

Youth in India: Situation and Needs

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A Global Picture of Youth

- In 2005, there were 1.5 billion 10-24 year olds
- 86% of them live in the developing world
- Youth comprise between 15 and 41% of a country's population
- Youth transitions today are occurring in a very different context than earlier

Choices Facing Youth



Finish school
—or drop out.



Enter the workforce
—safely or unsafely.



Enter safe or **unsafe**,
chosen or **unchosen**,
marriages.



Manage natal home,
marital household,
or live **alone**.



Have wanted children
—or purposely defer
them;

Prepare for their own,
and their children's,
futures.

India

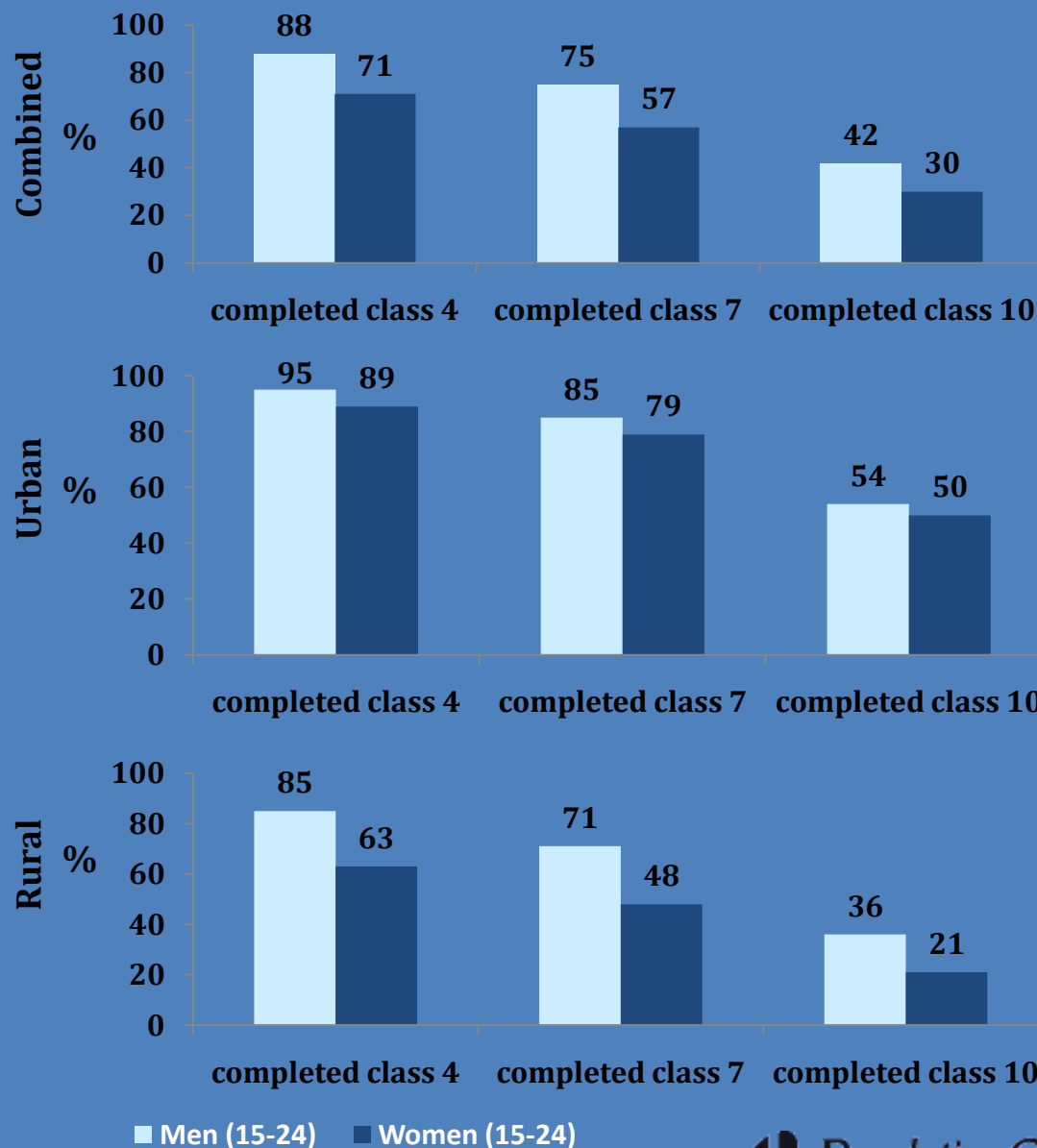
- In 2010, Indian youth were 31% of the population and numbered 354 million
- Recognition that youth can contribute towards national goals:
 - Economic development and poverty alleviation
 - MDG goals
 - Population stabilization
- First national level survey conducted in 2006-2008 of 50,848 youth across 6 states

