

**HOUSEHOLD SIZE IN ANDHRA PRADESH-AN ANALYSIS OF CENSUS DATA**

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**ABSTRACT**

*At the national level the average household size in 1991 was 5.5 persons. By 2001 it has come down to 5.3 persons which further declined to 4.8 persons. It is a continuous decline in size from one census to another. All of the four Southern states of the country are having smaller than the national average household size in all the three successive censuses, while the Eastern states namely, Bihar, West Bengal, Jharkhand (2001 and 2011), Odisha, only Bihar and Jharkhand found to have larger household sizes than the national average. At state level the average household size was 4.6 (almost five persons) in 1991 which has come down to 3.9 (almost four persons) by 2011, which is 15.2 percentage points decline. Among the thirteen districts, four districts namely Ananthapur (5.1), Chittoor (4.7), YSR Kadapa (4.7) and Kurnool (5.4) are found to be having a larger average household size than the state (4.6) in the year 1991. All these districts are from the Rayalaseema region and have continued to be in the above state average household size in 2001 and 2011. Coastal region seems to have registered rather sharp and continuous decline in the average household size in the period 1991-2011. Of the thirty-eight mandals in the Srikakulam district in the year 1991, 11 mandals have reported an average household size larger than the corresponding district figure (4.6). There are large variations in the rate of decline in the average size of household over the three decades in all the three categories. Among the SC and ST populations, the SCs average household size has declined slightly faster at 4.9 % than the STs where the average household size decline was only 2.3% during the 1991-2011 period in the district Srikakulam. There are sixteen mandals which are situated above the district average size of SC household population of 4.1. The average household size of ST population was 4.3, 4.4 and 4.2 respectively in 1991, 2001 and 2011. In these three censuses, 13, 8 and 14 mandals are in the above average household size for ST population in the three censuses. Another interesting aspect that comes to the fore is among the ST population in the Srikakulam district, there are 14 mandals where the average household size has in fact increased during the 1991-2001. During the 2001-11, 19 mandals in this social group*

*recorded positive growth meaning that the average household size has increased from the previous census year. This is against the general norm of a continuously declining average household size in all the other social categories and total population. The present household size of less than four along with a preference for a male child a situation may arise there may not be enough number of females to continue the family line. Keeping this eventuality in mind, the Government should plan to keep the household size minimum at four preferably with balanced sex ratio.*

**KEYWORDS:** Household, Population, Census, Average, Government, Growth.

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The problem of man cannot be solved scientifically without a clear statement of the relationship between man and society, as seen in the primary collectivity-the family. In the family the individual abandons some of his specific features to become a member of the whole. In the same line of argument, Spirkin says that the human's 'first duty is to the social group, to society and humanity. Through the group, the child, as he grows older, enters society. The influence of one person on another is as a rule extremely limited; the collectivity as a whole is the main educational force.' The mix of children by sex is not entirely deliberate, as of now man has no control of deciding the sex of the new born baby but the advancing scientific knowledge is giving man a chance to know what is the sex of the new born baby even before it is given birth. This knowledge is actually curtailing the births of a particular sex in some geographical regions resulting in a biased sex ratio (Kumar, C. P. 2020). It is this aspect that actually guides if not directing or dictating the family building process in the society. The person who is first exposed to his parents, his siblings and the extended family members as a child, has an indelible impression and that will have an indirect impact in determining the aspirations of his future. Beyond that as he grows, the society, education, exposure to media, both print and audio & video, also play a role shaping his ideologies, expectations, personal philosophies and future. To a great extent that person is molded by what he sees and experiences around him mostly in the childhood and early teens.

### **Objectives of the Paper are:**

- To reveal the Census data on the household size at the district level as well as at the mandal level in the State of Andhra Pradesh
- To identify the districts moving from below to above State average household size
- To examine the mandals moving from below to above State average household size according to social category.

The present paper is used the data published by the Census of India, Registrar General, New Delhi during the last three Census years 'viz' 1991, 2001 and 2011.

