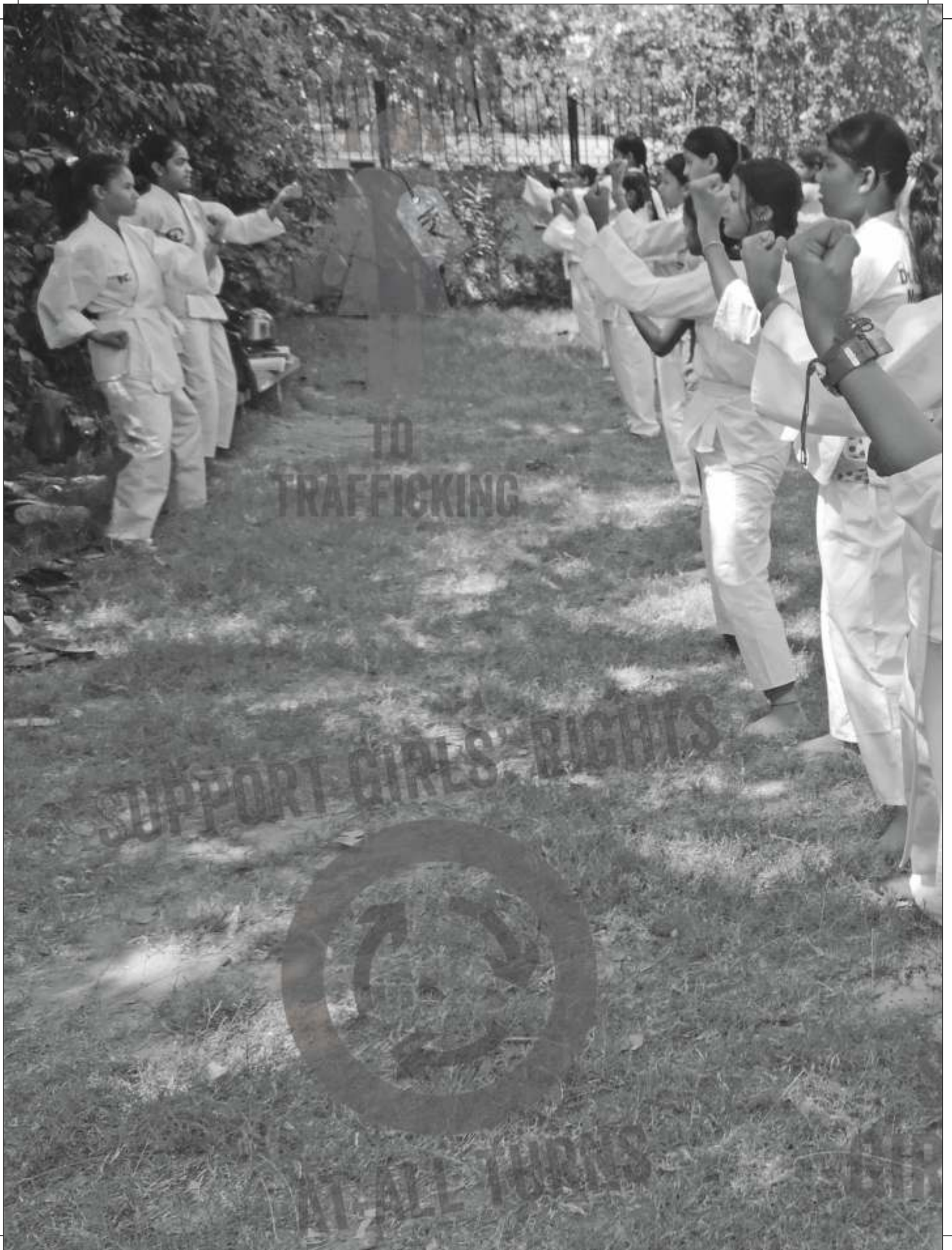




Because I am a Girl

THE STATE OF GIRLS IN INDIA 2016

sustainable development Goals & Gender





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SUPPORT

RIGHTS



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P r e f a c e

'Girls 2030' is Plan's global campaign to create a world that values girls, promotes girls' rights and ends injustice. The focus areas of the campaign seeks to address roots of gender deprivation and empower girls to Learn, Lead, Decide and Thrive. Since 2009, Plan India has been investing in an annual research on the state of girls in India. This flagship annual publication portrays critical situations of young girls and women in society, highlights the glaring gaps in policy and implementation of different programmes and schemes that virtually blithe the well-being of young girls and women in society.

The 'State of Girls in India 2016' "Because I Am A Girl" report highlights the issues related to Gender Biased Sex Selection (GBSS), with special focus on 'SDG 5: Achieve Gender Equality' and 'Empower All Women and Girls'.

The report highlights the urgent need for establishing rigorous research and evaluation systems for measuring progress on SDG 5. The report recommends developing SDG 5 tracker dashboard that can utilize new technologies and put in place effective data collection, analysis and presentation methods. Implementation tools may need to be developed through targeted research at the national, state and district levels during the of policy planning. Capacity building programmes should be initiated, so that development practitioners can be prepared to take a strong leadership role in integrating SDGs implementation.

We hope that this report can spurt government and civil society to establish the targets till 2030 and take forward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

We thank European Commission for supporting the study.



Bhagyashri Dingle
Executive Director, Plan India



List of acronyms

BIAAG	Because I Am A Girl
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CSP	Country Strategic Plan
CSR	Child Sex Ratio
CSS	Centrally Sponsored Schemes
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GARV	Girls' Aspirations Rights and Values
GBSS	Gender-biased sex selection
GoD	Government of Delhi
GOI	Government of India
IAEG	Inter-Agency Expert Group
INGO	International Non-Government Organisation
IPC	Indian Penal Code
IPV	Intimate Partner Violence
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MTP	Medical Termination of Pregnancy
NFHS	National Family Health Survey
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
NSDS	National Sustainable Development Strategies
NSSO	National Sample Survey Organisation
PCPNDT	Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act, 1994
RIS	Research and Information Systems
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SE	Standard Error
SO	Strategic Objective
SRB	Sex Ratio at Birth
SRH	Sexual Reproductive Health
SRS	Simple Random Sampling
SSDN	Sustainable Development Network
U5MR	Under five Mortality Rate
UN	United Nations
VAW	Violence Against Women



Executive Summary

The 'Because I Am A Girl (BIAAG) 2016' report examines the status of the girl child in India vis-à-vis the newly formed global Sustainable Development Goals. The report findings portray, Indian girl child remains vulnerable and discriminated against, most importantly, even before birth.

The report depicts the success of the Sustainable Development Goals rests to a large extent on effective monitoring, review and follow-up. We find that SDG indicators are the foundation of this new global framework for mutual accountability and that there is a clear need for an indicator framework comprising 230 indicators to monitor the SDGs' 169 targets.

Reflecting agenda 2030's guiding principle of "leaving no one behind", indicators are set to be disaggregated by gender, age, income, geography, occupation and other aspects of social identity, which creates the space and mandate for India to set its own national targets and priorities that work to enforce SDGs for the benefit of the girl child at the local level.

For a government to plan and monitor the impact of its policies, it must be able to benchmark data and see progress within a span of time to that end we present a SDG tracker and methodology that may well serve as a model to track progress of SDGs as per commitments.

SDG targets are strongly interlinked, it is important to understand that the actions that will drive progress do not necessarily fit within the current responsibilities of Indian ministries. Even though most SDG targets link up with existing policy areas in India and there is a greater need for integrated planning and action across policy areas. It is also important to generate awareness about the necessity of taking ownership of SDGs by the CSOs, corporate sector, and international agencies. Clearly, no meaningful national implementation plan can be developed without an inclusive, government-led process to interpret the SDG goals and targets, for the specific national context. It is important also to stress that interpreting the SDGs at the national level is both a time and resource intensive task. To this end, a national vision is key as is national commitment.

Current international efforts on monitoring of the SDGs are focused on establishing a set of common global indicators of progress, and building the capacity of countries to develop technical report based on the indicators.



Introduction

The situation of inequitable gender relationships is visible in all spheres of life, such as between female workers and male employers, wives and husbands, male and female children and so on, and this has rationalised the legitimacy of gender-based discrimination. As a result, the reality is that women and girls experience gender based discrimination over their lifespan, at homes, schools, places of worship, workplaces, and public spaces and even in therapeutic settings. Kelly¹ uses the concept of continuum of 'violence' (discrimination is also a form of violence against women (VAW) to refer, on the one hand, to the fact that the common character in violence is that men use a variety of forms of abuse, coercion and force in order to control women, and, on the other hand, to the continuous elements that pass into one another and cannot be distinguished, which constitute a range of abuses, coercions and force that women experience. Kelly argues that this last meaning serves to explain that depending on how women subjectively define the experiences they have; these experiences will fall into or out of a given category of discrimination.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) seek to change the course of the 21st century, addressing key challenges such as poverty, inequality, and violence against women. SDGs also recognize categorically that women's empowerment is a pre-condition for this. Women have a critical role to play in all of the SDGs, with

many targets specifically recognizing women's equality and empowerment as both the objective, and as part of the solution. SDG Goal 5 is critically devoted to achieve the goal of gender equality.²

Deep legal and legislative changes are needed to ensure women's rights around the world and despite legal safe-guards to this end, gender discrimination is still woven through legal and social norms, as is the case with India. Stark gender disparities remain in economic and political realms. While there has been some progress over the decades, on average women in the labour market still earn 24 percent less than men globally, and only 22 percent of all national parliamentarians are female³.

Meanwhile, violence against women is a pandemic affecting all countries, even those that have made laudable progress in other areas⁴. Worldwide, 35 per cent of women have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence. Prominently absent from the MDGs, the SDGs for the first time acknowledge the elimination of VAW as an explicit global goal. The SDGs point out that guarantees to women's equality and attendant safeguards, must be embedded across legal systems, upheld in both laws and legal practices, including proactive measures such as quotas. Since all areas of life relate to gender equality, efforts must be made to address the root causes of gender discrimination.

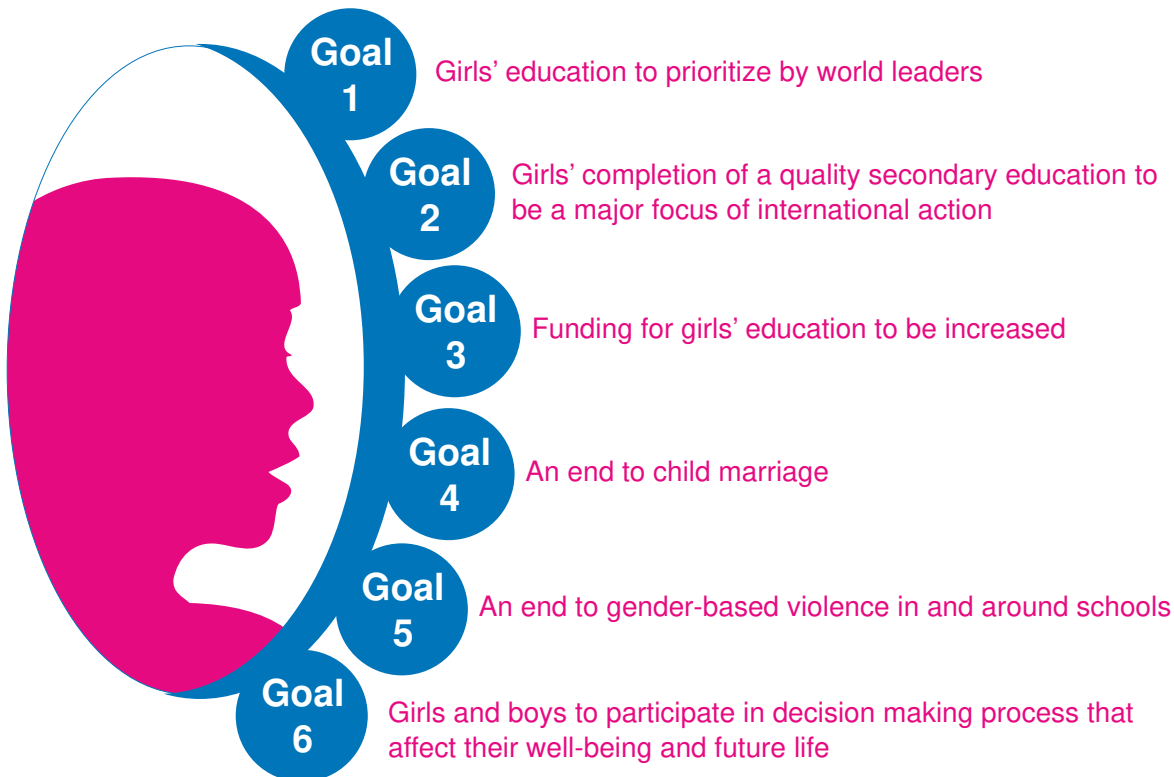
Gender-based discrimination has multiple and multidimensional effects for women's life. In other words, gender-based discrimination as a phenomenon has consequences at diverse spheres of women's life like health, labour, family and social relations, housing, social and political participation, etc. Thus, it has an unquestionable impact in the quality of life of women, reducing their capacities of development and well-being. In this way, we understand that gender-based discrimination becomes a mainstream factor crossing and affecting all dimensions of women's life, undermining women's personal and social well-being, deteriorating their quality of life and increasing their vulnerability in a society where women already face gender based discrimination in society.

Research Objectives

Plan India is committed to the cause of children, especially girls. In addition to its programming initiatives to address issues of gender inequality. Plan's Because I Am A Girl campaign is working to create a world that values girls, promotes their rights and ends injustice.

Plan is working with girls, communities, traditional leaders, governments, global institutions and the private sector to address the barriers that prevent girls from completing their education. Because I Am A Girl campaign advocates girl's and women's rights and support millions of girls in getting quality education, requisite skills that are necessary to lead a decent life.

Plan's 'Because I Am A Girl' campaign is calling for:



As part of this initiative, Plan India commissions and brings out annual research reports on the issues of the girl child in India. The 'State of the Girl Child in India' annual reports provide tangible proof of the inequalities which still exist between girls and boys, and thus extend support to the campaign in favour of girls. The report extends concrete recommendations on

ways to tackle gender inequality and ensure that every girl is able to realize her full potential.

Because I Am A Girl is a global movement to transform power relations so that girls everywhere learn, lead, decide and thrive. Till date, BIAAG initiatives have created substantial changes in the lives of the girls and women at large.

Plan India has come up with annual report series namely:

2009

Because I am a Girl : The State of the Girl Child in India

The report has inquired into the issues and practices of gender discrimination faced by the girl child and adolescent girls and recommendations to address the issues of survival of the girl child, challenges during the early years of schooling. The report specifically focuses on changing social norms and addressing discriminatory practices prevailing in the environment against girls.

