

REPORT OF A.P. COMMISSION FOR BACKWARD CLASSES

I – Introduction

A.P. Commission for backward classes in its meeting held on 22-03-2006 resolved to examine the representations of the castes pending before the Commission which are predominantly concentrated in limited areas with less population. Accordingly, the Commission issued a notification dated 31-03-2006 which was published in A.P. Gazette dated 13-04-2006 calling for representations, objections and suggestions for inclusion of 36 castes / communities.

After issue of notification, public hearings were held from 15-05-2006 to 25-05-2006. Subsequently the Commission deputed a survey team, which took up door-to-door household sample survey to assess the socio, educational, employment and economic conditions. The survey team collected the necessary data in the format formulated by the Commission. The said information gathered was compiled and included in the survey report.

The Commission considered the representations submitted by the representatives and material papers filed by them, findings of Anthropological Survey of India, house-hold sample survey reports and personal observations of the Commission to decide whether a particular class / caste is fit to be included in the list of Backward Classes or not and discussed herein:

II - CRITERIA TO IDENTIFY A BACKWARD CLASS OF CITIZENS

The commission examined and discussed the criteria to be adopted for the purpose of determining the educational, employment and social backwardness. To identify a particular caste as a backward class for the purpose of Articles 15 (4) and 16(4) of the constitution of India that particular caste must be both educationally and socially backward. The Mandal commission adopted certain criteria, which was followed by the later commissions. This commission also followed the principles laid down by the then Anantaraman commission and Mandal commission.

This commission adopted the criteria i.e., (1) social, (2) educational, (3) employment, (4) economic and (5) political status of each community to identify whether a particular caste or community is a backward class of citizens or not as discussed below.

1. Social backwardness: - For the purpose of determining social backwardness, the commission examined the traditional occupation in practice, self perception of the occupation, treatment of occupation by others, social discrimination, sectoral distribution and other factors such as the place of habitation in Kutcha / Hut, whether the facilities like telephone, electricity, latrine, drinking water are available within their premises. Social customs such as child marriages, widow marriages, divorce and child labour are prevalent or in practice.

2. Educational backwardness: - With regard to educational backwardness the literacy rate when compared to the state literacy level, percentage of matriculation passed, percentage of school dropouts etc. were taken into account.

3. Employment backwardness: - It is considered as employment backwardness, if the representation in employment of the community people surveyed is less than or equal to 1% in the Govt. services, if the representation in employment of the community people is less than or equal to 2% in the private sector, if the female work force of the community is 50% or above engaged in economic activity, if percentage of total workers of the community who are engaged in agricultural labour and non-agricultural labour is equal or above the state total workers.

4. Economic Status: - With regard to economic status, the commission considered if the majority of rural community is below the poverty line i.e., Rs.18000/- P.A. or the majority of urban community is below the poverty line i.e., Rs.24000/- P.A. or the majority of the rural community is below per capita income of Rs.3750/- or the majority of the urban community is below the per capita income of Rs.5000/-.

5. Political Status: - To determine the political status of the community if no ward member of their caste is elected in the areas where the households are surveyed, weightage points are given.

The commission adopted the principles laid down in Mandal case and the data available with the commission are considered caste wise. The commission followed the principles enunciated in several decisions of the Apex court to arrive at the right conclusion.

III - METHODOLOGY FOLLOWED BY THE COMMISSION

There were representations pending for inclusion from several castes and communities by the time the commission was reconstituted. The commission in its meeting held on 22-03-2006 resolved to examine certain castes, which are predominantly concentrated in limited areas with less population. A notification was issued on 31-03-2006, which was published in A.P. Gazette on 13-04-2006 calling for representations, objections and suggestions. Subsequently public hearings were conducted from 15-05-2006 to 25-05-2006 and after public hearings; the commission personally visited the places where those people are residing to assess their living conditions. The commission also deputed a survey team and they conducted door-to-door household sample survey and the results of data collected by them were furnished to the commission. The commission took into consideration the oral and written representations, material papers filed by them, findings of anthropological survey of India, A.P. series, sample survey reports and personal observations of the commission to decide whether a particular caste or class is fit to be included in the list of backward classes or not. The commission examined all the material available on record and took a decision in its meeting held on 29-01-2007.

IV – CASTE WISE REPORT

1 – ARAVA

Sri A.Kantha Rao, District Convener of 'Arava' Community Association, Poosarlapadu Village of Srikakulam District, submitted a memorandum praying for inclusion of Arava community in the list of Backward Classes on the ground that the said community is socially, educationally and economically backward in the state of Andhra Pradesh. It was contended that the population of this community is about five thousand and they live mainly in Srikakulam District. They are unskilled agricultural labourers living below poverty line. There is a custom of divorce by mutual consent and remarriages of widows and divorced spouses. The education and employment in the Government services is very low. In the year 1987, as per the directions of the State Government, the then District Collector, Sri Chellappa conducted comprehensive enquiries together with detailed survey and submitted his report. Others also sent similar representations directly and through the Government to this Commission.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh in G.O.Rt.No.33, Backward Classes Welfare (M1) Department, Dated 25-2-1995 requested the A.P. Commission for Backward Classes to submit an interim report in respect of Arava caste/community among others. In pursuance of the Government reference, the Commission issued a notification calling for representations, objections and suggestions and subsequently held public hearings. Accordingly an interim report was submitted to the Government on 27-7-1996, recommending to recognize Arava Caste as backward class for purpose of Articles 15(4) and 16(4) of the Constitution and all other benefits flowing thereto. The then Commission observed that Arava caste is a small and neglected section of Srikakulam District mainly confined to 4 revenue mandals. The information furnished by the Mandal Revenue Officers of Gara, Sarbujjili, Narasannapet and Srikakulam revealed that the population of Arava Caste people as on 1-1-1996 was 3,534. However the earlier body of the commission could not submit its final report before end of their term.

The body of the commission was reconstituted during November 2004 and a fresh notification dated 31-03-2006 was issued calling for representations, objections and suggestions. The Arava community people made similar representations. The commission held public hearings from 15-05-2006 to 25-05-2006. Sri Justice T.Ch. Surya Rao appeared before the commission and represented that the caste people are socially, educationally and economically backward and pleaded that Arava caste is a sub-division of one of the local castes and that the customs prevailing in the community, rituals being performed in marriages and other functions are all akin to the customs and rituals prevailing in Kapu community in the district and therefore the caste is a sub-division of Kapu caste. In support of his statement, he placed reliance upon a passage in the book entitled "Castes and Tribes of Southern India" written by Edgar Thurston and K.Rangachari. He further pleaded that there has been no history of the caste people speaking Tamil language at any time and the caste is known in the district as Arava Kapu and requested for inclusion of the caste in the list of backward classes on the ground that when Kapu caste in the district is backward caste, there is no reason as to why Arava Kapu is not backward caste.

The commission formulated a format to collect necessary information and statistical data and deputed a survey team and the survey results are as follows.

Survey Results

A. Introduction:

The survey staff of the Commission conducted Local enquiries and Investigations including door-to-door household sample survey during January '07 in Srikakulam district. The household sample Survey covered 52 Households of this community. The traditional occupation of this community is agriculture and manual labour.

B. Social Status:

All the 52 Households comprising 192 persons are living in rural area only with house hold size 3.69. The sex ratio is 100 per 100; whereas the same for children upto 14 years of age are 109 per 100.

Results on Traditional Occupation (T.O.)

Item	Remarks	No of Households	Percentage
a) Traditional occupation in practice	Yes	27	51.9
	No	25	48.1
b) Personal perception on Traditional Occupation	Superior	0	0
	Inferior	24	46.2
	Normal	28	53.8
c) T.O treated by others	Superior	0	0
	Inferior	38	73.1
	Normal	14	26.9
d) Social discrimination	Yes	24	46.2
	No	1	1.9
	Normal	27	51.9

About 52% of households are still depending on Traditional occupation i.e., Agricultural labour and manual labour for their livelihood. Both men and women equally do the agricultural labour and manual labour for their livelihood. The Traditional occupation of their community is felt as inferior by 46% of households and 73% of households reported that they are treated as inferior by others. About 46% of households are Socially discriminated in their locality.

C. Educational Status:

a) Educational level completed: (7 years & above)

Sl.No.	Class Passed	No.of Literates	Percentage over	
			Population	Literates
1	Below 5 th	16	9.5	26.2
2	5 th class	15	9.0	24.6
3	7 th class	20	12.0	32.8
4	10 th class	7	4.2	11.5
5	Inter	2	1.2	3.3
6	Degree	1	0.6	1.6
7	Prof & Tech	0	0.0	0.0
8	Post Gr	0	0.0	0.0
	All	61	36.5	100.0

It is noticed that only 34.7% or 35% of persons passed upto matriculation, whereas the post matriculation passed is only 1.8% over population.

b) Literates by Age group (7 years and above):

Sl. No.	Age Group	Population	Total Literates	Percentage of Literates		Drop outs From Edn	Percent of dropouts	
				Among Age Group	Over Total Pop.		Over Persons	Over Literates
1	7-14	44	37	84.1	22.1	22	50.0	59.6
2	15-24	24	15	62.5	9.0	10	41.7	66.7
3	25-39	40	7	17.5	4.2	7	17.5	100.0
4	40-59	41	2	4.9	1.2	2	4.9	100.0
5	60+	18	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
	All	167	61	--	36.5	41	24.6	67.2

It is noticed from the above table that out of 167 persons in the age group of 7 years and above, only 61 are literates (i.e., 36.5%) but there is only one person passed Graduation and two persons passed Inter only. In addition to this the dropouts from education is 24.6% over population or 67.2% over literates.

c) Literates (7 years and above)

Sl. No	Description	Male	Female	Total
1	Literates No %	35 (43.2)	26 (30.2)	61 (36.5)
2	Illiterates No %	46 (56.8)	60 (69.8)	106 (63.5)

Literacy rate at 36.5% whereas the State literacy rate is 60.5% as per the 2001 census. The literacy rate of this community is also below the SC & ST literacy rate. Further more, the women literacy rate is far less than the men literacy rate in the community in the caste.

d) Drop-outs from School/College studies with reasons (All-ages)

Sl.No.	Reason for Dropouts	No. of Persons	Dropout Rate	Percentage. Over pop.
1	Failed	2	4.3	1.0
2	Education not required	23	48.9	11.2
3	Marriage	1	2.1	0.5
4	To work	1	2.1	0.5
5	Poverty	18	38.3	9.4
6	Health & others	2	4.3	1.0
	All	47	100.0	23.6

The drop out rate among age group of 7 years and above is 67.2% whereas the dropout over population is at 23.6%. The higher drop out rate 87.2 is noticed with reason such as Education not required and Poverty.

