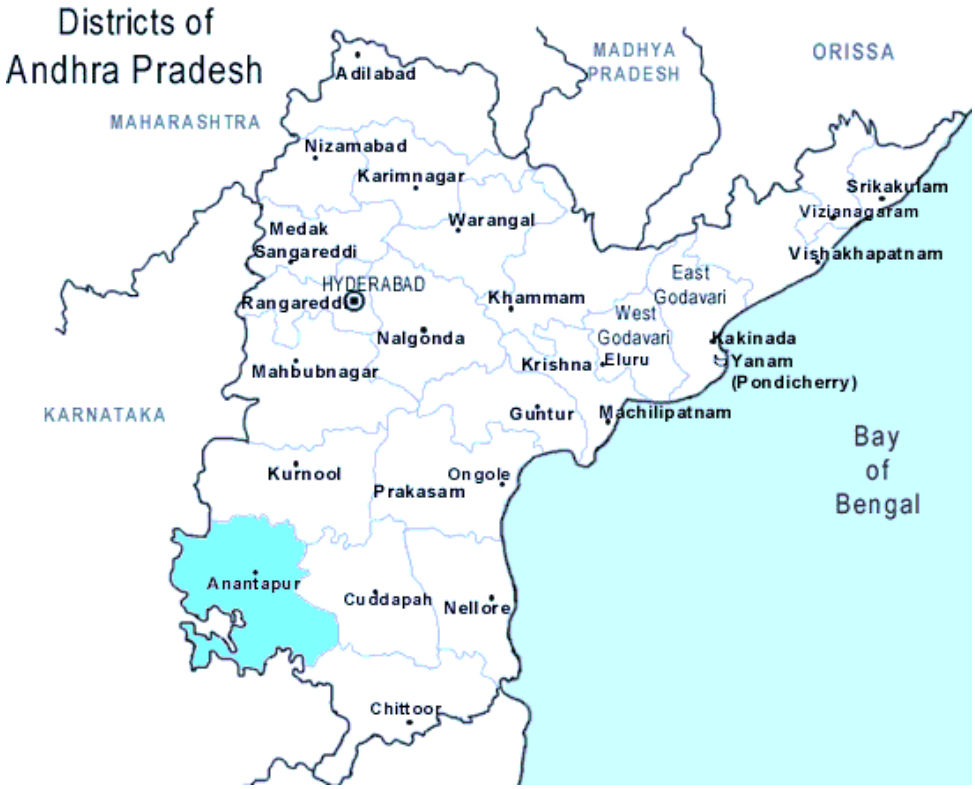
Village			Area (in hectares)	As % of geographical area
Geographical area			1945	100.0
Land use (as % of geographical area)	Forest		0	0.0
	Area under cultivation	Irrigated	178.1	9.2
		Unirrigated	1537.3	79.0
	Cultivable waste		39.3	2.0
	Area not available for cultivation		190.3	9.8

Source: Census of India 2001

Table 1.4 *Agro-economic features of the village, Bukkacherla 2005*

Agro-ecological region (NARP classification)	Scarce rainfall zone of Rayalaseema
Major crops grown (by crop seasons)	Kharif: Groundnut; red gram, cowpea, green gram, sesame, bajra, jowar, beans (intercropped with groundnut); paddy; Rabi: paddy, groundnut, fruits and vegetable
Major sources of irrigation	Groundwater irrigation
Other features	Only 9 per cent of gross cropped area irrigated (survey data)

Figure 1: *Location of Anantapur district, Andhra Pradesh*



2. *DEMOGRAPHY*

2.1 *Population, social composition, sex ratios and children per household*

As per the FAS survey of 2005, there were a total of 292 households in Bukkacherla. The distribution of households by social group is presented in Table 2.1. The single largest group is that of Other Caste Hindus accounting for nearly 44 per cent of all households. About a third of the households belong to Backward Classes (BC) while Scheduled Castes (SC) account for one-fifth. A little less than 3 per cent of the households are Muslim.

Table 2.1 *Distribution of households, by social groups, Bukkacherla, 2005*

Social group	Number of households	As percentage of all households
Scheduled Caste	58	19.9
BC	98	33.6
Other Caste Hindu	128	43.8
Muslim	8	2.7
All	292	100.0

The shares of the different social groups in the population of the village are shown in Table 2.1a. These are more or less similar to the distribution of households, but with Other Caste Hindus having a higher share of the population than of households and the reverse being the case for Backward Classes, Muslims and Scheduled Castes.

Table 2.1a *Distribution of population by social group and sex, Bukkacherla 2005*

Social groups	Number			As percentage of all		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Scheduled Caste	127	113	240	20.9	18.2	19.6
BC	195	191	386	32.1	30.8	31.4
Other Caste Hindu	271	299	570	44.5	48.2	46.4
Muslim	15	17	32	2.5	2.8	2.6
All	608	620	1228	100.0	100.0	100.0

The distribution of the population by sex and specified age groups is shown in Table 2.2. The population sex ratio works out to be 981 females per 1000 males. The child sex ratio is 1425 girls per 1000 boys in the age group of 0-6 years. However, males outnumber females in the age group of 7 to 49 years, reflecting possibly greater mortality among females brought about by pregnancy related deaths. In the age group of persons 50 years or older, there are 123 females to 120 males, which work out to a sex ratio of 1025.

Table 2.2 *Distribution of population by age and sex, Bukkacherla 2005*

Age group	Population			As percentage of total population		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
0 to < 3 years	19	11	30	3.1	1.8	2.4
3 years to 6 years	38	29	67	6.3	4.7	5.5
7 years to 9 years	28	34	62	4.6	5.5	5.1
10 years to 14 years	73	73	146	12.0	11.8	11.9
15 years to 17 years	33	39	72	5.4	6.3	5.9
18 years to 24 years	79	90	168	13.0	14.5	13.7
25 years to 34 years	98	102	200	16.1	16.5	16.3
35 years to 49 years	118	122	240	19.4	19.7	19.5
50 years to 59 years	52	44	96	8.6	7.1	7.8
60 years to 69 years	45	48	93	7.4	7.6	7.6
≥ 70 years	25	28	53	4.1	4.5	4.3
All	608	620	1228	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 2.3 provides the distribution of households by size. There are 19 one-person households. At the other end, there are 13 households with size exceeding 8 persons and with an average of ten persons per household. 183 out of 292 households, nearly 63 per cent of the total, have between 3 and 5 members. Only around one-fifth of all households have six or more members.

Table 2.3 *Distribution of households by household size, Bukkacherla 2005*

Household size	Number of households	As percentage of all households	Average size of the household
1	19	6.5	1
2	31	10.6	2
3	54	18.5	3
4	76	26.0	4
5	53	18.2	5
6	36	12.3	6
7	10	3.4	7
≥ 8	13	4.5	10
All	292	100.0	4.2

A little over one-third of all households in Bukkacherla do not have any person below 18 years of age. The percentage for SCs is practically the same as the village mean. It is somewhat higher for BCs. For Other Caste Hindus, the proportion is a bit lower than the mean. In the case of Muslims-and there are only 8 Muslim households in Bukkacherla- the percentage is much higher at 50 per cent.

Table 2.3a *Number and proportion of households without children, by social group, Bukkacherla, 2005*

Social group	Number of households without children	Total number of households	Households without children as percentage of total households
Scheduled Caste	20	58	34.5
BC	37	98	37.8
Other Caste Hindu	40	128	31.3
Muslim	4	8	50.0
All	101	292	34.6

Table 2.4 presents the distribution of the average number of children per household by household size. More than three-fifths of all households - 180 out of 292 - have fewer than two children per household. Only among the thirteen households with household size exceeding 7 we get an average number of children per household in excess of 3. The average number of children per household is 1.3 for all 292 households taken together while it is 2 if one takes into account only households with children.

The small family norm seems fairly well established in Bukkacherla. A demographic transition is well under way.

Table 2.4 *Average number of children per household by household size, Bukkacherla 2005*

Household size	Number of households	Average number of children
1	19	0.00
2	31	0.1
3	54	0.6
4	76	1.5
5	53	1.8
6	36	2.0
7	10	2.2
≥ 8	13	3.2
All	292	1.3

NOTE 1: Children (in all references in this document) are defined as persons in the age group 0 to 17 years, unless otherwise specified.

It is normally presumed that children live with both parents. Sometimes, they may be living in the same household with one but not both parents. Rarely, children may be living in a household with neither parent being a member. Table 2.5 shows that in Bukkacherla, 91.5 per cent of all children live in households with both parents.5.3 per cent with the mother alone and a far smaller

proportion-1.3 per cent - live only with the father. All cases of children living with only one parent in the household in Bukkacherla are on account of one of the parents not being alive. Of the five children living without their parents, four live with their grandparents, and one, a mentally retarded boy lives with his elder brother.

Table 2.5 *In whose home do children live? Bukkacherla 2005*

Children living in the same household with	Number of children			As percentage of all children		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Both parents	174	171	345	91.0	91.9	91.5
Mother, not father	11	9	20	5.7	4.9	5.3
Father, not mother	2	3	5	1.1	1.6	1.3
Neither parents but with other family members	2	3	5	1.1	1.6	1.3
Unspecified	2	0	2	1.1	0.0	0.6
All	191	186	377	100.0	100.0	100.0

2.2 *Activity Status of children*

Tables 2.6 present data on children aged 6 to 14 years engaged in work outside the household for an employer or work on the household operational holding or work in any household enterprise other than animal resources. In all, only five children are so engaged. Four girls work outside the household for an employer while one boy works on the household operational holding.

The only boy working on the household operational holding is from a Backward Class household. Among the four girls working outside the household for an employer, two are from BC households and two from Other Caste Hindu households. Interestingly, no child from SC and Muslim households in Bukkacherla is engaged in work outside the household for an employer or work on the household operational holding. There are only a small number of Muslim households and their socioeconomic status in Bukkacherla is not weak. That no SC household is sending children in the 6 to 14 years age group to work outside the household for an employer nor does any SC child work on household operational holding is worthy of note.

Table 2.6 *Children in the age group 6 to 14 years engaged in specific types of activities, by sex, Bukkacherla 2005*

Type of activity	Number			As percentage of all children in age group		
	Girls	Boys	All	Girls	Boys	All
Work outside the household for an employer (paid and unpaid)	4	0	4	3.6	0.0	1.8
Work on household operational holding	0	1	1	0.0	0.9	0.5
Work in any household enterprise other than animal resources	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
All	4	1	5	3.6	0.9	2.3

Table 2.7 *Girls in the age group 6 to 14 years engaged in specific types of activities, by social group, Bukkacherla 2005*

Social group	Number	As percentage of all children in age group
	Work outside the household for an employer (paid and unpaid)	Work outside the household for an employer (paid and unpaid)
Scheduled Caste	0	0.0
BC	2	5.6
Other Caste Hindu	2	4.2
Muslim	0	0.0
All	4	3.6

It may also be expected on a priori grounds that working children are more likely to be found in asset-poor households. To explore the possible relationship between asset status and variables relating to child labour, literacy, schooling and education, we have used the concept of asset quintiles. Using the FAS survey data on the total value of assets of households, we have the following values for the maximum, minimum, median and average values of each asset quintile in Bukkacherla.[22]

[22] Assets include land and waterbodies, houses and buildings, trees, animals, other means of production, means of transport, domestic durable goods, and other assets such as grain stock and inventories. Assets do not include financial assets and gold. Assets are valued at present value, reported by households.

Table 2.8 *Values of asset quintile (in Rupees), Bukkacherla, 2005*

Asset quintile	Minimum	Maximum	Median	Average
Q1	920	40980	27210	22709.5
Q2	42700	101850	71497.5	72555.2
Q3	102930	179490	133060	138177.4
Q4	180850	323570	250985	248895.3
Q5	324580	14199660	575825	1004800.2

One can see that the bottom three asset quintiles are not very far apart from one another in terms of the range of asset values, as compared to the top two quintiles-and especially the top quintile. Further, even the second highest quintile is closer to the bottom three quintiles as the distance between it and the highest quintile is huge. The asset limits set out above need to be kept in mind in all the ensuing discussions in this Report.

Table 2.9 *Distribution of households, by social group and asset quintile, Bukkacherla 2005*

Social group	Number of households (as percentage of all household in the asset quintile)						As percentage of all households in caste group					
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	All	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	All
Scheduled Caste	26 (44.1)	23 (39.7)	8 (13.8)	1 (1.7)	0 (0.0)	58 (19.9)	44.8	39.7	13.8	1.7	0	100.0
BC	20 (33.9)	18 (31.0)	23 (39.7)	29 (50.0)	7 (12.1)	98 (33.6)	20.4	18.4	23.5	29.6	7.1	100.0
Other Caste Hindu	11 (18.6)	14 (24.1)	26 (44.8)	27 (46.6)	50 (86.2)	128 (43.8)	8.6	10.9	20.3	21.1	39.1	100.0
Muslim	2 (3.4)	3 (5.2)	1 (1.7)	1 (1.7)	1 (1.7)	8 (2.7)	25.0	37.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	100.0
All	59 (100)	58 (100)	58 (100)	58 (100)	58 (100)	292 (100)						

Table 2.10 present the data on girls engaged in specified activities by household asset class, for the four girls. The boy working on the household operational holding comes from a household in the fourth asset quintile. Of the four girls who all work outside the household for an employer, one each comes from the first, second, third and fifth asset quintiles. The presence of a girl from the top asset quintile may be surprising. This girl belongs to a land-owning peasant family. She has reported to be engaged in agricultural labour for some time during the year.

Table 2.10 *Girls in the age group 6 to 14 years engaged in specific types of activities, by asset quintiles, Bukkacherla 2005*

Asset quintile	Number	As percentage of all children in age group
	Work outside the household for an employer (paid and unpaid)	Work outside the household for an employer (paid and unpaid)
Q1	1	5.3
Q2	1	4.2
Q3	1	4.4
Q4	0	0.0
Q5	1	4.4
All	4	3.6

2.3 *Age at marriage*

Though the legal age for marriage in India is 21 years for males and 18 years for females, there are usually instances in most villages of one or more persons who have got married before reaching the legal age for marriage. We found two instances of this in Bukkacherla of females who had been married before reaching the legal minimum age for it. One is from a Scheduled Caste household while the other from an Other Caste Hindu household. One belonged to a household from the second asset quintile and the other to one from the fourth quintile. It is evident that child marriage is a rare event in Bukkacherla. There was no male, married below the age of 21 years.

Table 2.11 *Persons currently married in the age group below 18 years for women, by social group, Bukkacherla 2005*

Social group	Female (< 18 years)	
	Number of married	as per cent of all females below 18 years
Scheduled Caste	1	2.2
BC	0	0.0
Other Caste Hindu	1	1.2
Muslim	0	0.0
All	2	1.1

3. *EDUCATION*

In this section, we explore the situation in Bukkacherla in respect of literacy, schooling and educational levels of the population. We begin with schooling in respect of the population below 18 years of age in section 3.1.

3.1 *School Attendance*

Bukkacherla has only one upper primary school (Classes 1 to 7). The school, which was opened in 1978, is in a state of disrepair. Children from the village attend high school in the neighbouring village of Gandlaparthy, 6 km away. When collecting data, we attempted specifically to identify children who attended school regularly, distinguishing them from children who were not enrolled in school and from children enrolled in but not regularly attending school. The data in the tables that follow represent children in the first category, that is, children enrolled and attending school regularly.

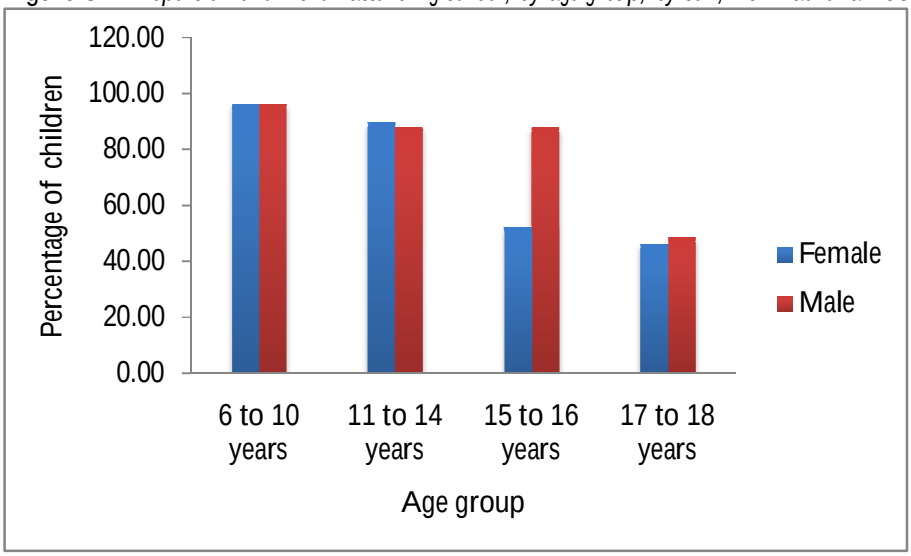
Tables 3.1 to 3.8 present detailed information on school attendance by age group, sex, social category and asset quintile.

Table 3.1 and Figure 3.1 present data on attendance by age group and Table 3.2 presents data on gross enrolment ratios (GERs), separately for boys and girls. It is clear that all children do *not* attend school regularly. Even in the age group of 6-10 years, the percentage of attendance is less than 100. The percentage falls to less than 90 in the next age group of 11-14 years. However, in both these age groups, the gender differential is insignificant. But the proportion of girls attending school declines sharply from nearly 90 per cent in the age group 11-14 years to 52 per cent in the age group 15-16 years, whereas the percentage of attendance remains practically unchanged for boys in both these age groups. The gender balance gets restored in the next age group of 17-18 years, with a sharp decline in the percentage of boys enrolled in the age group, only marginally higher than that for the girls.

Table 3.1 *Number and proportion of children attending school, by age group, by sex, Bukkacherla 2005*

Age group	Number of children			As percentage of all children		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
6 to 10 years	50	51	101	96.2	96.2	96.2
11 to 14 years	52	52	104	89.7	88.1	88.9
15 to 16 years	13	22	35	52.0	88.0	70.0
17 to 18 years	12	15	27	46.2	48.4	47.4
All	127	140	267	78.9	83.3	81.2

Figure 3.1 *Proportion of children attending school, by age group, by sex, Bukkacherla 2005* (in per cent)



Looking at the picture in terms of the gross enrolment ratio (GER), one finds that the GER for girls goes up between primary and elementary stages but falls steeply beyond the tenth standard. For boys, the GER is high and stable up to the tenth standard, but falls sharply at the higher secondary stage, though it is higher than that for girls by nearly twelve percentage points. The fact that children have to travel a distance of 6 kilometers each way every day to attend high school is clearly a factor behind the sharp drop in GER after class X. This factor seems to operate for girls from standard IX itself, possibly having to do with cultural norms relating to girls who have attained puberty. Overall, then, we can say that attendance is not universal even at the elementary stage. Secondly, significant exit from schooling begins for girls after the eighth standard and for boys after the tenth standard. Thirdly, both age-specific attendance ratios and GERs fall steeply after class X.

Table 3.2 *Gross enrolment ratio of children, by level of schooling, by sex, Bukkacherla, 2005*

School level	Number enrolled			GER		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Std I to V	44	54	98	74.6	88.5	81.7
Std VI to VIII	55	54	109	94.8	91.5	93.2
Std IX to X	40	37	77	83.3	90.2	86.5
Std XI to XII	10	15	25	23.8	35.7	29.8

NOTE 2: Gross enrolment ratio is the total enrolment in the specific level of education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the official school-age population corresponding to the same level of education in give school-year.
The Annual Report of The Ministry of Human Resource Development, India, 2008-09 provides data on GER for three levels. The school levels and corresponding school-age for three levels specified by the MoHRD are as follows:
Standard I to V: 6 to 11 years
Standard VI to VIII: 11 to 14 years
Standard IX to XII: 14 to 18 years
In Table 3.2 we have divided Standard IX to XII further in two categories:
Standard IX to X: 14 to 16 years
Standard XI to XII: 16 to 18 years

3.2 *School Attendance by Social Group and Asset Quintile*

Tables 3.3 to 3.5 and Figures 3.2 and 3.3 present data on percentage of attendance by age group for all children as well as separately for girls and for boys, disaggregated by social group. Attendance ratios are below 100 per cent *for all* social groups, even in the age group of 6 to 10 years. However, there are no significant differences across social groups in attendance ratios in the age group of 6 to 14 years. There are some sex-specific differences. Among SCs, the ratio for boys in the age group of 11-14 years is substantially lower than that for girls. This is true for BCs as well, though the sex differential is smaller. But the picture is quite the reverse for the group 'Other Castes and Religions', with girls' attendance ratio substantially lower than for boys. It is difficult to read too much into this, given the small numbers we are dealing with.

Once we get to the post-elementary stage, and the age groups of 15-16 and 17-18 years, the differences in attendance ratios between the SCs and BCs on the one hand and the rest on the other become quite substantial. Up to 16 years of age, corresponding roughly to the tenth standard, the difference is still modest among boys, though it is much wider for girls. For the age group of 17-18 years, there is a very sharp divide, with SCs and BCs having a much lower percentage of children in this age group in school. Given the small numbers of children in the BC

and SC categories attending school in this age group, one cannot make any strong statements about differentials between them.

As with other social groups, attendance ratios for the category 'Other Castes and Religions' are much lower for the age group 17-18 years than for the younger age groups. Further, the sex-differentials in attendance ratios within this group are substantial for all age groups except the age group of 6-10 years.

Table 3.3 *Children attending school, by age group, by social group, Bukkacherla, 2005,* (number and per cent)

Age group	SC		BC		Other Castes and religions	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
6 to 10 years	23	95.8	29	96.7	49	96.1
11 to 14 years	18	90.0	37	92.5	49	86.0
15 to 16 years	7	58.3	8	57.1	20	83.3
17 to 18 years	4	36.4	6	35.3	17	58.6
All	52	77.6	80	79.2	135	83.9

Table 3.4 *Boys attending school, by age group, by social group, Bukkacherla, 2005,* (number and per cent)

Age group	SC		BC		Other Castes and religions	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
6 to 10 years	10	100.0	17	94.4	24	96.0
11 to 14 years	7	77.8	14	87.5	31	91.2
15 to 16 years	4	80.0	5	83.3	13	92.9
17 to 18 years	1	25.0	5	38.5	9	64.3
All	22	78.6	41	77.4	77	88.5

Table 3.5 *Girls attending school, by age group, by social group, Bukkacherla, 2005,* (*number* and per cent)

Age group	SC		BC		Other Castes and religions	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
6 to 10 years	13	92.9	12	100.0	25	96.2
11 to 14 years	11	100.0	23	95.8	18	78.3
15 to 16 years	3	42.9	3	37.5	7	70.0
17 to 18 years	3	42.9	1	25.0	8	53.3
All	30	76.9	39	81.3	58	78.4

Figure 3.2 *Proportion of boys attending school, by age group, by social group, Bukkacherla 2005*, (in per cent)

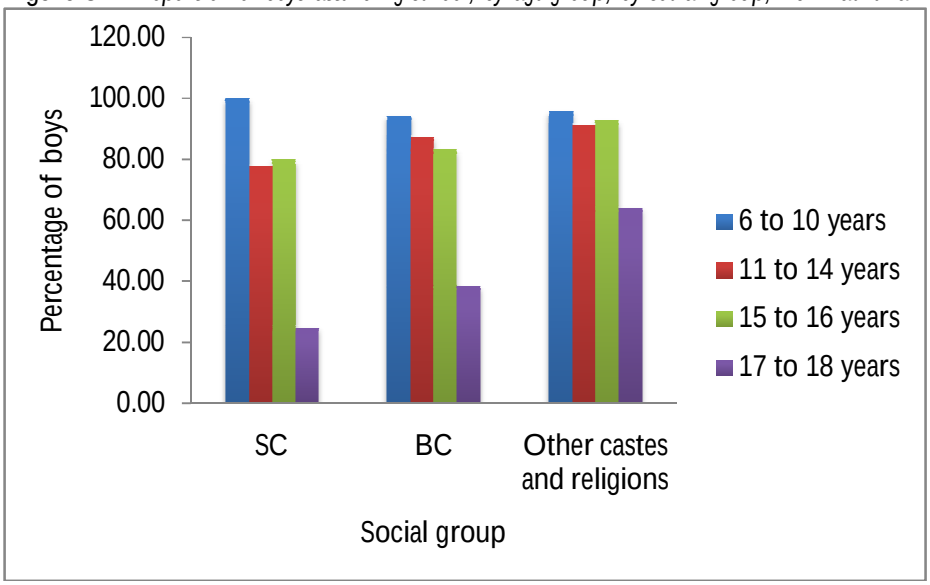
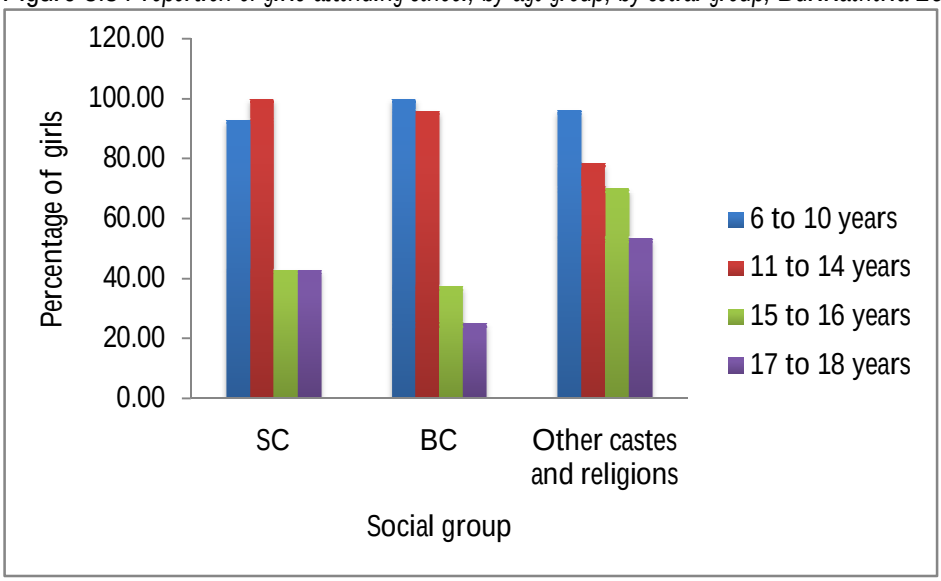


Figure 3.3 *Proportion of girls attending school, by age group, by social group, Bukkacherla 2005*, in per cent



School attendance ratios vary across asset classes as well as social groups. Tables 3.6 to 3.8 and Figures 3.4 and 3.5 present data on percentage of attendance by age group for all children as well as separately for girls and for boys, disaggregated by asset quintile.

In terms of overall attendance percentages for the age group of 6-18 years, there is not a very dramatic difference across asset quintiles. Interestingly, this is especially true in the case of girls. In the case of boys, the differentials across quintiles remain small in the bottom three age groups. When it comes to post-high school education, the boys in the top two quintiles have a distinctly

higher percentage of attendance, but the numbers involved are quite small. For girls, the differential between the top two quintiles and the bottom three is evident even in high school, but here again the numbers are too small for us to say much.

