

Role of Panchayats in enhancing the value of women and girls

By localizing SDG 5 and integrating it as part of GPDP



Focus of UNFPA Program

- Spread awareness among the Panchayats for identifying and addressing different forms of discrimination against women and girls.
- Invoke Panchayats to commit to end all types of gender-based violence faced by women and girls in public and private spaces
- Motivate panchayats to address harmful practices like gender-biased sex- selection, child, early and forced marriages, witch-hunting, etc.
- Ensure that panchayats resolve to promote full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership by women and girls in political, economic and social life.
- Enhance capacities of Panchayats to effectively enforce all laws, policies and programmes for the empowerment of women and girls.



ENSURE GENDER RESPONSIVE DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

Why gender responsive development planning?

Making gender inclusive Gram Panchayat Development Plans, ensuring gender justice and promoting gender equality would help address discriminatory social norms and practices at the family and community level thereby enhancing the value of women and girls. Thereby help realize the Vision of the Sustainable Development Goals



Ensuring gender responsive development planning

- Promote action for tackling discriminatory norms and structures.
- Enable the organization of Mahila Sabhas in order to promote women's participation and understand their needs and concerns.
- Ensure the preparation of Gram Panchayat Development Plans with the involvement of women and girls
- Initiate community level actions to ensure improved value of women and girls.
- Integrate gender in the constitution and functioning of Gram Panchayat level Standing Committees.
- Facilitate convergence with existing structures at the village level such as Self-Help Groups and National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) to empower women and increase their autonomy.



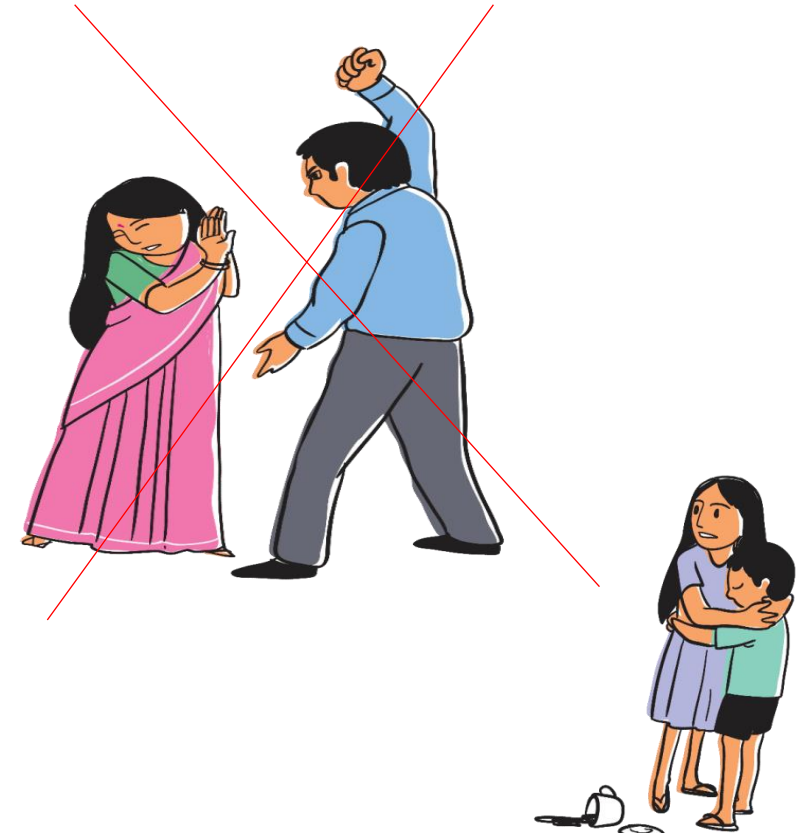
SDG Goal 5.1- Ending all forms of discrimination against women and girls

- Promoting equal opportunities and rights for girls across sectors (Health, Education, Nutrition, Skill building, etc.).
- Mobilising families and community to celebrate birth of a girl child through innovative means.
- Undertaking campaigns to inform community about illegality of sex selection.
- Ensure that families of pregnant women are counselled and given information about illegality of sex-selection by frontline functionaries.
- Mapping sonography centres in the area and ensuring they are compliant as per the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act.
- Ensuring regular inspection of sonography centers in the area by the designated Appropriate Authority.
- Ensure constitution and functioning of Village Health Nutrition and Sanitation Committees in the area to address health, immunisation, nutrition of girls.



