

JAGARAN PROJECT

SIX-MONTH BRIEF PROGRESS REPORT

Reporting Period: April–September 2026

Implemented By: Nishtha

Supported By: Asha for Education

1. Background

The Jagaran Project aims to empower vulnerable adolescent girls and young women through educational support, leadership development, rights awareness and community-based protection mechanisms. The project addresses critical challenges such as school dropout, child marriage, human trafficking, gender-based violence and limited access to higher education, skills development and employment opportunities.

During April–September 2026, the project focused on supporting 177 girls at secondary, higher secondary and college levels while strengthening family and community engagement to create a safe, supportive and girl-friendly environment.

2. Activities and Progress

During the reporting period, the project implemented the following key activities:

- **Educational Support and Home Visits:** A total of 895 home visits were conducted to monitor girls' educational progress, encourage regular school attendance, identify challenges and prevent school dropouts.
- **Training and Awareness:** Three informal training sessions for girls and two for women were conducted on unequal power relations and different forms of violence against women and girls. These sessions aimed to strengthen participants' understanding of gender equality, rights and protection.
- **Fathers' Meetings:** Two meetings were organised with 29 fathers on household decision-making and the role and responsibilities of family heads. These discussions encouraged fathers to adopt more supportive attitudes towards girls' education, safety and empowerment, particularly in the newly covered villages.
- **Poster Campaigns:** Eight poster campaigns were organised in two villages under the leadership of girl leaders. The campaigns focused on unsafe roads, public safety and the protection of adolescent girls and young women.
- **Community Engagement:** One large community meeting was organised involving parents, fathers, school representatives, Panchayat members and other stakeholders. The meeting aimed to strengthen collective responsibility for girls' education, safety and protection.
- **Life Skills and Career Development:** Eighteen spoken English classes were conducted to enhance girls' communication skills and confidence. Additionally, one career guidance event was organised to raise awareness about higher education, vocational training and future livelihood opportunities.
- **Community-Based Protection:** The project continued to promote the active involvement of girls' and women's groups in identifying vulnerabilities, raising awareness and strengthening local support systems to prevent child marriage, trafficking and gender-based violence.

3. Key Achievements and Outcomes

During the reporting period, no incidents of child marriage or school dropout were reported among the project-supported girls. Regular home visits, group activities and engagement with families contributed to maintaining educational continuity and strengthening protective support systems.

The training sessions and awareness campaigns helped create opportunities for girls and women to discuss gender discrimination, unequal power relations and violence. The fathers' meetings were particularly important in encouraging greater family involvement in household decision-making and promoting a supportive environment for girls.

The project also continued to strengthen community leadership and collaboration among families, educational institutions, Panchayat representatives and other stakeholders. These efforts are especially significant as the project expands its outreach to new villages.

5. Conclusion and Acknowledgement

During April–September 2026, the Jagaran Project continued to support vulnerable girls through educational assistance, awareness-building, leadership development and community mobilisation. The reported absence of child marriage and school dropout among the supported girls during this period is an encouraging development. Continued monitoring and community engagement will remain essential to sustain these outcomes.

The Nishtha family, along with the girls supported by the project, expresses its heartfelt gratitude to **Asha for Education** for its continued support, trust and confidence in Nishtha. This partnership has been instrumental in creating opportunities for vulnerable girls to continue their education, strengthen their confidence and work towards safer, more independent and dignified futures.

6. Project Photos:-



Photo 1 & 2: Home visits and interactions with girls and their family members to monitor their well-being, educational progress and overall development.



Photo 3 & 4: Girls Group Meeting: Awareness session with adolescent girls on gender equality and violence



Photo 5 & 6: Mother Group Meeting and Informal Training: Mothers and group leaders participating in discussions and training on girls' education, leadership, rights and protection.



Photo 6 & 7: Preparation of placards and pasting of posters by girls' group members as part of the BCC (Behaviour Change Communication) activity to raise awareness.



Photo 8: Meeting with fathers on girls' education and family responsibilities



Photo 9: Meeting with Community Influencers and Local Stakeholders to Strengthen Girls' Safety and Protection.

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