Achievement of educational milestones

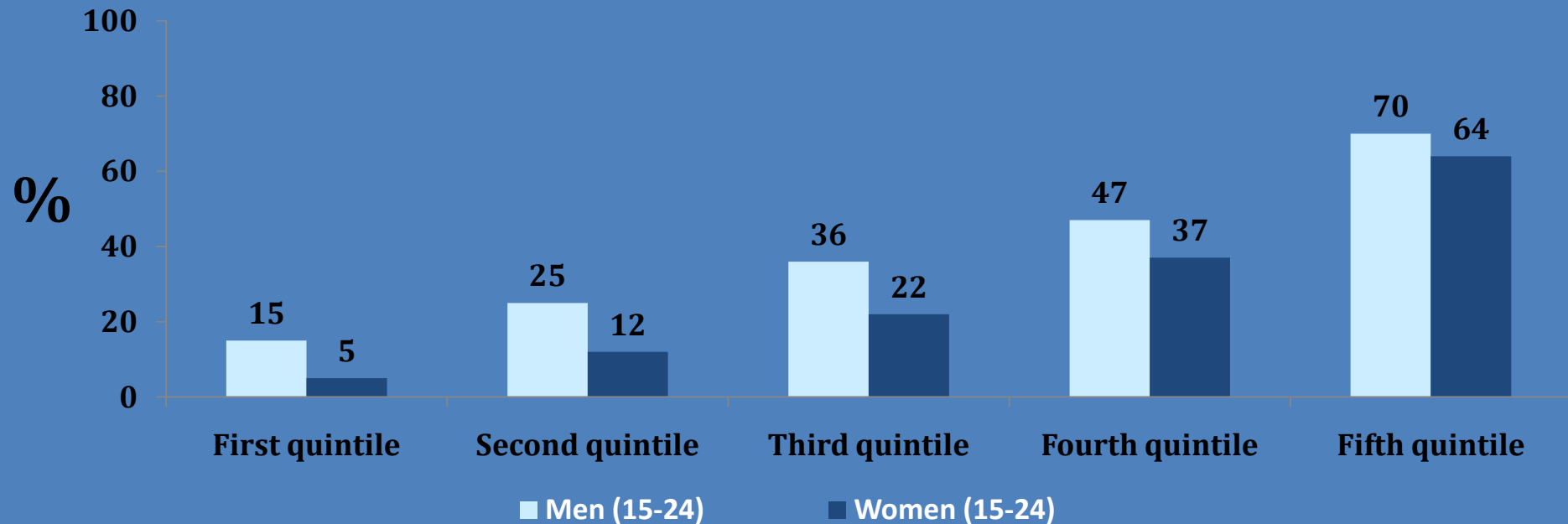
- Achieving milestones are far from universal:

- Just 3/4 of young men and 3/5 of young women completed Class 7
- Just 42% of young men and 30% of young women completed Class 10

- Young women and rural youth particularly disadvantaged at each level.



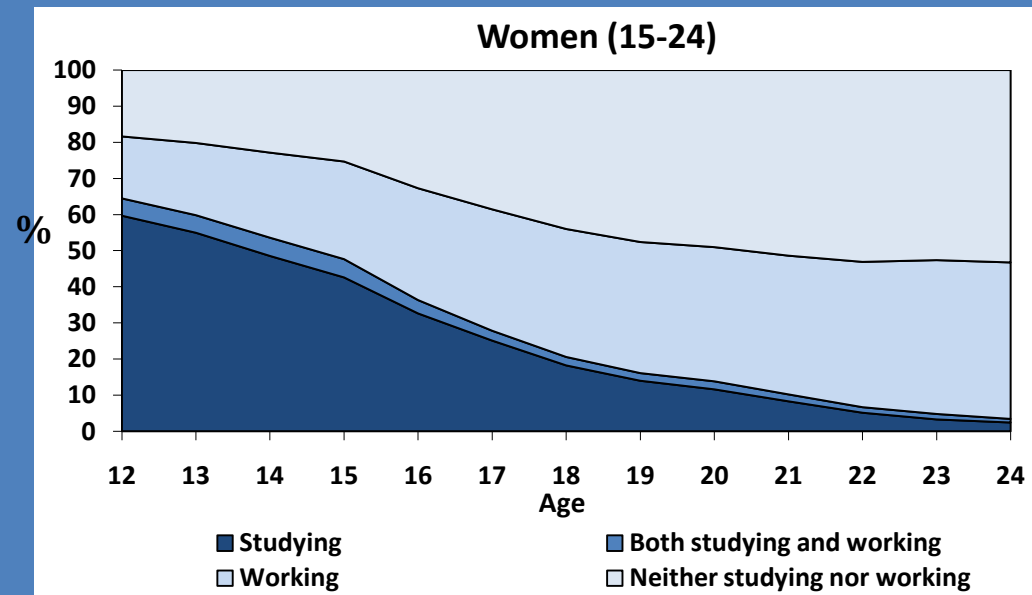
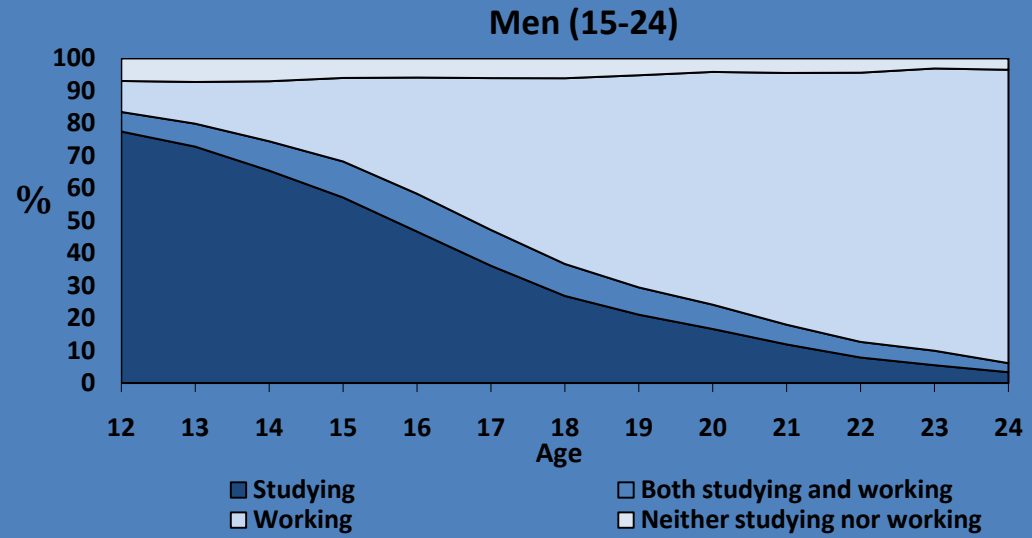
Secondary school completion by economic status



