



# Annual Report (2010-11)

Foundation to Educate Girls Globally

Bridging the gender gap, one girl at a time

**“In the nineteenth century, the central moral challenge was slavery. In the twentieth century, it was the battle against totalitarianism. We believe that in this century the paramount moral challenge will be the struggle for gender equality around the world.”**

-Kristof and WuDunn, Pulitzer prize winning authors of *“Half the Sky”*

**Foundation to Educate Girls Globally**

## INTRODUCTION

Foundation to Educate Girls Globally (FEGG) is a Mumbai based non-profit organization working towards promoting girls' education. Founded in 2007, FEGG works towards improving girl's enrolment, retention and academic performance in government schools by leveraging existing community and government resources.

After successful completion of its pilot project in 50 schools in Rajasthan, FEGG signed an MoU with the Government of Rajasthan in 2008 to scale up the project to 500 schools. During the 500-school project period, it reached out to 70,000 children, including 37,000 girls, their families and communities in over 200 villages in three blocks of Pali district in Rajasthan through various programme interventions.

In February 2010, the Government of Rajasthan asked FEGG to upscale and extend the model to every government school in Pali district. As a result, FEGG signed another MoU to expand its programme to 2342 schools in the entire Pali district. FEGG is now covering 1067 villages and 2342 schools across 10 blocks in the district.

This report focuses on the activities and results of FEGG from March 2010 to August 2010, in the 2342 schools project in Pali district, Rajasthan.

## EDUCATION SCENARIO IN INDIA

India has some of the worst gender disparity issues in the world. It is estimated that in India girls' average less than four years of education in a lifetime and 40% leave school before they reach the fifth grade. India alone accounts for 23% of the world's total out of school children of which 7 million are girls.

**\* Rajasthan has 9 of the 26 most backward districts in India. The gender gap in these districts is so immense that the girls are lagging behind their male counterparts in all spheres of life.**

\*(Source : Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) list released by MHRD, 2009)

**Pali has around 10% gender gap at primary school level and an alarmingly high 25% gender gap at upper primary school level.**

Girl enrolment and drop out rates in Pali compare unfavorably with rest of India, making it one of the most backward districts in the country. The drop out rate at upper primary levels is more than fifty percent, accounting for a complete loss of few years of school education. The main reason behind this is the resistance from the local community, which perceives that education conflicts with the socially prescribed role for girls. Therefore most girls are never sent to school and the ones that do, attend only perhaps primary school.

As per the UNICEF report on gender (2001), “ 12.3% of girls drop out of secondary school as compared with 9.9% of boys in India.”

## **IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION**

Educating girls has a multitude of positive effects for the wider community, as well as the individual woman. Extensive research by the United Nations and the World Bank shows that when girls are educated:

- Birth rates fall and every four-year of schooling reduces family size by one.
- Family health improves and child mortality falls; educated mothers are 40% more likely to immunize their children.
- Literacy accelerates in future generations, as educated mothers are five times more likely to educate their children.
- <sup>1</sup>Regions stabilize as violence and extremism declines.
- Fights poverty: Both family and national income grows by 10% for each additional year of schooling.

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<sup>1</sup> World Bank Report: Engendering Development (2002)

## OUR MODEL

FEGG's model leverages current government investments in education. It mobilizes underutilized resources in the form of parents, communities, teachers, government officials, and even children to bring girls who have dropped out back into school, and to improve school infrastructure and quality of education. FEGG uses various strategies to help communities assess their school situation and initiate action; it also empowers political constituencies to sustain positive results. FEGG's model aims to –

- Implement a holistic model improving girls' education
- Increase demand for girls' education through community participation
- Strengthen linkages between school, village community, teachers, School Management Committees (SMC)<sup>2</sup>, Block, District and State administrations
- Support Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) at State and District level

## IMPACT

From January 2008 to February 2010 worked with 500 schools, in three blocks of Pali district. Through various intervention strategies FEGG contributed to 99% girls' enrollment, higher attendance and improvement in learning levels for these 500 schools.

