

## 2020-2021 Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Short-Term (Fulbright DAST)

DAST Cycle II Project: Developing an EFL Curriculum for Grades 1-8 at an Indian School

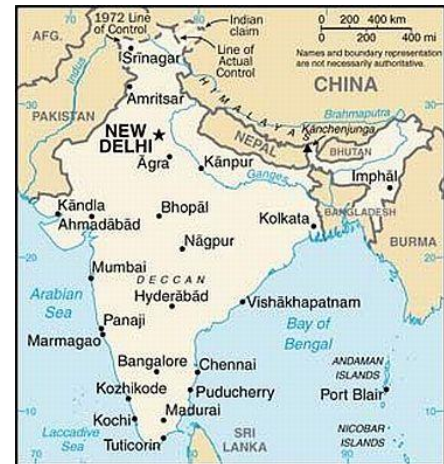
### I. PROJECT OVERVIEW

**City, Country:** Chennai, India

**Project Dates:** October – November 2020, or January – March 2021

**Project Length:** 6 weeks

**Summary:** A U.S. grades 1-8 EFL education specialist will travel to Chennai, India, to work with English teachers and staff at a school for economically disadvantaged children to develop a grades 1-8 English language curriculum while sharing best practices in modern EFL education with the school's English teaching staff.



### II. HOST INSTITUTION INFORMATION

**Name / Department:** Olcott Higher Secondary School

**Type:** Non-government K-12 school

**Website:** <http://oesindia.org/#>

**About:** Founded by Colonel H.S. Olcott in 1894, the Olcott Higher Secondary School has been instrumental in developing skills and educating and improving the lives of generations of children from the economically disadvantaged sections of Chennai (domestic helpers, laborers, hawkers, municipal workers, flower sellers, and fishermen). Today, the school provides free education to around 400 children (boys and girls), free textbooks and uniforms, a nutritious breakfast, and an enriched version of the government mid-day meal through donations received from various philanthropic and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programs. Though Olcott School has produced consistently good results in the SSLC (Secondary School Leaving Certificate) exam over the past several years, the school strongly believes that its primary goal is to provide a nurturing, caring and character-building environment for the children and empowering students to face global challenges.

### III. PROJECT INFORMATION

**Background:** The ability to speak English has become undeniably important for Indian students to pursue higher education in India or abroad and participate in the globalized economy. However, currently the Olcott School doesn't have a formal or structured English curriculum in





place to prepare its students for their post-secondary pursuits. The Olcott School does have regular English teachers; however, they lack an organized and consistent way to develop their students' English abilities over the course of their time at the Olcott School. The English teachers do use a few textbooks and volunteers do come to discuss the curriculum and pedagogical approaches, but these efforts have yet to lead to the development of a formal English curriculum. To meet the challenges the Olcott School's English program faces, the Fulbright DAST fellow will conduct a needs assessment and then work with Olcott School staff to develop English lesson plans and an English curriculum at the school for grades 1-8 while sharing best practices in modern EFL education with the Olcott School's English teachers. The Fulbright DAST fellow will also work with students at the school.

**Activities:** Leading seminars, workshops or other teacher professional development for educators; Consulting with administrators and/or instructors on faculty development; Developing academic curricula or educational materials; Assessing academic curricula or educational materials; Presenting lectures or conference plenary presentations

**Target Beneficiaries:** English teaching staff; 1<sup>st</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders

#### IV. QUALIFICATIONS OF SELECTED APPLICANT

**Teaching Level:** K-8

**Years of Teaching Experience:** 5+

**Subject Area Expertise:** EFL; Curriculum Specialist; Language Arts; Teacher Training

**Language Requirement:** None (knowledge of Tamil is appreciated but not required)

