Making Dreams Come True

**A project for educating underprivileged girl children.**

**Summary**

BREADS, the official development organization of Don Bosco Bangalore, India is a child-centred development organization that has more than 30 years of experience in helping the most disadvantaged children, youth and their families. Spread over 2 Indian States (Karnataka and Kerala), BREADS fervently serves in 28 Districts of the above mentioned two States, having an influence on more than hundred thousand children and their families in more than 250 poverty stricken rural villages and urban areas. With more than three decades of experience working at the local level, we use tried-and-true methods for development with community participation that enable vulnerable children, youth and communities living in conditions of poverty and injustice to become self-sufficient and affect long-lasting change.

The project "Making Dreams Come True" ideates of helping disadvantaged girl children who have been rescued from dangerous circumstances like child labour, child marriage, and school dropouts. The project will work to advance and defend the rights of children who are denied education and a childhood while stumbling through the streets of urban centres/slums or rural villages. The goal of the project is to mainstream the most vulnerable girl children through family reunification, institutional placement, informal and formal education, and training in vocational skills while releasing them from the perils of child labour, protecting them from abuse and other vulnerabilities, and preventing them from being exploited. Our plan is to support the girl children who are rescued from dangerous situations place them in Don Bosco Rehabilitation Centres for short term remedial education and after that readmit them in formal schools for continuing their education and periodic follow up for the next two years. The girl children will be rehabilitated through family reunification, institutional placement, or foster care along with educational sponsorship support to assure their continues education.

**What is the issue, problem, or challenge?**

In North Karnataka, one of the least developed regions in India, many children are living in vulnerable situations. Girl children make up a substantial portion of child labourers and school dropouts, and they are particularly vulnerable to exploitation, abuse, and neglect. In many rural villages and urban slums of the North Karnataka region, girl child trafficking, child marriage, the *devadassi* system (the custom of dedicating the girl children to God eventually leads to prostitution or other forms of abuses), etc. are highly common. Girls make up the bulk of school dropouts, and many of them end up working as child workers. Hundreds of such girl children have been rescued by BREADS, who are then rehabilitated and placed back with their families or in the rehabilitation centres overcoming their trauma. However, because of their families' extreme poverty, parents are forcing their girl offspring to work or care for their younger siblings again while paying little attention to their education. In this context, it is an urgent need to support these girls to make certain that their education has been ensured and prepare them to embrace their dream of leading a happy childhood.

**How will this project solve this problem?**

Through education sponsorship, the project aims to educate 100 rescued and rehabilitated vulnerable girl children. The money mobilized through this project will be used to meet the educational expenses of these poor girl children like school supplies, uniforms, healthy meals, school bags, school fees, and notebooks. BREADS, our Don Bosco project partners, are running rehabilitation facilities, bridge schools, formal schools, supplementary education programmes, skill training centres for the youth etc. in the rural villages and urban slums of North Karnataka districts. The project will be implemented through our project partners at local level. The Don Bosco Centres at grassroot level will rescue and rehabilitate these girl children and maintain regular contact with them and fund their entire educational costs until they complete their formal school education. Many of the girl students ( the orphans or semi orphans) are also admitted our boarding schools or rehabilitation centres, while others take part in our after-school programmes.

**Potential Long-Term Impact**

The project would improve the lives of girl children who previously had their right to childhood and education denied. 100 rescued girl children from vulnerable situations would explicitly benefit from this project. The community and family will undergo long-term transformation as a result of the education of the girl children. Society as a whole would gradually change if we educated a girl child. Additionally, it is possible to guarantee the eradication of child labour, school dropouts and child marriage in many rural villages in North Karnataka.

**Funding Information**

Fund requirement for educating one girl’s children for one year – Rs. 18,000.00 ($220)

Total requirement for educating 100 girl children for one year – Rs. 18,00,000.00 ($21951)

Total Funding Received to Date: $ 0

Remaining Goal to be funded: $21951.

Total Funding Goal: $21951

Start Date: June 2023
Expiration Date: March 2024