

IMPACT:

(till 31st December, 2019)

Girls benefited

Total active girls in
2019 - 20 **46,818**

Cumulative through
2019-20 **62,457**

Girls who attended life skills training

2018 - 19: **87 %**

Advancement rate among girls who stayed in the program

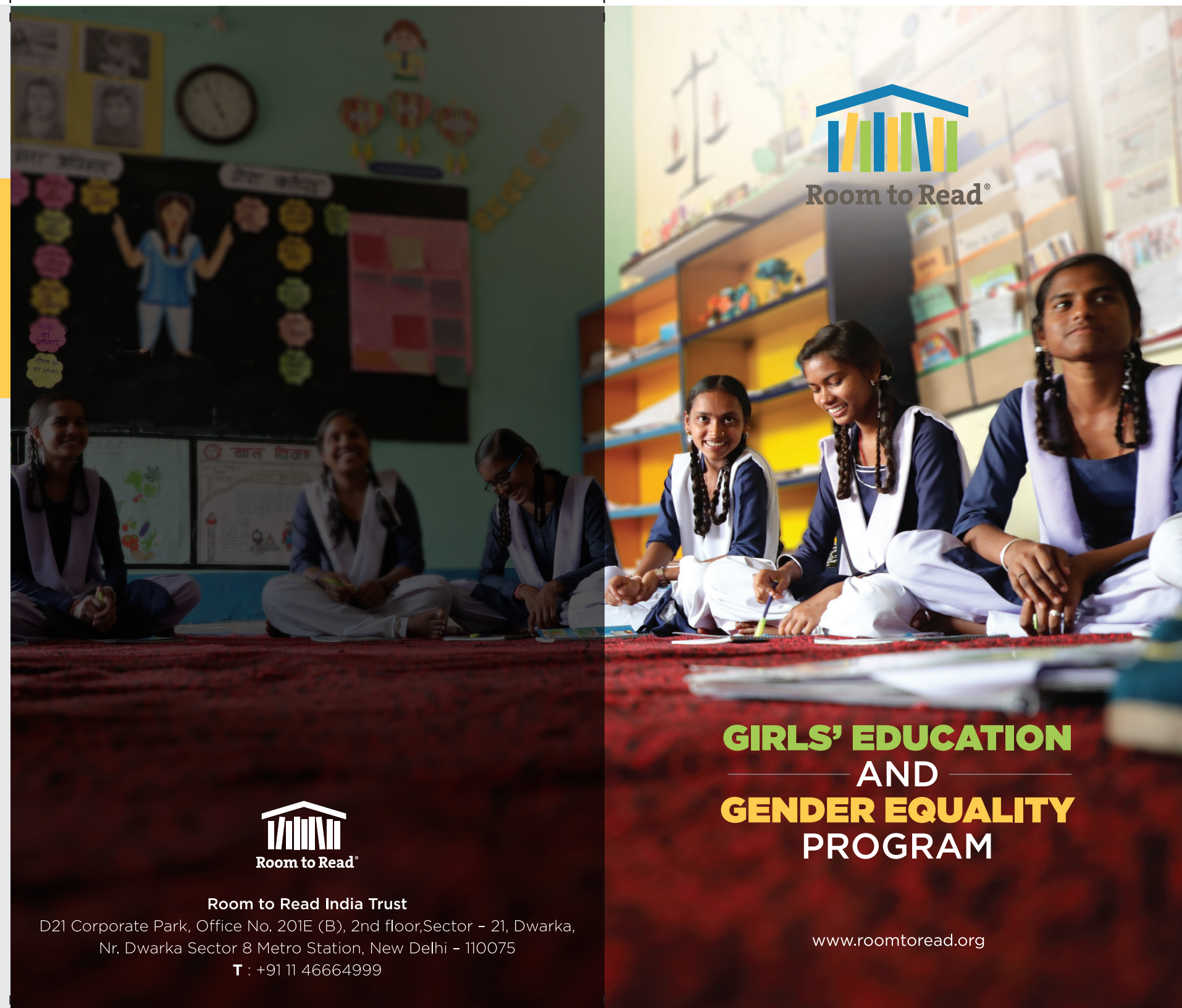
2018-19: **97.21 %**

Girls who graduated secondary school

New in 2018 - 19: - **428**

Cumulative through 2018-19: - **1,930**

Percentage of 2018 graduates enrolled in
further education or found work within the
first year after graduation- **79.90 %**



GIRLS' EDUCATION AND GENDER EQUALITY PROGRAM

ROOM TO READ'S GIRLS' EDUCATION & GENDER EQUALITY PROGRAM

Strengthening Girls Agency to take informed
decisions and realise themselves

Room to Read's Girls Education and Gender Equality Program (GEGEP) engages with girls for them to complete their education and to strengthen their self-awareness, social awareness and self-efficacy to be able to make informed choice about their lives. Simultaneously, we work with families, school administrators, teachers and community leaders to understand the gender-specific challenges girls face and how they can collectively facilitate their success. A global organization, in India since 2004, the organization has benefitted over 62,457 girls across 8 states – Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Telangana and Uttarakhand. Over the years, the program has witnessed powerful stories of change, led to best practices to learn from, and innovative strategies to celebrate and share.



