

The Influencer bulletin

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Your support to the Influencers journey is ensuring women and girls' freedom from violence and discrimination, access to legal justice, grassroots leadership, rights and entitlements and freedom from economic dependence. This issue, we bring to you updates from the Evidence and Gender workshop held at EDGE 2019 along with insights from Sanjog's journey of fighting stigma. The issue also brings you more on about IT for Change and CORO India's efforts with the community in addressing their issues around transport and water.

Evidence in Gender

As part of our capacity building commitment to our NGO partners, this EDGE, EdelGive organised a session in association with **The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL)** on *Evidence and Gender* on 14th November at Alibaug. The sessions aimed to explain the connection between gender and poverty through research-based evidence as observed through J-PAL's data collection. Discussions on the role of women's limited agency in mitigating the program's effectiveness were facilitated. **Shagun Sabarwal**, Associate Director of Policy and Training at J-PAL South Asia, introduced the role of gender as a crosscutting framework which further highlighted the inequality across different thematic focus areas such as education, markets and livelihoods, agency and empowerment. The session was deeply appreciated by all the implementing partners as it gave them more understanding of the researched data thus available to further improve their intervention strategies.



"Stigma is like a hair in your mouth that is invisible to the eye, you can feel it constantly, that your mouth has been contaminated by something you have no power over, that your mouth has been colonised."

Sanjog, that works with survivors of trafficking posits that, "The issue of stigma of survivors of sex trafficking is, in many ways, unique. The identity of being a survivor of sexual exploitation is not an identity by birth, class, or caste, and in that sense, is not a permanent identity. At the same time, the stigma for a person who has been in prostitution, by choice or force, continues to linger well after the person exits prostitution—within family, in social groups, and even in institutions."

Through their work and research, **Sanjog** has developed a five-point approach to mitigate stigma through workshops, imparting education on stigma and its impact, increasing stakeholder contact, protests and campaigns by survivors and rewarding speaking out.

Click here to read more about the organisation's approach.

Grassroots Leadership



Unaffordable fares of private transport, unsafe environment for girls to travel and overcrowded vehicles prone to accidents often became reasons for girls to drop out of school in Jalahalli village in the northern part of Bengaluru. A group of 20 girls from **IT for Change's** field centre in the area took it upon themselves to address the issue by writing to the Panchayat Development Officer, Karnataka State Road

Transport Services, organising protests and mobilising schoolboys to join the campaign over months. Consequently, KSRTC deputed an additional bus service during school hours. Watch the video of the girls narrating their experience **here**.

#GirlsTakingOver

"If the village is ours, problems are also ours"

With this spirit, residents of the Paratvadi village, Maan Taluka in Satara district (Maharashtra) and **CORO India** took it upon themselves to address the severe water crisis faced by the community. Setting a perfect example of transparent stewardship in collaboration with the government, the efforts not only broke the misconception of people around any developmental work involving corruption but also managed to solve the water crisis by construction of a dam in the village by mobilisation of the community and the authorities. Read more about their collaborative journey **here**.