

**ANNUAL REPORT OF SAI KRIPA  
FOR 2001 – 2002**

***History and Purpose***

All of us without exception would like to see the child lying on the platform, move to a sheltered Home and the kid on the street selling flowers, in school. With this motive Saikripa has been striving to uplift the lot of the underprivileged children. It has grown steadily over the last fourteen years taking along with it people from all walks of life. Saikripa is now supporting hundreds of children in various ways.

***Our Focus***

A project, which began as a home for children, evolved into a holistic development programme involving broadly their home, education and livelihood.

***Home – Balkutir***

A loving home. The first project set up by Saikripa in 1990 has a strength of 33 children consisting of 12 boys and 21 girls. Out of these, three girls aged 12 years, 5 years and 2 years joined in December, 2001. The youngest child at present is more than a year old.

Four children are appearing for the 10<sup>th</sup> Std. examination conducted by the National Open School this year. Two children who passed 10<sup>th</sup> Std. at Sai Shiksha Sansthan in the year 2000 are appearing for their CBSE board examinations in 12<sup>th</sup> Std. through Rockwood Public School, NOIDA. The first child of Saikripa who is around 23 years now continues to go to 'Shankara Special School' apart from his in hobby carpentry work. Another physically challenged boy has completed his training course for electrical work at the vocational training centre of Delhi Brotherhood Society, Tahirpur. The eldest of the girls, again a physically challenged child is managing a PCO cum Shop at Sector 12.

Thanks to the donation of Rs. 30 lacs by Cadence Design Systems, the children of the Bal Kutir will now have better living conditions since this money has been given to purchase the existing buildings and modify them.

***Excursions in Balkutir***

Due to lack of funds the children were not taken for any excursion this year.

***Income Generation Programme***

The greeting cards, terracotta artifacts and candles made by Bal Kutir children were put up for sale during Durga Pooja festival at Kali Bari, NOIDA. Diwali Mela was held at Patiala House, American Express Ltd's office at Mathura Road, New Delhi-44. These items were seen and appreciated for their beauty and skill by the public and the goods put up for sale got sold out

***Tailoring Unit***

The school uniforms required for both the schools are stitched here.

***Dairy Unit***

Three of our milking cows succumbed to the foot and mouth disease recently. This has been a great set back for Saikripa.

## **Education**

### **a) Sai Shiksha Sansthan**

Sai Shiksha Sansthan started in 1991 in village Vazidpur has a strength of 393 students at present. Three batches of students have completed their 10<sup>th</sup> Std. examination through the National Open School Board. The students who wished to carry on with their studies got enrolled in other schools and the first batch is now appearing for their 12<sup>th</sup> Std. Board Examinations of CBSE through these schools.

It has been noticed that quite a few parents in the village do not wish to send their daughters for further education fearing that they may not find suitable match in marriage. Our intervention in this matter has also not been of any help. One such case is that of Binesh a girl aged about 18 years. She passed out from Sai Shiksha Sansthan in April 2001. This girl belongs to the village and has been studying in Sai Shiksha Sansthan close to ten years. She has two brothers and two sisters. Her mother is a housewife and father is working in a private firm. Though Binesh is a bright and studious girl her father did not send her for further education on the pretext of poor economical condition. When volunteers from Tata Infotech offered to sponsor her education they came up with the truth i.e finding a suitable match. However, seeing the frustration of the girl Saikripa offered her a job as a Nursery Teacher at the school. If at any time in future she wishes to continue her studies at least she will be in a position to do so since she will be in touch with the educational field. It is notable that she has been proving her worth as a teacher so far.

Taking into consideration such children Saikripa has started imparting basic electronic courses to the children of 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Std. students. Volunteers from Cadence Designs Systems come to the school every Saturday to conduct the classes. American Express Ltd provided the electronic equipment and study material.

It is important to make a special mention here about the keen interest taken by the Managing Director and staff of Cadence Design Systems in the activities of Saikripa. Apart from conducting the electronic classes, they give moral guidance to the children of 9<sup>th</sup> and 10 Std. They also speak to the parents of these children periodically for their improvement and further studies.

In spite of all these inputs and efforts there is still much to be achieved at Sai Shiksha Sansthan due to the various hurdles faced like quality teachers, space shortage, disruption of classes for long periods due to unapproachable roads during the rains etc.

### **b) Sai Vidhya Vatika**

Any child out of school is a child labourer. These days the down trodden parents want to ensure that their children would not be doomed to live the lives they had themselves been condemned to. It is also seen that the poorest of the poor would go to any length to ensure their children had the opportunity to get an education.

Sai Vidhya Vatika was started in 1999 in a humble way. It now has a strength of about 160 children, fully concentrating on their studies desisting from their earlier habits of loitering and begging. The mid day nutrition being provided adds to the encouragement of the children in attending the school. The classes continue to be held in the morning at Sai Mandir Sector 40 and in the after noon at Khaitan Public School at Sector 40, NOIDA. Apart from the space provided by Khaitan Public School their children of 9<sup>th</sup> Std. and a teacher Mrs. Geeta Malhotra have taken personal interest and make efforts to help the children of Sai Vidhya Vatika in their studies and extra curricular activities. The results achieved in Sai Vidhya Vatika for providing pre-primary and non-formal education to children to prepare them for enrolment in formal schools have been quite satisfactory. This could be seen from a case history given below.

