

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR - 1997-98

It is now once again time for SAIKRIPA to look back upon the past year and assess its progress and achievements and plan ahead for the future of its children. As expected, with the growth of the children, the responsibilities too grow, and it is becoming increasingly important to think, plan and decide what direction in life each one of them is going to take. Knowing each child as well as it does, SAIKRIPA has charted out certain plans for them, i.e. the older ones, for the present; the younger ones being too small to know what is best for them as well as too early for SAIKRIPA to know exactly where their interests and talents lie.

Given below are the names of 8 children ( 4 boys and 4 girls) of the Bal Kutis, whose interests and talents have been identified:-

1. ~~MEENA~~ - a 17 years old girl, has studied only upto class IV, partly due to her handicap (polio-affiliation) and partly because by the time she came to SAIKRIPA she was too old to be admitted to any school. However, her keen interest in reading and books kept her in touch with them, so much so, that her level of curiosity and general awareness is worth appreciating. She is trained in tailoring and candle-making, and is at present attending classes to learn how to make soft toys.
2. Rajender - better known as Raju; he is a 15 year old boy and studies in Class VIII. He is appearing for the final exams and will go to IX Std. next. Raju is good at studies and has a regular habit of reading the newspaper everyday. He likes to be up-to-date on current affairs and has a lot of potential to do well in whatever work/ assignment he undertakes. A major plus-point in him is his love for animals, which draws SAIKRIPA to conclude that he can be trained for dairy-farming.
3. Rajat - the first child of SAIKRIPA, is 19 ½ years old now. Despite his inability to speak and hear, he has done well in carpentry as he is very good with his hands. Almost all the wooden boxes at SAIKRIPA have been made by him, and now he is getting trained in carpet - weaving at Innocent Hearts (a special school for the mentally disabled) in Sector-29, NOIDA.
4. Deepak - is polio-affiliated and therefore has had only minimum schooling- upto III std. He was unable to attend school after coming to SAIKRIPA, as he was too old to be admitted. He is now 16 years old. He was trained in poultry farming at Kesla, M.P, last year, and is now learning machine embroidery.

5. Rafique - is 12 years old, and studies in Class IV. He is good in studies and an excellent painter. His talent can be moulded with the right encouragement and inspiration..
6. Basanti - also a 15 years old girl has had no schooling before she came to SAIKRIPA about 2 years ago. She was taught stitching at the Vocational Training Centre at SAIKRIPA, of which she knows the basics. Apart from this, as she is extremely fond of babies, has the primary responsibility of looking.
7. Mala - an 13 years old girl; she is in Class IV. She is good in studies and therefore can be encouraged to go in for higher studies as much as she wants.
8. Amrta - an 12 years old girl; also in class IV. She too is good and interested in singing and dancing can be trained in the art.

SAIKRIPA would like to point out that it is making utmost efforts to make both ends meet with its own resources, especially the income gained from the dairy farm. The income generated from the sale of milk amounts to approx Rs. 3000/- p.m - from 4 cows giving about 25 litres of milk per day.

Besides this, raw materials received by SAIKRIPA on donation from various agencies/ organisations/ individuals helps to overcome many problems which would have otherwise arisen. Agencies such as India Abroad Foundation has also been instrumental in the progress of SAIKRIPA by providing funds. The American Express Financial Services Ltd. have donated SAIKRIPA with an inverter, 2 godrej almirahs, clothes for all the children on Diwali, as well as sponsoring the vaccination costs of the children as well as staff of SAIKRIPA against Hepatitis B. Numerous other well-wishers and individuals also give donations in the form of cash or kind.

CONCERN INDIA FOUNDATION, of course, supports a large part of the school, SAI SHIKSHA SANSTHAN's, expenses.

ASHA in Arizona have provided funds for conducting study-tours for the children of SAI SHIKSHA SANSTHAN as well as buying school library books.

SAIKRIPA children were taken for the film fare at Pragati Maidan in Nov.97 as one of their outings as well as two film-shows, conducted by the NOIDA Administration in collaboration with NCYT. They will be taken to the National Zoological Park on March 28th, in celebration of the completion of their exams.

All important festivals were also celebrated at SAIKRIPA. Children's day was celebrated with a cultural show put up by the children of Bal Kutir as well as the school, SAI SHIKSHA SANSTHAN. Christmas was also celebrated on its eve 24th Dec. along with members from CRY which was greatly enjoyed by the children. SAIKRIPA makes it a point to celebrate the birthdays of all the children of the Bal Kutir.

SAIKRIPA is happy to inform that one child, Rani, who stayed at the Bal Kutir for about two months, was reunited with her parents, though she was quite reluctant to go, having to leave all her friends and companions with whom she had got quite attached.

The last so many years of SAIKRIPA's association with CRY have proved most beneficial to SAIKRIPA, which is immensely grateful for its continued concern and support.

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