



CHOGM
Malta 2015

Preventing Child, Early & Forced Marriage

24 November 2015, Women's Forum

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Commonwealth of Learning

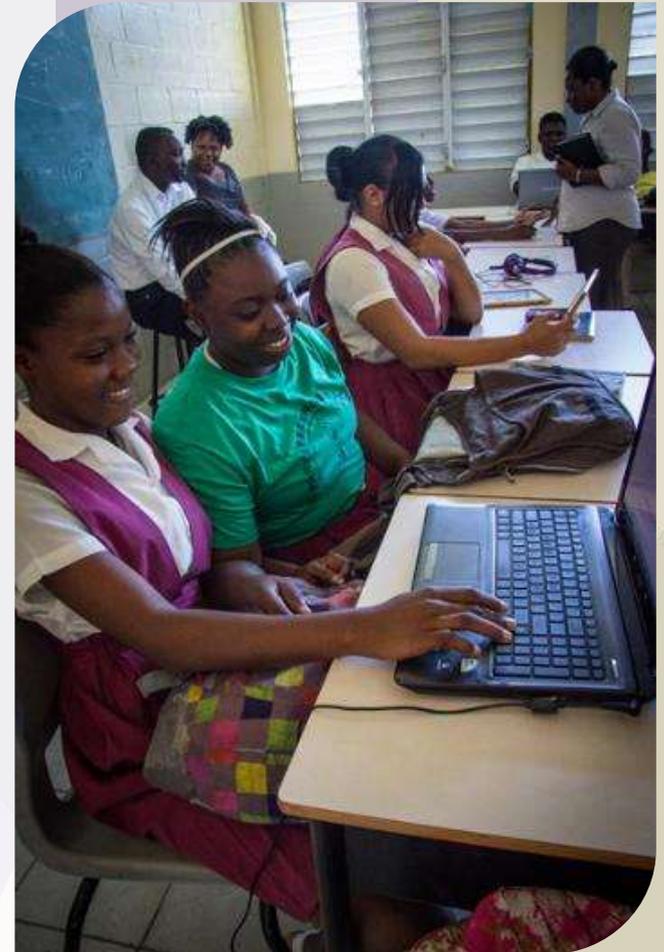
The price of early marriage

“ If girls are not educated, they are compelled to early marriages. Most of these girls, who enter into early marriage, cannot even take care of themselves, so how can they take care of the hygiene of their children?”

Religious leader in the Bihar, India

COL Strategic Plan 2015-2021

COL recognizes that advancing the goals of both women's empowerment and gender equality are central to 'Learning for Sustainable Development', and that distance learning can be especially helpful in enabling women and girls to access educational opportunities.



Life after Primary? (2012)

Country	Enrolment (GER) Primary	Survival rate to last primary grade	Enrolment (GER) Lower Secondary
India	113%	61%	86%
Pakistan	92%	62%	52%
Mozambique	105%	32%	34%
Nigeria	85%	79%	46%
Uganda	107%	25%	31%

Source: [UNESCO Institute for Statistics Data Center](#). Retrieved in June 2015

Secondary education & economic opportunity

- **Education beyond primary level** in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan & Sri Lanka find employment much faster

(Riboud, Savchenko & Tan, 2007)

- **TVE skills** gained in school not only increase retention and completion but result in a transition to work
(Guison-Dowdy, 2012)

What is Open Schooling?

- The physical separation of learner from the teacher
- The use of unconventional teaching methodologies, and information and communications technologies (ICTs)
- Flexible approach

Open Schooling – How?

- Self-instructional materials
- Local personal support at Study Centres/Online
- State/NGO partnerships
- Operate at scale using technology

Skills Training blended approaches



*Rehana Khatun,
Poultry Farmer*

To provide equal opportunities to girls who are prevented to attend school by barriers such as: early marriages, cultural values, and distance from school.



Empowering women and girls



Photo credit: Joshua Estey, [DFAT Gallery](#)

Through the Girls & Women Initiative

COL will support **45,000 girls** and women for

- secondary schooling and
- skills development for livelihoods using open and distance learning



High rates of child marriage

Countries & Regions	Child marriage (%) 2005 - 2013*	
	Married by 15	Married by 18
Bangladesh	29	65
Pakistan	3	21
India	18	47
Mozambique	14	48
Tanzania	7	37

Source: [The State of the World's Children Report 2015 Statistical Tables: Child Marriages](#), UNICEF

Expanding access through open schools

“ Open schooling is very good especially for me; because when I decided to go back to finish my secondary education I was a bit nervous about being back in the classroom, since I had been out of school for 12 years...I believe that Open Schooling can help many in Belize to finish their education.

Anna Lorenzo, Belize



Learning for social change

“My father wants girls to get married as early as possible. ...So my father wants me to get married, but I did not want to destroy my life by getting married at an early age. I want to continue my study to become independent. Right now I am continuing my studies at the Open School in Dhaka with because I firmly believe that education can change my social position.”

Khadija Khatun, Grade 10 student
in Bangladesh, 22 years old



The Model

- Technical skills
- Financial Literacy
- Life Skills

Aptus

Aptus is an innovative, low-cost device developed by COL that allows learners in regions with poor or limited broadband connectivity to benefit from digital resources and learning networks



COL's approach

- Link learners with the labour market and financial institutions
- Build capacity of organisations and individuals for sustainability
- Promotes the appropriate use of available and affordable technologies.



Thank You
www.col.org

