



WARWICK
THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

THE WARWICK LAKSH PROGRAMME

Annual Report 2016

“The goal of the Warwick Laksh Programme is simple: to offer a sustainable route out of poverty through education for young people in rural communities near Delhi, India.

Every summer, Warwick volunteers work with a local NGO, the Laksh Foundation, and their teaching centres. Ten years ago these centres didn't exist: children nearby were leaving state schools without qualifications because they had to drop out and support their families. The Laksh Foundation tackled this by starting up a new school, helped by four student volunteers from Warwick. Local governments began to address it too with new legislation to make sure children attended schools.

The Laksh Foundation now runs four successful teaching centres which offer extra tuition every afternoon to 670 pupils, and counting, and there are plans to create two new teaching centres this year. From the start our students have helped out, mentored and coached the teachers, and this year we'll be sending 12 volunteers to the Foundation to continue their work.

The growth of the programme is testimony to its increasing impact and success, and I hope our first report helps to show you how.

I would like to thank everyone who makes this all possible, from our fundraisers and supporters, to our energetic student volunteers. Your support motivates us every day, and we are extremely grateful.”



Professor Abhinay Muthoo
Professor of Economics,
Dean of Warwick in London,
Laksh Programme Director



OUR TIMELINE

2010

- ▶ The first school on Laksh Farm is established by Delhi teachers and four Warwick students.
- ▶ 150 children start lessons.

2011

- ▶ Three volunteers from Warwick go back in the summer to help out.
- ▶ There are now 160 pupils.

2012

- ▶ The Government of Haryana passes a 'Right to Education' Act, stating that all children must attend their local government schools.
- ▶ Laksh develops a new long-term strategy to continue offering free education in line with this new directive.

2013

- ▶ Laksh's first full-time Coordinator develops an expansion strategy, setting up teaching centres in Mangar and Silakhari villages.
- ▶ Eight local young people are recruited and trained and start delivering extra-curricular lessons which are aligned to the Indian curriculum.
- ▶ Seven Warwick students work over the summer months, helping teachers to develop their skills.
- ▶ 170 children attend regular tutorials.

2014

- ▶ Laksh opens two more centres in Dhauj and Alumpur villages.
- ▶ The teaching team grows from eight to 13, and 12 Warwick volunteers spend the summer with the growing schools.

2015

- ▶ The teaching centres continue to thrive with 450 pupils in regular attendance. New, larger facilities are secured in Silakhari and Dhauj to accommodate the growing number of pupils.
- ▶ There are now 17 teachers, and 12 volunteers from Warwick.
- ▶ Warwick staff visit to help with expansion plans and to celebrate the University's 50th Anniversary celebrations.

2016

- ▶ Today, there are 672 pupils registered in the schools.
- ▶ A record 43% of pupils are female, as well as six teachers. The schools give girls a safe place to study and thrive.
- ▶ The Foundation employs five team leaders and 21 other teachers, who all benefit from training and mentoring by the 12 Student Volunteers from Warwick over the summer.

50 Warwick Volunteers so far

25 teachers trained and mentored. Nine have gone on to study at university.

679 local pupils

£6,500 raised by the 2016 volunteers to continue our work in 2017

FOUR TEACHING CENTRES IN THE FARIDABAD DISTRICT

TWO MORE SCHOOLS WILL OPEN IN 2017

“Our philosophy is that no child should be turned away. We place children in classes on their ability, not their age. We give them extra tuition and one-to-one guidance for exams, as well as things like stationery, a uniform, and tea and a snack each day. We've seen children transform before our eyes, and we're tremendously grateful for the support we've received from Warwick both in the classroom and out of it.”

Ila Lumba
Founder and President,
Laksh Foundation

WE WANT TO DO THREE THINGS

1) Empower and train local teachers

We want to make sure Warwick's impact is long-lasting, so a vital part of our volunteer work is equipping local teachers with new permanent skills which they can use to inspire learners.

Our specially trained volunteers give dedicated workshops on a range of topics including English, Mathematics, and Economics. They introduce new educational methods, transforming the way teachers connect with their pupils in classroom environments which are usually more about 'rote learning'.

