



# Building Pathways Back To Education

Q1 (April 2025 - June 2025) FY 2025–26



Founder: Safeena Husain | 7 States | 80 Districts | 25,000+ Villages | 12,400+ Team Balika | 1,600+ Employees



# 01 Exam or Wedding?

## *Manisha's Story of Grit, Grace, and a Second Chance*

In the remote villages of Rajasthan's Pali district, dreams are often sidelined by distance, finances, and patriarchy. Manisha's dream of becoming a teacher was no exception. She studied up to Class 9 but had to drop out because the school was too far and transportation was too expensive.

In 2024, a Prerak from Educate Girls knocked on her door and told her about the Pragati Camp. This camp was set up in her own village, was free of cost, and just a short walk from her home. Through Pragati Camp, Manisha saw a new path to pursue her dream and enrolled to complete her Class 10 exams via open schools.

This was a significant year for Manisha—not just because she was preparing for Class 10 exams, but also because she was getting married. When the exam dates were announced, she discovered that her first exam and her wedding day fell on the same date. "I was so nervous, confused, and stressed," she recalls.

Determined not to give up on her education, she told her father that she didn't want to miss the exam. But he brushed it off casually, saying, "We'll see." Manisha, along with the Prerak and our Program Coordinator, spoke to her parents several times. Eventually, her father coordinated with her in-laws to plan the wedding rituals around the exam timings.

On the morning of her wedding, before the sun had fully risen, Manisha woke up and got ready in her bridal attire by 6 a.m. The morning rituals were completed by 11 a.m., and the newlyweds, along with the wedding party, got into the wedding car and drove to the exam centre. She arrived a few minutes late, but our team there had already spoken to the exam officials and arranged for an exception. Her husband waited patiently outside the exam hall for three hours. Once she finished her exam, they returned together to the wedding venue to complete the remaining rituals.

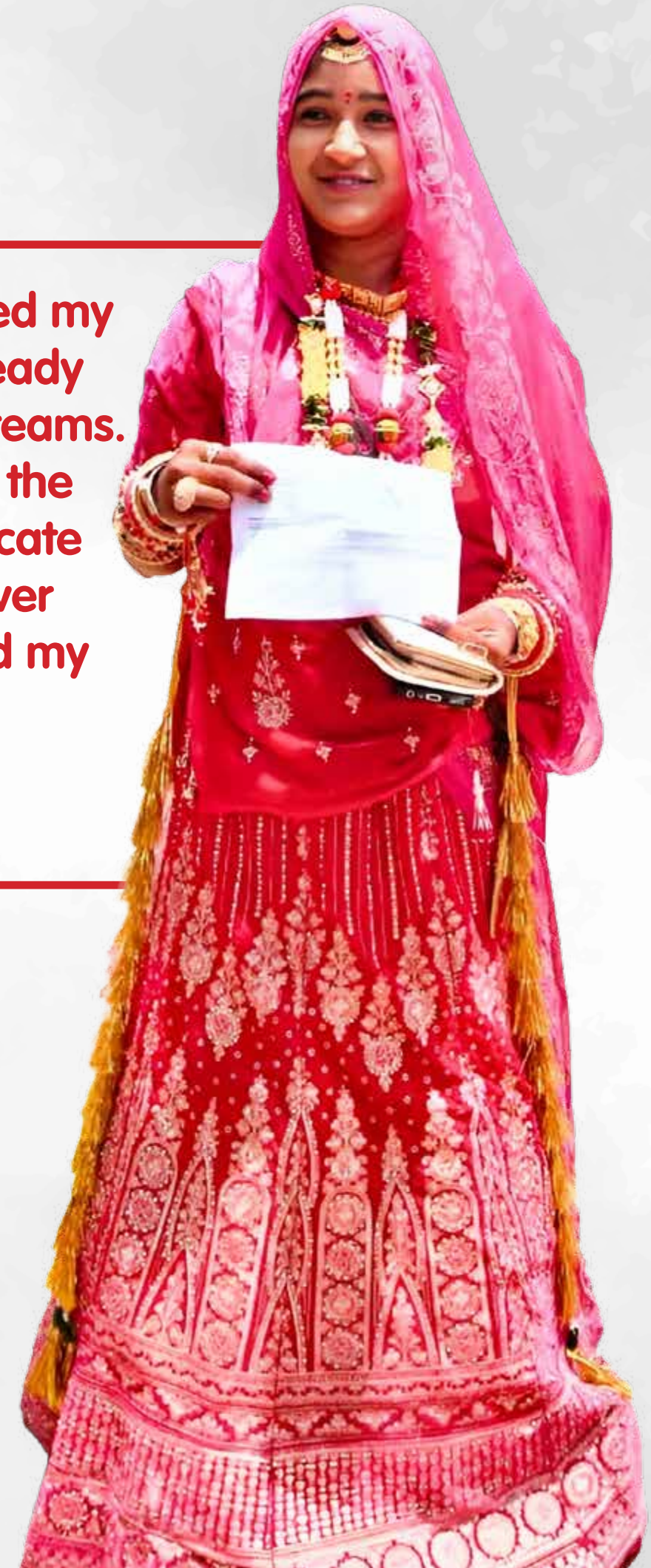
Manisha is now determined to continue her education—she will now focus on completing Class 12, and then pursue training to become a teacher—turning her dream into reality.



