

Dokur Village at a Glance

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I. INTRODUCTION

Dokur village, located in Mahbubnagar district of Andhra Pradesh was chosen for Village-Level Studies (VLS) initiated in 1975 by the Economics Program of the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Patancheru, Hyderabad. The present Mahbubnagar district is also known as Palamooru, located in the Telangana Region of Andhra Pradesh.

Dokur village (16° 36' N and 78° 50' E) is situated in Devarkadra mandal in Mahbubnagar District (16° 73' N and 77° 98' E). Dokur's original name was "Dakur" derived from the Indo-Persian Urdu word "daku," meaning "gang of armed dacoits". It is believed that dacoits used to take shelter in Dakur due to its thick vegetation. Eventually, the name Dakur became corrupted to Dokur. Dokur is about 130 km from Hyderabad. To reach Dokur from Hyderabad, one needs to travel to Mahbubnagar district headquarters and then to Deverkadra mandal on the surfaced Hyderabad-Raichur road, and then travel a further distance of seven

kilometers south on a metal road. Autorickshaws and Road Transport Corporation buses are the main means of transportation from Devarkadra to Dokur.

The village is drought prone and adequately represents the semi-arid tropics. The annual maximum temperature of the village is 40°C and minimum temperature is 20° C, while the normal rainfall in the village is 730 mm, distributed erratically. Dokur represents the medium to shallow alfisol region. Traditionally, agriculture has been the main livelihood of the villagers. However, over time, due to persistent drought and drying up of irrigation water sources, agricultural productivity and cultivated area declined drastically. This led to fallowing of land season after season, enabling bushes to grow wildly and increase in the wild boar population. The major crops grown are paddy, groundnut, castor, pigeonpea and cotton. Emigration to cities, mainly Hyderabad, to work on construction projects has been on the rise, and has become an important source of income for many poor families.





II. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND / DEVELOPMENT OF THE VILLAGE

During the last three decades, Dokur village has progressed to varying degrees in terms of social, political, economic, technological, institutional and infrastructural, educational, and religious advancement.

Social: Households in the village belong to five different caste groups based on the social progression, namely, forward caste (FC), backward caste (BC), scheduled caste (SC), scheduled tribe (ST) and minorities. Each of these groups is comprised of many subcastes. People from 24 castes coexist in the village, among which Reddy and Vysya (belonging to FC) are generally richer and more influential politically, socially and economically. People whose caste/traditional occupations are carpentry (*Vadla*), barber (*Mangali*), washing clothes (*Chakali*), sheep rearing (*Kurma*), toddy selling (*Ediga*), butchery (*Katika*), basket making (*Medari*), fruit and fish selling (*Telaga*) and pottery (*Kummari*), belong to BC. *Mala* and *Madiga* castes, also known as *harijans*, come under the SC group, who are economically backward and less influential in the village community. Muslims form a small minority. Some of the caste occupations, such as basket making (*Medari*), cobbling, pot making, barbering, carpentry and goldsmithing have lost their importance due to low demand for their services/products.

Political: The village has a Gram Panchayat composed of 11 members including the President. The President and members of the Gram Panchayat are directly elected by the villagers once every five years. Reservations in the local body elections began 25 years ago to uplift the vulnerable groups (SC/ST, BC and women), by giving them an opportunity to actively participate in the village administration. All the Panchayat members, including the President, belong to or are strong supporters of political parties

even though they are not elected on a party symbol. In the present Gram Panchayat, of the ten ward members, seven are from the main village Dokur and the rest are from nearby hamlets. These members represent three political parties, namely, Congress, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Telugu Desam Party (TDP). The Village Revenue Officer and Village Panchayat Secretary are appointed by the government to assist the Gram Panchayat President in administrative matters.

The Gram Panchayat is responsible for the day-to-day administration and implementation of welfare and development programs. The Panchayat is responsible for raising financial resources in the form of taxes from the villagers and grants from the government and utilizing them for village development in terms of providing better education, maintaining sanitation, providing drinking water, constructing roads and installing street lights, as well as general maintenance of all infrastructure.

