



## **NetAid World Class – *Grab Bag!* Facilitator “Daily Life Card” Explanations**

### **1. Super Mom**

#### **Theme: Gender**

*Mother gets a new job. All working kids with unemployed fathers may now go to school!*

Many women around the world have the double burden of being responsible for household tasks and finding jobs outside of the home to help support their families. Women in urban areas of India hold a wide variety of positions—as teachers, lawyers, domestic help, factory workers, shop owners, doctors and government officials. Women in rural areas of Tamil Nadu often work as farmers and will sometimes seek additional work to help supplement their family income. If a woman in Tamil Nadu gets a new job, she may bring in the extra money needed to help her children stay in school.

### **2. A-OKAY**

#### **Theme: Educational Resources**

*Teachers in district A get NetAid funded training. All working kids in District A may now attend school!*

It's hard to imagine what school would be like if teachers had no training. Unfortunately, in rural areas around the world, teachers often do not have access to sufficient training in the subjects they are teaching. In Tamil Nadu, a NetAid project is working to train 2,000 teachers to help them develop the skills they need to work more effectively with students in their classrooms. Better trained teachers will be able to provide a better quality education for their students.

### **3. Village School Ends at 5th Grade**

#### **Theme: Rural Poverty**

*Kids with 5 or more years of school need money or a bus ticket to stay in school.*

It is often taken for granted that after finishing elementary school, kids will proceed through middle and high school even if the schools they attend are not in their neighborhood. Poor children who live in remote areas and do not have access to transportation are often unable to get to school if it is located too far away from their home. In India, elementary school ends in 5th grade and if the nearest secondary school is far away, children without money or a bus ticket will have no way of getting there. Consequently, the lack of local schools is one of the barriers which prevents over half of all children in India from completing more than an elementary education.



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### 4. Wedding Bell Blues

#### Themes: Gender, Rural Poverty

*Older sister takes care of the house – but she’s leaving to get married! All girls with an older sister, no grandmother, and no money must leave school to take care of the house.*

In poor rural areas like Tamil Nadu, girls have to leave school to help around the house, as housework for families living in poverty is difficult and often time consuming. Unlike in communities where there are timesaving household appliances, in rural areas of Tamil Nadu, chores are usually done by hand. Clothes are scrubbed and hung to dry, cooking is done over an open fire or gas stove with little ventilation, and cleaning is made difficult by the heat and dust produced by Tamil Nadu’s tropical climate. Younger girls are often kept out of school if there is no one else in their family to help around the house.

### 5. Baby Needs Medicine

#### Theme: Health

*All kids in school with a baby brother, no money and just one parent must leave school to work.*

There are various reasons why people living in poverty often get sick. Many kids around the world do not have access to nutritious foods, or to vaccinations against preventable diseases like measles, polio, tuberculosis, tetanus and hepatitis B. Additionally, only half of the children in the developing world have access to clean drinking water and sanitary waste facilities. Health care in poor, rural areas is often difficult to find, and medicines are extremely expensive. Because of this, if a baby gets sick, an older sibling might have to leave school to help the family make extra money, or to take care of the baby while his/her parents are working.

### 6. B is for Books

#### Theme: Educational Resources

*District B gets NetAid funds for books. All kids in District B go directly to school!*

It is all too common for schools in poor areas around the world to lack basic supplies like books, pencils, pens, notepads and paper. School buildings in poor countries are often rundown with leaking roofs, thin or no walls, and dirt floors, making the environment for learning less than ideal. While a clean school filled with educational resources is something we often take for granted, in areas without access to these basic necessities, books can be rare and precious. NetAid has funded a project which buys books for schools that do not have them, greatly improving the schools’ ability to serve its students’ needs.



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### 7. Cool Aid

#### **Theme: Disability**

*School for the Blind gets a donation of special books. Kids who are visually impaired now go to school!*

Blindness and visual impairment make life very challenging for individuals around the world. According to the UN, 90% of the world's 50 million blind live in poor countries where the social, economic and developmental challenges these individuals face are greater if there is no infrastructure to support their needs. Blindness can have harmful emotional and intellectual implications for children, as nine out of ten blind children in these countries do not have an opportunity to attend school. Developing programs to help visually impaired children in Tamil Nadu get into school is a strong first step toward ensuring that these children get the education they need to become confident and contributing members of their communities.

