ANDHRA PRADESH
CHILD MARRIAGE AND TEENAGE PREGNANCY

(AGE GROUP 15-19 YEARS)

FACTSHEET

Based on NFHS-4 (2015-16)

Introduction

In India, statistically, the incidence of child marriage has been declining over time, but the number of girls and boys getting married before their respective legal age (18 years for girls and 21 years for boys) remains large with 12.1 million child marriages reported by Census of India, 2011 ("**Census 2011**"). The causes of child marriage are complex and varied, based on various customs and traditions across contexts, and remain rooted in existing socio-cultural norms.

" Education can influence young people, their families as well as society at large to combat the undesirable practices and beliefs that perpetuate child marriage."

Young Lives, 2017

Besides this, economic and regional factors play a significant role in determining the magnitude of child marriage. While Census 2011 allows us to investigate the incidence of child marriage, data from the National Family Health Survey 2015-16 ('**NFHS-4**") highlights the prevalence[1] of child marriage. Though it is acknowledged that child marriage persists amongst both boys and girls, this factsheet analyses prevalence of child marriage and teenage pregnancy only amongst girls in the age group of 15-19 years in the State of Andhra Pradesh using NFHS-4 data. This factsheet also examines factors related to child marriage and teenage pregnancy at the State and district level.

National Statistics

An overall comparison at the national level of the prevalence of child marriage amongst 15-19-year-old girls between National Family Health Survey 2005-06 ("**NFHS-3**") and NFHS-4 shows a considerable decrease. The prevalence of child marriage as per NFHS-3 is 26.5% and as per NFHS-4 it has reduced to 11.9% (14.1% in rural areas and 6.9% in urban areas).

It is important to note that the prevalence of child marriage differs substantially across the States of India. As per NFHS-4, there are 12 States in India including Andhra Pradesh, that show a higher prevalence of child marriage than the national average (11.9%). Furthermore, there are 15 States in India where more than 75% of the child marriages took place in rural areas (within their respective States), including Andhra Pradesh.

It is observed that at the national level, child marriage is more prevalent amongst girls from bottom wealth tercile households (16.6%) and least prevalent amongst girls belonging to the top wealth tercile households (5%). Similarly, educational level is also negatively associated with the prevalence of child marriage amongst girls of this age-group, i.e. higher the level of education, lower is the chance of child marriage.

Findings show that the completion of secondary education is much lower amongst married teenage girls than unmarried girls in the age group of 15-19 years across all States. Analysis related to teenage pregnancy reveals that 39.4% of child brides[2] aged 15-19 years have given birth to at least one child, with the highest prevalence in Goa (69.4%), Mizoram (65.6%) and Nagaland (65.5%).

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[1] Prevalence refers to "*the total number of individuals in a population who have a disease or health condition at a specific period of time, usually expressed as a percentage of the population*". Whereas, incidence refers to "*the number of individuals who develop a specific disease or experience a specific health-related event during a particular time period (such as a month or year)*". (School of Public Health. Prevalence and Incidence Defined. Retrieved from Harvard University)
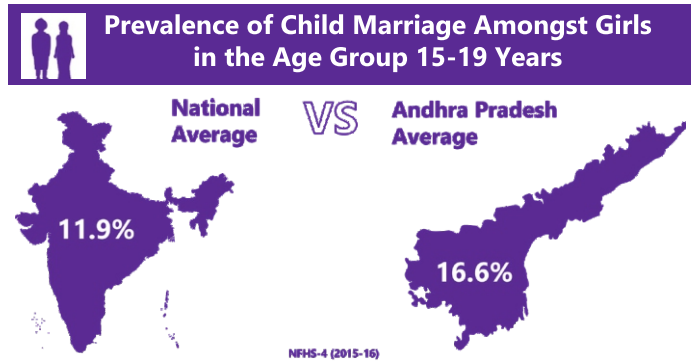
[2] Girls married before 18 years of age.

Andhra Pradesh

Andhra Pradesh is situated in the South-eastern part of the country. In an area of 162,970 km², it supports a population of 49.57 million[3]. The population of the State comprises of 17.1% Scheduled Caste and 5.3% of Scheduled Tribe population[4]. The literacy rate of the State stands at 67.4%[5]. Andhra Pradesh ranks 27th amongst all Indian States and Union Territories in the Human Development Index with a score of 0.650[6] in 2018.