SDG Goal 5.2- Eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls

- Create and maintain safe habitations for women and girls by undertaking safety audits and ensure compliance on issues as part of the audits, for e.g. lighting of villages, etc.
- Mobilise community vigilance committees like-Mahila Shakti Samooh (in Rajasthan), Shaurya Dal (in Madhya Pradesh), Navyuvak Mandals, etc. to play an active role in preventing violence against women and girls
- Involve CSOs to work with collectives of men and boys around issues of positive masculinities and gender equality.
- Create awareness on rights, entitlements, laws for women and girls and availability of Protection mechanisms.
- Develop Panchayats to become Violence free.
- Blacklist and Boycott perpetrators of violence against women and girls from development benefits



SDG Goal 5.3- Eliminate all harmful practices against women and girls

- Address reasons for school dropout- Transportation, toilets, women teachers
- Ensure access of girls to livelihoods and Invest in building vocational skills of girls so that they can negotiate to delay early and forced marriages.
- Undertake campaigns around importance of investing in development and well being of women and girls.
- Ensure designation and access to Child Marriage Prohibition Officer and constitution and functioning of Village Child Protection Committees
- Pledge-taking in every Bal Sabha, Mahila Sabha, Ward Sabha and Gram Sabha for ending child, forced and early marriage.
- Create dowry free villages by community oathtaking in Ward Sabha, Gram-Sabha. Spread awareness against these social evils by organising awareness rallies, speech and essay competitions in schools and mobilizing the youth to boycott these malpractices.
- Organise monthly legal literacy camps for women and girls at Aanganwadi-Centres to spread awareness on gender related laws.



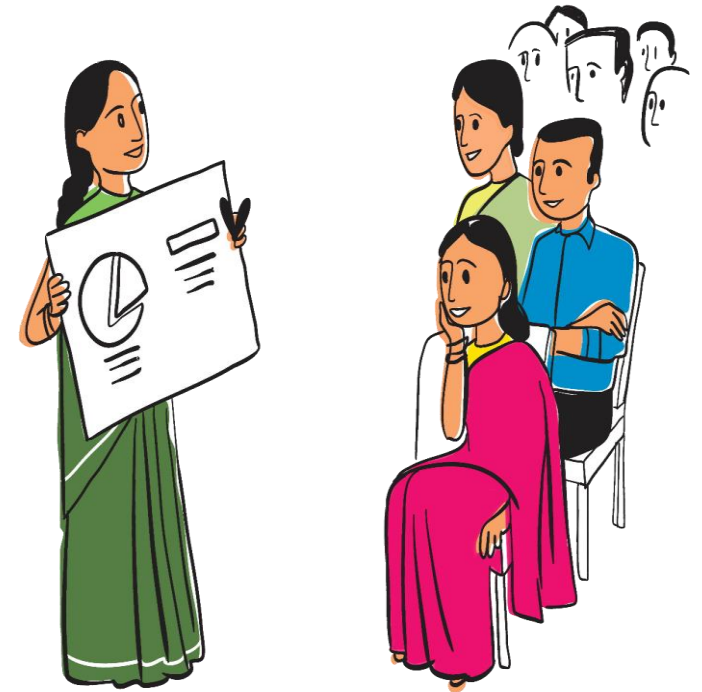
SDG Goal 5.4- Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through provision of public services



