

Let Afghan Girls Learn And Earn



From Sevara and Nargis, leaders of the Let Afghan Girls Learn And Earn:

Starting the project as two individuals one of which was hybrid, we were both excited and nervous at the same time. Yet we managed to plan first then act accordingly as best as we can.

Although we mark the delivery of the project as smooth, there were still challenges that we have faced that taught us lessons.

Starting with the selection of students and teachers, to minimise risk, we tried to use personal connection however it was not easy to ask for such help while minimising the risk. That is why we took the time to slowly but effectively opt teachers so that we are not contradicting any laws or disturbing safety.

The next challenge was providing the materials for the teachers because we wanted a thorough and effective syllabus for a short period of time and hence we spent many hours consulting and gathering notes from one of the Mathematics teachers in Kabul. Which could have been minimised by preparing the material prior to the summer of 2023 but we managed to do it in a short period of time.

The other challenge was not enough planning in case of unpredictable situations, for instance one of the teachers, after the selection process, faced an issue inhibiting her from teaching in which case we had to contact another teacher immediately to replace the position. This could also be done effectively if we had a waiting list for individuals for potential positions but just because our connection was secure, it didn't create a huge impact.

Of the challenges throughout this project, safety was a main concern and practise for us, teachers and the students, therefore we made sure to not exchange excessive information about ourselves except for the necessary and follow up with the teacher and students on a weekly basis in case of any concerns which sometimes was difficult.

After all, we learned that taking unpredictable situations into consideration saves much time and effort and makes the experience less chaotic.

However, despite the difficulties we have faced, what made the project special was the way it helped us enhance our personal growth, create job opportunities for our teachers and boost the knowledge of our students. The feedback we received from our team was brilliant as they found the project inspiring just like a glimmer of light amidst darkness. We all knew the project as a sense of hope and as a source of energy to keep assisting the affected girls in Afghanistan.

We managed to include more than 25 students in the project with different backgrounds specialising their economic background and their passion and some of our teachers took the initiative to teach beyond their capacity to more students and use different techniques to better educate their students. The project assisted many teachers not only to find a job and provide income for their families but also it was also an escape from long, sickening days of joblessness minimising the risk of being afflicted with mental health issues as you may find in their statements below.

At the end of the project, we met our target of running a pilot project for girls education considering safety, minimising risk, and empowering female students and educators. We provided a basic knowledge of two subjects for our students as a base to extend the project, part of our aim which we are still working towards.

“Throughout this experience, I learned the importance of teamwork and making weighted decisions to ensure teachers' safety. Working collaboratively, we combined our knowledge and perspectives to make informed choices. I also improved my communication skills, realizing its vital role in fostering understanding and problem-solving within a team. Moreover, I recognized the significance of taking action when witnessing concerning situations, rather than ignoring them. I embraced the value of making education accessible to everyone, advocating for equal opportunities and removing barriers. This experience has contributed to my personal growth, equipping me with valuable skills that I will continue to apply in creating safer, more inclusive educational environments.” Sevara

“ "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step," they say.

Starting this project was a huge initiative in my life itself and further implementing the project especially in person had me realising the importance of education and taking initiative to help other people. Working with 6 different people has enabled me to appreciate the ease of teamwork while learning the skills to manage working in a team and moving forward as a team.

Running the project I noticed the difficulties of managing a project but learnt to plan well with the help of my team as we were moving forward through healthy communication and comprehending each other.

Additionally, I couldn't fathom how significant it is to apply most of the things I learned in the textbooks and solve real world issues to the best of my ability. I was able to continue the cycle of generosity just as Sevara and I were given the opportunity to run the project in the first place.

