

INTRODUCTION TO THE ADOLESCENT EMPOWERMENT TOOLKIT

Reference for UNICEF Partners and Civil Society Organisations

"The Adolescent Empowerment Toolkit"

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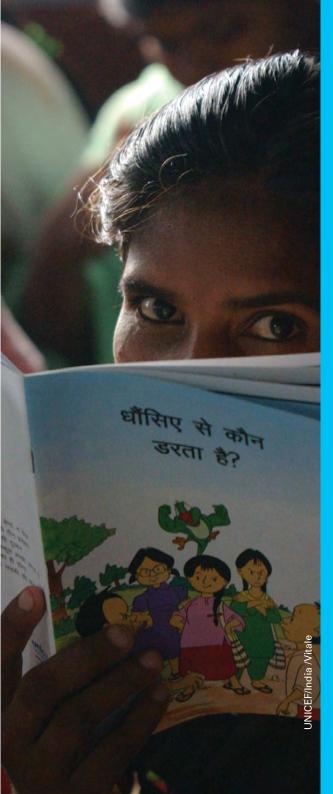
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Module 1

INTRODUCTION TO THE ADOLESCENT EMPOWERMENT TOOLKIT

Product 1 provides an overview of the Adolescent Empowerment Toolkit. It briefly describes key products for UNICEF partners working on adolescent empowerment, and for civil society organisations.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Adolescent Empowerment Toolkit will provide Government partners and Civil Society Organisations the theoretical understanding as well as effective practical tools to implement a holistic adolescent intervention programme.

The Adolescent Empowerment Toolkit has benefited from the efforts and voices of many people and organisations. This includes research study and, workshop participants, stakeholders like academicians, local elected representatives, frontline workers, non-governmental organisations, community-based organisations and activists. Our heartfelt thanks to all of them, and also the people and organizations mentioned below, whose insights, experience, and hard work helped develop this toolkit.

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- This toolkit has also drawn on numerous resources, online and offline. The team extensively referred to publications
 and articles by UNICEF, Breakthrough, Harvard University, Baylor University, Mindtools, Advocates of Youth, Save the
 Children, Centre for Social Research, and Population Council.
- We would like to express sincere gratitude to UNICEF state offices of Rajasthan, West Bengal, Assam, Telangana and 38 non-governmental organisation partners for their participation, inputs and support in validating and testing the toolkit.
- Our whole-hearted appreciation for adolescents who are actively participating in the adolescent empowerment
 intervention using this toolkit which is currently being implemented across India. We hope and believe that it will inspire a
 generation of new leaders in their community to take charge of their life and halt violence and exploitation in their homes,
 neighbourhoods, and communities.

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United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

works in more than 190 countries and territories to help children survive and thrive, from early childhood through adolescence. The world's largest provider of vaccines for developing countries, UNICEF supports child health and nutrition, good water and sanitation, quality basic education for all boys and girls, and the protection of children from violence, exploitation, and AIDS. UNICEF is funded entirely by the voluntary contributions of individuals, businesses, foundations and governments.

www.unicef.in

f /unicefindia

@UNICEFIndia

United Nations Children's Fund, 73 Lodi Estate, New Delhi 110 003, India **☎** 91-11-24690401
■ 91-11-24627521

□ newdelhi@unicef.org



Breakthrough is a human rights organization

seeking to make violence and discrimination against women and girls unacceptable. We use the power of arts, media, pop culture, and community mobilization to inspire people to take bold action to build a world in which all people live with dignity, equality, and justice.

We create groundbreaking multimedia campaigns that bring human rights issues into the mainstream and make them relevant and urgent to individuals and communities worldwide. These, along with our in-depth training sessions with young people, government officials, and community members, have inspired a new Breakthrough Generation of leaders to initiate change in the world around them.

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□ contact@breakthrough.tv

FOREWORD

It's my pleasure to share the Adolescent Empowerment Toolkit, a comprehensive set of standardised guidance and activities with and for adolescnets at the community level, for their empowerment, protection and development.

Developed by UNICEF and Breakthrough, the modules of the toolkit has been designed to be delivered by the government servie providers, civil society organisations and partners to build the knowledge of adolescents. the toolkit will help implementing partners to build the knowledge of adolescents', facilitate positive practices among them, give the confidence to assert themselves by making them aware of their rights, promote access to preventive, curative, and protective services; and enhance their skills and participation in local governance.

