

ANNUAL UPDATE

INDIA

PATNA



Together with your sponsorship, children and families are making positive changes in Patna. Learn more about the valuable ways we work with children and communities.

This year, advocating for inclusive education and access to quality health resources were top priorities.

Together, parents and youth learned about the importance of girls' education, parental engagement and the community's role in promoting education. Young people also learned about their sexual and reproductive health and how to advocate for their rights.

As a result, young people — and their families — have a brighter future ahead.



1,820

Pupils formed Child Cabinets in student government



2,432

People participated in National Girl Child Day



232

Peer educators trained on sexual and reproductive health and rights

“PLAN IDENTIFIED ME AS VULNERABLE TO CHILD MARRIAGE. (THEN) I WAS ENROLED IN CLASS. I AM HAPPY AND THANKFUL.”

Aarati, 14-year-old Sponsored Child





NAME: KANCHAN

AGE: 19 YEARS OLD

**DREAMS TO BE: A
POLICE OFFICER**

“MY PARENTS SACRIFICED A LOT. IT IS TIME I START WITH SOMETHING THAT SUPPORTS MY JOURNEY.”

Meet Kanchan

Like the child you sponsor, Kanchan is making steps towards achieving her goals and building a stronger future for herself.

Kanchan is an outstanding student who loves to read. Her favourite subject is history, and she's passionate about Indian culture. And while cultural norms may disregard girls' education, Kanchan is on the path to a bright future.

Facing Obstacles — With Support

Kanchan's large family didn't believe girls need to attend higher education, and discouraged her from taking Service Commission exams to get a government job.

Yet Kanchan is active in her Plan India community. She participated in the International Day of the Girl Takeover Event, and has a leadership position. She also has access to Plan India's Paramarsh resources.

Paramarsh is a unique service for career guidance and counselling services, enabling at-risk young women like Kanchan to make informed life choices. Through the programme, Kanchan and her parents participated in a series of dialogues to help facilitate a supportive environment for Kanchan to pursue her dreams.

Leading by Example

Yet even with her parents' eventual approval and Kanchan's acceptance into college, the financial obstacles were still high. Through Paramarsh resources, Kanchan was able to start her academic journey towards higher education: She received a scholarship from the International School of Canada for a 6-month-long course. Now Kanchan is enrolled as an undergraduate in Political Science with Honours from the School of Open Learning University.

In leading by example, Kanchan will help create change in her community so that other girls can pursue their dreams.



Kanchan is a role model

OUR PROJECTS IN PATNA ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



More than 2,200 youth participated in the World Menstruation Day activities to break the myths and taboos around periods.

BREAKING TABOOS



There are 253 million adolescents in India — many of whom lack information and resources on sexual and reproductive health and rights. Without this knowledge, young people are susceptible to health issues like early and unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections.

Education and resources are key. The UMANG Project empowers youth with comprehensive education on sexual and reproductive health and rights. It creates widespread awareness, helps break the taboos around health and rights, and bridges the communication gap between adolescents and their parents.

In Patna, 31 centres were established to provide healthcare resources. In addition, 232 peer educators shared information about sexual and reproductive health and rights, helping to challenge gender discrimination and taboos.

EDUCATION FOR ALL



Many children are unable to access their right to an education due to socio-economic and gender barriers. Girls also face barriers to school leadership roles.

The Sopaan Project improves educational access and gender equality in school. This year, 6,590 parents, teachers and students learned about the importance of girls' education, parental engagement and the community's role in supporting education. The project also includes Child Cabinet student government programmes. In Patna, 1,820 children formed 130 Child Cabinets.

As a result, children developed leadership skills, adults are clear about their responsibilities, and student enrolment increased.

“I want to work for the betterment of the school and my ultimate goal is to create access to good education for each girl in my area.” - **Anamika (14) from Patna**



YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



The best is yet to come — and together we will continue to work for a brighter future for the children in Patna.

- Low retention rates in elementary schools are still a challenge. We will continue to encourage parental involvement and advocate for equitable access to education.
- 63% of pregnant women aged 15-49 are anaemic. We will continue to work for improved maternal and child health services, and promote quality health care for pregnant mothers and their babies.
- 40% of women aged 20-24 were married before age 18. We will continue to generate awareness of the consequences of early marriage through education and improved resources.

Thank you for your continued support.



“We at Plan India are deeply indebted to our donors and hope that we get more and more chances to work on successful collaborations in the future.”

Sanjiv Kumar
Programme Area Manager

THE PLAN EFFECT



Your sponsorship commitment is turned into effective long-term change – providing help for self-help. We involve children at the centre of all projects, bringing effective and sustainable solutions to families and communities. With Plan's Effect, your commitment helps empower communities to transform their lives and futures.

THE LAST 12 MONTHS



APRIL

9,635

Community members sensitized on girls' education



MAY

5,629

Water storage buckets distributed to families



OCTOBER

199

Girls received tablets to help with school



DECEMBER

1,050

Parent group members involved in school activities

