Bicycles for Educational Empowerment Program

WHY BICYCLES FOR EDUCATION?

Education is a way forward, and bicycles are making a difference.

With an education, a child is far more likely to become an adult with higher skilled, better paid, and more secure employment. Educated children have a greater chance of reaching their potential, breaking the cycle of intergenerational poverty, and helping their community prosper.

Since 2009, World Bicycle Relief has mobilized students, especially girls, to access education. With a bicycle, children and their families are empowered, and education becomes a priority.

MOBILIZING STUDENTS TO ACCESS EDUCATIONS

Education is essential for ending the cycle of disease and poverty. In rural developing countries, the biggest barrier to education is often the physical act of getting to school. Our Bicycles for Educational Empowerment Program provides bicycles to students, teachers, and school volunteers to improve access to education and reduce travel time to improve educational outcomes.

FOCUS ON GIRL STUDENTS

Tasked with many more domestic chores than boys and a lack of support from the community, it’s common for girls to fall behind or drop out of school altogether. Without educational opportunities, girls face early marriage, pregnancy, and lifelong poverty.

Improving girls’ access to education has shown to reduce maternal and child mortality, lower birth rates, delay marriage, and improve economic opportunities for women, households, and communities.

PROGRAM FRAMEWORK

Community Led

Bicycle recipients are selected based on distance traveled and vulnerability criteria established by community leaders who oversee the program.

Study-to-Own

Students sign a contract whereby the bicycle becomes their personal property after graduation. Students agree to attend classes regularly and are encouraged to use the bicycle for improving household livelihood, provided this does not interfere with school attendance.

Purpose Built

Buffalo Bicycles are simple, durable bicycles that are designed for rural terrain and carrying heavy cargo. They are assembled locally in our facilities to guarantee quality and create jobs.

Sustainable

Field mechanic training keeps our programs rolling and leads to increased economic opportunities for mechanics, families, and communities.

"Investing in education is a key factor in eradicating global poverty."

– WORLD BANK
59%
WITH A BICYCLE,
ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE INCREASES UP TO 59%

28%
WITH A BICYCLE,
STUDENT ATTENDANCE INCREASES UP TO 28%

In the short term, bicycles relieve children’s exhaustion from commuting to school and help them attend regularly.

In the long term, bicycles help children complete their education, preparing them for better jobs, reducing likelihood of extreme poverty.

HOUSEHOLD BENEFITS OF OWNING A BICYCLE
A focus group on impact of the bicycle at household level revealed the following ways in which the bicycles contribute to a household’s wellbeing:
• Ferrying garden produce to market
• Transporting patients to health facilities
• Accessing water and mills
• Visiting distant relations

WHERE WE’VE IMPLEMENTED BEEP

PRIMARY BEEP OUTCOMES
• Increased attendance of vulnerable children in community and government schools.
• Improved performance of vulnerable children in community and government schools.
• Improved retention of girls in junior secondary school.

SECONDARY BEEP OUTCOMES
• Increased teacher attendance and access to professional development activities.
• Improved economic development opportunities for bicycle beneficiaries and their families
• Improved safety and security of students traveling to and from school.

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