

Demographic Trends in Rayalaseema Region in Andhra Pradesh

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G. Eswara Reddy

Assistant Professor, Government Degree College, Yerraguntla, Andhra Pradesh, India
 <https://orcid.org/0009-0009-0213-6466>

T. Sudarsana Reddy

Associate Professor

Department of Economics, Yogi Vemana University, Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh, India

Abstract

Rayalaseema is a geographic region in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh. It comprises four southern districts of the State, namely Kurnool, Anantapur, YSR Kadapa, and Chittoor. In this paper, an attempt is made to analyse the demographic trends such as growth of population, sex ratio, density of population, literacy during the period between 1961 and 2011 in Rayalaseema Region in Andhra Pradesh. Demographic analysis reveals important population characteristics of the region. Among the districts of Rayalaseema, Chittoor has the highest population and population density per square kilometer, while Kadapa has the lowest. The sex ratio in Rayalaseema stands at 987, which is higher than the national average of 940 but lower than the state average of 992.

Keywords: Demography, Population, Sex Ratio, Literacy, Rayalaseema

Introduction

The Rayalaseema region, historically ruled by the ‘Rayas’ of the illustrious Vijayanagara Empire from 1336 to 1649 A.D., holds a significant place in history. Krishnadevaraya of the Tuluva dynasty governed Rayalaseema from 1509 to 1530 A.D. The region, encompassing the four districts of Anantapur, Chittoor, Kadapa, and Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh, derives its name from this great king. Rayalaseema was part of the composite Madras state until September 30, 1953, and became part of Andhra state on October 1, 1956. It was incorporated into Andhra Pradesh on November 1, 1956, when the state was formed by merging it with Andhra state. Rayalaseema includes the districts of Chittoor, Kadapa, Anantapur, and Kurnool, covering a total area of 67,299 square kilometers. This region, often dry and located in an unfavorable zone, is designated as a drought-prone area of South India. Geographically, Rayalaseema lies between 12°30’ N and 16°30’ N latitudes and 76°30’ E to 79°55’ E longitudes, forming the southern and southeastern part of the Deccan Plateau.

Objectives

1. To study the trends in growth of population across districts in Rayalaseema Region.
2. To analyse the trends in sex ratio across districts in Rayalaseema Region from 1961 to 2011.
3. To assess the changes in density of population across districts in Rayalaseema Region.
4. To examine the trends in growth of literacy rate by districts in Rayalaseema Region.
5. To examine the impact of demographic changes in socio-economic developments in Rayalaseema.

Methodology

This paper is based on secondary data only. Secondary data is collected from Census Reports (various years), Government of India, Statistical Abstracts, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Hyderabad and Statistical Abstracts, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Amaravati, Socio-Economic Survey 2022-23, Government of Andhra Pradesh. The secondary data is collected for during the period for 1961 to 2011.

Growth of Population in Rayalaseema Region

The population of Rayalaseema has significantly increased from 65.8 lakhs in 1961 to 1.51 crores by 2011, representing approximately 2.3 times growth over the five decades of the study period. In 1961, Chittoor had the highest population at 19.05 lakhs, followed by Anantapur with 17.67

lakhs, Kurnool with 15.70 lakhs, and Kadapa with the lowest population at 13.42 lakhs (Table 1). By 2021, Chittoor's population surged to 41.74 lakhs, maintaining its position as the most populous district. Anantapur followed closely with a population of 40.8 lakhs, and Kurnool with 40.53 lakhs. In contrast, Kadapa experienced relatively modest growth, with a population of 28.8 lakhs. The trend in the population has not changed a bit in the five decades.

The population of Andhra Pradesh has shown a steady increase from 35.98 million in 1961 to 84.58 million in 2011. This growth reflects overall demographic trends, including improved healthcare, increased life expectancy, and a declining mortality rate. However, the rate of increase appears to slow down in later decades, suggesting the impact of lower fertility rates and migration patterns.