Therefore, I find the burning passion in me to be committed to making a difference in the world even if it is through small actions. “ Nargis

Statements from Let Afghan Girls Learn And Earn teachers

Mathematic teachers

Shabnam

“I am Shabnam, a Mathematics teacher for the Let Afghan Girls Learn and Earn project. I am immensely grateful for this incredible initiative that has provided much-needed education to many middle school girls. This project holds great significance to me, given the adverse circumstances surrounding girls' education in Afghanistan. Through teaching and guiding my students, I discovered personal growth and a renewed sense of purpose. From being someone without direction confined to my home, I became a person who could make a difference, albeit for a short period. The progress of my students served as a constant source of motivation, fueling my energy to continue teaching. One student, Fatima, previously unable to attend school or read, benefited from the project's free education and supplies. Despite struggling initially, she made significant improvements and successfully solved over 80% of the problems in her last test. This synopsis reflects the inspiring experience made possible by this project's invaluable support.”

Nilofar

“I am Nilofar, a Mathematics teacher in the Let Afghan Girls Learn and Earn project. I want to express my gratitude for enabling the implementation of this project for Afghan girls. Despite the challenges we faced, such as attracting students amidst the ongoing situations in Afghanistan, we

successfully addressed them with the support of project leaders. My students came from diverse backgrounds, including those facing financial struggles. However, through the provision of free education and supplies, we prioritised their education. This project not only allowed me, as an Afghan girl, to utilise my free time productively by helping others but also provided me with temporary employment. Students, despite starting with basic maths knowledge and initial struggles, made significant progress and achieved higher marks within three months. On behalf of my class, we thank you and hope for improved education for Afghan girls.”

English Teachers

Tajala

“I am Tajala Fazli, an English teacher in the "Let Afghan Girls Learn and Earn" project. This has been the best and most enjoyable experience of my career. I am sincerely grateful to the sponsors for their support, which helped us academically and financially. The project provided us with teaching materials and supported students with their stationary needs, contributing to a successful period. Teaching for three months allowed me to alleviate my financial struggles while creating a friendly and enjoyable classroom environment. Students not only learned but also played and discussed topics together, making this more than just a teaching experience. I hope to continue supporting Afghan girls affected by the crisis in Afghanistan. It was a great pleasure when a student described this class as a shining star in her dark sky. Let's continue to shine in the lives of those who need it. I eagerly look forward to expanding this project, as it has already made a positive impact on more than 30 Afghan girls, addressing both their educational and financial needs. The enjoyable experience, financial independence, and learning opportunities provided by this project are its key advantages.”

Muzhda

“During my time as an English teacher with LAGLAE (Let Afghans Learn and Earn), I had an amazing and heart-touching experience. In Afghanistan, where education is denied to girls, I had the privilege of teaching five bright girls from my neighbourhood. For three months, we worked together to enhance their reading skills, expand vocabulary, and understand English tenses. The monthly exams I gave them showcased their remarkable progress, filling me with immense pride. Their enthusiasm, determination, and commitment inspired me in uncertain times. These girls taught me resilience and the importance of fighting for a brighter future. Our bond grew strong, and these three months became a cherished chapter in my life. I am grateful to LAGLAE and the sponsors for creating this opportunity.

I was amazed by one of my students which inspired me to keep teaching. Farishta Alizada is an exemplary student in the LAGLAE English program, displaying dedication and hard work. Despite lacking prior English language center experience, she approached each lesson with enthusiasm and eagerness to learn. Her progress in reading, vocabulary, and grammar has been remarkable, enabling her to comfortably read intermediate-level texts and use English tenses accurately. Through focused efforts on reading comprehension, Farishta has shown significant improvement in understanding and analyzing passages. Her performance in monthly exams validates her progress. I am confident she will excel and achieve her dreams.”

Bahara

“As an English teacher in the Let Afghan Girls Learn And Earn project, I am immensely grateful to the sponsors and enablers for their support. Throughout the program, I have witnessed remarkable growth in my students. Initially struggling with grammar and sentence structure, they have made significant progress through consistent practice and instruction. Their confidence has soared as they

express themselves more comfortably in English. Their vocabulary has expanded, and they now excel in reading and comprehending complex texts, even translating English passages proficiently. Witnessing their transformation and the pride they feel in their achievements is truly inspiring. Their hard work, determination, and commitment have paved the way for this individual growth. I am immensely proud of their accomplishments and will continue supporting their ongoing English language development.”