

EGE Project Completion Report

Empowering Girls through Education (EGE) project, designed by Save the Children and funded by Hempel Foundation has been implemented to address the challenges for the transition of girl students from primary school to secondary school. The project is aimed to support 12,536 girl students of grade IV, V and VI in 120 government primary schools from Rajarhat (under Kurigram district) and Madarganj (under Jamalpur district). The project is introducing interactive, and child-friendly e-contents developed by BRAC and Save the Children in consultation with the government's relevant department accessible via tablets and connect rural students with the urban students through Skype so that they can share ideas, enhance competencies in Bangla, English, and Mathematics, and improve their 21st-century skills. In addition, parents, communities, and local governments are sensitized to the advantages of girls' education and the disadvantages of early marriage. The project will update the implications of e-learning to the policymakers and relevant government officials to advocate them adapting the approach. The project has partnered with two development organizations named Friendship and CAMPE and also has a strategic partnership with Robi Axiata Ltd., 10 Minute School and Aspire to Innovate (a2i).

Goal: Successful transition of girls from primary to secondary school.

Project Duration: October 2018 to May 2023.

Objectives:

- Improve learning achievement of targeted girls in Bangla, English and Mathematics.
- Change the perception of parents, caregivers, and girls positively towards girls' continued education.
- Test and prove project methodology with evidence.

Major Activities:

- Provide support to enhance learning achievement of girls in Bangla, English and Mathematics before and/or after school time through virtual learning platform and interactive contents for grade IV, V and VI learners from 120 government primary schools.
- Provide support to enhance 21st-century skills of girls, successful enrolment to secondary schools and inspire them to continue education.
- Sensitize target girls, their parents, secondary school teachers, marriage registrars on advantage of education and demerits of early marriage.
- Capacity development of primary school teachers on quality education, ICT in education and positive class management.
- Follow-up with the girl students who are enrolled in grade VI to ensure continuation of their education.
- Collaboration with national and international actors and networks to promote the importance of girl's education and ICT in education.
- Build awareness about COVID-19, how to take measurement and where to communicate in case of urgency.
- Safe Back to School' campaign activities at community to ensure bringing back target girls at schools after pandemic.
- Learning supports through home-based learning sessions and phone follow-up to continue education during pandemic.
- Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) activities for girls, their parents and target schools' teachers.

Project Participants Coverage:

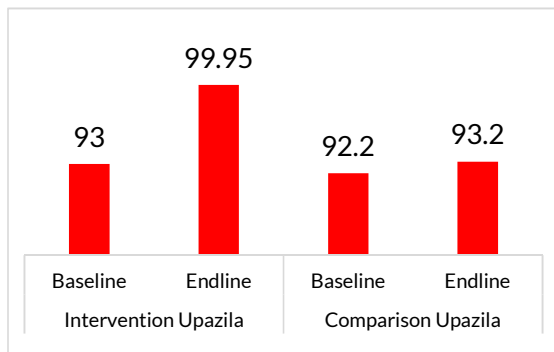
# of girls reached directly	: 12536
# of primary assistant teachers	: 480
# of primary head teachers	: 120
# of secondary school teachers	: 280
# of parents	: 12536
# of local government members	: 250
# of marriage registers	: 28
# of media and civil society representatives	: 300
Total	: 26530

Study Findings & Analysis:

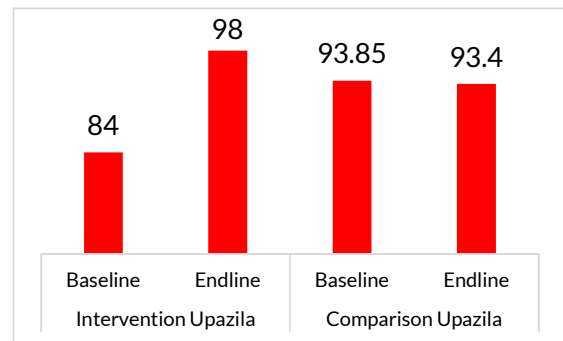
A multi-strategy research design was incorporated, where both qualitative and quantitative data were collected and analysed, which is widely accepted and useful for social science research. Intervention and comparison area considered in the study. A total of 18 intervention schools and 18 comparison schools in both areas have been chosen randomly and then about 10 to 12 girl students have been selected randomly from each of grade IV and V using the sampling frame.