Table 1 Growth of Population in Rayalaseema Region

Year	Anantapur	Chittoor	YSR Kadapa	Kurnool	Total Rayalaseema	Andhra Pradesh
1961	1767464	1905344	1342015	1570955	6585778	35983447
1971	2115321	2267413	1577267	1982090	7942091	43502710
1981	2548012	2737316	1933304	2407299	9625931	53551030
1991	3183814	3261118	2267769	2933304	11646005	66508008
2001	3640478	3745875	2601797	3367304	13355454	75727541
2011	4081148	4174064	2882469	4053463	15191144	84580777

Source: 1. Census Reports (various years), Govt. of India; 2. Socio-Economic Survey 2022-23, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh

Examining the percentage share of each district's population provides valuable insights into the distribution of population within the Rayalaseema region. Analyzing population distribution percentages is crucial as it highlights the relative growth and demographic shifts within the region. It helps to identify trends in population dynamics, understand regional development, and plan resource allocation and infrastructure development accordingly.

In 1961, Chittoor accounted for 28.9% of Rayalaseema's total population. By 2011, this share had decreased to 27.5%. Anantapur's share remained relatively stable, at 26.8% over the fifty-

year period from 1961 to 2011. Kurnool, however, is the only district that saw an increase in its population share, rising from 23.9% in 1961 to 26.7% in 2011. Conversely, Kadapa experienced a gradual decrease, with its share falling from 20.4% in 1961 to 19% in 2011. The share of Rayalaseema's population in Andhra Pradesh has remained relatively stable over the decades, fluctuating between 17.5% and 18.3%. While the absolute population has increased, its proportion of the total state population has slightly declined from 18.03% in 1961 to 17.96% in 2011. This suggests that other regions of Andhra Pradesh have grown at a slightly faster rate (Table 2).

Table 2 Population Share across Districts in Rayalaseema (%)

Year	Anantapur	Chittoor	YSR Kadapa	Kurnool	Total Rayalaseema	Andhra Pradesh
1961	26.8	28.9	20.4	23.9	18.03	100
1971	26.6	28.5	19.9	25.0	18.26	100
1981	26.5	28.4	20.1	25.0	17.98	100

1991	27.3	28.0	19.5	25.2	17.51	100
2001	27.3	28.0	19.5	25.2	17.63	100
2011	26.9	27.5	19.0	26.7	17.96	100

Source: Calculated from Table 1

Decadal Growth of Population in Rayalaseema

Table 3 illustrates the decadal growth of the population across the districts of the Rayalaseema region. Analyzing the growth rate is essential as it provides insights into demographic changes and trends over time. Understanding these rates helps in planning and resource allocation, identifying areas needing intervention, and predicting future population pressures. During the first three decades of the study period, from 1961 to 1991, the population grew by approximately 21% each decade. This trend aligns with the population explosion phase that India experienced during the same period. Increased health awareness, family planning, and literacy contributed to a reduction in the growth rate, which declined to 15.66% in the 1991-2001 decade and further dropped to 11.97% in the 2001-2011 decade.

Each district in Rayalaseema exhibited a similar pattern. Kurnool experienced the highest decadal growth of 26.17% during the 1961-71 decade,

which gradually decreased to 14.85% by 2001-11. Anantapur's growth rate declined from 19.68% in 1961-71 to 12.10% in 2001-11. Chittoor maintained a growth rate of around 19% from 1961-71 to 1991, which then decreased to 11.43% in the 2001-11 decade. Kadapa's growth rate initially stood at 17.52% and fluctuated between 17% and 22% over the next two decades before dropping to 10.79% by 2001-11.

When compared to Andhra Pradesh, the decadal growth of population is lower in Rayalaseema during the period between 1961 and 1991 and thereafter, it is high between 1991 and 2011. The decadal population growth rate of Andhra Pradesh was highest in 1981-1991 at 24.2%, after which it steadily declined. From 1991-2001, the growth rate dropped to 13.86%, and further to 10.98% in 2001-2011. This declining trend indicates a slowing population growth, likely due to lower fertility rates, improved family planning, and socio-economic changes.

