

**“Socio-Economic & Educational conditions of Muslim Minorities in Andhra Pradesh State:
with special reference to Selected Districts of Costal Andhra & Rayalaseema Regions”**

¹Dr.Vahed Shakeel Ahammad, M.B.A, Ph.D,

Assistant Professor School of Commerce @ Koneru Lakshmaiah Education Foundation
(KLEF), Vaddeswaram, Green fields, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, India -522302.

Email: vahed@kluniversity.in Cell: 9866709406.

²Dr.NSVN.Raju, M.B.A, Ph.D,

Assistant Professor School of Commerce @ Koneru Lakshmaiah Education Foundation
(KLEF), Vaddeswaram, Green fields, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, India -522302.

Email: nsvnraju@kluniversity.in Cell: 99855776832.

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Abstract

The socioeconomic and educational circumstances of Muslim minorities in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh are investigated in this study. Andhra Pradesh's minority Muslim population is a sizable demographic group with unique cultural, religious, and historical origins. But they frequently deal with particular issues that affect their general well-being and access to opportunities. To acquire a thorough grasp of the experiences of Muslim minorities in the area, the research uses a mixed-method approach, combining quantitative analysis of demographic and economic data with qualitative interviews and surveys. Government publications, census data, academic records, and community-based organizations are some examples of data sources. Key findings reveal disparities in various socio-economic indicators such as income, employment, housing, and healthcare. Muslim minorities face higher levels of poverty and limited access to formal financial institutions. Additionally, they are often underrepresented in skilled and professional occupations, leading to income inequalities.

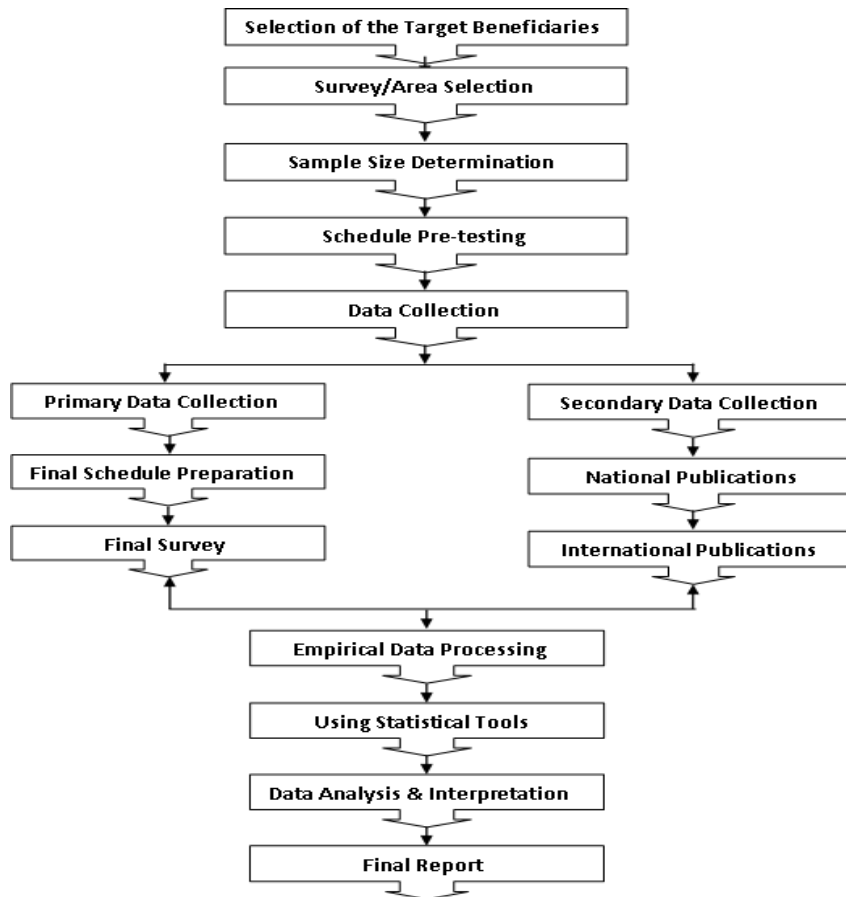
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Introduction

Under the auspices of the Companies Act, 1956, the Andhra Pradesh State Minorities Finance Corporation Limited was established in 1985 with the intention of advancing the socioeconomic development of the minority population by providing Margin Money loans and other related financial services. In AP, there are 43, 45,700 minorities residing, according to the 2011 census. The Andhra Pradesh government and NMDFC provide funding to this corporation. Since the Indian Constitution does not define or protect the rights of minorities, it has become imperative to ascertain who would be considered a minority for research purposes. Article 30 protects the rights of linguistic and religious minorities. Regarding religious minorities, under Section 2, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, and Parsis shall be considered minorities.

