



Frequently Asked Questions

About Us

Why girls' education?

About 3 million girls are still out of school in India (*SRI-IMRB 2014*), and the female literacy rate barely reaches 60% (*UNESCO 2015*).

Investing in girls' education has a phenomenal multiplier effect and improves a wide range of socio-economic indicators, such as:

- ✓ Income generation: with each extra year of education, girls increase their wages by 10%-20% (*Center for Global Development 2008*).
- ✓ Reduction in child's marriage: when a girl in the developing world receives 7 years of education, she marries 4 years later (*Levine et al., 2009*).
- ✓ Fewer and better educated children: an educated woman is more likely to send her children, especially girls, to school (*Herz & Sperling 2006, Birdsall, Levine & Ibrahim 2005, World Bank 1998*).
- ✓ Children's health: infant mortality decreases by 8% for each year a woman stays in school (*World Bank 1994*). Multi-country data showed that educated mothers are about 50% more likely to immunize their children (*Gage, Sommerfelt & Piani 1997*).
- ✓ Economic growth: the opportunity cost of not investing in girls amounts to 1.2%-1.5% missed GDP growth (*World Bank 2011*).
- ✓ Domestic violence: educated women experience less domestic violence, regardless of social status. (*International Centre for Research on Women 2004*).

By educating girls, we can, together, improve not only their own life chances, but also the well-being of their whole communities.

When & Where did Educate Girls start?

Educate Girls started in 2005 with a pilot in 50 government schools in Pali district, Rajasthan, India. The project was launched under the umbrella of the Rajasthan Education Initiative (REI). Educate Girls decided to focus first on Rajasthan, as 9 of the 26 districts with the worst gender indicators in India were located in this State.

After the successful completion of its test phase, Educate Girls was independently registered in 2007. It extended its operations to the entire Pali district and signed an MoU with the Government of Rajasthan to progressively enter rural, often far-to-reach villages in other districts in Rajasthan: Jalore, Sirohi, Ajmer, Bundi, Rajsamand and Bhilwara (as of 2015).

Educate Girls' Management and Outreach Office is located in Mumbai.

Who is behind Educate Girls?

Safeena Husain takes on Educate Girls' leadership as its Founder and Executive Director. A London School of Economics graduate, Safeena has worked extensively with rural and urban underserved communities in South America, Africa and Asia, after which she returned to India to drive the agenda closest to her heart – that of girls' education. Educate Girls furthermore benefits from the professional experience of over 500 staff members as well as from the dedication of over 4,000 Team Balika (community volunteers), who act as champions for girls' education in their villages.

What has Educate Girls achieved and what's next?

From a 50-school pilot in 2005, Educate Girls has metamorphosed into a program that now covers thousands of schools impacting millions of beneficiaries. Educate Girls has gone a long way in giving girls better life chances by bringing them back to school and providing them with quality education. You can read more about our outreach and concrete impact in terms of enrolment, retention and learning improvement [here](#).

Educate Girls' programmatic success has been hailed by several awards, such as the 2015 Skoll Award, the 2014 USAID Millennium Alliance Award and the 2014 WISE Award, to name only a few.

By 2018, Educate Girls hopes to scale operations to 9 additional educationally backward districts across four states in India, thereby improving access and quality of education for about 4 million children.

Why Educate Girls?

Educate Girls has created an innovative model comprising community empowerment and ownership of public schools that complements the existing government set up. Instead of creating a parallel delivery system, Educate Girls works along with the government to usher in a holistic systemic reform of the system. The key aspects of Educate Girls' innovative solution are:

- A **"comprehensive model"** for school reform designed specifically for rural, remote and tribal regions. It substantially differs from the other models as it does not offer a single strategy solution like scholarships or material support.
- A **cluster approach** that creates depth of the program, provides 100% coverage of a district and allows Educate Girls to leverage its impact to enable grassroots change.
- **Scale with depth** from a 50-school pilot to a full-fledged program covering thousands of schools within a few years and benefitting millions children since 2007 through a community-based, sustainable approach that achieves over 90 percent enrollment of girls.
- **Operations in hard to reach geographies:** Working to address the areas of greatest need in remote, hard to reach geographies, Educate Girls is often the sole NGO in a community.
- **Quality Control:** Educate Girls deploys a rigorous baseline and endline evaluation for every intervention and results are measured against a control group of non-program schools.
- **Innovative and rigorous M&E:** Educate Girls is a leader in adoption of mobile technology for Monitoring & Evaluation and impact assessment.

- **Value for Money:** By leveraging the government's existing investment in schools, Educate Girls delivers measurable results to a large number of beneficiaries at an extremely low cost.
- **Sustainability:** Through community ownership of government schools, the cost of intervention decreases over time.
- **Collaboration:** A number of partnerships with some of the most credible organizations (Accenture, Strategy&, Apco Worldwide, Mercuri Urval, etc.) enable Educate Girls to draw upon these partners' expertise in order to build capacities and bring in best practices and continuous improvements, e.g., the Creative Learning and Teaching modules were developed together with UNICEF and Pratham.

I've read all the FAQs but my question is still unanswered...

FAQs are split into three different sections: *About Us*, *Our Program*, and *Donating*. You can also find plenty of useful information by visiting our Website. However, in case you couldn't get hold of what you were looking for, you can get in touch with us by writing to us at info.in@educategirls.ngo for general queries or at donate@educategirls.ngo for donation-related questions.

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