GOVERNMENT INTERVENTIONS AND RURAL EMPOWERMENT: AN ANALYTICAL STUDY OF ANTI-POVERTY PROGRAMMES IN ANDHRA PRADESH STATE

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Abstract: *With more than two-thirds of the population living in villages, rural empowerment is still essential to India's growth. Rural poverty continues to be a multifaceted problem that affects livelihoods, housing, sanitation, education, and health despite efforts by the government. This study looks at the effects of several important anti-poverty initiatives in Andhra Pradesh, such as the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G), and the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). 400 beneficiaries from the districts of Srikakulam, East Godavari, and Chittoor engaged in a multi-stage stratified random sample survey. Results indicate significant gains in livelihoods, housing, education, and water availability, with women accounting for a large portion of the beneficiaries. Principal Component Analysis revealed four poverty dimensions: drinking water, sanitation, cooking fuel, and lighting. No significant differences were found between nuclear and joint families. The study highlights gaps in implementation and awareness, recommending stronger monitoring, community participation, and resource allocation to ensure sustainable rural empowerment.*

Key Words: Rural Empowerment, Government Programmes, Poverty Alleviation, Andhra Pradesh and Multidimensional Poverty.

1.1.Introduction:

Despite being one of the developing world powers, India is home to the most destitute. India continues to develop its rural areas slowly despite progressing rapidly in many other areas (Thomas, 2015). According to the 2011 Census, 68.8 per cent of the nation's population lives in rural areas. Over half of the rise in urban population during this era was due to rural-urban migration and the reclassification of rural settlements as urban (Pradhan, 2013). Despite urbanization, more than half India's population is expected to live in rural areas by 2050 (United Nations, 2012). Rural Development Ministry is the focal point for rural development in the Government of India. It coordinates, puts into action, and finances programmes designed to ensure that economic development benefits reach the countryside and the average person. Both social transformation and economic improvement for people are implied by rural development. More access to capital and inputs, more robust implementation of land reforms, increased public participation in the rural development process, and decentralization of planning all contribute significantly to the higher chances for the quality of life of rural residents. Improvements in amenities such as drinking water, sanitation, energy, and housing facilitate their social growth. While India is laying the groundwork for fast urbanisation, rural India continues to be the primary driver of GDP growth in India, accounting for 46 per cent of national income (NITI Ayog, 2017).

The incremental improvement in the economic and social circumstances of Indians living in rural areas is called rural development. It is a continuous process rather than an objective. As a result, this procedure actively aids in the economic development of rural areas and the nation. On the other hand, rural development results from urban growth. Thus, creating possibilities for earning a good living is one of rural development's goals. As a result, the rural populace will be able to escape poverty and economic obscurity. In order to provide a level of living for the people who live in rural areas, Indian policymakers work to implement modern health and education standards as well as land reforms (Vedantu,n.d). India's rural per capita GDP has increased at 6.2 per cent annually since 2000 (Guest, 2020). The growth, income, and consumption patterns of rural India, where the bulk of the population resides, are crucial to stimulating demand, recovering the economy, and ensuring continued growth. India's rural economy has consistently supported and provided for the nation's overall economy.

Additionally, India's rural economy proved robust during global economic slowdowns. Around 60 per cent of India's population is employed in agriculture and related industries, demonstrating how the agriculture sector dominates the country's economy. In recent years, India's rural areas have gradually shifted from employing people in agriculture to employing people in non-agricultural jobs, and rural India has seen an increase in non-agricultural revenue. This is mostly linked to many years of subpar agricultural production, seasonal unemployment, a lack of modern farming practices, and increased knowledge and understanding among young

people in rural areas. Yet, it is anticipated that by 2050, India will still be a significant rural economy, with around half its inhabitants still living there. (Shankar and Arora, 2017).

But poverty is the absence of necessities. With time, academics started questioning the suitability of income or expenditure level to gauge poverty. Poverty was more understood to relate to social, cultural, and political facets of life and income and expenditure levels. The practical definition and assessment of poverty comprise a variety of deprivation-related factors. In actuality, poverty is a relative notion. A multifaceted approach to poverty acknowledges that those living in poverty suffer from a variety of types of deprivation, including poor health, a lack of education, a subpar standard of living, a lack of money, social marginalisation, disempowerment, low work quality, and a lack of protection from exploitation and violence. The Multidimensional Poverty Index can provide information on the deprivations that people experiencing poverty must deal with.

