

# World Bank's STARS Project

June 30, 2020

The World Bank approved a **\$500 million Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States Program (STARS)** to improve the quality and governance of school education in **six Indian states (Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Rajasthan)**. Some 250 million students (between the age of 6 and 17) in 1.5 million schools, and over 10 million teachers will benefit from the program.

## STARS Project

The STARS program builds on the long partnership between India and the World Bank (since 1994), for **strengthening public school education and to support the country's goal of providing 'Education for All'**. Prior to STARS, the Bank had provided a total assistance of more than \$3 billion towards this goal.

STARS will support India's renewed focus on addressing the **'learning outcome'** challenge and help students better prepare for the jobs of the future-through a series of reform initiatives. These include:

- Focusing more directly on the **delivery of education services** at the state, district and sub district levels by providing customized local-level solutions towards school improvement.
- **Addressing demands from stakeholders**, especially parents, for greater accountability and **inclusion** by producing better data to assess the quality of learning; giving special attention to students from vulnerable sections – with over 52% (as a weighted average) of children in the government-run schools in the six project states belonging to vulnerable sections, such as Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST), and minority

communities; and delivering a curriculum that keeps pace with the rapidly evolving needs of the job market.

- Equipping teachers to manage this transformation by recognizing that teachers are central to achieving better learning outcomes. The program will support individualized, **needs-based training for teachers** that will give them an opportunity to have a say in shaping training programs and making them relevant to their teaching needs.
- Investing more in developing India's human capital needs by **strengthening foundational learning for children in classes 1 to 3** and preparing them with the cognitive, socio-behavioral and language skills to meet future labor market needs.

[The \$500 million loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), has a final maturity of 14.5 years including a grace period of five years].