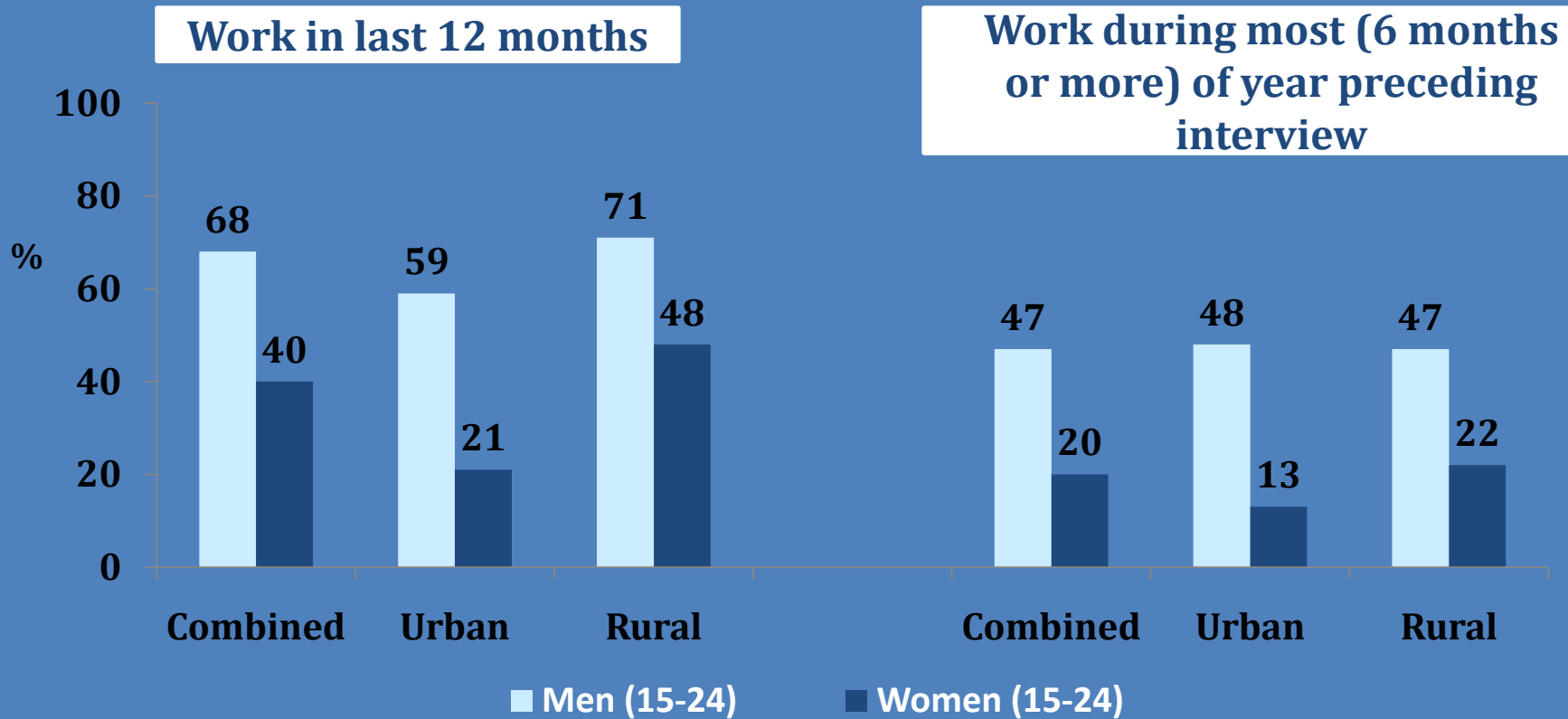
- Differences by economic status are stark.
- Gender differences are evident across all wealth quintiles.

Economic activity and schooling status among youth

- 27% and 29% of young men and women initiated work before age 15.
- School exit accompanied by steady rise in work participation by age; increase steeper among young men than women.
- More youth working than in school at age 17 for both young men and women.
- Increasing proportions of young women (but not men) neither in school nor working—
 - 18% at age 12
 - 33% at age 16
 - 44% at age 18