D. Employment Status:

The entire surveyed population of Arava community basing on their economic activity is divided into Working group and Non Working group. The Working group of people is consisting of Daily wage earners, Self-employed, Regular salaried and part-time workers. So also the Non-Working group of people consisting of children, students, aged, retired, ill health, unemployed, housewives, and households.

a) Working and Non-Working groups of people by sex are as follows.

	Workers			Non-Workers		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Number	55	42	97	41	54	95
Percentage Over total	57.3	43.8	50.5	42.7	56.2	49.5

It is noticed that the Male workers constitute 57.3 whereas Female is 43.8 as against the total working percentage of 50.5, against the State averages 56.2, 35.1 and 45.8 respectively.

b). Statement showing Economic activity among working people.

S.No	Economic activity	Sex	Number	Percent Total po	Percent to Workers-Population
1	Daily wage in Agri.	Male	49	51.0	89.1
		Female	41	42.7	97.6
		Total	90	46.9	92.8
2	Daily wage in Non Agri.	Male	5	5.2	9.1
		Female	1	1.0	2.4
		Total	6	3.1	6.2
3	Self employed in Agri	Male	0	0	0
		Female	0	0	0
		Total	0	0	0
4	Self employed in Non-Agri	Male	0	0	0
		Female	0	0	0
		Total	0	0	0
5	Regular salaried in Govt	Male	0	0	0
		Female	0	0	0
		Total	0	0	0
6	Regular salaried in Pvt.	Male	1	1.0	1.8
		Female	0	0.0	0.0
		Total	1	0.5	1.0
7	Part time workers	Male	0	0	0
		Female	0	0	0
		Total	0	0	0
Grand Total			97	50.5	100.0

About 93% of working people out of work force are engaged as Agricultural labour which is Seasonal and less remunerative. It is also noticed that there is no person employed in Government service.

E. Economic status:

Description	No.of Households	Percentage over hhs.
a) Possessing Agrl. Land	6	11.5
b) Type of House (residing)		
i) Pucca	8	15.4
ii) Semi pucca	1	1.9
iii) Kutcha/Huts	43	82.7
c) Having Ration cards:		
i) White	52	100.0
ii) Pink	0	0.0
iii) No card	0	0.0
d) Facilities/Amenities:		
i) Phone – Having connected	4	7.7
Not having Phone	48	92.3
ii) Drinking water in the – Yes	0	0
Premises of households No	52	100.0
iii) Electricity connection Yes	30	57.7
	22	42.3
iv) Toilet within the premises Yes	3	5.8
	49	94.2
v) Per capita income =Per Annum	Rs.3091/-	
vi) Avg. Land holding = acres.	0.4 acres	

About 83% of households live in huts with 100% white Ration Cards, 42% without electricity and 94% without latrine facility. The average household land holding is 0.4 acres. Therefore the Percapita income of this community is Rs. 3091 whereas the State average is Rs. 25,695.

According to Edgar Thurston in his monumental treatise "Castes and Tribes of Southern India " on Arava caste reads thus:

" Arava signifying Tamil, has been recorded as a sub-division of some Telugu classes, eg., Golla and Velama. The name, however, refers to Tamil Idaiyans and Vellalas, who have settled in the Telugu country and are known respectively as Arava Golla and Arava Velama. In some places in the Telugu country, Tamil Paraiyans, employed as servants under Europeans, horse keepers, etc., are known as Arava Malalu (Malas). The Irulas of the North Arcot district are, in like manner, sometimes

called Arava Yanadis. Arava also occurs as a division of Tigalas, said to be a section of the Tamil Pallis, who have settled in Mysore. An ingenious suggestion has been made that Arava is derived from "ara" half, "vayi" mouthed, in reference to the defective Tamil alphabet, or to the termination of the words being mostly in consonants."

The Commission toured Srikakulam district from 17-01-2007 to 23-01-2007 and personally visited Pusarlapadu and Ambalavalasa villages of Gara Mandal and Mulasavalapuram and Turakapeta of Sarubujjili Mandal to assess the living conditions of the people and found most of the Arava caste people are living in highly insanitary conditions, virtually isolated, living in close proximity of Scheduled Castes of the village and are not treated with respect by the higher castes. Our local investigation revealed that most of them are living in thatched houses and a few of them are living in semi pucca houses with no basic sanitary facilities and by custom, usagae and rituals they are close to local Kapus. In fact, during the course of our local investigation, most of the caste people claimed that they are Kapus and although they are a sub-division of Kapu caste, they kept their identity as Arava and that there are alliances in between Kapu and Arava caste people. The commission from its local investigation is convinced that there is truth in the claim of the caste people that they are Arava Kapus and having been divided from the Kapu caste, they are keeping their identity as Arava and that there had been no history of any connection of this caste with Tamils or speaking Tamil language by the caste people at any time. The local investigation revealed that Arava caste is not adequately represented in the services of the State of Andhra Pradesh except one person is practicing as an Advocate and another person elevated to the High Court and working as Judge.

During personal visit of the commission and the survey results would reveal that about 52% of the households are depending on traditional occupation and about 46% of their community felt as inferior and 73% treated as inferior by others. The literacy rate of the community is also lower. The school dropout is also on higher side. The employee status is also on the lower side; about 93% are engaged as

agricultural labourers. About 83% of the households are living in huts and most of them do not have the basic amenities such as water, electricity and lavatory facilities in their premises.

The average Per capita income of the community is at Rs. 3091/- whereas the state average is Rs. 25695/-. There is no person in Government service as per the survey conducted by this office survey team. Thus there is no representation in Govt. service. They are socially segregated and living separately. Arava community people are residing in Srikakulam District only and their estimated population as claimed by them is about 5,000, but according to Multipurpose Household Survey in the year 2000 is about 1145.

The representation of Sri Kantha Rao and Sri Justice T.Ch.Surya Rao and our local investigation and personal inspection revealed that the mother tongue of this caste is Telugu and the caste is exclusively found in Srikakulam district and is a sub-division of one of the Telugu classes, namely Kapu in the district. Although they claim that they belong to Arava Kapu caste and our survey reveals the same, since in the records the name of the caste is shown as Arava, without suffix of Kapu we have adopted the name of the caste as such.

The commission after considering their oral and written representations and other material collected together with statistical report and due regard to the principle / criteria laid down by the Supreme Court in Mandal Case, we come to the conclusion that **Arava caste** people are socially, educationally and economically backward for the purpose of Articles 15 (4) & 16 (4) of the constitution of India and fit to be included in the list of backward classes under **Group-D at S. No. 36**, confining the area of operation to Srikakulam District only.

2 – AYYARAKA

Sri D. Vaikunta Rao Naidu, President, Ayyaraka Sankshema Sangham, Parvathipuram, submitted a memorandum contending that the community "Ayyaraka" is prevalent in the erstwhile Srikakulam District and mostly concentrated in Parvathipuram Revenue Division in about 30 villages. Primarily they are agriculturists and agricultural labourers and their main occupation, customs and traditions are analogous to all other recognized backward communities in the State. Their occupation is agriculture and they have custom of divorce and re-marriage, widow marriages are recognized since ancient times. He also represented before the Commission that their caste is included in the Central List of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) at Sl.No. 95.

Sri L.Pentaiah Patrudu, State President, Ayyaraka Sankshema Sangham, represented that the people of Ayyaraka community are found in Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishna, Guntur, Warangal and Khammam districts. The total population is about 5 to 6 lakhs. The people of Ayyaraka are small ryots, agricultural coolies and labourers on daily wages. Some of them work as mechanics and drivers of motor vehicles and Auto Drivers. In some parts, they are called Pathrulu and in some parts they are called as Naidus and in hill areas they are called Doras. The males and females of this community smoke cigar and the females do not wear jackets and they wear sarees in a peculiar way. Widow re-marriages are also observed. Most of them are illiterates and the literacy rate is very poor.

Sri Malina Suryaprakasa Rao, President, Ayyaraka Sankshema Sangham, Visakhapatnam region gave a representation contending the above facts. The Government in its Lr. 5363/C2/2001, dated 12-4-2005 forwarded the request of Sri Mangapathi Rao, M.L.A., Uttarapalli Constituency, Visakhapatnam district along with the representation of the President, Ayyaraka Sankshema Sangham with a request to include Ayyakara community in the list of Backward classes.

When the commission was reconstituted a fresh notification dated 31-03-2006 was issued calling for representations, objections and suggestions and they submitted similar representations. Subsequently public hearing was held on 15-05-2006. Sri P.S.R Patrudu, President of Ayyakara Sankshema Sangham, L. Pentaiah Patrudu, and M. Surya Prakash, P. Nukaraju, Secretary of the Association and others appeared before the commission and represented the above facts and pleaded for inclusion of the above caste in the list of Backward Classes.

The survey team deputed by the Commission, conducted the sample survey and the survey results are as follows:

Survey Results

A. Introduction:

The survey staff of the Commission conducted Local enquiries and Investigations including door-to-door household sample survey during March 07 & August 07 in Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam and East Godavari districts. The sample household Survey covered 133 Households of this community. The traditional occupation of this community is Agriculture and Coolie.

B. Social Status:

All the 133 Households comprising 505 persons are living in Rural 93% & Urban 7% areas respectively, with household size 3.8. The sex ratio is 94 per 100 whereas the same for children upto 14 years are 89 per 100.

Results on Traditional Occupation (T.O.)

Item	Remarks	No of Households	Percentage
a) Traditional occupation in practice	Yes	37	27.8
	No	96	72.2
b) Self perception on traditional Occupation	Superior	0	0.0
	Inferior	55	41.4
	Normal	78	58.6
c) T.O treated by others	Superior	0	0.0
	Inferior	74	55.6
	Normal	59	44.4
d) Social discrimination	Yes	54	40.6
	No	1	0.8
	Normal	78	58.6

About 28% of households of AYYARAKA community are engaged in Agriculture and Coolie activity as their traditional occupation. Basing on the traditional occupation, about 41% of the households of the community feel their occupation as inferior, at the same time as reported about 56% household treated as inferior by others. About 41% of the households of this community have reported that they are socially discriminated in their locality.