- Facilitate community appreciation of daily time-investment pattern of women and men in domestic work by conducting activity-mapping exercise of average time spent on household chores in Ward Sabha/Gram Sabha.
- Encourage men and boys to share the household work responsibilities with women and girls to reduce their domestic work burden
- Develop community support infrastructure and services to lessen the work burden of women, such as:
 - Old age homes/day care centres for the elderly
 - Creche/child care facilities
 - animal grazing farms/animal hostels
 - taps to supply water to every house to reduce women's daily drudgery for collection of water for their family.
 - fuelwood and fodder plantations on farm- boundaries for easy access to these daily required resources to reduce work-drudgery of women in fetching them from a distance
- Promote clean and renewable energy sources, such as-solar energy, etc. to facilitate smokeless cooking environment for women and reduce respiratory distress from their lives.

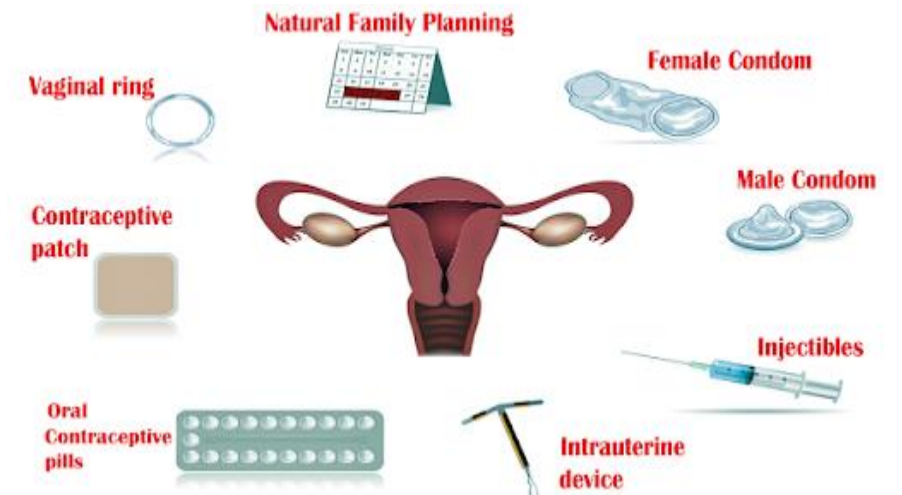
Sub Goal 5.5 Women's full and effective participation in political, economic and public life

- Ensure active participation of women elected representatives in Panchayats by providing appropriate training, information, guidance and mentoring support.
- Reduce the participation of male relatives of women elected leaders by not allowing them to proxy for the elected women.
- Promote organisation of Mahila Sabhas to understand development needs of women for GPDP
- Ensure women and girl children enjoy property-ownership rights in family inheritance of property,
- Undertake community campaigns on joint registration of property in name of spouses.
- Link women-SHG (Self Help Groups), and self-employed women with financial services of Bank-Credit, Insurance etc.
- Encourage girl-child education, ensure scholarships and recognition through awards for good performance.



SDG Goal 5. 6-Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights

- Ensure availability and access to sexual and reproductive health services for women.
- Promote gender and rights issues in uptake of contraceptives – availability of a basket of contraceptives, availability of quality services, informed choice , consent, counselling.
- Encourage male responsibility in contraceptive use.



Sub Goal 5a- Give women equal rights to economic resources

- Encourage equal ownership rights to women in agricultural land by giving joint title (Pattas) of ownership of farm-land to the husband and wife.
- Encourage giving daughters equal succession rights at par with sons, in ancestral property.
- Ensure equal wages to women, at par with men, in farm-work, construction work and other labour-work of daily-wages.
- Promote financial support from Banks for Women-Self-Help Groups and self-employed women.
- Enable women's participation in getting access to Bank Accounts, by providing facility for zero-balance accounts to be opened for them.
- Promote women's participation in Natural Resource Management through their membership in Common Property Resource Management Committee, Joint Forest Management Committee, Watershed Management and Water Management Committees, Bio-Diversity Management Committee, etc.