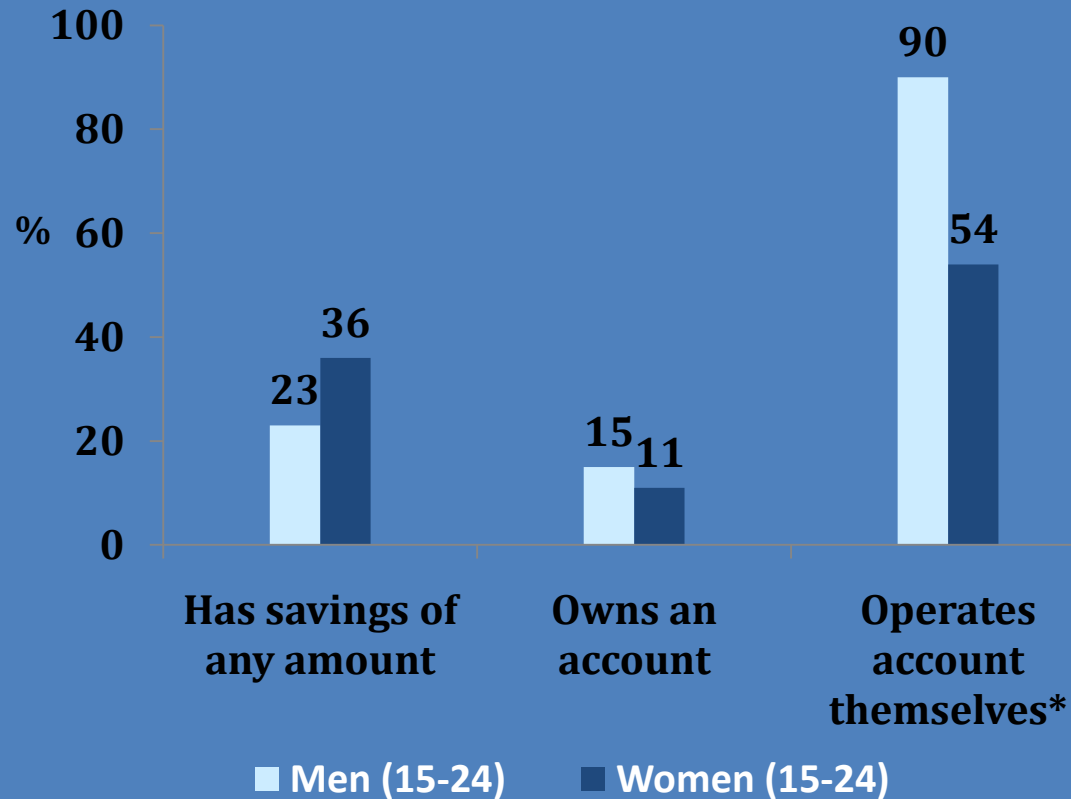
Economic activity among youth



- Two-thirds of young men and two-fifths of young women had worked in the 12 months preceding the interview.
- 47% and 20% had worked during most of the year (6 months or more) preceding the interview.

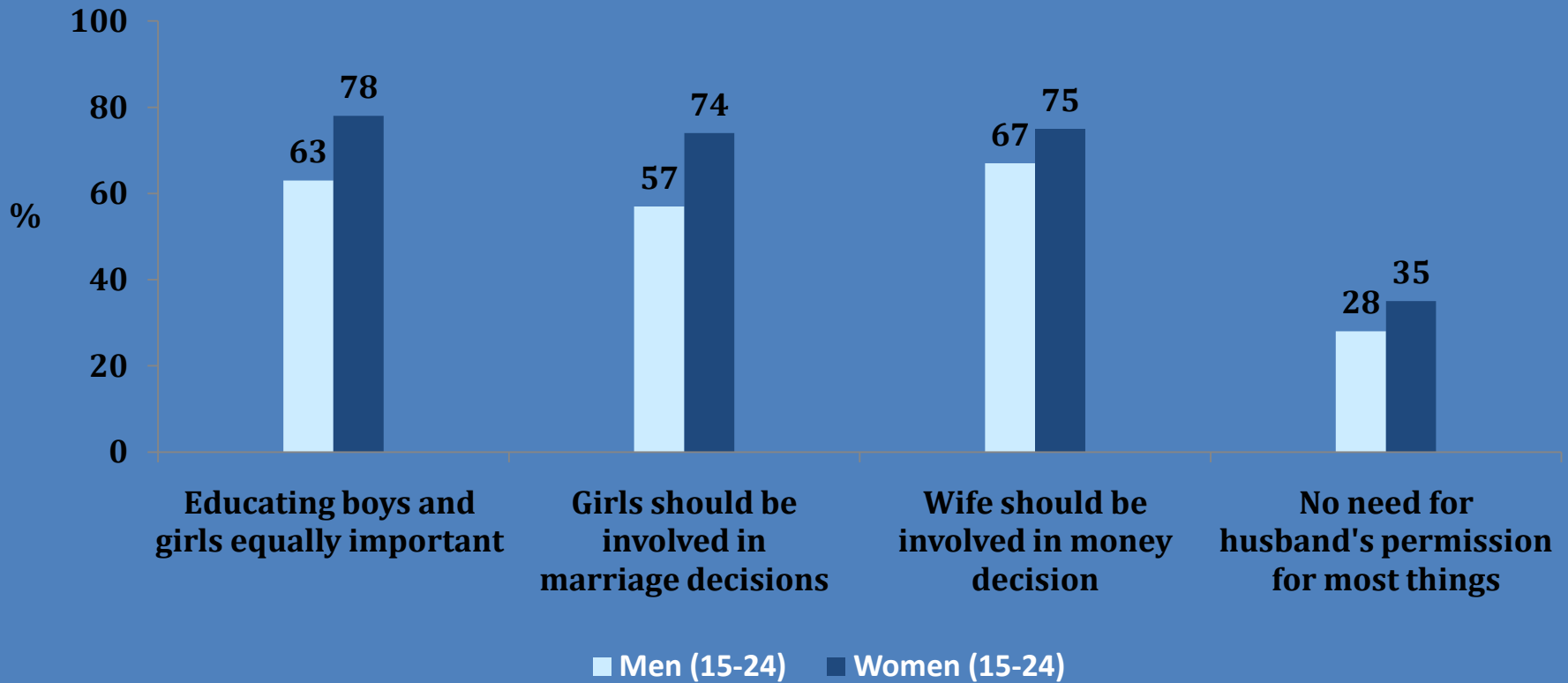
Control over financial resources

- Control over financial resources limited among youth
- Just one-quarter of men and one-third young women reported any savings
- Although young women were more likely than young men to have savings, they were slightly less likely to own a bank/post office account and far less likely to operate those accounts



