

## Malini Foundation Children's Community Workshops

At the Malini Foundation, we focus our community outreach on the priorities of the people we serve. Using an issue-based method, we assess the needs of a community as they align with our mission to advance the interests of girls and women. We then engage community members in designing and implementing innovative programs.

One key educational aspiration that mothers particularly expressed is access to English language education. English, being the language of choice for many university courses and businesses, is in high demand. Good quality Spoken English classes are hard to access due to high costs and a lack of qualified teachers.

However, English language education is not the greatest need in the community. Attitudes towards the value of educating girls, child domestic labor, early marriage and other societal factors have a great impact on girls' access to education.

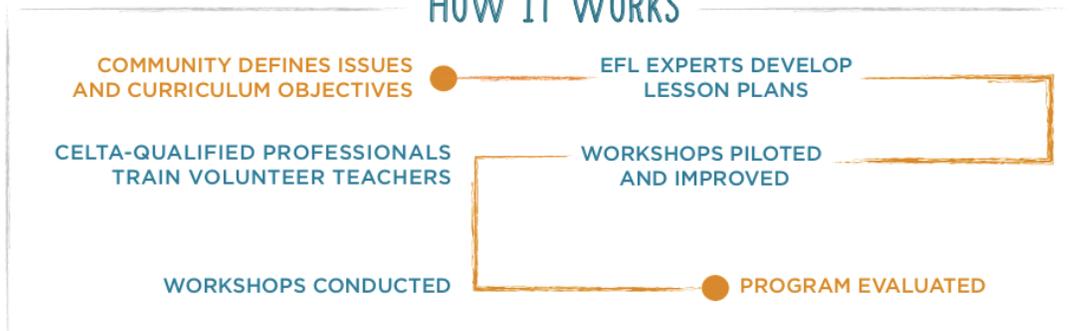
Making use of this desire to learn English, our Creative Arts Program incorporates an issue-based English as a Foreign Language (ELF) curriculum addressing many of the social and cultural barriers to girls' education.



We work with education departments at universities and qualified EFL teachers with experience in Asia to write lesson plans based on the curriculum objectives defined by community changemakers. Lesson plans are reviewed by a community panel of women leaders and recommendations are incorporated.

We then recruit volunteers who want to make a personal impact to come teach English in Sri Lanka. CELTA-certified EFL teachers train them on how to deliver the lesson plans. Volunteers are armed to teach with detailed lesson plans and materials, a strong support system in Sri Lanka and a passion in their hearts!

## HOW IT WORKS



Our bottom-up participatory approach allows women to play a role in their own community's development by enhancing their decision-making powers, while EFL experts work out the details. As a result, the men and women of the community are more inclined to adopt new ideas and change behavior.

See our program at work: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZQ5n844jDV8>