



BIKES & RIGHTS FOR GIRLS IN NEPAL

IT ALL STARTS WITH A BIKE. AND A BOOK.

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Tailored to a village

Mahadevpuri, Banke District

- ❖ Banke District lies in Outer Terai, a marshy lowland area in North India and South Nepal, between the Ganges and the foothills of the Himalayas. *Perfect for cycling due to its flat terrain.*
- ❖ Nepal has one of the highest child marriage prevalence rates in the world. In 2011, about 41% of women aged 20-24 were married/in union before age 18 (UNFPA). The highest prevalence of child marriage in Nepal is in the *Mid-western Region (53%)*, where Banke District lies.
- ❖ Education levels in Banke are low, *with only 5.5% of the population completing secondary school.*
- ❖ According to a 2011 census by the government of Nepal, 32,076 girls in Banke were married between the ages of 10 and 14 and 129,050 girls were married between 15 and 19 years of age. *1,854 girls were married under the age of 10.* The total population of females in Banke in 2011 was 247,058, making the *rate of marriage under 19 years old 66%.*
- ❖ *Domestic violence, rape and other forms of gender-based violence are rampant in this area.*





A Community Consultation Banke, Nepal

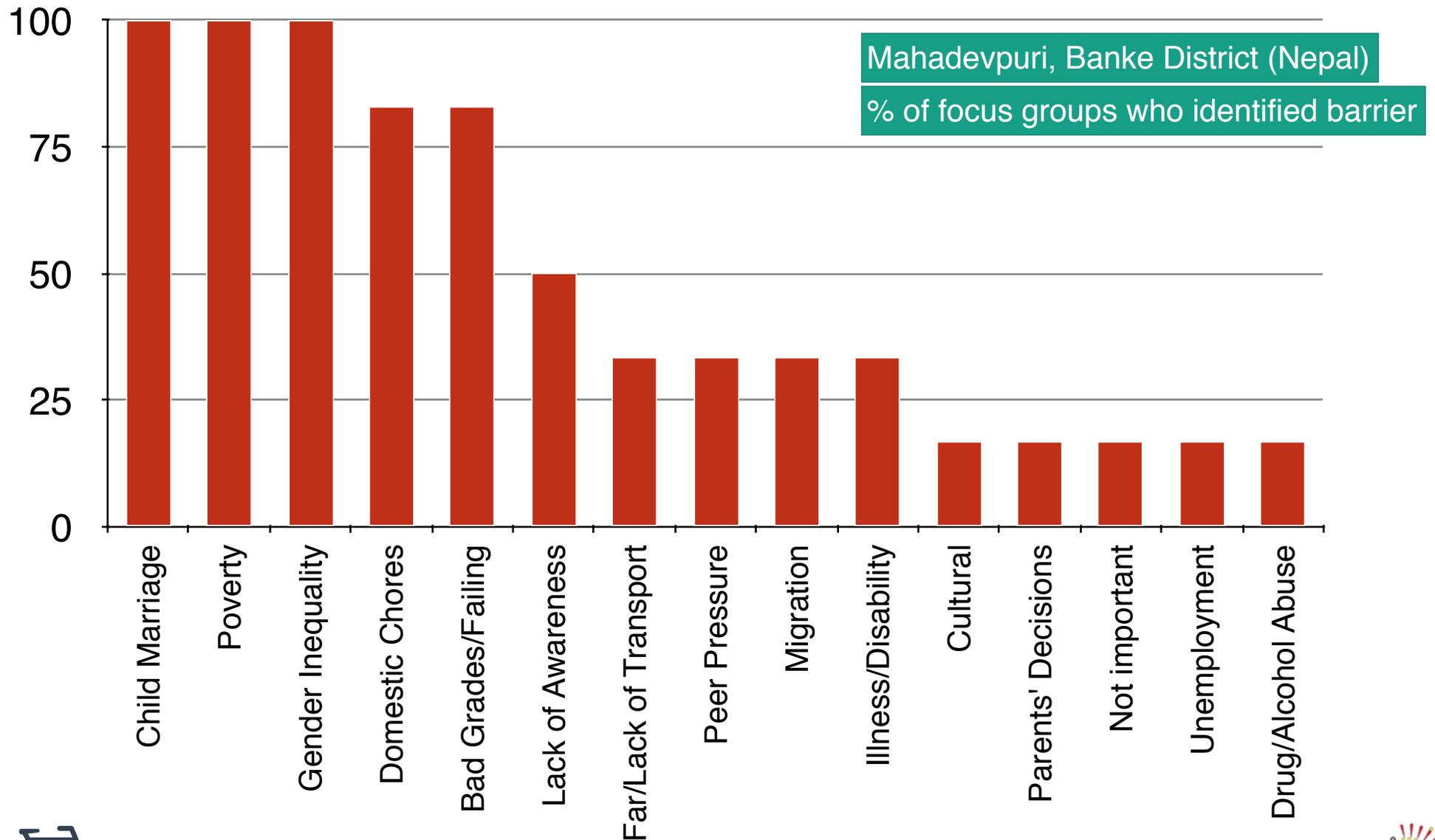


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Focus Group
Discussions:
*What barriers
do girls face
in accessing/
continuing
their education?*



Key Barriers for Girls in Accessing/Continuing Education - TOTAL COMMUNITY



FGDs: Girls who attend school



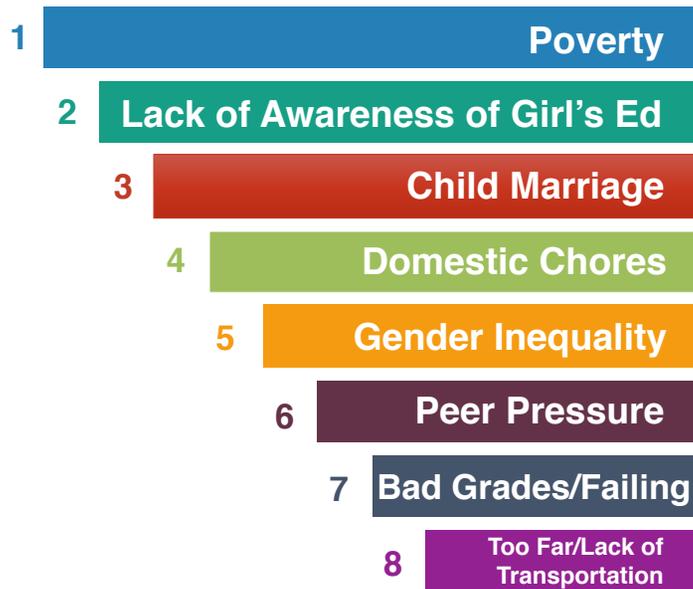
FGDs: Girls who don't attend school



Key Barriers Facing Girls to Attending School

Perception of GIRLS - Ordered by Level of Importance

Mahadevpuri, Banke District (Nepal)



