



UNIFEM South Asia Sub-Regional Office
D-53 Defence Colony
New Delhi – 110024, India

Tel : 91-11-24646471
Fax : 91-11-24622136
Website: www.unifem.org.in

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Dear Mr. Grimminck:

The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) South Asia Regional Office (SARO) expresses its appreciation to Yuwa for sharing its current proposal to expand its programming in India.

It gives me great pleasure to inform you that UNIFEM appreciates Yuwa's commitment to empowering young girls through football and sports activities. The approach adopted by Yuwa is a novel one and the programme in Jharkhand exceptionally successful.

We believe that this is an approach that works. It has seen the development of a successful team sports model for girls in Jharkhand and given a push for a national campaign for woman's football - a pioneer in its own way. The diverse partnerships of grassroots leaders & NGO's, sports institutions and youth groups in India bring in their own strengths.

In its work on empowering women and promoting gender equality, UNIFEM too has used sports as a tool for empowerment. Dedicated to advancing women's rights and achieving gender equality globally, UNIFEM supports the mission of Yuwa as we are guided by the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination (CEDAW), which provides binding obligations for State parties on eliminating discrimination against women and girls. Specifically, Article 10 of CEDAW calls for State parties to eliminate discrimination against women in order to ensure them equal rights with in the field of education, including ensuring the same opportunities to actively participate in sports and physical education.

UNIFEM is also guided by the Beijing Platform for Women which calls for governments and non-governmental organizations to promote the full and equal participation of girls in extracurricular activities, such as sport, drama, and cultural activities. We applaud Yuwa's efforts to partner with more local schools and community based organizations to in effort to enhance the lives of young women in India.

Girls' football programmes and football festivals offer a tremendous potential for empowerment. We whole heartedly endorse Yuwa's growth strategy and its programme expansion through "A Goal for Girls" 2010-2013.

Yours sincerely,

Anne F. Stenhammer
Regional Programme Director
UNIFEM South Asia