WHY WE EXIST

Nobody wants to see children harmed or hurt, yet in India, nearly 100,000 children go missing every year. Over a million children are reported to be victims of trafficking, 45% of girls marry before the age of 18, and a child is sexually assaulted every 30 minutes. Protecting a child from being harmed rarely features in the mainstream of development dialogue. This has to change.

WHAT WE DO

In hotspot districts, where the incidence of child harm is high, Aangan builds and strengthens child protection systems to ensure that the most vulnerable children are safe, supported, in school, and assured of childhoods free from trafficking, child marriage, hazardous work, violence, and exploitation.

WHERE WE WORK

Our work is located in 7 hotspot districts where child harm is high:

- Bharatpur, Rajasthan
- Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
- Patna, Bihar
- Gaya, Bihar
- Pakur, Jharkhand
- 24 North Parganas, West Bengal
- Mumbai, Maharashtra

WHO WE ARE

Founded in 2002, Aangan worked for 10 years with rescued child survivors in government shelter homes in 16 states across India. We saw the brutality children experienced, and it inevitably drove us to the urgent work of prevention, to keeping children safe before they encounter harm.

We are a diverse team of 108 people, passionate about what we do.

In 2018, we trained 6,163 women and engaged 1,854 officials to impact 1,60,484 children.

WE BELIEVE THAT CHILD PROTECTION SHOULD BE EVERYONE’S BUSINESS SO THAT EVERY CHILD IS SAFE EVERYWHERE, EVERY DAY.
OUR WORK IN SCHOOLS

A CHILD IN SCHOOL IS A CHILD ACCOUNTED FOR. THAT’S WHY WE PARTNER WITH SCHOOL OFFICIALS TO CREATE “SCHOOL SAFETY HUBS,” ONE-STOP SHOPS ENSURING SAFETY AND LEARNING OUTCOMES.

THE LINK BETWEEN SCHOOLS & SAFETY

We believe that safety is integral to keeping children in schools and is greatly influenced by active members of the community. This is why our School Safety Hub (SSH) acts at the intersection of school and community to address safety concerns for children inside and outside of school. Due to unsafe surroundings in hotspots such as Pakur, knowing one’s child is in school also means that child is safe, visible, in a trustworthy environment, and accounted for.

The SSH focuses on ensuring safety not only within schools, but also the community which includes the route to school, outside of the school, and in surrounding areas. This translates to SSH focusing on keeping children in schools, thereby ensuring attendance, retention and transition to higher grades with complete support from parents, community members, educators, child protection volunteers and children themselves. SSH ensures improving safety outcomes and thereby learning outcomes for children inside and outside of school.
THE SCHOOL SAFETY HUB

THE SSH IS THE LINK BETWEEN SCHOOL & THE COMMUNITY, ENABLING SAFETY FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED IN SCHOOL AS WELL AS THOSE WHO ARE NOT.

With a protocol in place that puts the primary focus on safety and open conversations about keeping children safe and in school, bringing children back to school, as a final outcome SSH provides exactly that - safety and learning by keeping children in school. We do this by following protocols such as family strengthening, safety mapping, remedial education, trying to understand why a child is not in school, among other actions.

Community children and their families can connect with health resources, career counseling, and government schemes. We also train teachers on POCSO response and create pathways for them to collaborate with local safety officials to intervene proactively when a child is perceived to be at risk.

IDENTIFYING & RE-ENROLLING OUT-OF-SCHOOL CHILDREN

In Pakur, Jharkhand, the work our women volunteers did through School Safety Hubs identified out-of-school children and connected them to safety resources as well as bridge classes allowed 981 students to enroll back into full-time schooling.

IMPACT OF OUR WORK IN SCHOOLS

According to “Before. Not After,” an impact assessment conducted by Harvard’s FXB Center for Health and Human Rights, children in Aangan’s intervention site were 30 percent less likely to be out of school than other children in their communities. This was true even for older students in secondary school. Our focus on schools as safe spaces ensures that children not only stay safe, but stay in school longer - where they belong.