

# **Fund-raising Ideas: India**

## **The Bible Society in Northern Ireland**

There are endless ideas around when it comes to raising awareness and support for worthwhile projects. These are just a few teasers to get your mind working. Whatever you do, think of something that will involve as many people as possible and can be used in some way to reinforce the project in India.

### **Table Quiz**

You will need a large room/hall and a quizmaster - usually someone who simply knows too much trivia! Invite teams of 4-6 people to enter setting an entrance fee for each table and explaining what the proceeds will be used for. Make sure that the quizmaster has a few rounds on India up his/her sleeve! Have a small prize for the winning team (chocolate is usually good!) Tea/coffee & biscuits go down well during a short interval.

### **Auction of Promises**

Find volunteers who will willingly carry out a chore for a friend. Chores can be anything from an evening's baby-sitting to walking the dog for a week, to washing the car...whatever you come up with! Set an evening aside and invite everyone you know. Set up a stage and bring the volunteers up one at a time, have them stand while an announcer declares their 'Promise' eg. 'Simon promises to mow your lawn this summer. Let the bidding start at £5...' It's even more fun if the volunteers dress in a way representing their promise! You could include a promise to cook an Indian meal. Make sure the 'host' explains the reason for the event.

### **Sponsored Read-a-thon**

Your group could decide to read Scripture aloud for a certain number of hours. Draw up a sponsor sheet with an explanation of the project on it and collect sponsorships for each minute or 5 minutes of reading. If 10 people read for 15 minutes each, that will be 2 ½ hours. You could even read some sections in another language!? The read-a-thon would be a great follow-up to a Handwritten Bible Project! Write it... read it ... and give it in India! There are all sorts of things you could be sponsored for – sponsored silence, stay awake, walk, fast, marathon, music making... etc.

### **A Month of Want**

This is a type of sponsored fast. Encourage as many people to take part in this as possible. Each person must select something that they really enjoy and then give it up for a month (Younger children may try a week). It can be anything - chocolate, coffee, TV, chips, the car, mobile phone, magazines... something that you will notice and have to consciously make an effort to give up. Draw up simple sponsor forms and receive sponsorship per day. You could even keep a graph during the month charting how many people are still going strong! Use this to focus on the 'want' that many Indian Christians experience for Bibles.

### **Indian Theme Night**

This is a way to combine lots of little ideas that could also be used on their own. You will need a large room, which can be decorated with all things Indian – lots of bright colours, Saris, Taj Mahal pictures, maps, photos, elephants, etc. Provide some Indian food, have a 'Guess the name of the elephant' or 'Pin the tail on the elephant' competition with guesses £1 per go. You could even include a table quiz or a treasure hunt. It's up to you! Have lots of fun whatever you do!

### **Praise Concert**

Could your church/school/group organise an evening of Praise and Scripture readings perhaps with a Seasonal feel? Invite your church/school choir to sing, or perhaps you know a music group or musician who could take part, perhaps even with some Indian music? Ask some clear readers to read selected Scripture passages.\* Have someone give a short presentation on India, the needs there and how the proceeds of the evening will help make a difference. Either print tickets for sale or take a collection at the event. Apart from the benefit of the surplus going to provide Scripture in India, people will be inspired by the words and music.

## Use your talents

Give everyone an agreed sum of money and a period of weeks in which they can increase what they have been given. They could use their 'stake' to make cuddly toys or buns, or plant seeds to sell as indoor plants or lots of other things. Give a prize for the most initiative. (Refer to the Bible story: Matt. 25.15)

## Organise an Indian-inspired fashion show

Use your imagination and get everyone to create and model his or her own outfit inspired by Indian clothing, culture and images. Sell tickets to the fashion show and give different prizes for the most creative/funniest/skilled costume. Make it more fun by limiting the materials E.g. Costumes can only be made from plastic bags/paper/tin foil/old clothes etc...

## 'Chai' Morning

Instead of a Coffee Morning have a 'Chai Morning'. Serve fairly traded Indian teas (such as Darjeeling or Assam) and fair trade coffee. Indian people are very hospitable and will readily offer a range of nibbles to their guests. Provide small Indian 'nibbles' like samosas, onion bhajis, poppadoms, nan bread with dips, Bombay mix... anything else that you think of. Provide some literature on India and the project to distribute Scriptures to those still without.

## Curry Party

There are so many different types of Indian Curry - some favourites are Tikka Masala, Biryani and Rogan Josh. Have an evening where people can come and have a buffet style meal together. Either put a price per head or ask for donations towards the project in India. Play Indian music and have someone host the evening, explaining the need for Bibles in India.

## Small-Scale fund-raisers

- Name the elephant - pay per guess - right guess wins elephant! (Cuddly toy/ornament)
- Fill Smartie tube / camera film canister / spice jar with 20p or even £1 coins.
- Collection boxes
- Guess the number of sweets in a jar - winner wins sweets
- Puzzle Page (provide small prize)
- Hidden Treasure map - pay to place pin in the map - nearest pin wins prize.

## Other classic ideas

- Car Boot Sale
- Car Wash
- Cake Sale
- Flower festival
- Recipe book (Include some Indian dishes)
- Treasure Hunt & Barbeque
- Concert/Recital (sell tickets)
- Non-Uniform/dress down day (for uniformed organisation/school/workplace)

We would love to know what your church/school/group is getting up to so please tell us about your fund-raising events, we'd be interested to hear how you get on! Contact Julie at 028 9032 6577 or by email at [julie@bsni.co.uk](mailto:julie@bsni.co.uk)

\*See 'Reading the Scriptures in Public' which has lots of tips.

