



Pratham USA

Every child in school and learning well

हैबलेट में पढ़ने जायेंगे
डिजिटल शिक्षा पायेंगे
प्रथम संस्था



**BUILDING STRONGER
COMMUNITIES, TOGETHER**

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



EVERY CHILD IN SCHOOL AND LEARNING WELL

Founded with support from UNICEF and the Mumbai Municipal Corporation, Pratham has worked for over two decades to improve the quality of education available to India's underprivileged.

We provide children with basic literacy skills to establish a secure foundation for learning, both in and out of school. Our collaborations with governments, communities, educators, and industry to focus on innovative ways to address gaps in India's education system. By bridging the divide between stakeholders, we raise standards and increase accountability, thereby transforming the lives of children, families and entire communities.

This annual report covers the activities of Pratham USA during the period of January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018. However, Pratham's program statistics reflect data from the 2018-2019 Indian school year.

2018-2019

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

16.6M

Children and youth benefited

900,000

Participated in direct programs

15.7M

Reached through government partnerships

500,000

Children supported through early childhood programs

26,000

Youth equipped with skills to pursue a career

3,700

Girls given a second chance to complete their education

22,000

Tablets with Pratham content distributed

1,000

Entrepreneurs launched

82%

Pass rate for females who took the secondary school examination

WHO WE ARE

6,000

Field staff

25,000+

Volunteers

100+

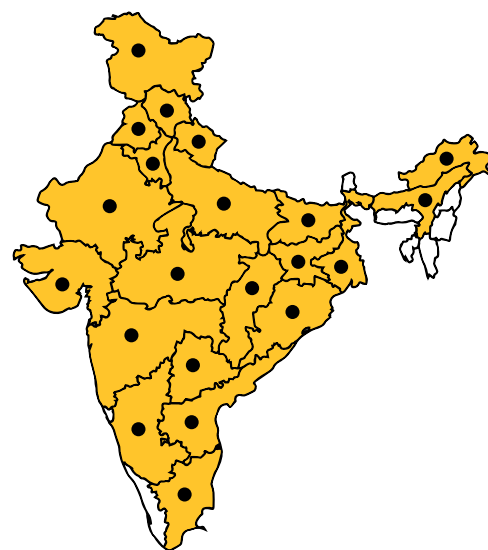
Corporate & institutional partners

WHERE WE WORK

24 Cities

21 States

1 Union territory



Cooperation with government is instrumental in maximizing our reach and strengthening India's existing school system. During the 2018-19 school year, Pratham reached 15.7 million children as the result of **district-level** (schools in one district), **state-level** (schools in specific districts) and **state-wide** (schools in all districts) partnerships.

