



Centre for  
Catalyzing  
Change

EveryGirl EveryWoman EveryWhere

Centre for Catalyzing Change (C3)

# SAKSHAMAA

Accelerating Gender Focused and Evidenced Based Policy Making for Women and Girls

**Gender Equity and Governance (GEG)**

Period: 2018-2022 Project area: Bihar

Supported by: **BILL & MELINDA GATES foundation**



**The third most** populous state of India, Bihar has made noteworthy socio-economic progress in the last decade. Girls' education has improved (women aged 15-49 years with 10+ years of schooling improved to 29% in 2019, compared to 13% in 2005) maternal mortality is declining (from 208 in 2013 to 149 in 2018), and institutional delivery has improved to 76%. However, like the rest of India, Bihar has a falling women's labour force participation rate – in fact the lowest at 4.5% (PLFS 2018-19). While there has been an increase in government programming and expenditure on gender focused initiatives, it is not accompanied with an increase in the generation of quality, timely and granular gender data for use in decision-making. There is limited use of equity-focused evaluation methods and of the evidence created; use is restricted to a small community of researchers instead of wider uptake for informing programme and policy efforts.

**Achieving gender equality** targets as envisioned in the SDGs in Bihar, requires overcoming the absence of objective and rigorous evidence that captures the nuances of the prevailing gender gap. Sakshamaa aims to address the absence of robust data and evidence, to inform government, non-government and citizen action to address women and girls' empowerment.

## Intended Project Outcomes

- Improvement in collection, quality, frequency, and level of gender data
- Increased evaluations and research available on women's economic empowerment and adolescent girls, to inform policy implementation
- Nurturing collaborations with local research institutions and raising priority issues through roundtables, conferences and media outreach
- Strategic collaboration with the Government of Bihar for evidence based policy making
- Fostering a strong evidence based public narrative in the state on priority gender issues



## Key facts

Status of Women and Girls in Bihar

**29%**

women have completed 10 or more years of schooling (NFHS 5, 2019-20)

**41%**

of women aged 20-24 years are married before 18 (NFHS 5, 2019-20)

**40%**

of women have faced spousal violence (NFHS 5, 2019-20)

**51%**

of women have a mobile phone of their own (NFHS 5, 2019-20)

**77%**

women have a bank account that they use (NFHS 5, 2019-20)

**4.5%**

lowest female labour force participation rate in India (PLFS 2018-19)



## Case Study

In 2018, the Government of Bihar, released the first edition of the Gender Report Card, which provided an overall snapshot of the progress Bihar has made with reference to women's empowerment.



The 2019 edition of the Bihar Gender Report Card released in January 2020 highlights women's work preparedness and work participation in the state. This edition underscores certain enabling conditions that are essential for women's economic empowerment. While Bihar has made several improvements in the domains of health and education of women and girls, this Report Card has brought to the forefront a number of emerging issues, like their constrained mobility, limited safety in public spaces, inadequate skills training, and lack of rural job opportunities.



This is an important tool for stocktaking on progress made on diverse indicators around empowerment of women and girls and equips policy makers and officials to measure progress and develop strategies to improve the impact of initiatives to transform the lives of women and girls. C3 in partnership with Gramener, has also developed the Gender Dashboard which is a one stop platforms for all data relevant to gender programming in Bihar.

## Focus Areas

To define the scope of our work, as a first step, we conducted a landscaping exercise to map existing Bihar-specific data and research on gender, with current gender-focused policies and programs initiated by the State Government. This exercise revealed certain gaps, which have determined our primary focus areas:

- Women's Access and Uptake of Formal Employment Opportunities within the Government
- Mobility Patterns, Transport, Safety, Gender-based Violence and their Impact on Women's Economic Empowerment
- Women's Entrepreneurship and Skills Programs
- Financial and Digital Access and Literacy
- Adolescent girls' school-to-work transitions

## How does Sakshamaa work

Sakshamaa (the empowered woman), focuses on generating robust and credible data and evidence in Bihar, to inform policy implementation, and provide technical support to the state government – all with the aim of ensuring that the right decisions are made on gender issues, particularly women's economic empowerment and adolescent girls school-to-work transitions. The project works to improve the collection, quality, frequency, and level of data on women's work participation, entrepreneurship, skilling, financial literacy and access, digital literacy and access, safety, mobility and transport access, through collaborations with local and international universities and research institutions.

Sakshamaa also aims to build a strong narrative on these issues, through roundtables, conferences, media outreach and serving as a facilitating platform for implementers and evaluation experts.

**We are C3. Centre for Catalyzing Change. We are for EveryGirl. EveryWoman. EveryWhere.**

We are a committed organization working in India to make sure no woman or girl is denied her basic rights. We design and implement interventions that work with the existing systems to deliver solutions at scale