



# omprakash

Connecting Volunteers, Classrooms & Communities

## Omprakash in the Classroom: How it Works

Our “Classroom” program helps teachers and students use our network to enrich academic curricula and implement service-learning projects—that is, projects that integrate meaningful service to our international Partners with instruction and reflection to enrich learning and foster a sense of global citizenship.

We encourage our Volunteers to bring their relationships with our foreign Partners into classrooms in their home community, and we also enable interested teachers and students to reach out directly to our Partners, even if not through a Volunteer. The dialogue and relationships that emerge from this exchange can bring a more human face to the study of complex global issues such as poverty, energy consumption, and women’s rights, and we believe that this sort of learning must be the basis for positive social change.

By bringing Omprakash into elementary, middle, and high school classrooms around the world, we help students:

- Practice foreign language skills by engaging in direct dialogue with administrators and/or students at our Partner organizations
- Access multimedia resources from Partners and Volunteers to enrich their study of different cultures and global issues such as urban poverty, HIV/AIDS, and environmental degradation
- Recognize their powers and responsibilities as global citizens, and work towards enacting positive change in the world

### Here’s how it works:

- We invite teachers and students to visit the “Classroom” page of our website—[www.omprakash.org/classroom](http://www.omprakash.org/classroom). From here, they can access a free archive of learning resources, connect with active Volunteers and Partners, conduct Pen Pal exchanges, and apply for Seed Grants.
- By registering and creating profiles within our free network, teachers and students can indicate the subjects and/or regions that they wish to study. Their profiles will appear in our Classroom Portal, and they can browse the Portal to find active Volunteers and Partners who seek to collaborate. Likewise, Volunteers and Partners can browse and find classrooms that are interested in particular subjects and/or regions.
- By visiting [omprakash.org/classroomresources](http://omprakash.org/classroomresources), teachers and students can access a free archive of resources for studying the work of our Partners and/or initiating service projects that directly meet our Partners’ diverse needs. These multimedia learning resources are produced by Volunteers, Partners, and other individuals who want to facilitate the study of urgent social issues around the world. Some Volunteers have created educational videos about the work of our Partners; others have compiled interview transcripts pertaining to a certain topic; still others have outlined service-learning projects that any high school group could adopt.
- Our “Pen Pals” forum provides a free platform from which students around the world can engage in mutual learning by sharing their photos, ideas and experiences.
- The cross-cultural relationships that emerge within our Classroom can easily lead to hands-on service projects through which our Partners can gain needed support. For example, students in high school science classes in California and England have been collaborating to build solar-charging units that can be provided to Omprakash Partners in Ecuador and Nepal.
- Our Seed Grant program provides startup funding to Classroom users who propose realistic, innovative service-learning projects that will benefit our Partners while also connecting them to classrooms in other parts of the world. For instance, past Seed Grant recipients have received funding to teach photography and initiate photo exchanges between students in India and Maine.

Please visit [www.omprakash.org/classroom](http://www.omprakash.org/classroom) to learn more!