

Annual report of SAIKRIPA for 1999-2000

A decade has passed since SAIKRIPA was born. It almost seems unbelievable how time has flown and from being a delicately nurtured dream, to a reality, and now to a mission to reckon with, SAIKRIPA is now here to stay. Over the past 10 years, so much has been achieved through this mission that in a few words this can be summed up by saying that 27 "homeless" children now have a "Home" in every sense of the word.

We would further like to elaborate on this through the following heads below, which comprise the whole project :-

BAL KUTIR

Bal Kutir has recently accommodated 2 more girls- aged 6 and 4 years, namely Yashoda and Kavita, respectively. These two are sisters who were orphaned a couple of years ago, and until now were being looked after by their octogenarian grandmother. They were living in Village Vazidpur, where Saikripa's school Sai Shiksha Sansthan is located. The other children at Bal Kutir are happy to welcome two more members into its fold, and the two girls have already begun to feel at home.

The oldest two school-going children of Bal Kutir, Shreya and Raju, are busy preparing for the Xth boards this year, which they will appear through the National Open School. The other, children except 3 of them have fared satisfactorily in this year's final exams. The three who haven't fared well will be given special tuitions to improve their performance next time.

Meera continues with her job at the garment export firm in NOIDA ; Rajat continues at the special school, and Deepak continues to be trained in electrical work at the Vocational Training Centre at, Delhi Brother hood Society, Tahirpur, Delhi.

Excursions/Outings - The annual picnic this year for the Bal Kutir children was organised, after much debate, for the Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary for 2 days on 19th and 20th March, 2000. The children were able to see many beautiful and rare species of birds and took many pictures in order to keep their pleasant memories alive.

Other local outings included visits to the Circus and a picnic organised by CRY volunteers at a farm house near Gurgaon.

SAI SHIKSHA SANSTHAN

Every child has a right to education. Unfortunately we at SAIKRIPA found that most of the so called good schools were not willing to accept the under privileged child. Setting up a school seemed inevitable.

It was at this juncture a request came from Village Vazidpur for an English medium school in their village as there were no schools in their vicinity and so only a few children from well off families could go all the way to Noida for education. Even these children faced the problem of transportation as the village was not connected by public transport system and children had to travel by trucks, tractors and long distance buses resulting in their hurting themselves. Hence the school Sai Shiksha Sansthan was set up on 8th April 1991.

- Community meetings were held initially to ensure the community interest in the opening of the school.
- This culminated in the community providing space i.e. building for the schools, as well as volunteers to teach the children. This continued till trained and educated teachers were employed.
- Over the years, the community has continued to remain involved, though not in the teaching / educational areas but in its functions, programmes, etc.
- Initially, girls from the village were not sent to the school but this too has now changed over the years, due to the value-based education which is being provided.
- The value based education being provided at Sai Shiksha Sansthan has encouraged children from the neighbouring villages also to attend our school. The villages are namely : Nangli, Chaproli and Mongroli. Each village has a population of approximately 3,000 people with around 1,500 children of school going age.

Impact Assessment

Children receive value based education at their door-step . Since children do not have to travel far to reach school, they are getting enrolled by the age of 4 years itself. This has shown marked improvement in their personality, inter-personal relationships and ability to communicate.

- More than 50% of the school children are girls. The village girls until recently, were resigned to remaining indoors doing household chores, looking after their younger siblings and the like; but today most are at least aware that, like their brothers, they too can attend school, receive education and acquire knowledge.
- This awareness has helped them realise their inner potentials which is amply proven by the fact that the Sai Shiksha Sansthan girls show better results in exams than the boys.
- The women are taking more initiative in sending their daughters to school. Through exposure to the TV, media and interaction with Sai Shiksha Sansthan staff who have taken great pains from time to time in motivating the villagers in trying to create awareness on the importance of education. the villagers, especially the women are more keen that their daughters attend school, having realised what they have missed in life and not wanting the same bleak future / ignorance for their daughters. The men too are gradually realising this and there certainly is an obvious change in their attitudes.
- The villagers, having realised the importance of education today are, on their own initiative, trying to get land from the government, by putting pressure on the local political leaders.

Case Study

Reena and Shobha are the daughters of late shree Kalluram. He had owned approximately 1/5 acres of land but being a habitual drinker he was hardly of any use to the family and wasted away all the land. His family consisted of his wife, 2 sons and 2 daughters. After Mr. Kalluram passed away in 1996, his family was looked after by his relatives. Mrs. Kalluram also worked in the field of others to earn some money. Mrs. Kallu inspite of her best efforts was not able to meet the school expenditure and the members of the family were not interested in the education of these kids.

Activity	Input	Output	Direct Beneficiaries	Staff Responsibilities	Time Frame
Administration	Principal still to be appointed. Ex. Director is monitoring at present.	To ensure smooth functioning of school under proper guidance.	325 children.	Executive Director.	Principal had been appointed from March – October '99
Increase in classes.	Added class X th .	This was a felt need and required for the progress of the school.		Vice-Principal helps to run the school and reports to E.D.	April '99
Subjects added	Additional subjects Arts, crafts, theatre, dance, music and other hobbies, library upgraded.	Overall improvement of personality of child and for development of special talent.		Teachers provide education and are responsible for covering syllabus as well as help the children in character building.	July '99.
Infrastructure development.	a. Upgrading of the science lab donated by ASHA. b. Computer and electronic workshop.	Conducting experiments to cover course syllabus.			May '99.
Acquisition of land.	Approached various sources viz. NOIDA Authority, MLA, MP, CM.	Nil.			Since 1992.
Increase in salaries	Rs. 900/- for B.A. teachers to Rs. 1500/- for B.Ed. teachers. Now Rs. 1500/- for B.A. teachers and Rs. 1750/- for B.Ed. teachers and increment annually.	Improvement in quality of education.			1996. April '99.
Provision of transport.	Mini bus donated by Apeejay Trust through CIF. Hired additional bus for Rs. 12,000/-. Maruti van donated by Cornell trading corporation.	School conveyance for Bal Kutir children. For 24 teachers and 10 children from NOIDA to Vazidpur. Monitoring by E.D has been made easier due to the van.			Jan '99 Jan '99.