1.2. Multidimensional Poverty Index of Andhra Pradesh

This year, the first edition of the Andhra Pradesh state's multidimensional poverty index (MPI) report came out in March. As a result of this innovative endeavor, Andhra Pradesh became the first state in the nation to use information gathered from a household survey conducted especially for this purpose to calculate an MPI at the state and district level, broken into by social categories and urban-rural areas. With a population of 50 million, Andhra Pradesh is the eighth-most populous state in India by land and is situated on the country's southeast coast. With 84 million people, the previously larger state of Andhra Pradesh was formerly the fourth largest in India. However, in 2014, it was reorganized into the present-day states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

In order to accomplish major development milestones by 2019, 2022, and 2029, the new state created a vision for itself. A key component of this vision involves tackling poverty in a way that promotes both improved human development and increased income, as seen by the objective of guaranteeing ubiquitous access to 12 essential necessities by 2019. The MPI was determined to be an appropriate indicator to supplement consumption-based figures of poverty in this particular context. According to the most recent official estimates of poverty, which were calculated utilizing the 2011–12 Tendulkar methodology based on consumption spending, the headcount ratio for former Andhra Pradesh (the state before its bifurcation) was 9.2% of the total population. A deeper inquiry of poverty and its geographical expression within the state was needed due to the state's division and the absence of periodic statistics.

The three pillars of the global MPI structure education, health, and living standardsas well as the ten indicators that go along with them have been put into effect in Andhra Pradesh. This makes it possible for the state to compare itself to many other nations for which global MPI representations are available. Living standards has six indicators (e.g., access to electricity, improved sanitation, improved drinking water, flooring, healthy cooking fuel, and asset

ownership); education and health have two indicators each (number of years of education and school attendance, and nutrition and child mortality, respectively).While the state government's Directorate of Economics and Statistics supervised the household data collection, VMU was in charge of sampling, questionnaires, the master trainer training program, field inspections, data processing and analysis, and writing.

According to the most current research, which is based on the VMU household survey from 2016-17, 21% of the state's population lives in multidimensional poverty. A helpful indicator for determining the percentage of the population that is MPI poor and cumulatively impoverished in at least one-third of all ten indicators across three dimensions is the headcount ratio. We may assess how impoverished the MPI poor are based on the 10 factors by looking at the intensity of poverty, which measures the average number of destitution that household's experience. Together with the headcount ratio, this extra data gives MPI headline statistics an authoritative and meaningful appearance. Multidimensionally poor people in the state are disadvantaged, on average, in 39.3% of the weighted indicators, which equals the state's poverty intensity of 39.3%. With Guntur being the lowest MPI intensity at 37% and Kadapa having the highest at 41.4%.

According to the worldwide approach, the MPI, which is a function of intensity and headcount ratio, has a cutoff of 33% for each household across the ten weighted variables in this study. Andhra Pradesh's state MPI is 0.083, whereas India's MPI (OPHI 2017), which was determined using data from the 2011 India Human Development Survey (HDS), was 0.191. This would put it above Bangladesh, India, Bhutan, Myanmar, and Nepal, who are ranked 53rd, 55th, 63rd, 66th, and 68th, respectively. It's interesting to note that, while having the state's highest MPI (0.127), the Vizianagaram district outperformed India overall, which recorded an MPI of 0.191. Since the population of many of the state's 13 districts is larger than that of several of the nations that make up the global MPI, these comparisons can give state policymakers a chance to share ideas and gain insight from these nation-states' approaches to tackling the complex issue of poverty.

1.3. Importance of Studying Rural Empowerment in India

Only some have equally profited from economic progress. Some only feel the advantages of economic expansion. It has been examined around the globe that not all civilizations experience the so-called trickle-down effect, and India is no exception. The uneven growth of society has several causes. The modern economy is not labour-intensive but is driven by technology. Fewer workers produce a high volume of highquality goods and services. In short, the modern economy produces few jobs, occasionally replacing labour with tools and machines. Rapid economic expansion occurred in the nation from 2000 to 2005, yet it did not affect the county's unemployment issue. Male unemployment rates in rural areas stayed nearly constant, while they fell by barely one per cent in urban areas. On the other hand, both urban and rural women experienced a 1 per cent increase in female unemployment.

Most people in the country are uneducated, and one-third of the population is still illiterate. All people, including the educated, lack the employable abilities required in the contemporary economy. The education system needs to be adaptable to the shifting economic environment. With decreasing usable land and utilisation of modern farming techniques, the giant agriculture workforce in rural areas is unsustainable. Such excess labours consequently driven into cities in search of employment. However, because they lack any employable skills in the formal urban sector, they frequently end up working odd jobs in metropolitan regions. Urbanization in this country is primarily a result of severe rural poverty rather than urban economic prospects. Furthermore, poverty is distributed in different ways across the nation.

