



December 2023 Featured Project

Information, resources, and training girls need for health, safety, and well-being in Bangladesh



TOGETHER WOMEN RISE

Introducing Speak Up for the Poor

Exists to transform the world on behalf of the poor and create a new reality for girls in poverty in Khulna Division, Bangladesh



About Bangladesh

- Population 173 million
- In Southern Asia, bordering Bay of Bengal
- 98 percent ethnic Bengalis
- One of the most densely populated countries on earth
- High risk of infectious diseases
- Highly agricultural = waterborne contamination and disease



Life Challenges for Women Served

- 51 percent of girls in Bangladesh - forced into illegal child marriages before age 18
- Vulnerable to being trafficked into prostitution
- Often do not understand rights to bodily autonomy and safety
- Lack of basic health information
- Cultural taboos about menstruation and women's health



Girls Education Project (GEP)

Together Women Rise grantee –
February 2021:

- Socially distanced trainings – rare source of education about health and safety
- Encouraged parents to keep daughters in school after long school closure



Girls Education Project (GEP)

December 2023:

- At least 2 Health and Safety Seminars each month in 2024
- More health training in College GEP
- Hire nursing school graduate from GEP as full-time community health nurse



The Project

Health and Safety Training:

- Basic hygiene, feminine hygiene
- Infections and skin diseases
- Water hygiene
- Village youth club for local health and safety problems
- Understanding of right to bodily autonomy and laws: child abuse, child marriage, sexual abuse, domestic abuse, spousal rape



Budget

Item	Description	Cost
Village Health Seminars	For 36 seminars: health supplies (medicines), medical equipment (including first aid boxes), feminine hygiene products (for each girl), honorarium for visiting doctor or nurse at each event	\$9,000
Large Group Training Meetings	For 16 training meetings : facility expenses (including rental, cleanup, etc.), food (snacks for girls), supplies (pens, notebooks, handouts, sanitation supplies), transportation for girls and staff attendees, media (sound system rental and materials)	\$21,900
Nursing School	Student fees, nursing school training events	\$11,900
Salaries	Nurse practitioner and nursing interns	\$7,200
Total		\$50,000

About Speak Up for the Poor

- Founded in 2004 by Troy Anderson
- Began operations in Bangkok, Thailand in 2008
- In 2012, started Girls Education Program (GEP) in Khulna Division, Bangladesh
- GEP grew from 20 girls in three villages in 2012 to 1,440 girls in 30 villages by 2020
- Excellent record of keeping girls in school
- Community meetings educate adults and children: importance of education for girls, detrimental consequences of child marriage

Discussion: Share Your Thoughts

1. Why do you think the participation of nursing students in local seminars has been so impactful?
2. The impact of continuing socially distanced programs during Covid reached far beyond the knowledge imparted during the trainings. Why do you think it was so important to those whose daughters participated?
3. How do you think removing the stigma around topics such as menstruation can change the life of a girl, her family, and her community?





GEP

GEP

GEP

Our Core Values

- HARD WORK
- SERVICE
- CONFIDENCE