Table 3 Decadal Growth of Population in Rayalaseema

Year	Anantapur	Chittoor	YSR Kadapa	Kurnool	Total Rayalaseema	Andhra Pradesh
1961-71	19.68	19.00	17.52	26.17	20.59	20.90
1971-81	20.44	20.72	22.59	21.45	21.30	23.10
1981-91	24.81	19.14	17.47	23.50	21.22	24.20
1991-01	14.34	14.86	14.78	18.72	15.66	13.86
2001-11	12.10	11.43	10.79	14.85	11.97	10.98
2011	26.9	27.5	19.0	26.7	17.96	100

Source: 1. Census Reports (various years), Govt. of India; 2. Socio-Economic Survey 2022-23, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh

Sex Ratio in Rayalaseema Region-District wise

Another serious issue, especially in the context of gender transition, that has emerged is the sex ratio of the population. Sex ratio is a useful indicator to understand women's health and position in any country. India along with China and a few South Asian Countries, has the distinction of having a deficit of females for a long period. Andhra Pradesh also follows all India pattern as far as sex ratio is concerned. There is no exception in case of Rayalaseema Region. This is largely interpreted as a

low status of women and discrimination of females existing in this part of the globe.

The sex ratio computed as number of females per 1000 males. It is found that sex ratio in Rayalaseema did not undergo any drastic change in the first four decades i.e. between 1961 and 1991. Thereafter it registered an increase during the 2001 and 2011. The lowest sex ratio is recorded all times in Anantapur district when compared to other 3 district as well as average of Rayalaseema. The increase in overall sex ratio between 1991-2011 could be seen in the light of

improvement in mortality among females compared to males. The advantage of females in old age mortality had been well known and neither Andhra Pradesh nor Rayalaseema is an exception to it. However, in recent decades there is a consistent decline in adult mortality. It may be a reason for increase in overall sex ratio. The sex ratio in Rayalaseema is lower when compared to State in all years. The sex ratio in

Andhra Pradesh has shown a gradual improvement from 981 females per 1,000 males in 1961 to 993 in 2011. While there were slight fluctuations over the decades, the overall trend indicates a positive shift, particularly after 1991. This improvement can be attributed to better healthcare, awareness about gender equality, and socio-economic advancements. (Table 4)

Table 4 District wise Sex Ratio in Rayalaseema

Year	Anantapur	Chittoor	YSR Kadapa	Kurnool	Total Rayalaseema	Andhra Pradesh
1961	946	957	957	977	959	981
1971	947	960	958	969	958	977
1981	946	966	959	962	958	975
1991	946	966	955	953	955	972
2001	958	982	974	965	970	978
2011	977	997	985	988	987	993

Source: 1.Census Reports (various years), Govt. of India; 2. Socio-Economic Survey 2022-23, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh

Density of Population in Rayalaseema Region

The density of population refers to the number of people living per unit area, typically expressed as inhabitants per square kilometer or square mile. It is a critical demographic metric used to understand how populated an area is and to assess the pressure on local resources and infrastructure. Population density is calculated by dividing the total population of a region by its land area. This measure is essential for urban planning and infrastructure development, as high population density can indicate a need for more robust public services, including transportation, housing, and utilities. It aids in resource allocation, with governments and organizations using population density data to distribute healthcare, education, and other public services effectively.

Table 5 shows the district wise density of population in Rayalaseema from 1961 to 2011. In

1961, the population density of the Rayalaseema region was 99 people per square kilometer, and it has steadily increased to 226 people per square kilometer by 2011, representing a 2.28-fold increase. Among the districts, Chittoor had the highest density in 1961, at 126 people per square kilometer, followed by Anantapur with 92. Kadapa and Kurnool had densities of 87 and 89, respectively, showing relatively close figures.

The density of population in Rayalaseema is always lower than Andhra Pradesh state. The population density of Andhra Pradesh has consistently increased from 131 persons per square kilometer in 1961 to 308 in 2011. This steady rise reflects overall population growth, urbanization, and increased settlement patterns. The sharpest increase occurred between 1981 and 2011, indicating rapid demographic expansion and development in state.