1.4. Situation of Rural People in Andhra Pradesh:

Andhra Pradesh shares borders between Odisha to the south, Telangana to the southeast, Karnataka to the east, and Tamil Nadu to the north. With 54 million residents, Andhra Pradesh is the tenth most populous state in India. There are thirty-one cities in Andhra Pradesh. Two of these, Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada, have populations over one million. With a population of 2.036 million with a population density of 3800 persons per square kilometer, Visakhapatnam is the biggest city in Andhra Pradesh. The state's financial center is the port city of Visakhapatnam, which is well-known for its many beaches. The 14th largest city in the nation is Visakhapatnam. With 1.034 million residents, Vijayawada is the second-biggest city in Andhra Pradesh. This city has a greater sex ratio than the national average, with 997 females for every 1,000 males. Approximately 16,939 individuals live here per square kilometer.The state's commercial, political, and media hub is Vijayawada, an urban center that is growing quickly. At an estimated 833,782, Guntur is the third-largest city in Andhra Pradesh. With 14,000 inhabitants per square kilometer, Guntur is the eleventh most populous city in India and the 24th most densely lived in city worldwide. With 1004 females for every 1000 males, Guntur's sex ratio is far lower than the national average.

The rural population makes up 70.4% of the overall population, while the urban population makes up 29.6%. With 996 females per every 1000 males, the sex ratio is higher than the national average. Andhra Pradesh had a lower literacy rate than the national average, at 67.41%, according to the 2011 census. However, by 2021, this percentage is anticipated to rise to 91.1%. Andhra Pradesh is home to speakers of four distinct languages. 83.55% of the state's inhabitant’s speaks Telugu, which is the official language. Furthermore, 2.88% speak other languages, 3.69% speak Hindi, 1.01% speaks Tamil, and 8.87% speak Urdu. The population of Andhra Pradesh increased by 10.98% between 2001 and 2011 and by 13.9% between 1991 and 2001. The population of Andhra Pradesh is only anticipated to increase by 0.1-0.2% by 2014 due to the state's low fertility rate of 1.5. The first "premier technological institute" in India, the International School of Digital Technologies, is located in Andhra Pradesh and provides courses in cloud computing, cyber security, among other topics.

1.5. Statement of the Problem:

For the upliftment of the vulnerable group of the nation, the Ministry of Rural Development and the Central Government, in coordination with the Rural Development Department of Andhra Pradesh, carry forward various schemes. These programmes are formulated to benefit the weaker sections that will eventually become the pillars of the Indian economy in the long run. Developed rural areas are a vital criterion for the nation's overall development. Policymakers concentrate on making policies for the rural inhabitants. A nation cannot realize the objectives of welfare programmes if the rural mass is unaware of such schemes and initiatives. The Government is much more conscious about rural programmes. However, even after 76 years of independence, progress is underway, and the schemes still need to be improved to boost the living standard of the rural mass. Empowerment of rural folk has assumed national attention; the matter has relevance in Andhra Pradesh because it is the most densely populated State in India. Though spotlighted in many spheres of development, the State has a long way to go to achieve equitable development.

1.6. Significance of the Study:

To address the Empowerment of rural masses, the Indian Government has repeatedly revamped numerous empowerment programmes. Upgrading rural areas is essential for a balanced growth strategy. Effective implementation of anti-povertyprogrammes can go a long way in achieving equitable development. The study is helpful to Government agencies in developing plans for rural areas and contributes to rural development. The study also contributes to the practical knowledge of professionals such as social workers and other stakeholders on appropriate ways to promote the well-being of rural inhabitants. Finally, this study would be valuable to other researchers needing literature and methods for enhancing their findings.

1.7. Review of Literature:

World Economic Forum, (2024) Women are viewed as less important and a weaker segment of society than men. Women and girls are increasingly becoming the actual victims of discrimination. Gender biased behaviors such as favoring male offspring can create gender biased attitudes inside families, which can lead to female feticide, daughter neglect and unequal distribution of resources such as jobs, education, nourishment and health care. Balancing career and family obligations continues to be particularly challenging for women (Katharotiya, 2022; Agarwal et al., 2024). India dropped two places globally from 127th in 2023 to 129th in 2024, based on the global gender inequality index, which ranks the country 129th out of 146 countries. India, which ranks fifth in South Asia behind Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bhutan is currently the worst performer in the region.

Sharath (2020) explains about rural conditions and that a huge proportion of India's people live in provincial areas. For over 30 per cent of India's provincial population, poverty is a permanent state. The prevalence of rural destitution has decreased to some extent in recent years

as a result of rural to urban migration, but the situation remains alarming. Destitution is a financial state in which people face a scarcity or lack of specific objects needed for their daily existence, such as money and material goods. In this sense, poverty is a multidimensional concept with social, financial, and political components. India's development paradigm has flopped when we realise that close to 213 million Indians endure hunger on a regular basis.

According to Roy (2022) the primary task of India is to provide opportunities for its entire population to become literate and develop fundamental leadership and problem solving skills. The author conducted a survey on the implementation of the SSA plan in a Kolkata school. The primary emphasis is on basic education because education is essential in a densely populated country like India. Under the SSA, a school in Kolkata was surveyed, and information was gathered from print and electronic media. Tests are given to students in grades IIV to assess their educational progress. A mid-day meal that has been incorporated into SSA was also investigated.

