

India Literacy Project

From Vision to Reality

Literacy, Livelihood and Empowered Communities

Annual Report 2020

FORE- WORD

We would like to thank you for your unwavering support, as India Literacy Project continues on its journey to bring education to every child in India. ILP strongly believes that education is the primary means for empowerment and to create a vibrant future for generations to come. We continue to cover the complete spectrum of education from preschool to higher secondary school and beyond. Today, we are reaching close to a million children who belong to marginalized populations in tribal areas, dalits and migrant communities.

We are continuing to enhance our holistic programs that use a three-pronged approach of Schooling, Learning and Earning. We focus on enrolling and retaining children in preschools and schools. We make learning fun for kids by inculcating critical thinking using experiential content such as science experiment kits, digital content and easy access to reading through child friendly libraries. In addition, we provide career guidance and counseling to help high school children

effectively transition into the real world so that they can make informed choices about their future.

This year, we face the challenge of dealing with COVID-19, a global pandemic. Like any other crisis, the most vulnerable populations are dealing with economic insecurity due to lost income. It has also created nutrition, social and learning challenges for children. We are very grateful to you for providing timely support in this unprecedented situation by helping us raise much-needed funds within a short duration. This enabled ILP to distribute food/dry rations, sanitizers, masks to vulnerable families in all our project areas.

Despite the current challenges, ILP remains focused on its goal of 100% literacy and education in India. With your continued support, we envision making this a reality for all the children in India.

Sumita Jayaraman
National Convenor

30 YEARS OF ILP

ILP turns 30 this year and what a journey it has been! A small step taken in 1990, by four friends with the passion and a vision, has grown into the organization that ILP is today. Steadfast in our belief that every child has a right to quality education and opportunity, we have worked tirelessly to reach the most marginalized populations across many states in India.

All along our journey, we have been motivated by the continued

encouragement from our supporters. From music concerts to Race for Literacy, fundraising galas, and participation in the Golden Gate Relay, the community stepped up to participate for a good cause. The funds we have raised has been essential to support our work in India.

In 1996, we opened an India office with the goal of providing local support for our projects. This has helped us to actively promote

good governance of our NGO partners and strong collaboration with the state Governments. As a result, we are able to efficiently and effectively scale our work.

Our experience has led to the development of specialized programs to improve quality of learning, provide life skills training and to guide students on their career paths. For example:

- We supported a model program for Early Childhood

Education in North Karnataka, that has now expanded to 4,000 preschools covering 79,000 children in an entire district

- We developed a Multi-Dimensional Learning Spaces (MDLS) Program to promote experiential learning to create a cost-effective and scalable way to improve quality of education
- We designed a unique career guidance program to facilitate

the adolescent students to make informed choices so that they can design their career paths

Based on the learnings from these programs, we have adopted a comprehensive strategy based on three main focus areas:

- Schooling - getting children into schools
- Learning - delivering quality education for effective learning outcomes

- Earning - providing guidance for economic empowerment

It is with this vision of holistic education that ILP continues to stride forward, confident that we will achieve our goal of making sure that children are able to exercise their right to education and are able to lead meaningful lives, now and in future.



