**Give a Girl a Future Project Proposal**

1. Rational of The project :

“When you educate a man, you educate an individual and when you educate a woman, you educate an entire family.” This declaration is multi-faceted an educated woman has the self-confidence, skills as well as intelligence to understand the need to be a better daughter, sister, wife and mother and make a progressive family. Education is the only tool with which a girl or a woman can empower herself and eventually her family.

India holds a strong determination in educating all children, especially the girl child. By declaring education as a fundamental right, India ensures constitutional provisions for providing free and compulsory education to all the children between 6 to 14 years of age. This provision is widely known as the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.”

Even after declaring education as a fundamental right, there are numerous hurdles that prohibit a girl child from actually getting education. The biggest hurdle is the prejudices that families have about girls—like girls are slow learners, they are not rational; they are to be confined inside the domestic household, and why bother about educating them.

Only a handful of people have actually realized the importance of educating a girl. Though not a direct cause, the infamous dowry system is also another barrier in girl child education. Families often think of a girl as a burden and often want to save the money for their dowry rather than spending it on her education.

A girl is no less than a boy; if anything, they are all the more diligent, hardworking and consistent in their effort towards anything. A girl should be educated in order to ensure a better life for herself. If she is empowered she would be in a condition to add on the income of the family, and raising the living condition of her family.

As goes the saying from the Rig Veda, “the home has, verily, its foundation in the wife.” An educated mother can give better care to her children. Since she is the first teacher of the child, she is ought to be well versed to inculcate better value system in the child. An ignorant mother would not understand the idea of proper hygiene and sanitation leading to lack of proper care of the child—malnourishment is a living example of this problem.

The government of India has initiated various programs and policies to ensure that a girl does not miss out any opportunity of getting education. Even after so many programs and policies of the government, we are still lagging behind in providing education to the girl child. The problem here is not in implementation but in the level of commitment of people in general.

Until we create awareness amongst people about the benefits of women education, all these programs would not bring about the desired result.

We fail to understand that men and women are two sides of the same coin—a girl is as much a part of the society as is a boy. They are both the futures of tomorrow.

They both need to be given equal opportunities for the wholesome growth of the nation.

Let us give the girl child a chance to show her capabilities.

1. Project Objective

The purpose of the project is to improve access to basic education for the girl child through supporting the enrolment and retention of girls missing out of schools as well as dropped out in 10 villages of Jhagadia Block of Bharuch district.

The project is aimed at achieving the following objectives:

1. To improve capacities in 10 tribal rural communities to effectively respond to issues of girl child education.
2. To reduce the number of girls not attending school in 10 tribal rural communities by supporting 100 girls with logistics to enroll or continue their schooling.
3. Project Intended Results

The expected results of the interventions have been summarized as follows:

1. People in 10 tribal rural communities will become more aware on the need to enroll girls into schools.
2. Management structures of 10 rural schools will be enhanced to effectively handle issues of girl child education.
3. Comprehensive data on number of girls not attending school gathered in 10 villages gathered.
4. 100 out-of-school girls / dropped out girls will be supported to enroll into schools in 10 communities.
5. **JUSTIFICATION AND SIGNIFICANCE**

Education is a vital basic human right enshrined in several international and national protocols, conventions and treaties and needs to be observed and exercised with utmost commitment. The efforts being made by the government of India to ensure universal basic education are enormous, but a lot more still needs to be done to ensure quality education for all in order to achieve the MDGs particularly the Education for All (EFA) goals.

However, these efforts of government are not likely to make the necessary impact if the core of the Indian society especially those at the countryside do not appreciate the fact that education is not only a basic right but also an essential resort to wean-off the excruciating poverty in rural areas.

The project will bring on board educational sector stakeholders involving, District Education Department, School Management Committees (SMC), PTAs, parents, guardians and other community-based institutions, to work together on issues that will create conducive atmosphere for children in the deprived rural communities to attend and stay in school. Advocacy and sensitization campaigns will be used to garner the commitment of the change agents. Through these interventions, the community stakeholders will be empowered to perform their functions effectively and efficiently through routine monitoring and support to the children to attend and stay in schools.

Incentive / scholarship packages will be given to motivate 200 Girls children, involving school drop-outs and children of school-going age still not attending school, to enroll in schools in the deprived communities. By this support, the disadvantaged children will once again be offered the opportunity to acquire basic education, considered very essential in reducing their vulnerability and making them responsible adults. Ultimately, this will contribute in making 10 village community an informed society, thereby contributing to this project goal on universal education.

The prospect of the project succeeding is very high because Gram Vikas Trust has the capacity and social capital to implement it. What we need are logistics to operationalize it. Besides, the communities have shown their readiness to work with us in addressing the challenges in the area.

