Literacy Development Programs in India - A study on Performance of Saakshar Bharat Programme in New Andhra Pradesh Pre and Post Bifurcation in Visakhapatnam District

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ABSTRACT:

Background: Literacy is the basic tool to human development. It affects people's lives. The UPA Government main agenda is to achieve 100 percent literacy in the country. To achieve this goal, the government framed many policies and programs in Literacy Development in India. These programs are unable to achieve their targets but the expenditure increasing the limitations. Among the number of Literacy Development programs, Saakshar Bharat Programme was concentrated to improve Adult Literacy. The Saakshar Bharat is the key program to improve adult literacy. Department of Human Resource and Government of India, on the occasion of International Literacy Day, September 8th, 2009, the Prime Minister Sri Manmohan Singh launched the program, "Saakshar Bharat". It came into operation from 01-10-2009. Women being the prime focus and predominant participants, the entire will be given gender treatment. This program was conceptualized with the goal of creating a learning society with focus on nonliterates and neo-literates in the age group of 15 years and above with a special focus on women. The main objective of the program is to impart functional literacy and numeracy to non-literate and neo-literate adults to continue their learning beyond basic literacy and acquire equivalency to the formal education system. **Objectives:** This paper mainly focuses on the performance of the program in Visakhapatnam district of New Andhra Pradesh state in India. And another objective is to know the performance of program in prebifurcation and post-bifurcation of the state. Methods and materials: The study depends on secondary data. It was collected from Books, News papers, Magazines, and government reports. At present APSLMA is implemented Saakshar Bharat program in 10 low literacy districts (except East Godavary, west Godavary and Krishna). Results: Totally 7 phases are completed in the state, 3 phases are performed pre-bifurcation and 4 phases are performed post-bifurcation of the state. The literate adult women statistics shows increasing trend among seven phases in the district. In each phase 70 to 75 percent of targets are reached in the district. In Visakhapatnam district, out of 9 constituencies, 39 mandals are located, in every mandal implemented this program, and results are shows increased literacy rates. Among 39 mandals the increased rate of literacy is in V.Madugula recorded 11.73 percent and in Pedabayalu mandal low

percentage 3.32 percent was recorded by the completion of 7th phase of the programme . **Conclusion:** The initiative has significantly impacted the overall literacy rate in the state of Andhra Pradesh as it has improved from 60.47 percent in 2001 to 67.02 percent in 2011 with 6.55 percentage increase. Reduction in gender gap in literacy also achieved. An analysis of gender disaggregated data on literacy in the state shows that the male literacy rate increased from 70.32 percent in 2001 to 74.88 percent in 2011 showing a 4.56percent increase. Similarly, female literacy increased from 50.43 percent in 2001 to 59.15 percent in 2011 showing a significant increase of 8.72 percent. The gender gap also decreased significantly from 19.89 percent in 2001 to 15.73 percent in 2011 marking a decrease of 4.16 percent. The enrollment and achievement rates have seen a progressive increase since 2010. The governments programs play a key role to improve the literacy a adult women in the district. Women literacy leads whole development of the district as well as the state.

Key Words: Adult Literacy, Gender gap, Enrollment, Achievement.

Introduction: Literacy affects people's lives. Literacy is the basic requisite for human development as well as economic development of the country. Hundred percent literacy achievements are the prime goal of Indian economy. To achieve this objective many programs and policies framed and implemented in the country. In all, the Saakshara Bharat is one of the key programmes in the country. UPA Government started this program to literate the rural illiterates in the country. The Prime Minister Launched this program, a centrally sponsored scheme of Department of School Education and Literacy Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, on the International Literacy Day 8th September 2009. It aims to further promote and strengthen Adult Education, especially of Women. Saakshar Bharat came into operation from 1-10-2009. Women being the prime focus and predominant participants, the entire programme will give gender treatment. Women participation is more in the program. 100 percent Literacy goal achievement is the main agenda for the UPA government. After change, the government from UPA to NDA and Andhra Pradesh state bifurcation the education development programs performance affected slightly in the state. Since 2014 (post-bifurcation) Navya Andhra Pradesh APSLMA was implemented Saakshar Bharat program in 10 low literacy districts (except East Godavary, West Godavary, Krishna). Visakhapatnam district is one among 10 selected districts of Navyandhra Pradesh. The main objective of the program is to impart functional literacy and numeracy to non-literate and neo-literate adults to continue their learning beyond and acquire equivalency to the formal education system. The scheme, which was initially up to March 2017, was extended September 2017. Of the stated objectives, the State Government implements only a) Basic Literacy Programme (BLP) and b) Continuing Education Programme (CEP) in 10 districts of the State identified by the National Literacy Mission Authority, the

