



GIRL RISING-ENGAGE
BREAKING THE BARRIERS
IN RAJASTHAN



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Introduction

Save the Children is India's leading Independent child right organization. Working across 120 countries across the world. In India we are working in 20 states to make a difference in the lives of the most socially excluded children of India.

In Rajasthan we work in the area of Child Education, Health & Nutrition, Child Protection and humanitarian responses and disaster basis reduction.

Girls education is one of the major trust area of our program in Rajasthan. Our project work closely with government system local community and community based organization for demanding generation and community monitoring and managing services. our program are being run closely with government, the UN system and resource NGOs.

Save the children work to reduce the obstacles to girls though education programs throughout the world. In India, girls faces specific adversities that make them even more vulnerable. For example, households and community people –wide perceptions that girls have limited economic value, which not only result in reduced family desire to keep their daughters in school, but at



the same time restrict them into a territory.

While going through the records we realized that about 20 percent of the world's adolescent girls live in India, which indicates that there is a clear effective need to engage with adolescents, particularly girls, for numerous reasons. During the project we recognize that Rajasthan is a State where statistics speak for themselves.

Therefore, Save the Children proposed to intervene in Alwar district of Rajasthan which is one of the examples of the gender disparity in literacy rate in Rajasthan. Apart from this it also includes socio-economic issues, early marriage, sibling care, and lack of basic services such as toilets and drinking water in schools. Poor quality of education is one of the major issues that deter the active participation of girls in the schooling process.

Thus Girl Rising partners with Save the Children and launched this project to bring awareness, visibility to the issues relating to girl's face and inspire people to dismantle the barriers that hold themselves. Rise about the issues, inspire action and make change happen through films and other tool, such as educational and advocacy videos, screening guides and a free school curriculum.

The objective of the project is to mobilize and engage men, women and school going youth in the community to actively increase accesses to quality education for girls in Rajasthan.

we believe that a quality education help children to reach their full potential.



JOURNEY



Girl Rising and Save the Children share a deep commitment towards a shared cause: the Education of girls. We at Save the Children strongly believe that every child's voice must be heard. That is why education is that tool which not only empowers children to express their voices, but also act as an instrument to change the course of a family and ultimately the course of a nation. Save the children invest in childhood and always provide a voice for children who cannot speak for them. As the leading expert, we inspire and achieve lasting impacts for millions of the world's most vulnerable children.

Therefore Save the Children in collaboration with Girl Rising campaign, which is a global campaign for girls in education decided to partner together in the state of Rajasthan, India. It is widely accepted and proved that development of any nation cannot be accelerated unless the girls are given right education in right direction.

This Project 'Girl Rising' aims to help girls in developing countries to become successful in schools as well as communities and raise their voice within their families and outside. As we believe that their voice can give a range of invaluable insights about their experiences seen from their perceptions. With the support of Girl Rising campaign which share the power of storytelling through simple truth that how education can act as a weapon for girls' and transform their lives. Here we mobilized and engaged men, Women and school's youth to increase access to quality education for girls.

Girl Rising project also aims to transform the lives of adolescent girls by making them aware of the fact

that they have the power to ensure and transform the society into a beautiful prospective. The only focus is not to change the extreme mindset of the people and different stakeholders by using the Girl Rising and media tools but also showcase the truth that how world should value the girls and girl's education. The Project was being implemented in one of the district of Rajasthan by covering 20 villages.

“ Save the children act as an instrument to change the course of a family and ultimately the course of a nation. ”



1. The strategy adopted to achieve the desired outcome was:

- Forming the adolescent girls and boys groups and raise their awareness through Girl Rising tools.
- Conducting workshops with prominent religious leaders, community leaders, boys, men, and PRI to advocate girls' education and act as change agents.
- Engaging with parents and grandparents through locally- adopted Girl Rising media tools.
- Organizing school enrollment drives through mobilization camps for girls centered on the Girl rising movement.
- Building the capacity of partner NGO staffs, teachers, school management committee members and local community members on how to use Girl Rising tools (training sessions on the Girl Rising curriculum, inclusive education aimed at gender inclusion and gender awareness).
- Using the Girl Rising curriculum to empower children to organize theatrical plays at their schools that focus on issues affecting girls.



