

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1998 - 99

The year 1998-99 for SAIKRIPA was a year full of achievements as well as a few setbacks. At present there are 3 main projects of SAIKRIPA viz.:-

1. Bal Kutir,
2. Sai Shiksha Sansthan,
3. Vocational Training Centre.

Given below are the various developments under the above headings, as well as other activities, list of major supporters, problems faced / needs, and a brief statement of accounts.

**Bal Kutir:-** SAIKRIPA's first project, which completed 9 successful years this Feb'99 has 24 children at present, the youngest almost 3 years and the oldest, 18 years. Of these 21 attend the school Sai Shiksha Sansthan; the eldest child, Rajat, (who has multiple handicaps by birth), attends weaving classes at a special school in NOIDA; the eldest of the girls, also 18 (who is Polio afflicted), is employed at an export house in NOIDA since Dec'98; and another of the older boys, who too is afflicted by polio, is undergoing training at an electronic repair shop.

**Excursions / Outings:-** SAIKRIPA regularly takes the children from the Bal Kutir for an annual picnic, as well as local picnics, sightseeing, educational visits, etc. The annual picnic this year was to the Jim Corbett Park for 5 days. Besides this, they were also taken to Agra for 2 days. Local visits included one to the Bahai Lotus Temple and the ISKCON Temple.

**Sai Shiksha Sansthan:-** The school, the second project of SAIKRIPA has completed 8 years this April. Right from its inception in 1991, the school has been increasing its classes by one standard every year, and in keeping with this practice, with the commencement of the new academic session this year, class X<sup>th</sup> has been included. The total strength of the school stands at 325 at present, which includes 21 children from the Bal Kutir. The medium of teaching at the school is English, in keeping with the request of the villagers, and is based as per the CBSE syllabus.

The school has facilities for computer education, a well-equipped library, a small science lab as well as an electronic workshop which is at present being set up. The school teachers are all from NOIDA. The school children are also taken for picnics and educational visits from time to time. They were taken to the Delhi Zoo, the National Science Centre near Pragati Maidan, and the Doll's Museum near the I.T.O. The children of VIII<sup>th</sup> and IX<sup>th</sup> were also taken to watch the Durand Cup Final last Oct.

SAIKRIPA strongly believes that "education is the only means to achieving all ends," and in keeping with this view, it is fully engaged since the past couple of years in trying to get CBSE recognition for the school.

**Vocational Training Centre:-** SAIKRIPA's third project, started in Nov 1992 is functioning satisfactorily. This year all the uniforms for the school were stitched here.

### **OTHER ACTIVITIES:**

The children of Bal Kutir, together with the school children regularly celebrate all the important national festivals. The Republic Day this year was celebrated with a cultural – cum – patriotic programme at Sai Shiksha Sansthan, which was presented by them in a wonderful manner. Lots of art and craft items made by the school children were also exhibited on this occasion. Many of the school children had also participated in an Essay and Quiz competition conducted by other NGOs.

## **MAJOR SUPPORTERS:**

Over the past decade, SAIKRIPA has grown and progressed mainly due to the active support and concern of several agencies and well-meaning individuals, some of whom are listed below:

**Child Relief and You:-** CRY has been providing regular financial support in part to the Bal Kutir (SAIKRIPA's first project) since 1992. Through CRY, SAIKRIPA has also received assistance in kind on a number of occasions.

**Concern India Foundation:-** CIF has been providing financial support to the school, Sai Shiksha Sansthan, SAIKRIPA's second project since April '95. CIF has a major role to play in the progress this project has made. Their efforts to help us make Sai Shiksha Sansthan a model school in the village is praiseworthy. Their support helped us bring down the school fee from Rs.70/- to Rs.35/- per child per month. CIF has also donated numerous useful items for use at the Bal Kutir as well as the school Sai Shiksha Sansthan. Through CIF, SAIKRIPA also acquired a 21 seater Eicher-Mitsubishi Mini Bus (donated by Apeejay Welfare and Research Assn. Delhi), and a Maruti Van (donated by Cornell Trading Company, Okhla). Cornell Trading Company also provides sponsorship to 4 underprivileged children from village Vazidpur who are attending Sai Shiksha Sansthan. They have also donated numerous books to the library, which are extremely useful.

