



Keeping Girls in School- The Girls Education Movement(G.E.M)

TPO implements a program in schools aimed at keeping girls in school. This follows the high dropout rates in the upper primary due to a host of factors such as problems managing monthly periods, early marriages, lack of support from parents and lack of guidance and counseling. In this model, girls are specifically targeted, trained in life skills and helped to form groups for purposes of psychosocial support. Through this approach, we empower the girl child to build self-esteem and a positive sense of self, concepts which are either absent or corrupted, due to social cultural and economic factors.

The girl education movement is part of a wider school program called *safe schools or child friendly schools concept*. In this approach, TPO applies a school audit and based on the score, TPO works with the school stakeholders to improve the scores so that children feel safe at school and are motivated to stay and complete primary level. TPO also builds the capacity of teachers to provide basic psychosocial support to identified vulnerable girls and boys to prevent them from dropping out of school. Where schools lack female role models for the girls, TPO lobbies for volunteers or identifies a female role model from within the community to mentor and support the girl child program in schools.