



INDIA LITERACY PROJECT

2007 ANNUAL REPORT





Dear Friends,

Literacy personifies Empowerment - an empowerment that enables individuals to become productive citizens of the world, and helps them make educated choices for themselves and their families.

Education has evolved from the 3Rs (Reading, wRiting and aRithmetic) to the 3Es (Education, Employability and Empowerment). Our intervention programs embody this philosophy - the programs do not stop just at enrollment or retention, but address quality and sustainability via community ownership and lead to an empowered population.

In 2007, we funded new programs to improve reading levels and science skills in Tamil Nadu. In Rajasthan, we started an initiative for literacy and livelihood training of adolescent girls. Our projects in seven states continue to have a sustained impact on the ground by ensuring that children attend school and by increasing community participation in education. The mass literacy program in Yelandur Taluka of Karnataka has brought about a phenomenal change in the attitude of the community and beneficiaries — the slogan has changed from 'No School' to 'School for all children' in a period of 5 years. This program reinforced our methodology of working in partnership with NGOs, the government and the community, to bring lasting change in the lives of the beneficiaries.

Looking forward, we plan to scale our mass literacy programs to other areas of the country. In certain states, we will identify gaps in existing service delivery of education, with the goal of making the state machinery efficient and effective.

Your support, by means of time and funds, and your passion to see a literate India has made 2007 a great year for us. While there are many ways to reach out to those that are less fortunate, over the past 17 years, we have created a model at ILP, that allows us to impact individuals directly with minimal overhead and great leverage. We are ready to scale higher and we need your continued support and participation.

Thank you,

ILP National Coordinating Committee

ILP AT A GLANCE

- * Founded in 1990, 501(c)3 registered non-profit
- * 76 projects completed, over 100,000 beneficiaries
- * 4 chapters in US , 3 chapters in India
- * Experience supporting education for children, livelihood training for youth and adult literacy / skills training
- * Empowering the community to take ownership of issues
- * Philosophy to effectively utilize government resources

VISION:

To be a catalyst for 100% literacy in India



SPOTLIGHT

“Namma Shale Andolana”, Kudligi, Bellary, Karnataka

The words jump out at you even as you glance at them. An *Andolan* signifies change, a displacement of old ideas to give way to new ones; a movement of people, forging towards a common goal. It was only natural that this project with a goal of Strengthening of Government Primary Schools through Community Participation appealed to us. Organized by the grass roots NGO SNEHA, it offered an ideal partnership opportunity to ILP as it aligned perfectly with our motto – Literacy as a movement of people.

The projects is based in Kudligi taluk of Bellary district in Northern Karnataka. Minimal employment opportunities, dismal wage structures and drastic environmental effects had wreaked havoc in the lives of the communities, and thereby resulted in the poor literacy rates of the region. Children were encouraged to join the work force at tender ages, to support the financial needs of the family. School drop-out rates were high and there was an abysmal lack of community participation.



In 1994, SNEHA started off as an independent organization gaining expertise in the area of early childhood education. They focused on running pre-primary education centers with support from various organizations. In 2001, as an established expert in the Bellary district, SNEHA piqued ILP’s interest. Their deep understanding of the issues and challenges, combined with their successes made them a perfect candidate to complement our efforts to boost literacy rates in the area.



The “Namma Shale Andolana (NSA)” project has had a very simple goal: to engage the parents and community to participate actively in the development and maintenance of the schools and achieve 100% enrollment as a result. By encouraging participation of all parents in the school development committees, we have made them invest in their own future and helped them develop a sense of ownership and pride. Workshops and training have been organized to spur women’s rights groups and village councils into educating the community about the doctrine of retaining children in schools.

Our impetus for the year is to aggressively pursue our existing initiatives. We will focus on those villages that have been responsive to our ideas and strive to improve them further. Galvanizing a community to think with a new bent of mind is not a trivial task. It can be even more arduous in a community where the primary concern is the next meal, and not reading the local newspaper. It is a long journey, and we are working with single minded devotion to make this dream come true. In the words of Robert Frost, “*we have miles to go before we sleep*”. SNEHA & NSA are helping us get a little closer to our Utopia.



