PROJECT PROPOSAL FOR EDUCATIONAL SPONSORSHIP OF GIRL CHILD IN THE SLUM COMMUNITIES OF EAST AND NORTH AYAWASO CONSTITUENCIES OF GHANA

IMPLEMENTED BY

ACHIEVERS GHANA EDUCATION

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INTRODUCTION

In a slum, where most people live below the poverty line, girls and women education takes the back seat. Poverty, underdevelopment, mass illiteracy, ignorance, urban backwardness and conservatism cause a majority of girls in slums to be deprived of their basic right to education. Various other social problems such as child marriage, trafficking and discrimination leads toward the undermining of girl's right to education. Limited access to education means many are stuck in a cycle of poverty.

Women and Girls are often treated as second-class citizens in our society. They have no access to contribute to community development and it is perceived that the only place they can best perform is in their husband's house and in the kitchen. They are forced to marry at a tender age because of religious, cultural and traditional beliefs. These barbaric attitudes towards female children must stop.

Achievers Ghana Education aims to educate the uneducated ones, for them to realize that pushing a girl child to marriage is not the solution to the acute poverty we are facing. Rather educating them to a higher level for them to be gainfully employed and earn a good living, will subsequently solve their problems.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

The Convention on the right of the Child (CRC) defines a **'child'** as **'a person below the age of 18'**, unless the laws of a particular country set the legal age for adulthood younger. The Children's Act of Ghana, Act 560 (1998 – Section 1) defines a child as 'a person below the age of eighteen (18) years.

Child marriage occurs when one or both of parties involved in marriage are below the age of 18. Child marriage is a manifestation of that violence. Violence against women and girls is a global menace. In Ghana, statistics indicate violence against women's and girls' that affects one in every three women. In many cases, parents opine that it is in their child's best interest to marry at a young age, believing that this will protect them against physical or sexual assaults. This belief is however misguided. On the contrary, child marriage puts victims at risk of sexual, physical and psychological violence.

ACHIEVERS GHANA STORY

The story of Achievers starts with a girl called Amina. She lives in the Accra (Ghana) slum of Nima. Despite limited access to education, Amina Ismael excels at school. However, all her hard work looks in vain when, at the tender age of 12, her uncle want to force her into early marriage. They betroth her to a man who will take responsibility for her after the marriage. Amina is still in school and in Senior High School. She is passionate about continuing her education. Amina's situation raises a lot of issues with some of her teachers. Those teachers gather and report the issue to the authorities. They intervene and rescue her. Courageously Amina manages to avoid marriage and she is able to continue her education. What she experienced has happened and continues to happen to a lot of innocent girls in her community. Everybody thought nothing could be done about it, because of cultural and religious acceptance. So Amina, as young as she is, inspires and motivates many.

Grateful for the intervention of the teachers and the authorities, Amina, at age 16 and still a student herself, becomes an advocate for girl child education. She believes that for the world to be at peace, women need to be educated to a higher level. Women have been denied the privilege of education and it is high time to advance female education. Though the government of Ghana has introduced free universal education, in our part of the world, females are still marginalized and are still struggling to have a position in the human race.

In May 2011, Amina helped co-found the Achievers Ghana, with some of her friends and one of the teachers (Amadu Mohammed) who passionately shared her plight. The aim is to prevent similar situations to be suffered by other young girls in the community. Achievers Ghana, originally set up as reading club to help mobilize young girls and to educate them on their rights, now has activities that go well beyond just reading.

NEED ASSESSMENT

In order to improve the situation of these, it's necessary for families and local communities to contribute either individually or as group to supplement government's effort and those of other development partners. Therefore, there is need / a call for both local and international organizations/ communities/ groups/development partners/corporates and private individuals to contribute in order to improve the situation under which these girls live and grow. We intend to encourage families, communities and external parties to treat all girls from the slum and other vulnerable girls with respect ensuring that they are not treated as helpless victims but as actors in their own rights. They should be entitled to express their own views and be actively involved in matters that relate to them.

CHALLENGES:

Being a local initiative by Achievers Ghana, there are quite a lot challenges the organization meets:

- General perception and belief systems that limits the abilities and potentials of a girl child.

- Parents / Guardians do lack the confidence and resources to make contribution towards the education of these girls in the slum communities.

- Girls from the slums do lack the required scholastic materials and training materials.

- Most slum girls cannot access proper nutrition and sanitary pads which leads to poor health.

- The organization lacks enough resources and finances.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The project aims at providing primary and secondary and vocational educational services to vulnerable girls in the vulnerable and underprivileged girls in the slum communities of Nima and Maamobi of Accra.

PROJECT MISSION:

Provision of holistic high quality education and skills to vulnerable and underprivileged slum girls for better resource exploitation, management and control for improved quality of life.