Working with the adolescent girls especially the marginalized group has always remained as a challenge. Through this album, we have tried to showcase the best practices of the program as well as emphasis on the programmatic impact that we have been able to achieve during this period of time.

We have tried to capture the various experiences from different stakeholders whether in terms of community, teachers, religious leaders, program staffs, men, women, boys and girls who dared to dream for a better world rather a beautiful one.



Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high
 Where knowledge is free
 Where the world has not been broken up into fragments
 By narrow domestic walls
 Where words come out from the depth of truth
 Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection
 Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way
 Into the dreary desert sand of dead habit
 Where the mind is led forward by thee
 Into ever-widening thought and action
 Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake.



ACTIVITIES





EMPOWERING GIRLS WITH THEATRE AND COMIC WORKSHOPS

Every child has all types of emotions which need to be exhibited from their inner-self; this is where Drama or Theatre as a subject creates space for expression.

When we talk about the term 'theatre in education' or 'Creative Drama in education' it refers to dramatic play, story enactment, imagination journeys, games, music, role plays and dance. The whole concept is not only to use theatre for a purpose beyond entertaining the group of audiences only but also change the knowledge, attitudes, or behaviors of audience as well as participants.

A residential theatre workshop has been conducted with the support of IBTADA and Save the Children in collaboration with Girl Rising campaign.

In this context the girls and boys are encouraged to work in group activities, group projects so that gender and other kinds of biases will never get embedded in their mind.



To create positive environment in villages through youth led theatre events, this theatre workshop was organized with the members of youth group along with local folk artists. Professional resource persons Mr. Yashesh from Theatre Association of Jaipur conducted the workshop and trained the participants to prepare theater plays on various themes like girls education, discrimination between boys and girls, custom of dowry and early child marriages. The youths were able to understand and learn the basic nuances of theatre. At the last day of training all the participants were given the opportunity to present their theater skills on various themes.

A group of six local folk artists also assisted the group of participants and trainers during the workshop. They added different local songs created by them in order to draw the attention of audience.

This theatre workshop not only provided opportunities for imbibing the ability to accept the viewpoints of others, leadership qualities etc. but also routine base part of their day-to-day school life.

The involvement of the girls in theatre workshop has witnessed transformation of introvert girls into bold and expressive individuals.

While interacting with the girls we realized that this theatre workshop have gone beyond merely any process. In the beginning they were reluctant to express their feelings. Most of them were very hesitate and afraid to talk to another person. But during this workshop they become curious, motivated and excited. Theatre workshop not only helps them to overcome their fears but provided a platform for them to articulate and share their ideas with the resource person as well as team .It arises many questions into their minds which seek for an answer and impacted their articulations and expressions. Theatre workshop changed their attitude towards life, brought enthusiasm and smile on their faces.

According to Poonam (one of the girl from the adolescent group) theatre has the power to approach extremely serious issues with fun and humor. Now it has becomes easier for her to connect with the values of persons coming from different backgrounds and situations.

“To create positive environment in villages through youth led theatre events, this theatre workshop was organized”



According to her, Theatre is the ultimate path which leads to self development. She also added on that earlier it was not easy to present her views and choices among people, but theatre made it easier for her.

Save the Children actually aims to get children less inhibited and help them to express themselves. This kind of workshops provides them with an opportunity to discuss their thinking by producing collaborative work with their peers.

Pooja, like any other girl from the community was reluctant to interact with the boys of her group but after completing the theatre workshop she has gained that confidence to discuss any issues with clarity. In the beginning she was unwilling to participate but soon she realized that theatre is the possible way to express her emotions or feelings.

Along with Theatre, Comics Making workshop was also been conducted simultaneously. The objective of this workshop was to understand & learn the basics of comics making and improve creative skills of youth to express their ideas on girl's education, gender.

Mr. Vibhuti Pandya and Gautam Chakrobarty from Birla Institute of Technology, Jaipur conducted this training and trained the participants through various methods. In this workshop the youth participants created impressive comic cartoons and prepared self file of their creation.



Total 32 youths (9 boys and 23 girls) participated in this work-shop. All the participants learned a lot from the workshop and carried exclusive experiences from this workshop as they shared and mentioned later on. This comic workshop offered an opportunity for the children to expand their skills as well as provide them with an ambience to develop their imagination by exploring into a new world.

