



 REACH India

Reaching & Educating
At-risk Children





transform

inspire

reaffirm

empower

value

imagine





about reach india

The Reaching & Educating At-risk Children (REACH) India project seeks to attract out-of-school children to the classroom and concurrently enhance the quality of basic education so that it provides a real and valuable incentive for vulnerable children to continue in school. **The project aims to achieve the dual goals by strengthening the capacity of Indian NGOs in selected urban and rural areas.**

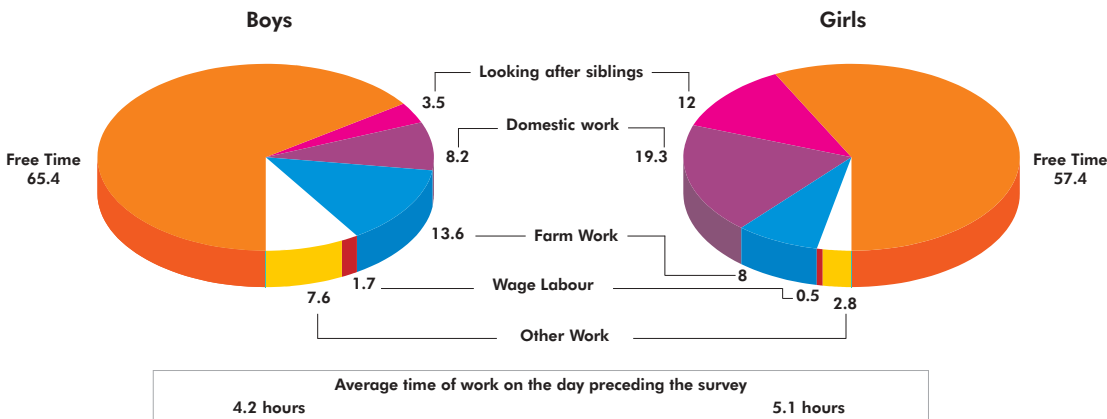
The REACH India initiative is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and complements the Government of India's Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan or Universal Elementary Education (UEE) programme.

harnessing the power of ngos

REACH India believes NGOs have the capacity to develop and implement innovative, context-specific strategies for parents and their children. Indeed, NGOs have been helpful in mobilising communities, devising alternative schooling solutions, and, in some cases, redefining formal school processes.

However, many NGOs lack the resources to expand successful programmes geographically while some others lack the capacity to mount sustainable, quality programmes. Additionally, the majority of NGOs have few opportunities to meaningfully share knowledge with another agency. The result: NGOs often have to reinvent the wheel each time, dramatically slowing their ability to attract and retain vulnerable children in educational programmes.

How Out-of-School Children Spend a 12-hour Day
Proportion(%) of time spent in different activities

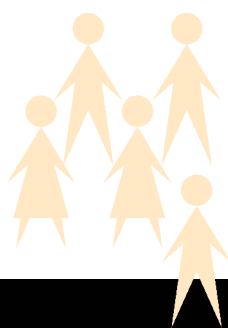


Source: PROBE Survey (sub-sample of 333 out-of-school children in the 6-12 age group), 1999

what makes this project different?

This project isn't just about providing funds to NGOs; embedded in its design is the goal of supporting NGOs in their endeavour to share knowledge, mentor and build the capacities of other organisations working to reach and educate the vulnerable child – the ultimate beneficiary of the UEE programme.

Under the project, NGOs will receive *grants and technical assistance* for providing educational services to address the basic education needs of **at-risk** children – defined for this purpose as children (especially girls), up to 14 years of age, who are either out of school or are in school but in danger of dropping out.



Who are our end beneficiaries?

The **REACH India** project aims to cover vulnerable children, including girls, economically deprived children in rural and urban areas, street children, scheduled caste/scheduled tribe (SC/ST) children, working children, homeless children, children of commercial sex workers, disabled children, children with HIV/AIDS and children of parents with socially stigmatised diseases such as leprosy and HIV/AIDS.

We aim to do this by:

- Strengthening NGOs to scale up delivery of educational services to out-of-school children and improve the quality of education in schools.
- Building the capacity of smaller NGOs to do likewise.
- Promoting the adoption of best practices within the NGO and educational communities.

types of grants and assistance

Projects funded under the grant must support NGOs working to improve the access, enrollment and retention of vulnerable children in schools or preparing at-risk children for potential entry into the formal education system.

REACH India will provide two types of grants:

- **Direct Service Delivery Grants:** **REACH India** will provide funds and technical assistance to NGOs for direct delivery of educational services to vulnerable children in formal and alternative educational programmes.
- **Capacity Building Support Grants:** **REACH India** will provide funds to enable NGOs to mentor and support grassroots NGOs in providing basic education services to vulnerable children in formal and alternative educational programmes. Organisations receiving Capacity Building Support Grants will help selected grassroots NGOs in a variety of ways: a) Strengthen the organisational and programmatic capabilities of the smaller, grassroots NGOs; b) Build networks of local and regional NGOs and through those networks build the capacity of local educational systems; and c) Provide sub-grants to the NGOs they are mentoring for direct service delivery.

