

## **AIILSG International Center of EQUI-T's Humble Contributions to the Issues of Children & Under-privileged Children**

### **Not Just Education but Bringing Back Childhood to Children:**

The concerns of the children, especially the under-privileged children from the deprived communities are very close to AIILSG International Center of EQUI-T's heart. The humble contribution it is making is two-fold.

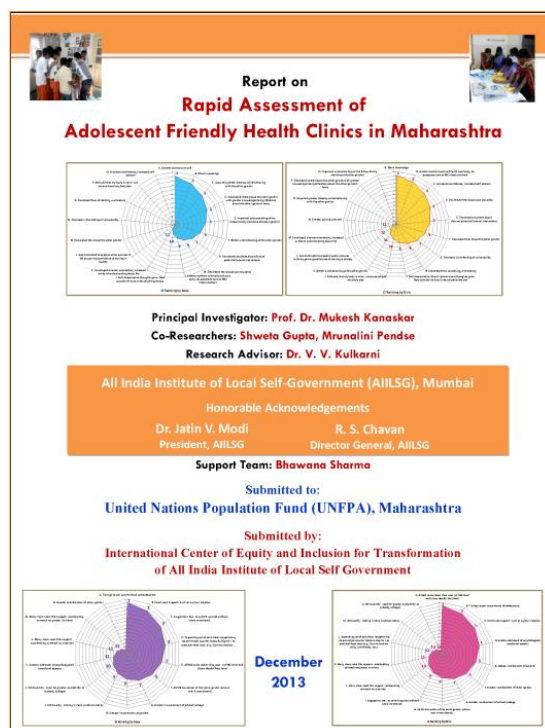
1. Concern for the overall well-being of children and adolescents.
2. 'Ensuring Childhood and Education for the Under-Privileged Children for their Holistic Development'.

### **1. Concern about the overall well-being of Children & Adolescents:**

Children and adolescents form a crucial age-group within populations. The most transitional and formative phase of life also defines future of the respective country and the world.

India has the largest number of adolescent population (253.2 mn) in the world<sup>1</sup> which accounts for 20.9% of the country's total population of 1.2 bn<sup>2</sup>. Of the total 253.2 mn adolescent population in India, 71.4% (180.6 mn) resides in rural areas and 28.6% (72.5 mn) lives in urban areas.

Apart from highlighting this importance and various demographical, social and psychological dimensions of these age-groups, the International Center of EQUI-T has been emphasizing the health and reproductive health dimensions. AIILSG's capacity building programs and policy facilitation endeavors, events act as crucial dissemination vehicles. Another measure is to develop effective Information Education Communication material and other knowledge products. One illustration is a research on 'Rapid Assessment of Adolescent Friendly Health Clinics' conducted by AIILSG's International Center of EQUI-T for United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The salient feature of the approach was keeping adolescents at the center and gaining insights into their health and reproductive health aspects which led to an innovative knowledge product in the form of a Portable



<sup>1</sup> United Nations, Department of Economic & Social Affairs, Population Division, World Population Prospects, 2008

<sup>2</sup> Census of India 2011

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IEC Kit – ‘Understanding Adolescents: A Resource Kit developed based on the Research- ‘Rapid Assessment of Adolescent Friendly Health Clinics.

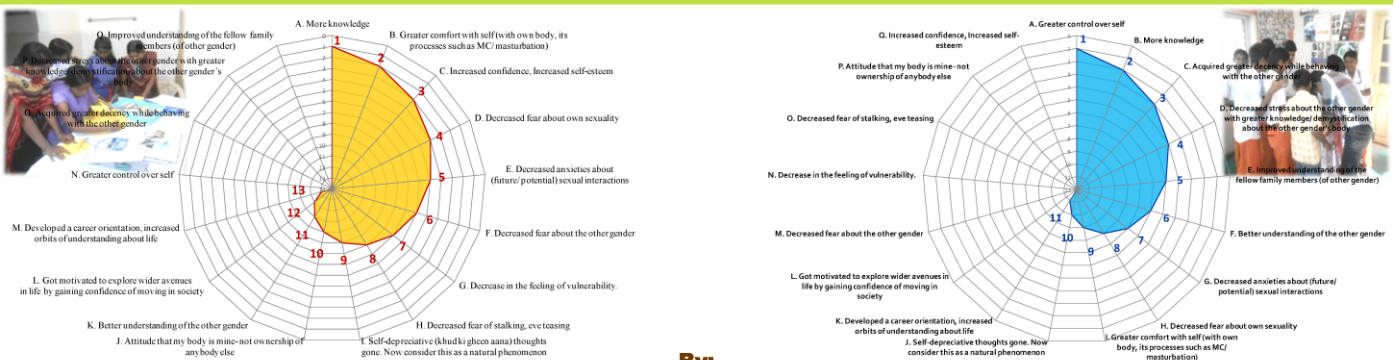
AIILSG, as its own initiative, has taken the process of serving this cause further to various stakeholders- government officials, elected representatives, NGOs, CBOs and wider civil society etc.- through its capacity building programs and interactive events. To render greater effectiveness to the effort, AIILSG’s International Center of EQUI-T developed a Resource Kit titled ‘Understanding Adolescents’ based on the AFHC research findings, especially of the gender segregated analysis.

