





## India Literacy Project 2009 Annual Report

Dear Friends,

For two decades, ILP has been at the forefront of reaching the unreached, serving underprivileged people in remote corners of the country and shining the lamps of literacy where there is darkness. Every year, our projects impact thousands of women and children, making real and measurable impact towards educating a village or a community.

In 2009, we completed supporting two projects that have made a significant and lasting impact in Orissa:

- A 7-year partnership with an NGO called VARRSA in 20 villages to achieve neo-literacy for nearly 900 women and strengthening local government schools to deliver quality education to 3,150 children. The most noteworthy is our effort in making the community confident and self-reliant.
- An 8-year partnership with an NGO called AVS to provide literacy to nearly 600 children who did not otherwise have access to government run schools. We take pride in the fact that the parents in these communities today visit the schools and education centers and participate in their children's progress.

Our large scale programs in Karnataka and Orissa have been gathering tremendous momentum and are expanding to cover more neighboring villages. In Kudligi, Karnataka, our program is covering 225 villages, reaching out to nearly 65,000 children and raising awareness amongst 83,000 adults. In Orissa our programs covered 84 villages benefitting over 9,000 children. Looking ahead to 2010, we have evaluated and identified four new projects, two each in Madhya Pradesh and Orissa that we will begin supporting. These four projects will cover 170 villages.

Our greatest asset has been our volunteers, and we continue to see a strong increase in our volunteer base, in the US and in India. Our Hyderabad chapter in India has shown tremendous growth in programs and volunteer strength. In the US, our California chapter attracted more volunteers enabling us to grow and spread the message of literacy. A few volunteer interest groups are also emerging in Boston and New Jersey.

*"Literacy is not a luxury, it is a right and a responsibility. If our world is to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century we must harness the energy and creativity of all our citizens"*, said President Clinton. We thank our donors for their energy, support and passion and we are cognizant of the deep responsibility and trust they have put in our hands as we continue to make literacy a right and responsibility for all.

Thank you,

ILP National Coordinating Committee

### ILP AT A GLANCE

- \* Founded in 1990, 501(c)3 registered non-profit
- \* 80 projects completed, over 150,000 beneficiaries
- \* 4 chapters in US, 3 chapters in India
- \* Experience supporting education for children, livelihood training for youth and literacy / skills training for adults
- \* Empowering the community to take ownership of issues
- \* Philosophy to effectively utilize government resources

### VISION:

***To be a catalyst for 100% literacy in India***



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# SPOTLIGHT

## Bhadrak, Orissa

Even as India is well on its way to fulfilling its vision of being a sovereign, secular and democratic nation, many minority groups in the remote corners of India, still suffer silently through the sub-standard treatment meted out to them at the hands of their government and fellow citizens. Who can help those who have no voice to even ask for their rights? How does one fight for oneself when one lacks the knowledge and awareness to do so?

The answer lies in organizations like VARRSA; an NGO that, has been tirelessly working since 1989 towards the socio-economic and cultural development of people in rural Orissa. ILP's interest in them was piqued when we heard of their efforts to improve literacy rates among women and children in the target area. We invested in them to implement their model in 20 villages of Bhadrak district. Over seven years (2002-2009), they doggedly pursued our common goal of achieving functional literacy for the women in the area and strengthening local government schools to deliver quality education to the children. However, most noteworthy is their effort in making the community self-reliant. Working with Parent-Teacher Associations and Village Education Committees, VARRSA inculcated a thought process of self-help, which is critical to promoting and sustaining the drive for literacy and independence of thought and action.

Changing the mindset of a community is not an easy task. And yet, VARRSA managed to achieve this. Before their intervention, the community was primarily dependent on paddy as their subsistence crop; growing and selling paddy was their main source of revenue. However, a series of natural disasters had wreaked havoc on the crop causing their income levels to suffer sharply. To prevent the bleeding of labor from the area, VARRSA created and supported self help groups that have become well-versed in financial matters, so as to help increase capital for the community and create better livelihood opportunities for their members. They helped build women's confidence by assisting them in setting up petty trades and empowering them with adequate political, legal and health knowledge to manage their daily lives.



As the outlook of the adult community changed, this brought about a more positive outlook towards their children's well being. VARRSA helped increase parental interest and involvement in children's education through social mobilization and increased awareness. This led to a reduction in absenteeism and dropout rates amongst the children.

The project has not been without challenges. Poor quality of the facilitators was a stumbling block and we overcame it with extensive training for the NGO staff to handle the complex social and educational issues that the community posed. Overall, VARRSA turned out to be the Cinderella story we had hoped for.

