

QUALITY EDUCATION AND HEALTH IS WEALTH WORKSHOP I:

**Report on Event Conducted to Raise
Awareness on Right to Education
and Health on October 26, 2022 at
Mahatma Gandhi Government
School in Jaipur, Rajasthan**

ABSTRACT: The event aimed to further the goal of SDG 4 – Quality Education. It was a collaboration between the Legal Aid Centre and the Millennium Fellowship Project, 'Children Today, Leaders Tomorrow'. The specific event intended to promote the importance of good health for girl children in the backward areas of Rajasthan.

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I. Concept Note

The Sustainable Development Goal 4 is 'Quality Education', and is focused on ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all. The goal encompasses a range of targets aimed at addressing various aspects of education, including access, quality, and relevance. Specifically, some of the key targets under SDG 4 include:

1. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education for all: This involves addressing disparities in access to education, particularly for marginalized and vulnerable groups.
2. Ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable, and quality primary and secondary education: The emphasis here is on achieving universal access to education and eliminating gender disparities in educational attainment.
3. Ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational, and tertiary education: This target highlights the importance of providing opportunities for higher education and vocational training, promoting skills development for employability.
4. Substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs, and entrepreneurship: This target aims to align education with the needs of the job market and the economy, ensuring that individuals acquire skills that enhance their employability.

In the context of India, progress towards achieving SDG 4 has been a key focus of educational policies and initiatives. India has implemented various initiatives to enhance the quality of education and increase access. Programs like the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) aim to improve elementary and secondary education,

respectively. The country is also making an effort to ensure universal enrolment, with the help of both cash and in-kind benefits, including the meals offered at school, free education up until the age of 14, scholarships for meritorious children, and a focus on digitisation and vocational skill development.

However, despite progress, challenges persist, including issues of educational inequality, particularly in rural areas, and gender disparities. Access to quality education remains a concern, with variations across different states and regions.

Educating the girl child in India is of paramount importance for several reasons, and it contributes significantly to the overall development and well-being of society. There are several reasons for this.

1. **Empowerment and Gender Equality:** Education empowers girls by providing them with knowledge, skills, and confidence. It helps break traditional gender roles and promotes equality between men and women. Educated girls are more likely to challenge societal norms, advocate for their rights, and participate actively in decision-making processes.
2. **Health and Well-being:** Educated girls are more likely to make informed health choices for themselves and their families. They are better equipped to understand issues related to nutrition, hygiene, and reproductive health. Education contributes to lower maternal and child mortality rates, as educated mothers are more likely to seek prenatal care and have healthier pregnancies.
3. **Economic Development:** Girls' education is crucial for economic development. Educated women are more likely to enter the workforce, contributing to increased productivity and economic growth. Education enhances the employability

of women, enabling them to access better job opportunities and contribute to the family income.

4. **Reduction in Poverty:** Educated women are more likely to escape the cycle of poverty. By acquiring skills and education, girls can break the intergenerational transmission of poverty. The economic empowerment of women through education has a positive impact on overall community development.
5. **Population Control:** There is a correlation between the education of women and reduced fertility rates. Educated women tend to have smaller, healthier families, contributing to effective population control.
6. **Social and Cultural Change:** Girls' education can bring about positive social and cultural change by challenging discriminatory practices and promoting more inclusive and egalitarian values. Education enables girls to question and challenge harmful traditions such as child marriage and gender-based violence.
7. **Global Competitiveness:** In an increasingly globalized world, a well-educated workforce is crucial for a country's competitiveness. By investing in the education of girls, India can enhance its human capital and global standing.
8. **Community Development:** Educated women often play a pivotal role in community development initiatives. They are more likely to engage in community service, contribute to social welfare, and participate in grassroots movements.
9. **Educational Ripple Effect:** Educated women are more likely to prioritize the education of their own children, creating a positive ripple effect across generations.

II. Objectives

The main objectives of this event were:

1. To create awareness among the target population of the importance of quality education.
2. To promote good health among the target population.

III. Preliminary Preparations

Before conducting the event, the organisers made the following preparations:

1. Outlined a plan of action for a multiple day workshop.
2. Researched policies specifically meant for the education of the girl child in India.
3. Prepared posters, banners and other attractive materials to interest the target population.
4. Prepared informational materials.
5. Obtained permission from the authorities at the school.

IV. Conducting the Event

This workshop was conducted at the school premises, and the importance of quality education was the highlight of the event. It was conducted on October 26, 2022.

The resource persons delivered the lecture on post covid precautions and the importance of good health in the life of a student. Hand- cleaning techniques, wearing masks, and using sanitizers are some of the key highlights of the workshop.

For the female students, a special lecture on menstrual hygiene was conducted.

Menstrual hygiene issues such as urinary tract infections, birth complications, and poor fertility, can all be caused by poor menstrual hygiene. While on the other hand, menstrual hygiene not just keeps your body fresh and clean but can also help you in avoiding health complications.

In countries like India, women, especially in rural areas, lack basic amenities like clean water, wash facilities, and affordable and accessible menstrual products but above all, they might not even have proper education on this subject. So, the subject of menstruation is still treated as a taboo and a lot of women avoid talking about intimate issues which further makes it harder for them to get educated about it. So, promoting period positivity among people becomes self-explanatory here.

Various state-run schemes on sanitary pad distribution were also taught to girls. The Government of Rajasthan distributes 12 sanitary pads per head every month as a part of UDAN scheme. We also confirmed with the students whether they are given 12 pads every month and the responses were positive.

V. Response of the Target Population and Outcomes

The target audience's response was very constructive and delightful. They gave us some of the parts which they liked and thought were enjoyable to watch. After giving some positive feedback then they gave some constructive criticism on what needs to be improved such as giving them medical helpline numbers and live demonstrations as to how to wash hands with the techniques taught.

The students, resource persons, and CTLT volunteers actively interacted with each other. Involving themselves in dialogues with the students presented the volunteers with an opportunity to

have one-to-one interaction with them in an unhurried manner. The women were also enthusiastic about engaging in conversation with the volunteers

The floor was opened for the question-and-answer session at the end where the students actively asked questions and clarified their doubts. The resource person emphatically assisted these students. The resource person was glad to answer the questions of these students who showed great enthusiasm and curiosity throughout the course of the workshop.

VI. Future Plan of Action

One more follow up session was planned with the same girls, this time to focus on vocational training.

VII. Conclusion

The Legal Aid Centre and Project CTLT in association with Mahatma Gandhi Government School, GUDA CHAK, Bassi, Jaipur (Raj.) conducted workshop on Quality education for children and on Health is wealth where the students were taught about the right to education and the importance of education in our lives and about the importance of healthy life to build a bright career. The need of the hour is to learn skills and become independent. We targeted 54 students from the age group of 14-17 years

GLIMPSES OF THE EVENT