Table 3.6 *Children attending school, by age group, by asset quintile, Bukkacherla, 2005,* (number and per cent)

Age group	Q1		Q2		Q3		Q4		Q5	
	N	per cent	N	per cent	N	per cent	N	per cent	N	per cent
6 to 10 years	23	95.8	19	100.0	21	91.3	15	100.0	23	95.8
11 to 14 years	16	88.9	15	88.2	28	82.4	31	96.9	14	87.5
15 to 16 years	2	50.0	4	50.0	11	73.3	9	69.2	9	90.0
17 to 18 years	1	25.0	3	30.0	8	57.1	7	46.7	8	57.1
All	42	84.0	41	75.9	68	79.1	62	82.7	54	84.4

Table 3.7 *Boys attending school, by age group, by asset quintile, Bukkacherla, 2005,* (number and per cent)

Age group	Q1		Q2		Q3		Q4		Q5	
	N	per cent	N	per cent	N	per cent	N	per cent	N	per cent
6 to 10 years	15	100.0	5	100.0	14	87.5	9	100.0	8	100.0
11 to 14 years	7	87.5	6	85.7	15	83.3	16	94.1	8	88.9
15 to 16 years	1	100.0	2	66.7	8	80.0	5	100.0	6	100.0
17 to 18 years	1	33.3	2	40.0	3	42.9	6	60.0	3	50.0
All	24	88.9	15	75.0	40	78.4	36	87.8	25	86.2

Table 3.8 *Girls attending school, by age group, by asset quintile, Bukkacherla, 2005,* (number and per cent)

Age group	Q1		Q2		Q3		Q4		Q5	
	N	per cent	N	per cent	N	per cent	N	per cent	N	per cent
6 to 10 years	8	88.9	14	100.0	7	100.0	6	100.0	15	93.8
11 to 14 years	9	90.0	9	90.0	13	81.3	15	100.0	6	85.7
15 to 16 years	1	33.3	2	40.0	3	60.0	4	50.0	3	75.0
17 to 18 years	0	0.0	1	20.0	5	71.4	1	20.0	5	62.5
All	18	78.3	26	76.5	28	80.0	26	76.5	29	82.9

Figure 3.4 *Proportion of boys attending school, by age group, by asset quintile, Bukkacherla 2005,* in per cent

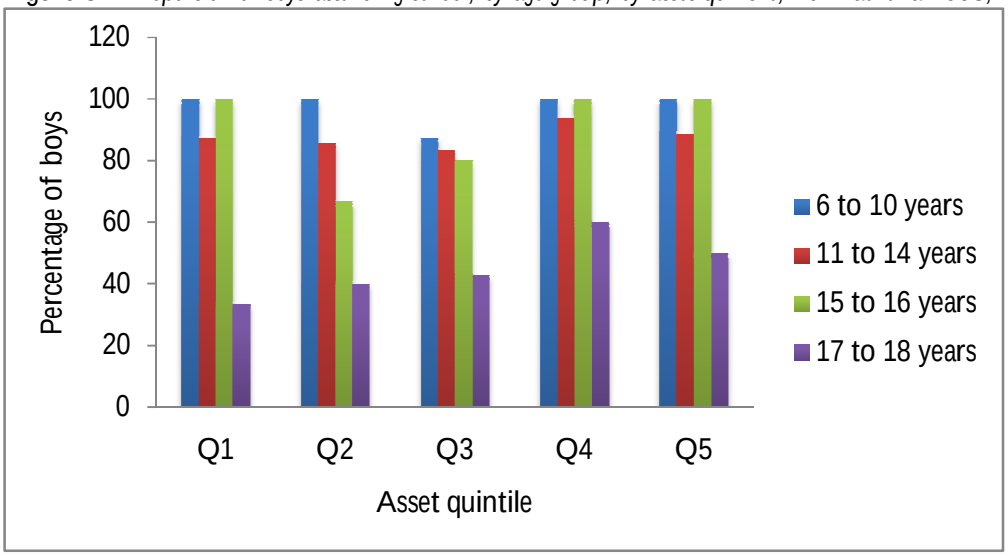
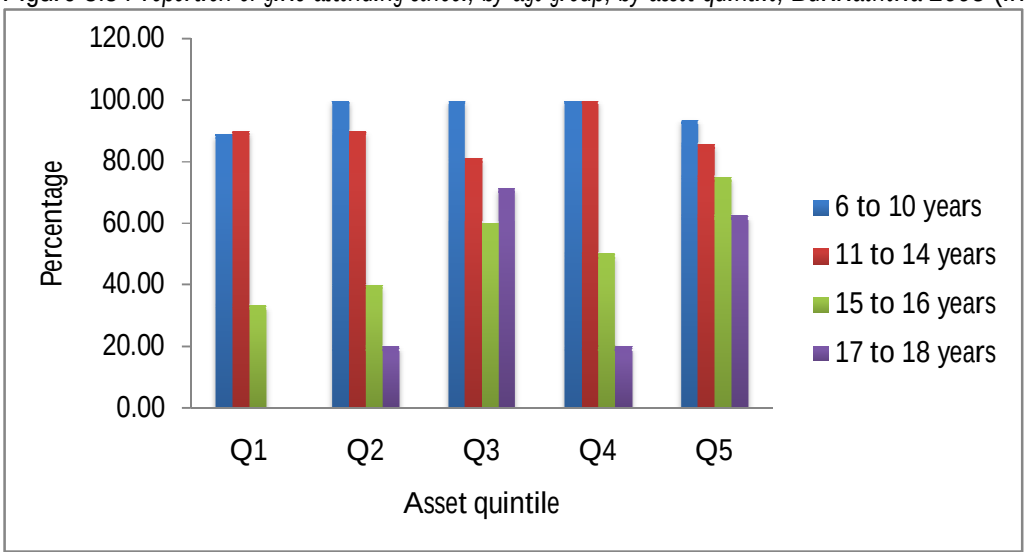


Figure 3.5 *Proportion of girls attending school, by age group, by asset quintile, Bukkacherla 2005* (in per cent)



3.3 *School Attendance and Work*

In Section 2 on demography earlier in this *Report*, we saw that there were five children in the *age group of 6 to 14 years*-four girls and one boy- who worked either outside the household for an employer as was the case with all the four girls or on household operational holding, as was the case with the boy. What is the situation with regard to children in the age group of 6-18 years? The data in this regard are presented in Table 3.9.

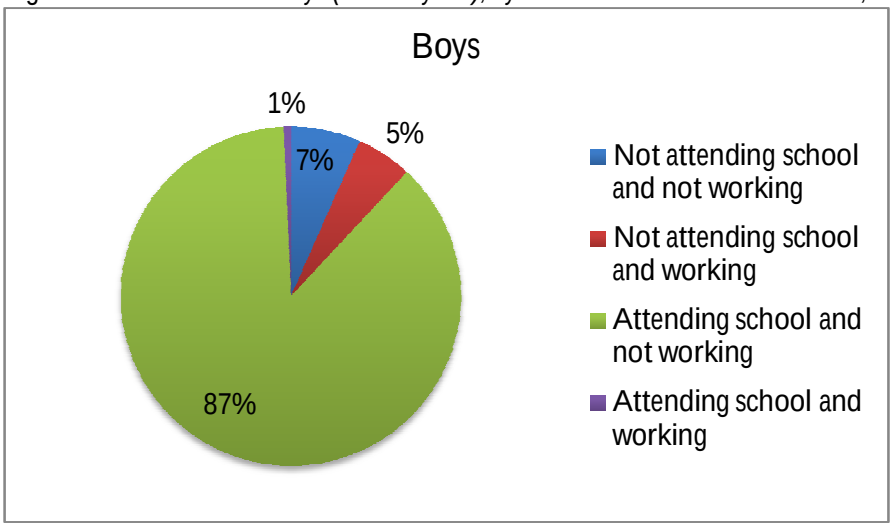
When one looks at the age group of 6-18 years, the number of children engaged in either paid or unpaid work outside the household for an employer or on the household operational holding is

much larger at 21, consisting of 12 girls and 9 boys.[23] Of the 21 children thus engaged, 18 are not attending school and three - two girls and one boy - are in school. The number of 'nowhere' children - neither in school nor working – is 23, consisting of 13 girls and 10 boys. Thus, out of a total of 294 children in the age group of 6 to 18 years in Bukkacherla, 253 are in school and 41 are out of it. The number of 'nowhere' children amounts to more than half of all children out of school and about 8 per cent of all children aged 6 to 18 years. Of the 13 "nowhere" girls, ten are actually engaged in housework. Of the remaining, one is a six year old and we do not have information on the other two. These two may have been misclassified due to inadequate information. Of the ten "nowhere" boys, three were disabled (2 mentally retarded and one blind), three were engaged in sheep rearing and one was an apprentice. Information on schooling is not available for the remaining three boys. The fact of 18 children being out of school and working points to the incidence of child labour.

Table 3.9 *School attendance among children aged 6 to 18 years, by sex and work status, Bukkacherla, 2005,* (number and per cent)

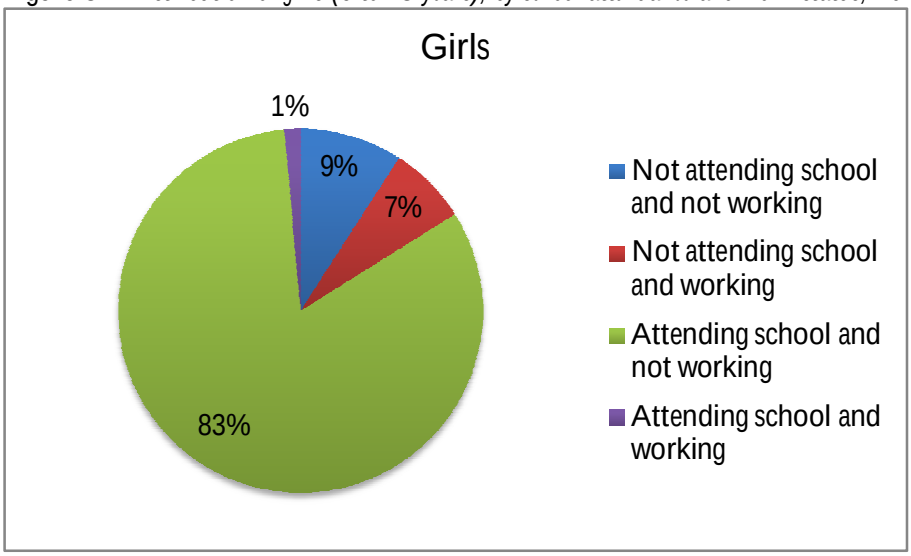
Children	Not attending school				Attending school			
	Not working		Working		Not working		Working	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Girls	13	56.5	10	43.5	118	98.3	2	1.7
Boys	10	55.6	8	44.4	132	99.3	1	0.8
Total	23	56.1	18	43.9	250	98.8	3	1.2

Figure 3.6 *Distribution of boys (6 to 18 years), by school attendance and work status, Bukkacherla 2005*



[23] While this figure excludes children working with animal resources, this does not really make much of a difference. Only two children-both boys- are engaged in work with animal resources in Bukkacherla.

Figure 3.7 *Distribution of girls (6 to 18 years), by school attendance and work status, Bukkacherla 2005*



3.4 *Anganwadi*

There is an anganwadi in Bukkacherla, but very few children attend it. As table 3.10 shows, only one child below three years of age and four children between the ages of 3 and 6 go to the anganwadi centre. All four are female. In contrast, five children in the village - four boys and a girl – attend a nursery school.

Table 3.10 *Proportion of children 6 years and below going to Anganwadi centres, by social group, by sex, Bukkacherla, 2005,* (number and per cent)

Social group	Less than 3 years						3 to 6 years					
	Female		Male		All		Female		Male		All	
	N	per cent	N	per cent	N	per cent	N	per cent	N	per cent	N	per cent
Scheduled Caste	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	25.0	0	0.0	3	15.0
BC	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	8.3	0	0.0	1	5.9
Other Caste Hindu	1	10.0	0	0.0	1	7.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
All	1	5.3	0	0.0	1	3.3	4	10.5	0	0.0	4	6.0

In 2011, we found two anganwadi centres functioning in the village: one was fully functional on the day of our visit, with a teacher, an anganwadi worker and 32 children on the day of our visit. The second anganwadi centre was closed, as the teacher had been on leave for three months.

3.5 *Literacy*

Tables 3.11 to 3.16 present the data on literacy in Bukkacherla. Table 3.11 presents the distribution, by literacy level, of the population aged 7 years and above. The overall percentage of population aged 7 years and above that can read and write is 55. The literacy rate for males is 66 per cent and that for females is a much lower 43.5 per cent.[24] As can be seen from Table 3.12 and Figure 3.8, the percentage of population that can read and write varies significantly across social groups. SCs have the lowest percentage among both males and females. The distance between the SCs and all other social groups is very large. In all social groups, the percentage of females who can read and write is lower than that of males, for the age group of 7 years and older. The largest gender gap, somewhat surprisingly, is among the Other Caste Hindu at 23.9 percentage points. It is interesting to note that Muslims have the smallest gender differential in literacy rates, but the numbers involved are quite small.

Table 3.11 *Distribution of population (7 years and above), by literacy level, by sex, Bukkacherla, 2005*

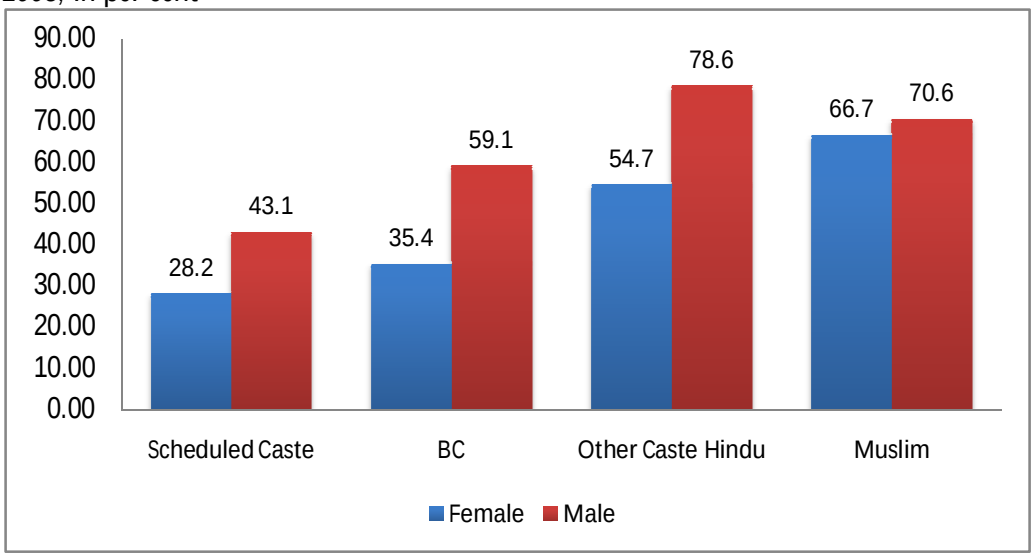
Literacy level	Female		Male		All	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Cannot read and write	184	33.5	112	19.3	296	26.1
Can only sign name	122	22.2	76	13.1	198	17.5
Can read but cannot write	4	0.6	9	1.6	13	1.2
Can read and write	239	43.5	383	66.0	622	55.0
Unspecified	1	0.2		0.0	2	0.2
All	550	100.0	580	100.0	1131	100.0

Table 3.12 *Proportion of population (7 years and above) who can read and write, by social group, by sex, Bukkacherla, 2005* (number and per cent)

Social group	Number			Literacy rate		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Scheduled Caste	31	44	75	28.2	43.1	35.4
BC	63	107	170	35.4	59.1	47.4
Other Caste Hindu	135	220	355	54.7	78.6	67.4
Muslim	10	12	22	66.7	70.6	68.8
All	239	383	622	43.5	66.0	55.0

[24] The Census 2001 figures for the literacy rate of the population 7 years and older are 72 per cent for males, 46 per cent for females and 59 per cent for persons. Again, the Census figures are higher than the survey figures. The difference is greater in the case of males in Bukkacherla.

Figure 3.8 *Literacy rate of population in the age group 7 years and above, by sex, by social group, Bukkacherla 2005,* in per cent



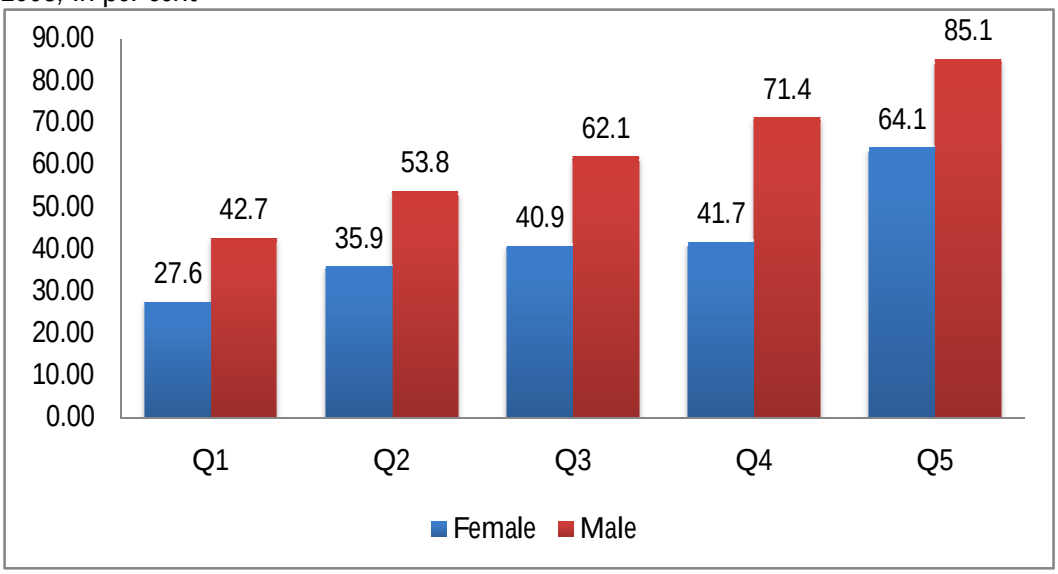
How do literacy rates for the population aged 7 years and above vary across asset quintiles? It can be seen from Table 3.13 that the difference between the top quintile and the other four quintiles is quite large. This is especially true with regard to females, where the bottom four quintiles all show very poor female literacy rates. The male literacy rates increase gradually as one moves to higher asset quintiles.

Table 3.13 *Proportion of population (7 years and above) who can read and write, by asset quintile, by sex, Bukkacherla, 2005*

Asset quintile	Number			Literacy rate		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Q1	24	35	59	27.6	42.7	34.9
Q2	38	50	88	35.9	53.8	44.2
Q3	45	77	122	40.9	62.1	52.1
Q4	48	95	143	41.7	71.4	57.7
Q5	84	126	210	64.1	85.1	75.3
All	239	383	622	43.5	66.0	55.0

Overall, the literacy picture for the population aged 7 years and above in Bukkacherla shows considerable deprivation, and this is especially the case for females.

Figure 3.9 *Literacy rate of population in the age group 7 years and above, by sex, by asset quintiles, Bukkacherla 2005,* in per cent



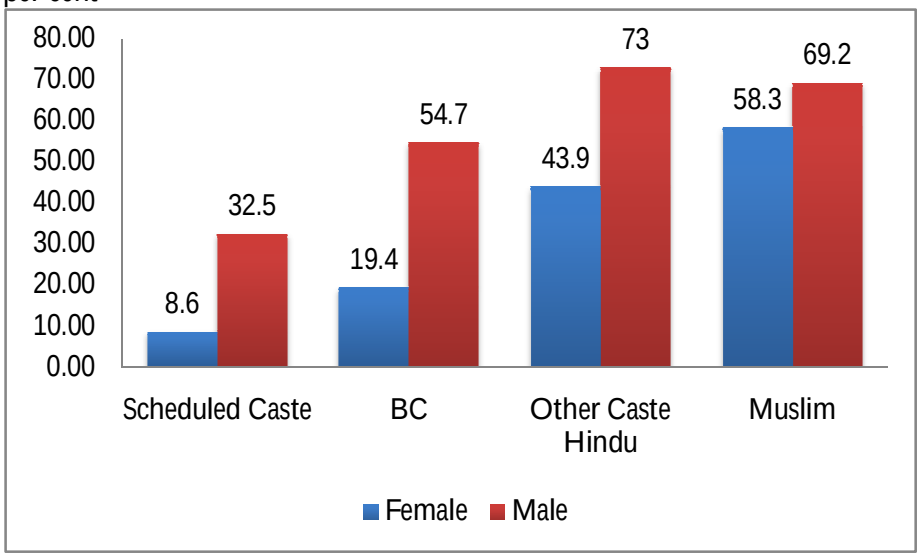
When one looks at the literacy rates for the adult population aged 18 years and above, the literacy rates are considerably lower for all social groups. This is of course no surprise. The point to note is that the differentials between the 7 plus literacy rates and adult literacy rates are the largest in the case of SCs, both for females and for males, suggesting that they are doing a bit of catching up over recent times, with improvements in school enrolment ratios. . However, this gain can only be consolidated if schooling is of a good enough quality to ensure retention of literacy skills. Differentials across the three social groups of SCs, BCs and Other Caste Hindus in respect of adult literacy rates, for both males and females are naturally much larger than is the case for the literacy rates in the population aged 7 years and above.

Table 3.14 *Proportion of population (18 years and above) who can read and write, by social group, by sex, Bukkacherla, 2005*

Social group	Number			Adult literacy rate		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Scheduled Caste	7	25	32	8.6	32.5	20.3
BC	26	75	101	19.4	54.7	37.3
Other Caste Hindu	83	151	234	43.9	73.0	59.1
Muslim	7	9	16	58.3	69.2	64.0
All	123	260	383	29.6	59.9	45.1

Note: We are using the term adult for all persons aged 18 years and older.

Figure 3.10 *Literacy rate of population (18 years and above), by sex, by social group, Bukkacherla 2005,* in per cent

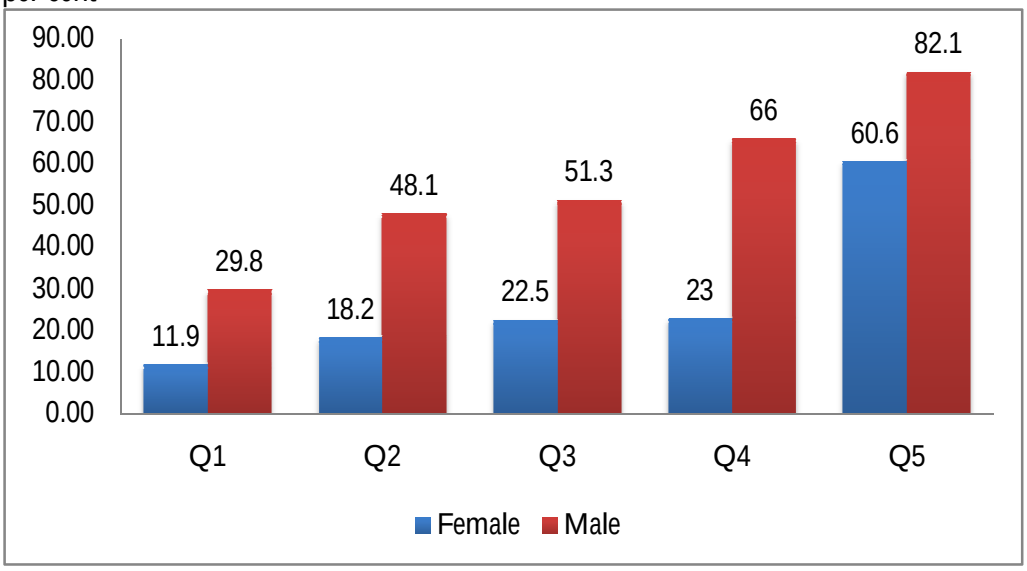


What is the picture in respect of adult literacy across asset quintiles? As with literacy rates in the population aged 7 years and above, there is a clear distance between the top asset quintile and the remaining quintiles in respect of adult literacy rates as well. Similarly, male adult literacy rates increase gradually across asset quintiles while female adult literacy rates are clustered within a narrow band of very low rates, except for the highest quintile. Also, literacy rate differentials between the 7 plus and the adult population are higher for females than for males in all asset quintiles, reflecting their relatively more rapid progress in all asset quintiles.

Table 3.15 *Proportion of population who can read and write (18 years and above), by asset quintile, by sex, Bukkacherla, 2005*

Asset quintile	Number			Adult literacy rate		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Q1	8	17	25	11.9	29.8	20.2
Q2	14	37	51	18.2	48.1	33.1
Q3	18	41	59	22.5	51.3	36.9
Q4	20	64	84	23.0	66.0	45.7
Q5	63	101	164	60.6	82.1	72.3
All	123	260	383	29.6	59.9	45.1

Figure 3.11 *Literacy rate of population (18 years and above), by sex, by asset quintiles, Bukkacherla 2005,* in per cent



Staying with literacy, let us finally look at literacy rates by age cohorts, shown in Table 3.16. As one would expect, the literacy rates fall as we move to the older age cohorts. The Table also shows that the male literacy rate, having reached relatively high levels, shows only a small increase of 3.9 percentage points between the age group of 18 to 34 years and that of 6 to 17 years. However, it is precisely across these two age groups that female literacy rate shows the largest increase from 48.3 per cent to 82.5 per cent. The literacy in the 7 plus age group is of course fragile and can be followed by relapse into illiteracy unless further schooling beyond the primary school is ensured for the children in the age group of 6 to11 years. Nevertheless, the data do bring out the more rapid progress among females in respect of literacy even while literacy rates still remain unacceptably low.

Table 3.16 *Proportion of population who can read and write, by age cohorts, by sex, Bukkacherla, 2005*

Age group	Number			Literacy rate		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
6 to 17 years	118	123	241	82.5	81.5	82.0
18 to 34 years	85	149	234	48.3	77.6	63.6
35 to 49 years	29	65	94	24.6	53.3	39.2
50 to 65 years	9	40	49	9.5	45.5	26.8
> 65 years	0	6	6	0.0	18.8	10.2
All	241	383	624	43.0	65.5	54.5

3.6 *Years of Schooling*

Let us turn now to the issue of schooling. A useful measure of adult achievement with respect to school education is the median number of years of schooling in a group. The distribution of median years of schooling for the population aged above 16 years by social group is presented in Table 3.17. The extent of educational deprivation is stark. At least half the female population above 16 years of age in every social group including the Other Caste Hindus has had no schooling at all. It is only among Muslims who constitute a very small part of the population in Bukkacherla that the median years of schooling for females reaches the figure of 4. Among SCs, as with females, half the males have had no schooling at all. Other Caste Hindus report the highest number of median years of schooling for males at 8 years.