2010

Because I am a Girl : The State of the Girl Child in India

Girls in Changing Landscape, Urban and Digital Frontier

The report covers various aspects of lives of adolescent girls in the cities, along with growing urbanization and digital space. It effectively articulates opportunities and barriers to girls in face of new challenges for development.

2011

Because I am a Girl : The State of the Girl Child in India

Engaging Men and Boys towards Gender Equality

The report analyses the role men and boys can play in ensuring survival of the girl child and development to her fullest potential from infancy, through adolescence and motherhood. The report also analyses perceptions and behaviour with respect to economic independence and gender stereotypes.

2012

Because I am a Girl : The State of the Girl Child in India

Learning for Life

The report highlights critical factors that influence the transition from primary to secondary education among girls, especially from the most excluded and vulnerable families.

2013

Because I am a Girl : The State of the Girl Child in India

Situation of Adolescent Girls in Disasters

The report explores the situation of adolescent girls in natural disasters. This report is a way forward to understand the situation, issues and challenges faced by girls in the aftermath of natural disasters.

2014

Because I am a Girl : The State of the Girl Child in India

Pathways of Power – Creating Sustainable Change for Adolescent Girls

The report has inquired into the dynamics of power and their impact on girls' rights and empowerment. It identifies priorities: in terms of investments to be made for their development and addressing societal and structural barriers that impact their lives and decisions.

2015

Because I am a Girl : The State of the Girl Child in India

What Next ?

The year 2015 also marks the concluding year of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and the transition to new strategic goals namely Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) including the incorporation of emerging national priorities for women and child rights in India in the context of the SDGs framework. Plan India, also embarks upon the path laid out by the new CSP, that specifically commits to integrating principles, strategies and programmes for gender equality and social inclusion, while also implementing flagship programmes to address issues that place girls at risk or disadvantage. This report has considered the BIAAG reports of preceding years, references from materials related to the issues of concern, as well as a perspective from policy makers, opinion influencers and civil society experts engaged in addressing issues that impact the girl child in the country. The deliberations suggest a number of future directions for programmatic consideration.

What Next ?

The key recommendations from this report are:

- **Invest in girls and young women:** Listening to them and providing increased opportunities for participation in all decision making process. For girls to grow and realize their full potential, it is very important that they are provided with an enabling environment in all spheres of life too.
- **Creating safety net for girls:** The series of research monographs has brought to light issues at home, educational institutions, work place, streets or cyber space where women are subjected to violence and abuse. Therefore, it is important to make all these spaces safe for girls and women. Promote and strengthen alliances, networks and multi-stakeholder efforts at all levels to ensure safe and secure future of girls and women.
- **Change attitude:** The key challenges lie in transformative change, where policy makers, various government departments and civil society organisations need to develop strong collaborative approach. Plan has robust field experience and strategic expertise in programme implementation that will help to contribute towards the cause. Work with the government to prepare a time bound focused plan of action to end violence against girls and women.
- **Push and support Post-MDG 2015 framework and influence the government to improve data collection and reporting on girls and women:** The Government as the most important stakeholder ensure greater accountability towards the cause of girls and women by strengthening data collection methods and practices at district, state and national levels. This includes robust and segregated data collection systems to help in pragmatic policy making and practical approach to programme implementation. Moreover, proper investment in rigorous monitoring systems and evaluations of various programme and schemes would help to ensure desirable results. Initiatives for gender-response budgeting needs to be addressed for the specific rights and needs of girls and women.

Because I am a Gr I : The State of Gr I Child In India 2016: SDGs and Gender

As stated above one of the key recommendation of the last year's report is to do a sectorial review and support the government in tracking SDGs.

As Plan India follows a lifecycle approach; the current study tried to review the gender aspect with a special focus on GBSS which is the first challenge faced by girls even at pre-natal stage.

The study is focused to address three key areas -

To assess positioning of India towards achieving of SDGs with focus on Gender based discrimination and violence.

To Identify the potential areas of interventions to be taken by Plan India for tracking and contributing to SDGs in line with CSP IV objectives

To suggest a SDG tracker (methodology)

Plan India is committed to the cause of children, especially girls. In addition to its programming initiatives to address issues of gender inequality, the global Because I Am A Girl campaign, is working to create a world that values girls, promotes their rights and ends injustice.

The Status of the Girl Child 2015 report, was important from a strategic and organizational perspective – given that it was the 20th anniversary of the historic UN World Conference on Women in Beijing, the concluding year of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and year of transition to the new global goals including the incorporation of emerging national priorities for women and child rights in India. Last year (2015) was also the year that Plan India embarked on the new Country Strategy Plan (CSP) that specifically commits to integrating principles, strategies and programmes for gender equality and social inclusion, while also implementing flagship programmes to address issues that place girls at risk or disadvantage. Appropriately titled thus, *“Because I am a Girl: The State of the Girl Child In India 2015: What Next?”*, the report considered BIAAG reports of preceding years, references from materials related to the

issues of concern, as well as some perspectives from policy makers, opinion influencers and civil society experts engaged in addressing issues that impact the girl child in the country.

Specifically, the current BIAAG report tries to achieve the below mentioned two objectives with respect to post 2015 Development Agenda;

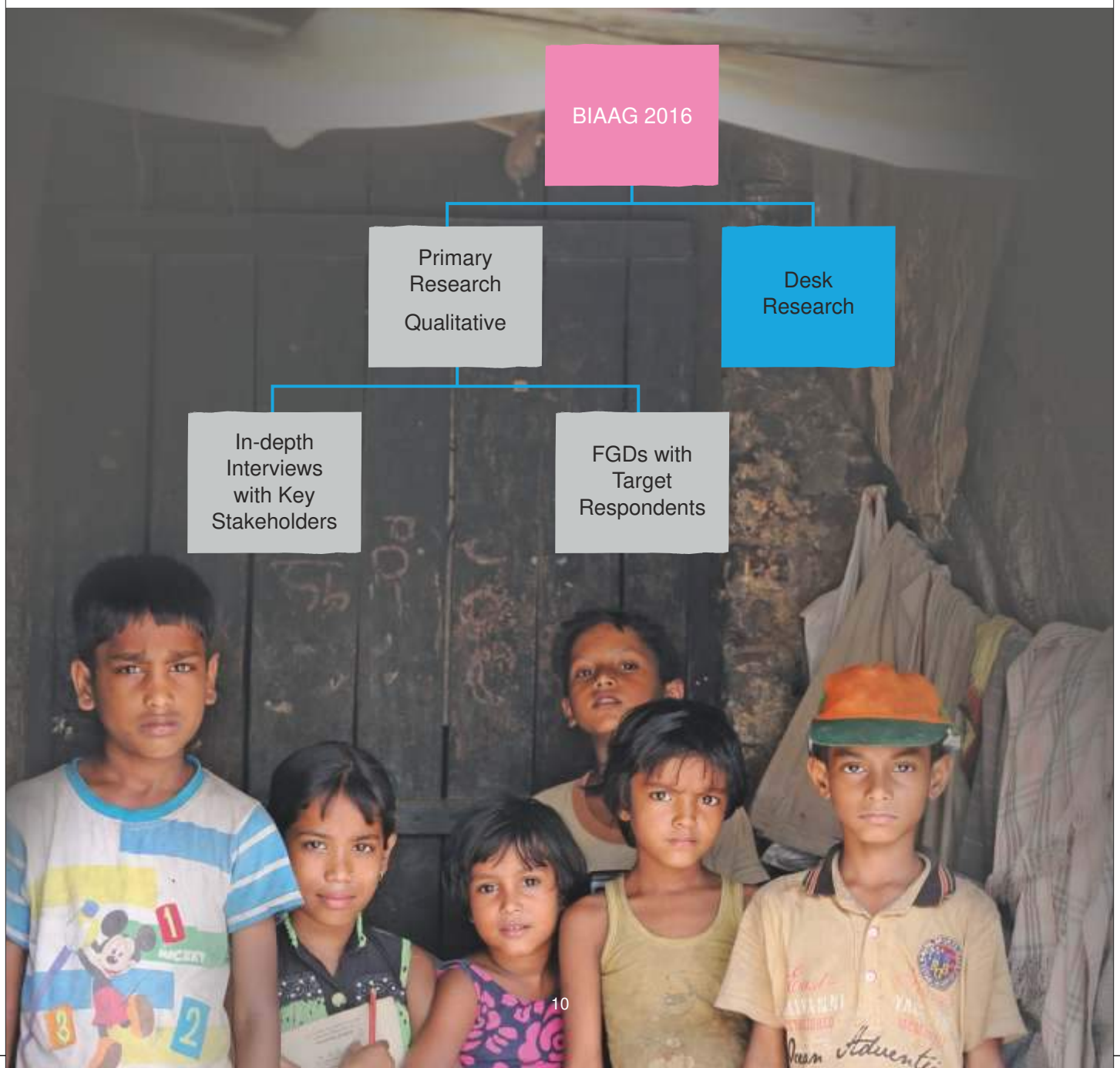
- Is India in a position to fulfil the commitments of SDGs and specifically on SDG5, from a gender-lens?
- What are the potential areas of interventions to be undertaken by Plan India for tracking and contributing to SDGs in line with Country Strategy Plan-IV objectives of Plan India?

Given that Plan India follows a lifecycle approach, this report assessed the status of the girl child (and women) emphasizing on pre-natal discrimination often manifested in the forms of gender-biased sex selection along with extensive literature review and stakeholder consultations around gender inequalities, current situation and direction for future progression in an SDG world.



research design

The research design included primary data collection focused on GBSS in three states as well as extensive desk research, as outlined below:



Sample Methodology

For the purpose of sampling of districts, blocks and Primary Sampling Units (PSUs) for consultations⁵ – primarily with beneficiaries and other community level leaders and influencers the following sampling methodology was adopted:

1. The sampling of the districts was purposive.
2. Three districts per state were sampled, out of which two were Plan India intervention districts and 1 per state, was a comparative non-intervention district in close proximity to the Plan India intervention districts.
3. The non-intervention comparison district was chosen based on proximity and a *lowest sex-ratio at birth* figures.
4. From the two Plan intervention districts, one intervention block has been randomly selected from each, from a list provided by Plan
5. From the non-intervention district, one block was sampled by the same Systematic Random Sampling (SRS) process.
6. From each of the selected intervention blocks, either a rural or urban PSUs has been selected based on programmatic considerations.
7. Blocks, from non-intervention districts, were sampled using 2011 census data. It is to be noted that blocks in Plan India - intervention districts contain administrative units formed post Census 2011 as well.

Table 1: Sampled Locations for Primary Research

S. No.	State	District	Block	Type	Village/ Ward name
1		Deoghar	Margo Munda	Rural	Simargara
2	Jharkhand	Dhanbad	Lohardaga	Urban	Dhanbad (M Corp.) WARD NO. -0003
3		Purbi Singhbhum	Ghatshila	Rural	Phuljhor
4	Rajasthan	Ganganagar	Ganganagar	Rural	5 D
5		Jaipur	Jaipur	Urban	Jaipur (M Corp.) (Part) WARD NO. - 0024
6		Jhunjhunun	Jhunjhunun	Rural	Tamkor
7	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	Bakshi K Talab	Urban	Bakshi Ka Talab (NP) WARD NO. -0001
8		Barabanki	Nawabganj	Rural	Masauli
9		Unnao	Safipur	Rural	Sirdharpur Gair Ahatmali

Table 2: Details of the Primary Sample for BIAAG 2016

The overall sample achieved state-wise is:

S. No.	State	Respondent Category	Sample Achieved
State Level Activities			
1	Rajasthan	Community Influencer	3
2		Religious Leaders	3
3		Collectives	4
4		PRI Member	2
5		CSO/CBO	2
6		Govt. Office Bearers	2
7		WCD State Level	1
8		Representative of MoHFW	1
9		State Supervisory Board of PCPNDT	1
10		State Medical Council	1
		Total Rajasthan Sample	20
1	Uttar Pradesh	Community Influencer	3
2		Religious Leaders	3
3		PRI Member	2
4		Collectives	4
5		CSO/CBO	2
6		Govt. Office Bearers	2
7		WCD State Level	1
8		State Supervisory Board of PCPNDT	1
		Total Uttar Pradesh Sample	18
1	Jharkhand	Community Influencer	3
2		Religious leader	3
3		PRI Member	2
4		Collectives	4
5		CSO/CBO	2
6		Govt. Office Bearers	2
7		Representative of MoHFW	1
8		State Supervisory Board of PCPNDT	1
9		State Medical Council	1
		Total Jharkhand Sample	19
		State Level Sample Achieved-Total	57
Central Level Activities			
1	Central Level IDIs	INGO	4
2		Legal and Judiciary	3
3		Experts/Demographers	1
4		Media Personality / House	4
5		Ultrasound Manufacturers	2
		Total Central Level Sample	14
		State and Central Sample Achieved-Grand Total	71



Quality Control

Processes and measures for Quality Control included;

- Calibration of instruments to check the precision, bias and / or scale of measurement, achieved through a pilot exercise.
- All interview guidelines were standardised and included means (note taking, clear structural flows and guidance during training of moderators) to verify response consistency and route/flow related issues.
- Questions were customised in such a manner that only appropriate questions were asked, and avenues were created within discussion guides to confirm responses against previous answers

where appropriate – so as to detect inadmissible responses.

- An approved catalogue of documents for literature review was also developed and shared.
- Developed a systematic literature review format and adopted a consistency all through the process.

Data Analysis

All data were analysed, based on Grounded Theory⁶, open ended to the extent possible, using talking points that were broad in their scope. For the purpose of understanding the level of emphasis that any stakeholder puts on 'gender-based discrimination', the theory of Phenomenology⁷ was applied.



UNDERSTANDING SDGs

In January 2016, seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs⁸) were adopted as a result of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁹ and officially came into force. The SDGs build on the previously adopted Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) with some important differences mostly centred on, a) the multidimensional aspect of the goals, b) the recognition of the importance of collective action and c) the importance of gender-equity. Like the MDGs, SDGs are not legally binding however, in an important departure from the MDGs, governments are expected to take ownership and establish national frameworks for the achievement of the 17 Goals. In India, the custodian of the SDGs is the erstwhile Planning Commission of India rechristened NITI Aayog and the institution - committed to 'transform India'.

