



102480 - Sri Lanka
Project Fact Sheet 2022

Sri Lanka: Literacy for Children and Youth

Overview

Each year, the Ceylon Bible Society (CBS) aim to run literacy classes through the network of churches and Christian organisations in Sri Lanka, especially in rural, slum and undeveloped areas. These classes increase the access to the Scriptures for those who are uneducated and neglected.

The Need

Despite the official literacy rate for Sri Lanka (92.3% in 2019, in a population of 21.4 million people), there are still a significant number of people in rural areas, slums, undeveloped areas and among ethnic minority groups who do not have proper access to education. These include street children, children and youth in orphanages, underprivileged children, disabled children, and poor children growing up in rural areas who don't even have their basic needs met.

Churches have been trying to reach out to children and young people who have some literacy, but struggle in reading and writing in their mother language. Yet the churches have lacked a systematic approach and have approached Bible Society asking for assistance.



Project Goals

The goal of this project is to provide reading, listening and writing skills to illiterate youth and children, so they can access Scripture for their own personal growth, as well as contribute to the development of their communities. The focus will be on young people who have little access to education, and to young people helped by churches to improve their literacy skills, so they can read the Bible for themselves.

The classes will be run in the Sinhala and Tamil languages and include reading Scripture through simple Bible stories (both printed and digital), explaining stories from the Bible and Christian books, and covering simple teachings of Jesus, Gospel parables, songs and other audio material.

Impact

This project aims to impact 2,400 young people across three years, with 800 students benefitted and certified per year (which may be dependant on the limitations imposed by the COVID pandemic).

Testimonies

“Children in my school are coming from all regions in Sri Lanka... In my experience there are plenty of children who have come from shanties, slums, streets, the coastal belt and rural areas (who) can't...(even) write their names. So how do they live?”

Father Sameera, Director of St Vincent Technical School, Maggona.

Prayer Needs

- Pray that the impact of COVID would be reduced, so that training for the program can commence.
- Pray for enough trained people to facilitate the literacy classes.
- Pray for the Bible Society Literacy team as they travel through the country, training and implementing the program.