Table 3.17a presents data on mean years of schooling by social group. The mean years of schooling exceed the median for all social groups except for Muslims in the case of both males and females and Other Caste Hindus in respect of males. This reflects the high degree of inequality with regard to schooling within each of these social groups which goes together with their generally low average levels of schooling. In the case of the Other Caste Hindus- corresponding broadly to what we may loosely term 'upper castes'- and Muslims, there seems to be a somewhat wider spread of schooling within the group in respect of males.

Table 3.17 *Median number of completed years of schooling for population above 16 years, by social group, by sex, Bukkacherla, 2005*

Social group	Female	Male	Persons
Scheduled Caste	0	0	0
BC	0	5	0
Other Caste Hindu	0	8	5
Muslim	4	7	5.5
All	0	6	2

Table 3.17a *Mean number of completed years of schooling for population above 16 years, by social group, by sex, Bukkacherla, 2005*

Social group	Female	Male	Persons
Scheduled Caste	1.0	3.1	2.0
BC	1.9	5.1	3.5
Other Caste Hindu	3.8	6.8	5.4
Muslim	4.4	7.3	5.9
All	2.7	5.6	4.2

How does schooling vary with assets? Tables 3.18 and 3.18a present data, respectively, on median and mean years of schooling for males and females by asset quintile.

Table 3.18 *Median number of completed years of schooling for population above 16 years, by asset quintile, by sex, Bukkacherla, 2005*

Asset quintile	Female	Male	Persons
Q1	0	0	0
Q2	0	3	0
Q3	0	5	0
Q4	0	7	1
Q5	5	10	7
All	0	6	2

Table 3.18a *Average number of completed years of schooling for population above 16 years, by asset quintile, by sex, Bukkacherla, 2005*

Asset quintile	Female	Male	Persons
Q1	0.7	3.0	1.8
Q2	1.7	4.2	3.0
Q3	2.6	4.6	3.6
Q4	1.9	6.1	4.2
Q5	5.4	7.9	6.8
All	2.7	5.6	4.2

Once again, the top asset quintile stands apart, with half the females having had 5 years of schooling as compared with none at all in the case of the other four quintiles. With respect to males, half of them in the top quintile complete at least ten years of schooling. The median years of schooling decline progressively as one goes to the lower asset quintiles, with the poorest quintile reporting zero median years of schooling for both females and males. Mean years of schooling exceed median years of schooling in all quintiles for females. The picture in respect of males is more mixed. In respect of the first two quintiles, the mean exceeds the median, while for the upper three quintiles, the picture is the reverse. Education among males in the upper asset quintiles thus seems more evenly spread than is the case for the bottom two quintiles. In the bottom two asset quintiles, both low levels of and limited spread of schooling go together.

To sum up, it is clear that the situation in Bukkacherla with respect to educational achievement in terms of years of schooling is quite poor. The extent of deprivation is especially very large among SCs. Women of practically all social groups and asset categories fare worse than their male counterparts, and the gender differentials are sizeable across all social groups as well as asset

quintiles. In absolute terms, females of the highest asset quintile fare much better than females from the remaining quintiles.

3.7 *Educational Achievements*

While levels of literacy as well as years of schooling in Bukkacherla are rather modest, it is still the case that there are a few graduates, especially among males, in the village. Table 3.19 provides the distribution of the number and percentage of graduates in the population aged 25 years and older by social group. Table 3.20 provides corresponding data by asset quintile.

There were, in all, 25 male graduates and 7 female graduates in Bukkacherla, as per the FAS survey in 2005. *All* the female graduates came from the category of 'Other Caste Hindu' households, as did a large proportion - 56 per cent - of the male graduates. Taking all social groups together, as a share of the total population in the relevant age group, only 2.1 per cent of females and 7.3 per cent of males were graduates. Among Other Caste Hindus in the age group 25 years and older, only 8.8 per cent of the males are graduates. The proportion is much smaller for BCs and SCs. For the relatively small number of Muslims in the village, the proportion is much higher at 18.2 per cent.

Table 3.19 *Graduates in the age group 25 years and above, by social group, by sex, Bukkacherla, 2005*

Social group	Number of graduate			As percentage of total population (25 years and above)		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Scheduled Caste	0	2	2	0.0	3.0	1.5
BC	0	7	7	0.0	6.5	3.3
Other Caste Hindu	7	14	21	4.5	8.8	6.7
Muslim	0	2	2	0.0	18.2	10.0
All	7	25	32	2.1	7.3	4.7

NOTE 4: Graduates are persons who have completed B.A/B.Com/B.Sc or equivalent degree. Persons with diploma in various technical and vocational courses are not included.

As for the relationship between asset status and the presence of graduates, all but one of the seven female graduates and 68 per cent of the male graduates come from households in the highest asset quintile. The proportion of graduates to the total population in the age group of 25 years and above is impressive at more than one-sixth. The third asset quintile out performs the next higher quintile. Recalling that the asset distance between the third and fourth quintile is not very large and that the numbers involved are small, this is not an implausible outcome.

Table 3.20 *Graduates in the age group 25 years and above, by asset quintile, by sex, Bukkacherla, 2005*

Asset quintile	Number of graduates			As percentage of total population (25 years and above)		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Q1	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Q2	0	2	2	0.0	3.2	1.6
Q3	1	5	6	1.5	7.5	4.6
Q4	0	1	1	0.0	1.4	0.7
Q5	6	17	23	7.5	17.9	13.1
All	7	25	32	2.1	7.3	4.7

While looking for graduates in the lower asset classes may be overly optimistic, what is the situation with regard to more modest educational achievements such as twelve or ten years of completed education? Tables 3.21 and 3.22 present the data on persons in the population aged 25 years and above who have completed 12 years of formal education by social group and asset quintile respectively. There is *not a single female* with twelve completed years of formal education among the SC, BC and Muslim households of Bukkacherla. Even among the Other Caste Hindu, the proportion of female graduates to all females in the age group is less than one-twelfth. The corresponding proportion for males is much higher at 15.1 per cent. For Muslims and BCs also, the proportion for males is much more respectable than it is for females. However, the situation for SC males is not very different from that for SC females, with only 3.0 per cent of SC males completing 12 years of formal education among SC males in the age group 25 years and older. Overall, the proportion of females completing 12 years of formal education among those 25 years or older is really abysmal at 3.6 per cent

Table 3.21 *Population in the age group 25 years and above who have completed 12 years of formal education, by social group, by sex, Bukkacherla, 2005*

Social group	Number			As percentage of total population (25 years and above)		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Scheduled Caste	0	2	2	0.0	3.0	1.5
BC	0	14	14	0.0	13.0	6.5
Other Caste Hindu	12	24	36	7.7	15.1	11.4
Muslim	0	2	2	0.0	18.2	10.0
All	12	42	54	3.6	12.2	7.9

It is interesting to note that of 60 per cent of the females who completed 12 years of formal education, have become graduates (7 out of 12). The conversion rate is about the same for males, with 25 becoming graduates out of the 42 completing twelve years of formal education.

EDUCATION AMONG MUSLIMS IN BUKKACHERLA

The village has only eight Muslim households, but they are quite diverse in terms of education, occupation and wealth. The occupation of heads of the households varies from agricultural labourer and peasant (3 households) to tailor (3 households) and cloth merchant (2 households). In one small peasant household, there is a teacher who holds a MA degree. Among one of the cloth merchant families, there is a son, with BA degree, who is working as a LIC agent.

Table 3.22 *Population in the age group 25 years and above who have completed 12 years of formal education by asset quintile, by sex, Bukkacherla, 2005*

Asset quintile	Number			As percentage of total population (25 years and above)		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Q1	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Q2	0	4	4	0.0	6.5	3.2
Q3	1	7	8	1.5	10.5	6.1
Q4	0	4	4	0.0	5.7	2.9
Q5	11	27	38	13.8	28.4	21.7
All	12	42	54	3.6	12.2	7.9

The picture with regard to completion of twelve years of formal education across asset quintiles brings out three points. The first is the distinctiveness of the top quintile, which does far better than the rest. Second is the better performance of the third quintile in comparison with the next higher quintile. The third is the very poor status of formal educational achievement for females across the bottom four quintiles. Of course, in all quintiles including the highest, and for males as well as females, the performance is nothing to write home about.

Let us lower the bar a bit and examine the achievements with respect to the completion of ten years of formal education. The relevant data are presented in Tables 3.23 and 3.24 by social group and asset quintile respectively. It is striking that there is *only one* female with ten completed years of formal education among BCs (accounting for just 0.9 per cent of the BC females in the age group) and *none* among SCs. The males fare better among BCs, Other Caste Hindus and Muslims, but not among SCs. Around one-fifth of BC males and a little over one-fourth of the non-SC, non-BC males in the age group 25 years and older have completed ten years of formal education. While even these are rather modest achievements, the fact that only less than one-twelfth of SC males in the same age group have been able to do so, together with the dismal picture in respect of SC females (as also BC females), brings out the enormous extent of educational deprivation among SCs and (to a lesser extent) BCs.

Table 3.23 *Population in the age group 25 years and above who have completed 10 years of formal education, by social group, by sex, Bukkacherla, 2005*

Social group	Number			As percentage of total population (25 years and above)		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Scheduled Caste	0	5	5	0.0	7.6	3.8
BC	1	22	23	0.9	20.4	10.7
Other Caste Hindu	17	45	62	10.9	28.3	19.7
Muslim	1	3	4	11.1	27.3	20.0
All	19	75	94	5.6	21.8	13.8

Table 3.24 *Population in the age group 25 years and above who have completed 10 years of formal education, by asset quintile, by sex, Bukkacherla, 2005*

Asset quintile	Number			As percentage of total population (25 years and above)		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Q1	0	2	2	0.0	4.0	1.9
Q2	1	7	8	1.6	11.3	6.4
Q3	2	13	15	3.1	19.4	11.4
Q4	0	11	11	0.0	15.7	7.9
Q5	16	42	58	20.0	44.2	33.1
All	19	75	94	5.6	21.8	13.8

The picture of variation across asset quintiles with regard to completion of ten years of formal education shows that the top quintile is a class apart. In this quintile, close to one-half of the males and one-fifth of the females in the age group 25 years and older have completed ten years of formal education. But the picture in respect of females is abysmal in all the other quintiles. The picture for males is somewhat better, with the third quintile again doing better than the next higher one. Males in the bottom quintile fare badly, with only two of them completing ten years of formal education.

3.8 *Households with Children*

The presence or absence of literate adults in a household may influence the decision to send children to school. In this sub-section, we take a look at the distribution of *households with children* by the presence or absence of adults with specified levels of education.

Table 3.25 provides the distribution of *households with children* without literate adults by social group. The proportion of households without a literate female adult is consistently much higher than the corresponding proportion for every social group. Leaving aside the small number of Muslim households, this difference is especially large for SC households. The proportion of

households without any adult literate is also the highest for SCs. The fact that more than half of all SC households have no literate adult female is a pointer to the great disadvantage that children of SC households face in terms of a domestic environment devoid of formal learning. While BC and Other Caste Hindus fare better than SCs in this regard, it is sobering to note that even among them around a quarter of the households possess no literate adult female.

3.25 *Distribution of households with children, by absence of adult literates, by social groups, Bukkacherla, 2005*

Social group	Without adult female literate		Without adult male literate		Without any adult literate	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Scheduled Caste	20	52.6	12	31.6	7	18.4
BC	17	27.9	12	19.7	5	8.2
Other Caste Hindu	19	21.6	12	13.6	4	4.6
Muslim	2	50.0	1	25.0	0	0.0
All	58	30.4	37	19.4	16	8.4

Table 3.26 presents the distribution of households without adult literates by asset quintile. It is only in the top quintile that there is no household without any literate adult. But even in this quintile there are two households without a literate adult male. The bottom two quintiles predictably fare the poorest with regard to the absence of an adult literate. Taking the bottom three quintiles together, more than 40 per cent of all households have no literate female adult, nearly a quarter have no literate male adult, and around one-eighth have no adult literate, male or female.

Table 3.26 *Distribution of households with children by absence of adult literates, by asset quintile, Bukkacherla, 2005*

Asset quintile	Without adult female literate		Without adult male literate		Without any adult literate	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Q1	19	48.7	12	30.8	6	15.4
Q2	13	34.2	10	26.3	5	13.2
Q3	16	42.1	6	15.8	3	7.9
Q4	5	13.2	7	18.4	2	5.3
Q5	5	13.2	2	5.3	0	0.0
All	58	30.4	37	19.4	16	8.4

Overall, nearly a third of all households have no literate female adult, one-fifth have no literate male adult and one-twelfth have no literate adult at all.

One can also look at the domestic learning environment that children face, from the other end, so to speak, by looking at the number of households with children that possess a graduate adult male or an adult female with a pass in the tenth class. These data are presented successively in Tables 3.27 and 3.29 by social group and in Tables 3.28 and 3.30 by asset quintile.

Table 3.27 *Households with children with at least one male graduate, by social group, Bukkacherla, 2005*

Social group	Number	As percentage of all households (with children) within the social group
Scheduled Caste	2	5.3
BC	7	11.5
Other Caste Hindu	12	13.6
Muslim	0	0.0
All	21	11.0

Overall, there is at least one male graduate in around one-tenth of all households with children, but the proportion is one in twenty for SC households. In terms of asset quintiles, over a third of the households in the top quintile possess at least one male graduate, while in the bottom two quintiles there is only one household with at least one male graduate.

Table 3.28 *Households with children with at least one male graduate, by asset quintile, Bukkacherla, 2005*

Asset quintile	Number	As percentage of all households (with children) within asset quintile
Q1	0	0.0
Q2	1	2.6
Q3	4	10.5
Q4	3	7.9
Q5	13	34.2
All	21	11.0

The picture with respect to the presence of at least one female with a tenth class pass is no different. Slightly over one sixth of all households have at least one female with tenth class pass, but the proportion is only one in twenty for SCs. Nearly half the households in the top asset quintile have at least one female with tenth class pass but none in the bottom quintile do. For the remaining three quintiles, the proportion varies between one-tenth and a little less than one-fifth.

Table 3.29 *Households with children with at least one female 10th pass by social group, Bukkacherla, 2005*

Social group	Number	As percentage of all households (with children) within the social group
Scheduled Caste	2	5.3
BC	11	18.0
Other Caste Hindu	21	23.9
Muslim	0	0.0
All	34	17.8

Table 3.30 *Households with children with at least one female 10th pass, by asset quintile, Bukkacherla, 2005*

Asset quintile	Number	As percentage of all households (with children) within the asset quintile
Q1	0	0.0
Q2	4	10.5
Q3	5	13.2
Q4	7	18.4
Q5	18	47.4
All	34	17.8

Overall, the picture that emerges of education in Bukkacherla is one of massive deprivation. The most deprived social groups with regard to levels of schooling and educational achievement of both adults and children are the Scheduled Castes. They are closely followed by the BCs. The BCs, while generally less deprived than the SCs, are not a great deal better off. The group of 'Other Caste Hindus' stands apart in being relatively the most advanced in terms of the educational achievements and years of schooling of both adults and children. The distance between them and the other social groups is substantial. However, even among them, the achievements are modest in absolute terms and school attendance is not universal. In all social groups, there is significant gender inequality in literacy rates, years of schooling and in levels of educational achievement with respect to both adults and children. Among all social groups, gender disparity is less in the case of Other Caste Hindus.

Agriculture in Bukkacherla is mainly rain-fed and it is rare to have a second crop. The demand for labour in agriculture is thus not very high. This is why the incidence of child labour is low. Among children of manual workers, however, as many as 29 per cent of boys and 17 per cent of girls did not attend school, a very high rate of non-attendance. Our survey indicated that when both parents were engaged in manual work, children were withdrawn from school either to attend to domestic tasks or to participate in the labour force. Among households engaged in petty trade, four out of five girls aged 14 were out of school. One of them was engaged in agricultural labour

and the rest were engaged in housework. Another reason stated for the withdrawal of girls from school was that they had to travel 6 km outside the village in order to get to high school.

In terms of asset quintiles, only the top asset quintile stands apart in terms of schooling and educational achievement of both children and adults. The second highest quintile is a distant second in most respects. This is not surprising since the median household asset holding is in the second highest asset quintile is 250,985 rupees and the mean asset holding 248,895 rupees whereas the top quintile has a median household asset value of 575,825 rupees and a mean value of 1,004, 800 rupees. With regard to some educational indicators, in fact, the third quintile does better than the second highest quintile. One can safely say that the bottom two asset quintiles consist of 'non-rich' households. It needs to be noted, however, that even in the highest asset quintile, the educational achievements are modest in absolute terms. It must also be noted that there is a high degree of correlation between social groups and asset status. Thus, the Other Caste Hindus, who perform far better than SCs and BCs on all indicators of access to and achievement in education, form 43.8 per cent of all households in the village but account for 86.2 per cent of all households in the top asset quintile. On the other hand, SCs form one-fifth of all households but there is not a single SC household in the top quintile. BCs, who form a little over one-third of all households in Bukkacherla, account only for 12.1 per cent of the top asset quintile. There is thus a close correspondence between economic status and social category. This is clearly reflected in the profile of access and achievements in education across households that we have reviewed above.

4. *AMENITIES*

Basic housing and household amenities are recognized to be of intrinsic and instrumental importance in expanding human capabilities. We focus specifically on housing, electrification, sanitation, and the provision of safe water to drink and for domestic use. In this subsection, in order to focus on the state of amenities as they relate to children, we present and discuss data on amenities *for households with children.* This needs to be kept in mind throughout.

4.1 *Housing*

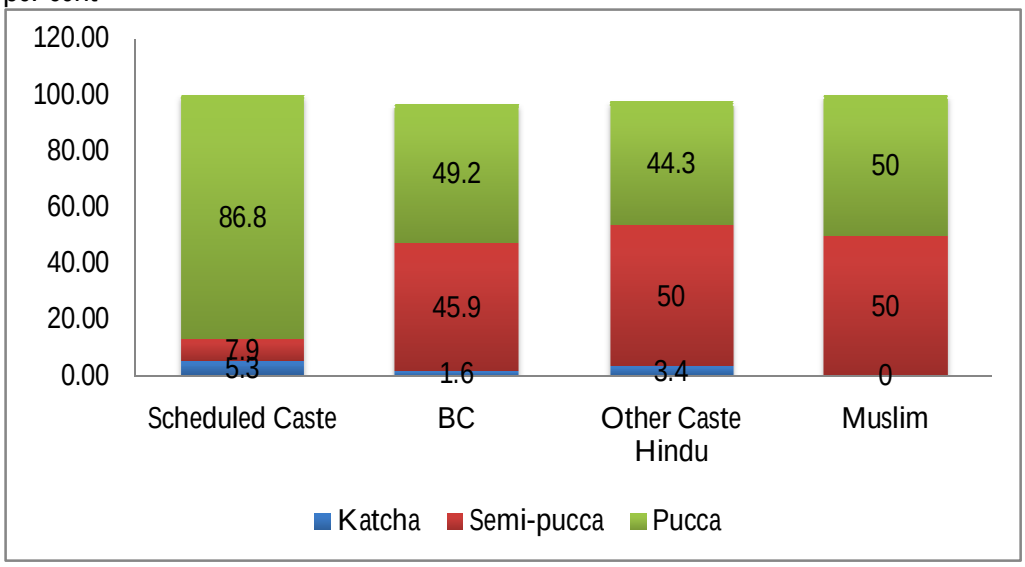
Table 4.1 and Figure 4.1 present data on the distribution of households with children by social group and type of housing. Immediately, a surprise awaits us. SCs are rarely able to access pucca housing in most villages, but they do far better in Bukkacherla. In fact, they fare better than all other social groups, and by a fair margin. While nearly 87 per cent of SC households live in pucca houses, for all other social groups, the proportion is around half. If one considers both pucca and semi-pucca housing, nearly 95 per cent of all households live in such housing.

Table 4.1 *Distribution of households with children, by type of housing, by social groups, Bukkacherla, 2005,* in percent

Social group	Katcha	Pucca	Semi-pucca	Unspecified	All
Scheduled Caste	5.3	86.8	7.9	0.0	100.0
BC	1.6	49.2	45.9	3.3	100.0
Other Caste Hindu	3.4	44.3	50.0	2.3	100.0
Muslim	0.0	50.0	50.0	0.0	100.0
All	3.1	54.5	40.3	2.1	100.0

NOTE 5: Pucca houses are houses with both roof and walls constructed of permanent materials. Katcha houses are houses with both roof and walls constructed of temporary materials. Semi-pucca houses are those with either roof or walls constructed of permanent materials. (This is the standard definition followed by the Census of India and the National Sample Survey Organisation, Government of India).
Pucca materials include cement, concrete, over-burnt bricks, hollow cement or ash bricks, stone, stone blocks, jack boards (cement plastered reeds), iron, zinc or other metal sheets, timber, tiles, slate, corrugated iron, asbestos cement sheet, veneer, plywood, artificial wood of synthetic material and polyvinyl chloride (PVC) material.
Non-pucca materials include unburnt bricks, bamboo, mud, grass, leaves, reeds thatch, polythene, and plastic.

Figure 4.1 *Distribution of households with children, by type of housing, by social group, Bukkacherla 2005,* in per cent



QUALITY OF HOUSING IN BUKKACHERLA

As shown in Table 4.1, the conditions of housing of Dalit families in Bukkacherla was not terrible, with 86 per cent of households living in pucca houses. Most of these concrete houses were built with external assistance: a few were government-constructed and others were built with the assistance of a local NGO, Rural Development Trust. However, the majority of the new Dalit houses were single or at most double-room structures without adequate living space and without a separate cooking space. Further, the new houses are separated from the main village settlement.

At the same time, 90 per cent of BC and Other Caste Hindu households live in pucca or semi-pucca structures. These houses are of older construction than the Dalit houses. It is important here to point out that most of the semi-pucca houses are on account of either walls or roofs being constructed with traditional locally available material which suits the climatic conditions of a dry region. This includes roofs constructed with clay, limestone, mud, bamboo and wood, in a few cases. Walls were made of mud and stone in a majority of houses. Technically, as per the official definition, the roof material does not qualify as pucca material so most of these houses were classified as semi-pucca structures. In practice, the material used in the construction of these houses is no less durable than pucca materials included in the official definitions of the Census and NSSO and provides enough security and strength to the house. In fact, these materials are better suited to local climatic conditions and also easily available in the area.

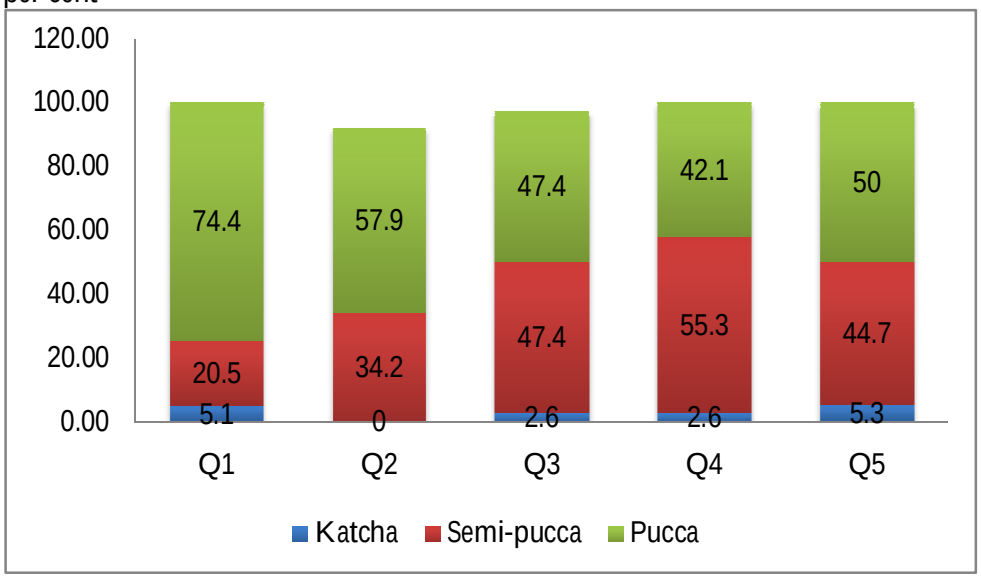
This does not imply that SC households are well-off in other respects. There is not a single SC household in the top quintile as already noted. On the other hand, a majority of SC households are found in the bottom quintile. This peculiar situation, in which SC households have far greater access to pucca housing than far more wealthy households from other social groups, is reflected in Table 4.2 and Figure 4.2 which present the distribution of households by type of housing and asset quintile. In fact, as can be seen from Table 4.2, nearly three-quarters of households in the

bottom quintile have pucca housing while the corresponding figure for the top quintile is only 50 per cent. The share of households with both pucca and semi-pucca housing taken together is higher than 90 per cent in each asset quintile. There is no significant difference across the quintiles. Bukacherla, it would appear fares better in housing conditions than most other villages in the country.

Table 4.2 *Distribution of households with children, by type of housing, by asset quintile, Bukkacherla, 2005,* in percent

Asset quintile	Katcha	Pucca	Semi-pucca	Unspecified	All
Q1	5.1	74.4	20.5	0.0	100.0
Q2	0.0	57.9	34.2	7.9	100.0
Q3	2.6	47.4	47.4	2.6	100.0
Q4	2.6	42.1	55.3	0.0	100.0
Q5	5.3	50.0	44.7	0.0	100.0
All	3.1	54.5	40.3	2.1	100.0

Figure 4.2 *Distribution of households with children, by type of housing, by asset quintile, Bukkacherla 2005,* in per cent



Tables 4.3 and 4.4 provide information on the distribution of households with children living in single room houses by social group and asset quintile respectively. The data reflect the usual pattern of greater deprivation among SCs, BCs and Muslims as compared to Other Caste Hindu. One-fifth of the Other Caste Hindu and close to 30 per cent of BCs and SCs live in one-room housing.

Table 4.3 *Number of households with children living in single room houses by social groups, Bukkacherla, 2005*

Social group	Number of households	As percentage of all households
Scheduled Caste	11	29.0
BC	18	29.5
Other Caste Hindu	17	19.3
Muslim	2	50.0
All	48	25.1

In terms of the picture across asset quintiles, *none of the households in the top quintile* lives in a single room house, whereas 46 per cent of the households in the bottom quintile do so, as do 32 percent of the households in the next quintile. It may be noted that nearly 45 per cent of all SC households are in the bottom asset quintile and another 40 per cent in the next quintile. By contrast, only 19.5 per cent of the other Hindu castes are in the bottom two asset quintiles.[25] The percentage living in single room housing declines as one moves up the asset quintiles.

Table 4.4 *Number of households with children living in single room houses by asset quintile, Bukkacherla, 2005*

Asset quintile	Number of households	As percentage of all households
Q1	18	46.2
Q2	12	31.6
Q3	9	23.7
Q4	9	23.7
Q5	0	0.0
All	48	25.1

NOTE 6: A room indicates a separate living quarter. Kitchen and covered verandah are not considered as rooms.

It is clear that inequality across social groups and asset quintiles is very high in respect of this dimension of housing. Living in a single room house has serious negative implications for the educational development of a child since it implies lack of space for quiet study. Congestion in living space also impacts the child's emotional and psychological development.