The naming of the new goals merits some discussion. The MDGs have guided international development goals in the years 2000 to 2015; this was followed by an intense discussion between world leaders on what is called the 'Post-2015 Development Agenda'¹⁰ which led to the final development of the 17 SDGs. While the MDGs were eight and saw most countries fail spectacularly on all accounts, except on the goal of halving poverty – the SDGs are even more ambitious calling to end all forms of poverty and discrimination among others. This ambitious vision may seem, to some, almost utopian¹¹ and yet the success of MDGs seems to almost be universally agreed upon.

As Amina J. Mohammed, the Nigerian-born Special Adviser to Secretary General Ban Ki-moon says¹², and Jeffrey Sachs¹³ agrees – the success of the MDGs is not best measured through the overall achievement against goals, but instead to understand the utility of setting global goals. In the late 90s, the setting of the MDGs was a path-breaking means to bring-forth collective action in a world full of difficult-problems and even tougher diversity. For the first time, the MDGs created a shared vision for the world catalysing several governments, to adopt a common framework from which to critique, develop and prioritise their own development agenda.

Much in the same way, the SDGs bring to the forth, key considerations in development works across the globe. The first of these considerations concerns the term 'sustainability'. Very few ideas, can be as applicable to a range of concerns as the term 'sustainability' can, in essence the idea of sustainability suggests that actions be undertaken such that the groundwork is set for further progress to continue. Sustainability is both key to businesses and economic growth, as it is environment protection and to social-policy such as the advancement of women and the commitment to the future of children.

Sustainability is also at the root of collective wisdom and in some sense places democratic decision-making, voice and participation of all people at the center of all things. The formation of the SDGs, in comparison to the MDGs was fundamentally



Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere



Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture



Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages



Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all



Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all



Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all



Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all



Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation



Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries



Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns



Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*



Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development



Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss



Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels



Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable

and uniquely democratic. Formed through a series of consultations, the working group tasked with the formulation of the SDGs consisted of representatives from 70 countries¹⁴ and took a year to design all 17 goals, with the final enforcement coming through between 2015-16.

The agenda of the SDGs, is to “collectively put nations on the path towards sustainable development, to the pursuit of global development and of “win-win” cooperation with the potential to bring huge gains to all countries and all parts of the world, in accordance with international law and national and permanent sovereignty of all nations”. Given this, the ambition of the *post 2015 agenda* has been to firm up a list of goals and targets that outlines all the dimensions of sustainable development as is relevant for all governments. The *post-2015 agenda* focusses on “people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership, and how improvements in one dimension rely on progress in the others, and further it at the same time”¹⁵.

The SDGs collectively comprise 17 goals and 169 targets, to be achieved in full by 2030. The goals and targets therein reflect a common consensus reached in 2014-2015 by country representatives from diverse socio-economic conditions and an even more diverse normative definition of ‘prosperity’¹⁶.

This is of interest also because it represents the first time there has been any kind of international agreement on the rights-based

approach, it follows on the basic principles of the Charter of the United Nations¹⁷ the Universal Declaration of Human Rights¹⁸ and the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development of 1992¹⁹. The rights-based approach is apparent in that the goals (in the language that they have been stated) state, quite emphatically, that targets will be considered achieved if they are met for all.

While most of the SDG goals have numeric targets, the targets set for SDG 5 in particular are more ambiguous and need more deliberation. The SDGs, as the IAEG mentions, must be underpinned by robust data that is regularly published and revealed to citizens. Data availability is crucial and it must also inform an effective review mechanism, which is acceptable to all UN member states. Such a review mechanisms needs to have the potential to track commitments thus making governments accountable.

In India, the NITI Aayog has been entrusted with the task of “proactively fructify (ing) the goals and targets not only quantitatively but also maintaining high standards of quality”, to this end a draft mapping of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs) including the ‘core of the core’, ‘core’ and ‘optional’ Schemes being implemented by Indian States. The NITI Aayog, in collaboration with RIS also held a Consultation on SDGs, during 9th and 10th February 2016 with stakeholders including States, Ministries, academia, International organisations, NGOs etc. at New Delhi. Further tangible outputs are, as on date, awaited.



SDGs AND GENDER

The SDGs have the potential to make a real difference for gender equality and women's empowerment, but not just for women's progress alone. Among the seventeen goals the SDG seek is to eradicate poverty, reduce inequality significantly, and to promote peace, security, good governance, and the rule of law. Gender equality is asserted as a fundamental human right and as a driver of progress across all development goals, reflecting this, it is both the sole focus of one of the goals - Goal 5 - and is also integrated into the other goals. Why is this so?

The SDGs address important structural drivers of gender inequality. They include targets on eliminating gender-based violence, child marriage, and female genital mutilation; and calls for equal rights to economic resources, including access to land and property; equal leadership opportunities; and a more prominent role for women in peace and state building. What the SDGs seek to recognize is that addressing the global goals, requires a global cognizance of the experiences, needs, and contributions of women.



Helen Clark in her speech at the 'Women - the Key to a Sustainable World' event on women's day (Mar 8) 2016, stated that the 2030 Agenda needed to include women because;

- Getting more women into decision-making positions is important, not just from an equity perspective but because increasing the proportion of women in decision-making makes a difference to bringing forward issues which previously went unaddressed.
- Investing in women and girls as active agents of change is important, because it not only improves women's lives but brings multiple dividends to families and societies.
- Closing gender gaps in labour markets, education, health, and other areas is important, because it eradicates poverty and hunger, improves the nutrition and education of children, and drives economic growth and agricultural production.
- Removing structural barriers to women's economic empowerment is important because, being able to own and inherit land and property, access credit, and open bank account helps women play an even greater role in the development of their societies.
- Building strong partnerships across all segments of society, including civil society and the private sector including women's civil society organizations, is important to the achievement of the partnership global goal.

Finally, it is vital to recognize that the success of the SDGs depend crucially on resources being earmarked for gender equality initiatives, including for collection, analysis, and use of gender-disaggregated data which are essential to help in an informed policy making and planning systems.

Critical problem of gender-biased discrimination is sex imbalance at birth. Professor Amartya Sen (1990)²⁰ in his seminal work highlighted this problem of missing women, which he found to be concentrated in East and South Asia. Discrimination against girls appear even before birth and in early childhood but continues over the entire lifespan, in short, through life cycle of a girl as emphasized by Anderson and Ray (2010)²¹. Thus, the discrimination begins right at the womb.

After getting married, a women has become a primary member of her husband's family. Under this system, parents potentially reap

more of the returns to investments in a son's health and education because he will remain a part of their family, whereas a daughter will physically and financially leave the household after marriage. Within India, the northern region has a much stronger patrilineal (and patrilineal) system than the south, for this reason gender inequality is more pronounced in the north (Dyson and Moore, 1983²²). For example, Chakraborty and Kim (2010)²³ examine the 1901 Indian Census and find that the sex ratio was less male-skewed in the south, a pattern that continues to hold today.

For example, parents are more likely to seek medical care for a sick son than sick daughter. In one study, 405 parents in India who had been advised that their child needed surgery to correct a congenital heart condition were followed up one year later; wherein 70 percent of the boys but only 44 percent of the girls had undergone surgery (Ramakrishnan et al., 2011²⁴). Poverty could

exacerbate the tendency to invest more in sons than daughters. Supposing the net returns to surgery are positive for both boys and girls but higher for boys. If a family is liquidity-constrained, they might seek medical care only for their son, but with more available resources, they would seek medical intervention for both their son and daughter.

Kusum (1993)²⁵ describes a billboard that was put up when prenatal sex-diagnostic tests were just arriving in India; a new clinic in the city of *Amritsar* urged parents to “Invest Rs. 500 now, save Rs. 50,000 later.” The 500 rupees today was for an ultrasound test, which would tell the parents if their foetus was female; the 50,000 rupees later, which was obvious enough that it did not need to be spelled out on the billboard – was the dowry the parents would save if they aborted the female foetus. Other driving factors, which are a combination between cultural and economic reasoning include the expectation of old-age support from sons.

Data shows that (Jayachandran, 2014²⁶), while son preference (i.e. the desire for sons) might decline with development (ostensibly due to rising incomes, greater female participation in the workforce and more visible returns to investments in health and education for the girl child), the problem of the sex imbalance at birth appears to worsen with development, due in part to the introduction of technologies not intended for discrimination. The existence of culturally-rooted gender norms means that even when there are increases in GDP, advancement may not mean a change in the desire-to-have-sons. Policy measures, in this context, help. Unfortunately legal enforcement is often weak; in particular bans on prenatal sex determination, dowry, and child marriage are often minimally enforced.

Sex ratios are important demographic indicators, representing the ratio between males and females, in a population on average. Usually represented as a proportion per 100 (m:f), in India it is measured in thousands. Sex ratios, either at birth or in the population as a whole,²⁷ are reported in any of four ways: the ratio of males to females, the ratio of females to males, the proportion of males, or the proportion of females.

The natural sex ratio at birth²⁸ has been estimated to be close to 1.06 males per female. In general, adult males tend to have higher death-rates than adult females of the same age, both due to natural causes such as heart attacks and strokes, and also because of homicide and warfare. The biologically normal sex ratio at birth is usually stated as 952 female births per 1,000 male births²⁹ under natural circumstances, affirming a male advantage at birth. However, studies show that even in the absence of sex-selection, there exists a continuum or a vector of “normal” sex-ratios that vary between 103 and 108 boys per 100 girls, across different countries.³⁰ Sex-ratios, no matter what their variant, are important indicators to track Gender-Biased Sex Selection (GBSS). It is important to note here, that GBSS is only one of the ways in which a gender-imbalance may arise³¹, other factors include natural factors such as the cyclical nature of population indicators, environmental factors, conflict and even ageing.

Amartya Sen’s 1990 essay highlighted that ‘more than 100 million women are missing’ globally (Sen, 1990), recent UNFPA estimates place this figure at 117 million women across Asia, while the bulk of these missing girls are from China (77%), India still accounts for close to twenty percent³². Studies by UNFPA³³, document India’s history with gender-imbalance – for

example, in 2012 the sex ratio at birth stood at 908 female births per 1,000 male births³⁴, while the child sex ratio, as reported in the 2011 Census, showed that there were only 918 females (0–6 per) 1,000 males. Several studies, over the last decades have tried to estimate the degree and spread of GBSS, one study from 2007³⁵ suggests that over 10 million sex-selective abortions took place between the 1980s and early 2000s. More recent evidence, from UNFPA, puts the annual missing-girls estimate at 0.5–0.6 million³⁶.

To understand the question of gender-imbalance as resulting from GBSS, one needs to examine the journey of India as a country and its transition from *son-preference to daughter-aversion*.

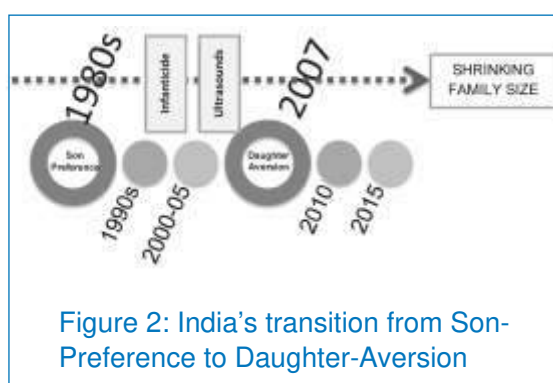


Figure 2: India's transition from Son-Preference to Daughter-Aversion

Son preference in India is not new³⁷, a historical view of the patterns of son preference shows that the phenomenon stems from the kinship systems, and while local condition often serve to exacerbate the problem, they primarily function to reinforce the exigencies of the kinship system. Given this, there could be grounds for optimism to change the persistence of son preference i.e. one could have hoped for this to change as populations shift from living in largely agrarian societies to the very different exigencies of the industrialized and urbanized modern world. However, as our

primary data demonstrates, the optimism on this front has not quite borne out. On the question of discrimination, it appears that rural India still practices a more lenient form of VAW with son-preference at the core, while urban India has moved to the daughter-aversion paradigm. Indeed, scores of studies underscore the fact that GBSS is a middle-class and urban problem in India³⁸ – which has somehow turned aspirational for rural India³⁹, which is now trying to follow suit on this front as well.

Figure 1 shows that till the 1980s, discrimination against girls manifested itself at the post-natal stage, through differential feeding and care at the household – this kind of discrimination brought with it differential death rates between boys and girls. In the 1990s, medical-technology, led the gradual shift from post-natal discrimination to pre-natal sex selection. A combination of medical technologies starting with simple ultrasounds to more sophisticated forms of blood-tests and even pre-conception methods⁴⁰ resulted in a flurry of pregnancy terminations where the foetus in question, was determined to be a girl. This change in method is significant both demographically and socially. Studies suggest that, large parts of India may have an excess of young men by up to 20 percent by 2030⁴¹. In the context of globally declining fertility rates⁴² and family size⁴³ (i.e. parity)–the phenomenon of '*son-preference*' made a rapid transition to '*daughter-aversion*'. Daughter aversion is the practice of achieving a small family while ensuring the desired number of sons^{44, 45}.

While pre-natal diagnostic techniques at the genetic level have existed since the 70s, they became widely available in India during the 90s⁴⁶ and continue to be popular. Our study shows that the chief drivers of ultrasound use and uptake (for the purposes

of sex-determination) center around 1) its wide availability, 2) its relative affordability and 3) that it is non-invasive. It is of course important, not to blame the wide-spread practice of daughter-aversion, on medically important technology⁴⁷; ultrasonography has many life-saving uses beyond sex-determination, notably in the diagnosis of breast cancer.

India's gender-imbalance stems from three issues viz., a decline in fertility, a cultural preference for boys and thirdly the illegal but widespread access to sex-selection technology. Kristof and WuDunn⁴⁸, estimate, astoundingly, that a girl in India (aged 1 to 5), dies as a result of discrimination/daughter-aversion every four minutes. In the following chapters we take a look at forms of discrimination against girls starting with the household.

Our primary research shows that most community leaders acknowledge the existence of gender-based discrimination. When asked for causes, the vast majority cite poverty as one of the main reasons of GBSS and then discrimination at the household. What needs to be stated, perhaps again, is that discrimination is now quasi-cultural, so much so that society at large does not even identify poor treatment in day to day life as discrimination or violence.

“Normally we people care more for our boys than the girl, hence there are differences.”

**- Religious Leader,
Jhunjhunun, Rajasthan**

“Before they used to say that if we educate girls then they won't get married, but now if we talk of marriage people ask about her education first. So now people want at least inter educated girls when they think of marriage. So this is a big change.”

**- School Principal,
Barabanki Uttar Pradesh**

One oft-repeated refrain has to do with restricting the mobility of women, on account of their own safety – also cited as one of the many “burdens” associated with giving birth to and having to bring-up a “daughter”.