It is heartening to note that these portable IEC kits are being used by diverse set of stakeholders and proving to be an effective capacity building tool.

**Understanding Adolescents: A Resource Kit developed based on the Research- ‘Rapid Assessment of Adolescent Friendly Health Clinics (AFHCs)’ for United Nations population Fund, (UNFPA) Maharashtra**

## Understanding Adolescents: A Resource Kit based on the Research - ‘Rapid Assessment of Adolescent Friendly Health Clinics (AFHCs)’ for United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Maharashtra

by International Center of Equity & Inclusion for Transformation  
of All India Institute of Local Self-Government



**Honorable Acknowledgement**

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**President, AIILSG**  
**Ex-President, UCLG-ASPAC**

**Ranjit S. Chavan**  
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**AIILSG**



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**Life of Dignity & Equity for the**  
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# AIILSG International Center of EQUI-T's Humble Contributions to the Issues of Children & Under-privileged Children

## Understanding Adolescents: A Resource Kit based on the Research - 'Rapid Assessment of Adolescent Friendly Health Clinics (AFHCs)' for United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Maharashtra



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- 8 Gender Analysis of Needs Diversity expressed by Adolescent Girls & Boys



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## Rapid Assessment of Adolescent Friendly Health Clinics (AFHCs) for United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)



**by International Center of Equity & Inclusion for Transformation  
of All India Institute of Local Self-Government**

### Parameters and Rankings of Impacts of AFHCs by Adolescent Girls and Boys

Ranking by Girls	Parameters on Impacts of AFHCs	Ranking by Boys
1	More knowledge	2
2	Greater comfort with self (with own body, its processes such as MC/ masturbation)	9
3	Increased confidence, Increased self-esteem	0
4	Decreased fear about own sexuality	8
5	Decreased anxieties about (future/ potential) sexual interactions	7
6	Decreased fear about the other gender	0
7	Decrease in the feeling of vulnerability	0
8	Decreased fear of stalking, eve teasing	0
9	Self-depreciative thoughts gone. Now consider this as a natural phenomenon	10
10	Attitude that my body is mine- not ownership of anybody else	0
11	Better understanding of the other gender	6
12	Got motivated to explore wider avenues in life by gaining confidence of moving in society	0
13	Developed a career orientation, increased orbits of understanding about life	11
0	Greater control over self	1
0	Acquired greater decency while behaving with the other gender	3
0	Decreased stress about the other gender with greater knowledge/ demystification about the other gender's body	4
0	Improved understanding of the fellow family members (of other gender)	5



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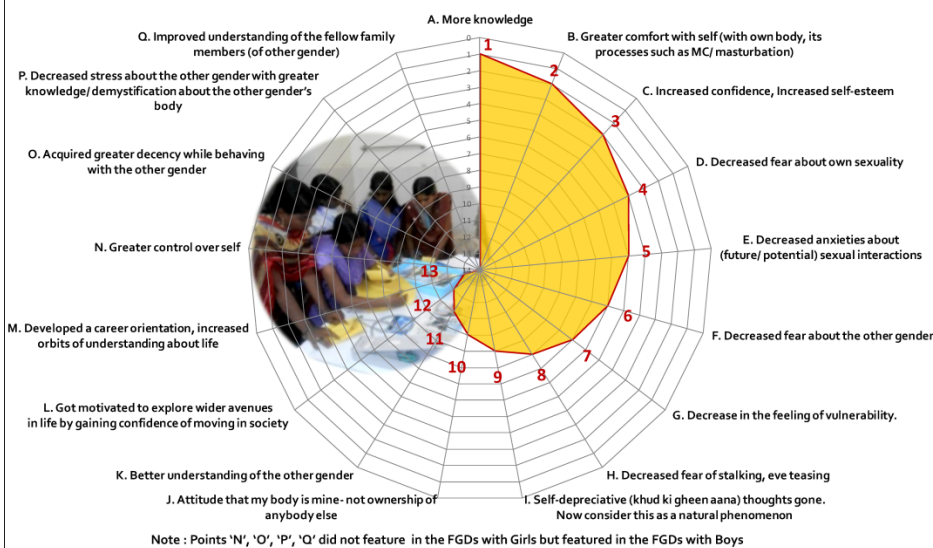
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## Rapid Assessment of Adolescent Friendly Health Clinics (AFHCs) for United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)



by International Center of Equity & Inclusion for Transformation of All India Institute of Local Self-Government

