

**Situation Analysis of Dalit Girl Children,
Anganwadis, Social Welfare Hostels and
Government Schools in the State of A.P.**

A Study Report

By



DALIT STHREE SAKTHI (DSS)

2011

1. About the Report

In the aftermath of Globalization and liberalization the plight of dalits turned from bad to worse. The country had undergone several systemic changes with the advent of economic reforms in the early 90's. If these reforms had a symmetrical impact on the upper echelons of society it's pathetic to note they had an asymmetrical and rather disastrous affect on social, economic and cultural facets of dalits.

The major impact of this new trend is the steep rise of landless and jobless dalits, who undoubtedly are the most exploited and helpless strata of the society.

Buoyed by the policies of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, the public sector banks have been shying away from granting loans, thereby drastically slowing down the fund-flow to the dalits. Certain administrative policies by governments have dried up jobs in the agricultural and rural sector putting the lives of dalits in a spot.

Moreover, commercialization and corporatisation made education inaccessible for dalits. The spiralling prices coupled with the reduction and withdrawal of subsidies and welfare measures pushed the dalits to a corner.

The economic crisis percolated down to dalit women and girls driving them to more pathetic conditions. Traditionally, dalit girls are the most exploited lot in the society. They are not treated on par with the men and are haunted at home and outside receiving only second grade treatment. Severely marginalized by the new trends of the society, the poverty-stricken, illiterate and helpless dalit parents are forced to send their daughters as domestic servants for petty sums even to far off places.

As a domestic servant the girl child is hurled with abuses and pathetic treatment. To make it worse on innumerable occasions these servants are

subjected to sexual exploitation. Locked inside, beaten and tortured the dalit children are facing harrowing time at their work places. More serious incidents of torture have surfaced in the recent past and a few of them attracted media attention as the tormentor was a high official, cine artiste or politician. Shockingly this sort of treatment is becoming an accepted norm.

Due to poverty, illiteracy and influence of tradition, if a girl child is not sent as domestic labour, the parents are marrying her off at a tender age, usually below 14 years. Such marriages are turning out to be another form of bonded labour, as the in-laws are treating these girls on par with the bonded slaves.

Due to poverty and prejudice against girl children newly born female babies are thrown out at the street side or in municipal dust bins and reports of such incidents in media are on the rise. There are also reports that some parents are even selling away their girl children. Civil society is shocked to learn at all these reports. Moreover the number of kidnaps is also on the rise and is alarming. The police have recently cracked down on a few gangs who buy these children and sell them in flesh market. When the police raided several prostitute dens in Mumbai and Delhi, it is found that a good number of them are from Andhra Pradesh.

Several innocent girls are being cheated by men. By faking them with the promise of marriage, men, mostly in villages, are abandoning them after getting them pregnant. Hundreds of such incidents are being reported day-after-day.

If the innocent dalit girls have to be saved from all the above dangers, the only way out is education. Since, parents cannot get their girl children educated, the need of the hour is to streamline the Anganwadis, Social Welfare Hostels and Government Schools for injecting better education to dalit girls.

Unfortunately the situation of social welfare hostels is worrisome. There are not even bare minimum facilities in these hostels like potable water, toilets, clothing and worse still the food supplied is infested with worms. There are no proper teachers or wardens. Budget actually released for the hostels is far

less than the allocated budget. Even these funds are misused and institutionalized corruption is rampant in social welfare hostels. While lack of facilities stare at them, the atrocities committed on them make a mockery of the lives of dalit girls.

Going by media reports alone the number of instances of sexual exploitation and the prevalence of pregnant children in the hostels is on the rise. In most cases the culprit is either the teacher or the warden.

Political parties respond to dalit girl child situation only when a serious incident takes place or before the elections. Last year, when some SC and BC leaders announced formation of an alternative political forum for the political empowerment of the oppressed castes, the leading political parties felt threatened and they competed with one another announcing various schemes for the benefit of dalit and backward class children in social welfare hostels, but all the euphoria went up in smoke once the election process was over. Now, neither the so called dalit leaders nor the political leaders are seen doing anything worthwhile. It is the experience of DSS that the politicians try to maximize their electorate with false promises and they never come forward with any concrete programme for the upliftment of the socially and economically underprivileged sections, especially, dalit girl children. That is why DSS decided to take up the issue of dalit girl children and formulated specific time bound programme for the improvement of social welfare hostels.

The agenda set by DSS is:

1. Conduct scientific survey and study of the existing situation of Dalit Girl Children, Social Welfare Hostels, Anganwadis and Government Schools.
2. To formulate strategies and draw up programmes and activities to improve the situation on the basis of study.
3. To monitor and check the corruption in the social welfare hostels and to launch movement for release of more budget.
4. To increase the awareness of dalit girl children and parents on their rights and facilitate them to struggle for their rights and to work for

eradication of all forms of corruption by bringing the violations to the notice of higher officials and media.

Thus, DSS has clear strategy and programme of action for improving the situation of social welfare hostels. With this broad agenda in view, DSS conducted survey of the hostels, schools and anganwadis in the operational areas.

METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION

1. Focused group discussions with target group.
2. Small group interviews.
3. Individual interviews.
4. Group discussion with the dalit communities of the villages.
5. Discussions with government officials.
6. Collection of primary and secondary data and documentation.

SURVEY

A random survey of the Dalit Girl Children, Anganwadi Centres, Government Schools and Social Welfare Hostels in the working area of Dalit Stthree Sakthi (DSS) spread over 8 districts has been done. The number of children, centres surveyed district wise is as mentioned below:

S. No.	Districts	Dalit Girl Children	Anganwadi Centers	Government Schools	Social Welfare Hostels
1	Guntur	200	344	164	9
2	Krishna	201	117	75	16
3	Hyderabad	183	20	14	3
4	Ranga Reddy	217	36	23	2
5	Kadapa	Nil	17	31	0
6	Vishakapatnam	195	25	7	5
7	East Godavari	210	201	214	11
8	West Godavari	195	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Total	1401	760	528	46

INTRODUCTION

There are about 250 million Dalits in India. There is not considerable improvement in the socio-economic condition of dalits in the past 50 years, when compared to non-dalits. Much more needs to be done. The urgent need is to have a national sample survey on dalits. Every fourth Indian is a dalit. There is no proper survey to give the correct number of dalit women in India. They are generally scattered in villages and they are not a monogamous group. About 75% of dalits live below poverty line. Economic backwardness of dalits is mostly due to injustice done to them in the caste system for generations by which they are kept away from economic, social and every other resource by the higher castes and also due to exploitation through all means. Since a long time in the history, the dalits were coerced to work like slaves, sold as commodities resulting in their social discrimination, economic deprivation and educational backwardness. To assess the position of dalit girl children in India this chapter is divided into various heads.

EDUCATION:

Education provides the basis for the realization of other rights and strengthens the poverty ridden to fight for the enjoyment of many other human rights, such as the right to work, health and political participation. Thus, education plays an important role in the social, economic and political progress of any nation. In a rapidly changing society in the era of science and technology, those without education perish as they do not have the skills to offer.

All human rights instruments have right to education as an important right and obligated the States to provide free and compulsory primary education for all children. The States also have an obligation to root out illiteracy among its adult population. Important hallmark of right to education is equality and non-discrimination i.e. States should see that there is equal access for the girl child and vulnerable groups, such as children with disabilities and of minority and refugee children. As per the international standards, the Governments should also concentrate on the quality of education and see that education is

directed towards the development of the child's personality, talents and abilities to their fullest potential.

While the above are the international norms concerning education, in India the educational level of women generally and dalit women and girls in particular is at a very low level. Age old traditions of denial of education for dalits are the chief reason for the educational backwardness of dalits in general and dalit women in particular. Though there were reformative attempts and governmental encouragement since some years, the situation did not change much for various socio economic and cultural reasons. The reasons for the high rate of illiteracy among dalit women are many of which the following are important:

1. Resistance from the family to send girls to schools due to cultural notions that girls' education is unnecessary.
2. Fear of insecurity in villages.
3. Lack of physical facilities like accommodation, school, transport and medical facilities.
4. The need of the girls to take care of the siblings when the parents are away at work.
5. The tradition of giving privileged status to boys to enjoy leisure and forcing girls to do domestic chores, which prevent them from attending school.
6. Poverty forces the parents to employ the girl children to make extra earnings for the family by employing them in beedi factories or other unorganized sector, thereby preventing the girls from attending school. Apart from (and in addition to) poverty, sickness of parents, unemployment of parents and drunkenness of father etc are other reasons that force the girls to go for work.
7. The tradition of getting the girl married soon after puberty is still largely prevalent among the dalits which results in the discontinuation of the studies of the girl. Social restriction is that the girls should stop education after marriage. Moreover, as per the tradition a girl after

marriage is expected to do the entire household work in the in laws home and the in laws force her to do the entire work.

8. Misbehaviour, blackmail and exploitation by the male staff, other high caste people in the school is another reason why the parents prefer not to send the girl to school.
9. Fear of alienation of girls from their environment as a result of education.
10. Need to pay more dowry to get suitable match is another draw back if the girl is educated.

The above are some of the factors for low literacy level among SC girls and due to all these difficulties many parents wish to withdraw the girls from schools. The present position seems to be better with reference to the rate of literacy among dalits. The literacy rate is 31.48% for boys and 10.93% for girls.

