

One Student, One Story



Alagammal, Preparing to be a School Teacher

"After I finished 12th grade, my mother wanted me to work in a cotton factory. My father felt I should instead go to college. Because of poverty, my mother had to sell her nose-ring and with the money got, admitted me to college. Since I was in a small village, I didn't know much about the world and I did not get good advice as to what I should do in life. WEP-Sudar has been an important reason for my growth."

When a family crisis (her father's death in an agricultural accident) left them without income, Alagammal could not pay her tuition. Instead of dropping out, she came to WEP. Here, as a scholarship student she flourishes. She has completed the basic computers course, volunteers in an elderly home, and has begun teacher-training. She plans to teach elementary school in her village, where she knows that good teaching is greatly needed.



2007-2008 Scholarship Students

\$200 will enable a young woman to attend college for a year.

You Can Help.

Contribute through our website at:
www.womenseducationproject.org

Or mail your tax-deductible contribution payable to:

Women's Education Project

P.O. Box 1201

New York, NY 10021

Women's Education Project is a 501c3 organization registered in the state of New York and all contributions are tax-deductible.



**Helping Extraordinary
Women
Achieve Career Dreams**



Women's Education Project

In South India, young women come to Women's Education Project (WEP) from the poorest backgrounds and the lowest castes to pursue college dreams and careers.

With energy, optimism and fortitude, they attend WEP's college preparatory and personal development programs. Afterwards, on WEP scholarships, they enroll in college.

Having acquired a lively awareness of life's possibilities and the knowledge and confidence to make decisions and achieve goals, WEP students go on to meaningful employment. They have become role models and leaders who in changing their own lives and those of their families, leave poverty forever.

Today, our alumnae are teachers, chemists, paralegals, and graphic designers. Founded in 2002, WEP helps extraordinary young women change their universe and the world.



WEP Centers

WEP maintains two centers in South India: *Sudar* ("light" in Tamil) in Madurai and *Ushassu* ("morning light" in Telugu) in Hyderabad.

Close to colleges, and surrounded by gardens, the centers offer airy classrooms, quiet study spaces, a computer lab, and a library. For college, career and life, WEP helps students:

- **Complete High School**—WEP centers assist students in passing exams required for college admission. Students attend workshops on health, finance, community and environment and enjoy book and volunteer clubs.
- **Succeed in College**—Once in college, on a WEP scholarship, students take WEP courses to improve study skills, language, and computer competence.
- **Find Meaningful Employment**—Upon graduation, WEP continues its commitment with career guidance and job placement.
- **Prepare for Life**—Whatever career WEP graduates pursue, they are computer literate, financially responsible and environmentally aware. They understand health and hygiene. They communicate well, are aware of their worth and act professionally. Above all, they are role models to others and leaders in their community.



"Education gives me self-confidence. My mother didn't have these opportunities. Whatever chances I have, she wants me to take them." Maheswari, Sudar student.

The Need

For ambitious young women of impoverished backgrounds and low castes, the challenges of college and career are daunting. Insufficient preparation and language skills, congested homes, power outages, debt, chores, poor health, and social indifference are obstacles that their more fortunate peers do not face. Lacking parental guidance and unable to pay for tuition, books, or transportation, their dreams are lost, their potential wasted.

Without the support of WEP, they withdraw from school and enter low paying, often unsafe, jobs and early marriage.

With WEP, they have brighter options.

L i m i t e d M e a n s . . . U n l i m i t e d P o t e n t i a l