Economic: Agriculture was the main occupation of the majority of the households three decades ago. However, persistent drought and drying up of irrigation sources led to drastic decline in farm income, which resulted in diversification of means of livelihood beyond agriculture. Of the 545 families presently residing in the village, 130 depend on agriculture, 83 on caste occupations, 145 on agricultural labor, 110



on non-farm labor, including that requiring migration, and 77 on other non-farm activities such as driving autorickshaws, rice and flour milling, selling milk, running petty businesses or performing monthly salaried jobs in the government or NGOs.

With the decline in incomes from agriculture during the last decade, non-farm sector, migration and other occupations became more important sources of income. Owing to this, net household income and per capita incomes have increased, despite the general decrease in the viability of agriculture. The household real income has more than doubled in the last decade. Poverty levels have declined and consumption levels improved considerably although a few households still suffer from energy- and protein deficiency.

Migration is rampant in Dokur. Lack of employment opportunities in the village, especially during recurrent droughts, has led to migration of villagers to cities within and outside the state in search of non-farm employment. The majority of the households depend on labor earnings although they own farmland. The majority of the permanent migrants are generally interested in returning to the village to work on their fields if the rainfall is favorable for agriculture.

Technological: Though the gross cropped area in the village has reduced considerably, technology uptake is on the rise. Progressive farmers and their relatives and friends, and input dealers are the major sources of information on new technologies. Paddy, castor, pigeonpea and cotton are the major crops in the *kharif* (rainy) season while in the *rabi* (post-rainy season), groundnut and paddy are the important crops. Mango and citrus are the main horticultural crops. Paddy and groundnut are grown under irrigated conditions while the rest are dependent on the rains.

Adoption of hybrid and improved seed technologies, use of chemical fertilizers and plant protection measures, mechanization (use of tractors, harvester-cum-threshers,



drip/sprinkler irrigation and power sprayers) and soil and water conservation measures have contributed significantly to increased farm productivity. Improved cultivars adopted in the village include Sona Masuri and Hamsa in paddy, GCH-4 in castor and LRG-11, LRG-41, PRG-158, ICPL-87119, ICPH-2671 and ICP-8863 (Maruti) in pigeonpea.

Some of the important constraints to productivity enhancement are (a) drought, late rains and uneven distribution of rainfall, (b) wild boar, (c) pests and diseases, and (d) labor shortage due to emigration.

Institutional: The village has a very vibrant Gram Panchayat as reflected by various development and welfare activities implemented by the Panchayat. The village has two *Anganwadis* and one each of Primary, Secondary and Higher Secondary Schools with an enrolment of 187 male and 187 female students in all. The Gram Panchayat has constructed a new school building and renovated another.

While there is no formal financial institution within the village, the villagers meet their credit requirements from the Andhra Pradesh Grameena Vikas Bank (APGVB), Primary Agricultural Credit Society (PACS) and two nationalized banks (Andhra Bank and State Bank of Hyderabad) located at Devarkadra, about seven kilometers away. Self Help Groups (SHGs) and farmers get loans from these institutions at very reasonable interest rates. In addition, there are about 20 private money lenders operating in the village, who provide loans to a considerable number of households. There are 35 SHGs in the village, which play a major role in meeting the credit requirements of the villagers. Each of these SHGs consists of 15 members, with each member contributing Rs 55 per month.

The other institutions in the village are a Post Office, Institute of Rural Health Studies (IRHS) Clinic, one NGO





called Villagers in Partnership (VIP), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWACRA) Program, Watershed Committee, Youth Club, Bhajan Mandal and Drama Mandal. The IRHS clinic, two MHAs (Multipurpose Health Assistant) and two RMPs (Registered Medical Practitioners) have been providing health services to villagers in Dokur and neighboring villages.

Infrastructural: The village was electrified in 1962. Electricity is used mainly for domestic and irrigation purposes and to some extent for commercial purposes. Two borewells routed through two overhead tanks supply drinking water to the villagers via 225 individual household tap connections and 10 public tap connections. Inside the village, there are good cement roads (1.75 km) with street lights and proper drainage facility (3 km). However, the road connecting the village to the state highway, measuring about 1.5 km, is yet to be cemented. A bus shelter has been recently constructed by the Panchayat. The village now has a recently constructed railway station. There are no public toilets, although 150 households have their own toilets in their houses. There are good conveyance facilities available from the village to Devarkadra in terms of public buses and autorikshaws. Buses run for 6 trips in a day while autos run every half an hour. Tractor, harvester-cum-thresher and JCB Proclain are available on hire in the village. The village also has a Public Distribution System (PDS) shop and public telephone booths.

