Evaluation of Effect of Saakshar Bharat Program and Perceptions of Saakshar Bharat participants in select sample mandals in Anantapuram District of Andhra Pradesh

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Abstract - Adult education aims at extending educational options to those adults, who have lost the opportunity and have crossed the age of formal education, but now feel a need for learning of any type, including literacy, basic education, skill development and equivalency. At present there is at least one adult education centre in each district in every village. Saakshar Bharat (Locally in Andhra Pradesh called as Saakshar Bharat) is a government of India initiative launched by Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh to create a literate society through a variety of teaching learning program for nonliterate and neo-literate of 15 years and above. It was launched on 8 September 2009 as a centrally sponsored scheme. Anantapuram district is one of the underdeveloped and draught prone district of Rayalaseema regions of Andhra Pradesh and the region is well known in draught districts of India. The major reason behind to select the Anantapuram district is because the Saakshar Bharat Program is to increase the adult literacy percentage, the said district is the largest in area, population and it has less adult literacy percentage. The present research on the topic entitled "Evaluation of Effect of Saakshar Bharat Program and Perceptions of Saakshar Bharat participants in select sample mandals in Anantapuram District of Andhra Pradesh" selected to evaluate the effectiveness of the above Said program.

Key Words: Saakshar Bharat, Adult Education, Literacy

INTRODUCTION:

Saakshar Bharat is a government of India initiative launched by Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh to create a literate society through a variety of teaching learning program for non-literate and neo-literate of 15 years and above. It was launched on 8 September 2009 as a centrally sponsored scheme.

Adult education aims at extending educational options to those adults, who have lost the opportunity and have crossed the age of formal education, but now feel a need for learning of any type, including literacy, basic education, skill development and equivalency. At present there is at least one adult education centre in each district in every village.¹

Saakshar Bharat Program is meant for 3-R's namely Reading, Writing and Arithmetic. For it also seeks to create awareness of social disparities and a person's deprivation on the means for its amelioration and general well being. This program was formulated in 2009 with the objective of achieving 80 per cent literacy level at national level, by focusing on adult women literacy seeking - to reduce the gap between male and female literacy to not more than 10 per cent.

It has four broader objectives namely,

- Imparting functional literacy and numeracy to non-literates.
- b. Acquiring equivalency to formal educational system.
- Imparting relevant skill development program, and
- Promote a leaning society by providing opportunities for continuing education.

The principal target of the program is to impart functional literacy to 70 million non-literate adults in the age group of 15 years and beyond. This Includes coverage of 14 million Scheduled Castes (SCs), 8 million Scheduled Tribes (STs), 12 million minorities and 36 million others. The overall coverage of women is aimed at 60 million. 410 districts belonging to 27 States/UTs of the country were identified to be covered under Saakshar Bharat.

Eligibility criteria for coverage under Saakshar Bharat is a district, including a new district carved out of an erstwhile district that had adult female literacy rate of 50 per cent or below, as per 2001 census, were considered eligible for coverage under the Saakshar Bharat program. In addition, all left wing extremism-affected districts, irrespective of their literacy rate, were also eligible for coverage under the program. There were 365 districts in the country that had adult female literacy rate of 50 per cent or below. Home Ministry had declared 35 districts as left wing extremism affected districts. However, 30 left wing extremism affected districts also had adult female literacy of 50 per cent or below. Initially 370 having the adult female literacy of 50 per cent or below as per 2001 census that qualified for coverage under the program. Since 2001, several eligible districts have been bifurcated or trifurcated. This has raised the total number of eligible districts including 35 which are left wing extremism affected districts. Program provides for coverage of only rural areas in the eligible districts.²

Adult Education aims at extending educational options to those adults, who have lost the opportunity and have crossed the age of formal education, but now feel a need for learning of any type, including literacy, basic education, skill development (Vocational Education) and equivalency. With the objective of promoting adult education, a series of programs have been introduced since the First Five Year Plan, the most prominent being the National Literacy Mission (NLM), that was launched in 1988 to impart functional literacy to non-literates in the age group of 15-35 years in a time bound manner. By the end of the 10th Plan period, NLM had made 127.45 million persons literate, of which, 60 per cent were females, and 23 per cent belonged to Scheduled Castes (SCs) and 12 per cent to Scheduled Tribes (STs). 597 districts were covered under Total Literacy Campaigns of which 502 reached Post Literacy stage and 328 reached Continuing Education stage.