Important Milestones:

- **Achieved 99% girls enrollment**
- **At the start of the project: 3,839 out of school – at the end of the two year project 279 girls remained out of school**
- **Girls attendance increased from 67% to 82%**
- **Number of Schools provisioned with drinking water increased from 46% to 82%**
- **Schools with separate girls toilet from 44% to 71%**

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<sup>2</sup> SMC – It is a group of dedicated individuals mostly parents, who are responsible for planning and managing operations of government schools.

- Hindi reading (paragraph): up from 42% to 59%
- English reading (paragraph): up from 15% to 43%
- Math (two digit addition and subtraction): 26% to 57%
- Over 6,500 girls trained as leaders through “Bal Sabhas,” or girls’ parliaments

For the 2342 schools project period, starting March 2010, FEGG has so far completed the process of identification of out of school girls (including both drop outs and those who were never enrolled) and their enrolment in local government schools or other Bridge courses. The mid-year results of this survey are as follows:

- 11,243 out of school girls were identified through the intensive door to door survey
- Successful validation of FEGG’s door to door survey list with government’s school and Child Tracking Survey (CTS) lists
- Enrolment plan developed for all out of school girls with community participation
- 136 village meetings conducted, introducing village communities to the process of participation in school management and development
- Enrolled 4,213 girls into mainstream government schools
- Enrolled 1,031 girls in KGBVs<sup>3</sup> and relevant bridge courses
- Additional 5,275 new enrollments of 6 yr olds

## **PALI 2342 SCHOOLS PROJECT:**

FEGG is currently impacting the lives of over 1, 25,000 girls in Pali district. FEGG has systematically challenged and addressed the structural, cultural and socio-economic barriers in the region through strong programme interventions and strategies in partnership with parents, communities, teachers and government. The FEGG program has empowered girls by providing them access to quality education and self-development opportunities.

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<sup>3</sup> KGBV - Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya is a central scheme for enhancing educational opportunities for girls at primary and upper primary levels. At KGBVs girls are provided residential facilities thus solving the issues related to access to education.

