

Breakthrough

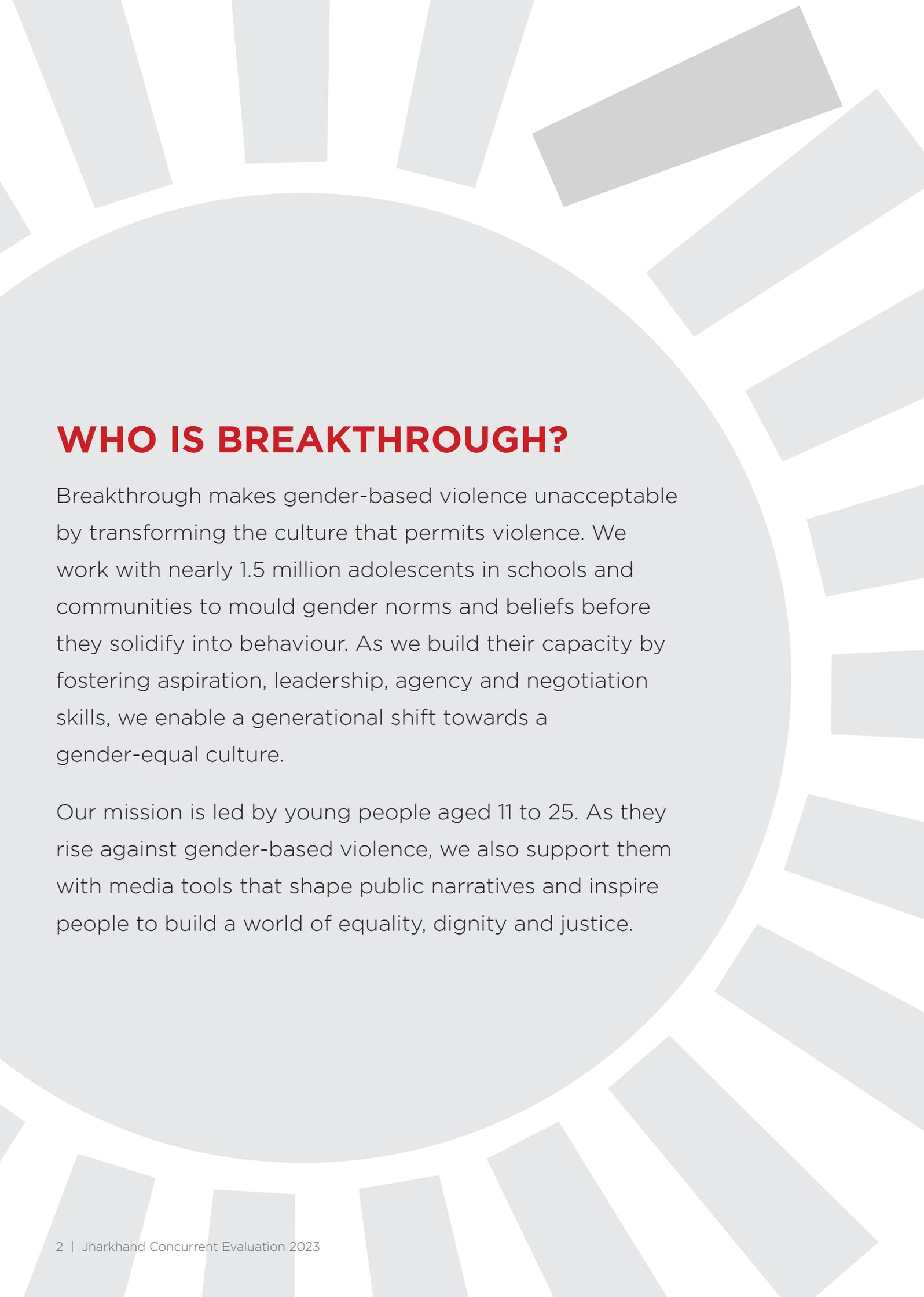


RISING AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



WHAT ARE ADOLESCENTS ASPIRING TOWARDS?

