

AIDE ET ACTION SOUTH ASIA

NEWSLETTER



SPECIAL FOCUS

LEARNING KITS HELP IMPROVE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IN FLOOD PRONE ASSAM



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Assam is the land of two mighty rivers – Brahmaputra and Barak. Each year these two rivers and their tributaries cause floods in vast areas of Assam that lead to human misery and devastation of nature. The havoc caused by the flood in Assam is beyond describable. The destruction of properties and loss of life is visible every passing year. Lakhs are left homeless, standing crops are damaged and roads and communication links are interrupted, hence affecting the economic condition of the state. Some of the worst affected areas include tea industry, wildlife and biodiversity of Assam.

The sudden influx of floods has a major impact on the education of children. Most of the time, their learning material is washed away and their schools are damaged. This adversely affects their studies and has serious consequences on their future.

Lakhimpur and Biswanath districts, where Aide et Action has been implementing projects dedicated to access and quality of education, are regularly affected by the floods. “During floods, students find difficulty in attending schools and they face a shortage of necessities like school bags, drinking water and as such cannot attend school regularly. Many children drop-out due to lack of books, and other stationery material,” says Pushpa Ekka, Field Coordinator – Aide et Action.

AT A GLANCE

- 3115 learning kits distributed in Lakhimpur & Biswanath districts
- 300 Hygiene kits to households in two villages
- Supported by ChildAid & Aide et Action

As a response to floods, this year Aide et Action distributed Learning Kits among the students of its intervening schools to reduce their vulnerability. The kit consisted of a school bag, one umbrella, one water bottle, one pencil box, two pencils, one eraser, one sharpener, one wax color, and one notebook. Along with learning kits, Hygiene Kits were also distributed to 300 households in two villages - Gormur Sonapur and Merbil Pokatoli in Lakhimpur.

Once the kits were distributed, the schools noticed increased regularity among the children and a decrease in the drop-outs. “Our students who were irregular in the past are now becoming regular gradually, mainly due to the support provided by Aide et Action. We do not have sufficient teachers though we have a large number of students. However, students themselves support us tremendously in improving their attendance,” Bhorolua Ko, Head Teacher, D B Rai Memorial School.

In order to curtail the spread of infections during the floods & rainy season, the team trained all the children on WASH practices.



ODIA MIGRANT CHILDREN TO RECEIVE EDUCATION AT DESITNATIONS IN TELANGANA

For the 3rd consecutive year, the brick kiln owners with the support of Aide et Action & Rachakonda Police Commissionerate came forward to support the education of migrant children living in brick kilns in and around Ranga Reddy district. This year around 700 children, identified through a survey conducted by Aide et Action, will be attending worksite schools run by brick kiln owners. The initiative was started as a followup of 'Operation Smile' conducted by Rachakonda Police Commissionerate in 2017 to provide education to children who otherwise end up working as labor in brick kilns.

Speaking at the inauguration of a worksite school on 31st January 2020 in Kongarakalan, Mr. Mahesh Bhagwat, IPS, Commissioner Rachakonda Police Commissionerate and a well known crusader for combating human trafficking and who has been bestowed with prestigious national and international award said "Education can be a game-changer for the disadvantaged children provided they are given a level playing ground". He further says, "It was a huge challenge for him and his team to find out a the best answer to the problems of rescued child labour from brick kilns. Worksite School was the perfect answer in providing education for interstate children and campaigning for the elimination of child labour in brick kilns."

"This is my third year under the leadership of Mr. Mahesh Bhagawat. This is a unique model in India. Children are coming all the way from Odisha and studying here. We are ensuring continued education

BACKGROUND

Indian brick kiln industry is the second largest brick producer in the world and has more than 100,00 operating units producing about 14 billion bricks annually. Brick kilns in India employ migrant families from poorer regions who primarily belong to Dalit, tribal and other backward communities. Brick making being seasonal in nature operates during the dry seasons of the year and prior to the onset of the monsoons (usually during the end of May and the first week of June). During this period, the children often migrate with their parents to other states and work as child labor or look after younger siblings while their parents work.

to all these children back in Odisha after the end of migration season," said Umi Daniel, Director – Migration & Education, Aide et Action South Asia.

The chief guest of the event, Sri Manchi Reddy Kishan Reddy, MLA - Ibrahimpatnam, lauded the efforts of Aide et Action and Mr Mahesh Bhagawat, IPS for their efforts in reaching out to migrant children and providing education.

Till date, 2100 children were enrolled in government schools in Telangana. The district administration came forward to provide mid-day meals and learning kits to all the children on par with the local children. Once the migration season ends, the children are re-integrated into schools in their native villages in Odisha. Aide et Action ensures that all the children continue their education in Odisha.