This Workshop not only helped adolescent girls towards personal growth, social education, listening skills and language skills – speech, thinking, reading, writing but act as a weapon for them to express with full freedom.



SPORTS FOR ALL

Sports act as a powerful tool for development and learning. We believe that sports not only promote participation, inclusion, human values, acceptance, non-violence, tolerance, gender equality, team work but also deal with different issues which are visible in communities of many developing countries. Sports offer a solution which can be adopted in different ways. Sport is a synonym for play and Save the Children always made an effort to promote sports as a tool to develop social leadership skills and qualities that go beyond the classroom.

Through Girl Rising movement, Save the children along with their partner organization Ibtada worked with adolescent girls of the schools and provided them the sports materials such as basketball, Football, volleyball and a sports kit to gear them up and introduced them to those sports which have been always considered and aimed as male centric games. We consider sports as an instrument to break the deep rooted stereotyped attitude of people. In this context these sports are used to provide another way to learn gender equality through physical activities and games. These sports not



only empowered our girls but added new skills, enable them to play and foster their visibility and rights in public spaces.

Save the Children along with their partner organization Ibtada provided training and created a concrete environment for tournaments.

Save the Children always made an effort to promote sports as a tool to develop social leadership skills

Earlier the situation was different as claimed by one of the Field supervisor Laxmi Narayan. And it seems to be a difficult task for him, as the teachers strictly suggested him to avoid such situation'. He also added that many of the teachers reacted in a sarcastic way and predicted that it might create bad effect on the mindset of the girls and boys.

The most notable observation came out when both girls and boys played together and broke the notion and changed the complete situation.

Now the girls have gained the tips of playing and adopted the set of skills, which made them believe that they have the right to play like boys. Lakshmi Narayan also claimed that, earlier it was their parents those who opposed the idea to play different games but now the things has changed a lot as they encouraged their girl child to play.





CAPACITY BUILDING OF TEACHERS ON GENDER SENSITIVITY AND INCLUSIVE EDUCATION THROUGH GIRL RISING CURRICULUM

As we believe that gender is a social construct and not a biological one, so the person must be given equal opportunities to fulfill their potential.

Gender sensitizing is a sensitive topic which makes people easily uncomfortable, coming from different socio economic background. In this context the girl rising team not only involved the teachers in order to fulfill the objectives of the project but also help them to understand the issues in a very progressive and meaningful way.

To achieve this purpose we conducted workshops for the teachers and used girl rising curriculum by communicating properly with Govt. school on Girl Rising movement.

Before this process the team members visited schools to discuss the essence of Girl Rising movement. The team incorporated teachers and tried to introduce them with the concept



“Gender sensitizing is a sensitive topic which makes people easily uncomfortable, coming from different socio economic background.”

and activities of the movement and requested them for their active participation.

The project team conducted such as Teacher’s Day celebration, Annual School events, and Girls Enrollment Rally in order to motivate and publically recognized those teachers who perform well and took necessary steps to empower girls and improve access to quality learning for girls.

Later on, the teacher’s Guide was introduce to them in order to make them understand the issues of gender sensitivity and inclusive education. This workshop not only help and increased the capacity of teachers to address prevailing gender and social issues in and beyond the schools but at the same time emphasized on fundamental focus on gender sensitivity in all aspects. These activities provided them with the information, education and communication materials, as powerful tools and engage their students effectively. According to project member Dayaramji, “this workshop not only act as a medium for teachers, to change their behavior by gaining a deeper understand of gender dynamics, but also act as a bridge to understand the needs and priorities of young girls as well as boys.

It also helps them to identify and implement strategies to increase participation and representation of adolescent girls in larger order to empower them. Principal from different Govt. schools also included that this workshop act as an eye opener for them.





CHAUPAL

Media is a power full way to encourage people to take decision and action that can create real, tangible change. The power of social media is hard to dismiss and now social media has become a medium for connecting, organizing and communicating. Chaupal is a public place or local courtyard which is situated in the centre of the village .In order to establish a space and platform to make people aware about the Girl rising movement through screening this places played a vital role.