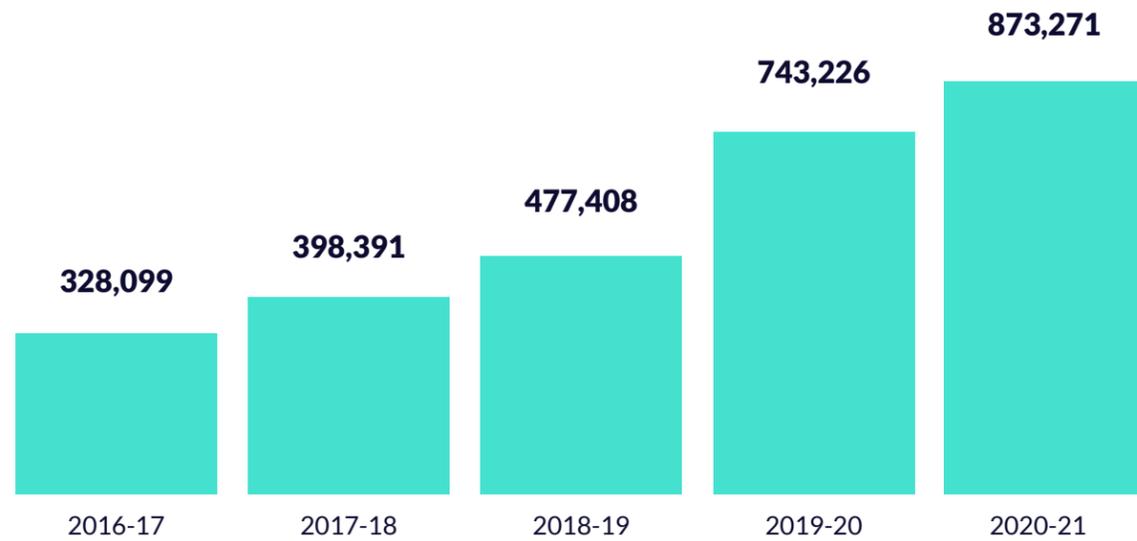
Our Reach

7 States
5659 Villages
8864 Preschools and schools



Scaling through Government: In Karnataka, ILP's digital content is now available for teachers in 2,000 schools (with ~500,000 children) to help improve classroom teaching

Students



Our response to COVID-19

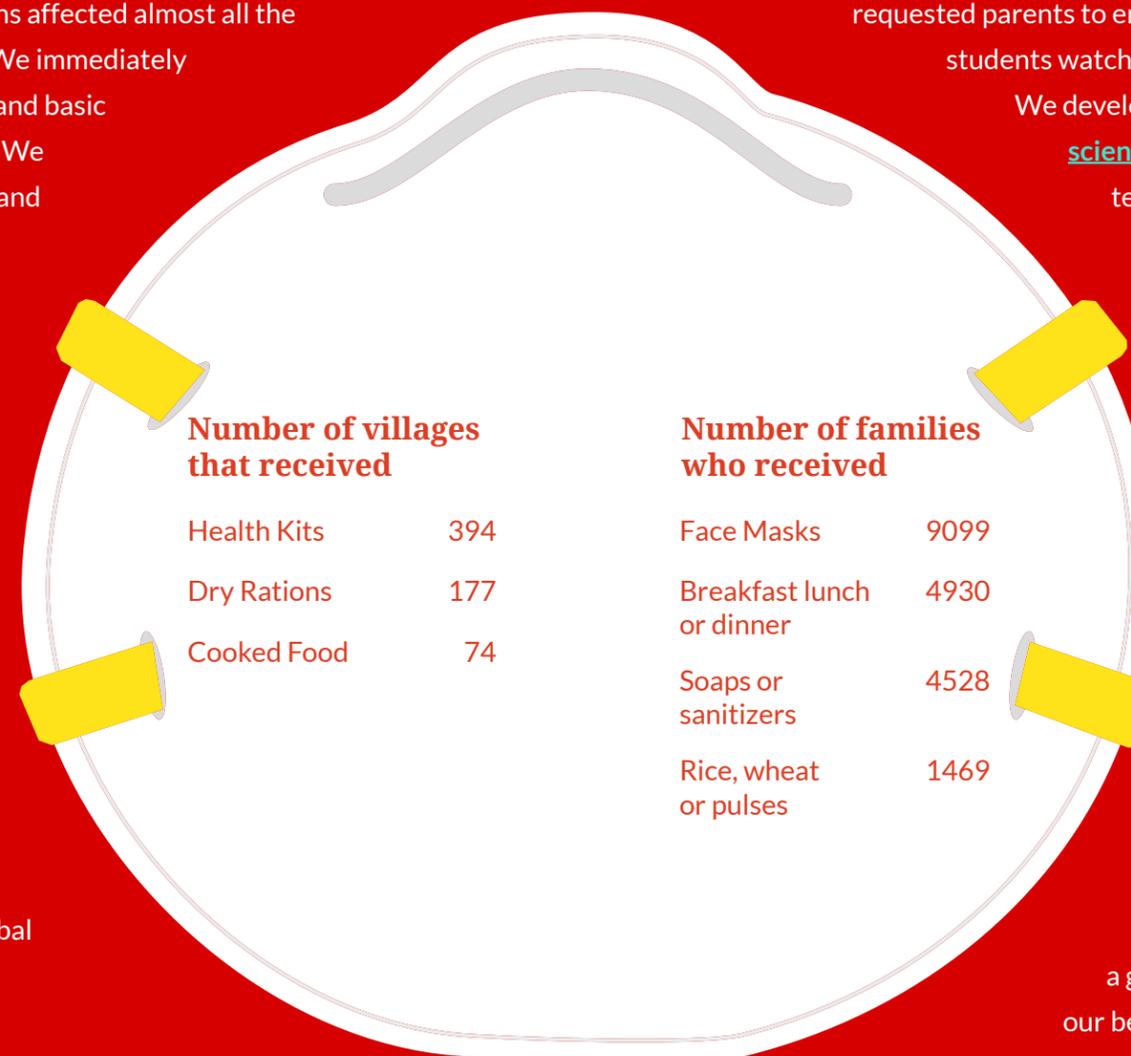
The COVID lockdown and restrictions affected almost all the students touched by ILP Programs. We immediately shifted gears to protecting the lives and basic needs of students and their families. We distributed dry rations, hygiene kits and medications in our project areas in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Telangana. Together with our partner NGOs, we educated the community on basic sanitation procedures, social distancing and preventive measures. We took action to curb child malnutrition, child labor, child trafficking and child marriage that are exacerbated during such a crisis. With government partnership and support, we facilitated the safe interstate movement of stranded tribal migrants.

