



THE WARWICK LAKSH PROGRAMME

IMPACT REPORT 2018

WARWICK
THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

"Nearly ten years ago the Warwick Laksh Programme was a small pilot project with a simple idea. We are now an established programme which has helped shape and influence the work of an incredible NGO, and has impacted on the lives of hundreds of young people in rural Haryana, India.

Our approach has proven to be sustainable and has seen a significant rise in student numbers and an improvement in results, **with 85% of our learners in 10th standard passing their end of year exams in 2018.** We have also seen the ambition and motivation of both the teachers and pupils rise substantially. In 2017 a brand new learning centre opened in the village of Sihori and we were there to help, welcoming a brand new cohort of learners and helping to develop a new group of teachers from within the community.

Increased teacher numbers in 2018 saw more demands being placed on the shoulders of the Warwick student volunteers, and for the first time they were required to deliver academic lessons on their own. Despite demanding daily timetables they still found the time and energy to deliver extra-curricular sessions focusing on personal development and soft skills, and different ways to teach to suit different learning styles. They ran workshops on online safety, CV writing surgeries and really got involved with all aspects of life at Laksh.

None of this would be possible without the generosity of all our funders. We are so grateful for your support and hope you will be inspired to be part of our future.

I am incredibly proud of all that the Warwick Laksh Programme has achieved and I hope you will enjoy reading the stories in this report of just a few of the learners, teachers and volunteers whose lives you have changed."



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

**85% OF OUR
LEARNERS
PASSED THEIR
END OF YEAR
EXAMS IN 2018**



WHAT IS THE WARWICK LAKSH PROGRAMME?

The goal of the Warwick Laksh Programme is simple: to offer a sustainable route out of poverty for children in rural Haryana, India by combining the energy and talents of University of Warwick students with the vision of the Laksh Foundation and their teaching centres.

Laksh is an NGO located in Mangar village, between the cities of Gurgaon and Faridabad. Whilst Gurgaon is the IT hub of North India and Faridabad is a major industrial city, the villages in between are largely agricultural. Although literacy for the urban Faridabad district is high, it is substantially lower in the rural communities. The local government schools provide basic educational services but they are over-crowded, often under resourced and most of the lessons delivered by antiquated "rote" methods. Drop-out rates are high and children often leave without formal qualifications, opting to go to work rather than study. In 2007, the Laksh Foundation was established as a direct response to this issue.

Warwick has worked with Laksh since it began, sending groups of students each year to live and work at the Foundation throughout the summer. Our student volunteers work with the Foundation's teachers, holding daily workshops which aim to strengthen and improve their knowledge of English and maths and demonstrate new and exciting pedagogies which they can use in their own classrooms, moving away from the tradition of "chalk and talk" learning. This helps to transform the experience of the learners and encourages them to return each day.

There are almost 1,000 learners enrolled across a network of five learning centres. By providing an environment where learning is fun, interactive and collaborative, subjects come alive and knowledge is strengthened.

The continued growth of the programme is testament to its success and sustainability. Improvements continue to be made year upon year and the impact of the collaboration between Warwick and Laksh is having far-reaching effects on young learners, volunteers and entire communities.

THE CONTINUED INVOLVEMENT OF THE WARWICK VOLUNTEERS HELPS US TO IMPROVE. THEY HAVE MADE ME 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.

MUSTAFA,
TEACHER - SILAKHARI
LEARNING CENTRE



THIS PROJECT HAS A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE STUDENTS AND THE TEACHERS. THE TEACHING CENTRES ARE THE WHEELS OF CHANGE FOR THEIR RESPECTIVE VILLAGES, PROMOTING AND DISTRIBUTING FREE EDUCATION THAT IS DIFFERENT FROM SCHOOL.

ANISHA,
VOLUNTEER

WE HAVE THREE MAIN AIMS...

LEAVE A LONG-LASTING IMPACT BY TRAINING LOCAL TEACHERS

One of the most unique features of the Laksh Foundation is that they motivate and nurture local youth to become trainee teachers who, in turn, inspire and educate more young people, setting into motion a self-sustaining growth pattern.

We want to make sure Warwick's impact is long-lasting, so a vital part of our work is equipping these 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, science and social sciences. They introduce new educational methods, transforming the way teachers connect with their pupils in classroom environments.