Table 5 District wise Density of Population in Rayalaseema

Year	Anantapur	Chittoor	YSR Kadapa	Kurnool	Total Rayalaseema	Andhra Pradesh
1961	92	126	87	89	99	131
1971	111	151	103	112	118	158
1981	133	181	126	136	143	195
1991	166	215	148	168	174	241
2001	191	246	169	199	201	275
2011	213	275	188	229	226	308

Source: 1.Census Reports (various years), Govt. of India; 2. Socio-Economic Survey 2022-23, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh

Over the next fifty years, population density continued to rise across all districts. By 2011, Chittoor maintained the highest density at 275 people per square kilometer. Kurnool followed with a density of 229, Anantapur had 213, and Kadapa had the lowest density among the districts at 188. The overall trend in population density has mirrored the population growth trends across the four districts, reflecting a consistent pattern of increasing density throughout the region.

Urban Population in Rayalaseema

Table 6 provides an overview of the urban population distribution across districts in the Rayalaseema region from 1971 to 2011. In 1971, the region's urban population constituted 16.42% of the total, which rose significantly to 29.97% by 2011. Among the districts, Kurnool had an urban population share of 20.3% in 1971, which increased

to 28.35% by 2011. Anantapur followed with its urban population rising from 17.77% to 28.07% over the same period. Kadapa, starting with a relatively low urban population of 14.18% in 1971, saw a substantial increase to 33.97%, making it the district with the highest urban population by 2011. Chittoor, with an urban population share of 13.45% in 1971, also experienced growth, reaching 29.5% by 2011. This data illustrates the steady trend of urbanization across the Rayalaseema region over past forty years.

Urban population in Rayalaseema is lower when compared to State in all the years. The urban population in Andhra Pradesh has steadily increased from 19.31% in 1971 to 33.36% in 2011. This growth reflects ongoing urbanization, industrialization, and economic development in the state. The sharpest rise occurred between 1981 and 1991, indicating significant migration from rural to urban areas for better employment and living conditions.

Table 6 District wise Urban Population in Rayalaseema (percent)

Year	Anantapur	Chittoor	YSR Kadapa	Kurnool	Total Rayalaseema	Andhra Pradesh
1971	17.77	13.45	14.18	20.30	16.42	19.31
1981	20.84	16.88	19.37	24.49	20.39	23.30
1991	23.50	19.80	24.03	25.84	23.29	27.30
2001	25.26	21.65	22.59	23.16	23.16	27.10
2011	28.07	29.50	33.97	28.35	29.97	33.36
2011	213	275	188	229	226	308

Source: 1. Census Reports (various years), Govt. of India; 2. Socio-Economic Survey 2022-23, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh

Trends in Literacy Rate in Rayalaseema Region

Literacy level of the population is one of the important indicators of the performance of educational sector and the development of society as well. Table 7 explains the district wise literacy rate in Rayalaseema from 1971 to 2011. The literacy rate in Rayalaseema has increased from 24.39% in 1971 to 65.59% by 2011. It has increased by 2.7 times in the period of four decades. There was a quantum jump in the literacy rate during 1981-1991 and 1991-2001 of about 15% for each of these decades.

Among the four districts, Chittoor had the highest literacy rate of 25.40%, followed by Kadapa with 24.73%, and then Anantapur and Kurnool with 23.84% and 23.57% respectively in 1971. Kurnool was the district with lowest literacy rate in 1971. The

trend has not changed even after four decades. By 2011, Chittoor's literacy rate increased to 71.53% and was the district with highest literacy rate. Kadapa followed with 67.30%, Anantapur with 63.57% and Kurnool with 59.97%.

The similar trend is observed in the case of State. However, when compared to Rayalaseema, the state literacy is lower in 1981 and 1991 and higher in 2001 and 2011. The literacy rate in Andhra Pradesh has shown a steady upward trend, increasing from 24.62% in 1971 to 67.02% in 2011. The most significant improvement occurred between 1981 and 2001, reflecting the impact of government initiatives, educational reforms, and increased awareness. Despite this progress, there is still room for further development in literacy levels across the state.