2001 Census recorded male literacy at 75.26 per cent, while female literacy remained at an unacceptable level of 53.67 per cent. Census of 2001 also revealed that gender and regional disparities in literacy continued to persist. Therefore, to bolster Adult Education and Skill Development, Government of India introduced two schemes, namely Saakshar Bharat and Scheme for Support to Voluntary Agencies for Adult Education and Skill Development, during the 11th Plan. Saakshar Bharat, the new variant of earlier NLM, set following goals: to raise literacy rate to 80 per cent, to reduce gender gap to 10 per cent and minimize regional and social disparities, with focus on Women, SCs, STs, Minorities, other disadvantaged groups. All those districts those had female literacy rate below 50 per cent as per census 2001 including Left Wing Extremism affected districts irrespective of literacy level are being covered under the program.

Literacy scenario of India: Census 2011 revealed that Literacy in India has made remarkable strides. Literacy rate of India stands at 72.98 per cent. Overall Literacy rate has grown by 8.14 percent points in the last decade (64.84 per cent in 2001 and 72.98 per cent in 2011). The male literacy rate has grown by 5.62 percent points (75.26 per cent in 2001 and 80.88 per cent in 2011) whereas female literacy rate 10.96 percent points (53.67 per cent in 2001 and 64.63 per cent in 2011). Number of illiterates (7+ age group) decreased from 304.10 million in 2001 to 282.70 million in 2011.

States/UTs reported with literacy rate greater than 90 per cent: Kerala (94 per cent), Lakshadweep (91.85 per cent) and Mizoram (91.33 per cent).

States/UTs with literacy rate between national average (72.99 per cent) and below 90 per cent: Tripura (87.22 per cent), Goa (88.70 per cent), Daman & Diu (87.10 per cent), Pondicherry (85.85 per cent), Chandigarh (86.05 per cent), Delhi (86.21 per cent), A&N Islands (86.63 per cent), Himachal Pradesh (82.80 per cent), Maharashtra (82.34 per cent), Sikkim (81.42 per cent), Tamil Nadu (80.09 per cent), Nagaland (79.55 per cent), Manipur (76.94 per cent), Uttarakhand (78.82 per cent), Gujarat (78.03 per cent), Dadra & Nagar Haveli (76.24 per cent), West Bengal (76.26 per cent), Punjab (75.84 per cent), Haryana (75.55 per cent), Karnataka (75.36 per cent) and Meghalaya (74.43 per cent).

Literacy rate in rural areas stands at 67.67 per cent with rural male literacy rate 77.15 per cent and rural female literacy rate 57.93 per cent. Whereas literacy rate in urban areas stands at 84.11 per cent with urban male literacy rate at 88.76 per cent and urban female literacy at 79.11 per cent. Literacy rate of SCs stands at 66.07 per cent (Male SCs 75.17 per cent and Female SCs 56.46 per cent). Whereas Literacy rate of STs Stands at 58.95 per cent (Male STs 68.51 per cent and Female STs 49.36 per

Gender disparity in literacy rates declined by 5.34 percent points from 21.59 percent points in 2001 to 16.25 percent points in 2001-2011. There has been a continuous decrease in gender gap in literacy since 1991 (24.84 percent points).³

OBJECTIVES:

The researchers have conducted the present research based on the following objectives,

- To evaluate the impact of Saakshar Bharat Program in select mandals of Anantapuram district of Andhra Pradesh
- To appraise the perceptions and socio economic problems of respondent Saakshar Bharat participants in select mandals of Anantapuram district of Andhra Pradesh

HYPOTHESES:

Based on the objectives discussed above the following null hypotheses were used to test the data collected by the researchers.

H01: There is no impact of Saakshar Bharat Program in select mandals of Anantapuram district of Andhra Pradesh

There is no homogeneity on the perceptions and socio economic problems of respondent Saakshar Bharat participants in H02: select mandals of Anantapuram district of Andhra Pradesh

RESEARCH DESIGN:

To conduct the present research both the primary and secondary data have used to get the best result.