### 8. Too Sick To Teach

#### **Theme: AIDS**

*The teacher in District C is sick with AIDS. All kids in school in District C must leave school. (if they have one).*

An estimated 42 million people, 3.2 million of whom are children under age 15, are living with HIV/AIDS around the world. The UN estimates that there are approximately 14,000 new HIV infections each day, with 95% of these in the developing world. Sadly, the spread of the pandemic shows little sign of slowing and by the time your students finish high school it is estimated that 40 million children worldwide will have lost their parents to AIDS. Prevalence rates in South Asia are second highest after those in Sub-Saharan Africa. In India at least 4 million people are infected, with the highest concentration of infection in Tamil Nadu. HIV/AIDS can affect anyone – mothers, fathers, doctors, lawyers and teachers. For many children in the developing world HIV/AIDS has become a factor which can keep them out of school either directly if they are infected with the disease themselves, or indirectly if family members are sick. If a teacher falls ill, students may not be able to go to school until a new teacher is found.

### 9. I Don't Get It

#### **Themes: Diversity and Discrimination**

*All kids with teachers that don't speak the same language must leave school.*

Children from indigenous or minority groups may face various types of discrimination in their everyday lives, and educational systems often do not



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always accommodate marginalized groups within society. Ethnic, religious or linguistic differences often make school inaccessible for many children. In India there are 17 official languages, and in Tamil Nadu, while the majority of people speak Tamil, there are four other languages which are also widely spoken. Children who are among Tamil Nadu’s Adivasi, or indigenous, population suffer widespread discrimination in all areas of life, and are sometimes excluded from school for the simple reason that the teachers do not speak their language.

### **10. Father Loses Job**

**Themes: Population, Employment**

*All kids in school who have an employed father must leave school to work.*

Finding and keeping a job can be challenging, regardless of where one lives. In countries with struggling economies, the combination of rapid population growth and job scarcity makes it extremely difficult for people to gain employment. The impact of overpopulation on employment is nowhere more evident than in India, where population growth greatly outpaces the creation of new jobs. India adds more people to the world’s population each year than any other country. While in the United States 94% of men are formally employed, in India only 10% of men are considered “regular” employees, meaning that they are provided with job security and other benefits. Sudden unemployment is disruptive for any family, but for a family living below the poverty line in India, job loss can have a far-reaching impact. If a father in Tamil Nadu loses his job, it might be necessary for one or more of his children to leave school and work to help support the family.

### **11. No Monsoon Means No Crops**

**Theme: Food and Agriculture**

*All kids in school with field worker parents must leave school to work.*

People around the world rely on agriculture to survive. Life for farm workers and their children is very much affected by the weather. Farmers in Tamil Nadu depend on the rain from yearly monsoons to water their crops. In the years when there is not enough rain, many families face financial difficulties which make it hard to send their children to school. Without a monsoon, children with parents who are field workers may have to go to work to help support their family.

### **12. School is Far Out (5 miles)**

**Theme: Rural Poverty**

*Kids without money, a bus ticket, or shoes must leave school.*

While public schools in many countries offer students a “free” education, going to school still requires money. Most schools in India require parents to buy uniforms



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for their children, which can be a daunting expense for families living in extreme poverty. For families in rural Tamil Nadu, there is another hidden expense: sometimes just to get to school, kids have to walk for hours through fields or along miles of unpaved roads. This makes it very difficult for children to attend school when their parents can not cover the cost of shoes or a daily bus ticket.

### **13. Accidents Happen**

#### **Themes: Child Labor, Disability**

*Accident at the brick factory. All kids in District B making bricks suffer burns and are now disabled. Only special help for kids with disabilities can get them into school.*

Despite international declarations and national laws forbidding child labor, the reality is that children in many countries are exploited for low wages. In India, the Factories Act (1987) makes it illegal for companies to employ children as workers. Despite this, in Tamil Nadu the concentration of child laborers is among the highest in the world, and the matchmaking, fireworks, and brick-making industries all rely on children working in their factories. Many families living in extreme poverty in Tamil Nadu are forced to depend on the income their children can earn in these industries. In these jobs, children face dangerous conditions without medical coverage from their employers. Children working in the matchmaking and fireworks industries are at high risk for severe burns, chemical poisoning, illness, or chronic injuries such as spinal problems. Not only are children exploited and endangered in these industries, but by working at such young ages they are also deprived of their right to an education.

