

Adolescent Girls as Agents of Change, India

FY19 Semi-Annual Update

Project Profile

Project Location	Faridkot, India	
Project Goal	To empower and educate adolescent girls to be agents of change in their own communities so that they can effect sustainable change in the long run	
Project #1 Outcomes	Adolescent girls are empowered to be agents of change and to advocate for their rights	
Project Beneficiaries (over three years)	Adolescent Girls (13 – 18 years old)	1,403
	Indirect Beneficiaries (including peers, parents and community members)	20,000
	TOTAL	21,403

Programme Impact

Progress in Vocational Readiness

- **Nine girls** were enrolled in an ANM (Auxiliary Nurse Midwife) course



The nine girls enrolled in the nursing course

- **150 youth (girls)** were assisted with higher secondary education and professional courses for better futures
- **60 girls** participated in the Skill Training Programme with experts from Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (training centres) and beauty salons who came to engage with them
 - **4 girls** enrolled themselves in the Skill Training Centre
- **70 bicycles** were distributed to the poorest adolescent girls from the target community of Faridkot as transportation to pursue their higher secondary education



Participants in the Skill Training Programme

- **6 adolescent girls** received sewing machines as they underwent stitching training but either did not have devices to start working, or were working on old repaired machines which malfunctioned frequently



Girls with new sewing machines

Progress in Life Skills Education with Community Support for Change

- **42 Girl Power groups** formed
 - A total of **1,403 adolescent girls** in 24 villages participated
 - Girl power groups build self-confidence act as a peer support group. Girls learn to change their attitudes and behaviours and influence opinions of their friends, families, schools and community
 - Throughout the year, girls participated in different training modules like 'Life Skill Education' and 'Play for Peace' for leadership skill development, 'Reproductive Health and Nutrition' for healthy living, 'Skill Training Program' for skill development and girls benefitted from higher and professional courses for better futures



Girls sharing in the group sessions

Specific issues and problems addressed included:

- Low level of education (not beyond secondary)
 - Fear of sexual abuse
 - Early marriage & early pregnancy
 - Violent & coerced sex
 - Poverty-driven transactional sex
 - Migration to urban areas, living with extended families (mostly abusive)
 - Limited skills and assets
 - Inequitable decision making rights in households
- **30 girls** were trained as Master Trainers and equipped to use Reproductive Health and Nutrition tool kits and the Play for Peace model to in turn train 1,000 girls in their respective groups on these topics



Girls trained to be Master Trainers to teach those in their community

Progress in Nutrition and Reproductive Health

- **1,113 adolescent girls** were reached through Nutrition and Reproductive Health Education Training

Impact story: “Nothing can stop me from striving for my dreams.”



Simran, 21, from Faridkot is happy to earn a living and support her family while pursuing higher education. Her father works as an agricultural labourer and her mother is homemaker. She has one sister and two brothers. She used to take part in various World Vision activities and also worked as LSTD (Life School for Transformational Development) Teacher and REC (Remedial Education Centre) Teacher.

Their family earnings were insufficient for the children to study and live a normal life at the same time. She wished to stand on her own feet and earn enough for her further studies, and to support her family as well.

Expressing her feelings of helplessness, she says, “I firmly decided to work and earn for myself and my family. But when I went for any job interview, they would ask for my computer knowledge. I felt so helpless because somehow my parents could not afford to provide me with education. With World Vision’s help, I received admission in Eescott Computer Training Centre and completed DCA (Diploma in Computer Application) and now work as a Front Office Executive.”



She says, “I feel very confident now that I have a job. It gives me many new experiences for my professional development and practical life. I can also balance work and my personal life.”

When asked about her post marriage plans and whether she would be willing to continue her job, she says confidently, “In my opinion, a girl must work even after her marriage. I will discuss with my husband and his family regarding my willingness to continue my job and would certainly make them understand that I can handle both home and office simultaneously.”