



UPPER ELEMENTARY LESSON 1

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO EDUCATE GIRLS?

Lesson OVERVIEW

Students will learn and think critically about the variety of reasons why it is in everyone's best interest to ensure that all girls, across the globe, have access to an education.

PURPOSE

This lesson is designed to help students understand the tremendous and positive ripple effect that girls who finish their education have on their families and communities.

STUDENTS *Will Be Able to...*

- Explain the positive impact that educating girls has on families and communities.

TIME

Thirty minutes to one hour

MATERIALS

- Fact Sheet: *The importance of educating girls* (Resources section)
- Article: *5 Dollars Changed My Life*, by Prasad Praveen (Resources section)

Key VOCABULARY

A clear understanding of the following vocabulary terms will help students to fully participate in the lesson.

Community (kuh-myoo-ni-tee), noun

A group of people who all have something in common. A place and the people who live in it.

Education (ed-joo-kay-shuhn), noun

The knowledge, skills and abilities that you learn from school, college or some other experience.

Ripple effect (ri-pel) (i-fekt), noun

A spreading, pervasive and usually unintentional effect or influence.

Struggle (struhg-uhl), verb

To try very hard or make a great effort to do something. To fight against a problem or difficulty.

BACKGROUND

When girls are allowed to go to school, they have a significant impact on their family and community. According to Camfed, when you educate a girl she will earn up to 25 percent more and reinvest 90 percent of her income in her family. This reinvestment in her family means her children will be more likely to go to school and be immunized, leading to healthier, more productive individuals and communities. The spreading of prosperity and influence is called the *ripple effect*. A girl's education is about more than just the individual; it is about the future of her family and her community.

ACTIVITY

Explain to students that they will be reading an article about a woman who was determined to finish her education and that they will explore the impact that she has had on others due to her educational opportunities.

Ask students what they believe is meant by the term *ripple effect* when it refers to educating girls. What happens when you throw a rock into water? What might the similarities be between this and educating girls? Record students' answers and ideas on the board. Encourage students to keep their answers in mind as they read the article *5 Dollars Changed My Life* and review Prasad Praveen's accomplishments at the end. Ask them to consider whether her education had an impact only on herself, or on others as well.

As a class read the article *5 Dollars Changed My Life* (Resources section), which tells the story of Prasad Praveen, a woman who, against tremendous odds, finished her education with her mother's support. After reading the article, encourage students to list the different obstacles Prasad Praveen faced.

While the obstacles are important, the critical point is the positive impact that the choices of Prasad Praveen and her mother have had on others. Ask students, "Who helped Prasad Praveen be successful?"; "How is she impacting others?"; "How might her family have been directly impacted by the commitment to finish school?"

Ask students to review their initial responses when they were asked the meaning of *ripple effect*. Were they right? What would they change?

Have students write a short essay describing how they believe Prasad Praveen has impacted others and how her story demonstrates the *ripple effect*. How is this woman's life an example of the *ripple effect* of educating girls?

Ideas to EXTEND THE LESSON

- Encourage students to write about what their future might hold if they finish high school, versus their future if they do not graduate.
- Encourage students to research some of the organizations with which Prasad Praveen has worked.
- Have students write a research paper on a woman who is making a difference in the lives of others.
- Encourage students to research an international aid organization and learn how it helps others.