

Gender Differentials in Knowledge, Attitude and Behaviour (KAB) of Adolescents and Parents about Delaying of Age at Marriage and Nutrition Related Issues, in Jharkhand

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Abstract

India has traditionally been a male dominated society. In our society gender norms are defined by societal values that dictate and determine appropriate behaviors. Women's vulnerability to poor health is influenced by major inequalities in almost all aspects of her life. Gender inequalities are existent in: relationships, upbringing, decision-making in regard to self and others and accessibility to education, health and intake of nutritious food/supplements. Within relationships gender inequalities are manifested in males having greater physical and decision making power than females.

In this background, the present study seeks to understand beliefs and behavior of adolescents (15-19 years) and their parents about age at marriage, in Jharkhand state. Further, it attempts to assess knowledge of causes and prevention of anemia among adolescents and their parents. Information has also been gathered on practices of iron-rich food and / or iron supplements among adolescent girls besides understanding the views of community champions regarding age at marriage for girls and boys has also been explored.

The present study has used a pre-post survey design with an aim to obtain baseline district-level estimates for Vistaar Project-Technical Assistance purpose in five districts of Jharkhand namely Garhwa, Chatra, Latehar, Hazaribagh and Ramgarh. From each district, a sample of 960 adolescent boys and an equal number of adolescent girls and their parents were interviewed by using a three-stage sampling strategy. Around 200 community champions have also been covered from each district.

The detailed results of this study shall be available in the first fortnight of February 2009 and accordingly, the gender differentials on the aforementioned indicators would be presented.