6

STATE-WIDE PARTNERSHIPS

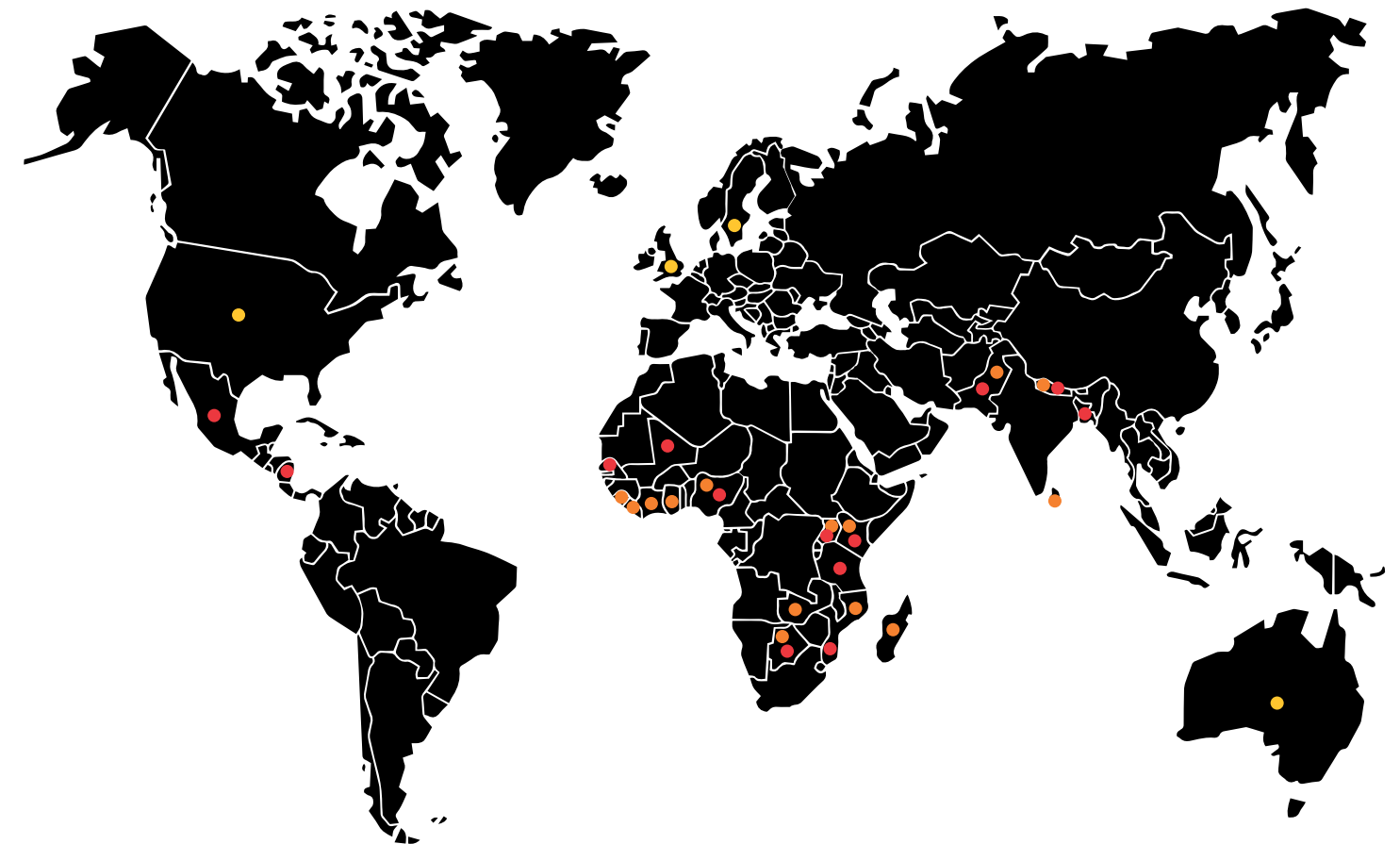
3

STATE-LEVEL PARTNERSHIPS

9

DISTRICT-LEVEL PARTNERSHIPS

PRATHAM AROUND THE GLOBE



With four international chapters, Pratham's influence spans the globe. Our ASER and TaRL methods have been adopted by entities in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

- INTERNATIONAL PRATHAM CHAPTER
- ASER METHODOLOGY ADOPTED
- TaRL METHODOLOGY ADOPTED



Deepak Raj,
Pratham USA Chairman

A MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

As we reflect on the past year, one which saw Pratham touch more than 16 million lives, we are inspired by the power and purpose of our collective community. Part of Pratham's effectiveness lies in its ability to unite people around the common vision that every child deserves a quality education. By enabling millions of children to acquire the foundational building blocks of reading and arithmetic, we improve their chances for embarking on a more promising future.

In 2018, building on our experiences and accumulated evidence on the effectiveness of our Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL) approach, we consolidated our programs around 3,500 rural and semi-rural areas. Our objective is to invest three to five years in each location so that we can engage communities in a way that will allow them to support and sustain their children's learning over time. In the coming years, we intend to expand this new initiative, called Hamara Gaon (our village), to 10,000 communities.

Solving the complex problem of poor student achievement also requires fundamental shifts within existing school systems. We have consistently worked with state governments, such as last year's outstanding collaboration with the Department of Basic Education of Uttar Pradesh, one of India's most populous yet under-resourced states. Together, the government teams and Pratham enabled our TaRL methodology to be integrated into primary school classrooms in 130,000 government schools. Nine million students participated and reading levels showed a promising increase of close to 22 percentage points.

The effectiveness of our approach received international recognition: Pratham was a recipient of the 2018 LUI Che Woo Prize in the Positive Energy category, which focused on the elimination of illiteracy. In addition, the global philanthropic collaborative Co-Impact awarded Pratham and J-PAL a multiyear grant to implement TaRL in six African countries.

The pages that follow offer an informative overview of our programs along with highlights from the year. We hope they will also leave you with a sense of the enormity of the challenge ahead and an appreciation of our collective accomplishments thus far. Our work would not be possible without the partners and supporters who endorse our mission through their philanthropy. We thank you!

Sincerely,

Deepak Raj,
Pratham USA Chairman

Dr. Rukmini Banerji
Pratham Education Foundation CEO



Dr. Rukmini Banerji, Pratham Education Foundation CEO

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and Chairman Emeritus*

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Executive Director

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LEADERSHIP, INDIA

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and Training*
Dr. Wilima Wadhwa, *Director,
ASER Centre*



WHAT WE DO

CREATE QUALITY LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

EARLY CHILDHOOD

Preparing children for formal education

The pre-primary years (ages 3-6) are a critical time for cognitive, emotional and social development. Studies show that children who participate in early education are better prepared for entry into elementary school, exhibit improved performance throughout their academic years and enjoy lasting benefits into adulthood.

Our Balwadi (pre-school) program stimulates imagination and provides opportunities for exploration and discovery through interactive lessons. Classes are led by Pratham-trained instructors with a strong understanding of the local culture and community, allowing them to engage with children and parents more effectively.

ELEMENTARY & UPPER PRIMARY

Developing basic reading and math competency

India has achieved near-universal primary school enrollment, but this accomplishment has not translated into actual learning for many children in underprivileged communities. Pratham helps primary school students (grades 1-5) attain the literacy and numeracy skills they need to succeed.

Our evidence-based Teaching at the Right Level approach groups children by learning level rather than age or grade, improving outcomes in a matter

of weeks. Instruction time is dedicated to building core skills rather than focusing solely on any one curriculum, ensuring that each child grasps the fundamentals before advancing to the next stage.

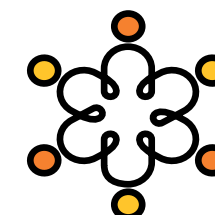
Adapting the methodology for an older age group, Pratham also works with adolescents in upper primary school (grades 6-8) to increase subject-specific competencies and overall intellectual development.

Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL)

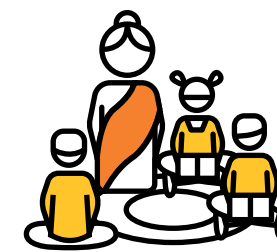
TaRL is comprised of several components that work together to provide all children with foundational skills. Children participate in activities that incorporate listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students progress to the next level once they have acquired the necessary learning-level competency.



ASSESSMENT



GROUPING
BY LEVEL



TAILORED
ACTIVITIES



MEASUREMENT
& REVIEW

COLLABORATIVE LEARNING GROUPS

Sustaining and strengthening foundational skills

Pratham believes that education is a continuous, interdependent process. To aid children in sustaining and strengthening foundational skills, Pratham creates cooperative learning groups with content localized in 12 languages.

Facilitated by volunteers—often parents or older siblings—and supplemented by visits from our staff, small groups meet regularly outside of

school hours around specially designed materials and activities.

This structured collective environment enables children 8-14 years of age to challenge themselves individually while developing collaborative problem-solving skills and fosters a culture of group study and support.



WHAT WE DO

IMPROVE LIFE TRAJECTORIES

SECOND CHANCE

Helping females complete their secondary education

Financial constraints and societal barriers prevent many Indian girls from completing their education. Only 1 out of every 100 girls enrolled in primary school in rural India reaches twelfth grade. Pratham's Second Chance program enables female dropouts to earn their secondary school certificate, opening a world of possibilities previously closed to them.

Our yearlong program includes an intensive foundation course and extensive tutoring as well

as sessions in life skills, nutrition, childcare, and computer literacy. Moreover, our hub and spoke model is both accessible and affordable, allowing participants to study near their homes and around their daily household and work responsibilities in a safe, supportive environment.

Research shows that educated females lead healthier, more productive lives, benefiting the community at large and contributing to a stronger society.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Imparting relevant skills for employment

Technical education gives millions of indigent youth a more practical and streamlined way to prepare for the workforce. Pratham's vocational program bridges India's skills gap and places young adults on a path towards employment and economic self-sufficiency.

Our industry-driven curricula, developed in conjunction with key knowledge partners and accredited by India's National Skill Development Corporation, ensure that students acquire the competencies needed to fill positions in high-

demand sectors. We also impart basic life and soft skills, better preparing students to manage their independence.

Our broad geographic reach facilitates mobilization in rural communities, while our hands-on training model guarantees readiness for employment. In addition, our post-placement tracking and social support network increase job retention among graduates.

Course Offerings



AUTOMOTIVE



HOSPITALITY



BEAUTY



ELECTRICAL

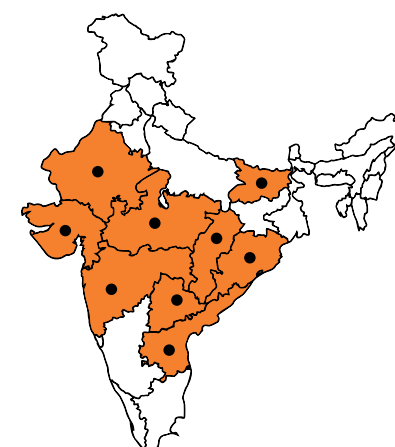


CONSTRUCTION

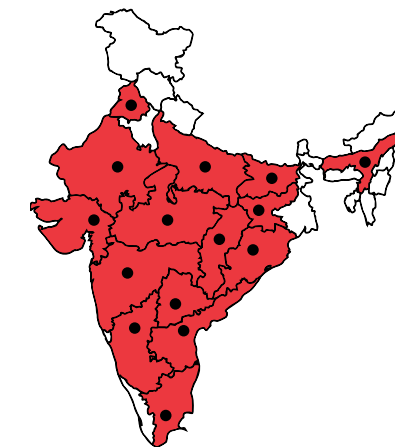


HEALTHCARE

India has one of the largest youth populations in the world and has the potential to realize a “demographic dividend.” Yet, studies show that only 2% of its current working-age population has received any formal skills training, contributing to poor working conditions, low wages and worker exploitation.



GIRLS' EDUCATION
30 CENTERS IN 9 STATES



VOCATIONAL TRAINING
100 CENTERS IN 15 STATES



WHAT WE DO

ENGAGE WITH PARENTS AND COMMUNITY

VILLAGE REPORT CARD

Mobilizing citizens to take ownership of education

The village report card is a powerful mechanism for facilitating awareness, discussion and action regarding the state of children's learning within a community. The method is simple: using Pratham's easy-to-administer assessment tool, local volunteers go door to door testing the basic literacy and numeracy skills of every child. The results are then consolidated and presented to community members.

Not only are the figures generated comprehensive, but the entire village—family members, neighbors, teachers, officials—can relate to and understand the findings, since they themselves have been involved in the process.

Participation sparks conversation about strategies and solutions.

MOTHERS AND OTHER CAREGIVERS

Giving parents the tools to help their children

Family environment has a strong influence on academic success. Children who receive more attention and stimulation at home are more capable of grasping and retaining concepts. Unfortunately, many Indian parents lack sufficient education themselves, hindering their ability to assist in their children's learning. With this in mind, Pratham makes an effort to involve mothers, as the primary caregivers in most households, encouraging them to take an active role in their family's education.