We counseled students who faced exam cancellations so that they could continue their enrollment for the next academic year. We worked with parents to remind them to enroll their children for the current academic year. We

requested parents to ensure that the middle and high school students watched the daily lessons telecast on TV.

We developed and shared home based [science experiments](#) on YouTube, with teachers and parents. We used this time to translate our science kit manuals into local languages, and created additional digital content. Our NGO partners are keeping the children occupied by providing play materials and textbooks. We also conducted online teacher training activities for 500+ teachers on career guidance and life skills. In addition, we provided 1-1 career counseling to 1,200 students via Zoom, WhatsApp and phone calls.

While it is not business as usual amidst a global pandemic, we have been trying our best to support our communities and partners in every way possible. ILP's working model of partnership with NGOs, the community and the government has not only helped us to support our education initiatives, but also to provide basic life needs in this difficult time.



Better schools through community engagement

Kukru, Jharkhand

In 2012, when ILP stepped into the remote villages of Kukru, Jharkhand, preschools and schools were dysfunctional, student attendance was not actively tracked, child labor was still a problem to reckon with, and the community was simply not engaged with their preschools and schools.



With persistent messaging, several village level campaigns and hundreds of door-to-door visits in 45 villages, our NGO partner (TRCSC) team raised awareness in the community - especially amongst mothers on the importance of education. We engaged the teachers of preschools and schools by providing Teaching & Learning Materials (TLMs), establishing libraries in some of the schools, and eventually training the teachers to create their own TLMs using locally available materials. We supported high schools that had an acute shortage of Government-appointed teachers by hiring additional teachers. Slowly but steadily, we began making a difference in these villages!

Today, these villages and schools have been truly transformed:

- Every single child in the 0-6 years age group is enrolled in the Government early child development program and preschool program in 81 preschools
- 79 of 81 preschools regularly conduct monthly meetings where teacher, parent and members of local administration actively participate
- We have trained every preschool teacher on teaching & learning materials preparation, and

many of them now prepare their own

- 67 of 71 schools have student attendance at 70% or higher
- 32 Child Rights Clubs have been formed and actively engaged in school initiatives such as cleanliness drives and drop-out monitoring
- High School pass percentage has increased from 46% to 79% in the last 3 years. The 6 additional teachers that we provided was a key contributing factor
- Our Multi-dimensional Learning Space program is operational in 4 high schools where teachers use ILP's low cost science kits for experiential learning
- 474 High School students have received Career Guidance in the last year

16-year old Mala Kumar* is one of the many students that ILP has enabled to pursue education beyond 10th grade! As the daughter of a daily wage earning couple, she struggled to finish 8th grade and discontinued her education to support her family financially. Our NGO team counseled her and her parents, communicated with the High School headmaster, and got Mala admitted to 9th grade. She went on to become the first ever member in her family to graduate from 10th grade and is currently pursuing Arts in grade 11!

