

JAGRITI BHALAI KENDRA

PROPOSAL FOR PROJECT

WOMEN AND GIRL CHILD FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT

In the year 2017 the life of a girl child from before birth to even after death is such as a “second-class citizen

While the male is rejoiced over from before birth, given the best care, education and opportunity, the women is not.

The government of India has tried through giving many incentives and laws to prevent the discrimination- but this is such a deep rooted tradition it is still prevalent. CHANGE is happening especially in the urban set up slowly, but even more gradually in the villages, especially in the villages near the border.

Jagriti Bhalai Kendra works in these areas away from the city. Here the literacy rate is male 73% and 63% for the female this can mean educated or just can write their name in the local Punjabi language.

In this vicinity the majority of the people still work as labors in the farmland near the village or as rickshaw pullers/auto drivers who rent the vehicle. Their income varies from pullers to drivers Rs 800 to 100/- per day out of which rent has to be given to Rs300 to 400 for the labors per day. The labors work is seasonal and also hardly ever a full month especially as mechanical harvesting happens. The women are supposed to receive the same but this is not so; they are even more discriminated if husband and wife work at the same place and same time.

PROBLEMS:-

EDUCATION

The government gives free education to both boys and girls till 8th class; but the government teachers are irregular in attending their work and often absent.

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The result is the children suffer they learn to copy instead of learning so often cannot compete with other children. The private schools are more disciplined and the teachers attend the students in a better way, but it costs. The annual fees, and monthly fees, uniform, extracurricular subjects and English medium makes it difficult for a person who is a labour so they also have to pay for private tuition this can come to over 1000 rupees per month.

Please allow me to illustrate the problems facing the girl child:-

BEFORE BIRTH

In India it is illegal to find the sex of the child before birth but this still happens. Adverts say, "spend now save later". The Pre Conception Diagnostic Test is illegal but still it happens. This test can only be performed after the 8th week of pregnancy. No one knows the number performed. A few only caught. The young (usually) married women is taken by husband or mother in law. If a girl child often the procedure of tablet, Tampon or curettage is performed. If tablet is given it is usually one illegally obtained from medical store. This is only meant to be given in the first 72 hours after intercourse. This therefore causes heavy bleeding and hemorrhage. Then the women often will not go to the hospitals legally given permission to perform Dilatation and curettage, as here also a register is kept but to some one other Doctor, nurse, trained birth attendant or untrained birth attendant!

If the female child is allowed to be born. The mother does not get the post birth care and foods to strengthen her and is expected to go to work earlier, this includes heavy lifting etc. She also frequently leaves breast feeding early to give tea to the child. Often that too in a dirty bottle or washed in tap water! Weaning is late and often the food is biscuits and sweets! When the weather is cold or wet she is not taken hurriedly inside their home.

Therefore the birth ratio to six years for Tarn Taran was 730 to 1000 live boys. It is good to note in spite of all things, through government and NGO the efforts have now increased to 860 per 1000 live boys. It is to be noted

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that in other countries the birth of the girl is always higher, but this is not so in India – the girls are still not on the same scale as the rest of the world.

It is expected the girl child will eat less protein food so puberty will be delayed. Also that she will work at household chores with mother from a very young age. Needless to say this makes the girls anemic and stunted in growth since all her growths are delayed. From a young age she hears that she will have to leave school if she does not pass her exam or behave properly,(meaning to traditional values). While the boy is 'pampered' and given freedom to use the wants, though outside work is usually taught him such as money and the boy in household groceries.

At puberty the girl is allowed at times to go to school (this is happening more now the change of 15 years), but otherwise at home. During her menstruation she will remain at home,(to this day many girls use old cloth not sanitary pads). Some are even going to college and training but if caught talking with boy or any sign of it they are kept in their home or married off quickly or killed.

This project has already explained the burden of producing a male child. Needless to say violence and abuse has become part of the girl's life. Not to day that often when married her dowry(not called as such rather present) is important. Often the training as Nurse or Doctor is also important but for the boy to live or go aboard. Even yesterday a graduate married for ten years suffered beatings but she withstood due to her children. The project is glad to say she is now free as a divorcée with her grown up sons.

Even when the women die she is not free from the traditional problems in Punjab. People in Punjab. There is the ARKATT this is when like wedding gifts from the family and feast are given again. This is often through loans from the family.

For this reasons this project proposal is written:-

1. To discuss in small village groups of both sexes on gender quality
2. Encourage breastfeeding to both male and female babies for six months then weaning on correct nutritional diet.

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3. Education for both children and informal education for the parents especially mother
4. Learning the way to use money and banks and saving
5. Spreading knowledge about the law and its protection
6. Empowering the women and girl child to be able to make right decisions using traditional feasts for both sexes

SELECTION OF AREA

The area selected is Block Kairon near the sub Teshil Patti, in District Tarn Taran. It is proposed to work in six or seven villages in this block.

Below is the statistics for this year of 2016 till December,

S.N O	NAME OF VILLAGE	POPULATIO N	BIRTH OF GIRL	BIRTH OF BOY
1.	JAUDA	4450	24	30
2	UBOKE	1478	13	15
3	QWANDKA	2548	16	17
4	GOPALA	551	1	8
5	KABBE RAJPUTTA	1188	10	11
6	SARHALI	1313	7	12

THERE IS A POSSIBILITY FOR ANOTHER VILLAGE

TENTATIVE PLAN OF ACTION

1. Meeting with Civil Surgeon of Tarn Taran

Meeting with Senior Medical officer Patti

Meeting with family Welfare in Charge

Meeting with Kairon Block

Meeting with the village Sarpanches

2 Begin survey discuss with ASHA worker of the village. Plan is to find actual figures - often fudged due to government pressure.