From the Founders...

The First Birthday is always a momentous occasion! We all at Lend-A-Hand India are very happy to share this moment with you. The idea, which was nurtured for at least five years, took physical form in December 2003 and Lend-A-Hand India was born! Past experience, networking with non-profit organizations in India, and most importantly, goodwill, encouragement, and contributions from friends in the US and India made this dream come true!

We chose 'running a marathon for the cause of Lend-A-Hand India' as our first fund raising effort in April 2003. Thank you Charu for inducting Raj into marathon running. The outcome was amazing and heartening. Our friends favored us with their trust and contributions. This helped us launch our first year's activities.

We selected "youth unemployment and the challenges before them" as our current program focus. A relatively small number of organizations are working on this sensitive segment of the Indian community. This is therefore a demanding task.

We have been lucky to find non-profit organizations with excellent track record as our partners. From the conceptualization of the project to finalization of activities and budgets it is a joint effort. The response to and outcome of the first year is encouraging. Through our three projects, we were able to reach 800 young men and women from six villages and two slum communities in Mumbai. The year ahead also looks promising. We have ambitious plans to replicate the successful model of our Basic Rural Technology course in 100 village high schools.

This momentous journey would not have been possible without the support of our executive committee. They not only contributed their time but also stood with us in difficult times. Thank you Ani, Anu, and Dina. We could not have done this without you! Thanks also to Nazish Agha and Amy Hundert of Skadden Arps Slate Meagher LLP for their pro bono legal services.

Our friends and supporters (over 150 of you!!!) are responsible for the existence of Lend-A-Hand India today. Right from the first contribution that came in, every dollar has meant a lot to us. All of you have not only helped towards bringing a change in the lives of young boys and girls in India, you also helped us strengthen our belief in the cause of Lend-A-Hand India.

Thank you.

Sunanda Mane & Raj Gilda
July 20, 2005
Our Approach to the Challenge of Youth Unemployment in India

Lend-A-Hand India has taken a three-pronged approach to address the challenge of youth unemployment in India:

- Career development
- Vocational/Skill Training
- Mentoring

Career Development

The dream of a majority of college students as well as their parents is to become either an engineer or a doctor. Traditionally these are the most coveted professions in India. Decisions about choice of education and career are more or less made based on limited information and without really assessing the individual's aptitude for a particular career or profession.

While it is true that a career as an engineer or a doctor can be rewarding, it is equally true that there are many other rewarding career opportunities open for young boys and girls today. However, information about such options and what it takes to pursue them is not easily available, particularly in rural areas.

With advancements in educational technologies it is possible to determine what minimum aptitude level is desirable to succeed in a particular stream of education. If the aptitude testing is done at an appropriate stage, it is possible to make informed decisions about the proposed stream of education or even change the course without wasting time and becoming frustrated at the end.

In the pilot project, launched in 2004, Lend-A-Hand India is working with high-schools in six villages covering 400 young boys and girls in 8th and 9th grade and 200 college students in the first and second year of their degree programs. Their progress with educational / vocational courses and career choices will be followed across three years in order to assess the impact of the pilot project.

Vocational/Skill Training

Thousands of young boys and girls graduate every year from universities and colleges and join the job market. Similarly those who graduate from high schools or drop out have very limited options to enhance their skills and start earning their living. Thousands compete for very few job openings which contributes to corruption, nepotism and devaluation of education.

On the other hand whether graduates of college or high school, they lack training for work, and opportunities for apprenticeship. Complementing college and high school education with training in job related skills and making available vocational training opportunities appears to be a solution to address this challenge.

"Complementing education with training in job related skills has proven to be a solution to address the challenge of unemployment"
Mentoring
Mentoring has played a major role not only in young peoples' careers but also in their personal life. Besides education and training, the sharing of experience and guidance from those who have passed through the portals of apprenticeship and achieved success, is another major component of Lend-A-Hand India's career development program. Students develop linkages with successful entrepreneurs, managers, professionals, tradesmen, small business and industry owners, and even farmers to learn the tricks of the trade and seek ongoing guidance in their career as well as establishing small businesses and workshops.

