



# 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 ...	A GIRL WHO COMPLETES HIGH SCHOOL ...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>is more vulnerable to HIV infection and other health problems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>is three times less likely to contract HIV</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>will have a larger, less healthy family</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>will have fewer, healthier and better educated children</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>earns less than better educated girls</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>earns better and reinvests 90% of what she earns into her family</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>lacks voice and agency</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>is better prepared for decision making</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>is disengaged from larger community issues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>is more involved in her community issues</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>together with all girls dropping out, costs India \$30 billion in lost annual growth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>increases the economic growth of the country</li> </ul>

## 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



### Parents are involved in girls' education

Access to government incentives encourages parents to support girls' schooling



### Schools cater to girls' needs

Gender-sensitive teachers, well-functioning school committees (SDMCs), and improved school facilities and safety measures encourage girls to stay in school



### Boys accept girls as equal classmates

Changing boys' attitudes stops eve-teasing and promotes gender equity



### The community values girls' education

Mobilised communities and engaged local government track girls' retention



### Girls have better options for their future

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
- sensitise 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

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