



INDIA LITERACY PROJECT

Activity Report
April 2003-
Mar 2004

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1. Introduction

ILP was established in 1991, in USA, by a group of young Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) interested in participating in literacy initiatives in India. ILP's first initiative was in the form of a small grant to an adult literacy program of the Bhagavatula Charitable Trust (BCT) in Vishakapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. Today, we support over 45 programs across 10 states in India. We have over 100 volunteers in USA, mobilizing funds and raising awareness for education. We also have more than 30 volunteers in India.

As ILP's understanding of the issue of literacy and education in India grew, we expanded our program to cover education initiatives for 'out of school' children and literacy-cum-income generation programs. We included capacity building programs, such as teacher training and dissemination of best practices in our goals.

The India initiative was established in January 2000, ILP has now been registered as a Trust in India, which facilitates funding of projects and the overall administration of its operation. It is also registered under the 80G and 12A of the Income Tax Act. We have completed our 3rd year as a registered organisation in India.

2. Our Goals

The primary goals of the India Chapter are to:

- Play a consultative role in identifying and reviewing programs of existing and potential partners in India.
- Establish a resource center of research material, teaching/learning kits, innovative tools, data and documentation.
- Build capacity of our partners in furthering the cause of literacy.
- Cross-pollinate best practices, innovative ideas and methodology in literacy and education between NGOs.
- Network with Government departments and formal institutions working in the area of literacy, education, women and child development.
- Build a pool of volunteers who could supplement the skills and resources of grassroots NGOs and field workers.

3. Our activities during the year

3.1. Puraskara and Walk for Education

An event to facilitate the scholastic achievements of rehabilitated child labour

ILP's 2nd Puraskara event was organized on Jan 30th and 31st, 2004. Puraskara - is an event to provide statewide recognition to the achievements of 70 ex-child labourers, who had passed their seventh and tenth standard public examinations. The objectives of the event were to:

- Recognize the achievements of these children.
- Encourage other "out-of-school" children towards similar attainments.
- Spread awareness amongst the public.

The event was held on 30th and 31st of January 2004.

On Jan 30th, 70 children along with representatives from different NGOs from Karnataka assembled in the Indian Social Institute, Benson Town. They participated in work shop on Child Rights organized by the Child Rights Trust, Bangalore.

In the evening the children enjoyed the sounds of music from the Waves@HP a group from Hewlett Packard -ISO.

On January 31st, 2004, 'Walk for Education'- started on a brisk, pleasant early morning. Titled "Step for Education", the walk aimed to spread awareness on the issues related to education and child labor. There were around 350 people at the walk, most of us from several IT companies in Bangalore. Mr. R. Babu, Center Head-HP ISO flagged off the walk, with an appeal for education for all children. Amidst Kannada slogans of "Education for all Children", "Yes to Education- No to Child Labor", "Educate a girl..", the 2 km walk, followed the pre-approved route along the Kasturba Road to end at Bal Bhavan, Cubbon Park, the venue for the next most important part of today's events.

The guests of honour for the event were Mr. Ponnappa, the famous cartoonist, Mr. Manjunath Shastry, Joint commissioner of labour, Mr. Babu Center Head of Hewlett Packard ISO, Mr. Ramakant Jawalkar an ILP Trustee and the founder of Yukthi Systems, and Ms. Sunita and Mr. Lingaraj who represented the children.

The first guest to speak was Mr. Manjunath Shastry who stressed the importance of the occasion as it was not just an attempt to free children from labor but also provide them an opportunity to study and enjoy their childhood.

Then it was Mr. Ponnappa's turn. He chose not to make a formal speech and decided to entertain the children with an interactive session - "Kali Kale Kaliri". This was followed by the distribution of Titan watches to the top five children with a brief introduction of how each of these children overcame their very difficult circumstances to achieve their results. As each one's future ambition was read out, you could see many pairs of shining eyes.

All the children were given certificates and a few children were called upon to talk about their experiences. These were inspiring tales to the audience showing the way to success.