ANGANWADIS

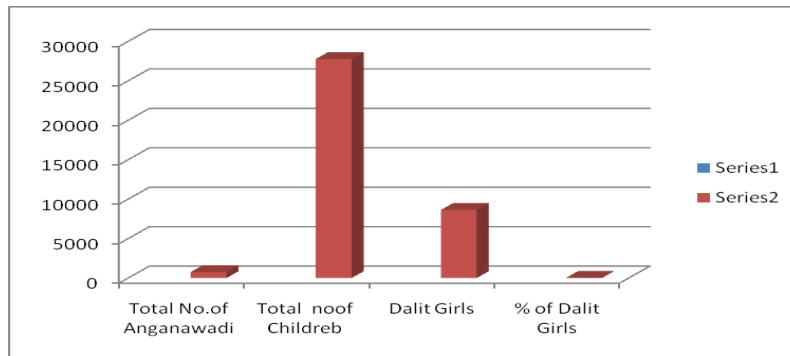
Anganwadi is a government sponsored child-care and mother-care center in India. It provides services to children in the 0-6 age group. The word Anganwadi means "courtyard shelter". They were started by the Indian government in 1975 as part of the Integrated Child Development Services program to combat child hunger and malnutrition.

Status of Dalit Girls in Anganwadi Centers Surveyed

District	No of Anganwadis Surveyed	Centers located in Dalit Colonies	Total children	Dalit girls
Guntur	344	153	15740	4497
Krishna	117	67	3073	1165
Hyderabad	20	14	856	391
Ranga Reddy	36	6	1369	407
Kadapa	17	7	619	77
Vishakapatnam	25	12	635	156
East Godavari	201	111	5485	1946
Total	760	370	27777	8639

Percentage of Dalit Girls

<i>Total No. of Anganawadi</i>	<i>Total no of Children</i>	<i>Dalit Girls</i>	<i>% of Dalit Girls</i>
760	27777	8639	31

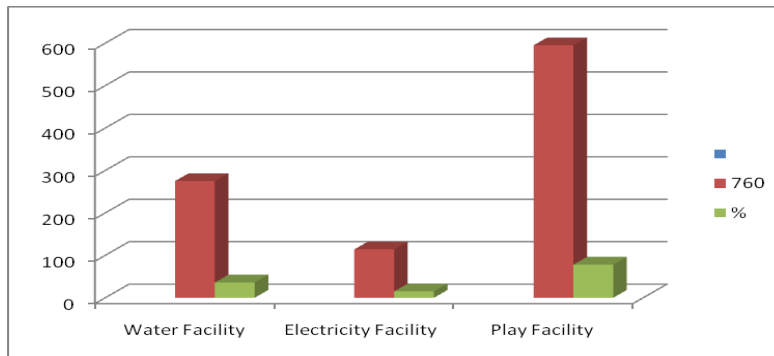


Facilities Available in Anganwadi Centers

District	No of Anganwadis Surveyed	Drinking Water Facility	Electricity Facility	Anganwadis in Rented Buildings	Centers with Compound Wall
Guntur	344	76	38	243	21
Krishna	117	57	33	163	15
Hyderabad	20	12	14	7	6
Ranga Reddy	36	15	3	15	12
Kadapa	17	12	1	8	4
Vishakapatnam	25	8	2	18	2
East Godavari	201	95	23	123	2
Total	760	275	114	577	62

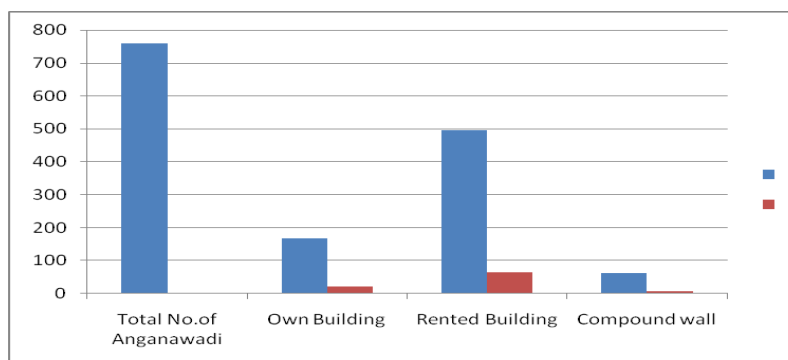
Anganawadi Centers with Water, Electricity and Play Facility

<i>Total No. of Anganawadi</i>	<i>Water Facility</i>	<i>Electricity Facility</i>	<i>Play Facility</i>
760	275	114	595
%	36	15	78



Anganwadi Centers Based on Type of Building and %

Total No. of Anganwadi	Own Building	Rented Building	Centers with Compound Wall
760	167	495	62
%	22	65	8



An attempt is made to know the facilities available at Anganwadi Centers. In terms of facilities available and accessible to the children, the figures are not encouraging. The facilities available at Anganwadi center are not adequate enough for the children attending. Though the children are attending they are not getting proper care and support due to such improper conditions.

The total strength of the 760 anganwadi centers surveyed is 27,777 out of which dalit girl child strength is 8639, which comes to 31%. Only 167 centers (22%) are in own buildings and 495 centers (65%) are in rented buildings. Only 62 centers (8%) have compound walls, it means 92% do not have compound walls. 51% of the teachers are SCs and among the Ayas it is 48%.

275 centers (36%) have water facility and the remaining 64% don't have water facility. Only 114 centers (15%) have electricity facility and the remaining 85% don't have. 165 centers (22%) don't have play facilities.

Social Welfare Hostels

Provision of hostels for the children hailing from oppressed sections of the community like scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes is an important social welfare measure. The role of these hostels in their education advancement is considerable. To achieve this objective, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has started a large number of social welfare hostels and at present, there are 2210 hostels functioning in the state with scheduled caste children comprising 70% of the hostel inmates. Health care of these hostel children is of utmost importance as they are in a period of growth and development and need an optimum health & nutrition care. Though useful information is available for the management of these hostels and upliftment of dalit girls, still the facilities which are available in the hostels is sparse. In this context, the present study was taken up among children residing in social welfare hostels for scheduled castes in 7 selected districts/towns of Andhra Pradesh. This study focuses on facilities available and status of children.

Status of Hostels Surveyed

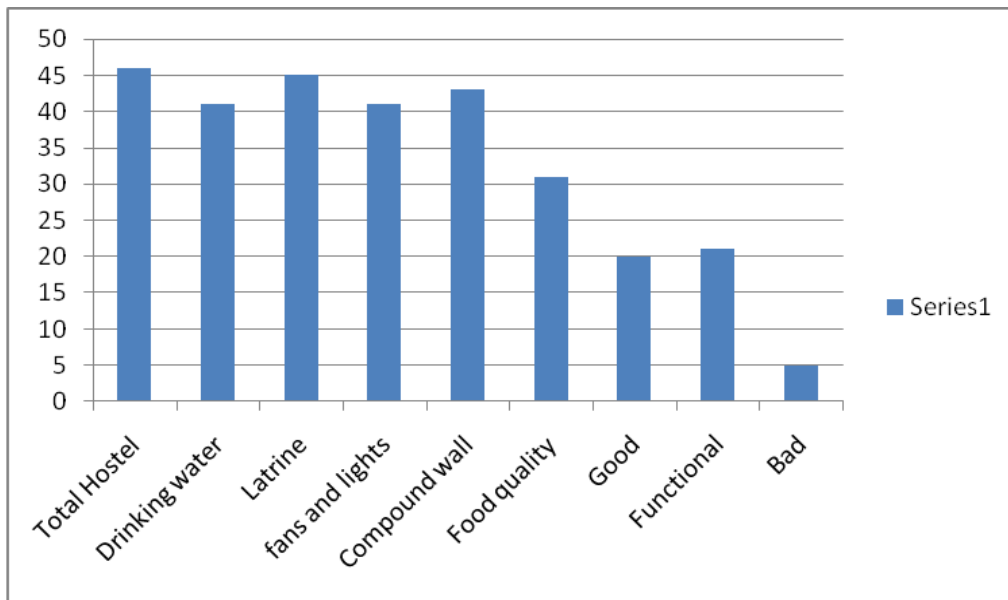
District	No of Hostels Surveyed	Own Buildings	Buildings in good condition	Distance from hostel to school >1 km
Hyderabad	3	2	2	0
Guntur	9	9	7	9
Krishna	16	15	8	13
Vishakapatnam	5	5	3	4
Ranga Reddy	2	2	1	2
East Godavari	11	8	7	10
Total	46	41	28	38

Facilities Available at Hostels

District	No of Hostels Surveyed	Drinking Water	Toilets	Compound wall	Clean surroundings	Fans & Lights
Hyderabad	3	2	3	3	1	3
Guntur	9	9	9	9	2	8
Krishna	16	13	15	15	3	14
Vishakapatnam	5	4	5	5	1	3
Ranga Reddy	2	2	2	2	0	2
East Godavari	11	11	11	9	4	11
Total	46	41	45	43	11	41

Analysis of Facility

<i>Total Hostel</i>	<i>Drinking Water</i>	<i>Latrine</i>	<i>Fans & Lights</i>	<i>Compound Wall</i>
43	46	41	45	41
	<i>Food Quality</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Functional</i>	<i>Bad</i>
	31	20	21	5