apex body for monitoring the implementation of the programme in the country. BLP aims to impart functional literacy to non-literate adults. It is implemented in the State in a phased manner and seven phases were completed as of August 2017.

Objectives of the study:

- 1. To study the brief review of the Saakshar Bharat program in the State and District.
- 2. To study the performance of the program in the district pre and post bifurcation.
- 3. To observe the status of literacy rate in the district constituency and mandal wise.
- 4. To identify the Challenges of scheme and success of women through this program in the district.

Methodology: The study is based on primary and secondary data. The primary data collected through the beneficiaries of the program. The secondary data collected through Zilla Lok Shiksha Samithi(ZLSS) and APSLMA, government reports, Journals, Books, News papers, and Internet websites etc. The opinions of the beneficiaries are collected through field survey and one or two case studies also mentioned.

Methods and Materials:

I Literacy and education play a central role in human development and impact overall socio-economic development. Higher levels of literacy and education lead to the better attainment of economic growth, population control, upliftment of weaker sections and community as a whole, health and nutritional status etc. Low level of literacy has been a persistent problem in India, despite the implementation of strong and sustained government programs to tackle this issue. The National Literacy Mission launched in 1988 with the purpose of imparting functional literacy to non-literates between the ages of 15-35 years produced a million literates. As a result, the literacy rate jumped in the country. But the large number of illiterates recorded in 2001 census so the Government of India launched (8-9-2009) "Saakshar Bharat" a Centrally Sponsored scheme, during the 11th Five year plan period, aimed at promoting and strengthening adult education in the country, especially of women, by extending educational options to those adults in the age group of 15 years and above. The main objective of the Programme is to

to impart functional literacy and numeracy to non-literate and non-literate and non-numerate adults.

To enable newly-literate adults to continue their learning beyond basic literacy and acquire equivalence to the formal education system.

To impart relevant skill development programmes to improve earning and living conditions To promote a learning society by providing opportunities for continuing education. **Key Stakeholders of the Program:** The key stakeholders of the program are the National Literacy Mission, State Literacy Mission, Volunteer teachers, Coordinators, State resource centers change makers in the community of local NGO's and neo-literates above 15 years of age, especially women.

Implementation Strategy: The saakshar Bharat programme was launched in 19 districts in 2010-Adilabad, Ananthapur, Chittoor, Guntur, Karimnagar, Khammam, Kurnool, Mahabuba nagar, Medak, Nalgonda, Nizamabad, Prakasam, Rangareddy, Srikakulam, Nellore, Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram, Warangal, Kadapa of Andhra Pradesh having less than 50 percent female literacy in 2011. After bifurcation of the state, Andhra Pradesh implemented this programme in 10 districts (except west Godavary, East Godavary and Krishna) out of 13 districts those are having fewer literacy rates. The program focuses on four components including basic literacy, vocational skills, equivalency to formal education, and continued education. The program seeks to achieve these goals by boosting the neo-literate's capacity through Adult education centers, Training. Awareness campaigns, monitoring etc. The training centre located in Visakhapatnam.

