

PROJECT'S IMPACT EVALUATION

EDUFEM 2019/2020

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DESCRIPTION

As per Unicef data, Nepal has the third highest rate of child marriage in Asia. Though child marriage was made illegal in Nepal in 1963, the practice is still rampant in remote villages. The minimum age for both boys and girls to get married is 20 but in remote areas there is still a majority of teenagers getting married between the ages of 15 to 19. The reasons behind child marriage in Nepal are complex. Poverty, the low value attached to daughters, and lack of access to education are contributing factors, while the caste system and patriarchal culture similarly play a role. It increasingly appears that teenagers are choosing their own partners and may even elope. In some cases, parents encourage adolescents to initiate their own marriage to avoid the high costs associated with dowry or wedding. Adolescents may also choose to elope since sexual expression outside of marriage is not acceptable, to avoid forced or arranged marriage or to escape from difficulties at home.

How does child marriage affect girl's future?

Girls are forced to stop their schooling and asked to plan for babies.

They experience isolation with limited freedom; married girls even feel disempowered.

They are deprived of their fundamental rights to health, education and safety.

These girls are neither physically nor emotionally ready to become wives and mothers.

They face more risks of experiencing dangerous complications in pregnancy and childbirth, contracting HIV/AIDS and suffering domestic violence.

With little access to education and economic opportunities, they and their families are more likely to live in poverty.

Why EDUFEM project is a solution against child marriage.

EDUFEM project helps underprivileged girls to stay in school for 2 more years and delay their marriage. Because they receive a scholarship, families don't have the burden of paying for the school tuition fees and living expenses, since the project takes responsibility. The girls are also given the opportunity to work in the Rato Baltin Project for 2-3 months a year. In that way they could make some pocket money and gain some work experience. With the help of the project, the girls have the opportunity to focus on a better future for themselves.

INTENDED USE OF THE EVALUATION

This project evaluation aims to measure any changes in the lives of individual participants and communities targeted in the program and reach new project donors for **be artsy** to achieve its objectives to:

- Give opportunity to more girls to stay in school and pursue their studies until the end of high school.
- Reduce prevalence rate of underaged girls getting married.
- Reduce school absenteeism of girls in targeted remote communities of West Nepal.
- Achieve the long-term sustainability of the Rato Baltin project, by investing in the education of the staff members.

FOCUS OF THE EVALUATION

The main focus of the evaluation is to address the following question:

What changes have occurred in the lives of the girls?

What is the impact of the family's mentality towards girls' education?

What is the impact on the girl's way of seeing the future?

How can we reach more girls and more donors?

What (if any) aspects of our program can be improved in design and/or implementation?

DATA SOURCES AND METHODOLOGY

Throughout the 2020, a **face-to-face follow-up** couldn't be carried out. Therefore, it was completed over the phone.

Our team in Kathmandu is providing a monthly follow up over the phone with scholarship girls, their parents, and their teachers.

Every 3 months, the scholarship girls write a letter sent by email to their sponsor, updating them in their progress in school and their daily lives.

THE RESULTS

3 girls pass the 11 exams and will be going to class 12 in high school, 1 of them left the project and went to Nepalgunj to study.

1 girl will go to university as soon as she gets the results from high school .

1 left the project after finishing class 12.

DIRECT IMPACTS ON THE COMMUNITY

3 girls were employed as mentors when they had a holiday and 2 were coordinator of the Rato Baltin project during the course 2019/2020.

They earn a salary which makes them economically more independent. The experience they gain will make them leaders in their community and allow them to develop new skills which they will be able to use in the future.

BUDGET EVALUATION*

Statement of Expenditure EDUFEM Project		
2019/2020		
	Change rate	€134.50
Particulars	NPR Amount	EUR Amount
Program Expenses		
Food	Rs14,140.00	€105.13
Rent	Rs68,000.00	€505.58
Communication	Rs600.00	€4.46
English tuition fee	Rs16,000.00	€118.96
College fee, dress, books and exam fee	Rs41,760.00	€130.48
Grand Total	Rs140,500.00	1,044.619

*BUDGET SOURCES

We had 2 sponsors for 2 girls only, and that the budget evaluation is from the expenses of these 2 girls.

The others were our coordinators and mentor working in the Rato Baltin Project to continue paying their college.

DISCUSSION AND PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

The plan is to find more sponsors willing to participate in the program so that we can give more opportunities to more girls, and they can dedicate more time to their studies.

The more donors and funds we will be able to receive, the better opportunity we can offer to the students. University can be expensive and girls willing to pursue their studies will need to face those expenses.

CONCLUSION

The challenges we faced in implementing the project in 2020 were due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Girls took their school exams late because in April, when they should have been, there was a strict lockdown.

The girls took their exam later and all of them passed.

Some of them decided not continue with the bachelor degree.