Examples of capacity building include programme and financial management, planning, community development, report writing, proposal writing, performance monitoring and educational services.





our approach

To achieve these objectives **REACH India** will promote:

- Programmes that attract and prepare out-of-school children for entry into the formal and alternative elementary (primary and upper primary) school system.
- Networking among NGOs (and involving district/city governments) to promote the sharing and spreading of best practices.
- NGO efforts to provide support to the formal education system to target, enroll and retain vulnerable children in schools.
- NGO initiatives to improve the quality of state-run educational programmes through, for example, staff development, improved Education Management Information Systems (EMIS) and micro-planning.
- Efforts on the part of larger NGOs or foundations to build the capacity of smaller, grassroots NGOs.
- Sustainability of NGOs and their programmes by broadening and diversifying their funding sources, including those from governments, donors and corporate entities.
- Advocacy efforts aimed at:
 - Improving the capacity of the formal system to accommodate increased numbers of children in quality programmes.
 - Mobilising communities to send their children, especially girls, to school.
 - Generating increased support for quality, basic education.

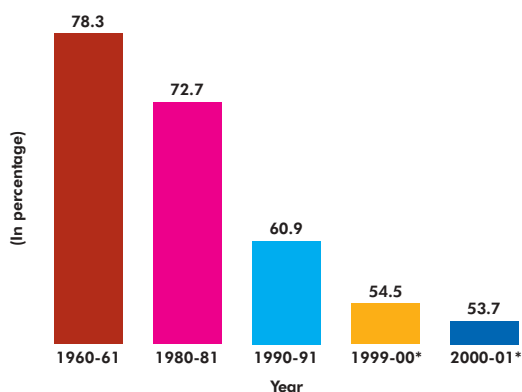
quality and access

Intrinsic to the **REACH India** approach is the belief that in the quest for a child's fundamental right to education, quality cannot and should not be ignored. The two attributes – a child's right to education and the quality of education — are two sides of the same coin.

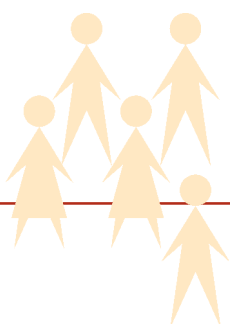
Obviously, quality of learning cannot be addressed in a void caused by the absence of schools, teachers or basic facilities in schools. Nor can it be addressed without taking into account the socio-economic background of the child. The reality for many economically deprived families is that both parents and children are unable to see the relevance of education in their day-to-day lives.

There are many children who still do not have access to proper education with the necessary facilities and infrastructure. And even the ones who are a little more fortunate will be better equipped to meet the challenges of tomorrow if they had better-trained teachers, an improved curriculum, a school that focused on child-centered activities and programmes that used effective and innovative teaching aids and strategies.

Dropout Rates at Elementary Stages



Source: Selected Educational Statistics 2000-2001, Government of India
* Provisional





monitoring and evaluation

All monitoring and evaluation work with partner organisations will be tied to the same results framework where the main defining indicator is the increased participation of vulnerable children in education. This evaluation strategy, which will capture the common vision, goals and objectives of **REACH India** stakeholders, will also provide critical data for advocacy and policy work.

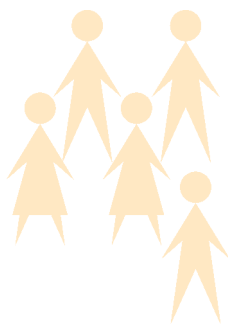
project period and coverage

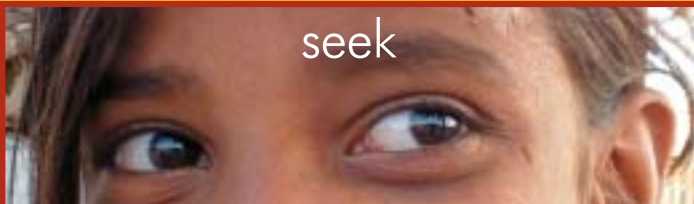
REACH India is scheduled to run through till September 2007 and focuses on disadvantaged, vulnerable children both in rural and urban areas. The project will cover Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai and parts of Jharkhand, Chhatisgarh and Karnataka.

programme management

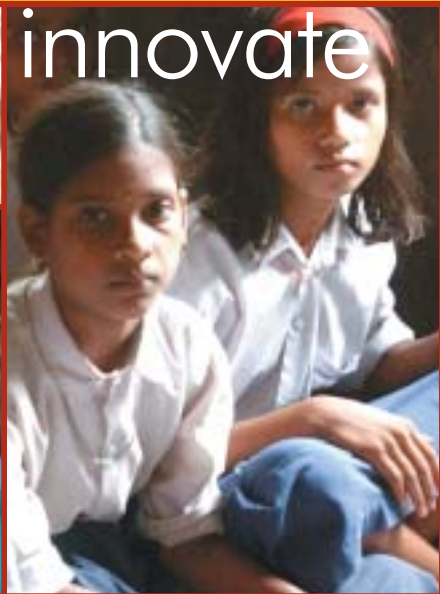
REACH India is staffed by a small team of professionals drawn from the fields of education, training, monitoring and evaluation, finance and communications.

The **REACH India** project is being jointly carried out by the American Institutes for Research (AIR), Juarez and Associates, Michigan State University and World Education under the auspices of the Educational Quality Improvement Program (EQUIP1).





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For more details, you may access the EQUIP1 India website at:
<http://www.equip123.net/webarticles/anmviewer.asp?a=316&z=16>

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