



India Development and Relief Fund (IDRF) is a USA-based 501(c) (3) tax-exempt public charity that supports impoverished people in India, Nepal and Sri Lanka. The organization was founded in 1988 by Dr. Vinod Prakash, a former World Bank economist, who has worked as a volunteer for IDRF since he founded it.

IDRF's main goal has always been ***to put power and not charity in the hands of those in need***. It has always striven to break the cycle of poverty by empowering the marginalized people with skills, services and infrastructure in sustainable development. Since its inception 30 years ago, IDRF has disbursed \$34 million in grants to various developmental programs pertaining to areas like: education, health, women's empowerment, eco-friendly development, good governance, and disaster relief/rehabilitation.

IDRF has a high standard of compliance and fully vet the reputation and reliability of a NGO before extending a helping hand and making it a partner in sustainable development projects. IDRF also encourages the site visits to its various projects by the supporters and Board Members, in addition to receiving periodic reports and financial explanations of the funds invested. IDRF has been a proud-recipient of Platinum seal from *Guidestar* and 4 out of 4 stars for five consecutive years by *Charity Navigator*-for demonstrating strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency. GreatNonProfits.org considers IDRF as a top-rated charity with a 5 star rating, based on independent reviews.

IDRF maintains a close collaboration with the Indian American community and helps them realize their dreams of giving back to their motherland or land of their ancestors. The marginalized are served by IDRF without regard to religion, caste, or creed. IDRF has been able to maintain its commitment to long-term, sustainable, grassroots development in India, despite keeping its overhead (admin & fundraising) costs below 4%. This ensures that out of every hard earned dollar you donate to IDRF, 96 cents go directly in the hands of the beneficiaries. IDRF has always acknowledged and appreciated the role volunteers have played in spreading the word about IDRF and their endeavors in raising funds for helping the underprivileged in India.

Project Title: Tribal Girls' Education and Hostel Facility

NGO: Shiksha Bharati

Background: Shiksha Bharati is an educational institution that is devoted to the cause of empowerment of girl child. Shiksha Bharati runs and operates a C.B.S.E. accredited school for tribal girls in Hapur, Uttar Pradesh. This school provides innovative and holistic education by utilizing a rigorous curriculum. The program combines academics with physical, moral, spiritual, and cultural development to empower these girls and prepare them to become financially independent in order to lead a life of dignity.

IDRF Partner Since: 2001

Focus Area: Education

Location: Hapur, Uttar Pradesh

Details: Northeast India is a region known equally for its natural resources and vernacular knowledge, as well as its remoteness and extreme poverty. Among the 200+ tribal populations

that inhabit the region, far less than half of the women are literate—less than national average. IDRF has been working with non-governmental organization Shiksha Bharati for over 15 years, to address these challenges.

Girls from tribal villages of the Northeast region mostly from Assam and other states like Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, and Ladakh are selected by Vidya Bharati and sent to Shiksha Bharati for schooling. These tribal girls were often unable to access basic education—let alone quality education—in their home states. With IDRF's guidance and financial support, Shiksha Bharati constructed a well-equipped dormitory *Banwasi Chhatrawas* with the capacity to house 100 tribal girls within the campus of the *Smt. Brahma Devi Saraswati Balika Vidya Mandir* run by Shiksha Bharati. IDRF and Shiksha Bharati together provide completely free boarding, lodging and travel to all girls residing here. The dormitory includes a media room, library, game room, and a room for judo practice.

The dormitory is an integral part of their education, and allows these tribal girls to reside at Shiksha Bharati and attain an excellent education. IDRF has helped to support the maintenance and lodging-boarding costs for these girls. Some of the tribal graduates have returned to their native regions, where they teach local girls, thus, making a contribution in breaking the cycle of gender discrimination and poverty in their communities.

IDRF supports Shiksha Bharati through two distinct funds:

1. **Endowment Fund:** a one-time donation of \$ 6,000 endows one permanent educational seat, in perpetuity
2. **Annual Support:** an annual donation of \$ 550 per girl

In order to fill the dorm's capacity of 100, and to educate a girl child belonging to an underprivileged background, this project needs further support from benevolent donors like you!

Educating a girl gives her the financial independence allowing her to lead a life of dignity and self-respect.

NEWS from IDRF Tribal Girls' Hostel at Shiksha Bharati...

June 2018:

Class XII tribal girls in IDRF supported hostel come out with flying colors, Uttar Pradesh

From the IDRF supported hostel at Shiksha Bharati's school in Hapur, 13 girls took the All India Senior School Certificate exams earlier this year. When the results were declared last month, we were thrilled to learn that Diksha Sharma, hailing from a poor family in village *Sicche Basthi*, Sikkim, has scored a whopping 96% marks and 6 other girls between 80 to 90%. The journey for these underprivileged tribal girls from North-east is an arduous one, as in early grades they are faced with the challenge of learning Hindi which is the medium of instruction at this school. With the support and guidance from IDRF these girls have been able to get quality education that will help them become financially independent and allow them to lead a life of dignity and self-respect in future.



Diksha Sharma scored 96% marks in All India Senior School Certificate Exams (Class 12)



Give us a chance and we would fly!! Meet these 3 Girls from Sikkim, underprivileged daughters of proud and daily wage parents. They were brought to the Hostel/School in Hapur, Ghaziabad by the volunteers of Vidhyabharti (NGO, operating to uplift girls life in North Eastern states of India) . With your support for their living and education, their journey started in 5th grade when they could score between 30 to 40% marks as learning Hindi was a challenge in itself.

We then added a personal touch of our volunteers who mentored these girls to make best use of your support. Girls also understood that the education is the best weapons for them to beat all the odds in their lives.