

BROOKINGS

QUALITY. INDEPENDENCE. IMPACT.



From Learning Outcomes to Life Outcomes: What can you do and who can you be?

A case study in girls' education from India

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Outline

- Gender Parity = Gender Equality?
- Quality and Content of Education
- Prerna: Empowerment and Life Outcome Approach
- Scaling Prerna: Using Technology to Scale Empowerment



India



India

Population: 1.2 billion
Sex Ratio: 940 F:1000 M
Literacy: 65 F: 82 M

Uttar Pradesh

Population: 199 million
Sex Ratio: 908 F:1000 M
Literacy: 42 F: 69 M

Lucknow

Population: 2.8 million
Sex Ratio: 906 F:1000 M
Literacy: 61 F: 77 M

50% girls in India don't want to be girls

- **1 million girls killed** in the womb each year
- Girls (1-5 yrs) are 75% more likely to die than boys of the same age
- **Child sex ratio: 914:1000** lowest since independence (1947)
- 10 million child brides worldwide: 1/3rd are from India
- Domestic Violence: **40% of Indian married women are beaten**

More girls **come** to school, but they don't **stay**, and don't **learn** much

- 87% net enrollment ratio in primary school for girls (compared to 73% in 2002)
- 59% of 5.6 million out of school children are girls
- 26.5% girls drop out by primary school
- Only 39.5% girls complete secondary school*
- 48% of Grade 5 students can't read a Grade 2 passage**

Girls drop out/are pulled out/pushed out “because they are girls”

- Poor, rural, lower caste girls most at risk of dropping out
- Gendered social norms: girls are not important enough to educate
- Child marriage
- Schools mirror gendered social norms

Education and Empowerment: a necessary co-relation?

- What is Empowerment?
 - Becoming aware of one's subordination and analyzing its structural causes
 - Perceiving oneself as an autonomous and equal person, worthy of respect
 - Acting from that belief to overcome one's marginalization.

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Prerna

*Pre-school to Class12
Founded in 2003 with 30 girls
...now 700 attending*

Prerna: Our Students Lives

Average family
income

6000 Rs (108\$)

Average family size
7

60% mothers and
40% fathers
**completely
unschooled**

46%
Alcoholic Fathers

88% of children
report being beaten

34% of children
working



Prerna: Their homes

43%
huts or temporary
housing

73%
no lavatory

60%
no electricity



Laxmi



Prerna: Main Educational Goal

*To help them emerge as **women with a perception of themselves as equal persons** having the right to equal participation in an unequal society, and to be equipped with the appropriate skills for such equal participation.*



To this end they must:

- Successfully complete Class 12
- Recognize themselves as equal and autonomous persons
- Gain a critical understanding of the social and political structures framing their lives
- Develop a capacity to aspire*
- Gain confidence and skills to realize their aspirations



* Arjun Appadurai's *The Capacity to Aspire: Culture and the Terms of Recognition* (2004)