At the national level the average household size in 1991 was 5.5 persons. By 2001 it has come down to 5.3 persons which further declined to 4.8 persons. It is a continuous decline in size from one census to another. In terms of percentages, decline in the first decade (1991-2001) was 3.6, and the second decade (2001-11) was 9.4 while during 1991-2011 the decline was 12.7. All of the four Southern states of the country are having smaller than the national average household size in all the three successive censuses, while the Eastern states namely, Bihar, West Bengal,

Jharkhand (2001 and 2011), Odisha, only Bihar and Jharkhand found to have larger household sizes than the national average in all the three census and the other two namely West Bengal and Odisha were having smaller than the national average household size. In terms of decadal change in the size of household, sharpest decline was found in the states of Kerala (20.8%), Odisha (18.9%) and Karnataka (18.2%). Slowest decline was found in the states of Uttar Pradesh (3.2%), Maharashtra (9.8%) and Rajasthan (10.0%).

**District-wise Household Size in Andhra Pradesh**

Focusing on the Andhra Pradesh state at district level to see how the household size has been varying in the rural and urban areas over the last three decades, data has been presented in the Table 1. Andhra Pradesh state has been bifurcated into two separate states in June 2014 as Andhra Pradesh with thirteen districts and Telangana state with ten districts. Accordingly for the year 2011 the data has been adjusted and the state figures including growth rates denote the newly truncated state of Andhra Pradesh.

**TABLE 1 DISTRICT- WISE HOUSEHOLD SIZE IN ANDHRA PRADESH: 1991, 2001 & 2011**

SI. No.	Name of the District	1991			2001			2011		
1	Anantapur									
2	Chittoor									
3	YSR Kadapa									
4	East Godavari									
5	Guntur									
6	Krishna									
7	Kurnool									
8	Nellore									
9	Prakasam									
10	Srikakulam									
11	Visakhapatnam									
12	Vizianagaram									
13	West Godavari									
	<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>				<b>4.3</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>4.5</b>			

At first glance the above table tells us that the average household size in Andhra Pradesh across the districts and also the rural and urban areas has been declining in the preceding three decades. At state level the average household size was 4.6 (almost five persons) in 1991 which has come down to 3.9 (almost four persons) by 2011, which is 15.2 percentage points decline. Among the thirteen districts, four districts namely Anantapur (5.1), Chittoor (4.7), YSR Kadapa (4.7) and Kurnool (5.4) are found to be having a larger average household size than the state (4.6) in the year 1991. All these districts are from the Rayalaseema region and have continued to be in the above state average household size in 2001 and 2011. Though they continued to be above the state average, in absolute terms the district average size of the household has been declining over these two decades. By 2011, one finds there are six districts in this category of above the state average size of household, namely, Anantapur, Chittoor, YSR Kadapa, Kurnool, Srikakulam and Vizianagaram. While this seems an anomaly, in reality the bifurcation of the Andhra Pradesh state into Telangana and Andhra Pradesh has brought the state average household size down, and accordingly these districts have found themselves above that size.

The decadal decline in the average household size in the state of Andhra Pradesh and also the Srikakulam district is continuous over the last three decades and the magnitude of decline is on the rise from 1991-2001 to 2001-2011. Another interesting aspect is that decline in the urban areas is greater (sharper) than that of the total and rural areas both at the state and district level in the 2001 and 2011 censuses. Fastest decline was recorded in East Godavari and West Godavari (both 18.2%), Anantapur (17.6%) and Krishana (16.3%) over the period 1991-2011. Considering only the rural areas, the sharpest decline was found to be in Krishna (18.2%), West Godavari (18.2%) and Kurnool (16.7%) in the same period. Coming to the urban areas scenario, the steepest decline is in East Godavari (17.8%), Anantapur (17.3%) and Srikakulam (16.7%). Though there is no clear-cut trend at the district level, at regional level there seems to be a pattern. Coastal region seems to have registered rather sharp and continuous decline in the average household size in the period 1991-2011.

