Keep adolescent girls in school

Why?

Keeping girls in school gives them the best possible chance in life. All over the world, research shows that education is the best way to keep girls safe from health risks.

- A girl who drops out of school ...
  - is more vulnerable to HIV infection and other health problems
  - will have a larger, less healthy family
  - earns less than better educated girls
  - lacks voice and agency
  - together with all girls dropping out, costs India $30 billion in lost annual growth

- A girl who completes high school ...
  - is three times less likely to contract HIV
  - will have fewer, healthier and better educated children
  - earns better and reinvests 90% of what she earns into her family
  - is better prepared for decision making
  - is more involved in her community
  - increases the economic growth of the country

How?

Action on different levels is needed in order to keep adolescent girls in school.

Girls gain confidence and leadership

- Safe spaces and extra tuition for girls improve their self-esteem and life skills
- Access to government incentives encourages parents to support girls’ schooling

Parents are involved in girls’ education

- The community values girls’ education
- Mobilised communities and engaged local government track girls’ retention

Boys accept girls as equal classmates

- Changing boys’ attitudes stops eve-teasing and promotes gender equity
- Girls who finish high school have a better chance of health, earnings and making their own choices

What is Samata?

Samata is a programme to improve the quality of life of adolescent girls in two districts of northern Karnataka by keeping girls in school, delaying their marriage and reducing entry into sex work. Samata works to:

- provide special tuition, career counselling and leadership training
- establish reflection sessions to build girls’ solidarity and confidence
- sensitize parents to the importance of educating girls
- link families to government incentives for educating girls
- encourage boys to respect girls and their rights
- initiate measures to increase girls’ safety and academic success
- support community action for girls education.

To find out more, contact Samata Programme

Karnataka Health Promotion Trust
IT Park, 5th Floor, 1-A, Rajajinagar Industrial Area, Behind KSSIDC Administrative Office, Rajajinagar, Bangalore – 560044
Phone: 080-40400200

Karnataka Health Promotion Trust
Plot No 617, Sector 5, Dona Road, Sheringar, Belgaum – 590016
Karnataka
Phone: 0831-4213446/47