By Using this platforms and spaces which are provided by the local governing structure (Gram sabha) the Girl Rising team organized screening and demonstration of Girls Rising tools in each of the 20 villages to highlight the importance of helping girls access quality learning.

This also involved screening of the selective Girl Rising film followed by a group discussion among prominent and influential members of the community to raise the awareness of adolescents girls, women, men and panchayat raj institution members



about girls rights.

Through this activity the team members figured out the noteworthy person who has the leadership and community mobilization skills and could support the Girl Rising team in raising awareness among their communities, by becoming the active advocates for the Girl rising movement.

Screening of Girl Rising film in the Chaupals not only sensitize the village community on the issues of gender and girls education, but also incorporated the members of local governing structure.



“To make people aware about the Girl Rising movement through screening this places played a vital role”



FORMATION OF ADOLESCENT GROUPS FOR GIRLS AND BOYS IN COMMUNITIES

To raise awareness related to gender issues and create a peer friendly atmosphere in schools, separate group were formed for adolescent girls and boys. Earlier while going through different community-based activities in these areas it has been observed that girls coming from this community are less likely to raise their voices and opinions among boys and men. This activity not only helps them to enhance their understanding on gender equality but created a space for them to share their feelings. It also helps them to engage in interactive sessions as well as discussions, focusing on peer to peer learning by creating gender free atmosphere in their schools. These groups consist of adolescent girls and boys between the age of 13 and 18. Here we included the students both in school and out of schools. Initially it was focused on activities based on screening of Girl Rising films and different sports



activities. These youth group represent the most of the adolescent girls and boys of that village. The Girl Rising team organized and facilitates meeting with the youth group and also conducted enrollment mobilized drive to improve the girls enrollment in the school and village community with the support of this youth group.

Here we included the students both in school and out of schools





PARENTS ENGAGEMENT

In order to maintain a good relationship with the household and raise awareness among the parents, elders, and relatives about girls' rights and introducing them to the Girl Rising movement and other related activities, door-to-door visits were organized by the Ibtada team.

The team also introduced them to different activities like community screening of the Girl Rising film through which they were introduced to the issues about adolescent girls and boys. The Ibtada team provided information to parents and grandparents about the objectives and activities of the girl rising movement.

In the beginning, they tried to build up a healthy relationship with the elders so that the team could develop a friendly environment to share and express their ideas to them.

“
The girl rising team provided information to parents and grandparents about the objectives and activities
 ”

Enrollment drive campaign was organized through rallies and it resulted in a positive way and helped in improving enrollment of girls in schools. They also supported the activities organized by the team.

By engaging the elder members, the team not only introduces them to the project and its goals but also gauges the understanding they have of gender issues, but also the level of impact this intervention has achieved or created for those who participated in this particular activity.





RELIGIOUS LEADER

Religious Leader always played an important role in shaping the mindsets of the communities. They have the power and strength to bring change in the community by demolishing the harmful man made traditions and cultures. These religious leaders not only can end different cultural practices of our society but also support in the advancement of girls education. In order to raise their awareness about the significance of educating the girls, workshops were organized.

The workshops were targeted to the entire community, including the prominent religious leaders from different religious institutions. The idea was to transform this leader into change leaders who has the potential to become extremely effective advocates for equal rights to education and other girls' sensitive issues. The team members initially organized a screening of the Girl Rising films for them. After that through different Girl Rising resources and tools they tried to emphasis on particular issues related to girls in the society. Later on, an open discussion was organized by the members of Ibtada which help them to record the opinions and thoughts of the

religious leaders on the status and needs of girls' education in India. The support of the leaders acted as an effort to integrate and institutionalize gender equality of the community level. The team member incorporate these local leaders in all community mobilizations activities as they considered as extremely influential persons in the society.

“The workshops were targeted to the entire community, including the prominent religious leaders”





BOOK CLUB AND READING CAMP

In order to promote and popularize reading among the youth and adults in the community Book clubs are established as a reading corner for them. These book clubs are led and managed by the members of the adolescent girls group. Apart from this the clubs are open for all the members of the community with the aim of encouraging community ownership for the clubs.