UNICEF India is committed to the caise of adolescents and adopts a lifecycle approach bringing together the contributions of different sectors to increase the value of adolescnet girls and boys, promote thir participation and empowerment. UNICEF works in partnership with government departments and non-government agencies incuding groups of adolescnets and engages with statkeholders such as teachers, frontline workers, law enforcers, faith leaders and other key influencers within the community to build safe, supportive and empowering communities, wherein adolescnets feel free to take part in decision-making process affecting their lives. In doing so, UNICEF also aims to promote effectie and scalable solutions, models that can reach millions of girls, as well as dolescent boys.

The toolkit was created benefitting from the efforts and voices of many prople sucha as academicians, local elected representatives, fromtline workers, NGOs, CBOs research and workshop participants. Most of the information given in this toolkit has been taken out from various existing research studies, field visits, desk revew of modules, tools created and supported by UNICEF, as well as current government programmes and chemes.

We envision the toolkit will help build strong state and district level adolescent promgramming designed and implemented with strong likages buit betweem adolescents, community and service providers.

Henriette Ahrens Deputy Representative, Programmes UNICEF India

FOREWORD

India has around 240 million adolescents who form a quarter of the population. Adolescence ideally is a period in life when one expresses individuality and starts making informed choices and decisions. There is an increase in focus on the needs of adolescents, but millions across India cannot access their basic right to education, health and mobility. Over 80 million children have not completed the full cycle of elementary education (UNICEF, 2014). 60% girls in the age group of 15-19 years are anaemic (Source: NFHS -3). These are critical to address to ensure that outcomes in their adult life improve.

While health and education remain important, we need to expand the framework and build a comprehensive model. Violence, unequal treatment based on gender, and inability to access useful and relevant information leads to further disempowerment. Young girls often get further marginalised. 47.4% or one in two women became child brides in India (census 2011). Child marriage often pushes the girl into a cycle of violence and poverty, as they are taken from school, depriving them of an education and meaningful work. Child brides are more likely to face domestic violence, sexual abuse and social isolation. Child marriage also increases the health risks associated with early sexual activity and childbearing, leading to high rates of maternal and child mortality as well as sexually transmitted infections, including HIV.

Investing in gender equity, autonomy and empowerment of adolescents is fundamental to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The Adolescent Empowerment Toolkit is a part of this endeavour and provides a much needed resource for government service providers, community groups, civil society organizations, front-line workers and parents to implement a comprehensive intervention on adolescent programming. The collective and synchronised efforts and actions by these stakeholders will lead to socio-economic well-being of adolescents.

The toolkit will provide knowledge, skills, and peer group support to adolescent boys and girls to act to protect themselves from violence, exploitation, and child marriage, and to make their community safer. It also provides parents and community member's with resources to access laws, schemes, and programmes for adolescents, and support adolescents in seeking information, encourage decision-making and accessing services. The toolkit has interactive sessions, resources, multimedia tools and practical skill-building modules to enable organizations to design and implement effective and sustainable projects for adolescents.

I sincerely hope that the toolkit will be widely used by different stakeholders for integrating a gendered analysis and human rights approach into new as well as existing projects aimed at building adolescents' agency to take key life decisions and prevent gender based violence.

Sonali Khan

Vice President & Country Director

Breakthrough

List of Abbreviations

AIDS: Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

ANM: Auxiliary Nurse Midwives

ASHA: Accredited Social Health Activist

AWW: Anganwadi Worker

BDO: Block District Officer

CBO: Community Based Organization

CHC: Community Health Centre

CMO: Chief Medical Officer

CSO: Civil Society Organization
GBV: Gender Based Violence

HIV: Human Immunodeficiency Virus

ICDS: Integrated Child Development Scheme

IEC: Information, Education and Communication

NGO: Non-Government Organization

PHC: Public Health Centre

PRI: Panchayati Raj Institution

SHG: Self Help Group

SMC: School Management CommitteeSTI: Sexually Transmitted Infections

UDHR: Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Introduction

UNICEF

The organisation began its work in India in 1949, with three staff members, and established an office in Delhi three years later. Currently, it advocates for the rights of India's children in 16 states.

UNICEF's goal is to advance the rights of children, adolescents, and women to survival, growth, development, participation, and protection, by reducing inequities based on caste, ethnicity, gender, poverty, region, or religion.

UNICEF utilises a multi-pronged approach to addressing pressing issues of health, nutrition, sanitation, education, and child protection. It aims to involve families and community members in understanding their contribution to ensure their children thrive, while providing a platform for young community champions to emerge and inspire.