According to NFHS-4, 53.6% of households in Andhra Pradesh have improved sanitation facilities[7] and 72.7% have improved drinking water sources[8]. Of the total population of Andhra Pradesh, 7.8% is in the age group of 15-19 years, and the overall infant and under-five mortality rates as per NFHS-4 are 35 and 41 (per 1,000 live births), respectively[9].

Andhra Pradesh ranks seventh amongst the top ten States with prevalence of child marriage among girls aged 15-19 years at

Prevalence of Child Marriage Amongst Girls in the Age Group 15-19 Years

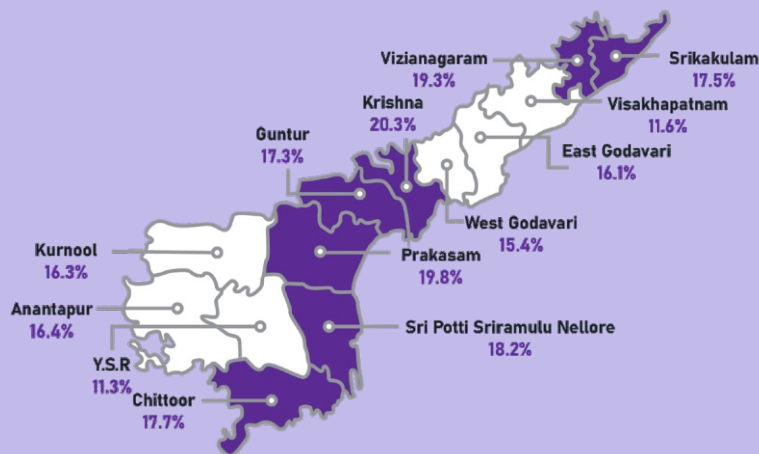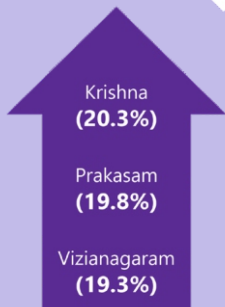National Average **11.9%** VS Andhra Pradesh Average **16.6%**

NFHS-4 (2015-16)

16.6%, which is significantly higher than the national average of 11.9%. While there are a plethora of reasons why large numbers of young adolescents are married before the legal age, this factsheet does not examine causality and only provides descriptive analysis related to child marriage and teenage pregnancy amongst the girls in the age group of 15-19 years in Andhra Pradesh.

Child Marriage (District Level Findings)

Data collected from 13 districts across Andhra Pradesh suggests that prevalence of child marriage differs substantially across districts. While seven districts have a higher prevalence of child marriage amongst girls aged 15-19 years than the State average (16.6%), six districts fall below this average. The top three districts with the highest prevalence of child marriages in the 15-19 age group are Krishna (20.3%), Prakasam (19.8%), and Vizianagaram (19.3%), whereas the lowest prevalence is found in Y.S.R. (11.3%).

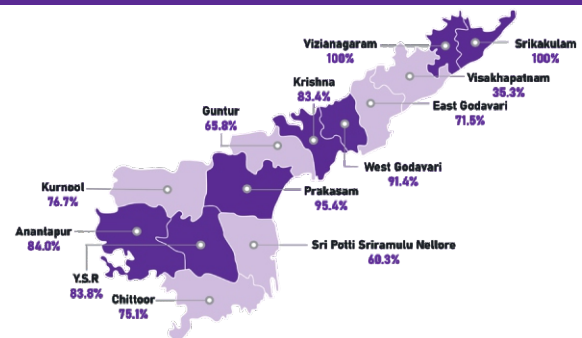**Top Three Districts with the Highest Prevalence of child marriages in the 15-19 age group**

Krishna (20.3%)
Prakasam (19.8%)
Vizianagaram (19.3%)

Vizianagaram 19.3%
Krishna 20.3%
Srikakulam 17.5%
Visakhapatnam 11.6%
Guntur 17.3%
East Godavari 16.1%
Kurnool 16.3%
West Godavari 15.4%
Anantapur 16.4%
Prakasam 19.8%
Y.S.R 11.3%
Chittoor 17.7%
Sri Potti Sriramulu Nellore 18.2%

