



Pratham Assam

March 2011

Assam Districts (Blocks) in which Pratham works:

BEPs - Nalbari, Kamrup, Nagaon, Sonitpur, Golaghat, Jorhat, Lakhimpur, Sibsagar, Dibrugarh, Tinsukia

Education Outlook for Assam 2011:

As per the 2001 Census, Assam has a literacy rate of 63.3%, slightly lower than the national literacy rate of 65.38%. The literacy rate in Assam can be broken down to show a male literacy rate of 71.3% and a female literacy of 54.6%. According to the ASER Report 2010, only 45% of children in Std. V can read Std. II level text and only 62% can do division problems.



PRATHAM

Every Child In School...
And Learning Well

About Pratham

Pratham works in both urban and rural contexts across 21 states of India, reaching over 2.2 million children through its educational programs. **Read India** is Pratham's capstone rural program—a grassroots effort for which we recruit volunteers from local communities to help struggling students develop basic literacy and numeracy skills. Pratham trains volunteers and government teachers in our accelerated learning methods, provides effective teaching-learning materials, and monitors learning outcomes closely to ensure that children make consistent progress towards clear, targeted goals.

Block Excellence Programs (BEP) are units of Read India, operating in 100 villages in one selected block of a district. BEPs serve approximately 2000 children between the ages of 6-14, providing volunteer-taught classes either during or after school. BEPs aim to demonstrate to the Government and other stakeholders that rapid improvements in learning levels are possible at a low cost.

Education for Education (EFE) is a program designed to strengthen Read India by offering courses to volunteers in exchange for her contributions to the program. In the current phase of EFE, computer courses are available, while spoken English will be offered in the future.

Pratham in Assam this Year:

Geographical Coverage: 1200 villages in 12 blocks

Children Reached: 20,264

Volunteers Mobilized: 2,400

- Pratham is currently running the '**Read India**' (RI) program through 12 **Block Excellence Programs (BEPs)** in Assam. 2 volunteers per village are mobilized in each of the 100 BEP villages to teach a group of 20 – 25 children, who are all well below their expected grade level competencies. One volunteer teaches children in classes 1 & 2, focusing on basic literacy and numeracy skills, while the other volunteer teaches children in classes 3-5, focusing on reading fluency and comprehension, as well as Arithmetic operations. Volunteers also teach English, where the focus is on letter recognition, vocabulary building and ability to conduct basic greetings in English.
- Pratham has had a **formal partnership** with **the Assam Government** during 2007 and 2008. However, since 2009, due to continual expression of interest, but lack of action on the Assam Government's part, Pratham has focused largely on building **village level partnerships** instead of approaching the state and district Governments. While no formal MoUs have been signed at the village level, Pratham has informed the **gaonburrahs** (village heads) of its activities and has obtained verbal support in almost every village. Pratham has also received support from the community in the form of identification of volunteers and authorization for Pratham volunteers to teach in schools.
- Pratham worked in partnership with **UNICEF** in the **Reading Enhancement Program (REP)** in 8 Districts of Assam. 437 schoolteachers executed this program on the ground with monitoring and onsite support given by 11 Pratham facilitators.



Future Plans:

- The partnership with UNICEF came to an end in November 2010 but Pratham will continue its effort to be a part of such a partnership. Talks with UNICEF are ongoing regarding the extension of the same Reading Enhancement Program in the tea garden schools of Assam.
- To increase the involvement of the community in their child's education, Pratham is planning to set up Pratham Education Committees (PEC) in every village. These committees will comprise of parents of school-going children with an aim to test children periodically to gauge their progress and also to monitor the volunteer classes.
- The EFE program is currently in its preparatory phase in Assam, with the first classes expected to roll out from March 1st. The EFE program intends to strengthen Read India and increase volunteer engagement.