



PROJECT FACT SHEET

SUMMARY

CARE views education as a critical component in the fight against poverty and places special emphasis on the education of girls through the Girls' Education Programme (GEP). As part of this, CARE operates the global Power Within project which aims to enable 10 million girls around the world to complete their primary education and to develop the leadership skills that will empower them to work with their families, communities, and countries to overcome poverty. In India this programme is currently being implemented in Uttar Pradesh (UP), Odisha, and Bihar, with the support of funds from the USA. In India, Power Within has enormous potential to influence government at all levels, reach large numbers of girls, and address gaps in CARE's development efforts, while building on and expanding the scope of our many accomplishments. By focusing on reaching out to girls aged 10 to 14, CARE is able to not only target girls not completing their

education but also those most likely to drop out. At this age, many girls are expected to marry and to take on the responsibilities of adult women. Power Within seeks to provide these girls with opportunities for self-development and growth, which will in turn empower them to stand up to the dynamics of the broader social structures that tend to condition female choices.



Power Within

Location: Uttar Pradesh

AIMS

In line with the overall aims of Power Within, the programme's goal is to improve learning and leadership opportunities for 150,000 girls, aged 10-14, from marginalised communities in UP, Odisha, and Bihar. As such, Power Within aims:

- To increase the number of girls completing primary school by ensuring equitable and quality education in schools
- To promote girls' leadership by encouraging their participation in extra-curricular and civic activities
- To advocate for and protect the rights of girls





SPECIFICS

Across the world there are currently 10 million more girls than boys not in primary school education, leading to two-thirds of all those illiterate being women and girls, totalling 875 million worldwide.

CARE's approach to education focuses on challenging the socio-economic and cultural barriers that exclude women and girls from learning. This process is integral to achieving the United Nations Millennium Goal of primary education for every child globally by 2015. India is pivotal to this effort for in 2010 it was estimated that eight million 6-14 year olds remained out of school in the subcontinent.

In its education programmes, of which Power Within is a critical element, CARE helps girls in India to complete primary education and access formal schooling, provides onsite academic support to enhance the quality of teaching, and nurtures leadership skills amongst girls. CARE also supports social learning that encourages students to explore complex issues like gender through dialogue, role-play, games, and projects.

CARE also provides technical support to teachers and government departments, helps nurture school-community relationships, and offers alternative education opportunities for women and adolescents who either never enrolled or dropped

out early. These alternative education programmes emphasise science, technology, and mathematics while challenging teachers, students, and parents to critically consider their beliefs.

The three main interventions of the Power Within project are:

- To provide impetus for girls to complete primary school; one, through the encouragement of gender sensitive and democratic schools, two, provision of a variety of learning materials, three, cultivation of school-community linkages, and four, by focussing on child-centred pedagogies.
- To promote leadership skills by facilitating extra-curricular activities such as committees for school management, sports, debating, and art activities. Girls are also encouraged to participate in civic action so as to take actions on social issues concerning them or their immediate environment. Organised rallies, tree plantations, enrolment campaigns, and cleanliness campaigns have been successful to date.
- To enable an environment in which the rights of girls feature prominently. Addressing traditional practices, risks, and vulnerabilities, as well as working through mentors, advocates, and champions, CARE is focused on raising awareness on the rights of girls to create a positive change in the attitudes of communities.



CASE STUDY

Shashi is a 12 year-old girl from Pranpur village of Shivpura development block in UP. Shashi's parents had committed to send her off to her prospective husband's house. Like most girls her age she was unhappy with this decision, but unlike most girls she decided to act on it. Shashi is a member of a girl's collective in Pranpur which is a part of CARE's Power Within project. She discussed the issue of her marriage in one of their meetings, reporting to her friends that her parents were sending her off against her wishes. As she was too young to be a wife, her co-members from the collective decided to meet with Shashi's parents. The group members discussed, among other issues, the liabilities of consummating marriage at such a young age. Her parents agreed with the points raised and decided to postpone Shashi's marriage at that time. Proud of herself and her friends from the group, she demonstrated a greater confidence imbibed through the girls' collective group, which was translated into her actions to try and negotiate for better life opportunities. Shashi is one of the many girls helped through CARE's Girls' Education Programme (GEP) and Power Within.