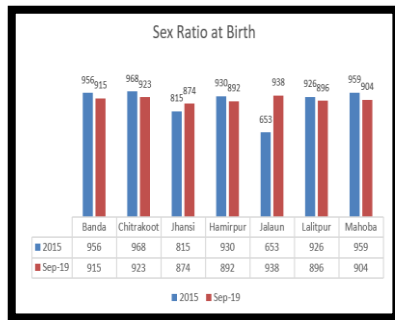


10-Addressing Gender Issues in Bundelkhand Region the Scenario, Status & Critical Issues

-Manoj Kumar Rai, Director, Mahila Kalyan

Sex Ratio at Birth

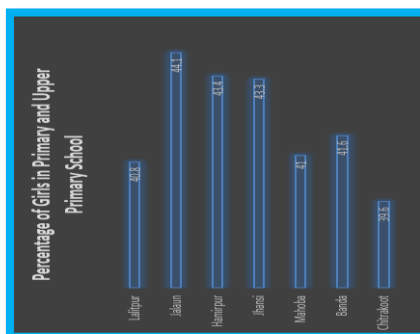
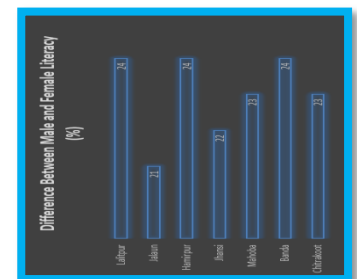
“There is some anecdotal evidence that points female feticide and possibly even female infanticide” Human Development Report, Bundelkhand 2012



- Number of Females per thousand males: Except Banda, all districts are above the State average of Uttar Pradesh.
- As against National Average of 919 in 2015, Uttar Pradesh has shown a gradual increase reported in Sex Ratio at Birth at State Level. Source: 2015-16 NFHS-4; 2017-19 HMIS
- In the previous six months, Hamirpur, Jalaun and Mahoba have shown increase in Sex Ratio at Birth while Banda, Chitrakoot, Jhansi and Lalitpur have shown a decrease over.

Literacy Differentials

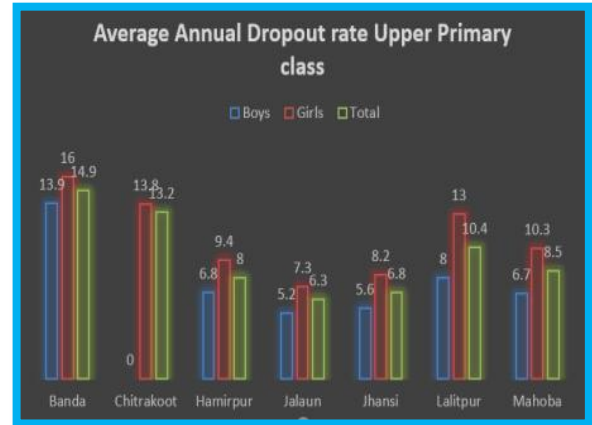
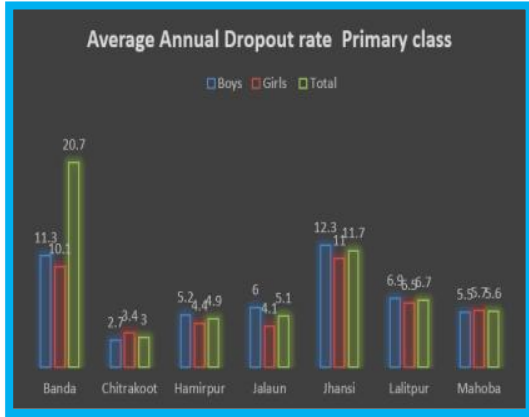
- Literacy differentials are prominent in the region right from primary level which accentuates on senior level.
- Distance to School a challenge for basic, secondary and higher education.
- Just as there is difference in achievements in health, in education and literacy also women lag behind men.
- There is a significant difference in literacy rates in Bundelkhand, a difference of 21 percent between male and female literacy in 2011, the gap being substantially higher than the national difference (17 percent).
- As far as the districts are concerned, the highest difference between male and female literacy was in Datia, followed by Lalitpur, Banda and Hamirpur. Even the urbanized district of Jhansi had a difference of 22 percent.



