

## **Preface**

Across the religions and cultures, girls are considered as the biggest blessing for the entire Society. Despite this, women and girls often become the victim of ruthless power struggle and lop-sided patriarchy. As a result, every girl becomes a victim of struggle at multiple stages of her life. Struggling with the right to live is her first stage.

Every girl has her own share of issues, but a Muslim Girl has to undergo an additional burden of fulfilling the cultural expectations. The growing disparity between boys and girls' education is the biggest area of concern. We live in a world which is full of paradox, at one end we have girls like Malala who outperform boys, and at the same time, we have a very intelligent girl who was not allowed to continue her study after 8<sup>th</sup> Std., reason? Her parents could only afford education of her brother. The condition of Muslim girls specifically requires special attention because of multiple reasons which are affecting them, poverty, gender discrimination, cultural restrictions, etc. are the array of issues that the girls have to pass through.

A global report concludes that amongst all religious groups across the world, Muslims and Hindus have large gender gaps in educational attainment. Yet many of these disparities appear to be decreasing over time, as the religious groups with the lowest average levels of education – Muslims and Hindus – have made the biggest educational gains in recent generations, and as the gender gaps within some religions have diminished. India being a home to Hindu and Muslim population has a higher risk of being affected by these issues.

The study is an attempt to understand the Status of Muslim Girls' education in India. This problem can only be combated if girls are educated enough. The major problem faced by girls is financial trouble followed by a belief system in the community. Social hindrances to the girls are acceptance from the community as well as early marriage, which often becomes makes it difficult for a girl to continue study post-Higher Secondary Level. This study is an attempt to depict a profile of issues faced by adolescent girls in order to continue their studies, since the researcher wanted to create a profile of Gujarat, City of Vadodara.