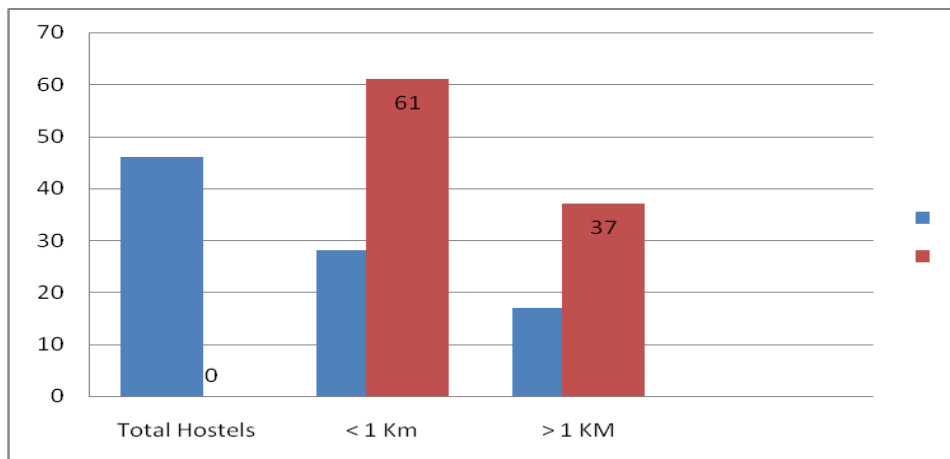


Status of Food Available at Hostels

District	No of Hostels Surveyed	Adherence to Food Menu	Food Quality as per Norms	Food Served on Time
Hyderabad	3	3	0	0
Guntur	9	9	9	3
Krishna	16	9	9	0
Vishakapatnam	5	4	2	0
Ranga Reddy	2	2	0	0
East Godavari	11	11	11	2
Total	46	38	31	5

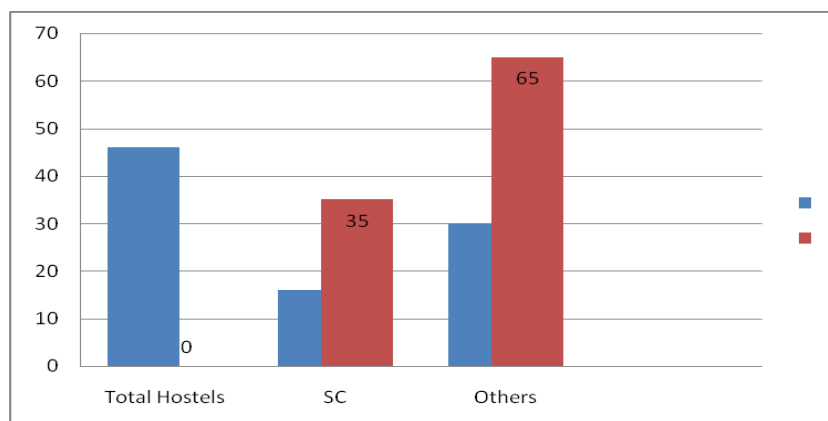
Distance between School and Hostel

<i>Total Hostels</i>	<i>< 1 Km</i>	<i>> 1 KM</i>
46	28	17
<i>%</i>	<i>61</i>	<i>37</i>



% of Hostels with Dalit Warden

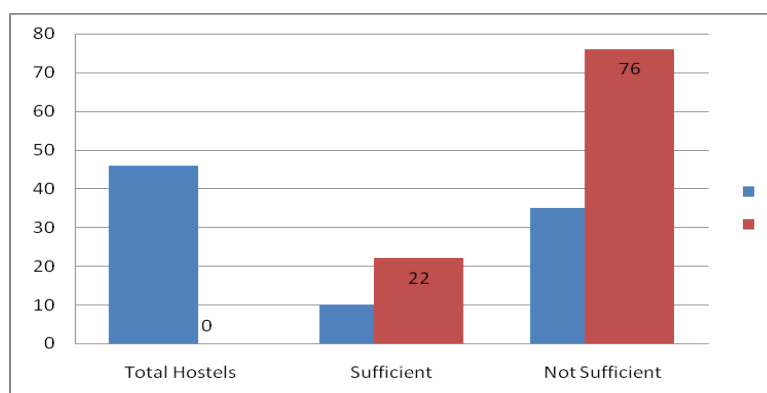
<i>Total Hostels</i>	<i>SC</i>	<i>Others</i>
46	16	30
<i>%</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>65</i>



Hostel functionaries, Employees

Total Hostels Sufficient Not Sufficient

46	10	35
%	22	76



A total of 46 hostels have been surveyed of which 10(22%) have sufficient staff and 36 (78%) do not have sufficient staff. Only 16 (35%) hostels have SC wardens and 30 (65%) are non SC wardens. 17 (37%) hostels are more than 1 km away from the schools. In 15 hostels the quality of food is low and in 15 hostels unhygienic conditions prevail. On the whole while considering the facilities such as drinking water, toilets, fans, lights, compound wall, quality of food and clean surroundings 5 hostels have come under '**BAD**', 21 hostels under '**FUNCTIONALLY OK**' and 20 under '**GOOD**'. The hostel buildings are also not in a good condition. The safety and security of children is utmost important. But according to the data the safety measures are very poor. Most of the hostels are taken on lease.

The quality of food provided to the children at the hostels is not good in 15(33%) hostels. Qualitative and nutritious food in sufficient quantity is of utmost importance to growing children. It was found out in the survey that food is not supplied in accordance with the menu and the quality is not satisfactory in some hostels. Though there are toilets in the hostels, they are not cleaned regularly or children themselves are forced to clean them. Many toilets do not have doors at all or even if they have, the bolts are lacking. Though the compound walls are physically present, they are easily accessible. All the hostels lack proper night watchmen.

The kitchen and its surroundings are in unhygienic conditions, the hostel surroundings are unclean, the rooms are dirty and congested, resulting in diseases like skin allergies, malaria, *chikun guinea* and other communicable diseases. There are instances of food poisoning and stale food being served. Likewise, cosmetics are not given properly. Further the water facility is inadequate.

GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS IN ANDHRA PRADESH

The status of AP in terms of Education

According to the National Human Development Report 2002, Andhra Pradesh (AP)'s position declined from eight in 1981 to 10 in 2001, while neighbouring states like Tamil Nadu improved their position relatively. Spending has increased from Rs 3,308 crore on education and Rs 1,098 crore on healthcare in 1999-2000 to Rs 4,666 crore and Rs 1,477 crore, respectively, in 2003-04.

However, as the AP Development Report by the Centre for Economic and Social Studies (CESS) points out, "AP lags behind, particularly in literacy, schooling and infant mortality compared to other southern states." Literacy rate of the state is at 61.11% as per 2001 census, below the national average of 65.38%. Interestingly, the drop-out rate increased in 2003-04, in the case of primary and upper primary levels, to 42.61% and 54.27% against 32.39% and 51.52% in 2002-03 respectively. At the secondary level it fell to 66.70% from 69.12%.

On the health front, there is negligible allocation for primary health, rural health centres are not functioning and the state hospitals do not have adequate medicines.

Andhra Pradesh has witnessed a boom in the number of educational institutions in the past few years, but its literacy rate is among the lowest in the country. From the lowly 28 rank in the 2001 Census, the state has now slipped to an even poorer 31 in the national literacy rate list of 35 states and Union territories. States like Uttar Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Union territory like Dadra and Nagar Haveli, which were ranked lower than Andhra Pradesh ten years ago, are sitting pretty with better rankings in the 2011 Census list.

The state's literacy rate of 67.66% is much lower than the national average of 74.04%. While the literacy rate of States in India has improved by almost 7% in the last decade, that of the other states has increased by 11 to 14% the comparative figure for the State of A.P is only 7%. The other three southern states are miles ahead of AP, with Kerala holding its number one position in the country, both Tamil Nadu (80.11%) and Karnataka (75.6%) too have improved their standings.

Educationists say that the state's downfall is due to its failure to improve the female literacy rate which is at 59.74%, much lower than other states including Jammu and Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh and Dadra and Nagar Haveli where it has improved by 15-17%. The female literacy rate has improved by just 9.31% in AP.

"On the one hand the dropout rate of girl children in the state has increased and on the other, the state has not attracted enough women, especially from the tribal belt to take part in adult education programmes. These two factors resulted in AP slipping further in the rankings," said Santha Sinha, educationist and chairperson, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights.

While Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA) claims that the enrolment rate has improved by 32% in the past five years, NGOs working in the field of education maintain that the enrolment of girl children remains poor.

According to educationists, the state seems to be more interested in trying to show an improvement in enrolment rate than concentrate on retention of girl children in schools. "The enrolment rate in the state is always fudged. Instead of genuinely attracting girl children to schools and retaining them by providing good learning environment officials fudge figures to hoodwink the government," said an observer from primary education department.

