



World Change Starts
with Educated Children.®

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Cambodia

**Primary completion
rate, girls** 61%
**% of literacy (15 and older),
female** 64%

India

**Primary completion
rate, girls** 80%
**% of literacy (15 and older),
female** 48%

Laos

**Primary completion
rate, girls** 64%
**% of literacy (15 and older),
female** 61%

Nepal

**Primary completion
rate, girls** 74%
**% of literacy (15 and older),
female** 35%

Sri Lanka

**Primary completion
rate, girls** 94%
**% of literacy (15 and older),
female** 89%

Vietnam

**Primary completion
rate, girls** 99%
**% of literacy (15 and older),
female** 87%

Source
UN Statistics Division (2004)

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Tax deductible
contribution
needed to fund
a scholarship:
US \$250/year for
10 years or a **US \$2500**
up-front payment



Room to Grow: Girls' Scholarships

(Funding Long-term Girls' Scholarships in Cambodia, India, Laos, Nepal, Sri Lanka & Vietnam)

Girls' Scholarship Program

The goal of Room to Read's Girls' Scholarship Program, known as "Room to Grow", is to provide opportunities for girls in less-developed countries to attend school, thus allowing them to gain the lifelong gift of education and to take control of their lives. We fund scholarships for students starting in primary school, based on our belief that the best way to help improve the world is by starting education at a young age. To each girl, we make a commitment through the completion of secondary school (a period averaging ten years). This acts as a strong incentive to achieve and to stay in school, and also provides security and support to girls who often grow up in a very uncertain environment.

Opportunity: A quest for education for all children

Education within many developing countries is not free. Families are often charged school fees to pay for the operation of schools and teachers' salaries. Many families cannot afford these school fees, or they are unable to forego the income of a working child. Due to economics and cultural bias, young girls are often left behind when it comes to educational opportunities. If families are able to send only one child to school, the eldest son is usually chosen.

However, the benefits of educating girls are numerous and include:

- Improvement of family health and nutrition and decrease in infant mortality
- Increased likelihood of educating the next generation
- Decreased population growth in resource-scarce countries, since educated women tend to have fewer children
- Increased wages of girls for every year they remain in school

Results: What can I expect?

By providing scholarships to young girls, one can have an immediate and direct impact on their lives. An education will allow them to take control of their future and empower them to make choices about a career. The key ingredient to an improved status for women in these societies is a solid education starting at an early age. Furthermore, by educating a girl, one educates her future family and thus generations to come. Educating girls yields a higher rate of return than any other investment available in the developing world.

Monitoring & Evaluation We check on the attendance and performance of our scholarship girls through regular visits and correspondence with headmasters and teachers. Our scholars get extra tutoring, as needed, to ensure their success in school, and we have female social workers on the Room to Read staff to oversee this program.

Connection In order to allow our supporters to learn more about our girls on scholarship, we publish an annual Girls' Scholarship Yearbook. This collection includes photos, stories about some of the recipients and general information on program results in order to help you understand how education is changing the girls' lives.

What is Room To Read?

Our mission is to provide under-privileged children with an opportunity to gain the lifelong gift of education. Founded on the belief that education is the key to breaking the cycle of poverty and taking control of one's own life, we currently focus our efforts on Cambodia, India, Laos, Nepal, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. Room to Read is a dynamic, results-oriented organization. Since our inception as a non-profit in 2000, we have impacted the lives of over 1 million children by building over 220 schools, establishing over 3,300 school libraries, donating over 2 million books, and funding over 2,300 girls on scholarship. The vast majority of donations goes directly into programs.