



Featured program for February 2016

Vacha Charitable Trust

Leadership Training
for Adolescent Girls in
Marginalized Communities



Dining for Women



Changing the world one dinner at a time

Introducing Vacha

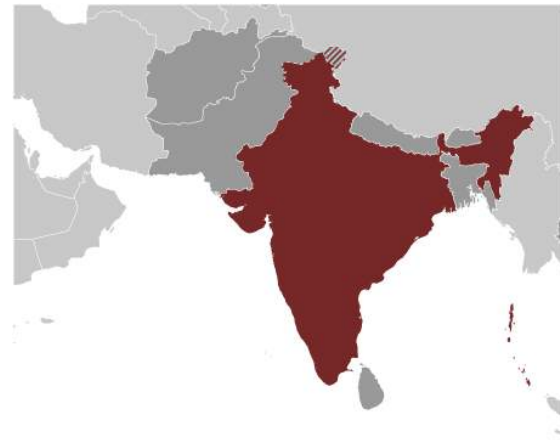


‘Vacha’ means speech, articulation and self-expression. This program equips marginalized girls with the skills they need to become active leaders in their communities and effect community change.

Where in the world?

Vacha operates in the slums of Mumbai, a financial center and India's largest city, with 19 million people. More than 40 percent of households in Mumbai are situated in overcrowded shantytowns where most residents are squatting illegally and many have little access to basic sanitation.

Mumbai is located north of the center of India's west coast on the Arabian Sea.



What are we supporting?

Vacha gives girls the skills they need to become active leaders in their communities.



Vacha works with marginalized girls to expose them to knowledge, opportunities, and the world outside their slum so they:

- complete their schooling through class 12 (senior level of high school)
- gain the skills, confidence, and experience that are essential for modern life
- live in a safe environment
- understand and access health and hygiene resources
- have a voice in their family and community
- have agency to participate in civic life
- and delay marriage until they are over 18.

Life Challenges of Women in Mumbai

In India, girls – especially those who are poor, of lower castes, or who belong to linguistic or religious minorities – are routinely deprived of their education, health, and basic rights.

Their situation gets worse once they reach puberty. Between the ages of 10 - 18, marginalized families curtail the freedom and mobility of girls and restrict them to the private domain of the home.



As a result, the world for these girls becomes limited to their immediate homes and basti (slums) and they lose access to knowledge and opportunities making them high-risk for dropping out of school, being forced into marriage, domestic violence, child labor and trafficking.

Budget

How Dining for Women's grant of \$39,230.40 will be used over two years:

Summary of costs	Year 1	Year 2	Combined
Part-time coordinators	\$2,000.00	\$2,218.00	\$4,218.00
Assistant coordinators (one per site)	4,438.00	4,889.00	9,327.00
Center teachers (one per site)	1,887.00	1,980.00	3,867.00
After-school sessions (includes laptop in year 1) (plus in-kind contributions)	2,863.00	1,990.00	4,853.00
Field trips	1,113.00	1,190.00	2,303.00
Community events (fairs, newsletter release, community meetings, rally)	1,400.00	1,551.00	2,951.00
Day long workshops	1,764.00	1,890.00	3,654.00
Staff development training	2,031.36	2,103.00	4,134.36
Admin charges	1,961.04	1,962.00	3,923.04
TOTAL	\$19,457.40	\$19,773.00	\$39,230.40

About the Organization



Vacha started in the 1980s as an informal resource center to advance women's rights and was established as a trust by a group of women activists.

Since 1995, Vacha has focused on working with adolescent girls and boys in 17 slum centers in Gujarat, with a special focus on girls. This shift in focus came with a deeper understanding that it was critical to work with adolescents as a preventive measure against the creation of vulnerabilities in women due to lack of education, exposure and opportunity. Vacha believes that empowered girls and sensitized boys have better chance of developing into adults who value equality and become productive citizens.

February 2016 Sustained Program: Starfish One by One



The project leverages Starfish’s success and female leadership to create an all-girl flagship school to empower and educate a generation of female leaders in rural Guatemala. At the conclusion of this three-year project, Guatemala will have its first all-girl middle school to prepare high-aptitude, first-generation “everything” girls to be competitive at a local, national and international level. The school would be unique due to its ability to combine rigorous academics with an equally intentional focus on the elements of culture and community, thus ensuring the empowerment of each girl within and outside of her indigenous culture. It will directly reach 2,500 girls.

DFW’s sustained support pays for human resources, professional development, material resources and direct student costs.

By being born poor, rural, Mayan and female in Guatemala, a young woman confronts quadruple discrimination within a system designed without her needs in mind. This initiative will empower and unlock the talent of adolescent female leaders in rural Mayan Guatemala capable of enacting and leading transformational change in a country in desperate need of its female human potential.

Share Your Thoughts



- The girls from Mumbai think they can change the world because they have new skills and ideas. What would you say to them?
- How will educating girls affect the thinking of men and boys around them?
- Why is it important to keep girls from marrying before 18? What difference would waiting just two years make?