



## Pratham Karnataka (Mysore)

### Education Outlook for Karnataka 2010:

- Though school enrollment is up to 95% in rural Karnataka, learning levels are in a dire state. 50% of rural students in Standard 5 cannot read a Std. 2 level text, and over 50% of Std. 4 students cannot do simple subtraction. Mysore is not the poorest region of Karnataka, yet, like many places in India, it contains pockets that lag far behind acceptable standards for quality of living and education, both in the city itself and its surrounding areas. Pratham Mysore has targeted these areas for programming, so that the weakest villages and slums of the Mysore region receive the support they need to develop, and to ensure Pratham's goal: "Every child in school... and learning well."



## 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 high-quality 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 per block. BEPs serve approximately 2000 children between the ages of 6-14, providing volunteer-taught classes in and after school in basic reading and math. 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 in Computer Literacy (and in the coming months, Spoken English) to volunteers in exchange for their service.

In several states, Pratham works in collaboration with locally-based NGOs (in Karnataka, with Bangalore-based Akshara), maximizing knowledge of the local context while sharing best practices to provide learning opportunities to children across India.

## Pratham in Karnataka this Year:

**Reach: 6200 children**  
**Coverage: 73 villages**  
**Mobilization: 120 volunteers**

- Pratham has recently begun a new **Read India Block Excellence Program (BEP)** in the poorest block of the Mysore District of Karnataka. The BEP was launched in August of 2010, and has already reached over 5000 children, though it is expected to reach over 8000 at capacity. Volunteers have been trained in Pratham's activity-based learning methodology, using which they give after-school support classes to weak students in Standards 1-5. Children are assessed at the outset of the program, so that volunteers and block-level staff can track their progress. Pratham's efforts extend beyond the classroom, reaching parents, volunteers, and local officials through meetings and melas to encourage a community focus on outcomes.
- Pratham has been working in urban Mysore since 2002, focusing initially on providing pre-school education to children in the most vulnerable neighborhoods of the city. Since that time, Pratham Mysore's **balwadi (pre-school) programs** have expanded to 225 centers in 14 Mysore slums. These balwadis provide 3-5 year olds with critical early literacy instruction, as well as creative activities related to cognition and physical development, and activities focused on good health and hygiene.
- In conjunction with the community pre-schools run by Pratham, we have begun to offer **Certification in Early Childhood Education** courses for women in Mysore. These programs are co-offered by Karnataka State Open University, helping to prepare balwadi teachers with theoretical knowledge on child development while providing opportunities for practical experience and hands-on learning.
- Pratham Mysore also runs a unique **"Learning Bridge"** program, connecting professionals in the city to rural learning centers for special programs on topics of the community's choosing. Educated professionals head to villages around Mysore to give informal classes on everything from astronomy to Karnataka history, sharing their knowledge with community members and children while providing these children with a special chance to have their questions answered on exciting ideas outside the usual curriculum.



### Being Resourceful:

- Pratham Mysore is doing great work to develop self-sustaining programs while protecting the natural environment, with a unique program to encourage corporate paper recycling, in which the profits generated from the recycled paper are used to support Pratham classes and projects.

### Pratham's Partner in Bangalore: Akshara

- In Bangalore, Pratham works in partnership with the Akshara Foundation. Akshara has established a partnership with the Karnataka's Sarva Shikha Abhiyan (SSA), the education department which determines curriculum and instructional approach for the state. (<http://www.aksharafoundation.org/>)