UNICEF uses community-level knowledge and quality research to comprehend issues, and create and introduce easily implementable innovative interventions that address the situation of children. It works with partners to create ground-level change.

With its unique system of 13 state offices, partnerships with sister UN agencies, NGOs, Self-Help Groups (SHG), and an array of celebrity campaigners, UNICEF has been

able to provide focused attention to the poorest and most disadvantaged communities worldwide, while working simultaneously at the national level.

UNICEF is working alongside the Government of India to prevent child marriage, and to empower adolescents including the implementation of the convergent national strategy, which includes:

- Law enforcement- Capacity building on laws, support mechanisms such as a child marriage telephone hotline
- Girls' empowerment- Life skills, protection skills
- Community mobilisation- Working with influential leaders, oaths and pledges, counseling, folk and traditional media
- Convergence promotion- Carried out in sectors at all levels, in particular with education and social protection schemes and programmes.

UNICEF works also with different and new sectors to ensure a comprehensive approach, since child marriage is entrenched in structural problems, such as poverty, and limited education and vocational opportunities. Partnerships with civil society organisations and communities are key to supporting community mobilisation efforts; and mind-set changes, and partnerships with the media, are very important for raising awareness against child marriage.



UNICEF India's work on adolescents:

UNICEF India's work on adolescents has fallen into two broad categories of: (a) adolescent health and nutrition: adolescent pregnancy prevention, focused anti-natal care for those who are pregnant, anaemia control among adolescent girls, menstrual hygiene, water and sanitation etc. (b) adolescent empowerment and protection: child marriage reduction, creation of adolescent groups, life skills education, access to elementary and secondary education for adolescent girls, etc.).

UNICEF is working on increasingly strengthening an integrated and comprehensive approach to adolescents. In so doing it also aims to promoting effective and scalable solutions that can reach millions of girls, as well as adolescent boys.

The overall aims of the interventions with and for adolescents are to enhance the value of girls, to increase the degree of autonomy adolescents have over decisions affecting their lives, reduce child marriage and teenage pregnancy and improve access to services and entitlements for adolescents.

UNICEF has reached more than 200,000 adolescent girls, organised into 20,000 adolescent girl groups in more than ten states in India. The Deepshikha programme in Maharashtra is the best known UNICEF initiative for adolescent girls in the country.

There has been a strong focus on girls. Girls in India are being discriminated against. Their lack of status and value in society manifests itself in declining sex ratio, high rates of malnutrition, low school enrolment and completion ratios, low labour force participation rates and high rates of child

marriage and violence against girls. To enhance the value of girls, requires empowerment of girls through school and life skills education, mobilisation of parents and communities to support girls, and work with service providers to ensure girls have access to health, education and other social services without suffering discrimination and exclusion.

Approaches to adolescent empowerment use an "asset-based" approach. Rather than investing in just one sector, such as nutrition, education, health or vocational skills, the adolescent asset approach considers a range of assets that adolescents (girls and boys) need in order to develop, be empowered and protected. This does not mean that all assets have to be "provided", but it means that adolescent development and empowerment require investments in a few critical priority areas, which depend on the context.

At the heart of the adolescent empowerment programme is the support for adolescents to become agents of change in their own lives, their families and their communities. The programme aims to trigger and unleash the transformative potential of adolescent girls and boys.

Breakthrough

Breakthrough is a human rights organisation that seeks to make violence and discrimination against women and girls unacceptable. We use the power of arts, media, pop culture, and community mobilisation to inspire people to take bold action to build a world in which all people live with dignity, equality, and justice. We create ground breaking multimedia campaigns that bring human rights issues into the mainstream, and make them relevant and urgent to individuals and communities worldwide. Along with our in-depth training of young people, government officials, and community groups, these have inspired a new Breakthrough Generation of leaders to initiate change in the world around them.

Breakthrough's Adolescent and Youth Intervention Programme

Breakthrough is inspiring the next generation of young leaders to help make violence against women unacceptable, in India and far beyond. Breakthrough's innovative 'Rights Advocates Programme' has built leadership in 100,000 young people across India, inspiring and enabling them to stand for change in their homes, communities, schools, and more.

