### **SDG Problem Definition: School Dropout Rates**

#### **1. Introduction**

This document addresses the challenge of school dropout rates, aligned with SDG 4: Quality Education, which aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education for all. Despite efforts to improve education access, dropout rates remain a significant concern, especially in rural and marginalized areas.

#### **2. Problem Definition**

The key issue under investigation is the high dropout rates in schools across different regions. Factors contributing to dropout rates include:

* **Poverty**: Financial challenges prevent students from continuing their education. From the analysis of the data in the dashboard, this is common in the rural and marginalized areas where resources are inadequate.
* **Early Marriage**: Especially affecting young girls, marriage often leads to early termination of schooling especially in the marginalized and rural areas where traditions are largely prevalent.
* **Death of Parents**: Students losing parental support face challenges in continuing education. This shows the impact of having parents or guardians through their education.
* **Change of Interest**: Some students leave school due to lack of interest or motivation. This is common in urban areas.

These dropout rates vary across regions and significantly impact the overall educational outcomes.

#### **3. Data Insights**

Data gathered from various regions shows that marginalized areas have the highest dropout rates. The data also reveals correlations between dropout rates and socioeconomic factors, including employment rates, infrastructure, and access to essential services like water, food, and housing. The highest dropout rates are seen where poverty levels are highest, and access to services is most limited.

#### **4. Proposed Solutions**

To address these challenges, we propose:

1. **Targeted Financial Support**: Scholarships and financial aid for students in poverty-stricken areas. This may include the intervention of the government and other stakeholders in the education sector.
2. **Community Engagement**: This includes providing communities with civic education about the importance and impact of education among children as well as traditions such as early marriages among others.
3. **Counseling and Mentorship**: Providing guidance and counseling to students facing loss or lack of interest. This may involve providing teachers and the mentors with the required support.
4. **Infrastructure Development**: Improving access to essential services and school infrastructure in marginalized areas.
5. Teacher Incentives: This is to encourage the teachers to remain in the rural and marginalized areas. This will ensure that they are retained in those areas.

This solution will ensure that the root causes of dropout are addressed holistically, contributing to a significant reduction in dropout rates.

#### **5. Conclusion**

Addressing school dropout rates is critical to achieving the goals of SDG 4. The proposed solutions, backed by data, focus on mitigating the socioeconomic factors contributing to dropouts, particularly in marginalized and rural regions.