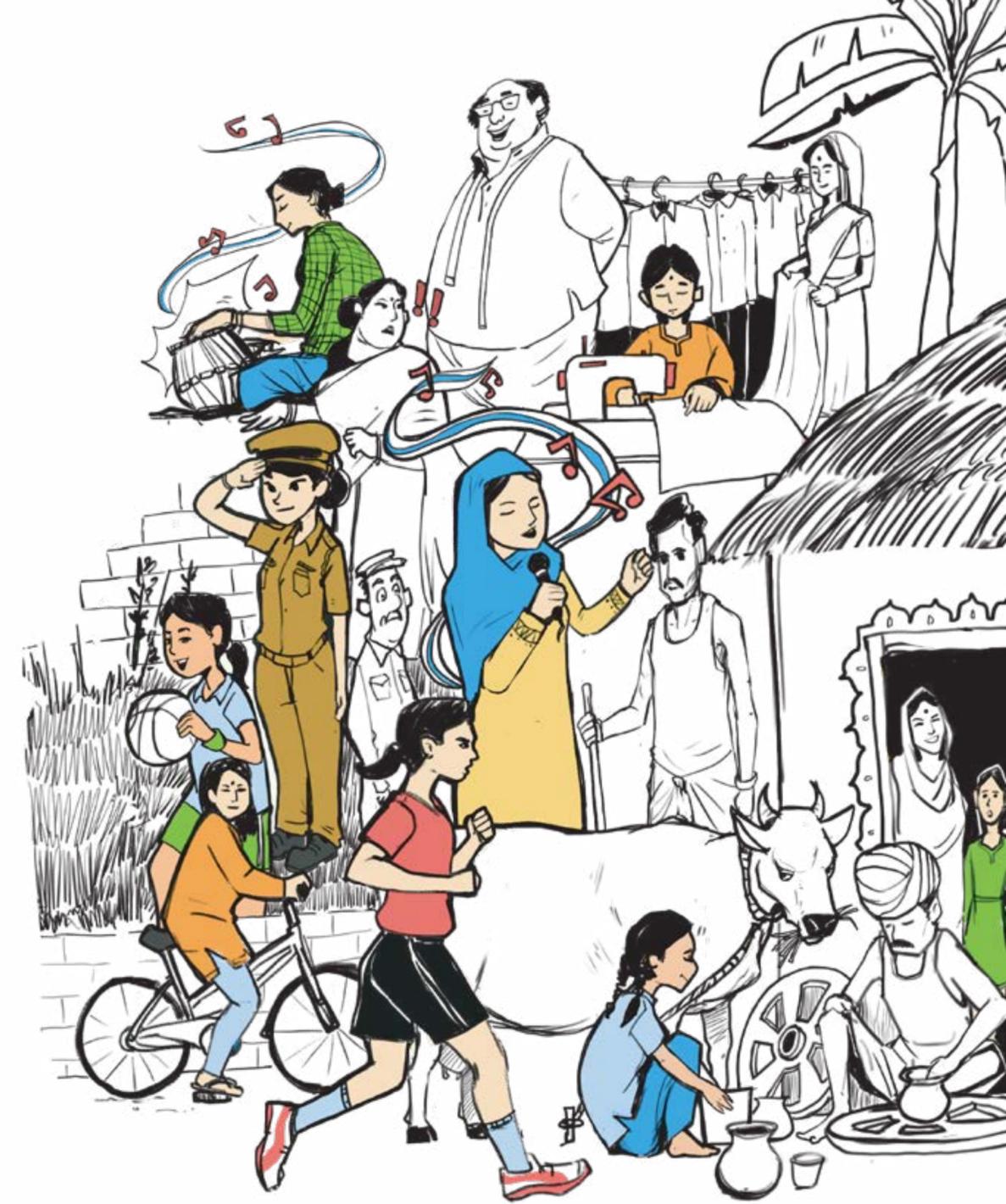