Ashraf (2020) describes that the Indian government has prioritised rural development with the goal of achieving rural-urban integration in the developmental process. The goal of development is to include the most vulnerable members of society, which includes 'equality in growth' and 'equality of opportunity' for all. The primary goal of development is to alleviate poverty and social inequalities. Rural India is marked by extreme poverty, illiteracy, a lack of health care, a lack of work, and general backwardness. The current rural development strategy focuses on poverty alleviation, better livelihood, provision of basic amenities in order to provide better infrastructure facilities, agricultural development, public health services, entrepreneur and economic avenues in rural areas because India has not been able to move to the stage of "developed nation" despite many years of independence.

Krupa (2017) explains economic empowerment which refers to having access to, ownership of, and control over resources. It can be assessed using a variety of indicators, including income generation, asset and land ownership, household spending habits, employment participation rates, the amount of time spent working at home, control over financial resources, and participation in household and communal decision-making.

1.8. Objectives of the Study:

1. To identify the socio-economic profile of the respondents in Andhra Pradesh.
2. To identify the nature of poverty among respondents by using multidimensional indicators.
3. To assess the effectiveness of selected government programmes in empowering rural population.

1.9. Hypotheses of the Study:

H01: There is no significant difference in the nature of poverty of rural people on the basis of their type of family.

1.10. Scope of the Study:

Rural empowerment programmes have always been a preference for many governments formed in India during the post-independence period. The present study mainly focused on social Empowerment through the government programmes - National Rural Drinking Water Programme, NRDWP or Jal Jeevan Mission, Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan or SSA, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana or PMAY, and National Rural Livelihood Mission in Andhra Pradesh. These programmes must be analysed to ascertain whether they are effectively implemented, monitored, observed and assessed.

1.11. Research Gap:

There are several studies in the field of rural empowerment programmes. Many of the studies conducted in this area deal with the personal impact of government schemes and the socio-economic status of the rural mass. Moreover, some studies have dealt explicitly with rural women's Empowerment. There is a substantial knowledge vacuum on the efficacy of government initiatives meant to strengthen rural communities. In particular, a more thorough examination of the ways in which these interventions impact people's lives especially those of marginalized groups and the general operation of rural governance systems is required, with an emphasis on how they support sustainable development. Programs such as the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), Pradhan Mantri Gram SadakYojana (PMAY-G), Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), and Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) require additional research to evaluate their practical implementation from the ground up, taking into account the experiences of beneficiaries and local officials.

1.12. Sampling design:

The study adopted a multi-stage stratified random sampling design to select the sample beneficiaries from the universe. The State of Andhra Pradesh is initially split into three regions: the Uttarandhra, the Coastal Andhra, and the Rayalaseema. The districts are formally divided into categories based on geographic and cultural similarity. One district is picked from each zone, namely, Srikakulam (19,02,000), East Godavari (38,40,324) and Chittoor (29,42,678), on the basis of the highest number of rural population in the respective regions.

From the districts, respective mandals and, subsequently, respective panchayath was selected on the basis of having the highest rural population. Finally, beneficiaries of the government schemes were randomly selected from the beneficiary lists. While considering officials, a sample of 150 was collected from the same panchayaths of beneficiaries considered.

1.13. Sample size:

Cochran's formula for determining sample size for the known population is,
n = (z^2 * p * q) / e^2
Where:

n = sample size
z = the Z-score corresponding to the desired confidence level (in this case, 1.96 for a 95% confidence level)
p = estimated proportion of the population with the characteristic of interest
q = 1 - p
e = the desired level of precision (in decimal form)

Plugging in the values, we get:
n = (1.96^2 * 0.2 * 0.8) / (0.05^2) n = 384.16

In statistical research, rounding up to 400 is a typical approach to make sure the sample size is sufficient to deliver accurate and trustworthy results. So, the study fixes the sample size as 400.

1.14. Identification of the sample household: From the beneficiaries' list, 400 sample households were selected randomly.

Table. 1 shows sample selection

Scheme	Srikakulam	East Godavari	Chittoor	Total
PMAY G	29	33	31	**93**
SSA	27	41	43	**111**
NRDWP	28	30	32	**90**
DAY NRLAM	31	39	36	**106**
Total	**115**	**143**	**142**	**400**

1.15. Reliability Statistics:

The Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items of 96 items to evaluate the Empowerment of rural masses through government intervention is 0.872, which is considered extremely good compared to the 0.70 threshold.

1.16. Socio-Economic Profile of the respondents:

So many government policies and programmes have been formulated and implemented to uplift and empower the rural people. The current study is based on a survey of rural people as well as employees concerned with anti-poverty programmes using a structured interview schedule. A total of 400 rural people were interviewed for the purpose of this study.