* Name changed to protect identity

Redefining classroom engagement

Foundation for improved learning outcomes

ILP's theory of change to improve learning outcomes is about strengthening classroom engagement and scaling this across schools. An engaged classroom is where a teacher and students are involved in learning, questioning and experiencing what is being taught and learned. This involves inquiry-based, visual, experiential and kinesthetic learning, and much more.



Our mission is to create resources that inspire an engaged classroom. We are making this a reality by collaborating with multiple stakeholders - teachers, education departments, foundations and grass root non-profit organizations. We are scaling by open-sourcing all our teaching content/aids to facilitate collaboration, customization and contextualization at points of use.

We are proud to share highlights of this progress:

- We work closely with teachers who contribute to resource creation and reviews to make the content relevant. We train teachers to understand

our resources and tools, and allow them to customize it for specific classroom needs. Since 2014 we have trained 8,225 government school teachers across 7 states

- Government partnership enables a wider, unparalleled influence and reach. Last year, we took a significant step by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Karnataka Government to make our digital resources available in all 4000+ schools that have infrastructure for digital classes. Our content is also available on Diksha, the online National Digital Infrastructure for Teachers, maintained by the Indian Ministry of Education

- ILP's low cost science kit is a big hit! The syllabus-relevant, do-it-yourself kit with daily-use local materials caught the Karnataka government's attention prompting them to sign a MoU with us to procure them and train teachers across 5,500+ schools in 6 educationally backward districts. We are currently translating the kit manual into Hindi, Odiya, Tamil and Telugu to enable us to reach more states.

- We collaborate with non-profits and educational foundations to integrate their content into our framework, resulting in the best teaching content

options. Our partnership with Agastya Foundation has led to the integrated content reach 3000+ schools that we directly engage with and 8000+ schools across 21 states through Agastya's facilitators

ILP's emphasis on conceptual understanding, critical thinking and creativity aligns well with the newly formulated National Education Policy 2020. Our collaborative approach and successful model in Karnataka paves the path for creating truly engaging classrooms across the country.



Career guidance and counseling

The last mile in making the education journey fruitful

A daughter of daily wage laborers in Khulua village in Odisha, **Priya*** faced numerous hurdles in her journey to get educated, but she successfully overcame them with grit and perseverance. She resisted her parents' attempt to get her married when she was 15 years old. She cycled through forest terrain to complete her 12th grade. Even the sudden death of her father, a big blow to the family and adding to the financial constraints, did not deter her.

Recognizing Priya's potential and caliber, ILP provided her a scholarship that enabled her to complete her graduation. She participated in life skills, career counseling and mentoring sessions conducted by our **NGO partner Ganeswar Club**, which helped to shape her aspirations.

Today, 21-year old Priya is a proud college graduate and a certified teacher, awaiting a government posting. She is vociferous in her community against child marriage, child labor and an advocate for girls' education, mentoring girls like her to pursue their dreams!

Priya's story of struggle is not unique as most girls in rural India face such challenges. Schools do not equip students with the foundational skills required to deal with life situations. With 125 million children in the age group of 14-18 in India, it is critical to educate and upskill this young population with a sense of urgency.

Rising to the challenge, ILP has launched two important initiatives -

- **Career Guidance and Counseling:** For adolescents from class 9 to 12 to help them make informed choices and design their career paths. The Career Guidance chart provides numerous education and career options available after 10th grade. The Career Planner booklet has comprehensive information about different careers delineating the eligibility criteria, job opportunities and career prospects. These are available in multiple languages and curated for specific states.

As of today, over 150,000 students across 7 states have been oriented through the career guidance sessions.

- **Life skills:** To equip adolescents with the capabilities for informed decision making and deal situations with maturity. The sessions include development skills prescribed by WHO such as self-awareness, empathy, critical and creative thinking, stress management, problem solving, and effective communication.