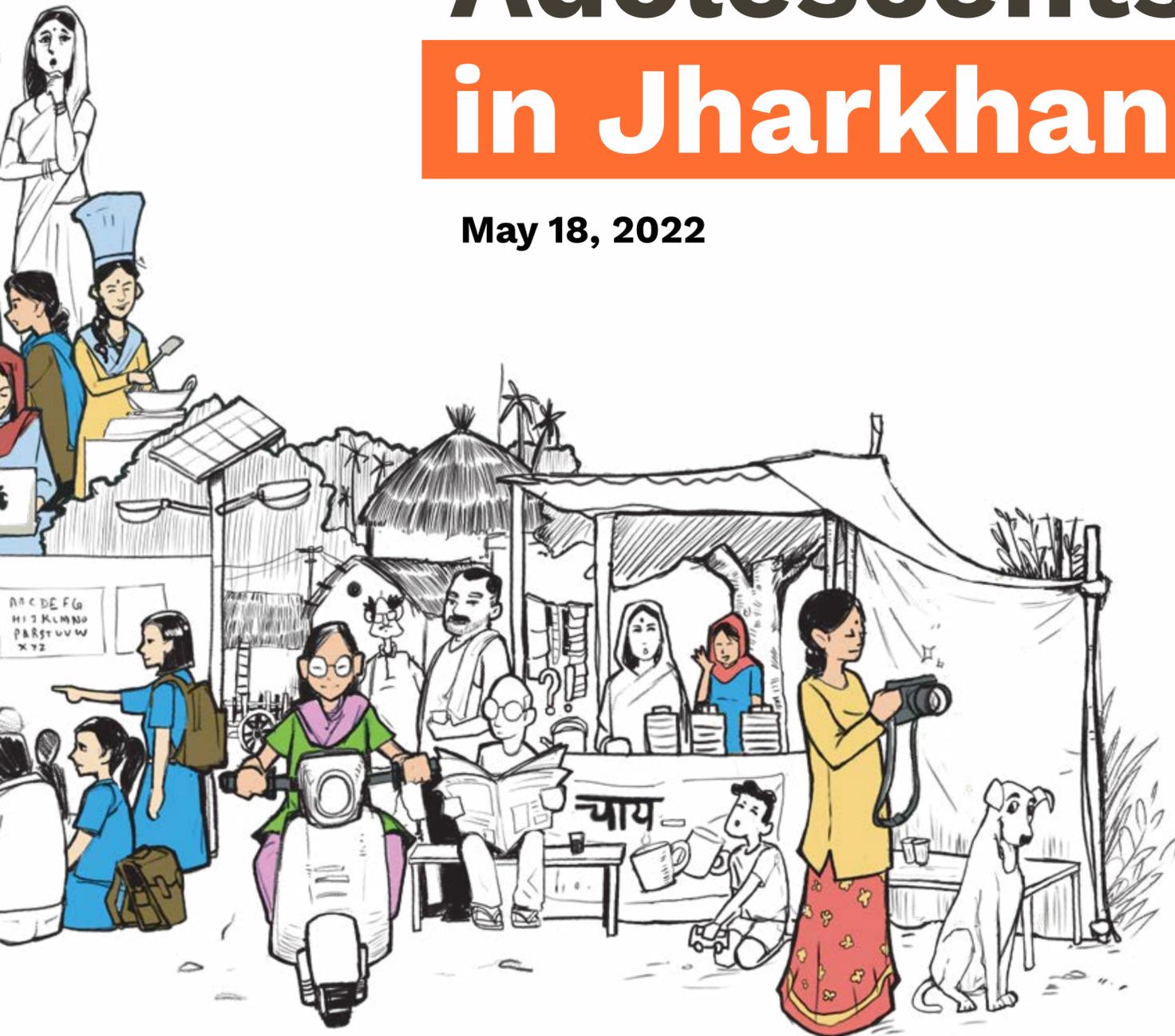


