



Education for transformation

The Education for transformation sector at the Rural Development Trust (RDT) aims at guaranteeing sustained access to quality education at all levels. Education is a fundamental right of every children. It contributes to improving the general quality of life and eradicating the cycle of poverty and disease, paving the way for a sustainable development.

Our projects encompass both primary and secondary education, as well as higher and professional education, with the aim of increasing literacy levels, reducing school drop-outs, ensuring educational quality and gender equality in the classroom. Currently, almost 100% of the children belonging to vulnerable groups of 3,662 villages we RDT works are enrolled in primary education.

RDT's Education for transformation programme currently focuses on six areas under which we implement the following projects and activities:

1. Enrolment and retention

The first step to ensuring the right to education for children is to monitor enrolment rates and to reduce the causes of drop-outs.

- **Awareness meetings** amongst parents about the benefits of sustained education.
- By providing **counselling through social teams** facilitated by inter-sectoral staff, girls are persuaded to complete intermediate as a strategy to offset early marriages.
- **Sanitation facilities** are provided in order to prevent drop-outs, especially for girls.
- **Orphaned children's** enrolment into residential schools and focus on their continued education.

2. Tuition schools and coaching

We provide and facilitate complementary education to create means for students from vulnerable groups to catch up with peers.

- **Supplementary schooling** before and after normal school hours.
- **Holiday coaching camps** run by the supplementary schools prior to Class VI to ensure student's competitiveness.
- Services to help **improve reading and writing** abilities of primary school students facilitated by educated youth.



3. Capacity building

We regularly train our Community-Based Teachers and Community Development Committees (CDC) to make sure that the education provided to the students is of quality. Tuition schools are supervised by CDCs, who take an important role in ensuring students' school attendance and in collecting teachers' fees.

- **Training of CDC members** in leadership and management skills.
- Screening and training of candidates for **Community Based Teachers**.
- **Regular training** sessions for teachers in academics and classroom management.
- **Workshops for CDC members** organized every three months to discuss academic issues.

4. Assistance and incentives

We provide students with incentives and assistance to ensure that they have access to the schools and are equipped with the basic necessities.

- **Children's Savings Grants:** Children from low income families shortlisted by the CDC, are credited yearly Rs. 700 to a savings fund from the age of 5 to the age 18 as far as they continue enrolled in school.
- Scholarships and grants for higher education or **professional/technical courses**.
- **Bicycles** provided to help provide safe means of transportation to the schools.
- School uniforms and other **school material**.
- **General Scholarship Programmes** for target population.

5. Special Scholarship Programme

We fund the higher education of meritorious students in reputed institutions. To select student amongst target communities, RDT conducts a Common Entrance Exam (RDT-CET) having a set minimum Grade Point Average (GPA).

- **Intermediate and higher education expenses covered:** Tuition/course fees, hostel and mess charges, educational materials, travel expenses and pocket money.
- Parallel **coaching classes** for the recipients of the scholarship to prepare for specific university entrance examinations.
- Monitoring the progress of the student through regular visits.

6. Enhancing youth employability

To curve the high unemployment rates amongst rural graduates, RDT has set two residential training courses:

- The **Professional School for Foreign Languages** is a one-year course where students receive soft skills, English and foreign language training, accompanied by official certificates.
- The **Professional School for Intensive English** is a six-month course that involves training in soft skills and English language.