


We recognise, and encourage, Mikayla's can-do attitude in our own children. As parents, we guide them with great care into a fruitful adulthood.

Fang Wang from China feels stifled by her mother's old fashioned attitudes: *"Sometimes I secretly help my brother on the farm. Mom whacks me when she finds out. She says that girls who do these things will grow calluses on their hands; then they become ugly."* China is rapidly advancing nowadays, buying membership of that exclusive club of lucky countries whose children are privileged.

Unfortunately for the other girls, the fateful hands they are dealt often fold; they are mostly runs of useless twos threes or fours, laid flat on the operating table of outdated religious and cultural practices, exposed to the leering men sitting around that table; those who call out the cards. We in the West have little experience with the terrors these girls face, but it is here that we can help the most.

Alfia Ansari of Mumbai, India, says: *"We won't get education in school, but boys will be educated, and therefore they can travel anywhere, but girls can't."* Nawar Kagete of Kaputir, Kenya, has even worse to say: *"You are seduced wherever you go. You are chased by men, If you go to fetch water, you are chased; you go to collect firewood you are chased."*

From time to time it is important for us lucky-ones to listen to these stories. It enables us to affirm why education for children, especially girls, is so important in today's world, and the vital role played by organizations such as FreeSchools World Literacy in providing this much-needed education in countries like India, Thailand and Zambia.



The image shows a group of children of various ages standing on a narrow bamboo bridge over a river. In the foreground, a group of children holds a green and white banner with the FreeSchools World Literacy logo. The background shows more children and adults on the bridge, with a man in a plaid shirt in the foreground looking towards the group. The scene is set in a rural, possibly developing, area.

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**THE AFFORDABLE GIFT THAT
CHANGES A GIRL'S LIFE!**

FreeSchools World Literacy has already helped many disadvantaged children attain the necessary education to bridge the troubled waters of poverty and oppression, and arrive safely on opportune shores. From this vantage point, they stand a fair chance to make their way forward in life to wherever their goals and dreams may lead them.

It is still not all aces, kings and queens for these children, but at least FreeSchools World Literacy has given them a start along their life's journey. Even if only a hand of tens—because life's problems for girls in India's rural Bihar State are always going to be hard to beat no matter what. – But perhaps these 'four of a kind' now stand a good chance of going a long way.



You, as members or friends, of FreeSchools World Literacy have the privilege of being in a powerful position to help such unfortunate children, just like the Cajels, Shilpis, Rubis and Lalmunis of this world we already help, knowing that your efforts, however insignificant – perhaps just the cost of a cup of coffee a week - will make such a vast impact on the these children's lives. Contact me if you are willing...

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MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of FreeSchools World Literacy is to provide free education in order to break the cycle of ignorance and poverty that leaves millions in hopeless despair. The organization provides free literacy programs; teacher employment and training; income-producing skills, health education; food and clothing; and is documenting changes in the wellbeing of the community as a result of its programs. By providing ongoing funds and scholarships for the existing and planned new schools, FreeSchools World Literacy hopes to replicate its model throughout India, Thailand and other Developing Countries of the world.