Key findings from an evaluation study of Breakthrough's Adolescent Empowerment Programme in Hazaribagh district of Jharkhand (2023)



WHO IS BREAKTHROUGH?

Breakthrough makes gender-based violence unacceptable by transforming the culture that permits violence. We work with nearly 1.5 million adolescents in schools and communities to mould gender norms and beliefs before they solidify into behaviour. As we build their capacity by fostering aspiration, leadership, agency and negotiation skills, we enable a generational shift towards a gender-equal culture.

Our mission is led by young people aged 11 to 25. As they rise against gender-based violence, we also support them with media tools that shape public narratives and inspire people to build a world of equality, dignity and justice.

WHAT DO WE DO IN JHARKHAND?

Breakthrough works across six states in India, Jharkhand being one of them. In Jharkhand, we work in Hazaribagh district across five blocks: Katkamdag, Tatijhariya, Katkamsandi, Padma and Sadar. Across these blocks, our work is focussed on adolescent empowerment where we work with adolescents in schools and communities, their parents, teachers, frontline workers, Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) members and youth. We've been working in Jharkhand since 2013.

At the heart of our Adolescent Empowerment Programme is an innovative curriculum on gender equity called *Taaron ki Toli* used in schools and communities. The initiative empowers girls and boys to tackle detrimental social and gender norms that contribute to girls facing discrimination or violence, encourages them to be confident, develops their leadership skills, and enables them to make decisions about their own lives. The programme builds their negotiation skills, prepares them to make informed choices on matters such as higher education and marriage, and starts seeding the discussion on reproductive health.

Under the programme, adolescents are divided into two groups: Ujjwal Tara and Roshan Tara. **Ujjwal Tara adolescents participate in the curriculum developed for 11-14 year old adolescents and Roshan Tara adolescents participate in the curriculum developed for 15-18 year old adolescents.**

WHAT IS THIS BOOKLET ABOUT?

Breakthrough conducts evaluation studies periodically to assess its Adolescent Empowerment Programme. An evaluation study was carried out in July 2023 across Katkamdag, Tatijhariya, Katkamsandi, Padma and Sadar blocks for the same. Data was collected from 425 adolescents through a structured interview tool, through 13 focus group discussions with mothers, youth and adolescents and 12 in-depth interviews with other key stakeholders like teachers, Anganwadi workers, ASHAs and PRI members. Through this booklet we want to share some key findings from this evaluation study with a special focus on education and career aspirations of adolescents.

Please note: We will be mostly focussing on findings from Katkamdag and Tatijhariya blocks as the evaluation study carried out in these blocks was an endline study for the project funded by Vista Hermosa Foundation. The project started in 2021. The comparison between the baseline and endline will help us understand the kinds of shifts Breakthrough's Adolescent Empowerment Programme works towards.

