

## School on the Mat

IND-TFC-SOM-P03



Hyderabad, India



Education

**3 Year Project:** Jul 2022 to Jun 2025

**Total Budget:** \$82,000



### Overview

The rural villages where our partners work are extremely remote with poor infrastructure, sanitation and economic status. This project provided education for neglected children, laborers and 'dropouts' in 10 villages surrounding the Gadwal District. The local people need to work or beg during the day to survive. This project has enabled access to schooling during the day and in the evenings to improve their education, literacy and social standing in the community. Our partners have been working in this area for 8 years, building trust and relationships with the very poor and neglected members. They work in co-operation with local leaders and elders and find teaching staff within the communities where possible.

### Objectives



**Education for school aged kids**

### Impact

220 children attend classes (an increase of 10% each year) to learn to read and write and to understand basic maths. Local staff have improved their communication and teaching skills and have a better understanding of child behavioural patterns.



**Evening classes for adults**

Around 25 adults regularly attend evening lessons (an increase of 2% each year). Learning basic maths to count their daily cash intake and how to read and write their names has helped improve dignity, identity and self-confidence amongst the older learners.



**Community based leadership**

Each community has a committee that works together to make collective decisions in order for the school to run smoothly. Members meet regularly, trust each other and value transparency in empowering and transforming the lives of these neglected children and adults.



**Reduced forced child marriage for girls**

This education program has benefitted the whole community. More and more mothers want their girls educated and for as long as possible. Committed staff and volunteers help to change attitudes and behaviours around early marriage and the importance of education.



### Life change

- These neglected villages, where people lived without identity, recognition or dignity before education, are transforming into communities of belonging and self-confidence through fun classes of learning.
- More and more girls are attending classes and education is helping to abolish the lower caste system where people have been oppressed for generations.



## Dream comes True

My mum and dad cannot read or write and were too poor to send me to school. So I was very excited when I got to start night lessons and then a daily class, which started recently in my village. It was really hard to concentrate at the beginning of my school journey and I was frustrated that I couldn't read or write anything. My teachers were so patient with me and helped me to focus. I persevered and now I'm confident in my communication skills. I enjoy helping the other children with their reading and writing and my parents are proud of me. Here I am (second from left) with my school friends and my teacher.



The whole village gets involved when children are encouraged to learn

## Dynamic Girls

Our names are Rosa and Radha and we are 12 years old. At first, only the boys in our village were allowed to go to school. Some of the teachers wanted to encourage girls to learn so we were invited to attend school classes on a Friday and joined in the activities. We played games and did quizzes, which were really fun. We started to learn to read and write and soon we were winning prizes and attending school everyday. We really appreciate our teachers and their commitment and passion to teach us. Even our mums have started attending some night classes after their daily chores and they can write the alphabet and sign their names. Thank you for supporting us.