2) Bring subjects to life for learners

Warwick volunteers deliver high-energy, exciting lessons to classrooms across the Laksh schools every summer. Our volunteers are selected through a vigorous, competitive process and given extensive training before they leave for Laksh.

Once on-site, they spend mornings lesson-planning and coaching teachers in new techniques and ideas, and afternoons in the classrooms working alongside them. Crucially they move away from rote-learning into new, interactive activities designed to engage and enthuse learners.

3) Give Warwick students a chance to volunteer

Fifty Warwick students have benefited from taking part in the Laksh Project so far, and we hope to help more take part year-on-year. It offers soft skills development and an advantage in future careers, but most importantly, a meaningful international experience which gives insight into another culture and education system.

Returners say that it helped improve their leadership, communication and organisation skills, and also gave them a deeper sense of global responsibility. Former students have gone on to careers in teaching, social work, and international development.



"Seeing the teachers implement ideas we'd introduced in our classes was enormously satisfying and drove home the value of the project in a very real way, particularly as some of the teachers have come through the tuition centres as students themselves."

Joely
Student
Volunteer 2016

WHO DO WE WORK WITH?

Our volunteers work with 26 gifted and talented local teachers from the community, who often have other jobs and busy family lives as well.



Jamalu-din
Manager, Mangar Tuition Centre

Jamalu first became involved with Laksh as a student to enhance his education. He is now a teacher at the centre, preparing for university.

"I enjoy working with the Warwick volunteers; they make difficult topics more accessible, especially mathematics. The games and creative methods they use are brilliant, like the Napier's Bones formula for decimal multiplication - I now use it myself and in the classroom. Every day there are real challenges teaching here, from disruptive behaviour to poor time management, and tackling them is difficult, but the volunteers really help give us confidence and practical skills to help.

I want to keep teaching but eventually work for an NGO and give back to India. I want to help more people achieve an education and a good start in life. That means going to University, and I'm preparing for my entrance exam for the Bachelor Preparatory Programme which will be my first step into higher education."



Mustafa
Teacher, Silakhari Tuition Centre

Five years ago, Mustafa saw the poor level of local primary schools in his area and the way that children were becoming disengaged. He wanted to help tackle low literacy rates and inspire his six siblings to do better.

"The continued involvement of Warwick volunteers helps us to improve. They have made me feel far more comfortable in my teaching, my confidence has improved and their patient help has made me feel I have the ability to be a good teacher.

I have another job as a milkman, and sometimes it's a real struggle to also teach and find time for lesson planning, especially when there are pupils of all ages and abilities, but I believe in the centre. We've seen undeniable progress and I'm confident that we're taking steps in the right direction."



Ramesh
Laksh Assistant Coordinator,
Manager, Alumpur Tuition Centre

Ramesh, 21, was a former student who became a teacher. He helped to set up the first teaching centres in Mangar Village and Silakhari. He's the oldest brother of a family of seven, and his youngest brother has just joined as a teacher too.

"Teaching is a chance to meet new pupils from different communities to my own, and gives me a chance to learn new things and share knowledge.

The Warwick volunteers have been very helpful to us - they help with everything, not just the lessons but with our confidence, time-management and how to be present in our classroom.

My greatest ambition is to continue to work hard and improve myself and then be able to improve and enhance the understanding of others."



Sumita
Pupil, Dhauj Tuition Centre

Sumita is thirteen years old. She loves school, and her favourite subject is English. She lives with her parents, three sisters and two brothers, and attends the Laksh tuition centre every afternoon after her morning local government school classes.

"Thanks to the Laksh centre, I'm able to answer more questions in lessons, and answer comprehension questions quickly as I understand more. I do better at school now. We don't have a maths teacher at the government school, so I'm pleased to receive maths tuition at the centre.

I really like the different lessons that the Warwick students bring with them, they are interesting and fun. One day I'd like to become a police officer or district collector, using the confidence and skills I've built here."



Deepak
Pupil, Alumpur Tuition Centre

Deepak is fourteen years old. He's the oldest son of a family of five and has studied at the local centre since it started.

