

# Study of Prevalence of Blindness and Correlation of Issue of Blindness Certificates in Prakasam District of Andhra Pradesh, India

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## I. Introduction

Blindness was the major public health problem in India. India was the first country in the world, started Blindness Control Programmes to reduce the Prevalence of Blindness. Globally, there is 36 million people are blind and 217 million people with severe or moderate visual impairment (MSVI). In India, There are 8 million people blind and 62 million people are Visual Impairment. In Prakasam District of Andhra Pradesh in India, There are nearly 6,795 blind people and 22,179 people with Visual Impairment as per the Census. Government issued guidelines to identify the Visually Challenged Persons by issuing of Certificates with assessment of blindness to help the people with various schemes to strengthen them as well as the increasing the income per capita.

**Objective:** To assess the No. of Blind Certificates issued in district by the Government to the Blind People in Prakasam District, Andhra Pradesh, India against the estimated blind people.

**Methods:** The Government Authorities are giving Disability Certificates to Disability persons through Software for Assessment of Disabled for Access Rehabilitation and Empowerment (SADAREM). The Data for the period from 01.01.2010 to 31.01.2017 collected from SADAREM, Prakasam District, Andhra Pradesh, India in respect of certificates issued to Visually Challenged Persons for the evaluation. The SADAREM had issued Visually Impaired certificates in all Mandals of Prakasam District and it covers the total district. The collected data was evaluated for No.of Visually Challenged Persons received certificates in sex wise, social status wise, education wise to know the awareness among the public between educational & social status in the district.

Prevalence of Blindness is 1.0% in India and 80% of in it treatable or avoidable as per the National Survey.

In this study, we have taken reset of 20% as irreversible blindness in the prevalence of blindness in population of 3397448 (as per census 2011) Prakasam District, Andhra Pradesh, India. In Prakasam District 33,974 people are blind and VI and 6795 people are blind in it (i.e.20% of prevalence).

The District Authority had been issued Total 6865 Visually Impaired Certificates in Prakasam District from 01.01.2010 to 31.01.2017 against total population of 3397448 (Table: 1). The Government has given guidelines for issuing of Blind Certificates by grading; Blind People are divided in three groups 100%, 75%, 40% (Table: 7). Below 40% are not eligible any reservation under disability category. The Data below 40% are not available with Government Authorities. Collected data covered in all 56 Mandals of Prakasam District (Table: 8).

## II. Discussion

100% of Blindness are irreversible blindness, as per census 2011, In Prakasam District, nearly 6795 people are suffering with irreversible blindness and eligible to get 100% Visually Impaired Certificates, but the District Authorities had issued 3199 100% Visually Impaired Certificates . i.e. Only 47% of 100% Visually Challenged Persons have VI Certificates and 53% of people to get the 100% blindness Certificates till (Table 4). In this study, Male Population getting more then Female Population as par population ratio. (Table:1). Peda Araveedu Mandal get highest certificates (202) and Santhanutalapadu Mandal get lowest (73) Certificates in the District (Table:8). Age wise data shows 21-40 & 41-70 age groups get more certificates according to their population (Table:2). Social Status wise information shows all communities get the certificates according to their population (Table:3).Educational wise information shows illiterates get more certificate in total blindness certificates as well as in 100% blindness category, shows it illiterates have good awareness (Table 5 & 6).

**Table 1:** Data Shows Gender wise District Population & Total No. of Visually Impaired Certificate issued in Prakasam District from 01.01.2010 to 31.01.2017

Sl.No.	District Population				No. of Blind Certificate Issued			
	Total	Male	Female	Ratio	Total	Male	Female	Ratio
1	3397448	1714764	1682684	1:1	6865	4116	2749	1.5:1

**Table 2:** Data Shows Age wise Visually Impaired Certificates Issued:

Sl.No.	Age Group					Total
	0-12	13-20	21-40	41-70	70>	
1	367	615	2064	3551	268	6865

**Table 3:** Data Shows Social Status wise Visually Impaired Certificates Issued:

Sl.No.	Social Status Wise VI Certificates Issued					Total
	SC	ST	BC	OC	Minority	
1	1676	245	2466	2302	176	6865

**Table 4:** Data Shows No. of Persons get 100% VI Certificates

Sl.No.	Total District Population	No.of Blind & VI Persons	No.of 100% Blind People	No.of 100% Blind Certificates are issued	%	Balance to get 100%	%
1	3397448	33974	6795	3199	47	3596	53