### Gender Segregated Analysis of Impacts of AFHCs on Adolescents: Ranking by GIRLS



#### Top 5 Impacts Ranked by Adolescent Girls.....

- Rank 1 **More knowledge**
- Rank 2 **Greater comfort with self (with own body, its processes such as MC/ masturbation)**
- Rank 3 **Increased confidence, Increased self-esteem**
- Rank 4 **Decreased fear about own sexuality**
- Rank 5 **Decreased anxieties about (future/ potential) sexual interactions**



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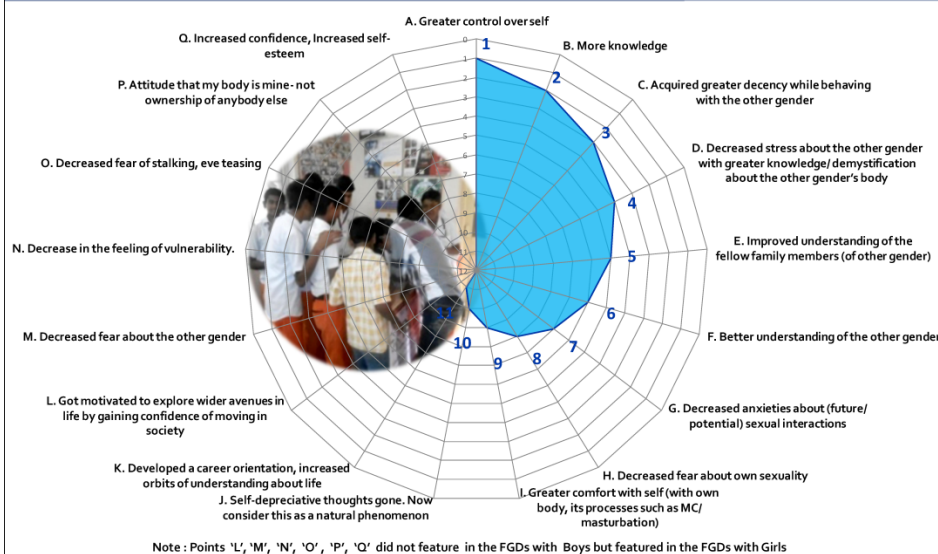


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### Gender Segregated Analysis of Impacts of AFHCs on Adolescents: Ranking by BOYS



#### Top 5 Impacts Ranked by Adolescent Boys.....

- Rank 1 **Greater control over self**
- Rank 2 **More Knowledge**
- Rank 3 **Acquired greater decency while behaving with the other gender**
- Rank 4 **Decreased stress about the other gender with greater knowledge/ demystification about the other gender's body**
- Rank 5 **Improved understanding of the fellow family members (of other gender)**



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## Rapid Assessment of Adolescent Friendly Health Clinics (AFHCs) for United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)



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### Parameters and Rankings of Needs Assessment vis-à-vis AFHCs by Adolescent Girls and Boys

Ranking by Girls	Parameters on Needs Assessment	Ranking by Boys
1	AFHCs to be closer than now- at PHC level and Urban Health Post level	5
2	Timings as per convenience of adolescents	1
3	Continued support- such as 24 hour helpline	2
4	Greater addressal of psychological/ emotional aspects	11
5	Deeper involvement of parents	8
6	Greater sensitization of other gender	0
7	Greater involvement of school/ college	7
8	ARSH Counselor of the same gender (where ever it was absent)	6
9	Suggestion box- to submit queries without name mentioned	3
10	Many more need this support- accelerating outreach to unserved	12
11	Many more need this support- accelerating outreach to greater numbers	13
12	Expanding set of activities/ recaptioning (to pre-empt/ counter taboo & stigma + as practical need too): (e.g. Communication skills, Livelihoods, etc.)	4
13	IEC Quality- making it more creative/ catchy	9
14	IEC Quantity- need for greater availability at schools, colleges	10



