

India's Gendered Digital Divide

On the occasion of International Day of the Girl Child, Protsahan India Foundation interacted with 766 girls aged between 7-21 years from 64+ Urban Slum Communities in Delhi to understand how schools and colleges shifting to online mode have impacted their lives.

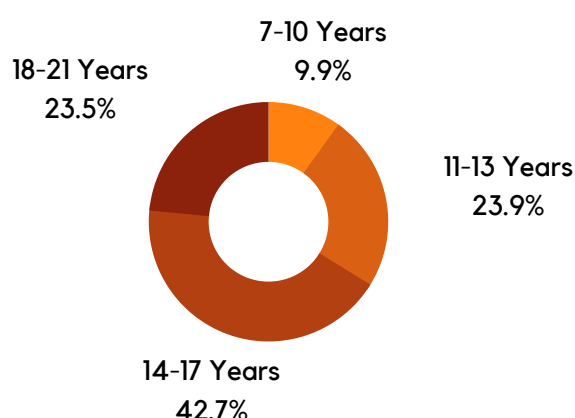
Demographic Information



64+ Urban Slum Communities of Delhi

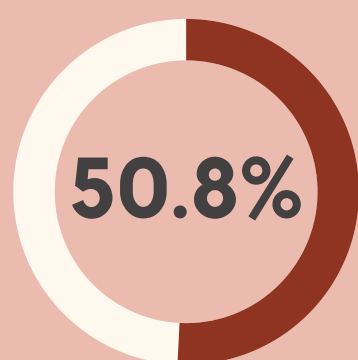


766 Girls participated in the survey

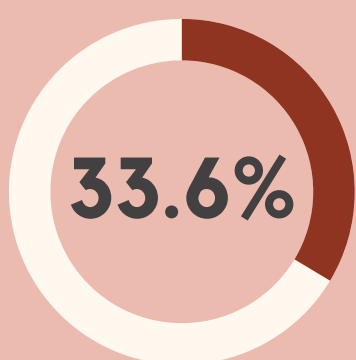


Girls from the age group **7-21 years** participated, out of which **76.5% girls** were from age group **7-17 years**

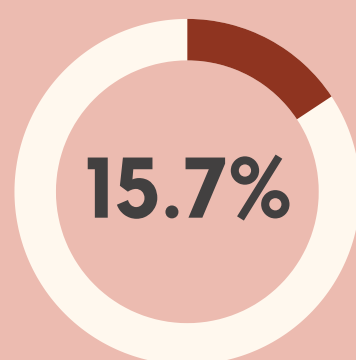
Salient Findings from the Survey



Girls shared that they have **GOOD ACCESS** to digital devices



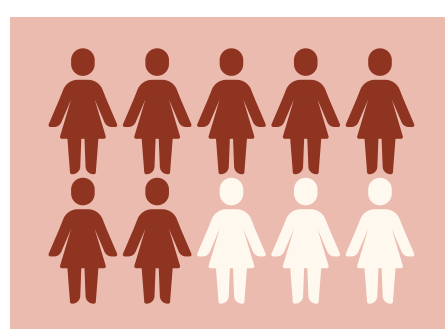
Girls shared that they **DON'T** have access to digital devices at all



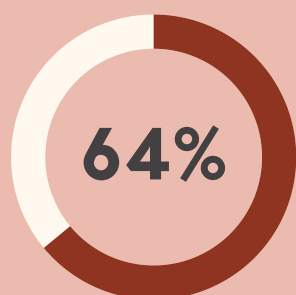
Girls shared that they have access to digital devices **RARELY**



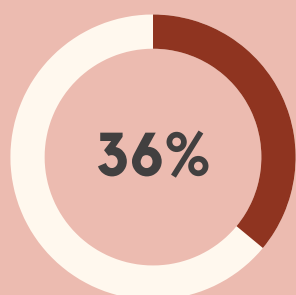
Out of 389 respondents who have access to digital devices, **only 295 has access to an internet connection**



