



Partners for change

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About the British Council

We build connections, understanding and trust between people in the UK and other countries through arts and culture, education, and the English language.

We help young people gain the skills, confidence and network they need to realise their potential and to participate in strong and inclusive communities. We support them to learn English, to get a high-quality education and to gain internationally recognised qualifications. Our work in arts and culture stimulates creative expression and exchange, and nurtures creative enterprise.



Partnerships drive real impact in India

We aim to partner with India's knowledge ambitions and economic growth by creating opportunities for young people to succeed in a global environment through:



Enabling an **internationalised, high quality education** for **improved learner outcomes** and **greater socio-economic impact**



Strengthening higher education systems through **research innovation and student mobility** between India and UK



Setting standards in the **quality of teaching and learning**



Strengthening the arts and culture for **creative expression, exchange and enterprise**

By 2025, we aim to reach 100 million young people in India. Working in partnership with other organisations is integral to delivering benefit and extending the reach and impact of what we do.

Between 2019 and 2021 we connected with

3.16m

people across India

91m

total

1.86m

teachers, educators and students

60.4m

through mass media

6,936

partner organisations

34.83m

through social media and website

78

partner government departments

Our work in India

Enabling high quality education

We enable an internationalised, high quality education for improved learner outcomes.

Our partnerships with governments (state and central) and non-governmental organisations, help us design and deliver innovative and impact-focused programmes to improve education systems that in turn help young aspirants access education, career, and life opportunities. Our partnership programmes adopt a holistic approach to prepare students for their place in a global workforce. We focus on capacity building, systems improvement and sustainability.





Tejas: Capacity building among teachers

2016 - 2021: Maharashtra

Children studying in government schools, typically from disadvantaged backgrounds, often lack the soft skills and confidence to communicate in English which in turn affects their employability. While the education system has tremendous capacity in the form of experienced teachers, many of them have weak English skills themselves and need guidance to be able to play training and mentoring roles. This project was a joint initiative to improve the quality of English language teaching and learning in primary schools, delivered through a partnership between the **Government of Maharashtra, Tata Trusts** and British Council.

Objective Project Tejas aims to develop teachers' pedagogical skills and achieve measurable impact on students' learning outcomes, in turn, building the capacity of government teacher-training institutions, and thereby, support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 4 (UNSDG4).

Impact

36

districts of Maharashtra

1.4m

learners

775

teacher activity group coordinators

2,130

teacher activity groups

51,000

teachers

1,110

digital courses

93%

of teachers feel their learners are making progress in their English skills.

95%

of teachers try out new ideas in their classrooms, every month.

95%

of teachers feel their own English has improved since joining the training.



The Tejas project, as its name suggests, has spread the 'light' of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) in the lives of many teachers in Maharashtra. The uniqueness of the project is the ownership the teachers have of all the activities and the success with their learners. Its effect will therefore be a long lasting one.

Dr. Subhash Kamble
Former Director, Regional Academic Authority,
English Expertise, Aurangabad



DONeR Project: Improving English language proficiency in government schools

2019 - 2020: Northeastern states

The Northeast is an area of significant geo-strategic importance in India. We responded to the 'Act East' policy of the Government of India and partnered with **The North Eastern Council (NEC)**, **Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (M-DoNER)** and the state governments of **Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim** and **Tripura** to develop English language learning and teaching in government schools in this region.

Objective Develop the learning and teaching of English in primary schools by equipping 400 master trainers (50 per state) with interactive facilitation skills and pedagogical knowledge that will enable them to lead teacher education initiatives.

Impact

340

master trainers

666

teachers

97%

master trainers felt their involvement in the project has helped their learners' attendance.

97%

master trainers stated they were doing things differently in their classrooms.

50%

master trainers have a range of training skills to enable them to facilitate teacher education in seven states.

“

We've been learning so many novel and innovative techniques, concepts and ideas. Our trainer has been really energetic, enthusiastic, creative and helpful. The lesson plan is organised and systematic, and the trainers that we have had are skilful.

T. Ruth Khamniungan
Teacher/Master Trainer, Nagaland



Our work in India

English skills for employability

Research shows that those who speak English can earn up to 34% more than those who don't speak the language. Our interventions aim to provide increased opportunities for youth to develop their English language proficiency to unlock greater opportunities in a globalised economy.

