



RAYAGADA DISTRICT

The natural beauty of Rayagada district fills one's heart with immense joy and thrill. The charming valleys of the rivers Nagavali and Vamsadhara, vast stretches of hills, evergreen forests, perennial streams, stiff and massive rocks standing like mythological demons and deep holes in the rocky river-beds presenting thrilling sights are the attractive features of the district. According to local people, the name Rayagada has been derived from 'Raya' means rock, 'gadga' means deep holes, which signifies deep holes in the rocks. The history of the district is very much covered within the history of erstwhile Koraput district, from which it has been carved out during 1992. At that time this region was a part of Atavika land, which could not be conquered by Ashoka during the Kalinga war in 261 BC. In the 5th century AD the Nalas established a strong kingdom in the Bastar-Koraput region and its capital was located near Umarkote in the present Nabarangapur district. In the middle of 14th century AD the Silavamsi king, Ganga Raju was ruling over the Koraput region. At that time Nandapur was the capital of Koraput district. During the reign of Gajapati Purusottam Deva, Vijay Chandra was the ruler of Nandapur kingdom. Bhairab Deo is the successor of Vijay Chandra. Viswanath Deo, the son of Bhairab Deo ascended the throne of Nandapur. During his rule he shifted the capital of Nandapur kingdom from Nandapur to Rayagada. At that time

Rayagada was a flourishing trade center in the east-coast of India. He built an enormous mud-fort at Rayagada, the remains of which are still seen there. He was a devoted Vaishnav and built a number of temples along the river, Nagavali.

Rayagada district is located between 19°0' and 19°58' north latitude and 82°5' and 84°2' east longitude in the southern part of Orissa. It is bounded by Gajapati district in the east, Koraput and Kalahandi districts in the west, Kalahandi and Phulabani districts in the north and Koraput and Srikakulam (Andhra Pradesh) districts in the south. As per 2001 census the district having 7073 sq. kms of geographical area occupies the 8th rank in the state.

The district of Rayagada is constituted by **five** towns including **two** census towns and **2,667** villages spread over **11** C.D blocks. It has **8** lakh population of which male constitutes **49.31** percent and females **50.69** percent. The population growth rate during the last decade of the twentieth century is **1.6** annually. The area of the district is **7073** sq.km and thus, population density works out to be **118**. Sex ratio (females per 1000 males) works out to be **1028** considering the total population of each sex and that for population of **0-6** years it is **980** indicating relative deficit of females at younger ages. The percentage of population in age group 0-4 years

is **11.56** percent and that of age group **5-14** years is **24.99** percent. The population in the working age group of **15-59** is **57.28** percent and old age group and age not stated group together constitute **6.17** percent. The age group wise distribution provides an idea of dependency burden and helps in planning of welfare services and business products. The district has **13.89** percent population enumerated in areas classified as urban. The major towns are Rayagada (M), Gunupur (NAC) and Chandili (CT) having 57,759, 21,198, and 18,685 in respective order.

The major religions in the district are Hindu (**92.72** percent), Muslim (**0.55** percent) and Christian (**6.64** percent) indicating Hindu predominance but Christians are also a discernible group. The Scheduled Caste population of the district constitute **13.92** percent and among them the major caste groups are Dom (**76.12** percent), Dhoba (**3.39** percent) and Generic castes etc. (**2.88** percent). The Scheduled Tribes account for **55.76** percent population of the district and Khond (**71.09** percent), Saora etc. (**11.55** percent) and Shabar (**7.17** percent) are the largest tribal groups in the district.

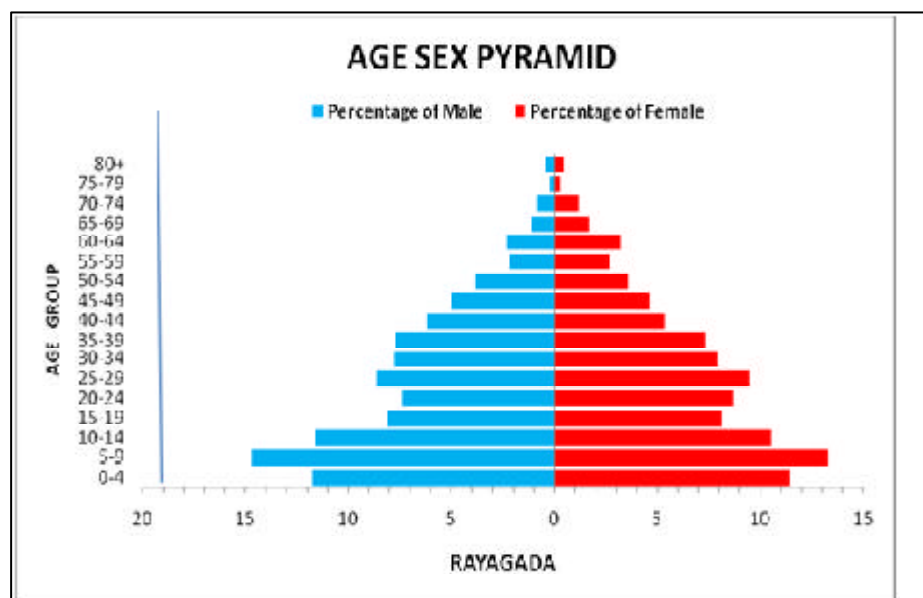
The district has **2.4** lakh literates of which **1.6** lakhs are males and **0.85** lakhs are females. The total literacy rate works out to be **36.15** percent, the male literacy rate being **48.18** percent and female rate **24.56** indicates substantial gender gap in literacy even in a low literacy scenario. Statistics on population reporting attainment of different educational levels reveal some interesting facets. Population with Graduate degree and above constitute **5.08** percent and those indicating no educational level are only **4.4** percent. The group reporting Matriculation/ Secondary/Diploma as their level of education are **17.53** percent. Below primary group are **31.64** percent and those having primary and middle education are **28.88** and **12.47** percent respectively. Total population classified as

workers in the district **3.99** lakhs which accounts for a work participation rate of **48.03** percent. Of the workers **62.60** percent are main workers and **37.40** percent are marginal workers.

