

Gender Sensitization in 2011 Census

The Census of India mirrors the population profile of the country and provides critical data on demographic, social, cultural and economic condition of men and women. In order to collect gender disaggregated and correct information in the field it is important to inculcate gender sensitivity by imparting gender inclusive training to the entire census hierarchy. The sole and non-negotiable objective would be to count every one eligible for enumeration without omission or duplication and accurate collection of individual information of each person without any bias of gender, area or community in the field.

2. In order to achieve the objective, it is critical to enhance the skills of Enumerators to accurately collect information, which sometimes the respondent is reluctant to share, especially concerning female members of the household. This usually includes the information on infants, young and elderly females, divorced and separated, disabled, domestic helps, tenants and paying guest, etc.

3. The issues of inclusion are core to all the training. However; there are districts / sub districts / cities in the country, which have shown wide gender gap in the count of the population, literacy and economic activity, which could be due to lack of understanding and sensitivity about the prevalence of social or cultural barriers, resulting in masking of the ground realities. These areas would require additional efforts in the training and publicity.

4. The following three key indicators have been used to identify the gender critical districts, as data on these aspects is available up to the village level. The three conditions, which make a District gender critical, are:

- Sex ratio (less than 900) (for million plus cities less than 875)
- Female literacy rate (less than 30% (for million plus cities less than 65%))
- Female work participation rate less than 20% (for million plus cities less than 12%)

The criteria have been modified for million plus cities as indicated in the parenthesis.

5. Separate training component on gender will be a part of all the trainings up to the Master Trainer level. The Alliance would provide services of 180 additional MTFs (known as Gender MTFs) to support Master Trainers in imparting gender sensitive training up to the Enumerator level. They will impart training by using gender modules, which would have local examples and anecdotes updated by the DCOs in the identified gender critical districts. So 180 GMTFs and 82 MTFs will be imparting training in the 262 Districts /Cities identified as critical. The Gender Critical Cities, which are part of critical districts, have not been indicated separately (vide Annex 6).

6. In view of the above arrangement, it would be necessary to organize and plan training calendar in such a way that optimum utilization of these resource persons are made. In addition, key local barriers affecting correct netting of gender-disaggregated data should be identified. You may also identify the most gender critical sub districts with in the district for effective intervention. There are number of villages in certain States /UTs where no female worker was reported at the 2001 Census or unbelievable low, say less than 5 percent. You should devise an appropriate monitoring system to keep watch over the Training / Enumeration in these Districts. Each DCO should also identify at least one official to support, supervise and monitor the working the GMTFs. It would be helpful to keep data on sex ratio, child sex ratio, literacy and worker as available at the 2001 Census ready at the district and sub district level for overall sensitization at the time of training at various levels. Another approach would be to identify economic activities undertaken by the females in the area in advance in unorganized sectors. In case the respondent does not return female members as workers, then the Enumerators could probe by cross-checking the information.