A project with a difference: A new group enterprise model, supported by Aide et Action, has taken shape in Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh which aims to empower rural women and provide them employment. The initiative is started with the setting up of a beauty parlor by four women entrepreneurs who received training under the Initiative for Livelihood Education and Development (iLEAD), a flagship programme of Aide et Action. Christened 'BamBeauty', the saloon provides training and livelihood opportunities to rural woman that help in achieving gender equality and financial independence.

The BamBeauty project provides a variety of skills to the women, including education, professional training, soft skills, and entrepreneurial prowess as part of the iLEAD programme which was launched in 2005 in India and has trained over 106,000 women across India.



Building Confidence: As part of the final practical examination, the iLEAD-Trincomalee organized an innovative beauty contest for the students of the Beauty Culture Course. Nancy was crowned as 'Miss AEA' for her response on how iLEAD promotes peace education. "iLEAD courses promote knowledge, skills, and attitudes which prevent the occurrence of conflict and help resolve conflicts peacefully. The iLEAD centre also help in creating a conducive environment where each student can study peacefully, gain knowledge and at the same time have fun," Nancy said.



Mission South Asia: Mathieu Cros, Responsable – Research, Evaluation and Capitalization, Aide et Action – France, visited ENLIGHT project in Hyderabad to reflect on AEA's practices in terms of partners and local actors' support and strengthen the diffusion of best practices within Aide et Action. As part of the visit, he had meetings with the staff and stakeholders of the ENLIGHT project which included girl children with disabilities, managements of special schools for disabled and parents.

Mathieu focused on understanding the way in which AEA supports partners and actors, characterise the autonomisation of partners and understand and describe the relationships between the stakeholders involved in the project.



Building Networks: A 'meet' for employers specifically from the 'LOGISTICS' field was organized by Aide et Action Chennai Regional Office on 24th January 2020 at The Kings Hotel, Egmore, Chennai. The objectives of the meet were to create a strong network with Logistics employers, to comprehend their requirement and to strengthen strategies in training iLEAD youth in Logistics management trade. Fifteen Employers from noted Logistics firms participated and gave inputs to our faculties from the iLEAD Logistic trade.



The 71st India's Republic day was celebrated across all our Education, Livelihood and Migration project interventions in India. Tri-color flags were hoisted and children and youth performed various cultural programmes with happiness.

AEA IN NEWS

- CSR Foundations and NGOs steer inclusive growth efforts; ANI News; [Click here to read](#)
- Education and sustainability to be focus areas for M3M Foundation in 2020: Dr Payal Kanodia; ANI News [Click here to read](#)
- Odisha announces package to arrest distress migration to other states; Hindustan Times; [Click here to read](#)
- Project with a difference; The Hindu BusinessLine; [Click here to read](#)
- Worksite schools for disadvantaged children in Ranga Reddy; Telangana Today; [Click here to read](#)

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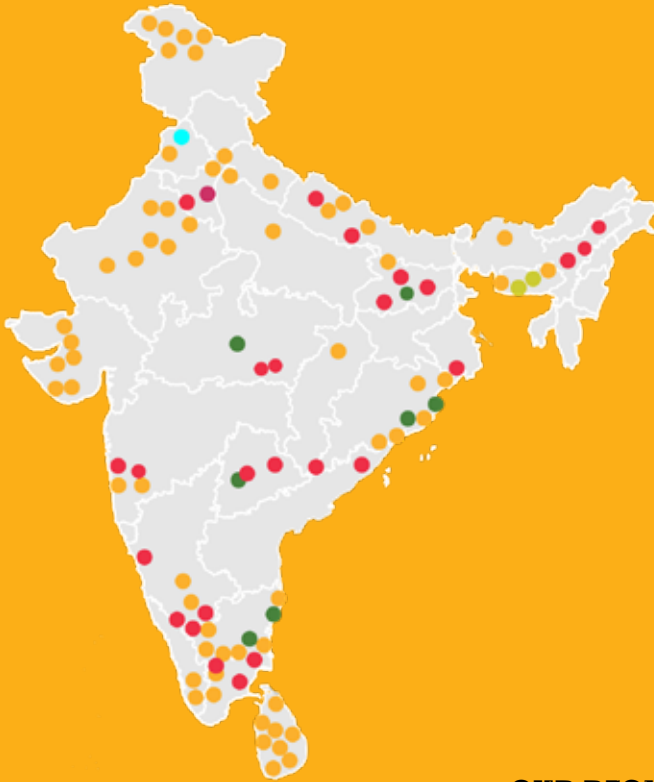
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OUR PROJECT LOCATIONS ACROSS SOUTH ASIA



- Access & Quality Education projects
- Migration & Education projects
- Early Childhood Care & Education projects
- HIV & Health Education projects
- Livelihood Education projects
- 44 Initiative for Livelihood Education & Development Centres (iLEAD)

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