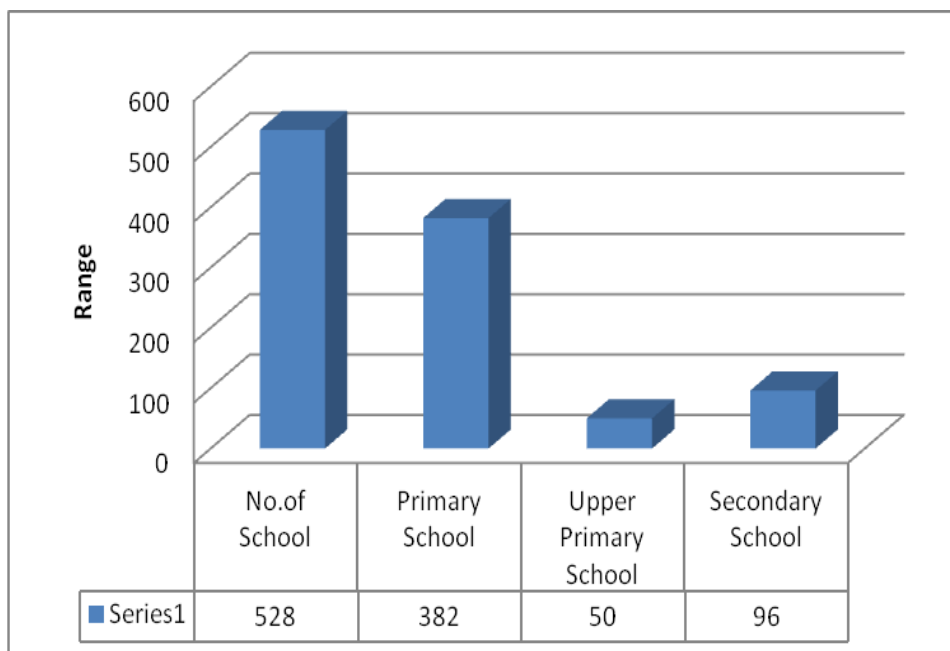
At the recent launch of the "Enrolment Drive" programme in schools, the Chief Minister said he was ashamed to admit that Andhra Pradesh's literacy rate lagged behind all the other states in South India and our state is competing with Jharkhand at the bottom of the literacy ladder. The dropout rate at school level is 46.21% at school level and only 54% are retaining until X class after joining in I class during the academic year 2010-11. The dropout rate is higher in case of girls belonging to STs (73.77%) and SCs (49.67%). Approximately

90 lakhs children are in government schools out of the total 1.5 crores students. The children in the government schools face lack of basic facilities like toilets, drinking water, power supply, benches, tables, blackboards and even chalk pieces.

- AP ranks ninth in the country in terms of children's (6-13 years) school attendance. Only 76.2% girls and 82.4% boys from the total children's population in that age group attend school reflecting high level of drop out (census 2001).
- Census 2001 shows that of every 100 children in the 5 - 14 years age group, 26 continue to be out of school
- Of every 100 children who are enrolled, 25 do not reach secondary level. DSE (2005-06)
- Of every 100 children who are enrolled, 51 drop out before they complete secondary level (Class VIII) and 64 dropout before completing 10th class DSE (2005-06)
- It is evident from the following facts that, Out of 100 SC children enrolled, 57 drop out before reaching secondary level and 70 dropout before completing 10th class. Similarly, 72 out of 100 enrolled children of ST dropout before completing elementary education and 82 dropout before completing 10th class (DSE – 2005-06)

No. of Schools Surveyed

No. of School	Primary School	Upper Primary School	Secondary School
528	382	50	96

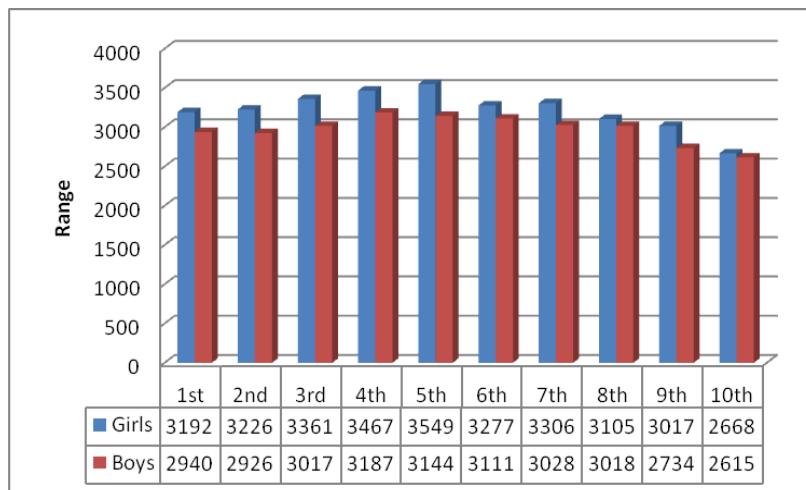


% of Facilities in Schools

Total No. Schools	528	Percentage
Toilet	221	41.86
Play Ground	160	30.30
Compound Wall	175	33.14
Water Facility	222	42.04
One Room	87	16.48
2 Rooms	117	22.16
> 2 Rooms	324	61.36

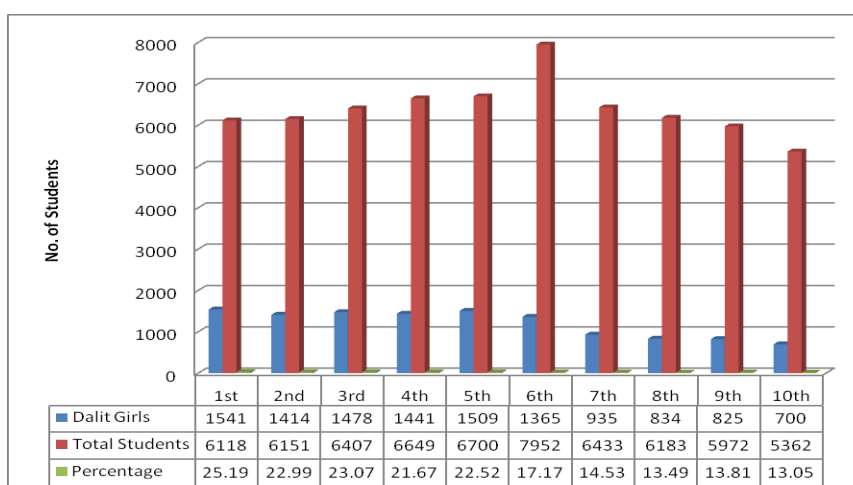
Class wise number of Girls and boys

Classes	Girls	Boys	Total
1st	3192	2940	6132
2nd	3226	2926	6152
3rd	3361	3017	6378
4th	3467	3187	6654
5th	3549	3144	6693
6th	3277	3111	6388
7th	3306	3028	6334
8th	3105	3018	6123
9th	3017	2734	5751
10th	2668	2615	5283
Total	32168	29720	61888



Class wise % of Dalit Girls

Classes	Dalit Girls	Total Students	Percentage
1 st	1541	6118	25.19
2 nd	1414	6151	22.99
3 rd	1478	6407	23.07
4 th	1441	6649	21.67
5 th	1509	6700	22.52
6 th	1365	7952	17.17
7 th	935	6433	14.53
8 th	834	6183	13.49
9 th	825	5972	13.81
10 th	700	5362	13.05
Total	12042	63927	18.84



A total of 528 schools have been surveyed, which includes 382 Primary Schools, 50 Upper Primary Schools and 96 High Schools. Out of 1968 teachers, 399 (20%) are SCs, 61 (3%) are STs, 660 (43%) are OBCs and 848 (43%) are OCs. The period since the teachers are working is less than 1 year – 418 (22%), 1-2 years 189 (10%) and more than 3 years 1256 (67%). Out of a total of 189 Vidya Volunteers, 78 (41%) are SCs, 2 (1%) are STs, 57 (30%) are OBCs and 52 (28%) are OCs. 221 schools have toilets only 175 schools have compound walls. In most of the primary and upper primary schools, either one/two teachers handle 5 classes. There are instances of students taking classes. Likewise there are supposed to be a minimum of 5 class rooms per school, whereas in 87 schools there is only one room and 117

schools have only 2 rooms. There is a sudden decline of dalit girl students' right from 7th standard, thus decreasing class wise up to 10th standard. The percentage of dalit girls in Anganwadi centers shows 31% and there is a sudden decline of 6% when it comes to 1st class. Likewise the percentage of dropouts further declines by 8% in 6th class. It is further decreasing and ultimately at 10th standard, the percentage of dalit girls is 13%. On the whole, quality education is lacking in primary and upper primary schools.

