

Press Release

Increasing household chores and early marriage are preventing girls in rural India from staying in school, according to a study by Educate Girls USA's partner

Monday, October 10, 2022

Educate Girls USA's partner Foundation To Educate Girls Globally conducted a comprehensive study with mothers, girls and boys from 900+ households across villages of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh in India, to understand how the pandemic impacted the education of girls aged 5-18.

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In November and December 2021, Foundation To Educate Girls Globally, an Indian non-profit working towards girls' education in rural India, conducted a comprehensive study to estimate the impact of the pandemic on girls aged 5-18 in Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. This study was conducted with the support from Dalberg International Advisors, by surveying mothers and over 3,200 girls and boys from 900+ households.

Foundation To Educate Girls Globally wanted to understand the changes brought about by the pandemic in the lives of such vulnerable girls in India and how it may have affected their chances to return to school.

Biggest roadblocks preventing girls from resuming or staying in school

- **Increased financial distress and school attendance**

In villages where schools had opened about 94% girls and 96% boys said they are attending school. However, the proportion of adolescent girls not attending school (23%) was nearly double that of adolescent boys not attending school.

- **Increased burden of household chores**

For all girls, the number of hours spent on household chores has increased by more than 1 hour a day to an average of over 3.5 hours per day. Most of this increase is in chores that need to be done in the morning before they go to school.

- **Burden of early marriage**

In Uttar Pradesh, roughly 30 % of participating girls were either married or engaged. Many girls mentioned aggravated poverty during lockdown, coupled with other circumstances, have left them at risk of early marriage.

"The findings of the study are clear - the barriers to girls' education are greater than ever before and we need to fight greater odds to ensure these girls go to school, don't drop out, and continue learning. The impact is most acute for adolescent girls. The study also highlights the stories of girls and the long-term effect the pandemic has left on their lives," says Safeena Husain, Founder and President, Educate Girls.

The findings of this study have been compiled in a report titled “Impact of Covid-19 in rural India and its effect on girls”. It outlines the opportunities that lay ahead, which involves teachers and peers keeping adolescent girls connected to learning and bringing them back to school.

To get access to the full report, please get in touch with:

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About Educate Girls USA

Founded in 2014, Educate Girls USA is a nonprofit organization that focuses on mobilizing resources to support girls' education in rural and educationally marginalized areas to ensure that all girls are in school and learning well. Educate Girls USA partners with and supports credible organizations on the ground that identify, enroll and retain out-of-school girls, and improve foundational skills in literacy and numeracy for all children.

Learn more: [EducateGirls.us](https://educategirls.us)

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