Sub Goal 5b- Enhance use of enabling technology, to empower women



- To reduce the work-burden of women, promote enabling technology like solar energy, mechanical gadgets, tap and electricity connection for every house, digital and computer skills
- Use information and communication technology for empowerment of women and girls

Sub Goal 5c- Adopt and Strengthen policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women

Promote the enforcement of national and state policies, programmes, schemes and laws made for women and girls in the panchayat and also build public-awareness about them through publicity and IEC-efforts, through use of Information and Communications Technology



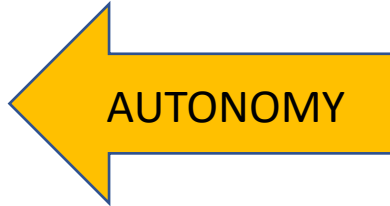
Area of UNFPA operation

- Rajasthan- Sawai Madhopur
- Madhya Pradesh- Chhatarpur
- Odisha- Dhenkanal
- Bihar- Sheikhpura

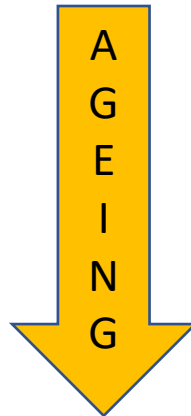


3As model for Panchayats to promote gender equality

Ability to make decisions about themselves and their lives



Encouraging joint registration of property, land rights, access to credit, improved access to livelihoods, etc

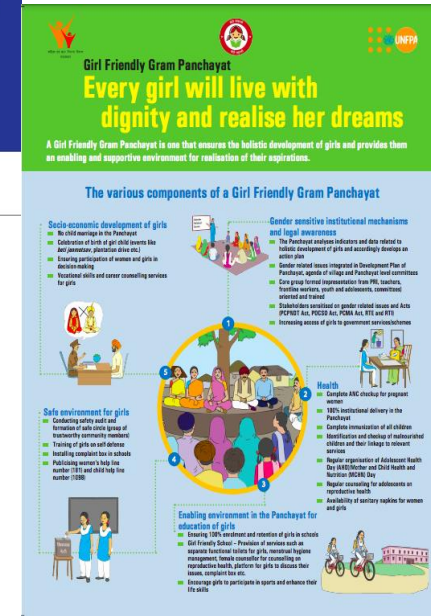
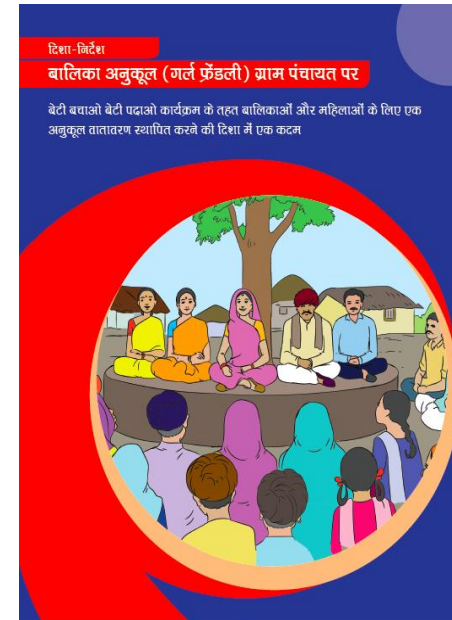


Addressing unwantedness of girls by changing attitudes that only boys can provide old age support, ensuring access to old age pension schemes



