



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 West Bengal

March 2011

West Bengal Districts (Blocks) in which Pratham works:

BEPs – Purulia (Jhalda-I, Jhalda-II, Joypur), Bankur (Sonamukhi), Birbhum (Mohammad Bazar), Jalpaiguri (Rajganj), Coochbehar (Mathabhanga-I), Darjeeling (Rangli-Rangliot)

Education Outlook for West Bengal 2011:

According to the 2010 ASER Report, only 50-60% of children in Std. III can read Std. I text, and only 40-50% of children in Std. III can do subtraction.

At higher level competencies, the situation is worse, with only 30-40% of children in Std. V being able to do division

Pratham in West Bengal this Year:

Geographical Coverage: 677 villages across 8 BEPs

Children Reached: 23,649

Volunteers Mobilized: 1,311

- Pratham is currently running the 'Read India' (RI) program through 8 BEPs. In absence of formal written consent from the state government, Pratham has reached 677 villages to teach 23,649m children, through its Read India Program. Read India West Bengal operates in collaboration with local government, such as Panchayats and school officials, where local governing bodies have officially sought Pratham's assistance on curriculum-design as well as training in some districts.
- Pratham's efforts extend beyond the classroom, reaching parents and local officials through meetings and melas to encourage communities and Village Panchayats (committees) to focus on learning outcomes. Meetings are regularly held with district and block administrations to update them on the progress of the program and social events (such as meetings with local officials, and academic competitions for the children) are held to test children as well as to encourage the community to participate in the education of their children.
- In the Coochbihar district, where Pratham runs a BEP in the Mathabhanga-I block, the Coochbihar Sarva Siksha Mission invited Pratham to train district and block level SSA personnel on reading development.



Future Plans:

In addition to the Read India Classes, Pratham has recently launched its 'Education for Education' Centres (EFE Centres) 7 centres have been running as of the first week of March, in all blocks except for the Rangli-Rangliot block in the Darjeeling district. Pratham West Bengal will work to ensure that the EFE program is successfully taken up by volunteers and will also offer new courses such as English in the future. In addition to this, the next three months in West Bengal will include capacity building practices in its training program for Pratham Block and District coordinators, as well as for its volunteers.