



Pratham Education Initiative

# READ INDIA

*Every Child Reads, Every Child Counts*

## Why Read India?

India NEEDS ALL its children to be educated.

It has 200 million children in the 6-14yrs age group.

The country has now achieved the tremendous feat of enrolling 93% of its children in schools. While their Enrollment is Good – the Children's Learning is NOT.

Pratham's Annual Status of Education Report (ASER 2005 & 2006) and the Government's NCERT assessment in earlier years paint a grim picture.

**50% children in Government schools CANNOT READ, WRITE, or DO BASIC ARITHMETIC in spite of spending 4-5 years in school.**

There is an urgent need to focus on children's learning starting with the basics.

## What is Read India?

Read India is a people's initiative, facilitated by Pratham to rapidly improve children's learning. This campaign will run from March 2007 to End 2009.

**Read India's Objective is to substantially improve learning amongst children by ensuring improvement in reading-comprehension, writing & arithmetic.**

Read India will focus on –

Std 1 & 2 competencies - recognition of alphabets/words & numbers/place value level  
Std 3 & 4 competencies - fluent reading, writing and solving arithmetic problems

## How will Read India be Implemented?

Read India will be executed in **Every State**.

Pratham will seek to –

- **Collaborate & partner with Governments** - State, District, Block, Village level
- **Determine baseline**-learning levels of children
- **Mobilize Volunteers** – from Colleges, Village Education Committees, local NGO
- **Execute** –
  - *Through Govt. Systems* – goal setting and sharing techniques with schoolteachers, introduction of 'Read' period in daily schedule
  - *Initiate action in communities through volunteers* – Read classes, involving mothers in children's learning, provision of reading material to take home
  - *ICDS, Anganwadis* - Taking up of 'school readiness' programs and equipping children with early learning skills
- **Monitor & Evaluate**- by internal and external agency
- **Follow-Ups** - Preparation of volunteers/mothers to continue Read activities in communities, advocating 'daily time' (reading and arithmetic activities) in schools

## Read India Launch – Delhi, Jan 2007

*in the presence of*

- Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission
- Mr Champak Chatterji, Secretary of School Education & Literacy, Govt of India
- Mr Eimar Barr - UNICEF India
- Dr Madhav Chavan, founder Pratham



## **OUTLOOK**

April 2007

Madhya Pradesh

**We Can Read!**

- In 2005, Pratham trained 2.5 lakh MP teachers to kickstart learning levels in primary schools. It recruited thousands of volunteers to tutor kids in 40,000 villages.
- In 2006, the number of Standard I kids in MP able to recognize letters doubled, compared to 2005, and those who could read words trebled
- In 2006, 70 per cent kids in Standard V in MP could read fluently, compared to 50 per cent in 2005

[www.outlookindia.com](http://www.outlookindia.com)

## What is the Impact of Read India?

- **Increase Learning levels** of children from 50 % to 70 % across India
- **Change Attitudes** – Many in the education system believe that *'these children cannot learn'*. Read India will show that a *fast and visible change is possible* and that *these children can and do learn*.
- **Inspire the Establishment**- This almost 'overnight' change on a massive scale can energize the entire school establishment and boost the morale of children, parents, teachers, officers and government/s.
- **Bring Quality of Learning in focus** - Read India brings focus to a serious problem, with an easy to implement time-bound solution consequently influencing Govt Policy - already visible in the Learning Guarantee Program in Maharashtra + Children Language Improvement Program (CLIP) in Andhra Pradesh
- **Reduce Dropouts** – Dropouts are influenced by lack of learning in schools. When children are able to read, they learn better and are less likely to be withdrawn by parents.

## Why Pratham?

- **Madhya Pradesh 2006** - The Read Program's results in MP illustrate successful large-scale implementation by Pratham (45 Districts, 250,000 teachers), Direct & Measurable improvements in learning levels across the state (validated by external evaluations) and the Replicability & Scalability of the Read Intervention
- **Ability to work in scale** - ASER reached 7,67,158 children in 590 districts with 500 organizations & 20,000 volunteers, in just 100 days
- **Vast experience in working with Governments** - District level programs have been operational in 200 + districts, we've shared techniques with almost 500,000 teachers, several of our programs have been adopted by govt. systems
- **Strong grassroots presence and network** - in 17 States, 4500 slum pockets, 2000 villages - trained over 30,000 men/women and educates 800,000 children daily
- **Read Program has been taken up in a large way by several States** and shown improvement in learning levels of children, on motivation levels of teachers and administrators - Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh etc

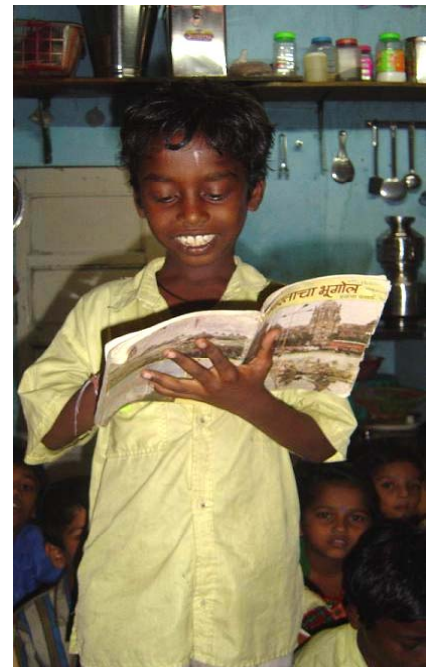


## Cost Of Read India?

**Avg. Cost Per District = Rs. 10 lakh**

*This includes – Teaching Learning Material, Trainings, Evaluation, Personnel Support, Workshops, Research etc*

**Partner Read India!**



### **ASER**

- The only referred study in the Planning Commission's Approach Paper to the 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan
- 'ASER 2006 ...an important contribution in assessing elementary education in India.' - UNICEF



### **THE HINDU**

April 2007  
Andhra Pradesh

The partnership between District Sarva Siksha Abhiyan & Pratham, is paying off.

- There is a newfound interest both among the teachers and the taught where the accelerated reading program is being implemented
- Absenteeism rate has come down
- Parents have started taking interest in their child's learning.

[www.thehindu.com](http://www.thehindu.com)