"Students develop linkages with successful entrepreneurs, professionals, small business owners, and even farmers to learn the tricks of the trade"
In partnership with three non-profit organizations, Lend-A-Hand India achieved the following results during 2004:

- 40 adolescent girls from slum communities in Mumbai successfully completed training in tailoring and tattoo making. Most of them are now gainfully employed.
- 650 high-school students from five rural villages participated in a career counseling program which included aptitude testing and counseling. Being far from such facilities which are ordinarily available at urban locations, this was first of its kind experience for the rural young boys and girls.
- 60 young men and women from low-income families in Mumbai completed a six month community leadership program followed by an internship. Most of the graduates are now employed in community based organizations and some are in the process of starting their own organizations.

"Over 750 boys and girls have benefited from Vocational Training and Career Counseling Program during 2004"
2004 was Lend-A-Hand India's first year of operations. We, therefore, spent more time in identifying the partners and establishing rapport and joint programs with them. The budget for the year was drawn from the funds donated by friends and well wishers. Now with our track record of one year and the successful outcomes, we are now poised to expand our horizons. The total budget for the year 2004 was $12,000.

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<tr>
<th>Fund Raising</th>
<th>Administration</th>
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"Over 85% of the funds raised go towards implementing the projects on the ground"
"This was for the first time that in our village we heard about something like Career counseling. Our parents were not very keen to send me or even come for the introductory session with me. Because of our village coordinator we attended the program. Now my parents insist that when I pass my high school, I should take into consideration the options that the counselor discussed and more importantly now they are not insisting upon me to join the police force".

Vaman Bhingare, a participant in the Career Counseling Program

"A graduate from our course (Diploma in Basic Rural Technology) will not stay idle. He will find his way in this competitive job market. One year at Vigyan Ashram gives all that we need to be on our own.

Sanjay Patil, DBRT student 2004

"Morane high school had the unique distinction of making steel bullock carts and selling them against bank loans. The profits made in such job work are used for making our DBRT course stronger. Thanks to our decision to start the batch of DBRT in our high school"

The School Head Master at village Morane

CORO helped me to develop my ability to communicate with people around me. Before joining I used to speak out things as they come to my mind. Now I wait and think about what comes to my mind and speak only after this thinking process…"

Suryakant, a participant in the Community Leadership Development Program
Success Stories

Making a difference… One step at a time!

Manik Jagtap, a high school drop out, comes from a poor farming family with an income of $50 a month. After finishing vocational training course, he has got a job with a water sports resort.

Kisan Pande, a high-school graduate, finished the Diploma in Basic Rural Technologies course in April 2005. He plans to start a ground water testing lab in his village to help the farming community. Currently, he has joined as Trainee Instructor at Vigyan Ashram pass on what he learnt at the institute.

Khemchand Arodkar, son of poor parents living on daily wages with income of less than $20 a month finished the vocational training course in April 2005. He now works with water sports resort company and dreams to start a workshop on his own. His entire education was funded on loan basis by non-profits like Lend-A-Hand India and plans to repay the loan within a year.

Sarika Lashake, daughter of a maid servant with an annual income of less than $250, plans to pursue further education and work as a lab assistant to support her education and her family. She dreams to start her own lab one day, fulfilling a long-standing dream of her mother who works as a domestic help at a doctor’s residence.
Committee of Resource Organizations, Mumbai (CORO)
The Committee of Resource Organizations (CORO) has been working in community development, adult literacy, and women empowerment issues in the slums of Mumbai for the past 15 years. CORO works in one of the biggest Dalit (untouchables) dominated slum communities in the North-East region of Mumbai. It has excellent community outreach and has promoted 300 grass root women's groups with a membership of about 30,000 women. The Government, UNESCO and UNDP have acknowledged the excellent work done by CORO.

Doorstep School, Mumbai
Doorstep School, Mumbai has been working in non-formal education and community development in the slum communities of Mumbai for over 15 years. Hundreds of children and families have benefited from Doorstep programs. Several children have been able to enroll into formal schools. To learn more about Doorstep School.

