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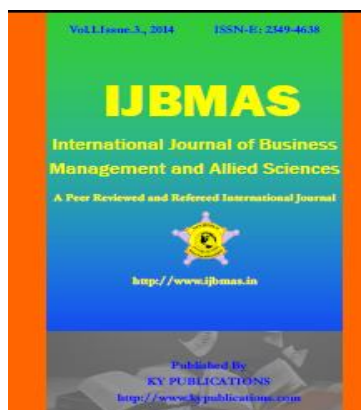
**LITERACY LEVELS OF DIFFERENT CASTE GROUP INDIVIDUALS IN SAMPLE MANDALS
OF NELLORE DISTRICT**

Dr.K.MAHESWARA RAO,^{1*} G.RAMESH BABU,² Dr.D.MALAKONDAIAH³

¹Academic Consultant, Dept. of Economics, V.S University, P.G. Centre, Kavali

² Research Scholar, Dept. of Commerce, V.S University, P.G. Centre, Kavali

³Teacher, Mandal Parishad, Jaladanki



ABSTRACT

The term "Human Development" has come to be accepted in the development economics literature as an expansion of human capabilities, a widening of choices, an enhancement of freedoms and a fulfillment of Human-rights. Rising incomes and expanding outputs, in the human development framework are seen as the means and not the ends of development. Indeed, defining peoples well-being as the end of development and treating economic growth as a means have been central messages of the annual Human Development Reports being published since 1990.

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INTRODUCTION

There are several implications in adopting this type of development approach and framework. Firstly, the policy significance of income expansion in any society is obvious. Higher incomes do help many people realize valuable ends and fulfill many aspirations. Income expansion matters, especially to the poor: it enables them to gain access to many goods and services, and, potentially, to an improved quality of life. But higher incomes alone may not always guarantee the aspirations that people cherish and value greatly. For example, freedom,

power to make and take decisions, levels of environmental pollution, safety, crime and free of violence, or the quality of education and healthcare. All these may not be associated with levels of income in any predictable manner. Therefore, the focus of policy cannot be based entirely on the generation of more and more income. Aspects such as how is the additional income used, and what is the degree to which it improves the quality of people's lives must also be given equal weight.

METHODOLOGY

DATA SOURCES: The study was based on primary sources of data.

SAMPLE SELECTION

Multi-stage random sampling technique, was used in the present study to select sample households in various villages of Nellore district.

- 1) There are three revenue divisions viz., Gudur, Kavali and Nellore in Nellore District.
- 2) Twelve mandals at the rate of four mandals from each revenue division were selected using Simple Random Sampling Without Replacement (SRSWOR).
- 3) From each Mandal, two villages were chosen again using SRSWOR.
- 4) Thirteen households were selected from the first village and 12 households were selected from the second village.
- 5) Thus, the total sample size was 25 households X 12 mandals = 300 households in the district.
- 6) Specially designed and pre-tested interview schedules were used to elicit information from the sample households.

Distribution of Individuals according to the levels of Education: Having discussed the distribution of households, according to the level of household income and the average incomes of households, an attempt is made here, to analyse the distribution of sample individuals in different mandals of Nellore district, according to the level of education. For the purpose of analysis, the levels of education are divided into four categories viz, primary education covering standards one to five, secondary education covering classes from VI to X, 10+2 and higher education comprising graduation and post-graduation.

Distribution Of All Individuals According To The Level Of Education: The distribution of total sample individuals in the district, according to the level of education is furnished in Table – 1

As could be seen from Table, out of 837 sample individuals 289 individuals or 34.53 percent had only primary education. About 318 individuals accounting for about 38 percent studied up to X class. The individuals who studied up to +2 (intermediate) constituted about 12.56 percent. Another 125 individuals or 14.92 percent had higher education. In short, more than one-third of total sample individuals in the district had only primary education and they together with persons who had secondary education accounted for more than three-fourths of total sample individuals. Thus intermediary and higher education still had not reached many individuals in the district. An analysis higher education in different mandals indicated that urban mandals like Gudur, Venkatagiri, Allure and Nellore had more number of individuals with higher education.