1. Gender-wise distribution of respondents

Table 2 shows Gender wise distribution of the respondents

Gender	No. of respondents	Per cent	Cumulative Percentage
Male	193	48.3	48.3
Female	207	51.7	100.0
Total	**400**	**100.0**	

Gender distribution assumes a place of prominence in view of the increasing feminism, feminine empowerment and also gender equity. Table 2 shows the gender-wise classification of the respondents. Out of 400 samples selected for the study, female respondents make up 207 (51.7%) of the total sample, while males are 193 (48.3%).

2. Age-wise distribution of respondents:

While collecting the data with regards to the age of the respondents the researcher experienced some difficulty in getting the exact age of the respondents. None of the respondents have his or her date of birth certificate. Under these circumstances, the researcher has depended on the oral information revealed by the respondents. This in turn was adjusted based on the physical appearance of the respondents.

Table 3 Shows the Age wise distribution of respondents

Age	No. of respondents	Per cent	Cumulative Percentage
20-30 Years	40	10.0	10.0
30-40 Years	101	25.2	35.2
40-50 Years	109	27.2	62.4
50-60 Years	111	27.7	90.1
Above 60 Years	39	9.9	100.0
Total	**400**	**100.0**	

Table 3 shows that the Age wise classification of the respondents. Only 10.0 and 9.9 per cent of the respondents were from the age category of 20-30 and Above 60, respectively, while 25.2 and 27.2 constitute the 30-40 and 40-50 age categories, and the remaining 27.7 per cent of the respondents were from 50-60 age categories.

3. Qualification-wise distribution of respondents:

While education is a boon to an individual in a contemporary society, lack of education is a bane to a person. An educated person commands respect while an illiterate person cannot. For a

respondents education facilitates to keep abreast of the latest happenings in and around the country. An educated person need not depend on others, while an illiterate person has to depend on others either in approaching government officers or in approaching banks. The formal education is always looked upon, as a means to improve one's socio-economic position in the society. Against this background, an attempt is made in the study to find out the extent of education of the sample respondents.

Table 4. Shows the Qualification wise distribution of respondents

Education Qualification	No. of respondents	Per cent	Cumulative Percentage
Illiterate	25	6.2	6.2
Up to SSC	94	23.5	29.1
Intermediate	65	16.2	45.9
Diploma	54	13.5	59.4
Graduation	54	13.5	72.9
Post-Graduation	49	12.3	85.2
Professional	49	12.3	97.5.
ITI	10	2.5	100.0
Total	**400**	**100.0**	

The educational level of the selected respondents to influence their reflections on various aspects and their opinions, Table 4 shows the qualification-wise classification of the respondents. Out of 400 samples selected for the study, post-graduated and professionals were 12.3 per cent, while graduated and diplomas were 13.5per cent. 23.5per cent and 16.2 per cent were up to SSLC and Plus Two, respectively; also, 6.2 per cent were illiterate. And ITI including 2.5 per cent was taken for the study.

4. Family Type-wise Distribution of Respondents:

Table 5 Shows Family Type wise distribution of respondents

Family Type	No. of respondents	Per cent	Cumulative Percentage
Nuclear family	222	55.5	55.5
Joint family	178	44.5	100.0
Total	**400**	**100.0**	

Table 5 shows the family type classification of the respondents. Out of 400 samples selected for the study, the nuclear family type makes up 222 (55.5 per cent) of the total sample, while the joint family type makes up 162 (44.5per cent).

5. Type of House wise distribution of Respondents:

Table 6 Shows Type of House wise distribution of Respondents

Type of House	No. of respondents	Per cent	Cumulative Percentage
Kutcha	21	5.2	5.2
Semi-Pucca	56	14.0	19.2
Pucca	144	36.0	55.2
Concrete	171	42.7	97.9
Sheeted house	8	2.1	100.0
Total	**400**	**100.0**	

Table 6 shows the type of House wise classification of the respondents. Out of 400 samples selected for the study, 42.7 per cent (171) and 36.0 per cent (144) of the respondents constitute a concrete type of houses and pucca type of houses, respectively. While 14.0 per cent resides in Semi pucca and 5.2 per cent reside in the kutcha type of house. 2.1 per cent resides in the sheeted type of houses.

6. Occupation-wise distribution of respondents:

Table 7 shows the Occupation wise classification of the respondents. Out of 400 samples selected for the study, 2.2 per cent of the respondents were unemployed, 12.0 per cent were government employees, 23.0 per cent and 36.3 per cent, and 26.5 per cent were private employees, Cooli and business, respectively.

Table 7 Shows Occupation wise distribution of respondents

Occupation	No. of respondents	Per cent	Cumulative Percentage
Un-employed	9	2.2	2.2
Govt. employee	48	12.0	14.2
Private Employee	92	23.0	37.2
Cooli	145	36.3	73.5
Business	106	26.5	100.0
Total	**400**	**100.0**	

7. Annual Family Income wise distribution of Respondents:

Table 8 shows the annual family income-wise classification of the respondents. Out of 400 samples selected for the study 31.1 and 35.7 per cent of the respondents earn less than ₹10,000 and between ₹10,000-40,000, respectively. 7.0 per cent of the respondents earn annually between ₹70,000-1,00,000 and the remaining 26.2 per cent earn between ₹40,000-70,000 annually.