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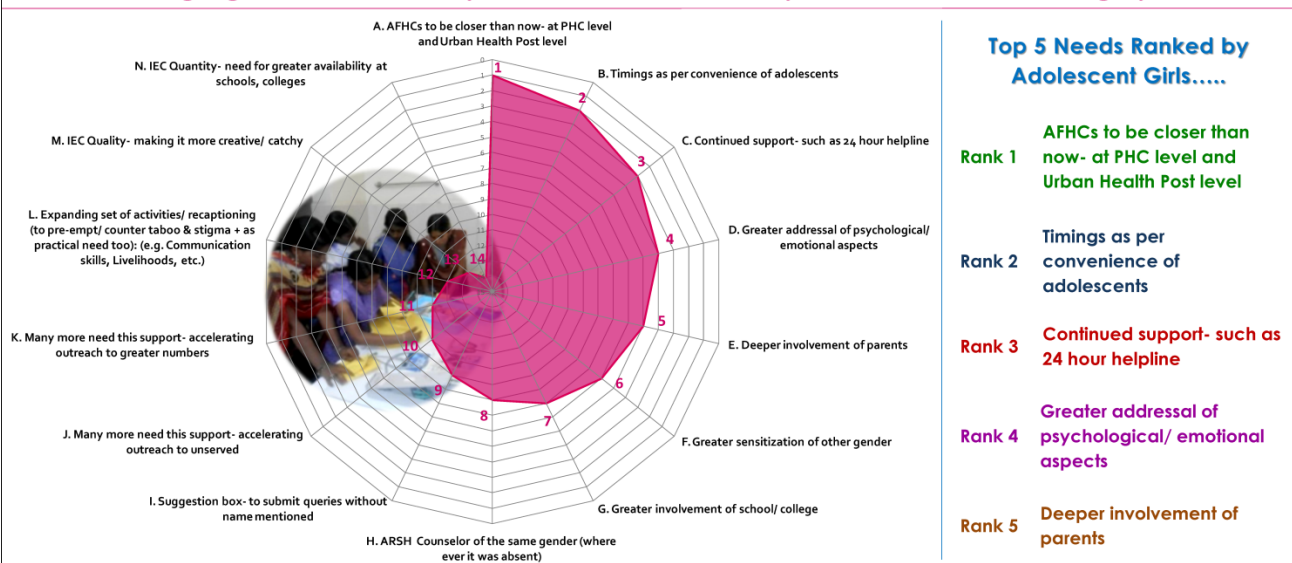


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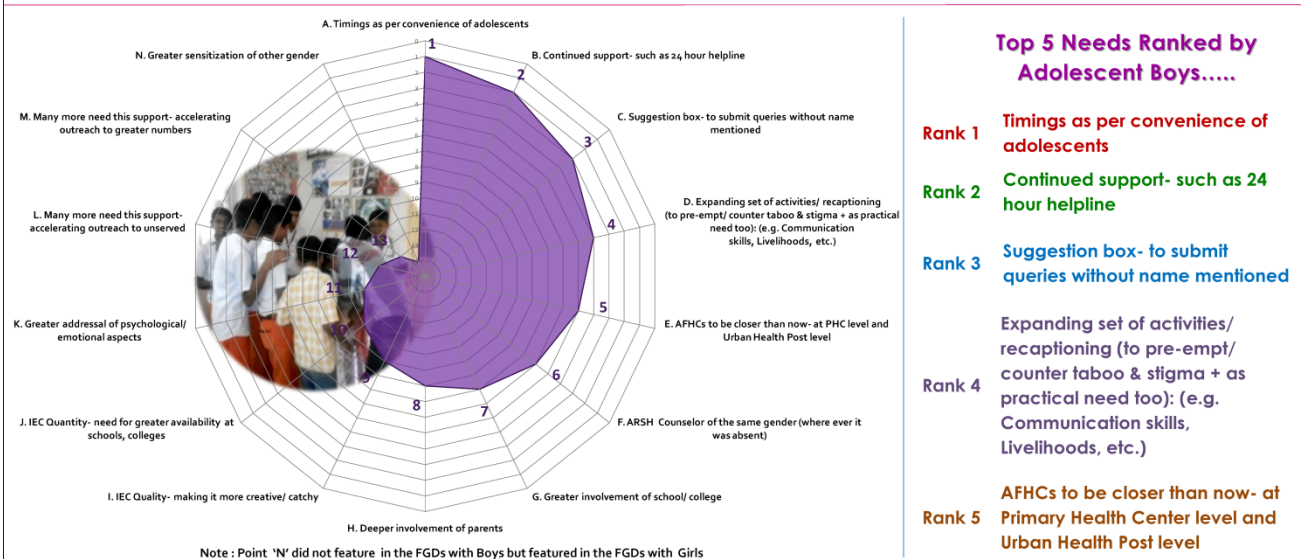
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## Rapid Assessment of Adolescent Friendly Health Clinics (AFHCs) for United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)



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### Gender Segregated Needs Analysis vis-à-vis AFHCs by Adolescents: Ranking by BOYS



#### Top 5 Needs Ranked by Adolescent Boys.....

- Rank 1** Timings as per convenience of adolescents
- Rank 2** Continued support- such as 24 hour helpline
- Rank 3** Suggestion box- to submit queries without name mentioned
- Rank 4** Expanding set of activities/ recaptioning (to pre-empt/ counter taboo & stigma + as practical need too): (e.g. Communication skills, Livelihoods, etc.)
- Rank 5** AFHCs to be closer than now- at Primary Health Center level and Urban Health Post level



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## **2. Work with the Under-Privileged Children:**

A very crucial aspect of humble contributions is making best efforts to address the plight of the under-privileged children. This work includes work with the children of the nomadic tribes, tribals, rural children and those from slums. The initiatives and concerned strategies include:

**a. Proactive field facilitation for enabling access to education, especially for children who are hitherto by and large deprived from mainstream education.**

### **If School Can't Reach Children, Education and Childhood Should Reach Them:**

An illustration is of children from nomadic tribes. Though there are no formal estimates, there are more than 1.8 million of these children. And many of them still haven't yet seen a school to experience formal education. The International Center of EQUI-T is working with its field partners in various regions of the country. In Maharashtra, these initiatives are currently more focused in Ahmednagar, Beed and Aurangabad districts. The effort is towards developing field pilots which profess a paradigm shift whereby 'if the underprivileged children can't reach schools, the education and childhood should reach them'.

