



swa**taleem**

# NEWSLETTER

*Volume 8. July 2021.*

*integration of the younger generation into the logic of the present system and bring about conformity or it becomes the practice of freedom, the means by which men and women deal critically and creatively with reality and discover how to participate in the transformation of their world.”*

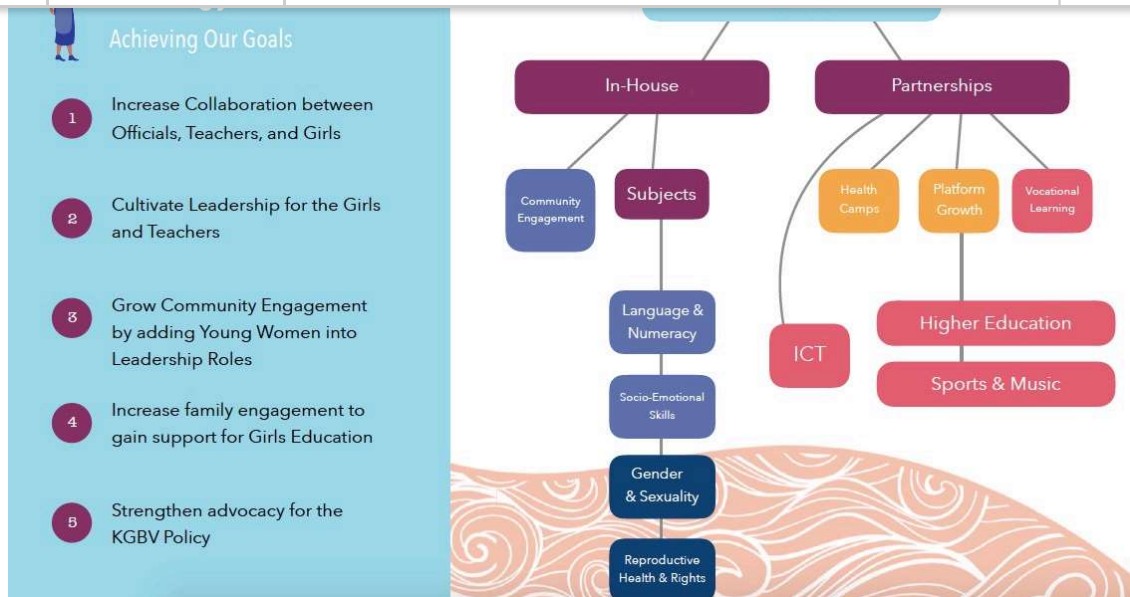
**- Richard Shaull, Foreword, Pedagogy of the Oppressed**

The past three months have shown the trauma, a humanitarian crisis like the COVID-19 can inflict on an entire world. While the second wave of COVID-19 has been and continues to be a life-shattering experience for all of us, it also urges us to come together, collect our broken pieces, and build ourselves in a new way. You, Girls and Us will be equals in this process.

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## Taking a LifeSpan Approach towards Girls Empowerment

In our journey, we realized that to constructively drive significant changes that shape our Girls' futures, we need to look beyond our core programs, at their lives in a holistic manner. In alignment with this approach, we evolved our strategy to a LifeSpan Approach towards building their agency and autonomy. This involves offering guidance and opportunities to them till they transition to higher education. As a result, in addition to our core expertise in the **English Language and Socio-Emotional Skills**, we will be forging partnerships with organizations to assemble propelling aspects that aid holistic growth for the Girls.



## Our Programs on Field

**Parent Engagement Program:** This program has been supporting our cause to bridge the gap between the program and the field. During COVID-19, we established a relationship with our Girls' parents to:

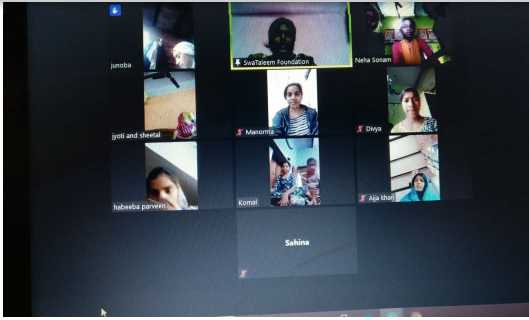
- Better understand their household context.
- Encourage and engage them for an enhanced participation in their daughter's education.
- Customize our approaches and programs based on their responses.

Between October 2020 and January 2021, we made more than 2,500 calls driven or managed by a dedicated team of Volunteers.

**Women's Leaders Program:** Social Transformation is catalyzed by creating local women leaders for community work while generating employment opportunities for them.

As Field Coordinators in the team, this program builds their confidence, agency and ability to cope with challenges; to continuously learn; become community leaders and independently build their life and career.

In the past year, they have gained more confidence to learn English as a language of communication and developed nuanced understanding around gender as well as teaching and learning processes.



## Our Partnerships

### Remote Geography Education Collective



SwaTaleem became part of the Remote Geography Education Collective in January 2021. The intent of the collective is

- to facilitate sharing of resources.
- build a community of voices of grassroots organizations.
- to ensure representation of the Civil Society Organizations dedicated to remote geographical locations.

Currently, the collective has 24 organizations spread across India.

### SwaTaleem inducted into Girls Not Brides Global Collective



In alignment with the strategy evolution to a Lifespan Approach to Girls education and strengthening our efforts globally, SwaTaleem was inducted as a member of the Girls Not Brides Collective in May 2021.

