



A Second Chance at Education and Life

A PHOTO-STORY COLLECTION



आरतम
LEAVE NO GIRL BEHIND



आरथम

LEAVE NO GIRL BEHIND



Girls'
Education
Challenge



ABOUT AARAMBHA

With the support of Girls' Education Challenge funded by UK Aid, People in Need started the five-year project Aarambha-Leave No Girl Behind (2018-2024) with its local partner Aasaman Nepal and Social Organization District Coordination Committee, Parsa to improve the life choices of out-of-school adolescent girls of age group 10-19 years from Madhesh Province, the region with the highest rates of illiteracy and early marriage in Nepal (NDHS 2016, CBS 2011, MICS 2014).

The project seeks to improve the life choices and opportunities of the girls by providing literacy, numeracy, and life skills and by mitigating the adverse effects of early marriage, and addressing harmful social and gender norms. In line with School Education Sector Plan (SESP 2022/23-2031/32). Aarambha aims to form and operationalize "Girls and Inclusive Education Network (GIEN)" at the school/community, local level, and provincial level.

The project consists of four intermediate outcomes (IO) that support learning, transition, and sustainability:

1. Improved attendance of out-of-school adolescent girls in literacy and numeracy courses
2. Out-of-school adolescent girls acquire cognitive and non-cognitive skills to develop and pursue life plans
3. Schools create enabling environments for students to learn and support the life plans of out-of-school adolescent girls
4. Communities and authorities foster positive social norms that encourage delayed marriage and realisation of life plans for out-of-school adolescent girls.