**Among those who own an account*

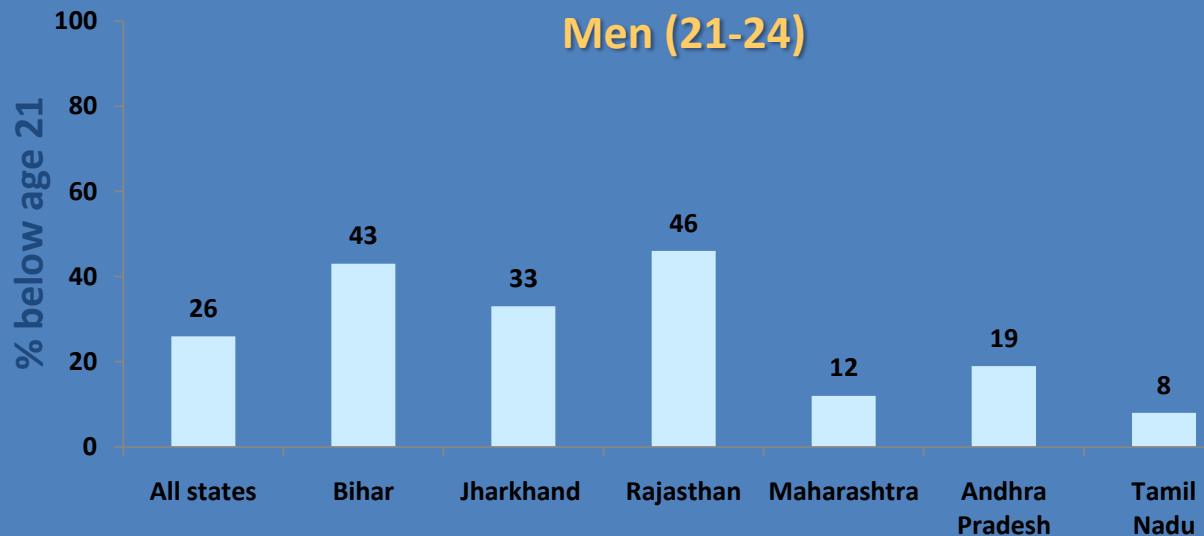
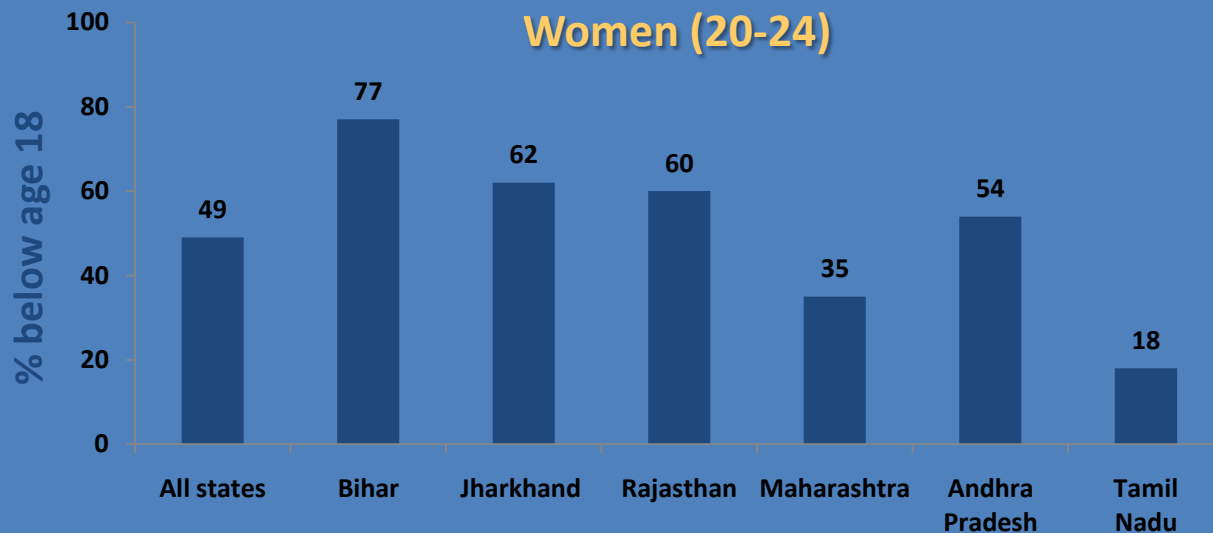
Expression of egalitarian gender role attitudes



- Proportion espousing egalitarian gender role attitudes varies by topic,
- More women than men espouse egalitarian gender roles in each topic,
- More women (74%) than men (57%) believe girls should be involved in marriage-related decisions,

