

Data Collection for Endline Evaluation of PAnKH – ICRW/IFS/PRADAN

Background:

With deep-rooted traditions and social practices which are highly patriarchal and discriminating against women and girls, Rajasthan has some of the worst indicators on gender equality in the country. As per Census 2011, the child sex-ratio is 888 girls per 1,000 boys while adult sex-ratio is 928 females per 1,000 males. Female literacy rate stands at 52.66% with a high dropout rate among girls due to early marriages and the social practice of not allowing girls out of home. 43% of girls get married before 18 years of age, while 40% of the girls become mothers by the age of 19 years. Coupled with a high fertility rate and increased reproductive span, poor nutrition, lack of access to health as well as work opportunities make women and girls in this state extremely vulnerable to continued socio-economic discrimination and inequality.

About the Project:

International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW), along with PRADAN and Institute of Fiscal Studies (IFS), undertook the Promoting Adolescents' Engagement, Knowledge and Health or *PAnKH* Project in 90 clusters of Dholpur district in Rajasthan. The project engaged with married and unmarried adolescent girls between the age of 12-19 years along with their families including parents and in-laws, community, schools, health systems and other stakeholders through an integrated program aiming at enhancing safe spaces and improving girls' sexual, reproductive and maternal health within a framework of human rights.

The objectives of the project were to:

- Enhance agency and skills of girls through gender transformative approaches
- Create safe spaces both within households, communities, schools and health systems
- Improve girls' access to sexual and reproductive health services through service providers capacity building, sensitization and increased interface between those and adolescent girls
- Create positive norms about girls or enhance value of girls through community-based campaigns
- Undertake advocacy to strengthen government programs for adolescents

ICRW, PRADAN and IFS designed a Randomization Control Trial (RCT) to evaluate the impact of the PAnKH Project and assess the effects of its program components. For the evaluation, a longitudinal design was used with baseline and end line surveys at two years interval of the same cohort of study participants. Change Alliance was engaged as the research agency for collecting and delivering high quality data for the end line survey at the household and individual level in three blocks of Dholpur district.

Processes Undertaken:

The *PAnKH* Project included a longitudinal study where data was collected twice from the same sample over a two-year period to provide a comparison of different years in different clusters and identify changes that may have resulted from the PAnKH interventions. The baseline data collection was done in September-December 2015 while the end line data collection took place in December 2017 to March 2018. The research framework, methodology and tools, and selected respondents were provided by the client, while CAPL was responsible for the setting up of teams, processes for collection of high quality data, and a strong monitoring mechanism and system. The study included four different questionnaires for different respondents – household level, caregivers, mentors, and adolescent girls.

Change Alliance created a 10-step process for managing the project. This included allocating core teams, desk reviews and inception reports, creation of a detailed workplan, hiring and training of data collection teams, data collection, monitoring and supervision, high quality back-checks as per 'quality assurance checklist', and data compilation.

Each member of the team was assigned overall as well as daily responsibilities which were checked daily through revisits. The members of the team included Supervisors who mapped and allocated households to investigators and ensured that everyone was working on track, Investigators who conducted the interviews, Monitors who ensured quality of work through observations of interviews, Team coordinators whose primary role was to support the teams for logistics and movement, Research Associates ensured three levels of monitoring (supervisor, monitors and investigators), and Team Lead and Research Manager who oversaw and led the entire assignment.

Regular debrief meetings were held with ICRW and CAPL team members to clarify and maintain the quality of the survey before, during and after the survey. These meeting provided opportunities to the team to voice their challenges on field either technological or social and were provided support for their work. Discipline and protocols was strictly maintained by the team to ensure quality of the survey. It also provided an opportunity to ICRW's senior team members to have direct interaction with the entire data collection team as well as assess their confidence level in the work.

About Change Alliance:

Change Alliance is a for-profit organisation providing CSR consultancy and other development sector services to both companies and civil society organisations. Our services include end-to-end CSR strategy, design, implementation and management of large programs, in-depth research, baselines and end-term impact assessments, mid-term evaluations, and training and capacity building across sectors and industries. We have expertise and a successful track-record in conducting large-scale research, monitoring and evaluations, trainings, and implementing campaigns especially in education, gender, livelihoods, and climate change. And our 60 years legacy of developmental work, engaging with civil societies across the globe, and working with over 300 partner organisations in India has helped clients reach the remotest corners of the country.

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