[Girls Not Brides](#) is a global partnership of more than 1500 civil society organisations from over 100 countries committed to ending child marriage and enabling girls to fulfil their potential.

## for Women and Gender Work

Our Co-Founder Ananya Tiwari was awarded the Rita and Goodman Fellowship in March 2021, from the [Women and Gender in Global Perspectives Division \(WGGP\)](#), University of Illinois. This Fellowship is awarded to one scholar annually whose work promises to make a significant practical contribution to the improvement of women's lives and gender equity in the Global South.

**WGGP** @wggpIllinois · Mar 29  
WGGP 2021-2022 Fellowship and Award Recipients

We would like to congratulate the recipients and thank our generous donors! 🎉🎉

**WGGP 2021-2022 Fellowship & Award Recipients!!**

 <b>Rita and Arnold Goodman Fellow</b> Ananya Tiwari (Educational Psychology)	 <b>Evelyne Accad and Paul Vielle International Research Awardee</b> Atyeh Ashtari (Urban & Regional Planning)	 <b>Barbara A. Yates Fellow</b> Widya A. Ramadhani (Architecture)
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**Team Members Who Make it Possible!**



**Manorma Kashyap**

Manorma was born in Delhi and studied Bachelors of Education and Masters in Hindi Literature from Delhi University. As a Gandhi Fellow in Rajasthan, she gathered experience in Teacher Professional Development and Hindi Curriculum Development at Azim Premji Foundation. She also worked as a Senior Program Leader with SCERT, Haryana. Manorma is a motivated, self-driven and trained professional with over 8 years of experience in both the education sector and government administration. She likes creating children's literature, travelling and exploring life.



**Ashly Gopalakrishnan**

Ashly enjoys working with people from diverse backgrounds and believes in bringing a huge change in the world by doing her bit. Her Masters in Social Work is from Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai. She specialized in Women Centered Practices and has undertaken numerous field assignments to rural settlements across India. This experience gave her first hand knowledge to understand areas that needed to be worked on and also to formulate effective, efficient, and sustainable solutions to mitigate them. Additionally, she also enjoys scooter rides, meeting new people, and understanding different cultures.

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**June 21-28 : Volunteer Appreciation Week at**

**SwaTaleem**



**Why do we volunteer?  
Experiences, Motivation and  
Impact of Volunteering**

**June 26th, 2021  
7:30 PM IST/9 AM CST**

  
**RAVI GULATI**

  
**ANICA BHARGAVA**

  
**INDU TIWARI**

  
**ANJALI RAMESH**

  
**AARTI MADHUSUDAN**

  
**SHAFAGH  
HADINEZHAD**

  
**SURABHI KIRAN**

  
**KAVYA MOHTA**

SwaTaleem brings together a diverse group of global volunteers who have engaged in various ways with SwaTaleem Foundation in the course of the past 2.5 years. Through discussions, we seek to understand the backgrounds of the volunteers, why they started volunteering in the first place, and what has kept them going through the years. This webinar sheds light on what the future of volunteering looks like moving forward, especially in the wake of immense priceless contributions they have made during the COVID-19 period.

[Watch us here](#)

SwaTaleem dedicated a week to express gratitude to all the Volunteers who have contributed to the cause and our efforts in any form. To conclude our celebration of **Volunteer Appreciation Week**, we hosted a panel discussion titled, “Why do we Volunteer? Experiences, Motivation, and Impact of Volunteering”, on June 26th. You can catch the session [here](#) where we heard from our volunteers Anica Bhargava, Anjali Ramesh, Indu Tiwari, Kavya Mohta, Shafagh Hadinezhad, and Surabhi Kiran, and guests Aarti Madhusudan and Ravi Gulati.

## SwaTaleem Continues to Find Voice!

**The Comparative and  
International Education Society**

**ResilienceCon**



**Role of human centered design  
in the quality of educational  
environments: increasing the  
effectiveness of communications  
in a remote international context**

Shafagh Hadinezhad, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Ananya Tiwari, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
SwaTaleem Foundation



Ananya Tiwari, our Co-Founder, on behalf of SwaTaleem gave a talk at the annual conference by the Comparative and International Education Society's annual conference with the theme 'Social Responsibility within changing contexts'. She discussed our efforts on '**Child-Marriage, COVID-19 and Education: Investigating socio-cultural challenges and navigating gendered access to technology in India**'.

**Volunteers**, on behalf of SwaTaleem gave a talk at the annual conference ResilienceCon by the Life Paths Research Center. She discussed our efforts on '**The Role of Human Centered Design in the quality of educational environments: increasing the effectiveness of communication in a remote international context**'.

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## INDIA'S LONG COVID

### Support Our Braveheart Girls

**11 million** - this is the number of Girls in India who might not return to school due to the unprecedented disruption in education that we are witnessing (UNESCO, 2020). Without access to support systems and opportunities, they are at increased risk of early and forced marriage and violence.

In order to continue extending support for our Girls and their families, we need your support. Together we can ensure continued, in-depth engagement with our Girls who, if not supported, are at risk of never returning to school, of losing the once in a lifetime opportunity to get educated.

Let us choose to stand together with Our Girls.

**#StandWithOurGirls**

**Join us in our forthcoming crowdfunding campaign**



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