

## Empowering the Next Generation



Neemuch, India



Combatting Trafficking

Year 1 Budget \$24,000

Project Timeline

FULLY FUNDED

MAR 22

FEB 23

### Overview

The Banchara are a people-group who are raised to believe that their god wants their first born daughters to work as prostitutes. These young girls are raised with an expectation that they will support their family through sex-work from an early age. However, a small number of families are seeking alternative, better lives for their girls and are working with our implementing partner to make this a reality. They have placed their girls in a hostel, away from family pressure, where they can be brought up to expect more from their lives. They are sent to school and taught to dream of a better life – not forced prostitution. This three-year project will fund an education grant to allow both girls and boys to access schooling.

### Impact for March - August 2022

105

80 girls, 25 boys are living in a nurturing, safe environment



where students can focus on studies and life-giving values. Educating boys also gives them an alternate pathway, rather than expecting them to become pimps for the female members of their families.

### Program to develop students as change agents

Students are encouraged to be part of awareness programs run during free medical camps for the community. They are living examples of the value in leaving the sex trade and choosing a healthy and productive life.



### Students (80/25) in formal education at English medium school

Classes are nearing normal numbers after some initial reluctance to return to the school following COVID-19 lockdowns. Awareness programs and community visits were key to motivating students to resume their on-site studies.

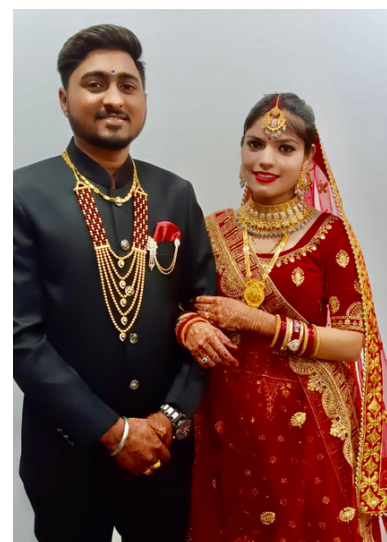
### Community awareness, alternative income

Two medical camp awareness programs covered topics such as traditions, the value of education over the sex trade, health and hygiene, education opportunities offered and the importance of alternative income generating activities and savings groups to remove dependence on the sex trade.

2



- 4 students are currently pursuing higher study - 2 nursing, 1 B.Com, and 1 engineering - leading to dignified employment.



### Three Weddings

For some of us, girls marrying young can be a cause for concern. Are they truly ready? Were they forced into it against their will? For the Banchara community, the occasion of three young girls, either nearing the end of their schooling or new to tertiary study, getting married is a reason to celebrate. If not for their education and parents' support, marriage for Shivani, Anjali and Neha (above) would not be an option. They would have been forced into sex work at the age of 12 with their brothers serving as pimps. Now they are free to build a family and continue their studies from their new home, free of the shackles of tradition.



Thank you for making a difference