

Improving education for thousands of children in India



In India over one-third (36%) of children drop out before completing the full cycle of elementary education.

Between 54-56% of children in India do not attend pre-primary school.

Gender disparity: in India boys achieve 14% higher literacy rates than girls.



Median income per Bridge India household is 8000 Indian Rupees (INR).

Most Bridge India parents are daily wage earners, agricultural labourers and small business owners.

Bridge is committed to supporting SDG4: Ensuring inclusive and quality education for all.



Bridge currently educates over 100,000 children worldwide. Our vision is to educate 10,000,000 pupils across 12+ countries by 2025.



Education in India

India is facing an education crisis as half of India's 1.27 billion population is under 25. UN statistics show that many children in India are enrolled in school, but never attend. Between 15 and 19 percent of children do not attend primary school and between 54 and 56 percent of children do not attend pre-primary school.

Reports show that even in states where the vast majority of children attend school, they are not learning. In southeast India in Andhra Pradesh, the literacy rate of 67.4% is below the national average of 73%. After three years of school 60% of pupils still cannot read anything except their first name. In Andhra Pradesh learning outcomes are better than the national average, but there has been a decline in learning levels over the years: among level 3 pupils, only 23.3% can read easy sentences in English. Further, only 54.5% of children who can read know the meaning of the sentences they are reading and similar levels of proficiency are observed in maths.

Parents are increasingly choosing to educate their children at affordable private schools. Between 2010 and 2015, enrolment in government schools fell by 7%, leaving enrolment in government schools at 55% and enrolment in affordable schools at 50.5%. In state schools, teachers are absent one out of five days and standards for teaching are low and without incentives.

India has the highest number of child brides in the world. It is estimated that 47% of girls in India are married before their 18th birthday. Bridge is dedicated to making school a positive learning environment for all children, including girls. Bridge aims for gender parity by hiring local female staff who not only act teachers but also as role models both within the classroom and the community.

Bridge in India

Bridge works in partnership with governments, communities, teachers and parents to deliver great schools and high quality education. Bridge believes every child has the right to education and works to ensure that quality education is available in underserved and marginalised communities. Bridge is committed to teaching the Indian curriculum and state syllabus in all of its academies and develops lesson plans with world class education experts and in country advisors. The Bridge model supports United Nations Development Goal Number 4: Ensuring inclusive and quality education for all and is committed to empowering women and girls with nearly 50% gender parity in its classrooms.

Recognizing that prosperity begins in the classroom, the Government of India is taking an innovative approach to education. In 2015, Bridge began an infrastructure partnership with the Andhra Pradesh government designed to improve learning gains. The partnership has retro-fitted, renovated and refurbished old schools turning them into new community schools. Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) can deliver education gains at scale through using providers to assist with existing government programmes, both driving investment by retaining accountability. Bridge is involved in other PPP models such as the Partnership Schools for Liberia (PSL) initiative.

Bridge believes that teachers are at the heart of what we do and provides ongoing training and support from selection, into the classroom and then throughout their career. Independent exams in Kenya have proven that the Bridge approach is working. In 2016, Bridge pupils scored an average of 59% in the KCPE exams compared to a national average of 44%. In 2015, Bridge pupils scored 60% compared to a national average of 44%. In addition EGRA and EGMA tests, conducted in 2014, showed that pupils made standard deviation gains of 0.31 in reading and 0.9 in maths, gains are equivalent to 64 more days of learning in reading and 26 more of maths, in a single school year. We are confident this success will be replicated in India.