



Challenges and Benefits of Delaying Sexual Initiation: Windows of Opportunity!

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Presentation

- Who are Adolescents?
- Program Examples
- Windows of Opportunity - Very Young Adolescents



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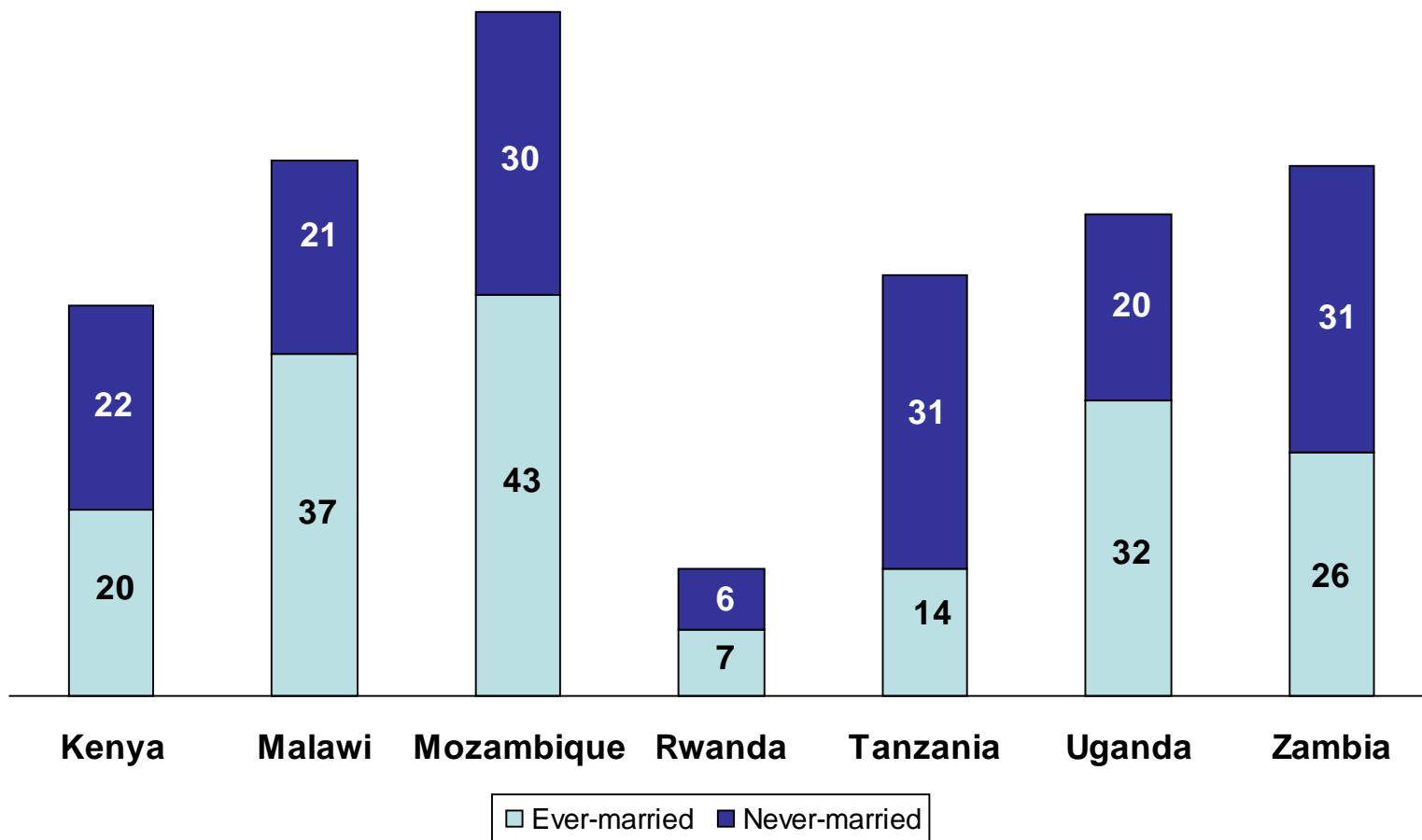
Who are Adolescents?



