

CHILDREN GANG OF STARS

Children advocating, mobilizing, raising awareness,
informing and communicating.

Asia and the Pacific: India

"With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in India and the associated lockdown in March 2020, Breakthrough has engaged with adolescents and young people mainly through online and digital mediums. We address the issue of violence against women, by engaging with young people through a school-based curriculum called Taroon ki Toli (referred to as TKT henceforth) which means gang of stars. Due to school closures, this programme had to be taken online mainly through phone calls and conference calls.

One has to be mindful of the fact that in India, access to mobile phones is difficult for adolescents and especially girls, since it is with the older male members of the house. Network connectivity is an important barrier in rural/semi-rural areas for operationalising online/digital mediums of engagement or education. Hence, different mediums of engagement was necessary to communicate with young children, address their educational priorities and sensitise them about the pandemic etc.

Discussion with the adolescents on gender equal norms vis-a-vis education of girls, motivated some of the children to discuss the same in their families and neighbours.

Since we proactively engaged with adolescents during the time of lockdown as well, we were able to keep track of cases of violence against children. We connected with these adolescents and their families, with other child rights organisations and made our efforts to address the issue.

We engaged in advocacy efforts with the government functionaries at different levels - local as well as national to address the issue of violence against children and adolescents. Our engagement has been in the nature of - training village-level stakeholders on the issue of violence, sharing of recommendations to address the well-being of the adolescents with the Planning Commission of the India (Niti Ayog) hosting online webinars and inviting decision makers and authorities from the district level to participate and likewise."

Breakthrough India

[Click here for the report](#)

