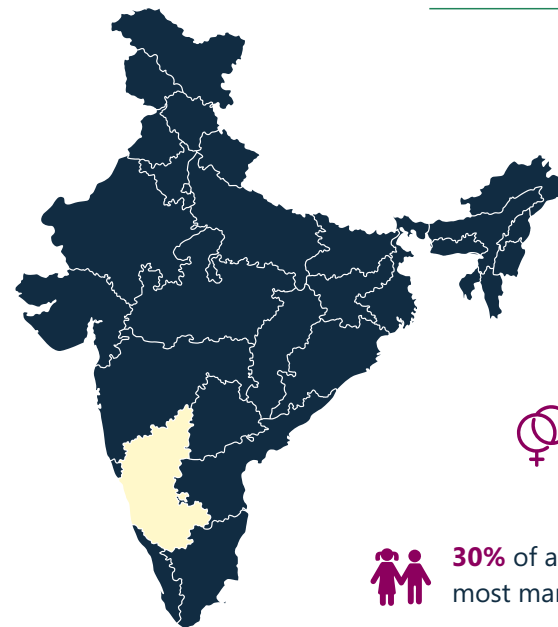







Ambassadors of Change: Addressing Gendered Barriers to Adolescent Health through Role Model Girl-Leaders in Every Gram Panchayat


Karnataka's Adolescent Population¹





 **11.5 million** adolescents live in Karnataka, constituting **19%** of the state's total population


 **63%** of adolescents live in rural areas, with **48%** being female


 Adolescent sex ratio is at **928** girls/1000 boys in Karnataka, compared to overall sex ratio being 973 girls/1000 boys

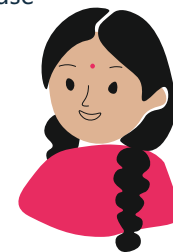
 **30%** of adolescents belong to the most marginalized communities

 School dropout increases from **1.06%** in upper* primary to **13.02%** in secondary levels²

 **14%** of adolescent girls use unhygienic methods of protection during their menstruation⁴

 **20%** of adolescent girls marry before 18 years of age, and **5%** become mothers before 19.³

 **17%** of adolescents in Karnataka suffer from anaemia⁵



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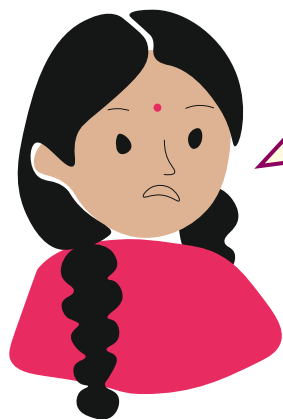


* Gram Panchayats are locally elected governance structure

¹upper primary- standards VI-VIII; secondary levels- standards IX & X
² Source: Census 2011
³ Source: NFHS 5
⁴ Source: NFHS 5
⁵ Source: Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey (2016-2018)

INTERVENTION MODEL

OBJECTIVES



THE PROBLEM

Gendered barriers and institutional deprioritization of adolescent health leads to poor SRH (Sexual Reproductive Health) health outcomes (child marriages, teenage pregnancy, malnourishment, and sexual and gender-based violence) for adolescent girls.

How do we address this?



Institutionalize adolescent girls' representation at the Panchayat level through the formation of adolescent girls' sub-committee



Ensure participation of adolescent girls in existing sub-committees at the Panchayat level



Address SRH and GBV related concerns of adolescent girls through Panchayat structures

PATHWAYS



Profiling of Panchayat



Monthly meetings with a cross-section of stakeholders



Advocacy meetings with district/state administration



Capacity building of members of the existing sub-committees on SRH, gender and adolescence



Community consultations



Capacity building of adolescent girls to build their leadership, agency and communication skills



Formation of adolescent sub-committees

INTERMEDIARY OUTCOMES

LONG-TERM OUTCOMES



Notification for the formation of adolescent girls' sub-committee at the Panchayat



Active adolescent girls' sub-committees at the Panchayat



Active participation of adolescent girls in the existing Panchayat sub-committees



Increased demand for Adolescent Friendly Health Clinics



Panchayats formulating gender friendly budget



Decline in teenage pregnancy



Decline in child marriage



Increased rate of dietary diversity



Reduction in unhygienic menstrual health practices



Increased retention rate of adolescent girls in secondary schools

VISION

Strengthened adolescent girls' and women's leadership at the grassroots level and their participation in local institutions of self-governance to improve health outcomes of adolescent girls.