"My parents have always believed that education is incredibly important and have been very supportive of me and my brothers and sisters in our studies. Teachers at the Centre take the time to help us understand the syllabus, and they are much more interactive thanks to the Warwick volunteers. My English reading has improved a lot.

I don't just come here to study to pass my exams, but to learn. I hope by improving my English, I'll be able to connect with more people across the world. I want to provide for my family and serve my country."



Meet more of our teachers and pupils online:
www.warwick.ac.uk/laksh

SHARING KNOWLEDGE

Every year, Warwick students travel to the four education centres to help train teachers and inspire lively lessons.



"The biggest achievement was helping teachers to improve their techniques for teaching English. At some centres, students could read fluently, but in quizzes it became obvious they didn't really understand the meaning of the words. We created new techniques stressing understanding the story, rather than rote learning it. We structured a five-step process and saw significant changes when teachers adopted it.

The thing I cherish most is the trust and long-lasting friendships that I have gained. I am still in touch with the team and recently sent them solar lanterns to improve their lighting issues. My perspective on life has changed considerably. It has opened new future prospects for me to work in development education, and I hope to return again too."

Anisha (BSc Economics)
2016 Volunteer



"The inclusion of female teachers at Laksh is powerful in more ways than one. It empowers them, but also sets the example and sends out the message that females can choose to work outside of the home, can have an education and can assume leadership roles within work and the village community. The message is that if you want to, you can."

Carli Rowell (PhD Sociology)
2015 volunteer



"Working with such motivated and selfless young teachers was incredibly rewarding. Every day they showed up to class with a huge smile, and a willingness to learn and to practice their English. Their dedication to the children in their village was (and still is) absolutely inspirational - and it showed me just how much people can do to help others if they put their heart and soul into it."

Rebecca (BSc PAIS)
2014 Volunteer



"The programme's impact, efficiency, and scope inspired and motivated me throughout my time there. I really liked that we didn't just teach classes, but trained teachers who then went back to their communities and passed on their new ideas and techniques to hundreds of kids. The Laksh Programme takes teenagers out of the community, trains them, and even pays for their university education so they can bring those skills back to the community again. It's a way of transforming disadvantaged communities by empowering them from within.

Becoming friends with people whose day-to-day experiences are miles apart from your own is incredibly insightful and rewarding. To understand what the rapidly changing India looks at feels like from people on the ground really informs and revolutionises the way I understand economic and political movements in my degree."

Rishi Patel-Warr (PPE)
2016 volunteer

TO OUR SUPPORTERS

We want to say a special 'thank you' to all our donors and supporters. Your contributions keep us going. Thank you for every penny, it means the world to those you help.

We're also grateful to University Options, Delhi, for their help with the logistical support for our summer placements, keeping our students safe. And of course, thank you to our incredible volunteers whose extraordinary energy and enthusiasm make this programme what it is.

"This programme is highly beneficial for the students and the teachers who are associated with the Laksh Foundation and brings enormous change in their lives. We are so grateful to the University of Warwick for this amazing initiative and hope it lasts forever."

Madan Sharma,
Project Coordinator, Laksh Foundation

"The Warwick volunteers have played a big role in improving my teaching in a range of areas. I appreciate the opportunities for conversations which have increased my skills in English language which I can pass on to my students. I now have a variety of new teaching techniques from the Warwick volunteers which I can use in my lessons and I have made changes in how I teach stories and narratives to ensure a deeper level of understanding. The sessions on the use of praise and motivational techniques have enabled me to create a more positive learning environment in my centre."

Washim
Manager, Dhauj Tuition Centre



ACCOUNTS

12 months to 31/10/2016

INCOME

Alumni and Friends	£18,209.49
Warwick Economics Department Contribution	£4,910.78
Total income	£23,120.27

EXPENDITURE

Summer 2016	£15,984.09
Balance b/f (31/10/2015)	£2,569.77
Balance c/f (31/10/2016)	£9,705.95





“INDIA IS A MAGICAL PLACE, WHERE SLOWLY BUT SURELY CHANGE HAPPENS”

Vandita
Student Volunteer 2016

Get in touch

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