

STOP GIRL TRAFFICKING

Fall 2019



Prevention is rescue without the suffering.

At its heart, STOP Girl Trafficking uses the power of education to keep young Nepali girls from being trafficked into sex slavery, child marriage and forced labor. It was our partner Dr. Aruna Uprety's vision to prevent girls becoming slaves by keeping them in school, giving them what they need to succeed — from books and school uniforms to mentoring and special classes.

At first, Aruna had to go door to door to convince families to let their daughters go to school. The first year it was just 54 girls. This year, over 12,000 girls are in schools throughout Nepal as part of the big SGT family. Because of you, these girls are safe.



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There has been progress: after years of work, we have been able to exit four of the 18 SGT districts. But trafficking is too lucrative to vanish without a fight, so SGT is going deeper in the places where girls like the one above still face danger.

Tutoring and mentoring are both important parts of SGT, because a successful student is more likely to want to stay in school.

Each one was once at risk — because of poverty, broken families, or just being a girl and therefore disposable in the hardest times. But not now. They are learning about the world and how to stand up for themselves, looking to the future with anticipation, not dread.

You have changed, saved, their lives.

SGT girls often tell us that if someone as far away as America believes in them enough to help them go to school, they want to work hard. What happens when they graduate? Well, it can be amazing...

The SGT alums: teachers, mentors, role models. Change agents.

The graduates are eager to give back and are becoming core to the ongoing success of SGT as it grows. About 1,500 graduates are active members of our 16 alumnae groups. These alums are the eyes and ears that keep girls in their villages



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Taking it to the streets. The alums from Ramechhap organized a rally in their community to stop violence and give women equal rights.

“Most girls are motivated to attend Friday class. They feel comfortable to share about their family and personal issues with us. We visit their houses and speak with their family members as well. We feel that their families also support the girls after our visits.”

— Anzana, Friday teacher

safe in school and learning. They help distribute schoolbooks and materials and are tutors and role models for the younger girls. And they are increasingly change agents in their communities — tackling child marriage, advocating for separate bathrooms for girls in school, putting on plays that teach how to spot a trafficker, and by being “Friday teachers.”

The Friday teachers hold special classes for SGT girls that meet on Friday afternoon, when regular school is out. They help with anything the girls may not have understood in class, and they are also someone a girl can look up to and confide in who truly understands her and her struggles. And that has turned out to be very valuable.

If trouble comes into a student’s life, the Friday teachers notice and take action. They are a vital part of the safety net SGT weaves around each girl, all committed to keeping her safe.

Like Maya. Her grandmother wanted to marry her off at 15. But Maya, part of



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"If you had not supported me, I would not have reached this level."

— Laxmi

SGT since she was orphaned in grade four, knew to ask for help. SGT visited her grandmother and explained that it was illegal for Maya to marry so young and they were prepared to contact the police. Her grandmother relented. Maya stayed in school, graduated, and is now a Friday teacher herself.

Meet Laxmi: A Star Alum

Laxmi's father passed away when she was four. Her family had no money; none of her elder sisters went to school and her brothers were sent to work as laborers. As the youngest, Laxmi was allowed to start school but had to work in a garment factory to pay for her books.

Her family wanted to take her out of school in eighth grade, when school fees go up. Laxmi was devastated, but she was brought into SGT and was able to study through grade 12. She was such a promising student that she was awarded a scholarship from Kathmandu Engineering College and now works as an architect.

We met Laxmi a few times at the informal teas we organize so SGT alums can get to know one another, and us, better. She loves her work and is now married with a young son. She's also very grateful and determined to help more girls at risk, and was recently elected to the board of RHEST, our partner organization in Nepal.

Not every SGT girl will end up an engineer and an architect. But they will be mentors and role models, looked up to in their villages. They will marry later and send their children to school. They will have bigger dreams: pilot, singer, bank manager, army officer, and a lot of them will come true.

They are all part of a wave that is changing the face of Nepal for the better by showing — not saying, but showing — what an educated girl is capable of.

And, most importantly, they have not been trafficked.

This all happens because of you. Thank you again, from all of us.

Erica Stone
President



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