**Following are the highlights of the activities from March 2010 to August 2010:**

#### **ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS**

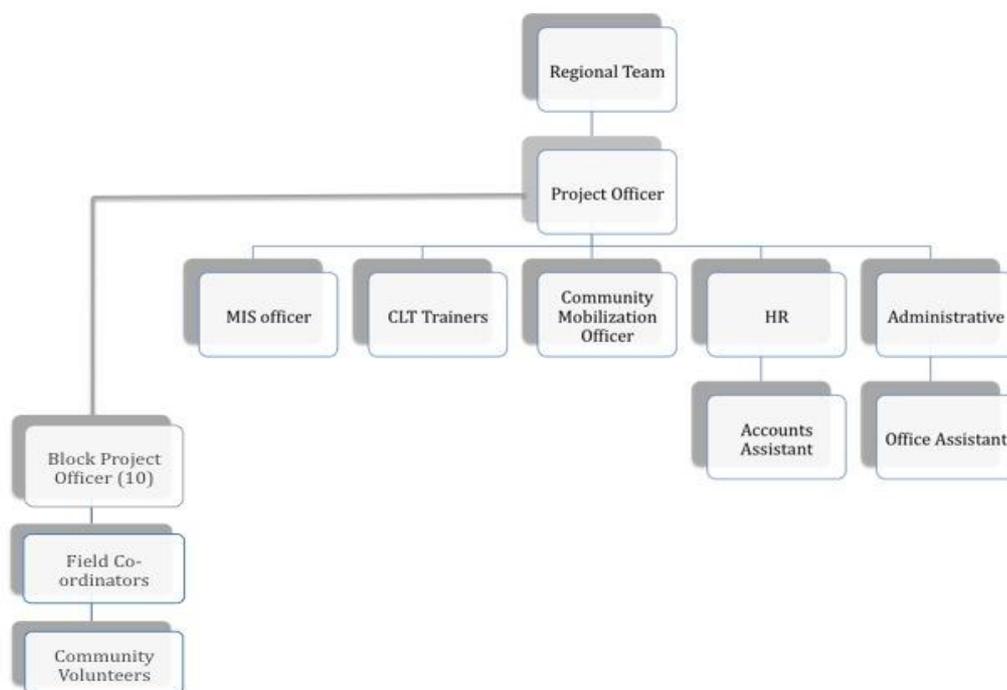
##### **1. Signing of MoU**

Based on the encouraging results of the 500-school project, the district administration led by the District Magistrate Dr Prithviraj recommended expansion of the project to cover the entire district of Pali t. On 9<sup>th</sup> February 2010, an MoU was signed between Ms Veenu Gupta, Commissioner, Rajasthan Council of Elementary Education (RCEE), Government of Rajasthan and FEGG to expand its program and to work with 2342 schools in Pali district.

##### **2. Staff recruitment**

To expand the model to 2342 schools and 1067 villages across 10 blocks in Pali district, a bigger team was required to implement the program in all villages. FEGG advertised in the local newspapers, online mediums and through a search firm in Jaipur to build its team. The recruitment process was designed to ensure complete transparency and to provide equal opportunity to every applicant. From over 200 job applications received, candidates were shortlisted and then interviewed. An independent and diverse panel consisting of Mr. Parthiban, a DASRA representative, Mr. Michael Pollock, a US based donor of FEGG, Mrs. Aparna Tamhankar, Programme Director of FEGG, Mr. Dinesh Upadhyay, Project Director of FEGG, Ms. A R Sathe, Retd Commissioner, Customs (Jodhpur division) screened and interviewed the applicants.

Through the intensive selection process, 10 Block Project Officers (BPOs), 50 Field Coordinators (FCs), 12 Community Volunteers (CVs) and 8 regional team members were appointed. Most of the field staff members are locals who are fluent with the local language and with a good knowledge about the region. Their local ties to the region make it easier for them to make an entry into the local communities.



### 3. Training

After the selection, a two day orientation programme was organized for regional staff. The selected 62 field staff members were given weeklong intensive induction training on community mobilization and the process of door to door surveys and village meetings (GSS).<sup>4</sup>

### 4. Door to Door Survey

A Door to door survey was conducted by a team of 80 persons to cover all 1067 villages over a period of 2 months (April 20 to June 20). The field staff spent approximately 2-3 days in each village and conducted the survey to identify all out of school girls in the district.

<sup>4</sup> GSS – Gram Shiksha Sabha or village meeting is a community forum organized to sensitize community on the issues of girls’ education.

The door to door survey is one of the keystones of the FEGG programme and model. Hence it needs meticulous planning and execution. To ensure accuracy of collected data, trained field staff used data collection forms, conducted interviews and scheduled meetings with the gram panchayat.

**11,243 out of school girls were identified through the intensive door to door process.**

Number of blocks	Total drop out girls	Total never enrolled girls	Total out of school girls	SUSPECTED out of school girls (not validated by teachers)*	Grand total
10	4866	4657	9523	1720	11243

- 1,720 girls were identified as out of school and this was further validated by community representatives/committees such as Sarpanch, Wardpanch or through GSS. However, they were not confirmed by the school administration. Finally, this number was accepted by the District Collectors office as official “out of school” number for girls and made part of the enrolment strategy. Going forward, all FEGG enrolment efforts are directed towards the enrolment and retention of these 11,243 girls.

There are many reasons for such a high number of out of school girls. The barriers which these girls face in their efforts to acquire formal education are -

- Social and cultural barriers
- Economic barriers
- Psychological barriers
- Institutional barriers
- Barriers caused by poor teaching& learning conditions in schools
- Barriers caused by familial circumstances
- Geographic barriers

##### **5. Validation of FEGG survey results**

The door to door survey data collected by FEGG was presented to the Rajasthan state government. This data was compared with the government survey as per the

enrolment register in each school. There was a large gap in the school level data and FEGG data.