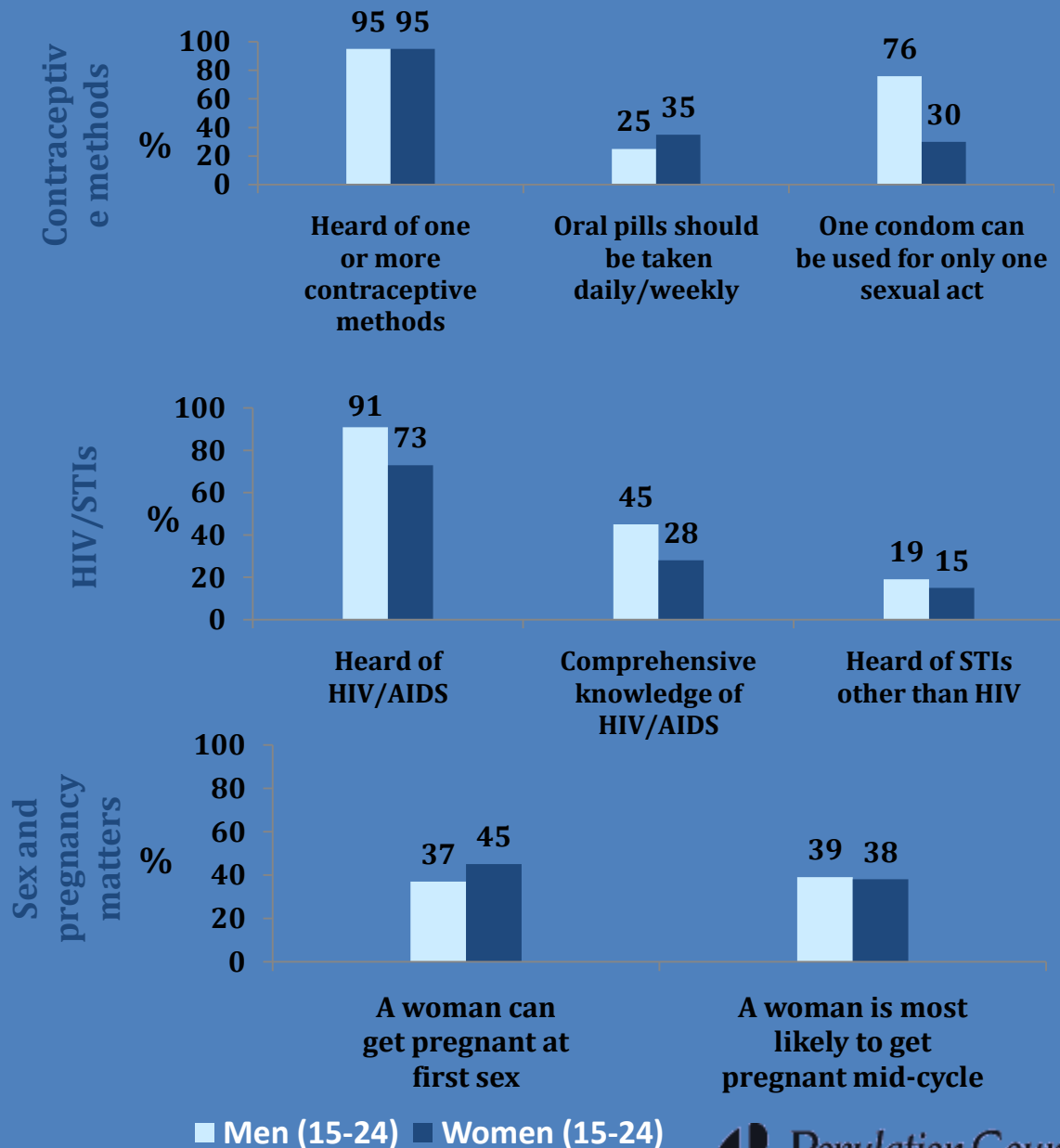
Magnitude of early marriage: % of 20-24 year-old women and 21-24 year old men married before legal minimum age

- Child marriage continues among young women: one in 5 married before 15, and half married before age 18
- Minorities of young men transitioned to marriage in adolescence; and one quarter before the legal minimum age (21)
- State-level differences notable



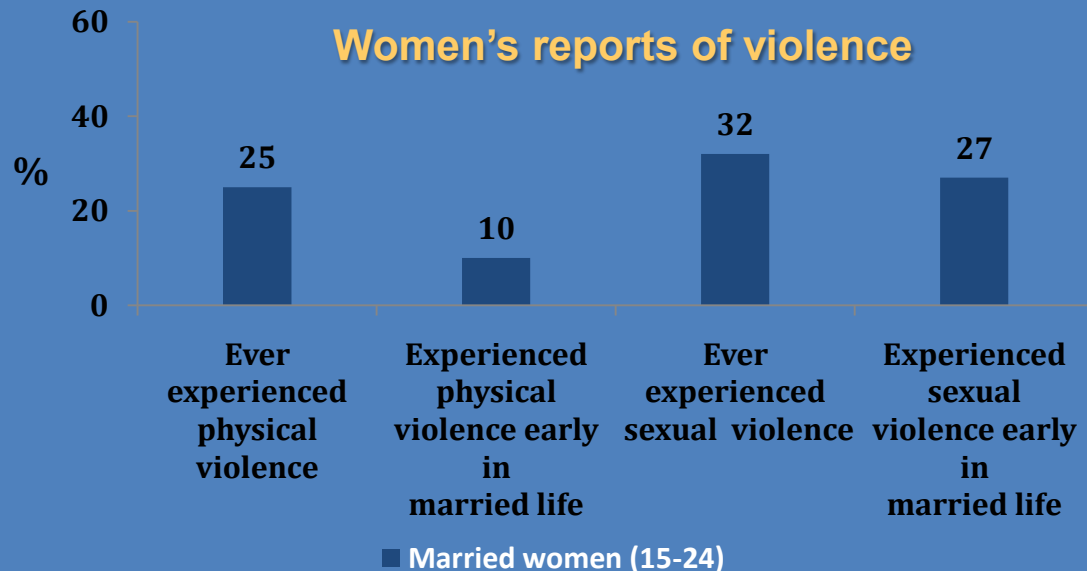
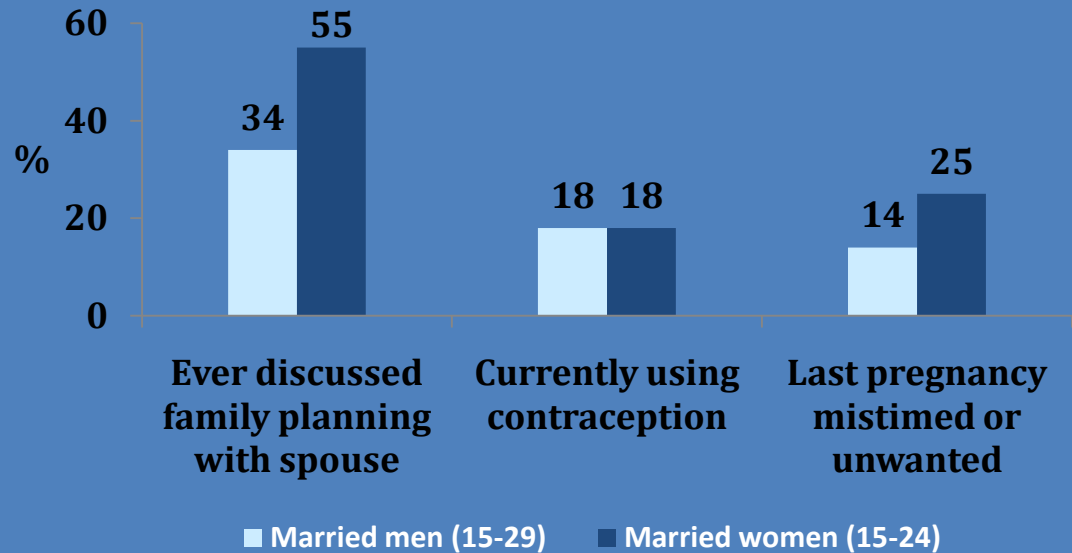
Awareness of sexual and reproductive health matters

