



To study the working of Action for Adolescent Girl (AAG) of UNFPA.

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INTRODUCTION

Adolescence is a period where essential decisions that shapes the course of girls life are made. Seen that way, adolescence can be a pe-riod of great vulnerability, but it also offers a crucial window of opportunity to foster gender-just sustainable human development. Ac-tion for Adolescent Girl Initiative (AAG) of United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) aims to utilize this opportunity. The broad aims of AAG are to protect human rights of adolescent girls through a combination of targeted interventions that delay marriage and child bearing, prevent unintended pregnancy and build up the health, social and economic assets among the most vulnerable girls. AAG seeks to achieve these outcomes by providing safe spaces and community platforms to adolescent girls, and by creating a social net-work where young girls have access to female mentors. The intervention has been running since last two years in Salumber and Kher-wara blocks — home to large proportion of tribal population — of Udaipur district of Rajasthan. By ensuring that adolescent girls are equipped with the social, health & financial assets, there is a possibility that this girl-centered program can contribute to governments efforts to break intergenerational poverty, illiteracy, ill health & gender inequality.¹ The following were the key strategies implemented in the program:

- 1) **Capacity building:** To enhance the adolescents’ girls skill and prospective.
- 2) **Enabling Environment:** Create, orient and support a sensitized, robust and effective network of adolescent peer educators/grass root level functionaries
- 3) **Planning monitoring and Review:** Facilitate a collective and measurable shift in community notions and norms in support of girls’ hu-man rights through adolescent girls, Peer Educator, Opinion Leaders & Key functionaries.
- 4) **Networking & Collaboration:** Forge networks & effective partnerships with various entities in community

RATIONALE

After the 2 years of implementation, UNFPA is planning to work with new cohort of the adolescents and also replicate similar models in oth-er states where it is working so it is critical to undertake study on various key project strategies to understand strengths and weaknesses in its implementation and fill the identified gaps or challenges with revised strategy before its scale up in other parts and new cohort of ado-lescent girls.²

OBJECTIVES

- 1) To assess the awareness about the initiative of AAG program in the girls enrolled through baseline survey.
- 2) To assess if the adolescent girls attend the kishori meetings regularly.
- 3) To assess the duration for which the adolescent girls have been associated with AAG program
- 4) To assess the barriers faced by adolescent girls for attending the kishori meetings.

MATERIALS & METHODS

The project is implemented in 249 villages of Kherwara block and 362 villages of Salumber block. In all the project is being implemented in 611 villages from these two blocks . This study has 5% of villages (n=30) from each block as sample size to capture, experiences and chal-lenges in implementation of AAG project. This study randomly selected 12 villages from Kherwara block and 18 villages from Salumber block. The study used both quantitative and qualitative data collected through structured and semi-structured data collection tools. The study or-ganized names of all the villages in alphabetical order and use random number to select villages randomly.