Rubi is a girl of 12 years. She is studying in Sai Vidhya Vatika in class IV. She joined when the school was established and has been continuing till now. Her parents are living in a near by slum. Her mother is a domestic help. The girl, when joined the school, was quite ignorant and far below average in her academic knowledge. Since joining Sai Vidhya Vatika, Rubi has gradually picked up in her studies and now she is one of the brightest and able students. She has even secured a scholarship from an autonomous body Sanskar Bharathi. Rubi is ambitious of becoming a teacher in future. However every child is not as fortunate as her. There are some parents who stop their children from continuing with their studies in order to send them to earn money. SAIKRIPA is of the opinion that if we can provide vocational training along with their studies this problem could be controlled.

Saikripa's efforts in providing value based education to the underprivileged children is being noticed by various sections of the society. Recently, people from the Royal Netherlands Embassy, impressed by the improvement shown by the children of Sai Vidhya Vatika donated rupees nine lacs towards setting up a library and a computer centre for them. This project will be completed during the financial year 2002-2003. We hope to make great changes in the education system of these children with the completion of this project.

For further studies of the children of Sai Vidhya Vatika we had spoken to the Headmasters of the near by Government schools and they are willing to enroll the children. However, most children do not wish to attend these schools, as they feel very unhappy with the system of education there. In fact, many of the students of Sai Vidhya Vatika are drop outs from the Government schools or the local schools of Noida. If necessary Saikripa might consider providing a Bridge Course for these children and complete their studies through the National Open School.

### ***Impact Assessment***

Poverty as an excuse for not sending children to school is a myth. The reality is parents in rural areas wish to send their children to school despite their poverty. They are willing to make sacrifices to see their children in school and learning.

Sai Shiksha Sansthan with its decade of existence at this remote village has made a major impact on the rural education particularly with almost 50% of girl students out of the total strength of 393.

Saikripa believed that education would be the key to free children and future generations from the chains of ignorance and exploitation. Now this belief is a firm conviction because we have witnessed first hand, the complete transformation in the lives of the children and the communities after Saikripa launched the two schools.

The fundamental problems in universalisation of elementary education are enrolment, retention and satisfactory learning by the children in the school. There are so many reasons for this ranging from the lack of schools, to the insufficient number of teachers, to lack of interest in the teachers to understand and motivate the child, but most important of all is the commercialisation of education.

The long awaited bill passed in the Lok Sabha recently for constitutional changes making education a fundamental right for children between the age of 6 to 14 is to be hailed.

#### ***Constraints due to Paucity of funds***

- ✓ Our efforts to acquire a new bus for Bal Kutir is yet to fructify.
- ✓ Obtaining CBSE recognition.
- ✓ Acquisition of own land for Sai Shiksha Sansthan is yet to be achieved. This requires a large capital, which is not coming forth.

#### ***Conclusion***

With a view to help teachers understand and tackle the children better, Saikripa is availing the services of a psychologist Mrs. Nivedita Sharma of Foundation for Human & Economic Development .

The celebrations of Independence Day, Children's day and Republic day were conducted in a jubilant manner as usual in Sai Shiksha Sansthan and Sai Vidhya Vatika.

The students of Sai Shiksha Sansthan participated in the elocution competition conducted by Lok Manch at Indira Gandhi Auditorium at Sector 6 NOIDA. Lok Manch gave a memento (shield with inscriptions) for participation in the competition. The students participated in the child arts exhibition at Art Today Gallery, Connaught Place.

The Children of Sai Vidhya Vatika attended a painting competition at Ryan International organised by Sanskar Bharati. Two of our children got 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> prices.

#### **Our supporters:**

SAIKRIPA wishes to acknowledge with thanks the regular support extended by hundreds of well wishers who have stood by us since the beginning, apart from the following major supporters:

- ✓ Concern India Foundation
- ✓ HPS Foundation
- ✓ Asha (Arizona, U.S.A)
- ✓ American Express (India) Ltd
- ✓ United Nations Women's Guild
- ✓ Akshy Apparels
- ✓ Tata Infotech

This year SAIKRIPA received a major boost due to the support of the following:

- a. **Cadence Design Systems** have contributed Rs, 30 lacs to Bal Kutir for acquisition of the dwelling units, its re-construction and furnishing. They have also been providing support to our various projects through their Employees Matching Scheme.
- b. **Royal Netherlands Embassy** has contributed Rs. 9,88,000/- for establishing two libraries for the underprivileged children in NOIDA.
- c. **Charities Aid Foundation** has awarded a grant of US\$ 2250 through American Express Foundation towards acquisition of a new bus.
- d. **Ms. Vandhana Singhal, Secretary, Oil Industry Development Board,** Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has been a source of great support this year. Through her efforts we received support from :-
  - i. **Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd.** donated to the tune of Rs. 50,000/- to Saikripa to be utilised for the welfare of the children.
  - ii. **Oil India Ltd.** donated a 310 liter refrigerator for Saikripa's Balkutir at Sector - 12, NOIDA.
  - iii. **Oil & Natural Gas Commission:** contributed Rs. 50,000/- towards the expenses of mid-day meal being provided to the children of Sai Vidhya Vatika.
  - iv. **Gas Authority of India Ltd :** donated a Corpus fund of RS. 11 lacs for utilising its interest amount towards the expenses of the fuel of the vehicle of Saikripa.
  - v. **NUMALIGARH Refineries Ltd.** donated a sum of Rs. 20,000/- to set up a tube well in Sai Shiksha Sansthan for provision of clean drinking water.
- e. **Mr. M.L. Tikku** has donated Rs. 95,000 towards Nutrition for the children of Sai Vidhya Vatika.
- f. **Royal Netherlands Embassy** donated Rs. 9,88,0000 to set up 2 libraries.
- g. **CRY (Child Relief & You)** had extended its valuable support from 1992 to 2001 thereby helping us provide the much needed stability to Balkutir.

The very fact that so many people have joined SAIKRIPA in sharing the responsibility of uplifting the conditions of the down trodden makes us move a head with confidence.