

Respected Members of Toolbox India,

Greetings from Aarti!!

I am very thankful to you and all respected members of Toolbox India for your valuable support and guidance. I am very sorry for my late reply to you. I hope you will consider my limitations and challenges as a slum-based young woman changemaker.

I am happy to share my initiative - **Girls Audio Storytelling Project** with you specially to respond to the coronavirus crisis in urban slums and rural areas of Maharashtra State.

Girls Audio Storytelling Project: An initiative to respond to the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis in urban slums and rural areas of India

The challenge we face

Due to the coronavirus pandemic and continuous lockdown, girls living in urban slums and rural areas are facing many challenges to access quality learning resources at home. Ongoing social distancing and limited finances, even to fulfil the daily basic needs of family members, are impacting adolescent girls mentally and emotionally.

There are not enough educational resources available, nor are there learning platforms that girls can regularly access. Adolescent girls from slum and rural areas are being held back educationally due to this lack of quality learning resources in their homes.

Our innovative solution

In April 2020, Aarti Naik and the team of SAKHI for Girls Education launched the Girls Audio Storytelling Project with the strong support of Purna Ghodake. Purna is a girl in the 8th standard who has excellent skills in audio recording and storytelling. Every day she records a new inspiring audio story in Hindi, Marathi, or English to be shared with thousands of home-bound girls in urban slums and rural areas via WhatsApp.

The SAKHI team has joined forces with classroom teachers to share these inspiring audio stories on a daily basis. SAKHI and the teachers are creating WhatsApp groups for the parents of children in slum areas and rural villages, so they can provide learning opportunities to girls through a new audio story each day. Mothers of adolescent girls are taking leadership on behalf of their daughters, Together, mothers and daughters enjoying listening to these inspiring audio stories every day at home.

Project leader of an initiative

Aarti Naik, a slum-based young woman Changemaker, has been educating girls from her slum area since 2008. She is based in the suburban area of Mulund (w), Mumbai. Twelve years ago, she was a school drop-out girl herself, but she never gave up on her life challenges. Today she helps more than 400 girls continue their school education more confidently with quality learning.

Aarti is the founder and director of SAKHI for Girls Education. Her organization creates safe and quality learning spaces for slum-based girls through a variety of educational initiatives, such as the Girls Audio Storytelling Project.

Current achievements of an initiative

Every day a new inspiring audio story creates positive hope for girls and their family members who are isolated at home.

Our initiative helps more than 5000 girls in urban and rural India through the power of audio storytelling.

We deliver quality literacy building opportunities to these girls by providing a new inspiring audio story every day!

All respected members of Toolbox India, I am so happy to share that within the last month of April 2020, more than 5000 girls from rural areas and slums are enjoying listening to a new inspiring audio story every day at home! Here I would like to give many thanks to teachers from rural areas of Maharashtra state, they are taking hard efforts to share these inspiring audio stories with girls the WhatsApp Groups of Parents-Teachers in every village.

My long-term vision / mission for Girls Audio Storytelling Project

Every child in rural areas and urban slums is getting an opportunity to listen a new inspiring audio story every day! Girls are taking leadership in every school for sharing inspiring audio stories every day! So we will be able to lead our journey towards building the next generation of storytellers!

To receive daily stories in Hindi, Marathi and English from the Girls Audio Storytelling Project, message your WhatsApp number to 9224145705. Or [subscribe to our YouTube channel](#)

This initiative needs your support!

Every day we need 765 INR to create a new inspiring audio story for home-bound girls.

To create 30 audio stories per month, we need 22,950 INR

To pay expenses for internet and telephone communication with girls in rural and urban slum areas, we need 5,000 INR per month.

We are also seeking financial support to purchase quality software for audio recording and additional audio equipment. The one-time cost will be 50,000 INR

Please give what you can to support the Girls Audio Storytelling Project

Here I would like to give many thanks to you and all respected members of Toolbox India for providing valuable opportunity to share about my initiative with you all. If you would like to support this initiative, please kindly go to this donation link of my organization - SAKHI for Girls

Education: <http://sakhiforgirlseducation.org/donate/>

If you would like to know more about me, my girls' education work and my aspirations then please kindly to below weblinks:

<http://sakhiforgirlseducation.org> | <https://www.facebook.com/SakhiForGirlsEducation.India/>

<https://vimeo.com/272179264> | https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AtENTu6av_M | <https://www.facebook.com/AartiNaik.India>

I look forward to getting your continuous kind support and valuable guidance to lead my girls' education work more confidently.

Thanking you,

Sincerely yours,

Aarti Naik, Changemaker,
Mulund (w), Mumbai, INDIA

www.sakhiforgirlseducation.org

Breaking Barriers. Crossing Boundaries.

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