

Gender Alliance (एक विचारधारा)



Charter

- **Advocacy on Policy for Adolescents/Youths**
- **Addressing Structural causes of under 18 marriage for girls**
- **Advocacy on increasing budgetary allocation for girls higher education**
- **Complete prohibition of Dowry system**
- **Promoting young girls leadership**

Introduction

Gender Alliance is an innovative initiative in Bihar that seeks to initiate discourse on key policies/legislations that potentially restricts equal opportunities for young girls. It is a coalition of Civil Society, youths, Media, Academicians/intellecutuals and activists that in the last 6 months have come together for Joint Call to Action.

The Alliance has 234 civil society

Why Gender Alliance

While over last few years, government of Bihar has taken progressive steps to ensure gender equality and equity in Bihar, there are still profound gaps to ensure gender equity especially for the State's phenomenally high adolescent population. As per Census 2011, Bihar has approximately 40% of adolescent/young population that, going by the demographic trends may well increase upto 45% by 2030. This is a

huge demographic dividend for Bihar having potential positively influence State's economy in next 10-15 years.

However, Bihar has not been able to fully tap its huge adolescent/young population and most of the opportunities go wasted. Bihar still accounts for under 18 marriages, which results in high teenage pregnancy (13%), high ASFR between 15-21 years and with levels of poverty contributes to high IMR and MMR.

How it Works

- Meticulous analysis of demographic and other key surveys
- Policy briefs on efficacies of existing policies/legislations on girls
- Formulating and suggesting Action Plan to Address girls empowerment
- Facilitating discourse and consensus

"Gender Alliance has facilitated an active discourse on the rights of adolescent girls"

Hon'ble Speaker, Bihar Assembly





Partnership with Bihar Assembly

At the time of its inception in 2016, gender Alliance initiated various measures to reach out to legislators to understand their opinions on gender equity in Bihar.

As part of its endeavour and under the active leadership of Hon'ble Speaker of Bihar Assembly, a workshop between legislators and Gender Alliance was organized. The workshop was organized in the premise of Bihar Assembly under the common banner of gender Alliance and Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

During the workshop held in the month of August 2016, Gender Alliance and Honourable Legislators discussed at great length the issues

affecting gender equity in Bihar, especially with regard to the gender equal rights for adolescent girls. The legislators in one voice and across party lines agreed on 5 point charter and action plan to jointly advocate, engage with wider stakeholders to bring change. The five points of Actions are now drafted as Charter for the Rights of Adolescent Girls .

"I endorse all the 5 points raised by Gender Alliance"

Dr. Shakil Ahmad Khan
(Legislator, and AICC member)

Political Consensus

During the workshop with Legislators, it was agreed that in order to raise public opinion these issues, especially with male members and leaders of political parties, gender Alliance should reach out to political parties.

In the wake of this suggestion, gender Alliance organized a discussion with the leaders of all political parties on the eve of International Women's day 2017. Representatives from RJD, JDU, BJP, Congress and National Commission for Women participated in the event held at Eco Park and interacted with thousands of youths from Patna on the charter of gender Alliance. The leaders included Dr. sanjay Paswan (BJP), Dr. Shakil Ahmad Khan (Congress), Sri Alok Mehta (RJD), Shri Neeraj Kumar (JDU), Smt. Sushma Sahu (NCW).

There were some interesting discussions and the way young boys and girls advocated for gender equity also amazed seasoned political leaders.

The event was moderated by Director, Doordarshan and was also recorded to be telecast later in the month.