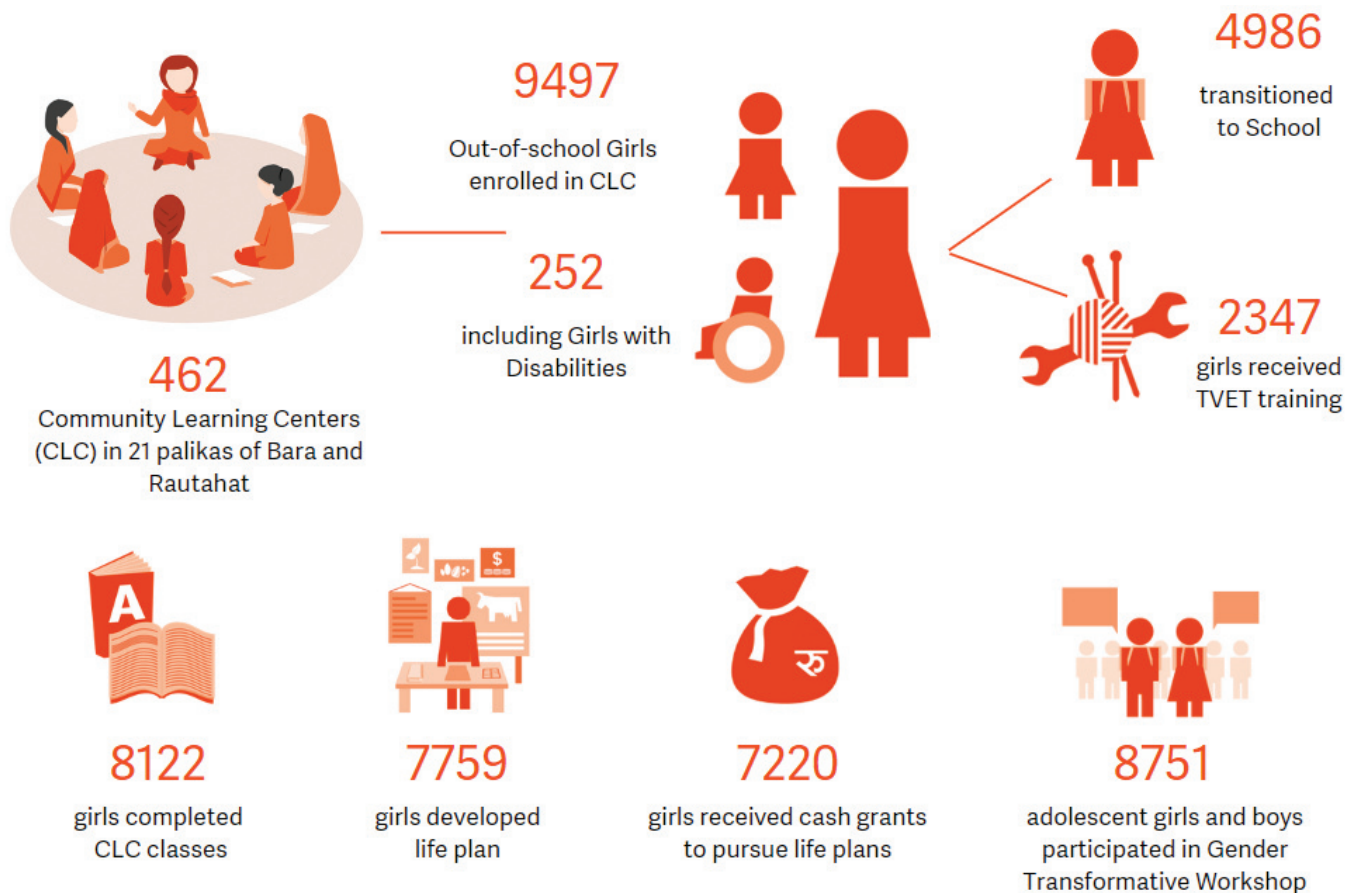
PROCEDURE/APPROACHES OF THE PROJECT

Aarambha project in coordination with the government, identified out-of-school girls in the age group of 10 to 19 years and conducted 10-month informal numeracy and literacy classes through Community Learning Centers (CLCs). Girls were also briefed about life skills to boost their confidence and leadership skills. It facilitated developing life plan for girls and encouraged the admission of adolescent girls in schools after completing CLC with cash support for purchasing school materials. For the girls who could not continue further education, it conducted skill development trainings (TVET) and provided cash grant for running the business to support them earn a living.

Interactions were held with their family members to encourage the girls to get education or livelihood. In order to achieve expected results, the project conducted additional learning classes for girls enrolled in the school, supported learning materials and continuously monitored them. The project also conducted Gender Transformative Workshops at schools and communities, mobilized change champions and conducted parenting education and counselling to ensure a safe learning environment and to foster positive social norms.

The project supported local government and schools to form and mobilize Girls and Inclusive Education Network (GIEN) for creating inclusive learning environment, coordination was made with the local government and the local project advisory committee to discuss on the project activities, achievements and challenges. Advice and suggestions by the stakeholders were prioritized during the implementation.

PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS



AKHLIMA KHATUN

Fifteen-year-old Akhlima Khatun from Bara faced challenges due to early marriage and difficulty walking. Despite losing the opportunity for formal education, she joined Saheli Kishori Community Learning Centre. There, she gained literacy, numeracy, and knowledge about rights, equality, sexuality, contraception, and life skills like tailoring, fostering her confidence. With family support, Akhlima broke barriers and paved the way for a better future, not just for herself but for her community.





SEEMA GUPTA

Seema Gupta, 23, from Bara district, pursued her passion for teaching despite contracting polio at a young age. Her parents prioritized her education, overcoming financial constraints and enabling her to complete secondary school. When the Community Learning Center (CLC) opened in her village, she seized the opportunity to teach literacy, math, and life skills to the girls in her community. She was preparing to apply for a teaching job under a government program for people with disabilities, firmly believing that education brings only positive changes to people's lives.

ANISHA KUMARI TEL

Anisha Kumari Tel, a 15-year-old from Bariyarpur. She had to stop her education because of family duties. But when she joined our Community Learning Centre (CLC), things changed. With the CLC's help, Anisha made her birth certificate and went back to school. She earned a diploma, and now aims to finish 12th grade and get a job.





ANITA DEVI

Anita Devi from Gadimai, who, despite the demands of an early marriage and household chores, is determined to learn. Finding our Community Learning Centre in her village changed her life. Anita eagerly joined the Parenting Education Workshop and quickly learned to read and write. Being literate boosted her confidence and respect in the community. While supporting her daughters' education, Anita also dreams of her own future and seeks opportunity to study further.

NITU KUMARI PANDIT

Nitu from Bara; she endured the challenge of an early marriage but never gave up on her career. As a Community Facilitator, she helped girls learn new skills and go to school. Nitu fights for girls' education rights and tells them to dream big. Her hard work earned her respect, and now she teaches at a private school.





RAUSHAN TARA KHATUN

Raushan Tara from Pheta defied child marriage norms at fifteen. With her mother's support, she joined our Community Learning Centre, where she relearned academic skills and gained a firm understanding of issues like child marriage.

Consequently, Raushan persuaded her family to postpone her marriage until she reached twenty to complete her education.