Design and Methods

Selecting an appropriate research methodology is an essential and vital step in the research process. It collects data in a manner akin to that of a manual. The most important aspect is that it outlines the type of data that needs to be selected. The beneficiaries of Muslim minority respondents to the Andhra Pradesh State Minorities Finance Corporation are determined by means of a second round of sampling, which also serves to select the study area. But the design started with the "purposeful" selection of the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh. Thus, a "multi-stage sampling technique" was used, and the stratified random sampling method was used to select villages and mandals. In the second phase, a random sampling technique was used to select the beneficiaries. Chart: 1. Methodological Plan



Review of the Works:

The persistent backwardness of up to one-seventh of the population, according to Ibrahim Ali Khan⁶⁷ (2016), is a continual drain on the resources of the entire country. It makes no economic sense and is detrimental to the social stability of the nation. Moreover, it violates the constitutional precepts of equity, social justice, and equal opportunity for everyone's

development. As a result, it is critical that the Indian State give the advancement of Muslims serious consideration.

According to Mahatma Gandhi, a nation's claim to civilization depends on how it treats its minorities (Waheed, Serials Pub62, 2010). The Indian constitution offers minorities a number of safeguards that, surprisingly, have not been implemented thus far. This presents a significant challenge for the world's largest democracy, which the Sachar Committee aptly described as "the faith and confidence of the minorities in the functioning of the state in an impartial manner is an acid test of its being a just state." Of the five religious minorities in India, Muslims make up 14% of the population overall and 73% of the religious minorities. Since independence, the Muslim community has continuously lagged behind other communities on all measures of human development.

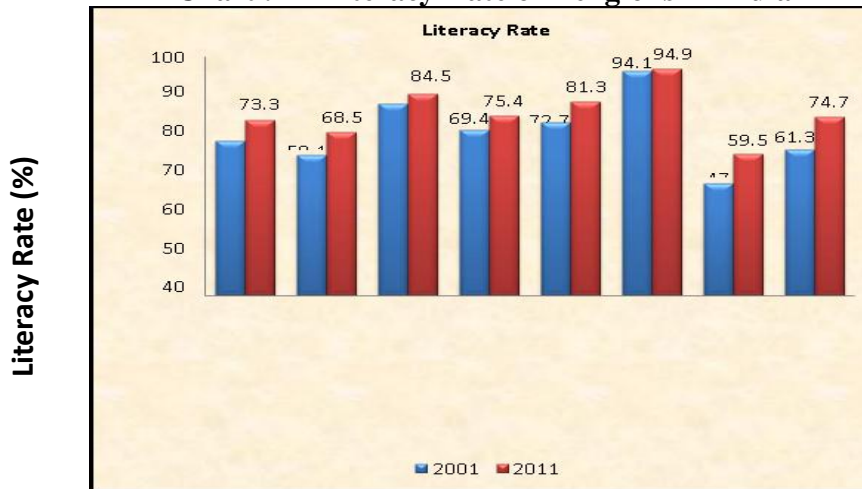
In 2001, Mohammad Shafiuddin Zaman⁷⁰ shared his observations regarding the status of minority education in the Hyderabad region. The book addressed a number of topics regarding the state of minority education from the British and medieval eras. It also examined the issues, backwardness, and current state of minority education while offering some targeted, doable solutions. The author also discussed the factors that contribute to minorities' educational backwardness, especially the Muslim community: poverty, a dearth of government initiative, and laws that forbid the establishment of minority-only educational institutions.

Study goals:

- In light of the aforementioned information, the current investigation was carried out with the following goals in mind:
- To investigate the educational and socioeconomic circumstances of Muslim minorities in particular districts of the state of Andhra Pradesh.
- To assess the Andhra Pradesh State Minorities Finance Corporation's performance.
- To investigate how recipients view the assistance provided by Andhra Pradesh State Minorities Finance Corporation in a particular area.
- To recommend actions to remove obstacles and advance Muslim Minority Empowerment.