**American Express (India) Pvt.Ltd:-** American Express came forward to support SAIKRIPA and in particular the school, Sai Shiksha Sansthan around Sept'97. Since then, they have proved time and again that companies such as theirs do much more philanthropic and charity work for the betterment of humanity than one would imagine. The staff of American Express have not only given their time and attention to SAIKRIPA's school project, in order to bring it upto the level of any other good public school, but have also provided numerous items in donation for use at the Bal Kutir and the school Sai Shiksha Sansthan. These include 2 steel cupboards, an electric inverter, sports items, and self-starter for SAIKRIPA's mini bus, black boards, etc., to name a few. They had also sponsored the expenses for immunization against Hepatitis B for all the children as well as the staff of the Bal Kutir. In order to equip the school with the best opportunities for a bright future for its children, American Express helped SAIKRIPA to set up a computer room with 2 computers and also set up an electronic workshop within the school premises. Needless to say, this will open a world of opportunities for the children of the school.

**Aman Exports:-** This company has been providing the Bal Kutir with its entire mineral water requirement for more than the past 2½ years. Thanks to them the Bal Kutir children never fall prey to the water borne diseases, which is one of the most common causes of diseases and deaths among the children in our country.

**Ramakrishna Sarada Mission:-** This charitable organisation in Delhi has time and again been obliging SAIKRIPA by providing various utility items for the Bal Kutir including clothes, toys, shoes, quilts and quilt covers etc.

**German Embassy:-** They have been very considerate in providing a generator, library books and musical instruments for the school, Sai Shiksha Sansthan.

**ASHA:-** This trust, based at Arizona,USA, have been encouraging SAIKRIPA's educational pursuits by regularly sponsoring educational tours and have also provided science lab equipments as well as books for Sai Shiksha Sansthan.

**Infosys Foundation:-** Infosys Technologies Ltd., Bangalore has provided SAIKRIPA with very generous donations in the past year.

**Tata Infotech:-** They have helped the school Sai Shiksha Sansthan, by providing library books, and will soon be giving two personal computers for the school as well as volunteers who will conduct computer classes for the students.

**HCL Foundation:-** Which has obliged the school by funding the construction of a toilet at the school. HCL Foundation is also providing sponsorship to 4 underprivileged children of village Vazidpur who are attending Sai Shiksha Sansthan.

**U.N. Women's Guild (Queen's Group):-** Has made a generous donation this year towards the welfare of children.

**Well Wishers :-** Apart from those named above, numerous people have been the backbone of SAIKRIPA, for they are always there to provide help and support, spend time with the children, and give their blessings. It would be difficult to include everyone's names here but SAIKRIPA would like them to know that if not for them, SAIKRIPA would not have probably survived. For, it is these very kind-hearted and empathetic people who stood by SAIKRIPA as pillars of strength during its initial years of struggle and still continue to do so in their own small way. We are ever grateful to them.

**Problems / Needs :-** SAIKRIPA's only but biggest hurdle to be crossed is to acquire land for the school and have its own building as stipulated by CBSE for recognition. This being a herculean task and one which requires constant follow-up, is taking a lot of time, since getting land is not at all easy, to say the least. SAIKRIPA has been making relentless efforts in this direction since the past couple of years with no progress so far. It had fervently hoped that Sai Shiksha Sansthan's first batch of X<sup>th</sup> std. students who are due to appear for their board exams in March 2000 would be able to do so from its own recognised school, but this dream still seems to be a distant reality. Therefore, for this batch SAIKRIPA has made arrangements to have them appear for the board exams through the National Open School. However, it would certainly not like this to be the practice for all its future batches of students.

With the school, Sai Shiksha Sansthan, growing by leaps and bounds with each passing year, with more and more children seeking admission to it and thereby the corresponding increase in its school staff, SAIKRIPA is in urgent need of a bus for their transportation to the school.

SAIKRIPA is proud to inform everyone concerned that it has successfully completed 10 years this March'99.

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