State Level	Implementing agency: APSLMA (SLMA)
	Responsibility entrusted to: Director of Adult Education
District Level	Implementing agency: Zilla Lok Shiksha Samiti (ZLSS)
	Responsibility entrusted to: Deputy Director of Adult Education
Mandal level	Implementing agency: Mandal Lok Shiksha Samiti (MLSS)
	Responsibility entrusted to: Mandal coordinator
Village Level	Implementing agency: Gram Panchayat Lok Shiksha Samiti (GPLSS)
	Responsibility entrusted to: Village Coordinator

Andhra Pradesh State Literacy Mission Authority (SLMA) is the nodal agency for implementing the Programme in the State Office of the Director of Adult Education acts as the Secretariat for SLMA. The SLMA reviews the activities in monthly monitoring meetings and reports to NLMA and the State Government. Adult Education Centres at GP level are to provide institutional, managerial and resource support to literacy and lifelong education at grass root level. Literacy programs are conducted by Voluntary Teachers through literacy centres in the villages. Responsibility centres at various levels viz., at State, District, Mandal and Village are mentioned in the above.

II performance of the Programme: The performance of the program in the District during 7 phases are given in table-1.

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Table-1
Performance of Saakshar Bharat Program in Visakhapatnam District during 7 Phases (Pre and Post Bifurcation of the State)

Phases	2010-2014(Pre-Bifurcation)	2014-2017	(Post	Total		
			Bifurcation	n)(Up to 21-8-17)			
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	
I Phase							
2010-11							
Male	-	-			-	-	
Female	1,00,0000	62,139			1,00,000	62,139	
II Phase							
2011-12							
Male	31,046	20,990			31,046	20,990	
Female	72,954	51,134			72,954	51,134	
III Phase							
2012-13							
Male	78,834	50,673			78,834	50,673	
Female	1,71,330	1,11,910			1,71,330	1,11,910	
IV Phase							
2013-14							
Male	25,156	16,201			25,156	16,201	
Female	57,584	35,518			57,584	35,518	
V Phase							
2014-15							
Male			21,389	15,934	21,389	15,934	
Female			32,084	23,891	32,084	23,891	
VI Phase							
2015-16							
Male			1,583	853	1,583	853	
Female			59,562	40,222	59,562	40,222	
VII Phase							
2016-17							
Male			623	412	623	412	

Female		52,387	31,901	52,387	31,901
Total					
Male				1,58,631	1,05,063
Female				5,45,901	3,56,715
total				7,04,532	4,68,778
Still illiterates				3,11,595	

Source: DAE and ZLSS. Records

In the above table shows that the performance of Saakshar Bharat during 7 phases in the district during pre and post bifurcation of the state. In each phase framed targets and exercise to achieve the target, and achieved. The scheme which was initially up to March 2017, was extended September 2017. It is implemented in the state in a manner and seven phases were completed as of August 2017.CEP involves the establishment of Adult Education Centers (AEC) at Gram Panchayat (GP) level to provide a learning environment so that learners (neo literates and school dropouts) are encouraged to continue with their literary aspirations. The scheme intended to cover 7,04,532 non-literates in the state, of this 3,11,595 non-literates relate to the residuary.

Table-2
Constiuency & Mandal wise Performance of Saakshar Bharat Program in Visakhapatnam (Post-Bifurcation)

Consti	iue	Mandals	Year	Adults a	as per surv	ey 2010	No. of Illiterate Adults			Persons made Literate		
ncy												
				M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
ip		3 mandals	2014-15	22959	40508	63467	1972	4965	6937	1263	2828	4091
unuu u	=		2015-16	22959	40508	63467	1514	2124	1221	121	2325	3546
Bheemunip	arılaı		2016-17	22959	40508	63467	0	0	0	0	0	0
m		4 mandals	2014-15	33736	59579	93315	2956	6459	9415	1892	4040	5932
vara			2015-16	33736	59579	93315	333	2727	3060	1827	2306	4133
chodavaram			2016-17	33736	59579	93315	0	0	0	0	0	0
ıla		4 mandals	2014-15	32528	57370	89898	3283	6097	9880	22122	3511	5633
Madugula			2015-16	32528	57370	89898	2960	2800	5760	2291	2424	4715
Ma			2016-17	32528	57370	89898	0	0	0	0	0	0
ık	Δ	6 mandals	2014-15	39312	69238	10855	3580	7308	10888	2337	6515	8852
Aruk	u Val					0						