Muslims Rate of Literacy:

As per the 2011 census, Muslims have a lower literacy rate (68.5%) than other communities like Christians (84.5%), Sikhs (75.4%), Hindus (73.3%), and Jains (94.9%). Muslims make up 14.4% of India's population, but they are the least educated group.

Chart .1 – Literacy Rate of Religions in India

The educational and socio-economic conditions of minority Muslims in Andhra Pradesh

Despite the widespread belief that Muslims in South India are prosperous, particularly in states like Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, the actual situation is very different, particularly in Andhra Pradesh. Although Muslims in the state's capital cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad may be prosperous, things get worse the further one travels from the center. For this reason, the community embraced the Congress government's announcement of a five percent Muslim reservation, even though the High Court later overturned it. Based on data from the Government of India's National Sample Survey, State Minorities Welfare Department Report, and State Andhra Pradesh are 8.5% of the total population. With regards to civil services, out of 326 persons in Indian Administrative Service from the state only 11 are Muslims which is 3.37%.

THE OCCUPATIONAL PATTERNS OF MINORITIES MUSLIM

The majority of the Muslim populations in the chosen districts of Guntur, Nellore, Kurnool, and Kadapa work in a variety of industries and professions. But the majority of Muslims are not well off. They are mostly found in the unorganized sectors, where it is difficult to predict how they will generate income. The majority work in the fruit, flower, and vegetable sales industries. In addition, they work in auto garages, repair shops for motorcycles and two-wheelers, small hotels, cool drink shops, and their own small grocery and clothing stores. The remaining workers are classified as semi-skilled and skilled, and include domestic servants, drivers, conductors, coolies, carpenters, electricians, fitters, welders, ironsmiths, and goldsmiths. Because of the instability and low income of both employment and income, poverty and the related socioeconomic hardships are common among the community.



Muslim Minority people involved in their activities during the field of research

MUSLIM GIRLS' SCHOLARLY EDUCATION IN ANDHRA PRADESH

Women's education was prioritized in the nation's development programs following independence. Numerous actions were done in order to achieve this. The education level of women rose as a result of these actions. This can be understood from the information in the following table, which is derived from an article by Dr. Amena Tahseen that was published in the 2006 magazine "Voice of Women" by the Maulana Azad National Urdu University's Women Education Department, with reference to the Indian Ministry of Information and Broadcasting from 2005.

Table: 2.1 % of Men & Women Education

Census	Percentage of Men Education	Percentage of Women Education
1951	27.16	8.86
1961	40.40	15.97
1971	45.96	21.97
1981	56.38	29.76
1991	64.13	39.29
2001	75.26	53.67
2011	82.14	65.46

Source: Census 2011.

Recommendations of the study:

In India, Muslims make up the majority of religious minorities. This community made a significant contribution to the nation's economic, social, and cultural advancement. Since India's independence, the government has put in place a great deal of schemes and programs aimed at protecting minorities from exploitation and ensuring a higher standard of living for them. Several

hundred million rupees have been invested in the development of India's minority communities. However, the outcome demonstrates that both the amount and quality of development attained are far from satisfactory.

- ❖ It is preferable to prevent waiting periods when approving the Tatkal scheme respondents' subsidy amounts. By its very name, Tatkal means "to meet the emergency." In other words, the A.P.S.M.F.C.'s subsidy amount is meant to meet the needs of the needy applicants and respondents in a timely manner, without any deviations.
- ❖ The age range of the respondent/applicant should be taken into consideration, according to the researcher. The banks should aim to reduce the processing time when approving loans for applicants who are in need. In some situations banks may face difficulties in recovery. To avoid this problem and collect the recovery form Minority applicants, banks should monitor the applicants before and after granting the loan to them.
- ❖ In order to reframe or restructure corporate policies and schemes to empower minorities, particularly Muslims, the researcher recommended that the Andhra Pradesh government form a committee to gather data on the socioeconomic and educational conditions of Muslim minorities in the state.

Conclusion:

In order to help policy makers make decisions about other minority groups, the Andhra Pradesh State Minorities Finance Corporation (A.P.S.M.F.C.) conducted a study on the issues faced by Muslim minorities in India, particularly in Andhra Pradesh, and the significant level of empowerment of Muslim minorities. It is noted that researchers should focus on problems pertaining to other minority communities in the future. The government, corporate policy makers, academics, and other scholars ought to concentrate their efforts in this direction.

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