What the Master Trainers and Teachers say in Maharashtra

**Master Trainers**

“It was a great pleasure to be part of the British Council training. In the beginning teachers thought that it was regular training, but when we started our activities they were surprised and they started to respect the ideas. We changed the teachers’ point of view towards the teaching of English.

“I have learned new techniques, approaches and pedagogical methods for communicating with my learners as well as the teachers I train. I am a lot more confident than before.”

**Teachers**

“I had many problems with teaching English before this training but now I know many activities, resources and ideas. I have learned lots of things which are useful for my classes.”

“I have been given a new vision of teaching. I have decided to use more activities and make my English teaching more joyful. I'm trying my best to build a young generation who can learn, speak, read and write English very well.”

In 2011, the Maharashtra state government requested the British Council to design a sustainable programme to develop both the language proficiency and methodological skills of primary teachers from grades 1 – 4. The English Language Initiative for Primary Schools (ELIPS) is the resulting large scale teacher education and development programme which aims to build capacity through face-to-face training and access to Continuing Professional Development (CPD) initiatives.

ELIPS is a partnership project between the British Council and the Maharashtra Prathmik Shikshan Parishad, the Government of Maharashtra's education department responsible for the universalisation of primary education. The project is implemented through the State Council of Education Research and Training which provides in-service training for teachers. ELIPS is a two-year project which was launched in June 2012 and will continue until June 2014.

Contacts
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The key objectives of ELIPS are to:

- develop appropriate methodology and materials to encourage and motivate the learning of English in primary school classrooms by children of all abilities and from all socio-economic backgrounds
- build the language proficiency skills and confidence of 67,200 primary teachers
- enable these teachers to conduct child-centred and child-friendly lessons
- enable these teachers to assess progress in line with the Indian National Curriculum Framework (2005) and the policy of Continuous Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE)
- build sustainable infrastructure to support in-service teacher training and the continuing professional development of English teachers which provides a model for other subject disciplines and other bodies
- enable a cadre of selected Master Trainers to assess teacher performance according to agreed standards

The project model

The Maharashtra ELIPS project model combines face-to-face trainer and teacher training with an integrated programme to support Continuing Professional Development (CPD).

The design of the project is people focused and collaborative, combining a participatory approach governing the consultation process with a cascade model to deliver the large-scale training.

Impact so far (April 2013)

- 846 master trainers trained throughout Maharashtra
- 65,118 teachers trained through cascades in 2012-13
- 97% of trained Master Trainers agreed that they would recommend our training programmes to their colleagues
- 94% of trained Master Trainers confirmed that between 75% and 100% of the training content can be directly implemented in their classrooms
- 98% of observed Master Trainers confirmed that they feel more confident because of the training
- 69% of observed Master Trainers are performing to standard in the classroom