Our digital and mobile learning courses in 'English for employability' delivered in partnership with corporate houses as well as state governments have demonstrated excellent impact on learners. These models of English learning proved invaluable to learners during the COVID-19 pandemic, where physical delivery models were severely challenged. While **15,000+** children enrolled in our online English courses, a further **142,000+** teachers and educators were trained via MOOCs and online platforms, and **5.2m** learners from government schools in Delhi and West Bengal benefitted through our digital and TV interventions.

We also produce research in support of bridging the gap between policy and practice in English teaching and learning.





Case study

Teach India: Improving employability prospects for disadvantaged youth

2010 - 2019

Disadvantaged youth from urban backgrounds lack the confidence and skills required to access employability opportunities. We partnered with **Bennett Coleman & Co. Ltd** in Delhi and Mumbai and subsequently with **Tihar Jail, Delhi Police, CISF** and **ITI** to help improve levels of English teaching and learning among such communities through a network of NGOs.

Objective Develop the confidence of disadvantaged youth from urban backgrounds to use English in a range of employability contexts, with the aim to enhance their job prospects.

Impact

4,000
volunteer
teachers

120+
NGOs

40,000
learners
(18-30 years)

60%
of learners received job
offers at the end of the
three-month course.



“

With this course I will be able to speak English more fluently and with more people comfortably.

Prathamesh
Learner, Mumbai

”

The most valuable thing that Teach India teaches the learners is to become confident in speaking English, and they are able to face the world in a better way.

Rekha Pulopaka
Volunteer Teacher, Mumbai



Case study

Improving spoken English skills for students entering the college level

2018 - 2019: National Capital Territory of Delhi

The Government of the National Capital Territory of New Delhi wanted to address capacity building for teachers and improve school pedagogy, to provide students in government schools with resources and opportunities for upward social mobility and inclusion. We partnered with **Macmillan Education** and **Government of NCT, New Delhi** to deliver a programme aimed at enhancing spoken English skills among students studying in Class 11 across government schools in Delhi.

Objective Develop students' English speaking and communication skills to improve their further education, employability prospects and skills, based on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) levels. (CEFR is an international standard that describes language ability on a six-point scale.)