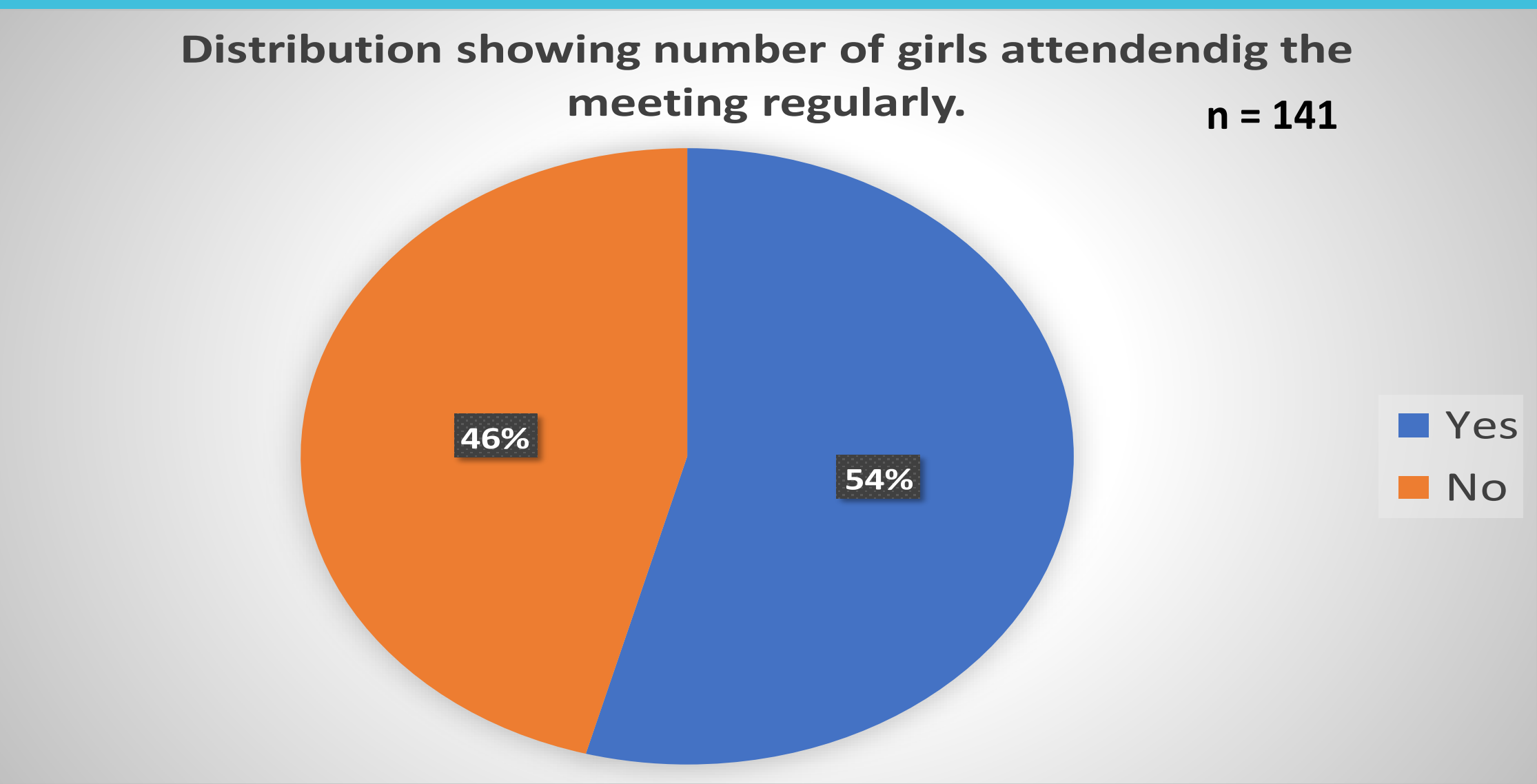