**Mandal-wise Household Size in Srikakulam District**

Here, household size variations by various social groups are analyzed based on the census categories. Indian census gives detailed information and data on population by social and religious categories at a much-disaggregated level. Collating that information and using only the social stratification without divulging the religious aspects, here it is attempted to see the variations in the household size over the last thirty years, within the district, i.e., at mandal level which is the smallest revenue unit in Andhra Pradesh.

**TABLE 2 MANDAL-WISE HOUSEHOLD SIZE BY SOCIAL (CASTE) CATEGORY IN SRIKAKULAM DISTRICT: 1991, 2001 & 2011**

Sl. No.	Name of the Mandal	1991			2001			2011		
1.	Amadalavalasa									
2.	Bhamini									
3.	Burja									
4.	Etcherla									
5.	Ganguvarisigadm									
6.	Gara									
7.	Hiramandalam									
8.	Ichchapuram									
9.	Jalumuru									
10.	Kanchili									
11.	Kaviti									
12.	Kotabommali									
13.	Kotturu									
14.	L.N.Peta*									
15.	Laveru									
16.	Mandasa									
17.	Meliaputti									
18.	Nandigam									
19.	Narasannapeta									
20.	Palakonda									
21.	Palasa									
22.	Pathpatnam									

23.	Polaki												
24.	Ponduru												
25.	Rajam												
26.	Ranastalam												
27.	R.Amadalavalasa												
28.	Santhabommali												
29.	Santhakavati												
30.	Saravakota												
31.	Sarubujjili												
32.	Seethampeta												
33.	Sompeta												
34.	Srikakulam												
35.	Tekkali												
36.	Vajrapukotturu												
37.	Vangara												
38.	Veeraghattam												
	<b>Total District</b>												

Note: \*Established as new mandal in the year 2000

One careful look at the above table brings out an interesting observation. In all the three census years, average household size of the total population in the district has been declining, 4.6 persons in 1991; 4.4 in 2001 and 4.0 in 2011. In all the three censuses, average household size of total population is equal to the “others” category, comprising of Hindus, Muslims, Christians and other religious groups. In fact, Srikakulam district population consists of predominantly backward communities and this proportion is mostly influencing the district figures. The average household size of Scheduled Castes (SC) and Tribes is smaller than the corresponding average household size of the total population in the year 1991. Similarly, the SC average household size is smaller than the corresponding district average household size in 2001 and 2011 as well. The Scheduled Tribe (ST) population has an average household size which is exactly same as that of district average household size in 2001 while in 2011 ST average household size is slightly larger than the corresponding district average household size.

Of the thirty-eight mandals in the Srikakulam district in the year 1991, 11 mandals have reported an average household size larger than the corresponding district figure (4.6). Among the Scheduled Castes, 16 mandals and among Scheduled Tribes 13 mandals have reported a larger average household size of the corresponding categories 4.1 and 4.3 respectively. One observation here is that these districts average household size is smaller than that of the district figure for total population. In the year 2001, there were 5 mandals above the district average household size while in 2011 there were 8 such mandals. In the year 2001, the SC average household size at district level is 4.1 which is smaller than that of the district total population at 4.4. Similarly in 2011 is also smaller than the district average 3.9 persons. In all the three censuses, average household size of SCs at district is smaller than that of the corresponding district total population. The ST population average household size at district in 1991 was smaller than (4.3 to 4.6) that of the district total population, in 2001 it was same as that of the state total population (4.4 to 4.4) and by 2011, it has grown to be larger (4.2) than the corresponding district figure of 4.

There are large variations in the rate of decline in the average size of household over the three decades in all the three categories. Total population recorded the highest rate (-13%) of decline in the average size of household during 1991-2011. Similarly, the category of “others” also recorded the same rate of decline. Among the SC and ST populations, the SCs average household size has declined slightly faster at 4.9 % than the STs where the average household size decline was only 2.3% during the 1991-2011 period in the district Srikakulam.

