Leveraging Existing Community and Government Resources for Girls’ Education

ABOUT US
Established in 2007 by Safeena Husain (Executive Director), Educate Girls’ focus is on mobilising communities for girls’ education. Strongly aligned with the ‘Right to Education Act’ or the ‘Sarva Siksha Abhiyan,’ Educate Girls is committed to the Government’s vision to improve access to primary education for children, especially young girls, by involving the local government and communities. 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 in educationally backward districts 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 16 districts of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh in India. Educate Girls currently has interventions in 25,000+ Government-run primary schools across 13,000+ villages, reaching millions of children in some of India’s most remote areas.

VISION
We aim to achieve behavioural, social and economic transformation for all girls towards an India where all children have equal opportunities to access quality education.

MISSION
We leverage existing community and government resources to ensure that all girls are in school and learning well.

GOAL
Our goal is to improve access and quality of education for around 16 million children cumulatively by 2024.
WHAT WE DO

Facilitating Community Ownership Through Team Balika: Educate Girls has over 12,000 Team Balika (community volunteers) who work as champions for girls’ education in their respective villages. Team Balika members work with government schools as well as village communities to spread awareness on girl child education. Team Balika are trained in community mobilization & outreach (door-to-door surveys, enrolment activities, conducting community meetings), learning curriculum (GKP) implementation, leadership and motivation. They are mostly between the ages of 18-30 and are often among the most educated members of their communities. Each Team Balika is given continuous training and hand-holding by Educate Girls throughout the year to facilitate their efforts.

Increasing Girls’ Enrolment: After using existing government data and door-to-door surveys (conducted by Educate Girls) to identify out-of-school girls in the area, responsibility is then distributed between the village leaders, elders, school administration, Team Balika and Educate Girls’ staff to bring girls back to school. This often involves going door-to-door to convince parents to send their girls to school and rallying the community through Gram Shiksha Sabha’s and Mohalla Meetings.

Supporting School Administration: At village meetings a 15-member council is elected to form the School Management Committee (SMC). This consists of parents, teachers and village leaders and is responsible for school governance and administration. Educate Girls handholds the committee members and provides them with support to prepare and execute School Improvement Plans (SIPs) and conduct school assessments.

Improving Learning Outcomes: Educate Girls trains its Team Balika (community volunteers) to implement a learning curriculum, with the use of specially designed kits, called Gyan ka Pitara (GKP). The learning tools focus on building micro-competencies in English, Hindi and Math for children in grades 3, 4 and 5. The GKP accounts for the needs of marginalised children and uses interactive tools, activities and games, remedial plans and worksheets for individual children in the classroom, ensuring that no child is left behind. Tests are conducted before and after curriculum implementation to assess learning levels.

Creating Girl Leaders: Educate Girls facilitates the election of Bal Sabha (Girls’ Council) members in every upper primary school. This 13-member council gives girls a voice, a leadership position in the school and training in ‘life skills’ to boost communication, leadership and problem solving skills.

Educate Girls Creates

Community Ownership through...

Team Balika (Community Volunteers - Champions for Girl Education) Community-led enrolment plans School Management Committees (SMC) Creation of girl leaders Creative teaching techniques and classroom support

Which results in....

Increased ENROLMENT Increased RETENTION Improved LEARNING OUTCOMES
**MILESTONES**

- **2007**: Test project completed, independently registered.
- **2008**: Started pilot project in Pali district.
- **2011**: Expanded operations to Jalore district.
- **2013**: Expanded operations to Sirohi district.
- **2014-15**: Expanded operations to Ajmer, Bundi and Rajasmand districts.
- **2015-16**: Started operations in Bhilwara for Development Impact Bond.
- **2016-17**: Expanded operations to Udaipur, Jhalawar and Jhabua districts.
- **2017-18**: Expanded operations to Banswara in Rajasthan and Alirajpur and Dhar in Madhya Pradesh.
- **2018-19**: Scaling operations to include 16 educationally backward districts in total, reaching 27,500+ schools.
- **2019-2024**: Aiming to scale operations to include 31 educationally backward districts to cumulatively reach 16 million children.

*Reduction in number of schools due to scale-down of operations in Pali district and merger of Government schools in the state of Rajasthan.

**DEVELOPMENT IMPACT BOND (DIB)**

**Educate Girls** along with UBS Optimus Foundation (UBSOF) and Children’s Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) launched the world’s first Development Impact Bond (DIB) in education. This 3-year proof of concept began in the academic year of 2015.

In this payment-by-results model, CIFF (as an outcome payer) promises to pay back UBSOF (the investor) the original investment amount plus extra returns as long as the agreed targets are delivered by Educate Girls (the service provider). The Educate Girls’ DIB targeted increased enrolment of marginalized girls and children’s progress in literacy and numeracy outcomes, assessed by independent evaluator, IDInsight, over the course of the 3 years’ tenure. Results-based financing consultancy, Instiglio, designed the DIB and provides performance management support to Educate Girls.

Educate Girls’ DIB had a project budget of US$ 270,000. It covered 166 schools across 140 villages in Bhilwara, Rajasthan, and had an 80% focus on learning gains and a 20% focus on enrolment of girls.

**Final Results - The Educate Girls’ DIB has surpassed both the target outcomes!**

- **160% of the final learning target achieved**
  In the final year, learning levels for students in program schools grew 79% more than their peers in other schools – almost the difference of an entire additional year of instruction.

- **116% of the final enrolment target achieved**
  768 or 92% of eligible out-of-school girls identified in the program area were enrolled in school.
Niti Ayog Women Transforming India Award 2017
Shrimati Smriti Irani, Textile, Information and Broadcasting Minister, Government of India

SEYO Award 2017 (finalist)
Shri Suresh P Prabhu, Commerce & Industry Minister, Government of India

USAID Millennium Alliance Award 2014
Shri Nitin Gadkari, Road Transport & Highways, Shipping Minister, Government of India

NDTV - L’Oréal Paris Women of Worth Award 2016
Actress Katrina Kaif handed over the award

Stars Impact Award 2014
former USA President, Bill Clinton, and HE Amr Al-Dabbagh

At the WISE Summit 2015
First & Second from left: HH Sheikha Moza and Michelle Obama; First from right: Graca Machel