OVER 70 STUDENTS ATTEND THE SILAKHARI CENTRE DAILY



SAZID

Sazid has been working with the Laksh community for over a year now. He has a Masters in Business Administration from Al-Falah University. Whilst he was studying, he learned about the work of the Laksh Foundation and liked what he heard about its ethos, and the opportunities it provides for its learners and teaching team. He currently holds the position of Centre Leader of the Silakhari centre where over 70 students attend daily and he manages a team of five.

"The Warwick Volunteers are an important part of the Laksh Foundation. The training they deliver throughout the summer is excellent. We all gain knowledge from one another by working together;

the volunteers learn about India from the teachers and the teachers learn new teaching methods from the volunteers."

"I teach a broad range of subjects and especially like teaching English. However my favourite part of teaching is the two-way learning which occurs across all subjects."

"I am keen to expand the work that Laksh does in Silakhari village, and increase student numbers, especially female students as there is quite a large gender gap. We could begin to tackle this by recruiting a female teacher for the Centre, and I look forward to working with the Laksh Foundation and taking this forward."

NUSRAT

Nusrat is 18 years old, and from the village of Dhauj. She is currently studying towards her Bachelor's degree in Management.

Nusrat started at Laksh in 2017, teaching children in 1st standard. Since then she has developed as a teacher and is now teaching English, maths, science and geography to a class of twelve students in 7th standard at the Dhauj tuition centre.

"Teaching can sometimes be difficult, especially when the students come to my lessons having not attended the government school, and lack in the knowledge required to fully participate in my class. However, I am passionate about teaching. I love seeing the children smiling and having fun whilst they are learning."

"I have really enjoyed working with the Warwick volunteers over the last two years. I really value the different teaching styles they show us. When I started at Laksh, I spoke very little English and had hardly any confidence. Now I am comfortable being interviewed in English!

My ambition is to become a lawyer. I would like to study law after I have finished my undergraduate degree. I also hope that more villages become involved with the Laksh Foundation so more tuition centres can open, and a greater impact achieved."



BALRAM

Balram is 19-years-old and teaches in the Alumpur learning centre. Alongside his teaching Balram also balances his time studying Bachelor of Business Administration at Al-Falah University.

"I enjoy teaching a lot, especially playing games with the children and using the different teaching techniques we learn. Usually I teach a class of twelve students aged around 13-14 years but sometimes we have to cover for other teachers due to absence and that can get quite stressful. Despite the workload I want to try and

incorporate more sessions focussed on life skills such as what to wear, what to say, and how to behave in different situations because these are important skills not taught at local schools."

"The morning sessions run at Laksh Farm by the Warwick volunteers are invaluable to me as they help me both with my teaching, and with my own university studies. They provide different teaching methods and topic-related help for lesson planning, and have a support system for teachers like me who are also pursuing further study."





BRING SUBJECTS TO LIFE FOR INDIAN LEARNERS

Our volunteers deliver high-energy, exciting lessons to classes across the Laksh schools every summer. Our volunteers are selected through a rigorous, competitive process and given extensive training before they leave for Laksh. Once on-site, they spend the mornings lesson-planning and coaching teachers in new techniques and ideas, and the afternoons in the classrooms working alongside them to deliver the lessons. Crucially they move the lessons off the blackboard and transform them into interactive workshops designed to engage, enthuse and inspire learners.

Our volunteers have a huge motivational impact on learners and teachers within the schools and in many cases awaken new potential and ambition beyond the classroom.



AT LAKSH, DESPITE ALL THE RESPONSIBILITY ON THEIR SHOULDERS, NOBODY EVER SAYS NO TO HARD WORK. MORNING CLASS? YES PLEASE. MORE HOMEWORK? SURE. THEY DREAM BIG. THEIR THIRST AND EFFORT TO IMPROVE IS WHAT I AIM TO DO IN MY OWN EDUCATION AND CAREER.

VANDITA, VOLUNTEER



RASHMI

Rashmi is 12 years old and attends her local centre in the village of Alumpur.

"My favourite thing about coming to my local Laksh learning centre is that the teachers genuinely care about us, and make sure nobody gets left behind. The teachers will always try to find out how best we learn, and then reflect this in the way they teach. They don't give up on us when we struggle, but instead help us understand why we are struggling and try out different teaching methods. I find learning much easier at the Laksh Centre and I feel I have improved in maths, English and Hindi. When I grow up, I'd like to be a teacher, then you can carry on learning your whole life."