Distribution Primary Educated Individuals In The District : There are regional and caste group variations in the distribution of primary educated individuals in Nellore district.

As could be seen from Table, the primary educated individuals are found to be the highest at 42 in the upland Udayagiri mandal. There is also considerable number of individuals with primary education in delta mandals like Nellore (33), Jaladanki (33) Gudur (30) and Alluru (27) mandals. There are very few individuals in primary education in Rapur (10), Vakadu (13), Marripadu (15), and Venkatagiri mandals (16).

There were also glaring disparities in the distribution of primary educated individuals among different castes-groups. It is pertinent to note that in the total number of primary educated individuals in Nellore district, 150 members constituting about 52 percent of total individuals belonged to BC. Primary educated SCs constituted about 20 percent while OCs accounted for another 19 percent. It could be seen from the table that ST comprised about 9 percent of primary educated individuals in the district. It should be noted that these percentages broadly equaled to the shares of these castes-groups the total population.

Distribution Secondary Educated Individuals In The District : There were more number of persons with secondary education than with primary education. At the same time, the disparities among different mandals in the number of secondary educated persons were considerably low.

As could be observed from Table the highest number of persons with secondary education was found

in Udayagiri mandal closely followed by Marripadu mandal with 36 members and Guduru mandal with 34 members. Vakadu and Alluru mandals had few secondary educated persons. Nevertheless, the differences were very less.

Among different caste groups, BCs constituted the largest segment accounting of about 48 percent. OCs who constituted about 29 percent followed BCs. While SCs accounted for about 18 percent, there were only about 6 percent of STs. These statistics clearly indicated that the shares of BCs, SCs and STs, the so called down trodden sections of the society decreased and that of OCs, the so called socially advanced sections of the society increased in secondary education when compared to primary education. In other words, the socially backward classes were also educationally backward particularly in the case of secondary education. A similar conclusion holds true in the case of 10+2 education also.

Distribution 10+2 Educated Individuals in the District: The distribution of 10+2 or intermediate educated individuals indifferent mandals of Nellore district by caste group is presented in Table - 4

A cursory glance at the table amply brings home the fact that the number of 10+2 educated persons varied between a low of 2 persons in D.V.Satram mandal to a high of 19 persons in Nellore mandal. Other mandals with more number of 10+2-educated persons were Marripadu (13), Podalakuru (12), Rapur and Vakadu (10 each). But there were no glaring differences when compared to those among different social groups.

As one moves higher in the educational ladder the shares of socially back ward classes further decreased. As could be seen from table 4.12, the shares of BCs and STs further decreased to 42.86 percent and 3.81 percent respectively, while that of OCs and SCs particularly the former further increased to 33.33 percent and 20 percent respectively. The consistently higher share of SCs in education might be due to the incentives provided by the central and state governments to these castes groups to make them educationally forward. Even though similar concessions were available to STs, they were not able to utilise the opportunities provided by the governments as the SCs do.

Distribution Higher Educated Individuals In The District: A similar conclusion emerges from the analysis of Table where the distribution of individuals with higher education across different mandals and different caste-groups are presented. As could be seen from the table, the OCs could maintain their share at relatively high level of 28.8 percent. Taking advantage of the incentives provided by the governments, the BCs could further improve their share to 49.6 percent. In other words, about half of the total individuals with higher education belonged to backward class (BCs). The SCs also could retain their share at consistently high levels of 20 percent. But it is pathetic to note that the share of STs in higher education was awfully at low levels of 1.6 percent. These statistics clearly indicate that there is high degree of association between the level of education and caste-group hierarchy. These differences in the educational attainment among different caste groups are to be brought down by pursuing deliberate policy measures.

Literacy Levels: The literacy levels among people greatly influence the awareness levels of people and hence their rights and responsibilities. It is an important indicator of human development. Previous table incorporates the literacy levels of individuals in different mandals of Nellore district as well as among different caste-groups. As could be observed from the table, the average literacy rate in Nellore district worked out to be 62.95 percent. There were, however, considerable variations in the literacy levels among different mandals. Among different mandals, the literacy rate was the highest at 81.25 percent in Nellore mandal, the headquarters of the district.

