

School on the Mat



Telangana, India



Education

Year 1 Budget: \$27,400

Project Timeline

FULLY FUNDED

JUL 22

JUN 25

Overview

This second 3-year project builds on an initial 3-year project of educating neglected children, labourers and 'dropouts' in 10 villages in the Gadwal district. All family members work or beg during the day for survival and are now able to access their schooling from 6-9pm to improve their education, literacy, numeracy, hygiene awareness and social standing in the community. The rural villages where our partners work are extremely remote with poor infrastructure, sanitation and economic status. The budget is \$27,400 per year.

Impact for January - June 2023

200

Access to education for 200 children



125 boys and 75 girls attend evening schools in 10 villages to learn to read and write in Telugu and English and understand basic mathematics. They are progressing well. Ongoing conversations with parents maintain awareness of the importance of education and village elders help by promoting it through informal interactions.

Evening classes for adults (20 men, 5 women)

where they learn the Telugu alphabet and how to write their name instead of relying on thumb impressions. Basic numeracy (numbers to 100 and simple calculations) helps them keep track of household finances. It is encouraging to see their dignity and standing in the community improve.

25



Strengthen community-based leadership



Building trust and good rapport with village elders is vital for the smooth running of the schools, particularly in an area governed by strong caste boundaries. It would be difficult to work with people of low status without this higher level buy-in and community support. Keeping the community well-informed means that when challenges arise, they are willing to assist and even provide transport in times of need.

Reducing forced child-marriages for girls

A key goal is to encourage more girls into education, despite socio-economic factors such as superstitious beliefs, child marriage, poverty and male-oriented practices that undermine the value of girls and diminish their rights in terms of education and jobs. Our partner's efforts to counter this is yielding good results and an encouraging number of girls are showing interest in the night schools. It is positive to see change like this taking place at the village level.



A village is given dignity

Our partners visited this remote village by motorbike and found it lacked very basic facilities like road and transport. Known for its poverty, illiteracy and superstitious practices, the villagers are low caste, treated poorly, and denied dignity and social standing. Regular visits have enabled staff to bond with the community and ignite interest in learning. It is exciting to see the growing number of children and adults attend the night classes to learn to read and write. Each one embarking on the education journey represents a step towards empowering this neglected community and lifting up the whole village.



Thank you for making a difference