For us, apart from the lack of access to academic school education, equally worrying concerns are complete loss of childhood and extremely impoverished quality of life for these children. Most of the underprivileged children are 'children' just for namesake vis-à-vis the physical age-group they are in. In reality the childhood bypasses them fast and with cruelty. The poverty and starvation are further aggravated by the physical and sexual exploitation these children, especially girls become more vulnerable to.

Illustratively, the loss of traditional livelihoods to the nomadic tribes is making many adolescent and youth girls from the community vulnerable to human trafficking and flesh trade. Thus the issues of the girls and adolescent girls occupy a special priority for us. In research, policy analysis and actions, the emphasis is on understanding gender-segregated dimensions of girls and boys apart from the common set of parameters.

A global innovation developed by us emerged from the UNFPA supported project 'Rapid Assessment of Adolescent Friendly Health Clinics'. The International Center of EQUI-T did a gender segregated analysis with adolescent girls and boys about the impacts of the Adolescent Friendly Health Clinics and future needs.

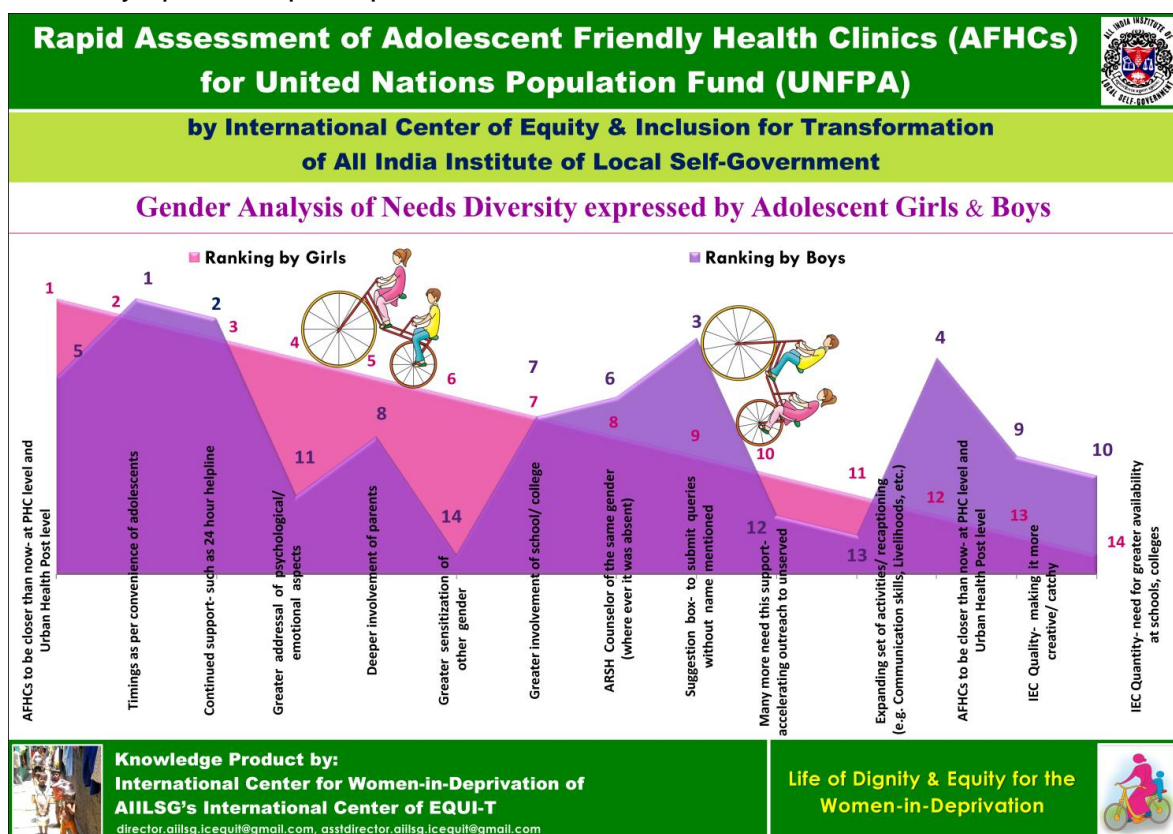
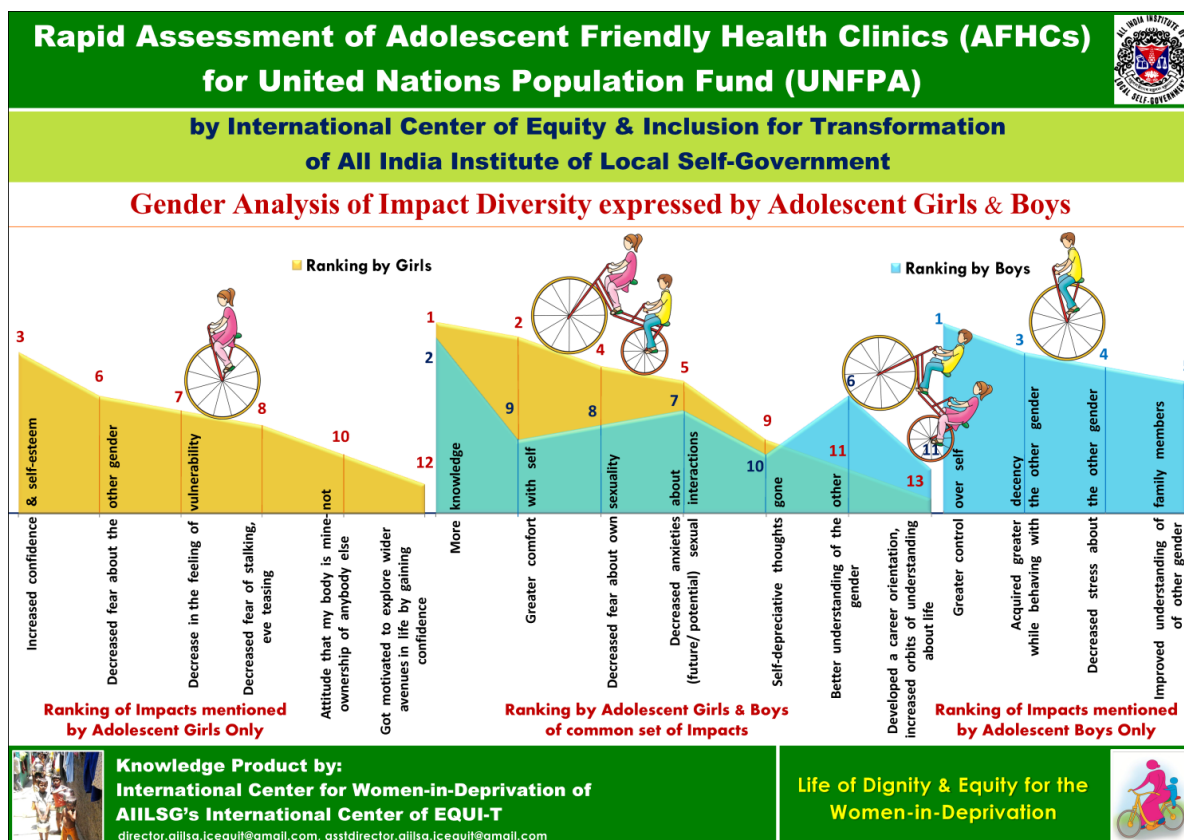


# AILSG International Center of EQUI-T's Humble Contributions to the Issues of Children & Under-privileged Children

The participatory qualitative research methodology in the form of gender segregated Focus Group Discussions was adopted keeping adolescent girls and boys at the center. Vital insights were gained through gender segregated

analysis of impacts and future needs from the perspectives of adolescent girls and boys. It has further resulted into a Global Innovation - the gender diversity analysis vis-à-vis perspectives of adolescent girls and boys put forth perhaps for the first time.

