

India Literacy Project



A catalyst for 100% literacy in India

Annual Report 2010

LITERACY FOR ALL AND THE LITERACY FLYWHEEL

Since its inception in 1990, ILP has made a lot of strides in furthering the cause of literacy and education. Of course, it has not done this alone. The great NGOs in India, the network of consultants, the Government and above all the participation of the communities which have received literacy has made it possible to have come so far. In the past 20 years a lot has been accomplished. We have taken education to communities who don't care for education to start with. We have done street plays, found influential people in the community to help the cause, found ways to bring the NGOs, Government and the community together to get the education activity started and subsequently to gain ground. We have taken on child labor. We have supported evening classes for children and found income generation skills for the parents to the point that they have funds to put food on the table and also send their children to school. ILP has dealt with lack of teachers in school. Interim teachers have been appointed which has then led to parents themselves campaigning for permanent teachers. ILP has even dealt with complete absence of building to impart learning. Under these circumstances it has managed to convince the community members of its importance to the point that parents themselves personally aid in building the infrastructure. Both adult men and women have been imparted literacy along with vocational training, creating a sustainable atmosphere for literacy. This year itself, ILP has made a difference in 600 villages, impacted 850 schools and directly reached out to more than 100,000 people. A lot has been accomplished!

Having said that one quickly realizes that so much more is needed for India to become 100% literate. Our literacy rates are estimated to be about 65%. India has roughly about 350 million illiterates. Poverty in a number of states is estimated to be worse than that of poor African countries. India's population is also increasing briskly, creating more poor and illiterate people rapidly. With this kind of statistics it is easy to get discouraged and despondent. One wonders if literacy and education for ALL can ever be accomplished in our lifetime.

Some answers start to appear when one examines a concept which I would like to borrow from Jim Collins book "Good to Great". I will strongly encourage all fellow ILPians and literacy enthusiasts to read this book. What I mention here will make more sense if you read this book. In the book, Jim Collins asks us to imagine a massive flywheel, several thousand pounds heavy which can rotate on its horizontal axis. What is going on in an organization can be deciphered by observing its "flywheel". In a typical organization, each member pushes the flywheel a bit. First it rotates a little, then when pushed a little bit more it slowly starts to rotate some more. Every day the organization pushes the flywheel more and more. If this is done consistently and correctly, many years later a day will come when the flywheel builds a momentum of its own. Even a small push causes the flywheel to spin like crazy. This is where the media takes notice of the "good to great" company and say it has arrived! They typically look for some special miracle move or event in the company, but there is no such thing. It is really the cumulative effect of the correct and consistent effort that has worked in favor of the company.

To me our efforts towards literacy for all can be viewed through the concept of a flywheel. Let us call it the "literacy flywheel". We have been pushing it for some time. We will continue to push this further. Each one of us should push it and we should also recruit all our friends to push it as well. But we need to push it in a "correct and consistent" manner. Therein lays the secret. We all need to spend some time to investigate this aspect, even as we are sure of our methods and strategies. If done well a day will come when the literacy flywheel will build up considerable momentum. Even a small push from us will cause it to spin enormously. The literacy flywheel's momentum will build up and there will be a breakthrough!! And India will be 100% literate. India will help itself, others, and take its true rank among the League of Nations.

Venki Venkatesh

ILP National Convener

Goals and Achievements

ILP supports education and literacy projects predominantly in the rural and remote areas across various states of India. Our philosophy is to work with people of all age-groups and to empower the local communities.

Scope of ILP Projects

- ✓ Enrollment of out-of-school children
- ✓ Non-formal education programs for children and youth who cannot go to school
- ✓ Retention of children in school
- ✓ Supplemental methods to improve quality of learning
- ✓ Life coping skills and livelihood training for young adults
- ✓ Functional literacy and livelihood training for adults



IMPACT

100,000 Beneficiaries
600 Villages

17 Projects
7 States

ILP's Impact in Pre-Schools/ Schools

Pre-schools (anganwadis) in the villages of India are supported by Indian Government's Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS). This scheme provides pre-school education and reduces malnutrition and infant mortality in the age-group of 0 - 6 years.

ILP worked in 470 schools covering children of ages 6-14. The interventions involved enrolling children in schools, creating programs to retain them in school and improving the quality of education.



The mid-day meal scheme is the most attractive way to bring young children to anganwadis. The challenge is to make them come for more - to play and learn.

A common reason for kids to drop out of school is its distance from their village. Girls also drop out due to lack of separate bathrooms for boys and girls.