Through workshops, meetings and home visits, mothers become familiar with concepts and activities that increase school readiness. Furthermore, they gain an understanding of nutrition and basic health, allowing them to better support their children's overall development.

EDUCATION FAIRS

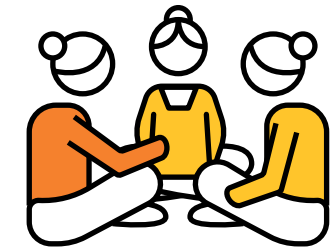
Stimulating community involvement

Education fairs provide an invaluable learning opportunity for students while engaging parents and community stakeholders. Participants develop math and critical thinking skills during the preparation stage of their projects. As they present their work to attendees on the day of the fair, they gain speaking and communication experience indispensable to their future success.

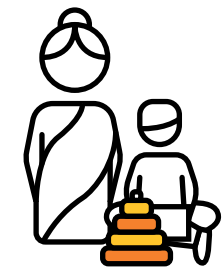


Empowering Mothers

Pratham provides multidimensional support for mothers to aid in their children's education and development.



MENTORING THROUGH MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS



MATERIAL AND ACTIVITIES FOR AT-HOME LEARNING



OBSERVATION AND ASSESSMENT



DIGITAL CONTENT TO SUPPORT LEARNING



WHAT WE DO

CHALLENGE ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT EDUCATION

DIGITAL INITIATIVES

Leveraging technological tools for learning

Technology has the ability to accelerate children's learning by transforming the delivery of education and personalizing the process to accommodate each student's needs. Pratham's digital initiative augments our existing programs to enhance our methods, making them even more effective.

Tailored content, available for free download, aids teachers and caregivers in supporting early learners and preparing them to enter school. Digital devices placed directly in the hands of children ages 10-14

provide them with opportunities to learn on their own, enabling them to co-create a learning space within their community.

Raspberry Pi microcomputers provide villages with the digital infrastructure necessary to overcome the lack of connectivity in large sections of rural India.

Through our youth mentorship efforts, we have established a network of local stakeholders who can facilitate digital learning in their own communities.

ANNUAL STATUS OF EDUCATION REPORT (ASER)

Collecting evidence for action

As the world's largest household survey of its kind, ASER measures the basic literacy and numeracy skills of 600,000 rural children. The results of the survey are tabulated at district, state and national levels, with changes in these parameters monitored over time.

Such an undertaking requires enormous support. 25,000 volunteers from more than 500 partner organizations help conduct the survey over a period of 100 days.

The strength of ASER (which means "impact" in Hindi) lies in its simplicity. The low-cost assessment tools are easy to grasp and administer,

allowing ordinary citizens to act toward improving the quality of education. The survey's success has led to the creation of the ASER Centre, an independent unit within the Pratham network that evaluates the effectiveness of social sector programs.

Since its introduction in 2005, ASER has become an indispensable metric used by nonprofits, governments and policymakers internationally to assess and transform educational systems. Using the ASER methodology, entities in 14 countries on three continents facilitate citizen-led surveys of more than a million children annually as part of the PAL (People's Action for Learning) Network.

"Technology is our only hope to scale the delivery of education. We can't do it through historical or conventional means of a teacher and students and everyone goes to a classroom and learns. It just won't work. Tomorrow's problems can only be solved with tomorrow's technology."

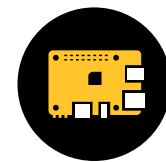
- Raj Shah, Sarva Mangal Family Trust

Education Technology

Connectivity and Infrastructure



26,000
Learning Groups



1,000
Communities



2,500
Youth Facilitators

Content Creation and Curation



2,750
Videos



350
Games



12
Languages



**“UNLEASHING
THE POWER OF
THE COLLECTIVE
ALLOWS US ALL
TO TAKE RISKS
AND AIM HIGHER
THAN WE WOULD
INDIVIDUALLY.”**



**WINNER OF THE 2018
LUI CHE WOO PRIZE**



Pratham was named a winner of the 2018 Lui Che Woo Prize, a cross-sector innovation award that recognizes outstanding contributions benefiting humanity. Pratham was unanimously selected in the Positive Energy category, which last year focused on the elimination of illiteracy.

*- Excerpted from a quote by Richard Fahey
Chief Operating Officer, Skoll Foundation*

OPERATING AT SCALE IN UTTAR PRADESH

₹ 1,000

*Approximately \$15 provides
a school covered under the
GLP initiative with*

- *training for every
teacher*
- *materials for every
classroom*
- *a take-home booklet
for every student*

Uttar Pradesh (UP) is home to India's largest child population—about 50 million—but also the fewest number of teachers per student and some of the lowest learning outcomes in the country.

While Pratham has been active in UP for many years, 2018 saw the launch of the Graded Learning Program (GLP), a new partnership with the state's Department of Basic Education. With a goal of strengthening children's foundational skills in 113,000 government primary schools, the GLP also aims to introduce innovative practices into classrooms and build monitoring, mentoring and academic support capacity at all levels.

Utilizing Pratham's Teaching at the Right Level approach, teachers across Uttar Pradesh's 75 districts grouped children according to their current reading and math levels, dedicating two hours of each school day to activities based around specially designed Pratham materials.