### Comparison with CTS survey

In order to establish accuracy, credibility and political acceptability of the FEGG data, the list was validated against the government school dropout list in 50 villages and further against CTS<sup>5</sup> survey in 10 villages.

Comparison in 50 villages FEGG survey against school lists:

				Present status of total out of school girls in SSA list													
Serial no	Block	Total no. of villages in study	Total out of school girls in FEGG list	Total out of school girls in SSA list	Listed in FEGG survey	Enrolled in other schools	Overage	Underage	Migrated	Returned from migration	Married	Death	New drop out	Missed by FEGG	Door closed	No one in the village	Total (F to Q)
Total		66	503	755	191	61	323	14	99	6	34	2	1	4	7	13	755

The FEGG data showed 503 out of school girls and Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) data showed 755 girls. This difference of 252 girls in data was verified again by a comparison of the two lists.

In 10 villages FEGG survey against Government Child Tracking Survey (CTS):

Cluster name	Panchayat	Village	Total in CTS survey	Total in FEGG survey	Total difference	In FEGG list	Overage	Underage	Migrated	Returned from migration	Missed by FEGG	Total (H to M)
<b>Total out of school girls</b>			125	122	3	100	11	5	3	2	4	125

Based on the above multi-level validation, the FEGG list was officially accepted by the government and other State administration authorities.

### 6. Enrolment Plan

After validation and on the basis of the data collected during the door to door survey, an enrolment plan was chalked out in every village through a Gram Shiksha Sabha or village meeting.

<sup>5</sup> CTS - Child tracking Survey is a government survey looking at number of drop outs and not never enrolled.

After discussions during the GSS, the following plan was made for the enrolment of out of school girls-

Sr. no.	Enrolment plan made through village meetings	Number of girls	Progress as on 1 <sup>st</sup> Sept 2010	% achieved till 1 <sup>st</sup> Sept 2010
1.	Mainstream schools (Primary school and Upper Primary school)	8833	5754	65.1%
2.	KGBV admissions (Residential school for girls)	514	771	150%
3.	Optional Bridge Courses (SMKs <sup>6</sup> , NRBCs <sup>7</sup> , RBCs) <sup>8</sup>	1896	792	41.7%

### 7. Impacting district action plan

After all the out of school were identified and part re-enrolled into the school system, FEGG staff prepared action plans for the 11243 girls on the basis of:

- ❖ List of girls for mainstreaming
- ❖ List of girls identified for NRBC and Shiksha Mitra Kendra
- ❖ List of girls identified for 6 month RBC

The number of out of school girls identified by FEGG was much higher than the number of girls expected and thus the options for enrolling them into mainstream schools and alternative courses were much less. In order to address this issue a District Task Force (DTF) meeting was held on XYZ date July 2010 presided over Dr. Prithviraj, District Collector and President DTF, Mr. Arun Kumar Purohit, Addl District Collector and District Programme Officer, SSA, Mrs Safeena Husain, Executive Director, FEGG, Mr Vijayram Bawal, District Education Officer (Primary Education),

<sup>6</sup> SMK – Shiksha Mitra Kendra is an alternative educational center where in non-school group children come to gather to get education of primary level by locally trained youth.

<sup>7</sup> NRBC – Non Residential Bridge Course is a strategy to mainstream children of older age especially never enrolled and dropouts back to formal schools through a six month non-residential course.

<sup>8</sup> RBC – Residential Bridge Course is a strategy to mainstream children of older age especially never enrolled and dropouts back to formal schools through a six month residential course.

Mr. Dinesh Upadhyay, Project officer, FEGG , Mrs. Usha Puri, Deputy Director, Integrated Child Development Services, (ICDS), Mr. Hansraj Chauhan, Principal, DIET, Mr. Rajkumar Mathur, District Literacy Officer, Mr. Aradhya Gaur, Administrative Officer, FEGG, Mr. Vikram Singh Solanki, MIS officer, FEGG, Mr. Rajesh Vyas, Representative, ADPC, SSA and Mr. Shahdat Ali, Representative, District Social welfare department.