GIRLS
WHO
ATTEND
SCHOOL



GIRLS
WHO DON'T
ATTEND
SCHOOL



FGDs: Boys who attend school



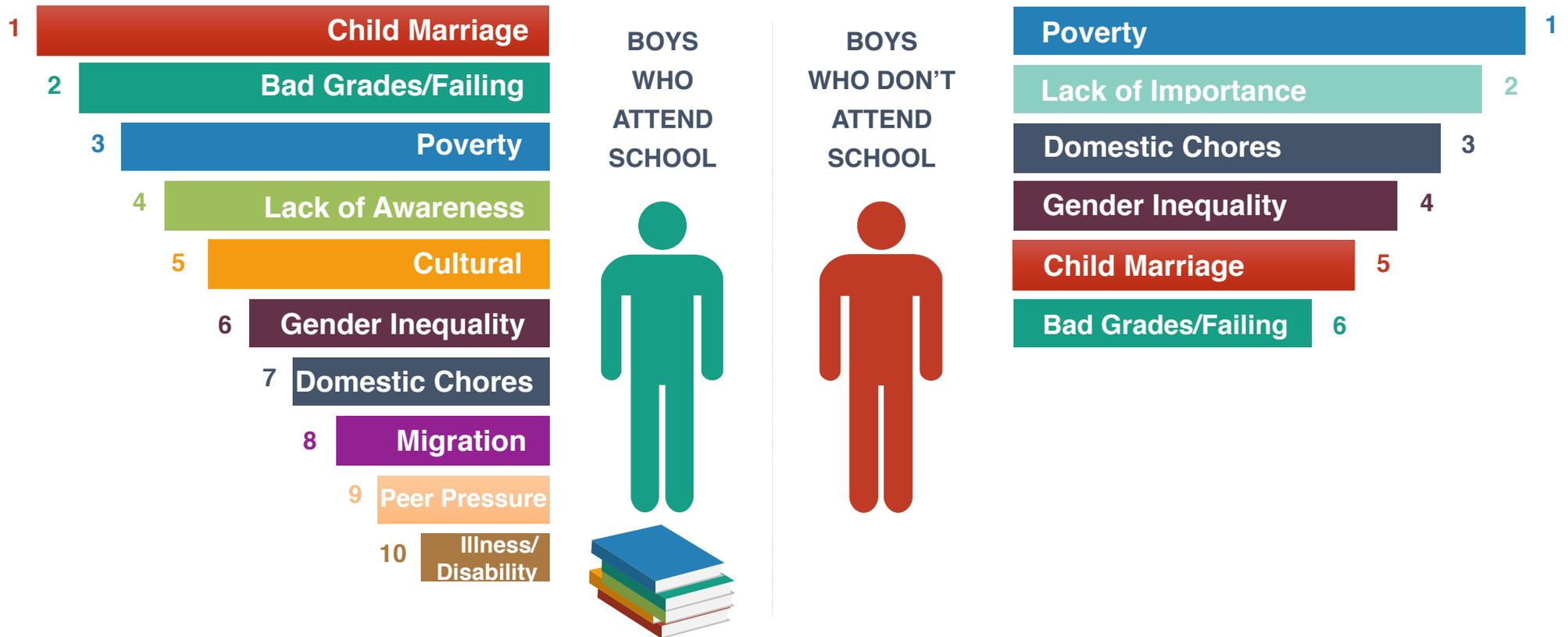
FGDs: Boys who don't attend school



Key Barriers Facing Girls to Attending School

Perception of BOYS - Ordered by Level of Importance

Mahadevpuri, Banke District (Nepal)



