

COVER SHEET

Name: Wendy Chen (MIT)

Organization name: India School Fund (ISF)

Contact person: Elisabeth Megally, Chief Development Officer (CDO)

Organization's Mission: The India School Fund (ISF) is a non-profit founded by some Harvard Business School and MIT Sloan students in 2005 to deliver a quality education to the children in Rajugela, India in order to break the vicious cycle of poverty. It has built a school in Rajugela located in Uttar Pradesh where it serves first to fourth graders and is planning to expand to fifth grade this summer. The subjects that it currently teaches are English, Hindi, math, and environmental science and students in the school demonstrate high mastery of these subjects in the national exams, thus making this school much better than the government school in the village, which has high dropout rates and poor teaching.

Details of the Project

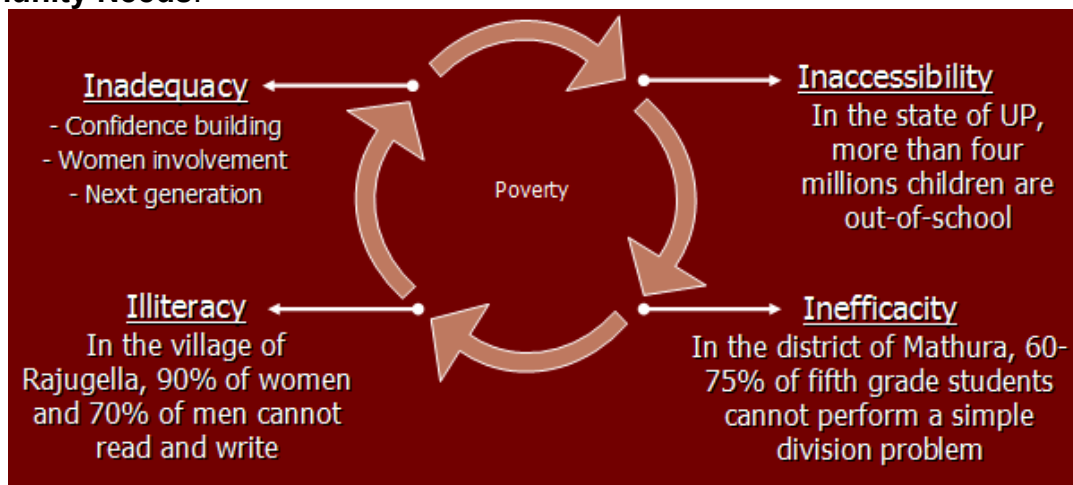
Supervisors:

Elisabeth Megally (indirect) and Eswarji (direct)

Elisabeth Megally is currently the Chief Development Officer (CDO) of ISF. She is an MIT Sloan MBA alumna who has been involved with ISF since the beginning of this organization. She has experience in economics, microfinance, corporate finance, and international development. For ISF, she is involved in fundraising, managing group contacts, and bridging the connection between the ISF members in India and those in the US. This semester, we are both working on developing the fifth grade environmental science curriculum. During the summer, she will not be traveling with me, but rather, she will be supervising me overseas. I will report back to her every week regarding how my work is going and seek her advice regarding any questions or problems that come up.

Eswarji is the principal of the school in Rajugela. He is fully fluent in both Hindi and English. He is very passionate and eager to bring high quality education to rural India and provides the children in the ISF school with a comprehensive and excellent education perfectly designed for rural areas. Thanks to his tireless efforts and experience at the renowned Rishi Valley School, school attendance rates at the ISF school have reached 90 percent. Students at the school also have high exam scores on the national exams and ISF's education model is also highly praised by Pratham. Since Eswarji is fluent in both Hindi and English, I will be working with him in translating the curriculum to Hindi and then training the teachers to follow the curriculum that I have developed. He will also be supervising my work in India and answering any questions or concerns I may come across.

Community Needs:



The government school in Rajugela has low attendance rates, high dropout rates, and poor exam scores. The India School Fund (ISF) is founded to provide a quality education to children in the village so that they can be knowledgeable and prepared for a higher education in order to break out of the vicious cycle of poverty. The school teaches Hindi, English, math, and environmental science to the students. The environmental science subject was recently created because the principal deems it very important for the students to be knowledgeable about the environment since natural resources and the environment are such an essential part of the villagers' daily lives. I will be developing the fifth grade environmental science curriculum to address this need.

