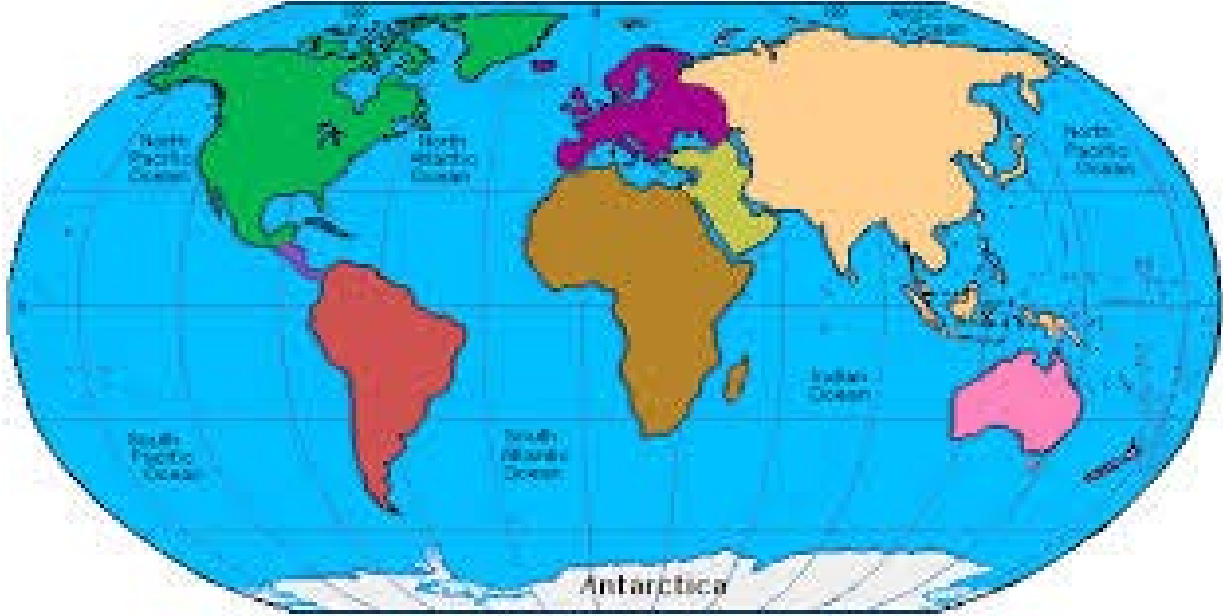




MESSAGES FROM FAR AND NEAR

For the start of the 10th year of ASER in India: August 2014



Annual Status of Education Report

असर
ASER **2014** **RURAL**

Facilitated by PRATHAM



From : Dana Schmidt
Hewlett Foundation: USA

It has been an incredible privilege to accompany the work of ASER over the years, often from a distance, but every once and a while from very up close. I wish that I could be with everyone in Aurangabad as you prepare for the tenth ASER survey. It's remarkable to see everything that ASER has achieved in the past decade. The sheer logistics of pulling off a survey of this size every single year for ten years is astounding—and is possible thanks to the huge numbers of dedicated people like those attending the workshop. While all of your actions may seem incredibly minute and detailed—how to find and train enough volunteers and get them to the villages and check the data—they add up to something much much greater. While I don't get to engage in those tiny details, I do get to see the ripples they make. Ten years ago hardly anyone was talking about whether or not children are learning. When world leaders met to talk about “Millennium Development Goals” the assumption was ensuring universal access to education would lead to learning. Now, in almost every corner you hear people talk about the learning crisis. All the conversations about the next round of global goals, post-MDGs, is centered around access *plus* learning. It was ASER that really put the learning crisis on the map, rippled out to other efforts like ASER in Pakistan, Uwezo in East Africa, Beekungo in Mali, Jangandoo in Senegal, MIA in Mexico, and many more who hope to do something soon in countries like Nigeria and Bangladesh. You all should be incredibly proud for all that you have helped to achieve in villages and districts and states across India and know that the efforts have also been influential far beyond. I can't wait to be there in January to see the fruits of all the hard work that will come over the next many months!

August 2014

Dear ASER India team

From all of us at ASER Pakistan it is an inspiring moment to see the pioneers complete a decade of cutting edge work that has in turn inspired so many continents and countries - we wish the India team our very best wishes knowing how you all brave all landscapes across India and come out as winners in conversations locally and globally on learning outcomes that are now influencing the world. . .

Aap ko ham sabh ki taraf say yeh safar mubarak ho.
Aur bahut kamyabi ho...

2014 ASER is a great milestone for all of you and us.
YOU Deserve All the Success -Bless You All ..

Baela and ASER PAKISTAN





Dear ASER partners,

Receive our greetings from Uwezo in East Africa. We just thought, that your 10th training should really not go without our greetings, or what we call in Kiswahili salamu. We envy your perseverance, we envy your hard work, we envy your diligence, we really wish we could achieve only 50% of what you people are doing at ASER.

We are following on your footsteps, and your resilience brings us great inspiration. We dream that one time, Indian children will join in reading chorus with Pakistani, Tanzanian, Senegalese, Malian, Kenyan, Ugandan and even Nigerian children, and we shall all happily hug each other, part each other on the back, and put on new shoes to seek a new journey to travel.

As the African saying goes - it takes a whole village to bring up a child - it takes the support of each of us, the children and grandchildren of ASER, to achieve what we started to do.

May you have the best during this 10th year, may your energy be at best, as you set off, yet again, to assess children across India, and inspire citizens to take action in improving the levels of literacy and numeracy.

