

Gender Action Plan (GAP) for Power Transmission and Distribution

Andhra Pradesh

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Introduction

Andhra Pradesh has population of 4.94 Crore, which accounts for 4.08% of the country's population makes it the 10th most populous state in the country. The Rate of Growth of population, as per 2011 Census, has come down to 9.21 percent compared to 11.89 percent in 2001. While 70.42% of the total population lives in rural areas 29.58% live in urban areas of the state. Of the total population, 2.47 crore (50.1%) are males and 2.46 Crore (49.9%) females.

East Godavari district with 51.54 Lakh is the most populous district in the State while Vizianagaram ranks the least with 23.44 Lakh. There are 126.65 Lakh households in the State and the average size of the household is 3.95. Of the total population of the State, SCs constitute 17.10 percent and STs 5.33 percent. Prakasam is at the top with 7.88 Lakh SC population and Vizianagaram is at the lowest with 2.47 Lakh SC population. While Visakhapatnam stands first with 14.42 percent of total ST population, Kurnool with 2.04 percent has the least.

The density of the population for AP is 308 persons per square kilometer, as against 382 persons per square km at all India level in 2011. Among the districts, the density of population is high in Krishna district (518) and lowest in Kadapa district (118).

The Sex Ratio in the State, up from 983 in 2001 to 996 in 2011, is higher than all India ratio of 943 in 2011 and reflects the sustained efforts of the Government in educating the people, especially those in rural areas. It is heartening that the favorable trend in sex ratio registered for the first time in the State in 2001 continued in Census 2011 also. However, the Child Sex Ratio (CSR) remains a point of concern as the state has registered a decline by 20 points in CSR to 944 in the 2011 Census from 964 in 2001 Census. The Districts of Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, West Godavari and Guntur, have registered a progressive sex ratio moving from less than 1000 category to more than 1000 from 2001 to 2011. The SCs and STs have registered a sex ratio of 1007 and 1009 respectively.

Literacy Rate in Andhra Pradesh has witnessed upward trend and is 67.4 percent as per 2011 population census. While the literacy rate in rural area is 62.4 percent, in urban areas it is 79.2 percent. Male literacy stands at 74.8 percent while female literacy is at 60.0 percent. Among the districts West Godavari is at the top with 74.63 percent in 2011, and Vizianagaram is at the lowest with 58.89 percent.

Women in India, in general, continue to face inequalities compared to men across a number of human development indicators and socio-economic variables. Andhra Pradesh has made some positive improvement in the infant mortality rate (IMR) and maternal mortality rate (MMR). As per the Andhra Pradesh state estimates based on 2011 census, IMR has declined from 66 in 2001 to 39 in 2011 and MMR has declined from 195 in 2001-2003 to 92 in 2011-2013 reflecting improvement in maternal and new born care. Yet, Andhra Pradesh lags in most key gender indicators despite the achievements in the last decade. As per socio-economic survey of Andhra Pradesh, 2015, the female literacy rate is 59.96% which is below national average of 65.46% (Census 2011). The sex ratio has improved from 983 in 2001 to 997 in 2011 and is more than the

national average. However, child (below 6 years) sex ratio is 944 which predicts a negative trend in sex ratio in the coming years.

Andhra Pradesh is one of the few States in the Country, where a separate Department in the Secretariat is functioning to look after the Welfare of Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens. The main objective of the department is to formulate policies and initiatives, strengthen governance and provide budgetary support to

- Achieve the desired targets for reducing malnutrition, infant and maternal mortality
- Deliver nutrition and ICDS services effectively with optimum utilization of resources to improve nutrition status of pregnant and lactating women and children under 6 years
- Ensure protection of children and women in difficult circumstances particularly by providing institutional services and handling legal/ empowerment issues relating to them
- Ensure that the needs of disabled and senior citizens are met especially in the area of education, employment, access and social security

The project takes due cognizance of AP's efforts at according due attention to women. Same time, it is quite likely a lot of these women- development indicators of wellbeing and empowerment of women and girls can be improved through access to reliable electricity. Some of these impacts are highlighted in the next section. In this context the project has prepared a gender action plan.

The gender action plan (GAP) illustrates the specific activities to address gender specific concerns and social impacts associated with the proposed projects.

