

THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION

—1/MUMBAI—

Founded in 2007, Educate Girls is an NGO that makes it possible for girls living in educationally disadvantaged areas of India to attend school.

When citizens receive a decent education, the entire country stands to benefit; economic and social progress is directly linked to having an educated population. India has one of the highest populations on the planet, with about 1.3 billion people, and unfortunately not everyone has access to education. In the poorest states of the country up to 42 per cent of children do not attend school. Because educational infrastructure is substandard, parents don't feel it's worth sending their children to school when they can work or help at home instead. This is particularly true for girls, who are generally still expected to marry early and become housewives and mothers.

Educate Girls is on a mission to change the status quo. Founded on the belief that education is a necessary element of a fulfilling life and hopeful future, the NGO is working with government organisations and state schools to ensure that disadvantaged adolescent girls are given opportunities to become educated and powerful women.



Safeena Husain
Founder and executive director, Educate Girls

The issue of educational equality for girls in India is close to Husain's heart.



A grassroots organisation powered by people and persuasion

The success of Educate Girls rests on the passion of dedicated communities. Thousands of volunteers work on the ground in poor areas to knock on doors and ask if the girls there are attending school. If not, the volunteers meet with parents and village leaders to make the case for the advantages of a proper education.

Moving towards equality and progress

Once parents agree to send their girls to school, Educate Girls helps to fundraise to upgrade school facilities and trains teachers, says founder Safeena Husain. "Since 2007, Educate Girls has grown from a pilot project with 500 schools in a single region into an organisation that has more than 12,000 schools spread across 8,000 villages in 10 regions." More than 200,000 girls have been enrolled in schools. And as it continues to grow, it will expand to help educate more boys too.

Support from LGT

More than 140 LGT employees got together to raise CHF112,000 for the project. This amount was matched by LGT to create a donation of CHF224,000 for Educate Girls, in addition to continued direct support from LGT Venture Philanthropy Foundation.



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