With greetings from all of us at Uwezo,
John Mugo KENYA



Bonjour Rukmini,
Me joignant à Traoré, toutes mes félicitations à votre équipe. Je vous dédie ce message "Alors que les autres cherchent à atteindre la lune, nous préférons rester à côté des enfants dans les ménages pour les accompagner à faire leurs premiers pas dans la vie"

Hello Rukmini,
Congratulations to your team. I dedicate you this message "While others seek to reach the moon, we prefer to stay beside the children in the household to accompany them to take their first steps in life"

Best regards

Sinaba (Massaman Sinaba – Beekongo MALI)



Also from Beekungo Mali

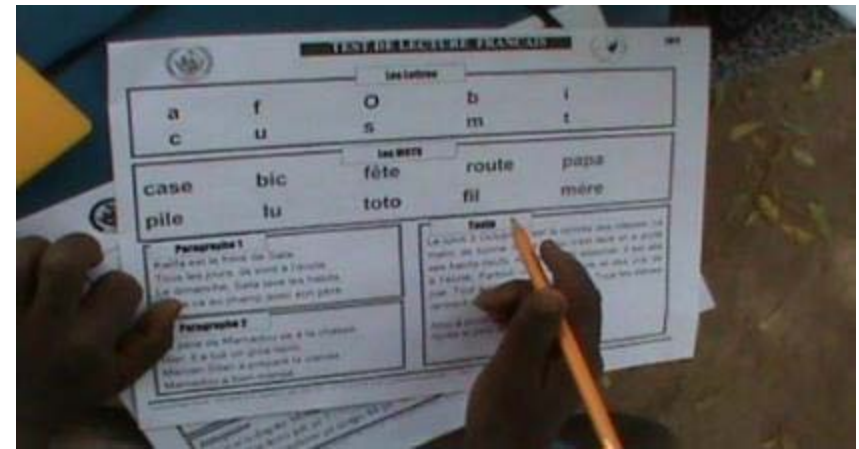
Joyeux anniversaire à ASER, Félicitations et encore félicitations et bon courage pour votre 10e évaluation annuelle.

Sachez bien que la petite bougie que vous avez allumé en faveur de l'éducation en Inde, il y a de cela dix ans, est aujourd'hui devenu le rayon solaire qui éclaire et reveille progressivement les consciences des citoyens et des décideurs partout dans le monde.

Le monde entier vous dit MERCI

BON ANNIVERSAIRE DE LA PART
DE L'EQUIPE BEEKUNKO- MALI

Brehima Traore MALI



Translation :

Happy Birthday to ASER,
Congratulations and congratulations again for
your bravery and good luck for
your 10th annual evaluation.

Know that little candle you lit for education in
India, there has this decade, has now become
the sunbeam that lights and gradually awakens the
conscience of citizens and policy makers around
the world.

The whole world says thank you.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY FROM TEAM BEEKUNKO
MALI. From Brehima Traore.

We wish to convey our Uganda warm greetings to the colleagues that are gathered in Aurangabad for the historic workshop. They should know that what they are gathered to plan for in that little town of India is not for India alone! Millions of children across Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Mali, Senegal, Pakistan and India have each year, for the last 5+ years, benefitted from a similar assessment exercise that has shifted debates and focus to what each stakeholder can do to improve their learning.

On 31st July 2014 we also had our orientation meeting with heads of the civil society organisation that we are partnering with to implement the 2014 assessment in 28 districts of Uganda. About 90% of the partners are new to the citizen-assessments. When we showed them the “Every child counts (and reads)” video they were so moved to tears by the fact that the movement they have joined is not a Ugandan struggle alone – that across the world, from India to Nigeria, from Pakistan to Senegal, ordinary citizens have come together to try and make others understand what counts as basic learning, how it can be measured and improved for millions of children out there. Knowing that they are part of a global movement made our partners much more comfortable than if this were just a local Ugandan initiative. This reminded of the truth in the words of our Malian friend Sinaba Massaman: *“When you are one, they suspect you. When you are two, they notice you and start asking questions. But when you are three and more, they start to listen” (JUBA meeting, Kampala 2014).*

Wish you a successful conclusion of the national workshop, and all the best with the ‘anniversary’ assessment.

Kindly convey our love to everyone!

Warm Regards,

Goretti (Mary Goretti Nakabugo – Uwezo UGANDA)





Dear Rukimini and friends!

Many thanks for your letter. I keep the best remember of my last birthday celebration in Siwan. It was very exciting and we learned a lot about ASER and the great people involve in it.

We are happy because in October, like you, MIA will go to the field. We have the instruments, we are recruiting volunteers in all Veracruz, and we're preparing the training... a lot of work but we always have the possibilities to remember our meeting in Siwan and try to answer our questions. Everyone in the Mexican team know well our experience in India and the importance of it in our lives and work (and the video of many indians sang "happy birthday" in Spanish).

Please, say Hello from myself and Samana (and Matias!) to everyone in your National Meeting and good luck.

Muchos saludos desde México y muchos cariños

FELIPE (MEXICO)



Congratulations to our ASER India Family as you begin your 10th annual national ASER survey!

The candle you lit 10 years ago has set the world ablaze in the most wonderful of ways. We are so proud of your achievements.

Thank you for all that you do to make this world a better place for children to live in.

Greetings from the TEP Centre team in Nigeria



Happy 10th anniversary to come and congratulations for this huge accomplishment. We are so proud of the fantastic job you are doing on the field. You are an inspiration and a model for us in Africa and in the World as you are making a huge contribution by assessing the children and helping them to learn better in order to become better citizen who can contribute to the development of their country.

Good luck for now and the rest will follow.
With best wishes.
Dr. Léa Salmon

JANGANDOO-Learning Together Program
LARTES-IFAN- UCAD, Dakar University
SENEGAL