How it achieves its goals



Making Education Relevant to Life

Critical Dialogues: Undoing Gender in Empowerment Classes



Key features of the Prerna Empowerment Program

Supportive Relations

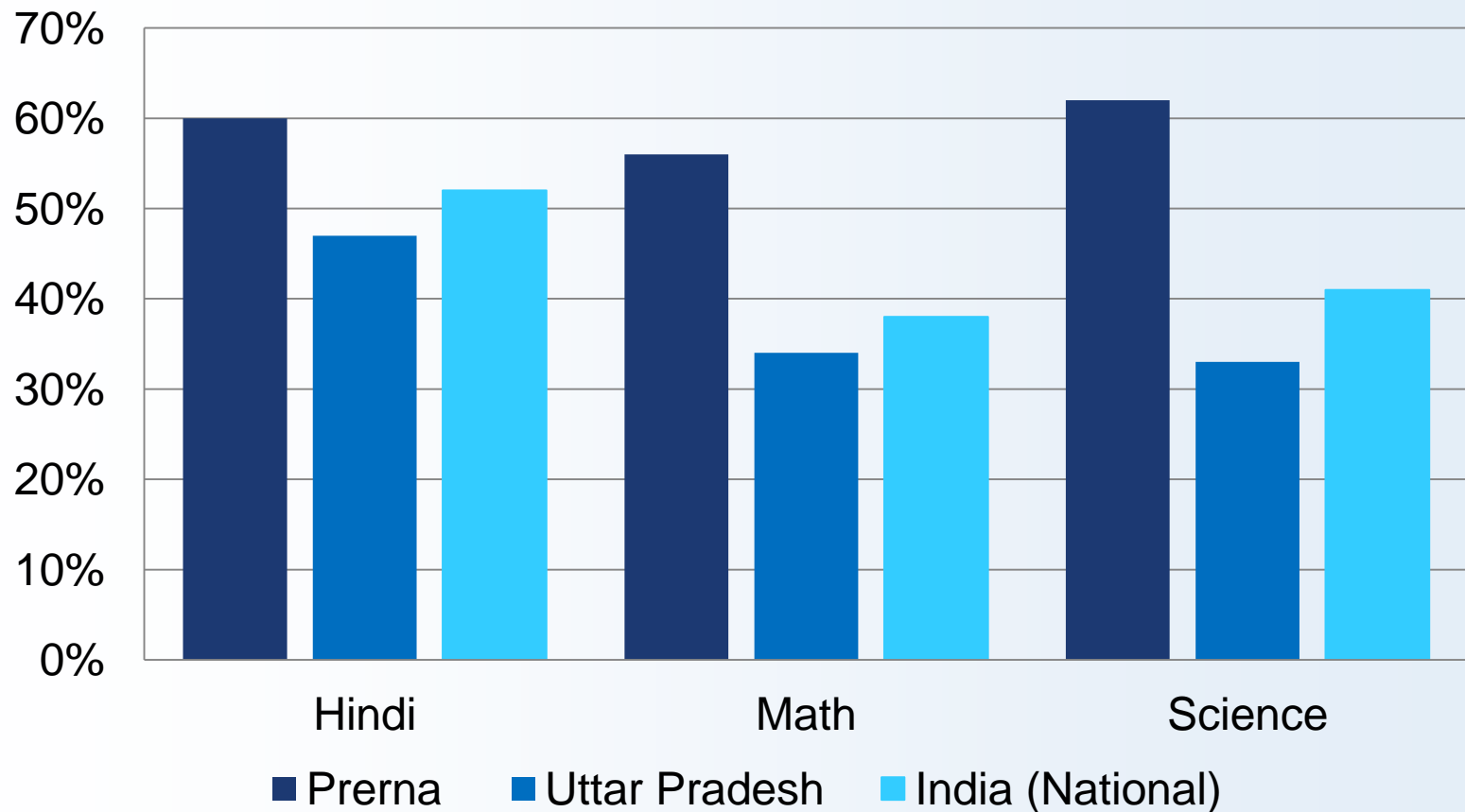


Challenging Structures

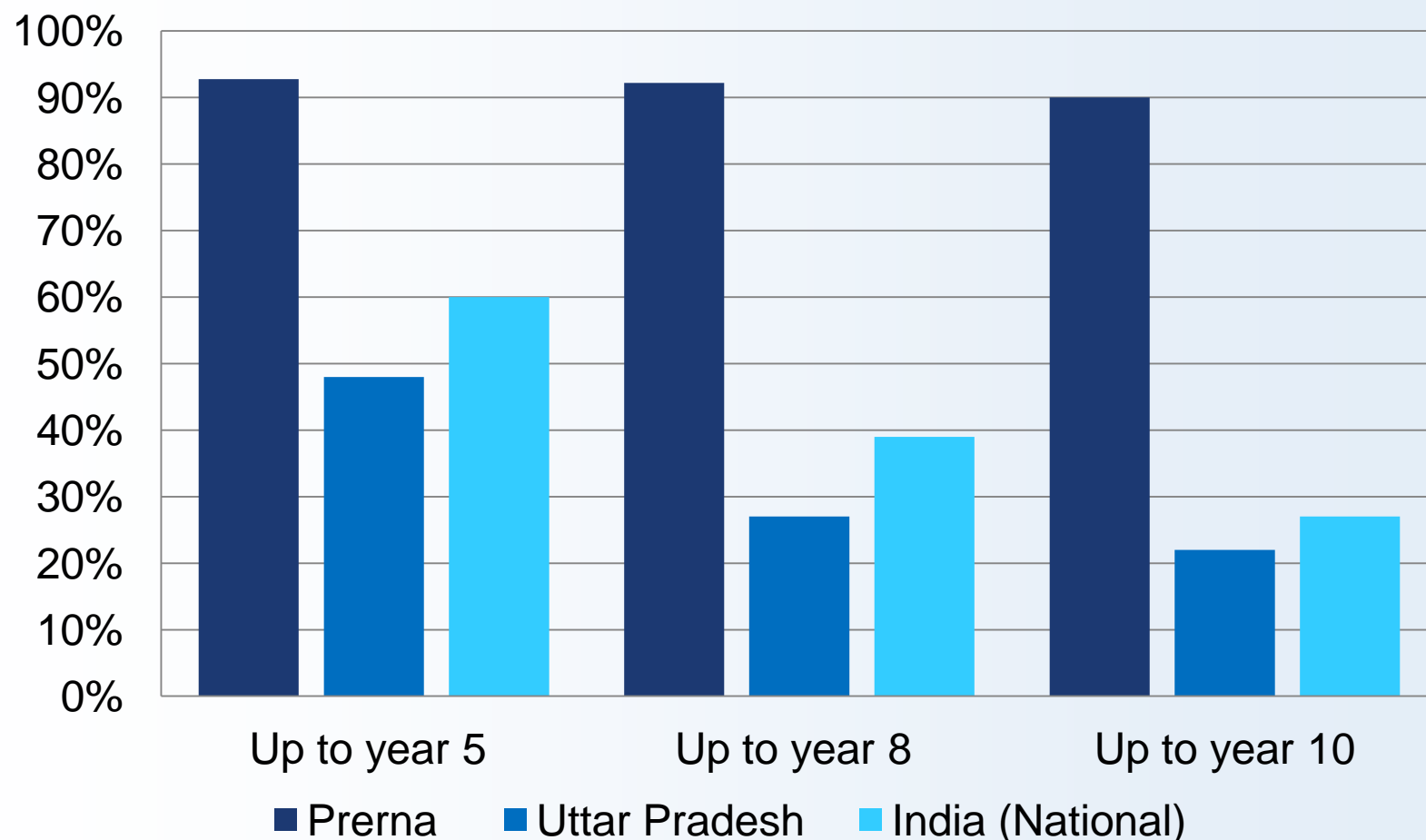


Individual Change

Prerna outperforms in all subject areas



More girls from Prerna complete their education



Life Outcomes: What can they do and who can they be?

88%
Graduation Rate

88%
of graduating class
continue to
Higher Education

Only
6%
married
All after the legal age of 18



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Scaling Prerna

Journey so far: key components of implementation

- Teacher Training
- Digital Materials
- Monitoring: Mobile Voice Forum



Scaling Prerna: A Pilot

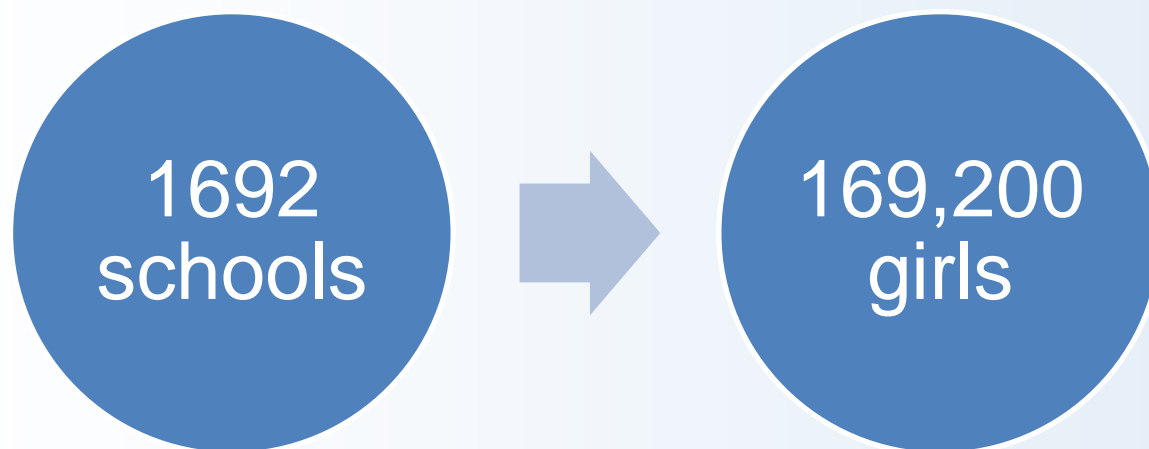
Goal: Develop a tested, scalable pilot of the Prerna Empowerment Program

In order to do this:

- Implement the program in 30 schools for 3 years
- Collect and incorporate lessons learned
- Develop and document processes and materials
- Test impact based on learning and life outcomes

Implications: For India and Globally

If the pilot passes the test then the program in India can scale to at least:



If our technology solution is successful for scale up, it can be used globally for scaling teacher training and education efforts.

Recommendations

Prerna:

- Scale carefully and test appropriately

India:

- Mainstream lessons from successful non-governmental programs
- Incorporate Gender Studies in post primary curriculum

Global Education Community:

- Take a more holistic, life outcome approach.
- Schooling must address students' real problems



*“The true flight of life is yet to be
The test of my intentions is yet to be
Just a fistful of earth have I measured yet
The whole wide sky lies ahead”*

- Rama Rawat's 10th grade graduation speech

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Critical Dialogues can be found at

www.youtube.com/user/dshonline