Comparing the barriers facing girls and boys in different FGDs



GIRLS 10-19
Out of school
Banke

POVERTY
गरीबी

CHILD MARRIAGE
बाल विवाह

HOUSE HOLD
CHORES
घरे काम भर

FAILING
फेल्य भर

LACK OF JOB
OPPORTUNITIES
काम समयमा
नपाएर

GENDER INEQUALITY
लैंगिक भेदभाव

SEXUAL ABUSE
AT SCHOOL
यौन दुर्व्यवहार

SCHOOL IS FAR
स्कूल टाढा

Removed Barriers
for Boys

GENDER INEQUALITY
लैंगिक भेदभाव

HOUSE HOLD
CHORES
घरे काम भर

SEXUAL ABUSE
AT SCHOOL
यौन दुर्व्यवहार

SCHOOL IS FAR
स्कूल टाढा

FGDs: Women



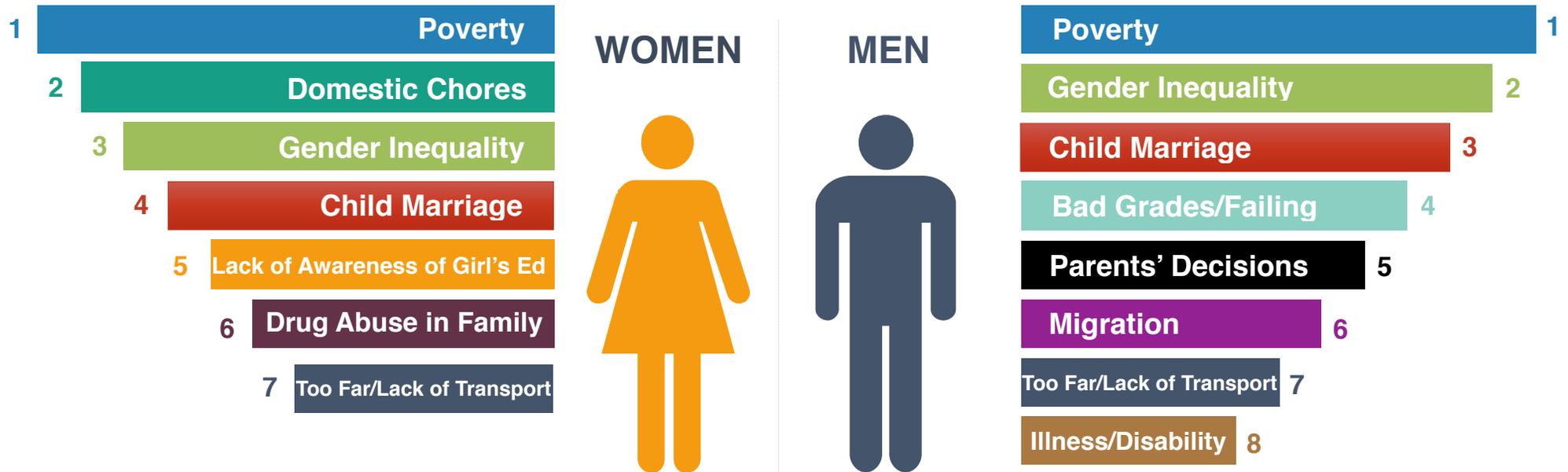
FGDs: Men



Key Barriers Facing Girls to Attending School

Perception of ADULTS - Ordered by Level of Importance

Mahadevpuri, Banke District (Nepal)



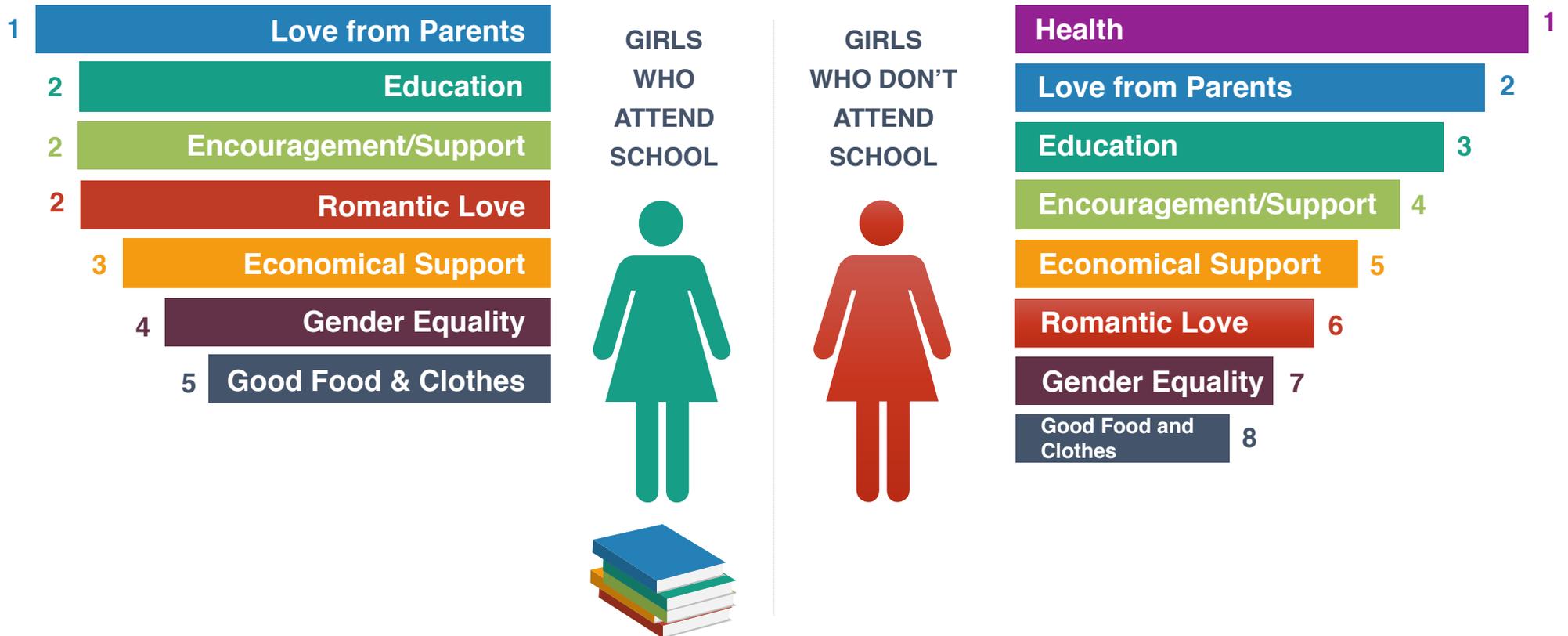
Girls' FGD:
What does
a girl require
to live a
healthy and
happy life?



