

India Facts

For many years India has had one of the fastest growing economies in the world. However, the country ranks only at 134 on the Human Development Index, published by the United Nations.

Of all the world's illiterate people, 35% live in India. Whilst school is free and compulsory for children aged 6-14, facilities are often inadequate or lacking altogether. If no action is taken, it is estimated that by the year 2020 over 50% of the world's illiterate people will live in India.

Population

- India's population is 1.181 billion, representing one sixth of humanity, with one third of the world's poor
- Women hold just 10% of posts in parliament, well below the global average of 19%
- The fertility rate (average number of children a woman has in her lifetime) is 2.65 – Rajasthan 3.21

Education

- 20% of children aged 6-14 do not attend school
- In rural Rajasthan less than 5% of women are literate
- 35% of the world's illiterate people live in India

Child Marriage

- 29% of urban girls and 56% of rural girls are married before they reach 18
- Girls who are married by 15 often have 4 children by their early twenties

Health

- Over 46% of children suffer from malnutrition
- 5.2 million people in India live with HIV/AIDS
- 68,000 women die each year of pregnancy related deaths
- 56% of adolescent girls are anemic

Son Preference

- Preference for sons and a profound bias against girls has led to one of the world's lowest women to men ratios: 914 women for every 1000 men
- The risk of dying between the ages of 1 and 5 is 43% higher for girls than for boys
- 3 to 5 million female fetuses are aborted each year

We Need Your Help

Your support is crucial. Donations will help to keep our programs viable, allowing rural Rajasthan girls a secondary education. Please help them to change their lives.

Any amount is significant and your donation is fully tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

A sponsorship program has been set up, allowing donors to support individual girls. Monies raised will help the girls through school and into college. Please contact us if you are interested in supporting this program.

For further information on the Veerni Project, please visit our website at www.veerni.org or contact us at:

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The Veerni Project



Educating and Empowering
Rural Indian Girls and Women