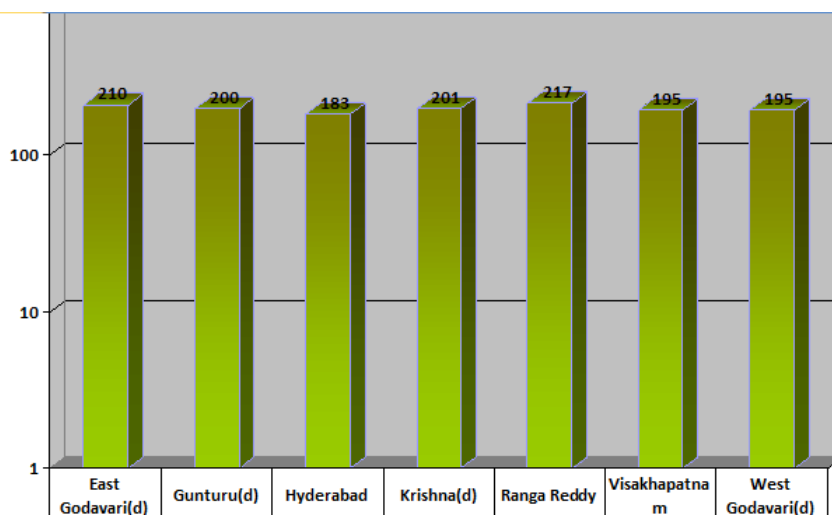
DALIT GIRL CHILDREN

The triple identity of dalit girl children is “**Dalit Girl Child**” and the double identity is “**Girl Child**”. The dalit population of the state is about 1.30 crores which approximately 18% of the total population. 80% of the Joginis are dalit girl children. Births and deaths of dalit girl children in the villages mostly go unnoticed due to lack of registration and as such the dalit girl child is losing recognition as a child. Due to poverty and dominant patriarchic outlook most of the dalit girl children are not sent to schools and are employed as child labor or domestic servants. The parental outlook itself towards dalit girl children is to dispose of her at the birth itself by killing or by selling away or force to prostitution, ill-treat, give away in child marriage, employ as domestic servant. The dowry problem which was only among the upper castes, has taken root among the dalits since two decades and now it is a major problem to get middle class dalit girls married. Once a dalit girl is employed as a domestic servant she has to silently suffer the worst torture and sexual exploitation. Reports of torture, sexual abuse of dalit girl children employed in the houses have become common. The publicized reports are only tip of the iceberg. Majority of the domestic girl children silently suffer torture and rape as usually they are kept in *communicado* from parents who live in a far of place and no confidence that parents would respond positively and no courage. Studies reveal that dalit girl children are kidnapped/purchased and sold to prostitute houses in tourist places like Goa. Reports have appeared frequently that prostitutes from Andhra Pradesh are more in number in cities like Bombay and Delhi. The impact of TV/Cinema has reached alarming levels in influencing teen age girls and boys and they are powerfully ignited by the modern consumerist world. Many brokers (men & women) of traffickers are playing on this ignited aspiration of girls and seducing them with offers of employment, high salary and luxurious life and secretly selling them to prostitute houses. In some cases young men dressed attractively pretend love and elope the girl children in the name of marriage and after few days of sexual exploitation the girls are either left away or sold to prostitute dens. In all these type of cases the girls realize that they were cheated only after they land up in the prostitute den, but they stand no chance of escaping as the den keepers cruelly and methodologically force these girls to accept the profession. Poverty is the greatest form of violence in our country and it has its worst impact on the dalit girl children.

Study on Dalit Girl Children

In continuation to the survey done on Anganwadi Centres, Government Schools and Social Welfare Hostels a sample survey on the Dalit Girl Children was done in 7 districts. Districts wise the dalit girl children covered are as follows:

Ranga Reddy	Hyderabad	Guntur	Krishna	West Godavari	East Godavari	Visakhapatnam	Total
217	183	200	201	195	210	195	1401



A specific format covering various aspects was prepared and finalized after taking the opinion of the subject experts. The information in accordance with the format was procured from the dalit girl children pertaining to the working areas of DSS spread over the above mentioned 7 districts. A total of 1401 children were covered from among the 50 villages including slums from these 7 districts.

Occupation: The occupation of parents was also covered. In rural areas the main occupation of dalit women is agricultural work and in urban areas most of the women are restrained as house wives due to lack of work and the rest as domestic servants. The percentage of daily agricultural workers (labourers) district wise is as follows:

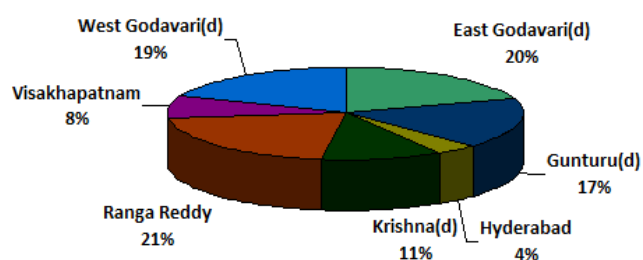
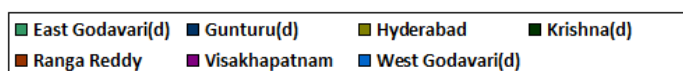
Number of Daily Labourers (Mother)

Ranga Reddy	Hyderabad	Guntur	Krishna	West Godavari	East Godavari	Visakhapatnam	Total
209(96%)	38(21%)	173(87%)	111(55%)	187(96%)	199(95%)	79(41%)	996 (71%)

72% of the dalit women are daily labourers. Ranga Reddy and West Godavari districts has the highest with 96%, followed by East Godavari with 95%, Guntur-87%. On the whole 71% of the dalit women are daily labourers (agricultural workers). In urban areas the occupation is as follows:

City	House Wives	Domestic Workers	Daily Labourers	Others
Hyderabad	71 (39%)	50 (27%)	38 (21%)	24(12%)
Visakhapatnam	95 (49%)	3 (1%)	79 (41%)	18(9%)
Vijayawada	60 (29%)	12 (6%)	111(55%)	18 (9%)

Percentage of Daily Labourers (Mothers) District Wise

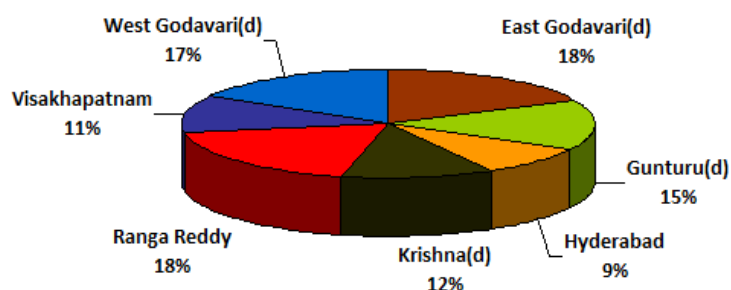
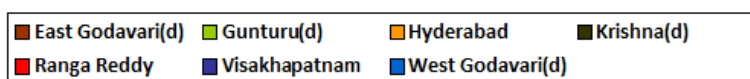


Number of Daily Labourers (Fathers)

Ranga Reddy	Hyderabad	Guntur	Krishna	West Godavari	East Godavari	Visakhapatnam	Total
208	96	172	132	186	197	122	1113(79%)

In Ranga Reddy-96%, Guntur-86%, West Godavari-95% and East Godavari-94% are daily labourers (agricultural workers). In urban areas i.e., in Hyderabad-52%, Visakhapatnam-63% and in Vijayawada-66% are daily labourers.

Percentage of Daily Labourers (Fathers) District Wise

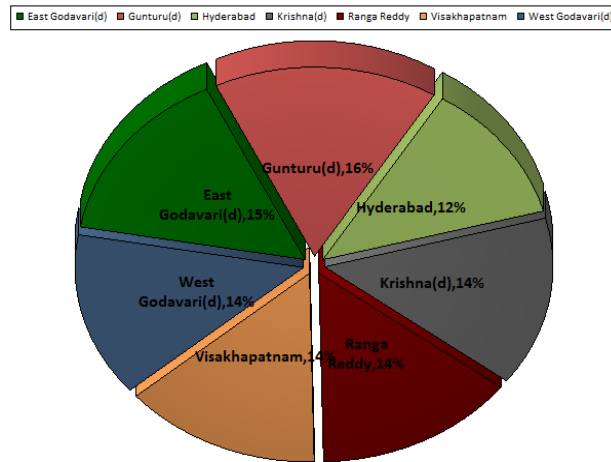


Literacy: The literacy levels are also very low in dalit girl children. Guntur has the highest at 20% and Hyderabad the lowest at is 15%.

Number of Literates

Ranga Reddy	Hyderabad	Guntur	Krishna	West Godavari	East Godavari	Visakhapatnam
39(18%)	28(15%)	40(20%)	36(18%)	34(17%)	39(19%)	35(18%)

Percentage of Literacy District Wise

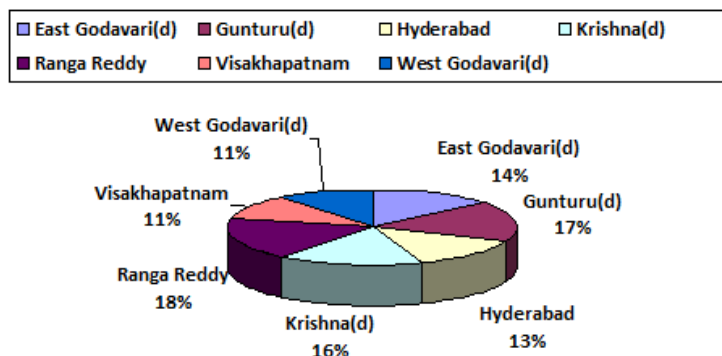


Teaching Standard: Most of the girl children feel that they are unable to understand the teaching and the teaching standard of the teachers need to be improved. Many children Guntur district have said that that they are unable to understand and it stands with highest at 92% and West Godavari at the lowest with 59%. This proves that almost 77% of the dalit girl children in the government schools are unable to understand the teaching.

Number of Children Unable To Understand

Ranga Reddy	Hyderabad	Guntur	Krishna	West Godavari	East Godavari	Visakhapatnam
194(89%)	145(79%)	184(92%)	176(88%)	116(59%)	153(73%)	116(60%)

Children (%) Unable to Understand Teaching



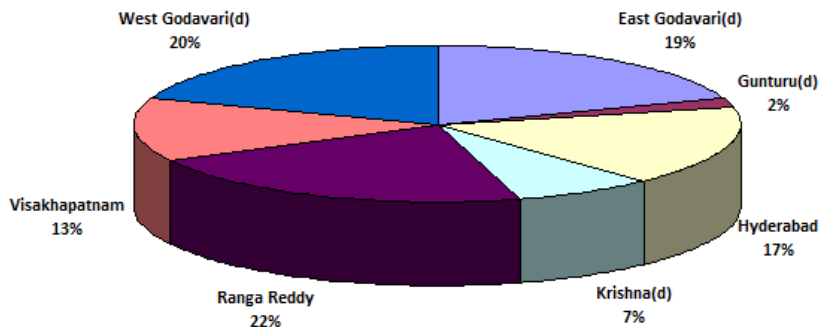
Burden of Purchasing the Books and Other things: Dalit Girl Children in 6 districts complain on the burden of purchasing the books and other material falling on them. Highest number i.e., 86% of dalit girl children in West Godavari are facing the burden of purchasing the books etc, followed by Ranga Reddy with 85% and in East Godavari with 79%. On the whole average of the burden is 60%.