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SKILLS THAT CHANGE GIRLS LIVES!

Life skills education is central to Room to Read's GEGEP goal. Room to Read believes that when girls have life skills, they can more effectively negotiate life decisions, including the decision to stay in school. These skills equip her to take charge, to effectively respond to life situations and identify best solutions along with a path to get there.

A girl with life skills feels confident, has good communication skills, and is a critical thinker. These are important skills for being successful in school and life and for making healthy choices in various arenas including her education, career, health, economic status, relationships.

Girls who develop foundational life skills coupled with positive support from families, communities, and mentors will be more likely to stay in school, graduate, and improve their life outcomes. Room to Read's Girls' Education & Gender Equality Program is therefore designed to improve learning and life outcomes.



Self Awareness (I am valuable)	Self Efficacy (I am empowered)	Social Awareness (We can do it)
1. Self-confidence	4. Self-control	8. Communication
2. Expressing & managing emotions	5. Critical thinking	9. Creative problem-solving
3. Empathy	6. Decision-making	10. Relationship-building
	7. Perseverance	

GIRLS EDUCATION & GENDER EQUALITY (GEGEP): A PRESSING NEED

UNESCO data reveals that 4.2 million adolescent girls are out of school in India. Apart from poverty there are various factors that affect the education of the Indian girls. 9 out of every 10 girls ever enrolled in school do not complete schooling, and only 1 out of every 100 girls enrolled in Class I reaches Class XII in rural areas. The situation of dropout of girls, especially those belonging to the marginalized sections of society and the rural areas continues to remain severe.

Gender discrimination, household chores, safety, distance, lack of infrastructure, early marriage, poverty, a lack of commitment to invest in girls education from family's side due to cultural norms stand as a barrier between girls, their education and their aspirations.

The effects of poverty make it hard for low-income communities to invest in education for both boys and girls.

Girls in low-income communities are **10x more likely to not finish** secondary school compared to girls in high-income countries.

Girls without secondary education are **3x more likely** to be involved in a child marriage.

Worldwide, an estimated **one in three** women will experience physical or sexual abuse in her lifetime.

When girls are empowered with life skills and supportive mentors, they not only stay in school longer, but become leaders of their own lives and agents of change. These skills help young women remove barriers, change societal paradigms and spark solutions for gender inequality, poverty, hunger, disease, conflict, climate change and more.

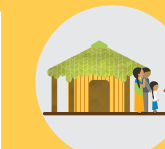


THE SOLUTION

Room to Read's Girls Education and Gender Equality Program (GEGEP) fosters a more gender-equal world by mobilizing communities to support girls to stay in school longer and acquire the necessary skills to negotiate key life decisions. The program includes:



Life skills sessions



Community advocacy promoting gender equality



1:1 and group mentoring



Need-based material support

Life Skills Sessions: The life skills sessions are practice oriented, activity based, child centered, self-instructional plans that are led by the Social Mobilizers / the facilitators. These sessions are designed in a staggered and an age appropriate manner, aligned to the developmental milestone.

Mentoring: GEGEP has two-fold mentoring – group mentoring and individual mentoring. Mentoring creates a reiterative practice space for learnt life skills and to also raise a peer solidarity group in which the girls come to their own solutions taking each other's help. These are opportunities for girls to freely discuss, learn, and share with one another in a safe, small group setting.

Community advocacy promoting gender equality: Family, school, and community engagement' broadly refers to Room to Read's collaboration with families, schools, and communities to achieve mutually desired program goals and outcomes. It is about working together with families, schools, and communities to promote gender equality and the value of girls' education.

Targeted material support: Targeted material support addresses situations which can contribute to removing resource related immediate barriers from a girl's education journey.

Central figure is social mobilizer: who is a woman from the community who plays the very significant role of a wise caring adult, a mentor and a positive role model.

PROJECT VIJAYI Empowering Girls to Lead Successful Lives

In close collaboration and partnership with the government, GEGEP is being implemented in KGBVs, Asharmashalas, Porta Cabins, RGSM hostels in the state of Chhattisgarh (grades 6-8) and in all KGBVS in Rajasthan (grades 9-12). RtR has trained over 1000 teachers and wardens of the institutions to roll out the program with close monitoring and handholding support by the district officials and RtR team. The project is also measuring the impact the intervention is going to make on students as well as on teachers.

LIFE SKILLS WORK!

The BIG Evaluation: 2 year Randomized Control Trial on how life skills impact girls lives

Independent Researchers from JPAL, the University of Illinois Chicago, American University and Dartmouth College together led a study in Rajasthan, India to understand how life skills program being implemented by Room to Read impact girls' lives.



2,400 girls and their parents surveyed



Half of the girls were in Room to Read's program and half weren't



Study spanned across 119 schools and 2 years

THE STUDY'S FINDINGS

The evaluation revealed that with the support of a mentor and life skills curriculum, girls can stay in school longer and cultivate leadership and life skills in just two years.

The Program Made A Measurable Difference In



Creative Problem Solving



Relationship Building



Decision Making



Expressing Agency Over One's Life



Two years in the Room to Read's Girls Education and Gender Equality Program (GEGEP) resulted in a 25% lower dropout rate