This book clubs includes all range of books, from educational textbooks to short stories, which is available for community access at each books club Keeping the reading preferences and interests in mind, the partner team progressively include age appropriate reading with a focus on books likely to foster gender equality and



awareness within the larger community. This Book clubs help the girls and boys to understand the issues of their ages and allow them to generate new ideas by discussing the books they read and what they learned from them. This place also creates a space and opportunity for them to share their own thoughts and experiences, dreams related to what they learn and read. It encourages peer learning and increase their inclination to read books other than their school text books.

This book clubs includes all range of books, from educational textbooks to short stories





EMPOWERMENT OF SCHOOL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES (SMC's) THROUGH CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOPS

School Management Committees are an important aspect of this project. Project staff support in formulation and proper functioning of SMCs by providing hand holding support in their meetings. Project staff continuous efforts made all the SMCs functional. The objectives of these meetings were to orient members on the purpose of this project, to plan activities and delegate roles of school management committee members and to make the program successful for the education of children, with special focus on girls.





COMMUNITY FILM FESTIVAL

Community Film Festival day was celebrated in Alwar district. Total 941 children along with the staff member actively participated in the festival. Where they watched the movie based on the bio-pic of Mary Kom. The movie not only focused on the issues related to gender but also salute the hardship of the leading lady, which will encourage the life of many other girls in the society. Children also visited Company Bagh with the team members. The shared views on their first visit regarding the cinema hall and coming out of their villages.

“ Encourage the life of many other girls in the society ”





ANIMATION FILM MAKING WORKSHOP

In order to promote the creativity of the children by making them aware about the films and animation, a three days workshop was conducted by the members of the partner team in collaboration with Chinh Organization.

Mr. Binoy Roy was the resource person who tried to focused on the issues related to Child Rights. In the beginning of the workshop children were oriented about the issues related to child rights such as child labour, Right to Education, Gender Equality, Child Marriage and Right to Participation. After the Brain Storming Session children developed script on the issues related with Children. Using the Folks songs and Improvisations children developed screen play. Based on that two movies '**I want to study**' and animation movie '**Tale of Newada**' were prepared and exhibited in Chinh India kids Film Festival and Awarded Internationally.

During the animation movie making process they were trained to draw the sketches which was converted into animation movie. Whereas the film was a opinion pole video recorded movie prepared by the children and co-ordinator of Ibtada team. The movie was based on Right to Education and Gender Equality. These movies were screened in film festivals of Japan and China. Both films praised by International Jury.

JAPAN PRIZE 2016

September 1, 2016

Shruti Rai
CHINH
India

Dear Ms. Rai,

Thank you very much for your entry for the JAPAN PRIZE 2016. We are pleased to inform you that your submission of the work *I want to study* has passed the rigorous preliminary selection and was selected as a finalist. The Secretariat offers its sincerest congratulations to you and your team.

Final selection judgment for the Best Work in each category and the Grand Prix will begin on October 26th. The Awards Ceremony will take place on the evening of November 2nd in Tokyo. We wish you continued success at the competition.

Sincerely,



Noriaki Hashimoto
Secretary General

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I want to study
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Meenakshi Vinay Rai
National Awardees Film & Culture Activists Couple
Founders, CHINH INDIA



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Founders, CHINH INDIA





Vedika & Mahesh

YOU ARE NOT MEANT FOR CRAWLING YOU HAVE WINGS, LEARN TO USE THEM AND FLY!

“I love to Dance, because dancing makes me happy “this is what Vedika has to say while sitting in the open area of her house surrounded by her friends and relatives. Vedika is 13, and one of the most familiar faces from her village apart from Mahesh Mehwal. Mahesh and Vedika joined the adolescent group last year, and it’s a pleasure to watch them, listening and solving the problems together related to their subjects.

Now they consider themselves as good friends and decided to help each other in every possible situation. But earlier the situation was completely different although Vedika and Mahesh were in the same class but they never tried to speak before. It is because of the Girl Rising program that they got the opportunity to interact, raise their voice and speak up for girls rights in their community as well as outside the community. Recently she has participated in one of the program conducted by partner team where she managed the complete program. Girl Rising project acted as a medium for her to reach out different people in the society, which also increased her confidence level and makes her inner self to believe.