The old district plan was based on the 2009 DISE data and thus the provisions for SMK, NRBC, RBC were not adequate to cater to the number of out of school girls found through FEGG survey.

During the meeting these issues were discussed, and additional 20 SMK were sanctioned by the administration. In addition, the responsibility of running the SMK and NRBC was given to FEGG.

#### **8. [ A ] Girls enrolment in mainstream schools**

By the end of August 2010, around 6000 girls were enrolled in schools, which is almost 50% enrolment. As soon as Bridge courses – like SMK, NRBC and RBC gain momentum; the enrolment will increase by another 20%.

#### **[ B ] Enrolment in KGBV**

FEGG has actively made efforts for 100% enrolment in Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBV) in Pali district. Out of the 10 KGBV schools 7 have 100% enrolment and the remaining 3 will be full shortly.

## **OUTCOMES**

<b><u>Most Remarkable Changes</u></b>
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1. *Door to Door identification of girls completed in 8 weeks- 11,243 girls identified.*
2. *Made enrolment plan with community participation.*
3. *Impacted district plan and increased the number of SMKs and NRBCs sanctioned by government.*
4. *Achieved 100% enrolment in 7 out of 10 KGBV schools.*
5. *About 60% enrolment completed by end of August 2010.*

'Many governments and NGOs want to mobilize communities to help with education. FEGG has found one way that works. At a cost of 1% of government's budget, it helps government schools reach nearly all children and dramatically improve learning.'

*- Barbara Herz, Author "What works in Girl Education",  
Former head of World Bank's Women in Development  
Division*

"The way FEGG leverages and mobilizes existing infrastructure to significantly increase girls' enrolment and to improve the quality of education is very convincing. It is rare to find models which are so scalable and impactful at the same time."-  
*Wolfgang Hafenmayer, LGT Venture Philanthropy*



"Thanks to FEGG's intervention, girls not only know how to read and write, but are confident, eager to learn and yet playful. It does not take a lot of imagination to see them as future leaders in their community."- *Pia Lassak, LGT Venture Philanthropy*



**In the classroom – government primary school**

“Three things really stood out during my visit to Pali in August 2010: the confidence of the Bal Sabha girls at the KGBV in Sumerpur where FEGG has been operational for the past 2 years was remarkable; the poise and self-assurance of the FEGG field staff while explaining their day to day operations was wonderful; and the mode used to teach multiplication techniques to the children was something that I believe they will never forget – in fact, I have seen Asian students at my university use the same technique!”- *Sahil Gandhi, DASRA*

A Bal Sabhas or Girl's Council meeting...



“During my visit, what I found most impressive was the KGVB School!

All of girls made an effort to stand tall and look in the face when speaking, and their confidence and enthusiasm were contagious. The games seemed like an excellent mechanism for promoting self awareness and growth for the girls.

It was an incredible and life changing experience for me and after this trip I am sure that FEGG is a group that I will remain a part of in some form for the rest of my life.”

*-Erin McGowan Kiernan, Visitor from US*

**A girl, happy to be enrolled to school...**



Girls practicing writing games as part of the Creative Learning and Teaching CLT techniques



The girls took the activities seriously and it was easy to see how merely giving these

girls the chance to speak up about their thoughts would increase their self-awareness and self-confidence. I whole-heartedly support FEGG and the very important work they are doing. And I cannot wait to see how the program grows and visit again sometime soon!

*-Sonali Muraka, Phd student from University of Stanford*



## **CONCLUSION**

The 2342 project schools in Pali district have seen great increase in girls' enrolment. Working with the Government of Rajasthan, FEGG has now completed the first two stages of its program. FEGG is now in the third and final stage of expanding into every school in Pali district. Operating in the entire Pali district, FEGG is now covering 1067 villages and 2342 schools across 10 blocks.