Seven districts in Andhra Pradesh Show higher prevalance of Child Marriage than the State Average of **16.6%**

Location

Findings reveal that the prevalence of child marriage in the age-group of 15-19 years is significantly higher in rural areas across 12 out of the 13 districts of Andhra Pradesh, with exception of Visakhapatnam. In Srikakulam and Vizianagaram districts, all the child marriages took place in rural areas. Among all Indian States, Andhra Pradesh features at 14th position with 77.6% of child marriages occurring in rural areas. These findings are important, since any intervention or campaign planned to prevent child marriage in Andhra Pradesh, must focus predominately on rural areas.

Districts in which more than 75% of the child marriages took place in rural areas

Vizianagaram 100%
Srikakulam 100%
Krishna 83.4%
Visakhapatnam 35.3%
Guntur 65.8%
East Godavari 71.5%
Kurnool 76.7%
West Godavari 91.4%
Anantapur 84.0%
Prakasam 95.4%
Sri Potti Sriramulu Nellore 60.3%
Y.S.R 83.8%
Chittoor 75.1%

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3. Directorate of Economics and Statistics. (2018). *Statistical Abstract - Andhra Pradesh*. Gollapudi, Vijayawada: Government of Andhra Pradesh.
4. Planning Department. (2014). *Chapter 2: Demography In Andhra Pradesh State Statistical Abstract*. Government of Andhra Pradesh.
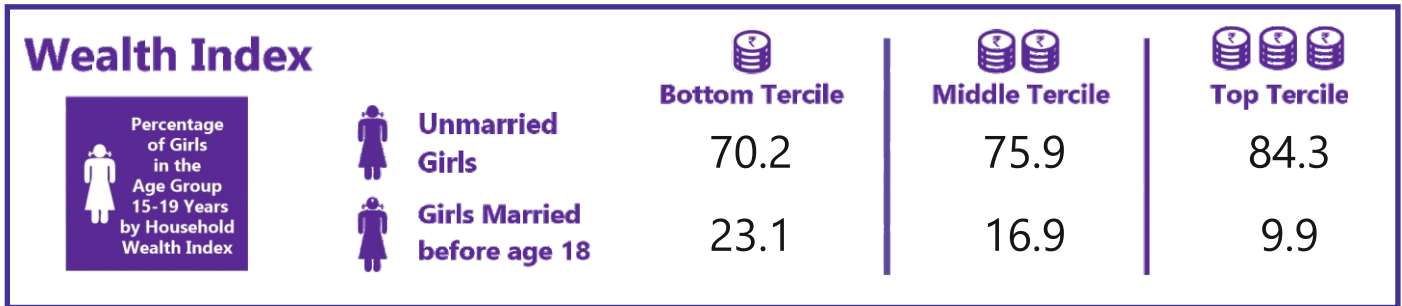5. *Ibid.*
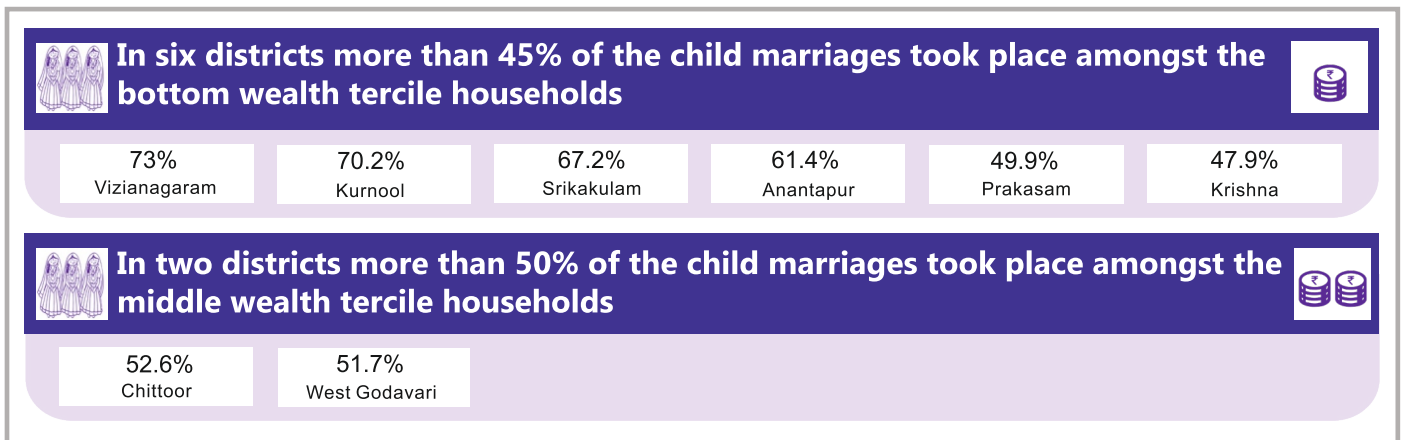6. Radbound University. *Subnational Human Development Index (4.0)*.
7. As per NFHS-4 improved toilet facilities include flush/pour flush toilets to piped sewer systems, septic tanks, and pit latrines; ventilated improved pit (VIP)/biogas latrines; pit latrines with slabs; and twin pit/composting toilets, which is not shared with any other household.
8. NFHS-4 defines improved sources of drinking water as piped water, public taps, standpipes, tube wells, boreholes, protected dug wells and springs, rainwater, and community reverse osmosis (RO) plants.
9. International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) and ICF. (2018). *National Family Health Survey (NFHS-4), India, 2015-16: Andhra Pradesh*. Mumbai: IIPS.