- The enrolment of girls in schools is also less than for boys. DISE data shows that the percentage of girls enrolled in primary and upper primary schools is only 41.4 percent of the total, which gives a sex ratio in school of 7065.

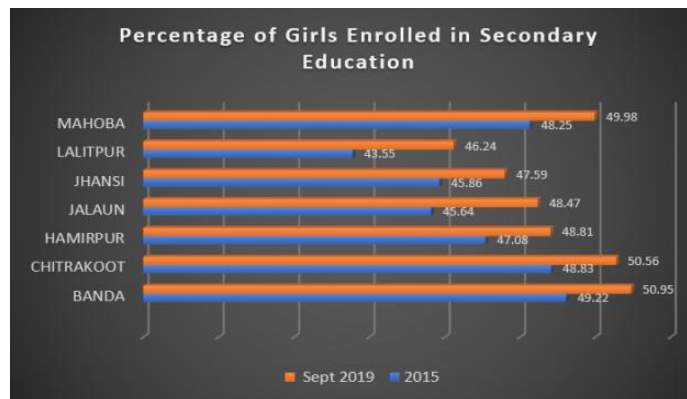
- When 29.4 percent girls (assuming equal number of girls and boys are eligible for enrolment) are 'out of school', since only 70.6 percent are enrolled, it can be assumed safely that 29.4 percent of girls are missing from school are not even attending primary and upper primary classes, it is obvious that their enrolment and attendance in higher classes will be even lower. Right from the primary level, girls are kept away from school and this practice is accentuated in senior classes.

Literacy differentials: Annual drop out



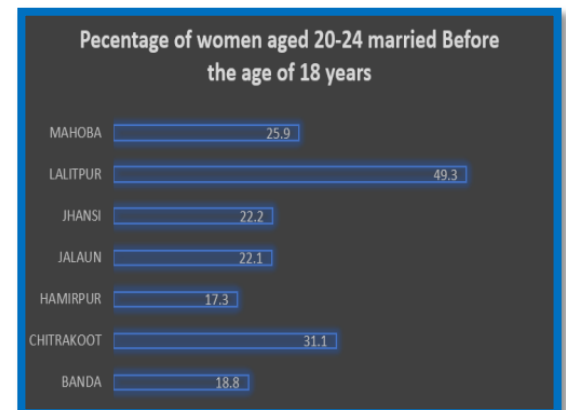
Enrolment in Secondary Education

- 2019 has witnessed an increase in enrolment of girl child in secondary education across Bundelkhand



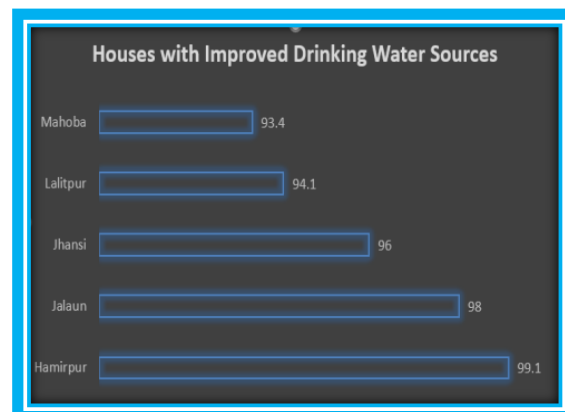
Prevalence of Child Marriage

- In Uttar Pradesh, one-fifth of women age 20-24 years got married before the legal minimum age of 18 years, down from 59 percent in NFHS-3.
- In Lalitpur, the percentage is highest in Bundelkhand up to 49.3% whereas in Hamirpur it is the least up to 17.3%.
- There is a fair chance that many of them would have become pregnant before they turned 18, and many would have been mothers before they were 18.
- Thus, many women are being subjected to the rigours of child-bearing before they are sufficiently developed and ready for this. Early child bearing has an adverse effect on both the mother's health as well as on that of the infant.



Drinking Water Sources

- Women still saddled with the burden of being water providers for families
- Safe Drinking water a challenge. However, according to NFHS-4, there has been an improvement in drinking water sources with Hamirpur witnessing the highest percentage of 99.1%.
- Primary collectors of water are women, decision-making power lies with men.
- Women travel a few kilometers daily carrying up to fifteen liters of water in each trip (Human Development Report, Bundelkhand 2012).



