

Program: India Literacy Project

Website: <http://www.ilpnet.org>

Mission: To be a catalyst for 100% literacy in India by empowering the individuals we serve with functional literacy and an understanding of their basic rights and responsibilities.

History of the Organization: India Literacy Project (ILP) was founded in 1990 in the United States by a group of young non-resident Indians. With its mission to “be a catalyst for 100% literacy in India,” ILP is a developmental support organization that works in partnership with local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and networks in India to play the role of a catalyst for literacy. ILP’s main role is to enable and support the implementing partner (NGO) in its processes of strengthening the community, identifying and addressing the gaps in the delivery of education services, and bringing about systemic changes through advocacy.

Where They Work: Sundargarh in Orissa State, India

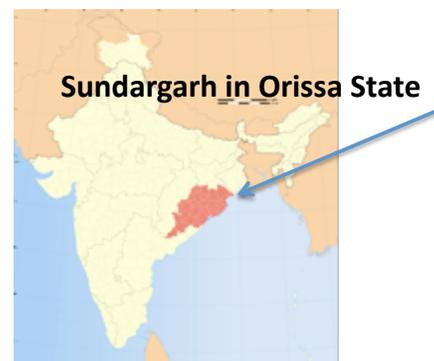
Orissa is one of the 35 states and union territories of India. Orissa attained statehood in 1936. More than one-fifth of the population is tribal.¹ Ancient civilizations and tradition abound throughout contemporary Orissa. Architectural stone carvings of exceptional beauty continue to be excavated from early Buddhist sites.² Orissa is also celebrated for its natural heritage: it is home to a tiger reserve and Asia’s largest lagoon, Chilika Lake, which hosts the rare Irrawaddy dolphin as well as millions of migratory birds.³ In January, “masses of olive ridley turtles pull themselves up onto Orissa’s long beaches to lay their eggs; two months later, thousands of tiny hatchlings crawl to the sea.”⁴



Ancient civilizations and tradition abound through contemporary Orissa.

Sundargarh is a remote and tribal-inhabited district within Orissa. It is a mining region bordered by two very under-developed states. The target villages in the two blocks (Subdega and Balisankara) are very remote; some of them are hardly accessible. These communities include a tribal population of 75% and very low literacy rates. The female literacy rates are particularly low, and females also face extreme hardships. Females in this region are marginalized in many ways--by gender, education, economics, and social taboos. In the present day, women and girls are unable to visualize a path out of their problems.⁵

A study conducted by a reputable agency, Tata Institute of Social Sciences in the district of Sundergarh, confirms that lack of basic education is one of the major reasons for adolescent girls and women being trafficked from the region.⁶



Three major reasons for significant intervention in the Sundargarh district:

(1) High incidence of adolescent girls & women being trafficked

There is a very high incidence of female trafficking and migration of children to large and distant cities, especially girls in the age group of 10 to 18 years. From Sundargarh district, it is estimated that 58,000 girls and women have been trafficked, which is 10% of female trafficking in the entire country of India.

(2) Limited school enrollment/attendance and dropout rates

The community does not value the education of its children. Though the children are admitted to schools, attendance in the schools is a meager 35% - 40%.

(3) Gender disparity in literacy rates

There is a 20% difference in literacy rates between males and females in the target area. Girls are made to drop out of schools to help with household chores, including sibling care, cooking, etc. The female-to-male sex ratio for adults in Sundargarh district is the worst (930 per 1000) in the state of Orissa. The incidence of female infanticide is also high compared to the rest of the state.

-India Literacy Project



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The Project: Education & Empowerment of Girls and Women

India Literacy Project requests support from Dining for Women for the project “Education and Empowerment of Girls and Women” in Sundargarh district in the state of Orissa, India. The project target area consists of 61 villages with a population of 20,900 in approximately 7,200 households.

Through this project, ILP aims to create a suitable atmosphere in the target area for education and empowerment of girls and women and to orient them towards a sustainable livelihood in the future. **Below are some of the specific objectives:**

• Provide effective education to girls through scholarships in the age group of 6 to 16 years

- Provide skills development training to adolescent girls
- Sensitize women and adolescent girls to the concepts of literacy and education, health, and sanitation
- Prevent migration and trafficking of adolescent girls and women by raising awareness in the community
- Develop a comprehensive education and livelihood model, which can be replicated in other contiguous areas

ILP will partner with an experienced local non-government organization (NGO) named Pragati to implement this project. Pragati has been working in this region for more than two decades.



Two objectives of this project are educating girls and empowering women.

This intervention will address the issue of girls not attending school. In addition, adolescent girls who have dropped out of school will be involved in vocational skilled education, thus increasing their opportunities towards self-sufficiency and reducing their vulnerability of being trafficked. The closest link between the child's life and education is the mother. Empowerment of women (mothers, daughters, and sisters) will enable a women-empowered society.⁷

Focus Area #1 – Scholarships: While the government does offer free education, not all expenses towards education of a child are fully covered. The project will provide an additional incentive (scholarships) to the 500 girls in 91 elementary schools, 250 girls in 14 high schools and 100 girls in post metric (11th/12th grade)

to continue their education. These scholarships will cover expenses like transportation costs, schoolbags, or other educational material that are not supplied through the government system. These scholarships will be provided over two academic years.

Focus Area #2 – Livelihood: The project will also provide “livelihood” training for 125 young girls to provide them ways for achieving self-sufficiency. 70 girls will be trained in sewing and tailoring, 30 girls in housekeeping and cooking, 15 girls to become nursery teachers, and 10 girls to learn soap and detergent making. Women will be organized into 50 self-help groups and will be provided seed capital to take up income-generating activities.