Wealth Index

Percentage of Girls in the Age Group 15-19 Years by Household Wealth Index

	Bottom Tercile	Middle Tercile	Top Tercile
Unmarried Girls	70.2	75.9	84.3
Girls Married before age 18	23.1	16.9	9.9

The relationship between child marriage amongst girls and household wealth index[10] is significantly strong. It is evident from the findings that girls from the poorest households are more likely to get married at a younger age than girls from wealthier households. At State level, 23.1% of the girls aged 15-19 years from the bottom wealth tercile households are married as child brides compared to 16.9% girls from the middle wealth tercile households and 9.9% from the top wealth tercile households.

In six districts more than 45% of the child marriages took place amongst the bottom wealth tercile households

73% Vizianagaram	70.2% Kurnool	67.2% Srikakulam	61.4% Anantapur	49.9% Prakasam	47.9% Krishna

In two districts more than 50% of the child marriages took place amongst the middle wealth tercile households

52.6% Chittoor	51.7% West Godavari

These findings have immense policy implications, indicating that households across all wealth terciles must be addressed to reduce child marriage, with special focus on poor households.

Educational Attainment

Education is essential for developing a sense of agency in young adults, especially in girls. It instils within them a confidence in their abilities and self-efficacy that can push them to achieve their goals. The established correlation between child marriage and the educational attainment of girls suggests that higher the level of education, lower is the chance of girls getting married before the legal age. In this context, the completion of secondary education amongst girls is found to be significant in delaying the age at marriage.

