



omprakash

2018 Annual Report



facilitating relationships, dialogue & learning
between social change agents around the world

Dear friends and supporters,

March 2019

As we take inventory of 2018, we recall the loss of physicist Stephen Hawking and his conviction that “humanity’s deepest desire for knowledge is justification enough for our continuing quest.” We may not be handy with a telescope, but in 2018 we continued our quest for a deeper understanding of ourselves and the world in which we dwell. Meanwhile, the Omprakash universe continued to expand in exciting new directions: integrating more students, universities, donors, and social impact organizations into our mission to raise consciousness and drive positive social change by building relationships and cultivating dialogue across differences — all while achieving greater financial stability.

We are most proud of the following two dimensions of our impact:

1 We amplify the work of under-resourced grassroots social impact organizations operating in low-income settings. Our network of Omprakash Partners — which began as a handful of schools in north India in 2004 — now includes over 180 organizations in 47 countries. These autonomous Partners work on crucial issues ranging from health to education to refugee rights to climate change, and they use Omprakash to recruit and train volunteers, raise funds, and connect with one another. We were proud to welcome 23 new Partners in 2018, from Vietnam to New Orleans and beyond. In 2018, Partners raised a record \$2.1 million via Omprakash — a stunning 63% increase from 2017. The number of Partners receiving donations (93) surpassed the previous record by 19%, and the absolute number of donations to Partners (2,638) shattered the previous record by 40%. During this time Partners received over 1,100 applications from prospective volunteers and interns (+21% from 2017), which resulted in 234 confirmed trips (+18%). Put more simply: year after year, Omprakash is providing more value to more organizations, and this remains at the core of our mission.

2 We help young people access more ethical, affordable, and educational opportunities for global engagement. Our EdGE program continues to expand, allowing us to impact diverse students across a growing network of partnering universities and organizations. In 2018 we offered EdGE online training and mentorship to 484 students across 32 programs. Our donor-supported Ethical Global Engagement Grant allowed us to offer over \$25,000 worth of travel grants and EdGE scholarships to 37 recipients who otherwise would not have access to these opportunities. Hundreds of additional students joined EdGE via a new partnership with Tourism Cares, a nonprofit aiming to promote more ethical practice in the travel industry. Many EdGE students went on to work with Omprakash Partners, while others channeled their EdGE learning towards efforts with outside organizations — thereby broadening the scope of our impact. Our portfolio of educational collaborators grew to include Colby College, Stanford University, University of Michigan, and Mount Holyoke College. The growth in our educational impact also translates into growing financial sustainability: our revenue earned through EdGE grew for the seventh consecutive year, surpassing 2017 by 55% and allowing our earned revenue to cover 67% of our total operating expenditures. *(continued on next page)*

2018

Milestones
At a Glance:

63%

Increase in \$
raised by Partners
via Omprakash

\$2.1 million

Distributed to
Partners

484

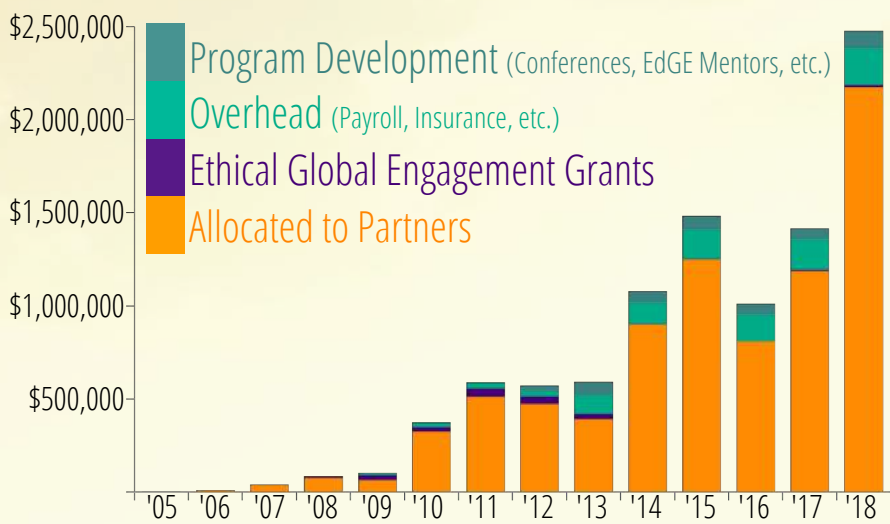
EdGE Students



While we are delighted to report quantitative indicators of our impact, we also remain committed to our belief that many of the most important outcomes of our work are difficult to capture with numbers or graphs. One of the greatest highlights of 2018 was hosting the [4th Omprakash Partner Conference](#) in Accra, Ghana. The support of donors enabled us to bring together representatives from 18 Partner organizations across 8 countries for four days of dialogue and collaboration. We also launched our [Partner Development Grant](#), a new initiative that provides selected Partners with direct consulting on objectives they have defined, ranging from grant writing to digital storytelling and beyond. To top it all off, Ashoka U selected us to receive their Innovation Award in recognition of EdGE.

