



Educate Girls x Asha for Education Silicon Valley Proposal

Supporting 435 Adolescent Girls and Young Women through Educate Girls' Pragati Learning Camps

Pragati Camps | Sidhi, Madhya Pradesh | FY 2026-27



Executive Summary

Despite significant gains in primary education in India, millions of adolescent girls and young women are still being left behind at the secondary level, creating one of the most urgent and under-addressed gaps in global education today. Educate Girls is addressing this gap through Pragati, a second-chance education model that enables out-of-school adolescent girls and young women to complete secondary education and unlock pathways to employment and independence.

Asha for Education Silicon Valley has been a trusted and generous partner in this work, and the results from FY 2025-26 speak to what that partnership has made possible. Across Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, your support directly placed Pragati Kits in the hands of 300 learners and their Preraks, providing the workbooks and practice materials that support learners' return to education. In Bihar, your funding also supported the enrolment and examination fees for 1,200 girls to appear for their Grade 10 exams. The outcomes were striking: in Rajasthan, 85% of regular camp attendees sat for their Grade 10 exams, achieving a 62% pass rate against a state average of 40%. In Chhattisgarh (Pragati's first-ever pilot in that state) 65% of regular attendees cleared their examinations on the very first attempt.

This proposal for FY 2026-27 invites Asha for Education Silicon Valley to support 435 adolescent girls and young women in the Sidhi district of Madhya Pradesh through year two of their 24-month Pragati journey. This period carries learners through the second half of structured Prayaas camp sessions (exam preparation, mock exams, transferable skills, and career awareness) through to exam-day logistics, post-exam support for learners with pending subjects, and a culminating community Graduation

Ceremony that celebrates each girl's achievement. We are requesting **₹2,749,554** to fund these 29 Pragati camps in Sidhi for the remainder of these girls' journeys, supporting them to build the academic and life skills that will carry them forward to, and through, their Grade 10 certification.

Rationale for Geographic and Programmatic Shift

Over the past year, our partnership with Asha for Education Silicon Valley supported Pragati learning camps' exams and kits: a foundational contribution that helped hundreds of adolescent girls access second-chance learning opportunities. As we look ahead to this year's proposal, we're recommending two shifts, both of which reflect where we believe your partnership can have the greatest impact and run most smoothly operationally.

Why Madhya Pradesh

Madhya Pradesh is currently one of the geographies where Pragati has the greatest unmet need for donor support. While Rajasthan and Bihar continue to benefit from strong, sustained investment from a range of partners, Madhya Pradesh is a growth geography for the program, where additional support is most needed. Sidhi, the district this proposal focuses on, is part of Educate Girls' FY 2025-27 expansion into Madhya Pradesh, enabled by a new MoU with the state government. As we establish Pragati in this new, high-need geography, Asha's partnership would be particularly valuable in helping us build the program's foundation and reach girls who currently have limited access to second-chance education opportunities.

Why full-program support for camps, rather than exams and kits

As shared in last year's report, the exam cycle for some of the learners Asha supported was delayed by the government in Bihar, which pushed key milestones beyond the original fiscal year and complicated clean reporting against the grant period. That experience was a useful signal: components tied to external, government-linked exam timelines are harder to plan and report against with precision, however important they are to the girls' journey.

This year, we'd like to propose a shift to full support for Pragati camps in Madhya Pradesh — the component of the program most directly within our operational control from start to finish. Camps have predictable delivery windows, direct facilitator oversight, and clear, verifiable attendance and progress tracking, which means Asha's support can be planned, delivered, and reported on more cleanly within a single fiscal year. Rather than a narrower ask, we see this as a deepening of the partnership: full ownership of a core program component in a new geography, with tighter visibility than a single line item could offer.

A natural next step in the partnership

Having seen the impact of a targeted contribution last year, we see an opportunity for Asha to step into a more comprehensive role in bringing Pragati to Madhya Pradesh, one that reflects both the strength of this partnership and the reality of where girls currently need it most.

Background on Educate Girls

Established by Safeena Husain in 2007, the Foundation to Educate Girls Globally (Educate Girls) is a non-profit registered under Section 8 of the Indian Companies Act, 2013, dedicated to promoting girls' education in some of India's most underserved communities. Our vision is to catalyze behavioral, social, and economic transformation for all girls, envisioning an India where every child has equal access to quality education. Over the past 18 years, Educate Girls has expanded from a 50-village pilot in Rajasthan to operations spanning more than 31,000 villages across four states, working in regions where it is often the sole development organization addressing the needs of the most underserved communities. In 2025, Educate Girls became the first Indian organisation to receive the Ramon Magsaysay Award, widely regarded as Asia's Nobel Prize.

