

Girls off the Street

Country: Bangladesh

Category: Education—Community

Project number: 98336

Project is being expanded and funding need under review.



The women in our literacy program are gaining essential skills to escape poverty. Asha (not her real name) and her daughter now have hope of a better future.

↙ **This project provides a holistic ministry in Dhaka city for street women, and those involved in the sex trade. This ministry includes a drop-in-centre, training in life skills and character development, and counselling for those with traumatic life experiences. Opportunities for vocational training are also offered. The project provides a safe haven for these young people, including sanitary washing facilities, and affirming educational opportunities, like literacy, in order to build their confidence.**

Note: This project was previously known as the Children's Uplift Program.

↙ **Update from Project Manager, Beth, March 2011.**

One challenge that our project focuses on is providing long term solutions for women to escape the traps of poverty and sex-work. One way we seek to do this is to give the women an opportunity to learn literacy skills in order to increase employment opportunities. The problem is that with no regular income many women must focus their time on trying to survive, and have little time or energy left to attend classes.

It is for this reason the project began a year long literacy program for mothers that provides educational and material needs. During this course food and a daily payment is provided to enable the women to support themselves and their children. At

the same time they receive skills training and work as well as health, parenting and values teaching. Once they finish the course our staff will help them find employment.

There are currently 19 mothers and one teenage girl doing the course, and we are excited about the opportunities that will now be open for these women upon completion of the course.



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