[25] Even though the shares of each social group in total households and their shares in households with children differ, the differences are small since the proportion of households with children to all households in the group is similar for SCs, BCs and other Hindu castes. So, the observations made in the text remain valid.

4.2 *Access to electricity for domestic use*

Data on the distribution of households with children by access to electric connection for domestic use by social group and by asset quintile are presented in Tables 4.5 and 4.6 respectively.

Table 4.5 *Households with children with electric connections for domestic use, by social group, Bukkacherla, 2005*

Social group	Number of households	As percentage of all households
Scheduled Caste	36	94.7
BC	54	88.5
Other Caste Hindu	77	87.5
Muslim	3	75.0
All	170	89.0

Table 4.6 *Households with children with electric connections for domestic use, by asset quintile, Bukkacherla, 2005*

Asset quintile	Number of households	As percentage of all households
Q1	33	84.6
Q2	32	84.2
Q3	33	86.8
Q4	35	92.1
Q5	37	97.4
All	170	89.0

There is not much variation in access to an electricity connection across social groups or asset quintiles. It is interesting to note that there are some households lacking an electricity connection even in the highest asset quintile as well as among Other Caste Hindu. Also, SCs have a somewhat higher percentage of households with electricity connection than the other social groups.

The existence of an electricity connection is of course only a necessary and not a sufficient condition for obtaining electricity! Given the inequalities in housing in terms of the number of rooms and their sizes as also the variation in ownership of electrically operated devices such as fans, there is bound to be significant variation in household electricity consumption across social groups and asset quintiles.

4.3 *Drinking Water*

Table 4.7 shows the distribution of households with children by primary source of drinking water. More than four-fifths of all the households under consideration draw drinking water from a tap.

Only 7.9 per cent draw water from a hand pump while around one-twelfth of the households use a powered tube well as their source of drinking water.

Table 4.7 *Distribution of households with children by primary source of drinking water, Bukkacherla, 2005*

Source	Number of households	As percentage of all households
Hand pump	15	7.9
Pond/tank	2	1.1
Powered tube well	16	8.4
Tap	156	81.6
Well	1	0.5
Unspecified	1	0.5
All	191	100.0

Tables 4.8 and 4.9 present the distribution of households with children by access to a covered source of drinking water.

Table 4.8 *Households with children with access to covered source of drinking water, by social group, Bukkacherla, 2005*

Social group	Number	As percentage of all households
Scheduled Caste	38	100.0
BC	61	100.0
Other Caste Hindu	86	97.7
Muslim	4	100.0
All	189	99.0

There is near universal coverage in terms of access to a covered source of drinking water for households with children in Bukkacherla. Only two households with children, both belonging to the category of Other Caste Hindu, do not have access to a covered source of drinking water. Both these households use water from wells. Access to a covered source of water is regarded in official statistics as 'safe' water, but that is of course not always true. Nor is the converse true, as Kerala, with its culture of boiling water, has shown!

In terms of access across asset quintiles, it is only the two Other Caste Hindu households already referred to, one in the second asset quintile and the other in the third that lack access to a covered source of drinking water.

Table 4.9 *Households with children with access to covered source of drinking water, by asset quintiles, Bukkacherla, 2005*

Asset quintile	Number of households	As percentage of all households
Q1	39	100.0
Q2	37	97.4
Q3	37	97.4
Q4	38	100.0
Q5	38	100.0
All	189	99.0

An important question, often with gender implications, is the distance of the source of drinking water from the house. Tables 4.10 and 4.11 present the distribution of households with children by distance of the site of the household from a drinking water source, by social group and asset quintile respectively. There is both general deprivation and inequality in this regard. Around 80 per cent of all the households with children in Bukkacherla do not have access to a source of drinking water within the homestead. Only one of the 38 SC households has access to drinking water within the homestead. At least one-third, and possibly more, of the Other Caste Hindu households have access to drinking water within the homestead. But it is also true that more than three-fifths of these households do not have such access. On the other hand, it is also true that all households without access to drinking water source within the homestead do have access to a source within half a kilometer from where they live.

Table 4.10 *Number of households with children, by distance from source of drinking water, by social group, Bukkacherla, 2005*

Social group	Within homestead	≤ 500 metres	> 500 metres	Unspecified
Scheduled Caste	1	37	0	0
BC	12	45	0	4
Other Caste Hindu	22	56	0	10
Muslim	0	3	0	1
All	35	141	0	15

In terms of variation across asset quintiles, approximately three-fifths of the households in the top quintile have access to drinking water within the homestead. For all the other asset quintiles, the proportion is quite small and less than 10 per cent in all cases.

Table 4.11 *Number of households with children, by distance from source of drinking water, by asset quintiles, Bukkacherla, 2005*

Asset quintile	Within homestead	≤ 500 metres	> 500 metres	Unspecified
Q1	3	35	0	1
Q2	1	35	0	2
Q3	5	29	0	4
Q4	4	31	0	3
Q5	22	11	0	5
All	35	141	0	15

4.4 *Lavatories*

Tables 4.12 and 4.13 present the distribution of households with children without access to a lavatory, by social group and asset quintile respectively. The situation is shown in bar chart form in Figures 4.3 and 4.4.

The overall picture is dismal, with hardly 15 per cent of all households with children having access to a lavatory. There is not much variation in the degree of lack of access to a lavatory across social groups. Nor is there much variation across asset quintiles, except that, in the top quintile, a third of the households have access to a lavatory. Somewhat unusual is the fact that around a quarter of the SC households with children have access to toilets.

The overall picture of poor sanitation is of course characteristic of much of rural India as well as rural Andhra Pradesh.

Table 4.12 *Households with children without access to lavatories, by social group, Bukkacherla, 2005*

Social group	Number of households	As percentage of all households
Scheduled Caste	29	76.3
BC	55	90.2
Other Caste Hindu	73	83.0
Muslim	4	100.0
All	161	84.3

Figure 4.3 *Households with children without access to lavatories, by social group, Bukkacherla 2005*

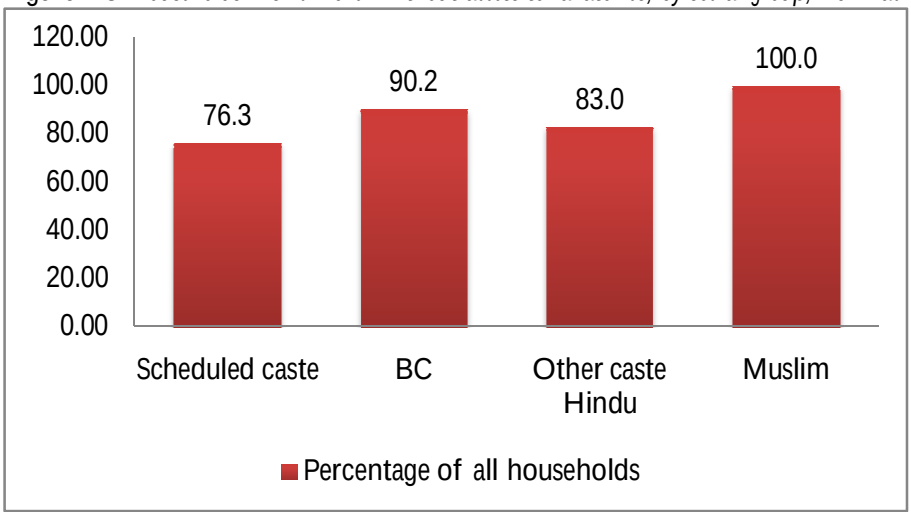
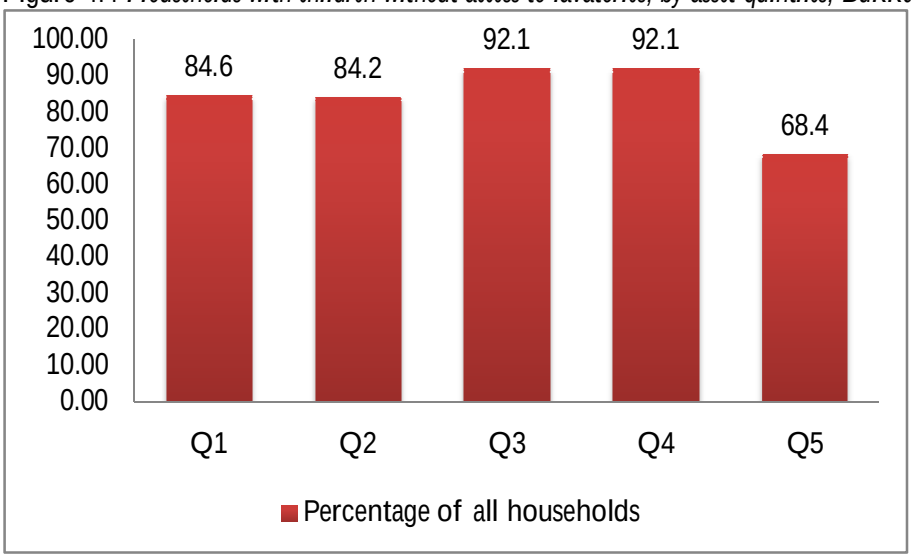


Table 4.13 *Households with children without access to lavatories, by asset quintiles, Bukkacherla, 2005*

Asset quintile	Number of households	As percentage of all households
Q1	33	84.6
Q2	32	84.2
Q3	35	92.1
Q4	35	92.1
Q5	26	68.4
All	161	84.3

Figure 4.4 *Households with children without access to lavatories, by asset quintiles, Bukkacherla 2005*



Let us take stock of the situation in Bukkacherla with respect to household amenities. Our examination of the endowments of households with children in respect of certain basic household amenities-*domestic electricity connections, pucca houses with more than just a shanty room in which to live, safe*

water sources within houses and access to latrines-shows that the general picture was one of inadequate achievement for the majority, and inequality across social groups and asset classes. Again, the top asset quintile and the social group of Other Caste Hindus are much better provided for than the rest.

The most disturbing feature, with respect to the provision or lack thereof of amenities, has been in respect of providing the village and households with lavatories. The vast majority of the population has to defecate in open spaces, an affront to human dignity, a hazard to human health and hugely problematic for women in a patriarchal culture in terms of the lack of privacy.

5. *ECONOMIC SITUATION OF WOMEN*

5.1 *Marital Status*

Table 5.1 shows the marital status of women aged 18 years and above in Bukkacherla as per the FAS survey of 2005. Widows constitute 18 per cent of all adult women.

Table 5.1 *Distribution of women (18 years and above) by marital status, Bukkacherla, 2005*

Marital status	Number of women	As percentage of all women
Never married	31	7.5
Currently married	309	74.3
Widowed	75	18.0
Separated/ divorced	1	0.2
All	416	100.0

Table 5.1a shows the distribution of widowed women over 18 years of age by specified age groups. Over half the women in the age group of 60 to 69 years are widows. The percentage is even higher at 88 per cent in the age group 70 years and above.[26] Nearly a fourth of the widows are less than 50 years of age.[27] Close to three-fifths are 60 years or older. Nearly ten per cent of the widows are very young and below 35 years of age.

Table 5.1a *Age distribution of widowed women (18 years and above), Bukkacherla, 2005*

Age group	Number	As percentage of all women within the age group
18 years to 24 years	2	2.6
25 years to 34 years	5	5.1
35 years to 49 years	11	9.3
50 years to 59 years	11	21.2
60 years to 69 years	24	53.3
$\geq$ 70 years	22	88.0
All	75	18.0

5.2 *Women in the workforce*

A key aspect of the condition of women in a society is the extent to which they are in the workforce. Table 5.2 provides the distribution of the proportions of working population among males and females 18 years and older by social group. Table 5.3 provides the data on work

[26] The corresponding figure for India as per the 1981 census is 80 per cent

[27] According to NFHS-3, the percentage of widows in the female population aged 15 to 49 years is only 3.2 per cent. The figures for Bukkacherla are distinctly higher.

participation rate of women aged 18 years and older by marital status. Table 5.4 presents a picture of the activity profile of women aged 18 years and older.

Table 5.2 *Proportion of working population (18 years and above), by sex, by social group, Bukkacherla, 2005* (in percent)

Social group	Female	Male	Persons
Scheduled Caste	64.0	77.4	70.5
BC	66.7	80.4	73.6
Other Caste Hindu	54.5	74.1	64.9
Muslim	50.0	84.6	66.7
All	60.1	77.0	68.8

Among males and females aged 18 years or above, the proportion of working population to total is higher for males than that for females in all social groups, with the differential being the highest for Muslims, followed by Other Caste Hindus It is the lowest for SCs, followed by BCs. These results are in line with expectations. It is well known that, in general, in rural India, the workforce participation of women is the highest among SCs followed by BCs. On the other hand, rural women from Other Caste Hindu and Muslim households usually have much lower workforce participation rates.

Table 5.3 *Work participation rate of women (18 years and above), by marital status, Bukkacherla, 2005* (in percent)

Marital status	WPR
Never married	29.0
Currently married	71.5
Widowed	41.3
Divorced/ separated (only one observation)	100.0
All	63.0

Across marital status categories, leaving aside the one case of separation/divorce, the work participation rate is the highest for currently married women and the lowest for never-married women, with that for widows falling between the rates for these two categories.

Turning to the activity profile, slightly over a third of the women aged 18 years and above report being engaged in cultivation. Nearly two-fifths are involved in the activity of agricultural (wage) labour. Other activities find only a few women engaged in them. Thus, nine out of the 416 females engaged in some work activity are self-employed outside of agriculture and seven are

engaged in animal husbandry. It is thus very clear that rural women in the work force are essentially confined to agriculture in this village.

Table 5.4 *Activity profile of women (18 years and above), Bukkacherla, 2005*

Occupation	Number of women participating in the activity	As percentage of all women
Cultivation	142	34.1
Agricultural wage employment	164	39.4
Animal husbandry	7	1.7
Non-agricultural wage employment	3	0.7
Non-agricultural self employment	9	2.2
Salaried employment	0	0.0
Other	1	0.2

Note: The percentage of women in all activities do not add up to the WPR because individuals may be involved in more than one activity, and animal husbandry is not included as work in our definition

5.3 *Head of Households*

Tables 5.5 and 5.6 present the distribution of female and male heads of households by social group and asset quintile respectively.

Table 5.5 *Distribution of head of the household, by sex, by social group, Bukkacherla, 2005*

Social group	Number		Percentage	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
Scheduled Caste	4	54	6.9	93.1
BC	19	79	19.4	80.6
Other Caste Hindu	8	120	6.3	93.8
Muslim	0	8	0.0	100.0
All	31	261	10.6	89.4

Among the eight Muslim households, none is female-headed. Among the SCs and the Other Caste Hindus, the percentages of female-headed households to total are very low at 6.9 and 6.3 respectively. However, nearly one-fifth of all BC households are female-headed.

The distribution of female-headed households by asset quintile shows that it is among the poorer quintiles that we have a higher share of them. Thus, nearly one-fourth of all households in the bottom quintile and one in seven in the next are female-headed. There is not a single female-headed household in the top quintile. Further, nearly half the female-headed households are in the bottom quintile, and more than 70 per cent in the bottom two quintiles.

Table 5.6 *Distribution of heads of the household, by sex, by asset quintile, Bukkacherla, 2005*

Social group	Number		Percentage	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
Q1	14	45	23.7	76.3
Q2	8	50	13.8	86.2
Q3	3	55	5.2	94.8
Q4	5	53	8.6	91.4
Q5	0	58	0.0	100.0
All	30	261	10.3	89.7

Table 5.7 presents the distribution of female heads of households by marital status. Table 5.7a presents numbers of single person households with female and male heads.

In every single instance of a female heading a household, she is a widow. It is as if a woman cannot head a household if the spouse is alive! Obviously, widowhood is not a sufficient condition for a female to head a household! There are 75 widows in Bukkacherla aged 18 years or above, but only 31 of them are heads of households.

Table 5.7 *Distribution of heads of households, by marital status, Bukkacherla, 2005*

Marital status	Female	Percentage
Never married	0	0.0
Currently married	0	0.0
Widowed	31	100.0
Divorced/ separated	0	0.0
All	31	100.0

Table 5.7a *Number of single person households, Bukkacherla, 2005*

Marital status	Female	Male
Never married	0	0
Currently married	0	0
Widowed	16	3
Divorced/ separated	0	0
All	16	3

The point that is to be noted is that one half of the female-headed households (16) are single-person households. By contrast there are only three cases where a male head of household lives all alone. In other words, even when a female heads a household, half the time she only heads herself! It is quite otherwise with the male, and that is not at all something to be surprised at in our patriarchal society.

What does the age distribution of female heads of households look like and how does it compare with that for male heads of households? The relevant data for females and males are shown in Tables 5.8 and 5.8a.respectively.

Table 5.8 *Distribution of female head of households, by age group, Bukkacherla, 2005*

Age group	Number	Percentage
up to 34 years	2	6.5
35 to 49 years	9	29.0
50 to 60 years	8	25.8
Above 60 years	12	38.7
All	31	100.0

Table 5.8a *Distribution of male head of households, by age group, Bukkacherla, 2005*

Age group	Number	Percentage
Up to 34 years	52	19.9
35 years to 49 years	108	41.4
50 years to 60 years	61	23.4
Above 60 years	40	15.3
All	261	100.0

Nearly two-thirds of female heads of households are aged 50 years or more. The corresponding proportion for male heads of households is slightly less than two-fifths. Similarly, only one-sixteenth of the female heads are below 35 years of age as compared to a corresponding proportion of nearly one-fifth for males. It is likely that there are many females in male-headed households who are older than the head, but the converse is very rarely the case.

The rather brief look we have taken in this section at some aspects of the status of women in Bukkacherla with respect to marital status, work participation rates, activity profile, and some characteristics of male and female heads of households demonstrate clearly the unequal status of women and their multiple deprivations. In this regard, Bukkacherla is no different from most of rural India, even after two and a half decades of rapid economic growth and modernization of sorts.

VULNERABILITY OF WIDOWS IN BUKKACHERLA

In terms of social security there are two interesting features of the 16 households comprising widows who live on their own. Ten of these women have BPL cards, one has an Antyodaya card and one an APL card, while only four had no ration cards. So, the majority of these women had access to the public distribution system and could get relatively cheap rice with their BPL or Antodaya cards. Although ten out of these 16 women were landless, none of them received an old age pension Only one widow received a state pension of Rs. 100 per month. So, access to state social security was negligible.

Andhra Pradesh: Kothapalle Village

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1. LOCATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Kothapalle village is located in Thimmapur (Lower Maner Dam Colony) mandal of Karimnagar district, Andhra Pradesh. The village is 5 km away from the mandal headquarters at Thimmapur. The road to Thimmapur is a pucca road, constructed recently under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) scheme. The nearest town is Karimnagar, 16 km away. The village is situated on the main Hyderabad to Karimnagar Highway, a fact that has major consequences for the village economy. There is a bus stop in the village, and a bus passes through every 10 minutes. It is also easy to find an autorickshaw or motor-van passing through the village en route to the district headquarters. The village is well-connected in terms of road transport, but the nearest railhead is at Kazipet, about 84 km away.

The village has a post office, a ration shop and two pay-telephone services. There is a weekly market. The nearest commercial bank branch is at Thimmapur. There is a primary health centre (PHC) at Thimmapur and a sub-divisional Hospital at Nustlapur, six kilometers away. Karimnagar has a district hospital, and several private hospitals and nursing homes. There are two medical stores in the village.

The area of the village, according to the Census of India, is 715.5 hectares. Around one-sixth of the area of the village is not available for cultivation. There is no area under forest, but as much as 22.7 per cent of the village area is classified as culturable waste. Three-fifths of the village area is under cultivation as per the village records. Irrigated area accounts for a little over two-fifths of village area and about one-sixth is under unirrigated cultivation.

The major crops grown in Kothapalle are paddy, maize, cotton and fodder crop in the kharif season and maize and paddy in the rabi season. Oilseeds, fruits and vegetables are grown round the year. The major sources of irrigation are canal irrigation (from Lower Maner Dam) and ground water irrigation from borewells and open wells. In terms of agro-ecological categorization, the village comes under the North Telengana region as per the NARP classification.

Table 1.1 *Location of the village, Kothapalle 2005*

Village	Kothapalle
District	Karimnagar
Block/Tehsil	Thimmapur (Lower Maner Dam colony)
Nearest town	Karimnagar
Distance from nearest town	16 km
Nearest railway station	Karimnagar
Distance from nearest railway station	16 km
Bus stop within the village (Y/N)	Yes
Metalled approach road (Y/N)	Yes
Special features (w.r.t location)	Village situated on Hyderabad to Karimnagar highway

Table 1.2 *Description of village infrastructure and amenities, Kothapalle 2005*

Item	Number/ description
Number of primary schools (Std I-V) within village	2
Number of middle schools (upto Std VIII) within village	1
Number of secondary schools (upto Std X) within village	0
Number of higher secondary schools (upto Std XII) within village	0
Distance from nearest PHC	5 km
Post office within the village (Y/N)	Yes
Bank within the village (Y/N)	No

Table 1.3 *Land use and population, Kothapalle 2001*

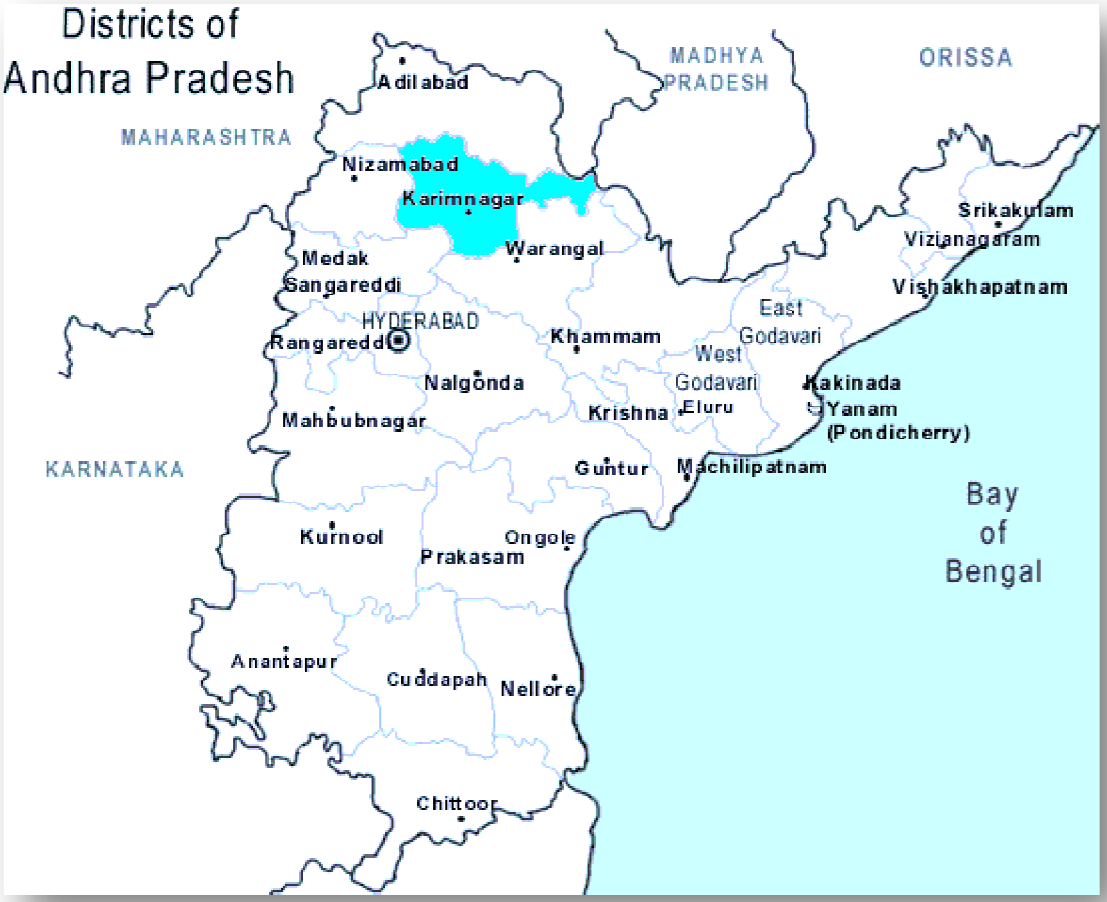
Village			Area (in hectares)	As % of geographical area
Geographical area			715	100.0
Land use (as % of geographical area)	Forest		0	0.0
	Area under cultivation	Irrigated	302	42.2
		Unirrigated	125	17.5
	Cultivable waste		162	22.7
	Area not available for cultivation		126	17.6

Source: Census of India 2001

Table 1.4 *Agro-economic features of the village, Kothapalle 2005*

Agro-ecological region (National Agricultural Research Project classification)	North Telangana zone
Major crops grown (by crop seasons)	Kharif: Paddy, maize, cotton, fodder crop Rabi: Maize, paddy Annual crop: Oilseed, fruits, vegetables
Major sources of irrigation	Canal irrigation (from Lower Maner Dam) and ground water irrigation from borewells and open wells
Other features	-

Figure 1.1 *Map showing the Karimnagar district in Andhra Pradesh*



2. DEMOGRAPHY

At the Census of 2001, the population of Kothapalle was 390 households and 1,534 persons (751 males and 783 females). The population density was 214 persons per sq km. According to the Census of 2001, the sex ratio for the village population was 1,043 females per 1000 males.

2.1 Population, social composition, sex ratios and children per household

Table 2.1 presents the distribution of households by social groups as per the FAS survey of 2005. Table 2.1a presents data on the distribution of population by social group and sex. There were 372 households as per our survey, with the total population at 1436 persons consisting of 748 females and 688 males. The population sex ratio works out to 1087 females per 1000 males, distinctly higher than the Census figure of 1043. The slight decline in the total population as per our survey in 2005 compared to the Census 2001 figure is suggestive of some out-migration from the village. SCs account for nearly one-third of the households and three-tenths of the population of Kothapalle. BCs constitute the largest proportion of both households and population at slightly over two-fifths of each. Other Caste Hindus, who are both economically and socially dominant in the village account for a little less than one-fourth of the population and of households. There are just 11 ST households accounting for 3 per cent of households and 2.8 per cent of the population, and 5 Muslim households accounting for less than 2 per cent of the population.

