

## Bridges to the Future Initiative (BFI) – India: Prototype Multimedia Learning Tools Developed

*The multimedia package will provide culture specific local language learning materials and information resources for low literate audiences*

The multimedia software package is geared towards both out-of-school youth who wish to return to school and adults who are seeking to expand their basic literacy and life skills. The software has been developed to take full advantage of the potential these new technologies have to make learning enjoyable and bring a wealth of information into an accessible format.

The unique instructional design of the software combines literacy and numeracy instruction with the delivery of vital information on topics such as clean water, HIV-AIDS, nutrition, vocation, and agriculture in a manner that is sensitive to the needs and interests of a low literate audience. The language used is real world versus formal. One of the key features of the software is the addition of a voice option that allows a low literate learner to have on-screen text read aloud at any time with the visual aid of enlarged text.



*BFI – AP homepage - three stands: Learning for Life, Learning for School, E-government Resources*

The software has of three principal strands: Learning for School (LFS), Learning for Life (LFL), and E-government Resources (EGov). LFS addresses the hard spots in the curriculum, while LFL focuses on combining the delivery of vital information on areas such as health, vocation, and environment with literacy and numeracy skill building

activities. EGov provides users with easy access to electronic resources, that will include not just government forms and but also a range of community-based resources. This information will be tailored to low-literate users that make up the most difficult to reach populations - especially women.

Preliminary field trials have elicited encouraging responses from users in various age groups, such as: "...this makes learning really easy"; "...even without knowing how to read I am able to go through the lesson and learn the information"; "This was a fun way to learn about the topic and was interesting to me."



*Preliminary field trials with learners in Hyderabad, AP*