

ABOUT PLAN INDIA

Plan India is a nationally registered not for profit organisation striving to advance children's rights and equality for girls, thus creating a lasting impact in the lives of vulnerable and excluded children and their communities.

Since 1979, Plan India has improved the lives of millions of children, girls and young people by enabling them access to quality education, healthcare services, protection, a healthy environment, livelihood opportunities and participation in decisions which affect their lives.

Plan India is a member of the Plan International Federation, an independent development and humanitarian organisation that advances children's rights and equality for girls. Plan International works in more than 75 countries worldwide.



www.planindia.org

Plan India

1, Community Centre, Zamrudpur, Kailash Colony Extension, New Delhi - 110048, India

Phone: +91-11-46558484

Fax: +91-11-46558443

Email: planindia@planindia.org

Website: www.planindia.org



PROJECT GARIMA

EQUALITY • LAW • ENTITLEMENT

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INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

The Constitution of India guarantees fundamental rights to all its citizens regardless of their gender, caste, class, ethnicity, religion, age, or birthplace, promoting the preservation of human dignity and equality. These rights serve as protective measures against different forms of discrimination and provide legislative action against exploitation, striving to achieve the goals of egalitarianism. We analyze key indicators of girls' rights and gender equality, such as child marriages, gender-based violence, school dropouts, workforce participation, access to family planning and contraception, and teenage pregnancies. We unpack the often-used percentages into absolute numbers to indicate the enormity of the issue. These numbers pose a challenge not only to India but also to the world in achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG-5.

GENESIS OF PROJECT GARIMA

The Constitution of India provides a range of legislation to safeguard girls and women. However, the lack of awareness among girls and women, particularly from underprivileged communities, inhibits their access to their "Rights and Entitlements." Besides the low awareness of women's own rights, weak law enforcement and a lack of gender-sensitive implementation mechanisms at various levels contribute to the perpetuation of violence against them.

Plan India recognizes the importance of grassroots approaches and has been working for children's rights and gender equality in India for the last four decades. Through our experience of working with girls and women, we realized the need to educate them about their rights and how to access and achieve them. In light of this, Plan India launched a pilot project titled "Project Garima," an initiative through which we seek to provide legal literacy and awareness to girls and young women aged between 15 to 24 years about their "Constitutional Rights" and how they can access them.

This process will help empower girls (and boys) by helping them understand key laws that affect their lives and the justice system, and prepare them to tackle any hurdles through legal processes while informing them about the statutory rights and benefits available through government welfare schemes.

PROJECT GOAL

By 2025 10 million Girls and Young Women from underprivileged communities get justice, can effectively access legal rights and entitlements through existing mechanisms and Government welfare schemes.

OBJECTIVES

01

To improve awareness and understanding of basic rights and legal entitlements that safeguard young women aimed at enabling their access to legal aid, justice and entitlements



02

Transform lives of 2,000 girls and young women in the urban slums of Delhi by building capacities on their legal rights and enabling them to access their entitlements through Government's welfare schemes and programme



TARGET POPULATION

10 MILLION

adolescent girls and young women from underprivileged families, School going, part of SHG or other community level groups.

100 PRIORITY DISTRICTS

Out of 745 districts, 100 high priority districts with low gender and girls' rights indicators have been selected.