Table 7 District wise Literacy Rate in Rayalaseema

Year	Anantapur	Chittoor	YSR Kadapa	Kurnool	Total Rayalaseema	Andhra Pradesh
1971	23.84	25.40	24.73	23.57	24.39	24.62
1981	29.02	31.85	31.11	28.73	30.18	25.68
1991	42.18	49.75	48.12	39.97	45.01	44.09
2001	56.13	66.77	62.83	53.22	59.74	61.11
2011	63.57	71.53	67.30	59.97	65.59	67.02

Source: 1. Census Reports (various years), Govt. of India; 2. Socio-Economic Survey 2022-23, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh

Socio-Economic Implications of Demographic Changes in Rayalaseema

Demographic changes have had a profound impact on the socio-economic development of Rayalaseema over the past few decades. Population growth, combined with a steady rise in literacy rates, has played a crucial role in shaping the region's economic trajectory. As population and literacy expanded, they acted as catalysts for increased economic activity, leading to higher state gross domestic product (SGDP) and per capita incomes. A clear outcome of this socio-economic transformation has been the consistent reduction in poverty levels across the region, reflecting an inverse relationship between population growth and poverty. This trend is evident in the significant decline in rural poverty in Rayalaseema from 54% in 1977-78 to just 13% by 2020-21. As population increased, literacy rates improved, enabling greater access to employment opportunities, thereby pulling large sections of the rural population out of poverty. Additionally, improvements in health infrastructure, educational facilities, and urban infrastructure underpinned this development process, contributing to better human development outcomes.

The Human Development Index (HDI) of Rayalaseema has witnessed marked improvement, supported by rising literacy, better health indicators, and increased per capita incomes. Between 1981 and 2001, HDI scores improved across all districts, with Chittoor district, for instance, recording an increase from 0.38 to 0.58. Although disparities persisted, especially in backward districts like Kurnool and Anantapur, the overall regional index moved upwards, reflecting broad-based development. These demographic and infrastructural changes are in line with the third stage of the Demographic Transition

Theory, which posits that during this stage, death rates decline while development accelerates due to improvements in infrastructure, healthcare, and education. The socio-economic experience of Rayalaseema mirrors this theory, as development indicators improved alongside demographic shifts.

Economic data further supports this narrative of development. The Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of the Rayalaseema region saw a monumental rise from Rs. 10,229 crores in 1993-94 to Rs. 2,66,104 crores in 2020-21, indicating robust economic growth. This economic expansion translated into higher per capita incomes, which increased nearly twentyfold during the same period — from Rs. 7,553 in 1993-94 to Rs. 1,50,824 by 2020-21. These improvements in income levels enhanced the standard of living and directly contributed to poverty reduction. Alongside economic growth, the work participation rates also improved, particularly among women, highlighting the increasing involvement of the female workforce in the region's economy. Female work participation rates rose from 24.4% in 1971 to 36.6% by 2011, signaling not only economic empowerment but also socio-cultural shifts towards gender inclusion in the workforce.

Urbanization and the expansion of urban infrastructure have further enhanced accessibility to education, healthcare, and employment opportunities. This has positively impacted life expectancy and reduced infant mortality rates, contributing to improved quality of life. The sectoral composition of employment in Rayalaseema has also evolved, with a notable shift towards the service sector. Between 1971 and 2011, the share of workers in the service sector rose from 13% to 33.2%, signifying a move away from agriculture-dominated employment patterns towards a more diversified

economy. However, the stagnation and subsequent decline in the industrial sector's share from 9.1% in 1971 to 3.8% in 2011 indicate that industrial growth has lagged, placing continued pressure on the agricultural sector.

Table 8 Incidence of Rural Poverty in Rayalaseema

Year	Poverty (%)
1977-78	54
1983-84	46
1987-88	27
1993-94	14
2020-21	13

Source: Krishna Rao and Subramanyam; *Statistical Abstract Andhra Pradesh 2022*

Poverty Trends in Rayalaseema

The incidence of rural poverty refers to the prevalence or proportion of individuals or households living in poverty within rural areas. The table presents the incidence of rural poverty from 1977-78 to 2020-21, showing a significant and steady decline over four decades. In 1977-78, the rural poverty rate was 54%. By 1987-88, it had significantly decreased to 27%. The downward trend continued, and by 2020-21, the rural poverty rate had fallen to a low of 13%. This data highlights the substantial progress made in reducing rural poverty over the years (Table 8).