Impact

50,900+
government schools

1,100
students

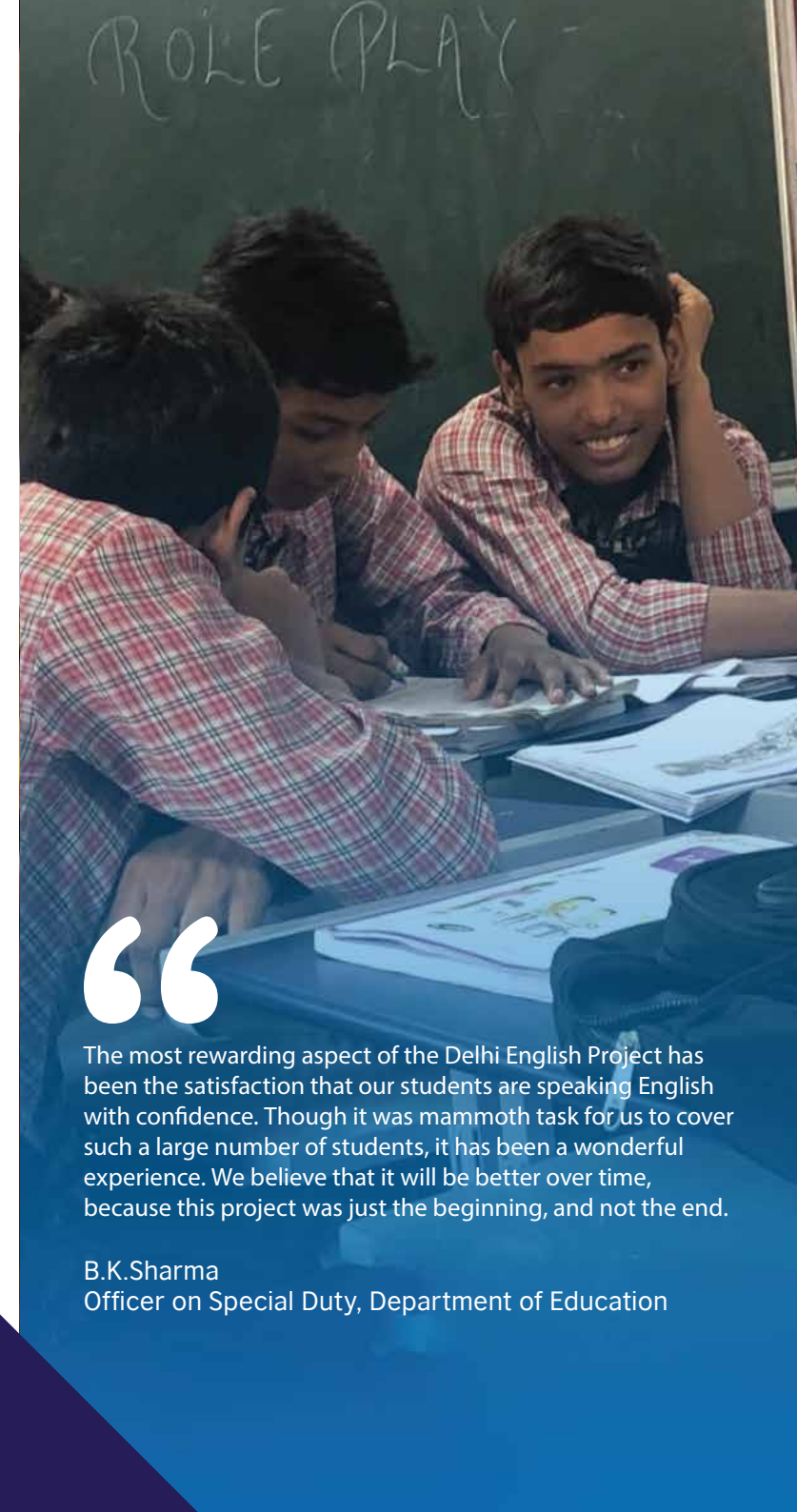
1,550+
teachers

Students reported an increase in confidence in speaking English at the end of the course.

80% **>90%**
(2018 batch) (2019 batch)

Students showed improvement by one full CEFR level.

63% **73%**
(2018 batch) (2019 batch)



“

The most rewarding aspect of the Delhi English Project has been the satisfaction that our students are speaking English with confidence. Though it was mammoth task for us to cover such a large number of students, it has been a wonderful experience. We believe that it will be better over time, because this project was just the beginning, and not the end.

B.K.Sharma
Officer on Special Duty, Department of Education

Our work in India

Strengthening research and innovation

Our work in higher education supports skills development, dialogue and knowledge exchange in the research environment. We help researchers to work more effectively with business and with policy makers, and to be more responsive to the needs of communities. Forming networks and partnerships enhances the international flow of information and trust, raising the profile and reputation of both the UK and India in the fields of science and higher education. We focus on the areas where we, and the UK, are best suited to make meaningful contributions.





UK-India Education Research Initiative (UKIERI)

2006 - 2021

UKIERI is India's largest bilateral initiative in education, and focuses on enabling research and innovation partnerships, capacity building, and leadership development across the higher education sector with the aim of internationalisation of Indian higher education institutions. The programme's role in strengthening knowledge exchange in the higher education sector and in improving skill sector relationships between the two countries, has been highly recognised.

UKIERI is funded from the UK by **the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Scottish Government and the Department for Economy** and from India by the erstwhile **Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), the Department for Science and Technology (DST), the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)**. The British Council is the delivery partner of UKIERI along with **Universities UK International (UUKi) and Association of Colleges**.

Objective Strengthening education and research collaboration between the UK and India.

Impact

25,000+
academic exchanges

4,500
education institutions

821
institutional partnerships



UKIERI has a rich legacy of enabling connections to flourish over the last 14 years. It has undoubtedly helped enhance education and research work between our two countries and we value the partnership with the UK that has been built, thanks to the scheme. We are committed to carrying forward the good work of UKIERI and further deepen this partnership in the future. The UK is a trusted education partner for the Government of India with a strong reputation for higher education globally. I'm pleased they are involved in this programme which will serve as a stimulant for the administrators to improve their performance and capabilities in ways which will enhance global reputation of universities in India.

