

## Save the Girl Child

IND-SMI-SGC-P03



Neemuch, India



Combatting Trafficking

Total Budget

Project Timeline

\$60,000

JAN 2019

DEC 2021



### Overview

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 hostel, away from family pressure, where they can be brought up to expect more from their lives. They are sent to school and taught to dream of a better life – not forced prostitution. This three-year project has funded an education grant to allow both girls and boys to access schooling.

### Objectives

### Impact



130 students enrolled at school

In September, 105 girls and 25 boys were excited to transition from online learning back to school with its regular extra-curricular program developing life skills, a healthy self esteem and behavioural change amongst students.



Career based higher education

Many girls graduating from high school have continued their studies in tertiary education and vocational training courses. Two girls graduated with a Bachelor of Science, one with an Engineering degree and three have become nurses.



Community engagement & awareness

SHGs (Self Help Groups) were formed amongst the women, youth and male elders. These groups were trained in skills and saving money leading to self-sustainability, supporting their children's education and other expenses.



COVID-19 Pandemic Response

During COVID-19 lockdowns, school staff made regular house visits to the girls, communicated with parents in person or by phone and provided counselling services. Dry rations kits were distributed by volunteers in the village.



### Life change

- Around 50 girls have been saved directly from entering the sex trade.
- 130 children have received a school education but a further 320 children have benefitted from a learning club in the villages.
- Community participation in the program has been a vital part of its success. Parents support their children with homework and the fathers of these girls are modeling personal growth and becoming agents of change.



## Shivna's Story

Shivna, from one of the sex trade practicing villages our partners have been working with for many years, was one of the first girls given the opportunity to live away from home and go to school. She recently completed her GNM Nursing course, has joined the local Health Care Hospital and is earning a sustainable income. She is a changed person and continues to have a positive impact in her village. In the sex trade, her husband would have been one of her customers, chosen for her, or she would not have got married. Instead, Shivna has chosen to marry within the community and is now raising a family as well as working as a nurse.



The girls enjoy extra-curricular activities at the hostel

## Dharma's Story

Dharma was forced by her family into the sex trade on her 12th birthday. Eventually, as a young woman, she got used to the lifestyle and how lucrative it was for her family. She married and had children and wanted her first born daughter to follow in her footsteps. She is very grateful that she was convinced to let her daughter attend school. Dharma has now left the sex trade and works as a volunteer for our partners, implementing project activities in her village such as establishing and supporting SHGs (Self Help Groups) in adult literacy, savings and loans, conducting house visits during COVID-19 and raising awareness about the importance of schooling.

