



Save the Girl Child

Budget: \$15,600, fully funded.

The Project:

The Banchara are a people-group who are raised to believe their god wants their daughters to work as prostitutes. Young girls are raised with an expectation that they will support their family through sex-work from an early age. However, a small number are seeking alternative, better lives for their girls and are working with our implementing partner to make this a reality. They have placed their girls in a home, away from family pressure, to encourage them to expect more from their lives. At school they learn to dream of a better life – not forced prostitution. This project funds an education grant to allow the girls to access schooling.

Update:

The 102 girls enrolled in school have made good progress and have participated in a wide range of events and activities during the reporting period. At an end-of-year Christmas event, parents and other Banchara community members were invited to celebrate achievement awards being presented to their children. Parents also joined birthday celebrations when they occurred. Teenage girls attended a one-day retreat offering extra enrichment activities and life skills training. A Teacher's Day was also held where they presented their talents and leadership skills through various performances, allowing the community to appreciate the valuable work they do. It is pleasing to see further enhancements made to the scope and quality of the education provided. A new female staff member was appointed to assist girls with daily homework and extra tuition, and guest motivational speakers were invited on occasion to inspire girls on their new life journeys. An expanded weekly menu now provides plenty of healthy food and nutritional balance and more planning has gone into improving the sports programs and activities. Individual counselling is available to help girls adjust to their changed environment and lifestyle and girls are also mentored as they consider what career path to take.

The wider community has also benefited from our partner's work, with development and learning clubs for children, youth and adults and facilitation of family group conversations to help bring positive communal change. A child parliament helps guide children to find their own solutions to social, domestic and personal issues. Womens groups enable them to address domestic violence and social issues and empower them to become agents of change. Men are also encouraged to become leaders and transformers of their community by modelling personal development and being trained to seek government welfare schemes to better their community. In total, 320 children, 86 women and 80 men benefitted from these initiatives. ***Thank you for helping to change the future of these girls' lives.***

