
PROJECT GARIMA - GIRLS STANDING TALL

**TRANSFORMING LIVES OF GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN THROUGH
LEGAL LITERACY AND AWARENESS**



The biggest form of women empowerment is to make women aware of their legal rights so that they can be their own torch bearers. Legal awareness gives women a chance to live a dignified way of life." National Commission of Women report 2021,



INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT:

The Constitution of India guarantees fundamental rights to its citizens irrespective of their gender, caste or class, ethnicity, religion, age or birth place, that promote the preservation of human dignity and equality. These rights serve as protective factors against different forms of discrimination and provide legislative action against exploitation that strive to achieve the goals of egalitarianism. We unpack the often used percentage on key girls rights and gender equality indicators e.g. child marriages, gender based violence; school drop-out, workforce participation, access to family planning and contraception, teenage pregnancies etc. into absolute numbers to indicate the enormity of the issue and these numbers challenge not just India but the world towards achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, especially the SDG -5.

GENESIS OF PROJECT GARIMA:

The constitution of India provides an array of legislations to safeguard the girls and women however the lack of awareness among girls and women, particularly from underprivileged communities inhibits their access to 'Rights and Entitlements'. Besides the low awareness among women on their own rights, a weak law enforcement, lack of gender sensitive implementation mechanism at various levels contribute to the perpetuation of violence against them.

Plan India relies the importance of grass-root approaches and have been working for children's rights and equality for girls and women in India for last four decades. In course of our experience of working with girls and women, we realised the need to educate them about their rights and on the pathways through which they can access and achieve their rights. IN light of this, Plan India launched a pilot project titled "Project Garima", the initiative through which we seek to provide legal literacy and awareness to girls and young women between the age of 15 to 24 years on their 'Constitutional Rights' and inform them on how they can access their legal rights and entitlements. This process will help empower girls (and boys) by helping them understand key laws that affect their lives, the justice system, and will prepare them to tackle any hurdle through legal process and also informs about the statutory rights and benefits through Govt. 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.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

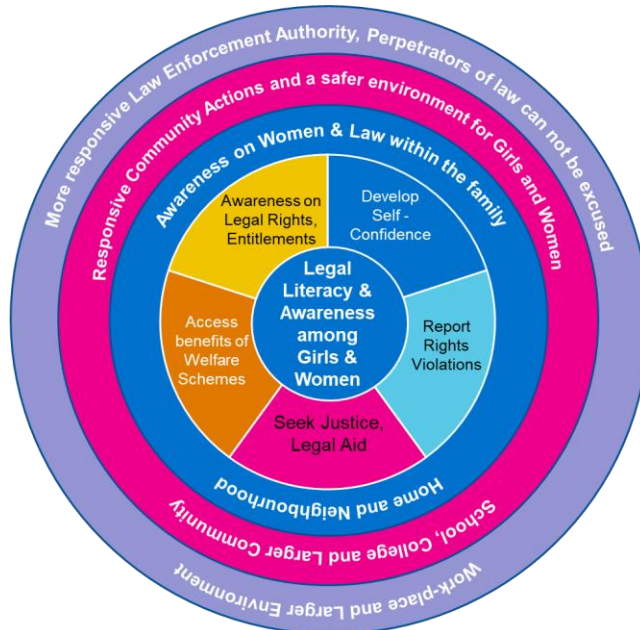
- i. To improve awareness and understanding of basic rights and legal entitlements that safeguard young women aimed at enabling their access to legal aid, justice and entitlements.
- ii. Transform lives of 2000 girls and young women in the urban slums of Delhi by building capacities on their legal rights and enabling them to access their entitlements through Government's welfare schemes and programs.

KEY ACTIVITIES UNDER THIS INITIATIVE:

a) 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.

- b) **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.
- c) **Collaboration with Law Colleges:** We seek support from the Law Colleges and Universities. 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.
- d) **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.
- e) **Collaboration with community based organisations:** We are engaging Community Based Organisations (CBOs/NGOs) to spread the awareness. CBOs are acting as social accelerator of the project. This collaboration is helping us to deepen the impacts of the legal literacy trainings imparted in the communities and schools.
- f) **Collaboration with State and District Legal Services Authorities:** In order to create greater impact, we provide information and referral to the girls and women who are in need of Legal - Aid. We collaborate with district & State Legal Services Authorities in the target districts, seek technical support and information which are often sought by girls, women and their families.

GARIMA CHAKRA - THEORY OF CHANGE



Plan India aims to improve the life situation, promote the welfare and wellbeing of girls and young women, especially from underprivileged families and communities by improving their knowledge on the legal rights and entitlements. As a result they would be able to seek justice when they are denied the same; can enjoy their rights by accessing legal entitlements and the benefits of Government’s social protection schemes and welfare services.

PROJECT REACH AND IMPACT:

| Moth-wise Reach of Girls & YW | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| State/ Location | May | June | July | August | September | October | Total Reach |
| Mall | 633 | 945 | 1317 | 1560 | 1292 | 1411 | 7202 |
| Delhi | 1108 | 1530 | 1837 | 1796 | 1721 | 1634 | 9626 |
| Total | 1824 | 2475 | 3154 | 3194 | 3013 | 3045 | 16828 |

- Between May to October, 2022, we have successfully reached out 16828 Girls and Young Women and trained on Legal Literacy in the urban slums of Delhi and in Mall Block of Uttar Pradesh
- Project Garima also helped to transform the lives of Girls and Young Women. We have on-boarded 22 educated, young women as Legal Literacy Volunteers. The LLVs have expressed their journey with the project in following manner:
 - The LLVs feel more confident now, they can visit the police stations, can file the complaints when required.
 - They have gained the confidence through Trainings and Practices which increased their legal knowledge & understanding
 - The LLVs become successful in convincing their parents, husbands & in-laws in order to take up this work.
 - The LLVs have acquired the skill to deal with the people/ communities. Now they can build a 'Relationship of Trust' and help the communities to connect with them better.
 - We are making 'Conscious Efforts' to engage boys and men in the legal literacy and empowerment process. There has been quite a good response and participation received in this regard.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN PROMOTING EQUALITY AND JUSTICE FOR EVERY GIRL & WOMEN IN INDIA