Resources

In order to operate within two primary schools for one year, the project will require an investment of 22,431.60 USD* (1,500,000 INR), to reach approximately 500 students aged 6-10 yrs, a cost-effective approx. 45 USD per beneficiary.

*Please note that a detailed budget is available upon request and expenses may vary slightly depending on the selected project location.

From the Field

Mahendra, a motivated youth from a village in Jharkhand State (India) who was identified as a volunteer to run the Child Learning Centre, under Reading Improvement Program, at the village middle school, on achieving total literacy in his village -

“When I joined this project very few children were attending the school and almost all the children used to go with their parents to help them with their labour work. After working with the School management and providing a lot of counselling to the parents, children started coming to the school regularly. Today, not a single child in the village is going with the parents for labour.”

Who We Are

Since 1951, ChildFund India has been representing the voices of deprived, excluded, and vulnerable children in India regardless of their race, creed, and gender. Through long-term partnerships, ChildFund India annually reaches nearly two million children, youth and families in the most hard-to-reach areas and empowers parents and community members alike to be agents of change.

We work with over 6,000 communities throughout 14 States and one Union Territory through our child-centred interventions aiming to bring about lasting changes in the lives of children. Our interventions span from maternal-child health, early childhood development, education, as well as youth engagement and livelihoods, with a cross-cutting focus on child protection, gender equality, and emergency response/disaster risk management.

ChildFund India is a nationalized entity of ChildFund International, a global child development and protection agency serving more than 19.7 million children and their families in 30 countries.

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ChildFund India has 65 years of experience in conducting education related programs that have been proven to substantially increase learning outcomes, as well as enrolment and retention rates. Our flagship Reading Improvement Program (a community-based tutoring intervention) has helped over 200,000 children shift from beginner reading level to paragraph reading level. Buoyed by this success, we partnered with the Caterpillar Foundation and the Swedish Post Code Lottery to launch two school quality improvement projects in 178 schools throughout India. Ultimately, 84% of our students achieved or surpassed grade-appropriate academic benchmarks after participating in this project, while 100% of participating schools developed after-school tutoring programs to sustain the project’s initial gains.
The Problem

Reading is the foundation of education. Out of recognition of the unparalleled importance of reading, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals has enumerated several ambitious targets to be reached by the end of 2030: to ensure that all youth achieve literacy and to ensure that all children have access to quality primary/secondary education that fosters effective learning.

India has a long way to go to meet these targets. Since 2009, reading levels have plummeted throughout Government schools, as each year less and less students in Grade V are able to read Grade II texts, with the most current reported figure under 50%.

1. UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300
2. ASER: The National Picture Report 2013

Solution

Reading Improvement Program (Community-Based Tutoring Sessions) to allow children struggling with basic reading and writing skills to get back on track with their education, before their learning challenges become insurmountable. This tutoring employs ChildFund India’s evidence-based Skills Targeted Academic Growth (STAG) model, and is conducted before and after school to ensure that the project supports, rather than replaces the local education systems.

Capacity Strengthening of School Management Committees (SMCs) - SMCs are community-based school governing bodies that will be trained on school development planning and ways that reading initiatives can be incorporated into schools’ curricula to ensure the project’s sustainability.

Projected Impact

At least 80% of project beneficiaries (students in grades I-V from two schools) move from beginner reading level to paragraph reading level.

At least 70% of School Management Committee (SMC) members to demonstrate improved awareness of their roles and responsibilities, as well as increased participation in school governance & planning processes. This impacts accountability of the school principal and teachers.

1. UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300
2. ASER: The National Picture Report 2013