Table 2.1 *Distribution of households, by social groups, Kothapalle, 2005*

Social group	Number of households	As percentage of all households
Scheduled Caste	118	31.7
Scheduled Tribe	11	3.0
BC	150	40.3
Other Caste Hindu	87	23.4
Muslim	5	1.3
Unspecified	1	0.3
All	372	100.0

Table 2.1a *Distribution of population by social group and sex, Kothapalle 2005*

Social groups	Number			As percentage of all		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Scheduled Caste	229	200	429	30.6	29.1	29.9
Scheduled Tribe	23	17	40	3.1	2.5	2.8
BC	315	283	598	42.1	41.1	41.6
Other Caste Hindu	171	174	345	22.9	25.3	24.0
Muslim	10	13	23	1.3	1.8	1.6
Unspecified	0	1	1	0.0	0.2	0.1
All	748	688	1436	100.0	100.0	100.0

Table 2.2 presents the distribution of Kothapalle's population by age and sex. The ratio of girls to 1000 boys in the age group of 0-6 years, the child sex ratio, is 957. Interestingly, females outnumber males in the age interval of 7 to 59 years in every specified age group in this interval except the age group of 18 to 24 years where the number of males equals that of females. Again, females outnumber males in the population 60 years or older. Normally, males tend to outnumber females in the reproductive age group between 15 and 49 years. In Kothapalle, females outnumber males by a comfortable margin in this interval! In fact, in this village, females outnumber males in all but two age groups. It is only in the age groups of 3 to 6 years and that of 60 to 69 years that females outnumbered by males, and even there, only marginally.

Table 2.2 *Distribution of population by age and sex, Kothapalle 2005*

Age group	Population			As percentage of total population		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
0 to < 3 years	27	26	53	3.6	3.8	3.6
3 years to 6 years	40	44	84	5.4	6.4	5.8
7 years to 9 years	51	42	93	6.8	6.1	6.5
10 years to 14 years	83	72	155	11.1	10.5	10.8
15 years to 17 years	46	38	84	6.2	5.5	5.9
18 years to 24 years	83	83	166	11.1	12.1	11.6
25 years to 34 years	131	102	233	17.5	14.8	16.2
35 years to 49 years	136	134	270	18.2	19.5	18.8
50 years to 59 years	55	52	107	7.4	7.6	7.5
60 years to 69 years	57	59	116	7.6	8.5	8.1
≥ 70 years	39	36	75	5.1	5.2	5.2
All	748	688	1436	100.0	100.0	100.0

Turning to the question of household size, Table 2.3 presents the distribution of households by size. The average size of Kothapalle households is quite small at 3.9. The modal size is 4 and only 14 per cent of the population lives in households of size 6 or more. Practically 80 per cent of the population comprises households having between 2 and 5 members.

Table 2.3 *Distribution of households by household size, Kothapalle 2005*

Household size	Number of households	As percentage of all households	Average size of the household
1	25	6.7	1
2	64	17.2	2
3	57	15.3	3
4	102	27.4	4
5	72	19.4	5
6	30	8.1	6
7	15	4.0	7
≥ 8	7	1.9	8.4
All	372	100.0	3.9

Many households have no children in the age group of 17 years or younger. The distribution across social groups of households without children is shown in Table 2.3a. A little over one-third of the households have no children at all. The proportion is high at practically half for Other Caste Hindus and low at 28 per cent for BCs. The ratio for SCs is closer to the overall average.

Table 2.3a *Number and proportion of households without children, by social group, Kothapalle 2005*

Social group	Number of households without children	Total number of households	Households without children as percentage of total households
Scheduled Caste	46	118	39.0
Scheduled Tribe	2	11	18.2
BC	42	150	28.0
Other Caste Hindu	42	87	48.3
Muslim	2	5	40.0
Unspecified	1	1	100.0
All	135	372	36.3

Table 2.4 presents the average number of children by size of household. It is striking that the average number of children per household is only 1.3. Even in households with size 6 or more, the average number of children stays under 3. Even if we take only households with children into

account (237 in number) and divide by the total number of children (469), we find that the average number of children per household as 1.9.

Table 2.4 *Average number of children per household by household size, Kothapalle 2005*

Household size	Number of households	Average number of children
1	25	0.0
2	64	0.1
3	57	0.6
4	102	1.5
5	72	2.1
6	30	2.2
7	15	2.9
≥ 8	7	2.6
All	347	1.3

NOTE 1: Children (in all references in this document) are defined as persons in the age group 0 to 17 years, unless otherwise specified.

The two-child norm seems well established in Kothapalle, as indeed it seems to be in much of south India. Increase in longevity and a modest reduction in fertility over time are operative factors in much of south India, though of course to varying extents, with Kerala being most advanced and Andhra Pradesh bringing up the rear.[28]

It is to be generally presumed that children mostly live with both parents. But there are circumstances that may cause children to be in households where one or (rarely) both parents are not members. Table 2.5 presents the data in this regard for Kothapalle.

[28] It bears reiteration that Kerala's demographic transition has also been accompanied by a spectacular reduction in the infant mortality rate while this is not true to anywhere near the same extent in Andhra Pradesh or in other southern States.

Table 2.5 *In whose home do children live? Kothapalle 2005*

Children living in the same household with	Number of children			As percentage of all children		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Both parents	221	209	430	89.5	94.0	91.7
Mother, not father	22	9	31	8.9	4.1	6.6
Father, not mother	0	3	3	0.0	1.4	0.6
Neither parents but with other family members	4	0	4	1.6	0.0	0.9
No relative	0	1	1	0.0	0.5	0.2
All	247	222	469	100.0	100.0	100.0

As one would expect, most children reside with both their parents in the same household, although this proportion is somewhat lower for girls as compared to boys. Nearly 9 per cent of girls and over 4 per cent of boys live with only the mother. There is no instance of a girl child living with her father, but without the mother. There are four instances of girls living with other relatives (uncle, grandparents) and one boy who is a servant and lives in the employer's house.

2.2 *Activity Status of children*

Is there any evidence of child labour in Kothapalle in the age group of 6 to 14 years? What is the activity status of children in Kothapalle? The relevant data are brought together in Tables 2.6 and 2.9. Table 2.6 presents the basic information on children aged 6 to 14 years engaged in specified activities. Table 2.9 provides the same information for the asset quintiles in the same sequence. It is immediately obvious that there is incidence of child labour in the age group of 6 to 14 years, but it is not widespread. In all, five girls and one boy are reported as being engaged in the specified activities that constitute child labour for our purposes. One girl works on the household operational holding, but the other four girls and a boy work outside the household for an employer.

Table 2.6 *Children in the age group 6 to 14 years engaged in specific types of activities, by sex, Kothapalle 2005*

Type of activity	Number			As percentage of all children in age group		
	Girls	Boys	All	Girls	Boys	All
Work outside the household for an employer (paid and unpaid)	4	1	5	2.7	0.8	1.8
Work on household operational holding	1	0	1	0.7	0.0	0.4
Work in any household enterprise other than animal resources	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
All	5	1	6	3.4	0.8	2.2

It may be expected that child labour is more likely to occur among peasant and agricultural labour castes and also among the least wealthy households. Before we go into the question of where these children come from in terms of social group and asset class, let us first present the details of the asset quintiles for Kothapalle.[29] These are shown in Table 2.7.

Table 2.7 *Values of the asset quintile (in Rupees), Kothapalle, 2005*

Asset quintile	Minimum	Maximum	Median	Average
Q1	300	41195	17250	17203.9
Q2	41490	88915	64976	65605.3
Q3	89735	151190	119055	11660.3
Q4	152785	323755	210825	216133.1
Q5	328825	6473650	637935	1089858.7

It can be seen that the top quintile is quite distinct. In all the other quintiles, the mean and median are close to each other, implying modest inequality in asset values across households within the quintile. In the top quintile, however, the mean is almost twice the median, suggesting the presence of a few (relatively) enormously wealthy households within the quintile. The asset limits and the median and mean asset values in each quintile need to be kept in mind in the ensuing discussions throughout this Report. One may also expect to find some correlation between social group and

[29] Assets include land and waterbodies, houses and buildings, trees, animals, other means of production, means of transport, domestic durable goods, and other assets such as grain stock and inventories. Assets do not include financial assets and gold. Assets are valued at present value, reported by households.

asset category, though not by any means any kind of one-to-one correspondence. That there is some correlation becomes evident from Table 2.8 below.

Table 2.8 *Distribution of households, by social group, by asset group, Kothapalle 2005*

Social group	Number of households (as percentage of all households in asset quintile)						As percentage of all households in caste group					
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	All	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	All
Scheduled Caste	28 (37.3)	40 (53.3)	29 (39.2)	17 (23.0)	4 (5.4)	118	23.7	33.9	24.6	14.4	3.4	100.0
Scheduled Tribe	8 (10.7)	2 (2.7)	1 (1.4)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	11	72.7	18.2	9.1	0.0	0.0	100.0
BC	25 (33.3)	27 (36.0)	36 (48.5)	44 (59.5)	18 (24.3)	150	16.7	18.0	24.0	29.3	12.0	100.0
Other Caste Hindu	11 (14.7)	6 (8.0)	6 (8.1)	13 (17.5)	51 (68.9)	87	12.6	6.9	6.9	14.9	58.6	100.0
Muslim	3 (4.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (1.4)	0 (0.0)	1 (1.4)	5	60.0	0.0	20.0	0.0	20.0	100.0
Unspecified	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (1.4)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0

Thus, nearly three-fifths of Other Caste Hindus figure in the top asset quintile Q5 while only 3.4 per cent of SCs and 12 per cent of BCs so figure. STs are simply not present in the top two quintiles. More than 90 per cent of ST households and nearly three-fifths of SC households are in the bottom two quintiles. Put another way, Other Caste Hindus account for 70 per cent of all households in the top quintile even though they form only 23.4 per cent of all households in the village. On the other hand, SCs who form 31.7 per cent of all households in the village account for hardly 5 per cent of the households in Q5. The corresponding ratios for BCs are 40.3 per cent and 24 per cent respectively.

Let us now return to the question of where the five children engaged in specified types of activities constituting child labour come from. The boy comes from a Scheduled Tribe household and the lowest asset quintile. Three of the girls come from BC households and the fourth from an SC household. They are drawn from all the asset quintiles except the bottom one. It is surprising to find two girls from the top quintile. One is reported as being engaged in work on the household's operational holding and the other as working for an employer outside the household.[30]

[30] The girl in Q5 working for an employer outside the household is from a small peasant household with 2 acres of own land holding. She had worked for 7 days in the reference year earning a wage of 300 rupees picking chillies. The other girl, also from Q5, worked on the household operational holding. She was just 8 years old. *Parents are no guarantors of child rights!*

The fact that the specified activities exclude work related to animal resources does not really make any difference as there are only two boys below the age of 18 years in Kothapalle engaged in animal tending. Both are from ST (Yerukala) households in asset class Q2.

Table 2.9 *Girls in the age group 6 to 14 years engaged in specific types of activities, by asset quintiles, Kothapalle 2005*

Asset quintile	Number			As percentage of all children in age group		
	Work outside the household for an employer (paid and unpaid)	Work on household operational holding	Work in any household enterprise other than animal resources	Work outside the household for an employer (paid and unpaid)	Work on household operational holding	Work in any household enterprise other than animal resources
Q1	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Q2	1	0	0	3.5	0.0	0.0
Q3	1	0	0	2.6	0.0	0.0
Q4	1	0	0	3.3	0.0	0.0
Q5	1	1	0	4.4	4.4	0.0
All	4	1	0	2.7	0.7	0.0

2.3 *Age at Marriage*

Finally, in this section on demography, let us take a look at the incidence of marriage below the legal minimum age in Kothapalle. Among currently married persons, there is one instance of a girl having been married below the age of eighteen years and one of a male below the age of 21 years. Both these persons belong to BC households. Marriage below the legal minimum age seems to be a rare occurrence in Kothapalle. Ideally, though, it should not occur at all!

3. *EDUCATION*

3.1 *School Attendance*

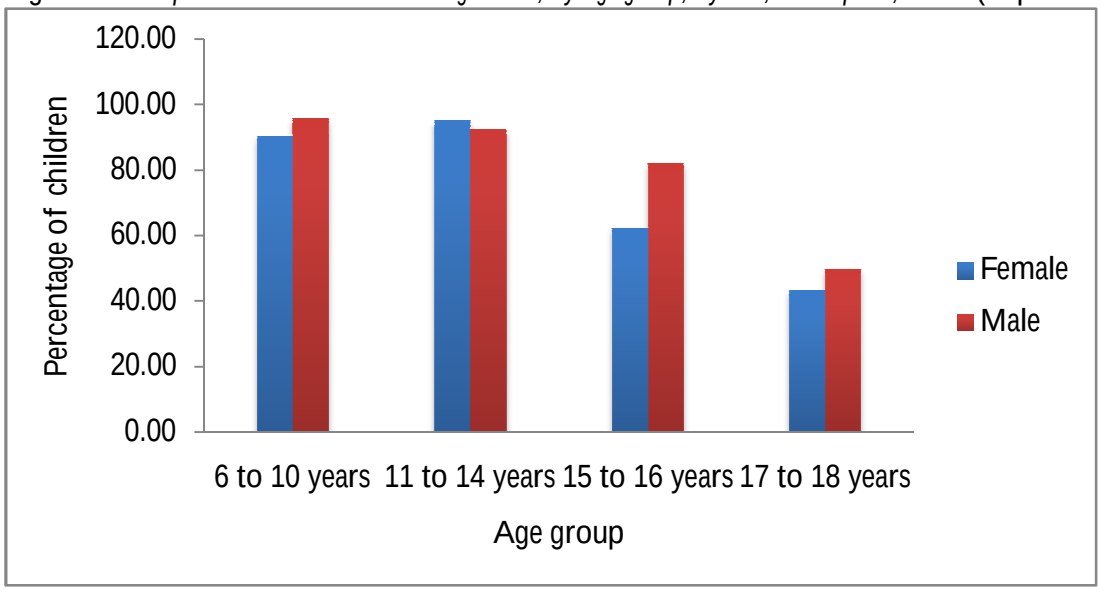
There were two primary schools and one upper primary school in Kothapalle, the latter established as recently as 2001. However, because of its location and good transport facilities, children from the village attended the high school at Nustlapur as well as schools in Karimnagar.

When collecting data, we attempted specifically to identify children who attended school regularly, distinguishing them from children who were not enrolled in school and from children enrolled in but not regularly attending school. The data in the tables that follow represent children in the first category, that is, children enrolled and attending school regularly. Tables 3.1 to 3.8 present detailed information on school attendance by age group, sex, social category and asset quintile. Table 3.1 and Figure 3.1 present data on attendance by age group and Table 3.2 presents data on gross enrolment ratios (GERs), separately for boys and girls.

Table 3.1 *Number and proportion of children attending school, by age group, by sex, Kothapalle 2005*

Age group	Number of children			As percentage of all children		
	Female	Male	All	Female	Male	All
6 to 10 years	75	69	144	90.4	95.8	92.9
11 to 14 years	60	51	111	95.2	92.7	94.1
15 to 16 years	20	23	43	62.5	82.1	71.7
17 to 18 years	16	10	26	43.2	50.0	45.6
All	171	153	324	79.5	87.4	83.1

Figure 3.1 *Proportion of children attending school, by age group, by sex, Kothapalle, 2005* (in per cent)



School attendance is clearly not universal. It is not universal in the age group of 6-17 years nor in the age group of 6-14 nor even in the age group of 6 to 10 years. While attendance ratios are above 90 per cent in the age groups of 6-10 and 11-14 years for both boys and girls, they fall sharply beyond these two age groups. The decline for girls is especially sharp in the transition from the second to the third age group, linked possibly both to the absence of a high school in the village and to cultural norms associated with girls attaining puberty. There is a perceptible decline in the case of boys as well in this transition, though this is not as large as that for girls. In the next transition, to the age group of 17 to 18 years from that of 15 to16 years, the fall in attendance percentage, while large for both boys and girls, is especially steep for boys, with the differential in attendance percentages between boys and girls declining from nearly 20 percentage points to around 7 percentage points. Overall, less than half the children in the age group of 17 to 18 years are in school.

The picture with respect to the gross enrolment ratio is somewhat different. The GER is high but below 100 per cent at the primary school stage. It falls marginally for girls but steeply for boys at the upper primary stage.[31] At the high school stage, the GER *falls significantly for girls but rises steeply* for boys. This may reflect the fact that some girls are withdrawn from schools after attaining puberty as they enter their teens. Interestingly, the GERs fall precipitously for both boys and girls at the higher secondary stage, with the fall for boys in terms of percentage points being higher than that for girls.

[31] This may possibly reflect greater retention rates for boys in the primary stage.

Table 3.2 *Gross enrolment ratio of children, by level of schooling, by sex, Kothapalle 2005*

School level	Number enrolled			GER		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Std I to V	91	82	173	96.8	96.5	96.6
Std VI to VIII	57	40	97	90.5	72.7	82.2
Std IX to X	41	39	80	78.8	88.6	83.3
Std XI to XII	15	7	22	27.8	19.4	24.4

Note: There are 2 persons in the age group 16 to 18 years who are enrolled in ITI or degree courses in Kothapalle. These cases are not included in the calculation of GER.

NOTE 2: Gross enrolment ratio is the total enrolment in the specific level of education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the official school-age population corresponding to the same level of education in give school-year.
The Annual Report of The Ministry of Human Resource Development, India, 2008-09 provides data on GER for three levels. The school levels and corresponding school-age for three levels specified by the MoHRD are as follows:
Standard I to V: 6 to 11 years
Standard VI to VIII: 11 to 14 years
Standard IX to XII: 14 to 18 years
In Table 3.2 we have divided Standard IX to XII further in two categories:
Standard IX to X: 14 to 16 years
Standard XI to XII: 16 to 18 years

3.2 *School Attendance by Social Group and Asset Quintile*

How do attendance ratios vary across social groups? The data are presented in Tables 3.3 to 3.5, for persons, boys and girls in succession.

Table 3.3 *Children attending school, by age group, by social group, Kothapalle 2005* (number and per cent)[32]

Age group	ST		SC		BC		Other Caste Hindus	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
6 to 10 years	5	62.5	50	100.0	62	92.5	23	88.4
11 to 14 years	1	25.0	34	97.1	50	98.0	25	96.2
15 to 16 years	0	0.0	18	72.0	14	60.9	11	100.0
17 to 18 years	0	0.0	6	40.0	13	44.8	7	77.9
All	6	37.5	108	86.4	139	81.8	66	91.7

[32] Tables 3.3 to 3.5 exclude data relating to seven Muslim children, consisting of 5 boys and 2 girls. Of these, two – one girl in the age group of 11 to 14 years and one boy aged between 15 and 18 years - did not attend school. The other five did. Of these, four are boys in the age group of 6 to 10 years, and the one girl in school is in the age group of 11-14 years.

Table 3.4 *Boys attending school, by age group, by social group, Kothapalle 2005* (number and per cent)*

Age group	ST		SC		BC		Other Caste Hindus	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
6 to 10 years	3	75.0	25	100.0	27	93.1	10	100.0
11 to 14 years	0	0.0	14	100.0	22	95.7	15	93.8
15 to 16 years	0	**	7	70.0	11	84.6	5	100.0
17 to 18 years	0	0.0	1	20.0	6	60.0	3	100.0
All	3	42.9	47	87.0	66	88.0	33	97.1

**There were no boys belonging to ST households in this age group

Table 3.5 *Girls attending school, by age group, by social group, Kothapalle 2005* (number and per cent)*

Age group	ST		SC		BC		Other Caste Hindus	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
6 to 10 years	2	50.0	25	100.0	35	92.1	13	81.3
11 to 14 years	1	50.0	20	95.2	28	100.0	10	100.0
15 to 16 years	0	0.0	11	73.3	3	30.0	6	100.0
17 to 18 years	0	0.0	5	50.0	7	36.8	4	66.7
All	3	33.3	61	85.9	73	76.8	33	86.8

Figure 3.2 *Proportion of boys attending school by age group, by social group, Kothapalle, 2005* (in per cent)

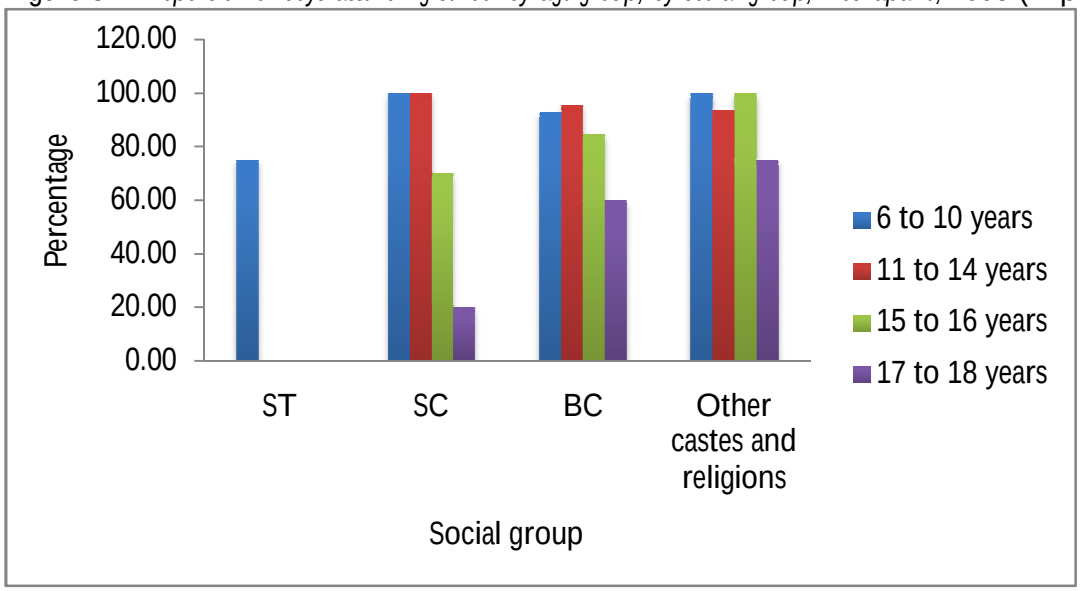
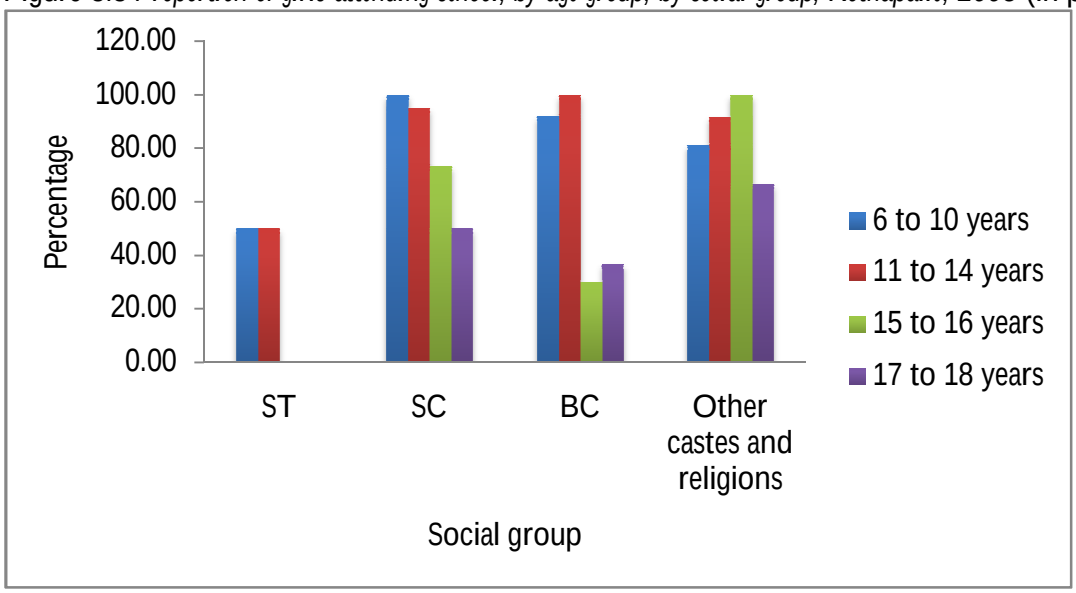


Figure 3.3 *Proportion of girls attending school, by age group, by social group, Kothapalle, 2005* (in percent)



STs fare most poorly. Keeping in mind that there are only 11 ST households in the village, it is nonetheless to be noted that no child from the STs older than 14 years is attending school. Of the 16 ST children in the village, eight are in the age group of 6 to 10 years, four aged between 11 and 14 years and four aged between 15 and 18 years. Only 6 are in school and all but one of them is below 11 years of age.

Interestingly, SCs have the best attendance ratios in the 6 to 14 age group, even better than the Other Caste Hindus. However, for the age group of 6 to 18 years, the Other Caste Hindus have the highest attendance ratios among both boys and girls, with SCs ahead of BCs but behind Other Caste Hindus. SCs do practically as well as the BCs in terms of the attendance ratio for boys, though both SCs and BCs lag behind the Other Caste Hindus. In respect of girls, the attendance ratio for SC girls is nearly the same as that for Other Caste Hindus and better than that for BCs. It is also striking that BCs fare much more poorly with respect to girls than boys in terms of attendance ratios in the age group of 15 to 18 years.

TRIBAL HOUSEHOLDS IN KOTHAPALLE

The eleven Scheduled Tribe households of Kothapalle village are very poor. They belong to the Yerukala (6), Kuncherukala (4) and Madhari tribes.

Six families reported hunting (catching birds on fields) as their main occupation. These families are nomadic in nature, travelling from village to village, where the men go hunting, and the women work occasionally at agricultural labour but also get food by begging. These families own no land or house (they were living in tents on government waste land in the village at the time of the survey) and most of the children in these six families were not attending school. Two exceptions – both boys – were in a government Hostel for Scheduled Tribe children.

Of the other five families, one was a goldsmith, and the only tribal family with a woman who had qualified Class X. The two daughters of this family attended the Central School at Thimmapur.

The main occupation of two families, both Yerukala, was pig rearing. In one family, both boys, aged 14 and 10, assisted their father in the family occupation, while in another the daughter was working as an agricultural labour while the two sons were in school. Similarly, the daughter of the sole Madhari family in the village (with a traditional occupation of rope-making) was also an agricultural labourer.

It is clear that for the first group of nomadic families, sending children to school is only possible if an appropriate residential school is available. It appears that boys are more likely to be sent to live in hostels than girls.

For the second group too, school attendance is poor, on account of the children being sent to work.

What is the picture with respect to school attendance across asset quintiles? Tables 3.6 to 3.8 provide the information for all children, boys and girls in that order.