		2015-16	39312	69238	10855	2521	5227	7748	1966	3385	5351
					0						
		2016-17	39312	69238	10855	0	0	0	0	0	0
					0						
	5 mandals	2014-15	33742	59492	93234	2629	6751	9380	1683	5350	7033
eru		2015-16	33742	59492	93234	3117	4089	7206	2407	2980	5387
Paderu		2016-17	33742	59492	93234	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2 mandals	2014-15	21669	38308	59977	1732	4588	6320	1119	1014	2133
palli		2015-16	21669	38308	59977	948	2169	3117	702	1298	2000
Anakapalli		2016-17	21669	38308	59977	0	0	0	0	0	0
	3 mandals	2014-15	14611	25669	40280	1612	4408	6020	1032	2441	3473
lurti		2015-16	14611	25669	40280	718	2574	3292	567	1979	2546
Pendurti		2016-17	14611	25669	40280	0	0	0	0	0	0
ili	4 mandals	2014-15	19116	33570	52686	2044	5056	7100	1319	2305	3624
Yalamunchili		2015-16	19116	33570	52686	1723	3597	5320	1376	2302	3678
Yala		2016-17	19116	33570	52686	0	0	0	0	0	0
eta	4 mandals	2014-15	33816	59673	93489	2962	6388	9350	1896	3356	5252
araope		2015-16	33816	59673	93489	2458	3362	5820	1918	2782	4700
Payakaraopeta		2016-17	33816	59673	93489	0	0	0	0	0	0
at	4 mandals	2014-15	30998	54669	85667	2386	5564	7950	1538	4125	5663
Narasipat nam		2015-16	30998	54669	85667	2107	3113	5220	1659	2110	3769
Nara		2016-17	30998	54669	85667	0	0	0	0	0	0
	39	2014-15	28248	49807	78056	25156	57584	82740	16201	35518	51719
	mandals		7	6	3						
		2015-16	28248	49807	78056	21389	32084	53473	15934	23891	39825
			7	6	3						
al		2016-17	28248	49807	78056	57584	0	0	0	0	0
total	AF and ZI		7	6	3						

Source; DAE and ZLSS records

The above table-2 shows that the performance of Saakshar Bharat program in Visakhapatnam district in 9 Constituencies and 39 mandals in pre and post bifurcation of the state to improve the adult literacy in

women increased and especially during 2016-17 all mandals recorded zero number of illiterates in the district.

III Status of Literacy rate in the District Constituency and manda wise Table:3

Constiuency & Mandal wise increased literacy rate Through Saakshar Bharat program in the District

SNo	Name of	Name of the	Name of the	Total	Male	Femal	Increased	Constiu	Constiu
	the	Constituenc	Mandal			e	Literacy	ency	ency
	District	у					percentage	wise	wise
								Average	Rank
1		Bhimili (3)	Bhimili	66.08	72.45	59.91	7.31	7.07	IX
			Anandapuram	54.68	62.07	46.52	5.89		
			Padmanabham	50.83	58.78	42.99	8.01		
2		Chodavaram	Chodavaram	64.39	74.17	54.99	7.97	9.20	III
		(4)	Ravikamatham	52.91	62.89	43.76	7.83		
			Rolugunta	52.95	62.24	44.28	11.47		
			Butchaipeta	52.03	51.61	43.25	9.54		
3		Madugula	V.Madugula	56.54	65.08	47.79	11.73	8.59	V
		(4)	K.kotapadu	56.57	58.18	45.15	7.09		
			Cheedikada	53.07	64.13	42.51	7.51		
			Devarapalli	53.08	64.83	42.76	8.03		
4		Araku (6)	Araku vally	53.45	65.02	42.62	4.89	5.34	X
			Ananthagiri	38.86	48.72	29.01	8.74		
			Dumriguda	41.83	54.84	29.62	9.65		
			Hukumpeta	43.05	55.01	31.81	8.78		
			Pedabayalu	38.99	52.31	26.01	3.32		
			Munchingput	39.05	50.78	28.19	7.34		
5		Paderu (5)	Paderu	60.01	71.03	49.73	14.03	9.95	I
	IAM		G.Madugula	38.52	50.03	26.99	9.24		
	ATN		Chinthapalli	42.63	53.72	31.94	7.14		
	HAP,		G.K.Veedhi	43.08	52.57	34.29	10.68		
	VISAKHAPATN		Koyyuru	48.83	57.13	40.77	8.67		
	VIS		Anakapalli (R)	74.74	79.98	63.71	5.15	7.66	VII