Dr Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'
Hon'ble Union Cabinet Minister for Education,
Government of India

Our work in India

Accelerating student mobility

In India, we engage with thousands of young students through significant interventions at key moments in their lives. By doing so, we often act as a catalyst that propels them forward.

This is enabled through scholarships, ranging from **STEM scholarships for women** to **Creative Economy Scholarships**, creating opportunities for young students and early career professionals from India to access UK education in the respective fields.

We also deliver the **Newton Bhabha Fund** for the **Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS, UK)**, which, since inception, has been instrumental in capacity building for **5,000+** researchers and scholars in India and the UK, involving **1,000+** educational institutions.

Overall, we provide end-to-end support to Indian students keen to pursue education in the UK through a variety of initiatives right from information dissemination, to organising events. In 2020-21, **56,093** Indian students received student visas, a **13%** increase from 2019-20.



Our work in India

Strengthening creative economy

British Council is a catalyst to strengthen arts and culture for creative and social expression, exchange and enterprise. We aim to bring about a long-term systematic change for the emerging and established festivals, crafts and heritage sectors between India and UK:



Strengthening skills of future leaders in the creative industry to achieve sustainable impact



Partnering with emerging and established Festivals for capacity building and creative exchange between both countries



Strengthening innovation in craft with design excellence, entrepreneurship and technology, for improved livelihoods

Women empowerment and inclusion is at the heart of our programmes.



Key initiatives

2019 onwards



Crafting Futures is a capacity building programme that is aimed at empowerment of women's livelihoods and sustainable communities through craft and design, technology and entrepreneurship.



Festivals for the Future was launched in 2019 in India with a focus on supporting the long-term development, economic empowerment, and systemic change of India's festivals economy. It offers access to outstanding skills development and training for festival professionals through an innovative Festivals Academy, a Festivals Connections programme, and partnerships with over 20 festivals in India.



Shared Cultural Heritage empowers young people in India and the UK to develop skills in curation, conservation and leadership in heritage related work. The programme is currently supported by the **Heritage Lottery Fund** in the UK.

“

We are extremely happy to have received the Crafting Future award which enables us to conduct the project - Celebrating Clay. It gives us an opportunity to transform Gundiwali as one of the very first craft experiential tourism hubs in India. We believe that this project will become a benchmark and inspire other craft clusters, and bring in new opportunities in the sustainable development of the craft and cultural tourism industry.

Jay Thakkar
Co-founder and Executive Director at Design Innovation and Craft Resource Centre (DICRC), CEPT University, Ahmedabad, India

“

Festival Connections is a much-required space for creative practitioners from across India, and beyond, to meet, share, and learn from one another. It has not only created an invaluable support network for like-minded professionals, but perhaps opened doors to future collaborations.

Lubna Shaheen
Programme Director, Ziro Festival of Music



Why partner with us?

Proven impact in India and across the world:

Building on our in-depth knowledge and broad experience of development issues within Education, English and Arts, we deliver international development solutions that offer a unique approach to achieving sustainable change. By promoting quality education, sharing international best practice and facilitating dialogue between policy makers, practitioners and education leaders, we have influenced whole-system reform and have helped improve learning outcomes.

International experience and networks:

We work collaboratively with governments and partners to implement education reforms that align with national policies and plans, to support and develop existing processes. Through our global network of partners and experts, we have access to the very latest educational expertise and practices, which we build into programmes to improve education outcomes in the countries we work in. We promote a global perspective in education to enable young people to develop the skills and understanding they need to achieve success at school and improve their international competitiveness in the future.

We collaborate with a broad spectrum of organisations globally, leveraging our networks, expertise and trust to help them achieve their goals.

We seek to work with partners who are aligned with our values, reputation, brand, and charitable objectives.

We partner with



Schools



Corporate donors, CSR missions and grant makers



Higher education institutions



State governments



Arts sector organisations



Development sector organisations such as not-for-profit bodies, CSOs, NGOs etc



If your organisation is keen to build sustainable programmes supporting innovation and development of arts, education, inclusion and equality in India, the British Council can help achieve your goals.

Please write expressing your interest to
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