The objectives of the GAP are:

- Promote women's participation in project
- Maximize women's access to project benefits
- Minimize social vulnerability of women arising due to the project activities like securing land, security concerns during construction

Potential impact of the project

This section identifies the potential intended and unintended impacts of the proposed projects on the women. **Potential negative impact** of the project include:

- *Security concern for the women:* The proposed investments could increase the security risk for women specifically during the construction phase when there will be an increased movement of strangers in the area and also due to the blockage of access roads.
- *Securing land and Right-of-Way for project activities:* Land will be required for construction of substations and right of the way would be secured for erecting transmission towers and laying transmission and distribution lines. The potential adverse impact includes loss of livelihood, decrease in sale value of land, decrease in agricultural output of land and damage to crops and trees. The impact of loss of land or temporary damages caused due to project activities are amplified for women as in India, women usually do not have property rights and therefore, might not receive their share of compensation.
- *Health and Safety concerns:* Women face threat of electric shock from distribution wires specifically in residential areas.

Improved access to reliable electricity can bring benefits for women and girls. Some of the benefits are provided below:

- *Improved and reliable power supply:* Andhra Pradesh is one of the few states in India to provide 100% rural electrification¹. However, about 18.4%² of rural households do not have electricity connections in Andhra Pradesh. The proposed project aims to ensure 24x7 power for all.

The access to electricity will ensure power is available to undertake various household chores like cooking and washing clothes, culturally defined as women's work. Thereby, ensuring more time is available with women and girls to

- *Reduced dependence on other sources of power:* The focus of the activities planned under the project is also to provide power at consistent voltage (at least 220V for household consumption), thereby reducing dependence on other sources of energy.

¹ http://www.cea.nic.in/reports/monthly/dpd_div_rep/village_electrification.pdf

² www.ap.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/12-AP-Households.pdf

Electricity will displace more expensive candles and kerosene lamps, thereby reducing indoor air pollution and fire and burn risk, and providing higher quality light.

- *Improved Health and Security:* The health benefits of electricity stem from cleaner air, reduced risk of burns, fires, and accidents, better nutrition and food safety from refrigeration, and improved health knowledge from access to mass media. Furthermore, access to electricity reduces the security concerns through lighting of street and public spaces

Gender Action Plan

The geographical coverage of the activities identified in the GAP, will be the project area of influence which includes the communities around proposed substations, transmission tower and corridors for transmission and distribution lines.

The project will implement the GAP that will facilitate the involvement of women in project activities and maximize project benefits and mitigate any possible negative social and environment impacts on women. The framework to address gender concerns is provided below:

Safeguard Action	Activity and Target	Applicability	Agencies Responsible
Labor Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Women employed by project are fully informed about labor rights.Men and women receive equal pay for equal workChild labor are not employed by project	Construction Phase	Contractors and Assistant Engineer (AE)
Resettlement Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Women are fully integrated into any income restoration activitiesPriority is given to women for livelihood restoration trainingPriority is given to project affected women and vulnerable people during project construction100% women participation in livelihood restoration activitiesWomen will be trained on techniques on savings and managing household expenditure	In case of involuntary land acquisition	ESMS cell (APTRANSCO) and Environment and Social Member (Discoms)
Enhanced performance of staff of the utilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Gender and development training and gender sensitization training to staff of utilities involved in project implementationAppointment of gender focal point within Environment and Social Management System (ESMS) cell of TRANSCOEnvironment and Social Member from the discoms will be the gender focal point for distribution projects	Throughout project lifecycle	ESMS cell (APTRANSCO) and Environment and Social Member (Discoms)
Women's participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">In India, as women usually do not have property rights, ensure that women are	Pre-construction	AE, ADE and ESMS cell

	<p>informed/consulted before securing land for project activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that women receive compensation for land, RoW and damage to crops and trees in cases where property rights are with women 	and Construction Phase	(APTRANSCO) and Environment and Social Member (Discoms)
Security and Safety	Construction site are properly lit and minimize blockage of access roads	Construction Phase	Contractor and AE
	Use of insulated wires in highly congested residential area to prevent electric shocks	Construction Phase	Contractor and AE

Budget implications, implementation and monitoring

The budgetary implications and implementation & monitoring mechanism for activities identified in GAP are provided below:

- A budget is earmarked for the implementation and monitoring of the social and environment safeguard measures. The gender mainstreaming activities identified in this document will be undertaken as part of that budget.
- The environment and social management system (ESMS) cell in APTRANSCO and the environment and social member of the APEPDCL and APSPDCL will be responsible to implement and monitor all the activities specified in this document with support from the field staff (AE and ADE).

Thank you

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