Learning data were uploaded by each instructor on a mobile app developed by Pratham, generating dashboards with simple charts and bar graphs, which could be viewed in real time by state administrators. So far, the results of this collaboration have been promising, with nine million children in grades 1-5 reached and an increase in reading levels of 22 percent last year.

Not only has the GLP initiative allowed us to scale our work exponentially, it has also given us invaluable insight into how reform efforts can be practically integrated into the existing education system.

AUSTIN DONORS MAKING A COLLABORATIVE IMPACT

Inspired by the launch of Pratham's Hamara Gaon initiative, which will establish a more sustained presence and offer comprehensive programming in communities where Pratham works, Austin donors Bhavna Guglani, Kanna Venkatasamy and Chitra Thankaswamy coalesced around the idea of a joint three-year commitment to support villages in Tamil Nadu, where their families hail from.

Their gift will support 2,500 children through multiple stages of the education process in 25 villages, which will serve as models that can be adopted by state and regional governments. The three hope their patronage will inspire others to collaborative philanthropy.

STATE MINISTRIES OF WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Since 2008, Pratham has been training government workers in our methodologies with the aim of institutionalizing Pratham practices and strengthening Anganwadis (government-run preschools).

In 2017-18, Pratham entered into an agreement with Delhi's Ministry of Women & Child Development to work with 11,000 Anganwadis in the union territory, assisting with content creation, training, measurement, and monitoring. During 2018-19, partnerships with 5 state and local ministries enabled Pratham to support 300,000 children.

PRATHAM MODY TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

*"Pravin Mody challenged us to
go beyond services and venture
into production and industrial
training. We are glad he did be-
cause we are already receiving a
very positive response from our
local placement partners. This
is an interesting new beginning
for us."*

- Dr. Madhav Chavan,
Pratham Co-Founder
and President

In January, the Pratham Mody Technical Institute opened in Ahmednagar, Maharashtra. Built with the generous contribution of the late Pravin Mody and his wife, Sudha, the multidiscipline training center will offer courses in technical trades such as electrical, plumbing and construction to approximately 600 students annually. Numerous companies, including Godrej Properties, Haier, Larsen & Toubro, LG, and Tata Housing, will serve as job placement partners. The Institute embodies the vision of the Mumbai native and longtime Pratham supporter, who passed away in 2017 at the age of 75.



WESTERN DIGITAL supports education for underprivileged and underrepresented youth in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and math.

Now in its second year of partnering with Pratham, Western Digital focuses on digital innovation and technology-assisted learning, providing skilled volunteers and product donations, such as 5,000 memory cards to be loaded with Pratham content for use in remote villages.

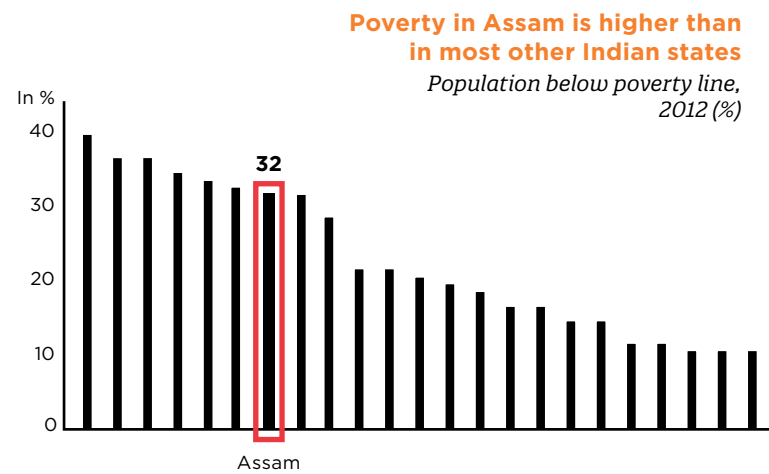
Currently, Western Digital is aiding the expansion of Pratham's digital intervention in 30 urban communities of Karnataka, which will impact 3,000 learners between the ages of 3 and 14.



SWEDISH INDUSTRY FOR QUALITY EDUCATION IN INDIA

A group of ten Swedish companies with operations in India have formed a partnership with Pratham based on the common recognition of the value of education. The initiative, “Swedish Industry for Quality Education in India,” is designed to produce lasting effects in children’s learning levels in Assam, home to 31 million people, a third of whom live in poverty. The project is being independently evaluated by the Stockholm School of Economics.

The goal is to improve the basic reading and arithmetic skills of 30,000 children by 2020. In the longer term, the project aims to increase awareness of the value of education among parents and local communities in targeted villages, as well as to influence government policy from the district to the national level.



“Pratham is an organization that makes concrete and important efforts to create a positive future for children in India. As a representative of Sweden, it is with great pride that I see how Swedish Industry engages in projects such as this one.”

–HRH Prince Daniel of Sweden



Since 2001, J-PAL-affiliated researchers have rigorously tested the theory of change underlying Pratham’s TaRL approach.

Six randomized evaluations in India, as well as a growing body of research in Africa, show that when TaRL is successfully implemented, learning outcomes improve.

TEACHING AT THE RIGHT LEVEL (TaRL) AFRICA

Launched in 2019, TaRL Africa is a joint venture between Pratham and MIT’s Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab to build the capacity of governments and other NGO partners in multiple countries across Africa.