PROJECT GOAL:

- To improve the well- being of vulnerable and underprivileged girls in the slum communities.
- To promote primary, secondary and vocational education to vulnerable and underprivileged girls in the slum communities.
- To provide care and support services to these vulnerable and underprivileged girls.
- To promote job creation opportunities to the most vulnerable and underprivileged.
- To promote income generating opportunities to the vulnerable and underprivileged.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

- To access primary, secondary and vocational education to the vulnerable and underprivileged girls in the slums.
- To access the vulnerable and underprivileged girls in the slums with scholastic materials and other training materials.
- To improve the nutrition and sanitary condition of these vulnerable and underprivileged girls.
- Prevention of the involvement of these vulnerable and underprivileged girls into early and force marriages, commercial sex activities, child domestic labour and other immoral activities.
- To increase capacity in job creation and income generation.
- To promote more cohesive considerate and creative individuals/societies with equal opportunities and rights for all.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES:

- **Education (scholarships) -** Using a variety of educational approaches to build knowledge, skills, and self-confidence. The top priority of Achievers, providing funds for school fees, books and uniforms. The level of funding support is decided after certain

selection criteria are met for each girl. Girls of basic school age are favoured to maximise long-term impact. The progress of each girl, including grades and attendance are regularly evaluated.

- **Technology -** Using technology to advocate, connect, and increase awareness of key issues affecting girls and to support girls in slum communities that are constantly learning, mobilizing and evolving. And also to inspire, educate and equip a girl child in a slum community with the computing skills. Achievers Coding and ICT program is providing unparalleled computer science education to girls at the community level — giving them the hard and soft skills needed to become the technologists of tomorrow. We don't just offer exposure to technology, we train tomorrow's engineers. We believe that more girls exposed to computer science at a young age will lead to more women working in the technology and engineering fields.

- **Leadership and Mentorship -** To change attitudes and systems, women and girls must be leaders – in protest, advocacy, representation and mobilization. This includes providing young women with important leadership and mentoring opportunities. Meeting and hearing from role models that girls can relate to is invaluable in sparking their interest in various careers. We invite female who are professionals to share information about their career paths, professional and personal life, and why they think their careers are interesting. This discussion is done in small groups, inspirational talks or round table discussions. We try to avoid lecturing and let girls ask questions freely.

- **Career Skills Development:** Girls are stalled between school and productive work: more than a third—34%—of young women in developing countries are jobless—out of the labor force and not in school (World Bank, 2014). Although the gender gap in school enrollment has been closing, the gender gap in labor force participation is on the rise. Reaching girls during adolescence is critical—decisions made and behaviors established during this period affect their horizons later in life. During this formative period in their lives it is important to provide adolescent girls with the tools they need to become economically empowered young women. Achievers Ghana teaches deprive girls in batik, tie & dye, liquid soup making, bead making, painting etc. in order to be empowered economically.

- **Community Advocacy**: Achievers Ghana across the communities have long been advocating for more protections to prevent adolescent girls from being forced to get married before they are ready. Fundamentally, child marriage is a violation of human rights. It's also a harmful practice that drags down communities and economies. When girls are safe, healthy, educated, and empowered, research has shown that they help have

healthier children, earn more income, and help grow economies – making them powerful agents of positive change.

TARGET GROUP:

The main target groups are the most vulnerable and underprivileged girls in the urban slum dwellers. Initially a total of 250 girls shall directly benefit from the program. The age group of 4 to 18 years is considered.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE:

The program covers the urban slums of Nima, Accra Newtown, Maamobi, Pig Farm, Kotobabi, Kanda and Ruga of East, North and Central Ayawaso constituencies of Greater Accra region.

EXPECTED OUT-COME:

- 250 vulnerable and underprivileged girls shall access school fees, uniforms and books on a term basis.
- 250 vulnerable children and youths shall access scholastic and training materials on a termly basis.
- 250 vulnerable children and youths shall access nutritional foods on daily basis during the study days.
- 250 vulnerable children and youths shall access basic primary health care and support.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION:

It will be implemented by Achievers Ghana Education.

With the availability of resources, the project shall be fully operational within one month and on-going depending on the agreed donor time framework. The program tends to cover duration of 5 years.

