

ADOLESCENT GIRLS LEADING THE CHANGE FOR THEIR PEERS AND THEIR VILLAGE

Children engaging with decision making

Asia and the Pacific: India

In India, Breakthrough's Adolescent Empowerment Programme works at building and investing in leadership of adolescent girls and boys addressing gender based discrimination, often normalized by families, communities, and schools. 19-year-old Anjali lives in Sundarnagar village. At 16 she became a peer educator in the organization, and has been for the last three years. One of her greatest achievements has been changing the name of her village from Kudamau (translated: dumping ground) to Sundarnagar (beautiful place). Anjali took matters into her own hand, and talked to her friends, broader community and reached out to the district level authorities to get the name of her village changed. Anjali, also led campaigns against alcoholism in her village, and organized a cycle rally to encourage the girls' physical activities, engaging girls in nearby villages as well. She identified 25 children who had dropped out of school, and encouraged them to get enrolled again. She holds regular meetings with other adolescents to discuss issues related to health, education, maternal health and nutrition, and exercise. Along with her peers and other young community leaders, she has led successful awareness raising campaigns on child marriage and early girls school drop-out. As an active agent of change, Anjali has been directly engaging with local government to address the health needs of adolescent girls in her village, while teaching young children, and fundraising to purchase school materials.

Breakthrough India