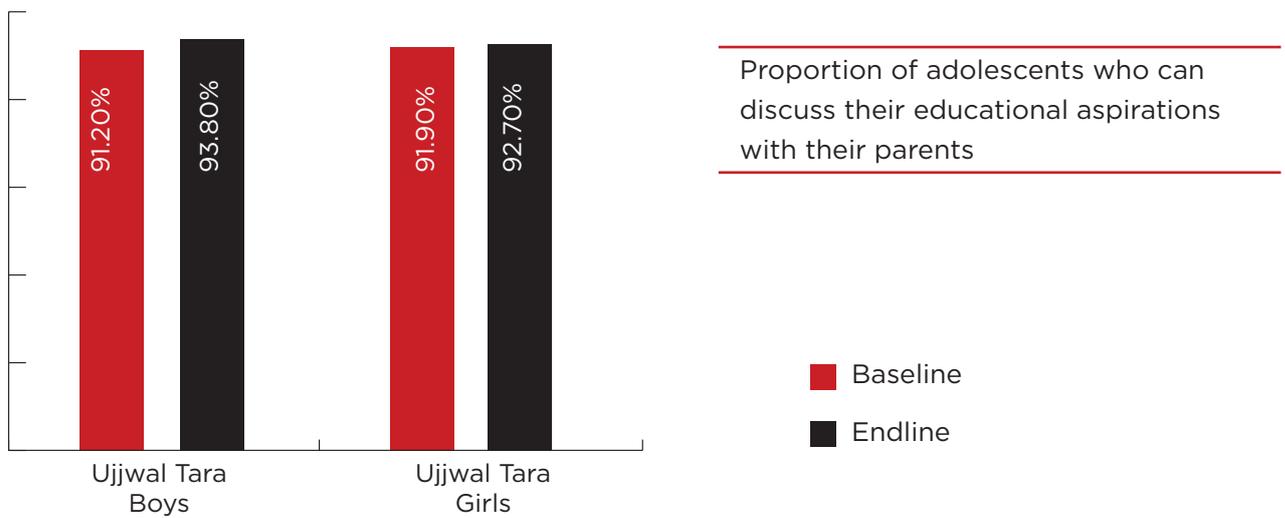


WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO FOSTER ASPIRATIONS AMONG ADOLESCENTS?

We focus on aspiration building as a long term strategy of building a generation of adolescents who are future ready, with career plans and dreams that they believe they have the ability to fulfil

SOME KEY FINDINGS FROM THE STUDY IN KATKAMDAG AND TATIJHAIRYA BLOCKS

- From baseline to endline, there was an **increase in the proportion of adolescents who reported feeling comfortable in discussing their educational aspirations (the level to which they want to study) with their parents.**

