



## Educate Girls' volunteers win national recognition at iVolunteer Awards 2020 for outstanding efforts in bringing out of school girls back to classrooms

- Andu Maida honored with Volunteer Hero title
- Shivani Choyal among Top 10 in the Youth Icon category

February 17, 2020, Mumbai: [Educate Girls](#), a non-profit working in educationally backward regions of India, today announces national recognition of two of its village-volunteers at iVolunteer Awards 2020, recently held at Chennai. [iVolunteer Awards](#) are an initiative of iVolunteer, a social enterprise that has been spearheading skill-based volunteering movement in India since 2001. The award recognizes India's top volunteers who have contributed their time, care, skills and commitment to create a larger impact on the society.



*Andu Maida from Educate Girls winning the Volunteer Hero title - at iVolunteer Awards 2020*

[Educate Girls](#) works in partnership with the Government and the community to identify, enroll and retain out-of-school girls and to improve foundational skills in literacy and numeracy for all children across the educationally backward districts of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. Educate Girls' volunteers called Team Balika form the backbone of the on-ground implementation. They are young, passionate and usually the most educated people in the village. Educate Girls' currently has an army of over 14,000 Team Balika across the operational districts.

Andu Maida, Educate Girls' Team Balika from Banswara, Rajasthan won iVolunteer Awards 2020 - Volunteer Hero title for her exemplary contribution towards girls' education. While Shivani Choyal, Educate Girls' Team Balika from Barwani, Madhya Pradesh was recognized among the Top 10 in the Youth Icon category as the youngest volunteer to contribute toward girls' education.

Andu Maida, who has been Team Balika for 3 years, has truly dedicated her efforts to achieve the Government's '*Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao*' campaign. She has proudly saved her own daughter from her in-law's brutality, educated her as well as brought many out of school girls from her village back to classroom. She says, "Today, when I see my daughter and other girls in my village going to school, my heart swells with pride. This award has not only boosted my morale but also help me and other youngsters in my village to work towards the cause of educating girls." She has enrolled over 47 girls in school till date!

Working as the youngest volunteer in the region, since a year, Shivani Choyal says, "Being the youngest in my village to advocate for girls' education, very few people took me and my work seriously. I remember speaking at a community meeting where I was interrupted due to mindset differences. I was scared at first, but later gathered all my courage and continued the meeting. Today, being recognized as the top 10 youth icon across the nation validates and motivates me to keep working."

Shivani credits her work to her mother, who has become a pillar of support for her education, after her father's demise.



*Andu Maida (L) and Shivani Choyal (R) at the iVolunteer Awards 2020 ceremony*



## **ABOUT EDUCATE GIRLS**

Established in 2007, Educate Girls' focus is on mobilising 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 14,000 villages in the states of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. To date Educate Girls has helped to enroll over 500,000 girls into public schools ensuring over 94% retention of the girls enrolled. Learn more at [www.EducateGirls.ngo](http://www.EducateGirls.ngo)