Ballika Friendly Panchayats- Sawai Madhopur, Rajasthan

- Capacity Building of various stakeholders on gender and empowerment of women and girls.
- Sustained mentoring support to the selected Panchayats after training; for developing a girl friendly work-culture.
- Constituting a supportive Core Group comprising of Sarpanch, Ward Panches, Aanganwari Worker, School Teachers, Religious Leaders, other influential community leaders and their orientation on gender and addressing harmful practices
- Organisation of monthly meetings for concurrent monitoring of the annual workplans of the Gram Panchayat to ensure issues related to women and girls are included and addressed.
- Undertaking a range of innovative activities in each of the Gram Panchayat like:
 - Addressing the issue of child and early marriages;
 - Ensuring girls continue to be retained in school, by addressing reasons for school drop-out like-availability of safe transport, toilets for girls in schools, women teachers, etc.;
 - Setting up 'Meena Manch' in schools for the empowerment of girls by transacting messages around life skills;
 - Sending congratulatory messages from the Panchayat to families where a girl child is born;
 - Creating awareness on schemes and entitlements for girls through various media like- slogan painting on village walls and public buildings, mobilising community and
 - Organising regular interactions around supporting girls' education, health and nutrition, etc.



Addressing Gender Based Violence- Chhatarpur, MP

- Undertaking safety Audits
- Engaging with women's collectives through Mahila Mudda Chaupals to understand and address their safety concerns
- Ensuring Protection officers and Service Providers under Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act are designated and functioning
- Capacity building of frontline functionaries like Anganwari Workers, ANMs and ASHAs are trained to identify and respond to survivors of violence.

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महिला हिंसा की रोकथाम हेतु

पंचायत क्या कर सकती है?



पंचायत राज अधिनियम के तहत सामाजिक न्याय की स्थापना एवं आर्थिक विकास पंचायतों की प्रमुख जिम्मेदारी है। महिला सुरक्षा भी इसका महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा है।

महिला हिंसा की रोकथाम हेतु पंचायत द्वारा उठाए जा सकने वाले कदम

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• महिला हितैषी वातावरण निर्माण एवं महिलाओं को आत्मनिर्भर और सक्षम बनाने के लिए महिला पंचों को शामिल कर शौर्य दल का गठन करना।• महिलाओं के मुद्दों को प्राथमिकता देने के लिए समय-समय पर महिला ग्राम सभा का आयोजन करना।• ऐसे स्थान जहाँ महिलाओं/किशोरियों को डर लगता हो या हिंसा संभावित हो पहचान कर, भय मुक्त बनाने के लिये आवश्यक कदम उठाना। | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ग्राम विकास योजना के निर्माण और क्रियान्वयन में महिलाओं की जरूरतों को विशेष महत्व देना।• बाल विवाह, दहेज जैसी कुप्रथाओं पर रोक हेतु ग्राम सभा से प्रस्ताव पारित कर उसका पालन कराना।• महिलाओं को अपमानित एवं उनके साथ दुर्व्यवहार करने वाले पंचायत प्रतिनिधियों को पद से हटाने की कार्यवाही कर सकती है। धारा-४०(क)(३)• महिला सुरक्षा अधिनियमों के तहत नियुक्त प्राधिकृत अधिकारियों की जानकारी सार्वजनिक करना। |
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हर महिला को हिंसा मुक्त जीवन जीने का अधिकार है

महिला हितैषी पंचायत परियोजना

Awareness generation on gender laws- Dhenkenal, Odisha



Pre election voter awareness campaign- Sheikhpura, Bihar

- Updation of voter list with focus on women and girls
- Awareness campaign on voting rights
- Nurturing young leadership through training and capacity building
- Nomination help camps for women contestants
- Development pact- Interaction of contestant candidates with community to understand specific needs of women and girls.



Requesting good practices from your States

- Challenging discriminatory norms and practices
- Addressing unwantedness of girls and Gender Biased Sex Selection
- Addressing Child Marriage
- Addressing harmful practices like witch hunting
- Improving women's access to livelihoods

Moving Forward

- Organisation of a National Workshop for State Institutes of Rural Development to discuss how gender can be integrated as part of ongoing programs.
- Compilation of a good practice document capturing efforts of PRIs on empowering women and girls and addressing discriminatory social norms and practices.
- Capacity building of PRIs in the focus States and Districts where UNFPA has been working



Thank You