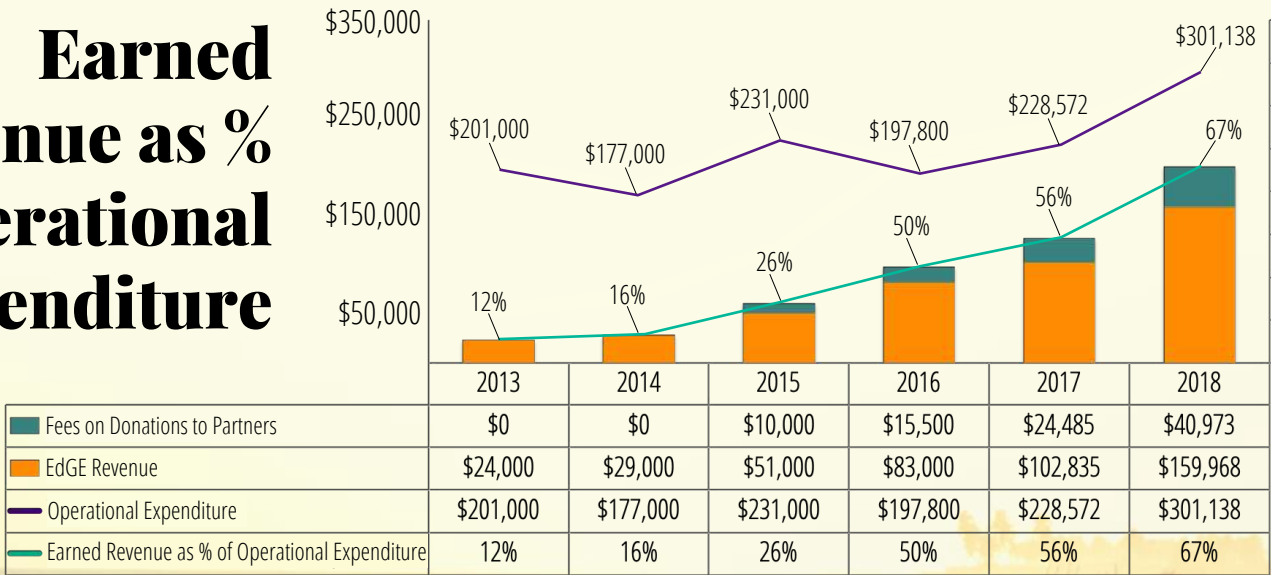
The Omprakash Team now includes six full-time staff, three part-time staff, seven Board members, and over 50 EdGE Mentors. Taking Stephen Hawking’s words to heart, we “remember to look up at the stars” as we continue our quest here in 2019. Although we are proud to report our steady gains in earned revenue over each of the past 7 years, the generosity of our donors allows us to continue expanding access to our programs and deepening our impact through grants and scholarships. We are grateful for your participation, and we value your ongoing support.

With gratitude,
The Omprakash Team



Omprakash Financial History 2005–Present

Earned Revenue as % of Operational Expenditure



We hosted our 4th Partner Conference in Accra, Ghana on September 27-30. It brought together representatives of 18 Partners from across 8 countries, plus EdGE students, EdGE mentors, and university collaborators. The dialogue that unfurled across those 4 days was inspiring and affirming for Omprakash's mission. Check out the video to gain a sense of the magic!



What some recent EdGE students have to say about EdGE:

Honestly, at the beginning, I wasn't sure whether or not to take EdGE. I'd already spent almost 3 years working in the rainforests of South America, so I thought "what more could this course teach me?" I can tell you that this was one of the best calls I've made regarding my own education and self-learning process. EdGE reminds you to be conscious, humble and open-minded when getting to know another reality. It gave me a different perspective about what I had lived, what I was living and what I was going to live.



Daniel Couceiro

Jailel Barr



Being a first time international traveler and volunteer, EdGE has helped me with practical considerations as well as introducing critical concepts to discuss with other volunteers from around the world. Looking at my position and privilege as an American is something I didn't learn to analyze in my international studies class at college, but EdGE redefines how we approach our "global citizenship" — and even challenges such concepts.

The new perspectives you will gain on the idea of "culture" and "community" is significant to understanding how your NGO interacts with and affects the population it is working to help. EdGE Mentors are also a great asset for addressing your questions and concerns, and they are all well-informed people who help you to challenge your ideas throughout the course.



Sarah Young



Michele Raggio

Before starting EdGE I had already had four international volunteering experiences in three different continents. You might think that I knew something about how to be an impactful volunteer, and I thought so too. Then I realized that I knew nothing! EdGE is not just about learning something that could help you; it is about changing your point of view on what you already know. We volunteers are always very eager "to help," but EdGE gives you the knowledge and the perspectives to interact with and support people in a way that might actually be beneficial.