**Table 5:** Data Shows Educational Status wise Visually Impaired Certificates Issued:

Sl.No.	Educational Status							Total
	Below 10th	10th	Inter & Diploma	Graduate	Post Graduate	Illiterate	Not Entered	
1	757	257	184	103	41	5519	4	6865

**Table 6:** Data Shows Educational Status wise Visually Impaired Certificates Issued in 100% Category:

Sl.No.	Educational Status							Total
	Below 10th	10th	Inter & Diploma	Graduate	Post Graduate	Illiterate	Not Entered	
1	297	125	97	53	29	2594	4	3199

**Table 7:** Data Shows Visual Impaired Certificates Issued by Blindness Grading

Sl.No.	% of Visual Impairment	No.of Certificates Issued				
		Total	Male	%	Female	%
1	100%	3199	1909	59.67	1290	40.325
2	75%	2745	1667	60.73	1078	39.271
3	40%	921	540	58.63	381	41.368
TOTAL		6865	4116	59.96	2749	40.044

**Table 8:** Data Shows Mandal wise Population & Blind Certificates Issued in Prakasam District from 01.01.2010 to 31.01.2017

Sl.No.	Name of the Mandal	Population	No.of Blind Certificate Issued	%
1	Addanki	89769	124	0.14
2	Ardhaveedu	36169	134	0.37
3	Ballikurava	53269	140	0.26
4	Bestavaripeta	51062	198	0.39
5	Chandra Sekharapuram	44953	125	0.28
6	Chimakurthy	79343	129	0.16
7	Chinagamjam	42468	86	0.20
8	Chirala	172826	214	0.12
10	Cumbum	48698	115	0.24

11	Darsi	86702	180	0.21
12	Donakonda	48148	136	0.28
13	Dornala	44187	135	0.31
14	Giddalur	86133	153	0.18
15	Gudluru	46883	102	0.22
16	Hanumanthunipadu	30964	97	0.31
17	Inkollu	49546	70	0.14
18	Janakavaram Panguluru	45186	134	0.30
19	Zarugumalli	42866	96	0.22
20	Kandukuru	98769	152	0.15
21	Kanigiri	92466	215	0.23
22	Karamchedu	38916	49	0.13
23	Komarolu	40517	89	0.22
24	Konakanamitta	49259	106	0.22
25	Kondepi	43004	73	0.17
26	Korasapadu	48273	81	0.17
27	Kothapatnam	50006	92	0.18
28	Kurichedu	40801	89	0.22
29	Lingasamudram	38094	87	0.23
30	Maddipadu	52353	103	0.20
31	Markapur	122984	274	0.22
32	Marripudi	38848	116	0.30
33	Martur	73862	106	0.14
34	Mundlamuru	56783	103	0.18
35	Naguluppalapadu	67733	121	0.18
36	Ongole	253122	303	0.12
37	Pamur	63017	130	0.21
38	Parchur	54668	79	0.14
39	Pedacherlo Palle	36985	74	0.20
40	Peda Araveedu	42262	202	0.48
41	Podili	67017	121	0.18
42	Ponnaluru	43016	104	0.24
43	Pullalacheruvu	53279	127	0.24
44	Racherla	35080	119	0.34
45	Santhamaguluru	59528	98	0.16
46	Santhanuthalapadu	66186	73	0.11
47	Singarayakonda	65784	123	0.19
48	Tangutur	62618	111	0.18
49	Tarlupadu	34640	121	0.35
50	Tallur	48400	135	0.28
51	Tripuranthakam	62627	129	0.21
52	Ulavapadu	53918	100	0.19
53	Valetivaripalem	39855	80	0.20
54	Veligandla	35951	90	0.25
55	Vetapalem	75219	117	0.16
56	Yerragondapalem	64063	145	0.23
57	Yeddanapudi	28373	60	0.21
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>3397448</b>	<b>6865</b>	<b>0.20</b>

### III. Conclusion

The Government has giving priority to the Disability Persons depends on the Disability Grade in the Government Schemes, Reservation in Educational Institutions and Jobs for strengthen them to reduce the blindness burden on Nation. The District Authorities has to plan for unidentified Irreversible Blind People in the district by planning Revenue Division / Mandal level Disability Camps, as 67% of people to get 100% VI Certificates. If Fails to Issue, It is a big burden to the individuals, families and its implicit the economy of the Nation.

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