

ANNUAL UPDATE

INDIA

GAIRSAIN



Together with your sponsorship, children and families are making positive changes in Gairsain. Learn more about the valuable ways we work with children and communities.

This year, students and parents advocated for improved leadership and educational opportunities for children and young people. Thanks to parents' involvement, preschool enrolment increased, as did the transition of children from preschool to primary school.

In addition, students in 127 schools formed Child Cabinets for school governance, raising their voices in school and state-level forums. As a result, young people and their families have a brighter, healthier future ahead.



4,139

Pupils created Child Cabinets for school governance



103

Parent Groups encouraged children's education



1,978

Women participated in Mother's Groups for school activities

“PLAN IDENTIFIED ME AS VULNERABLE TO CHILD MARRIAGE. (THEN) I WAS ENROLED IN CLASS. I AM HAPPY AND THANKFUL.”

Aarati, 14-year-old Sponsored Child





NAME: KANCHAN

AGE: 19 YEARS OLD

**DREAMS TO BE: A
POLICE OFFICER**

“MY PARENTS SACRIFICED A LOT. IT IS TIME I START WITH SOMETHING THAT SUPPORTS MY JOURNEY.”

Meet Kanchan

Like the child you sponsor, Kanchan is taking steps toward achieving her goals.

Kanchan is an outstanding student who loves to read. Her favourite subject is history, and she's passionate about Indian culture. And in the face of cultural norms that don't prioritise education for girls, Kanchan is on the path to a bright future.

Facing Obstacles — With Support

Kanchan's large family didn't believe girls need to attend higher education and discouraged her from taking Service Commission exams to get a government job.

Yet Kanchan is active in her Plan India community. She participated in the International Day of the Girl Takeover Event, and has a leadership position. She also has access to Plan India's Paramarsh resources.

Paramarsh is a unique service for career guidance and counselling services, enabling at-risk young women like Kanchan to make informed life choices. Through the programme, Kanchan and her parents participated in a series of dialogues to help facilitate a supportive environment for Kanchan to pursue her dreams.

Leading by Example

Yet even with her parents' eventual approval and Kanchan's acceptance into college, the financial obstacles were still high. Through Paramarsh resources, Kanchan was able to start her academic journey towards higher education: She received a scholarship from the International School of Canada for a 6-month-long course. Now Kanchan is enrolled as an undergraduate in Political Science with Honours from the School of Open Learning University.

In leading by example, Kanchan will help create change in her community so that other girls can pursue their dreams.



Kanchan is a role model

OUR PROJECTS IN GAIRSAIN ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



Early education centres are stocked with supplies to help pupils learn and play, benefiting 677 children.

A SMART START



Early childhood education helps children learn and grow and builds important skills for formal school. This year, families participated in the Neev project, which fosters awareness of early childhood education and creates a quality, inclusive learning experience for children aged 3-6.

More than 2,900 parents learned the importance of early childhood education, and 3,481 people participated in the village enrolment campaign. Both Mothers' and Fathers' groups were formed to ensure the participation of parents in helping their children learn. Parents' visits to schools increased and they learned to provide equal opportunities for boys and girls. In addition, 286 pre-school staff from 133 centres were trained in joyful learning.

As a result of parents' commitment, the quality of education improved. Children are now better equipped for school, with pre-reading, writing and numeracy skills.



PROMOTING YOUNG LEADERS

There are few opportunities for children, especially girls, to participate in school government. Providing children with the chance to be active participants helps to resolve issues and grows the next generation of leaders.

Plan India is working with 127 government primary and upper primary schools to promote meaningful and active participation in school governance.

Child cabinets are the perfect format for students to experience democratic decision-making, contribute to their school development and raise their voice in the state level children's assembly. This year, 1,429 children participated in child cabinets at 127 schools, making their voices heard and participating in the democratic process.

“I have an opportunity to take the role of Deputy Minister of Child Cabinet. The cabinet organised regular meetings to identify issues and raise our voices in the School Management Committee forums to address the issues.” - **Purvi (9) from Gairsain**



YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



The best is yet to come — and together we will continue to work for a brighter future for the children in Gairsain.

- 17% of children aged 2-5 are not enrolled in pre-school. We will continue promoting early childhood education so that all children can learn fundamental skills and transition successfully to primary school.
- Many children, especially girls, lack leadership opportunities. Our focus on promoting meaningful participation of children as active citizens will help them lead and grow.
- 23% of young people are not enrolled in school. We will advocate for equitable access to elementary and secondary schools as we continue to advocate for education.

Thank you for your continued support.



“Our commitment leads to improving the quality of education for all children, especially girls. I am sincerely thankful to you and for your continuous support of Plan India.”

Gopal Thapliyal
Programme Area Manager

FUTURE CHALLENGES



Your sponsorship commitment is turned into effective long-term change – providing help for self-help. We involve children at the centre of all projects, bringing effective and sustainable solutions to families and communities. With Plan’s Effect, your commitment helps empower communities to transform their lives and futures.

THE LAST 12 MONTHS



DECEMBER



1397

Children learned leadership skills

NOVEMBER



6594

People attended child-led festivals at 119 schools

DECEMBER-APRIL



8491

Adults reached through school enrolment drives

MARCH



261

Caregivers participated in early childhood development activities