Total 720 students and 72 schools those were equally distributed. So, 10-12 girls sampled from each school. Additionally, 10% girls were re-taken to measure inter-rater reliability by a Research Assistant. Finally, the study reached 456 students from intervention areas and 380 students from the comparison area.

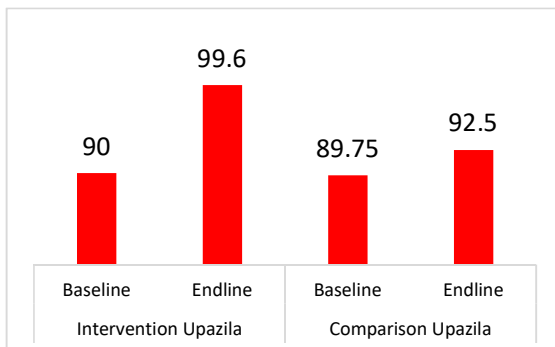
Primary Education Completion, %



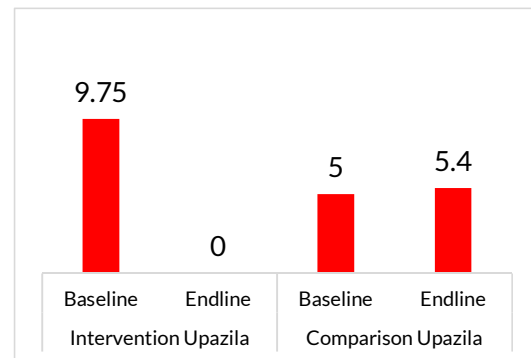
Grade-IV to V Promotion, %



Primary to Secondary Education Transition, %



Married below the age 18, %



- Primary completion rate significantly increased.
- Promotion rate of Grade-IV to Grade-V has improved.
- Transition of children from primary to secondary school has increased.
- Child marriage has been significantly reduced in intervention school catchment area.
- Grade IV and V girls of schools in intervention schools performed better than comparison schools.
- Parents/caregivers are now more supportive to children to enroll in and complete secondary education

Enabling Factors for Impact

- EGE LMS system is a customized platform for its learners and users. It contains the e-contents based on NCTB books, supporting learning videos, 21st-century skills videos, quizzes, and assessment options for teachers, facilitators and learners.
- Home-based Education System (HES) where girls used tablets with LMS and e-contents for learning during COVID-19.
- Skype call sessions aim to build 21st-century skills among girls from rural areas through having discussions with their urban counterparts.
- Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) activities have then been included to make EGE girls aware of the importance of mental health and keep them motivated during a crisis like COVID-19.
- School Teacher engagement strengthened LMS sessions at the school level as well as the community level.
- High cooperation and participation of Parents, Schoolteachers, education officials, and govt. stakeholders at local and national levels through sensitization.

Lessons Learned:

- The inclusion of Ed-tech (Tablets, e-content, projector, etc.) in the project has made it easy to continue learning even in the emergency (COVID) time.
- Appropriate communication with parents/caregivers at right time can support children's learning better at home which reduces dropout and also promotes continuing education.
- Connections between rural children and urban children enhanced their collaboration and communication regarding future vision and 21st century skills.
- Involvement of all stakeholders can significantly improve children's performance, reduce child marriage, and empower girls.
- Continues assessment and build/revise the interventions based on the learning of the assessment/feedback helped to achieve the goal.

Recommendations:

- The project interventions enabled girls to enhance their performance as well as improve completion and transition rate. In the next step, both boys can be included as well in case of replication/scaling up the project.
- The project can be replicated in other schools and grades in different context so that the effectiveness of the project can also be scaled up to improve girl's education.
- To make the interventions sustainable and long-lasting, the project could develop a plan by the stakeholders detailing how they would carry forward the activities after phasing out the project.
- The model can be piloted and extended through public and private partnerships in a larger scale.

With an aim to scale up and sustain the EGE model CAMPE closely worked with the government education department at the central level and organized several sharing meetings at the National level with the education stakeholders and policymakers. EGE project made collaboration with national and international actors and networks to promote the importance of girl's education and ICT in education. The government representatives assured their commitment to continue their support for EGE project activities.