Women in a group discussion in Rajasthan, stated that they believed they were “destined to work at home *only* and hence education was useless to them”. This form of ‘control’ has become cultural and embedded in the lives of women.

A CSO/CBO representative in Dhanbad, Jharkhand stated that GBSS is heavily practiced in Dhaba district and as a result the child sex ratio is 874. The member also

“Now it has become very difficult to find a suitable girl. People in our community are bringing daughters in law from UP and Bihar. They are even bought for one or two lakhs rupees.”

**- Women SHG,
Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan**

“My husband pressurizes me to give birth to a son and so far I have undergone two abortions for the same.”

- Female FGD, Deoghar, Jharkhand

“I had seen in Behrai Block in jungle one van is there where the illegal tests are happening and has been clearing the situation that whether it's is a girl or a boy.”

- CSO/CBO, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

added that with the help of PLAN India they were able to identify and register 120 to 130 ultrasound machines at centers where GBSS was actively practiced.

Several respondents quoted recalling state and centrally commissioned policies and schemes like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) and the Dhanlaxmi scheme.

A representative and board member of the Rajasthan PCPNDT described his experience of the Shikhawati Region of the state where GBSS is prevalent stating that the government launched the “Mukhbir UKHBIR Scheme under which decoy operations are conducted by PCPNDT cells to identify people behind unauthorised ultrasound clinics, offering prize money of 2 lacs rupees to any informant.

Despite several efforts, GBSS exists, some states report frontline health workers (ASHAs and AWWs) being complicit in GBSS, where GBSS is often documented

as miscarriage, knot formation and bleeding to disguise the real cause.

Most respondents from state-level governing authorities including the Medical Council report that the PCPNDT act is singularly humiliating to doctors. A member of the Sonologists Association of Rajasthan stated that “almost 600 cases are pending from 2012 in Rajasthan due to clerical errors in filing of Form F under rule 94 of the PCPNDT act”.

A member of the Jharkhand State Medical Council suggested that “private ultrasound clinics should be banned from conducting ultrasound testing of pregnant ladies and the same has to be conducted and authorized in the respective government hospitals and IMA (Indian Medical Association)”. It remains to be seen however, how such a move will further burden an already constrained public health system.

“Male-dominated professions are also leaning towards women now - “Now even a girl can also become IAS,IPS.”

- CSO, Dhanbad, Jharkhand

“PCPNDT is tedious; there is so much of paper work, even if there is a single mistake, then you are likely to be arrested.”

- State Medical Council Member, Jharkhand

GBSS remains a challenge for an Agenda of 2030 world

Our discussion with prominent INGO representatives show that there is broad agreement on the need to have an overarching framework which can be used by member countries to define women empowerment indicators, indeed many felt that MDG has proven to be a starting point.

Respondents also felt that the unlike in MDG, goals of SDG 5 were more collectively *“drafted with the consultation from civil society and communities and various stakeholders”*, and that this made the goals representative of a variety of viewpoints and more robust.

The respondents also felt that the goals in SDG are more *flexible* as compared to MDGs. When asked about the goals set under SDG-5, respondents stated that they thought the list of indicators so developed, were still *fragile and raw*, several respondents also felt that the goals are not contextualized to India where gender discrimination is very deep rooted and complex. Respondents also felt that SDG targets need to be more interlinked, for a society like India; marginalization on the basis of caste and other cultural barriers cannot be ignored.

A respondent felt that India lacks the capacity to see a change, India he said “lacks the data to estimate the indicators. Except the economic indicators, no data is accurate, it is important for the government to first get the data in place and collect data for the indicators it is lacking”.

Other respondents felt that to see a change in the society, you need to make society a part of it, “a lot of state paternalism is visible on the ground, where the state is taking a position on behalf of the people they intend

“I mean we do need to have a framework like you have a national plan. It is kind of like an international plan. There is some commonality of purpose. It covers all the things that we would want to have addressed.”

- Member, INGO

to target, the change has to come from the bottom and it is important for these people to be a part of it”.

On GBSS, respondents at the central level believe that the practice of GBSS is due to families anticipating the huge economic burden that a girl can become in the future even before her birth. This, say respondents, is the result of the role of a girl in a family being very unfavourable, the support given to the family in the form of doing household chores and taking care of children is deprived of any recognition, only because it cannot be quantified in monetary terms.

Respondents were of the view that the phenomenon of GBSS will play an active and instrumental role in creating other demographic crises, such as the phenomenon of *marriage squeeze*.

Most respondents emphatically stated that it was an urban and middle-class problem. This point towards a very important finding

“The other good thing is that they don’t only apply to the developing countries; they apply to the developed world as well.”

- Member, INGO

where the people from all classes, castes, and education level has no bearing on the issue.

On the effectiveness of the law, respondents felt that it was too early to decipher the demographic impact; “We calculated the number of girls that are missing every year and saw a shift in 2005 i.e. earlier larger numbers were missing each year but then things improved and after 2005 up to 2012, the numbers missing per year went down. So, earlier it was 5.5 lacs roughly missing at birth per year and now it is 3.5 lacs.

A respondent also pointed out; “that in areas where the daughter aversion is moderate or medium the act is a powerful preventive influence for preventing sex selection - where the daughter aversion is mild the role of the act has not been great simply because it wasn’t needed and where daughter aversion is very intense the role of the act is at its least, as it doesn’t deter”.

Respondents felt that there was a general lack of accountability on government’s part; as the primary foundation of the act was implementation and that was failing. Respondents also cited that while there was no contravention between the MTP and PCPNDT acts, there was also no interplay between the two acts.

Members from the legal community felt that the act provides strong legislation to control GBSS. Also, they were of the view that it is very customer - friendly and convenient to implement; which makes it easier to track back and monitor. Respondents pointed out

The problem is not acute in one or two states. It is there everywhere in our country.

- Member, INGO

that the act in itself is very robust and included mandatory training for doctors (up to 6 months) focusing on the social-reality of our times.

Lawyers also felt that lack of personnel resources, ill equipped staff and missing unaccountability in the government makes it difficult to evaluate the nuances of the act. Respondents from the media felt that the PCPNDT act fails to address existing social-norms and taboos around the son-preference. Further criticism from the press included the act’s failure to address alternate medical practitioners and the lack of the rights of the women over her own body.

Perhaps the most important perspective came from Ultrasound machine owners and resellers, who wholeheartedly supported the PCPNDT and wanted to comply, but explained how the non-uniform implementation of the act was adversely affecting business, compliance and even the ability to sell due to restrictions on the ability to “demonstrate” new features to

“Whenever a patient comes to a technician under the PCPNDT act, they are supposed to ask the preliminary questions and those questions are required to be reduced on paper. There is a format, in that format the particulars are required to be maintained. It doesn’t take more than 1 minute to fill up the entire 19 columns or 18 columns.”

- Member, Legal

It is not communicated in the language that people can really understand but if you turn that into a human interest story...

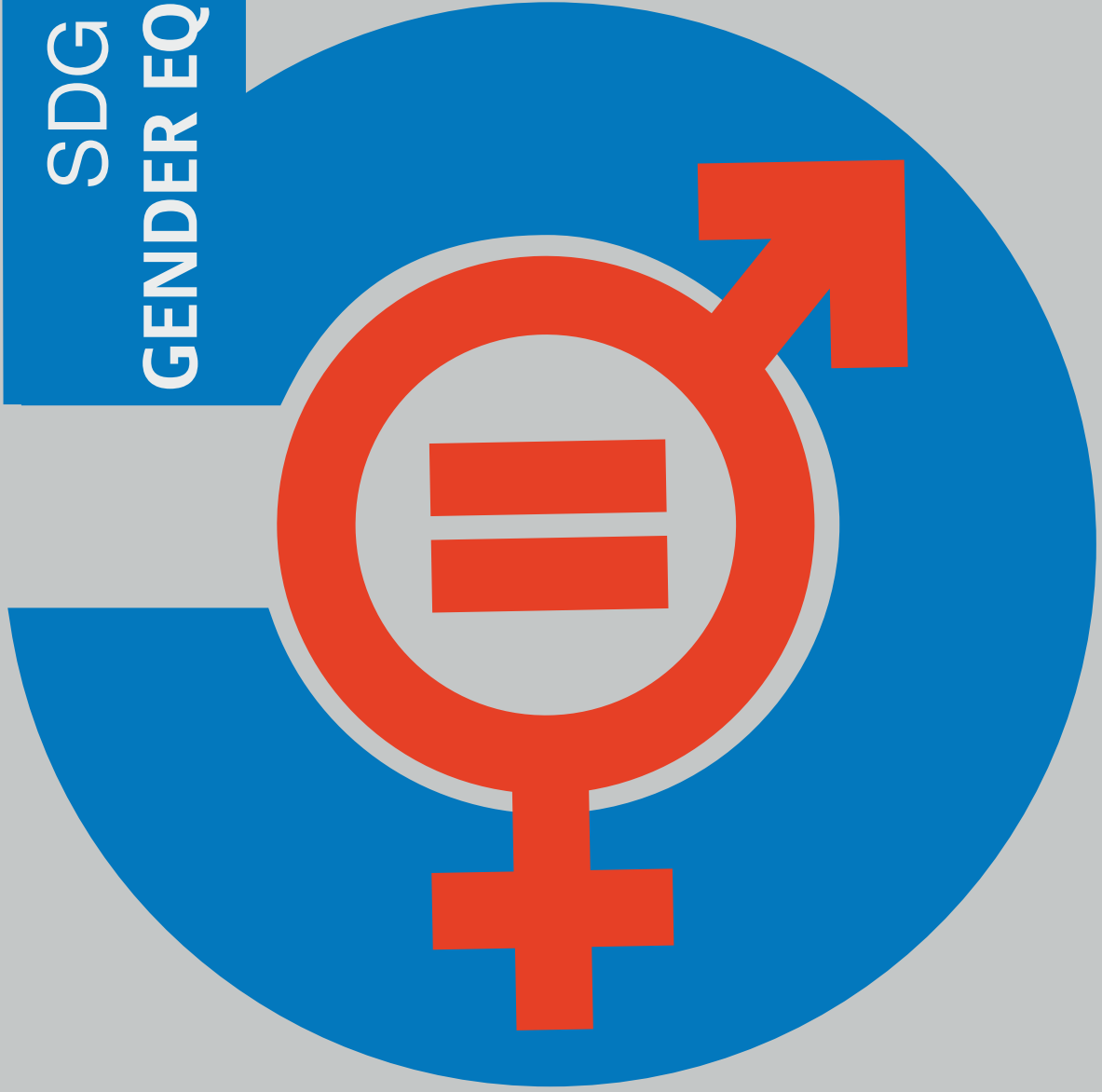
- Member, INGO

It's got to be a systemic approach and that's the biggest problem that we have in India today, where we have schemes and policies where responsibilities and accountabilities are shared and we don't have a way

- Member, INGO



SDG 5 GENDER EQUALITY





METHODOLOGY FOR TRACKING SDG 5

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in contrast to the Millennium Development Goals and given the way they are phrased, cannot be achieved without far-reaching change in national laws, policies, enforcement and creation of robust monitoring systems in place. The 169 targets of the 17 SDGs are, in some cases measurable, however the vast majority isn't. This is particularly true for SDG 5 which is the stand-alone Gender goal of the charter, when compared to – for example, the standalone goal on health (SDG 3) for example;



Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

- By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births
- By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborn and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births
- By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases
- By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable

diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being

- Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol
- By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents etc.

While Goal 5 states:



Goal 5: Achieve Gender Equality and Empower all Women and Girls

- End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
- Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation
- Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation
- Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate
- Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life.

- Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences
- Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws
- Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women
- Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels

The non-specificity and complete elimination cited in several of the targets of SDG 5, make for a sharp contrast when compared to other SDGs, notably the health goal. The SDGs and their adoption, made it amply clear that countries are expected to “adopt and own” the SDGs and their accompanying targets, by setting their own goals, targets and even funding, in line with country-development priorities, to ensure and drive the implementation of the SDGs. In practice, since there is an instituted “global review mechanism” for the SDGs, any such review depends quite completely, on accurate data-collection and reporting of data from individual UN Mandate countries. Simply put, to produce any measures of aggregate progress, requires a country-led viable plan for achieving the transformative global vision behind the SDGs.

This task, of translating the vision of the SDGs into measurable indicators aligned to

national priorities, is far from easy. In India, the NITI Aayog (the erstwhile Planning Commission) is the custodian of the SDGs and is yet to finalize any indicators for any SDG goal, the task is so complex that the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI)⁴⁹, has an entire presentation devoted to the challenges of formulating statistically robust indicators for the SDGs⁵⁰. Several consultations and an Open Working Group (OWG), has resulted in a “green versus grey”⁵¹ rating from India’s statistical offices, questioning how a country struggling to monitor basic implementation of its own welfare schemes can be expected to demonstrate progress on SDGs in the absence of robust data.

In India, however, the complexity doesn’t merely emerge from statistical manoeuvring required to produce robust and composite estimates for the SDGs, but also from a complete lack of data, historical or current, on proposed SDGs and their sub-indicators. Yet another challenge worth noting is linked to the focus of the targets themselves. The fact that the targets are to be implemented and ‘defined’ nationally makes the process political, as does the other fact that the SDGs in sharp contrast to their predecessor MDGs, are formulated for partnerships and sustainability which are driven by ‘integration’ between policies and therefore agendas.

Several UN bodies already recognize the challenges associated with measuring the SDGs, a set of global-level indicators to monitor progress towards the SDG targets has already been developed by the Inter-Agency Expert Group (IAEG) and this has formed the basis of further work on the indicators by the Sustainable Development Network (SSDN). The SDG mandate clearly states that SDG targets/indicators are to be developed by member states⁵², it is also expected that these indicators will be closely linked to national priorities.

SDG Indicators for India

In considering these issues for India, a few key questions emerge;

Are the SDG goals, targets and indicators the right ones for measuring progress in India, given the country-specific context, concerns and priorities for sustainable development as they link to Agenda 2030?

Will they help to identify policy and action that can help India move forward on sustainable development?

How can India address implementation and make sure that the SDGs go beyond an indicator-based reporting exercise, to become a real policy and action agenda?

These questions underscore the true nature of the task on the SDG front 1) clarity on India's on 2030 domestic agenda, 2) the 2030 development cooperation agenda which includes India's contributions to and impacts on poverty and development challenges and 3) the 2030 international agenda which is the global agenda. In this context then, it becomes pertinent to understand the utility of creating and

agreeing upon measurable indicators for the SDGs. In 2015, the Indian government's programmatic and statistical ministry (MOSPI), came up with a framework comprising 14 goals and 88 indicators corresponding to 19 Ministries as an initial response to the SDGs⁵³, while not explicitly linked to the SDG's the framework sets out to monitor 'social progress' and draws much of its content from the SDGs.