PLANNED PROJECT ACTIVITIES 2016/2017

ACTIVITY	STRATEGY	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	INDICATOR	RESOURCES ACQUIRED
Recruit 250 vulnerable and underprivileged girls.	Identify vulnerable and underprivileged girls in need of support	• Project Director • 2 resource persons • Parents / Guardians	250 vulnerable and underprivileged required	Conducive and secure environment

		• Local councils • Religious leaders		
Data collection per girl	Use questionnaires method and fill out girl sponsorship forms	• Project Director • 2 resource persons • Parents / Guardians • Girls • Local councils	Dully filled girl sponsorship forms in place.	• Logistical support • Conducive environment
Give support to beneficiaries	Use schools and Achievers Ghana Learning Center organizational structure for implementation	• Project Director • 2 resource persons • Parents • Bursar • School teachers • Volunteers	• School fees, books & uniform per girl • Computers • Mentors • Nutritional foods supplied on a daily basis • Medical support	• Logistical support • Conducive environment for learning in place. • Certified medical practioners

SELECTION CRITERIA:

- Most vulnerable to early and forced marriages, orphaned girl child, girls from old/weak grand parents and guardians and girls from single parents.
- Girls from families whose surviving parents are weak and sickly of chronic diseases.
- Vulnerable girls from very poor household and girl headed household.

EVALUATION AND REPORTING SYSTEM:

The project will be subject to evaluation on a quarterly basis. However, day to day monitoring of its progress will be carried out by the Project Director and the Head teachers where these girls attend school in consultation with the girls, and the beneficiary community members to ensure attainment of the project goal. Quarterly reports are to be made to the donor agency to confirm proper and effective use of resources received. All the necessary information and photographs concerning the girl(s) will be available on request.

PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY:

Though it's a girl's support project, at the start of the project, the beneficiary community members will be mobilized and sensitized about the need to contribute positively towards the education of the vulnerable and underprivileged girl child. A community management committee will be set up to which all beneficiary members will be required to contribute a substantial community fee quarterly there in putting up a trust for the long term education of these girls even after the end of the project.

PROJECT BUDGET (ANNUAL):

LOCAL CONTRIBUTION

ACTIVITY	DETAILS	GH CEDIS ¢ Montly	GH CEDIS ¢ Yearly	US. DOLLARS
Selection Exercise (Selection of the most needy orphans & vulnerable deplorable children)	2 resource persons allowances @ per day. (three days each month)	(Gh¢50x3 = Gh¢150) Gh¢ 150 x 2 = Gh¢300	Gh¢3,600 / =	900
Desktop Computers	100 quantities	-	-	-
ICT Training	2 resource persons allowances @ per day. (three days each month)	(Gh¢50x3 = Gh¢150) Gh¢ 150 x 2 = Gh¢300	Gh¢3,600 / =	900
Mentoring /Leadership (Volunteers)	-	-	-	-
	Stationery		Gh¢2,000/ =	500
	Transport Gh¢ 40 / = per day (three days per month)	(Gh¢ 40x 3 = Gh¢ 120) Gh¢120x4 = Gh¢480	Gh¢ 5,760 / =	1,440
Allowance	1 program supervisor	Gh¢300	Gh¢ 3,600/=	900
TOTAL			**Gh¢ 18,560/=**	**4,640**
FOREIGN(DONOR) CONTRIBUTION				

School fees (TUITION) facilitation.	School fees for 250 day school vulnerable and underprivileged slum girl's payable in three quarters.			
100 Primary School level girls	Gh¢ 100 x 100 girls x 3		Gh¢ 10, 000 / =	2,500
100 Junior & Senior School level girls	Gh¢ 200 x 100 girls x 3		Gh¢ 20,000 / =	5,000
50 Vocational School girls	Gh¢ 500 x 50 girls x 3		Gh¢ 25,000 / =	6,250
Health, Hygiene and sanitation improvement.(Basic primary health care and support)	**(a) <u>Accommodation facilities per girl</u>** (i) A mattress at Gh¢ 100 / = (ii) School Uniform at Gh¢ 80 /= (iii) Blanket at 50/= (iv) Pair of bed sheets at 50/= **Total costs per child** Gh¢ 230 **(b) National Health Insurance Card** Gh¢ 40		Gh¢ 230 x 250 = Gh¢ 57,500 Gh¢ 40 x 250 = Gh¢ 10,000	14,375 2,500
Scholastic Materials	**<u>Classroom facilities per child</u>** (i) 1 dozen of exercise books Gh¢120/= (ii) 10 pens at Gh¢10/= (iii) 5 pencils at Gh¢5 /= (iv) 1 Maths set Gh¢ 5/= (once) **Total cost per girl;**		Gh¢105,000/=	26,250

	140 x 250 x 3 quarters			
Administration & Contingency 10%			Gh¢ 22,750 /=	5,687.5
Examination fees 250girlss @ Gh¢15/=			Gh¢ 3,750/=	937.5
Annual conference for all supported girls			Gh¢7,000/=	1,750
Monitoring and evaluation			Gh¢3,500/=	875
TOTAL			**Gh¢264,500**	**80,844**