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Source: DAE and ZLSS records.

The above table-3 shows that the performance of Saakshar bharat program in the district among 10 Constituencies and 39 mandals increased literacy rates averages are calculated and ranks are framed based on average values. Through this program literacy rate increased in every mandal, the highest increased rate (14.03%) achieved in Paderu mandal in paderu Constituency, and the lowest increased rate (3.32%) in Pedabayalu, Aruku constituency. Constituency wise averages are calculated for percentage increased literacy rates and ranks are given to those average values. The first rank obtained by Paderu constituency with highest average increased literacy (9.95%), followed by II rank goes to Pendurti (9.43%), III rank occupied by Chodavaram (9.20%), IV rank obtained by Payakaraopeta (8.97%), V rank bagged by Madugula (8.59%), Yalamanchili got VI rank (8.01%), VII rank goes to Anakapalli (7.66%), Narasipatnam got VIII rank (7.41%), IX rank obtained by Narasipatnam (7.07%)., lastly X rank goes to Araku (5.34%). The performance of the program shows a significant increase in literacy rate in each mandal and constituency in the district.

Table-4
Impact of Saakshar Bharat program on literacy improvement in the district during 2011- 2017

		1		1	T		1
SNO	Name of the mandal	2011	2017	S NO	Name of the mandal	2011	2017
		census	status			census	status
1	G.Madugula	33.3	38.52	20	Golukonda	49.2	54.77
2	Ananthagiri	33.6	38.86	21	Kotauratla	49.1	54.79
3	Pedabayalu	33.2	38.99	22	Makavarapalem	49.8	55.61
4	Munchingputtu	33.5	39.05	23	Madugula	50.7	56.54
5	Dumriguda	35.9	41.83	24	K.Kotapadu	50.8	56.57
6	Chintapalli	36.9	42.63	25	Atchuthapuram	51.7	58.27
7	Hukumpeta	37.7	43.05	26	S.rayavaram	52.7	59.09
8	Guden Kothaveedhi	37.3	43.08	27	Rambilli	53.3	59.80
9	Koyyuru	43.4	48.83	28	Paderu	53.0	60.01
10	Nakkapalle	44.5	50.63	29	Kasimkota	54.0	60.46
11	Padmanabham	45.1	50.83	30	Payakaraopeta	56.3	63.18
12	Nathavaram	46.9	52.15	31	Sabbavaram	57.6	64.18
13	Butchaipeta	46.2	52.30	32	Chodavaram	57.5	64.39
14	Ravikamatham	46.9	52.91	33	Munagapaka	57.5	64.67
15	Rolugunta	47.2	52.95	34	Bheemunipatnam	59.0	66.08
16	Cheedikada	47.4	53.7	35	Yelamanchili	60.2	66.98
17	Arakuvally	46.6	53.45	36	Narasipatnam	62.1	69.03
18	Devarapalle	48.3	53.80	37	Paravada	64.5	71.51
19	Anandapuram	48.5	54.68	38	Anakapalle	64.6	71.74
				39	Pedagantyada	66.2	73.57
~	2011 Canana DAE an	1 FT GG D	-	1	ı	l	1

Source: 2011 Census, DAE and ZLSS Records

IV Challenges and Success of the Beneficiaries: The implementation and organization is a challenge to the authorities and utilizing the opportunity and benefit acquired is a challenge to the women adult learners. **Authority side challenges:** The attitude of the survey population towards literacy was the biggest challenge. The first step of bringing people, especially women, from their homes to the literacy centres was critical for implementing and sustaining the program. While the initial entry of the targeted population into adult education canters is a challenge, a continuous effort is required to retain them in the learning process. It is again a challenge since the learning material and the environment need to be conducive to their needs.