The FEGG model has succeeded in achieving a greater degree of sensitization among community towards the need to make girls' education a priority. The higher attendance during the village meetings and increased enrolment in schools is a testimony to FEGG's success in convincing parents and other community members to send girls to school.

Also, the results from its past projects have been commended by the Central, State and District authorities thus paving the way for FEGG to work effectively in the region.

## ANNEXURES

### ANNEXURE- 1

#### Detailed comparison study of 'out of school' girls survey in Pali district

Comparison study of out of school girls survey in Pali District																	
Period - June 25 to June 28, 2010																	
S.No.	Block	Total No. of villages in study	Total out of school girls in FEGG List	Total out of school girls in SSA List	Present status of total out of school girls in SSA list (Column E)												Total F to Q
					Listed In FEGG Survey	Enrolled in Other School	Overage	Underage	Migrated	Return from Migration	Got married	Death	New dropout	Missed by us	Door closed	No one in the village	
1	Bali	6	21	68	7	3	37	9	7	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	68
2	Rani	5	0	52	0	0	43	0	5	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	52
3	Sumerpur	5	10	25	0	1	13	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	25
4	Pali	5	29	25	15	0	6	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	25
5	Rohat	4	78	30	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	30
6	Jaitaran	7	128	142	33	10	61	1	22	0	11	0	0	0	1	3	142
7	Sojat	6	64	72	40	2	18	0	7	1	0	0	1	1	2	0	72
8	Desuri	5	29	18	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18
9	Marwar	16	101	144	36	3	78	4	18	0	3	1	0	0	0	1	144
10	Raipur	7	43	179	13	42	67	0	30	0	15	1	0	2	0	9	179
Total		66	503	755	191	61	323	14	99	6	34	2	1	4	7	13	755

**ANNEXURE- 2**

**Data comparison (after validation) between Child Tracking System survey list and FEGG DTD list**

Cluster name	Panchayat	Village	Total in CTS Survey	Total in FEGG Survey	Total Difference	Status of CTS list							
						In FEGG List	Overage	Underage	Migration	Return from migration	Missed by FEGG	Total (H to M)	
Marwar jun	Sinla	Sinla	7	10	-3	7							7
Ranawas	Gudasursingh	Gudasursingh	12	12	0	12							12
Manda	Hemliyawaskh	Narsingpura	13	8	5	8	1	4					13
Fulad	Chokdiya	Nawakuda	7	5	2	4	3						7
Ranawas	Malsawavdi	Malsawavdi	0	4	-4	0							0
Ranawas	Gadana	Gadana	1	7	-6	1							1
Jojawar	Bhagoda	Basor	7	5	2	5	1	1					7
Marwar jun.	Sinala	Akhawas	13	8	5	8	5						13
Ranawas	gudasursingh	Baniyamali	4	9	-5	4							4
Vopari	Borimada	Sichiyawas	22	23	-1	22							22
Nana	Nana	Reliya	3	0	3	0				2	1		3
Khimel	Dhani	Karlai	2	0	2	0			2				2
Bijapur	Bijapur	Iiwada	11	9	2	9					2		11
Chopada	Chopada	Chopada	2	1	1	1					1		2
Roopawas	Roopawas	Roopawas, Dewasi Dhani	6	6	0	6							6
Roopawas	Roopawas	Roopawas, Bhato ki Dhani	6	5	1	5			1				6
Shivpura	Shivpura	Shivpura (Modawas)	4	4	0	4							4
Raira Kalla	Guda Bija	Ladpura	4	3	1	3	1						4
Guda kalla	Hariyamali	Guda Bhadawata	0	0	0	0							0
Sutharo Ka Guda	Sutharo Ka Guda	Joba	1	3	-2	1							1
<b>Total out of school Girls</b>			<b>125</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>125</b>

**ANNEXURE- 3**

**Some impressions from our work and the beneficiaries in the program area**

**Community Mobilization in the villages**

