



The image shows three students standing in front of the Directorate of Higher Education building in Shimla. The building is a light blue structure with multiple windows. A large sign on the building reads "DIRECTORATE OF HIGHER EDUCATION HIMACHAL PRADESH SHIMLA - 171 001". To the right of the students, a sign for "BLOCK-C" is visible. The students are holding a copy of the "Rural Learning Assessment Report" which features a cover image of students in a classroom. The report is titled "Rural Learning Assessment Report" and includes the text "171 001" and "200".

1. Executive Summary

The Enlightened India Foundation (EIF) operates on a core principle: sustainable rural development cannot be planned on assumptions. To close the gap between high-level policy design and grassroots realities, we recently completed two comprehensive field studies in the Kangra District: the Rural Learning Assessment Report (assessing 200 children across 20 villages) and the Rural Women's Agency and Inclusion Assessment (surveying 402 women across 21 villages).

This brief documents our subsequent advocacy dialogues with state, district, and school-level officials. By presenting our localized evidence directly to decision-makers, we successfully aligned community-tested solutions with administrative priorities, resulting in concrete directives to improve education, safety, and opportunities for women and children.

2. Context & Institutional Engagement

Advocacy at EIF functions as a continuous, closed-loop engine for change. Upon completing our assessments, our team initiated a series of strategic briefings and discussions with key stakeholders across the government and educational sectors to share our findings and gather actionable feedback.



Educational Dialogues:

The Rural Learning Assessment was formally shared and discussed with:

- Public and private school principals
- The District Commissioner and Additional District Magistrate
- The Deputy Director of Elementary Education (District level)
- The Director of School Education
- The State Project Director of Samagra Shiksha
- The WDI - Quality Control Coordinator (Elementary), KGBV and Gender and Equity Samagra Shiksha

Women & Child Development Dialogues:

Simultaneously, the Rural Women's Agency and Inclusion Assessment was presented to:

- The Deputy Commissioner and Additional District Magistrate
- The Deputy Superintendent of Police (District level)
- The Director and Deputy Director of Women and Child Development (State level)
- The Office of the Chairperson, State Commission for Women (briefing provided to the Personal Assistant)

3. Key Directives & Collaborative Solutions

During these meetings, officials reviewed our empirical data and proposed specific policy adjustments and interventions. These discussions shaped our strategic roadmap across three core pillars:

I. Reimagining Education & Student Development

Our data revealed that 65% of surveyed children are performing below their enrolled grade level in at least one core subject. Furthermore, a severe gender gap exists in STEM, with boys achieving a 53% attainment rate in Mathematics compared to just 36% for girls. In response to these findings, our institutional dialogues prioritized the following:

- **Empowering Girls in STEM:** Creating structured pathways to encourage more young girls to pursue Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.
- **Essential Life Skills:** Improving core communication skills among children studying in government schools.
- **Socio-Emotional Learning (SEL):** Promoting SEL frameworks in classrooms to support holistic student well-being.
- **Future Readiness:** Providing targeted career guidance and counseling for students.
- **Institutional Synergy:** Supporting children's overall learning and development through stronger, continuous collaboration between government departments and community organizations.

II. Health, Safety, and Well-being



Our field research highlighted critical vulnerabilities regarding safety and digital exposure. 46% of children reported having absolutely no digital safety training. Corroborating this, 43% of respondents reported that children in their household received no digital safety guidance. Addressing these blind spots resulted in immediate administrative support:

- **Digital Safety Pilots:** We successfully secured official permission and encouragement from the Deputy Director of Elementary Education to conduct pilot digital safety sessions in several government schools.
- **Health Education:** Local school principals strongly emphasized the urgent need to introduce comprehensive health education specifically for girls.
- **Helpline Awareness:** Officials suggested prioritizing campaigns to make women and caregivers fully aware of various life-saving helpline numbers, specifically for women and children.

III. Civic Participation & Rural Infrastructure



The women's assessment revealed that more than 50% of respondents reported discomfort in going to public places independently. Furthermore, 87% reported feeling unsafe traveling outdoors from early evening to morning. To address these structural and participatory barriers, leadership provided the following directives:

- **Enhancing Women's Civic Roles:** We received valuable suggestions from the Deputy Superintendent of Police on practical strategies to improve the active participation of women in local panchayats.
- **Infrastructure Audits:** Acting on direct advice from the District Magistrate, EIF will design and conduct a targeted survey regarding school infrastructure and related structural issues.

4. The Next Wave of Action

The feedback gathered from these meetings does not mark the end of our advocacy; it triggers our next wave of fieldwork. EIF is actively internalizing these administrative directives. Our Evidence & Insights Unit is currently preparing the school infrastructure survey as advised by the District Magistrate, while our Learning Hubs are designing the curriculum for the approved digital safety pilots in government schools.

By taking these administrative mandates back to the grassroots level, we ensure that public resources and community initiatives are perfectly aligned with the realities of the people they serve.

5. Call for Partnership



Join Us in Closing the Loop

Systemic reform requires sustained collaboration. If your organization, CSR initiative, or department is interested in supporting our upcoming infrastructure audits, scaling our digital safety pilots, or partnering on our women-led advocacy programs, we invite you to connect with us.

Enlightened India Foundation

Building women-led rural systems.

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