The project is funded through a grant from Co-Impact, a global group of funding partners committed to using results-oriented philanthropy to drive meaningful systems change.

The collaboration will employ Pratham’s proven TaRL methodology to improve the foundational learning outcomes of three million students on the continent over the next five years.

“Our partnership with Pratham is based on innovation, learning and a unifying vision—shared with Co-Impact—of creating systems-level change. Through investing in rigorous research and evidence-backed approaches, we can disrupt the status quo and transform lives.”

– Iqbal Dhaliwal,
Executive Director of J-PAL



SAMEER, CONTENT CREATOR

In the village of Churki, children gather around a large puzzle painted on the side of a building. It contains rows of letters in which the names of animals are hidden. They point excitedly, shouting as they discover a word written diagonally: “Peacock!”

The man responsible for this, Sameer, looks on contentedly. Though a skilled artist, Sameer earns his living as a driver. On his many trips to Churki, he often noticed children sitting in groups with one or two adults, talking or working on activities. “I was very curious,” he explains. “So one day, I stopped to ask about it.”

The Pratham facilitator explained that Churki was part of Pratham’s Hamara Gaon initiative, which is designed to engage communities in the education process and ensure that all children acquire and retain essential reading, writing and arithmetic skills in 5,000 communities across India. Wanting to get involved, Sameer volunteered the only way he could think of. Soon, he was covering the village walls with colorful murals and educational games.

“I’m amazed at what Pratham is doing and am proud to be a part of it,” Sameer says, gesturing to his latest creation. “They prove that the answers are right in front of you. You just need to look hard enough.”



PRATHAM USA is proud of our strong tradition of philanthropic leadership and community engagement. Our national and local leaders work diligently to shine a light on India's education crisis, knowing that their efforts change lives and transform communities. Their boundless enthusiasm raises awareness for our cause and further strengthens our volunteer network.

In 2018, our 14 chapters channeled this energy to raise over \$21 million in funds, reflecting a steady increase in contributions and the number of donors in the US. We also welcomed four new directors to our national board: Ila Paliwal, Gagan Singh, Pradeep Singh, and Riaz Valani; established two new chapters: Atlanta and Portland CW (Columbia Willamette); and capped off an already productive year by winning the CrowdRise by GoFundMe Holiday Challenge.

Meanwhile, some of the nation's most highly respected figures, including Google CEO Sundar

Pichai, Senators Kamala Harris and Cory Booker, and Economist Steven Levitt, raised our profile by lending their support for Pratham.

A dozen teens ventured beyond local volunteering, spending two weeks at the Pratham Arora Centre for Education in Aurangabad, India participating in our new service-learning and cultural immersion program. This inaugural class of Pratham Youth Leaders gained a deeper understanding of our pedagogy and made a meaningful connection with the children and youth we benefit through our work.

CHARITY NAVIGATOR



Awarded 4 stars by America's premier nonprofit evaluator for nine consecutive years



Platinum Seal of Transparency



Clockwise from upper left: DC area college students make moves to raise funds for Pratham. The Chicago 5K is much easier for supporters knowing that dosas, idlis and vadas are waiting just across the finish line. Seattle residents gather for a discussion about the role of technology in addressing India's education crisis. Pratham Youth Leaders are all smiles during their two weeks in Aurangabad. Houston Cardiologist Dr. Randeep Suneja celebrates after completing the Katy half marathon to raise money for Pratham. Sundar Pichai waits to accept the Corporate Leadership Award on behalf of Google at the SF Bay Area Gala.

PRATHAM USA STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

For the year ending December 31, 2018

REVENUE

Changes in net assets without donor restrictions
Revenues and other support

Contributions	3,789,730
Foundation grants	4,021,829
Special events	7,437,886
Less: Direct benefit to donors	(1,095,885)
Other income	2,555
Total revenues and other support	\$ 14,156,115

NET ASSETS RELEASED FROM RESTRICTION

Expiration of time and program restrictions	7,327,784
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TOTAL REVENUE WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	21,483,899
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EXPENSES

Program support expenses	17,112,895
General and administrative expenses	759,413
Fundraising expenses	2,291,125
Total expenditures	\$ 20,163,433
Increase in net assets without donor restrictions	1,320,466

CHANGES IN NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS

Contributions	95,265
Foundation grants	6,421,557
Special events	319,095
Other income	(6,554)
Net assets released from restrictions	(7,327,784)

INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS	(498,421)
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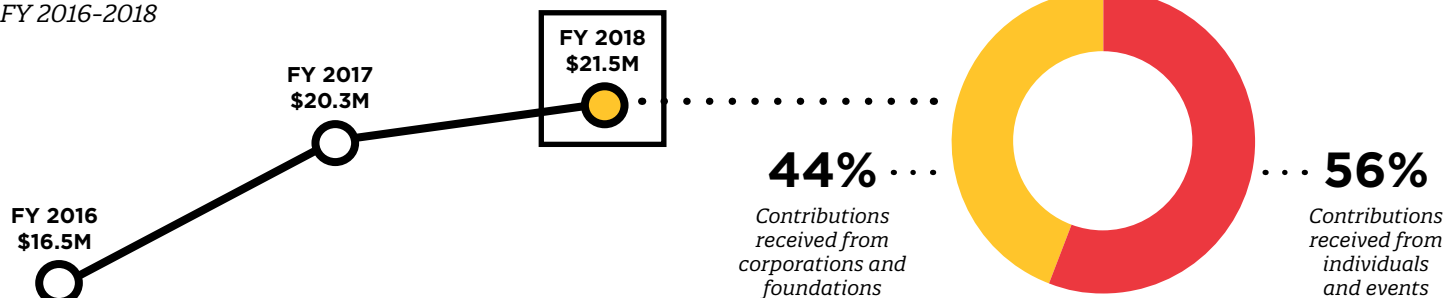
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	822,045
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NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	12,488,503
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NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$ 13,310,548
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PRATHAM USA FUNDING GROWTH WITHOUT RESTRICTIONS