The findings and results from the analysis lead to the development of the knowledge product-Resource Kit titled 'Understanding Adolescents' utilized for sensitization and capacity building of stakeholders





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towards adolescents girls and boys diversity in needs and perspectives.

- The dynamics of deprivation from education of the underprivileged children is much more deep rooted and complex. It has origins in poverty, exclusion and socio-cultural evils such as casteism. Therefore AILLSG's International Center of EQUI-T adopts a holistic approach which addresses the multi-dimensional phenomenon.
- An important element of the strategy is working at the demand side as well as supply side. It is very crucial to motivate the children and parents themselves to prime the demand side. However, much sensitization and orientation needs to be undertaken for the supply side. The prejudices and biases of generations (e.g. considering the nomadic tribes as criminals as branded since British era for about 150 years) need to be overcome. We undertake sensitization for teachers, education department officers and local governments. AILLSG makes special efforts to spread the message through its programs with governments at various levels- local, district, state, national as well as international (especially for cross pollination of ideas, innovations, case studies, learnings and policy implications). Moreover it comprises sensitization of a diverse set of stakeholders such as elected representatives, government officials at various levels, policy makers, etc.
- The endeavor also includes assessment of existing policies, programs and schemes especially in the context of their effectiveness in reaching the unreached, serving the unserved. Illustratively, the International Center of EQUI-T's Researchers' Colloquium on Nomadic Tribes has thematic studies on 'Access to education of the nomadic tribe children'.

