

Kinspire's Column

Not only a friend, but something much more; A guide and a role model is what we will strive for.

Health Education Crisis in Developing Countries

Kavya Magham

Various endemic health issues plague developing areas across the world. Many of these issues are easily preventable through educating the populace. However the quality of health education is often lacking or nonexistent in developing areas. The state of women's health education is particularly dismal in many areas. This project endeavors to create an encompassing health curriculum unique to a specific low-resource setting. This health curriculum will be targeted towards orphanages in developing areas, since they display significant higher risk. A special focus will be applied to women's health because of the taboo surrounding women's health in various developing areas. We will be working with JBFC & Kinspire, both nonprofits that work with orphanages in low-resource settings. This health curriculum will be disseminated to the students through technology, which is already in place. An emphasis will be placed on maximizing impact to cost ratio.

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<http://kinspire.org>



Did you know that our logo is both a graduation hat and a light bulb?



Our board members Anusha Akella and Kavya Magham in a Skype call! Read about Anusha's reflections on being a tutor for Kinspire below!

Reflections from a Tutor

Anusha Akella



Being a tutor for Kinspire has been very enjoyable over the past few years. I have the pleasure of getting to see the bright and curious faces of the children every week. I primarily teach English and also answer any homework questions the kids have from school. I always try to look for various creative ways to teach, such as using audio story books or playing songs about grammar and using colors to teach the various parts to form a sentence. There are few disadvantages when it comes to teaching online. It is always difficult to connect to the children and to measure their learning because education is a two way street. No matter how much effort the tutor puts in, the passion needs to come from the students as well. When this happens it is always difficult to not blame yourself, which is what I have experienced. So rather than assigning work that is to be done outside of class, I have decided to try a more personal way of measuring their

skills which is to have one on one assignments during class, although this takes more time. I still enjoy teaching but have learned to not take it too personally.

Gender Equality in the Kinspire Curriculum

Pranita Mantravadi

Discrimination against females is a prevalent and long-running phenomenon that typifies the Indian society. Despite rapid rates of economic growth, the country's progress towards gender equality is disappointing. The gender wage gap is static at 50%. Crimes against women, such as rapes, dowry deaths, and honor killings, are at an upward trend with a crime reported almost every 2 minutes according to the NCRB. Girls are still much more likely than boys to never step foot in a classroom. It is evident that there is a severe lack of gender equality values taught in the state-level education board systems. The future of gender equality lies in the hands of younger generations. We at Kinspire believe the main way to fight the discrimination is through education.

Teaching the norms and expectations of our 21st century society is just as important as teaching equations. Instilling feminist ideals in every child's mind at an early age is crucial for students to make better choices and succeed beyond school. Our tutors will take it upon them as a duty to offer clear and direct teaching of the relevance, importance, and new norms for gender equality.

Kinspire's plan to do so is two-fold: we will integrate gender equality values in the material taught during tutoring sessions, and we will help them recognize day-to-day discrimination and educate them on how to fight it. In terms of implementing gender equality in the tutoring sessions, some of our reading comprehension material and the context of sentences being practiced will be centered on feminist themes. Students will practice reading passages about independent women, about equality. In doing so, the very idea of gender equality will be normalized and something these students will grow up to expect. However, simply teaching the importance of feminism is not enough. In a country like India with many backwards societal-values, people are oblivious to implicit discrimination in households and in workspaces. Children must learn to recognize the kinds of situations that warrant a strong foot against prejudice. Kinspire plans to organize workshops and invite guest speakers to discuss how to identify any implicit sexism, how to fight it, and what can be done to prevent it. Our mission is to give these kids a better future, and that will start by teaching them to be better citizens.



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