Number of Children bearing Burden of Purchasing Books

Ranga Reddy	Hyderabad	Guntur	Krishna	West Godavari	East Godavari	Visakhapatnam
186 (85%)	141 (77%)	17 (9%)	63 (31%)	167 (86%)	166 (79%)	112 (63%)

Burden (%) of Purchasing the Books District Wise

East Godavari(d) Gunturu(d) Hyderabad Krishna(d) Ranga Reddy Visakhapatnam West Godavari(d)



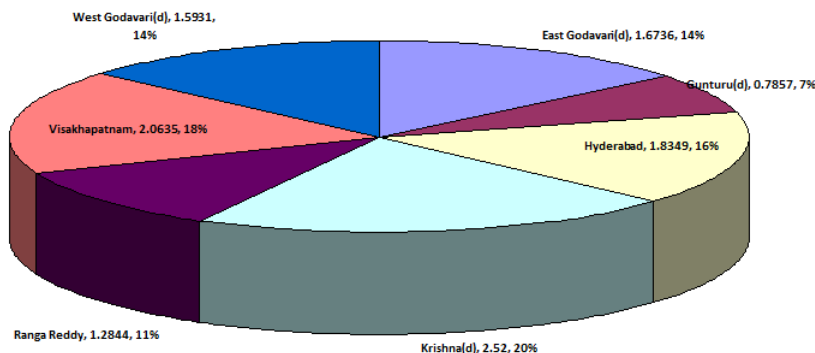
Distance to School from Dalit Colony: The girl children are also facing the problem of going by walk to school, leading to various unsecured aspects.

Average Distance in Kms to School from dalit Colony

Ranga Reddy	Hyderabad	Guntur	Krishna	West Godavari	East Godavari	Visakhapatnam
1.28	1.83	0.78	2.52	1.59	1.67	2.06

Average Distance (in Kms) to School

East Godavari(d) Gunturu(d) Hyderabad Krishna(d) Ranga Reddy Visakhapatnam West Godavari(d)

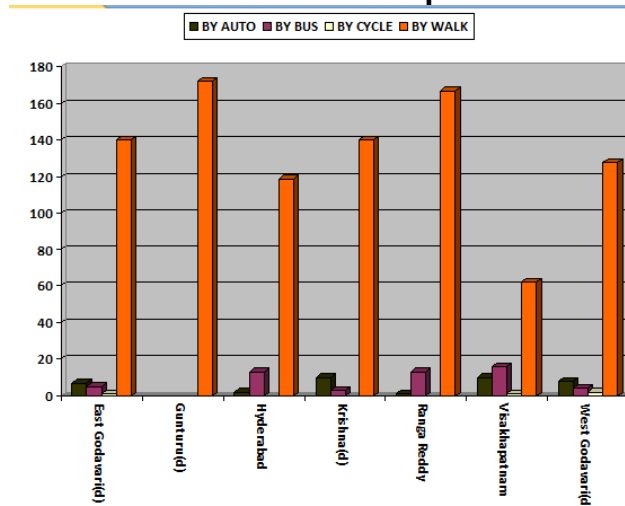


Means of going to School: Most of the dalit girl children go by walk and the overall average is 66%. Guntur has the highest children going by walk with 86% and followed by Ranga Reddy with 77%.

Number of Dalit Girl Children going by Walk to School

Ranga Reddy	Hyderabad	Guntur	Krishna	West Godavari	East Godavari	Visakhapatnam
167 (77%)	119 (65%)	172 (86%)	140 (70%)	128 (66%)	140 (67%)	62 (32%)

Means of transport to School

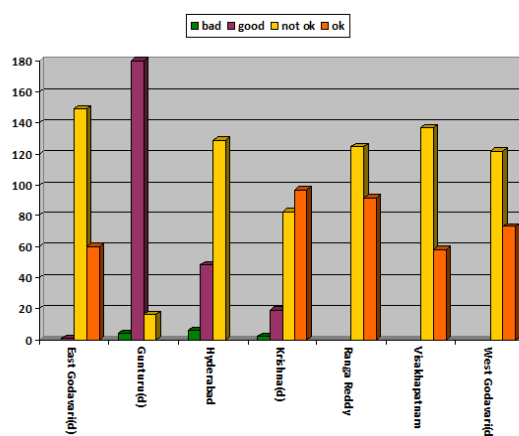


Mid-Day Meals: The dalit girl children feel that Mid-Day Meals served in the school is not ok and most of the children belonging to dominant community go home to take food or else bring lunch boxes. Overall 54% have felt that MDM is NOT OK. In East Godavari 71% have felt that MDM is not ok followed by Hyderabad and Visakhapatnam with 70%.

Number of Girl Children Saying that Mid-Day Meals is Not OK

Ranga Reddy	Hyderabad	Guntur	Krishna	West Godavari	East Godavari	Visakhapatnam
125 (58%)	129 (70%)	16 (8%)	83 (41%)	122 (63%)	149 (71%)	137 (70%)

Quality of Mid-Day Meals (MDM)



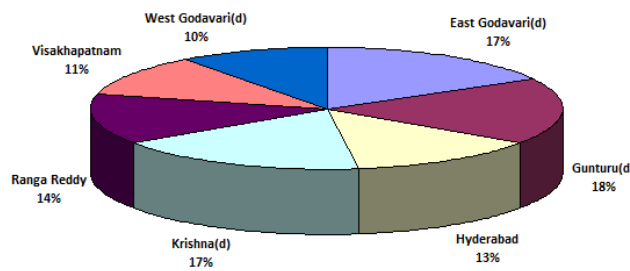
Unavailability of Toilet Facility: The girl children face a lot of problem to attend to nature calls during the school hours. On the whole 73% of the dalit girl children are unable to access the toilet facility. Guntur topping with 92% followed by Krishna 89%.

Number of Girl Children not having Access to Toilet

Ranga Reddy	Hyderabad	Guntur	Krishna	West Godavari	East Godavari	Visakhapatnam
140 (65%)	133 (73%)	183 (92%)	179 (89%)	105 (54%)	172 (82%)	111 (57%)

Unavailability of Toilets

Legend: East Godavari(d), Gunturu(d), Hyderabad, Krishna(d), Ranga Reddy, Visakhapatnam, West Godavari(d)



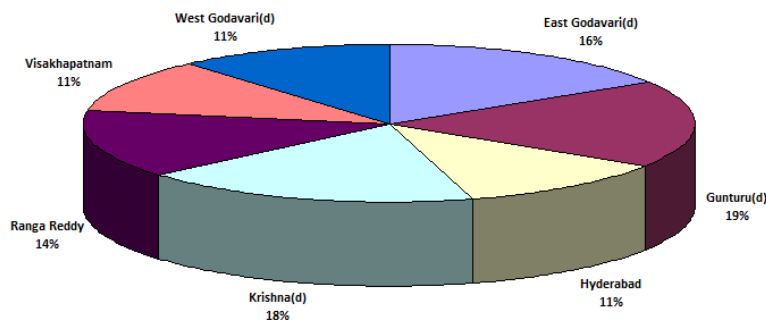
Unavailability of Drinking Water Facility: The other major problem for the school going children is lack of drinking water facility in the schools and on the whole 75% are unable to access drinking water facility. Krishna district on the top with 95% followed by Guntur with 94%.

Number of Girl Children Lacking Drinking Water at School

Ranga Reddy	Hyderabad	Guntur	Krishna	West Godavari	East Godavari	Visakhapatnam
150 (69%)	119 (65%)	188 (94%)	191 (95%)	120 (62%)	170 (81%)	112 (57%)

Unavailability of Drinking Water Facility

Legend: East Godavari(d), Gunturu(d), Hyderabad, Krishna(d), Ranga Reddy, Visakhapatnam, West Godavari(d)

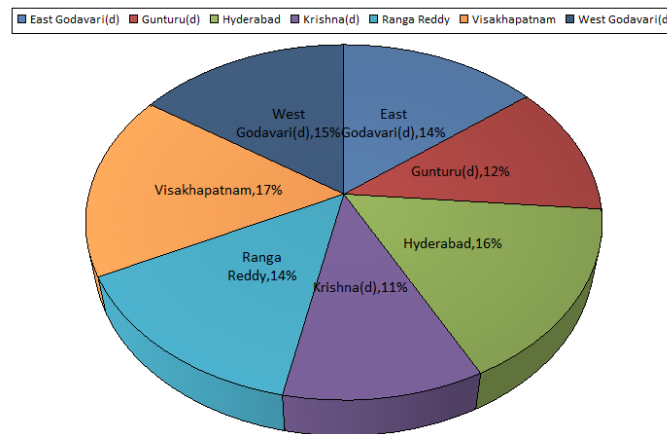


Dropouts: The overall dropout percentage stands at 26.27% and highest is at Visakhapatnam and Hyderabad with 32% each.