- Contraceptive awareness universal but in-depth awareness limited
- HIV awareness widespread among youth; however, comprehensive awareness of HIV limited
- Knowledge of other STIs very limited
- Awareness of even basic pregnancy-related issues limited



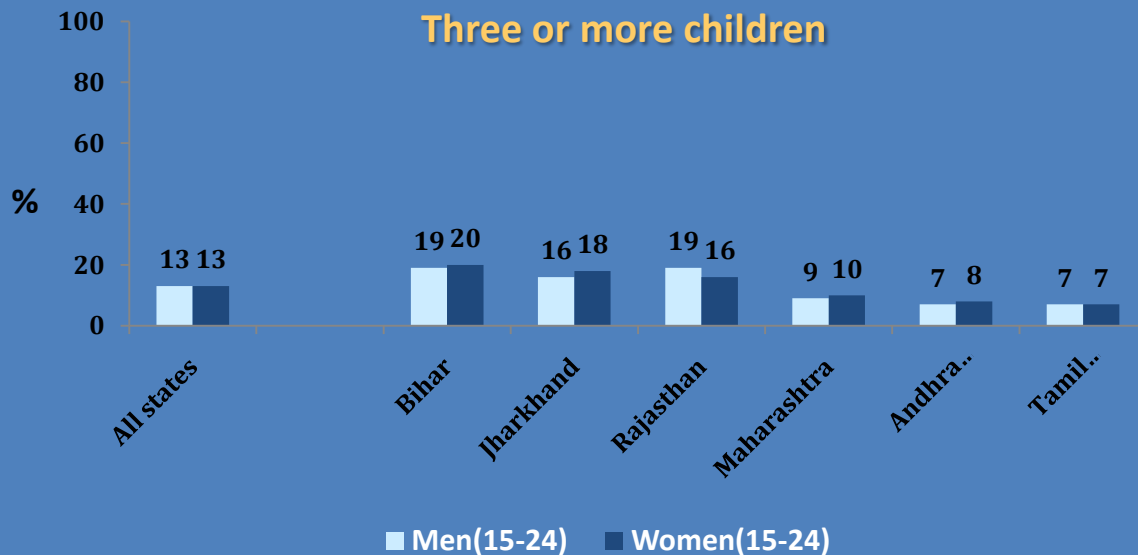
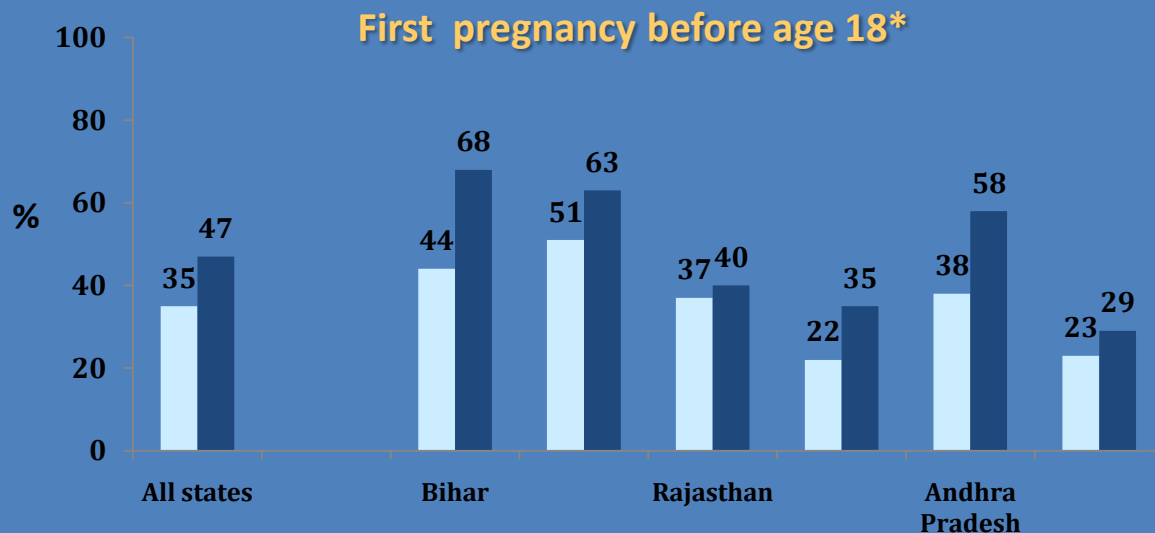
Nature of young people's married life