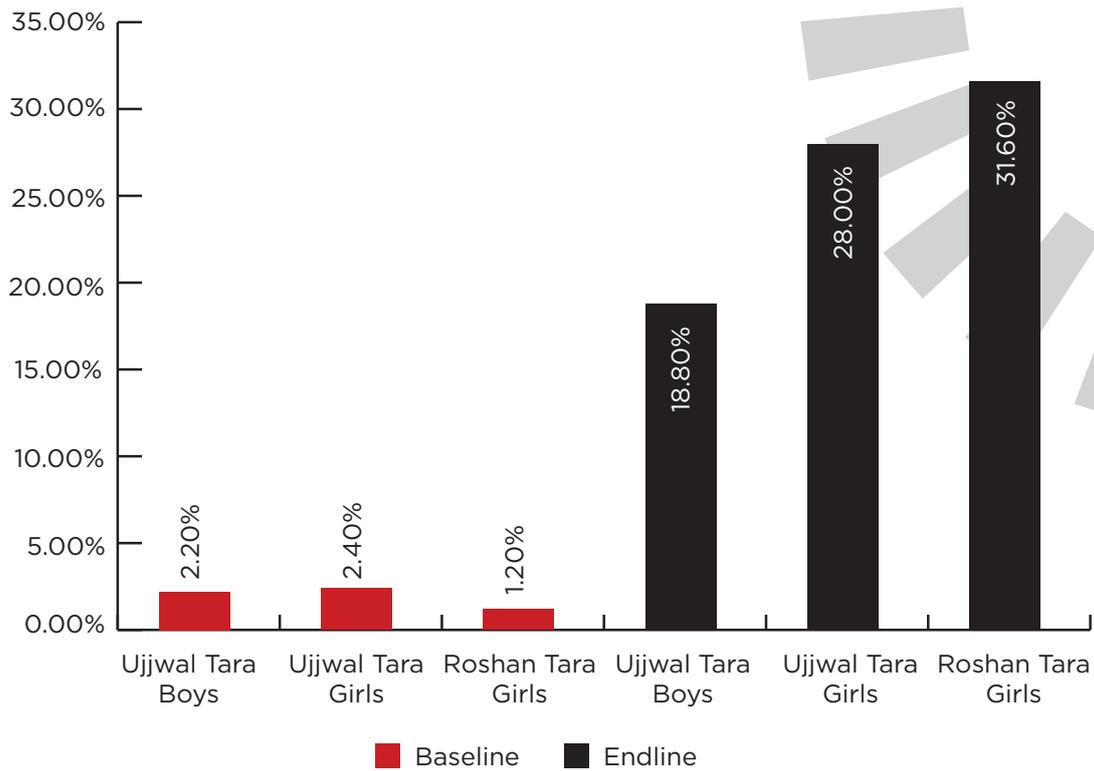


- For Ujjwal Tara and Roshan Tara girls, their most preferred career option was doctor and teacher respectively. And overall, during both baseline and endline, doctor, teacher and police were the most preferred options by both groups. For Ujjwal Tara boys it was police followed by doctor and engineer. Further, **IAS/ PCS came up as an emerging aspiration among adolescents during the endline.**
- The endline results showed a significant increase in the proportion of students who reported discontinuing their studies in the past compared to the baseline.** The primary reason reported by participants for dropping out of school was Covid-19. Some additional reasons such as assisting with household chores, school being far away and financial constraints were also reported by girls. However, it is a positive sign that these students are back in school.

Earlier our daughter was hesitant in discussing with us about her career aspirations and decision-making choices. But after our daughter got enrolled in the Taaron Ki Toli session, she feels comfortable talking with us about her career aspirations, when she want to get married, about the life partner she wishes to have.

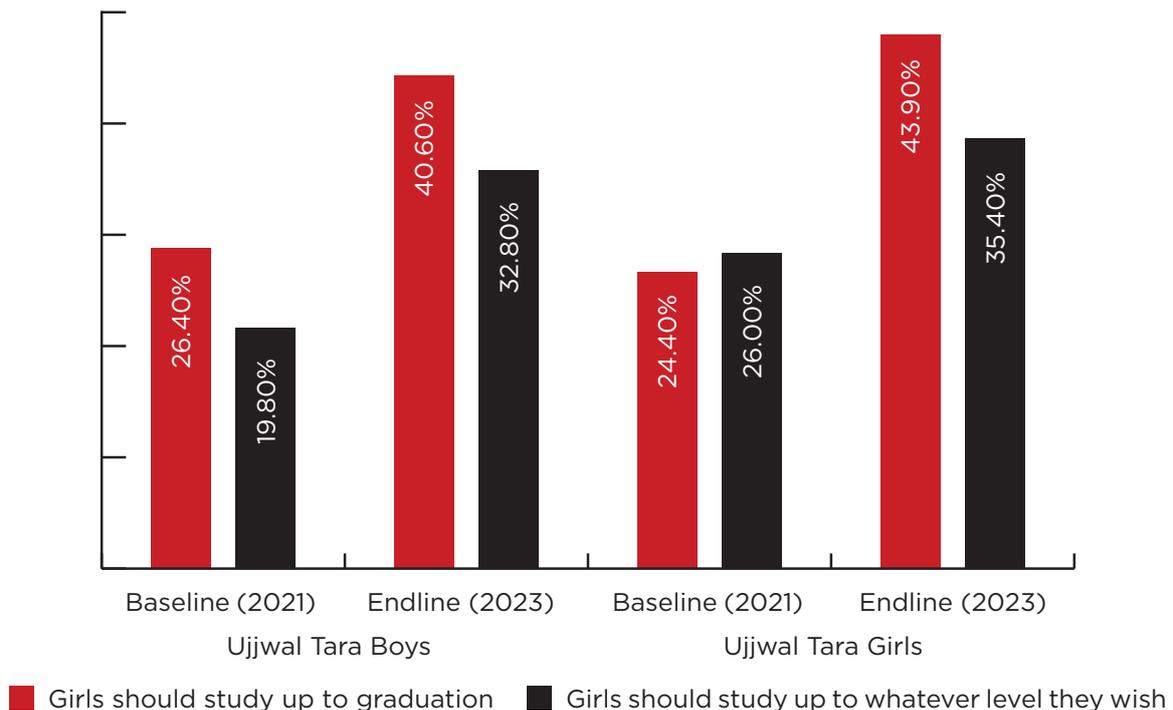
From a focus group discussion with mothers.