Number of Girl Children Dropouts

Ranga Reddy	Hyderabad	Guntur	Krishna	West Godavari	East Godavari	Visakhapatnam
53 (24%)	59 (32%)	44 (22%)	40 (20%)	57 (29%)	53 (25%)	62 (32%)

Dropouts (%) District Wise

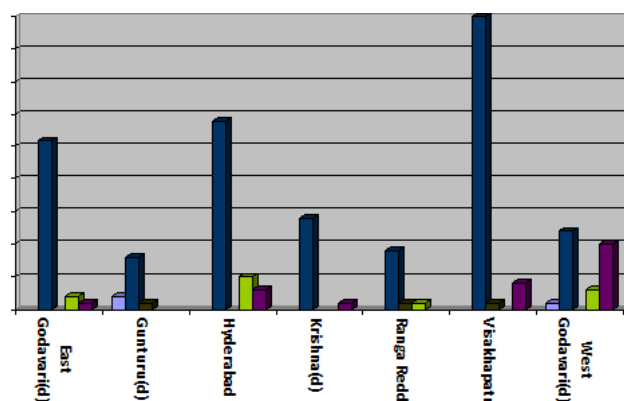
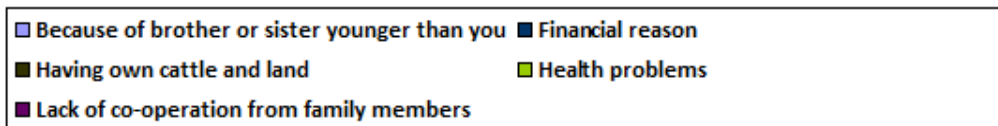


Reasons for Dropouts: The main reason for dropout again being economical problem. Irrespective of the percentage in all the districts the main reason is economical problem.

Number of Girl Children Dropouts due to Economical Reason

Ranga Reddy	Hyderabad	Guntur	Krishna	West Godavari	East Godavari	Visakhapatnam
150 (69%)	119 (65%)	188 (94%)	191 (95%)	120 (62%)	170 (81%)	112 (57%)

Various Reasons for the Dropout of Dalit Girl Children



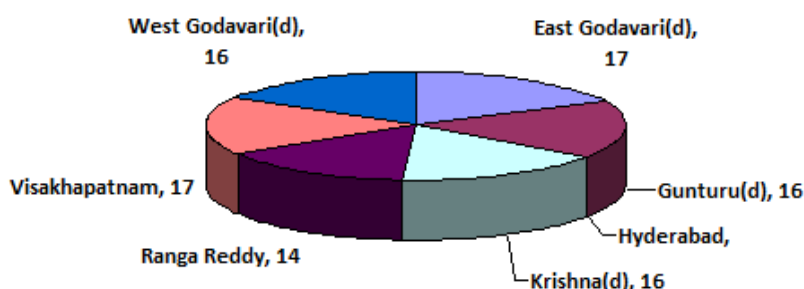
Child Marriages: Most of the dalit children are prone for child marriages and the overall average age is 16 years. Ranga Reddy district stands first with an average age of 14yrs followed by Krishna, Guntur and West Godavari districts with 16yrs.

Average Age in Years at the time of Marriage (Child)

Ranga Reddy	Hyderabad	Guntur	Krishna	West Godavari	East Godavari	Visakhapatnam
14	Nil	16	16	16	17	17

Average Age in Years District Wise during the time of Marriage

East Godavari(d)	Gunturu(d)	Hyderabad	Krishna(d)
Ranga Reddy	Visakhapatnam	West Godavari(d)	

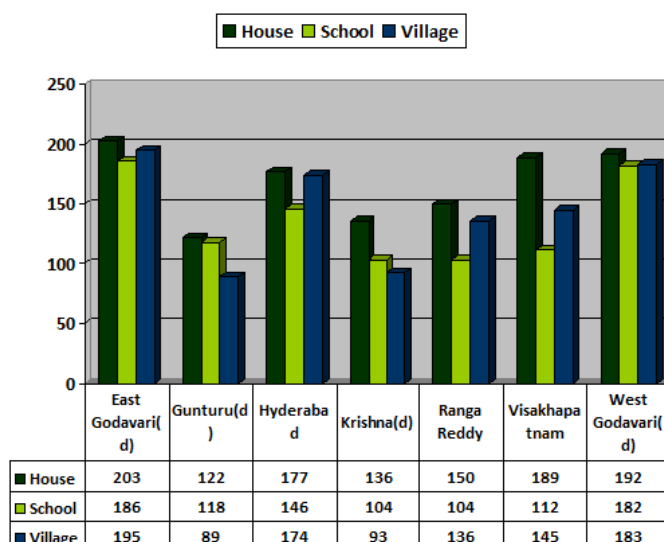


Areas of Improvement Sought: The girl children have preferred 3 areas to be improved; they are school, house and village. On the whole 68% of the children are seeking improvement in the schools, 83% in homes and 72% in villages. In West Godavari 93% of the children seek for improvement in the schools, followed by East Godavari with 89% and Hyderabad with 80%.

Number of Children Seeking Improvements

Areas of Improvement	Ranga Reddy	Hyderabad	Guntur	Krishna	West Godavari	East Godavari	Visakhapatnam	Total
Schools	104 (48%)	146 (80%)	118 (59%)	104 (52%)	182 (93%)	186 (89%)	112 (57%)	952 (68%)
Homes	150 (69%)	177 (98%)	122 (61%)	136 (68%)	192 (98%)	203 (97%)	189 (97%)	1169 (83%)
Villages	136 (63%)	174 (95%)	89 (49%)	93 (46%)	183 (93%)	195 (93%)	145 (74%)	1015 (72%)

Areas of Improvement Sought:

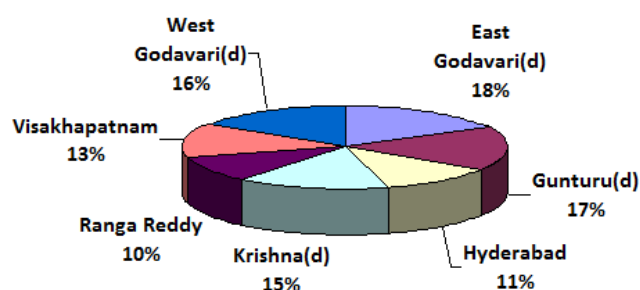
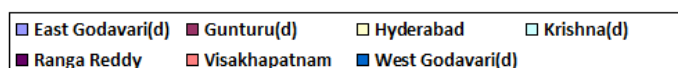


Insufficient Income for Family Maintenance: On the whole 1131 families have insufficient income which comes to 81%. Guntur district has the highest with 97% followed by Visakhapatnam with 95%.

Number of Families having Insufficient Income

Ranga Reddy	Hyderabad	Guntur	Krishna	West Godavari	East Godavari	Visakhapatnam
74 (34%)	123 (67%)	194 (97%)	178 (89%)	180 (92%)	197 (94%)	185 (95%)

Families with Insufficient Income

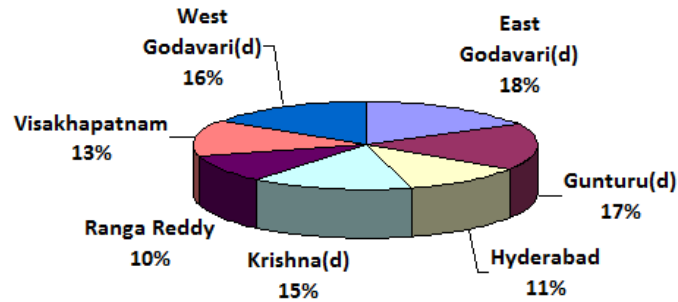
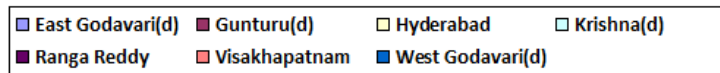


Borrowing for family maintenance: On the whole 81% (1129) of the families borrow every month for the family maintenance. In Visakhapatnam the borrowings are more and 95% of the families borrow every month for family maintenance followed by Guntur with 94%.

Number of Families Borrowing for Family Maintenance

Ranga Reddy	Hyderabad	Guntur	Krishna	West Godavari	East Godavari	Visakhapatnam
113 (52%)	126 (69%)	188 (94%)	174 (87%)	178 (91%)	199 (95%)	151 (77%)

Families Borrowing every month for Maintenance

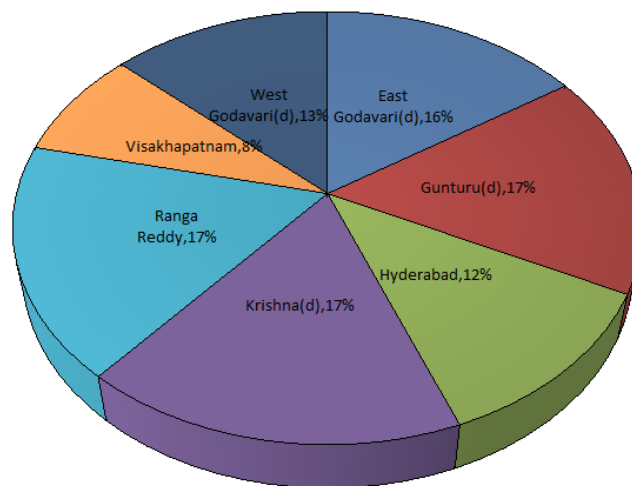
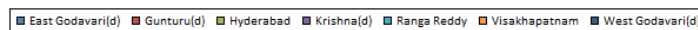


Discrimination: On the whole 32% of the dalit girl children are facing discrimination in schools. The highest discrimination is in Visakhapatnam with 59% followed by West Godavari with 38%.