- Educated 100,000 people across India on critical issues, including women's rights and sexuality
- Prevailed upon 5,000 public servants to adopt a rightsbased and gender-sensitive response to gender-based violence
- Educated 50,000 adolescent girls in Karnataka on gender, reproductive health, hygiene, and sexual harassment—not only providing facts but also inspiring

- several girls to report, and trigger disciplinary action against, teachers who had harassed them
- Educated 18,000 adolescent boys and girls in 150 schools in Haryana on gender-based discrimination and life skills
- Supported over 250 men aged 18–30 years in 14 villages in bringing human rights into their homes and beyond; they now participate in domestic chores and run community programmes addressing maternal mortality and domestic violence
- Opened youth centres in Delhi, Haryana, Jharkhand, Bihar, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh, where young people learn, share, organise, and forge bonds to strengthen community action and bring home a culture of rights.
- Collaborated on a pilot programme (through the Parivartan Project) to work through the culture of cricket, India's biggest sport, challenging male coaches to become anti-violence mentors, and male cricketers to respect girls, stop violence, and promote gender equality
- Initiatives have resulted in a 49% increase in awareness of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 in India, and a 15% increase in certain areas for services for women survivors and increasing demand for better implementation of the Act



Adolescence and Empowerment - Why Create this Toolkit?

Adolescence, defined as a life stage, and signifying young people aged 10-18 years, is a critical period that determines the trajectory of individual lives. It is the stage at which key investments and support can set young people on the path towards empowerment. During this stage, discrimination, recurrent constraints, harmful practices, and violence can send them down a negative spiral; and both boys and girls experience identity crisis, gender pressure, discrimination, and violence. This affects the safe and healthy transition from childhood to adulthood and has lifelong consequences, not just for themselves, but also for societies and future generations. The ability of adolescents, both girls and boys, to make decisions about matters that affect their lives is a critical aspect of empowerment. However, socialisation—which starts early in life, and with the influence of gender, religion, and caste—often hinders

young people, especially during adolescence, from making decisions.

The Adolescent Empowerment Toolkit will provide civil society organisations (CSO) that work with young adolescents the theoretical understanding to implement an adolescent intervention programme, as well as effective practical tools. The Toolkit will facilitate an adolescent intervention programme that promotes a smoother transition from adolescence to adulthood, by promoting the creation of safe platforms and a facilitative environment, where adolescents can participate in decision making on issues that affect their lives. Effective use of the Toolkit will help CSOs build adolescents' knowledge; facilitate positive practices; promote access to preventive, curative, and protective services; and enhance adolescents' skills and participation in local governance.

How is adolescent empowerment interpreted in the Adolescent Empowerment Toolkit?

The Adolescent Empowerment Toolkit has been influenced by the UNICEF-supported Population Council Study titled Understanding Adolescent Empowerment: A Qualitative Exploration

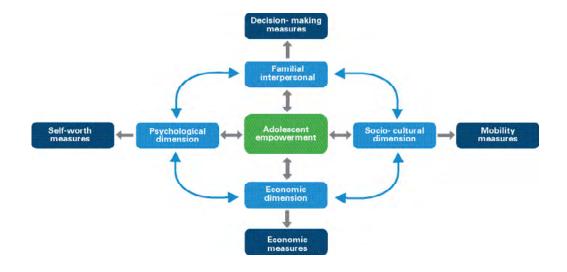
In the study, Kabeer (1994) defines empowerment as "the expansion in people's ability to make strategic life choices in a context where this ability was previously denied to them". Taking this definition a step further, Malhotra et al. (2002) suggest that empowerment contains two important elements that distinguish it from the general concept of "power"—the idea of change from a condition of

disempowerment, and the concept of human agency. Thus, adolescent empowerment is conceptualised as an increase in agency over time. Through various programmes, girls and boys are given the confidence to assert themselves, made aware of their rights, and trained in health and gender issues and reproductive health.

Based on Kabeer's understanding, and using the framework of Malhotra et al. (2002), a useful and overarching framework has been developed that considers all four dimensions:

- Socio-cultural
- Familial/interpersonal
- Psychological
- Economic

Figure 1: Schematic Representation of Drivers and Measures of Empowerment





Objectives of the Adolescent Empowerment Toolkit

The Adolescent Empowerment Toolkit has been conceptualised as a tool for CSOs working with young people, to help them build adolescent intervention programmes, and facilitate a process where adolescents experience and demonstrate an increase in agency over time. Based on the Adolescent Empowerment Framework, various programmes have been designed to give girls and boys the confidence to assert themselves, make them aware of their rights, and empower them to take action. The Adolescent Empowerment Toolkit covers three broad objectives:

 Adolescent boys and girls have the knowledge, skills, and peer group support to act to protect themselves from violence, exploitation, and child marriage, and to transition to secondary education.