Table 3.6 *Children attending school, by age group, by asset quintile, Kothapalle 2005* (number and per cent)

Age group	Q1		Q2		Q3		Q4		Q5	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
6 to 10 years	25	86.2	30	93.8	32	97.0	29	96.7	28	90.3
11 to 14 years	14	82.4	18	90.0	24	92.3	29	100.0	26	100.0
15 to 16 years	5	100.0	14	82.4	4	50.0	8	57.1	12	75.0
17 to 18 years	3	50.0	5	25.0	6	60.0	4	30.8	8	100.0
All	47	82.5	67	75.3	66	85.7	70	81.4	74	91.4

Table 3.7 *Boys attending school, by age group, by asset quintile, Kothapalle 2005* (number and per cent)

Age group	Q1		Q2		Q3		Q4		Q5	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
6 to 10 years	14	100.0	14	87.5	10	100.0	15	93.8	16	100.0
11 to 14 years	4	66.7	6	85.7	10	90.9	13	100.0	18	100.0
15 to 16 years	1	100.0	8	100.0	2	66.7	5	71.4	7	77.8
17 to 18 years	2	66.7	2	28.6	3	60.0	3	60.0	0	*
All	21	87.5	30	79.0	25	86.2	36	87.8	41	95.4

**There are no boys in the age group of 17 to 18 years in the top asset quintile.*

First, the overall attendance ratio for the age group of 6 to 18 years is the highest for the highest asset quintile Q5 for both boys and girls. The third quintile Q3 performs better than Q4, as indeed does the bottom quintile Q1, though by a very small margin. Second, there is not much variation in attendance ratios for the age group of 6 to 14 years across the asset quintiles for boys as well as girls, except that Q1 performs somewhat more poorly than the rest. There is a sharp drop in attendance ratios across all quintiles except the highest in the transition from the age group of 15 to 16 years to that of 17 to 18 years. There is an interesting fact here: *There are no boys in the age group of 17 to 18 years in the highest asset quintile resident in the village*. There are 8 girls and *all of them* are going to school. This suggests that the 'missing boys' may be studying away from their homes in a larger town or city.[33]

Table 3.8 *Girls attending school, by age group, by asset quintile, Kothapalle 2005* (number and per cent)

Age group	Q1		Q2		Q3		Q4		Q5	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
6 to 10 years	11	73.3	16	100.0	22	95.7	14	100.0	12	80.0
11 to 14 years	10	90.9	12	92.3	14	93.3	16	100.0	8	100.0
15 to 16 years	4	100.0	6	66.7	2	40.0	3	42.9	5	71.4
17 to 18 years	1	33.3	3	23.1	3	60.0	1	12.5	8	100.0
All	26	78.8	37	72.6	41	85.4	34	75.6	33	86.8

[33] However, there are two girls and two boys, all aged between 15 and 16 years, and all in Q5, who are not in school. Both the girls have passed class 10 and are working as agricultural wage labourers. Of the two boys, one manages livestock and the other is a servant of the household getting a monthly wage of Rs. 400.

Figure 3.4 *Proportion of boys attending school, by age group, by asset quintile, Kothapalle, 2005* (in per cent)

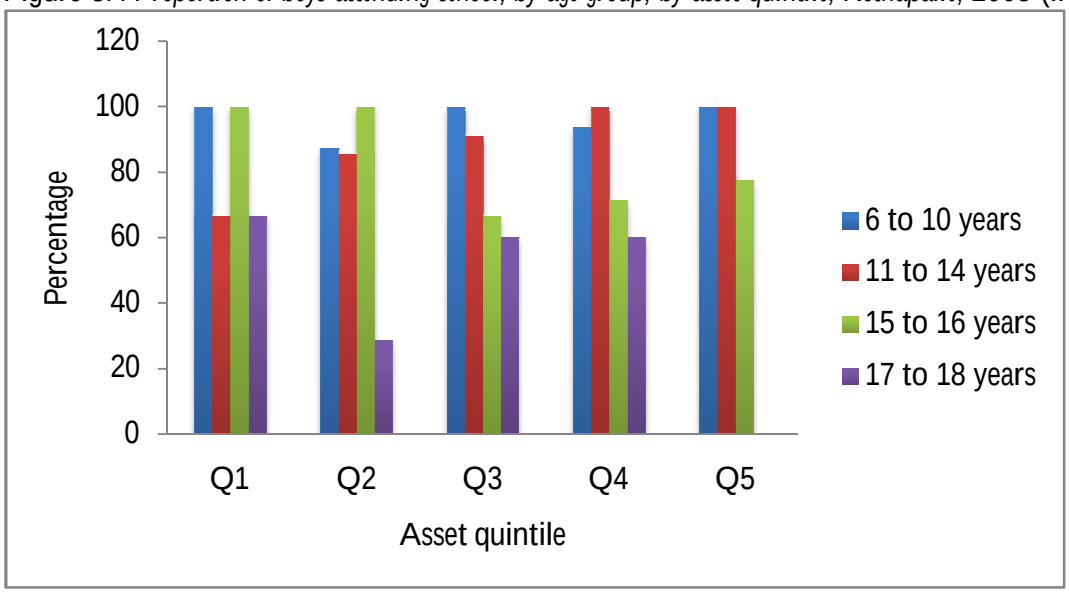
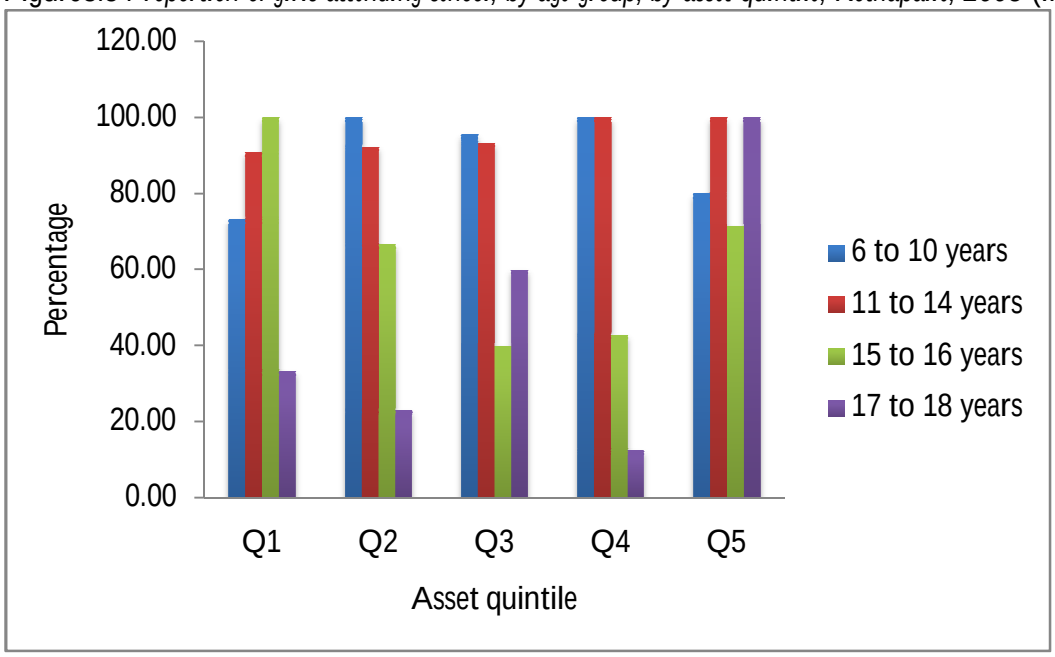


Figure3.5 *Proportion of girls attending school, by age group, by asset quintile, Kothapalle, 2005* (in per cent)



Third, the very poor performance of Q4 with respect to attendance ratios for girls in the age group of 15 to 18 years is largely a reflection of the preponderance of BC households in this quintile. BCs who constitute 40.3 per cent of all the households in the village account for 60 per cent of the households in Q4. It may be recalled from the earlier discussion that the attendance ratios for girls among BCs in the age group of 15 to 18 years are quite low.

3.3 *School Attendance and Work*

We saw earlier in section 2.2 on the activity status of children aged 6 to 14 years in Kothapalle that five girls and one boy in this age group were engaged in specified activities that constitute child labour. Of these, one girl from a BC household worked on the household's operational holding. Four other girls - three from BC households, one from an SC household - and one boy from a Scheduled Tribe household-worked outside the household for an employer. Does the picture for the age group of 6 to 18 years-all children 6 years or older- look different?

The data on the activity status of children aged 6 to 18 years in terms of school attendance and participation in work is brought together in Table 3.9. A total of 31 children- 22 girls and 9 boys - are working. Of them, ten children, 6 girls and 4 boys, are also attending school. However, there are 23 children-14 girls and 9 boys-who are neither in school nor 'working' in terms of our definition.

Table 3.9 *School attendances among children aged 6 to 18 years, by sex and work status, Kothapalle 2005* (number and per cent)

Children	Not attending school				Attending school			
	Not working		Working		Not working		Working	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Girls	14	46.7	16	53.3	156	96.3	6	3.7
Boys	9	64.3	5	35.7	147	97.4	4	2.7
Total	23	52.3	21	47.7	303	96.8	10	3.2

NOTE 3: Work (in all references in this document) is defined as three specific types of activities:
a. Work outside the household for an employer (paid and unpaid)
b. Work on household operational holding
c. Work in any household enterprise other than animal resources.
Any person 18 years or below engaged in any of the three activities above is considered to be "working".

Figure 3.6 *Distribution of boys (6 to 18 years), by school attendance and work status, Kothapalle, 2005*

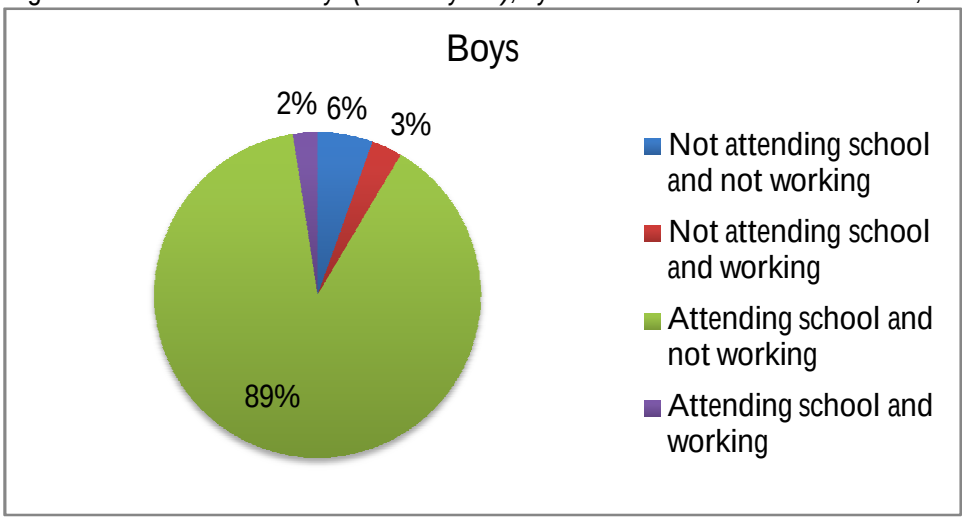
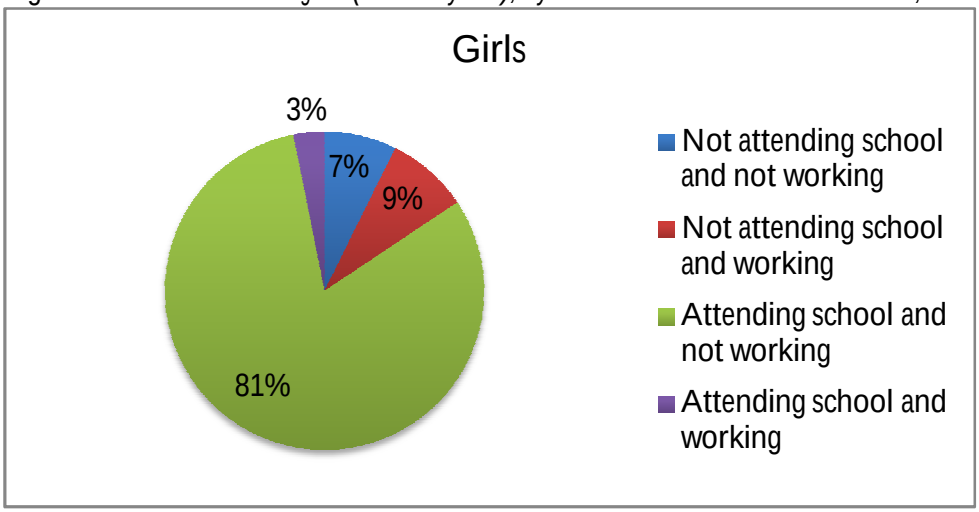


Figure 3.7 *Distribution of girls (6 to 18 years), by school attendance and work status, Kothapalle, 2005*



Of the 14 girls who are neither working nor in school, three - one each from SC, ST and BC households - are engaged in housework. The tribal girl comes from a household in the poorest quintile and the BC and SC girls from Q4. Two girls - one BC and one Muslim - are 'available for work' but unemployed. One tribal girl is physically handicapped and another is a beggar. Both are from households in the lowest asset quintile. No information is available on the other seven girls of whom 3 are from Other Caste Hindu in the top quintile, 3 from BCs (two from Q1 and one from Q3) and one is from an SC household in Q2. Three of the nine boys are engaged in animal husbandry. Two belong to ST households in Q2 and *the third is a servant in a top quintile BC household*. No further information is available on the other six boys, of whom three are BCs. (one each from Q2, Q3 and Q4), two are SCs (one from Q3 and one from Q4) and one other caste Hindu from Q1.

Out of 357 children in the age group of 6 to 18 years, 44 children are out of school. This is approximately one in eight. For girls, the proportion is 30 out of 192, closer to one in six. Surely, this is a matter of concern.

3.4 *Anganwadi*

The importance of pre- school education and supplementary nutrition is widely recognized. Since 1975, one of the major schemes intended to address these and other issues related to child care, maternal nutrition and pregnancy-related care has been the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme. As part of ICDS, anganwadi centres have been set up across the country. However, the provision of anganwadi facilities is far from universal. Even where they exist, it does not follow that the personnel required to operate thee centres are in place. It is also observed that, even where they have been set up, not many children are found to be enrolled in them. The situation in Kothapalle bears out the last point. There is an anganwadi centre in the village. However, as Table 3.10 shows, *no child below 3 years of age (out of a total of 53) goes to the centre*. A total of 6 children aged between 3 and 6 years, consisting of three children each from SC (2 girls, one boy) and BC (3 boys) households, attend the anganwadi centre. This is out of a total of 84 children (40 girls, 44 boys) in the age group of 3 to 6 years. Clearly, the anganwadi centre is grossly under-utilized.

Table 3.10 *Proportion of children 6 years and below going to Anganwadi centres, by social group, by sex, Kothapalle 2005* (number and per cent)

Social group	Less than 3 years						3 to 6 years					
	Female		Male		All		Female		Male		All	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Scheduled Caste	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	10.5	1	7.7	3	9.4
Scheduled Tribe	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
BC	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	16.7	3	10.0
Other Caste Hindu	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
All	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	5.0	4	9.1	6	7.1

Interestingly, 7 children (4 boys, 3 girls) below 6 years of age are enrolled in a private nursery school! Four of them belong to BC, two to SC and one to other caste Hindu households. Four-two BC boys, one SC boy and one SC girl-belong to the highest asset quintile, one girl from the Other Caste Hindu category to Q4 and two BC girls to Q3. Clearly, there is a willingness to invest in children's

education (including that of girls!) among some of the wealthy and even the not-so-wealthy households in Kothapalle.

3.5 *Literacy*

Having examined school attendance and child labour at some length, let us turn now to the issue of literacy. In the FAS survey, respondents were categorised in terms of literacy, not in a binary manner as literate/non-literate but into four categories-'cannot read or write', 'can only sign name', 'can read but not write', 'can read and write'- and it is only the last category we treat as literate in the discussion that follows. We have one respondent whose literacy status remained unspecified.

The distribution of the population of Kothapalle, aged 7 years and above, by literacy level and sex, is shown in Table 3.11. The overall literacy rate for the population aged 7 years and above is modest at 55.4 per cent. There is a wide sex differential, with male literacy rate at 67.2 per cent being 22.4 percentage points higher than that of the female literacy rate at 44.8 per cent.[34]

Table 3.11 *Distribution of population (7 years and above), by literacy level, by sex, Kothapalle 2005*

Literacy level	Female		Male		All	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Cannot read and write	271	39.8	123	19.8	394	30.3
Can only sign name	94	13.8	75	12.1	169	13.0
Can read but cannot write	10	1.5	4	0.7	14	1.1
Can read and write	305	44.8	415	67.2	720	55.4
Unspecified	1	0.1	1	0.2	2	0.2
All	681	100.0	618	100.0	1299	100.0

Tables 3.12 presents our survey data on the distribution of the literacy levels of the population by social group. The category of Other Caste Hindus has the highest literacy rate in Kothapalle, followed by Muslims, BCs, SCs and STs in that order. The STs are the most deprived, with even the male literacy rate as low as 33.3 per cent. Interestingly, leaving aside the highly deprived STs, it is the

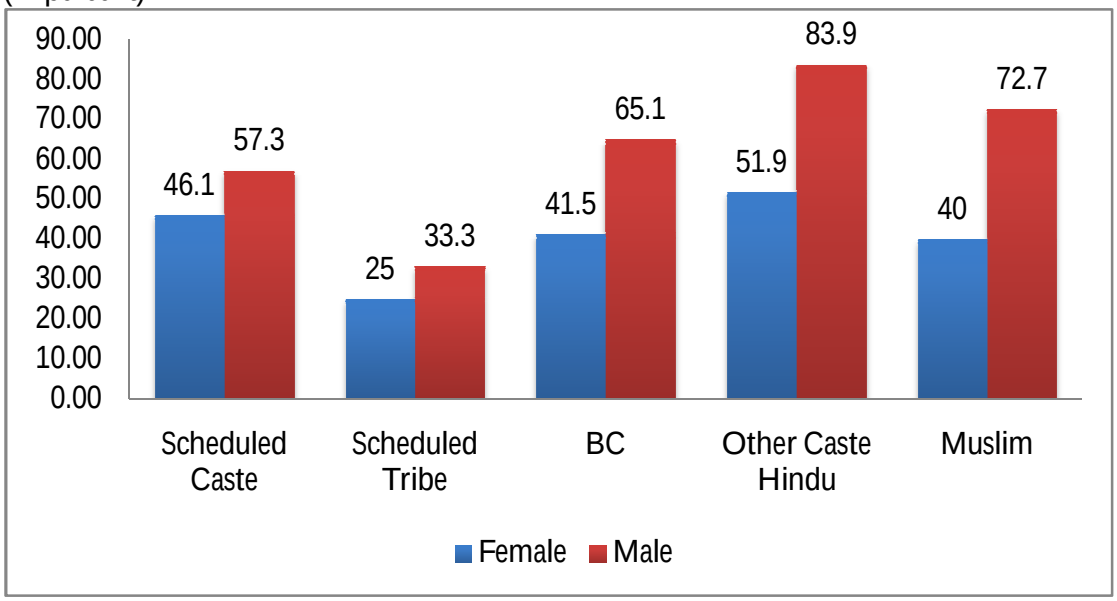
[34] The Census of India reports the percentage of literates aged 7 years and above for Kothapalle in 2001 as 44 per cent, 67 per cent and 55 per cent respectively for females, males and persons. These are remarkably close to the rates calculated from our survey. However, the literacy rates for Kothapalle for females/males/persons emerging from our survey of 2005, are far higher than the corresponding figures of 32.57 %, 54.28 % and 43.39 % for rural Karimnagar district. The figures for Kothapalle are fairly close to the figures of 43.5 %, 65.35 % and 54.5 % for rural Andhra Pradesh in 2001 as per the Census of India

SCs who show the least gender differential in respect of literacy rates. Among the social groups with a significant presence in the village, the largest differential between male and female literacy rates occurs in the case of the Other Caste Hindus, followed closely by the BCs. It also needs to be noted that the overall literacy rate for SCs is about the same as that for BCs.

Table 3.12 *Proportion of population (7 years and above) who can read and write, by social group, by sex, Kothapalle 2005* (in per cent)

Social group	Number			Literacy rate		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Scheduled Caste	95	102	197	46.1	57.3	51.3
Scheduled Tribe	5	5	10	25.0	33.3	28.6
BC	119	164	283	41.5	65.1	52.5
Other Caste Hindu	82	135	217	51.9	83.9	68.0
Muslim	4	8	12	40.0	72.7	57.1
Unspecified	0	1	1	-	100.0	100.0
All	305	415	720	44.8	67.2	55.4

Figure 3.8 *Literacy rate of population in the age group 7 years and above, by sex, by social group, Kothapalle, 2005,* (in percent)



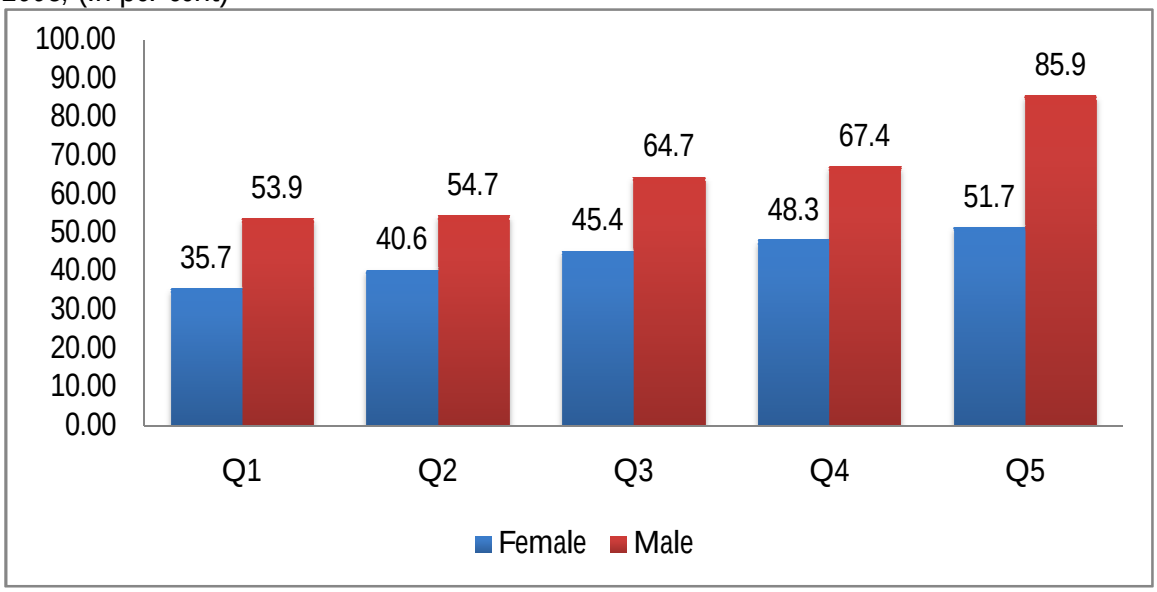
How do literacy rates for males and females vary across asset quintiles? Table 3.13 presents the relevant data. Literacy rates are the highest in Q5. The quintiles Q4 and Q3 have literacy rates distinctly lower than that of Q5 (especially for males, not so much for females). In respect of both male and female literacy rates, Q4 is a marginally better performer than Q3. Q2 and Q1 have

significantly lower literacy rates than the higher quintiles and are clustered close together. It is to be noted, however, that the female literacy rate even in Q5 is quite modest and not much higher than the all India rural average for females at 46.7 per cent. Kothapalle, like much of rural Andhra Pradesh, is a poor performer in terms of female literacy.

Table 3.13 *Proportion of population (7 years and above) who can read and write, by asset quintile, by sex, Kothapalle 2005*

Asset quintile	Number			Literacy rate		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Q1	40	49	89	35.7	53.9	43.8
Q2	58	64	122	40.6	54.7	46.9
Q3	59	75	134	45.4	64.7	54.5
Q4	70	93	163	48.3	67.4	57.6
Q5	78	134	212	51.7	85.9	69.1
All	305	415	720	44.8	67.2	55.4

Figure 3.9 *Literacy rate of population in the age group 7 years and above, by sex, by asset quintile, Kothapalle, 2005,* (in per cent)



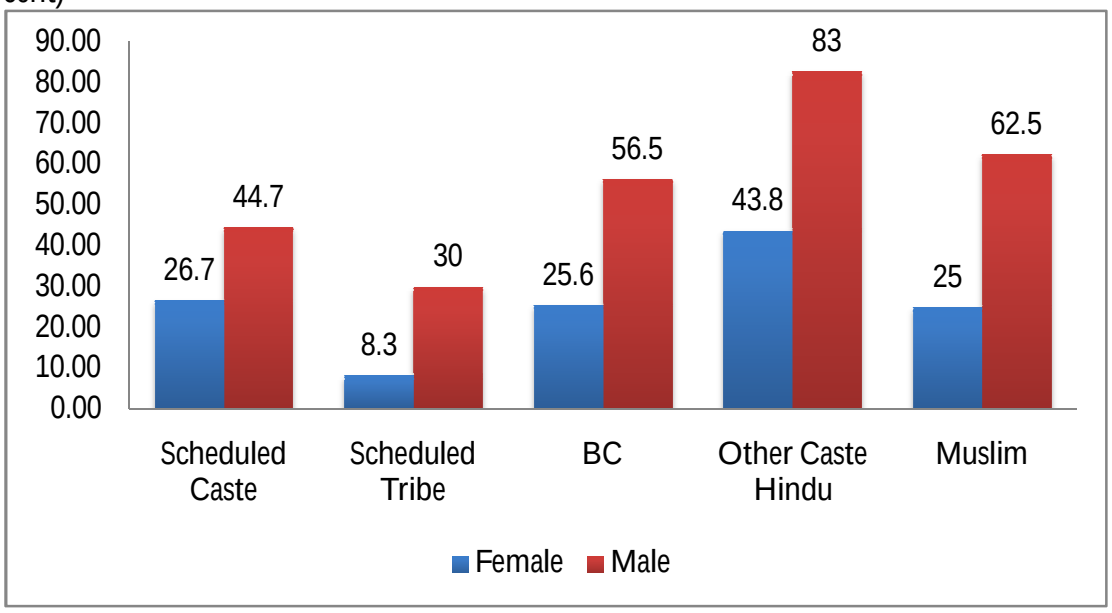
Let us now turn to the issue of adult literacy. Tables 3.14 and 3.15 present the sex-specific numbers and proportions of population in Kothapalle aged 18 years and above that can read and write by social group and asset quintile respectively

Table 3.14 *Proportion of population (18 years and above) who can read and write, by social group, by sex, Kothapalle 2005* (in per cent)

Social group	Number			Adult literacy rate		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Scheduled Caste	39	59	98	26.7	44.7	35.3
Scheduled Tribe	1	3	4	8.3	30.0	18.2
BC	53	105	158	25.6	56.5	40.2
Other Caste Hindu	56	107	163	43.8	83.0	63.4
Muslim	2	5	7	25.0	62.5	43.8
Unspecified	0	1	1	-	100.0	100.0
All	151	280	431	30.1	60.1	44.6

Note: We are using the term adult for all persons aged 18 years and older.