C. Educational Status:

a) Literates (7 years and above):

Sl. No	Description	Male	Female	Total
1	Literates No %	133 56.8	85 38.1	218 47.7
2	Illiterates No %	101 43.2	138 61.9	239 52.3

The literacy rate of male is 56.8, female 38.1 and total 47.7 as against the state literacy rate 70.32, 50.43 and 60.47 respectively.

b) Educational level completed: (7 years & above)

Sl.No.	Class Passed	No.of persons/ Literates	Percentage over	
			Population	Literates
1	Below 5 th	87	19.0	39.9
2	5 th class	55	12.0	25.2
3	7 th class	54	11.8	24.8
4	10 th class	13	2.8	5.9
5	Inter	4	0.9	1.8
6	Degree	5	1.1	2.3
7	P.Gr.	0	0.0	0.0
8	Pro.Tech.	0	0.0	0.0
	All Classes	218	47.7	100.0

Among the literates of the community upto 10th class passed persons constitute about 96% and the only 4% balance is Inter and above passed.

c) Literates and dropouts (7 years and above):

Sl. No.	Age Group	Population	Total Literates	Percentage of Literates		Drop outs From education	Percent of dropouts	
				Among Age Group	Over Total Pop.		Over Persons	Over Literates
1	7-14	88	81	92.0	17.7	29	33.0	35.8
2	15-24	113	78	69.0	17.1	68	60.2	87.2
3	25-39	120	38	31.7	8.3	37	30.8	97.4
4	40-59	110	20	18.2	4.4	19	17.3	95.0
5	60+	26	1	3.8	0.2	1	3.8	100.0
	All	505	218		47.7	154	33.7	70.6

The dropouts over total persons are 33.7% and over the literates 70.6%. The literacy rate of age group of 7-14 years is 92%, that means 8% never attended the schools. Within the same age group about 36% are dropped out of the school enrolment. So also the literacy rate of age group 15-24 years is 69%, that means 31% never enrolled in educational institutions, within the same age group about 87% are dropped out of the school/ college like wise as the age group advancing, the dropped out also increasing. The literacy rate of this community is already very

low and the dropouts among the literates are very high. This is the state of educational backwardness of this community.

d) Drop-outs from School/College studies with reasons (All-ages)

Sl.No.	Reason for Dropouts	No. of Persons	Dropout Rate	Percentage. Over pop.
1	Failed	11	6.8	2.2
2	Education not required	31	19.0	6.1
3	Marriage	10	6.1	2.0
4	To work	5	3.1	1.0
5	Poverty	103	63.2	20.4
6	Health & others	3	1.8	0.6
	All	163	100	32.3

The overall percentage of dropout of the community is 32%. Among the rate of dropout with reason, 63% due to poverty followed by 19% education not required.

D. Employment Status:

The entire surveyed population of AYYARAKA community basing on their economic activity is divided into Working group and Non Working group. The Working group of people is consisting of Daily wage earners, Self-employed, Regular salaried and part-time workers. So also the Non-Working group of people consisting of children, students, aged, retired, ill health, unemployed, housewives, and households.

a) Working and Non-Working groups of people by sex is as follows.

	Workers			Non-Workers		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Number	156	128	284	104	117	221
Percentage Over total	60.0	52.2	56.2	40.0	47.8	43.8

It is noticed that the Male workers constitute 60.0%, Female 52.2% and the total workers 56.2% as against the state work participation rates 56.23, 35.11 and 45.8 respectively. The work participation rates are higher as the work force is mostly engaged on daily wages in agriculture and non- agriculture activities i.e., about 80%.

c) Statement showing Economic activity among working people.

S.No	Economic activity	Sex	Number	Percent Total po	Percent to Workers-Population
1	Daily wage in Agriculture.	Male	90	34.6	57.7
		Female	70	28.6	54.7
		Total	160	31.7	56.3
2	Daily wage in Non Agriculture.	Male	46	17.7	29.5
		Female	20	8.1	15.6
		Total	66	13.0	23.2
3	Self employed in Agriculture	Male	0	0.0	0.0
		Female	1	0.4	0.8
		Total	1	0.2	0.4
4	Self employed in Non-Agriculture	Male	17	6.5	10.9
		Female	7	2.9	5.5
		Total	24	4.8	8.5
5	Regular salaried in Govt	Male	0	0.0	0.0
		Female	0	0.0	0.0
		Total	0	0.0	0.0
6	Regular salaried in Pvt.	Male	3	1.2	1.9
		Female	3	1.2	2.3
		Total	6	1.2	2.1
7	Part time workers	Male	0	0.0	0.0
		Female	27	11.0	21.1
		Total	27	5.3	9.5
Grand Total			284	56.2	100.0

From the above table it is found that, the work force of the Community is engaged mostly as daily wage in Agriculture and Non-Agriculture upto to 44.7% out of the total work force of 56.2%. There is no Government Employee found as per the survey.

E. Economic status:

Description	No.of Households	Percentage over hhs.
a) Possessing Agrl. Land	31	23.3
b) Type of House (residing)		
i) Pucca	2	1.5
ii) Semi pucca	14	10.5
iii) Kutcha/Huts	117	88.0
c) Having Ration cards:		
i) White	132	99.2
ii) Pink	1	0.8
iii) No card	0	0.0
d) Facilities/Amenities:		
i) Phone – Having connected	1	0.8
Not having Phone	132	99.2
ii) Drinking water in the – Yes	7	5.3
Premises of households No	126	94.7
iii) Electricity connection Yes	72	54.1
	61	45.9
iv) Toilet within the premises Yes	7	5.3
	126	94.7
v) Percapita income =Per Annum	Rs. 3,523/-	
vi) Avg. Land holding = acres.	0.14 acres.	

Though 93% of the households of the community are residing in rural area, only 23.3% of households reported possessing small agriculture lands. The average household land holding is at 0.14 acres. About 88% of households live in kutcha huts / houses with 99% of households possessing white ration cards. About 99% households are not having telephone or cell phone connection. 95% of households are not having drinking water, 46% of households are not having electricity connection, and 95% of households are not having latrine facility within their premises. Per capita income of this community is Rs.3,532/- against the state average of Rs.25, 695/-.

The District Collector, Vizianagaram submitted a report, which was received by the commission on 04-04-1996 with regard to the genealogy, history and living conditions of "Ayyaraka" caste in Vizianagaram district. The report submitted by the Collector revealed that "Ayyaraka" caste people are living from times immemorial and there is no history of migration from other places. They used to live together in one group in the entire habitation without giving any scope to any other caste to be with them. He has stated that their forefathers used to work as servants with the Royal families and their prevalence has been prominent while a small Royal Province existed. Their forefathers worked as servants in Vizianagaram State and they got the titles from Maharaja of Vizianagaram as "Patrudu" which they claim to their loyalty, sincerity and obedience towards the Royal families. Some people are depending on agriculture and a majority of them are agricultural labourers and firewood sellers. There are no sub castes among them and they do not admit any other agricultural family or labourers to mingle with them.

An extract from page 19 of Volume I of "Castes and Tribes of Southern India" by Edgar Thurston and K. Rangachary is as follows:

"In the Madras Census Report, 1901, Ayyarakam is summed up as being a caste of Telugu cultivators, who, in their social and religious observances, closely follow the Kapus and Balijas. Their forefathers were soldiers in the Vizianagaram Army and rendered great services to the Rajas. The principal occupation of the Ayyaraka is by cultivation and in some parts many of them are cart drivers, plying between the plains of Visakhapatnam and the agency tracts. The usual title of members of the caste is Pathrudu".

On their representation Sri N. K Muralidhar Rao recommended for inclusion of this caste in the list of backward classes and accordingly the Government of Andhra Pradesh issued G.O.Ms No. 166, social welfare (P) Department, dated 15-07-1986. The said G.O. was challenged in the High Court and as per the judgment of the High Court the said G.O. was not implemented. Subsequently on their representation the Government recognized Ayyaraka caste as Backward caste and included in the list of backward classes and issued G.O.Ms. 30, Backward Classes Welfare (P2) Department dated 25-08-1994. The said G.O. was also challenged in the High Court and it was struck down as the Government issued the G.O. without the recommendation from the Backward Classes Commission. Subsequently, the National Commission for Backward Classes recognized this caste as backward class and included in the list of Other Backward Classes at S.No. 95.

The commission personally visited Srikakulam, Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam districts to assess the living conditions of the people. This caste people were subdued by Koppula Velama caste because many of the Ayyaraka caste people were working as agricultural labourers under Koppula Velama caste people since they are socially backward and they are living as servants under one or the other. 20% of the people are having small land holdings and others eke out their livelihood by working as agricultural labourers. Their economic condition is very poor. They are economically backward.

The traditional occupation of the community is agricultural labour and manual labour. Most of them live separately as they are isolated. They are living in thatched houses with no basic sanitary facilities such as water, electricity and lavatory. The literacy percentage is very less and there are many school dropouts. They do not give importance for women's education. They are educationally poor. Out of the households surveyed there is no one working in Government services. Thus there is no representation in Government service.

There is a practice of divorce and remarriage among the women in this community. The social status of this community is very low and they are regarded socially backward. For the above said reasons, we hold "**Ayyaraka**" caste or community people are socially, educationally, economically and politically backward and fit to be included in the list of backward classes.

Taking into consideration of the relevant facts and the criteria laid down by this Commission and the Survey report, we hold that "**AYYARAKA**" caste or community is socially and educationally backward for the purpose of Articles 15 (4) & 16 (4) of the constitution of India and fit to be included in the list of backward classes and accordingly we recommend to the Government to include the said caste in the list of backward classes under **Group – D at S. No. 37**. Since our local enquiries revealed that this caste people are living in Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishna, Guntur, Khammam and Warangal Districts, the area of operation shall be confined to those districts only.

3 – KURAKULA

Sri Kota Pedaramulu and Jami Appalaswamy, Presidents of Srikakulam and Vizianagaram Districts Kurakula Sangham have submitted their representations on 31-3-1994 to the Chairman, A.P. Commission for Backward Classes, requesting to include 'Kurakula' community in the list of backward classes under Group - A. It was represented that the people mainly live in Vizianagaram and Srikakulam districts. They mainly cultivate the vegetables and their women work as maidservants. The total population is around 2 lakhs and a small percentage also live in Visakhapatnam district. They live in the border area of Orissa State, most of them live in villages separately as if they are outcaste and treated as second-class citizens. They live in huts and mud houses and their living conditions are unhygienic. Their literacy rate is very low and they are not represented in any employment except few persons as Class IV employees. The vegetables produced used to be sold in the villages by the ladies. The living standard is far below the poverty line. They worship Village Goddess and perform festivals and animal sacrifice used to be there. They consume local liquor during the festivals. Child marriages are there and widow marriages are allowed. They are socially, educationally backward and hence Muralidhar Rao Commission recommended to include this caste but it was not implemented.

After the commission was reconstituted the commission issued a notification dated 31-03-2006 which was published in A.P. Gazette on 13-04-2006 calling for representations, objections and suggestions for inclusion of Kurakula caste in the list of backward classes. The caste representatives submitted their representations and subsequently public hearing was held on 15-05-2006. Sri Kota Peda Ramulu, President, Uttara Andhra Kurakula Sangham, appeared before the Commission and represented that Kurakula caste people are socially and educationally backward and brought to the notice of all the above facts and pleaded for inclusion. He also filed certain photos depicting the living conditions and the profession of their caste people. Smt. K. Krishnamma, Sri B.V. Kalyana Prasad, Secretary, Sri K. Krishna Rao, Vice-president of Kurakula Association appeared before the commission and pleaded for the inclusion of the said caste.