Table 8 Shows Annual Family Income wise distribution of Respondents

Annual Family Income	No. of respondents	Per cent	Cumulative Percentage
Less than ₹ 10,000	124	31.1	31.1
₹ 10,000 – 40,000	143	35.7	66.8
₹ 40,000 – 70,000	105	26.2	93.0
₹ 70,000 – 1,00,000	28	7.0	100.0
Total	**400**	**100.0**	

Table 9 Shows Reliability Statistics

Cronbach's Alpha	Cronbach's Alpha based on standardized Items	No. of Items
.872	**.870**	**96**

The Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items of 96 items to evaluate the empowerment of rural masses through government intervention is 0.872, which is considered extremely well when compared to the 0.70 threshold. This indicates that the tool that was created is quite reliable.

			Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between People			7452.578	400	19.408		
Within People	Between Items		20207.512	96	157.871	288.149	.000
	Residual	Non-additivity	17.020[a]	1	17.020	31.084	.000
		Balance	26912.366	48151	.548		
		Total	26929.386	49152	.548		
	Total		47136.898	49280	.957		
Total			54589.476	49644	1.099		
Grand Mean = 3.5799							
a. Tukey's estimate of power to which observations must be raised to achieve additivity = 1.268.							

The ANOVA with Tukey's Non-additivity Test clearly shows that the data obtained from the respondents are unwavering on all the statements, as the F value is 288.149 and the p-value is 0.000, a p-value below 5%. And they're rejecting the null hypothesis.

Based on the quartile value, all statements of the study based on the Likert scale are further classified into three classes. It is deemed low influence when the average score is less than 3.4055, moderate impact when the average score is between 3.4055 and 3.7259, and high influence when the average score is greater than 3.7259. The data's normality is shown in table.

Table 10 Shows Tests of Normality

	Kolmogorov - Smirnov[a]			Shapiro – Wilk		
	Statistic	**df**	**Sig.**	**Statistic**	**df**	**Sig.**
Quartile	.36	400	.244*	.996	400	.370
* This is lower bound of the true significance. a. Lilliefors Significance Correction						

The normality of the data to study 'the empowerment of rural masses through government interventions per the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test statistic is 0.036, and the p-value is 0.244, which is not significant. Correspondingly, as per the Shapiro-Wilk test, the test value is 0.996, and the p-value is 0.370, which is not significant. This entails that is normally distributed. Thus, the null hypothesis is accepted.

1.17. To identify the nature of poverty among beneficiaries, Principal Component Analysis:

Table 11 Shows Descriptive Statistics

Sl. No	Particulars	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
1.	I have a tap water connection	400	3.06	1.593	.081
2.	Water is collected from shared tap	400	2.47	1.573	.080
3.	I have hand pump/well	400	3.28	1.475	.075
4.	Water is taken from the river/pond	400	1.29	0.582	.030
5.	I have owned a flushed toilet facility	400	2.92	1.592	.081
6.	I have owned a pit Toilet facility	400	3.72	1.670	.085
7.	I am using a public toilet facility	400	1.05	0.222	.011
8.	For cooking, I use a Gas	400	3.72	1.583	.081
9.	For cooking, I use Electricity	400	1.50	1.016	.053
10.	For cooking, I use Firewood	400	3.00	0.700	.400
11.	for cooking, I use biogas	400	1.90	1.445	.074
12.	APEPDCL	400	4.35	0.489	.024
13.	Kerosene	400	2.94	0.845	.045

It shows the mean and standard deviation of the variables. While considering the variables, it is clear that the APEPDCL has a high mean value that is 4.35, and using a public toilet facility has less mean value that is 1.05.

Table 12 Shows One sample t-test

The one-sample t-test is used to determine whether a sample comes from a population with a specific mean.

Particulars	t	df	Sig.(2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the difference	
					Lower	Upper
I have a tap water connection	37.661	399	.000	3.063	2.90	3.22
Water is collected from shared tap	30.756	399	.000	2.469	2.31	2.63
I have hand pump/well	43.537	399	.000	3.276	3.13	3.42
Water is taken from the river/pond	43.575	399	.000	1.294	1.24	1.35
I have owned a flushed toilet facility	35.937	399	.000	2.919	2.76	3.08
I have owned a pit Toilet facility	43.647	399	.000	3.719	3.55	3.89
I am using a public toilet facility	92.665	399	.000	1.052	1.03	1.07
For cooking, I use a Gas	46.037	399	.000	3.719	3.56	3.88
For cooking, I use Electricity	28.423	399	.000	1.497	1.93	1.60
for cooking, I use biogas	25.708	399	.000	1.896	1.75	2.04
APEPDCL	23.808	399	.000	2.148	1.25	1.85
Kerosene	33.908	399	.000	2.503	1.45	1.64

All the p-values are less than 0.05. It can be concluded that the population means are statistically significantly different. If p &t; .05, the difference between the sample estimated population mean, and the comparison population mean it would not be statistically significantly different.