This event was made possible because of generous support corporates like Hewlett-Packard ISO India Ltd , SoftJin Infotech Pvt. Ltd, Synopsys India Ltd, Sage Design Systems India Pvt. Ltd, Titan Industries, Advanced Fiber Systems, Lisle Technology Partners, The Law Firm of Naren Thappeta, Alp Management Consultants Pvt. Ltd, Poseidon Design Systems and other concerned individuals in Bangalore.

3.2. Making a Difference - In a Corporation School

In keeping with our commitment towards promoting literacy, the ILP- Bangalore chapter has started a volunteer teaching programme in the Broadway Municipal High School, hand- in- hand with teachers from Stella Maries Alumni who have formally adopted the school.

All the children in this school are first generation learners. Further, many have had

their education till 7th std. in 'Urdu Medium'. Therefore, the children have an added task of learning spoken & written English to be able to comprehend the lessons being taught in the classroom. Can one imagine the predicament of such children when they are expected to learn the concepts & applications of 'Reflection' in physics in English without having a clue to the meaning of these words?

The initiative started this August and we already have a small group of 8 volunteers, from various IT-companies (IBM, WIPRO and Hewlett-Packard) in Bangalore visiting the school on Saturdays and weekday mornings. The volunteers assist the Stella Maries teachers. They try to explain & reinforce concepts in Mathematics & Science by using scientific teaching aids. All the volunteers speak Hindi or Urdu. This is an added advantage because they explain the concepts to the children in Hindi/Urdu. Urdu being their mother tongue and medium of instruction at the primary stage, the children are able to understand concepts taught in these languages. The volunteers have also come up with practical demonstrations and simple methods of teaching by way of drawing practical examples from our daily lives. The drive and enthusiasm of these volunteers is really awesome. They take time-off from their work schedules both on weekdays & weekends! The rapport that they have been able to build in this short span of time by having informal chats & creating a healthy learning atmosphere in the class-room is tremendous. And is a step towards getting the children to think of the paths that lie ahead of them. Efforts are on to get some more volunteers to help us in this cause.

The need to reinforce the notion that life is more than merely studying routine curriculum books is also felt. As a step towards this, a 'work & fun' workshop was organized in association with the Stella-Maries teachers for a period of one week during the Dusshera- vacations.

3.3. Surya Bridge School in Raichur

Surya Bridge School is a residential bridge school, for rehabilitating child labour, run by Janachetana, an NGO in Raichur. It has completed the 4th year of support from India Literacy Project-USA. Eighty children have graduated from this center, since 2001 and have been pursuing their studies at various government schools.

In the academic year 2003-04, forty children attended the center.

ILP gave a grant of Rs.90,000 to the Surya Bridge School to provide the necessary academic inputs for bringing forty children back to school.

3.4. A system for Monitoring and Tracking "back to school" initiatives

ILP has been requested to develop a Monitoring and Tracking System for 'Back-to-School Programs' in Karnataka for out of school, drop out and child labour children.

The system is being developed based on a prototype that was demonstrated to the Chief - Child Protection Officer of UNICEF and the Commissioner of Labour, GoK. The system will be implemented in 5 districts in Karnataka and 2 districts in Andhra Pradesh.

3.5. The Newsletter

ILP's newsletter- *The Beacon*, is edited by ILP Bangalore volunteers.

3.6. Pre-Assessment and Monitoring

ILP India conducted field visits to organisations in Uttaranchal, Orissa, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh for this purpose. Refer to Annexure 1 for 'A List of Projects Supported by ILP USA in the year 2003.

4. Building Bridges

ILP continued its efforts to create links between those who have resources and would like to contribute to grass roots development and grass roots NGOs who are struggling because of the lack of resources.

Employees from these organizations volunteered for the Puraskara event, and the BMP school tutoring program. They also donated notebooks, clothes, toys, computers to the various Non-Formal Education Centers and Creches.

5. Networking

ILP is an active participant in three local networks: Campaign Against Child Labour-Karnataka (CACL-K), State Alliance For Education (SAFE) and Rejuvenate India Movement.