The Commission deputed a survey team and they conducted household sample survey to study the living conditions of the people. The statistical data collected by the survey team is as follows:

Survey Results

A. Introduction:

The survey staff of the Commission conducted Local enquiries and Investigations including door-to-door household sample survey during the months of January 2007 and March 2007 in Srikakulam and Vizianagaram districts. The sample household Survey covered 92 Households of this community. The traditional occupation of this community is growing/ sale of green leaves and vegetables.

B. Social Status:

All the 92 Households comprising 347 persons are living in Rural 70.7% and Urban 29.3% with household size 3.77 or 4 persons. The sex ratio of the community is 95 female per 100 male; the same for age upto 14 years is 94.

Results on Traditional Occupation (T.O.)

Item	Remarks	No of Households	Percentage
a) Traditional occupation in practice	Yes	28	30.43
	No	64	69.57
b) Self perception of the caste people on Traditional Occupation	Superior	0	0.0
	Inferior	43	46.74
	Normal	49	53.26
c) T.O treated by others	Superior	0	0.0
	Inferior	54	58.70
	Normal	38	41.30
d) Social discrimination	Yes	41	44.57
	No	0	0.0
	Normal	51	55.43

About 30.43% of households are engaged in their traditional occupation i.e., growing/ sale of green leaves/ vegetables. About 46.74% of households feeling their

occupation as inferior, about 58.70% of households treated inferior by others and about 44.57% of households have reported that they are being socially discriminated in their locality.

C. Educational Status:

a) Sex wise literates and illiterates (7 years & above)

Sl. No	Description	Male	Female	Total
1	Literates No %	60 37.74	23 15.33	83 26.86
2	Illiterates No %	99 62.26	127 84.67	226 73.14

The male literates are 37.74, female 15.33 and total 26.86% as against the state literacy rate i.e., 70.32, 50.43 and 60.47 respectively. The literacy of this community is far below the state average literacy and the female literacy is still far below the state female literacy.

b) Educational level completed (7 years & above)

Sl.No.	Class Passed	No.of persons	Percentage over	
			Population	literates
1	Below 5 th	23	7.44	27.71
2	5 th class	34	11.00	40.96
3	7 th class	16	5.18	19.28
4	10 th class	9	2.91	10.84
5	Inter	1	0.32	1.20
6	Degree	0	0.0	0.0
7	P.Gr.	0	0.0	0.0
8.	Pro.Tech.	0	0.0	0.0
	All Classes	83	26.86	100.00

In the total literacy (26.86%) of the community, the literates who passed 10th class and below is 26.53%. It reveals that there is almost no post matriculation passed person in this community.

c) Literates and dropouts (7 years and above)

Sl. No.	Age Group	Population	Total Literates	Percentage of Literates		Drop outs	Percent of dropouts	
				Among Age Group	Over Total Pop.		Over Persons	Over Literates
1	7-14	61	37	60.7	12.0	21	34.4	56.8
2	15-24	71	29	40.8	9.4	27	38.0	93.1
3	25-39	76	11	14.5	3.6	10	13.2	90.9
4	40-59	81	6	7.4	1.9	6	7.4	100.0
5	60+	20	0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
	All	309	83		26.9	64	20.7	77.1

In addition to the low level of literacy, the dropouts of this community are 20.7% over total persons or 77.1% over total literates. Among the children of age group 7 – 14 Years, only 60.7% are literates or 39.3% never attended schools. The dropouts over literates of the community are observed increasing as age group increasing.

d) Drop-outs from School/College studies with reasons (All-ages)

Sl.No.	Reason for Dropouts	No. of Persons	Dropout Rate	Percentage. over pop.
1	Failed	8	12.5	2.3
2	Education not required	15	23.4	4.3
3	Marriage	1	1.6	0.3
4	To work	1	1.6	0.3
5	Poverty	39	60.9	0.3
6	Health & others not req.	0	0.0	00
	All	64	100.00	

Among the dropouts about 61% are dropped out of education due to poverty as reason. Followed by education not required 23.4% and failed 12.5%.

D. Employment Status:

The entire surveyed population of Kurakula community basing on their economic activity is divided into Working group and Non Working group. The Working group of people is consisting of Daily wage earners, Self-employed, Regular salaried and part-time workers. So also the Non-Working group of people consisting of children, students, aged, retired, ill health, unemployed, housewives, and households.

a) Working and Non-Working groups of people by sex are as follows.

	Workers			Non-Workers		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Number	115	89	204	63	80	143
Percentage Over total	64.61	52.66	58.79	35.39	47.34	41.21

It is noticed that the Male workers constitute 64.61, Female 52.66 and the total workers 58.79 as against the state work participation rats 56.23, 35.11, 45.80 respectively. The work participation rate of the community is shown above the state work participation, this may be on account of engaged in daily wage activity. Among total female about 53% are in work force.

b). Statement showing Economic activity among working people.

S.No	Economic activity	Sex	Number	Percent to Total pop.	Percent to Workers-population
1	Daily wage in Agri.	Male	70	39.33	60.87
		Female	55	32.54	61.79
		Total	125	36.02	61.27
2	Daily wage in Non Agri.	Male	24	13.48	20.87
		Female	8	4.73	8.99
		Total	32	9.22	15.69
3	Self employed in Agri	Male	16	8.99	13.91
		Female	3	1.78	3.37
		Total	19	5.48	9.31
4	Self employed in Non-Agri	Male	5	2.81	4.35
		Female	3	1.78	3.37
		Total	8	2.31	3.92
5	Regular salaried in Govt	Male	0	0.0	0.0
		Female	0	0.0	0.0
		Total	0	0.0	0.0
6	Regular salaried in Pvt.	Male	0	0.0	0.0
		Female	0	0.0	0.0
		Total	0	0.0	0.0
7	Part time workers	Male	0	0.0	0.0
		Female	20	11.83	22.47
		Total	20	5.76	9.80
Grand Total			204	58.79	100.00

Among the total working persons who engaged in different economic activities, the daily wage in agri is about above 61.27% followed by daily wage in non-agri activities 15.69%. From the above table it is noticed that there is no regular salaried employee either in Govt. or private sector.

E. Economic status:

Description	No.of Households	Percentage over hhs.
a) Possessing Agrl. Land	22	23.91
b) Type of House (residing)		
i) Pucca	4	4.35
ii) Semi pucca	6	6.52
iii) Kutcha/Huts	82	89.13
c) Having Ration cards:		
i) White	92	100.0
ii) Pink	0	0.0
iii) No card	0	0.0
d) Facilities/Amenities:		
i) Phone – Having connected	0	0.0
Not having Phone	92	100.0
ii) Drinking water in the –	Yes	1
premises of households	No	91
iii) Electricity connection	Yes	51
		41
iv) Toilet within the premises	Yes	3
		89
e) Percapita income = ...Per Annum	Rs. 2850/-	
f) Avg. Land holding = acres	0.07 acres	

About 24% of households of this community are in possession of agricultural land. Hence, the average land holding is 0.07 acres. About 89% of households are living in kutcha/ huts houses, therefore 100% of households having white colour ration cards and 100% households without phone facility. As far as basic facilities are concerned about 99% of households without drinking water in their house premises about 45% of households without electricity connected and about 97% of households without latrine facility with in premises. The per capita income of the community is Rs. 2,850/- as against state per capital income of Rs.25,695/-.

There is a reference at page 1950, People of India, National Series; Volume-V, "India's communities" referred "Kurakula thus; The term Kurakula literally means vegetables. The name of the community Kurakula, has thus come into vogue on the basis of their occupation which is cultivation of vegetables. An occupational title returned at times of Census, by Oriya and Telugu cultivators in Ganjam and Visakhapatnam. The community is distributed in the Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram and Srikakulam districts of Andhra Pradesh. They speak Telugu and use the Telugu script. They are non-vegetarians and their staple serials are Ragi and Rice.

The 'Kurakula' have some divisions (Intiperu). Their surnames are Mamidi, Kota, Karri, Thumula, Jami, Locharla and Berri to mention a few. The community has a single Gothram "Naagali" meaning a plough. Marriage with one's father's sister's daughter, mother's brother's daughter or between maternal uncle and niece are very common. Divorce and re-marriage (Maru Manuvu) are permitted among them.

Male equigeniture is the rule of inheritance and succession devolves upon the eldest son. Naming and tonsure ceremonies for both male and female children during the third year and puberty rites for girls are performed. The marriage is solemnized at the bride's natal residence and the rituals performed include tying of wristbands (kootikankanalu), kaaligolla sambaranm, tying of pusti/mangalasuthram around the bride's neck by the bridegroom etc. The dead are cremated and pollution is observed for three or five days.

Sri N.K. Muralidhar Rao while submitting his report observed with regard to Kurakula as follows: "Kurakula community is originally a community in Orissa. It is migrated to Andhra Pradesh. This community is mostly found in Srikakulam, Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam Districts with population of 1,50,000. The main profession of this community is cultivating and selling greens and vegetables just like Pondara community. Divorce and re-marriages of women are most common in this community. They worship deities like Asiramma, Polamma etc. polygamy is

prevalent in this community. They suffer from social stigma and they are mostly illiterates. According to the information available the literates are hardly 1% out of the total population. Because of the above reasons they are economically weak and politically powerless. On the basis of the inquiries made regarding the social and educational backwardness of Kurakula community, the Commission recommends inclusion of this community in the list of Backward Classes.”

In the Mandal Commission report also Kurakula caste was included in the list of OBCs at S.No. 140. Sri Boddana Ganapathy, President, Visakhapatnam Zilla Kurakula Kula Sangham also gave a representation on 11-9-1995 requesting to include this caste in the list of Backward Classes on the ground that the entire family members have to attend to the cultivation of vegetables and their income is very meager and their living conditions are very poor and hence they may be included in the list of Backward Classes. Similar representations have been received from the residents of Vizianagaram district and other places. The local MLAs have also requested the Commission to include this cast in the list of Backward Classes.

On the representations from public the Government of Andhra Pradesh in Backward Classes Welfare (M) Department issued G.O.Ms.54, dated 19-9-1996 providing statutory educational benefits and economic support schemes to be provided to the economically poor among the communities of certain castes including Kurakula. The Government of Andhra Pradesh recognised and included in the list of backward classes and the G.O.Ms No. 30 Backward Classes Welfare (P2) Department dated 25-08-1994 and the said G.O. was challenged in the High Court and it was struck down as the Government issued the G.O. without the recommendation from the Backward Classes Commission. The Government of Andhra Pradesh also recognized this caste and included in the list of backward classes under G.O.Ms No. 30, Backward Classes Welfare (P2) Department dated 25-08-1994, but the High Court struck down the G.O. on the ground that there was no recommendation of the Commission.