(THE VOLUNTEERS') LESSONS ARE ALWAYS DIFFERENT AND WE LEARN IN NEW WAYS WHEN THEY ARE HERE...IT'S REALLY EXCITING. I RESPECT THE VOLUNTEERS, AND THEY MAKE ME FEEL RESPECTED IN RETURN.

FAJINA, LEARNER

EKTA



16 year-old Ekta lives in Sihori with her parents, grandfather, three sisters and one brother. Ekta attends the government school in the mornings, and goes to her local Laksh learning centre each afternoon. She likes the way English is taught in the centre as her teacher, Ramesh, teaches at a good pace and explains concepts in different ways to ensure everyone understands before moving on.

"I would like to be a teacher when I am older, I want to teach as I want to work with lots of people from

different backgrounds and give something back to my community; knowledge can change a society and I want to see change in my own community. Teaching can spread that change."

"I am fond of having the Warwick volunteers here, they are helpful and I like the extra support they give the teachers. Our teachers are shown new ways to teach, and it really improves their confidence. I really value the education I have received through the Laksh Foundation."

PROVIDE A TRANSFORMATIONAL, GLOBAL EXPERIENCE FOR WARWICK STUDENTS

Taking part in this programme is a way for Warwick students to gain global citizenship and benefit from a meaningful international experience. It gives them a valuable insight into another culture and schooling system and provides an opportunity to gain life experience beyond University.

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.

So far, over 70 students have benefitted from the programme, and we look forward to opening up the opportunity to more students in 2019 and beyond.



FIONA

"I have gained an opportunity that I will never get again. I have made friends that I hope to stay in touch with long into the future. I have had an insight into the Indian culture that only few would be able to see. I have gained confidence in my ability to teach and have a fresh outlook on the world. I feel I am able to see what is important now and realise that things I deemed important before no longer are. The experience was wonderful in so many ways."

"I CANNOT OVERSTATE HOW MUCH THE PROJECT HAS INFLUENCED MY PRIORITIES AND OUTLOOK ON SO MANY THINGS IN LIFE, AND I'M SO GRATEFUL AND THANKFUL TO THE UNIVERSITY AND EVERYONE AT LAKSH FARM FOR MAKING IT SUCH A SPECIAL EXPERIENCE."

MATT, VOLUNTEER

"TEACHING AT LAKSH HAS TAUGHT ME A NUMBER OF INVALUABLE LESSONS ...A VOLUNTEER'S ROLE EXTENDS BEYOND JUST TEACHING, TO BEING A ROLE MODEL AND A GENERAL EXAMPLE TO ALL THE TEACHERS, OF HOW TO CONDUCT A CLASS AND HOW TO STRIKE A BALANCE BETWEEN FRIENDSHIP AND A PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIP IN THE CLASSROOM."

MILLIE, VOLUNTEER

"I FEEL I HAVE GAINED SO MUCH MORE CONFIDENCE IN MYSELF, AND HAVE DEVELOPED A REAL PASSION FOR TEACHING AND THE POSSIBILITIES OF EDUCATION IN BRINGING CHANGE TO COMMUNITIES. I WAS SO INSPIRED BY ALL THE WORK THAT GOES INTO THE PROJECT, AND THE WORK THAT THE TEACHERS DO THEMSELVES TO HELP THEIR OWN COMMUNITIES, AND I REALLY BELIEVE IN THE POSITIVE IMPACT THAT THIS IS HAVING. I DEFINITELY FEEL HONOURED TO BE PART OF THE WARWICK-LAKSH COMMUNITY."

KATIE, VOLUNTEER

EMILY'S STORY VOLUNTEER IN 2018

"I've always believed that education is a very powerful tool, for both teachers and students alike. Education empowers students, education empowered me and I applied for Laksh because I wanted to use this power to help others. It is amazing now to think that I have done just that and seen the evidence of it when observing lessons in the Laksh Learning Centres.

I think the major successes of this programme are the long-lasting impact it has on the local area and the focus it has on the local teachers and their pupils. Laksh is not just something I can add onto my CV, it was one month of hard work that was aimed outwards at other people rather than my own personal gain. The needs of the teachers and local children are what lies at the heart of Laksh and this focus is what helps it be such a valuable and beneficial programme for all involved.

I remember in the run up to leaving I was filled with nerves; this was to be the first time I'd been on a plane without my mum or dad with me; not only that but I was travelling to India, a country I'd heard was going to completely overwhelm me as soon I stepped out the airport. Yet when me and the other volunteers all came together outside the departure gate with plans, expectations, worries, and excitement, all juggling around in our heads, I felt calmer; I had people around me and we were in this together - "Team work IS the dream work" became my motto for the month and it could not be a more accurate representation of the Laksh community.