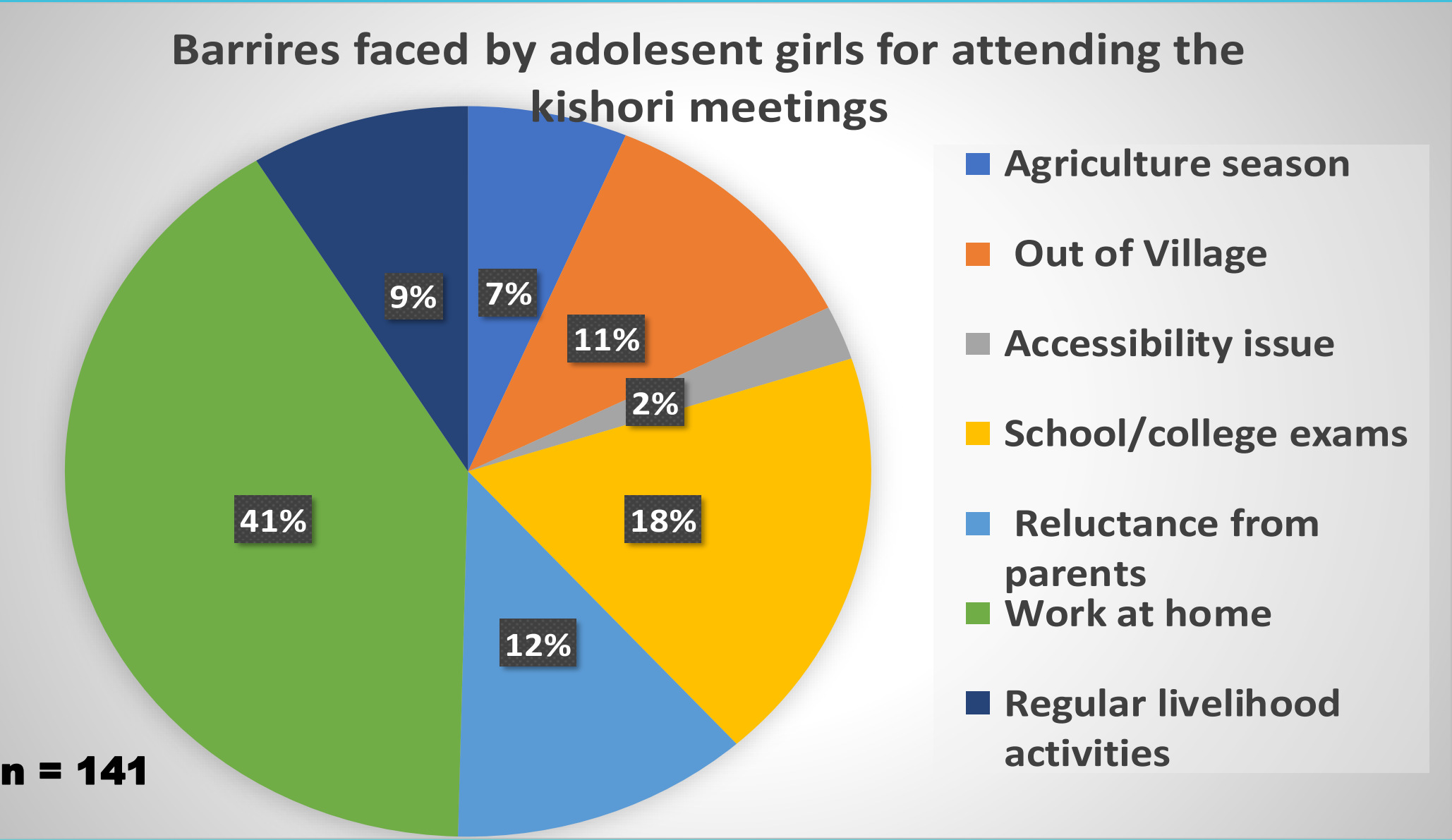
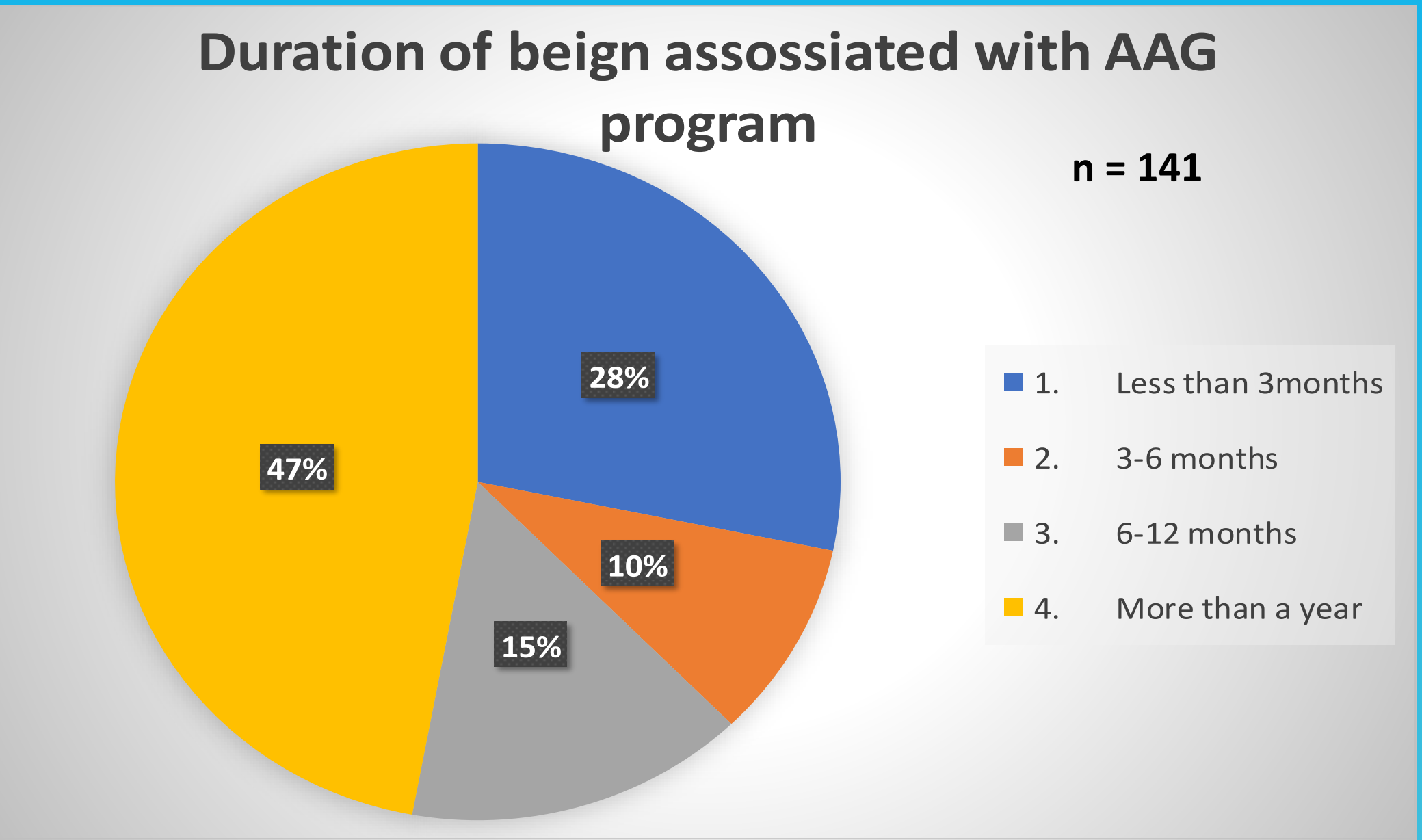
