



PRATHAM

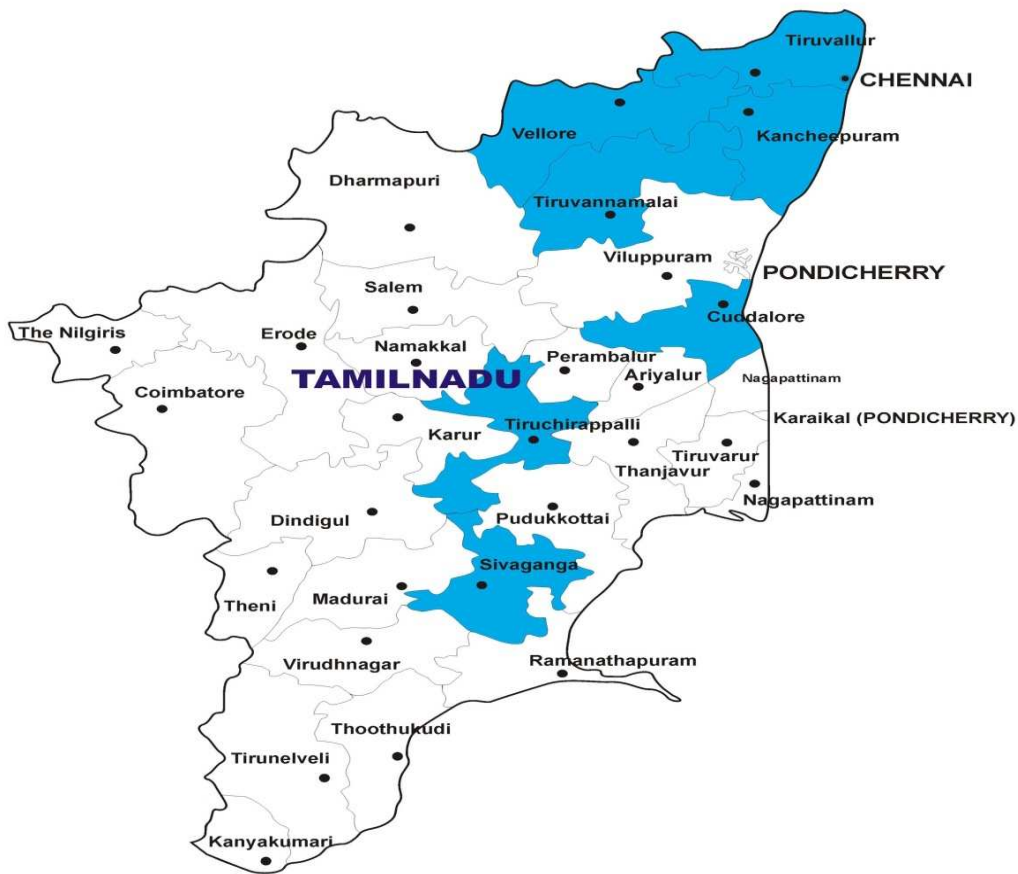
Every Child In School...
And Learning Well

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 per block. BEPs serve approximately 2000 children between the ages of 6-14, providing volunteer-taught classes in and after school. BEPs aim to demonstrate to the Government and other stakeholders that rapid improvements in learning levels are possible at a low cost. Read India classes generally focus on the basics of reading and math, starting at letter and number recognition, and advancing as far as fractions and division, depending on the class. In some states, science and English are also offered.

In some states, such as Tamil Nadu, Pratham works in collaboration with regional NGOs (in TN, Aid India and Vidyarambam), maximizing knowledge of the local context while sharing best practices to provide learning opportunities to children across India.



Pratham Tamil Nadu

March 2011

Tamil Nadu Districts in which Pratham works:

- Cuddalore, Kanchipuram, Krishnagiri, Sivagangai, Tiruvallur, Tiruvannamalai, Trichy, Vellore

Education Outlook for Tamil Nadu 2011:

- Over 99% of children aged 6-14 are enrolled in school in Tamil Nadu. Despite this, 60% of students in grade 3 cannot read simple words in Tamil. Over 65% of students in grade 5 cannot read a simple grade 2 text fluently.
- The situation is equally dismal in arithmetic. Only 50% of children in grade 2 can recognize numbers greater than 10. 60% of children in grade 5 cannot do simple subtraction.

Pratham in Tamil Nadu this Year:

Geographical Coverage: 639 villages in 8 blocks (similar to a county)

Children Reached: 12,076

Volunteers Mobilized: 639

- In Tamil Nadu, Pratham works as an affiliate organization, closely connected to two local education NGOs: **Aid India** and **Vidyarambam**. Pratham's Read India program is run by Aid India, while the two organizations also run several programs of their own.
- **Aid India** runs the Read India program in Tamil Nadu, as well as their own programs, such as **Eureka Superkidz Centers**, learning centers similar to Read India's after school classes. Superkidz Centers run intensively over smaller geographies, with paid volunteers and extra workbooks for children. For both Read India and Eureka Superkidz Centers, AID India trains volunteers on proven accelerated learning methods, providing effective teaching-learning materials and monitoring learning outcomes closely to ensure real progress. Finally, Aid India runs two model **Eureka Superkidz Schools** for village children in Tamil Nadu, demonstrating the power of their pedagogy and the results possible when schools focus on learning achievement. Of the 639 BEP villages covered in Tamil Nadu, 92 villages have the 'Superkidz' program. Families pay small fees, which has led parents to take initiative in monitoring the work of the volunteers and to take an active interest in the progress of their children. Aid India also runs Superkidz centers in 534 non-BEP villages (a total of 1133 villages).
- With several years of material development and proven innovation, Pratham-Aid India has become a resource to several NGOs in Chennai and across Tamil Nadu. In both subsidized and paying partnerships, Aid India has trained and supported 11 other education-sector NGOs and 2 tuition centers, providing less-experienced organizations the tools to make their work more effective—indirectly reaching over 40,000 additional children.
- Pratham also works in affiliation with **Vidyarambam** in Tamil Nadu, an NGO focused on early childhood education in rural contexts. Vidyarambam runs learning centers across Tamil Nadu, emphasizing pre-school literacy but also providing learning support classes for primary school students in math, reading, and English.



Read India in Tamil Nadu

- In many villages, informal partnerships have been formed with school principals, so that Read India classes take place in government schools, encouraging a focus on learning level attainment in the classroom.
- Learning itself takes a unique form in Tamil Nadu, where the difficult Tamil language— an alphabet of 247 syllables!—requires Aid India's focus on results, to ensure that children really learn the basics.
- Aid India's learning centers also have a special focus on science, with experiments that encourage young children to think scientifically about the world around them.