

17000 ft Foundation was born in Ladakh, INDIA. Our name is a reminder of the heights that we managed to cross on foot to reach our remotest beneficiaries.

Who We Are

We are a team of corporate professionals and adventure travelers, turned social entrepreneurs setting about to transform lives in remote rural Ladakh.

The Problem

Ladakh, lies in the Himalayan state of Jammu and Kashmir, India, with over 600+ sparsely populated hamlets, scattered across 60,000 sq. km. of harsh mountainous terrain. A majority of these villages remain isolated from the rest of the world for 6 months in a year due to severe winters. With inadequate infrastructure and limited support, these far flung villages are completely dependent on sustenance farming and, in some cases, income from seasonal tourism spends. Each of these tiny villages houses a school, sometimes for just a handful of children. With over 900 schools dotting the landscape, over 93% of them are remote and ill-managed, leading to high dropout rates, and young adults ill-equipped to face the future. These sparsely populated villages and schools are the hope of an ancient community, desperate only for a decent education and better opportunities for their children.

Our Mission

Our mission is to strengthen rural villages and schools, make them more acceptable to the local people and stem the slow exodus of young rural families to far away cities in search of a better life.

What we do

We are committed to reaching the last mile, delivering support direct to each and every village, no matter how remote it is. Our strength lies in working with existing systems and improving them and empowering the people to use them better.

Education - We work to improve schools and the quality of education at each and every school. Our projects involve setting up of libraries, improving school infrastructure, capacity building of teachers and conducting periodic workshops.

Income Opportunities - We connect more villages to the outside world, by promoting Volunteer Tourism into them, thereby increasing exposure and creating income opportunities through organized homestays. *Voluntourist@17000ft* is our initiative that draws on our extensive knowledge and data of each and every school of Ladakh, to organize and divert volunteering efforts across village schools.

Technology is the backbone of our work and allows us to gather, analyze, share and use data from across hundreds of schools and villages to plan, execute and improve on our projects.

Inherently mobile, our work involves regular and periodic travel to each and every school and village to implement our programs. Our work is carried out and sustained by our young and enthusiastic team of trained Ladakhi facilitators, many from these remote villages themselves and with an inherent desire to help people in remote villages.

Our Impact so far

In just over two years of operation, here is what we have accomplished:

- Visited, geo-mapped and assessed all 370 schools of Leh District onto our MapMySchool Platform
- Setup 105 libraries across Leh District and we conduct reading programs in each school every month
- Provided classroom furniture and setup playgrounds in 15 of the remotest schools of Ladakh
- Conducted multi-day Winter training workshops for over 500 teachers and Headmasters
- Sent 150 Volunteer Tourists to work in remote village schools, with the villages having never received visitors before
- **Geographically expanded into Kargil District where 100 libraries will be setup by Sep 2016**

Here is a documentary of our Library Programs that you might be interested in: <http://x.co/17000Film>

17000 ft Foundation

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Pratham

Every child in school and learning well



How you can help

We are a Not for Profit organization (Sec 25 Company) and while we are able to sustain our back-end costs through Volunteer Tourism, we are still dependent on your donation to spread the reach of our programs. Donations of any amount are very welcome and will be used judiciously across our programs, here are some specific projects that you can contribute to and directly impact.

Support our Library Program – 17000 ft sets up libraries in far flung, tiny and isolated Government Schools in an effort to increase exposure and improve reading. The schools, chosen in collaboration with the Dept. of Education, are given special rack(s), 300 – 500 books each in 4 languages and material and resources needed to manage the library. The Headmasters and designated teachers undergo a two-day mandatory training workshop in a specially designed Library Management System. Each of our libraries also is visited by our team of trained facilitators (avg. of 4 to 6 in a year), during which Reading Activities and repeat trainings are conducted. These monthly visits are a mandatory component of our Library Programs and serve to motivate the teachers and children into using their libraries. Data across all our school libraries is analyzed annually, shared with the local administration and used to grow and better our programs and prepare schools for the next level.

In just our two years of existence, we have setup libraries in 100 remote schools with over 85% of our school running library periods independently. On an average, children are reading 4 books in a month, a tremendous achievement in a region completely unused to books and reading habits.

You can help

- Setup a library in one school - **Rs. 55,000 (a onetime cost)**
- Support and help implement a complete Library Program in a school - **Rs. 1,30,000 over three years**

We request a commitment of 3 years to help completely implement a library program in a school, which is the time that 17000 ft spends at a school before completely turning it over to the local administration. Year 2 and Year 3 of our library programs is devoted to

Support our Infrastructure Improvement Program - Over 89% of Ladakh's 1000 schools are tiny, remote and lack basic infrastructure. 17000 ft is on a mission to improve basic school infrastructure to motivate enrollment and create a holistic learning environment. Currently, 17000 ft has setup playgrounds in 14 schools and provided classroom furniture for 12 schools. You can help by adopting a school, setting up a playground or providing classroom furniture for schools

You can help

- **Setup classroom furniture for schools** - **Rs. 66,000.00** (Average cost of setting up classroom furniture for a school of 20 children)
- **Setup a small playground in a school** - **Rs. 1,50,000.00**
- **Setup a large playground in a school** - **Rs. 2,65,000.00**

Or just write to us as donate@17000ft.org with your ideas. We welcome all the help we can get!

Be a Volontourist with 17000 ft

Volontourist@17000ft is our program that connects travellers to remote villages where they can work in some incredibly tiny and beautiful schools, and have an opportunity to be tourist as well. The Volontourist@17000ft program aims at structuring volunteering attempts, equalizing support across more villages and orienting Volunteers with the appropriate knowledge and skills required to maximize impact. A Volontourist fulfils a large part of our mandate to bring attention to remote, off the track villages, to contribute to the local economy and help tiny schools in the area. Our Volontourist Program is also beneficial to 17000 ft as it brings us revenue to cover our backend costs.

We have so far sent 150 Volunteer Tourists to remote villages of Ladakh, in areas completely unused to outsiders and tourism.

We have [10 day](#), [16 day](#) and [one month](#) programs that you can be a part of. Help us reach out to more remote villages. Be a Volontourist with 17000 ft Foundation.

You can register your interest at <http://bit.do/17000ft-Volontourist-Form>



How to donate

If you are a resident of India, 50% of your donation is exempt from Income Tax under Sec 80G of the Income Tax Act. Please contact us directly at donate@17000ft.org if you are not an Indian resident.

Payment through our website:

- Visit www.17000ft.org/donate and choose one of the options to donate from.

Payment by Cheque

- Write out a Cheque to 17000 ft Foundation
- Mail to
17000 ft Foundation
Q 139, Ground Floor, South City 1
Gurgaon, Haryana, 122001
Ph: +91 9871100334

Online Payment into 17000 ft Account

- Deposit Directly into HDFC Bank
Account Name: 17000 ft Foundation
Account Number: 10981450000110
RTGS/NEFT IFSC Code: HDFC0001098

Send an email to donate@17000ft.org with your Name, Address, PAN Number, Phone Number, Date and Amount of Donation and program donating to. Your 80G will be sent to you directly

If there is any other way that you think you can help us in our quest, please write to us. We welcome your help!