### **14. Bad Break**

#### **Themes: Rural Poverty, Culture and Custom**

*Grandmother breaks her hip. All kids with a grandmother and without money or an older sister must leave school to help.*

In India, family units are often multigenerational, and children typically have strong bonds with their grandparents. With the extended family providing important financial and caregiving support, home life can be disrupted when a family member suffers an injury. When someone in the family needs assistance, children will sometimes leave school to help out. This can mean, especially for girls, staying at home to assist with household responsibilities or going to work to help supplement the family income.



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### 15. Father Gets A Job

#### **Theme: Employment**

*All kids making bricks who have an unemployed father can now go to school.*

In India, the father is typically the one who earns income for the family. While high unemployment rates pose a serious challenge for many Indian families, for those who succeed in finding employment there are a variety of different jobs available. Many of these jobs are similar to those we have here; however, it is often the case that for the same work, people in India earn far lower wages for comparable work. For example, a father who works as a tailor might earn \$1.50 per day, a farmer, \$1.00 per day and a bike-repairman just 50 cents per day. The average rural Indian family makes less than \$100 per month, and even though the cost of living in India is lower than it is here, with this salary it is difficult for many people to meet their basic needs. When a father gets a job which provides a steady, substantial income, families do not have to rely as heavily on their children for extra earnings thus making it possible for a working child to go to school.

### 16. B Your Best

#### **Theme: Disability**

*Special help arrives which allows all kids in District B with disabilities to go to school!*

Life for children with disabilities is always challenging. The little that is known about the 140 million children with disabilities who live in poor countries suggests that they are frequently victimized and left out of mainstream society. Many of these children are denied the right to a basic education, since schools are typically unequipped to help students with special needs. In India, while some children are born with mental or physical disabilities, many more suffer unnecessarily from disabilities they acquire later in life through nutritional deficiencies, preventable illnesses or the hazards of working in dangerous factories. A project in Tamil Nadu which targets kids with disabilities helps give them the opportunity to go to school and realize their dreams.

### 17. Here Comes the Bride

#### **Themes: Culture and Custom, Gender**

*All girls with fewer than 5 years of school are promised to marry and must now leave school.*

As in most cultures, marriage and family are very much at the core of Indian society. Arranged marriages, where parents choose who their children will marry,



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are the norm in most Indian families. In rural areas of India and throughout Tamil Nadu, girls often get married when they are as young as 15. It is not uncommon in these areas for social customs to require that a husband be more educated than his wife, and as a result, girls are often forced to leave school earlier than boys.

### **18. Mother Knows Best** **Theme: Educational Resources**

*NetAid funds a project which works with mothers in District C to keep kids in school. All working kids in District C with a mother go to school!*

When it comes to enrolling and keeping kids in school, the role of parents is crucial. Educational projects which reach out to parents in the community talk about the value of education, and encourage them to resist the social and economic pressures that often force them to withdraw their children from school early. Through these discussion groups, parents are able to talk about the challenges they face in keeping their children in school and get information about ways that they can make quality education a reality for their children. In this way, the NetAid-funded project in Tamil Nadu empowers parents to provide a better future for their children and their communities.

### **19. C You After School** **Theme: Educational Resources**

*NetAid funds an after-school project in District C. Kids in school from District C get an extra year of school!*

A complete, quality education involves learning that goes beyond the classroom. NetAid recognizes the importance of educational enrichment programs, and provides support to projects that give kids access to extracurricular activities necessary for positive development. Some examples of out-of-school programming which supports learning include mentoring or tutoring, as well as activities which encourage sports and the arts. In Tamil Nadu, NetAid has funded a program that helps teach kids many valuable skills that can help them make progress toward achieving their dreams.

### **20. Hunger Strikes** **Theme: World Hunger**

*All kids without money must leave school and make bricks to help feed their family.*



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Worldwide, one out of every five people do not have enough to eat. Each year 40 million people die from hunger and hunger-related diseases and almost half of these unnecessary deaths are children. Children are often the most vulnerable to developing illnesses caused by extreme hunger, and frequently suffer from nutritional deficiencies which can harm their physical and intellectual growth. Roughly one-third of the world's hungry live in India, where a very dense population puts extreme pressure on the country's food resources. Almost 50% of all children under five years old in India suffer from moderate to severe malnutrition, and it is estimated that roughly 4 million school children in Tamil Nadu alone are malnourished. When families face persistent hunger, children are often called upon to help their families in any way they can.



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For more information and for links to further resources relating to each of the themes presented in the game, please visit the NetAid website at:

[www.netaid.org](http://www.netaid.org).