The National Commission for Backward Classes relying on the observations of Muralidhar Rao Commission and also the references in Edgar Thurston in Castes and Tribes of Southern India, People of India, National Series, Vol. V and on personal observation, came to the conclusion that the Kurakula caste is socially and educationally Backward Class and fit to be included at S.No.99 in the list of OBCs.

The Commission personally visited the places where Kurakula people are living and cultivate their lands. They are mainly landless community. It is observed by the Commission that most of them cultivate small extents by taking the lands on yearly lease and they are engaged in cultivating lands and producing leafs, vegetables and the women folk sell them by carrying the vegetables in the villages. They are living in Kutcha houses and their habitation is un-hygienic and they do not have basic amenities and they are living below poverty line. They have no political representation. The estimated population as per the Multipurpose Household Survey is about 21,588, whereas the population claimed by them is about 2 Lakhs in Andhra Pradesh.

The hereditary occupation of Kurakula caste is vegetable growing and they are mainly engaged in vegetable cultivation. Among them 5% of the members cultivate their own land and rest of them are engaged as manual labourers and they live in Kutcha houses. There is no person engaged in professional service like doctor, engineer and lawyer etc. Most of the vegetables grown by them are given in exchange for articles required for them. This community is generally looked down by the society. They are most backward than the Koppula Velamma or Thurpu Kapu who are included in the list of backward classes.

The household sample survey would reveal about 30.43% of households are engaged in the traditional occupation, about 46.74% feel their occupation as inferior, 58.70% treat them as inferior and 44.57% reported that they are socially discriminated in their locality. The literacy rate is far below the state average. The school / college dropouts are about 61%. Work participation is more than the state

average. Female work participation is on higher side. There is no one in Government or private salaried persons and most of them are labourers. All of them are white cardholders and they do not have basic amenities at the places of their dwelling. All of them are live in Kutcha thatched, low ceiling houses and they are living in unhygienic conditions. In view of the fact that most of them are below poverty line and considering their pathetic condition we come to the conclusion that they are fit to be included under Group-A. They are not politically represented and thus they are socially, educationally, economically and politically backward.

The commission after due deliberations, considering their oral and written representations together with the survey reports and other material on record, come to the conclusion that "**Kurakula**" caste or community is socially and educationally backward and fit to be included in the list of backward classes for the purpose of Articles 15 (4) and 16 (4) of the constitution of the India. We recommend to the Government to include this caste under **Group – A** at **S. No 42** in the list of backward classes. Since our local enquires revealed that this caste people are residing in Srikakulam, Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam Districts only, the area of operation shall be confined to those Districts.

4 – NAGARALU

Sri Dibba Suryanarayana, General Secretary, A.P. Nagarala Sangham, presented a memorandum to the Chairman, A.P. Commission for Backward Classes on 4-4-1994 requesting to include Nagaralu community in the list of Backward Classes. It was represented that Nagaralu community was in the list of Backward Classes prior to 1970 and it was omitted in the report of Anantharaman Commission without any reason. Since then they have been representing to include their caste and the District Collectors of Srikakulam, Visakhapatnam and Vizianagaram also recommended for inclusion. Subsequently they represented before the Muralidhar Rao Commission, which recommended the inclusion, but some how there were cases filed in the High Court and the benefit was not given effect to. The caste representatives filed number of documents to recommend for inclusion. Several representations were filed before this Commission from time to time for inclusion of Nagaralu community.

The commission issued a notification dated 31-03-2006 which was published in A.P. Gazette on 13-04-2006 calling for representations, objections and suggestions for inclusion of Nagaralu caste in the list of backward classes. In pursuance of the said notification Sri Bayana Venkata Rao, president, A.P. Rashtra Nagarala Sangham submitted a representation contending that the said community was recognized as backward class prior to 1970 and subsequently N.K.Muralidhar Rao Commission also recommended and the Government issued G.O.Ms.166, Social Welfare (P) Department, dated 15-7-1986 which was challenged in the Court of Law and was not given effect to. Most of them are working as agricultural coolies, Mutta coolies and they are socially and educationally backward.

Subsequently the commission held public hearing on 16-05-2006. Sri P.Gopal Rao, Convenor, Nagaralu Welfare Association appeared before the Commission and pleaded for inclusion of the caste. He contended that the people of Nagaralu migrated from Ganjam Agency Area to Andhra Pradesh. Their origin is tribal

and hence they may be included in Group-A as aboriginal tribes. The population is about 1 lakh. 0.7% population are petty agriculturists, 20% are agricultural labourers, 2% are masons and construction workers, 10% quarry labourers, 0.5% servants in public sector, 0.75% private employment, 1.75% miscellaneous jobs, 35% are work force. Municipal Councilors and Corporate members are only 5 from their caste. About 170 people are working in Class-III and 175 people in Class-IV jobs. There is no political representation from their caste. Sri Bayana Venkat Rao, President & Sri Bayana Apparao, General Secretary, A.P.State Nagaralu Association, Vijayawada also appeared and argued for inclusion of the caste. The ladies work as housemaids in the houses of rich people and they are living in huts. Though they have been making several representations since 1970, their request could not be fulfilled. There were no objectors for inclusion of this caste.

The Commission deputed the survey team to conduct household sample survey to assess the living conditions of Nagaralu caste and the survey report together with statistical data is as follows:

Survey Results

A. Introduction:

The survey staff of the Commission conducted Local enquiries and Investigations including door-to-door household sample survey during January, March & August 2007 in Srikakulam, Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram and Krishna districts. The sample household Survey covered 102 Households of this community. The traditional occupation of this community is Agriculture and Coolie.

B. Social Status:

All the 102 Households comprising 388 persons are living in rural 68.6% and urban 31.4% with average household size 3.80 persons or 4 persons. The sex ratio of the community is 89 female per 100 male and the same for age group 0-14 years is 87.

Results on Traditional Occupation (T.O.)

Item	Remarks	No of Households	Percentage
a) Traditional occupation in practice	Yes	54	52.0
	No	48	48.0
b) Self perception of the caste people on Traditional Occupation	Superior	0	0.0
	Inferior	55	53.9
	Normal	47	46.1
c) T.O treated by others	Superior	0	0.0
	Inferior	57	55.9
	Normal	45	44.1
d) Social discrimination	Yes	49	48.0
	No	2	2.0
	Normal	51	50.0

The traditional occupation of this community is in practice among 52% of households. About 54% of households have expressed their occupation as inferior, about 56% of households reported as treated inferior by others and 48% of households being socially discriminated in their living localities.

C. Educational Status:

a) Sex wise literates and illiterates:

Sl. No	Description	Male	Female	Total
1	Literates	104	64	168
	No %	55.9	38.1	47.5
2	Illiterates	82	104	186
	No %	44.1	61.9	52.5

The literacy rate of male 55.9, female 38.1 and total 47.5 as against the state literacy rates 70.32, 50.43, and 60.47 respectively. The literacy rate of this community is far below the state literacy rate.

b) Educational level completed (7 years & above)

Sl.No.	Class Passed	No.of persons	Percentage over	
			Population	Literates
1	Below 5 th	52	14.7	31.0
2	5 th class	42	11.9	25.0
3	7 th class	37	10.5	22.0
4	10 th class	23	6.5	13.7
5	Inter	11	3.1	6.5
6	Degree	3	0.8	1.8
7	P.Gr.	0	0.0	0.0
8.	Pro.Tech.	0	0.0	0.0
	All Classes	168	47.5	100.0

It is noticed from the above table that there is about 44% of literates over population passed upto Matriculation and 3.5 % passed post matriculation or about 91.7% of literates passed upto matriculation and the balance 8.3% only passed post matriculation.

c) Literates and dropouts (7 years and above)

Sl. No.	Age Group	Population	Total Literates	Percentage of Literates		Drop outs From edn.	Percent of dropouts	
				Among Age Group	Over Total Pop.		Over Persons	Over Literates
1	7-14	65	61	93.8	17.2	9	13.8	14.8
2	15-24	83	62	74.7	17.5	47	56.6	75.8
3	25-39	92	25	27.2	7.1	25	27.2	100.0
4	40-59	91	17	18.7	4.8	17	18.7	100.0
5	60+	23	3	13.0	0.8	3	13.0	100.0
	All	354	168		47.5	101	28.5	60.1

The literacy rate of the community is 47.5 out of which dropouts is about 29% or 60% over the literates. About 15% of dropouts over literates registered in the age

group of 7-14 years. About 76% of dropouts over literates registered in the age group of 15-24 years.

d) Drop-outs from School/College studies with reasons (All-ages)

Sl.No.	Reason for Dropouts	No. of Persons	Dropout Rate	Percentage. Over pop.
1	Failed	3	3.0	0.8
2	Education not required	4	4.0	1.0
3	Marriage	5	5.0	1.3
4	To work	10	10.0	2.6
5	Poverty	74	73.0	19.0
6	Health & others	5	5.0	1.3
	All	101	100.0	26.0

Among the dropouts about 83% of dropouts reported on account of reasons i.e., 'poverty' and 'to work'. The dropouts due to marriage as a reason are 5.0%, which shows the social custom and social backwardness of the community.

D. Employment Status:

The entire surveyed population of Nagaralu community basing on their economic activity is divided into Working group and Non Working group. The Working group of people is consisting of Daily wage earners, Self-employed, Regular salaried and part-time workers. So also the Non-Working group of people consisting of children, students, aged, retired, ill health, unemployed, housewives, and households.

a) Working and Non-Working groups of people by sex is as follows.

Item	<u>Workers</u>			<u>Non-Workers</u>		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Number	137	83	220	68	100	168
Percentage Over total	66.8	45.4	56.7	33.2	54.6	43.3

It is noticed that the percentage of Male workers constitute 66.8, Female 45.4 and the total workers 56.7 as against the state work participation rates 56.23, 35.11, 45.8 respectively. The work participation rates of the community are higher than the

state work participation rates, because they are engaged as daily wage earners in agricultural and non-agricultural sectors for fewer wages and which is a seasonal activity as seen in the next table.

b). Statement showing Economic activity among working people.

S.No	Economic activity	Sex	Number	Percent to Total pop.	Percent to Workers-population
1	Daily wage in Agri.	Male	57	27.8	41.6
		Female	50	27.3	60.2
		Total	107	27.5	48.6
2	Daily wage in Non Agri.	Male	55	26.8	40.2
		Female	11	6.0	13.3
		Total	66	17.0	30.0
3	Self employed in Agri	Male	2	1.0	1.5
		Female	0	0.0	0.0
		Total	2	0.5	0.9
4	Self employed in Non-Agri	Male	18	8.7	13.1
		Female	8	4.4	9.6
		Total	26	6.7	11.8
5	Regular salaried in Govt	Male	1	0.5	0.7
		Female	0	0.0	0.0
		Total	1	0.3	0.5
6	Regular salaried in Pvt.	Male	4	2.0	2.9
		Female	1	0.6	1.2
		Total	5	1.3.	2.3
7	Part time workers	Male	0	0.0	0.0
		Female	13	7.1	15.7
		Total	13	3.4	5.9
Grand Total			220	56.7	100.0

Although the workers of community are engaged in all the above economic activities for their livelihood but about 35% over population or 80% over workers population are engaged in daily wages in Agri and Non-Agri sectors. As it is understood that the daily wage earnings are comparatively paid less remuneration,

mostly seasonal work and uncertainty of work guarantee. A few persons of the Community are noticed employed under regular salaried in Govt. and in private organization.

