

Ibtada

Registered as: Society | **Founded:** 1997

Head Office Location: Alwar, Rajasthan

Region of Impact: Mewat, Rajasthan

Annual Budget (2012-13): INR 249 Lakhs (\$415,000)

Adolescent Girls Budget (2012-13): INR 125 Lakhs (\$208,000)

Staff Strength: 68 full time



Overview

Ibtada works in the most backward region of Mewat, situated in Rajasthan and Haryana, primarily dominated by Meo Muslims who have poor development indicators. Ibtada's work focuses on women's empowerment and education for girls in Alwar district of Mewat. Women's initiatives are aimed at empowerment through self-help groups, grassroots leadership and encouraging livelihoods. The education program for girls aims to fulfill all the learning needs of this highly marginalized population, ensuring that they receive quality education and grow up to become independent.

Adolescent Girls Program

The adolescent girls education program was started in 2000 as a response to the extremely poor enrollment rates of girls in schools. **Taleemshalas** are learning centers set up in close proximity of the village and provide multi-grade learning for classes I to V, upon completion of which girls are mainstreamed into existing government schools. Ibtada also runs two **upper primary schools** being set-up as model schools for government replication. Ibtada provides **supplementary education** to classes VI – VIII, and provides **material support** in the form of books, uniforms and shoes to enable girls to continue studying up to the Xth class. More recently, Ibtada has started providing **computer education, career guidance support** and **lifeskills education** to ensure that girls can fulfill their ambitions and pursue careers for a better future.



Milestones

- 2009: Kubera Edelweiss Social Innovation Honours for girl's education
- 2011: Signed MoU to work in 60 government schools
- 2011: SHG Bank Linkage Award
- 2012: Supplementary education program started

Impact to Date

- Presence in 350 villages of Alwar
- 9,000 girls passed through taleemshalas
- 1,000 girls trained under the life skills program
- 650 girls provided with supplementary education
- First generation females from Meo Muslims reaching to college level

Model

- Ibtada's approach is strongly rooted in the needs of the community where an initial survey of the villages is conducted to map existing education levels and identify needs of girls.
- Community mobilization, to create awareness and generate support for girls education, is critical to ensuring that a conducive environment is created where girls are allowed to study and learn. This is done through the creation of Self Help Groups (SHGs) and Village Education Committees (VECs) who interact regularly with the Ibtada coordinators and teachers. The community also supports Ibtada's work by providing physical space for taleemshalas.
- Ibtada has placed several of its own 'motivators' to strengthen existing government schools where they work to improve the school environment, learning processes, and strengthen School Management Committees (mandated under Right to Education Act).

Theory of Change

If girls are provided with the necessary support and means to obtain good quality education then they will be empowered with knowledge, skills and confidence to negotiate and create a space for themselves in the community. If girls are educated then they can be empowered to work towards their own development, have equal rights and access to resources, and play an influential role in reducing poverty and inequality.

Growth Plans

Over the next three years, Ibtada will focus on strengthening and improving its newer education components such as computer education, career guidance and life skills programs. By hiring skilled staff, Ibtada aims to mentor older girls in order to create peer role models from the community.

Supplementary education will be expanded to include younger children covering classes VI – VIII as these are formative years and building a strong foundation at that level ensures that girls continue higher education.

Ibtada will work with government schools to ensure enrollment, attendance and learning outcomes of girls is maintained. Additionally, it will motivate teachers and strengthen the School Management Committees to make the school a better place of learning.

	2012-13 (a)	2013-14 (e)	2014-15 (e)	2015-16 (e)
Total Org Budget (INR Lakhs)	249	387	400	425
Total Adolescent Girls Budget	125	138	145	160
No. of Adolescent Girls	6,050	6,170	6,500	7,000

Leadership & Management

Ibtada's team is headed by its Founder/Executive Director, Rajesh Singhi, who comes with a background in NGO management and has a Masters in Public Administration & Rural Management. The board includes professionals from various development and education backgrounds, such as Tinni Sawhney, Team Leader-South Asia Pro-poor Livestock Policy Program and Vivek Bhandari, Ratan Tata Chair professor- Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS).

Partnerships

Ibtada has strong partnerships with the Government of Rajasthan and is an implementation partner for its Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Scheme. Institutions such as Azim Premji Foundation have assisted with staff capacity building and other research and knowledge partners include Center for Microfinance, Jaipur.

Funders

Ibtada's largest sources of funds include Indian foundations such as Sir Ratan Tata Trust (SRTT), Dorabji Tata Trust (SDTT), Edelgive Foundation, international foundations such as Heifer Project International, VSO and Empower (USA), and corporates such as Procter and Gamble (Gillette India Limited). IIMPACT (founded by alumni of IIM) has been the largest funder of the taleemshala program.