Table 9 Human Development Index (HDI) in Rayalaseema

District	Literacy Index		Health Index		Income Index		Overall HDI	
	1981	2001	1981	2001	1981	2001	1981	2001
Chittoor	0.33	0.66	0.33	0.51	0.48	0.57	0.38	0.58
Kadapa	0.31	0.55	0.48	0.71	0.31	0.39	0.37	0.55
Anantapur	0.26	0.39	0.24	0.38	0.31	0.47	0.27	0.41
Kurnool	0.25	0.26	0.61	0.40	0.43	0.45	0.43	0.37
Rayalaseema	0.29	0.46	0.41	0.50	0.39	0.47	0.36	0.48

Source: Krishna Rao and Subramanyam

Table 10 District wise Gross District Domestic Product in Rayalaseema (Crores)

District	1993-94	2000-01	2007-08	2011-12	2020-21
Chittoor	2948	6478	12604	27494	82470
Kadapa	1968	4431	14293	18529	49104
Anantapur	2793	6296	13804	24213	68842
Kurnool	2520	5302	12315	22917	65688
Rayalaseema	10229	22507	53016	93153	266104

Source: Socio-Economic Survey (various years), Government of Andhra Pradesh

Human Development Index (HDI) in Rayalaseema

The overall index of the region can be understood only when an aggregate index is computed. Human Development Index as defined by the UNDP is computed with three indicators: Literacy rate, Health and Per capita Income. The overall index is computed as the simple average of these three indices. The indices are computed for 1981 and 2001. The results indicate that there are some changes in the ranking of districts on the basis of overall index between the two periods. Among the four districts in Rayalaseema, Kurnool and Anantapur are relatively more backward than other two districts. Kurnool occupies the lowest position because of its backwardness in education. Anantapur is backward in health as well as education (Table 9).

Gross District Domestic Product

District Domestic Product broadly indicates the level of development or economic growth of a district. The table 10 illustrates the Gross District Domestic Product (GDDP) of the Rayalaseema region in Andhra Pradesh highlighting significant economic growth in each district. Chittoor's GDDP increased from Rs.2948 crores in 1993-94 to Rs.82470 crores in 2020-21. Kadapa's GDDP grew from Rs.1968 crores in 1993-94 to Rs.49104 crores in 2020-21.

Anantapur's GDDP rose from Rs. 2793 crores in 1993-94 to Rs. 68842 crores in 2020-21. Kurnool's GDDP expanded from Rs. 2520 crores in 1993-94 to Rs. 65688 crores in 2020-21. Overall, the Rayalaseema region's GDDP increased from Rs. 10229 crores in 1993-94 to Rs. 266104 crores in 2020-21, reflecting substantial economic development across the region.

Per Capita Income

The per capita income is one of the most important indicators to measure the standard of living of people. The table displays the Per Capita Income of

the Rayalaseema region in Andhra Pradesh, during the period between 1993-94 and 2020-21, illustrating significant growth across each district. The per capita income in Rayalaseema region at current prices increased from Rs.7553 to Rs.150824 by 2020-21. In Chittoor, per capita income increased from Rs. 7778 in 1993-94 to Rs. 140910 in 2020-21. Kadapa's per capita income grew from Rs. 7488 in 1993-94 to Rs. 169579 in 2020-21. Anantapur saw its per capita income rise from Rs. 7601 in 1993-94 to Rs. 145595 in 2020-21. Kurnool's per capita income expanded from Rs. 7346 in 1993-94 to Rs. 147213 in 2020-21 (Table 11).