The Key to Happiness

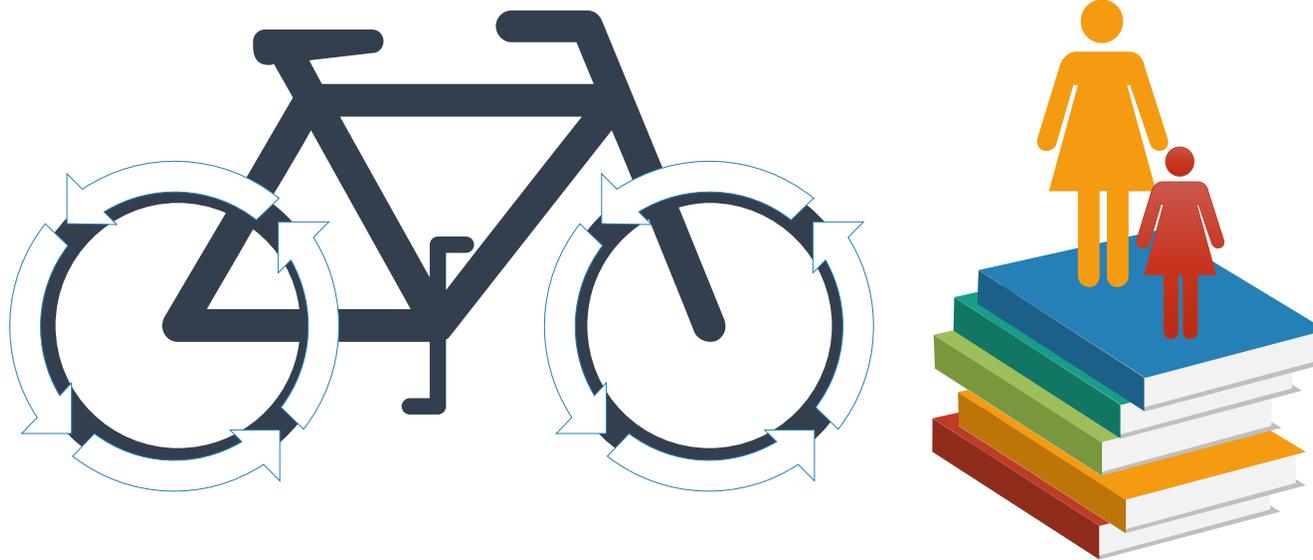
Perception of GIRLS - Ordered by Level of Importance

Mahadevpuri, Banke District (Nepal)



Bikes & Rights

Breaking the cycle of child marriage through education.



