

QUALITY EDUCATION WORKSHOP I:

Report on Event Conducted to Raise Awareness on Right to Education and Vocational Skills on October 27, 2022 at Vimukti Girls 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 quality education for 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 educating the girl child.
2. To develop vocational skills 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.
6. Contacted the resource persons working with Rotary Club in Jaipur

IV. Conducting the Event

This workshop was conducted at the school premises, and a few vocational skills were taught to the students. It was conducted on October 27, 2022.

The resource persons demonstrated how to decorate diya and glass paintings. Since Diwali was around the corner the students were also given diya to decorate and if they wish later on to sell them to learn how to earn a living through developing skills.

Vocational skills are practical skills that help an individual become proficient in a trade or profession. These skills prepare you to work in a skills-based career, such as working as an artisan, carpenter, mason, electrician, and other trades and crafts. Vocational competencies are available to a wide range of individuals, especially people who don't have a degree. There are several high schools that provide vocational training for students and people can also get the skills from post-secondary vocational schools, apprenticeship programs, and standalone courses from trade bodies and associations.

The decorated diyas were then displayed in the exhibition at the Diwali Exhibition of the Vimukti School, Jaipur. Wherein all the students, teaching and non teaching staff visited the stall and appreciated the hard work of the students.

V. Response of the Target Population and Outcomes

The team CTLT contingent was successful in drawing the attention of the audience to this Quality education workshop. The colorful presentations caught the eyes of students who later expressed how they enjoyed watching them. The aim was to bring awareness on the importance of education in the life of the students and how the youth is the future of this nation.

The beneficiaries, 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

It is hoped that further sessions may be held in coming academic years for a wider target population.

VII. Conclusion

In association with Rotary Club Jaipur this event was organised at Vimukti Girls School, Jaipur. Ms. Mala Sharma was the resource person for this event. She demonstrated dia decoration and Glass painting, This workshop was for the skill development of the girls (students) so that they can acquire a skill to earn a living. The students also worked on decorating diyas and the same were displayed in the Diwali Exhibition of the Vimukti Girls School.

GLIMPSES OF THE EVENT

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