Interestingly, the framework notes;

“Relevance to the goal, simple and easy to understand and data availability” as the key criterion for goal and indicator identification and inclusion, what stands-out is the primary data issue related to SDG measurement. In order to actually commit to review and even attempt to achieve the SDGs, India must establish baseline values for its population against SDG targets – simply stated, there is a prescient need for an SDG tracker. Such a tracker would do the following;

1. Make explicit numeric indicators to achieve each overall SDG and their sub-targets as these are convenient to track the progress through composite indicators
2. Define culturally appropriate and relevant indicators for each country
3. Consider data-availability and reliability of the same for each indicator proposed
4. Allow for the transparent and independent verification of data
5. Provide a means to annually update and project values into the future (till 2030)
6. Set targets for each goal and sub-goal which are aligned to national as well as international priorities
7. Data collection format should be contextualised and used at global as well as sub-country levels.

This document, attempts to create a tracker for SDG 5 (all sub-goals), in the Indian context.

Three important questions emerge | in this context viz,

Which SDG 5 targets are relevant for India?

What do these targets mean in the Indian context?

How SDG 5 implementation can be monitored at the country level?

All indicators of the SDGs are not applicable in the context of India. For instance, in the context of SDG 5, India's legal framework for women and their inclusion/well-being in all processes is robust and extensive – however implementation and associated changes in social norms and customary law are a large and significant barrier to any meaningful progress; hence the first question. The second question addresses the meaning or in some sense, the feasibility of several targets; for example Goal 5 says that ALL forms of violence against women is to be eliminated and yet targets consider only IPV as indicators. It is our submission that while IPV is a significant issue, there are several other ways in which violence against women is perpetrated in the Indian cultural context which also needs serious consideration.

The final question is that it underscores the need for this kind of research. Progress on any indicator, target or goal can only be measured against baseline values; therefore monitoring SDG implementation requires the collection and validation of wide-scale data. Thus this SDG tracker

shall provide a framework that can help set targets and indicators and establish these baseline values.

The ensuing sections describe our technical process, which are intended to be illustrative of the task of interpretation and goal-setting. We hope that these methodological insights can provide a way forward for a government-led process of target setting at national level.

In setting the targets for indicators as part of the 2030 agenda we will look into two major aspects namely:

Goals and targets that are applicable in India, for example not all practices listed in the SDGs are applicable such as that of Genital Mutilation of women.

Targets that do not have clearly defined processes or means of verification (i.e. data) for India.

Creating the Tracker

It is understood that due to complicating factors such as questions of scale, ambiguity and the multidimensional nature of several targets, most of the goal-setting process has to be driven by the researcher's own judgement. The indicators we refer to for assessing the current status of SDG 5 include commonly-used indicators at national-level surveys. We also referred to two key documents, an assessment by the Overseas Development Institute (Scott et al. 2015) and the global SDG indicators from the lists proposed by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)⁵⁴.

Broadly we find that the number and breadth of issues found to be relevant to India highlights the universal applicability of the SDG agenda. We also find that globally

formulated goals, targets and the proposed indicators, will not serve the purpose and thus do not serve as a clear baseline for what the real challenges are in India especially from a policy-area prioritization view.

Addressing the data and the scope for tracking opportunity on the SDGs, therefore, needs to be assessed on three dimensions viz. a) trends – have indicators demonstrated an upward (achievement oriented) trend in recent years? b) achievement – is India close to the target and c) policy efforts – are there appropriate policies and legal frameworks to safeguard and measure issues and are these being implemented?

As far as data are concerned, there are several fundamental issues with the goals, targets and proposed indicators:

- **Scale** - The SDG charter makes it clear that the SDGs need to be understood in global context. However, several targets refer to national achievement, while others refer to global achievement. Several targets also require multi-country and multi-party cooperation and it is hard to measure cooperation.
- **Multidimensional** – As is the nature of social development and social progress, many of the targets are multidimensional, in that they address a plethora of different aspects related to the goal area. A single and broad assessment of such areas, while possible through the development of composite scores / indices – results in a loss of detail, because achievement is contingent on specific policies and varies between different aspects.
- **Polysemous** – Several goals, could have multiple meanings (e.g. “safe”, “effective”, “sustainable”, “reliable”) or

calls for an action (“promote”, “enhance”, “strengthen”), neither of which state a clear goal against which achievement can be measured. For example, in India universal primary education is a fact, but “access to quality education” is a matter of concern.

- **Zero Vision Targets** – This issue is particularly true of SDG 5, where many targets call for “eliminating” or “ending” a certain condition (see target 5.5: “ensure women’s full and effective participation”). In these cases, the target is 0, but in terms of scope of tracking and measurement and this represents an inverse condition which further stresses the development of robust indices.





SDG Tracker – Rajasthan Model

Plan India is envisioning to track the SDGs on regular basis. It is proposed that this will be developed in conjunction with the Government of India's programmes. As a part of this initiative it is envisaged that a tracker will be established, which could be used for tracking key indicators with an estimated target till 2030. This tracker could be useful for tracking several government of India's flagship initiative, such as Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP).

It should be noted that the Government of India has issued guidelines for tracking progress under BBBP. Specific guidelines⁵⁵ (Snap - Shot Shown in adjacent Picture) have been issued for the district authorities to diligently track on various parameters under the scheme. In this context, Plan India is exploring the feasibility of using the tracker under two scenarios.



Scenario 1

The targets of the Indicators are well defined till the end of SDG period (2030).

Scenario 2

The targets of the Indicators are not set till the end of SDG period (2030), either the indicators have short term targets or no targets.

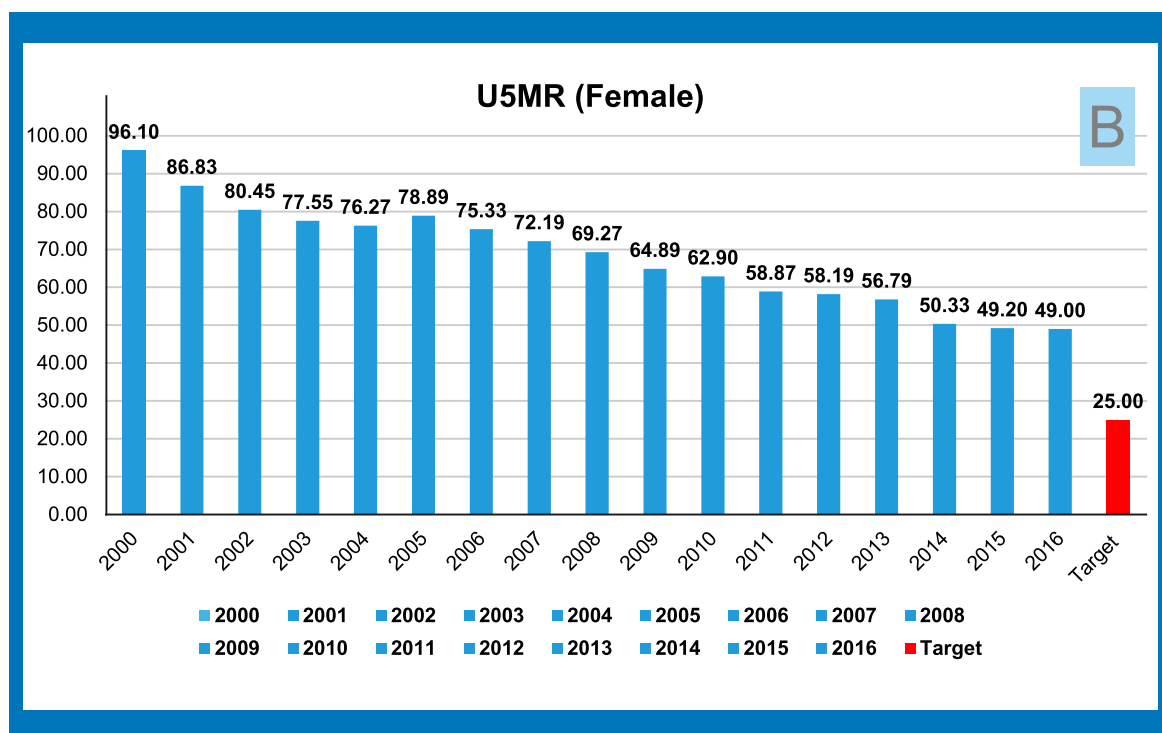
As a first step Plan India in this report analysed the data on two critical indicators (One in each scenario) that are contributing to SDG5.

Scenario 1

Under Five Mortality Rate (U5MR)

As per the BBBP the U5MR is targeted to improve by 8 points mid of BBBP scheme, whereas India's commitment is 25⁵⁶ by end of 2030. In this scenario, by taking the performance of India over last few years the projections done, it is estimated to be more than half-way through the target and will be a "B" Grade⁵⁷ by end of 2030.

The graph below is an illustration of how this indicator can be potentially tracked, against the target of the SDG.



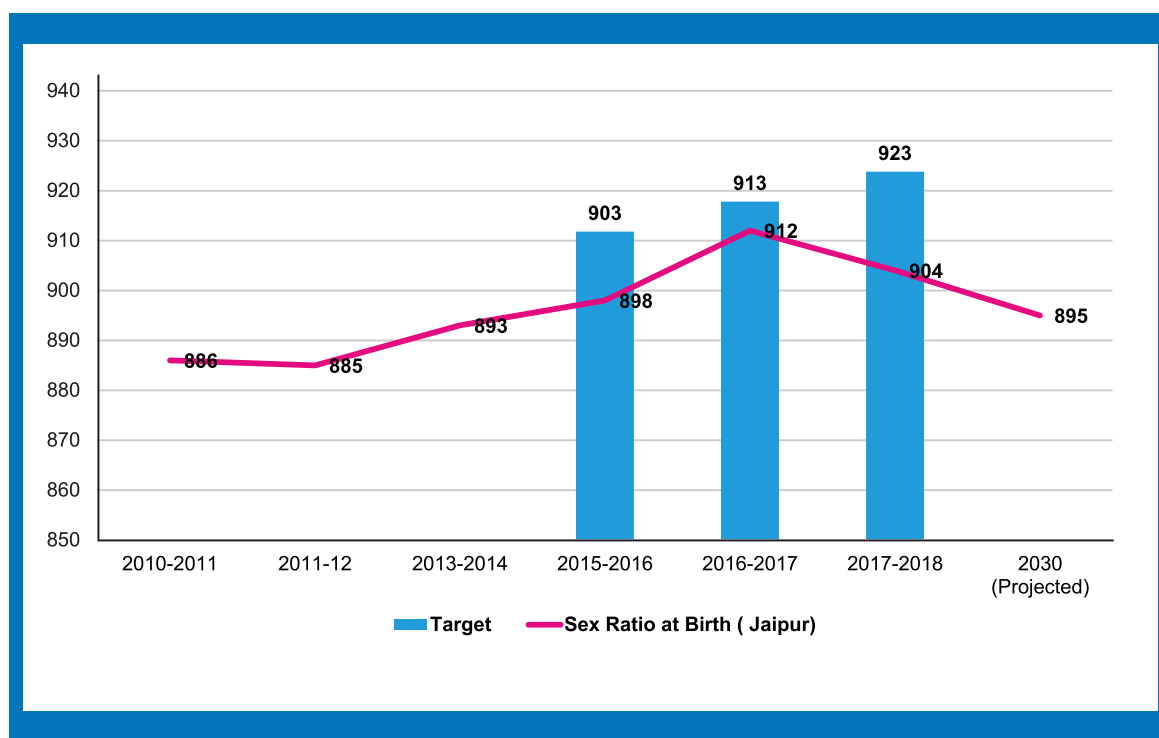
Source: WDI indicators report 2016

Scenario 2

Sex Ratio at Birth and Child Sex Ratio

As said above there will be the indicators which are critical but the targets are set at district level rather than at a national level and also have short term commitments. In this scenario Plan India attempted to analyse the data of Jaipur district (A BBBP focus district).

Explanation: The graph below is an example, that SRB at 2030 (Is a projection done using log likelihood method), the SRB data (2010 – 2017) is the Data available as per SRS. As per BBBP guidelines, by every year the SRB at the district to be increased by 10 points from start of the BBBP . Hence it is to conclude that the targets set and the projections need to be revised.

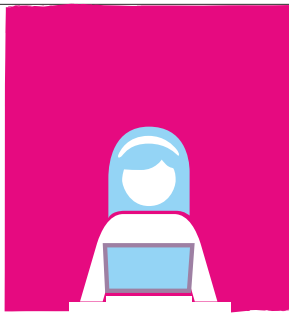


Source: SRS data – Department of Medical and Family Welfare

Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation

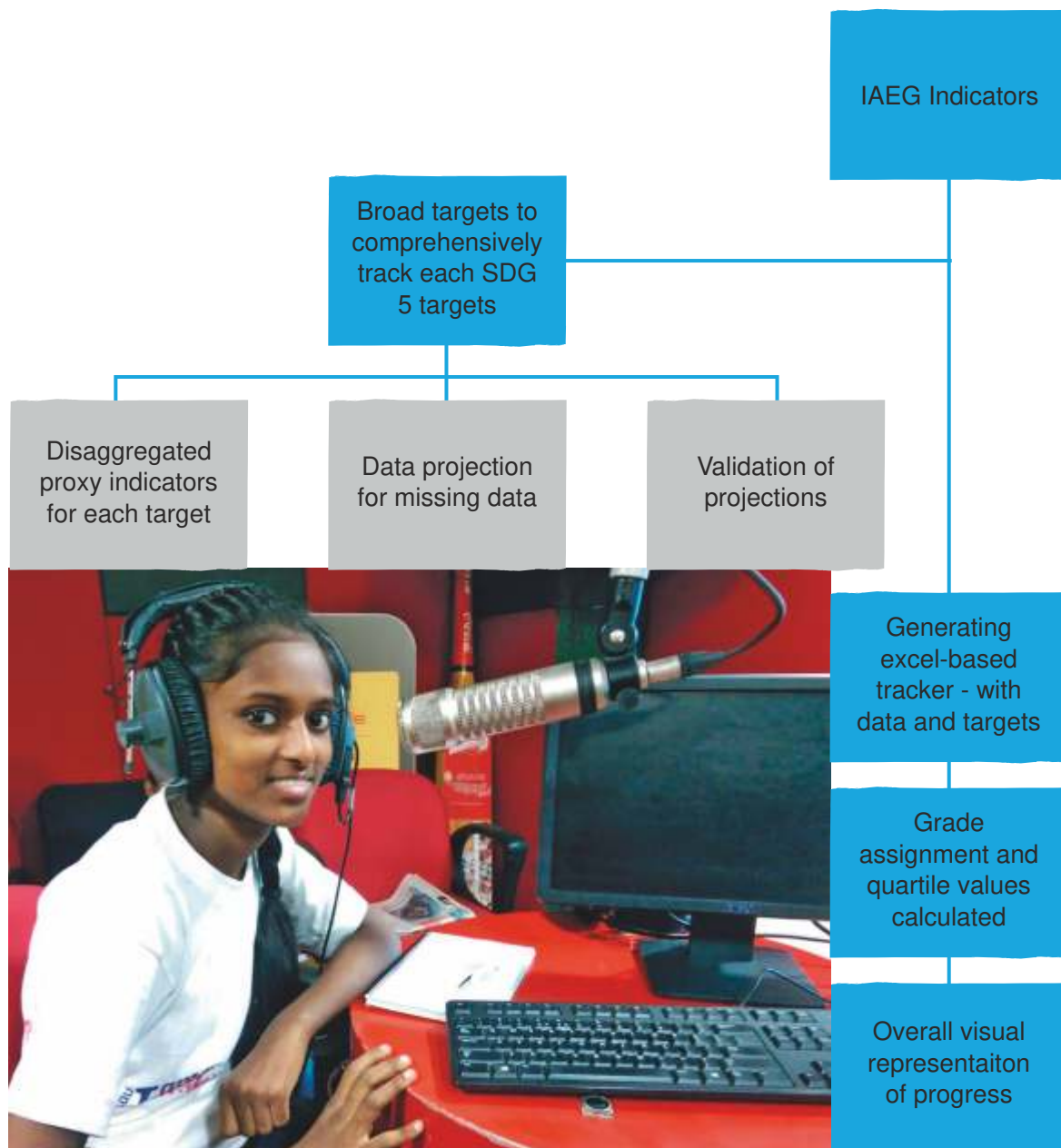
Trends: ★ Achievement: ★ Policy: ★★★★★





SDG5 Tracker – Developing the tool

In order to develop the framework of SDG 5, we adopted the following approach:



The steps below, describe the process followed in further detail;

Step 1 We used the official list of SDG indicators proposed by the Inter-agency and Expert Group (IAEG) on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, as a starting point.

Step 2 We looked for a precedent to modify the IAEG indicators and found that the Metadata-SDG 5⁵⁸ document of the IAEG clearly acknowledges -

“... knowledge and practice relating to this form of violence is better developed relative to other forms of violence against women and girls”.

In the context of the specific indicators developed for target 5.2, does not include issues such as GBSS. Our takeaway from this extensive document is that it suggests that there are a range of other indicators that address goal 5.2 and that need inclusion into any meaningful SDG tracking exercise, beyond what has been specified. To this end we identified some broad indicators which comprehensively track each SDG 5 targets for example for 5.2 we arrived upon a list of 5 indicators for each category of violence faced by women during their life span. As a next step to this we further disaggregated each of these indicators into specific numeric and non-numeric sub-indicators that are clearly measurable.

Step 3 Our next step was to identify any structured efforts in space of SDG 5 tracking. We found that the Sustainable

Development Solutions Network (SDSN)⁵⁹ has already begun work on adding and expanding to the range of “measurable indicators” for SDGs, in a particularly comprehensive fashion.

Step 4 Given this, we then decided to add indicators to the IAEG list. We chose these indicators based on suitability.

Step 5 Each of these sub-indicators were then disaggregated again into proxy indicators for which data is largely available. For example for target 5.2, some proxy sub-indicators chosen to track discrimination and violence faced by girls in terms of limited chances of survival include Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB), Child Sex Ratio (0-6 years) (CSR) and Under Five Mortality Rate, Female (U5MR (F)), Life expectancy at birth (female) and Neo-natal mortality rate, female.

Step 6 We used available data to project the values of these indicators till 2016 . The procedure adopted for these projections, is articulated and based on the statistical methods⁶⁰, outlined in Daughter Discrimination and Future Sex Ratio at Birth in India by Tarun K. Roy and Aparajita Chattopadhyay as published in the Asian Population Studies journal (Vol. 8, Iss. 3, 2012). To be noted is that the same procedure can be used to make projections till the year 2030 as well.

Step 7 We validated our projections using the Spectrum software estimates; Spectrum⁶¹ is a suite of easy to use policy models which provide policymakers with an analytical tool to support the decision making process, it consists of several software models [DemProj: Demography] which projects the population for an entire country or region by age and sex, based on assumptions about

fertility, mortality, and migration. Notably, a full set of demographic indicators can be displayed for up to 50 years into the future and urban-rural projections can also be prepared, data for the module is sourced from estimates produced by the Population Division of the United Nations. Our projections were well within the 5% SE range.

Step 8 We used the data-set generated to create a SDG Tracker tool (in an Excel sheet and available with this report). The excel sheet contains the following columns:

1. SDG – this is the broad name/description of each SDG 5 target
2. Indicator – this contains the indicators that have been chosen which we believe, best represent numeric data to measure the targets in column 1.
3. Columns from the year 2000 to 2016 contain data (including projections) for these years.
4. The next column is called 'Targets' and contains details of each indicator's target, either as defined nationally (if such has been defined) or internationally or as specified in the indicators/goals themselves.
5. The next column is titled 'Grade Assignment' and contains the values ABCD for all indicators, except in cases where laws are described in column 1, where the assignment reads AB. These are letter conventions, ABCD represent quartiles while A and B refer to the presence or absence of laws. ABCD is defined in terms of percentage thresholds as follows;

0-25%	D
>25-50%	C

>50-75%	B
>75-100%	A

6. The next four columns specify attainment values per the quartile formulae; (sum of 2000 to 2016) divided into four equal quartiles
7. The next four columns, title D,C,B and A calculate the values attained per quartile in percentage terms per the following formulae; (quartile/value)*100
8. Columns D. Avg and the next three such columns, are the aggregated averages of all sub-indicators, within each sub-goal and provide the average values of each grade.
9. The final column titled 'Overall Rating' is the average of the last four columns.
10. Thus the methodology uses a composite measure containing average of averages, computed across different indicators mapped to each SDG target. Where laws are involved scoring is binary. Where absolute numbers are involved we have taken the achievement as 0 if the target is not fully achieved. Targets achieved the value of achievement is taken as reciprocal of 100. The value of achievement being accrued in 0s or 1s.

Step 9 Based on the data in the above described worksheet, we developed the next worksheet which contains an SDG tracker in visual form, i.e. a chart. The bullet chart format shows three bands of performance – Red, Yellow and Green for bad performance, poor performance and good performance respectively; a black line indicates the target and a grey column indicates actual achievement, as on date.

Step 10 As an example, it may be useful to project all the data for indicators under a specific target (as we have done for 5.2), for All-India and particular states (as we have done for Rajasthan) till the SDG target achievement year (2030) and plot progress year by year, so as to see the shortfall and trend to date.

In the following pages, we summarise the performance of India on SDG 5.2 (SDG 5 and target 2), using a star rating followed by a discussion of the key issues.

The star rating centers on the three criterion mentioned earlier in this chapter that any target for any SDG needs to be assessed on three dimensions a) trends – have indicators demonstrated an upward (achievement oriented) trend in recent years?, b) achievement – is India close to the target and c) policy efforts – are there appropriate policies and legal frameworks to safeguard and measure issues and are these being implemented?

Understanding these dimensions, in conjunction with the SDG tracker proposed, provides a relatively comprehensive overview of SDG progress.

In summary, the overall form of a tracker for SDGs could thus consist of:

- A detailed excel sheet with formulated indicators and sub-indicators for each of the goal and their targets
- Completed and projected values to the current year of tracking
- Achievement tracking against targets year on year
- Summary of what the key issues are for a particular indicator and progress





SDG TOOL & Application



SDG Tracker – User Guidance

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls			
Sustainable Development Goals	Official List of Proposed Indicators as per the Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators	Indicator's Adopted for India	Proxy Indicators for Assessing India's Status
5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere	5.1.1 Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex	1. PCPNDT Act, 1994 2. Maternity Benefits Act, 1961 3. Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 4. The Protection of Domestic Violence Act, 2005 5. The Special Marriage Act, 1954 6. The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 7. Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 8. Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 9. The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971 10. The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 11. Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986 12. The Hindu Succession Act, 1956 with amendment in 2005 13. The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1976 14. Right to Education Act, 2009 15. Legislation explicitly criminalizes marital rape 16. Legislation specifically addresses sexual harassment 17. Law mandates nondiscrimination based on gender in hiring	3-4 proxy indicators on each of the dimensions of 'Promotion, Enforcement and Monitoring' will be identified for each of these laws. Availability of data for these proxy indicators will be analysed. For example for PCPNDT Promotion: Training of Doctors, Technicians of USG Clinics and Hospitals Enforcement: State PCPNDT Supervisory Board Monitoring: No. of cases registered under the law, No. of USG machines registered under the PCPNDT
5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation	5.2.1 Proportion of girls face discrimination in chances of survival including incidents of gender-biased sex selection 5.2.2 Proportion of girls and women face discrimination in achievement of education 5.2.3 Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older who have experienced	Sex Ratio at birth Child Sex ratio (0-6 years) US Mortality Rate (Female) Life expectancy at birth, female (years) Mortality rate, neonatal (per 1,000 live births) Children out of school, primary, female Expected years of schooling, female School enrollment, primary, female (% net) Secondary education, pupils (% female) Literacy rate, adult female (% of females ages 15 and above) Primary education completion rate for girls Lower Secondary education completion rate for girls Prevalence of girls and women 15-49 who have experienced	Proportion of girls born per 1,000 male births. Proportion of girls per 1,000 boys in 0-6 age group Proportion of girl child death in 0-5 years as a percentage of total number of death under year 5 Number of years a female child is expected to survive with prevailing conditions, in comparison to a male child Female neonatal deaths in 0-27 days, in comparison to boys Children out of school, primary, female Expected years of schooling, female School enrollment, primary, female (% net) Secondary education, pupils (% female) Literacy rate, adult female (% of females ages 15 and above) Primary completion rate, female (% of relevant age group) Lower secondary completion rate, female (% of relevant age group) (i) Percentage of women faced physical and sexual violence in the

Worksheet 1 “SDG 5 Indicators”: This sheet has a list of indicators adopted for assessing the status of India towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 5. The indicators have been chosen and developed by disaggregating broad indicators proposed by “Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators” for each of the eight SDG 5 targets. Two levels of disaggregation have been presented, the first to make the IAEI indicators measurable and the second - proxy indicators based on available data.

The tool can be accessed at <https://www.dropbox.com/s/ds2wo2y5vjvgk3/SDG%205%20Tracker-%20Plan%20India.xlsx?dl=0>

SDG Tracker – User Guidance

A	B	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U
SDGs	Indicator Name	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Target	Notes
5-2	Percentage of women with secure rights to land and property who perceive their rights are recognized and protected	DATA NOT AVAILABLE	DATA NOT AVAILABLE	DATA NOT AVAILABLE	DATA NOT AVAILABLE	DATA NOT AVAILABLE	DATA NOT AVAILABLE	100	No Data
5-2	Difference between male and female earnings, expressed as a percentage of male earnings	DATA NOT AVAILABLE	DATA NOT AVAILABLE	DATA NOT AVAILABLE	DATA NOT AVAILABLE	DATA NOT AVAILABLE	DATA NOT AVAILABLE	0	No Data
5-3	Age at first marriage, female	20.7	20.8	21.26	21.55	21.8	22.05	18	Child marriage and underreporting remains an issue
5-3	Percentage of women aged 20-24 who were married or in a union by age 18	13	13	12	12	12	12	0	Child marriage and underreporting remains an issue
5-3	Incidence of various crimes under Human Trafficking Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act, 1956	2435	2563	2579	2617	2641	2682	0	NCBB Estimate
5-3	% of female children ages 7-14 engaged in employment	1.89	1.6	1.5	1.44	1.33	1	0	Census Data
5-3	Number of births per 1,000 women ages 15-19	33.3	30.4	28.1	25.7	24.5	23.2	0	Census Data
5-4	Contributing family workers, female (% of females employed)	32.5	32.0	31.2	30.9	30.8	30.5	100	NSSO
5-4	Employment in services, female (% of female employment)	48.7	49.4	49.9	50.7	51.3	52.3	100	NSSO
5-4	Labor force, female (% of total labor force)	24.6	24.1	24.2	24.2	24.3	24.9	30	Modelled ILO estimate from World Bank
5-4	Long term unemployment, female (% of female unemployment)	42.2	43.2	43.8	44.2	44.7	45.1	0	Modelled ILO estimate from World Bank