The KMO statistic provides an indication of how much common variance is present. For factorization to be worthwhile, KMO should normally be at least 0.7.Since KMO = 0.816, which is considered good, factorization is likely to provide interesting information about any underlying factors. Bartlett's test for sphericity tests the hypothesis that the correlation matrix amongst the variables is an identity matrix, indicating that they share no common variance. Since the p-value of approximate Chi-Square is < 0.05, that hypothesis gets rejected. Since the principal components method was applied, the initial communality estimates have been set to assume that all of the variability in the data is due to common factors. The initial communalities and commonalities after extraction are shown in table 13.

Table 13 Shows KMO and Bartlett's Test

Kaiser –Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy 0.816		
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity	Approx. Chi-Square	250.190
	df	13
	Sig.	0.000

Table 14 Shows Communalities

Sl.No	Variables	Initial	Extraction
1.	Tap water Connection	1.000	0.707
2.	Public tap facility	1.000	0.614
3.	Hand pump/well	1.000	0.503
4.	River/Pond	1.000	0.537
5.	Toilet with flush	1.000	0.605
6.	Pit toile	1.000	0.833
7.	Public toilet	1.000	0.486
8.	LPG	1.000	0.527
9.	Electricity	1.000	0.569
10.	Firewood	1.000	0.514
11.	APEPDCL	1.000	0.512
12.	Kerosene	1.000	0.451
Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis			

The communalities table reveals that the values of extraction communalities for each variable identified are moderate and low. For example, the retrieved factors explained 83.3 per cent of the variance in the factor pit toilet facility, and the value of the tap water connection had been calculated to be 70.70 per cent. Similarly, nearly all variables have medium values, which can be explained by variance.

The scree plot shows the eigenvalues for each of the 18 factors. The eigenvalues are proportional to the percent of the variability in the data attributable to the factors. The horizontal line, shown at 1.0, was the value used to decide on extracting three factors.

In this case, 4 factors have been extracted since only 4 of them had eigenvalues greater than or equal to 1.0. The eigenvalues and total variance explained before and after varimax rotation are shown in table 14.

Table 15 Shows Factor Loading Matrix after Varimax Rotation– Nature of Poverty

Rotated Component Matrix					
		Components			
		1	2	3	4
1.	I have a tap water connection	.452	.262	.336	.110
2.	Water is collected from shared tap	.643	.152	.406	.110
3.	I have hand pump/well	.682	.057	.152	.110
4.	Water is taken from the river/pond	.481	.335	.074	.119
5.	I have owned a flushed toilet facility	.323	.556	.476	.003
6.	I have owned a pit Toilet facility	.052	.646	.084	.906
7.	I am using a public toilet facility	.297	.506	.395	.480
8.	For cooking, I use a Gas	.649	.298	.490	.095
9.	For cooking, I use Electricity	.220	.448	.606	.084
10.	For cooking, I use Firewood	.323	.152	.524	.154
11.	APEPDCL	.052	.074	.095	.652
12.	Kerosene	.297	.476	.084	.752
Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis Rotation Method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization a. Rotation Converged in 8 iterations.					

The factors identified are named as follows:

From the above table, the nature of poverty faced by rural masses was identified and grouped under four heads on the basis of similarity. There are four components forming part of Factor I. These four components may be clubbed together and termed a "**Drinking Water Facility**". Three components formed part of Factor II. These three components may be clubbed together and termed as "**Toilet Facility**". There are three components forming part of Factor III, and they are termed "**Cooking Fuel Facility**". Finally, two components formed part of factor IV, and they are termed "**Lighting Facility**". The following hypothesis was tested to examine the nature and extent of poverty of rural people.

Ho: There is no significant difference in the nature of poverty of rural people on the basis of their type of family.

Poverty was examined with respect to the basic living amenities one must have to lead a life. The data revealed that most of the nuclear families opined that they had tap water connection (mean value = 3.25) or hand pump/well in their home (mean value = 3.23) and depended on the same for drinking water facility. While joint families mostly depended on hand pump/well and tap water connection, and public tap facility was moderate (mean value =3.33).

River/pond was the least used by both types of families (mean value = 1.33 and 1.25, respectively).

Usage of public toilets was least for both the nuclear family (mean value = 1.00) and the joint family (mean value = 1.11). Joint families mostly depended on and used pit toilets facilities, with a high mean value of 4.19, while the values for pit toilets and flush toilets were moderate for the nuclear families.

The mean score for Firewood was very high (mean value = 4.00) among both joint and nuclear families, indicating Firewood is the prominent means of cooking. The use of LPG gas also showed high impact (3.87 and 3.51), indicating it as another major source of fuel for cooking. The use of electricity for cooking had only a low impact implying it was the least used source.