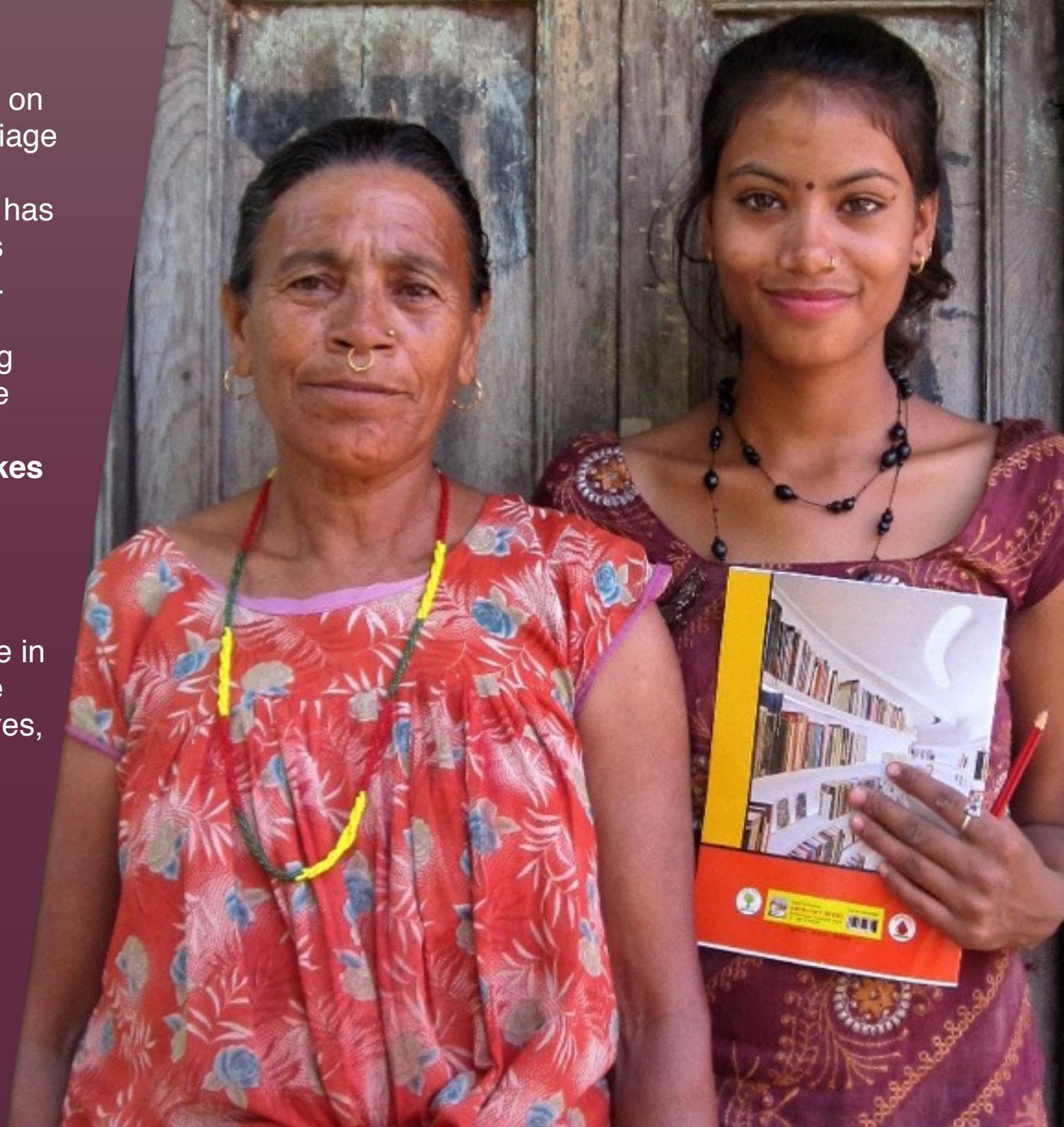
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Bikes & Rights is based on the notion that child marriage and education are intrinsically linked, which has been shown in numerous studies around the globe.

We believe that improving girls' education will be the difference. Hence, the strategies in place for **Bikes & Rights** are how to increase girls' access to education.

Once these strategies are in place, the girls will do the rest of the work themselves, proving once again to be powerful catalysts for change.



Cultivating Education

Strategies Used



Strategy 1

Empowering girls with information, skills and support networks.



Strategy 2

Educating and mobilizing parents and community members.



Strategy 3



Enhancing accessibility and quality of formal schooling for girls.

Strategy 4



Offering economic support and incentives for girls and their families.



The Bicycle

So much more than transportation

The **simple**, yet **innovative** tool of the **bicycle** should not be underestimated.

Empowering girls through a physical sport or activity (like cycling) is an effective way to improve **autonomy**, self-confidence, **gender equality** and changes in perceptions of girls. When combined with mentorship, community awareness and improved **education** facilities, its power is heightened.

Examples of the power of **sport** can be seen in Afghanistan, where a local NGO has successfully used skateboards to **empower** vulnerable youth and create **opportunity** in a highly oppressive environment (skateistan.org).

Hence, the bicycle in BIKES & RIGHTS is more than just a form of transportation; it is a transformational tool that enables empowerment, autonomy and self confidence.



Child Marriage
in Emergency/
Disaster Settings:
*The Nepal
Earthquakes
of 2015*



Why does child marriage increase in **emergency** settings?

- ❖ Migration, displacement and extreme poverty related to war or natural disasters leave children especially vulnerable to abuse, exploitation and child marriage.
- ❖ Fear of sexual violence, pregnancy outside of marriage (dishonour), human trafficking, homelessness and starvation can lead families in emergency or disaster situations to see child marriage as a way of off-setting violence and keeping their daughters “safe”. **But child marriage is not the answer.**
- ❖ Further weakened or non-existent child welfare systems and legislative frameworks in emergency settings further exacerbates the problem.



Thank You

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