



Ark Fellows 2016: India

Context

Up to 40% of the world's poorest children live in India, where eight million have never been to school. Of those who do attend classes, half are unable to read after five years of schooling. As a result one in three adults is illiterate.

Ark has been working in India since 2008 to improve the lives of disadvantaged children across 10 states of India.

We opened our first school, Ark Lajpat Nagar III, in Delhi on 1 July 2015. Our first cohort of teachers worked closely with last year's Fellows to improve the quality of teaching and learning at Lajpat Nagar and create new ways of delivering excellent education in a low resource setting. This year we look forward to our Fellows working with the school again to help train and induct our new staff cohort and build on the good practice which is already in place.

The Project

Ark India faces an exciting challenge as we seek to catalyse meaningful change in the Indian education system: teacher training programmes often fail to prepare teachers for the challenges of the classroom and many enthusiastic teachers lack training in approaches such as 'Teach like a Champion'.

We recognise that a school is only as strong as the teachers within it, and Ark India's first priority is to induct new teachers to the Ark approach and strengthen prior pedagogical training through a rigorous CPD programme.

This year we are looking for outstanding primary teachers with experience in teacher training and mentoring who can contribute to our initial teacher development work. Candidates should also be well versed in phonics and maths mastery training as well as 'Teach Like a Champion.'

During a two-week placement, Fellows will work with the Ark India team in New Delhi to deliver in-service CPD under the guidance of Principal Urmila Chowdhury and teacher training lead Aniket Thukral. Prior to travel Fellows will receive briefings from Urmila and Aniket on the particular training needs of the new staff cohort and appropriate training techniques.

The fellowship in India is suitable for outstanding teachers or leaders in primary education. Early Years knowledge and experience are particularly valued.

Specific Skills and Attributes

Professional Competence and Experience

- Mentoring and training experience
- Excellent knowledge of early years pedagogy, classroom management and curriculum
- A meticulous observer of classroom practice and comfortable being observed
- Knowledge of teach like a champion and/or alternative approaches that can be effectively leveraged in low-resource settings

Attitude and character

- Willing to be a role model for other teachers
- Eager to share information and ideas with colleagues
- Resilient, flexible, persistent, and open-minded
- Enjoys new challenges and solving problems

Communication and Interpersonal skills

- Listens attentively and asks questions that prompt reflection and understanding
- Offers critiques in positive and productive ways
- Approachable; easily establishes rapport with others and is patient
- Hindi language skills (not essential but very valuable)