



Pratham USA

Every Child in School and Learning Well

Pratham launched the Read India campaign in May 2007 with the aim of teaching 60 million children across India to read, write and do basic math by 2009. The campaign works with governments and communities to improve the quality of education in public schools and to create an environment conducive to learning at home. One fundamental insight underlies this campaign: Over 93% of children are enrolled in schools, yet nearly half are illiterate even in grade 5. Six months into the campaign, a lot has been achieved.

Read India's Reach

Read India has achieved wide coverage across India. Key achievements include:

- The rollout has reached over 270,000 villages in 350 districts and 19 states.
- We have trained over 360,000 primary school teachers and 330,000 volunteers
- We have formal or informal partnerships with 15 state governments Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhatisgarh, Himachal, Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal. Working with state governments amplifies the impact of the campaign. .
- We have reached over 17 million children in 6 months, which gives us the confidence that we will achieve our target of reaching 60 million children by

Table 1: Read India Reach by State: July to December 2007

State	Districts covered	Children reached (in '000s)
Assam	23	980
Bihar	9	1,099
Chattisgarh	16	2,307
Himachal	12	525
Madhya Pradesh	48	4,670
Maharashtra	33	1,663
Orissa	30	363
Rajasthan	18	440
Tamil Nadu	10	763
Uttar Pradesh	70	2,713
Uttarakhand	13	909
Others	68	711
Total	350	17,143

Table 1 summarizes coverage, by state. Included are the states where the campaign has run for at least 6 months.

Is Read India Achieving its Goals?

The Annual Survey of Education Report 2007 (ASER 2007), a national survey of child literacy, shows that reading fluency has improved across grade levels over the period 2006 to 2007 (please see Graph 1). Pratham's contribution to the improvement in reading fluency has been both direct, through the teaching of children, and indirect, through our impact on education policy.



Fluency definition:
 Grade 1 - can recognize letters or more;
 Grade 3 - can read level 1 text;
 Grade 5 - can read level 2 text

Graph 1: Children Reading Fluently 2006 vs. 2007, by Grade

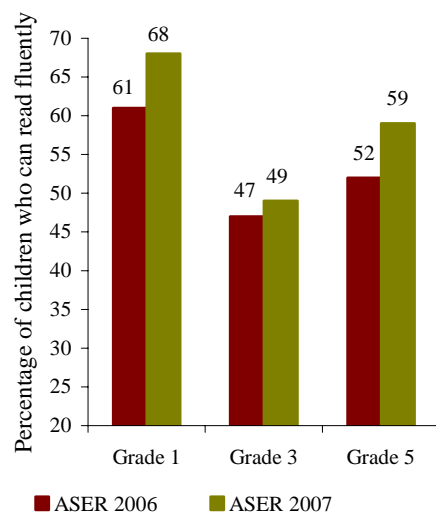


Table 2: Percentage of Grade 1 Children Who Can Recognize Letters or More, by State: 2006 vs. 2007

State	Reading fluency 2006	Reading fluency 2007	Absolute Change
Assam	59	75	16
Bihar	58	64	6
Chattishgarh	67	68	1
Himachal	81	88	7
Madhya Pradesh	81	89	8
Maharashtra	81	88	7
Orissa	61	64	3
Rajasthan	34	55	21
Tamil Nadu	49	42	-7
Uttar Pradesh	44	55	11
Uttarakhand	81	69	-12
INDIA	61	68	7

Table 2 shows the improvement in reading fluency in Grade 1 in states where Read India has run for at least 6 months. Although the trend towards improved learning is clear across the country is clear, improvements are not seen in every state on every metric. Pratham will track these numbers longitudinally and implement targeted interventions as appropriate. Details of improvements in reading fluency for other grade levels and other states are available online at www.pratham.org.

What Next?

We have achieved much in the first six months of the campaign. The program is on track operationally in terms of penetration, volunteers recruited, and children reached, and there appears to be a noticeable increase in reading fluency in most states. Although the achievements are significant in themselves, they are just the beginning. Our goal is to impact the learning of 60 million children in about 600,000 villages across India. With the school year coming to a close, we will use the summer months to get a jump-start on next year's program. We are currently conducting one-month summer learning camps in about 300,000 villages. Children's learning levels will be measured at the start and end of the camps. Through these camps, we will teach about 15 million children how to read, write and do basic math. In 2008, the campaign will also be intensified in states that have not shown improvements in reading levels. We will also increase the emphasis on math.