Another important aspect is equivalency and continued education have been started in order to address this challenge. It is hoped that the beneficiaries will get basic certificates from centres and these are used to pursuit jobs. Since adult education requires a change in perception among target beneficiaries about the need for literacy, the process of awareness generation is key a challenge.

Women side challenges: Adult women have many responsibilities that they must balance against the demands of learning. Because of these responsibilities, adults have barriers and challenges against participating in learning and continuing their education. The barriers include the lack of time balancing, career and family demands, finance, transportation, lack of information and confidence or interest.

The Success of Women Beneficiaries:

A Case study of beneficiary: The author interviewed the beneficiary named by Varalakshmi belongs to Pendurti mandal , pendurti village, in her words "Teacher came to centre and to inform the learners that we should come to the centre in the evenings and spend time in learn from her. It would be good for us and we will learn how to read and write. Initially I was not interested as I did not know how to read and write. Now I am very interested to come to the centre and learn read and write because I will get a job easily. My family members also encourage me to continue."

In the words of **Ramulamma** belongs to Anandapuram mandal, anandapuram village, Teacher came to our colony and tell us that we should come to the centre in the evenings and spend some time with her and learning new things. It would be a benefit for us and we will learn how to read and write Initially, I am not confident as I did not know how to read and write. By regular attending to the centre and leaning, now I have got interested in education. My family members also encourage me to continue."

Conclusion: The Prime Minister Launched Saakshar Bharat, a centrally sponsored scheme of Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, on 8-9-2009. Seeking to promote and strengthen adult education, especially women's education, Andhra Pradesh Saakshar Bharat Programme continuing education by extending educational options to adults who have dropped out of or never entered the formal education system. With its emphasis on basic literacy, post-literacy and continuous education, the initiative forms a continuum as opposed to segmenting adult education. Enrolment of the programme has increased progressively over the years-up from approximately 15 lakhs to over 45 lakhs between 2010- 2013. The number of adults enrolled through during this period is above 83 lakhs. The National Literacy Mission launched in 1988 with the purpose of imparting functional literacy to non-literates between ages of 15 and 35 years are 127.45 million literates. As a result, the literacy rate jumped by 12% between the census of India undertaken in 1991 and that in 2001 from 52.21 percent to 64.84 percent. According to 2001 census the number of illiterates in the 15 years and above age group at

259.52 million, called for further introspection. This was compounded by the fact that wide disparities were reflected in terms of gender, social groups and regions. According to 2011 census the literacy rate of Visakhapatnam district is 66.91, out of this 74.56 percent are male, and 59.34 percent are female. The Saakshar Bharat Program launched with the goal of creating a learning society with a focus on non-literate and neo-literates of a special focus on women. The basic literacy program was launched in 19 districts of the state in pre-bifurcation and it was in 10 districts in post- bifurcation, those districts are having less than 50 percent female literacy in 2011.

The Program focuses on four components including basic literacy vocational skills, equivalency to formal education, and continued education. The program seeks to achieve these goals by boosting the neo-literates capacity through libraries and news papers at Adult Education Centers in the district. This Program is running at 75:25 ratios by central and State governments. Post-bifurcation the state has been achieved the more than 90 percent targets of the program (2011 census to 2017 Status) and zero percent of illiteracy in 39 mandals during 2016-17. Constituency wise ranks are calculated, and I rank occupied by Paderu and X rank by Araku constituencies. In recent times the government was paying much priority to allocate funds to this program.

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