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**Pragati changed my life. Now I'm ready to chase my dreams. If it weren't for the camp and Educate Girls, I may never have continued my education.**

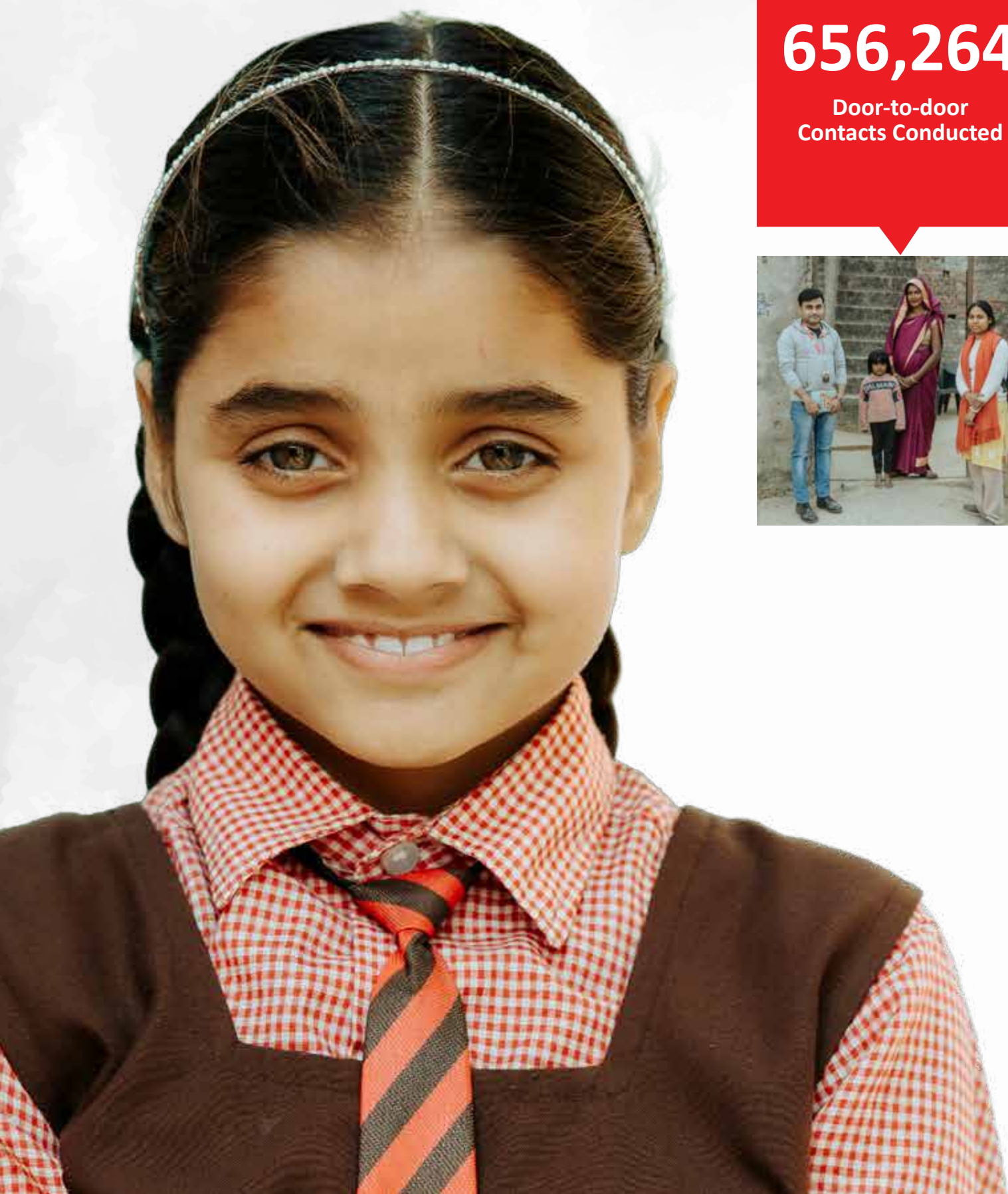
**– Manisha**





# 02 Snapshot

Programme Update:  
This Quarter at a Glance



656,264

Door-to-door  
Contacts Conducted



70

Gram Shiksha Sabhas  
Conducted



1,402

Staff Trained



415

Mohalla Meetings  
Conducted



6,216

Team Balika volunteers  
Trained

92

Pragati Coordinators  
Onboarded for FY 2025-26





# 03 Programmatic Overview

## *Unlocking Access and Learning: Inside Vidya and Pragati*

After successfully enrolling 1.56 million girls through our previous strategy, Educate Girls has entered a bold new phase this year with Strategy 3.0, an ambitious 10-year plan to impact 10 million learners across India. This year, we aim to impact 402,000 learners.

Through Vidya, we aim to reach over 339,000 children, and our Field Coordinators and Team Balika are focused on mobilising communities through door-to-door outreach, Mohalla Meetings (neighbourhood-level meetings), and Gram Shiksha Sabhas (village-level meetings) to drive school enrolments and provide documentation support.

Through Pragati, we aim to reach over 63,000 adolescent girls and young women this year, and we actively onboarded Pragati Coordinators this quarter to mobilise the community and identify Preraks and learners. We have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Telangana, growing the total number of government partnerships to six states and further strengthening our foundation for scale and deeper impact.

### VIDYA

#### In-School Program For Out-Of-School Girls Aged 6-14 Years

- **We reached 376,064 households through door-to-door contact across Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan** this quarter. This effort focused on hotspot villages with high dropout rates and deeply entrenched gender norms, where girls often face strong resistance to formal education. Our Field Coordinators and Team Balika prioritised these marginalised communities, reaching 334,889 households in Uttar Pradesh, 35,838 in Madhya Pradesh, and 5,337 in Rajasthan, ensuring that even the most 'hard-to-enrol' girls were not left behind.
- **We identified 71,729 girls across Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan who required support with obtaining the essential documents required for school enrolment.** Documentation gaps, often caused by parental illiteracy, home births, and low awareness of birth registration, continue to exclude many girls from formal schooling. Through extensive