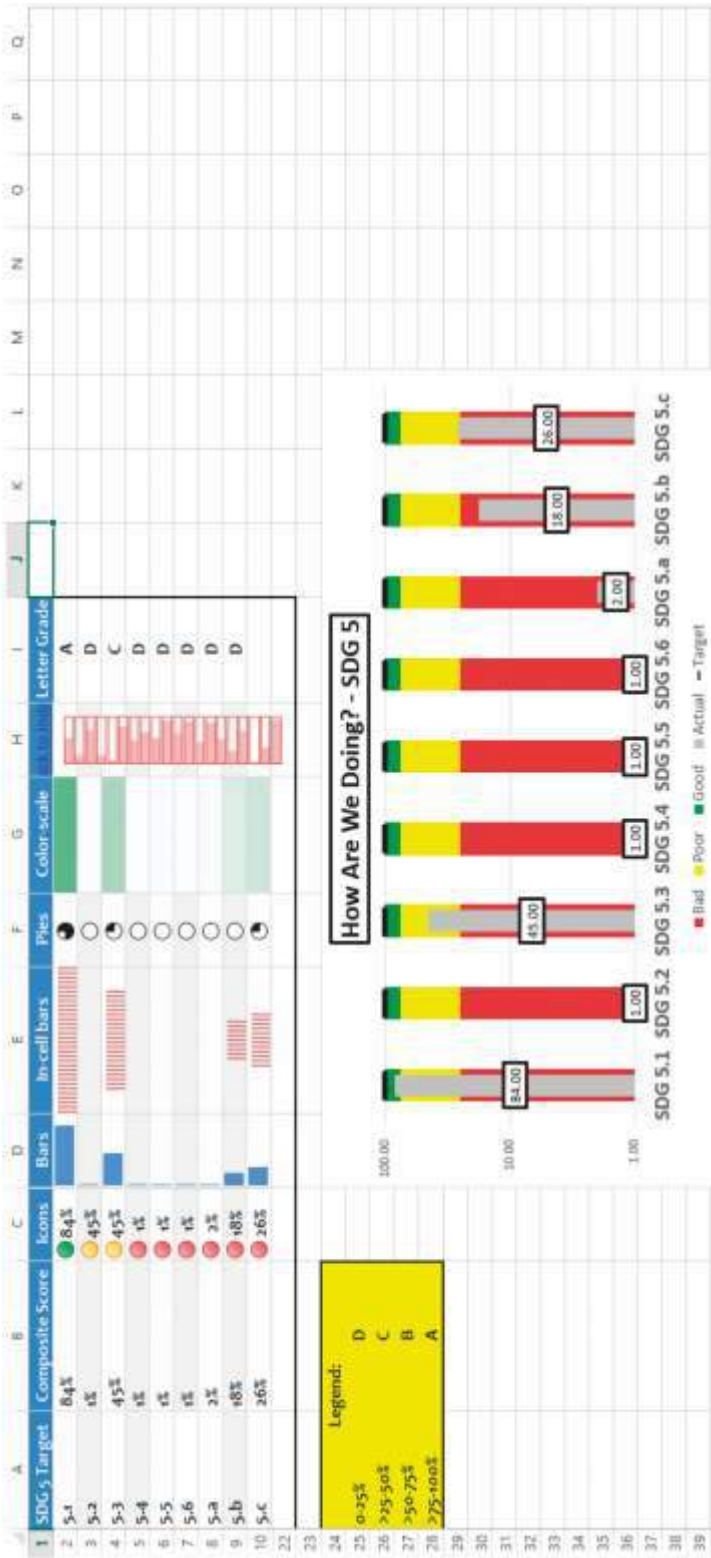
Worksheet 2 “SDG 5 Data”: This sheet contains data-points by year for all 116 proxy indicators against each target of SDG 5. Data was not available for all indicators, and such gaps have been highlighted in red to indicate the extent of data—gaps for such an exercise. The data presented in this sheet corresponds to years 2000 to 2016. Not all indicators which had data, had disaggregated data for every year, a projection procedure was therefore adopted where year-wise datasets were not available. Projections were made based on an academically valid statistical procedure and were validated using Spectrum, a specialised software analysis package for demographic estimates. The sheet also includes a column for “targets” assigned to each of adopted indicator based on SDG targets as defined by the United Nations in the SDGs themselves or where applicable -- National or International targets. The subsequent column has notes for each of the indicators which pertain to data sources, data availability and modelling.

SDG Tracker – User Guidance

A	B	N	D	P	Q	R	S	T	U
SDGs	Indicator Name	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Target	Notes
5-2	Percentage of women with secure rights to land and property who perceive their rights are recognised and protected	DATA NOT AVAILABLE	DATA NOT AVAILABLE	DATA NOT AVAILABLE	DATA NOT AVAILABLE	DATA NOT AVAILABLE	DATA NOT AVAILABLE	100	No Data
5-2	Difference between male and female earnings, expressed as a percentage of male earnings	DATA NOT AVAILABLE	DATA NOT AVAILABLE	DATA NOT AVAILABLE	DATA NOT AVAILABLE	DATA NOT AVAILABLE	DATA NOT AVAILABLE	0	No Data
5-3	Age at first marriage, female	20.7	20.8	21.26	21.55	21.8	22.05	18	Child marriage and underreporting remains an issue.
5-3	Percentage of women aged 20-24 who were married or in a union by age 18	13	13	13	13	13	13	0	Child marriage and underreporting remains an issue.
5-3	Incidence of various crimes under Human Trafficking/Immoral Trafficking (Prevention) Act 1956	2435	2563	2579	2617	2641	2982	0	NCRB Estimate
5-3	% of female children ages 7-14 engaged in employment	1.89	1.6	1.5	1.44	1.33	1	0	Census Data
5-3	Number of births per 1,000 women ages 15-19	33.3	30.4	28.1	25.7	24.5	23.2	0	Census Data
5-4	Contributing family workers, female (% of females employed)	22.5	33.0	34.2	33.9	32.8	33.5	100	NSSO
5-4	Employment in services, female (% of female employment)	16.7	19.4	19.9	20.7	21.3	22.3	100	NSSO
5-4	Labour force, female (% of total labor force)	24.6	24.1	24.3	24.2	24.3	24.9	50	Modelled ILO estimate from World Bank
5-4	Long-term unemployment, female (% of female unemployment)	43.2	43.2	43.8	44.2	44.7	45.1	0	Modelled ILO estimate from World Bank

Worksheet 3 “Sheet SDG Tracker”: Based on the indicators and available data, this sheet presents the trend in achievement of particular indicators between the years 2000 to 2016. Grades A, B, C and D were assigned to all indicators. The grades ABCD for indicate percentage thresholds of 0-25%, >25-50%, >50-75% and >75-100%. Columns further to the percentage thresholds, present the attainment values in four quartiles and next four columns D, C, B and A present the values attained per quartile in percentage terms. The next four columns are the aggregated averages of all sub-indicators, within each sub-goal and provide the average values of each grade and the final column titled ‘Overall Rating’ is the average of the last four columns.

SDG Tracker – User Guidance



Worksheet 4 “SDG Chart”: Based on the data in the data sheet, this sheet contains an SDG tracker in visual form, i.e. a chart. The bullet chart format shows three bands of performance – Red, Yellow and Green for bad performance, poor performance and good performance respectively; a black line indicates the target and a grey column indicates actual achievement, as on date.



Plan India

Programmes and SDGs

Because I Am A Girl (BIAAG) is Plan's global campaign to create a world that values girls, promotes girls' rights and ends injustice. As part of the BIAAG campaign in India, Plan India is committed to ensuring quality education of girls at both primary and

secondary education levels within an enabling environment.

Plan India's approach to the BIAAG campaign focuses on four key components:



1. Investing in an annual research programme since 2009 on the State of the Girl Child in India
2. Building a movement for meaningful change through lasting partnerships with partners, corporate houses, media, donor agencies, and most importantly government agencies and departments.
3. Providing programme and policy recommendations to government based on the findings of research report in order to ensure girls education, skills development and other requisite support that they need to realise their full potential.
4. Implementing innovative and transformative programmes and upscaling existing programmes for girls and women like Safer Cities, Digital Learning Centres

Through more than 500 projects across the world, the BIAAG movements help to transform the lives of more than 1.9 million girls in 2015, directly impacting 5 million girls since the launch of this campaign in 2012.

Sustainable Development Goals and Plan India

Along with UN SDGs, Plan India has developed Country Strategy Plan (CSP IV) for the year 2016 – 2020, which is the first leg of the aspiring SDGs.

Plan India has also consciously drafted the Country Strategic Plan to align the goal and outcomes of this plan to that of the SDGs.

Plan India's goal for 2016-2020 is to be "the leading child development organisation in India, known for its credibility and lasting impact in the lives of vulnerable and excluded children and their communities." Aiming to impact the lives of two million children directly, and five million through advocacy and policy influence, CSP IV ensures:

- **Relevance:** Alignment with Plan's global and regional aspirations, synergies between Plan India's expertise and national priorities for child development and progress made with regards to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and the post MDG agenda.
- **Convergence:** The proposed approach encourages programmes to work together to achieve outcomes for children and young people in the age group of 0-29 years.
- **Gender and social inclusion:** CSP IV underlines Plan India's commitment to make informed decisions for reaching the most vulnerable and excluded communities, and to implement gender transformative programmes



To achieve the same Plan India has set six strategic objectives, The strategic objectives of CSP IV are:



Strategic Objective 1 (SO1)

Improved access to quality reproductive, maternal, child, and adolescent health services that directly benefit 300,000 women in the reproductive age group, one million adolescents/youth (at least 50% girls) and 300,000 children under five years, especially from vulnerable and excluded groups in 6,000 villages and urban slums, along with two million children and adolescents indirectly supported through advocacy and policy changes.



Strategic Objective 2 (SO2)

Improved access to water, sanitation, and hygiene services directly benefiting two million children and youth from vulnerable and excluded communities in 6,000 Plan villages and urban slums (50% demonstrating sustained open defecation free status); along with three million girls, boys and youth indirectly supported through advocacy and policy changes.



Strategic Objective 3 (SO3)

Improved holistic learning and quality education (pre-primary to secondary education) in 3,000 ECCE/Anganwadi centres and 3,000 schools directly benefiting one million children in the age group of 3-18 years in 3,000 villages and urban slums; along with 4 million children supported through ECCE/Education system advocacy and policy influence actions.



Strategic Objective 4 (SO4)

Improved economic security and financial inclusion that directly benefits 100,000 youth from 18-29 years (at least 50% girls) and 50,000 women in 3,000 villages and urban slums; along with 200,000 youth and 100,000 women supported through advocacy and policy changes.



Strategic Objective 5 (SO5)

Protection and effective redressal from all forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence for two million children, especially girls across 6,000 villages and urban slums.



Strategic Objective 6 (SO6)

Build disaster-resilient communities through comprehensive disaster risk reduction and humanitarian assistance benefitting at least 300,000 children, youth and their families across 1,000 villages and urban slums.

In order to provide focus, each strategic objective has a well-defined thematic focus that consists of Common Minimum Programmes, evidence-based pilot programmes, and advocacy. In addition to this, Plan India will strengthen its advocacy and campaign initiatives to generate evidence, as well as influence policies and provisions for children at the state, national, and international level.

Plan India Strategic Objectives, Programmes and SDGs:

As stated above while crafting the CSP IV , Plan Indi has taken a conscious effort to integrate the SDGs in to its strategic objectives. When analyzed the same it is to be observed that of the 17 broad SDGs , Plan India Strategic Objectives are contributing to 10.

Strategic Objective (SO)	Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs)
So1- Maternal health, child survival & optimal development	SDG3 – Good Health and well being
SO2- Water sanitation and hygiene	SDG 6 – Clean water and sanitation
SO3-Quality and holistic education	SDG4 – Quality education
So4- Employability & economic empowerment	SDG1 – No poverty SDG 8 – Decent work and economic growth SDG 10 – Reduced inequalities SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals
SO5-Protection	SDG 5 - Gender equality SDG 16 – Peace, justice & strong institutions SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals
So6- DRR	SDG13 – Climate change SDG1 – No poverty

Further the number of programmes and reach that is contributing to the SDGs are described as below:

- 38 BIAAG linked projects directly and indirectly benefitting 400,000 girls and women
- 600,000 girls and women are indirectly benefitting from the various program interventions;
- BIAAG programs are promoting , survival of girls, mainly foetus and infants; protection and safety of girls and women; girls participation in development and education and livelihoods for girls/ women
- Additionally, 0.30 million boys and 0.6 million community and other stakeholders are positively influenced by the projects

The different Programmes under BIAAG which are contributing to SDGs namely are as follows:

Let Girls Be Born/GARV Program

Key Highlights

- Prevent sex-selective abortions
- Harmonised with “Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao” Campaign of GoI
- Support from GoI, European Union, Plan Inc.
- 9.6 million women from 1200 villages in 6 States
- 0.25 million youth volunteers involved
- 42,000 pregnant women registered for safe delivery

Samanta Program

Key Highlights

- Equal wages for same work for women and men
- Harmonised with gender equality and labour laws
- Support from GoUP and European Union
- Pilot in Ambedkar nagar district of UP
- 11,000 working women mobilized and engaged
- 500 employers sensitized on labour laws
- 7,000 women have received job cards

Safer Cities Program

Key Highlights

- Safe spaces for girls in cities and collective actions against gender based violence
- Extensive safety audits of various places in Delhi
- 8,000 girls and 2000 boys as peer educators
- Close engagement with Police, Transport and Market associations for creating safe spaces
- 80,000 girls and women enjoy the benefit of safety

Chuppi Todo Pr ogr am

Key Highlights

- Promote awareness/ action against child sexual abuse
- Support from GoD, DMRC and Plan Inc
- 50,000 girls and boys participated in enhancing their awareness and lead actions against CSA
- 200,000 children and youth mobilized and engaged on safe and unsafe touch
- 3000 parents and teachers sensitized on CSA
- IEC and BCC materials widely distributed

Anti-Gr I Chil d Labour Pr ogr am

Key Highlights

- Prevent child labour involving girls
- Harmonised with “Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao” Campaign of GoI
- Support from GoAP/Tel, and Plan Inc.
- 30,000 girls from 800 villages in 2 States
- 2000 youth volunteers involved
- 42,000 pregnant women registered for safe delivery

End Chil d Mar r i age/Bal ika Shivir Pr ogr am

Key Highlights

- Build awareness against child / early marriage
- Harmonised with the anti-child marriage law
- 40,000 childrens’ clubs across 10 states leading the awareness and prevention interventions
- 10,000 women and community workers engaged
- Large number of child/early marriages prevented
- Linkages with schools, government system and PRIs to accelerate the process of change

Engender ed Pr ogr am

Key Highlights

- Promote awareness and practice on gender equality
- Capacity building of youth, CBOs/Community members, PRI and Government frontline workers
- 7,800 youth as peer educators and leading the change in their respective communities
- 2000 development/NGO workers trained on various aspects of gender equality and justice

Saksham Program

Key Highlights

- Economic empowerment of girls and women
- Harmonised with Kaushal Vikas and program of GoI
- Support from NSDC, Corporates and Plan Inc
- 8000 young girls as participants across 8 States
- 45,000 women in microenterprise development
- 3000 young women job placed in new economy jobs
- 60 employers adapt their recruitment practices
- 50,000 women have access to financial services

Young Health Program

Key Highlights

- Promote health seeking behavior
- Harmonised with Adolescent and Young Health Program of MoH&FW, GoI
- Support from GoD, Astra Zeneca and Plan Inc.
- 60,000 girls from slums of Delhi engaged
- 8000 youth of which more 50% are girls as peer educators
- Focus on SRH and Communicable and Non-Communicable diseases

Femhygiene Program

Key Highlights

- Promote safe menstrual hygiene practices
- Pilot in 3000 schools in UP
- More than 400,000 girls directly engaged through behavior change communications
- 300 schools have incinerators for safe disposal of sanitary towels
- 18,000 women in Delhi are using low cost sanitary napkins manufactured by women SHG

As it is evident that Plan India programmes are well paced with in SDGs; the tracking and monitoring of the same is very essential with SDG lens; and the proposed SDG tracker will be used in Plan India Programmes to track the progress in the lines of SDGs.