RUKSAR KHATUN

At the age of five, Ruksar's parents discovered she had knock knees. Due to financial constraints, they chose not to pursue further treatment. The municipality provided her with a disability card (blue) for support. Later, when the project identified girls with disabilities, Ruksar was taken to the hospital, revealing an additional ear problem. With the project's assistance, she underwent successful ear surgery. She is now back in school and believes that education can help her achieve higher goals and fulfil her aspirations.





SONI KHATUN

Soni Khatun's life took a turn when she got married at 11 without any formal education. At 19, she seized an opportunity at the CLC, learning to read and write while caring for her three children. Opting for incense making training, she appreciates the flexibility of working from home and selling locally, bringing in double the profit.

SARITA DAS

Sarita Das, a mother of five who plays dual roles in her community: she is a Parenting Education Teacher and a Chairperson of a local school's Management Committee. Sarita teaches parents positive parenting and fights against harmful practices like child marriage and the dowry system. She's dedicated to making her community a better place for everyone.





SUNDARI MINA KUMARI THAKUR

Mina from Bara couldn't continue school after the fifth grade due to limited opportunities. However, at the age of 15, she got the chance to attend a Community Learning Centre. One day, while cycling, she had an accident resulting in multiple leg fractures. Unable to attend classes, she was confined to her home. Despite this setback, she requested her teacher to support her with studies. Her teacher agreed and started teaching her at home while she healed. After recovering, she joined in sixth grade.

AASMIN KHATUN

Aasmin Khatun, a 14-year-old girl from Bara, Nepal, faced challenges due to a chronic eye condition that led to her dropping out of school. With the help of Aarambha project, Aasmin received treatment for her condition and was able to re-enroll in school. The project also provided her with glasses and obtained a disability card for her. With support from the project, Aasmin dreams of working at a hospital in the future.





RITA MANDAL

Rita Mandal, a 22-year-old, faced financial struggles and dropped out of school. But she didn't let that stop her. She joined the CLC and learned valuable skills alongside literacy and numeracy. Later, she received beautician training and started her own business with support from her husband and the project. Now, Rita runs a successful cosmetics shop and beauty parlour. She is proud to be an entrepreneur.

MANISHA KHATUN

Manisha, a 13-year-old girl from Nepal, stopped going to school in Grade 4 when she saw her friends getting married. However, after learning about the Aarambha project supporting out-of-school girls, she decided to continue her education. Through the project, she attended a Community Learning Centre for 9 months, where she gained new friends and reignited her passion for learning. With the project's support, she re-enrolled in Grade 5 and dreams of starting a clothing business after completing her studies.





IJARANA KHATUN

Ijarana from Rautahat had to leave school early to support her family, but she didn't lose hope in education. At the Community Learning Centre (CLC), she realized the power of education. She completed her CLC classes, learned to sew, and started her own tailoring business. Despite challenges, such as her sewing machine breaking, she perseveres. Now back in high school, Ijarana is determined to succeed and make her family proud.

NURI KHATUN

Nuri, a 19-year-old from Rautahat, is skilled in embroidery and smart in business. Despite economic challenges, she worked diligently on her embroidery. With the assistance of the project, she initiated her own business, earning well to support her family and fund her education. Despite receiving marriage proposals, Nuri remains focused on school, recognizing it as the key to a better life.





AAYESA HASAN

Aayesa from Rautahat; she strongly supports girls' education and fights against child marriages. Aayesa's passion for social service led her to become a change champion in the Women and Children's section of Ward-4, Paroha Municipality.

AAJAMBARI BEAM

Ajambari Beam from Rautahat; she fights against child marriage in her village. She chose to join a Community Learning Centre (CLC) where she learned tailoring and the significance of citizenship. Ajambari obtained her citizenship certificate, breaking barriers and gaining access to new opportunities. With the support of CLC, she started her own tailoring business, becoming a pillar of support for her family.





MUSTIKAM KHATUN

Mustikam, a dad who changed his perspective on female education when his daughter Rani joined our Community Learning Centre (CLC). Rani's success made him see how vital girls' education is. Now, inspired by Rani, he has become an ardent supporter of educating girls. He now has a deeper appreciation for Rani; he cares for her and knows she's different from his sons. Mustikam insists on delaying Rani's marriage until she finishes school, challenging old rules to make a new a—brighter—future.

MUSKAN KHATUN

Muskan from Bara faced tough times, especially during COVID-19, which led her to leave school in grade three. However, her family allowed her to attend our Community Learning Centre for girls like her, where she restarted her education and learned about the risks of child marriage. Determined, she chose not to marry before the age of 20. Muskan persuaded her father to support her decision and stand firm against community pressure.