Table 11 District wise Per Capita Income in Rayalaseema (Rupees)

District	1993-94	2000-01	2007-08	2011-12	2020-21
Chittoor	7778	15948	28147	51616	140910
YSR Kadapa	7488	15476	46305	59751	169579
Anantapur	7601	15817	32255	53245	145595
Kurnool	7346	14010	29362	58165	147213
Rayalaseema	7553	15313	34017	55694	150824

Source: Socio-Economic Survey (various years), Government of Andhra Pradesh

Work Participation Rates in Rayalaseema

The development of a region is partly influenced by the labour force participation rate and labour productivity. Both Census and NSSO reports provide data on labour force participation rates at the state level. But, data at regional level are available only from Census.

Table 12 explains the trends in work participation rates in Rayalaseema. The total work participation in Rayalaseema during 1971 was 41.5% which gradually increased to 48.2% by 2011. The rural work participation, interestingly, has been higher

than urban work participation rate. In 1971, the rural participation rate was at 43.4% while that of urban's was 31.8%. By 1991, Rural work participation has increased to 46.8% while urban had remained stable at 31%. By 2011, Rural work participation rate has increased to 51.1% and the urban's to 37.1%. In Rayalaseema, the work participation rate for men has always been over 50%. From 1971 to 2011, the male work participation rate stayed steady at 56%. During the same period, the female work participation rate gradually increased from 24.4% in 1971 to 36.6% by 2011.

Table 12 Trends in Work Participation Rates in Rayalaseema(%)

Year	Rural	Urban	Total	Male	Female	Total
1971	43.4	31.8	41.5	56.9	24.4	41.5
1981	45.5	31.1	42.6	56.1	26.8	42.6
1991	46.8	31.0	43.1	55.7	29.9	43.1
2001	50.3	36.3	47.5	56.2	33.7	47.5
2011	51.1	37.1	48.2	56.4	36.6	48.2

Source: 1. Krishna Rao and Subramanyam, 2. Census Reports, 2011, Govt. of India

Sector-wise Distribution of Workers

It is universal accepted that economic development is expected to bring sectoral shifts in

income. The share of primary sector will decline and the share of Industry and service sectors will increase with economic development. There is only

a small decline in the share of primary sector and even this decline is not due to increase in the share of industrial sector. Only the share of service sector increased from 13 percent in 1971 to 16.3 percent by 1991. Thereafter it increased to 33.2 percent by 2011. The share of industrial sector was 9.1 percent in both 1971 and 1991. It means there is no change in this sector. But, its share declined to 3.8 percent by 2011. This absence of growth in industrial sector keeps heavy pressure on agricultural sector (Table 13).

Table 13 Sector-wise Distribution of Workers in Rayalaseema

Year	Agriculture	Industry	Service
1971	77.9	9.1	13.0
1991	74.6	9.1	16.3
2011	63.0	3.8	33.2

Source: 1. Krishna Rao and Subramanyam;
2. Census Reports, 2011, Andhra Pradesh

Conclusion

The population of Rayalaseema has significantly increased from 65.8 lakhs in 1961 to 1.51 crores by 2011, representing approximately 2.3 times growth over the five decades of the study period. During the first three decades of the study period, from 1961 to 1991, the population grew by approximately 21% each decade. Thereafter it declined to 15.66% in the 1991-2001 decade and further dropped to 11.97% in the 2001-2011 decade. It is concluded that sex ratio in Rayalaseema did not undergo any drastic change in the first four decades i.e. between 1961 and 1991. Thereafter it registered an increase during the 2001 and 2011. The literacy rate in Rayalaseema has increased from 24.4 percent in 1971 to 65.6 percent by 2011. It has increased by 2.7 times in the period of four decades. There was a quantum jump in the literacy rate during 1981-1991 and 1991-2001 of about 15 percent for each of these decades. The demographic transition in

Rayalaseema, characterized by increased population, literacy, and human development indicators, has driven economic growth, enhanced per capita incomes, and substantially reduced poverty. The interplay of these factors illustrates the broader socio-economic transformation of the region over the last four decades, providing a textbook case of how demographic and economic changes are interlinked in driving regional development.

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Authors Details

G. Eswara Reddy, Assistant Professor, Government Degree College, Yerraguntla, Andhra Pradesh, India,
Email ID: eswarareddyguda@gmail.com

T. Sudarsana Reddy, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Yogi Vemana University, Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh, India