Figure 3.10 *Literacy rate of population (18 years and above), by sex, by social group, Kothapalle, 2005* (in per cent)



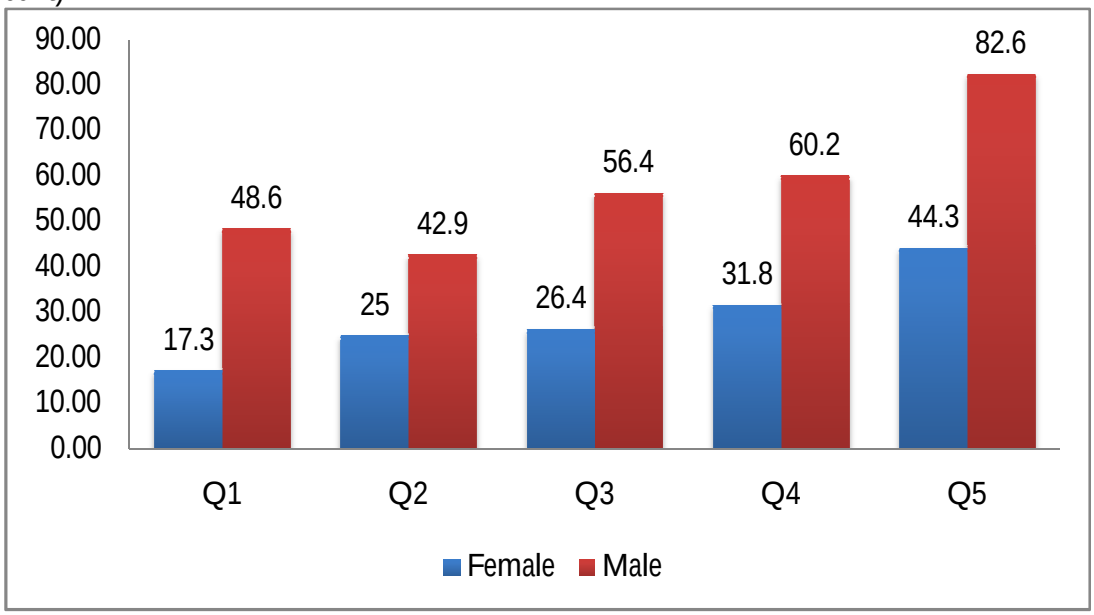
The overall adult literacy rates at 30.1 per cent, 60.1 per cent and 44.6 per cent for females, males and persons respectively are naturally much lower than the corresponding figures for the population aged 7 years and above. It is also obvious that the difference in the literacy rates between these two age groups is the largest for females, indicating the relatively more rapid spread of literacy and schooling among females in recent years. This is true both overall and for the various social groups. In terms of social groups, the SCs have shown the biggest improvement, with female, male and person literacy rates for 7 plus population exceeding the corresponding figures for the 18 plus population by 19.4, 12.6 and 16.1 percentage points respectively. Since the Other Caste Hindus were

historically advantaged in terms of access to education, their literacy rates for the 7 plus population are not much higher than the corresponding rates for the adult population, though there is a difference of 8.2 percentage points with regard to the female literacy rate. There is hardly any difference in the male literacy rate for the other caste Hindus between 7 plus rate and the adult rate. The BCs fall in between the SCs and the other caste Hindus in this regard.

Table 3.15 *Proportion of population (18 years and above) who can read and write, by asset quintile, by sex, Kothapalle 2005*

Asset quintile	Number			Adult literacy rate		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Q1	14	34	48	17.3	48.6	31.8
Q2	25	36	61	25.0	42.9	33.2
Q3	24	53	77	26.4	56.4	41.6
Q4	34	62	96	31.8	60.2	45.7
Q5	54	95	149	44.3	82.6	62.9
All	151	280	431	30.1	60.1	44.6

Figure 3.10 *Literacy rate of population (18 years and above), by sex, by social group, Kothapalle, 2005* (in per cent)



The picture with respect to asset quintiles is similar. The 7 plus female literacy rates are higher than the corresponding adult rates for every quintile. The difference is the least in Q5. It is much higher for all the other quintiles. The differences are smaller in the case of the male literacy rates for the two age groups - around 3 percentage points for the highest quintile and higher in the case of the

other quintiles. In all instances, the female literacy rate differences between the two age groups are larger than the male ones.

Continuing with literacy, let us look at literacy rates for age groups specified in greater detail. Table 3.16 presents the literacy rates of females, males and persons for five age groups in sequence. A steady rise in literacy rates can be discerned as we move toward the lower age groups.

Table 3.16 *Proportion of population who can read and write, by age cohorts, by sex, Kothapalle 2005*

Age group	Number			Literacy rate		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
6 to 17 years	155	137	292	80.7	83.0	81.8
18 to 34 years	128	159	287	59.8	86.0	71.9
35 to 49 years	18	70	88	13.2	52.2	32.6
50 to 65 years	4	39	43	3.7	36.8	20.1
> 65 years	1	12	13	2.3	29.3	15.5
All	306	417	723	44.2	66.1	54.6

The rates are naturally the highest in the 6 to 17 age group. But the interesting point is that, if one compares this group with the next one, the biggest difference is in female literacy rates. There is only a marginal difference in the male literacy rate. In other words, improvement in schooling and therefore literacy has been under way for males in our patriarchal society much earlier than it has been for females. It is also interesting to note that the sex differential in literacy rates, as one move from the age group of 65 years and above toward the lower age groups, increases initially and it is only when one moves from the 35 to 49 years group to the next lower one that the gender gap falls. It comes down dramatically in the age group of 6 to 17 years. Considerable progress in enrolment and attendance in schools of girls in the school-going age groups in recent times-over the last three decades or so-has contributed to a progressive decline in the gender differentials in literacy rates. It needs to be reiterated, however, that in absolute terms, current literacy rates are not far short of being scandalous, especially for girls, and more so among the socially and economically deprived segments of the population such as STs, Muslims, SCs, BCs and the poor.

3.6 *Years of Schooling*

A useful measure of adult achievement with respect to school education is the median of years of schooling in a group. The distributions of median and mean years of schooling for the population aged above 16 years by social group are presented in Tables 3.17and 3.17a.

The scale of educational deprivation is phenomenal and striking. At least half the females aged 16 years or older have not had even one year of schooling. This is the case for all social groups including the Other Caste Hindus. Among the males, at least half of the males aged 16 years or older among the SCs and STs have not had a single year of schooling. Even among BCs, at least half the males have four years or less of school education. It is only among the Other Caste Hindus that we find that half the males aged 16 years or older had 10 years of schooling. A look at the mean years of schooling across social groups shows the inequality within each social group in this regard, with the mean exceeding the median in all social groups except that of males belonging to the Other Caste Hindus.

Table 3.17 *Median number of completed years of schooling for population above 16 years, by social group, by sex, Kothapalle 2005*

Social group	Female	Male	Persons
Scheduled Caste	0	0	0
Scheduled Tribe	0	0	0
BC	0	4	0
Other Caste Hindu	0	10	7
Muslim	0	6.5	0
Unspecified (Only one male)	0	9	9
All	0	6	0

Table 3.17a *Average number of completed years of schooling for population above 16 years, by social group, by sex, Kothapalle 2005*

Social group	Female	Male	Persons
Scheduled Caste	2.7	4.3	3.5
Scheduled Tribe	1.5	2.0	1.7
BC	2.4	5.0	3.7
Other Caste Hindu	3.9	7.8	5.9
Muslim	2.8	5.6	4.2
Unspecified (Only one male)	0.0	9.0	9.0
All	2.9	5.6	4.2

How do the median and mean years of schooling vary across asset quintiles? Tables 3.18 and 3.18a bring together the data in this regard.

Table 3.18 *Median number of completed years of schooling for population above 16 years, by asset quintile, by sex, Kothapalle 2005*

Asset Quintile	Female	Male	Persons
Q1	0	2	0
Q2	0	0	0
Q3	0	4	0
Q4	0	8	2
Q5	0	10	7
All	0	6	0

Table 3.18a *Average number of completed years of schooling for population above 16 years, by asset quintile, by sex, Kothapalle 2005*

Asset quintile	Female	Male	Persons
Q1	1.6	3.8	2.6
Q2	2.5	4.1	3.3
Q3	2.6	4.7	3.6
Q4	3.0	6.1	4.5
Q5	4.1	8.0	6.0
All	2.9	5.6	4.2

The woeful state of female education is confirmed by the fact that in all asset quintiles including the highest quintile, at least half the females in the age group of 16 years and above have not had a single year of schooling. Males do not do much better. Except for the top quintile where the median years of schooling is 10 and Q4 where it is 8, there is nothing much to write home about for males.

3.7 *Educational Achievements*

Let us now turn to educational achievements of the population across various social groups and asset classes in Kothapalle. We begin with the number of persons who have obtained a degree. Table 3.19 provides the distribution of the number and percentage of graduates in the population aged 25 years and older by social group. Table 3.20 provides corresponding data by asset quintile.

There are no graduates, male or female, among the Scheduled Tribes and Muslims aged 25 years or older in Kothapalle. Among females, a surprising feature is that there are no graduates from among

the Other Caste Hindus or BCs, but there are two graduates among SCs. One woman, (from the Madiga caste) is a B. Com graduate, currently not working whose husband is a private driver. Another woman (from the Mala caste) has B. SC, B. Ed qualifications and is a school teacher. Her husband is a post master and both their daughters study in a private school. With males, we revert to the standard scenario. There are 15 male graduates among the Other Caste Hindus amounting to 13.4 per cent of the social group aged 25 years or older. There are 3 BCs and 4 SCs among male graduates. As a proportion of the relevant population, these numbers amount to far smaller percentages than is the case with other Hindu castes, but it is a matter of significance that we have graduates among SCs in a backward village of Andhra Pradesh.

Table 3.19 *Graduates in the age group 25 years and above, by social group, by sex, Kothapalle 2005*

Social group	Number of graduates			As percentage of total population (25 years and above)		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Scheduled Caste	2	4	6	1.6	3.6	2.5
Scheduled Tribe	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
BC	0	3	3	0.0	2.1	1.0
Other Caste Hindu	0	15	15	0.0	13.4	6.7
Muslim	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unspecified (one person)	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
All	2	22	24	0.5	5.7	3.0

NOTE 4: Graduates are persons who have completed B.A/B.Com/B.Sc or equivalent degree. Persons with diploma in various technical and vocational courses are not included.

In terms of asset groups, the two female graduates come from Q1 and Q4 and both are SCs, as already noted. Of the 22 male graduates, two-thirds come from the top quintile Q5. Four male graduates belong to Q4, two to Q3 and one is actually from the bottom asset quintile. There are really no surprises in these outcomes, except possibly that of finding a graduate in the lowest asset quintile

Table 3.20 *Graduates in the age group 25 years and above, by asset quintile, by sex, Kothapalle 2005*

Asset quintile	Number of graduates			As percentage of total population (25 years and above)		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Q1	0	1	1	0.0	1.6	0.8
Q2	1	0	1	1.2	0.0	0.7
Q3	0	2	2	0.0	2.6	1.3
Q4	1	4	5	1.1	5.2	3.0
Q5	0	15	15	0.0	14.9	7.4
All	2	22	24	0.5	5.7	3.0

Let us now look at the situation with regard to a slightly lower level of educational achievement, namely completion of twelve years of formal education, for persons 25 years and older. The data, sex-wise and across social groups, is presented in Table 3.21. The distribution by asset quintile is given in Table 3.22

Table 3.21 *Population in the age group 25 years and above who have completed 12 years of formal education, by social group, by sex, Kothapalle 2005*

Social group	Number			As percentage of total population (25 years and above)		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Scheduled Caste	4	10	14	3.2	9.1	5.9
Scheduled Tribe	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
BC	0	8	8	0.0	5.5	2.6
Other Caste Hindu	5	31	36	4.4	27.7	16.0
Muslim	1	1	2	14.3	16.7	15.4
Unspecified	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
All	10	50	60	2.4	13.1	7.5

As may by now be expected, the Other Caste Hindus have the largest proportions of persons with 12 years for formal education, with respect to both females and males, if we leave out the small number of Muslims. This is especially so in respect of males, and by a large margin over the others. It is also the case that the percentage of females completing 12 years of formal education is much lower than is the case for males. The important point to note is that SCs outperform BCs in respect of both females and males, and perform nearly as well as the Other Caste Hindu in respect of females.

Table 3.22 *Population in the age group 25 years and above who have completed 12 years of formal education by asset quintile, by sex, Kothapalle 2005*

Asset quintile	Number			As percentage of total population (25 years and above)		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Q1	1	4	5	1.5	6.6	3.9
Q2	1	2	3	1.2	3.0	2.0
Q3	2	4	6	2.6	5.1	3.9
Q4	3	10	13	3.3	13.0	7.8
Q5	3	30	33	2.9	29.7	16.3
All	10	50	60	2.4	13.1	7.5

The distribution of males and females 25 years or older with twelve years of completed formal education brings out once again the very large gender differentials. Not even 3 per cent of females in the age group complete twelve years of formal education. The proportion for males is around one in eight, quite modest, but far ahead of females. The distribution across asset quintiles contains no surprises, with the percentages generally rising as one move up the quintiles. Not much should be made of the marginally better percentages for Q1 as against Q2, since the numbers involved are quite small.

Staying with educational achievement, let us take a look at the picture, across social groups and asset quintiles, of the achievement of completion of at least ten years of formal education among those aged 25 years or older.

Table 3.23 *Population in the age group 25 years and above who have completed 10 years of formal education, by social group, by sex, Kothapalle 2005*

Social group	Number			As percentage of total population (25 years and above)		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Scheduled Caste	12	21	33	9.5	19.1	13.9
Scheduled Tribe	1	0	1	12.5	0.0	6.3
BC	3	25	28	1.8	17.1	9.1
Other Caste Hindu	14	52	66	12.4	46.4	29.3
Muslim	1	2	3	14.3	33.3	23.1
Unspecified	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
All	31	100	131	7.4	26.1	16.4

The picture in respect of completion of ten years of formal education is very similar to that for 12 years. In terms of the numerically significant social groups, the Other Caste Hindus are ahead of the others by a large margin for males and a more modest margin for females. SCs follow closely with respect to females, but at some distance with respect to males. BCs do very poorly with respect to females but perform marginally better than SCs in respect of males. The numbers in respect of STs and Muslims, being very small, are not discussed.

It is noteworthy that SCs outperform BCs even with regard to males when it comes to the percentage of graduates and those completing twelve years of formal education, but are marginally worse off in respect of those completing ten years of formal education. This brings out the better 'conversion' rate of the SCs. To elaborate, of the 21 SC males who completed ten years of formal education, 10 have gone on to complete twelve years and 4 have actually become graduates. The corresponding numbers for BC males are 25, 8 and 3. The numbers for the Other Caste Hindus are 52, 31 and 15, and their conversion rates are higher than for the SCs and BCs. When it comes to females, SCs outperform both BCs and Other Caste Hindu in terms of conversion rates from completion often years of formal education to becoming a graduate!

Table 3.24 *Population in the age group 25 years and above who have completed 10 years of formal education, by asset quintile, by sex, Kothapalle 2005*

Asset quintile	Number			As percentage of total population (25 years and above)		
	Female	Male	Persons	Female	Male	Persons
Q1	3	8	11	4.5	13.1	8.6
Q2	2	9	11	2.5	13.6	7.5
Q3	5	13	18	6.4	16.7	11.5
Q4	9	20	29	10.0	26.0	17.4
Q5	12	50	62	11.8	49.5	30.5
All	31	100	131	7.4	26.1	16.4

With regard to distribution across asset quintiles, the pattern is similar to that observed in respect of completion of twelve years of formal education. Broadly, the bottom three quintiles are clustered close together, the top two do better, and Q5 is far ahead in respect of the percentage of males completing ten years of formal education. The highest asset quintile has the best rates of conversion from completing ten years of formal education to completing twelve years to becoming graduates.

3.8 *Households with Children*

The presence or absence of literate adults in a household may influence the decision to send children to school. In this sub-section, we look at the distribution of *households with children* by the presence or absence of adults with specified levels of education. Table 3.25 provides the distribution of *households with children* without literate adults by social group. Table 3.26 provides the same with respect to asset quintiles.

Table 3.25 *Distribution of households with children, by absence of adult literates, by social groups, Kothapalle 2005*

Social group	Without a literate adult female		Without a literate adult male		Without any literate adult	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Scheduled Caste	19	26.4	17	23.6	5	6.9
Scheduled Tribe	6	66.7	5	55.6	3	33.3
BC	34	31.5	26	24.1	10	9.3
Other Caste Hindu	2	4.4	3	6.7	0	0.0
Muslim	1	33.3	0	0.0	0	0.0
All	62	26.2	51	21.5	18	7.6

One-third of the ST households with children do not have any adult literate. The proportion for ST households without a literate male adult is higher at 56 per cent and even higher for females at two-thirds. Among the numerically significant social groups, only Other Caste Hindus do not report households without any literate adult, though they do have a few households without either a literate male adult or a literate female adult. The SCs and BCs are more or less on par with each other with regard to the presence or otherwise of a literate adult male in the household, but BCs fare worse than SCs when it comes to those without a literate adult female.

The picture across asset quintiles is as one would expect, with the proportion of households without either a female or a male or any literate adult declining as one goes up the asset quintiles. The percentage of households without a literate adult female is higher than of those without a literate adult male for the first, second and the top quintile. The percentages are equal in Q3 and Q4. The sharpest difference occurs in Q5 where the percentage of households without a literate adult female at 10.6 per cent is much higher than of those without a literate adult male, though it must be kept in mind that we are dealing with small numbers, 5 and 1 in this case.

Table 3.26 *Distribution of households with children by absence of adult literates, by asset quintile, Kothapalle 2005*

Asset quintile	Without adult female literate		Without adult male literate		Without any adult literate	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Q1	19	39.6	16	33.3	9	18.8
Q2	18	37.5	14	29.2	4	8.3
Q3	11	23.4	11	23.4	3	6.4
Q4	9	19.2	9	19.2	2	4.3
Q5	5	10.6	1	2.1	0	0.0
All	62	26.2	51	21.5	18	7.6

Just as the absence of a literate adult in the household can be taken as a negative factor in the educational environment of children, the presence of adults with educational achievement of some level would be a positive factor. Let us explore this aspect briefly now. Tables 3.27 and 3.28 present data on the number and percentage of households with children with at least one male graduate, by social group and asset quintile respectively.

Table 3.27 *Households with children with at least one male graduate, by social group, Kothapalle 2005*

Social group	Number	As percentage of all households (with children) within the social group
Scheduled Caste	1	1.4
Scheduled Tribe	0	0.0
BC	2	1.9
Other Caste Hindu	11	24.4
Muslim	0	0.0
All	14	5.9

Table 3.28 *Households with children with at least one male graduate, by asset quintile, Kothapalle 2005*

Asset quintile	Number	As percentage of all households (with children) within asset quintile
Q1	0	0.0
Q2	0	0.0
Q3	0	0.0
Q4	3	6.4
Q5	11	23.4
All	14	5.9

It is clear that children from Other Caste Hindu households are advantageously placed in this regard. Nearly one-fourth of all Other Caste Hindu households with children have at least one male

graduate. All other social groups do very poorly in this regard. With regard to asset quintiles, the top quintile is best placed, followed at some distance by Q4.

Finally, let us look at the picture in relation to a more modest requirement: the presence of at least one female who has passed the tenth class. The relevant information is presented for social groups in Table 3.29 and for asset quintiles in Table 3.30

Table 3.29 *Households with children with at least one female 10th pass by social group, Kothapalle 2005*

Social group	Number	As percentage of all households (with children) within the social group
Scheduled Caste	20	27.8
Scheduled Tribe	1	11.1
BC	22	20.4
Other Caste Hindu	25	55.6
Muslim	1	33.3
All	69	29.1

Leaving aside the small number of Muslim households with children (3 in all), the picture that emerges is of considerable gap between Other Caste Hindus and the rest in this regard. Interestingly, more than a quarter of SC households with children have at least one female who has passed the tenth standard as against one-fifth for BCs. There are, in all, 9 ST households with children, but there is only one with a female having passed the tenth class.

Table 3.30 *Households with children with at least one female 10th pass, by asset quintile, Kothapalle 2005*

Asset quintile	Number	As percentage of all households (with children) within the asset quintile
Q1	12	25.0
Q2	10	20.8
Q3	11	23.4
Q4	12	25.5
Q5	24	51.1
All	69	29.1

The picture across asset quintiles throws up no surprises. The point to note is that the top quintile, with slightly over half the households having at least one female member who has passed the tenth

class, is in a distinct zone. In all other quintiles, the proportion lies between one fourth and one-fifth.

Before concluding this section on the state of the people of Kothapalle in relation to education, let us take stock. Our analysis has covered school attendance, children and work, literacy among the general population and among adults, educational achievements and some characteristics of households with children that have a bearing on the household environment for the education of children. The overall picture that emerges is one of considerable deprivation in terms of access to and achievements in education. To begin with, not all children aged 6 to 18 years-or even 6 to 14 years-are attending school. Approximately one in eight children aged 6 to 18 years and close to one in six girls in that age groups are out of school. Second, the literacy rates are quite low overall and especially low for females. Third, the Scheduled Tribes- with 11 households in this village, a numerically small group-are hugely deprived educationally. Fourth, in all social groups and in all asset classes, the gender gap is large and against the female for every positive indicator of relevance to education.

While the relatively better performance of SCs, especially with regard to the educational achievements of females, is a positive feature, the achievement levels themselves are quite modest, even for Other Caste Hindus and for the highest asset quintile. The BCs do especially poorly in terms of the education of females.

There has clearly been improvement in literacy levels as shown by the much better literacy rates for the population aged 7 years or older as compared to those for the adult population. But there is still a very long way to go for Kothapalle. The absence of a high school in the village is a serious impediment for girls wishing to study beyond the upper primary level. The fact that very few children in the age group of 0 to 6 years attend the anganwadi is striking, especially against the fact that a larger number of children in this age group go to a private nursery school.

4. *AMENITIES*

The literature on child poverty has brought out the importance of access of children to basic amenities. In this subsection, in order to focus on the state of amenities as they relate to children, we present and discuss data on amenities *for households with children.*

4.1 *Housing*

Table 4.1 and Figure 4.1 present data on the distribution of households with children by social group and type of housing. Tribal households fare very poorly in terms of housing conditions. Two-thirds of them live in katcha houses. In the case of all other social groups, the share of katcha houses to total is less than 5 per cent. In Kothapalle, a number of households were displaced in the 1980s on account of submergence caused by construction of Lower Maner Dam. The submerged area included parts of the village where dalit and Gouda (BC) households resided. These households were provided homestead land in a new settlement developed near the highway and were provided pucca constructed houses/assistance for construction of pucca houses by the government in the early 1980s. Assistance for construction of pucca houses was also provided to a number of Scheduled Caste and BC households between 1997 and 2005 through public housing schemes. In the PARI survey conducted in 2005, 18 Scheduled Caste households and 8 BC households reported having received assistance through public housing schemes during this period.

Table 4.1 *Distribution of households with children, by type of housing, by social groups, Kothapalle 2005* (in per cent)

Social group	Katcha	Pucca	Semi-pucca	All
Scheduled Caste	4.2	91.7	4.2	100.0
Scheduled Tribe	66.7	22.2	11.1	100.0
BC	1.9	92.6	5.6	100.0
Other Caste Hindu	0.0	84.4	15.6	100.0
Muslim	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0
All	4.6	88.2	7.2	100.0

NOTE 5: Pucca houses are houses with both roof and walls constructed of permanent materials. Katcha houses are houses with both roof and walls constructed of temporary materials. Semi-pucca houses are those with either roof or walls constructed of permanent materials. (This is the standard definition followed by the Census of India and the National Sample Survey Organisation, Government of India).
Pucca materials include cement, concrete, over-burnt bricks, hollow cement or ash bricks, stone, stone blocks, jack boards (cement plastered reeds), iron, zinc or other metal sheets, timber, tiles, slate, corrugated iron, asbestos cement sheet, veneer, plywood, artificial wood of synthetic material and polyvinyl chloride (PVC) material.
Non-pucca materials include unburnt bricks, bamboo, mud, grass, leaves, reeds thatch, polythene, and plastic.

Figure 4.1 *Distribution of households with children, by type of housing, by social group, Kothapalle, 2005* (in percent)

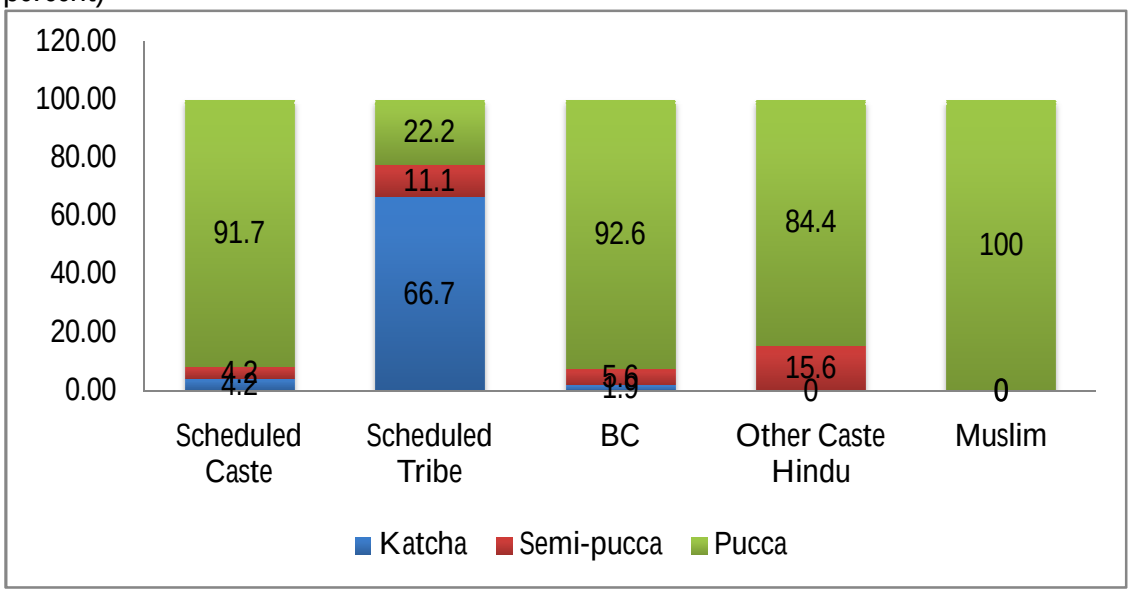


Table 4.2 shows the distribution of households by type of house and asset quintile. It is only in the bottom quintile that we have a significant share of households living in katcha houses.

However, the categorization of house types into katcha, pucca and semi-pucca, relates only to one aspect of the quality of shelter. Of importance in assessing the quality of shelter would also be other aspects such as the number of rooms. Tables 4.3 and 4.4, which present the distribution of households living in one-room houses by social group and asset quintile respectively, show immediately that nearly 30 per cent of households in the village live in single room houses, which puts the state of housing in Kothapalle in perspective.

