



Give them the tools which help build their lives

Plan 100

A Project

to equip 20,000 girls and boys from
100 high schools in rural India
with job and life skills by 2007

Lend-A-Hand India

www.lend-a-hand-india.org



The Challenge

Out of 400 million youth in India, 36 million are unemployed. Given the urban rural make up of the country, 24 million of them reside in rural India. If unchecked, the challenge of youth unemployment will not only adversely affect their and their family's lives but also prove a challenge for peace and the progress of the country.

Over the years, the spread of education and technology has inspired youth and ignited their and their parent's expectations. Unlike their counterparts living in urban environments these young boys and girls face additional disadvantages, such as, inadequate resources, poor quality of education, information, and guidance.

Government programs as well as several non-profit organizations are working to address these challenges at various levels. However, these efforts are not sufficient. They require reinforcement and innovative approaches complemented with modern technology, training, and management resources in a scaled up manner to reach larger number of young people.

The Diploma in Basic Rural Technology (DBRT) developed by Vigyan Ashram, Pabal is one such successful and replicable model, promoting vocational training, entrepreneurial skills and jobs.



What is the DBRT Program?

This unique model of vocational training has evolved after 12 years of sustained grassroots efforts and has been tested for the past five years in 20 high schools in the State of Maharashtra. This fine tuned program is now ready for replication.

The DBRT training is based on a natural system of learning i.e. ***'Learning by doing in Real-Life situation'***. The three year DBRT Program equips high school students in basic technology skills in engineering, energy and environment, agriculture and animal husbandry, and home and health. About 40 different skill sets, suitable for use in rural environments, are acquired. They include construction, fabrication, electrical maintenance, solar and biogas technologies, motor rewinding, nursery techniques, poultry and goat farming, compost making, soil testing, water analysis, blood and urine testing, knitting, stitching and food preservation, among others.

A Recognized Success:

In 2001 Vigyan Ashram started replicating the DBRT program in 20 high schools demonstrating promising results. To date, 800 students have graduated and have obtained suitable jobs or have gone on to launch their own enterprise.

Vigyan Ashram's DBRT Program has received wide acclaim nationally and internationally. The Open School (Distance Education University) system has adopted the DBRT Program; the Government of Maharashtra has also recognized the course as a complementary program in high schools; and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) has selected Vigyan Ashram as one of the six centers around the world for collaboration.

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The positive outcomes of replicating the DBRT program in 20 high schools are numerous. The teachers have experienced a change in the attitudes of students towards learning. The local school managements are supporting this experiment by sharing financial responsibilities. The student attendance in the schools has improved and many girl students are equally being provided an opportunity they might not otherwise have had.

All the research, experience and success indicate that the time has come to scale up the DBRT Program, by making it available in more high schools reaching many more students. This means thousands of more aspiring young men and women will obtain the necessary tools to make positive changes in their lives.

On the Horizon:

Our plan is to start DBRT programs in 100 high schools by the year 2007 reaching over 20,000 young boys and girls with life and job skills.

Our support to the high schools includes training of teachers, capital investments, operational support, monitoring, and financial assistance. As a partnership to ensure sustainability of the program each school is expected to raise at least 20% of the total budget from local resources. This promotes local participation and entrenches a sense of ownership.



Students from Rural Technology Diploma course at Pabal village



How does the program work?

A memorandum of understanding is signed with the high school management which lists the responsibilities of the partners. The Head of the school is in charge of the management and implementation of the programs. The school is responsible for providing suitable place for establishing the workshop and related infrastructure.

Four trained instructors, who are guided and supervised regularly for quality assurance, by the Vigyan Ashram representative, impart the training. During the first year students from 8th class (age group 13 – 14 years) are enrolled. The average size of each class is 60 – 70 students. The students learn the skills in groups of 20/25 each.

As the students graduate through 9th and 10th class, they simultaneously complete the DBRT curriculum and are qualified to receive the Diploma in Basic Rural Technology. Following graduation, students are assisted in securing employment, starting their own small enterprise, or in pursuing further specialized training in a particular trade.

The school assists the graduates in choosing appropriate career through campus interviews as well as through a mentorship program under which the student is paired with an experienced master craftsman, business owner, farmer, or teacher.

The Costs

The one time cost of establishing a DBRT Center in a high school is \$ 4,000 which includes the cost of infrastructure development, the purchase of machinery, and installation of equipments.

The cost of running the program for per year is \$ 4,000. This includes teacher's salaries, consumables, coordination, and monitoring.

The total cost of offering DBRT program for approximately 200 students is:

First Year - \$ 8,000

Subsequent two years - \$ 4,000 each.

How You Can Help

You can help us make this project a success by making a gift of amounts ranging from \$ 100 which helps us pay tuition of Two DBRT students to \$ 8,000 which is a first year cost of establishing a DBRT Program. Every dollar counts and makes a big difference.

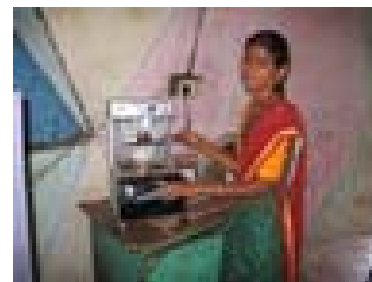
The Gift Form enclosed herewith illustrates various gift options from which you can choose.

The contributions to support Plan 100 can be made on line by visiting our website: <http://www.lend-a-hand-india.org/Donate.htm>, Or by writing a check in the name of Lend-A-Hand India and mailing it to our address:

Lend-A-Hand India

784 Columbus Avenue, #10G

New York, NY 10025.



Hands on training in the Pathology Lab and the Green House



About Lend-A-Hand India

Lend-A-Hand India's mission is to make a difference in the lives of the poor in India through self-help.

By partnering with grass roots non-profit organizations and community groups, we work to create better access to education, vocational training, career counseling and employment and self-employment opportunities. Our goal is to help the poor realize their full potential and meet their aspirations for a better life.

We act as a connector for small and innovative non-profit organizations by bringing in program expertise and a range of resources.

These efforts serve young men and women by raising awareness of their environment, their rights and their responsibilities, and prompting them to think beyond the confines of what is usually assumed to be out of reach and unattainable.

Lend-A-Hand India is a US based non-profit organization registered under IRS code 501(c)(3).

Lend-A-Hand India

784 Columbus Avenue #10G, New York, NY 10025, USA

Phone: (917)493-9000

Email: LAHI@lend-a-hand-india.org

www.lend-a-hand-india.org

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Gift Form / Pledge Form

I / Our Corporation would like to sponsor / pledge support to:

- Sponsor tuition fee of ____ DBRT students @ \$ 50 per student per year amounting to total \$ _____
- Sponsor training of one DBRT teacher by gifting \$ 400
- Sponsor purchase of a PC and internet facility for a high school by gifting \$ 1,500
- Sponsor capital cost of starting a DBRT Center in a high school by gifting \$ 4,000
- Sponsor a class of 60 students for DBRT program for one year by gifting \$ 3,000
- Start a DBRT Center in a high school in the name of _____ by gifting \$ 16,000.
- Our group of FIVE colleagues/ friends would like to commit \$ 800 every six-months, for one year to start a DBRT program in a high school. The first installment of \$ 4,000 (\$ 800 x 5) is enclosed and we commit to sent the next installment after six months.
- I want to gift a lump sum amount of \$ _____ for this cause. My check for the amount is attached herewith.

Gifts can be made on line at: <http://www.lend-a-hand-india.org/Donate.htm> Or

By mailing the check to:

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New York, NY 10025.

If you need more information, write to us at: LAHI@lend-a-hand-india.org