



GoodWeave Social Programs in India

In the fall of 2009, the international nonprofit organizations GoodWeave and The Global Fund for Children (GFC) launched a partnership to strengthen community-level programs in Uttar Pradesh, India to end the use of exploitative child labor in the handmade carpet industry.

Through this partnership, GoodWeave seeks to tap GFC's 15 years of experience working with grassroots social programs in India that serve the most vulnerable children and youth. GFC is working with GoodWeave to identify, vet, co-fund and evaluate community-owned and -operated programs that contribute to the elimination of child labor through education, advocacy and other direct services.

The first two GoodWeave – GFC projects are as follows:

1) A basic education program that works with 15 community education centers to re-integrate out-of-school children into the formal education system. The initial phase of the project will support 100 children through the education program, which has successfully enrolled 1,787 children in formal schools to date.

The education centers, operated by Human Welfare Association (HWA), offer classes in math, science, social sciences, and English, and engage the community to encourage parents to support their children's transition to formal schooling. The centers also play a pivotal role in influencing attitudes toward higher education for girls, as most of the community does not allow girls to be educated beyond the eighth grade.

HWA aims to empower the Dalit ("untouchable") community through sustainable development, focusing specifically on women and children. Over the last 14 years, HWA has improved the livelihood of artisans and weavers by promoting child rights and empowering women. HWA's services include vocational training, education centers, child labor eradication programs, advocacy campaigns, and facilitation of self-help groups for women from the Dalit community.

2) Schooling for 200 girl laborers of legal working age in weaving communities. A disproportionate number of girls fail to receive an education in these communities, as most of the girls work either in the home or in the weaving industry.

Sanchetna, a local non-governmental organization, operates night schools providing of-age girl laborers an opportunity to receive an education. Girls between the ages of 15 and 18 who attend the school are encouraged to form *bal panchayats*, which focus on providing child rights education, leadership skill building, and peer mentoring. The initiative also offers cultural and recreational activities, emotional support mechanisms, and assistance in mainstreaming to formal schools.