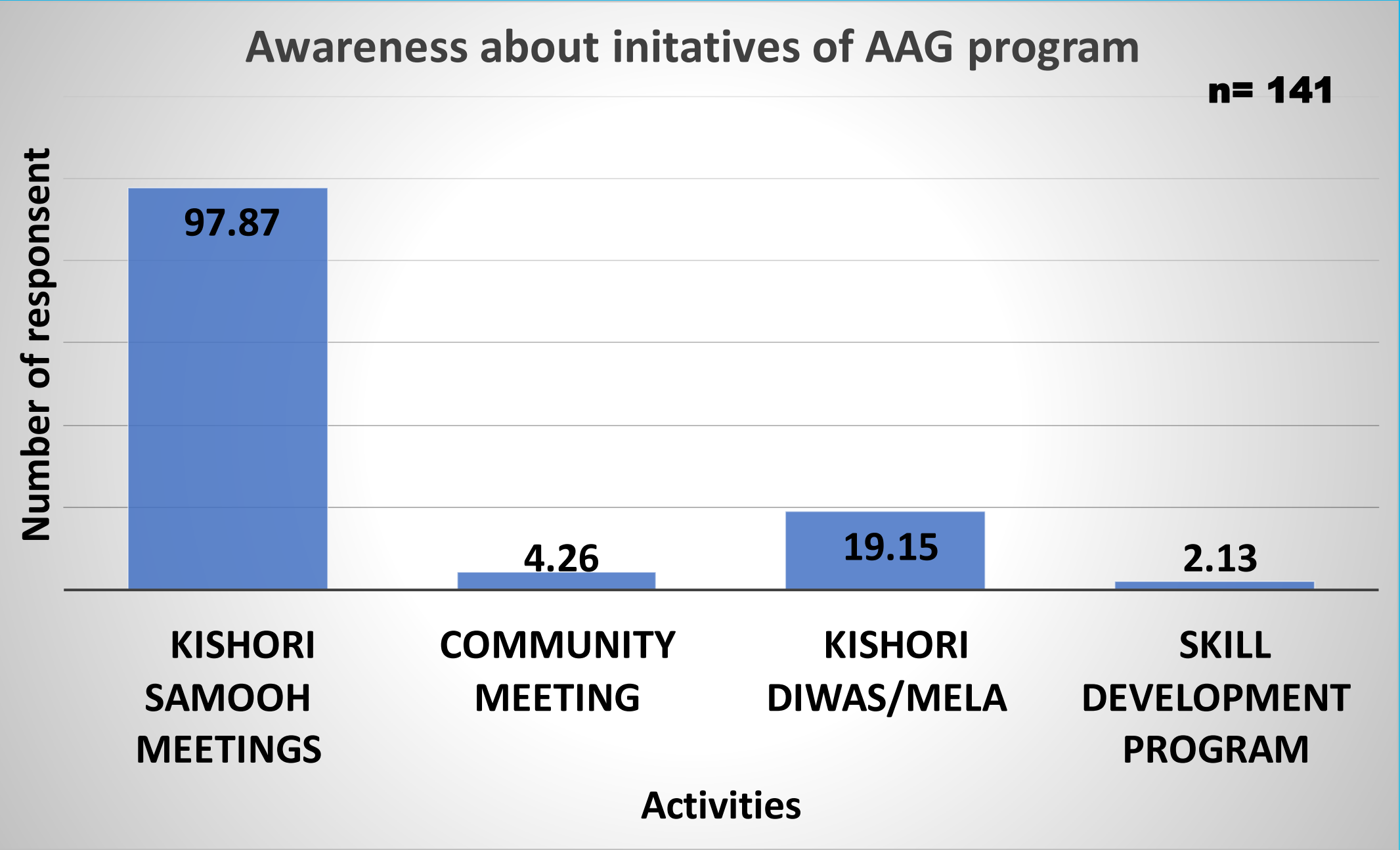
DATA & FINDINGS