RECOMMENDATIONS



The tracking of SDGs is one of global importance, not just because the SDGs are global in scope, but because any real achievement on any of the SDGs is contingent on reliable data. In the absence of data, it is impossible, for example to get a sense of where individual countries stand on the achievement of key goals, when they begin work on SDGs. Data also helps realistically measure progress against baselines and targets, more importantly it provides an evidence-based rationale to country's policies. The experience of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) underscores the importance of thinking through indicators as early as possible.

To really achieve the SDGs, it may thus be more useful to identify possible policy measures at national level, and then identify policy inconsistencies or gaps. Our own SDG tracker (for SDG 5) shows that no target's display a positive trend or are serviced with inadequate policy action. So while, National Sustainable Development Strategies (NSDS) were required for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Rio+10) in 2002, many of these remain unfulfilled. The unfortunate reality is that NSDS have extremely limited influence on key policy decision-making.

Particularly, because SDG targets are strongly interlinked, it is important to understand that the actions that will drive progress do not necessarily fit within the current responsibilities of Indian ministries. Even though most SDG targets link up with existing policy areas in India⁶², there is a greater need for integrated planning and action across policy areas. Also of import is how to make civil society and the business communities feel ownership of the SDGs⁶³. Clearly, no meaningful national

implementation plan can be developed without an inclusive, government-led process to interpret the SDG goals and targets, for the specific national context. It is important also to stress that interpreting the SDGs at the national level is both a time and resource intensive task. To this end, a national vision is key as is national commitment.

On the issue of GBSS it appears that two main issues are of consequence;

- **Implementation** – Owing to the federal structure of India's political systems, the implementation and rule-book for PCPNDT is determined by district-appropriate authorities. This is problematic for compliance from resellers and doctors, as well as allows for a nexus to be created between doctors and law-enforcement to profit from GBSS.
- **Training** – More than just jail and punishment, a renewed focus on training for doctors, an understanding of the issue for members of the judiciary and law-enforcement as well as social-norm driven behaviour change within families is key.

Current international efforts and monitoring of the SDGs is a critical task and must be supported as it is focused on establishing a set of common global indicators of progress, and building the capacity of countries to report against them. Equally important, if not more so, is getting national buy-in. Therefore, our most important suggestion is that national indicators be given greater priority than global indicators.

References

- ¹Kelly L. "Continuum of sexual violence", in Hamner, J. & Maynard, M. (eds.) 1987, *Women, violence and social control. Explorations in Sociology* 23. Macmillan, London
- ²UNWomen 2015
- ³World Bank 2014
- ⁴UNWomen 2015
- ⁵Details of Sampled PSUs can be seen at Annexure 1
- ⁶In a Grounded Theory study, interpretations emerge from the data
- ⁷This is a reference to the empirical method of observation, not the philosophical school of thought
- ⁸See: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>
- ⁹See: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E
- ¹⁰See: <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/about/mdg.shtml>
- ¹¹For an in-depth critique of the SDGs see: <http://foreignpolicy.com/2015/09/28/the-sdgs-are-utopian-and-worthless-mdgs-development-rise-of-the-rest/>
- ¹²See: <https://www.greenbiz.com/article/amina-mohammed-why-sustainable-development-goals-matter-business>
- ¹³See: <https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/sustainable-development-goals-shift-by-jeffrey-d-sachs-2015-03>
- ¹⁴As a matter of record, opinions beyond these representatives were also accounted for through what the UN calls "global conversations" (sic), described as "11 thematic and 83 national consultations, and door-to-door surveys", including an "online My World survey asking people to prioritise the areas they'd like to see addressed in the goals, the results of the consultations were fed into the working group's discussions".
- ¹⁵http://www.die-gdi.de/uploads/media/DP_7.2015_NEU2_11.pdf
- ¹⁶The UN System broadly considers the adoption of the 2030 Agenda a deep success given that "...the 2030 Agenda is the only international agenda so far with the ambition to shape globalization in a way that the four main dimensions of human development – social, environmental, economic and political – are promoted. It is remarkable that the international community has been able to achieve this in times characterized by considerable power shifts, increasing domestic inequality and the spread of violent conflict." See, http://www.die-gdi.de/uploads/media/DP_7.2015_NEU2_11.pdf
- ¹⁷See, <http://www.un.org/en/charter-united-nations/>
- ¹⁸See, <http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>
- ¹⁹See, http://www.unesco.org/education/information/nfsunesco/pdf/RIO_E.PDF
- ²⁰Sen, A. (2000). *Development as Freedom*.
- ²¹*Review of Economic Studies* (2010) 77, 1262–1300. Siwan Andersen. University of British Columbia and Debraj ray New York
- ²²As described in Lupin Rahman and Vijayendra Rao *Population and Development Review* Vol. 30, No. 2 (Jun., 2004), pp. 239-268
- ²³Chakraborty, Tanika, and Sukkoo Kim. "Kinship institutions and sex ratios in India." *Demography* 47, no. 4 (2010): 989-1012.
- ²⁴Ramakrishnan, Sivasubramanian, et al. "Gender differences in the utilization of surgery for congenital heart disease in India." *Heart* 97.23 (2011): 1920-1925.

²⁵As cited in Dahl, Edgar Procreative liberty: Case for preconception sex selection Reproductive biomedicine online 7.4 (2003): 380-384.

²⁶Jayachandran, Seema. Fertility decline and missing women. No. w20272. National Bureau of Economic Research, 2014.

²⁷Demographically, both these measures are different; the Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) reflects the number of girls being born per cohort of boys and is somewhat a biological/epidemiological estimate, whereas sex-ratio applies to whole populations during their lifespan – a related measure is the Child Sex Ratio (CSR) which looks at the number of females per cohort of males during childhood (usually 0-6 or 0-4 in some countries).

²⁸Grech, V; Savona-Ventura, C; Vassallo-Agius, P (2002), unexplained differences in sex ratios at birth in Europe and North America". BMJ (Clinical research ed), BMJ, NCBI/National Institutes of Health. 324 (7344): 1010–1. doi:10.1136/bmj.324.7344.1010.

²⁹That amounts to 105 boys for every 100 girls, in international representation.

³⁰Sex ratio at birth (per 100 female newborn, 2005–2010 data), United Nations Data Division accessible at; <http://bit.ly/2evWFFT>

³¹Davis, Devra Lee; Gottlieb, Michelle and Stampnitzky, Julie; Reduced Ratio of Male to Female Births in Several Industrial Countries, in Journal of the American Medical Association; April 1, 1998, volume 279(13); pp. 1018–1023

³²The World Bank, World Development Report 2012, 15.

³³Sex Ratios and Gender Biased Sex Selection: History, Debates and Future Directions, Mary John 2014, UNWomen and UNFPA

³⁴Office of the Registrar General, India, 2013a

³⁵Kulkarni, 2007

³⁶United Nations Population Fund, 2010

³⁷UN Women 2014, General Report on the Census of India 1891, Snehi 2003, Visaria 1971, Miller 1981 and 1989

³⁸<http://asiapacific.unfpa.org/sites/asiapacific/files/pub-pdf/Sex-Ratios-and-Gender-Biased-Sex-Selection.pdf>

³⁹Sex Ratios and Gender Biased Sex Selection: History, Debates and Future Directions, UNWomen

⁴⁰Medically called - ultrasonography, amniocentesis and chorionic villus sampling

⁴¹Hesketh, Lu and Xing, 2011

⁴²Specifically, the world's two most populous countries have both seen their Total Fertility Rate (TFR) drop significantly between 1970 and 2014. India's dropped from 5.5 to 2.4 a 56% decrease, while China's dropped from 5.5 to 1.6 a 71% decrease. For more data see; <http://www.prb.org/DataFinder/Topic/Rankings.aspx?ind=17>

⁴³Nayak, Debendra Kumar, Changing household size in India: an inter-state comparison, Transactions. India: Institute of Indian Geographers (2014).

⁴⁴Several studies suggest that the probability of having only female children increases from three percent among families with five children to 24 percent among those with two children (United Nations Population Fund, 2012). An analysis of National Family Health Survey (NFHS) data demonstrates how women with female single-parity, results in a highly skewed sex-ratio of the second child (Kishor and Gupta, 2009).

⁴⁵Bhat 2002 and Kulkarni 2014

⁴⁶Arnold, Kishor and Roy 2002

⁴⁷Ganatra, 2008 and Sen 2009

⁴⁸Kristof, Nicholas and Sheryl WuDunn. Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunities for Women Worldwide. Knopf, 2009

⁴⁹<http://www.mospi.gov.in/>

⁵⁰Special Address by Prof T.C.A. Anant, Chief Statistician of India & Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI), Government of India at National Consultation on Road to Sustainable Development Goals, 2016 (Niti Ayog)

⁵¹See: <http://sdg.ris.org.in/images/all%20goal%20green%20grey%20questions%20with%20formatting.pdf>

⁵²See, The Future We Want (UN General Assembly 2012) - The SDGs have been conceived of as universally applicable, but taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities. Targets are defined as aspirational and global, with each government setting its own national targets guided by the global level of ambition but taking into account national circumstances. Each government will also decide how these aspirational and global targets should be incorporated in national planning processes, policies and strategies (para. 55)

⁵³<https://factly.in/government-framework-for-monitoring-social-progress/>

⁵⁴See: SDSN's proposed a set of 100 indicators, the UN Statistical Commission list of 300+ indicators proposed by international agencies (SDSN 2015; UN Statistical Commission 2015). Even in these documents, proposed SDGs indicators do not directly and fully match up with SDG targets.

⁵⁵[http://www.wcd.nic.in/BBBPScheme/02.12.2014%20Final-Guidelines_BBBP.pdf%20\(1\).pdf](http://www.wcd.nic.in/BBBPScheme/02.12.2014%20Final-Guidelines_BBBP.pdf%20(1).pdf)

⁵⁶http://www.who.int/gho/child_health/mortality/mortality_under_five_text/en/

⁵⁷Refer SDG grading system – In page no

⁵⁸<http://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/metadata-compilation/Metadata-Goal-1.pdf>

⁵⁹<http://unsdsn.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/150320-SDSN-Indicator-Report.pdf>

⁶⁰The technical name for the statistical procedure is a Loglikelihood model

⁶¹<http://www.healthpolicyplus.com/spectrum.cfm>

⁶²Niti Ayog Mapping see: http://niti.gov.in/writereaddata/files/Mapping-SDGs%20V19-Ministries%20Feedback%20060416_0.pdf

⁶³This need for broad ownership is clear in Agenda 2030's political declaration: "We acknowledge the role of the diverse private sector, ranging from micro-enterprises to cooperatives to multinationals, and that of civil society organizations and philanthropic organizations in the implementation of the Agenda" (UN General Assembly 2015).

Acknowledgement

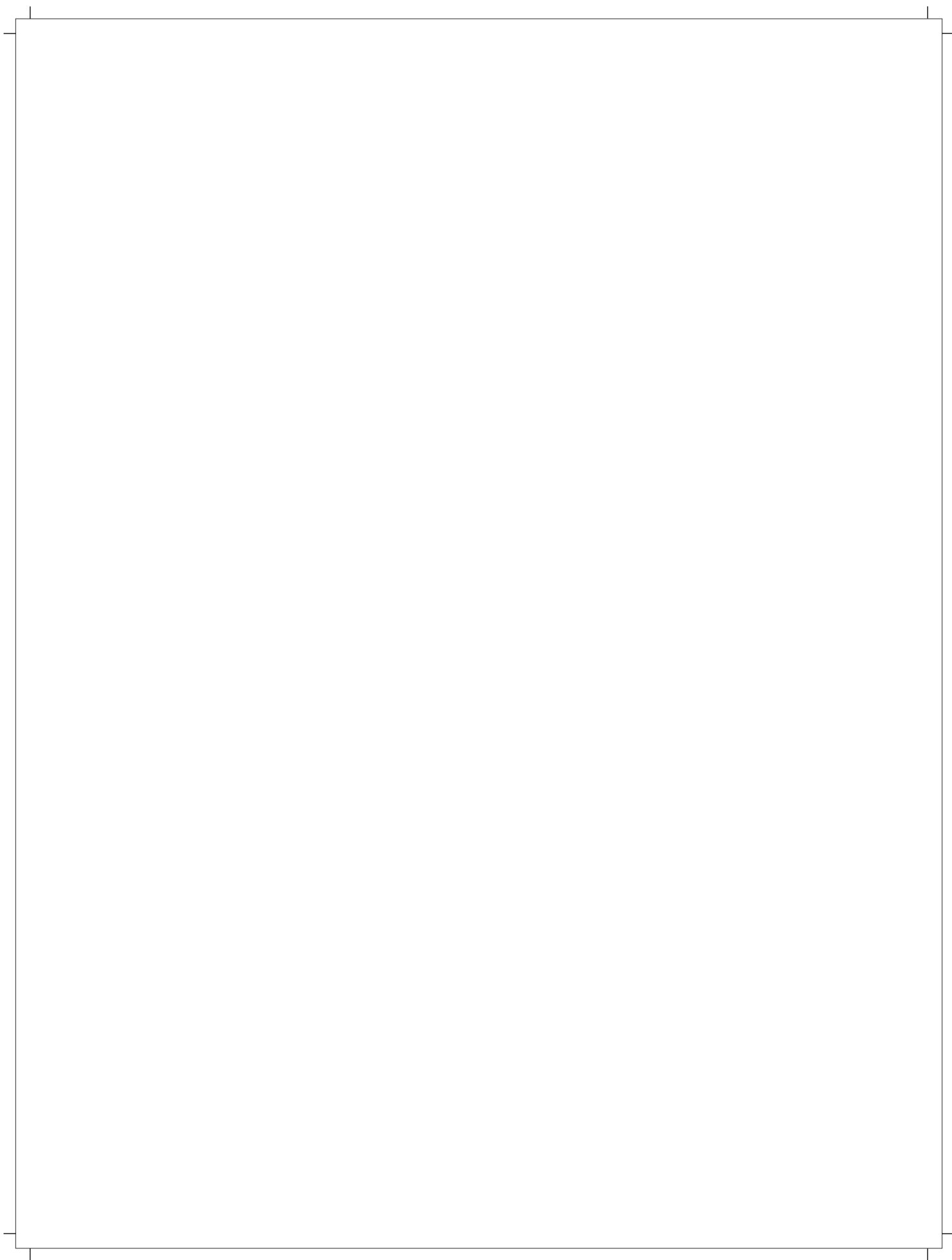
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About **Plan India**

Plan India, a member of Plan International Federation, is a nationally registered independent child development organisation committed to creating a lasting impact in the lives of vulnerable and excluded children, their families and communities. For over 35 years, Plan India and its partners have improved the lives of millions of children by providing them access to protection, basic education, proper healthcare, a healthy environment, livelihood opportunities and participation in decisions which affect their lives.



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