YEAR IN REVIEW – PROGRAMS

Name of Project	State	Description	Beneficiaries	Funded (USD)
Early childhood care				
CARPED	Andhra Pradesh	Early childhood education centers for children of lambada community	200 children in 8 balwadis	9,028.00
Paraspara	Karnataka	Early childhood education centers for children of granite quarry workers	150 children	8,650.00
Back To School - Bringing out of school children and dropouts back to school				
Adivasi Vikash Samity	Orissa	Non formal education centers for children living in the mining belt in Keonjar, Orissa	400 children in 10 villages	10,359.00
Janachetana	Karnataka	Residential bridge schools for rehabilitated working children	100 children in residential bridge schools	15,207.00
Kruthi	Andhra Pradesh	Non formal education centers for children of koya tribe	500 children	3,021.00
Mahita	Andhra Pradesh	Literacy for women and non formal education centers for children in slums of Hyderabad	182 children in 2 basti centers 4 women's self help groups	8,817.00
SAYA	New Delhi	Non formal education centers for slum children	400 children in 10 learning centers	9,167.00
SEEDS	Karnataka	Residential bridge schools for rehabilitated working children	50 children in residential bridge schools	12,835.00
SNEHA	Karnataka	Strengthening the government schools by enabling active participation and awareness in the community	8800 children in 50 villages	17,900.00
SRKPS	Rajasthan	Non formal education centers for children of migrant labor	282 children in 8 Bal Mitra Vidyalaya	3,000.00
SWERA -Ajmer	Rajasthan	Non formal education centers for out of school children	375 children	6,731.00
Vembu	Tamil Nadu	Drop out prevention, retention and increasing learning levels in secondary Tsunami affected areas	325 children in 3 villages	8,905.00
Vidiyel Trust	Tamil Nadu	Drop out prevention, retention and increasing learning levels in secondary Tsunami affected areas	400 children in 3 villages	7,000.00
Adult Literacy and Livelihood Skills Training				
SWERA-Sharadhana	Rajasthan	Literacy and livelihood skills training for adolescent girls	72 girls	8,279.00
VARRSA	Orissa	Literacy and livelihood skills training for women	800 women	6,192.00
Mass Literacy				
CDF	Karnataka	Mass literacy program initiated in Sedum, Gulbarga, North Karnataka	Study in progress to identify out of school children and illiterate adults	8,500.00
Karuna Trust	Karnataka	Mass literacy program covering the entire Yelandur Taluk	18000 adults 13000 children	33,000.00
Quality of Education				
EQUIP	Tamil Nadu	Quality of education project aimed at improving learning levels in Tamil, science, math in Madukarrai block of Coimbatore	80 schools in the block	15,675.00
SIDH	Uttaranchal	Quality of education project aimed at developing innovative curriculum and training teachers		6,560.00
SPREADS & Project Monitoring		Scholarships, and other project monitoring activities		3,201.00
		Total Project Spend		202,027.00



ILP-USA Income & Expenditure Statement
For the year ending Dec 31, 2007 (UNAUDITED)

INCOME	
Donations to Projects*	251,097.59
Corporate Sponsorships & Targeted funds for Operating Expenses	44,364.60
Interest/Dividend	6,132.51
TOTAL INCOME	\$301,594.70
EXPENSES	
Grants to Projects	202,027.00
Fund raising events **	36,178.12
Operating expense ***	13,869.14
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$252,074.26
NET INCOME	\$49,520.44

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

** Funded by corporate sponsors and event registration fees

*** Funded by targeted donations from volunteers

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2007

ILP INDIA

Hyderabad Chapter

'PUSTAKAM' PROGRAM

Recognizing the importance of reading, ILP's Hyderabad chapter started its first project - 'Pustakam'. This program uses the shared book approach to literacy acquisition - a methodology that requires volunteers to read stories to emergent readers, attract attention to print materials and excite interest in story books. Big books are created and read out to children. Drama, sound and action are used to reinforce meanings and language usage. This is followed by a session on creative art expression and writing. The children are then encouraged to look through the numerous story books by themselves. Pustakam is currently operational in two schools.