## **Sustainability:**

We appreciate the importance of imbibing Sustainability enhancing elements in addressing the solutions. Through the solutions such as 'Childhood on Wheels for Children in Deprivation' the deprivations are off-set in the short term by taking the education and childhood to the doorsteps of the children in deprivation. However, in the long term it is necessary to facilitate the deprived children to get education through mainstream and make the supply side accountable for it. We facilitate to bolster this through intense customized capacity building endeavors for the entire array of stakeholders involved and:

- Sensitization of parents will be a key sustainability strategy so that there will be encouragement and support for education of the underprivileged children from their families. This will be of crucial significance for participation of the girls in the mobile schools of 'Childhood on Wheels'.
- Involvement of the NGO, CBOs and Panchayats. This will provide a wide spread support and safety network to the cause.
- Sensitization of teachers, government machinery and other stakeholders so that they are receptive to enrolment of the deprived children in the mainstream.
- Very proactive involvement of the youth from the respective communities is sought because they form a crucial support group asserting the children's education. Most of them couldn't get education. However, exposure to the outside world is making them its importance and hence will form a strong facilitative stakeholder group.



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- 'Education Committees' will be formed in cluster of the families of these children based on the proximity of their habitations. These will be the community level sustainability nodes to ensure perpetual furtherance of the cause.

The educational initiatives also include working for the issues of homeless, street children dovetailed with the NEST Project of Pune Municipal Corporation while anchoring the Urban Poverty Alleviation and Livelihoods Cell of Pune on behalf of Pune Municipal Corporation and supported by Government of India. AILSG also proactively participated in enumeration of the homeless population in Pune during Census 2011 which was a dedicated mid-night drive.

AILSG with support from Babasaheb Ambedkar Research and Training Institute (BARTI) of Government of Maharashtra conducts trainings for youth from Scheduled Caste (SC) population on life skills and livelihoods. It is also entrusted by BARTI the trainings on research methodology for researchers and Ph.D. scholars from SC community.

The International Centre of EQUI-T has key innovations to its credit such as developing the framework for 'Gender Status Report' that is being used for a global-first report. Another global-first is the '(Access of the Poor to Water, Sanitation and Solid Waste Management) Equity Analysis Report' whereby equity-centric analysis for the access of the slum dwellers to the basic services of water, sanitation and solid waste management was done for all 248 cities in Maharashtra. This has led to valuable policy implications impacting lives of about 14 million slum dwellers and girls and women residing in them.

The initiatives towards educational empowerment for the under-privileged children are seen and tackled/ dealt holistically rather than merely focusing on scholastic education. One such initiative is inculcating health and hygiene behavioural practices among the children belonging to impoverished/ vulnerable tribals in Satara district.

Similar to above, the institution has sound field base in the proposed project area already working with the local community in a participatory manner for improving access to primary education to the children.

The organisation is already working for improving the quality of life of the Denotified and Nomadic Tribes (DNTs) and especially DNT children for many years as its own initiative. Its work on this till date includes:




1. **Research:** It has initiated a research on the status of the DNTs and a key focus is assessing their health and hygiene behaviour and education needs of DNT communities specifically of women and children. Apart from understanding the status of the DNT population, especially of DNT women and children, the research will also yield into-
  - a. Ethnographic profiles of the DNT tribes represented by the households surveyed
  - b. Greater insights into different facets of Education and Health status of DNT Women, Girls and Children.



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- c. Enhanced understanding of transition amongst DNTs in rural, tribal and urban settings and its impact on their status, including education and health status of women and children.
2. **Networking and capacity building:** Synergising with efforts of the entire array of stakeholders is a key strategy adopted by AILSG's International Center of EQUI-T. It enables to gain deeper insight into the real issues. This is very crucial considering the sensitive and hitherto unaddressed issue of reproductive health of women and adolescents from one of the most deprived and extremely conservative community of DNTs. AILSG has developed a strong grassroots network with the NGOs and CBOs working for the cause. Moreover, it provides need based capacity building inputs, mainly in the arena of development management, envisioning and strategic planning, to some of these NGOs.
  - a. AILSG plans to involve this network with stakeholders for undertaking further initiatives with the DNTs including the current proposal.
3. **Consultation Workshop:** One Consultation Workshop was undertaken in the month of August 2013 with the participation of the CBOs and NGOs. This workshop generated valuable inputs for developing a concept note on 'Working with the De-notified and Nomadic Tribes to address their Health Concerns, especially Reproductive Health of Women and Adolescent Reproductive Health'.
4. **Policy analysis:** Has developed the Concept Paper on 'Working with the De-notified and Nomadic Tribes to address their Health Concerns, especially Reproductive Health of Women and Adolescent Reproductive Health' mentioned above.
5. **Publications:** Our endeavours also include research publications by the team members working on the issues of DNTs.
  - a. Kanaskar, Gupta, Kulkarni, 2014, 'An Intense Blind Spot of Gender and Health in India Three times the size of Nordic Countries: Health & Reproductive Health Concerns of Denotified and Nomadic Tribe Women & Girls', International Multidisciplinary Research Journal, Indian Streams Research Journal, Volume 4, Issue 2, March 2014. (ISSN No. – 2230-7850).
6. **Researchers' Colloquium:** AILSG has formed a Researchers' Colloquium to encourage researchers to work with DNTs. This collaboration is slated to produce six thematic papers on various facets of the life of DNTs.