Activity

Planned but not done and reason	Unplanned but done and reason
CBSE recognition not yet received due to lack of own land.	<p>Xth Board exams to be conducted through National Open School, due to lack of CBSE recognition as yet – so that the students do not lose a year of their education.</p> <p>Construction of sheds for the purpose of conducting classes which were previously in the open air.</p> <p>Free medical facilities to the school children and staff by a homeopathy doctor on a bi-weekly basis on account of HPS Social Welfare Society support.</p>

Monitoring and Evaluation

WHAT	HOW	WHEN	BY WHOM
1. All round development of the children. a. Scholastic improvement.	a. Increase of pass percentage and better marks. b. Less dropouts.	Half yearly / Annually / Class tests.	Teachers and volunteers.
b. Extra-curricular development.	a. Essay and elocution competition. b. Inter and intra school competitions c. Cultural programmes.	-do-	-do-
2. Development of the special as Well as to the weak child.	2. Close monitoring by encouragement to participate more in specialised classes conducted daily.	Daily	-do-
3. Skill and effectiveness of Dedicated teachers.	3. Interviews, appraisals & interactive meetings.	When required. Definitely once a term.	Executive Director.

Sustainability (In terms of context and self sufficiency programme)

- School fees (Subsidised).
- Organising charity-shows to raise funds and other events for donation.
- By making saleable products through SAIKRIPA's IGP which will sustain all activities to a great extent.
- Acquisition of land for CBSE recognition.

Proposed work plan template for next project cycle

Activity	Input	Output	Direct Beneficiaries	Staff Responsibilities	Time Frame
1. Inclusion of XI th Standard. Increase in Classes.	Continuation of education. New children will be taken in nursery.	Towards completion of education at their doorstep.	400 Children.	Executive Director.	2000 -2001
2. Subject as Relevant for class XI.	Specialised teachers for Science and Commerce.	For completion of education.			July 2000.
3. Infrastructure development.	Upgrading of science lab.	For conducting experiments relevant to +2.			July 2000.
4. Increase in Salaries.	Annual increase of 10%	Rise in cost of living			April 2000.
5. Additional Transport.	Approaching various organisations for donation of transport.	Reduction of transport expenses			
6. Acquisition of Land for school.	Still in process.	Getting CBSE recognition.			
7. CBSE Recognition.	Still in process.	Better facilities for children.			

- The overall attitude / outlook of the children as well as the community at large has undergone a sea-change since the project began. The community - the elders in particular - had never imagined until a few years back that their children would attend a school (an Eng. medium School at that !) and that their children would even study upto class Xth, thereby opening up opportunities for further education and progress in their village. The women, who would not step out of their homes 10 years ago, now accompany their children to school to meet the concerned teachers and clear any doubts, discuss problems, etc.
- The school has been brought up to class Xth in 8 years. The first batch of Xth std students from Sai Shiksha Sansthan are preparing to pass out in the year 2000 through the National Open School.
- In the year 1997-98 we were able to set up a junior science laboratory with the grant received from Asha. In 1998-99 the Asha grant was used for study tours to Dolls Museum, Railway Museum and the Zoological Park. In 1999-2000 the grant has been utilized as per annexure attached. These activities have had a direct impact on the children in broadening their knowledge.
- Principal - Appointment of a principal has been stalled till a person is found who is able to perceive the vision behind the setting up of the school "Sai Shiksha Sansthan".
- Lack of quality teachers is directly related to the low salary being paid by us. We had managed to get some good teachers but other lucrative jobs soon enticed them into moving out.
- The drawback faced due to lack of qualitative teachers is overcome by the active participation of volunteers from Tata Infotech NOIDA.

SAI VIDHYA VATIKA

This was started in November 1999 for the benefit of the street children of NOIDA. The main purpose was to channelise these children towards education and spend time more fruitfully, rather than take to begging and loitering and thus falling prey to all the common vices of smoking, gambling, drugs etc. For this the Shirdi Sai Samiti of Sector-40, NOIDA very kindly provided space within the temple premises where the classes are being conducted every morning by three teachers. The strength of the children is almost 100 at present. This Project is being supported by Hindustan Perot System.

CONCLUSION

- With the help of CRY, CIF, Cornell Trading Corporation, Asha, American Express, HCL Perot System, German Embassy, United Nations Women's Guild, Aman Export, India Abroad Foundation, Tata Infotech, LG Electronics, and many other individuals the Saikripa is being able to progress by leaps and bounds.
- The only hurdle SAIKRIPA has not been able to cross till now is the acquisition of land. This would have enabled us to set up a model school providing maximum benefits with minimum funds. The very fact that volunteers come from nearby industrial units like Tata Infotech to conduct special classes to the children at our school is proof of the appreciation SAIKRIPA receives in NOIDA.