Udayagiri mandal with the literacy rate 77.10 percent, Jaladanki mandal with the literacy rate of 77.08 percent and Gudur Mandal with the literacy rate of 76.58 percent followed the Nellore mandal. It is heartening to note that even the upland mandal like Udayagiri shared high levels of literacy on par with the delta mandals of Nellore and Gudur. It is pathetic to note that A.S. Peta and Vakadu mandals though are in coastal belt recorded the lowest levels of literacy at 49.09 percent and 46.46 percent respectively. In A.S. Peta mandal, it is pertinent, to note that the literacy rate was the highest among SCs at 80.80 percent.

Among different caste-group individuals, the literacy rate was the highest among OCs at 70.98 percent. The literacy rate was the next highest among the SCs who achieved the literacy level of 68.72 percent. As expected the literacy rate among the STs was the lowest at 45.92 percent.

The differences in the literacy rates among various caste-groups were not statistically significant as revealed by the analysis of variance. As could be seen from Table. the calculated 'F' value was less than the

table F-value at 5 percent level of significance.

The null hypothesis becomes significant at the p-value level of 0.08, which is very close to 5 percent level. It reiterates the fact that the differences in the literacy levels are to be brought down, otherwise they would become statistically significant at the earliest.

Table -1: Distribution of all Individuals in Different Mandals of Nellore District, according to the Level of Education

S. No	Name of the Mandal	OC	BC	SC	ST	Total
1	D.V.Satram	7	9	7	1	24
2	Guduru	10	16	7	1	34
3	Venkatagiri	3	22			25
4	Vakadu	6		6	2	14
5	Jaladanki	6	15	10		31
6	Udayagiri	10	24		3	37
7	Marripadu	22	12		2	36
8	Alluru		8	8		16
9	Rapur	4	7	12	5	28
10	Podalakuru	11	8			19
11	A.S.Peta	5	15	2		22
12	Nellore	8	15	4	5	32
Total		92	151	56	19	318
Percentage		28.93	47.48	17.61	5.98	100

Source: Filed Survey

Table -2: Distribution of Primary Educated Individuals in Different Mandals of Nellore District, according to Caste-groups

S.No	Name of the Mandal	OC	BC	SC	ST	Total
1	D.V.Satram	5	14	6		25
2	Guduru	4	12	7	7	30
3	Venkatagiri	3	13			16
4	Vakadu	1		11	1	13
5	Jaladanki	6	17	4	6	33
6	Udayagiri	4	31	6	1	42
7	Marripadu	6	7		2	15
8	Alluru	2	11	14		27
9	Rapur	2	1	4	3	10
10	Podalakuru	9	13			22
11	A.S.Peta	4	15	4		23
12	Nellore	9	16	2	6	33
Total		55	150	58	26	289
percentage		19.03	51.90	20.07	9.0	100

Source: Filed Survey

S. No	Name of the Mandal	OC	BC	SC	ST	Total
1	D.V.Satram	7	9	7	1	24
2	Guduru	10	16	7	1	34
3	Venkatagiri	3	22			25
4	Vakadu	6		6	2	14
5	Jaladanki	6	15	10		31
6	Udayagiri	10	24		3	37
7	Marripadu	22	12		2	36
8	Alluru		8	8		16
9	Rapur	4	7	12	5	28
10	Podalakuru	11	8			19
11	A.S.Peta	5	15	2		22
12	Nellore	8	15	4	5	32
Total		92	151	56	19	318
Percentage		28.93	47.48	17.61	5.98	100

Table -3: Distribution of Secondary Educated Individuals in Different Mandals of Nellore District According to Caste-groups

Source: Filed Survey

Table – 4: Distribution of 10+2 Educated Individuals in Different Mandals of Nellore District, according to Caste-groups