PRATIMA DEVI PANDIT

Pratima Devi, now 21, got married at the age of 19 who initially believed that married women couldn't work. However, with assistance from our Community Learning Centre and support from her husband, she successfully opened her own small store. Now, she and her husband are aspiring to expand their business and provide their children with a good life.

MIRAN KUMARI PASWAN

Miran Kumari Paswan doesn't conform to societal norms and fights against injustice. Joining the Community Learning Centre (CLC) transformed her life, enabling her to educate others about child marriage and violence against girls. Miran's decision to delay her marriage inspires many, and she is determined to finish high school and secure a good job to support her family.





SABANA KHATUN

Sabana Khatun, a 16-year-old embroidery artist from Rautahat. Despite societal pressures, Sabana knows the value of education. She thrived at our Community Learning Centre (CLC). Sabana opted for tailoring as a profession, and she started her own business with seed money from CLC. Sabana has now expanded into embroidery. She earns around Rs. 5000 (\$37) a month; Sabana also supports her family and funds her siblings' education.

AMINA KHATUN

Amina Khatun, a 40-year-old from Rautahat. She is the Chairperson of the Community Learning Center (CLC) management committee. Through a Parenting Education Workshop, Amina learned to read, write, and manage her small store. Despite marrying young, Amina values her daughters' education over early marriage. She's committed to learning and believes education brings independence and respect.





SOBITA DEVI RAM

Sobita, a 20-year-old entrepreneur from Rautahat, participated in bangle-making training after completing her CLC classes. With the support of the Community Learning Centre, she started her bangle workshop at home. Despite obstacles, her business flourished, and now she earns around Rs. 9000 (\$67) per month, contributing to her family. Supported by her husband and family, she aims to provide better opportunities for her children.

RENU KUMARI KUSWAHA

Renu Kusuwa, 27, from Rautahat, is a ray of hope in her village, tirelessly advocating for girls' education and social change. Despite facing the challenges of early marriage and societal norms, Renu's determination to pursue her education never wavered. Married at 17 and a mother soon after, she juggled household duties while longing to continue her studies. Despite societal pressures to conform, Renu defied norms, enrolling in college and later becoming a facilitator for Aarambha project supporting girls' education. Through her advocacy and perseverance, she is not only transforming her own life but also inspiring others to challenge stereotypes and pursue their dreams.





SHAIRUNG KHATUN

Shairung Khatun from Rautahat. She and her husband run a successful tailoring shop in their village. At 18, Shairung joined our Community Learning Centre (CLC), where she learned to sew and decided to turn it into her profession. With the CLC's support, she started her own tailoring business, which grew quickly. Now, Shairung and her husband aspire to expand their business further.

NANDA KISHORE PRASAD JAISWAL

Nanda Kishore Prasad Jaiswal, the ward chairperson of Bara, is dedicated to helping girls attend school despite societal challenges. He ensures every child gets an education by providing bicycles to help them reach school. Nandakishore also recognizes the value of educating families about the importance of educating girls. Thanks to his efforts, more girls are attending school, and fewer are getting married too young.





RADHA RAM

Radha Ram, from Bara, Nepal, married and became a mother at 13. Despite this, she pursued education with Aarambha project's support. Overcoming family opposition, she excelled in literacy and numeracy, even passing her Secondary Education Examination.

Juggling household duties, she remained dedicated to her studies and is now pursuing higher education. Radha's resilience and perseverance have inspired her community, demonstrating the transformative impact of education and empowerment.

PAPPU KUMAR DAS

Pappu Kumar Das, a 14-year-old ninth-grader, is an active member of the Girls and Inclusive Education Network (GIEN). He actively participates in school meetings and decision-making processes. Pappu has played a role in promoting improved hygiene products, access to books, and enhanced safety measures at the school. His involvement in GIEN has also contributed to his personal development. GIEN in Nepal serves as a catalyst for change, advocating for girls' education rights and addressing specific needs.





ARCHANA CHAUDHARY

Archana Chaudhary, a life skill facilitator at two Community Learning Centers (CLCs) in Bara, is well aware of the challenges faced by young girls regarding Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM). In her remote village, disposable sanitary pads are scarce and expensive. Archana attended a training on making reusable sanitary pads and MHM, subsequently sharing this knowledge with girls in CLCs and schools.



Read
Aarambha Stories
Online





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