The Anantapuram district is located geographically in Rayalaseema region in the state of Andhra Pradesh. There are two geographical divisions in Andhra Pradesh namely, Coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema. Anantapuram district is one of the underdeveloped and draught prone district of Rayalaseema regions of Andhra Pradesh and the region is well known in draught districts of India. The major reason behind to select the Anantapuram district is because the Saakshar Bharat Program is to increase the adult literacy percentage, the said district is the largest in area, population and it has less adult literacy percentage. The Anatapuram district has 63 mandals and 21843 gram panchayaths out of those 5 mandals have selected to conduct the present research on the topic entitled "Evaluation of Effect of Saakshar Bharat Program and Perceptions of Saakshar Bharat participants in select sample mandals of Anantapuram District of Andhra Pradesh". From 5 mandals 50 Saakshar Bharat participants were selected by following stratified random sampling to conduct the present research. To collect the primary data 50 interview schedules were duly administered.

SECONDARY DATA:

To conduct the present research secondary data also used to review the Saakshar Bharat Program, related Websites, different articles and research papers published on related research also used to get best result.

TOOLS of ANALYSIS:

Simple, general averages and percentages have been used to analyze and interpret the primary data.

Table 1 Distribution of respondent Sakhara Bharat participants and their age groups details of select sample mandals in **Anantapuram District of Andhra Pradesh**

Name of the	Age Groups of participants in years			Total		
Mandal	15 - 25	25 - 35	35 - 45	45 and above	Total	
Kadiri Rural	0	2 (20)	3 (30)	5 (50)	10 (20)	
Tanakallu	0	1 (10)	3 (30)	6 (60)	10 (20)	
Nallacheruvu	0	0	3 (30)	7 (70)	10 (20)	
Gandlapenta	0	1 (10)	2 (20)	7 (70)	10 (20)	
Nallamada	1 (10)	2 (20)	1 (10)	6 (60)	10 (20)	
Total	1 (2)	6 (12)	12 (24)	31 (62)	50	

Source: Field Survey

Table 1 shows the distribution of respondent Saakshar Bharat participants and their age group details in select sample districts of Anatapuram district of Andhra Pradesh. It is understood from the table above that majority of the respondent Saakshar Bharat participants (31 out of 50) in all the five select sample mandals together in Anatapuram district of Andhra Pradesh have responded that their age is above 45 years and only one respondent have said that his/her age is ranging from 15-25 years.

From the foregoing analysis one can infer that majority of the respondent Saakshar Bharat participants in all the five select sample mandals together in Anatapuram district of Andhra Pradesh of those who have responded that their age is above 45 years found in Nallacheruvu and Gandlapenta mandals together and only one respondent Saakshar Bharat participant who have responded that his/her age is ranging from 15 – 25 years was found in Nallamada mandal.

Table 2 Distribution of respondent Saakshar Bharat participants and their gender details in select sample mandals of **Anantapuram district of Andhra Pradesh**

Name of the Heavitel	Gende	Total	
Name of the Hospital	Male	Female	Total
Kadiri Rural	3 (30)	7 (70)	10 (20)
Tanakallu	2 (20)	8 (80)	10 (20)
Nallacheruvu	3 (30)	7 (70)	10 (20)
Gandlapenta	4 (40)	6 (60)	10 (20)
Nallamada	4 (40)	6 (60)	10 (20)
Total	23 (46)	27 (54)	50

Source: Field Survey

Table 2 reveals the distribution of respondent Saakshar Bharat participants and their gender details in select sample districts of Anatapuram district of Andhra Pradesh. It is understood from the table above that majority of the respondent Saakshar Bharat participants (27 out of 50) in all the five select sample mandals together in Anatapuram district of Andhra Pradesh have responded that they are female and 23 respondent Saakshar Bharat participants have responded that they are male.

From the foregoing analysis one can deduce that majority of the respondent Saakshar Bharat participants in all the five select sample mandals together in Anantapuram district of Andhra Pradesh of those who have responded that they are female are found in Tanakallu mandal and majority of the respondent Saakshar Bharat participants of those who have responded that they are male are found in Gandlapenta and Nallamada mandals together.