1. **ACTIVITIES TO BE CARRIED OUT**

Activities to be implemented to achieve the objectives and accomplish the goal are as follows:

1. Conduct community sensitization for on girls’ non-school attendance in ten communities. They will provide the opportunity for the community people to be enlightened on government education policies and improve their knowledge on plight of the girl child without basic education.
2. Organize meetings with PTAs and SMCs in seven communities on identifying families with girls missing out of school. The aim is to work with the community education stakeholders to identify and profile families with girls missing out of school in the communities.
3. Hold dialogue meetings with families with girls not attending school. Through this intervention, the affected girls to be supported will be identified in collaboration with their respective families.
4. Organize interaction forum with school management (PTAs and SMCs) to prepare for enrolment and integration of girls. This will offer an opportunity to know the number of schools and vacancies available for their enrolment.
5. Provision of support and counselling to 200 girls out of school to start or continue schooling. Number of girls supported to start or go back to school will be known, thereby facilitating appraisal of the project.
6. Project Logical framework

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| **GOAL** | **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES** | **INTENDED RESULTS** | **MAJOR ACTIVITIES** | **OUTPUTS** |
| The purpose of the project is to improve access to basic education for the girl child through supporting the enrolment and retention of girls missing out of schools / Dropped out in Jhagadia block. | i. To improve capacities in 10 rural communities to effectively respond to issues of girl child education. | i. People in 10 most disadvantaged rural communities will become more aware on essence of girl child education.  ii. Management structures of 10 rural schools will be enhanced to effectively handle issues of girl child education. | i) Conduct community sensitization fora on girls’ non-school attendance in seven communities.  ii) Organise meetings with PTAs and SMCs in seven communities on identifying families with girls missing out of school.  iii) Hold dialogue meetings with families of affected girls. | i) 10community sensitization fora on girls’ non-school attendance conducted in seven communities.  ii) Meetings organised with PTAs and SMCs on identifying and profiling families with girls missing out of school in seven communities.  iii) Dialogue meetings held in seven communities with families of affected girls. |
| ii. To reduce the number of girls not attending school in 10 tribal rural communities by supporting 200 girls with logistics to enroll or continue their schooling. | iii. Comprehensive data on number of girls not attending school gathered.  iv. 200 rural out-of-school girls supported to enroll into schools in 7 communities. | i) Organize interaction forum with school management (PTA and SMC) to prepare for integration of girls.  ii) Provision of support and counselling to 100 girls out of school to start or continue schooling. | i) Interaction forum organized with school management (PTA and SMC) to prepare for integration of girls.  ii) 200 girls out of school are provided with support and counselled to start or continue schooling. |

1. **METHODOLOGY/STRATEGY FOR OPERATION:**

This is a pilot project we plan to implement. In pursuit of the project objectives, we wish to engage with all who matter in this issue. The use of dialogue meetings, workshops, drama and other media shall be employed to embark on this sensitization and advocacy drive. To achieve this, our target group shall include PTAs, chiefs, children missing out of school, the school children and mothers.

Our strategy will involve engaging directly with the affected children. Our focus will be to register, mobilize and engage with these missing out children to advocate for their rights to education through drama, community fora and other engagement mediums.

The project will promote greater equality among women and men. It will ensure greater participation of women in all aspects of the interventions. It will enable women and men to collaborate and work together using participatory strategies. Gender will be integrated in all reports and documentation.

1. **SUSTAINABILITY**

Participatory tools were used to identify the problem and will again be used to strengthen the community-based institutions, such as PTAs and SMCs, which are crucial in building confidence within the communities. The project will begin with a withdrawal strategy from day one onwards, to practically facilitate the communities to own the process and act accordingly.

A monitoring strategy will be developed to examine the progress of the interventions and also to document lessons learned. Interactive meetings will be held with the beneficiary communities to generate feedback, facilitate planning and promote people’s participation.

Strategic alliances will also be established with the local government authorities and institutions operating in the area, to ensure that the project is successfully implemented and its gains sustained upon winding-up.

Furthermore, Gram Vikas Trust professional staff would continue to visit the communities to offer them technical support after the project has winded up, as we would be working with them to develop other interventions aimed at improving their living standards.

1. Project Budget :

Total Budget: Rs.4368000/- per year

Cost per Girl Rs.43680/- in USD : 672

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| Sr.No. | Description | Nos | Unit cost | Total Amt |
| 1 | Survey of villages | 20 | 2000 | 40000 |
| 2 | Residential Jiven Utkarsh Sibir in a group of 25 Girls for 5 days | 4 | 100000 | 400000 |
| 3 | Educational aid | 100 | 20000 | 2000000 |
| 4 | Support Training Programme to dropped out girls | 2 | 10000 | 200000 |
| 5 | Tuition support before school or after school | 10 | 60000 | 600000 |
| 6 | Carrier Counselling workshop | 4 | 100000 | 400000 |
| Programme Cost | | | | 3640000 |
| Administrative cost @ 20 % of programme cost | | | | 728000 |
| Grand Total Cost of the project Rs. | | | | 4368000 |