E. Economic status:

Description	No.of Households	Percentage over hhs.
a) Possessing Agrl. Land	13	12.7
b) Type of House (residing)		
i) Pucca	13	12.7
ii) Semi pucca	30	29.4
iii) Kutcha/Huts	59	57.8
c) Having Ration cards:		
i) White	100	98.0
ii) Pink	1	1.0
iii) No card	1	1.0
d) Facilities/Amenities:		
i) Phone – Having connected	5	4.9
Not having Phone	97	95.1
ii) Drinking water in the – Yes	22	21.6
premises of households No	80	78.4
iii) Electricity connection Yes	80	78.4
	22	21.6
iv) Toilet within the premises Yes	23	22.5
	79	77.5
e) Percapita income ..(Per Annum)	Rs.4876/-	
f) Avg. Land holding . in acres.	0.09	

About 13% of households possessing agricultural land showing a small average land holding of 0.09 acres. About 58% of households are living in kutcha/hut houses with 98% of households possessing white colour Ration cards. Regarding facilities about 95% of households without telephone connection, 78% of households without drinking water facility within premises, 22% of households without electricity connected to their houses and about 78% of households without latrine facility within premises. In spite of that, the per capita income of this community is Rs.4,876/- as against state average of Rs.25,695/-. This is the picture of economic backwardness of Nagaralu community.

Edgar Thurston and K.Rangachary in their book "Castes and Tribes of Southern India" Vol. V at page 135 referred thus: "The Nagaralu are the cultivating caste in Visakhapatnam concerning whom it is recorded in the Madras Census Report, 1901 that Nagaralu means the coolies in the city. Apparently this caste was originally a section of Kapus which took to town life and which separated itself from the parent stuff. They say that their original occupation was medicine and number of them are still physicians and druggists though the greater part are agriculturists. The 'Menarikam' system according to which, a man who marry his maternal uncle's daughter is in force. Girls are usually married before puberty and a Brahmin officiates at marriages. Marriages of widows and divorce are not permitted. The usual caste title is 'Pathrulu' indicating those who are fit to receive a gift."

In "People of India" National series vol. VI, India's communities at page 2536 it is referred thus: "The Nagaralu are distributed in the Krishna, Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram and Srikakulam districts. The word Nagaralu means dwellers of a city. The words 'Nagaralu' and 'Rona' are supposed to have originated from common talk. When they moved to cities as physicians and druggists and also as Commanders of the armed forces of the Gajapathi Kings at Vizianagaram, they got the title Nagaralu and they also have the title "Pathrudu" meaning the worthy of one to receive the gift. The majority of Nagaralu are labourers, some are engaged in cultivation masonry and carpentry while the rest of them have undertaken services in Government and private sector."

The National Commission for Backward Classes examined the issue and observed that this caste was included in the Mandal Commission's list of Backward Classes for Andhra Pradesh at entry No. 174; that their occupation as members of the community mainly depend for their livelihood as agricultural labourers and other labour oriented work. The National Commission relying on the observations of Edgar Thurston and K.Rangachary came to the conclusion that Nagaralu community is socially, educationally backward and included in the list of Other Backward Classes.

Prior to 1970, the Government of Andhra Pradesh recognized this caste as a backward class and included in the list in G.O.Ms No. 1880 Education (II) Department dated 29-07-1966. N.K.Muralidhar Rao Commission also recommended this caste to include in the list of backward classes, but it was not implemented. Subsequently on the representation made to the Government, the Government of Andhra Pradesh again recognized this caste as a backward class under G.O.Ms No. 30 Backward Classes Welfare (P2) Department dated 25-08-1994, but the High Court struck down the G.O. on the ground that there was no recommendation of the Commission.

The Commission personally visited the places where the Nagaralu caste people are living and the Commission observed that their traditional occupation is Agriculture and coolie. But most of them work as labour oriented works like masonry, carpentry, cart pullers, industrial daily wage workers, construction labour, rickshaw pullers, Mutta coolies, Transport labours, gunny bags repair works and some of the women folk work as domestics servants. The literacy rate is very low at 13% as against the State's average of 45.11. 75% of the caste people live either in thatched houses or huts. They are not adequately represented in the field of employment also. There is no political representation in their community.

The door-to-door household sample survey would reveal that about 52% of the people are engaged in their traditional occupation, about 54% of the households expressed their occupation as inferior, the literacy rate is below the state average, the school / college dropouts are about 26%, the work participation rates are higher than the state work participation, 58% of the households living in Kutcha houses and about 98% possess white ration cards and most of them do not possess the basic amenities like drinking water, electricity and latrine within their premises and most of them live below poverty line. Very few people are employed in Govt. service and thus

they are inadequately represented in Govt. services. The reported population in the year 1994 is about 68,000. Their political representation is also negligible. For the above said reasons we hold that they are socially, educationally, economically and politically backward.

On cumulative consideration of all the above factors including the survey report and their social, educational, economical and political status, we come to the conclusion that **Nagaralu** caste / community is socially and educationally backward and fit to be included in the list of backward classes for the purpose of Articles 15 (4) & 16 (4) of the constitution of India. We recommend to the Govt. to include the said caste at **S. No. 38** under **Group-D** to the said list. Since our local enquiry revealed that this cast people are residing in Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, Krishna, Hyderabad and Ranga Reddy Districts, the area of operation shall be confined to those Districts only.

5 – PONDARA

Sri Adhikarla Neelakantam, General Secretary of State 'Pondara' Community Welfare Association submitted a memorandum to the Chairman, A.P. Commission for Backward Classes on 6-4-1994 contending that 'Pondara' community is socially and educationally backward and may be included in the list of Backward classes. It was contended that Pondaras speak Oriya, which is their mother tongue as they belong to linguistic minority. The literacy rate is very low and there is no political representation from among them. They are economically poor and their social status is on par with the Scheduled Tribes. They are not adequately represented in the Government service and hence they may be included in the list of Backward Classes. Subsequently several representations were received by the Commission from time to time. It was also represented that Muralidhar Rao Commission recommended for inclusion of this caste, but the said G.O. was challenged in the High Court and it was not implemented.

After the commission was reconstituted, the commission issued fresh notification dated 31-03-2006 which was published in A.P. Gazette dated 13-04-2006 calling for representations, objections and suggestions and the commission received similar representations. Subsequently public hearing was held on 16-05-2006.

During public hearing Sri A.Neelakantam, Durga Prasad Patro, P.Appanna, P.Lakshminarayana, Sri Venkat, D.Narasimha Rao, P.Laxmana Rao, Jada Narayana and P.V Ramana appeared before the commission and represented that their population is very limited and they have been making representations since a long time and even though Muralidhar Rao commission recommended for inclusion but it was not implemented. They cultivate small extents and most of them are below poverty line. They live in huts and their mother tongue is Oriya. They are included in the Central List also. There are no objectors for inclusion of this caste.

The Commission deputed the survey team to assess the living conditions of the people and they collected the relevant data and the statistical reports are as follows:

Survey Results

A. Introduction:

The survey staff of the Commission conducted Local enquiries and Investigations including door-to-door household sample survey during January 07 in Srikakulam district. The household sample Survey covered 41 Households of this community. The traditional occupation of this community is Agriculture, Vegetable growing and sales.

B. Social Status:

All the 41 Households comprising 161 persons are living in rural (100%) area only with an average household size of 3.9 (persons) at the same time, the sex ratio of the Community is 106 female per 100 male, whereas for the age group 0-14 years 91 female per 100 male.

Results on Traditional Occupation (T.O.)

Item	Remarks	No of Households	Percentage
a) Traditional occupation in practice	Yes	15	36.6
	No	26	63.4
b) Self perception of the caste people on Traditional Occupation	Superior	0	0.0
	Inferior	23	56.1
	Normal	18	43.9
c) T.O treated by others	Superior	0	0.0
	Inferior	30	73.2
	Normal	11	26.8
d) Social discrimination	Yes	23	56.1
	No	0	0.0
	Normal	18	43.9

About 63% of households of this community are attending to their traditional occupation i.e. growing vegetables and sales. About 56% of households feeling that they are inferior in connection with their traditional occupation. About 73% of households have reported that they are being treated as inferior or looked down. About 56.1% of households reported that they are socially discriminated in their local areas.

C. Educational Status:

a) Sex wise literates and illiterates (7 years & above)

Sl. No	Description	Male	Female	Total
1	Literates No %	34 48.6	17 23.3	51 35.7
2	Illiterates No %	36 51.4	56 76.7	92 64.3

The male literacy of this community is 48.6% female 23.3% and total 35.7% as against the state literacy rate 70.32, 50.43 and 60.47 respectively. The literacy rate of this community is far below the state literacy rate.

b) Educational level completed (7 years & above)

Sl.No.	Class Passed	No.of persons	Percentage over	
			Population	Literates
1	Below 5 th	7	4.9	13.7
2	5 th class	27	18.9	52.9
3	7 th class	11	7.7	21.6
4	10 th class	6	4.2	11.8
5	Inter	0	0.0	0.0
6	Degree	0	0.0	0.0
7	P.Gr.	0	0.0	0.0
8.	Pro.Tech.	0	0.0	0.0
	All Classes	51	35.7	100

From the above table it is observed further that all the literates of the Community are passed upto Matriculation only and there in no post-matriculation passed person.

c) Literates and dropouts (7 years and above):

Sl. No.	Age Group	Population	Total Literates	Percentage of Literates		Drop outs from edn.	Percent of dropouts	
				Among Age Group	Over Total Pop.		Over Persons (with in the age group)	Over Literates
1	7-14	22	20	90.9	14.0	2	9.1	10.0
2	15-24	38	18	47.4	12.6	16	42.1	88.9
3	25-39	34	8	23.5	5.6	8	23.5	100.0
4	40-59	38	4	10.5	2.8	4	13.2	100.0
5	60+	11	1	9.1	0.7	1	9.1	100.0
	All	143	51		35.7	31	21.7	60.8

The rate of the dropouts over population is 21.7% or over literates 60.8%. The dropouts from education in the age-group of 7-14 years is 9.1% and in the age-group of 15-24 years 42.1%, shows their social and educational backwardness.

d) Drop-outs from School/College studies with reasons (All-ages)

Sl.No.	Reason for Dropouts	No. of Persons	Dropout Rate	Percentage. over pop.
1	Failed	2	6.5	1.2
2	Education not required	2	6.3	1.2
3	Marriage	1	3.1	0.7
4	To work	2	6.3	1.2
5	Poverty	24	75.0	14.9
6	Health & others	0	0.0	0.0
	All	31	100.0	19.3

Most of the dropouts of the Community i.e., 75% is registered against the poverty as a reason for discontinuation of their further education.