- ✓ Ensure consistent teacher and helper attendance
- ✓ Engage and empower community to expect anganwadi success
- ✓ Provide critical learning and teaching materials
- ✓ Guarantee a nutritious mid-day meal program
- ✓ Provide training to teachers on innovative teaching methodology

- ✓ Strive for 100% enrollment and retention of children in schools
- ✓ Conduct learning level assessments to improve quality of education
- ✓ Promote girl child education
- ✓ Provide scholarships for needy children
- ✓ Provide additional teachers to public schools
- ✓ Create Child Rights Clubs within the schools

ILP's Impact through Advocacy

Advocacy is to influence public policy and resource allocation decisions within political and social institutions. This can include programs like media and signature campaigns, polls, publishing research and public speaking. Lobbying is also a form of advocacy, where the issue is taken up directly with legislators.

OUR EFFORTS IN ANDHRA PRADESH



Children in Guntur celebrating after signature campaign to demand a "Child Rights Commission"



Children demand "Child Rights Commission" in Hyderabad

✓ **1,400 children and 250 NGOs** interacted with MLAs, MLCs and MPs where the children **raised questions regarding violation of child rights**, child abuse, corporal punishment and Right to Education Act.

✓ **Children collected / mailed 100,000 signatures** and 10,000 postcards as part of a **campaign to demand the creation of a State Child Rights Protection Commission**. These were sent to the education minister and the Chief Minister.

✓ **75 Child Rights Clubs / Children's Groups** formed in 11 districts.

✓ **Children conducted a social audit/ survey of 1,200 children in 20 districts**. The findings were presented to the state education minister.

ILP Financials : Jan-Dec 2010

INCOME	
Donations to Projects*	\$231,394
Sponsorship/Event Fees	\$253,689
Interest/Capital Gain	\$3,033
TOTAL INCOME	\$488,116
EXPENSES	
Grants to Projects & Monitoring	\$284,545
Fundraising events **	\$74,727
Operating Expense***	\$10,007
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$369,279
NET INCOME	\$118,837

* Includes cash and non-cash donations by individuals and corporations

** Funded by event sponsorship, event registration fees & targeted donations

*** Funded by targeted donations from volunteers

Projects Spend

Project Name	Project Description	State (District)	Coverage Area	Number of Beneficiaries	Funded (USD)
HELP	Advocacy campaigns against child labor	Andhra Pradesh	23 districts	-	8,800
PARASPARA	Scholarships for rehabilitated working children (additional funding from ILP India)	Karnataka (Bangalore)		22	680
Chiguru	Scholarships for rehabilitated working children (additional funding from ILP India)	Karnataka (Magadi)		35	2,575
SARVODAYA	Bringing children back to school	Karnataka (Koppal)	15 villages	5,437	10,636
SEEDS	Bringing children back to school and scholarships for rehabilitated working children.	Karnataka (Koppal)	17 villages	5,746	13,490
CDF	Integrated Education Movement	Karnataka (Gulbarga)	27 Villages	9,500	37,625
SNEHA	Strengthening government schools through community ownership and participation	Karnataka (Bellary)	224 villages	69,297	62,425
CID	Quality education for tribal children	Madhya Pradesh (Sheopur)	10 villages	950	12,350
MAHILA SAMITHI	Enrollment of children back in school and improving learning levels in schools	Madhya Pradesh (Chattarpur)	9 villages	2,612	13,615
Rachna	Education for all children	Madhya Pradesh (Shivpuri)	8 villages	1,665	8,068
RDSS	Enabling self employment for rural youth	Madhya Pradesh (Raisen)	1 village	100 youth	9,851
Ganeshwar Club	Access to elementary education as every child's right	Orissa (Dhenkanal)	18 villages	1,860	8,451
Pragati	Education and women's empowerment	Orissa (Sundargarh)	26 villages	5,499	11,558
Unified Action Council	Setting up education centers; Bringing children back to schools in a tribal region	Orissa (Kheonjhar)	49 villages / hamlets	5,432	31,450
Eureka	Improving learning levels of school children in Tamil, Science and Math	Tamil Nadu (Coimbatore)	25 villages	2500	13,700
IRCDS	Improving quality of education for children of backward communities	Tamil Nadu (Thiruvallur)	21 villages	1025	10,690
ALL	Monitoring of all projects, consultations and reviews	-	-	-	28,541
		5 States	450 Villages	111,680	\$285,545

Catalyst for 100% literacy in India



All donations to ILP in the USA are tax-deductible under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code (Tax Id: 36-3779020).

To donate in the USA, make a tax deductible check or draw a money order in favor of "India Literacy Project" and mail to

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