Timeline and Work Plan:

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Work</i>
Now- End of April	Develop the environmental science curriculum and the four cards used to teach the concepts
April- May	The principal will look over the curriculum and make suggestions and changes as necessary
Mid-June- End of July	Travel to India to train the teachers to teach the developed curriculum; modify curriculum as necessary and monitor the effectiveness of the curriculum

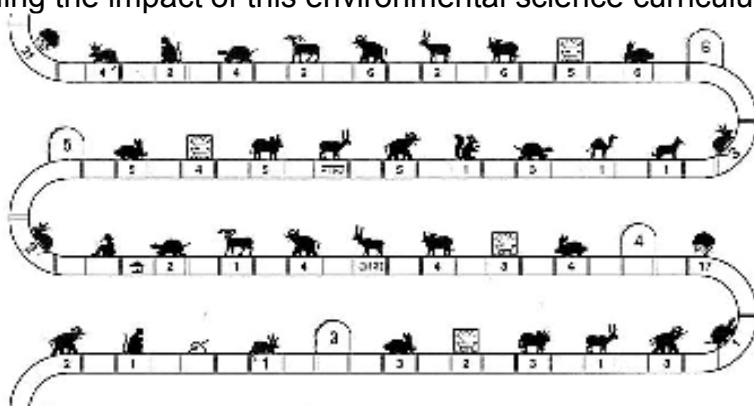
I have been working on the curriculum since January. The principal, Eswarji, wants us to be done with the curriculum by April 15 so that he can look it over and make changes as necessary. We will probably not have the entire curriculum done by that time, but we will by the end of the month. For each topic such as water or weather, we will use four cards. The first card is the "survey" card, which allows students to examine and take notes of the concept being taught. The second one is the "question" card, which asks interesting questions to reinforce the introductory exploration of the concept. The third card is the "reading" card, which gives students more advanced information on the topic. The fourth card is the "experimentation" card, which provides ways for the children to explore the subject further in an engaging and fun exercise. After the children complete the cards, they will be given an "evaluation" card to see if they have a solid understanding of the novel concept that they have just learned.

SURVEY CARD	QUESTION CARD	READING CARD	EXPERIMENTATION CARD	EVALUATION CARD
Allow students to examine & take note of what types of transportation are used in the village	Ask interesting & stimulating questions to reinforce their introductory exploration	Give the student more advanced information on the topic, expanding the child's conceptions of the lesson	Provide ways for children to explore the subject further in an engaging & fun way	Help to consolidate & appraise their newfound learning

After submitting the curriculum to Eswarji, he will look over it and make some changes. In mid-June, I will be going to India to work with Eswarji in translating this curriculum and training the teachers. School opens in July so we will have the curriculum translated and the teachers trained by that time. This process will take about two weeks. In July, I will stay longer to monitor the teachers and see how the teaching is going. I will be making changes to the curriculum as necessary. I will also get feedback from the teachers and the principal to see how the children are learning. If some of the cards seem hard or easy, I will modify them to fit the students' needs. I will be staying in Rajugela for two to four weeks to see how the curriculum is going and make changes as necessary.

Community Impact:

Since environmental science is such an important subject as the children and the other villagers are so dependent on the environmental resources, developing an environmental science curriculum for fifth graders will be highly useful for the students. By training the teachers to teach the curriculum that I have developed and making adjustments, I can ensure that the curriculum is effective and properly taught to the students. This project also builds capacity because it results in long-term sustainable benefits for the students and the villagers. The students will walk out of fifth grade knowledgeable about their local resources and will thus be able to teach others in the village to make sure that they care for and use the local resources effectively. Furthermore, since I will be training the teachers, the teachers can teach the curriculum to all the fifth graders in the school this summer and in the years to come, thus expanding the impact of this environmental science curriculum.



The ISF school is based on an individual "ladder" or learning

Team:

I am working with some other members of ISF on this fifth grade curriculum. Some members of the team include Elisabeth Megally, the Chief Development Officer, Esmeralda Megally, Ranjani Saigal, and Leonid Chindelevitch. Both Elisabeth and Esmeralda are MIT Sloan alumnae. Ranjani is a staff at MIT and Leonid is a graduate student with experience in working on school curricula in India since he has worked on several educational projects in India as part of Asha for Education. The team will be working closely with Eswarji, the principal, to see which concepts need to be included in

the curriculum. We will also be doing a lot of research to see how a fifth grade level environmental science education is like. Furthermore, we are working closely with Gary Pelissier and Danielle Lee, two Harvard College students who developed the fourth grade environmental science curriculum last year and traveled together to India last summer to implement the project. We are basing our curriculum on theirs but making it more advanced for the fifth graders. They will also be advising us during the duration of the curriculum development and giving me advice on traveling and staying in India since I will likely be the only one in the group going to India this summer.

For more information about the India School Fund (ISF), go to www.indiaschoolfund.org

Budget:

Item	Amount	Details
Flight	\$2000	A search on studentuniverse.com says the round trip from Boston to Delhi, India will be from \$1370 to \$2500. I am asking for \$2000 to cover my flight ticket.
Accommodations	Free	I will be staying with Vandita, the CEO of ISF, during my trip and she has offered to house me for free.
Vaccinations	Free	My health insurance should cover the vaccinations and medications I need to take for my trip.
Total	\$2000	