About Pragati

Pragati is Educate Girls' second-chance education programme for adolescent girls and young women (aged 15-29) who have dropped out of the formal education system with no clear pathway back. Many have been out of school for years, some for a decade or more, facing compounding barriers including early marriage, household responsibilities, and limited community support for continued education.

Launched in 2021 with 300 learners in Rajasthan, Pragati has grown into one of India's largest second-chance education programmes, having now reached over 53,000 learners across Rajasthan, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh. Pragati is delivered through village-based learning camps led by trained local female mentors (Preraks) that enable learners to complete their secondary education through government open schooling. This 24-month model is designed to be hyperlocal, inclusive, and outcome-oriented, addressing not only academic gaps but also the deep-rooted social barriers that prevent girls from returning to education. Pragati's 24-month cycle has three core phases:

1. Mobilisation Phase (Months 1-3): This foundational phase establishes the programme in target geographies and builds the ecosystem of local actors essential for successful implementation.

- Programme Coordinator (PC) and Prerak Onboarding & Training: Districts with high concentrations of out-of-school girls are identified through secondary data. Programme Coordinators are recruited and trained to oversee implementation across multiple villages. Locally rooted village-based mentors, known as Preraks, are selected through a rigorous process and trained in learner support, peer-led instruction, and community mobilisation.
- Community Engagement through Pragati Sabhas: Through structured village gatherings, awareness and local ownership is built. These events bring together local government members, families, frontline workers, and government officials to challenge gender norms, reduce stigma around older girls returning to school, and spark community advocacy for girls' education.

2. Learning & Delivery Phase (Months 4-16): This is the core programme phase, delivering approximately

120 structured sessions focused on academic preparation, life skills development, and logistical support to ensure learners succeed in their Grade 10 open school exams. Camps are scheduled at 7-10am or in the evening to accommodate household responsibilities and caregiving duties. Each learner receives learning materials which includes workbooks, modules aligned with state-specific Grade 10 requirements, chapter summaries, practice questions, and QR-enabled content (video tutorials, audio explanations). Camp sessions are broken into two parts:

1. Neev (Pre-Camp Readiness) Sessions: A six-week preparatory module designed to bridge foundational learning gaps in literacy and numeracy. Learners receive support in subject selection, build aspiration roadmaps, and enhance digital, financial, and social protection literacy. Mock tests and a 'Scheme Mela' are conducted to prepare them for exams and introduce government support options.
2. Prayaas (Main Camp) Sessions: Over the next six months, learners attend structured sessions aligned to Grade 10 open school curricula. Preraks guide them through academic content, exam preparation (including mock exams using past papers), and mandatory requirements such as Practical File submissions and Personal Contact Programmes. Additional sessions explore career awareness and potential future options. Woven throughout are modules for learners to develop transferable skills in communication, negotiation, and problem-solving. As exams approach, learners are assisted with logistical needs: travel coordination, document verification, admit card downloads, and confidence-building sessions to ensure every learner reaches the exam hall.

Throughout this phase, Preraks are far more than instructors. They track attendance, conduct home visits, maintain close relationships with families, coordinate childcare where needed, and negotiate with households when family pressure threatens to pull a girl away. Their presence in the village, as trusted, locally respected women, is what makes sustained participation possible for girls navigating the competing demands of daily life.

3. Post-Exam Transition Phase (Months 17-24): This phase supports learners in clearing pending subjects (if there are any they did not pass the first time), celebrates their academic achievements, and facilitates onward pathways to higher education or employment.

- Results & Subject Yet to Clear (SYC) Support: For learners who need to re-appear for specific subjects they did not pass the first time, Pragati provides structured revision sessions, targeted academic support, and continued emotional encouragement. Result guidance, re-evaluation processes, and re-registration support ensure that no girl who has come this far is left to navigate any part of the system alone.
- Graduation Ceremony: Every learner's journey concludes with a community Graduation Ceremony: a public celebration that honours her achievement, reinforcing the value of education and acting as a public endorsement of girls' academic success.

The 435 girls in Sidhi supported through this grant were identified and enrolled in December 2025, and have already completed Phase 1 (Mobilisation) and the first half of Phase 2 (Learning & Delivery). This proposal funds the remaining twelve months of their journey (Months 13-24) covering the second half of

Phase 2 through to the completion of Phase 3 (Post-Exam Transition).

About Sidhi, Madhya Pradesh

Sidhi is a predominantly rural district in eastern Madhya Pradesh with high rates of out-of-school girls at the secondary level and limited school infrastructure. It falls within Educate Girls' FY 2025-27 pilot expansion into MP, supported by a new MoU with the state government.

