

38. Increasing Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) Information and Services for Adolescents: Findings from EngenderHealth's Program in Bihar, India

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Introduction

- EngenderHealth supported the Government of India's national adolescent health program: Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK), with a focus on SRH
- Adolescent girls in Bihar have limited education, limited agency & limited access to SRH care
- EngenderHealth's pilot project (2017–2019) included peer education activities, adolescent-friendly health clinics (AFHCs) & community adolescent health days (AHDs) engaging key stakeholders in Bihar

Activities

- Trained 2,308 peer educators (50% each boys & girls) & established 887 peer groups
- Facilitated 703 community AHDs
- Formed 126 functional AFHCs at facilities

Results

- 73,000 adolescents (46% boys & 54% girls) reached through: AHDs (40.6%), AFHCs (38.9%) & peer education (29.4%)
- AFHC attendance increased from 130 to 3,988 per quarter in intervention blocks; attendance in non-intervention blocks increased from 261 to 380 per quarter; 53% of attendees were girls
- Adolescents in the intervention block demonstrated greater awareness of RKSK than those in nonintervention blocks (27.9% v. 5.1%); within the intervention block, awareness of RKSK was higher among girls (34.3%) than boys (21.6%)



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Summary & Conclusions

- Multipronged interventions supporting existing government strategies can generate awareness & link adolescents to SRH services
- Partnerships between governmental and nongovernmental organizations may help scale up national adolescent health programming at state level