

SECTION-4 : PUBLIC CONSULTATION

4.0 Introduction

Any development activity can be implemented successfully only by active involvement of the beneficiaries from an early stage of project preparation. In the projects where there are adverse impacts and loss of assets, the involvement of affected persons assumes more significance. In order to inform public about the project and the land acquisition, many small group meetings and public meetings were organized from time to time. The Centre for Management and Social Research (CMSR), Hyderabad apart from carrying out the socio economic survey for the affected people have also conducted group meetings and informed the affected people about the project and its resultant benefit along with POWERGRID's R&R policy and other community development programme which will be launched during the implementation of the project.

4.1 CONSULTATION ON 27-07-2011 AT KAGITALPUR WITH PRIVATE LAND OWNER AND MEMBER OF THE GRAM PANCHAYAT

As part of the Socio-economic survey a village level public consultation meeting was organized on 27th July at Kagithalapuru village. The affected families, representatives of the Gram Panchayat, representatives of the study team, attended the meeting. The issues raised and discussed as part of this meeting include the following.

After the brief introduction the senior consultant from the study team explained in detail the rational of conducting the socio-economic survey and the POWERGRID social safeguard policy. The participants were very enthusiastic to here the policy provisions for affected families as well as provisions for the village development activity.

A discussion on the access to basic amenities in the village was undertaken and it was noted that a majority of the affected households are small and marginal farmers primarily involved in agricultural and small time private services.

4.1.1 Profile of village and issues discussed

Kagitalpur village is situated at 2 kms away from the eastern side of Power Grid's 400/220 KV Sub-station. The One and Half kilometer approach road of the village passes through the approach road of Power Grid Sub Station and connects with National Highway 5 which leads to Chennai.

Most of the internal roads of the village are unpaved and kuttcha without side drains. In rainy season it becomes very difficult for the pedestrians to walk around the village. This GP village comes under Manubolu Mandal and Pidur Revenue Village. This is a Hindu dominated village with few Muslim and Christian (Harijan) families. Total population of the village is 1400 out of which male consists of 650 and female 750. Out of total population SCs constitute 600, BCs 350, OCs 300 and STs 150.

No agricultural activities are taking place in the land proposed for substation as there is no irrigation facility. All the private land owners are scattered around Nellore, Chennai, Hyderabad, Ongole etc. and most of them are employees and business men.

Education : There is a Primary School and one Anganwadi functioning in the village. But the school is lacking basic infrastructure facilities. Around 35 students are studying in the school and one Government Teacher and one voluntary teacher helping the school to function. It is reported that there are around 10 – 15 out of school children in the area. For higher classes students move to Manubolu which is 5 kms from the village. After passing 10th class, students go to Gudur or Nellore for pursuing higher education.

Health & Sanitation: There is neither Government nor Private health facility available in or nearby village. People go to Manubolu or Gudur private hospitals for treatment although there are Government health facilities in these places due to lack of proper treatment. For lab testing patients go to Gudur which is 10 kms away from the village as there is no facility in Manubolu. Earlier 104 mobile health check up were active but presently there is no such facility. Except in OC and BC colonies there are no individual toilets available and people living the SC and ST colonies go for open defecation.

Electricity & Drinking water:. Power cut off is common issue faced by all villagers. The major issue in the village is supply of drinking water. There are two bore wells and two hand pumps available in the village. The taste of the water is salty and not suitable for drinking purpose. People fetch 3 to 4 pots of drinking water from nearby colony which is 100 mtrs away from their places. Villagers stated that both bore water and drinking water is insufficient for their daily use. There is a need of sufficient supply of water in the village.

Roads and Transport: Condition of the internal roads is very bad. Earlier there used to be two RTC buses but due to increase of private autos in the area and bad road conditions, presently there is no bus facility. People commute by using private autos . There is no permanent bus stop on the highway for the villagers and ordinary busses will be stopped upon request to go to nearby town and villages.

Women & SHGs: Women prefer to go for agriculture and dairy activities for their livelihood. There are around 30 SHGs. The money received through SHGs is utilized for Agriculture and allied activities. The most burning problem of the women here is fetching of drinking water due to lack of drinking water facility.

Land holdings: There are around 100 land less families. Majority of the farmers are holding between 1 and 2 acres of land. Only about 5 to 6 families holding around 20 acres of agriculture land.

Some of the Community Development Activity suggested by the Gram Panchayat representatives include the following:

- Construction of compound walls to the existing school buildings
- Providing C.C Roads in the village
- Construction of culverts in the village
- Providing borewells with motor and pipeline in the village

4.2 CONSULTATION ON 26-07-2011 AT KONDURU SATRAM WITH SCHEDULED TRIBE FAMILIES/ASSIGNED LAND OWNERS

A village level public consultation meeting was organized on 26th July at Kondurusatram Habittaion under Jatlakonduru village. The affected families, representatives of the Gram Panchayat, representatives of the study team, attended the meeting. The issues raised and discussed as part of this meeting include the following.

After the brief introduction the senior consultant from the study team explained in detail the rational of conducting the socio-economic survey and the POWERGRID social safeguard policy. The participants were very enthusiastic to here the policy provisions for affected families as well as provisions for the village development activity.

- PAFs expressed that two meetings were held in the village in connection with land acquisition and construction of proposed pooling station. One with Collector and other revenue officials and other with officials of Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd.
- PAPs initially requested the authorities to shift the project to coastal area without disturbing their livelihood or provide any alternative agriculture land in the same panchayat to continue their livelihood activity.
- Authorities have expressed their helplessness for alternative site as this is the only site proposed as most feasible for the project.
- PAPs have no knowledge about the proposed entitlement. On above two occasions authorities promised a good amount but they are not informed about how much money will be given as compensation.
- However, the expectations of the PAPs are high, since the lands are situated on the highway. The present market value is expected around 30 to 40 lakhs per acre for patta lands.
- The effected families would prefer to engage themselves in Agriculture allied activities such as cultivation, dairy, sheep rearing, goat rearing, etc as economic rehabilitation programmes since they do not have sufficient experience and skills in other activities.
- A couple of youngsters also expressed that they would prefer to drive Auto for livelihood purpose. They felt that there is much demand on the highway and nearby villages for Service Auto.

- Many PAPs expressed their concern on losing their employment and livelihood due to land acquisition. But they are aware that they are the beneficiaries of government lands and are contented to receive cash compensation and get rid-off their lands which are unauthorized to sell for monetary gains.
- PAPs felt that SC and ST families who are the beneficiaries of the land will be affected more due to the project.

Some of the Community Development Activity suggested by the Gram Panchayat representatives include the following:

- Construction of compound walls to the existing school buildings at Jatlakonduru and Konduru Satram
- Providing C.C Roads at Jatlakonduru village
- Providing RO plants at Jatlakonduru
- Construction of Anganwadi Building at Jatla Konduru