

An education programme empowers adolescent girls to thrive in rural India (video)

22 February 2011 - UNICEF's Geetanjali Master reports on a programme that is helping young women in rural India.

In the state of Maharashtra, the Deepshikha project is challenging young girls to take control of their lives and reject the rigid rules and boundaries that have previously governed them. It is gradually shifting attitudes and leading to real change in India. The project was launched by Unicef in partnership with local government and NGOs in 2008, and aims to empower and educate its girls and promote gender equality. Through the programme, adolescent girls and women receive health and relationship advice, tips for saving and entrepreneurship and the opportunity to become a group leader to go on to inspire other young girls.

So far, the Deepshikha programme has reached over 50,000 girls in all areas of Maharashtra state. Since 2008, 280 forced marriages have been prevented and 1003 girls have returned to school.



Deepshikha helps girls like Anusaya.
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A Deepshikha group session.
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