

ANNUAL UPDATE

INDIA

MAHARAJGANJ



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

This year, youth acted as leaders in their communities. As a result of students' involvement in school governance programmes, young people had better access to education, stayed in school longer, and transitioned to higher education. In addition, children and their families can now stay safe from heat stroke and dehydration, with new supplies and systems for storing drinking water.

As a result, young people — and their families — have a brighter, healthier future ahead.



10,621

Community members sensitized on girls' education



43

Health centres received medical kits



396

Student leaders formed 37 Child Cabinets at school

“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 making steps towards achieving her goals and building a stronger future for herself.

Kanchan is an outstanding student who loves to read. Her favourite subject is history, and she's passionate about Indian culture. And while cultural norms may disregard girls' education, 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 MAHARAJGANJ ARE HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE



With resources and access to clean water, families in Maharajganj can better protect their health — especially in the summer.

SAFE WATER ACCESS



Clean water is vital for health and hygiene. Yet there is a shortage of safe, clean drinking water in Maharajganj — especially in the summer. This is an ongoing issue for families, as many lack the resources for safe water storage. This leads to health issues, and increased risk of heat stroke, diarrhoea and dehydration.

Safely storing drinking water during the summer helps to address this critical issue. This year, 1,621 families received water storage containers, and participated in training sessions on safe water storage.

Antima, a Sponsored Child, says: “My family uses this bucket to store potable and safe water for cooking and other household chores. I always keep it covered to prevent specks of dirt. I feel very thankful to Plan India for this beautiful gift.”

BECOMING LEADERS



Empowering children with the chance to be active participants in school government helps to grow the next generation of leaders. It also encourages pupils to stay in school and transition to higher education.

Child Cabinets are the perfect format for students to experience democratic decision-making and contribute to school development. Project Sopaan promotes meaningful and active participation in school governance and improves educational access, attendance, and graduation in primary and upper primary schools. This year, 396 children participated in Child Cabinets at 37 schools — 25 of which are led by girls. With active participation, students create an environment that fosters better attendance and transition to higher education.

“I was elected as a child education minister in the Child Cabinet formed in my school. I developed leadership and decision-making abilities after being part of the child cabinet.” – **Sundari (10) from Maharajganj**



YOUR SUPPORT MEANS BETTER FUTURES



Together with your support, girls and boys will stand up for their futures.

- The transition rate from primary to upper primary school is 88%. Through Project Sopan, we're continuing to empower students to access their educational rights and stay in school.
- Project Umnag is empowering youth and child groups in the community with information and resources on sexual and reproductive health and rights. Peer educators are trained as champions of change to address the challenges of adolescents and youth.
- 15% of women aged 20-24 years old are married before age 18. We will continue to promote the welfare and well-being of girls and young women, especially those at risk of early marriage.

Thank you for your support.



"We at Plan India, are deeply indebted to our donors and hope that we get more and more chances to work on successful collaborations in the future."

Shyam Prakash Singh
Programme Area Manager

THE PLAN EFFECT



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



FEBRUARY

845

Parents participated in Parent-Teacher meetings



MAY

1,621

Families received buckets for safe water storage



JULY

4,568

People learned about inclusive quality education



NOVEMBER

4,521

Adolescents celebrated Children's Day