Table 4.2 *Distribution of households with children, by type of housing, by asset quintile, Kothapalle 2005* (in per cent)

Asset quintile	Katcha	Pucca	Semi-pucca	All
Q1	20.8	75.0	4.2	100.0
Q2	0.0	93.8	6.3	100.0
Q3	2.1	93.6	4.3	100.0
Q4	0.0	89.4	10.6	100.0
Q5	0.0	89.4	10.6	100.0
All	4.6	88.2	7.2	100.0

Figure 4.2 *Distribution of households with children, by type of housing, by asset quintile, Kothapalle, 2005* (in percent)

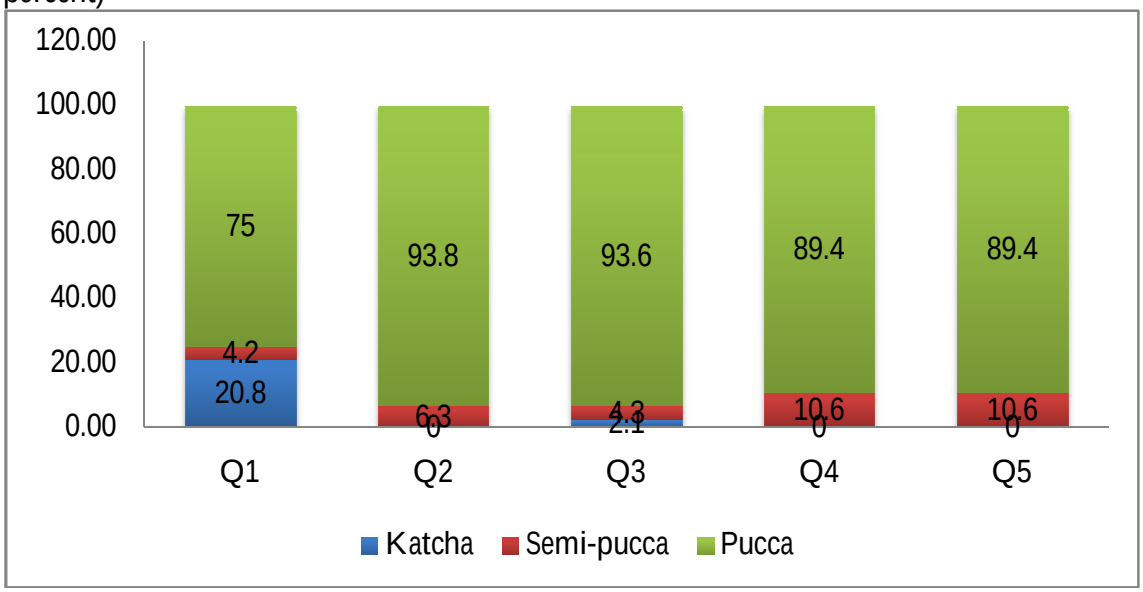


Table 4.3 *Number of households with children living in single room houses by social groups, Kothapalle 2005*

Social group	Number of households	As percentage of all households
Scheduled Caste	26	36.1
Scheduled Tribe	3	33.3
BC	34	31.5
Other Caste Hindu	5	11.1
Muslim	2	66.7
All	70	29.5

Table 4.4 *Number of households with children living in single room houses by asset quintile, Kothapalle 2005*

Asset quintile	Number of households	As percentage of all households
Q1	32	66.7
Q2	17	35.4
Q3	10	21.3
Q4	5	10.6
Q5	6	12.8
All	70	29.5

NOTE 6: A room indicates a separate living quarter. Kitchen and covered verandah are not considered as rooms.

While it appeared from the data on house types that there was little difference among SCs, BCs and Other Caste Hindus in this regard, Table 4.3 brings out the fact that the Other Caste Hindus fare much better than the others. Around a third of the STs, a somewhat higher percentage of SCs and slightly more than three-tenths of the BCs live in single room houses, while two out of the three Muslim houses with children also live in such houses. Two-thirds of the households in the lowest asset quintile and more than one-third of those in the next quintile live in single-room houses (Table 4.4). Even in the top quintile, more than one-eighth of households live in one-room houses.

4.2 *Access to electricity for domestic use*

Data on the distribution of households with children by access to electric connection for domestic use by social group and by asset quintile are presented in Tables 4.5 and 4.6 respectively. Four of the nine ST households with children lack an electric connection for domestic use. Other social groups fare better, but it must be noted that nearly one-eighth of all households in the village lack an electric connection for domestic use.

Table 4.5 *Households with children with electric connections for domestic use, by social group, Kothapalle 2005*

Social group	Number of households	As percentage of all households
Scheduled Caste	61	84.7
Scheduled Tribe	5	55.6
BC	101	93.5
Other Caste Hindu	40	88.9
Muslim	3	100.0
All	210	88.6

Table 4.6 *Households with children with electric connections for domestic use, by asset quintile, Kothapalle 2005*

Asset quintile	Number of households	As percentage of all households
Q1	37	77.1
Q2	42	87.5
Q3	43	91.5
Q4	45	95.7
Q5	43	91.5
All	210	88.6

Nearly one-fourth of the households in the poorest wealth quintile and one-eighth of those in the next quintile lack a domestic electricity connection. Even in the highest quintile, nearly ten per cent lack a domestic electricity connection.

The existence of an electricity connection is of course only a necessary and not a sufficient condition for obtaining electricity! The latter depends, among other things, on the availability and supply of power by the service provider. Given the inequalities in housing in terms of the number of rooms and their sizes as also the variation in ownership of electrically operated devices such as fans, there is bound to be significant variation in household electricity consumption across social groups and asset quintiles.

4.3 *Drinking Water*

Table 4.7 shows the distribution of households with children by primary source of drinking water. While a third of all households with children depend on hand pumps, another three-tenths get drinking water from a tap. Slightly over one-third of all households, depend on non-covered sources of drinking water, while 4 households (1.7 per cent) depend on unspecified sources.

Table 4.7 *Distribution of households with children by primary source of drinking water, Kothapalle 2005*

Source	Number of households	As percentage of all households
Borewell	7	3.0
Handpump	79	33.3
Pond/tank/lake	4	1.7
Powered tubewell	26	11.0
Tap	73	30.8
Well	44	18.6
Unspecified	4	1.7
All	237	100.0

How do various social groups access drinking water? What is the variation in sources of drinking water across asset quintiles? Tables 4.8 and 4.9 present the relevant data for social groups and asset quintiles respectively.

Table 4.8 *Households with children with access to covered source of drinking water, by social group, Kothapalle 2005*

Social group	Number	As percentage of all households
Scheduled Caste	62	86.1
Scheduled Tribe	7	77.8
BC	75	69.4
Other Caste Hindu	38	84.4
Muslim	3	100.0
All	185	78.1

There is not very large variation across social groups in respect of access to a covered source of drinking water. Nearly thirty per cent of BC households and close to one-fourth of ST households lack such access. Interestingly, SCs fare and are on par with the Other Caste Hindus in this regard.

Table 4.9 *Households with children with access to covered source of drinking water, by asset quintiles, Kothapalle 2005*

Asset quintile	Number of households	As percentage of all households
Q1	39	81.25
Q2	38	79.17
Q3	38	80.85
Q4	35	74.47
Q5	35	74.47
All	185	78.06

There is even less variation in access to a covered source of drinking water across asset quintiles. In all quintiles, around four-fifth of the households have access to a covered source of drinking water.

Access to a covered source of water is regarded in official statistics as 'safe' water, but that is of course not always true.

An important question, often with gender implications, is how far the source of drinking water from the household. Tables 4.10 and 4.11 present the distribution of households with children by distance of the site of the household from a drinking water source, by social group and asset quintile respectively. There is both general deprivation and significant inequality in this regard.

Table 4.10 *Number of households with children, by distance from source of drinking water, by social group, Kothapalle 2005*

Social group	Within homestead	≤ 500 metres	> 500 metres	Unspecified
Scheduled Caste	31	18	22	1
Scheduled Tribe	0	7	0	2
BC	24	43	31	10
Other Caste Hindu	25	14	4	2
Muslim	0	3	0	0
All	80	85	57	15

None of the ST households reports a source of drinking water within the homestead. Only 31 out of 72 Scheduled Caste households with children – slightly over two-fifths - have a drinking water source within the homestead. The situation is even worse for BCs, with only 24 out of 108 households with such access. The fact that around 30 per cent of SCs and BCs have to travel more than half a kilometer to access drinking water strengthens the picture of considerable deprivation. Other Caste Hindus fare better than the rest, with slightly more than half the households having a source of drinking water within the homestead.

Table 4.11 *Number of households with children, by distance from source of drinking water, by asset quintiles, Kothapalle 2005*

Asset quintile	Within homestead	≤ 500 metres	> 500 metres	Unspecified
Q1	18	17	9	4
Q2	13	19	15	1
Q3	14	17	14	2
Q4	13	18	11	5
Q5	22	14	8	3
All	80	85	57	15

How does the picture look across asset quintiles? There is not a great deal of variation across the asset quintiles. Overall, 70 per cent of all households have access to drinking water within the household or within 500 meters. Slightly over one-third have such access within the homestead. Nearly a fourth of all households have to ravel more than half a kilometre to access drinking water. These ratios do not vary much across asset quintiles. It appears that location rather than asset status is a more important determinant of the distances involved in accessing drinking water.

4.4 *Lavatories*

Sanitation is an important factor in preventive health care. Provision of adequate facilities in this regard is an essential part of public health policy. Lavatories thus acquire importance in any discussion of amenities. Tables 4.12 and 4.13 present the distribution of households with children without access to a lavatory, by social group and asset quintile respectively. The situation is shown in bar chart form in Figures 4.3 and 4.4.

Nearly three-fifths of all households with children in Kothapalle do not have access to lavatories. Only one of the nine ST households has access to a lavatory. More than half of SC and 65.74 per cent of BC households do not have access to a lavatory. It is only among Other Caste Hindus that a majority of households have access to a lavatory.

Table 4.12 *Households with children without access to lavatories, by social group, Kothapalle 2005*

Social group	Number of households	As percentage of all households
Scheduled Caste	40	55.6
Scheduled Tribe	8	88.9
BC	71	65.7
Other Caste Hindu	17	37.8
Muslim	2	66.7
All	138	58.2

Figure 4.3 *Households with children without access to lavatories, by social group, Kothapalle, 2005* (in percent)

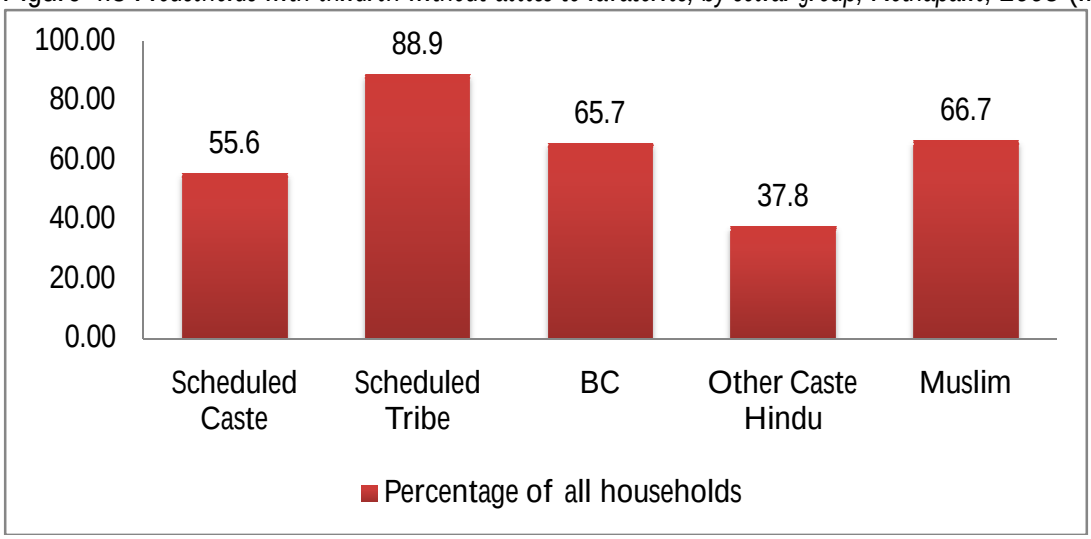
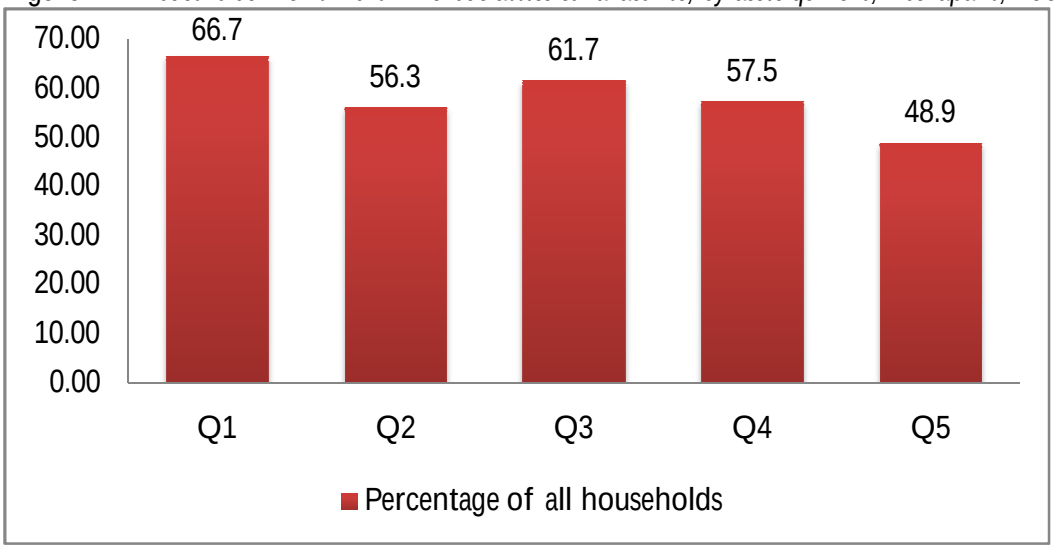


Table 4.13 *Households with children without access to lavatories, by asset quintiles, Kothapalle 2005*

Asset quintile	Number of households	As percentage of all households
Q1	32	66.7
Q2	27	56.3
Q3	29	61.7
Q4	27	57.5
Q5	23	48.9
All	138	58.2

Figure 4.4 *Households with children without access to lavatories, by asset quintile, Kothapalle, 2005* (in percent)



As for the variation across asset quintiles, it is only in the highest quintile that a majority -and a slim majority at that – of households have access to a lavatory. In the poorest quintile, two-thirds of the households do not have access to a lavatory. The situation in other quintiles is not very different either. The overall situation is one of very poor access to sanitation.

Let us take stock of the situation in Kothapalle with respect to household amenities. Our examination of the endowments of households with children in respect of certain basic household amenities-*domestic electricity connections, pucca houses with more than just a shanty room in which to live, safe water sources within households and access to latrines*-shows that the general picture was one of highly inadequate achievement for the majority, and some degree of inequality across social groups and asset classes. Persons in the top asset quintile and the social group of Other Caste Hindus are much better provided for than the rest. The most disturbing feature, with respect to the provision or lack thereof of amenities, has been in respect of providing the village and households with lavatories. The vast majority of the population has to defecate in open spaces, an affront to human dignity, a hazard to human health and hugely problematic for women in a patriarchal culture in terms of the lack of privacy.

5. *ECONOMIC SITUATION OF WOMEN*

5.1 *Marital Status*

Table 5.1 shows the marital status of women aged 18 years and above in Kothapalle as per the FAS survey of 2005.

Table 5.1 *Distribution of women (18 years and above) by marital status, Kothapalle 2005*

Marital status	Number of women	As percentage of all women
Never married	52	10.4
Currently married	352	70.3
Widowed	91	18.2
Separated/ divorced	6	1.1
All	501	100.0

Close to one-fifth of women aged 18 years and above in Kothapalle are widows.

Table 5.1a shows the age distribution of widows aged 18 years and above. Three-fifths of the widows are 60 years of age or older. The proportion of widows in the female population aged 70 years and above at 82.1 per cent is close to the figure of 80 per cent that emerges from the 1981 Census. The percentage of widows aged 60 years or older in the female population of this age group at 60 per cent is also close to the figure of 58 per cent that comes from the second national family health survey NFHS 2.

Table 5.1a *Age distribution of widowed women (18 years and above), Kothapalle 2005*

Age group	Number	As percentage of all women within the age group
18 years to 24 years	0	0.0
25 years to 34 years	5	3.8
35 years to 49 years	15	11.0
50 years to 59 years	16	29.1
60 years to 69 years	23	40.4
$\geq$ 70 years	32	82.1
All	91	18.2

However, the proportion of widows to all women in the age group of 18 to 49 years at 5.7 per cent is significantly higher than the corresponding figure of 3.2 per cent in NFHS-3.

5.2 *Women in the workforce*

A key aspect of the condition of women in a society is the extent to which they are in the workforce. Table 5.2 provides the distribution of the proportions of working population among males and females 18 years and older by social group in Kothapalle. Table 5.3 provides the data on work participation rate of women aged 18 years and older by marital status. Table 5.4 presents a picture of the activity profile of women aged 18 years and older.

Table 5.2 *Proportion of working population (18 years and above), by sex, by social group, Kothapalle 2005* (in percent)

Social group	Female	Male	Persons
Scheduled Caste	62.0	78.3	69.6
Scheduled Tribe	64.3	100.0	79.2
BC	66.8	78.1	72.2
Other Caste Hindu	45.6	74.5	60.1
Muslim	75.0	62.5	68.8
All	60.2	77.4	68.4

Leaving aside the small number of Muslim women and men, it is clear that male work participation rates (WPR) are consistently higher than that for females in all social groups. It is also clear that the WPR for females aged 18 years or older is particularly low for Other Caste Hindus while the WPR for ST males is the highest. For SCs, STs and BCs, the WPR for females is very similar and between three-fifths and two-thirds. The WPR for widowed women is the lowest at 38.5 per cent, which reflects largely the fact that three-fifth of them are 60 years or older (Table 5.3).

Table 5.3 *Work participation rate of women (18 years and above), by marital status, Kothapalle 2005* (in percent)

Marital status	WPR
Never married	44.2
Currently married	70.5
Widowed	38.5
Divorced/ separated	100.0
All	62.3

Looking at the activity profile of women aged 18 years and above presented in Table 5.4, it is clear that agricultural wage labour, and to a lesser extent, cultivation constitute the main activities of the women aged 18 years or older in the workforce. Only a very small percentage of women in the

workforce aged 18 years or above work in salaried employment. The profile of activity of adult women in Kothapalle is of course typical of most of rural India and rural Andhra Pradesh.

Table 5.4 *Activity profile of women (18 years and above), Kothapalle 2005*

Occupation	Number of women participating in the activity	As percentage of all women
Cultivation	76	15.2
Agricultural wage employment	220	43.9
Animal husbandry	7	1.4
Non-agricultural wage employment	28	5.6
Non-agricultural self- employment	15	3.0
Salaried employment	7	1.4
Other	9	1.8

Note: The percentages of women in all activities do not add up to the WPR because individuals may be involved in more than one activity and animal husbandry is not included as work in our definition.

WOMEN ENGAGED IN NON-AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT

Kothapalle showed greater diversification of income generation than Ananthavaram and Bukkacherla, and the location of this village on a major highway is clearly a very important factor in this process. However, higher income diversification at the household level does not always indicate a higher diversification of the female workforce. The occupational structure of the female workforce in Kothapalle was very similar to the other two villages.

The majority of female non-agricultural workers in Kothapalle were engaged in non-agricultural wage work. Earthwork generated by the government employment schemes, and construction work within the village and nearby are the primary forms of wage employment. Two women are engaged as sweepers and quite a few are engaged in beedi making. All these women are from SC, ST and OBC households.

Of the 15 self-employed women, eight earn small incomes from tailoring, and five run small shops. One woman, belonging to the Gowda caste, who have been traditionally involved in toddy tapping, was a toddy seller, and one ST woman was engaged in making and selling ropes. All self-employed women belonged to OBC or Other Caste Hindu households, except a single SC woman and the ST rope-maker.

There were seven women in salaried jobs in Kothapalle. Surprisingly, five of them were SC, and only one Caste Hindu and one Muslim. The salaried women were employed as nurses, receptionists, teachers, anganwadi worker and office attender. The Caste Hindu salaried woman was the Sarpanch of the village panchayat.

5.3 *Women as Heads of Households*

Tables 5.5 and 5.6 present the distribution of female and male heads of households by social group and asset quintile respectively.

Table 5.5 *Distribution of heads of the households, by sex, by social group, Kothapalle 2005*

Social group	Number		Percentage	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
Scheduled Caste	17	101	14.4	85.6
Scheduled Tribe	2	9	18.2	81.8
BC	13	137	8.7	91.3
Other Caste Hindu	8	79	9.2	90.8
Muslim	0	5	0.0	100.0
Unspecified	0	1	0.0	100.0
All	40	332	10.8	89.3

Overall, one in ten households is headed by a female in Kothapalle. The proportion is distinctly higher for SC and ST households, though it should be noted that the numbers are quite small in the case of STs.

Table 5.6 *Distribution of heads of the households, by sex, by asset quintile, Kothapalle 2005*

Social group	Number		Percentage	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
Q1	16	59	21.3	78.7
Q2	12	63	16.0	84.0
Q3	5	69	6.8	93.2
Q4	6	68	8.1	91.9
Q5	1	73	1.4	98.7
All	40	332	10.8	89.3

The percentage of female headed households is, as Table 5.6 brings out, the highest for the poorest quintile, followed by the next one. This is consistent with the fact that females have far less of access to land and other productive assets than men in most of rural India.

We now proceed to explore some of the characteristics of female headed households. First, Table 5.7 brings home the point that in most instances, a female head of household is also a widow. Out of 40 female heads in Kothapalle, 35 were widows and 2 were divorced or separated.

Table 5.7 *Distribution of heads of households, by marital status, Kothapalle 2005*

Marital status	Female	Percentage
Never married	1	2.5
Currently married	2	5.0
Widowed	35	87.5
Divorced/ separated	2	5.0
All	40	100.0

Moreover, as Table 5.7a shows, a much larger proportion of female headed households happen to be single person households than is the case for male-headed households. Out of 40 female headed households in Kothapalle, 18 were one person households. In other words, these households were female headed by default. On the other hand, of 332 male-headed households, only 7 were single person households. Since all single person households-whether the single member-cum-head is male

or female - consist of a single adult member, it is no surprise that their heads are either widowed or divorced or separated.

Table 5.7a *Number of single person households, Kothapalle 2005*

Marital status	Number		Percentage	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
Never married	0	0	0.0	0.0
Currently married	0	0	0.0	0.0
Widowed	17	6	94.4	85.7
Divorced/ separated	1	1	5.6	14.3
All	18	7	100.0	100.0

Finally, let us look at the age distribution of heads of households for both male and female headed households. Table 5.8 presents the distribution of female heads by age group while Table 5.8a does the same for male heads.

5.8 *Distribution of female head of households, by age group, Kothapalle 2005*

Age group	Number	Percentage
up to 34 years	5	12.5
35 to 49 years	11	27.5
50 to 60 years	14	35.0
Above 60 years	10	25.0
All	40	100.0

Table 5.8a *Distribution of male head of households, by age group, Kothapalle 2005*

Age group	Number	Percentage
Up to 34 years	72	21.7
35 years to 49 years	125	37.7
50 years to 60 years	70	21.1
Above 60 years	65	19.5
All	332	100.0

While 60 per cent of female heads are aged 50 years or older, only 40.6 per cent of male heads are more than 50 years. It is likely that there are many females in male-headed households who are older than the head, but the converse is very rarely the case.

The rather brief look we have taken in this section at some aspects of the status of women in Kothapalle with respect to marital status, work participation rates, activity profile, and some characteristics of male and female heads of households demonstrate clearly the unequal status of women and their multiple deprivations.

REFLECTIONS ON THE THREE FAS VILLAGE SURVEYS

Let us first recall the key findings valid for all three villages from our reports on the villages of Ananthavaram, Bukkacherla and Kothapalle.

1. **In terms of asset ownership:**
    - SCs and STs are generally very poor. STs do not figure at all in the top asset quintile, while SCs barely do.
    - BCs are generally more wealthy than SCs, but not by a great deal.
    - Other Hindu Castes account for the largest share of the top asset quintile.
    - The top quintile stands distinctly apart from all other quintiles.
    - The maximum asset holding in the fourth quintile does not exceed 3.5 lakh rupees. The highest median Q4 asset value is around 2.5 lakh rupees.

2. **With respect to school attendance and child labour:**
    - The unacceptable practice of child labour continues.
    - Universal schooling remains elusive, with a not insignificant proportion of children, especially girls, out of school.
    - Attendance percentages fall off sharply beyond the age of 14 years, especially among girls.
    - STs fare most poorly in terms of attendance.
    - BCs and SCs, who fare better than STs, do not differ much in terms of school attendance.
    - The top asset group stands apart from all others in terms of school attendance, as do the other Hindu Castes.

3. **In terms of literacy rates:**
    - Male literacy rates, both 7+ and adult, do not differ much across all three villages
    - Female literacy rates are much lower, and sex differentials large
    - STs are most deprived in terms of literacy rates, both 7+ and adult
    - SCs generally fare distinctly more poorly than BCs.

- A comparison of 7+ and adult literacy rates shows a narrowing of differences across social groups

- Top asset quintile and the other Hindu castes stand apart

4. **Overall, levels of educational deprivation remain high:**

   - There is massive educational deprivation, with STs and SCs doing especially poorly

   - Other Hindu castes do better than the others, but even among them, the educational achievements are modest.

   - The SCs and BCs are not far apart, especially in relation to the educational deprivation among females

   - The top asset group does a great deal better than all others, but even its achievements are modest

5. **With regard to housing amenities that influence child well being:**
   - STs and SCs are most poorly off.
   - Other Hindu Castes are least deprived.
   - The same is true of the top asset quintile.
   - All social groups and asset quintiles have poor access to lavatories.

Let us, finally, draw some implications for policy with regard to child well being, from our analysis of data from the three Andhra Pradesh villages.

An important lesson that emerges is that improvements in household economic status do not necessarily imply better outcomes for children. Even among households in the top three quintiles - especially in the third and to some extent the fourth – we found childhood deprivations, such as children, especially girls, being engaged in labour as well as not being in school. One implication of

this is that policies for children, such as free schooling or scholarships or noon meals, should not be targeted narrowly in terms of income or asset criteria.

A second and corollary policy implication is that cash transfers cannot solve the problem, where there are specific household constraints or constraints on the supply side. For instance, when a sibling is kept back to take care of a disabled child, a cash transfer is not a solution. An important imperative to ensure universal enrolment and attendance, especially of girls, is the provision of child and elderly care facilities.

The distance of a secondary school from the village is also critical to girls going beyond the primary and elementary levels of schooling. More generally, there is a need for more schools and/or better and cheaper transport of children to and from school, for instance, using dedicated public transport.

The fact of massive educational deprivation in the adult population has important implications for children's educational achievements. The fact that the majority of households with children do not have an adult female with even a tenth or twelfth class pass, let alone a graduate degree, has implications for the learning environment of children. While universal, free and compulsory education is absolutely necessary to eliminate educational deprivation, the issue of continuing or adult education is also relevant for the improvement of the learning environment that children face at home.

The issue of the special educational needs of children with disabilities is currently not on the policy radar[35]. There seems to be no state provision in this regard in rural Andhra Pradesh. The creation of a cadre of professional special educators through massive expansion in the required educational and training facilities and their recruitment into rural schools is an urgent necessity.

Finally, provision of child-friendly rural housing, with a focus on SCs and STs and Muslims, should command greater policy attention.

[35] The disabled population comprises about 2 per cent of the population of rural Andhra Pradesh according to Census 2001.