Focus Area #3 – Women’s Awareness: Mobilization of the mothers, women, and girls in the community and sensitizing them to trafficking issues is a key focus of this project. This will be done by activating the women’s self-help groups and providing them with the necessary orientation and training. The adolescent girls will be brought into adolescent clubs, and every village will have a vigilant committee to track migration of women from the village. This is the mechanism by which the women in the community will be educated and empowered to take ownership of their destiny.

Why We Love This Project:

Dining for Women’s funding will dramatically impact this remote tribal area in the state of Orissa, where girls and women have suffered from abysmal female literacy rates, meager income generation opportunities, a high rate of female sex trafficking, and lack of women’s empowerment. ILP’s holistic and long-term approach addresses issues that women and girls face on a daily basis:

- Scholarships will provide two years of education for girls of all ages.
- Funding for critical job skills training and adolescent clubs for girls will provide increased opportunities for local jobs, reduce the incidence of sex trafficking, and decrease migration from villages.
- Additionally, mobilizing women through self-help groups, mothers’ committees, and other initiatives will enable women to understand their rights, to make informed decisions for themselves and their families, and to support education for their children.



Project Budget: \$37,418

Activity	Cost
Scholarships for 850 Girls for Two Years: 2012-2014	\$20,652
Skills Development for Livelihood for 125 Girls <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Instructors' salaries •Food and lodging for students •Material costs 	\$5,527
Livelihood for Women <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Seed capital to support 50 self-help groups 	\$5,435
Community Awareness/Women's Empowerment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Training on child tracking/vigilance for self-help groups and village leaders •Formation/strengthening of women's self-help groups •One regional-level women's convention •Adolescent groups formed and leader training •Travel for rescue of trafficked girls/women 	\$4,304
Project Documentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Multimedia content and project reports •DVD for DFW 	\$1,500
Total Program Budget	\$37,418

If an additional \$5,000 were to be provided by DFW (beyond \$38,000), ILP would utilize these funds to provide livelihood training for 125 more girls in the second year.

This is a project that ILP initiated in the year 2010. DFW's support will fund the third year of the project in the academic year of April 2012 to March 2013.

How They Measure Success:

Project success will be measured through the following quantitative indicators and goals:

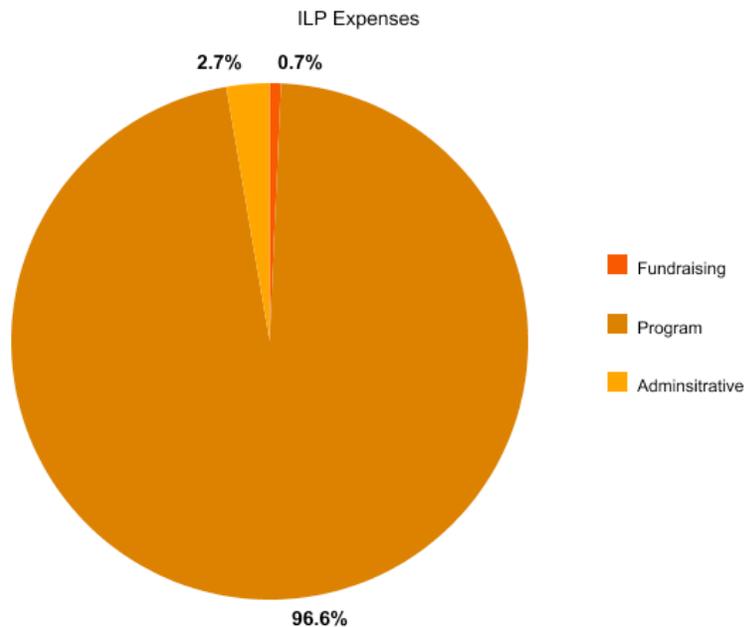
1. Average attendance of girls in government schools: 90% (currently less than 60%)
2. Dropout rate of girls from schools: Less than 10%
3. Re-enrollment of girls who had dropped out of school: 90%
4. Scholarships provided to girls in need (for 2 years): 500 girls in primary; 250 in secondary; 100 in post-matric schools
5. Girls who had dropped out of attending skills development courses: 125 girls
6. Functioning of women organizations that take up trafficking issues : 50 groups with 600 total members

Additionally, the following qualitative indicators will be tracked:

1. Stopping the trafficking of adolescent tribal girls from the area.
2. Participation of local village governing bodies and their tribal leaders in solving the issues such as women trafficking, female infanticide and girls' education.

Financial Profile

Program Expenses	\$284,545	96.6%
Administrative Expenses	\$7,967	2.7%
Fundraising Expenses	\$2,040	0.7%
Total Expenses	\$294,552	100%



Sources:

¹ "CIA - The World Factbook." *Welcome to the CIA Web Site — Central Intelligence Agency*. Web. 2 Oct. 2011. <<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/in.html>>.

² "History of Orissa - Lonely Planet Travel Information." *Lonely Planet Travel Guides and Travel Information*. Web. 2 Oct. 2011. <<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/india/orissa/history>>.

³ Ibid

⁴ Ibid

⁵ *INDIA LITERACY PROJECT | A Catalyst for 100% Literacy in India*. Web. 2 Oct. 2011. <<http://www.ilpnet.org/>>.

⁶ Ibid

⁷ Ibid