

Acknowledgements

Like in the two previous years, we have hundreds, perhaps thousands of people to thank for making ASER possible. It is this energy and enthusiasm, curiosity and cooperation from every corner of India that fuels ASER each year. Without this vast network of individuals and institutions, ASER could not be carried on such a massive scale and or completed in such a short period of time. We are grateful to each and every person who has been involved with ASER 2007. We thank you for your time, for your hard work and for your conviction that ASER is an important effort to improve schooling and learning in India.

Special thanks to Prof. Amitabh Mattoo, Vice Chancellor, Jammu University, Prof. Wahid Qureshi, Vice Chancellor, Kashmir University and Dr. Anil Wilson, Vice Chancellor, Himachal University for encouraging students across their states to participate in ASER. In Punjab, Dr. Sushma Sharma of D.M. College, Moga and in Uttarakhand, Dr. V.K. Katiyar of IIT Roorkee and in Tamil Nadu, Dr. Cynthia Pandian, Manonmanian Sundaranar University and Prof. Sanjib Mandal of Tadong Government College in Sikkim.

In many parts of the country, NSS students were the backbone of ASER. In particular we would like to thank Dr. Joram Begi, Director and Dr. Vishwanath Sharma, State Liason Officer, from the Department of Higher and Technical Education, Arunachal Pradesh. Thanks also to Mr. Dipak Kumar, Youth Officer-NSS who introduced ASER to many of his colleagues in the North East, Dr.Lalhari Sharma, State Liaison Officer, NSS – Manipur and Dr. Prabhakar Badoni of Garhwal Regional NSS coordinator, HNB University.

In Arunachal Pradesh, our gratitude to Mr. Kata Rangmo, District Adult Education Officer, East Kameng, Dr. Mite Lingi, of Idu Culture & Literature Society in Dibang Valley, Mr. Prem Dorjee, General Secretary, Rupa Town Club, Rinchin Khandu and Dorjee Wangdi of West Kameng. A very big thanks to many many students of government higher secondary schools in Arunachal whose hard work and commitment made ASER possible in the state.

Elsewhere in the Northeast, our thanks to Mr. H. Romen Singh of PRDA in Manipur, Mr. Hiure, Mr. Vila and Mr. Chuba of Nagaland for their unstinting support, Mr and Mrs Das in Agartala, Tripura, Mrs Rita Roy and Miss Abira Bhattacharyya of Tripura Adivasi Mahila Samiti, Mr. Brian Sengsrang, Mr. Khlain Banghar and Dr. Madhusudan (of NEHU) in Meghalaya.

Our gratitude to Mr. Sharad Joshi of CECOEDECON in Rajasthan and Mr. Neeraj Gajendra of Sewadhan Samiti in Dhamtari, Chattisgarh. In Leh, our special thanks to Dr. M.K. Bhandari, Deputy Comissioner, in Haryana, special thanks to Mr.Mehmood Khan, in Uttarakhand to Ms. Roopa Gir of Pan IIT-USA. In Bihar we would like to thank Bihar Education Project, in Madhya Pradesh, special thanks to Ms Alisha Shirivastav of Jaypee Group in Rewa. S.S.Rao of M.V. Foundation, currently in Tikamgarh. In Gujarat, we are grateful to Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation and Gujarat Paguthan Energy Corporations. In Dadra, Nagar and Haveli, our thanks to Education Officers, Mr. Gorat and Mr. Thorat. In Darjeeling district of West Bengal, our thanks to the Inner Wheel Club.

In Kerala, we would like to thank Dr. Sasi Bhooshan and Mr. C.P. John, both of Sarani for coordinating the survey; and Mr. Sivasankar (IAS, DPI) for his support and advice. Thanks also to Vidyarambam in Tamil Nadu for their continued strong support. In addition, we would like to thank KALAM Network

and NEEDS and also Zenith Trust who carried on the ASER work despite heavy rains and floods.

Our warm welcome to DIETs of Andhra Pradesh into the ASER family.

Special thanks and welcome to Google.org for joining the ASER effort and for their support for ASER 2007. In addition, we would like to mention that Google.org facilitated and supported a process evaluation of ASER 2007 while it was in the field.

Special thanks to the Director, Prof Udaya Narayana Singh and faculty members of the Central Institute of Indian Languages in Mysore for their time and cooperation. We hope to collaborate further with the institute for ASER 2008. Also our thanks go to Mr. Anis Azmi of Delhi Urdu Academy and to Dr. S.M. Anwar Alam of the Department of Urdu, JNU.

Our heartfelt thanks to UNICEF, ASER's long run partner and supporter in several states including Maharashtra and Bihar.

Special thanks to Rohini Nilekani for her continued strong support to ASER and for believing in the importance of the annual effort.

We would like to make a special mention of the boys of the Pratham Gyanshalas in Bihar who raised money for ASER in Sitamarhi district.

Finally, with great sadness, we report the untimely demise of Mr. Shakti Prasad Sahoo, a bright young man who led the ASER effort in Koraput in Orissa - one of the most backward and difficult districts in Orissa. The sudden departure of this intelligent, hardworking and committed young man leaves a big void in the Orissa team.