"Our partners in the field have over 100 years of community development experience between them"
Students Welfare Association, Pune (SWA)

Students Welfare Association (SWA) has been working in the education field for the past several years in Pune. In 2005 SWA will complete 50 years of its exemplary work. The organization provides residential and boarding facilities to about 500 college students, including 100 girls, coming from rural Maharashtra. Thousands of students have benefited from SWA's unique facilities and environment. Many of them have made distinguishing contribution in personal and public life.

Vigyan Ashram, Pabal

Vigyan Ashram (meaning "student's home for learning science and technology") is a center of the Indian Institute of Education (IIE) Pune. IIE is a well-known institution in the field of education. Over the years Vigyan Ashram has developed training programs for rural youth in several innovative technologies and has successfully helped to commercialize them. More than 800 diploma holders form Vigyan Ashram have become entrepreneurs and the job placement rate is 100%. To increase the pace and quality of the education delivery system, Vigyan Ashram has adopted information technology successfully. It is one of the two centers in India, and one of the six across the globe, to receive technical support and equipment for FAB LAB (hands-on laboratory that provides the technology - typically open source -- needed to build just about anything from inexpensive and readily available materials) from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

"MIT has collaborated with our partner organization, Vigyan Ashram to carry out experiments in fabrication technology in rural setting"
Why Lend-A-Hand India?
Though the future of the Indian economy looks promising, rural India is still alienated from the upbeat economic environment and its fruits. Over the years, several policy measures have been taken by the Indian government to address the challenge of unemployment amongst youth. However, despite ongoing rhetoric, the actual action has fallen far short of the requirements.

The government policy measures need to be complemented by private efforts through grassroots organizations and educational institutions. If unchecked, the challenge of youth unemployment will not only affect their and their family's lives but also prove a challenge for peace and the progress of the country.

This is Lend-A-Hand India's approach to providing a long term solution to the challenge of poverty eradication in India.

How does Lend-A-Hand India work on the ground and what is its Program approach?
Lend-A-Hand India develops and designs projects in collaboration with selected non-profit organizations. We share with them our technical and program expertise and provide financial assistance to deliver time bound, result oriented projects. The well trained staffs of the non-profit organizations deliver the project interventions by working closely with the local communities.

Why is Lend-A-Hand India’s program focus on youth and unemployment?
Out of 400 million youth in India, 36 million are unemployed. Give 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.

Some FAQs

"If unchecked, the challenge of youth unemployment will not only affect the youth and their family's lives but also prove a challenge for peace and the progress of the country."
Lend-A-Hand India's program approach is to help existing and new organizations replicate proven project interventions, technologies, and programs. This approach is a conscious choice that recognizes India's population challenge and the need to reach large number of population.

How are the partner organizations selected and projects designed?
The first important criterion is that the organization has a strong grassroots presence. Partner organizations who have an excellent track record of implementing projects at the community level, who are familiar with the geographic area, and who have the organizational as well as management capacity to take up additional projects are invited to join Lend-A-Hand India to develop joint venture projects.

Based on the non-profit organization's several years of experience and the community needs, the project activities are planned, the budget is prepared, the implementation schedule and outcome parameters are finalized, and then the project is launched. Project development is a collaborative effort. A review mechanism is also put in place to make mid-course corrections and receive feedback.

What types of project activities are conducted?
We have identified five major areas of our project activities:

- Aptitude testing
- Career Counseling
- Sponsorship for Vocational / Skill Training programs
- Establishing Vocational Training Facilities wherever necessary
- Mentoring

Depending on the need of project participants, a combination of the above five form the basis of project activities.

What is the geographic focus?
The current geographic focus is rural and urban Maharashtra in Western India. We welcome participation from philanthropists and non-profit organizations to spread this activity beyond the State of Maharashtra.

What proportion of funds raised goes actually towards the projects on the ground?
Over 85% of the funds raised are utilized for the projects on the ground. Lend-A-Hand India, at this stage, depends heavily on volunteer help and therefore less than 15% of the funds raised are spent for administrative and fund raising expenses.
Lend-A-Hand India Team

Akshay Gulhati
Akshay has worked in energy consulting for over 7 years both in the US and abroad. He is currently pursuing his MBA at the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.