The 435 girls now in the 2025-2027 cohort dropped out years ago, some due to distance from secondary schools, others due to early marriage pressure, household responsibilities, or learning gaps that made continuing feel impossible. Community mobilisation and trained Preraks identified and enrolled these young women in December 2025. With the completion of the mobilisation phase they have now begun learning across 29 village-based learning camps. They are bridging foundational literacy and numeracy gaps, developing life skills and moving towards academic preparation. Foundations are being rebuilt, confidence is growing, and the academic pathway ahead is taking shape.

This proposal covers the second half of their Pragati journey: the phase where academic preparation is most intensive and the practical and financial barriers to completion are greatest. Girls are most vulnerable to disengage in the months immediately before examinations, when exam anxiety, family pressure, and logistical demands converge. Preraks' continued mentorship serves as a critical buffer, conducting home visits, coordinating transport to zonal exam centres, managing documentation, and providing sustained encouragement.

These 435 learners have already overcome so much: returning to education after years away, confronting family resistance, and rebuilding academic confidence from the ground up. The investment already made—in training, mobilisation, and the beginning of camp delivery—only yields its full return if these girls are able to reach their Grade 10 exams. These adolescent girls and young women need twelve more months of continued support for the sessions, materials, and Preraks who are showing them that learning is for them, and that they can dare to dream.

Proposed KMIs & Budget

Key Measurable Impact (KMI) for FY 2026-27	Details
State	Madhya Pradesh
Number of Adolescent Girls and Young Women (aged 15-29) enrolled through camp approach	435
Number of camps	29
Learners per camp	15
Duration of programme	12 months (second half of 24-month programme)
Number of community-based mentors (Preraks)	29

	FY 2026-27
Budget Heads	Amount (INR)
Prerak Honorarium & Travel	₹ 1,844,400
Implementation Team Staff Costs	₹ 225,719
Staff & Prerak Training	₹ 45,458
Teaching Learning Materials & Other Programme Costs	₹ 384,018
Central Programme Support Cost @ 10% on Programme Cost	₹ 249,959
Total Cost	₹ 2,749,554

Sustainability & Systems Change in Madhya Pradesh

Pragati is not a parallel education system. It is a programme designed to strengthen the public infrastructure that already exists. Pragati learners earn their Grade 10 certification through a government-administered State Open School: the same qualification, examining body, and credential recognised by employers, universities, and financial institutions across India. State Open Schools were established precisely to ensure that no learner is permanently excluded because of age or interrupted schooling. However, it is a system that has been historically inaccessible for adolescent girls and young women from rural marginalised communities. Pragati is therefore working to bridge that gap and make the system more accessible, affordable, and inclusive.

In Madhya Pradesh, Educate Girls has formalised this relationship through an MoU with the state government and a Technical Assistance Unit (TAU) embedded within MP's education department. The TAU provides technical and strategic support to implement key reforms within MP's open school system. This partnership has resulted in the introduction of two new subjects, Entrepreneurship and Indian Culture, into the State Open School curriculum, expanding subject choice and relevance for learners like those in Sidhi. Additionally, comprehensive textbook revision has been initiated (the first since 2011)

aligned with NEP 2020, NIOS, and NCERT frameworks, ensuring that what these girls study is genuinely suited to their learning needs. Vocational and skill-based subjects are being integrated into the curriculum in parallel. The chatbot developed by our TAU IT team has also been operationalised and formally handed over to the state, enabling real-time query resolution for learners across Madhya Pradesh. Furthermore, the MP State Open School website is now fully functional for registration and digital services, with learning content being progressively integrated, removing one of the most common administrative barriers that prevent girls from completing enrolment.

By creating both demand (through village-based camps) and supply (by strengthening state open schools), Educate Girls is uniquely positioned to deliver a scalable, sustainable solution for secondary education. The work being done in Sidhi today is already shaping what Madhya Pradesh does at scale tomorrow.

Conclusion

Mamta left school after 8th grade because of the barriers so many girls in rural areas face: secondary school distance, household responsibilities, and limited opportunities for continued education. Through Educate Girls' Pragati programme, she not only returned to learning, but excelled, scoring 85% in her State Open School 10th Grade exams and ranking among the top students in the state. With the support of her mentor, she is now pursuing her dream of becoming a teacher. Mamta's journey is not an exception; it represents what becomes possible at scale when girls are given structured second chances. With your support, 435 girls like Mamta can reclaim their education and future.



We invite Asha for Education Silicon Valley to partner with Educate Girls through a grant of INR **₹2,749,554** to support **435** adolescent girls and young women in **Sidhi, Madhya Pradesh** through the second half of their Pragati journey. By addressing immediate educational gaps and investing in long-term infrastructure, Educate Girls aspires to transform India's secondary education system and break the cycle of intergenerational poverty and patriarchy, empowering girls to take control of their lives and futures. Thank you for your partnership and consideration.