Teens Who Have Had Sexual Intercourse, E. Africa*

15-to-19-Year-Old Women, by Marital Status

Percent



Note: East and Southern Africa

Source: ORC Macro, Demographic and Health Surveys 2000-2004.

Stages of Adolescence*

Stage

Characteristics

Preadolescence

girls 9-12 boys 10-13

Fast growth, sensation seeking

Impulsive, start logical thinking

Early Adolescence

girls 12-14 boys 13-15

Increased sensation seeking
(esp. boys)

Biological/cognitive change (esp. girls)

Peak peer pressure susceptibility

Mid Adolescence

girls 14-16 boys 15-17

Peak sensation-seeking

Major opening to abstract thinking,
(e.g., about social justice and
gender equality)

Biological changes; self-image affected

Programmatic Examples

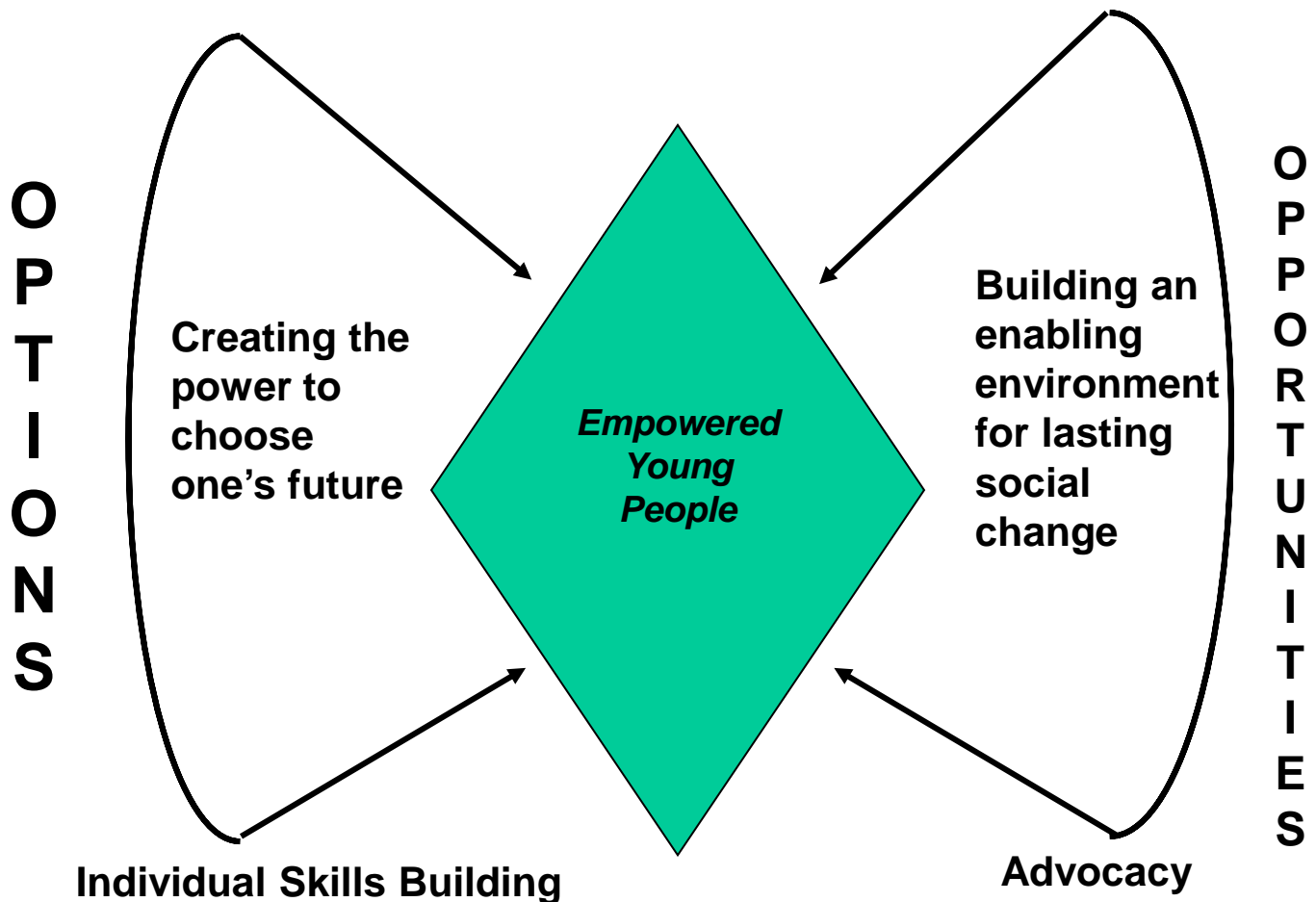
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Better Life Options and Opportunities Model (BLOOM)