Educational: A primary school was established in 1966 and upgraded to high school level in 2007. One Anganwadi was set up in 1993 and the next one in 2008. Private schools have also opened at a distance of about five to seven km from the village, near Devarkadra. There are 45 students (26 male and 19 female) enrolled in the Anganwadis and 329 students (161 male and 168 female) in the primary and high schools. The government is supporting

the construction of a Kendriya Vidyalaya (Gurukula Patasala) for the benefit of female students studying in Standards 6-10. Under the Adult Education Program, an evening school provides education to illiterate adult villagers. Literacy rates and awareness of educational opportunities have significantly improved in the village.

Religious: Hindus form the largest religious group (538 households) in the village, followed by Muslims (7 households). Hindus mainly worship in the village's two temples and in their homes, while Muslims go to the mosque in Devarkadra town to offer prayers every Friday. Hindu religious groups meet in the temple premises to sing bhajans and worship every Saturday, engage in religious discussions and conduct marriages. Vinayaka Chaturthi, Dussera, Diwali, Sankranthi and Ugadi (Telugu New Year) are all important festivals that the Hindus celebrate. During certain festivals, especially Dussera, villagers participate in traditional folk dances. A temple dedicated to the goddess Pochamma, the protector from disease, is situated in the village, and every year in the Ashada masam (July to August) villagers celebrate the *Bonalu* festival here. The festival is also considered a thanksgiving to the Goddess for fulfillment of vows. In June, at the beginning of the agricultural season, bullocks are worshipped in anticipation of getting a better harvest, and later bullock races are conducted as entertainment.



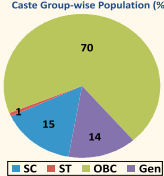
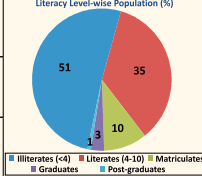
III. BASIC STATISTICS OF THE VILLAGE

A) LOCATION / ACCESSIBILITY

- Village: **Dokur**
- Mandal: **Devarkadra**
- District: **Mahbubnagar**
- State: **Andhra Pradesh**
- PIN: **509 204**
- GPS values: (a) Latitude: **16° 36' N** (b) Longitude: **77° 50' E** (c) Altitude (m): **360**
- Nearest town: (a) Name: **Devarkadra** (b) Distance from village (km): **7**
- Nearest State Highway: (a) Number: **SH 18** (b) Distance from village (km): **7**
- Nearest National Highway: (a) Number: **NH 7** (b) Distance from village (km): **13**
- Name of the Village Panchayat in which the village falls: **Dokur**
- Details of the Sarpanch/President of Village Panchayat:
 - Name: **Yagna Bhoopal Reddy**
 - Cell No.: **09441565813**
- Details of the Gram Sevak:
 - Name: **Ramachandraiah**
 - Cell No.: **09704650778**
- Details of the Village Revenue Officer:
 - Name: **Satyam Goud**
 - Cell No.: **09848952545**

B) DEMOGRAPHY (as on 31 December 2010)

- Population (No): **3006**
- Households (No): **545**
- Voters (No): **2000**
- Farmer accounts/Khatas (No): **430**
- Classification of population:

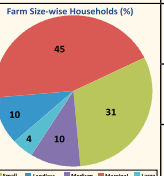
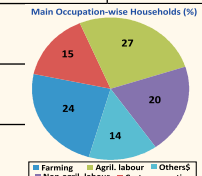
Category	No.	Farm Size*	No.	Religion	No.	Caste	No.	Literacy	No.	Gender	No.
SC	458	Landless	308	Hindu	2971	Telaga	698	Illiterates (<4)	1540	Male	1483
ST	23	Marginal	1320	Muslim	35	Reddy	480	Literates (4-10)	1050	Female	1279
OBC	2097	Small	929	Christian	0	Harijan	527	Matriculates	300	Children	244
Gen (FC)	428	Medium	317			Golla	326	Graduates	95		
		Large	132			Boya	260	Post-graduates	21		
						Musti	228				
						Others	487				
		Total	3006		3006		3006		3006		

*<0.1 ha=Landless; 0.1-1 ha=Marginal; 1-<2 ha=Small; 2-4 ha=Medium; >4 ha=Large.