- Spousal communication on contraceptive use far from universal
- Only 18% reported currently using contraception (mainly F sterilisation)
- Unmet contraception need evident: Mistimed or unwanted last pregnancy reported by considerable proportions
- Violence in marriage: 25% ever experienced physical violence and 32% sexual violence; for large proportions, violence initiated early in marriage



Childbearing in adolescence: Percentage of married youth reporting first pregnancy before age 18, and three or more children, by state

- Pressure to prove fertility immediately after marriage enormous
- Half of young women and one-third of wives of young men initiated childbearing before age 18
- Childbearing in adolescence more common in Bihar, Jharkhand and Andhra Pradesh than in remaining three states
- Youth in Bihar, Jharkhand and Rajasthan more likely to report 3 or more children ever born than those in Maharashtra and southern states

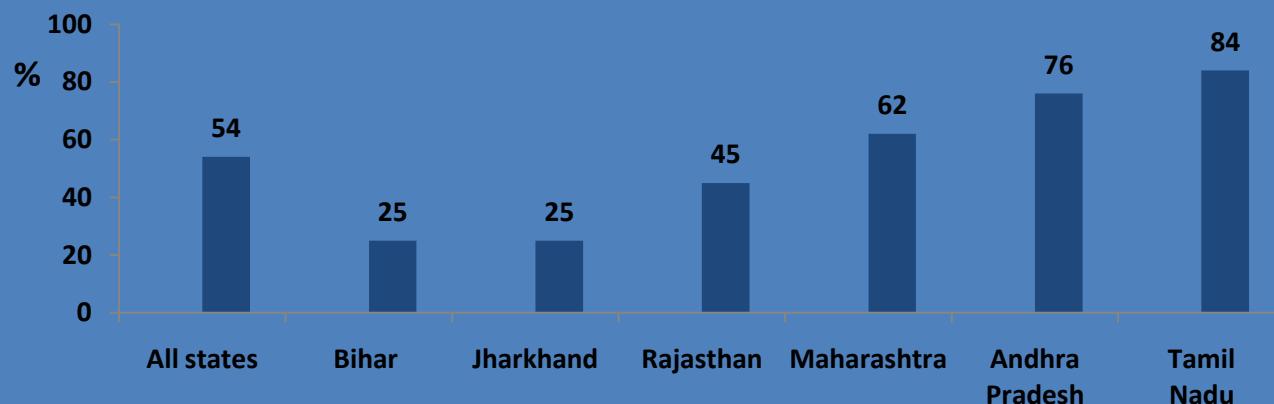


*Among young women and young men whose wife was 18 or older and were cohabiting with their spouse at the time of interview

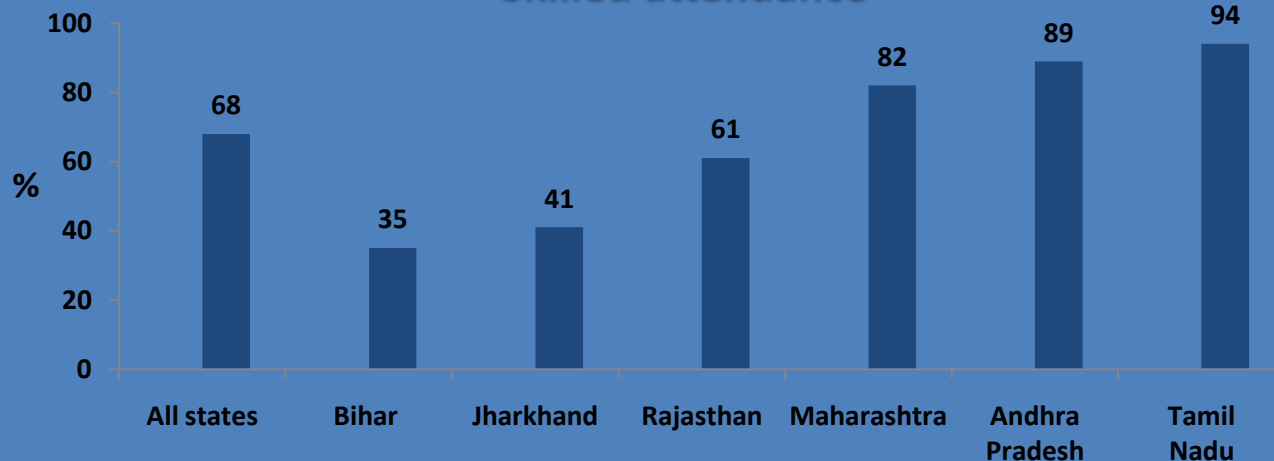
Percentage of married young women reporting institutional delivery and skilled attendance at first birth

- About half of first births delivered institutionally, and two-thirds by skilled attendant
- Youth in Bihar, Jharkhand and Rajasthan far less likely than those in Maharashtra and southern states to report institutional delivery and skilled attendance

Institutional delivery



Skilled attendance



■ Married women (15-24)

Programmatic Implications

- Invest in schooling and livelihood creation
- Enforce existing laws on minimum marriage age
- Reach youth with client-friendly health services and information
- Partner with families, communities, and youth themselves for solutions

Acknowledgements

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