Everyday, ILP strives to reach our goal of 100% literacy. We depend on our partners to assist us in making our dream a reality. Organizations like VARRSA push the envelope and go above and beyond their call of duty to help with the upliftment of women and children who need the most assistance. They form the cornerstone of the foundation that we build our dreams on. No child should ever feel inadequate because of the lack of a fair chance at an education. With VARRSA and ILP, no child will.



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## YEAR IN REVIEW - PROGRAMS

Project Name	Project Description	State (District)	Coverage Area	Number of Beneficiaries*	Funded (USD)
HELP	Advocacy campaigns against child labor.	Andhra Pradesh	23 districts		6,200
PARASPARA	Early childhood education centers in granite quarry areas and scholarships for rehabilitated working children.	Karnataka (Bangalore)	4 villages	81 children	8,460
JANACHETANA	Scholarships for rehabilitated working children	Karnataka (Raichur)	4 villages	28 children	1,390
SARVODAYA	Bringing children back to school	Karnataka (Koppal)	17 villages	4,303 children	4,600
SEEDS	Bringing children back to school and scholarships for rehabilitated working children.	Karnataka (Koppal)	17 villages	3,413 children	10,550
CDF	Integrated Education Movement	Karnataka (Gulbarga)	14 villages/town	9,500 children	51,400
SNEHA	Strengthening government schools through community ownership and participation	Karnataka (Bellary)	225 villages	64,207 children	35,775
CID	Quality education for tribal children	Madhya Pradesh (Sheopur)	6 villages	950 children	4,100
MAHILA SAMITHI	Enrollment of children back in school and improving learning levels in schools	Madhya Pradesh (Chattarpur)	6 villages	2,612 children	4,601
SAYA	Non-formal education centers for children in slums	New Delhi (New Delhi)	8 centers	320 children	4,450
ADIVASI VIKAS SAMITHI	Non-formal education centers in a mining region	Orissa (Kheonjhar)	15 villages	596 children	5,050
UNIFIED ACTION COUNCIL	Setting up education centers; Bringing children back to schools in a tribal region	Orissa (Kheonjhar)	49 villages/hamlets	5,432 children	19,950
VARRSA	Adult Literacy and livelihood skills training; Enrolling and retaining children in schools	Orissa (Bhadrak)	20 villages	800 women 3,150 Children	3,450
SRKPS	Non-formal education centers for children of migrant labor	Rajasthan (Jhunjhunu)	10 hamlets	382 children	4,300
SWERA	Literacy and livelihood skills training for adolescent girls	Rajasthan (Ajmer)	3 villages	80 adolescent girls	6,950
AID-INDIA	Improving learning levels of school children in Tamil, Science and Math	Tamil Nadu (Coimbatore)	170 villages	4,068 children	13,150
IRCDS	Improving quality of education for children of backward communities	Tamil Nadu (Thiruvallur)	21 villages	991 children	6,800
ALL	Monitoring of all projects, consultations and reviews	-	-	-	14,703
		<b>6 States 14 Districts</b>	<b>589 villages<sup>#</sup></b>	<b>100,033 Children 880 Youth &amp; Adults</b>	<b>\$205,879</b>

\* In addition, ILP's projects have a secondary beneficiaries like adults in the villages who are benefitted as part of various community awareness campaigns

<sup>#</sup> For ease of description, villages is used as a general term to describe villages, hamlets/settlements, towns and other areas.



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**ILP-USA Income & Expenditure Statement**  
**For the year ending Dec 31, 2009 (UNAUDITED)**

<b>INCOME</b>	
Donations to Projects *	128,911.84
Fundraising Events **	167,357.30
Interest/Dividend/Capital Gain	3,851.74
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>300,120.88</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Grants to projects & Monitoring	205,879.00
Operating Expense ***	12,621.64
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>218,500.64</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>81,620.24</b>

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

\*\* Net Income, after expenses, supported by corporate sponsors and event registration fees

\*\*\* Expenses Funded by targeted donations from volunteers



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### ILP CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

#### Hyderabad Chapter

The biggest success story of 2009 for ILP Hyderabad was our first ever fund raising cultural evening held on 19th September. The event hosted 400 attendees and helped ILP raise nearly Rs 5,00,000 (~\$10,000). The evening offered varied entertainment for all - Fusion Music by musician Uday Shankar, an exciting Fashion Show by friends of ILP from Accenture, Rajasthani folk dance by children from Jayabheri Silicon County and games for children with many prizes. It was a touching moment for everyone when little children of Izzat Nagar School shared the ramp with models during the final walk of the Fashion Show. The guests showed their support by enthusiastically participating in an auction, as well as trying their hand at winning exciting prizes from our various generous sponsors in the Tambola game and dance competition.