To learn more, please visit <https://csm.ilpnet.org/>

* Name changed to protect identity

SHE RESISTED THE ATTEMPTS OF HER PARENTS TO GET HER MARRIED WHEN SHE WAS 15 YEARS OLD

NOW 21, PRIYA IS A PROUD COLLEGE GRADUATE AND A CERTIFIED TEACHER

The road ahead

State	District	Project Description	Villages	People	Budget (USD)
Andhra Pradesh	Chittoor	Enable access to education for children of Yenadi tribe	108	17,633	30,626
	Kurnool	Enable education in an area with very low literacy rate	31	20,856	20,873
	Srikakulam	Ensure preschool and school readiness	160	17,833	23,716
	Vizianagaram	Provide activity based learning in primary schools	22	1,711	15,329
Bihar	Nalanda	Provide quality education for children with community support	41	22,520	24,616
	Patna	Create a literacy movement in the Musahar community	44	3,795	25,855
Jharkhand	Lohardaga	Empower community for quality education	40	14,686	22,706
	Seraikela Kharsawan	Bring children back to school and improve quality of learning	45	14,026	44,426
	Seraikela Kharsawan	Improved learning outcomes for rural students	40	15,559	10,218
	West Singbhum	Catalyze change through children's education	63	9,587	21,360

Karnataka	6 Districts	"ILP Bangalore: Improving learning & providing career pathways	1145	162,676	216,715
	Bijapur	Engage community for children's education	32	20,503	20,890
	Chikkaballapura	Right to Education task force in Karnataka	50	6,920	14,842
	Davangere	Strengthen schools through community participation	165	42,482	31,898
Odisha	Kalburagi	Improve early childhood education/ care in preschools	918	79,418	42,995
	Dhenkanal	Provide access to education as every child's right	121	20,496	27,936
	Keonjhar	Bring tribal children back to school	159	14,429	36,503
Tamil Nadu	Keonjhar	Ensure schooling for children of primitive tribes	57	6,778	22,138
	6 Districts	"ILP Chennai: Improving learning & providing career pathways	176	98,512	182,031
	Cuddalore	Ensure development, protection and participation of girl child	473	29,866	19,658
	Dindigul	Improve learning and provide career pathways	2	1,330	6,839
	Krishnagiri	Ensure quality learning for children of linguistic minorities	986	28,300	40,458
	Tiruvallur	Ensure education for children of migrant laborers in brick kilns	164	34,890	31,208
Telangana	Tiruvallur	Ensure quality of education for children	85	17,100	10,444
	Tiruvannamalai	Ensure quality education for tribal children	98	11,817	22,160
	6 Districts	"ILP Hyderabad: Improving learning & providing career pathways	264	121,195	216,084
	Adilabad	Enroll and retain children in schools	74	12,023	15,511
All	Wanaparthy	Educate children of Lambada tribes	64	26,330	24,790
	All	Investing in capacity building of our team and NGO partners	-	-	15,055

Financials

INDIA LITERACY PROJECT
ILP-USA Income & Expenditure Statement
For the year ending Dec 31, 2020 (Audited) **2020**

INCOME

Funds raised* \$1,188,922.44
Interest Income & Capital Gain \$10,947.99

TOTAL INCOME **\$1,199,870.43**

EXPENSES

Grants to Projects & Monitoring \$744,773.00
Outreach Expense** \$36,890.12
General & Admin Expense*** \$11,003.29

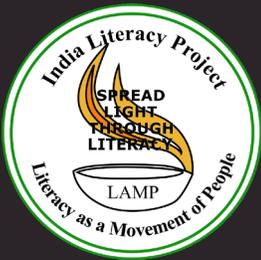
TOTAL EXPENSES **\$792,666.41**

NET INCOME **\$407,204.02**

* Includes cash and non-cash donations by individuals, corporations and event income

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

*** Funded by targeted donations from volunteers



A catalyst for 100% literate and educated India

<https://www.ilpnet.org>

ilp@ilpnet.org

ILP is registered in the USA under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code (Tax Id: 36-3779020)

ILP India is registered as a Trust in Karnataka. Registration No. 281/ 1999 - 00.

Registered u/s 12 A(a) of the Income Tax Act, 1961. No. Trust /713/10A/Vol I./ I-173/2000-2001 dated 16.10.2000

Registered under section 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961.No. DIT(E)BLR/80G(R)/665/AAATI3576P/ITO(E)-1/Vol2008-2009, valid permanently as per amended Proviso to Sec 80G (5) of the IT Act, 1961 vide CBDT Circular # 7 Dated 27.10.2010

Registered under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 with the FCRA Division, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. Registration No. 094421430 dated 11/07/2011. Renewed until 31 October 2021 vide No. 300059622016 dated 15th October 2016.