S.No	Name of the Mandal	OC	BC	SC	ST	Total
1	D.V.Satram		1	1		2
2	Guduru	3	2	1		6
3	Venkatagiri		8			8
4	Vakadu	2		8		10
5	Jaladanki	4	1			5
6	Udayagiri	1	8		1	10
7	Marripadu	8	4		1	13
8	Alluru		4	3		7
9	Rapur	1	4	3	2	10
10	Podalakuru	7	5			12
11	A.S.Peta	1		2		3
12	Nellore	8	8	3		19
Total		35	45	21	4	105
Percentage		33.33	42.86	20	3.81	100

Table – 5: Distribution of Higher Educated Individuals in different Mandals of Nellore District, according to Caste-groups

S. No.	Name of the Mandal	OC	BC	SC	ST	Total
1	D.V.Satram	1		4		5
2	Guduru	3	5	6	1	15
3	Venkatagiri		17			17
4	Vakadu	2		7		9
5	Jaladanki	2	2	1		5
6	Udayagiri	4	7			11
7	Marripadu	5			1	6
8	Alluru	4	14	2		20
9	Rapur	2		4		6
10	Podalakuru	5	4			9
11	A.S.Peta		3	1		4
12	Nellore	8	10			18
Total		36	62	25	2	125
Percentage		28.8	49.6	20	1.6	100

*Source: Field Survey***Table 6:** Literacy Levels of Different Caste group Individuals in Sample Mandals of Nellore District**Table 6:** Literacy Levels of Different Caste group Individuals in Sample Mandals of Nellore District

Note: 1:

S.NO	Name of the Mandal	OC				BC				SC				ST				Total
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	
1	D.V.Satram	5	7		1	14	9	1		6	7	1	4		1			56
2	Guduru	4	10	3	3	12	16	2	5	7	7	1	6	7	1		1	85
3	Venkatagiri	3	3			13	22	8	17									66
4	Vakadu	1	6	2	2					11	6	8	7	1	2			46
5	Jaladanki	6	6	4	2	17	15	1	2	4	10		1	6				74
6	Udayagiri	4	10	1	4	31	24	8	7	6				1	3	1		100
7	Marripadu	6	22	8	5	7	12	4						2	2	1	1	70
8	Alluru	2			4	11	8	4	14	14	8	3	2					70
9	Rapur	2	4	1	2	1	7	4		4	12	3	4	3	5	2		54
10	Podalakuru	9	11	7	5	13	8	5	4									62
11	A.S.Peta	4	5	1		15	15		3	4	2	2	1					52
12	Nellore	9	8	8	8	16	15	8	10	2	4	3		6	5			102
Total		55	92	35	36	150	151	45	62	58	56	21	25	26	19	4	2	837
Percentage		6.57	10.9	4.1	4.3	17.92	18.04	5.3	7.4	6.93	6.69	2.51	2.9	3.1	2.27	0.	0.2	100
			9	8	0			8	1				8	1		48	4	

Primary, 2: Secondary, 3: 10+2, 4: Higher, Source : Field survey

CONCLUSION

The literacy level in Nellore district averaged at 62.95 per cent as per the primary data as against 65 per cent as per secondary data provided by the Chief Planning Office, Nellore District. The literacy level again varied among different mandals in Nellore district. The highest literacy level of 81.25 per cent was recorded in Nellore mandal. Some interior coastal mandals like Vakadu registered the lowest levels averaging at 46 per

cent. Similarly, there were disparities in literacy levels among different caste groups. As expected the literacy rate was the highest at about 71 per cent among the OCs and the lowest at 46 per cent among the STs.

The analysis of educational levels of individuals in different mandals of Nellore district brought home the finding that majority of individuals aggregating to about 73 per cent in the district had studied up to tenth class only. It means only 25 per cent could go beyond tenth class level. The proportion individuals with higher education (graduation, post-graduation and professional education) constituted only about 15 per cent. Among different caste groups, the proportion of individuals with higher education as a percentage of their respective total population was the highest among the OC group households followed by SC households. This could be due to the fact that the OC households thanks to higher level of income were able to get good education while the ST and SC households particularly the latter group could able to get good education thanks to facilities provided by the government in the form of scholarships, fee concessions, residential hostels etc. But all such facilities and concessions may not be available to the BC households and hence they occupied the third place in educational levels in the district next to SCs.

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