Highlighted below are other important activities this year at the ILP Hyderabad chapter:

- Summer Camp - Organized our first ever Summer Camp this year that was attended by 25-30 children from four Government schools near Madhapur for five weeks. Activities for kids included painting, computer classes, science experiments, mathematics and English reading classes, yoga and dance.
- Pustakam Sessions – Continued with our pustakam sessions, a shared book reading program, by extending it to two more schools located in Izzat Nagar and C.N.N. Thanda
- Scholarship program – For the first time in the chapter’s history we awarded scholarships to sponsor the education of 10 financially challenged students
- Partnerships - Forged new partnerships with companies and organizations including Google, Diebold, Data Monitor, Amazon, Spark India publishers, Orient Blackman and Oakridge International School. Our volunteer base in Microsoft is bigger than ever and continues to grow.
- Open Schools - Embarked upon a new initiative where three ILP volunteers conducted classes for the students of Open School at Mastan Nagar to help them with their Secondary Education Course
- Mentoring - Initiated a new mentorship program where a group of Microsoft professionals mentored 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> class students at Arunodaya school by providing career guidance and counselling

#### Bangalore Chapter

ILP Bangalore hosted the Annual ILP Partners’ meet Aug 6-8, 2009 that brought together representatives from sixteen project partners spread across six states in India for capacity building, sharing and learning. Partners actively participated in engaging discussions, group activities and experience sharing sessions centered on the conference main themes of Inclusive Education, Child Participation and the Voluntary Sector Policy.

Below are other important highlights of 2009 activities at the Bangalore chapter:

- Community Libraries – Expanded the community library program by starting a new library in Sunnada-goodu slums. This along with the Siddharatha Nagar and Akkiappa Garden libraries has provided the ideal venue for volunteers to interact with children through weekly book reading, crafts and spoken English sessions. Notable among these activities was a day-long visit to the HAL Heritage Center and Aerospace Museum and ‘Library Day’ that was planned and organized by the children of Akkiappa Garden Library.
- Scholarships- ILP Bangalore Chapter continued its ‘PURASKARA’ Scholarship program by extending support to 188 deserving students through partnerships with eight grass root NGOs working on education, child rights and related issues.
- Sunfeast 10K Run – On 30<sup>th</sup> May, 65 ILP volunteers participated in the Bangalore 2009 Sunfeast Run that helped raise funds for our scholarship programs





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## ILP US

### Bay Area, California Chapter

2009 was another record breaking year for the California Chapter in the Bay Area. Our popular cultural festival was re-launched this year even as our customary events helped us project ILP towards great fundraising despite the tough economic conditions of 2009.

After a hiatus, our cultural event - ILP Fest 2009 - was back in full color in March. A sell out crowd enjoyed the dance performance by "Dance against Drugs" that was unique blend of modern dance, Flamenco, Bharatanatyam and Ballet. Adding soul to the evening was the music band "Jigary" with their renditions of popular *Bollywood* numbers.



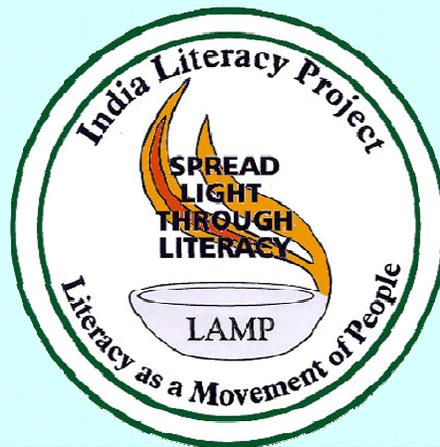
Our 11th Annual Race for Literacy in May inched closer to a 1000 registrations this year. The runners and walkers experienced the now -familiar trademarks of the ILP volunteer team -efficiency, energy and passion. The delicious food and the great raffle prizes were the icing.

4 running teams and 1 walking team representing ILP participated in the annual relay organized by Organs'R'Us. The running teams of 12 members each ran 199 miles from

Calistoga to Santa Cruz. Our walking team stole the show by finishing first, exceeding their 3rd place showing last year. ILP is thankful to the participants for raising pledges to benefit our various projects, while having a lot of fun participating.



ILP's dinner was organized in October at the India Community Center in Milpitas. The event was kicked off by a colorfully exuberant folk dance performance by the group *Xpressions*. While we shared our progress and achievements with our guests, the guest speakers - Mr. Srivats Sampat (Founder and Former CEO - McAfee.com ) and Mrs. Vinita Gupta (Founder - Quick Eagle Networks) - shared their life experiences, and how education played an integral part in who they are today. The evening ended on the high note of announcing great monetary support from our guests.



## **India Literacy Project**

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