6. Classification of households:

Male headed (No): **471**

Female headed (No): **74**

Category	No.	Farm Size*	No.	Religion	No.	Caste	No.	Main Occupation	No.	
SC	95	Landless	56	Hindu	538	Telaga	126	Farming	130	
ST	4	Marginal	240	Muslim	7	Harijan	95	Caste occupation	83	
OBC	348	Small	169			Reddy	87	Agri. labour	145	
Gen (FC)	98	Medium	56			Golla	60	Non-agri. labour	110	
		Large	24			Boya	47	Others**	77	
						Musti	41			
						Gowda	21			
						Others	68			
		Total	545		545	Total	545	Total		545

*As in B(5);

**Includes salaried, moneylenders, middlemen, service sector, etc.

C) LAND USE PATTERN (2009-10)

1. Distribution of Geographical Area	Ha
Agricultural land	1303
Land used for roads, buildings & non-agricultural purposes	23
Land occupied by water resources (tank, river)	20
Railway track and station	12
Total Geographical Area	1358

2. Cropped Area	Ha
Kharif	182.25
Rabi	121.5
Annual/Perennial crops	18.225
Gross Cropped Area	321.975
3. Irrigated Area	Ha
Kharif	141.75
Rabi	99.225
Annual/Perennial crops	18.225
Gross Irrigated Area	259.20

D) LAND RESOURCES

1. Soil distribution	
Soil Type	% Area
Sandy (<i>Dubba</i>)	3
Red (<i>Erra</i>)	55
Shallow black (<i>Nalla</i>)	13
White salty (<i>Choudu</i>)	5
Red pebbles (<i>Galusu</i>)	22
Silt (<i>Ondru</i>)	2
Total	100

2. Irrigation sources (As on 31 December 2010)				
Sources	Total No.	Working No.	Approx. depth (m) of working wells	Irrigated Area (ha yr ⁻¹)
Borewells	260	170	45.7-61-200	628
Open wells	110	3	13.7	12
			Approx. land area covered (Ha)	
Ponds	3	2	5.67	0 [#]
Tanks	1	1	9.72	0 [#]
River	1	0	5.022	0 [@]
Check dams	3	3	0.81	0 [#]

Not used for irrigation, but for storage of water to recharge borewells. @Water not available.

3. Rainfall (Jun'09-May '10): (a) Quantity (mm/year): Normal: **730** Actual (2009-10): **877**
 (b) No. of rainy days: Normal: **42** Actual (2009-10): **30**

E) CROP PRODUCTION (2009-10)

Kharif		Rabi		Annual/Perennial Crops	
Crops	Area (ha)*	Crops	Area (ha)*	Crops	Area (ha)
Paddy	101.25	Groundnut	72.9	Mango	8.1
Castor	44.55	Paddy	48.6	Citrus	10.125
Pigeonpea	20.25				
Cotton	4.86				
Others	11.34				
Total	182.25	Total	121.5	Total	18.225

*Less cropped area due to delayed monsoon and less water in wells and tanks.

F) ASSETS (as on 1 June 2010)

1. Productive Assets				2. Consumer Assets		3. Buildings	
Livestock		Heavy Machinery		Type	No.	Type	No.
Type	No.	Type	No.				
Cow (indigenous)	24	Tractor	9	Television	300	Houses-Pucca	210
Cow (exotic)	2	Harvester	1	Refrigerator	15	Houses-Kuchcha	275
Buffalo	145	Thresher	1	Air-Conditioner	11	Houses-Thatched/ Tiled	60
Bullock	46	Cart	12	LPG connection	150		
Sheep	2680	Autos	8	Dish Antenna	10	Cattlesheds	12
Goat	105	Jeep	1	Motorbike/Scooter	50		
Poultry	630	Flour mill	3	Car/Jeep	6		
Young Stock	70	Rice mill	1	Computer	1		
		Drip/sprinklers	8	Gobar gas plants	7		
Milk sale (L day ⁻¹)	250	JCB-Proclain	3	Poultry farms	3		

G) BASIC NEEDS (as on 31 December 2010)

- Type of food (# of households): (a) Pure Vegetarian: **8** (b) Non-vegetarian: **537**
- Type of clothes: (a) Men: **Dhoti and Shirt (Shirt & Trousers for youth)**
(b) Women: **Saree and Blouse (Chudidhar-Salwar Kameez for youth)**
- Type of houses (number): (a) Pucca: **210** (b) Kuchcha: **275** (c) Thatched/Tiles: **60**