- Parents and community members support
 adolescents in seeking information and accessing
 secondary educaiton services, and encourage
 decision making. They play an active role in creating
 a protective and supportive environment to protect
 adolescents from dropping out of school, violence,
 exploitation and child marriage.
- The community is aware of government service providers, laws, schemes, and programmes for adolescents, able to access them, and can prevent violence, exploitation and support adolescent enrolment and transition to secondary school.

How has the Adolescent Empowerment Toolkit been created?

The Adolescent Empowerment Toolkit has been created by Breakthrough for UNICEF. It has benefited from the efforts and voices of many people and organisations, including inputs from participants of many research studies and workshops, and stakeholders such as academics, local elected representatives, frontline workers, and NGOs and CBOs. The government programmes like Sabla's training module as well as current schemes and laws were referred to while designing the modules. Breakthrough also conducted field visits to study adolescent intervention programmes of UNICEF partners like Shaishav, Bangla Natak, and Bal Sansar.

In addition, a desk review was conducted of the key literature and tools on adolescent intervention from the world over. Many of these tools were created and supported by UNICEF. Some of the key literature and tools studied are listed below.

Table 1: Table of Content Reviewed

SL NO	TITLE	TYPE OF MATERIAL	AUTHOR/ORGANISATION
1	Positive GrowingThe Way Ahead	Report	Prayas/UNICEF
2	Understanding Adolescent Empowerment: A Qualitative Exploration	Desk Review	Population Council/UNICEF
3	Delaying Marriage For Girls in India	Formative Research	European Commission/ICRW/UNICEF
4	Empowering Adolescent Girls Using Critical Dialogue Videos	Project Report	Study Hall Educational Foundation/UNICEF
5	Module For TOT - Life Skills For Adolescent Girls	Deepshikha Module 1 to 3	UNICEF
6	Working With Adolescent Girls Addressing Gender, Child Protection & Education	Handbook for Prerikas	IKEA/UNICEF
7	Life Skill Education Through Drama	Module	Department of Social Justice- Gujarat/UNICEF
8	Influencing Girls Life - Using Drama Based Life Skills	Report	UNICEF
9	Adolescent Girls' Life Skill Programme -Gender & Development Part1/2/3	TOT Module	UNICEF/ Barclays/Maharashtra Govt.
10	Marriage Not Now	Picture book	UNICEF

SL NO	TITLE	TYPE OF MATERIAL	AUTHOR/ORGANISATION
11	Parivarik Dekhbhal	Brochures	UNICEF
12	Partek Bacche Ko Hinsa Aur Shoshan Se Sanrakshan Pradan Kare	Brochures	UNICEF
13	Bal Vivah Kupratha	Brochures	UNICEF
14	End Child Marriage	Brochures	UNICEF
15	Bacchon Ko School Bheje	Brochures	UNICEF
16	'Kyon' and 'Kya' Brochures	Brochures	UNICEF
17	Navjyoti Role Models	Book	UNICEF
18	Child Marriage	Media kit/research studies/training. tool kit	UNICEF
19	Baap Waali Baat	Poster, Hoarding, Flyer, Wall Painting, TV and Radio spots	UNICEF
20	UNICEF State Office Workshop	Report	Breakthrough
21	Communication Strategy Document	Report	UNICEF
22	Deepshikha- Lighting Lamps For Better Tomorrow	Photo essay	UNICEF/ Government of Maharashtra/ Barclays
23	Deepshikha – Lifeskills Project – Experiences of Empowering Adolescent Girls in Maharashtra.	Report	UNICEF
24	Building Brighter Futures	Brochure	UNICEF

How can CSOs and other stakeholders use the Adolescent Empowerment Toolkit?

Reviewing the table below will help CSOs and other stakeholders understand the toolkit quickly—its different products, how to use it, and the dimensions of adolescent empowerment it covers.