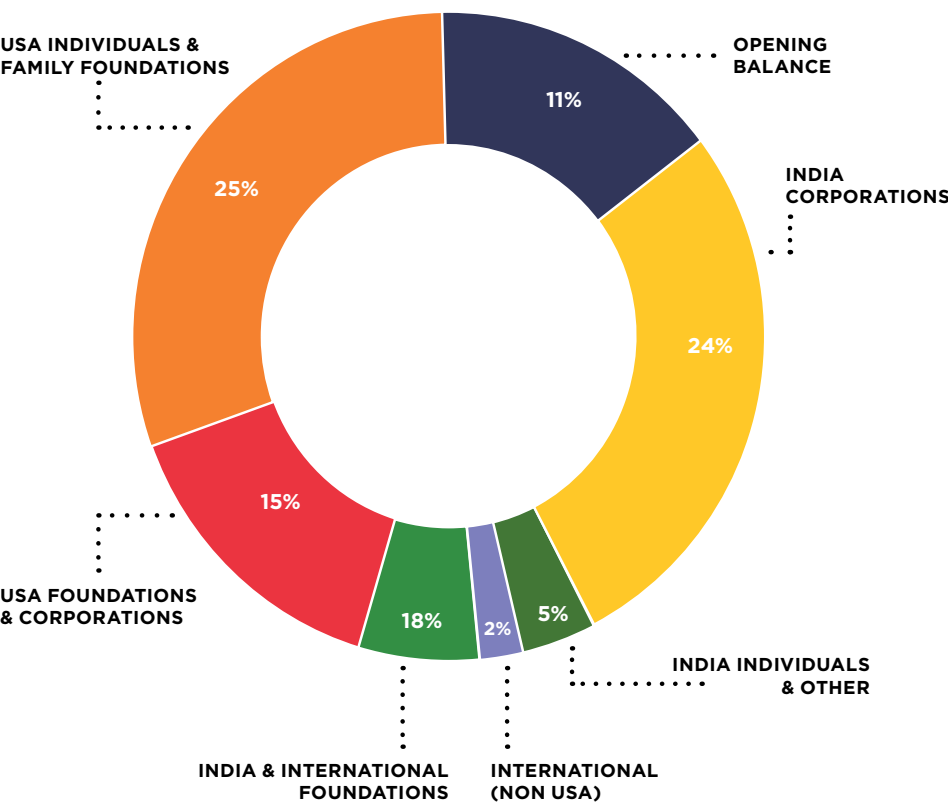
FY 2016-2018



PRATHAM GLOBAL FINANCIALS

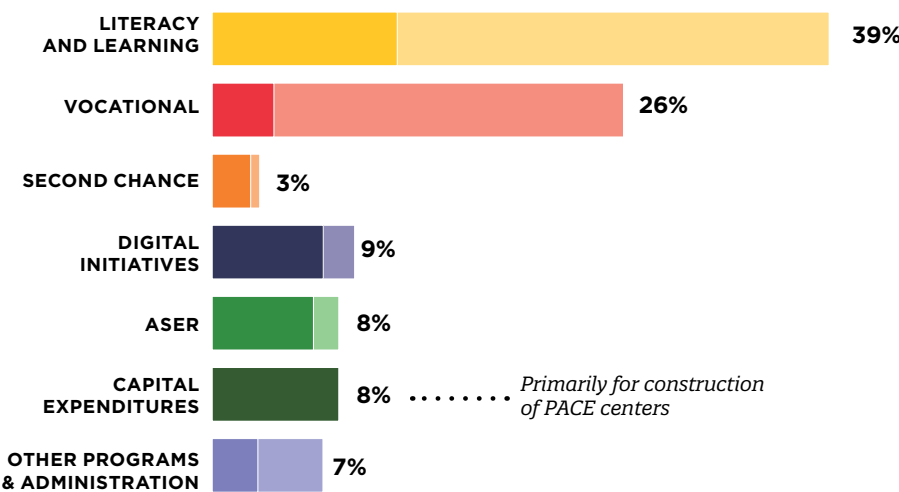
Unaudited from April 1, 2018 - March 21, 2019

SOURCES OF FUNDING \$36.7M



ALLOCATION OF FUNDING \$33M

Darker portions represent funds from Pratham USA



Since the accounting period in India (April - March) differs from the one adopted in the US (January - December), there may be funds that are not utilized in the calendar year. Any remaining funds will be utilized on programs in the first quarter of 2019.