Laksh has shown me a completely different way of life to the one I lead at home. It has shown me first-hand the educational disadvantages faced by rural Indian communities and given me a unique insight into the global issue of educational inequality. Being able to take part in this programme has been a privilege, and something I will be forever grateful for being allowed to do. Seeing the impact of my team's work in action at the local teaching centres was a truly humbling experience and I will never forget the smiles I shared with teachers when their students were enjoying their lessons."

MILESTONES

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.

PUPIL NUMBERS INCREASE TO

160



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.



170

CHILDREN ATTEND REGULAR TUTORIALS

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.



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.

17
TEACHERS
12
VOLUNTEERS
FROM
WARWICK



Warwick staff visit to help with expansion plans and to celebrate the **University's 50th Anniversary** celebrations, including the then Vice Chancellor, Professor Sir Nigel Thrift.

2016

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.

2017



Laksh celebrates its **10 year** anniversary by opening a brand new centre in the village of Sihori-Khori, welcoming a **further 200 pupils**.



The teaching team grows from **21 to 45**. **55%** of the teaching team are female.



On campus, at the annual Staff Awards, Programme Manager **Helen Knight**, was Highly Commended in the category of **Outstanding Global Contribution** for her services to the Warwick Laksh Programme.

2018



980

pupils registered across the network of learning centres, a **550% increase in just nine years**.

50

TEACHERS

receive **coaching, mentoring and training** from our student volunteers during the summer months, including intensive revision sessions for those resitting exams, all of whom went on to pass and have now **gone on to University study**.

WARWICK STUDENT VOLUNTEERS RAISE

£10,900

TO SUPPORT OUR WORK



ON CAMPUS, LAKSH ALUMNUS HASAN SUIDA IS AWARDED AN OUTSTANDING STUDENT CONTRIBUTION AWARD FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PROGRAMME SINCE 2015



A HUGE THANK YOU

From a small pilot project in 2010, we have made considerable progress and have made an impact on the lives of almost 1,000 individuals in rural Haryana. None of this would have been possible without the extraordinary energy, capability and humility of the volunteers who give up their summer holiday to teach in India. We thank each and every one of them.

We are fortunate to work together with some amazing individuals and organisations who support our work. In 2018 we received generous contributions from Dr Prakash Satodia, the Warwick Innovation Fund and the Sri Guru Ravidass Sabha, Bedford.

Thank you to all our funders, big and small, who together have ensured that our dedicated and skilled volunteers can reach the teachers and learners who have so much potential to release.

Thank you - your support has made so much possible over the last nine years. We hope you will continue to support us to achieve even more in the future.



"Our trainee teachers are being developed and inspired by the Warwick volunteers and in turn they are developing and inspiring the young learners in their classrooms, thus putting in place a self-sustaining growth pattern. The new teaching methods, study materials, creative exercises, games, and concepts are being integrated into our daily practice and the children are being enthused about education. Saying thank you to Warwick is simply not enough."

Madan Lal Sharma
Laksh Project Coordinator

I enjoy working with the Warwick volunteers; they make difficult topics more accessible, especially mathematics. 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.

Working with the Laksh and Warwick volunteers hasn't just helped me professionally, it's given me life skills and experience which I hope will set me apart from others.

Jamalu-din,
Teacher - Silakhari Learning Centre



Our friends at the Bedworth Rotary Club sourced some Luminaid Solar Lights which we were able to distribute around the Laksh Learning Centres to provide a source of light all year around.

Electricity is unreliable in the villages, but sunlight is in abundance so this gift was both practical and sustainable!



"I FEEL THAT PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAMME HAS MADE ME A BETTER PERSON; SOMEONE WHO IS MORE THOUGHTFUL, APPRECIATIVE AND DETERMINED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. LAKSH - THE PROGRAMME AND THE PEOPLE - HAVE RESTORED MY FAITH IN HUMANITY, IN A WORLD WHERE IT IS SO EASY TO LOSE IT. LAKSH HAS BEEN AN EYE-OPENING EXPERIENCE AND ONE WHICH HAS CONFIRMED TO ME THAT I AM CAPABLE OF MAKING A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD."

AMELIA,
VOLUNTEER

GET IN TOUCH

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