Findings show that the completion rate of secondary education is higher amongst unmarried girls (15-19 years), than married girls across all districts. For example, the secondary school completion rate amongst unmarr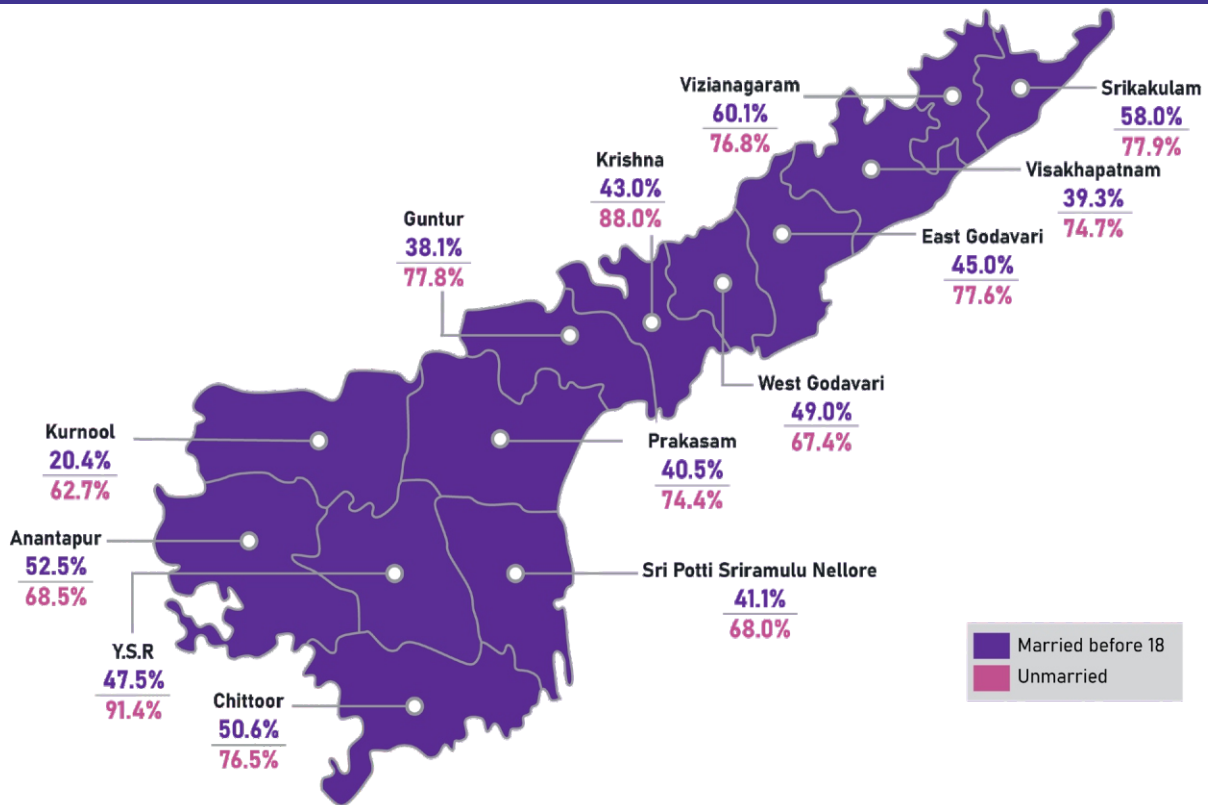ied girls in Y.S.R. district is 91.4% while it is only 47.5% amongst girls married before the legal age. The same pattern is seen in districts such as Krishna with 88% of unmarried girls completing secondary education compared to only 43% completion rate amongst girls married before the legal age. Overall, in Andhra Pradesh, the secondary school completion rate amongst unmarried girls is 75.4%, while it is only 44% amongst girls married before the legal age.

Making secondary school completion a fundamental right and ensuring girls from poor households are provided residential secondary schools may be considered as necessary steps to prevent early marriage in Andhra Pradesh.

10. The wealth terciles are estimated based on the State level wealth index cut-offs to highlight the disparities within the State.
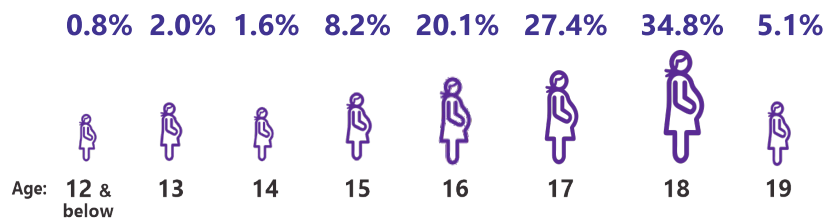
Completion of Secondary Education by Marital Status Among 15-19 Years Old Girls in Different Districts of Andhra Pradesh

