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NEWS RELEASE

Indian NGO pledges to enroll 40% of India's out-of-school girls by 2024

The TED Conference/Vancouver, B.C. (April 16, 2019): [Educate Girls](#), an Indian non-profit organization, is the first in Asia to be an Audacious project. [The Audacious Project](#) is a first-of-its-kind coalition of leading organizations and individuals that surfaces and funds critical projects with the potential to create global change.

Educate Girls works closely with the Government and communities across districts of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh with low education rates for girls, to ensure that there is a collective shift in the mindset and girls are enrolled and retained in schools and they learn well.

The Audacious Project invites visionary social entrepreneurs and nonprofits to dream bigger than they ever imagined -- and to shape those dreams into multi-year plans that are viable and sustainable. The project invites donors to pool resources and work together in service of these ambitious ideas.

This week in Vancouver, at the TED Conference, it was announced that Educate Girls is one of 8 Audacious projects. Together with other long-standing partners, including the Indian Government, Educate Girls will ensure over 1 million girls enter the classroom by 2024, helping them to then stay in school and learn.

"Girls' education is the most important investment we can all make to change things around us," said **Safeena Husain, Founder and Executive Director of Educate Girls**. *"We are extremely pleased to partner with The Audacious Project. This partnership is going to help us register over one million out-of-school girls for school and ensure they find their way into the classroom – a place where they truly belong."*

"There are countless proven economic and societal benefits associated with educating girls, including improving the likelihood that they will avoid early marriage, have smaller and healthier families, educate their own girls – and continue the positive cycle," said **Anna Verghese, Executive Director of The Audacious Project**. *"Educate Girls is taking a smart, data-driven approach to a systemic problem. With fewer barriers, we're excited to see Educate Girls significantly reduce India's elementary education gender gap over the next five years."*

Taking to the TED stage, **Safeena Husain** shared her organization's audacious idea – ***what if we could empower more than a million girls in India to enter the classroom?*** Safeena underlined girls' education as *"the closest thing to a silver bullet"* to address some of the most urgent global challenges. She focused her call to action around the organization's cutting-edge work using advanced analytics and deep community engagement to find and enroll girls from some of the most remote villages in India.

To implement the big idea, Educate Girls has built a predictive model that shows just 5% of the country's villages are home to 40% of the out-of-school girl population — a staggering 1.6 million girls. Through a close partnership with State Education Ministries, Educate Girls will train over 35,000 village-based volunteers to find and enroll these 1.6 million out-of-school girls over the next five years. It will further work to ensure that they stay in school and are learning well.

You can learn more about the big idea [here](#).

THE AUDACIOUS COALITION

Now in its second year, The Audacious Project has shown what humanity can accomplish when bold ideas meet visionary, generous supporters. From the thousands of people at home with their families—instead of in jails—because of The Bail Project, to 23 million Ghanaians living in the first sub-Saharan African country to eliminate trachoma because of help from Sightsavers, to the 800,000 small-holder farmers making a better living through the One Acre Fund, to the thousands of new trekkers signing up to take control of their health and well-being with GirlTrek, people in countries around the world are already feeling the positive ripples of this collaborative venture.

“Last year, we launched a new and bold chapter in philanthropic collaboration,” **said Anna Verghese, Executive Director of The Audacious Project.** “Through extensive research and a unique vetting process, we were confident that the organizations involved would ignite change. But to witness the impact of their ideas, after just one year, speaks to the heart of the project—and to the transformative power of working together.”

A remarkable group of individuals and organizations play a key role in facilitating the initiative. Among them are the Skoll Foundation, Virgin Unite, Scott Cook and Signe Ostby of the Valhalla Charitable Foundation, Dalio Philanthropies, Laura & John Arnold, ELMA Foundation, Children's Investment Fund Foundation, Mike & Sukey Novogratz, Joe Gebbia, Delta Philanthropies, Steve and Genevieve Juvetson, Miguel McKelvey & Jessica Hyman, Hansjörg Wyss & Rosamund Zander, Lyda Hill Philanthropies, Clara Wu and Joe Tsai Foundation, Chris Larsen and Lyna Lam, and Overdeck Family Foundation. The Science Philanthropy Alliance helps to identify and vet high-quality basic science projects.

Learn more or support an existing project at AudaciousProject.org.

ABOUT EDUCATE GIRLS

Established in 2007 Educate Girls' focus is on mobilizing communities and leveraging government's investment for improving girls' education in India. Aligned to the 'Right to Education Act', the organisation is strongly committed to the Government's vision to improve access to primary education for children, especially young girls. By leveraging the Government's existing investment in school, Educate Girls delivers measurable results to a large number of beneficiaries and avoids duplication or parallel delivery of services. Educate Girls believes that if girls are educated, they will have the potential to enter the formal economy, gain employment and lift their families out of poverty. The sustainability and scalability of the model has enabled Educate Girls to consistently expand operations to include more districts. It is now actively working with the Government and with rural communities across 13,000 villages in the states of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. To date Educate Girls has helped to enroll over 380,000 girls into public schools ensuring over 90% retention of the girls enrolled.

Learn more at www.EducateGirls.ngo

ABOUT THE AUDACIOUS PROJECT

[The Audacious Project](#) was launched in April 2018, with a mission to foster "collaborative philanthropy for bold ideas." Housed at TED (the nonprofit devoted to ideas worth spreading) and operated with support from The Bridgespan Group (a leading social impact advisor to nonprofits and NGOs, philanthropists and investors), The Audacious Project brings together some of the most respected organizations and individuals in philanthropy—the Skoll Foundation, Virgin Unite, Dalio Foundation and more. The Audacious Project surfaces and funds critical projects with the potential to create global change. By removing barriers associated with funding, The Audacious Project empowers social entrepreneurs to dream boldly and take on the world's biggest and most urgent challenges. The 2019 projects include: Center for Policing Equity, Educate Girls, Institute for Protein Design at the UW School of Medicine, Salk Institute for Biological Studies, the END Fund, The Nature Conservancy, Thorn and Waterford UPSTART.

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