Looking at the mandal level distribution of average size of households of different social categories, there are sixteen mandals which are situated above the district average size of SC household population of 4.1. There are only five mandals, namely Etcherla, Itchapuram, Kanchili, Palasa and Srikakulam remained above the district average household size of SC population in all the three censuses. However, all through this period, the average size was declining gradually but the district average size was declining faster, making these mandals to fall above the average. When the ST population in the district level is analysed, to start with the average household size of ST population was 4.3, 4.4 and 4.2 respectively in 1991, 2001 and 2011. In these three censuses, 13, 8 and 14 mandals are in the above average household size for ST population in the three censuses. There are only four mandals viz., Itchapuram, Melliaputti, Seethamapeta and Srikakulam continually remained in the category of above average household size of ST population. One peculiar case in this table is that of Srikakulam which is an urban mandal and also the district head-quarters. In this mandal, the average size was 6.4, 4.8 and 5.9 which can be attributed to a lot of in migration for various causes like educational, employment and health facilities from the hinterland areas. Another interesting aspect that comes to the fore is among the ST population in the Srikakulam district, there are 14 mandals where the average household size has in fact increased during the 1991-2001. During the 2001-11, 19 mandals in this social group recorded positive growth meaning that the average household size has increased from the previous census year. This is against the general norm of a continuously declining average household size in all the other social categories and total population.

### **Household Size According to Social Category**

Table 3 gives the details on household size according to caste groups in Srikakulam district for the census years 1991, 2001 and 2011. The total household size among SC constitutes 4.1, there were 21 mandals come under below average category and 16 mandals in the above average household size category in 1991. In the year 2001, seven mandals moved from above average household size category to below average household size category. However, in 2011 Tekkalimandal moved from below average household size category in 1991 to above average household size category in 2001. It is observed that five mandals namely Palasa, Srikakulam, Etcherla, Kanchili and Itchapuram continuously remained in the above average household size category for the three census years. On the whole, fourteen mandals (Amadalavalasa, Gara, Hiramandalam, Jalumuru, Kotturu, Narasannapeta, Polaki, Santhabommali, Santhakavati, Saravakota, Sarubujjili, Sompeta, Vajrapukotturu and Veeraghattam) continuously remained in the below average household size category in 1991, 2001 and 2011.

In case of ST, there are 24, 30 and 24 mandals fell under below average household size category in 1991, 2001 and 2011 whereas 13, 08 and 14 respectively in the above average household size category. Only Sarubujjili and Mandasa mandals moved from below in 1991 to above average household size category in 2001. Four mandals (Ichchapuram, Meliaputti, Seethampeta and Srikakulam) and 16 mandals (Amadalavalasa, Burja, Hiramandalam, Kotabommali, Kotturu, Laveru, Palakonda, Pathpatnam, Polaki, Ponduru, Rajam, RegidiAmadalavalasa,

Santhabommali, Saravakota, Vangara and Veeraghattam) respectively remained in the above and below category from 1991 to 2011.

As per other category, the data shows that 21 and 16 mandals in 1991, 28 and 10 in 2001 and 32 and 6 mandals in 2011 were in below and above average household size category respectively. There were 18 and four mandals continually come under below and above average household size category for the three census years in Srikakulam district. On the whole, among SC 14 and 5 mandals, 16 and 4 in STs and under other category 18 and 4 mandals respectively fell continually below and above average household size category for all the census years.