door-to-door outreach, we identified 67,592 girls in Uttar Pradesh, 3,033 in Madhya Pradesh, and 1,104 in Rajasthan who needed support with documentation.

- **We mobilised communities through 70 Gram Shiksha Sabhas and 315 Mohalla Meetings this quarter, including 79 in Madhya Pradesh and 306 in Uttar Pradesh, to strengthen support for girls' education at the grassroots level.** These platforms brought together families of out-of-school girls, community leaders, and key stakeholders to spark dialogue, challenge resistance, and build ownership around girls' right to learn. To deepen engagement, we also used street plays and evening gatherings to reinforce positive narratives around girls' schooling in culturally resonant ways.
- **We held regular panchayat meetings with sarpanches, ward members, and village leaders**

**across Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh to strengthen local government support for girls' education.** These engagements proved vital in high-migration areas where girls face greater risks of dropping out, helping build stronger community commitment and protective measures to keep girls in school.

- **Maitri partners reached 280,200 households through door-to-door contact across Bihar and Madhya Pradesh this quarter.** In Bihar, we reached 243,052 households, leading to the identification of 54,859 girls in need of documentation support. In Madhya Pradesh, we reached 37,148 households and conducted 100 Mohalla Meetings, ensuring that even the most hard-to-enrol girls were not left behind.
- We supported the Uttar Pradesh government in building a bridge-course assessment tool to accurately gauge the learning levels of girls enrolling in Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs), allowing for tailored academic support that addresses individual gaps. To facilitate smooth integration, we conducted a two-day orientation attended by key officials from the

education department.

- In Uttar Pradesh, we developed a Teacher Training Assessment Tool to strengthen the feedback mechanism. This tool was piloted during two training sessions conducted for State Resource Group (SRG) subject experts. The sessions focused on effective subject instruction and introduced participants to diverse educational perspectives.
- We also conducted a workshop with the District Cadre of Uttar Pradesh Government to help them develop strategic work plans. The goal was to drive sustained improvements across their respective districts..