Bangalore Chapter

ILP's Bangalore chapter's volunteer force has grown over the past one year through the mentorship program as well as outreach events conducted at various corporations. Volunteers have assisted our activities in several ways: writing articles, coordinating our events and meetings, mentoring students, making videos and raising funds.

"PRATIBHA MITRA - VOLUNTEER MENTOR INITIATIVE" - ILP's volunteer program, called Pratibha Mitra, links an adult volunteer to a child or a set of children who are beneficiaries of a scholarship program. Several of the children receiving the scholarship are first generation learners. Families are not able to provide the children with the necessary guidance to further their educational aspirations and develop to their full potential. The mentoring program aims to foster a *mentor-mentee* relationship between the volunteers and the students so that the students can interact with their mentors in a variety of areas - academics, personal difficulties, and life beyond their home, studies and schools.

"PURASKARA - SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM" - This program helps to meet the financial requirements of high school students. The long term goal is to advocate the need to make high school education accessible to all children. This year, ILP expanded its scholarship program to cover children in Bangalore, Davangere, Raichur and Chittoor. All the children come from poor socio-economic background; many were school dropouts brought back to school through bridge initiatives. All of them are now in high school and are doing reasonably well academically.

"ARIVINA MANE - COMMUNITY LIBRARIES" - In partnership with Paraspara, an NGO, we have set up two libraries in the lower income neighborhoods in Bangalore North: Siddhartha Nagar and Akiappa Garden. The demand for a library came from the community as an offshoot of the 'Kalike' literacy program with ILP support in the community and implemented by Paraspara Trust. The schools in the neighborhood did not have a library. Our libraries are housed in community centers that are provided rent-free by the community. This ensures sustainability as there is community ownership of the program. ILP is trying to create a child-friendly learning environment, complete with as many as 500 age-appropriate Kannada and English children's books, magazines, posters and puzzles. These two libraries will serve as models for us to gain experience and scale up this program.

ILP US

Bay Area, California Chapter

2007 was a great success story for the California Chapter. Every event organized by ILP in the Silicon Valley had the usual exuberance of volunteer activities leading to positive experiences for our patrons.



ILP's Annual Race for Literacy in May 2007 had the best year ever. 800 participants registered for this year's race. The runners, walkers and their families were treated to a fun-filled Mother's day event. A delicious breakfast, a free T-shirt, kids' activities and a number of raffles were part of this wonderful experience.

ILP teams participated in the annual relay (www.therelay.com) organized by Organs'R'Us. In our 4th year of participation, 3 ILP teams of 12 members each ran 199 miles from Calistoga to Santa Cruz in a route divided into 36 legs. Four months of intense practice enabled each runner to run 3 legs of approximately 5.5 miles each. It was 30 hours of non-stop fun while the record amounts of pledges raised by the incredibly enthusiastic runners were benefitting our projects in India.

ILP's annual benefit dinner was organized in November at the India Community Center in Milpitas. The event was kicked off by young artists who treated the audience to a scintillating musical performance. Our National Projects Coordinator presented the state of the various projects. Dr. Kanwal Rekhi, a prominent Indian-American businessman and technologist delivered the keynote address. In his unassuming manner, Dr. Rekhi wore his philanthropic hat for the evening and took us through his journey in life, spoke of his passion for education and the importance it held in a successful person's personal and professional growth. Our guest speaker was Dr. Brij Kothari. Through his presentation of the award winning Same-Language-Subtitling (SLS) program, he showed us ways in which a simple concept can be turned into an effective learning tool.

Washington DC Chapter



2007 was an exciting year for the ILP-DC Chapter with a multitude of events hosted. In addition to the annual Golf and Walkathon outings, two first time events, a Tennis for Literacy event and a Bhangra Dance Competition were organized. The tennis event included singles and doubles team formats. It was invigorating to see many youngsters participating.

In June, ILP-DC Chapter in partnership with the Namaste student club, organized the first-ever high school Bhangra dance competition in Northern Virginia. Six high school teams participated in this inaugural event. For the Walkathon and Bhangra

events, ILP-DC was also supported by Utsav, a non-profit India cultural organization based in Northern Virginia.



India Literacy Project

Mailing address:

P.O.Box 361143, Milpitas, CA 95035-9998

www.ilpnet.org