

## **Data for Social Good Hackathon 2021**

### **SDG 3 Good health and well being**

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#### **Problem statement : Marriage and Fertility**

Child marriages and Teenage pregnancy are still one of the major problems in India and Telangana is no exception for that . According to NFHS survey in 2015 10.5% of women in Telangana belonging to 15-19 years age group are pregnant which is 2.6% more than national average.

#### **Effects of Teenage Pregnancy**

- Early pregnancies among adolescents have major health consequences for adolescent mothers and their babies like malnutrition and infant deaths.
- Teenage pregnancy is prominent in uneducated, poor and rural areas making it much more difficult to provide proper guidance and awareness.
- Apart from the health issues according to UN report, India bears economic losses of \$7 billion a year due to teenage pregnancies, i.e 2% of the country's GDP.

#### **Progress of Telangana from 2015-2019**

- Some steps taken by Telangana government like "Kalyana Lakshmi" which is mainly intended to financially help the poor families to meet their marriage expenses also helped in reducing the number of Child marriages as the girls who are atleast 18 are only eligible for that scheme.. This programme helped to decrease the %of women belonging to 15-19 years age group who are pregnant from 10.6% to 5.8%..
- Government of Telangana also started an initiative named "Amma Odi & KCR Kit" which aims to provide necessities to keep newborn babies healthy and hygiene.

#### **Key Insights from the Data**

- Even though we see that state average is reduced to 5.8%.It is still significantly higher in districts like Jogulamba Gadwal, Jayashankar Bhupalapalli , Bhadradi etc where it is greater than 13%.
- Moreover 5.8% of women population of age group 15-19 is still a significant number and there is a need to reduce it.
- This problem is not just confined to some particular regions in Telangana . From the map we can see that the places are spread across the state and necessary steps should be

taken statewide.

- As Kalyana Lakshmi is also provided for women who just crossed 18, there is a possibility of adolescent pregnancy even in those if they do not follow proper contraception methods

#### **Limitations**

- The steps taken by the government decreased teenage pregnancy to 5.6% but still they are not enough to completely eradicate this from the society.
- Here it is also important to note that those measures do not aid the women belonging to age 18-19.

#### **Solutions**

1. A pilot project of increasing the eligibility of Kalyana Lakshmi to 19 years in districts like Jogulamba Gadwal, where the problem is still significant can give us an idea of its real impact in tackling the problem.
2. Conducting awareness campaigns about effects of teenage pregnancy and increasing teenage knowledge of contraception.

#### **References**

There's a need to end teenage pregnancies in India, it's harming the national economy-Shoba Suri

<https://www.orfonline.org/research/theres-a-need-to-end-teenage-pregnancies-in-india-its-harming-the-national-economy-60307/>

National family health survey

<http://rchiips.org/nfhs/data1.shtml>