Growing up, I did not believe that I was meant to do something “big” with my life. The financial condition of our household was poor, but I made sure to complete my studies. When I first had the opportunity to join Educate Girls, my family was not happy, and my own motivation to work was low because I was afraid of people’s expectations. However, the efforts of the Field Coordinator and the training I received from the organisation gave me confidence. Now, not only am I raising awareness about education among the girls in my village, but I also feel more empowered than ever before. By joining the organisation, I realized that, given the right direction, every girl is capable of doing something “big” with her life.

- Renu Yadav, Team Balika, Uttar Pradesh







## PRAGATI

Open School Program For  
Adolescent Girls And Young Women  
Aged 15-29 Years

### Cohort A (April 2025)

**Over 15,000 learners in Rajasthan and Bihar focused on exam preparation, following the successful completion of more than 100 Prayas sessions.** In Rajasthan, the government unexpectedly preponed exams by three weeks, reducing the exam preparation time for learners. Our teams responded swiftly to this development and ramped up support by distributing academic kits, conducting three rounds of mock exams across six subjects, and providing accelerated field training to ensure our learners felt confident and well-prepared. In Bihar, while the state government has yet to announce the exam schedule, our teams are keeping learners engaged through regular mock tests, peer-led discussions, and home visits, ensuring they stay motivated and ready for when the exams are announced.

### Cohort B (April 2026)

**We onboarded 92 Pragati Coordinators in Rajasthan and Bihar to support the enrolment of 21,045 learners across 27 districts through Camp Delivery.** These PCs were recruited through a rigorous multi-step process involving field visits and assignment-based evaluations. These Coordinators received comprehensive training in community engagement, Prerak recruitment, and learner identification to drive effective mobilisation on the ground.

### Government Partnerships:

In Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, and Telangana—where we have formalised government partnerships—we are advancing key initiatives such as curriculum review, exam administration improvements, vocational integration proposals, awareness campaigns, and streamlining registration processes. These efforts are strengthening the foundation for robust, state-led open schooling systems. In Assam, West Bengal, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Jharkhand, we are forging new partnerships, conducting landscape studies, drafting MoUs, and initiating government dialogues, thus laying the groundwork for sustainable, system-level reform.

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My daughter Payal left her studies after Grade 8. Most girls in our village drop out in Grade 8 or 9, because we are scared to send our daughters to school as it is very far away. One day, Divya ji from Educate Girls visited us and told us about Pragati, and how it helps adolescent girls and young women complete Grade 10. Divya ji was very inspiring, she also told us about the opportunities that would become available to Payal after she passed her exams.

Initially, Payal faced difficulties in studying, but Divya ji helped her overcome these challenges. Today, Payal is making good progress at the camp and enjoys attending it. I thank Educate Girls for giving my daughter a second chance at education.

- Pawani Devi, Parent of learner at Pragati Camp, Rajasthan



## 04 Way Forward

### *Anchoring the Future in Vidya and Pragati*

Through **Vidya**, we aim to enrol and support over 339,000 children this year. In the upcoming quarter, our focus will be to provide documentation support and maximise enrolments. We will also initiate retention verification and begin training Staff and Team Balika on retention and learning interventions. Additionally, a baseline assessment will be

conducted for Gyan Ka Pitara (GKP) students, followed by the rollout of learning sessions. In Uttar Pradesh, KGBV teachers will receive specialised training on Life Skills Education.

Through **Pragati**, we aim to reach over 63,000 new learners this year and support 15,000+ learners from the previous year to prepare for re-examination. In the upcoming quarter, Cohort A learners preparing for re-examinations will receive targeted support, including assistance with re-evaluation forms, additional practice materials, and home visits. We will also conduct career awareness sessions in camps. Cohort B will focus on launching Neev Camps to build foundational literacy and 21st-century skills in learners.



## 05 Educate Girls In Global Forums

### *Bringing Our Learnings to the World*



- Skoll World Forum at Oxford
- Cartier Philanthropy & Women's Pavilion

This quarter, Educate Girls took a leading role in key forums to amplify adolescent girls' voices and champion inclusive, scalable education models that drive systemic change.

At the Skoll World Forum at Oxford, we hosted a side event on secondary education and contributed to three high-level panels addressing outcomes-based funding, philanthropy for locally led development, and reimagining traditional aid models.

Safeena Hussain represented Educate Girls at Cartier Philanthropy & Women's Pavilion in Japan. She highlighted philanthropy's vital role in transforming girls' education through her session on 'Transformative Philanthropy: The Power to Change Lives.'