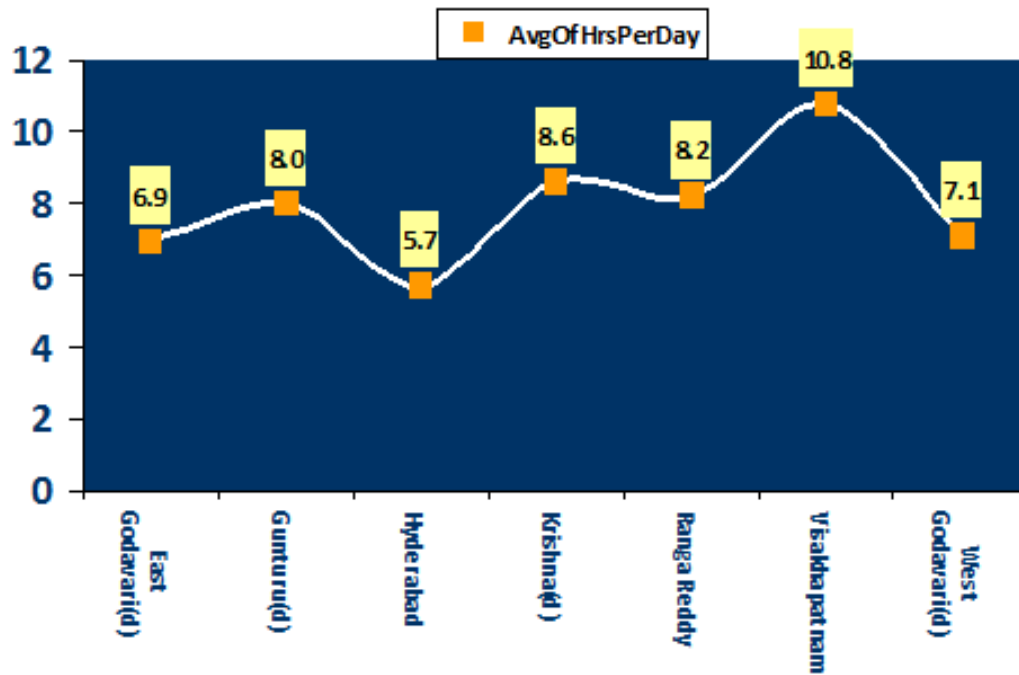
Number of Dalit Girl Children Facing Discrimination in Schools

	Ranga Reddy	Hyderabad	Guntur	Krishna	West Godavari	East Godavari	Visakhapatnam
Facing Discrimination	50 (23%)	70 (38%)	40 (20%)	37 (18%)	69 (35%)	60 (29%)	116 (59%)
Treated Equally	167 (77%)	113 (62%)	160 (80%)	164 (82%)	126 (65%)	150 (71%)	79 (41%)

Dalit Girl Children Treated Equally in Schools



Average Working hours District Wise



CONCLUSION

India's commitment to the cause of children is as old as its civilization. It has been a time honoured belief in our culture that the child is a gift of the God. Unfortunately, over the years in the pre-independence period, due to socio-economic and cultural changes, the code of child centeredness got replaced by negligence, abuse and deprivation, particularly in the poverty afflicted sections of the society. From being an advantaged lot, the children plummeted into a disadvantaged group. Such a scenario made it imperative to intervene for providing care and protection to children. Setting up of extra-familial Institutions to provide care to the young both in the governmental and voluntary sectors became inevitable. In India, independence ushered in a new era in the field of child welfare and child development. The last 60 years, are marked with events which are a testimony to the commitment we have, towards our children. Adequate provisions were made for care and protection of children in the Constitution. The Indian Constitution has a frame work within which provisions are available for protection, development and welfare of children. In addition, there are a wide range of laws which guarantee to a substantial extent the rights and entitlement as provided in the Constitution and in the UN Convention.

Recommendations

- Urgent need for allocation of budgets under Special Component Plan/SC Sub Plan and appoint a monitoring committee for its effective implementation at respective levels.
- To provide multiple livelihood opportunities to dalits as poverty is one of the main reasons for illiteracy and dropouts.
- To link up NREGA with the construction of buildings of schools, hostels etc and provide work to dalits.
- 100% increase in the scholarships for hostel mates and day scholars.

Anganwadi Centers:

1. Necessary steps to be taken to ensure conducive environment in Anganwadi Centers with the entire basic infrastructure including own buildings.
2. Proper teaching methods to be adopted to create interest among the children.
3. More nutritious and soft food to be provided in a proper way.
4. To maintain the cleanliness of the surroundings and induce the concept of hygiene among the children.
5. To ensure that the working hours are fixed and strictly adhered to.
6. To organize sensitization programs to the parents on a regular basis.
7. To formulate Indicators for the standards of anganwadi centres.
8. To promote incentive based education for dalit girl children at anganwadi centre level. (For instance Rs 2500/- deposited in a bank after joining anganwadi centre and to be paid while joining the school)

Government Schools:

1. To work out strategies to sensitize the civil society on regular basis to bring a change in their perspective on dalit girl child.
2. Special emphasis to promote education among dalit girl children through special schemes such as cycles etc and incentive based education at school level (For instance Rs 10,000/- deposited in a bank after joining 1st standard and to be paid back after the completion of 10th standard irrespective of the result).
3. To ensure that the schools are with a minimum of 5 class rooms, 5 teachers and a head master with adequate infrastructure such as toilets, benches, drinking water, electricity, ayah etc.
4. To develop indicators for quality education and conduct social audit for evaluating the performance of teachers once in 6 months.
5. To monitor and streamline the mid-day meals scheme and to ensure that the funds for are released on time and the scheme is implemented properly both in terms of quality and quantity.

6. To promote common school system as per the recommendations of Kothari Commission.
7. To constitute the School Management Committee as per the norms, ensure effective implementation of the SMC. Provide necessary training to the members of SMC through nodal agencies.
8. The proposals for infrastructure, etc to Rajiv Vidhya Mission are sent after the approval, either by the gram sabha or the SMC.
9. To promote child rights and impart knowledge on reproductive and other rights.
10. Emphasize on the compulsory special classes for dalit girl children.
11. Organize awareness camps periodically to the girl children to build in their perspective levels.

Social Welfare Hostels:

1. To constitute a committee with a retired High Court Judge, conduct a study on the performance of hostels and develop indicators for quality. The whole process to be completed within 6 months.
2. To ensure over all conducive environment for the safety and security of the girls.
3. To provide adequate staff and accommodation
4. To monitor the supply of qualitative and quantitative food
5. To provide basic amenities
6. Maintain the premises including the toilets clean
7. Wardens to stay in the same premises
8. Sensitize the wardens on regular basis and build their perspective levels
9. Emphasize on the health care of the dalit girl children and impart knowledge on reproductive rights and other rights
10. Take all necessary measures for the safety and protection of the girl children
11. Establish committees consisting of parents, wardens and children and conduct regular review meetings
12. Organize awareness camps periodically to the girl children to build in their perspective levels.

Dalit Girl Children:

1. Effective implementation of the laws pertaining to domestic servants.
2. Take necessary measures for the abolition of child marriages.
3. To work out strategies for comprehensive development of dalits.
4. To bring out awareness among the dalits on the discrimination of girl child.
5. To devise programmes and action plan for the protection and promotion of health of the girl children.
6. Co-ordination among the concerned departments for effective implementation of SC,ST (PoA) Act and other Child related Acts.
7. Payment of compensation and other relief measures through Social Welfare Department.

- 8.** Accountability of Public Prosecutors and PCR Cell to Social Welfare Department.
- 9.** Orientation to victims and witnesses before and during trials.
- 10.** Payment of TA and DA to the victims and witness while attending to court trials.
- 11.** Payment of compensation for victims of rape within 15 days by Women and Child Welfare Department directly.

About DSS

Vision

A society in which dalit women and girl children have real equality, dignity, rights and equity in the share of resources.

Mission

To capacitate dalit women leaders to fight against the oppression of caste, class and gender and enhance rights and entitlements of women and children.

Objectives:

- To strengthen, consolidate and further expand dalit women rights movement.
- Consolidate, capacitate and facilitate Dalit Women Collectives and strengthen them as powerful action groups working for their own liberation.
- Capacitate and facilitate the Women Collectives in addressing inter and intra community violence on dalit women and girl children.
- To support and facilitate Women Collectives in accessing the health and educational rights of dalit women and girl children.
- To ensure proper functioning of educational institutions where dalit girl child is educated and promote quality education.
- To eradicate violence against dalit girl children
- To ensure accessibility on the various entitlements and community resources to the dalit women and girl children
- To promote the dalit women in local self governance through Panchayat Raj Institutions
- Consolidate and further promote networking with likeminded Dalit and women organizations, other likeminded organizations, movements at state, national and international level to influence policies in favor of Dalit women and Girl Child.

DALIT STHREE SAKTHI

SRT – 95, Street No - 3

Jawahar Nagar, Hyderabad, Pin: 500 020.

Ph: 040-27601557 ; Fax: 040 - 27606777

Email: dalit_sthree_sakthi@yahoo.co.in

dss.dalitsthreesakthi@gmail.com