**TABLE 3 TURNOVER TABLE OF HOUSEHOLD SIZE ACCORDING TO CASTE CATEGORY IN SRIKAKULAM DISTRICT: 1991, 2001 & 2011**

	Year	Below Average	Above Average
<b>Scheduled Case</b>	<b>1991 (4.1)</b>	Veeraghattam, Kaviti, Hiramandalam, Sarubujjili, Mandasa, Kotturu, Narasannapeta, Vajrapukotturu, Amadalavalasa, Polaki, Gara, Jalumuru, Sompeta, Santhabommali, Santhakavati, Saravakota, Burja, Meliaputti, Pathapatnam, Tekkali and Bhamini---- <b>(21)</b>	Nandigam, Kanchili, G.Sigadam, Ichchapuram, Seethampeta, RegidiAmadalavalasa, Srikakulam, Palakonda, Vangara, Ponduru, Laveru, Rajam, Ranastalam, Palasa, Kotabommali and Etcherla---- <b>(16)</b>
	<b>2001 (4.1)</b>	Mandasa, Kaviti, Vajrapukothuru, Jalumuru, Sarubujjili, L.N.Peta, Saravakota, Pathapatnam, Polaki, Nandigam, Sompeta, Hiramandalam, Santhakaviti, Kothuru, Vangara, RegidiAmadalavalasa, Narasannapeta, Veeraghattam, Burja, Gara, Amadalavalasa, Ponduru, Bhamini, Palakonda, Meliaputti, Seethampeta, G.Sigadam, and Santhabommali--- <b>(28)</b>	Rajam, Tekkali, Kotabommali, Laveru, Palasa, Ranastalam, Ichchapuram, Kanchili, Srikakulam and Etcherla— <b>(10)</b>
	<b>2011 (3.9)</b>	Hiramandalam, Jalumuru, L.N.Peta, G.Sigadam, Sarubujjili, Amadalavalasa, Seethampeta, Santhakaviti, Saravakota, Kothuru, Veeraghattam, Gara, Polaki, Santhabommali, Rajam, Sompeta, Kotabommali, Ponduru, Ranastalam, RegidiAmadalavalasa, Vangara, Laveru, Narasannapeta, and Vajrapukothuru---- <b>(24)</b>	Palakonda, Palasa, Tekkali, Mandasa, Burja, Kaviti, Pathapatnam, Meliaputti, Srikakulam, Bhamini, Nandigam, Etcherla, Kanchili and Ichchapuram--- <b>(14)</b>
<b>Scheduled Tribe</b>	<b>1991 (4.3)</b>	Ponduru, RegidiAmadalavalasa, Kotturu, Burja, Rajam, Hiramandalam, Kotabommali, Palakonda, Sompeta, Laveru, Saravakota, Gara, Vangara, Polaki, Nandigam, Santhabommali, Pathpatnam, Veeraghattam, Bhamini, Amadalavalasa, Palasa, Sarubujjili, Mandasaand Santhakavati--- <b>(24)</b>	Jalumuru, Meliaputti, Kaviti, Vajrapukotturu, Ranastalam, Kanchili, Tekkali, Etcherla, Ichchapuram, Seethampeta, Narasannapeta, Srikakulam and G.Sigadm---- <b>(13)</b>
	<b>2001 (4.4)</b>	Ranastalam, Vajrapukothuru, Polaki, Jalumuru, Burja, RegidiAmadalavalasa, Gara, L.N.Peta, Rajam, Etcherla, Hiramandalam, Kotabommali, Saravakota, Palasa, Santhabommali, Vangara, Kothuru, Ponduru, SompetaVeeraghattam, Nandigam, G.Sigadam, Pathapatnam, Laveru, Narasannapeta, Amadalavalasa, Santhakaviti,	Sarubujjili, Kanchili, Meliaputti, Kaviti, Seethampeta, Ichchapuram, Mandasa and Srikakulam---- <b>(8)</b>