Age-appropriate Health and Education Services

Community Mobilization



Choose A Future! Curriculum

Modules:

1. Me, myself
2. Goals and plans
3. Feelings: What are they and what do I do with them?
4. Values clarification
5. Communication skills
6. Interpersonal relationships
7. Our families
8. Our community
9. Health
10. Reproductive health
11. Understanding gender-based violence
12. Unpacking children's rights
13. Our environment
14. I believe I can fly



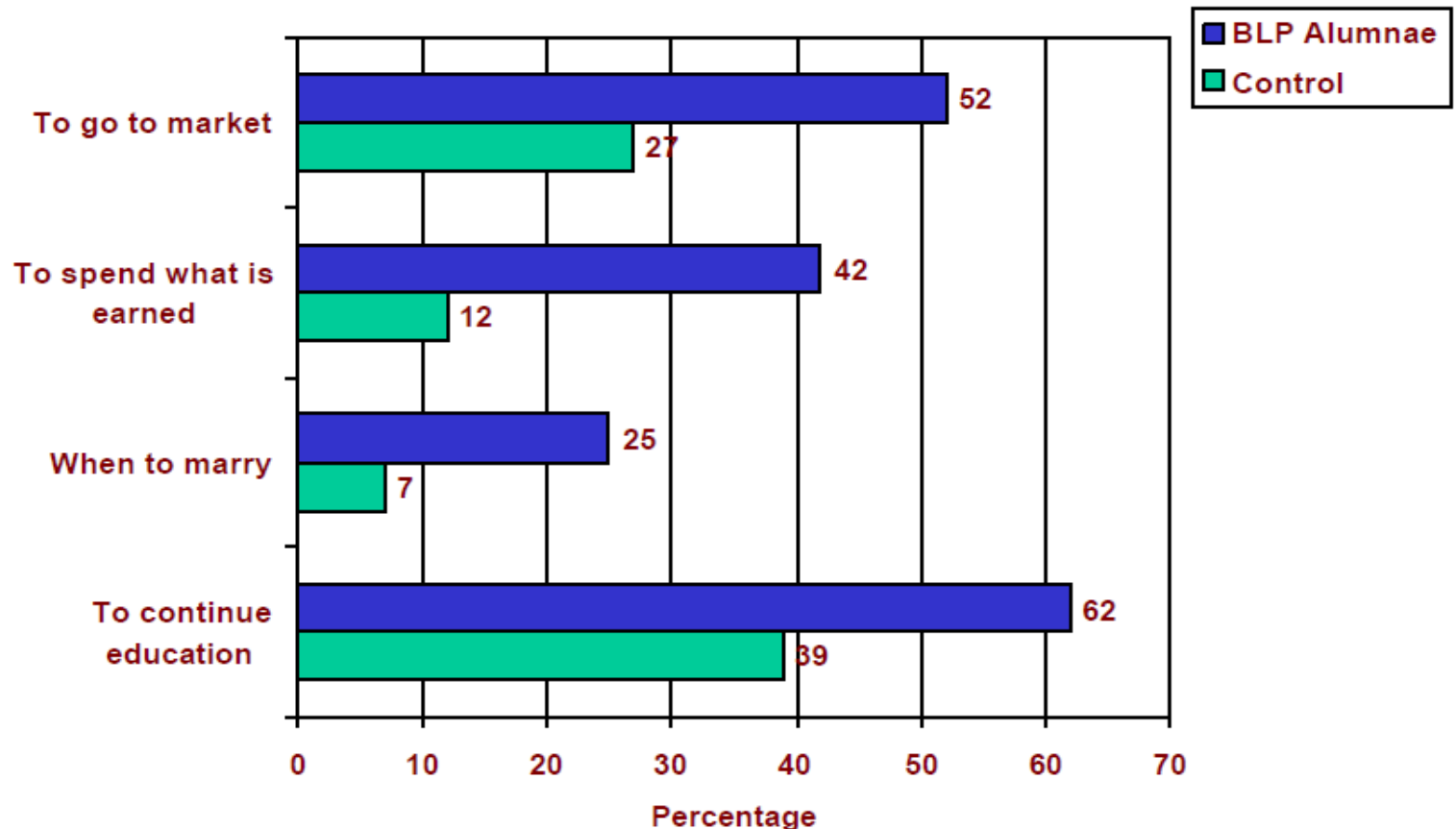
Impact of BLOOM in India

- Literacy (32% v 5%)
- Complete secondary education (66% v 46%)
- Vocational skill (99% v 22%)