Figure1 : Stepwise development of program activities



References:
1) UNFPA AAG Program document.
2) Implementation Research for AAG in Rajasthan- 7th Feb 2017 , Implementation Research in AAG Project A Primer (2)
Note on Action for Adolescent Girl .

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CONCLUSION

The study tried to capture the on-ground functioning of UNFPA funded Action for Adolescent Girl program, implemented with help of local part-ners Jatan Sansthan and Vishakha. As women empowerment is a key to social development, building protective assets can help the adolescent girls to break the shackles of societal atrocities. Majority of adolescent girls are aware of the kishori meeting and are less aware of the other ini-tiatives. Regular attendance of the adolescent girls in the meeting is also a major issue as only55% are regularly attend the meetings. The poten-tial of mobilization efforts are improving steadily as there are only 47% of adolescent girls who are associated with the initiatives from last 1 year or more.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Adolescent girls are aware only about the kishori meeting initiative AGG program. Promotion of other activities like community meetings, kishori diwas and skill development program should be done to motivate adolescent girl to attend the meetings.
- IEC materials should be provided at AWC or PHC to improve the awareness of initiatives among the village .
- Promotion of program through road shows and rallies to show active participation of AG and to motivate other adolescent girls to attend the meetings.
- Focus more on mobilization activities, so that more adolescent girls can attend the meetings.
- Conduct pocket meeting to adolescent girls who are unable to attend the meetings.
- Update the adolescent girls who have not attended many meetings previously on the topics discussed in those meeting so they don’t feel left out from the discussions.
- Motivate the girls to attend the meetings by showing them the role model / changes that have happened in the girls life after attending the meetings.
- Improve the counselling skill of the cluster coordinator and Peer educator to motivate the parents and the girls to enrol the girls back into school.