Table 3 Distribution of respondent Saakshar Bharat participants and their livelihood details in select sample mandals of **Anantapuram district of Andhra Pradesh**

	Livelihood details of participants				
Name of the Mandal	Daily Wage Worker	Agriculture	Hackers/Peddlers/Pett y Business	Handicrafts	Total
Kadiri Rural	4 (40)	3 (30)	3 (30)	0	10 (20)
Tanakallu	3 (30)	3 (30)	3 (30)	1 (10)	10 (20)
Nallacheruvu	4 (40)	2 (20)	2 (20)	2 (20)	10 (20)
Gandlapenta	3 (30)	2 (20)	2 (20)	3 (30)	10 (20)
Nallamada	2 (20)	3 (30)	3 (30)	2 (20)	10 (20)
Total	16 (32)	13 (26)	13 (26)	8 (16)	50

Source: Field Survey Table reveals the distribution respondent of Saakshar **Bharat** participants and their livelihood details in select sample districts of Anatapuram district of Andhra Pradesh. It is understood from the

table above that majority of the respondent Saakshar Bharat participants (16 out of 50) in all the five select sample mandals together in Anatapuram district of Andhra Pradesh have responded that their livelihood is daily wage work and least respondent Saakshar Bharat participants have responded that their livelihood is Handicrafts.

From the foregoing analysis one can presume that majority of the respondent Saakshar Bharat participants in all the five select sample mandals together in Anantapuram district of Andhra Pradesh of those who have responded that their livelihood is Daily Wage Work are found in Kadiri Rural and Nallacheruvu mandals together and majority of the respondent Saakshar Bharat participants of those who have responded that their livelihood is Handicrafts are found in Gandlapenta mandal.

Table 4

Distribution of respondent Saakshar Bharat participants and their opinion on regular attendance for Saakshar Bharat classes in select sample mandals of Anantapuram district of Andhra Pradesh

Name of the Hospital	Opinion on regul Saakshar B	Total	
•	YES	NO	
Kadiri Rural	6 (60)	4 (10)	10 (20)
Tanakallu	7 (70)	3 (30)	10 (20)
Nallacheruvu	7 (70)	3 (30)	10 (20)
Gandlapenta	6 (60)	4 (40)	10 (20)
Nallamada	8 (80)	2 (20)	10 (20)
Total	34 (68)	16 (32)	50

Source: Field Survey Table depicts the distribution of respondent Saakshar **Bharat** participants and their opinion on regular attendance for Saakshar Bharat classes select

sample districts of Anatapuram district of Andhra Pradesh. It is understood from the table above that majority of the respondent Saakshar Bharat participants (34 out of 50) in all the five select sample mandals together in Anatapuram district of Andhra Pradesh have expressed their opinion that they regularly attend to the Saakshar Bharat classes and least respondent Saakshar Bharat participants have opined that they are not regular to the Saakshar Bharat classes.

From the foregoing analysis one can imagine that majority of the respondent Saakshar Bharat participants in all the five select sample mandals together in Anantapuram district of Andhra Pradesh of those who have responded that they are attending regularly to the Sakhara Bharat classes are found in Nallamada mandal and majority of the respondent Saakshar Bharat participants of those who have responded that they are not regular to Saakshar Bharat classes are found in Kadiri Rural and Gandlapenta mandals together.

Table 5 Distribution of respondent Saakshar Bharat participants and their opinion on reasons for not attending to Saakshar Bharat classes regular in select sample mandals of Anantapuram district of Andhra Pradesh

Name of the	opinion on reasons for not attending to Saakshar Bharat classes regular				
Mandal	Prime Work	Family	Center Located far away	Inconvenient	Total
Mailuai	Fillie Work	Responsibilities	to home	Timings	
Kadiri Rural	2 (50)	2 (50)	0	0	4 (14.81)
Tanakallu	2 (75)	1 (25)	0	0	3 (11.11)
Nallacheruvu	1 (33.33)	1 (33.33)	0	1 (33.33)	3 (11.11)
Gandlapenta	1 (25)	2 (50)	0	1 (25)	4 (14.81)
Nallamada	2 (100)	0	0	0	2 (7.41)
Total	8 (29.63)	6 (22.22)	0	2 (7.41)	27

Source: Field Survey

Table 5 describes the distribution of respondent Saakshar Bharat participants and their opinion on reasons for not attending to Saakshar Bharat classes regular in select sample mandals of Anatapuram district of Andhra Pradesh. It is understood from the table above that majority of the respondent Saakshar Bharat participants (8 out of 27) in all the five select sample mandals together in Anatapuram district of Andhra Pradesh have expressed their opinion that the reason for not attend to the Saakshar Bharat classes is because of their Prime work and least respondent Saakshar Bharat participants have opined that they are not regular to the Saakshar Bharat classes because of inconvenient timings for them.