Impact of BLOOM in India

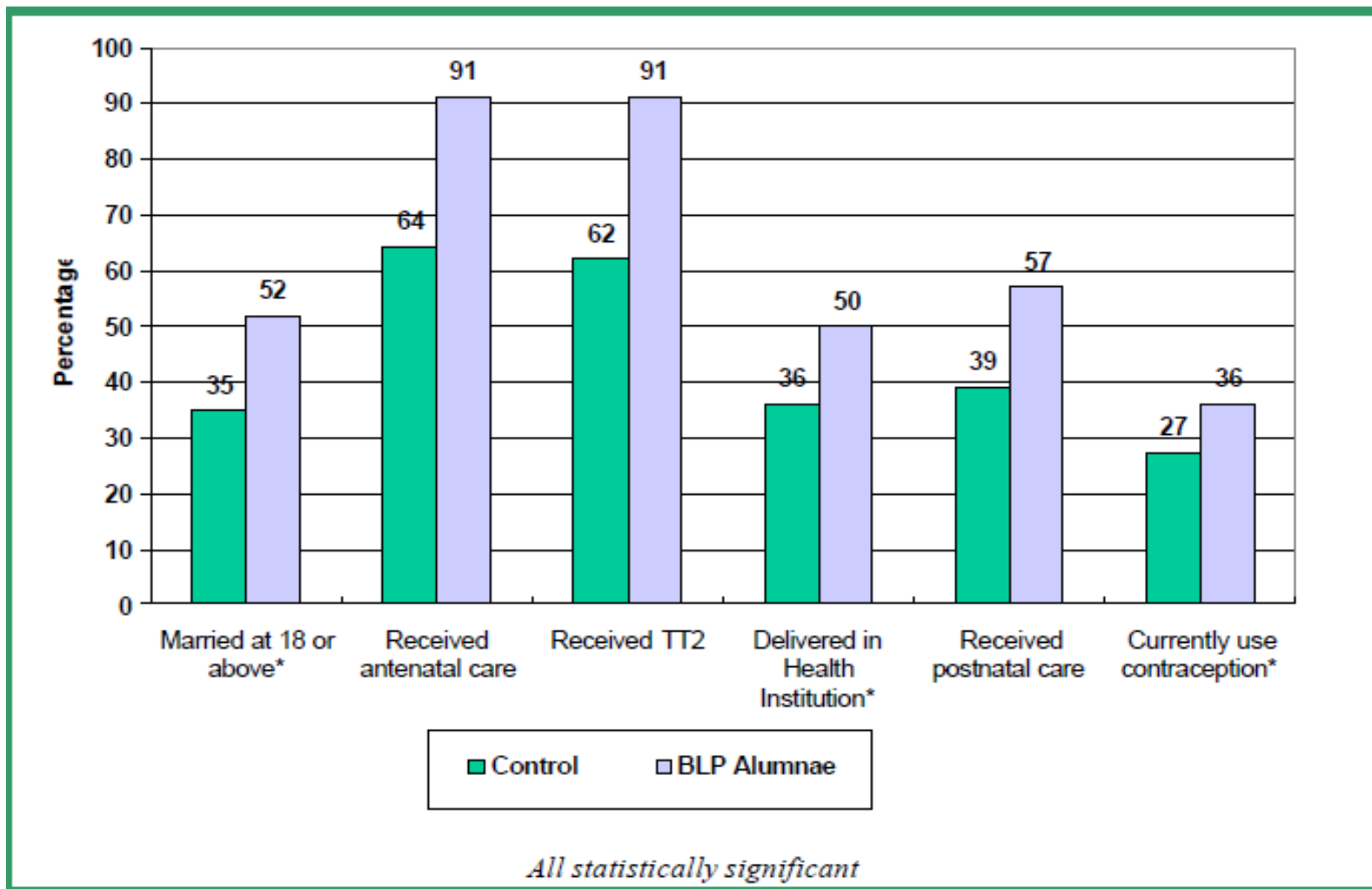
Autonomous Decision-Making



This is significant ($p < 0.001$) even when controlling for education of girls and parents.

Impact of BLOOM in India

Percent of BLP alumnae and controls reporting selected reproductive health behaviors (married respondents only)⁷



UDAAN a Public Private Model



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- Government of Jharkhand & State AIDS Control Society
- *UDAAN* adapted
- Scale up reached +300,000 students
1485 gov't schools
- 87 Master Trainers & 2,161 Nodal Teachers

Lessons Learned



- *Younger students gained more, especially girls*
- *Students that attended more regularly gained more*
- Sensitizing District Education Officers & school principals
- Advocacy w/ gov't & communities
- Teachers need pre/in service training & monitoring

BLOOM in Nepal

- Peer Education
- Literacy
- Menstrual taboos
- National Girls' Congress
- Youth as Agents of Change
 - +800 youth educators reaching 2400 peers
 - 4,945 home visits
 - 16,571 community members reached



South African Model

- In-school girls (10-14) in South Africa, Lesotho & Swaziland
- Improve inter-generational communication to build bridges between girls and their families



- Build capacity of implementing partners to strengthen sustainability

Better Life Options in Nigeria



- 51% of recent program graduates re-enrolled in formal or vocational schools
- Project Support Committees trained & engaged to support project
- Work-study scholarships

“I keep thanking God everyday for making me join this program. I have told my friends all about a work plan....I have never heard that word before I joined the work-study program. Now I am a full time office worker. There are many things I can do in an office and I am not ashamed to work into any office anymore.”— 16-year old girl from Ibeno

BLOOM in Egypt

New Horizons

- 77,000 girls reached
- 365 NGOs/youth centers
- 21 of 26 governorates
- Increased self-confidence
- Improved communication skills
- Increased awareness & willingness to discuss gender issues



New Visions

- 15,000 boys reached
- 216 NGOs
- 11 governorates
- Improved coping skills
- Greater self-confidence
- Greater knowledge SRH
- More equitable gender views

Windows of Opportunity Very Young Adolescents





Thank you!