Vizianagaram
60.1%
76.8%

Srikakulam
58.0%
77.9%

Krishna
43.0%
88.0%

Visakhapatnam
39.3%
74.7%

Guntur
38.1%
77.8%

East Godavari
45.0%
77.6%

West Godavari
49.0%
67.4%

Kurnool
20.4%
62.7%

Prakasam
40.5%
74.4%

Anantapur
52.5%
68.5%

Sri Potti Sriramulu Nellore
41.1%
68.0%

Y.S.R
47.5%
91.4%

Chittoor
50.6%
76.5%

Married before 18
Unmarried
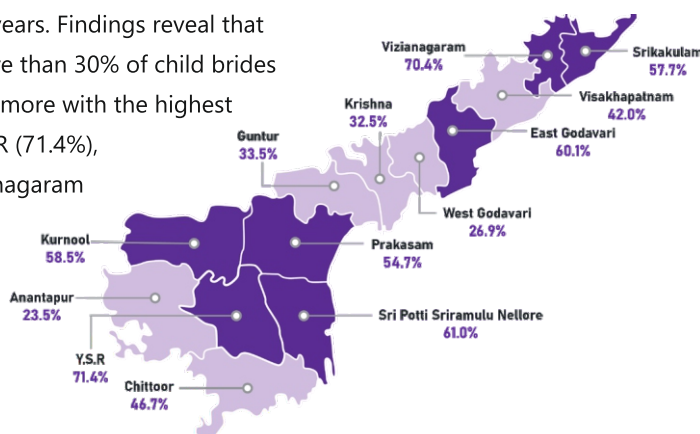
Pregnancy Amongst Child Brides

In the context of child marriage, it is important to study when child brides gave birth to their first child. Research in this area has revealed that child marriage is also associated with teenage pregnancy. Amongst girls married before the legal age in the age-group 15-19 years in Andhra Pradesh, 47.5% of the sample girls are found to have given birth to at least one child, by the age of 19 years, according to NFHS-4.

Percentage of Child Brides and Age at First Child Birth

0.8% 2.0% 1.6% 8.2% 20.1% 27.4% 34.8% 5.1%

Age: 12 & below | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19

Children Born to Child Brides

Further analysis of the number of children born to child brides reveals that 37.3% of child brides had given birth to one child, while 10.2% had given birth to two children by the age of 19 years. Findings reveal that in 11 districts more than 30% of child brides have one child or more with the highest prevalence in Y.S.R (71.4%), followed by Vizianagaram (70.4%) and Sri Potti Sriramulu Nellore (61.0%).

Vizianagaram
70.4%

Srikakulam
57.7%

Krishna
32.5%

Visakhapatnam
42.0%

Guntur
33.5%

East Godavari
60.1%

West Godavari
26.9%

Kurnool
58.5%

Prakasam
54.7%

Anantapur
23.5%

Sri Potti Sriramulu Nellore
61.0%

Y.S.R
71.4%

Chittoor
46.7%

Girls' Body Mass Index

Analysis of Body Mass Index (BMI) shows that close to a third of the child brides (31.2%) in the age group of 15-19 years in Andhra Pradesh are underweight (below 18.5 kg/m^2). There are 6 districts where underweight among child brides, in the age group of 15-19 years, is more than the State average. The highest prevalence of low BMI for girls married before the legal age is found in Y.S.R (57.4%) while the low-est prevalence is in Krishna district (13.6 %).

Conclusion

- As per NFHS-4 (2015-16), 16.6% of the 15-19-year-old girls are married before the age of 18 years in Andhra Pradesh, with variations across districts.
- There are seven districts in Andhra Pradesh that show a higher prevalence of child marriage than the State average.
- Prevalence of child marriage amongst girls is found to be more common in rural areas than in urban areas.
- Wealth index of the households is significantly related to child marriage amongst girls in Andhra Pradesh.

- There are higher chances of girls from poorest households getting married early.
- Findings show that the completion rate of secondary education is higher amongst unmarried girls aged 15-19 years.
- Higher level of education is, generally, associated with a low prevalence of child marriage.
- Child marriage leads to early pregnancy which may cause poor health status of both, mothers and the children.

CHILD MARRIAGE AND TEENAGE PREGNANCY IN ANDHRA PRADESH AT A GLANCE

In **10 districts,** more than **70%** of the child marriage amongst girls took place in rural areas.

The completion rate of secondary education amongst girls (15-19 years) who got married before the legal age is **44%,** whereas, the completion rate is higher amongst unmarried girls, i.e. **75.4%**, of the same age group.

In **six districts**, the prevalence of underweight (based on BMI data) amongst girls married before the legal age is more than the State average .

Of the child brides, **47.5%** had already given birth; **37.3%** had one child and **10.2%** had two or more children by the age of 19 years.

YOUNG LIVES INDIA

This factsheet has been prepared by Young Lives India, New Delhi.