Table 2: Product List

PRODUCT NO.	TITLE AND SHORT DESCRIPTION		COVERING DIMENSIONS OF ADOLESCENT EMPOWERMENT FRAMEWORK
Product 1	Introduction to Adolescent Empowerment Toolkit	To have a quick overview of the adolescent empowerment toolkit and to use the right product according to relevant context.	•
Product 2	Theory of Change on Adolescent Empowerment Framework	To strategize program planning , ensure that the program is results oriented and to design the sequencing of adolescent intervention	Socio-cultural, Familial/interpersonal, Psychological, Economic

PRODUCT NO.	TITLE AND SHORT DESCRIPTION	USING THIS PRODUCT WILL HELP CSOs ACHIEVE THESE RESULTS	COVERING DIMENSIONS OF ADOLESCENT EMPOWERMENT FRAMEWORK
Product 3	Adolescent Empowerment—Why, What, How?	Learn various approaches used to work with adolescents, how and why certain programmes work well, and why an empowerment approach to adolescents is critical Learn how to enlist the support of the community, service providers, and key gatekeepers for successful programming. Understand the approaches used in working with adolescents, and how programmes can work towards meeting their multiple needs.	Socio-cultural, Familial/interpersonal, Psychological, Economic
Product 4	Community Mobilization Tools on engaging stakeholders.	Learn to mobilise the community through tools like brochures, mobile video vans, street plays, and fairs in addressing gender-based violence and child marriage.	Socio-cultural
Product 5	Life skills curriculum for empowering adolescent boys and girls.	Learn to facilitate life skills workshops with adolescent boys and girls that make them self-aware, build critical thinking and interpersonal skills, and provide them tools to mobilise media and other stakeholders	Socio-cultural, Familial/interpersonal, Psychological, Economic
Product 6	Gender Based Violence- Why does it matter to adolescents? Ready reckoner on gender based violence and inter-sectional approach to child marriage, violence, livelihood, education, health, and rights.	Understand the context of gender based violence and how it impacts adolescents in India Identify entry points for working with adolescents Access resources and services for support	Socio-cultural, Familial/interpersonal
Product 7	Child Marriage: The Issue and Possible Redressal A ready reckoner for child marriage field interventions by partnering CSOs.	Understand the context of child marriage in India Identify entry points for addressing the issue of child marriage	Socio-cultural, Familial/interpersonal

PRODUCT NO.	TITLE AND SHORT DESCRIPTION	USING THIS PRODUCT WILL HELP CSOs ACHIEVE THESE RESULTS	COVERING DIMENSIONS OF ADOLESCENT EMPOWERMENT FRAMEWORK
Product 8	Training Module for adolescent boys on adolescent empowerment to address child marriage and violence	Build the leadership capacity of adolescent boys to address child marriage and violence	Socio-cultural, Familial/interpersonal, Psychological
Product 9	Training Module for adolescent girls on adolescent empowerment to address child marriage and violence	Build leadership capacity of adolescent girls in addressing child marriage and violence	Socio-cultural, Familial/interpersonal, Psychological
Product 10	Training Module for adolescent boys and girls on adolescent empowerment to address child marriage and violence.	Build leadership capacity of adolescents to work together in addressing child marriage and violence	Socio-cultural, Familial/interpersonal, Psychological
Product 11	Training Module for Frontline Workers to address child marriage and violence	Build leadership capacity of frontline workers on issues related to child marriage and how to address them	Socio-cultural, Familial/interpersonal
Product 12	Law and policy support for adolescent empowerment	Equip community workers and adolescents on government laws and schemes	Socio-cultural, Familial/interpersonal, Economic
Product 13	Risk Mitigation Strategies: Talking points for stakeholders to address child marriage and gender based violence	Equip trainers and community workers with talking points and arguments to convince different stakeholders in addressing child marriage and gender based violence issues	Socio-cultural, Familial/interpersonal
Product 14	Resource book for leading parents meetings	Equip the community field workers to lead parents meeting around inter-generational dialogue and create an enabling environment for adolescents to access their rights	Socio-cultural, Familial/interpersonal, Psychological
Product 15	Audio-visual Aids Public social advertisements Best practices and success stories Comic booklets on basics of financial planning	Screen audio-visuals to generate a discussion in the community Share success stories of adolescents and community members who have collectively addressed the issues of child marriage and HIV	Socio-cultural, Familial/interpersonal, Psychological, Economic

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E-1A, First Floor, Kailash Colony, New Delhi-110048, India.

3 91-11-41666101

91-11-41666107

□ contact@breakthrough.tv

www.inbreakthrough.tv



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73 Lodi Estate, New Delhi 110 003, India **☎** 91-11-24690401 **₽** 91-11-24627521

□ newdelhi@unicef.org

www.unicef.in



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