6. Financials

The Bangalore chapter through donations from individuals and corporate sector contributions raised funds for all the projects: Puraskara and Janachetana.

ILP thanks all its donors for their generous donations that have enabled our activities this year and the coming year. We raised Rs. 4,79,426/- in the year 2003-04 in India. Volunteers played a major role in raising these funds.

7. Donations in Kind

ILP also received clothes and notebooks from Mr. Hanumanth Rao, Dr. Shantaram, Ms. Lalita Mani and Ms. Sharada Rao. The clothes have been distributed to: children at Parasapara's special school (in Bangalore), Freedom Foundation (Bangalore), SEEDS (Davangere), Janachetana (Raichur). The notebooks were donated to government schools in Bangalore.

8. Our Plans for 2004

- Development of software for tracking and monitoring children in the "back to school" programs of UNICEF and GoK.
- Consultation workshop on the life skill education
- Fund raising in India
- Networking and bridging corporate sector and NGOs.
- Setting up the Pune chapter

9. ILP India Board: Office bearers

Name	Occupation
Mr. Vijay Kripalani (Chairman)	Information Technology Professional
Mr. Ramakant Jawalkar (Treasurer)	Information Technology Professional
Ms. Sindhu Naik (Secretary)	Development worker
Mr. Vijayraghavan	Information Technology Professional
Mr. Rangarajan	Development worker

None of the trustees draws a salary from the organisation.

Annexure –1

List of projects funded by ILP- USA
in the calendar year Jan 2003- December 2003.

Projects supported in the calendar year January 2003- December 2003

Project Name	Location	Description
Adarsh Seva Sansthan	Bihar	NFE Centers for women and children
Adivasi Vikash Samithi	Orissa	Non-formal literacy centers for children
Arulu	Karnataka	Strengthening government schools
Bapu-Ba Godhuli	Delhi	Children's school in slums
CARPED	Andhra Pradesh	NFE centers and balwadis
Chetana Foundation	West Bengal	Adult literacy - skill development for women
People's Science Institute	Uttaranchal	Integrated development of 6 villages
Integrated Action Trust	Tamil Nadu	Adult literacy to tribes in the Kalrayan hills.
ISDGEI	Maharashtra	Formal school for slum girls
Janachetana	Karnataka	Bridge school for rehabilitating child labor
Karuna Trust	Yelandur, Karnataka	Integrated literacy initiative in 69 villages.
Kruthi	Andhra Pradesh	NFE centers for tribal children
Lion's Adult Literacy Project	Hubli, Karnataka	Adult literacy in a Harijan colony
Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh	NFE Centers for women and children
Paraspara Trust	Bangalore, Karnataka	Adult Literacy for women in slums
Prachodana	Karnataka	Bridge school for rehabilitating child laborers
Prayas	Rajasthan	NFE centers for tribal children
Rural Development Foundation	Andhra Pradesh	Formal school for rural children
Shiksha Mandir	West Bengal	Non-formal school for rural children
Shikshit Rozgar Kendra Prabhandak Samiti	Rajasthan	NFE centers for children
Society for Integrated Development of Himalayas	Uttaranchal	Alternative elementary school
Sneha	Karnataka	Strengthening government schools
Social Action With Your Assistance	Delhi	NFE centers for slum children
Social Awareness For Integrated Development	Andhra Pradesh	NFE centers with health education for girls
Social Work & Environment For Rural Advancement	Rajasthan	NFE centers for children
Society for People's Research, Environmental Affairs and Dev. Services	Andhra Pradesh	Strengthening government schools
Socio Economic Education & Dev. Society	Karnataka	Bridge school for rehabilitating child labor
Tea Trust	Tamil Nadu	NFE centers for children
Vivek Chetana	WB	Adult literacy center for women
VARRSA	Orissa	Adult Literacy centers for women

In the year 2003 ILP-USA disbursed a total amount of \$ 1,41,050 to NGOs in India. These funds were sent directly by the ILP USA office in Milpitas to the NGOs – who have the necessary FCRA permissions



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