D. Employment Status:

The entire surveyed population of Pondara Community basing on their economic activity is divided into Working group and Non Working group. The Working group of people is consisting of Daily wage earners, Self-employed, Regular salaried and part-time workers. So also the Non-Working group of people consisting of children, students, aged, retired, ill health, unemployed, housewives, and households.

a) Working and Non-Working groups of people by sex are as follows.

	Workers			Non-Workers		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Number	49	44	93	29	39	68
Percentage Over total	62.8	53.0	57.8	37.2	47.0	42.2

It is noticed that the percentage of Male workers constitute 62.8%, Female 53.0% and the total workers 57.8% as against the state work participation rates 56.23, 35.11, 45.80 respectively. More work participation/ employees is seen against the state work participation/ employment, at the same time the female workers are more than 50% of female population.

b) Statement showing Economic activity among working people.

S.No	Economic activity	Sex	Number	Percent Total po	Percent to Workers-population
1	Daily wage in Agri.	Male	36	46.1	73.5
		Female	34	41.0	77.2
		Total	70	43.4	75.3
2	Daily wage in Non Agri.	Male	8	10.3	16.3
		Female	0	0.0	0.0
		Total	8	5.0	8.6
3	Self employed in Agri	Male	2	2.6	4.1
		Female	1	1.2	2.3
		Total	3	1.9	3.2
4	Self employed in Non-Agri	Male	3	3.8	6.1
		Female	1	1.2	2.3
		Total	4	2.5	4.3
5	Regular salaried in Govt	Male	0	0.0	0.0
		Female	0	0.0	0.0
		Total	0	0.0	0.0
6	Regular salaried in Pvt.	Male	0	0.0	0.0
		Female	0	0.0	0.0
		Total	0	0.0	0.0
7	Part time workers	Male	0	0.0	0.0
		Female	8	9.6	18.2
		Total	8	5.0	8.6
Grand Total			93	57.8%	100.0%

From the point of economic activity of the community, it is observed that no one is employed as regular salaried either in Govt. or in Private Organization. However, about 84% of workers out of total workers or 48% of workers over population are engaged in daily wage in Agriculture or Non-Agriculture.

The percentage of work force or employees is higher than the state rates due to the community as a whole is residing in Rural areas and depending on daily wage earnings where daily wage is less remunerative, less dignified and not regular.

E. Economic status:

Description	No.of Households	Percentage over hhs.
a) Possessing Agrl. Land	3	7.3
b) Type of House (residing)		
i) Pucca	1	2.4
ii) Semi pucca	7	17.1
iii) Kutcha/Huts	33	80.5
c) Having Ration cards:		
i) White	41	100.0
ii) Pink	0	0.0
iii) No card	0	0.0
d) Facilities/Amenities:		
i) Phone – Having connected	0	0.0
Not having Phone	41	100.0
ii) Drinking water in the – Yes	3	7.3
premises of households No	38	92.7
iii) Electricity connection Yes	34	82.9
	7	17.1
iv) Toilet within the premises Yes	2	4.9
	39	95.1
e) Percapita income .(Per Annum)	Rs. 4,880/-	
f) Avg. Land holding	0.03 acres	

From the table, it is observed that about 7.3% households are possessing agricultural land therefore the average land holding resulted to 0.03 acres. About 81% of households are living in huts, with cent percent households having white Ration Card, cent percent households without telephone connected, about 93% of

households without drinking water facility within premises and 95% of households without latrine facility within premises.

The per capita income of the community is Rs. 4,880/- in contrast with state per capita income of Rs. 25,695/-.

"People of India", National Series Vol.VI, India's Communities by K.S. Singh at page 2863 referred "Pondara" community as follows: "In Orissa Pondara are also known as Bathya, the term is derived from the words, Bar meaning land and Ditya. They use Oriya script. The Pondaras are traditional vegetable growers. They also practice agriculture and depend on agricultural land taken on lease for cultivation. They are distributed in the districts of Srikakulam and Vizianagaram. They are believed to have migrated from Orissa. They grow vegetables through out the year. Besides the practice of horticulture, they also work as daily wage labourers".

On the representation made to the Government, the Government of Andhra Pradesh recognized this caste as a backward class under G.O.Ms No. 30 Backward Classes Welfare (P2) Department dated 25-08-1994, but the High Court struck down the G.O. on the ground that there was no recommendation of the Commission.

The National Commission for Backward Classes also considered the request of Pondara community and the National Commission after considering their representations, recommended to include the said caste at S.No.97. The National Commission found that Pondara is the socially and educationally Backward Class and fit to be included in the Central List of Backward Classes for Andhra Pradesh. Muralidhar Rao Commission observed that the main profession of this community is vegetable growing. They suffer from stigma of social status and educationally they are also backward. The literates are less than 1% and they have no political representation in any elected bodies and they are economically poor. Edgar Thurston and K.Rangachary described Pondara caste as a sub division of Mali.

The commission personally visited some of the areas of Srikakulam districts from 17-01-2007 to 23-01-2007 to assess the living conditions of Pondara people. The estimated population as claimed by them is 55,000. It is observed that most of them are engaged in growing leafy vegetables and selling them in the market. People of India, A.P. series, observed that the Pondara grow vegetables throughout the year. They also take lands from the landlords on rent and jointly cultivate small extents. Besides the practice of horticulture, they also work as daily wage labourers. They are similar to Kurakula caste. All of them are confined to Srikakulam, Visakhapatnam and Vizianagaram Districts only. Most of them live in Kutcha houses and un-hygienic conditions. We noticed that their residences are in smallest area and all the family members live in one room only. Their living condition is very pathetic and all of them are living below poverty line. Their literacy rate is very poor and there is no one in Govt. service. Out of the households surveyed, there is social segregation and all of them live adjacent to the plots where they cultivate the leafy vegetables. Considering the pathetic conditions of the people, we deem it necessary to include them under group-A.

The commission after considering the oral and written representations and other material collected including the statistical reports, hold that **Pondara** caste / community is socially and educationally backward and fit to be included in the list of backward classes for the purpose of Articles 15 (4) & 16 (4) of constitution of India under **Group – A** at **S. No. 43** in the list of backward classes. Since our local enquires revealed that Pondara people are residing in Srikakulam, Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam Districts, the area of operation shall be confined to those Districts only.

6 - SAMANTHULA – SAMANTHA – SOUNTIA – SAUNTIA

Sri L.N.Panigrahi, President Oriya Minorities Welfare Society, Baruva, Srikakulam District submitted a representation to the then Member Secretary A.P Commission for Backward Classes requesting to include Oriya caste namely Samanthas and others in the list of backward classes. The then Collector Srikakulam also addressed the Member Secretary forwarding their representation. It was contended that the Samanthas are socially and educationally backward and fit to be included in the list of backward classes. It was represented that in Orissa state Samanthas are included in the list of schedule caste. They have been eking out their livelihood by doing manual labour, earth diggers, stonecutters, farm bunding, climbers and pickers of coconuts. Labour is their badge of occupation. They are residing in Srikakulam and Vizianagaram Districts predominantly living in Ichapur, Sompeta, Palasa and Tekkali Mandal of Srikakulam Districts. There is a custom of remarriage and divorce in their caste. They are non-vegetarians. They are semi-nomadic tribes. Most them are illiterates and they are economically below poverty line.

The District Samantha Sangham also represented to the Commission that the caste people, Samantha alias Soundya are socially and educationally backward. Their mother tongue is Oriya and they reside in Kavity, Kanchili, Ichapuram, Sompeta and Mandasa Mandals of Srikakulam District. Their population is about 65,000 and most of them are employed as agricultural coolies. Some of them collect firewood in the forest and sell in the market. Some are employed in the coconut gardens. Ladies do not wear jackets and most of them are residing in thatched houses. They eat rats, cats, birds and snakes and hence they are looked down by others. They are not educated. They do not own lands and they do not have pucca houses. They are economically poor and living below poverty line. They are not politically represented and hence they may be included in the list of backward classes.

They have been making several representations from time to time. M.Denabandu, President, District Samanthula Association Srikakulam, also made similar representation to the commission and it was also represented that Srikakulam District was formed with a portion carved out from Visakhapatnam District and Ganjam District of Orissa. Samantha people are of Oriya origin. In Orissa state they have been recognized as Schedule tribes. Hence they may be included under Group A. Sri D.Achuta Ramaiah MLA Ichapuram, also forwarded the representation and made a request on their behalf for inclusion of said caste Samanthula (Saunthiya). Dr. M.E Krishna Rao, Ex- MLA Ichapuram Srikakulam District also submitted representation on the same lines. Sri Naresh Kumar Agarwal (Lallu) Ichapuram, MLA also represented to the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and it was forwarded to the commission for consideration.

Sri M.Denabandu, president, District Sountia Association of Srikakulam district submitted a memorandum to the then chairman on 26-04-1994 requesting to include Sountia community in the list of backward classes. It was represented that Sountia class people are resident of erstwhile Ganjam district of Orissa district and some areas were merged in Srikakulam district where these people are residing. In Orissa state, they are included in the list of schedule caste.

The Commission issued notification dated 31-03-2006 which was published in A.P. Gazette dated 13-04-2006 calling for representations, suggestions, and objections and the Commission received the representation from the very same parties. Subsequently public hearing was held by the Commission on 20-5-2006. Bhagawan Proddhan president and Baddai Murali, Secretary of District Samantha Association, Hatti Tonka, J.Kameshwar Rao, who are the caste leaders appeared before the Commission and represented the above facts. The Commission deputed the survey team and the survey team conducted the household sample survey. The survey team collected the data and the survey results are as follows.

Survey Results

A. Introduction:

The survey staff of the Commission conducted Local enquiries and Investigations including door-to-door household sample survey during January 2007 in Srikakulam district. The sample household Survey covered 53 Households of this community. The traditional occupation of this community is Coolie & Agricultural Coolie.

B. Social Status:

All the 53 Households comprising 211 persons are living in rural (100%) area only, with average house hold size at 3.98 or 4(persons). The sex ratio of the community is 88 Female per 100 Male and the same for age group upto 14 years is 68.

Results on Traditional Occupation (T.O.)