From the foregoing analysis one can envisage that majority of the respondent Saakshar Bharat participants in all the five select sample mandals together in Anantapuram district of Andhra Pradesh of those who have responded that they are not attending regularly to the Sakhara Bharat classes because of their Prime work are found in Kadiri Rural, Tanakallu and Nallamada mandals together and an one respondent Saakshar Bharat participants from each mandals of Nallacheruvu and Gandlapenta mandals together are found of those who have responded that they are not regular to Saakshar Bharat classes because of inconvenient timings to them.

Table 6 Distribution of respondent Saakshar Bharat participants and their opinion on whether Saakshar Bharat classes helped them to increase their reading and writing levels in select sample mandals of Anantapuram district of Andhra Pradesh

Name of the Hospital	Opinion on whether classes helped then reading and v	Total	
	YES	NO	
Kadiri Rural	10 (100)	0	10 (20)
Tanakallu	10 (100)	0	10 (20)
Nallacheruvu	10 (100)	0	10 (20)
Gandlapenta	10 (100)	0	10 (20)
Nallamada	10 (100)	0	10 (20)
Total	50 (100)	0	50

Source: Field Survey

Table 6 explains the distribution of respondent Saakshar Bharat participants and their opinion on whether Saakshar Bharat classes helped them to increase their writing and reading skills in select sample mandals of Anatapuram district of Andhra

Pradesh. It is understood from the table above that all the respondent Saakshar Bharat participants in all the five select sample mandals together in Anatapuram district of Andhra Pradesh have expressed their opinion that the Saakshar Bharat classes helped them to increase their writing and reading levels.

From the foregoing analysis one can predict that all the respondent Saakshar Bharat participants in all the five select sample mandals together in Anantapuram district of Andhra Pradesh have unanimously responded that the Saakshar Bharat Classes helped them to increase their writing and reading skill?

Distribution of respondent Saakshar Bharat participants and their opinion on at what extent the Saakshar Bharat classes helped them to increase their reading skills in select sample mandals of Anantapuram district of Andhra Pradesh

Name of the	Opinion on at what Bharat classes help their read	Total	
Mandal	News Paper Reading	Scrolling Headlines Reading	
Kadiri Rural	8 (80)	2 (20)	10 (20)
Tanakallu	9 (90)	1 (10)	10 (20)
Nallacheruvu	8 (80)	2 (20)	10 (20)
Gandlapenta	7 (70)	3 (30)	10 (20)
Nallamada	7 (70)	3 (30)	10 (20)
Total	39 (78)	11 (22)	50

Source: Field Survey

Table 7 reveals the distribution of respondent Saakshar Bharat participants and their opinion on at what extent the Saakshar Bharat classes helped them to increase their reading skills in select sample districts of Anatapuram district of Andhra Pradesh. It is understood from the table above that majority of the respondent Saakshar Bharat participants (39 out of 50) in all the five select sample mandals together in Anatapuram district of Andhra Pradesh have expressed their opinion that the Saakshar Bharat classes have helped them to increase their reading skills up to news paper reading and 11 respondent Saakshar Bharat participants have expressed their opinion that the Saakshar Bharat classes have helped them to increase their reading skills up to scrolling news headlines reading.

From the foregoing analysis one can construe that majority of the respondent Saakshar Bharat participants in all the five select sample mandals together in Anantapuram district of Andhra Pradesh of those who have expressed their opinion that the Saakshar Bharat classes have helped them to increase their reading skills up to news paper reading are found in Tanakallu mandal and majority of the respondent Saakshar Bharat participants of those who have expressed their opinion that the Saakshar Bharat classes have helped them to increase their reading skills up to scrolling news headlines reading are found in Gandlapenta and Nallamada mandals together.