Proportion of adolescents who discontinued their studies in the past

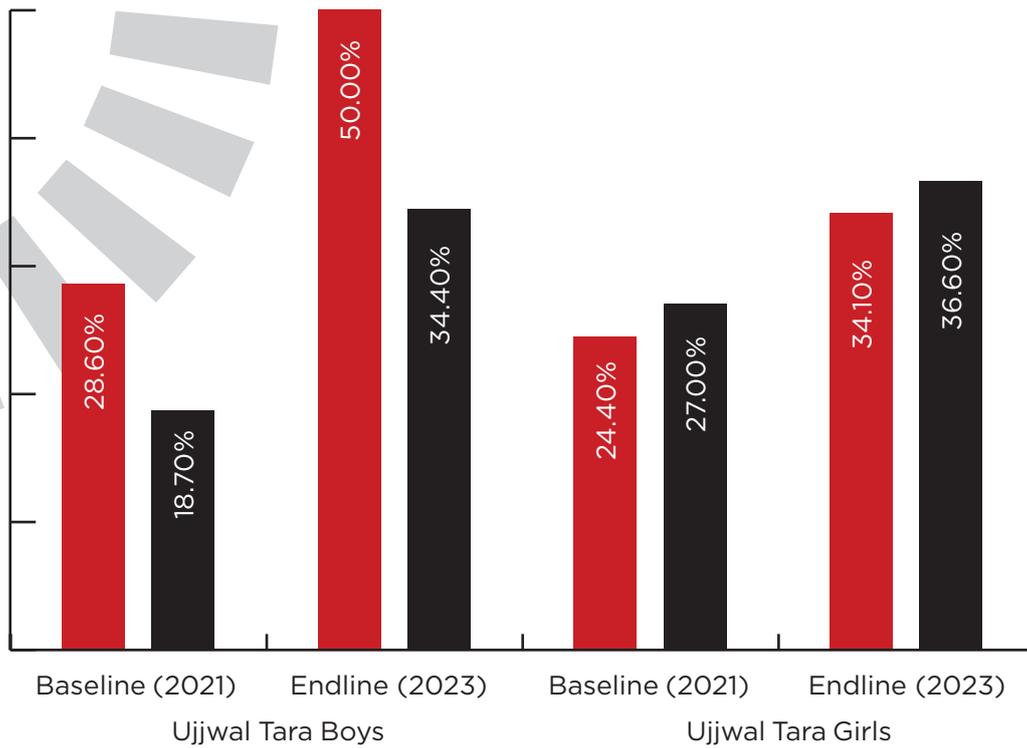


- **Significant proportion of Ujjwal Tara adolescents reported thinking that girls and boys should study up to graduation with this proportion increasing from baseline to endline.** There was also an increase in the proportion of adolescents who think that girls and boys should study up to whatever level they wish to.