Item	Remarks	No of Households	Percentage
a) Traditional occupation in practice	Yes	29	54.7
	No	24	45.3
b) Self perception of the caste people on Traditional Occupation	Superior	0	0.0
	Inferior	33	62.3
	Normal	20	37.7
c) T.O treated by others	Superior	0	0.0
	Inferior	33	62.3
	Normal	20	37.7
d) Social discrimination	Yes	5	9.4
	No	0	0.0
	Normal	48	90.6

From the above table, it is noticed that about 55% of households are attending to their traditional Occupation. About 62% of house holds have expressed inferior of their occupation, about 62% of house holds felt that their occupation treated as inferior by others, and about 91% of house holds socially discriminated in their locality.

C. Educational Status:

a) Sex wise literates and illiterates:(7 years & above)

Sl. No	Description	Male	Female	Total
1	Literates No %	79 73.8	42 45.2	121 60.5
2	Illiterates No %	28 26.2	51 54.8	79 39.5

The Male literacy of the community 73.8%, Female 45.2% and total 60.5% as against state literacy rate 70.32, 50.43 and 60.47 respectively. The literacy rate of the community is almost equal to the state literacy except Female literacy rate.

b) Educational level completed: (7 years & above)

Sl.No.	Class Passed	No. of persons	Percentage over	
			Population	Literates
1	Below 5 th	20	10.0	16.5
2	5 th class	39	19.5	32.2
3	7 th class	37	18.5	30.6
4	10 th class	17	8.5	14.0
5	Inter	5	2.5	4.2
6	Degree	3	1.5	2.5
7	P.Gr.	0	0.0	0.0
8.	Pro.Tech.	0	0.0	0.0
	All Classes	121	60.5	100.0

Among the literates (60.5%) of the community upto Matriculation passed is 56.5% the balance 4.0% passed post matriculation. There is no Post – Graduation student found in the survey of the community.

Literates and dropouts (7 years and above):

Sl. No.	Age Group	Population	Total Literates	Percentage of Literates		Drop outs from education	Percent of dropouts	
				Among Age Group	Over Total Pop.		Over Persons	Over Literates
1	7-14	41	41	100.0	20.5	22	53.7	53.7
2	15-24	49	46	93.9	23.0	36	73.5	78.3
3	25-39	53	23	43.4	11.5	22	41.5	95.7
4	40-59	47	10	21.3	5.0	10	21.3	100.0
5	60+	10	1	10.0	0.5	1	10.0	100.0
	All	211	121		60.5	91	45.5	75.2

The total dropouts of the community are 45.5% over population or 75.2% over literates. The dropouts in the children of 7-14 years are 53.7% so also in the age group 15-24 years the dropouts noticed at 73.5%.

d) Drop-outs from School/College studies with reasons (All-ages)

Sl.No.	Reason for Dropouts	No. of Persons	Dropout Rate	Percentage. over pop.
1	Failed	11	11.6	5.2
2	Education not required	28	29.5	13.3
3	Marriage	0	0.0	0.0
4	To work	2	2.1	0.9
5	Poverty	53	55.8	53.0
6	Health & others	1	1.1	0.5
	All	95	100.0	45.0

The dropouts of community from education with reasons for all years are 45.0%. The highest percentage of dropouts due to poverty is 55.8, followed by 'Education –not required' 29.5 and 'Failed' 11.6.

D. Employment Status:

The entire surveyed population of 'Samanthula' community basing on their economic activity is divided into Working group and Non Working group. The Working group of people is consisting of Daily wage earners, Self-employed, Regular salaried and part-time workers. So also the Non-Working group of people consisting of children, students, aged, retired, ill health, unemployed, housewives, and households.

a) Working and Non-Working groups of people by sex is as follows.

Item	Workers			Non-Workers		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Number	65	60	125	47	39	86
Percentage Over total	58.1	60.6	59.2	41.9	39.4	40.8

It is noticed that the percentage of Male workers constitute 58.1 Female 60.6 and the total workers 59.2 as against the state work participation rates 56.23, 35.11, 45.89 respectively. The work participation rate of the community is higher than the state-working rate. However the Female percentage of workers is more than that of Male workers of the community.

b). Statement showing Economic activity among working people.

S.No	Economic activity	Sex	Number	Percent to Total pop.	Percent to Workers-Population
1	Daily wage in Agri.	Male	52	46.4	80.0
		Female	48	48.5	80.0
		Total	100	47.4	80.0
2	Daily wage in Non Agri.	Male	2	1.8	3.1
		Female	0	0.0	0.0
		Total	2	0.9	1.6
3	Self employed in Agri	Male	3	2.7	4.6
		Female	0	0.0	0.0
		Total	3	1.4	2.4
4	Self employed in Non-Agri	Male	3	2.7	4.6
		Female	0	0.0	0.0
		Total	3	1.4	2.4
5	Regular salaried in Govt	Male	0	0.0	0.0
		Female	0	0.0	0.0
		Total	0	0.0	0.0
6	Regular salaried in Pvt.	Male	4	3.6	6.2
		Female	2	2.0	3.3
		Total	6	2.8	4.8
7	Part time workers	Male	1	0.9	1.5
		Female	10	10.1	16.8
		Total	11	5.2	8.8
Grand Total			125	59.2	100.0

The percentage of workers of the community engaged as daily wage earners in Agriculture is 47.4% over population or 80% over workers. There is no Regular Salaried employee of the community in the Government services.

D. Economic status:

Description	No.of Households	Percentage over hhs.	
a) Possessing Agrl. Land	24	45.3	
b) Type of House (residing)			
i) Pucca	6	11.3	
ii) Semi pucca	20	37.7	
iii) Kutcha/Huts	27	51.0	
c) Having Ration cards:			
i) White	50	94.3	
ii) Pink	3	5.7	
iii) No card	0	0.0	
d) Facilities/Amenities:			
i) Phone – Having connected	0	0.0	
Not having Phone	53	100.0	
ii) Drinking water in the –	Yes	2	3.8
premises of households	No	51	96.2
iii) Electricity connection	Yes	39	73.6
	No	14	26.4
iv) Toilet within the premises	Yes	0	0.0
	No	53	100.0
e) Percapita income Rs 3,644/-Per Annum			
f) Avg. Land holding 0.27 acres.			

From the above table it is noticed that the average land holding of the community is 0.27 Acres. About 51% of households are living in Kutcha houses, 94% of house holds are possessing white ration cards, 100% of house holds without telephone or cell phone connections, about 96% of house holds without drinking water within premises, and 100% of house holds without Latrine facility in the premises. The per capita income of the community is Rs 3,644/- against the state per capita income of Rs 25,695/-.

Edgar Thurston in his book "Caste and Tribes of Southern India" Volume VI at page 289 referred Samantiya as follows "The Samanthyas are an Oriya caste of agricultural labourers and fire wood sellers. It has been suggested that the caste name is derived from Samanthiba, which denotes sauntering to pickup scattered things. The Samanthyas are one of the caste, whose touch is suppose to convey pollution and they consequently live apart in separate quarters".

In the neighbouring state of Orissa, Saundiya has been recognized as Schedule caste. The correct name of the caste is Sauntia - Sountia / Samanta - Samantha. The assertion of Sri Denabandu that their castes in Srikakulam have marital relations with Sauntia (SC) of the neighbouring Orissa state is not disputed by anybody. This justifies us to recognize this caste at least as backward class.

The survey team surveyed 53 households. The commission also personally visited the places where the people are residing and their living conditions are observed. Most of the women in this caste do not wear blouses. Women make brooms from palm leaves and sell them. They also go to fields for agricultural works. Common dining is not allowed with other caste people and food is served separately to this caste people. This caste people have themselves to remove the leaves in which they eat. Others observe social distance to this caste. This caste occupies lowest position in social hierarchy. These findings establish that this caste is socially backward. The survey results would establish that this caste has not secured adequate representation in education, services and political institutions.

On a close examination of all the records and personal inspection of the people we hold that the people Samanthula / Samantha / Sountia / Sauntia are one and the same caste found in Srikakulam district. Even though Sountia caste is not specifically notified but specified only Samantha we are of the opinion that they are one and the same and for the reasons stated above, they are fit to be included in the list of backward classes.

Samanthula community is residing in Srikakulam district only. The population of Samanthula as claimed by them is about 11,000. Their population is very limited and they are confined to Srikakulam district only.

The commission after considering the oral and written representations and other material collected together with statistical report, come to the conclusion that **Samanthula, Samantha, Sauntia, Sountia** are socially and educationally backward for the purpose of Articles 15 (4) & 16 (4) of the constitution of India and fit to be included in the list of backward classes under **Group-A** at **S. No. 44**, confining the area of operation to Srikakulam district only.

V - RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMISSION

The commission considered the entire material available i.e., oral and written representations submitted to the commission, survey results obtained by the survey team, the authorities relied by the commission, the guidelines contemplated to identify the backward classes in the Mandal case and other important decisions of the Apex court. The Commission after due deliberations and detailed consideration unanimously resolved to make the following recommendations and tender advice to the Government as shown against each caste / community.

1. Arava caste / community is socially and educationally backward and fit to be included in the list of backward classes under group – D at Serial No. 36 for purposes of Articles 15 (4) & 16 (4) of the Constitution of India, confining the area of operation to Srikakulam District only.
2. AYYARAKA caste / Community is socially and educationally backward and fit to be included in the list of backward classes under Group – D at Serial No. 37 for purposes of Articles 15 (4) & 16 (4) of the Constitution of India, confining the area of operation to Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishna, Guntur, Khammam and Warangal Districts only.
3. Kurakula caste / Community is socially and educationally backward and fit to be included in the list of backward classes under Group – A at Serial No. 42 for purposes of Articles 15 (4) & 16 (4) of the Constitution of India, confining the area of operation to Srikakulam, Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam Districts only.
4. Nagaralu caste / Community is socially and educationally backward and fit to be included in the list of backward classes under Group – D at Serial No. 38 for purposes of Articles 15 (4) & 16 (4) of the Constitution of India, confining the area of operation to Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, Krishna, Hyderabad and Ranga Reddy Districts only.

5. Pondara caste / Community is socially and educationally backward and fit to be included in the list of backward classes under Group – A at Serial No. 43 for purposes of Articles 15 (4) & 16 (4) of the Constitution of India, confining the area of operation to Srikakulam, Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam Districts only.
6. Samanthula, Samantha, Sauntia, Sountia caste / Community is socially and educationally backward and fit to be included in the list of backward classes under Group – A at Serial No. 44 for purposes of Articles 15 (4) & 16 (4) of the Constitution of India, confining the area of operation to Srikakulam District only.
7. The principle of exclusion of socially advanced persons / sections (creamy layer) already laid down by the state Govt. will automatically and naturally apply to the above classes now recommended for inclusion.

1. Justice Dalava Subrahmanyam, Chairman

2. Sri N.Laxminarayana Mudiraj, Member

3. Sri V. Krishna Mohan Rao, Member

4. Sri R.M Gonela, Member Secretary