

NIRVANAVAN FOUNDATION



Location: India

Partner: One World Childrens Fund (OWCF)

Issue Areas: Child Mortality, Environmental Sustainability, Universal Education, Extreme poverty, Gender Equality

Points of Interest: Contact with Project, Community Gardening, Child Exploitation

The Organization

The Nirvanavan Foundation is a grassroots organization working in the remote areas of Alwar district of Rajasthan on educational, ecological and social issues.

Educational Issues: A key area of their focus is on education. They maintain multiple schools throughout the Alwar district with 120 children enrolled in the main school. The schools are situated in an area where prostitution is widespread. The schools exist to help end the cycle of exploitation and provide children with an education that will lead them to an alternative means of income. Additionally, the schools provides basic medical facilities, which is crucial because of the high incidence of HIV/AIDS in the area.

Social Issues: Nirvanavan has participated in the Childline program. Childline is a 24 hour free phone service. This service is set up to listen to the many children who need someone to talk to and offer on-going support. There are many children using this service all over India, including street children, orphans, drug addicts, abandoned and abused children. From their work, came plans to launch a children's home at the main school at Advaita Gardens.

Ecological Issues: Nirvanavan teaches children and the community the importance of environmental conservation. Nirvanavan is working to revive the tradition of the digging of local ponds (called johads) to raise the water table by conserving rain water, as well as the planting and caring for new trees.

Why the Need?

"The villages surrounding Alwar are in an area where it is traditional for the young girls to be sent as prostitutes to the large cities of India and the Middle East; the boys become pimps. This may sound shocking but it is important not to make moral judgments about a community which has come to accept this as normal. The villagers are proud, hardworking and dignified people who are deserving of our respect and support. We can channel our discomfort into positive action by supporting the work of the Foundation. The schools which Nirvanavan has built are an attempt to help break this pattern of exploitation and to give these young women and men alternative choices in their lives. It is a slow process; such long-established traditions do not change overnight. But much progress has been made already."

- Richard Roberts, UK supporter

How Team Efforts Translate to Impact

Funds NGC teams raise will go to continuing the Nirvanavan Foundation's educational, social, and ecological programs.

The Partner

One World Children's Fund networks resources directly to grassroots organizations around the world that serve disadvantaged children and their caregivers. They recognize that local people are best suited to solve problems in their communities when they have access to resources to build a brighter future for children.

NGC's Approach to Sustainable Global Change

NGC and our Global Partners believe that people in communities all over the world are the real experts and know their community and solutions to their problems. We want to advocate and educate others on behalf of this model of sustainable global change. Additionally, we seek to empower our grassroots Global Projects with the financial resources to create change at the grassroots level. 100% of funds your team raises are sent to the Nirvanavan Foundation.

By sending your team's funds directly, your project organization has the power to decide the best way to use the money. Since money will be spent in the community, your funds will also support the local economy.

Without awareness and education, children living in the Alwar district are at risk of continuing the socially devastating cycle of poverty and prostitution. Over a short period of time, the Nirvanavan Foundation will improve local communities by empowering communities with an opportunity for an education, alternative means of livelihood, and the ability to protect their environment for future generations.

Additional Resources

Project Website: <http://www.nirvanavan.org.uk/>

Partner Website: <http://www.oneworldchildrensfund.org/>

CIA World Factbook (India): <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/IN.html>

Embassy of India: <http://www.indianembassy.org/>

See your team binder for more ways to educate your team about your project.