State of Adolescents in Jharkhand

May 18, 2022



A collaborative initiative by



One of Jharkhand's most significant challenges in development is empowering adolescents. Many young girls face adverse social and economic challenges that complicate their transition from childhood to adulthood.

The Jharkhand State Event, organized on May 18, 2022, brought together 35 civil society organizations, 100+ participants including government officials, experts from the field of education, and adolescent representatives from the ground for conversations and discussions on the state of adolescents in Jharkhand.

The keynote speakers of the event were

- Dr. Anil Kumar,
Deputy Director of Health Services,
- Shri Arun Kumar Singh,
Additional Chief Secretary
- Smt.Kiran Kumari Pasi –
Director, Department of School
Education & Literacy

Dr. Anil Kumar,
Deputy Director of Health Services,

during his keynote address, set the context of local myths and traditions around early pregnancy and teenage marriages leading to social, economic, and health problems. At least 60% of women in Jharkhand are anemic because of this.

Shri Arun Kumar Singh,
Additional Chief Secretary,

appreciated that we have the intention to handle the issues faced by adolescents, stressed that it is important to have intention. He felt that “we need to prioritize which issues need to be addressed first, and what solutions we need to come up with to address different issues based upon location, geography, and human resources.”

Smt. Kiran Kumari Pasi,
Director, Department of School
Education & Literacy

shared her thoughts on support required to keep adolescents in school. She said, “We come up with different schemes such as mid-day meals and we are criticized for that. But there are circumstances in which these schemes help in the retention of students in schools. Students who are not able to avail of schemes drop out drastically, as compared to those receiving these facilities. We need different schemes; we need to bring transport facilities. We need to become pillars of support for such parents who want to educate their children, but cannot due to lack of resources.”

1. Panel Discussion

Facilitating Whole Child Development in the Light of Social-Emotional Learning.

Panelists:

- **Suchetha Bhat,**
Dream a Dream
- **Aakash Sethi,**
Quest Alliance
- **Vivek Sharma,**
Kaivalya Education
Foundation

Moderator:

- **Parul Saklani,**
Sattva



Key Takeaways:

- It is important to identify role models from the community to be effective change catalysts through their stories of change.
- There is a need to unlearn a competitive mindset and look forward to more collaborations and building trust with like-minded organizations.
- It is crucial to shift the definition of scale from numbers to a change of mindset as a change of mindset rather than numbers

2. Panel Discussion

Adolescent voice on SEL (school)



Panelists:

- **Radha,**
Student
- **Manju Pandey,**
Teacher
- **Harshali,**
Student

Moderator:

- **Renu Mishra,**
Quest Alliance

Key Takeaways:

- Two years of the lockdown led to the loss of interest among students in school - became less expressive and interactive in classes.
- Integration of SEL activities changed the perspective and attitude of both teachers and students.
- SEL sessions brought the focus of teachers towards listening to students, rather than one way communication.

3. Panel Discussion

Community based approaches for building of agency for adolescents.

Panelists:

- Sanjay Paul, C3
- Sumantra Chatterjee, CINI
- Chaitali Seth, Aangan
- Neha Parti, Quest Alliance

Moderator:

- Anusha, Dasra



Key Takeaways:

- IVRS messages acted as a connectivity tool with schools, teachers, and students during the pandemic, creating awareness and supporting adolescents to access technology.
- The critical gap in the adolescent program is that it's not in the government's focus. Prioritizing programs for adolescents will lead to better outcomes.
- There is a need to eliminate the hesitation among children, teachers, and community members in addressing sexual reproductive health and family planning.

4. Panel Discussion

Impact of community based approaches on agency of adolescent girls

Panelists:

- **A peer educator,**
Quest Alliance
- **Savita and Tarranum -**
adolescent girls participating in clubs
run by Quest Alliance.

Moderator:

- **Anju Priya,**
Quest Alliance



Key Takeaways:

- The deteriorating economic condition of families during the pandemic led to a loss of interest in schools.
- Girl champions are an inspiration to many adolescent girls.
- Teacher-student ratio should improve in government schools and focus on education instead of getting engaged in other activities like elections or census.

The event to discuss the state of adolescents in Jharkhand is an initiative to build space for collaboration across a wide variety of entities -- civil society organizations, CSR wings of corporations, government bodies, and independent practitioners. The platform also seeks to provide a safe space that enables adolescents' voices to be heard. Through a sharing of insights and learnings, the efforts to build agency of adolescents and to improve their wellbeing, were strengthened. Quest Alliance intends to continue the dialogue in future with support of all the CSOs and stakeholders.





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