



# 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.

## Pratham Gujarat

March 2011

- **Block Excellence Programs (BEPs):** Anand, Banas Kantha, Bharuch, Bhavnagar, The Dangs, Gandhinagar, Junagadh, Kutch, Mehsana, Rajkot, Surendranagar, Tapi, Valsad (Tapi District was recently divided out of Surat District, and is therefore not captured on the map shown above.)
- **Urban Programs:** Ahmedabad, Surat, Baroda

### Education Outlook for Gujarat:

- Though school enrollment is up to 95% in rural Gujarat, learning levels remain shockingly low. 55% of rural students in Standard 5 cannot read a Std. 2 level text, and 65% of these students cannot do simple subtraction.
- In many cities in Gujarat (as across India), children of migrant laborers suffer not only from poor school quality but also from the disruption of constant movement, and therefore limited school attendance.

**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. **District Resource Centers (DRCs)** are run across the district, with one focus block operating like a BEP. Additionally, DRCs offer courses for middle and high school children as well as vocational courses for volunteers.

**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 Gujarat this Year:

### Read India:

**Geographical Coverage: 1049 villages in 10 blocks (similar to a county)**

**Children Reached: 14,938**

**Volunteers Mobilized: 1351**

- Gujarat's **Block Excellence Programmes (BEPs)** cover 10 blocks across the state, in addition to a **District Resource Centre (DRC)** programme in Surendranagar. These classes emphasize basic literacy and numeracy, with close monitoring for learning outcomes and improvement, to ensure that weak students receive the support they need to achieve in school. In recent months, the program in Surendranagar has focused on an informal partnership with the government's **Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)**, training preschool teachers to provide engaging, activity-based opportunities for early childhood learning.
- Pratham's efforts extend beyond the classroom, reaching parents, volunteers, and local officials through meetings and melas to encourage communities to focus on learning outcomes. Gujarat has piloted the **1 Rupee Testing Program**, in which parents watch as their children are tested in reading and math. This helps parents to see their children's needs, and often leads them to enroll their children in Read India classes.
- The **Education for Education (EFE)** program is currently being rolled out across 6 districts of Gujarat's Read India program, so that volunteers will be able to engage in regular computer classes in exchange for teaching Read India classes in their villages.

### Urban Programs:

**Coverage: 286 Centers in the neediest areas of 3 cities**

**Children Reached: 9162 Children**

- Pratham provides the neediest children of the slums of Ahmedabad, Baroda, and Surat with critical support, through both fee-based and sponsored learning centers. Urban programs in Gujarat have been particularly successful at targeting female students, who are often under-served by government schools and whose education might be overlooked by parents without Pratham's encouragement and outreach.



### Government Partnership in Gujarat

- After a highly-successful remedial learning program run by Pratham in cooperation with the state government, Pratham has signed an MoU with the Gujarat education department, the SSA, to develop **Pragnya**, a state-wide activity-based learning program, which includes curriculum design, training of teachers and government officials, teaching-learning materials, and constant support and monitoring at the ground level. The program has been piloted in 258 schools, and will be scaled up to 2500 schools across the state in June 2011.