Attitude of adolescents towards girls' education



Attitude of adolescents towards boys' education



■ Boys should study up to graduation ■ Boys should study up to whatever level they wish

- A substantial proportion of respondents think that the purpose of girls' education is for them to earn a livelihood followed by gaining knowledge. However, there was a slight increase in Ujjwal Tara boys (17.60% at baseline, 20.30% at endline) and Ujjwal Tara girls (7.3% at baseline, 9.80% at endline) thinking that the purpose of girls' education is for them to find a groom. But, we see a **significant positive shift among Roshan Tara girls with regards to this with only 1.80% of them thinking this compared to 10.9% at baseline.**
- Majority of adolescents reported that boys should study to be able to earn a livelihood (92.20% - Ujjwal Tara boys, 90.20% - Ujjwal Tara girls, 87.70% - Roshan Tara girls)
- **90.6% of Ujjwal Tara boys, 91.5% of Ujjwal Tara girls and 93% of Roshan Tara girls reported that their parents are in favour of higher education for girls.**
- **Compared to 80.8% at baseline, 86.7% adolescents disagreed with the statement that a girl should not do higher studies as it will be difficult to get her married, during the endline.**



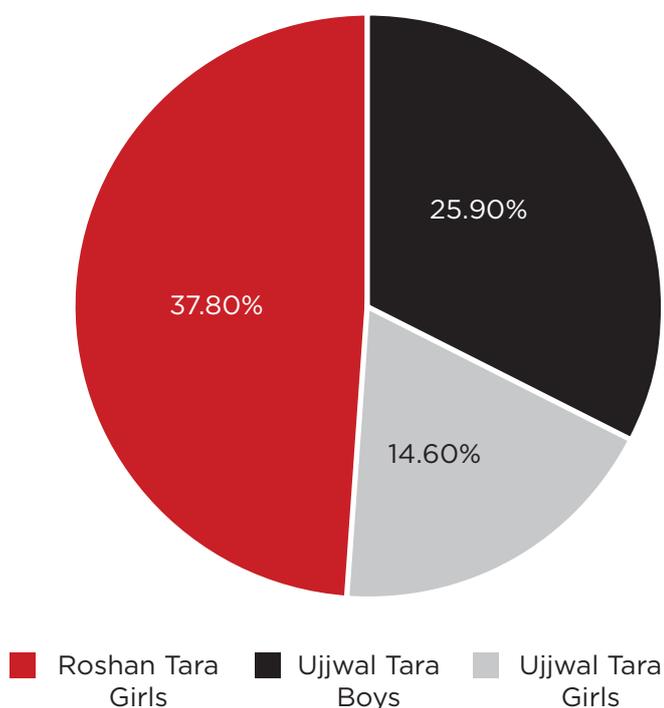
I came to know about Sukanya policy from Breakthrough and have been able to secure a scholarship for education. I want to get into government service and will prepare for the exam.

From a focus group discussion with a youth group in Masratu village, Katkamdag block.

SOME FINDINGS FROM KATKAMSANDI, PADMA AND SADAR BLOCKS

- Compared to baseline, where adolescents reported aspiring for careers like doctor, teacher, police, during the concurrent evaluation, adolescents reported aspiring for more options like scientist, nurse, IAS/PCS officer etc. This is a **positive indication that adolescents are becoming aware of more career options and are also aspiring towards them.**
- **Fathers play a significant role in determining educational choices for adolescents.** 79.3% of Ujjwal Tara boys, 70.8% of Ujjwal Tara girls and 73.3% of Roshan Tara girls reported this.
- **93.3% of Ujjwal Tara adolescents and 91.5% of Roshan Tara girls affirmed that their parents would support them in pursuing a career of their choice.**
- **Dropout rates were significantly higher among Roshan Tara girls as 38.7% of them had discontinued their studies in the past.** Covid-19 was cited as a prominent reason for this. Other reasons included financial constraints, helping mother for domestic chores and facing violence in school.

Proportion of adolescents who reported discontinuing studies in the past



Earlier it was very difficult for both boys and girls to take decisions that pertain to their career goals. But after being part of Taaron ki Toli sessions (TKT), we feel confident in taking decisions that will help in achieving our goals. Additionally, we feel very comfortable in discussing our career goals with our parents and they do understand the importance of education and provide necessary support needed.

From a focus group discussion with male youth in Banderbela village.



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