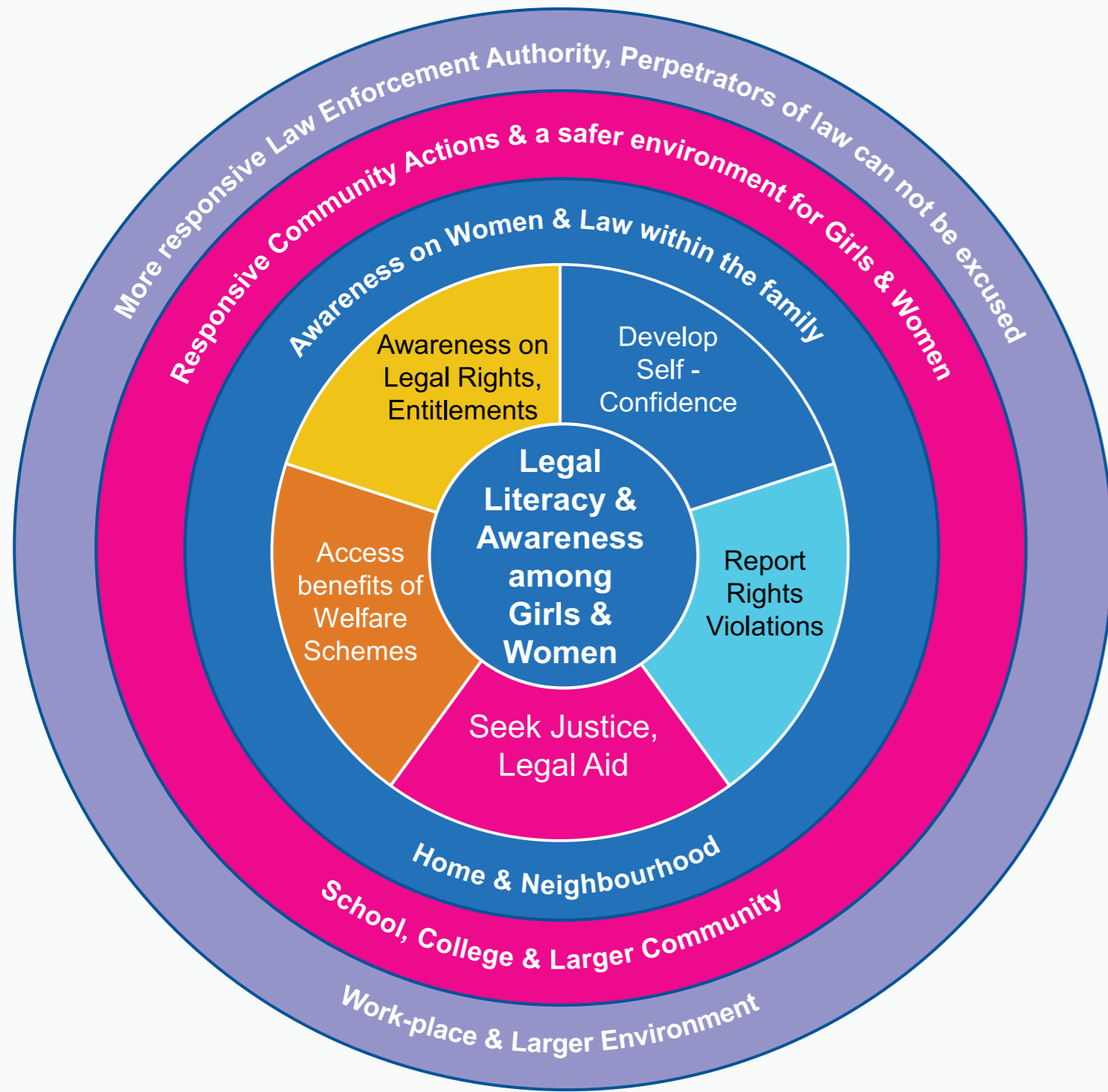
PROJECT SCHEMATIC



KEY ACTIVITIES UNDER THIS INITIATIVE

- 01** **Spreading awareness on Legal Literacy** through a trained group of frontline workers called 'Legal Literacy Volunteers (LLV)'. The LLVs organize Legal Literacy sessions in urban slums of Delhi and in rural UP. They also identify the motivated Girls or Young Women from the communities who agree to join us as Legal Literacy Mitras (LLM) and the LLVs to set-up Legal Literacy Circles (LLC) in their neighborhoods.
- 02** **Set up and strengthen Project Management Unit:** PMU is a composition of staff with diverse background and expertise like Law, Gender Studies, Communication, IT etc. It works under the guidance of a Technical Advisory Group comprised of a retired Judge of Supreme Court of India, two Board Members and the Executive Director, of Plan India.
- 03** **Collaboration with Law Colleges:** We collaborate with Law Colleges and Universities to support the project. After an orientation on Project Garima, Student Interns are encouraged to facilitate legal literacy sessions in different locations as per their convenience and help to expand the program outreach through this collaboration.
- 04** Design and develop "Legal Literacy Trainers Kit" to equip the LLVs, Student Interns to conduct the Legal Literacy sessions in the communities. The kit contains the synthesis of 5-8 most important legislations pertaining to women, details about Govt. Welfare Schemes, IEC materials, handouts and the application procedure to access benefits of the entitlements.
- 05** **Set up E-Resource Centre:** Our ambition is to make Garima a **Digital First Initiative**. Through community-level processes, we are forming **Legal Literacy Circles** in Plan India project locations, where LL circles organise discussions on legal literacy and facilitate access to law and entitlements. Additionally, we aim to use technology to reach girls and young women beyond Plan intervention areas through online and packaged sessions. We are currently setting up an E-Resource Centre, which will serve as a repository of information about laws, how to access them, complaint mechanisms, entitlements and benefits of government welfare schemes. Trained lawyers and counselors will guide and facilitate access to relevant information for girls and young women.
- 06** **Collaboration with community-based organisations:** We are engaging Community Based Organisations (CBOs/NGOs) to spread awareness. CBOs are acting as social accelerators for the project, helping us deepen the impact of the legal literacy trainings provided in communities and schools.
- 07** **Collaboration with State and District Legal Services Authorities:** In order to create greater impact, we provide information and referrals to girls, women, and their families who are in need of legal aid. We collaborate with district and State Legal Services Authorities in the target districts, seek technical support and information which are often sought by girls, women and their families.

THEORY OF CHANGE



Plan India aims to improve the lives and promote the welfare of girls and young women, especially from underprivileged families and communities, by enhancing their knowledge of legal rights and entitlements. This will enable them to seek justice when denied it, access legal entitlements, and benefit from the government's social protection schemes and welfare services.

Thank you for your support in promoting equality and justice for every girl & women in India

