



# LGT Impact Fellowship 2020/2021

Impact Report

By Dr. Geeta Deshmukh

September 2021





**Dr. Geeta Deshmukh (India)**

**Host organization:** Educate Girls (EG)

**Fellow position:** Strategic Partnership State Lead

**Fellowship duration:** Sep 2020 - Aug 2021

**Degree:** Masters of Public Health in Social Epidemiology

**Professional experience:** 6+ yrs operations head/research in Emergency healthcare management; epidemiologist



**Summary**

Having experience in health research, M&E & working with the health departments in various states, Dr. Geeta led the strategic partnership between EG & Rajasthan State Government’s Education department to implement various education initiatives during & post Covid-19 while aligning with Government’s dynamic priorities. Dr. Geeta successfully implemented various internal monitoring processes & received Government’s approval for the technical partnership in three additional districts of Rajasthan state.

**The problem EG aims to tackle**

- EG’s goal is to improve access and quality of education for over 15 million children cumulatively by 2024 thereby addressing 40% of India’s Out-of-School Girl problem.
- Everyday in India, over 4 million girls of school age do not show up to the school due to gender inequality.

**The solution EG provides...**

- EG aims to achieve behavioral, social and economic transformation for all girls towards an India where all children have equal opportunities to access quality education.
- EG leverages existing community and Government resources to ensure that all girls are in school and learning well.

**... contributing to the SDGs: Opportunity for a Fellow**



- Strengthening the Government relationship amid Covid-19 pandemic with ever changing government priorities & countrywide lockdown situation.
- Capacity Building of internal staff for effective engagement with Government @various levels.
- Developing various trackers of timely & effective management of various activities & to have timely, quality & accurate reporting @state & districts.
- Strategizing regular operations implementation & Covid-19 specific innovations.

**“My experience as a Fellow...**

*With the Fellowship, in different sector, geography & amid the Covid-19 pandemic, I can see how the life became even tougher for Girls belonging to the most marginalized community. Due to already existing gender inequality, girls are suffering the most & are more vulnerable for child marriages, involvement in household chores, and getting drifted away from their education. Most important task is to reaching out to these girls NOW; support & provide them with various efforts done by Government & NGOs to include them in the mainstream.*

- Dr. Geeta



**Dr. Geeta's achievements...**

- **Stronger Government relationship** amid the pandemic/lockdown situation, strategizing the internal activities & getting the required support/approvals from the State Government & aligning with the Government's priorities.
- **Technical Partnership-** Successfully received the approval from Government for technical partnership in three additional districts of Rajasthan state for enrolment support.
- **Process improvements-** as many new activities were taken up, timely & accurate reporting. Developing various trackers for smooth information flow.
- **Capacity building & support-** In a virtual world, frequent coordination with mid level manager team for effective engagement with Government & on ground implementation of said activities.

**... contributing to Educate Girls**

- 50+** **Meetings held** with various Government officials @state level for deeper & stronger engagements, understanding Government's priorities & acting accordingly quicker.
- 3** **Additional 3 districts in Rajasthan operations-** Seeking approvals from Rajasthan Government for the Technical Partnership with EG under Dr. Geeta's lead.
- 15+** **Processes optimized-** trackers to monitor various (subjective) activities internal & external in a standard and measurable way.
- 17+9** **Reports developed-** Various routine monthly & ad-hoc reporting- timely & error-free, letters drafting or external communications (Reports & letters).

**Dr. Geeta's next challenge**

Dr. Geeta will move back to her core area of Public health, epidemiology & will explore new and challenging opportunity to develop her operational, research & Government relationship skills to serve the health of the larger community in a more impactful way.