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**AN INTENSE BLIND SPOT OF GENDER AND HEALTH IN INDIA THREE TIMES THE SIZE OF NORDIC COUNTRIES: HEALTH & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CONCERNS OF DENOTIFIED AND NOMADIC TRIBE WOMEN & GIRLS**

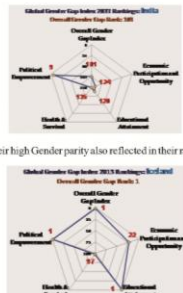
Shweta Gupta<sup>1</sup>, Mukesh Kanaskar<sup>2</sup> and V.V. Kulkarni<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Head, 'International Center for Women-in-Deprivation' of International Center of EQUI-T., Assistant Director, 'International Center of Equity and Inclusion for Transformation' of AILSG.  
<sup>2</sup>Director, 'International Center of Equity and Inclusion for Transformation' of AILSG  
<sup>3</sup>Director-International, All India Institute of Local Self-Government.  
<sup>4</sup>Associate Professor, Social Science Center, Bharati Vidyapeeth Deemed University

**Abstract:** The total population of Nordic Countries together is about 20 mn. One of the most deprived population on this earth this paper refers to is Denotified and Nomadic Tribes (DNT) in India whose total population is more than 110 mn and that of women & girls is more than 55 mn. Though this population of DNT is about 3 times the total size of Nordic countries, their health and reproductive health concerns are hardly addressed. They are at extreme periphery of health and social welfare policy and action.

**Keywords:** Health , Denotified and Nomadic , Intense Blind Spot.

**INTRODUCTION**



The Nordic Countries are known for their high Gender parity also reflected in their rankings in the Global Gender Gap

Shweta Gupta<sup>1</sup>, Mukesh Kanaskar<sup>2</sup> and V.V. Kulkarni<sup>3</sup> "AN INTENSE BLIND SPOT OF GENDER AND HEALTH IN INDIA THREE TIMES THE SIZE OF NORDIC COUNTRIES: HEALTH & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CONCERNS OF DENOTIFIED AND NOMADIC TRIBE WOMEN & GIRLS" Indian Streams Research Journal, Volume 4 | Issue 2 | March 2014 | Online & Print



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- 7. Policy advocacy:** AILSG is endeavoring to utilize its key positioning with governments at national, state and local level to the benefit of the communities in deprivation such as DNTs. This is effected by apart from proactive liaising, embedding the dissemination in the current capacity building programs, workshops and conferences.

### **Dissemination and Knowledge Management:**

It is necessary to undertake cross pollination of learnings and innovations within the concerned stakeholders. The Dissemination efforts are to be effective. We are attaining this through development of state of the art knowledge products such as IEC material, Portable dissemination kits, AV Documentation, etc.



# AILSG International Center of EQUI-T's Humble Contributions to the Issues of Children & Under-privileged Children

## UPS Jetair Corporate Social Responsibility Volunteerism Workshop: Brainstorming Session on 'Improving Access of Education to Under-Privileged Children'

AILSG's International Center of EQUI-T feels endowed to have synergies of sensitivities with lot many other agencies to make progress on the front of bringing childhood to children in deprivation.

It networks with other NGOs, Corporate Social Responsibility units and other stakeholders. It tries to learn from experiences of the others and share its own learnings through various avenues. Illustratively, the Volunteerism Workshop it had organised on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2014 for UPS Jetair Pvt. Ltd. whose Corporate Social Responsibility is doing a leoman's service in this regard through volunteerism of its employees. UPS Jetair Pvt. Ltd. is the largest courier logistics company in the world. The Volunteerism Workshop we conducted with UPS Jetair Pvt. Ltd. focused on cross-pollination of innovations and learnings, and brainstorming for 'bringing childhood to children in deprivation'. This process is envisaged to result into a **'Compendium of Innovations in Improving Access of Education to Under-Privileged Children'**.

### Brainstorming Session on 'Improving Access of Education to Under-Privileged Children'