The total population of the district belong to about **2** lakh households in the rural and urban areas of the district. Thus the average household size is **4** per household. Of the households **20.5** percent are occupying permanent houses, **25.9** percent semi-permanent houses & **53.7** percent temporary houses. The rural households are spread over **2467** inhabited villages. Drinking water is available in **99.80** percent of the villages and of this safe drinking water in **96.11** percent. Electric power supply is available in **29.71** percent of villages. **25.54** percent have it for domestic purposes & only **4.26** percent villages have it for agricultural use. Of the total villages **52.33** percent have primary schools, **6.40** percent middle schools and **2.96** have secondary/senior secondary schools. Only **0.28** percent villages have colleges and **8.51** percent have medical facility. Post, telegraph and telephone facilities are available in **14.43** percent of villages. Bus services are available in **15.44** percent of villages. Paved approach road is existing in **31.70** percent of villages and **81.84** percent villages have mud approach roads.

The district of Rayagada is one of the new districts carved out of the old Koraput District in 1993. It has abundant natural resources and can be developed as an industrial base. It has substantial population which are backward as indicated by S.T. Percentage. Overall Sex ratio is advantageous to Females but the decrease in 0-6 years is matter of concern. Power supply, educational and health facilities and road facilities are deficient areas and need to be improved. Development administration should focus on these aspects as well as on the sex balance as a priority so that the feeling of neglect can be overcome.

Basic Data Sheet			
District Rayagada * (27), Orissa (21)			
(Source: Census of India 2001)			
Population:			
Persons	831,109	Number of households	190,381
Males	409,792	Household size (per household)	4
Females	421,317		
Growth (1991 - 2001)	16.4	Sex ratio (females per 1000 males)	1,028
Rural	715,702	Sex ratio (0-6 years)	980
Urban	115,407		
Scheduled Caste population	115,665	Scheduled Tribe population	463,418
Percentage to total population	13.92	Percentage to total population	55.76
Literacy and Educational level			
Literates		Educational Level attained	
Persons	247,829	Total	247,829
Males	162,061	Without level	10,897
Females	85,768	Below primary	78,406
Literacy rate		Primary	71,574
Persons	36.15	Middle	30,897
Males	48.18	Matric/Higher Secondary/Diploma	43,441
Females	24.56	Graduate and above	12,584
Workers			
Total workers	399,184	Age groups	
Main workers	249,909	0 - 4 years	96,043
Marginal workers	149,275	5 - 14 years	207,717
Non-workers	431,925	15 - 59 years	476,079
		60 years and above (Incl. A.N.S.)	51,270
Scheduled Castes (Largest three)			
1.Dom etc.	88,044	Scheduled Tribes (Largest three)	
2.Dhoba etc.	3,919	1.Khond etc.	329,461
3.Generic Castes etc.	3,330	2.Saora etc.	53,504
		3.Shabar	33,221
Religions (Largest three)			
1.Hindus	770,572	Amenities and infrastructural facilities	
2.Christians	55,220	Total inhabited villages	2,467
3.Muslims	4,545	Amenities available in villages	
Important Towns (Largest three)			
	Population	No. of villages	
1.Rayagada (M)	57,759	Drinking water facilities	2,462
2.Gunupur (NAC)	21,198	Safe Drinking water	2,371
3.Chandili (CT)	18,685	Electricity (Power Supply)	733
		Electricity (domestic)	630
		Electricity (Agriculture)	105
		Primary schools	1,291
		Middle schools	158
		Secondary/Sr Secondary schools	73
		Colleges	7
House Type			
Type of house (% of households occupying)		Medical facility	210
Permanent	20.5	Primary Health Centres	32
Semi-permanent	25.9	Primary Health Sub-Centres	195
Temporary	53.7	Post, telegraph and telephone facility	356
		Bus services	381
		Paved approach road	782
		Mud approach road	2,019



District Highlights

- Rayagada is the 8th district in terms of size and holds 22nd rank in terms of population in the state.
- Rayagada is the 9th urbanized district in the state having about 13.89 per cent of its population in urban areas whereas about 14.99 per cent of state's population live in urban areas.
- In terms of population per sq. km., Rayagada is the 4th least densely populated district in the state.
- Rayagada has 2nd rank in terms of sex ratio in the state.
- There are 200 uninhabited villages in the district and 3 villages are having population of more than 5,000.
- Padmapur is the most populated village (6,530 persons) in the district.
- The economy of the district is mainly dependent upon cultivation. Out of each 100 workers in the district, 75 are engaged in agricultural sector.
- Rayagada police station has the highest number of villages (481) in the district and Puttasing police station has the lowest number of villages (61) in the district.