Vedika shared that-‘Gender never defines potential’. She also added that while participating in the group and different sports activities she has started to share her ideas and views with other boys in the group. Girl Rising program not only changed her perspective towards society but also helped her to grow as a better person.

Whereas Mahesh come from an orthodox hindu family, earlier he was not allow to sit, speak and play with the girls of his locality, but now he plays cricket with the other members of the adolescent group without any hesitation.

In the beginning his family tried to stop him and abused him for these activities. But now they really understand the essence of girls’ education and decided to enroll their daughters in the school. According to Mahesh, Girl Rising programs not only created a peer friendly atmosphere in their village but also ensure a secure society for them. He also added that girl rising program involved everyone in a very progressive and meaningful manner.



Babita

RAISE YOUR WORDS, NOT YOUR VOICE IT IS RAIN THAT GROWS FLOWERS NOT THUNDER

Babita is one of the immensely motivated girl studying in a Government college of Alwar, Rajasthan. According to her teachers, she has always valued education as being of utmost importance and wants to be a successful artist in her life.

However, her determination was put to test when she was stopped to study and asked to help her mother in household works. After a tough and unexpected decision imposed by her family, she refused to bogged down and decided to continue with her studies.

During this period she came to know about the Girl Rising program and shared her problem with one of the field Co-coordinator, Mamta. In the beginning she was ask to join the adolescent group for girls. Later on she started to participate in different activities of Girl Rising project conducted by the Ibtada members. (Whether in terms of enrollment rally, sport activities, volunteering for movie screening and theatre workshop)

While going through the movie screening program during the group activity she was immensely inspired by the story of ‘Ruksana” which depict her own story in other sense. She tried to convey this message to her parents that how important it is to educate a girl child in order to make a difference.

Although her brother was convinced by the effort made by her and somehow managed their parents to allow her to participate in theatre and comic workshops organized by the partner team. She claimed that these workshops not only help her to increase the confidence level but act as a measure to overcome every odd situation in life.

While intervening through theatre shows in her village she developed a level of understanding by filling up the gaps between her communities.

Now she is an active member of book corner in her village and loves to indulge herself in different activities of girl rising project.



Sunny

RAY OF HOPE

Sunny, is found of painting, although he never shared his dream with anyone apart from his younger sister Sapna, who want to be a wrestler. According to Sunny, Sapna is a strong girl and he feels proud when the villagers identify him as Sapnas' brother. But earlier the story was totally different as the girls were not allowed to play or talk with the boys in the village premises. Although their parents were very supportive and initially appreciated them to chase their dreams but they faced rejection within their family and community.

During the Girl Rising program they involved themselves in different activities. Sapna spontaneously participated in the Cricket match organized by the Ibtada team, on the other hand Sunny participated in the comic and theatre workshop. Apart from this he also helps his mother and grandmother in their household works, as he believes that there should be no division when it comes to household work. According to him girls are equally strong and there must be equal opportunities for them in every possible aspect.

Sunny also added that reading camps for the adolescent girls and boys not only increased the knack for books in youth but also created a platform for the girls and boys to share their ideas with clarity. Sunny, assured that the Girl Rising program played an immense role in his life, which help him to change his perspective and witness the issue of equality more specifically and clearly. He also claimed that education is the only medium through which possible changes are possible.



Haji saheb

GIRLS HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS

Mufti Saheb and Haji saheb has decided to send their daughters in School after attending the workshop conducted by the team members of Girl Raising program. While sitting in the stairs of the Masjid which is situated in the middle of the village they shared how the workshop made it possible for them to break the notions of the society and deal with the issue in a very clear way.

The workshop conducted by the team Ibtada not only increases their knowledge about gender concepts but enhance their deeper understanding about girls' right and girls education. According to Haji Saheb "If we are committed to achieve education for all, then we must not view gender as an additional piece of work".

The movies have created a larger impact in their minds which made them believe in girls' education and spread the word among the community. Haji Saheb claimed that, earlier the situation was different but now boys and girls should be treated equally, because gender equality is the only measure through which we can bring change in our society and build up a powerful nation because by educating girls we can educate the complete generation and ensure a better world for others.



ती ड्रीम-ती राईज
गर्ल एजिंग



Ibtada the beginning
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