GROWTH IN CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (CSR) FUNDING

FY 2009-2018

2018 608.2M Rupees

2014 393.7M Rupees

2009 65.4M Rupees

India passes legislation requiring companies to spend a minimum of 2% of their net profits annually on CSR. The bill applies to companies with an average net profit of at least 50 million rupees over a period of three years.

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PALLAVI AND SITALAKSHMI, AGENTS OF CHANGE

It is evening in the small village of Muthathi in Karnataka. Children sit on the floor of a sparsely furnished living room listening intently to two young women: Pallavi and Sitalakshmi. Both students at a nearby college, the best friends lead this daily session as part of Pratham's group learning program, which develops foundational skills through collaborative study outside of school hours.

"As college students, we understand how important it is for children to know their basics," explains Pallavi. "If they want to continue with higher studies, they need to be familiar with language and math." Unfortunately, most children in their village struggle in school and get very little support from their families. With Pratham's assistance, the two friends are making a difference.

Pallavi and Sitalakshmi first learned about Pratham when volunteers came to Muthathi looking for help for the ASER survey, the findings of which shed light on the community's dire educational situation. Sitalakshmi puts it simply: "We wanted to see a change in our village."

And they have. Teachers have witnessed a marked improvement in students' performance. "Initially, children came to our house but did not pay attention to what was told to them," says Pallavi, "Now they are confident and have become more expressive."

The children have paired off and are immersed in an activity. "We've given them a few key words," explains Sitalakshmi. "Now it's up to them to write their own story."



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CATCHING UP WITH MOTIN

Motin has not had an easy life, but you wouldn't know it by looking at her today. "In eighth grade, my parents told me I had to assume responsibilities at home. They made me drop my studies, and I was married off at the age of 17," she recounts, echoing a story shared by all too many young women in India. "I was not treated well by my in-laws and my husband. After enduring several years, I ended the marriage and came back to live with my parents."

Her situation seemed hopeless until, at the age of 27, Motin learned about Pratham's Second Chance program, which made it possible for her to return to high school after a twelve-year gap and earn her diploma. Even more impressively, she has just completed her undergraduate studies in political science, Hindi literature and history, finishing at the top of her class during her last two years of study.

Now 33, Motin is employed with the state government and works to educate girls about the possibilities of returning to school. In 2016, she spoke at Pratham galas across the US, where many supporters had the pleasure of hearing her tell her incredible story firsthand. It would be impossible to overstate the magnitude of her journey—from a school dropout who had never set foot out of Chhattisgarh to a role model for millions yearning for a life of dignity.



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A NEW DIRECTION FOR SOMNATH

“My father is a priest and, as per tradition, my family has to offer food to God for the village,” explains Somnath Rana, a student at Pratham’s hospitality training center in Sheragada. “This is not the only thing I want to do.”

After completing the 12th grade, Somnath knew he had to increase his earning potential to help his family, so he decided to pursue a career in hotel management. Unfortunately, the only course available was well beyond his means. When a friend told him about the Pratham Institute, his dream became a possibility.

Fittingly, Somnath joined the Food Production Department, where he is now learning a new kind of food offering, along with valuable life skills and English, which has given his life a new direction. “I want to go to Mumbai and work there for a few years,” he says confidently. “That city has many large hotels.” He smiles. “But I don’t want to stop there. I want to see the world.”

OUR PARTNERS

We are grateful to the following institutions for their ongoing investment in Pratham.



In line with its mission to make a difference in the lives of the world’s poor by multiplying the impact of high-performing leaders and organizations, King Philanthropies is supporting Pratham’s Hamara Gaon initiative through a multiyear grant.

The goal is to ensure school readiness by developing the foundational skills of preschool and primary school children in Rajasthan, Gujarat and Odisha.

A key component of the collaboration is a randomized controlled trial examining the effect of early childhood interventions on learning outcomes.



The Estée Lauder Companies Charitable Foundation is a significant supporter of Pratham’s Second Chance program, with funding allocated to centers in Gondol, Mehsana, Indore, Jabalpur, Vizag, and Nandurbar.

In addition to the yearlong intensive course, the Foundation’s commitment extends to capacity building, career guidance and a technology campaign aimed at bridging India’s digital divide.

This partnership, now in its third year, helps bring about transformational change within communities, as young women become agents of change themselves.



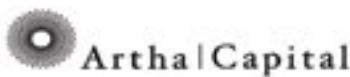
With an emphasis on early childhood and primary education programs, UBS has been a key partner of Pratham since 2014.

Funding from UBS has facilitated research led by J-PAL aimed at understanding the impact of structured math games on children’s learning during the preschool years, which has shown positive results.

Most recently, it has collaborated with Pratham’s technology team to develop a financial educational app, Meri Dukaan, to be implemented in 100 vocational training centers serving more than 25,000 young adults annually.



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We asked our supporters how they would describe Pratham and they told us

PRATHAM IS...

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Implementing evidence-based education programs with sustainable and large-scale effects.

“

Reducing the gap between schooling and learning.

“

The best charity in India.

“

Empowering children and youth through education.

“

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“

Providing real solutions to the global education crisis.

“

Bringing systematic change to India's education system through direct and collaborative interventions.



Pratham opens the door to learning for the most disadvantaged members of Indian society. Your support is integral to our work, from primary education to vocational training. A gift today helps children and youth escape a lifetime of poverty and offers them a chance at a better future.

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