Ani Khatri
Ani has a B.S. in Industrial and Systems Engineering along with a minor in Economics from Georgia Tech. He currently works for Deloitte Consulting in New York focused on financial services industry. In addition to Lend-A-Hand India, Ani is also involved with Junior Achievement and INROADS.

Anuradha Gupta
Anu studied MMS at the Birla Institute of Technology and Sciences, Pilani and got her MBA at IIFT, Delhi. She worked with Unilever, India in Exports and Marketing followed by several stints in Social infrastructure, market research and taught briefly at SP Jain, a business school in India. Anu is also a writer and has published two books for children.

Dina Deligiorgis
Dina has more than seven years of domestic and international experience in the fields of development and human rights. She has worked as a Consultant with the United Nations Development Program and the World Bank, in addition to non-governmental organizations in Brazil and Ghana.

Raj Gilda
Raj, a co-founder of Lend-A-Hand India, is an Electronics Engineer and MBA from University of Texas at Austin. His area of specialization is Strategic Planning. He started his career with Deloitte Consulting and currently works with Citigroup in New York. In India, Raj worked with National Stock Exchange and Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services in Mumbai. He was recently honored with the President's Award in recognition of his voluntary service.

Sunanda Mane
Sunanda, a co-founder and the brain behind Lend-A-Hand India, has been working in the development sector for more than a decade. She has held positions as State Director, Program Director, and Consultant in national and International organizations such as CARE, Society for Service to Voluntary Agencies, Management Resources Inc., UNDP, and the World Bank. Sunanda is also a member of the Executive Committee of the New York-based Maharashtra Foundation. Sunanda has traveled extensively in India and in South and Central Asia.
Make a Difference!

**Help us organize events**
Help us organize various events year-round, meet new people and put your skills to work.

**Spread the word about Lend-A-Hand India**
Talk about Lend-A-Hand India to your friends and family and help us spread the word.

**Visit our projects in India**
Visit our projects in India and give us first-hand feedback about how things are on the ground.

**Volunteer in India**
Get a first hand experience of vibrant Indian culture and society by volunteering for our projects. We can arrange for your stay and offer you an opportunity to contribute in our ongoing projects. There can be several tailor made opportunities to suit your interest and extend your help.

**Donate**
Contribute to the this worthy cause by mailing to a check on the name of “Lend-A-Hand India” to the following address-

Lend-A-Hand India
784 Columbus Avenue #10G
New York NY 10025
USA

Or visit us online at www.lend-a-hand-india.org/donate.htm

We need all the support to deliver our programs to millions of aspiring young Boys and girls in India and help them break through the vicious circle of poverty. Your support is crucial in fulfilling our mission.

For more information please write to us at LAHI@lend-a-hand-india.org

"Get a first hand experience of vibrant Indian culture and society by volunteering for our projects."
Letters from the Students

One of the participants from the career counseling program, Anish Tamboli writes…

Aptitude test is very useful as it helps to select the right type of course to choose after completing the junior college.

Such facility should actually be available at every high school in the villages. I am thankful to Student Welfare Association and our coordinator Mr. Tushar Ranjankar.

Anish Tamboli

May 27th 2004
Manisha Chormale writes…

I took the aptitude test organized by Student Welfare Association. The test identified the areas of my weakness and strength, the speed, and my emotional mind. This helped me identify the appropriate course of study for my future career development.

I feel it will be really good if students who have similar aptitudes as a group are given further guidance. Such tests should be conducted every year so that all the students will benefit.

I am thankful to our teacher, Mr. Ranjankar.

Manisha Chormale

May 27th 2004
About Lend-A-Hand India

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

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

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

Lend-A-Hand India is a tax-exempt non-profit organization under the U.S. Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3) and its office is located in New York City.

To learn more please visit our website at www.lend-a-hand-india.org or write to us at LAHI@lend-a-hand-india.org.

You can become our partner in this endeavor by donating your time and money. Donations can be made by mailing a check to our address-

Lend-A-Hand India
784 Columbus Avenue #10G
New York NY 10025
USA

or online at : http://www.lend-a-hand-india.org/Donate.htm

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