Strategic Operation & Plan of Action

Issue	Indicators for Change
Ending All forms of discrimination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survival of Girl Child • Legal framework are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex • Equal access to health care • Equal Access to Education
Eliminating Violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of crime against women to total crime decreased • Proportion of sexual crime against girl children to total crime decreased • Proportion of trafficking of girl child to total children trafficked decreased • Percentage of currently partnered girls and women aged 15-49 years who have experienced physical and / or sexual violence by their current intimate partner in the last 12 months decreased
Eliminating Harmful Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing the issues of child marriage
Women's effective participation and equal opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ending the culture of Pradhan Pati
Access to sexual reproductive health and reproductive rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Planning methods by both partners
Women's equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exclusive Women SHGs • Wages of Casual Labourers

Addressing Gender Issues

Issue	Programme
Addressing low Sex Ratio at Birth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective Implementation of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao • Conditional cash benefit schemes like Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangla Yojna.
Addressing literacy differentials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better implementation of various schemes of skill development and expansion and access of girls to secondary and higher education in convergence with line departments.
Addressing gender based	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective Implementation of One Stop Centers with all services under one

violence	<p>roof.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 181 Women Helpline and Rescue Vans. • Compensation to victims of violence through Rani Laxmi Bai Mahila Evam Bal Samman Kosh • Providing economic assistance to widowed women
Other Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy and action plan for water, environment and natural resources should be integrated for smooth and effective implementation. • Effective implementation of various women entitlement schemes. • Coordination and synergy with the departments of health, education, home, rural development, labour, Panchayat and others. • Expand and further contextualize existing plans so that untouched area and most marginalized can be reached out.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involving more gender sensitive organizations as enablers and carefully supervising and monitoring the parameters. • Endeavour to attain greater financial access to women in UP taking resource to gender budgeting component. • Women's involvement in decision-making about water resources critical. A need to develop a locally relevant policy, using bottom-up consultations with community specially women. • A network of institutions in Bundelkhand-a Consortium for environmental and socially relevant developmental research needs to be promoted with maximum participation of women. • Convergence of universities, ICAR institutes of grassland, fodder and agro forestry, TARA Habitat Academy, medical institutions and NGOs with national institutions on forestry, land & water, disaster management, etc. • Service providers, line departments functionaries, Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) members & functionaries, Bank Functionaries to be gender sensitized. 	

The Success Story of Paani Panchayats

In 2011, in response to the problems of drought, women from 60 Gram Panchayats of the three districts of Bundelkhand–Jalaun, Hamirpur and Lalitpur got together to form paani panchayats (water councils) in their villages, which have become a model of local self-governance; focussing on how to address water and employment problems in rural areas. The focus of these paani panchayats, led mostly by Dalit women, is to create more water resources, revive old tanks and talaabs, and conserve natural water resources with the help of traditional and modern technology. They also address employment problems. The first such formation came up in Jalaun in 2011, and within two to three months, 96 such councils came up. The results are impressive.

For example, the Gahuli village paani panchayat has revived its traditional pond and now manages it sustainably. In Jalalpur, the women revived an old pond and got a hand pump installed for Dalit families, who were prevented from accessing water from the other sources in their village. The paani panchayats work through jalsahelis (friends of water). They are supported by the Jalaun based NGO, Parmarth Samaj Sevi Sansthan (PSSS).

Success Story : KhabarLaharia produced, distributed and marketed entirely by rural women

A weekly newspaper called Khabar Lahariya that is written, edited, produced, distributed and marketed entirely by rural women from backward communities (SCs and STs, Dalits and Muslims) helps to keep its readers informed about local issues and developments and is extremely popular in Bundelkhand. It covers local political news, local crime reports, social issues and entertainment. Today, it has over 40 members, and is sold in 600 villages, and has a circulation of 6,000 copies. This paper was first start in Bundeli, the local dialect, and has now expanded to other languages/dialects like Bhojpuri, Awadhi, Hindustani and Bajjika. It is the only local language newspaper that covers news, which is off the radar of the mainstream media. It connects with its rural audience, with its unique local language content, rarely seen in print, and provides an important platform for the people to voice their concerns.