The lighting facility for power had an overall moderate effect. However, among the two sources, kerosene was the main source of power used by the rural mass, implying that electricity facility is still yet to be provided to the rural people. Independent sample t-test reveals that for drinking water facility, the p values are greater than 0.05 in all cases except for tap water connection showing that there is no significant difference between joint family and nuclear family when it comes to drinking water facility as a measure of poverty.

The p values for toilet facility are not significant at a 95% confidence level, revealing that there is no significant difference between joint family and nuclear family when toilet facility is taken as a measure of poverty. There is no significant difference between joint family and nuclear family when fuel facility is taken as a measure of poverty (p values greater than 0.05) except for the use of electricity as a fuel source. For lighting facility, the p values are greater than 0.05 in all cases showing that there is no significant difference between joint family and nuclear family when lighting facility is taken as a measure of poverty.

Hence it is revealed from the analysis that “There is no significant difference in the nature and extent of poverty of rural people on the basis of their type of family”. Therefore, accept the null hypothesis.

1.19. Findings of the study:

1. Most of the respondents were female, accounting for 51.7 per cent of the sample. The majority of the schemes are female-oriented, aiming for the development of society through uplifting women, which was reflected in the responses.
2. The age-wise classification of the respondents shows that while 25.2 and 27.2 constitute the 30-40 and 40-50 age categories, 27.7 per cent of the respondents were from the 50-60 age category. Responses were collected from the senior most members of families, which accounts for the majority of responses.

3. The majority of the sample belonged to SSC, while 2.5 per cent of the sample constituted ITI. This is a result of the Right to Compulsory Education Act.
4. The nuclear family type makes up 55.5 per cent, while the joint family type makes up 44.5 per cent.
5. An amount of 78.7 per cent of the responses say that the rural people are living in concrete houses, which reveals improving living conditions.
6. The sample consists of 12 per cent of the respondents who were government employees, while 23.0 per cent and 36.3 per cent, and 26.5 per cent of respondents were private employees, Cooli and business, respectively. This shows an increasing number of workers in the informal sector.
7. An amount of 31.1 and 35.7 per cent of the respondents earn less than 10000 and between 10000-40000 respectively. 7.0 per cent of the respondents earn annually between 70000-100000, and the remaining 26.2 per cent earn between 40000- 70000 annually.
8. An amounting of 35 per cent of people might possibly be not able to benefit from anti-poverty programmes due to this/they were ignored. However, 64.75per cent of rural people was approached by programme implementers to make them aware of programmes.
9. The nature of poverty faced by rural masses was identified and grouped under four heads on the basis of similarity. There are four components forming part of Factor I. These four components may be clubbed together and termed as ‘Drinking Water Facility’. Three components formed part of Factor II. These three components may be clubbed together and termed as ‘Toilet Facility’. There are three components forming part of Factor III, and they are termed as ‘Cooking Fuel Facility’. Finally, two components formed part of factor IV, and they are termed as ‘Lighting Facility’.
10. No significant difference is found in the nature of poverty of rural people on the basis of their type of family.

1.20. Conclusion:

The study concludes that government interventions have positively influenced rural empowerment in Andhra Pradesh but have not eliminated multidimensional poverty. Strengthening community participation, improving programme monitoring, and eliminating middlemen are critical to enhancing effectiveness.

1.21. Suggestions of the Study:

In light of the study's findings, it is advised that the following measures be used to increase the effectiveness of government programmes in Andhra Pradesh.

1. Regularly update and verify Below Poverty Line (BPL) and programme beneficiary lists using digital databases and local panchayat validation to ensure that the poorest households, especially women-headed families, are not excluded.

2. Involve local self-help groups (SHGs), village committees, and beneficiaries in planning, monitoring, and evaluation of schemes. Use digital dashboards and grievance-redressal mechanisms to minimize leakages and intermediary exploitation.
3. Converge programmes (housing, livelihoods, sanitation, education, and water supply) under a unified rural empowerment framework so that households experience multidimensional upliftment rather than fragmented benefits.
4. Expand rural skill development initiatives aligned with local market demand (e.g., agro-processing, handicrafts, renewable energy). Provide credit, training, and market linkages to promote self-employment and reduce migration.
5. Improve last-mile delivery of drinking water, sanitation, clean energy, and digital connectivity in rural areas. Prioritize reliable electricity and renewable sources to address gaps in cooking fuel and lighting facilities identified in this study.
6. The Central Government should take initiatives to encourage the State Government to use funds allocated for rural infrastructure development to alleviate Panchayats' financial issues.
7. Periodic surveys and research may be undertaken to determine whether the panchayath is working correctly and to set everything in the right direction to accomplish rural development as the foundation for our country's development.
8. Increase rural literacy and reduce the dropout rate of school-aged children, particularly those from the poorer sections of society, so that they can engage successfully in various development initiatives.

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