Table 8

Distribution of respondent Saakshar Bharat participants and their opinion on whether the Audio/Video equipments are using to conduct the Saakshar Bharat classes in select sample mandals of Anantapuram district of Andhra Pradesh

Name of the Mandal	Opinion o <mark>n wheth</mark> equipments are u Saakshar B	Total	
	YES	NO	1
Kadiri Rural	0	10 (100)	10 (20)
Tanakallu	0	10 (100)	10 (20)
Nallacheruvu	0	10 (100)	10 (20)
Gandlapenta	0	10 (100)	10 (20)
Nallamada	0	10 (100)	10 (20)
Total	0	50 (100)	50

Source: Field Survey

Distribution of respondent Saakshar Bharat participants and their opinion on whether the Audio/Video equipments are using to conduct the Saakshar Bharat classes in select sample mandals of Anantapuram district of Andhra Pradesh. It is understood from the table above that all the respondent Saakshar Bharat participants in all the five select sample mandals together in Anatapuram district of Andhra Pradesh have expressed their opinion that the none of the Saakshar Bharat centre is not using audio/video equipments to conduct the classes.

From the foregoing analysis one can forecast that all the respondent Saakshar Bharat participants in all the five select sample mandals together in Anantapuram district of Andhra Pradesh have unanimously expressed their opinion that none of the Saakshar Bharat centre is using the audio/video equipment to conduct the Classes.

SUMMARY of FINDINGS:

1. Preponderance of the respondent Saakshar Bharat participants in all the five select sample mandals together in Anatapuram district of Andhra Pradesh of those who have responded that their age is above 45 years found in Nallacheruvu and Gandlapenta mandals together and only one respondent Saakshar Bharat participant who have responded that his/her age is ranging from 15-25 years was found in Nallamada mandal.

- 2. Popular number of the respondent Saakshar Bharat participants in all the five select sample mandals together in Anantapuram district of Andhra Pradesh of those who have responded that they are female are found in Tanakallu mandal and majority of the respondent Saakshar Bharat participants of those who have responded that they are male are found in Gandlapenta and Nallamada mandals together.
- 3. Greater part of the respondent Saakshar Bharat participants in all the five select sample mandals together in Anantapuram district of Andhra Pradesh of those who have responded that their livelihood is Daily Wage Work are found in Kadiri Rural and Nallacheruvu mandals together and majority of the respondent Saakshar Bharat participants of those who have responded that their livelihood is Handicrafts are found in Gandlapenta mandal.
- 4. Mainstream of the respondent Saakshar Bharat participants in all the five select sample mandals together in Anantapuram district of Andhra Pradesh of those who have responded that they are attending regularly to the Sakhara Bharat classes are found in Nallamada mandal and majority of the respondent Saakshar Bharat participants of those who have responded that they are not regular to Saakshar Bharat classes are found in Kadiri Rural and Gandlapenta mandals together.
- 5. Majority of the respondent Saakshar Bharat participants in all the five select sample mandals together in Anantapuram district of Andhra Pradesh of those who have responded that they are not attending regularly to the Sakhara Bharat classes because of their Prime work are found in Kadiri Rural, Tanakallu and Nallamada mandals together and an one respondent Saakshar Bharat participants from each mandals of Nallacheruvu and Gandlapenta mandals together are found of those who have responded that they are not regular to Saakshar Bharat classes because of inconvenient timings to them
- 6. All the respondent Saakshar Bharat participants in all the five select sample mandals together in Anantapuram district of Andhra Pradesh have unanimously responded that the Saakshar Bharat Classes helped them to increase their writing and reading skill.
- 7. Majority of the respondent Saakshar Bharat participants in all the five select sample mandals together in Anantapuram district of Andhra Pradesh of those who have expressed their opinion that the Saakshar Bharat classes have helped them to increase their reading skills up to news paper reading are found in Tanakallu mandal and majority of the respondent Saakshar Bharat participants of those who have expressed their opinion that the Saakshar Bharat classes have helped them to increase their reading skills up to scrolling news headlines reading are found in Gandlapenta and Nallamada mandals together.
- 8. All the respondent Saakshar Bharat participants in all the five select sample mandals together in Anantapuram district of Andhra Pradesh have unanimously expressed their opinion that none of the Saakshar Bharat centre is using the audio/video equipment to conduct the Classes.

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