		Bhamini, Palakonda and Tekkali--(30)	
	<b>2011 (4.2)</b>	Kotabommali, G.Sigadam, Rajam, Burja, Hiramandalam, Veeraghattam, Saravakota, Ranastalam, Palakonda, Polaki, Vajrapukothuru, RegidiAmadalavalasa, L.N.Peta, Kothuru, Santhabommali, Ponduru, Amadalavalasa, Jalumuru, Laveru, Pathapatnam, Etcherla, Kaviti, Kanchili and Vangara---(24)	Nandigam, Gara, Tekkali, Palasa, Seethampeta, Meliaputti, Ichchapuram, Santhakaviti, Mandasa, Bhamini, Narasannapeta, Sompeta, Srikakulam and Sarubujjili----(14)
<b>Others</b>	<b>1991 (4.6)</b>	Vajrapukotturu, Kaviti, Sarubujjili, Kanchili, Hiramandalam, Sompeta, Kotturu, Gara, Seethampeta, Tekkali, Burja, Santhakaviti, Saravakota, Narasannapeta, Vangara, Mandasa, Bhamini, Pathapatnam, Jalumuru, Amadalavalasa and Palakonda----(21)	Polaki, Santhabommali, Ichchapuram, Veeraghattam, Regidiamadalavalasa, Meliaputti, Palasa, Ponduru, Etcherla, Srikakulam, Kotabommali, Nandigam, Laveru, G.Sigadm, Ranastalam and Rajam---(16)
	<b>2001 (4.4)</b>	Burja, Sarubujjili, L.N.Peta, Nandigam, Kaviti, Hiramandalam, Polaki, Kothuru, Saravakota, Mandasa, Vajrapukothuru, Jalumuru, Kanchili, Palakonda, Narasannapeta, Amadalavalasa, Tekkali, Ponduru, Meliaputti, Sompeta, Pathapatnam, Etcherla, Bhamini, Gara, Vangara, Palasa, Kotabommali and Veeraghattam---(28)	G.Sigadam, Santhakaviti, Laveru, Santhabommali, RegidiAmadalavalasa, Srikakulam, Ranastalam, Rajam, Ichchapuram and Seethampeta---(10)
	<b>2011 (4.0)</b>	Hiramandalam, Amadalavalasa, Sarubujjili, Burja, Jalumuru, Ponduru, Polaki, Narasannapeta, Palakonda, L.N.Peta, Kotabommali, Santhakaviti, Saravakota, Tekkali, G.Sigadam, Kothuru, Veeraghattam, Mandasa, Vajrapukothuru, Sompeta, Gara, Nandigam, Srikakulam, Kaviti, Palasa, Pathapatnam, Meliaputti, Etcherla, Rajam, Ranastalam, Kanchili, and Vangara----(32)	Santhabommali, Laveru, Seethampeta, RegidiAmadalavalasa, Bhamini and Ichapuram---(6)

## CONCLUSION

To sum up, the national average household size during 1991 was 5.5 which came down to 5.3 by 2001 and further to 4.8 rather more sharply by 2011. Most of the North and East regions states are found to be above the national average size of household. However, the interesting thing is in spite of all these movements the overall average household size was declining continuously at the country level. The Andhra Pradesh state has been all through the three decades, was having smaller than the national average household size. At state level the average household size was 4.6 in 1991 which has come down to 3.9 by 2011. The Rayalaseema region, comprising of 4 districts, is found to have larger than the state average household size in 2011 though there is a continuous decline in the average household size in all the three censuses.

At the district level, the average household size by social stratification namely, SCs, STs and Others clearly project that the overall “others” comprising of Hindus, Muslims, Christians and other religious groups is similar to the total population. There are large variations in the rate of decline in the average size of household over the three decades in all the three categories. Total population recorded the highest rate (-13%) of decline in the average size of household during 1991-2011. Similarly, the category of “others” also recorded the same rate of decline. Among the



SC and ST populations, the SCs average household size has declined slightly faster at 4.9 per cent than the STs where the average household size decline was only 2.3 per cent during the 1991-2011 period in the district Srikakulam.

The analysis specially based on Census data reveals that there is a continuous decline of the household size. Though there are minor regional / state variations in household size, it is continuously showing a downward trend. At this rate there may arise a situation wherein with the declining sex ratio in the country as a whole net replacement fertility level will fall alarmingly.

The present household size of less than four along with a preference for a male child a situation may arise there may not be enough number of females to continue the family line. Keeping this eventuality in mind, the Government should plan to keep the household size minimum at four preferably with balanced sex ratio.

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