H) INFRASTRUCTURE (as on 31 December 2010)

- Village electrification: **Yes** No. of houses having access to electricity: **534**
- Tar/metal/cement road to village: **Yes**
- Tar/metal/cement road inside the village? **Yes** Length of road (km): **1.75**
- Public transport facility:
Public bus facility to village: **Yes** No. of trips/day from town to village: **6**
Other mode of travel available? **Yes** Available modes: **Autorickshaws / Motorcycles**
- Drinking water facility: **Yes** Source of water: **Overhead tank connected to borewells**
Tap connections available? **Yes** Number of connections: **225**
- Public toilet/urinal facility: **No** Private toilets: **150**
- Public health facility: **Yes** Public facility: **MHAS**
Private Facility: **IRHS clinic, RMP** Distance to nearest PHC (km): **7 (Devarkadra)**
- Veterinary health facility: **No** Distance to nearest facility (km): **7 (Devarkadra)**
- Banking facility within the village: **No** Outside the village: **Yes**
Institutions: **PACS, SBH, Andhra Bank (Devarkadra-7 km); APGVV (Kavkuntla-15 km)**
- Educational facilities:

Level	No. of Institutions	Enrolment (No.)	
		Male	Female
Pre-primary (Anganwadi)	2	26	19
Primary (Standards 1-4)	1	61	52
Secondary (Standards 5-7)	1	43	50
Higher Secondary (Standards 8-10)	1	57	66

11. Agricultural input shops:

Input	Available in village?	If no, nearest available place	Distance from village (km)
Seed	No	Devarkadra	7
Fertilizer	No	Devarkadra	7
Pesticide	No	Devarkadra	7
Machinery – Purchase	No	Mahbubnagar	30
Machinery – Custom hiring	Yes		

12. Agricultural output market:
 Weekly shandy in the village? **No**
 Weekly market available at: **Devarkadra (7 km)** on: **Wednesday**
 No. of wholesale traders/commission agents in/visiting the village: **4**

13. Storage godowns/warehouses: **No**

14. Other business units (number):

Grocery shop: 5	PDS Shop: 1	Hotel/Canteen: 4
Flour Mill: 3	Chilli /spice grinding shop: 3	Meat shop: 1
Liquor shop: 5	Pan shop: 10	Carpenter: 3
Blacksmith: 2	Mason: 30	Cycle repair shop: 1
Moneylenders: 20	Dish antenna: 1	Cell Phone Tower: 1 (Airtel)

15. Other institutions (number):

SHG/Sakhi Mandal: 35	NGO: 1 (VIP)	Post Office: 1
Youth Club: 1	Bhajan Mandal: 1	Drama Mandal: 1
Chit Fund: 2 (Non-registered)	Community Hall: 3 (Harijan, Yadav and Telaga)	

6. Place of worship (Number): Temple: **2**

I) GOVERNMENT WELFARE PROGRAMS / POLICIES (as on 31 December 2010)

1. Government programs recently implemented / ongoing and their beneficiaries:

S.No.	Government Program	Number of Beneficiaries
1	MGNREGS	250
2	Indiramma Gruha Nirman Yojana	246
3	Construction of private toilets for households	150
4	Mid-Day Meal Scheme	280
5	Pension Scheme (old age-118, widow-79, handicapped-24, weavers-2)	223
6	Anganwadi (26 boys and 29 girls)	55
7	Antyodaya Scheme	49
8	Public Distribution System (PDS)	495
9	Protection of Female Child Scheme	2
10	Loan Waiver Scheme (through PACS)	100
11	Compensation for crop damage due to heavy rains	200
12	Self-Help Groups (SHGs)	400

About ICRISAT



The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) is a non-profit, non-political organization that conducts agricultural research for development in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa with a wide array of partners throughout the world. Covering 6.5 million square kilometers of land in 55 countries, the semi-arid tropics have over 2 billion people, and 644 million of these are the poorest of the poor. ICRISAT and its partners help empower these poor people to overcome poverty, hunger, malnutrition and a degraded environment through better and more resilient agriculture.

ICRISAT is headquartered in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, India, with two regional hubs and four country offices in sub-Saharan Africa. It belongs to the Consortium of Centers supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

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