



Completion Report

IND-YMI-SGC-P03 India
Reporting Period: January to December 2018

Save the girl child

Budget: \$15,600 for year 3. Fully funded.

Update:

This project is working with the Banchara people, to assist them in breaking the cultural bonds that send their daughters into prostitution from an early age. First born girls are raised with an expectation that they will support their family through sex-work. A small number of families are seeking alternative, better lives for their daughters and are working with our implementing partner to make this a reality.

To show how life can be different and with increasing support from the community, our partner provides a safe house for 89 children (69 girls and 20 boys) from the Banchara tribe. The girls (pictured right) and their brothers live in boarding rooms and go to school. Entrust funds the education component of this project, enabling them to pay school fees and buy uniforms and equipment.



Neelam was one of the first girls to complete her schooling while living at the hostel. Her mother was a sex worker, and as the eldest daughter, she was destined to this same 'profession'. Usually the mother grooms her daughter to enter the sex industry, the father peddles her services to local customers and passers-by and the brothers depend on her earnings to pay their dowries when they get married. Life was tough but after her father died, her mother agreed for Neelam and her brothers to study at the hostel. They were welcomed and accepted whole-heartedly and felt loved and respected for the first time. Neelam is now 'giving back' by helping at the children's home and in the medical camps that our partner runs.

A highlight of the school year was the adventure camp that again ran for 3 days. The children took part with much enthusiasm. This kind of activity builds capacity in the areas of unity, creativity, boldness and confidence. Another highlight is the Christmas celebration. In December 2018, 450 people from the Banchara community gathered together, the children performed (pictured below) and the families ate a special meal together.

Thank you for assisting so many girls to live in a secure environment, have experiences they couldn't imagine possible and achieve their future dreams.