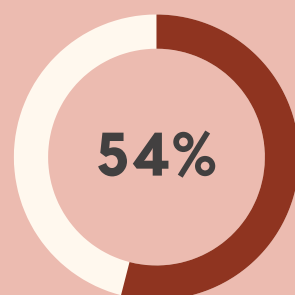
7 out of every 10 respondents who have access to the internet, shared that they **don't feel safe online**



Girls shared that in their communities **boys have more access to digital devices and internet**



Girls believe that **boys are better than girls** when it comes to using technology



Girls shared that they experienced a **high level of stress and anxiety** due to school and colleges shifting to online mode

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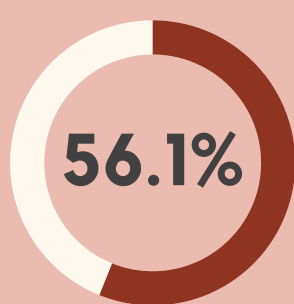


In our interactions with girls, we found various intersectionalities and challenges.

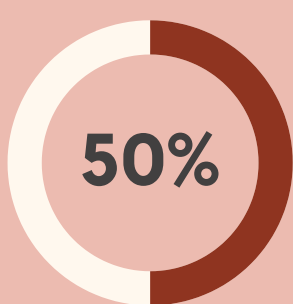
"Haan mere pass smartphone aur internet dono hai par ghar mein phone to ek hi hai.

Hum teen behenein hain, sabki class ek hi samay par hoti hai. Aap hi batao, ek phone se teen log padhai kar sakte hain kya?

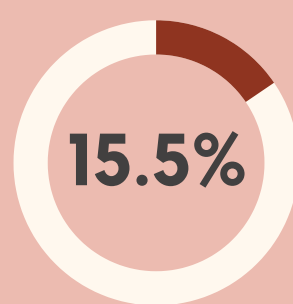
SONALI, 16 YEARS OLD



Girls experienced **increased responsibility of household chores during pandemic**



Girls experienced **lack of learning resources** i.e. books, stationery, tuition support during pandemic



Girls shared that they **might not be able to go back to school ever now**



62.2%

Girls shared that they feel online classes were boring and highly ineffective



30.4%

Girls shared that no access to mid day meals impacted their physical and emotional wellbeing



64.4%

Girls shared that data packs exhaust quickly with no means to recharge

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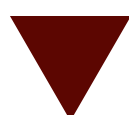


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With schools shifting to online platforms, it was not easy for the children especially girls from lower-income backgrounds to continue their learning journey

"Ghar mein padhai kar pana to bohot mushkil tha. Mere chote bhai behen hain jo bohot shor karte hain. Saath hi ghar ka kam bhi mujhe hi karna padhta hai. Aap hi batao aise mein padhai kaise hogi? Main khush hu ki school khul gaye hain par mujhe nahi lagta main pehle jaise kabhi padh paungi."

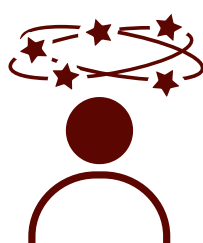
PAYAL, 14 YEARS OLD



66% girls shared that they **felt lonely and depressed** as their mobility was restricted and they couldn't meet their friends during the pandemic & even now



54.3% girls shared that they **felt lost and confused** since they were not in touch with their teachers for the longest time during the pandemic & even now



8 out of every 10 girls shared that it was difficult to study at home during the pandemic due to **lack of personal space & time, & things are no better even now**



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We asked the girls, why they think boys have more access to digital devices and the internet than girls? These were the few things we heard over and over again:



"Because he is the boy! Simple."

"Because family thinks that girl will talk to other boys!"

"Because society thinks boys are naturally good in using technical devices."

"Because boys go out and work, and girls stay at home."

"Because our family members listen to our brothers more than us."

"Because boys get more freedom and nobody questions them."

"Because my family thinks that it is important for the boy to study and get an education."



This survey was conducted by **Protsahan's Girl Champions Fellows** in **64+ slum communities** of West Delhi through conversations with **766 adolescent girls**.

To know more about Protsahan India Foundation, visit our website, www.protsahan.co.in