

# LITERACY INDIA



*Excellence is dedication  
to a job that is hard to do,  
Going the extra mile and  
always trying to follow  
through.*

*Excellence is  
communication,  
Sharing everything you  
know  
and learning how to listen,  
so your expertise will grow.*

*Excellence is appreciation  
of the talent you see,  
acknowledging a job well  
done  
inspires success and loyalty*

*.Excellence is aspiration  
with*

## THE LANDSCAPE

*Truth does not pay homage to any society  
ancient or modern.  
Society has to pay homage to truth or die.*  
-Swami Vivekananda

India, our country of more than a billion still has miles to go towards a high Human Resource Development index. Forty million children remain out of school. Thirty six percent of our illiterate population earns less than a thousand rupees per month. **Literacy, education, health, housing, work and employment remain on top of the list of unfinished tasks.** Government's efforts need to be augmented through large scale endeavors from Individuals, NGOs, and Corporate Houses.

## OUR VISION

*To see a World in a grain of sand  
and a Heaven in a wild flower  
hold Infinity in the palm of your hand,  
and Eternity in an hour.*  
- William Blake

**Literacy India**, an NPO under the Indian trust act of 1872 began its challenging journey in 1996 to develop a **platform for the underprivileged children with a vision to empower the economically poor with two languages, variety of skills in performing arts, science, technology and vocation, giving the children basic human values, dignity of labour, self belief and dreams.**

It was not a mere exercise to run a school on the pattern of several such existing institutions on part time basis. It was a question of having a **place for full time classes with full time dedicated teachers, adequate facilities and innovative management system. The courses required remodeling. We needed have teacher's orientation and therefore, a wealth of Resource Persons. More than anything else we required support and funds, small and big from Individuals, Institutions and Corporate Houses.**

We created this dream for Literacy India and we have never looked back howsoever daunting the tasks became.

## WHO ARE WE

### Trustees

Air Marshal Denzil Keelor (Chairman)  
Capt. Indraani Singh (Secretary / Coordinator of all Projects)  
Mr. Rajpal Singh Duggal (Treasurer and Project Advisor)  
Mr. Anil Kalia (Trustee Member and Head of Karigari Project)

### Hon. Committee Members

Dr. K.V.S. Rao  
Mr. Shrivardhan Trivedi  
Mr. Kapil Dev  
Ms. Shushmita Ghosh  
Dr. Palash Sen  
Mr. H.C. Wadhwa  
Mr. A.W. George

## HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

*But I being poor, have only my dreams,  
I have spread my dreams under your feet  
tread softly, because you tread on my dreams*  
-Y.B. Yeats

From a mere 5 in 1996, **Literacy India** had grown to 350 children by march 2004, with more than 50% girls coming from nearby villages and construction worker's slums. In eight valuable years **Literacy India** had increased its reach from Ansal ` half constructed buildings and with two rooms in Chiranjeev Bharti School (which we still retain) to Vidyapeeth Centre in Chuama village, Palam Vihar, Gurgaon in Haryana to Satellite centre (Local Village support) in Village Bijwasan, Caterpuri, Daulatabad, Sarai, Rajendrapark, Shankar Vihar and Ganga Vihar.



A typical child in any one of **Literacy India's** many projects is a child of an economically weak and backward family from the nearby slum surviving barely on one trash meal a day. Such children have no loving care, no fun and games; just painful emptiness stare in their unkempt famished faces.

**Literacy India provided education with love, joy, purpose and above all, HOPE. It also provided nutritious midday meal along with basic health care and medicines.**

Providing basic education with a meal is just not sufficient in bringing about a change. It undoubtedly was the first step. An overall development required changing the mindset of the family and the child. **Literacy India** during these years has made a major breakthrough to develop the personality of the children. Education has been made a fun activity through workshops, theatre, creative arts and other non-traditional methods of learning. Eminent personalities from different walks of life have come and interacted with the children. This exchange imparted inspiration, enthusiasm, interest and learning as also identified talent. This in turn opened the door towards higher education, vocation, self esteem and confidence leading to earning capacity for the youth.

## PROJECTS

*Give me a lever long enough,  
and a fulcrum strong enough,  
and single-handed I can move the world.* -Archimedes

To encourage value based quality education and to instil dignity of labour, with emphasis on the girl child, **Literacy India operates through its six Projects. The Projects concentrate on development of total personality of the child.**

### Pathshala (Tuition Programme)

**Literacy India** started with this project in 1996 as an open class-room where right from basic literacy to bridge classes was the focus. It was opened in half constructed Ansal buildings to houses in village Chuapal.



More than hundred children from neighbourhood slums attending school upto XII but weak in studies, avail this **tuition programme between 4 and 6pm at the Chiranjeev Bharati School to get additional help and also in Vidyapeeth centre in Chauma village Gurgaon.**

Pathshala project strives to reach larger number but due to financial constraints Literacy India conducts basic literacy, bridge classes to tuition for over 100 children from the neighbourhood villages. Pathshala programme has so far reached 600 children.

### Vidyapeeth (non formal education centre)

*I think therefore I am* -Descartes

This endeavour beginning in 2001 in Chauma village, is a fulltime co-education primary school with 175 children. Mid-Day Meal is provided with the support of Hotel Radisson and other benevolent supporters of Literacy India. This non formal system during the last few years has earned a high reputation amongst the beneficiaries.

The classrooms have now become overcrowded. That puts a limit on accommodating more children. The Centre under the guidance of **Ms. Alka Kumar an educationist with wide**



experience in teaching the disadvantaged, using various innovative methods, has made Vidyapeeth into a busy school. Teachers of Vidyapeeth are continually striving to improve and bring about a quality change.

### Gurukul (higher education)

*The object of teaching a  
child is to enable him to  
get along without his teacher.* - Elbert Hubbard

This project initiated by our NGO sponsors, is geared to provide higher education to the children who show promise in Vidyapeeth and Pathshala. Presently 40 such children are attending English/Hindi medium schools in the neighbourhood. **Literacy India contributes towards their school fees, books, stationary and uniforms.**



### Shiksharth (talent in theatre & arts)

*One test of the correctness of educational procedure  
is the happiness of the child.* - Maria Montessorie

This scintillating programme aims at bringing out talent from the rural and slum children in various art forms such as painting, theatre, pottery and other performing arts. Theatre in education concept is used to educate children a lot many things in life. **Shiksharth** has taken help of the experts from National School of Drama. Along with Pathshala Project it has reached out to more than 1700 children.

With these godforsaken children **Literacy India** has come up with variety of outstanding stage productions such as **Pied Piper, Alibaba, Charandas Chor, Humari Kahani and Thug Thuge gaye and Humari Kahani** was staged for the **President of India in Rashtrapati Bhawan on 21st Nov 2003. Charandas Chor was adjudged as one of the best plays in Jashnebachpan, National Children's Theatre Festival.** Many more productions are in the pipeline with new faces and all this under a benevolent guidance of NSD Expert **Mr. Shrivardhan Trivedi.**

Under this project children are also exposed to many joyful outings, like watching a play or visit to a museum Planetarium etc. The children have taken trips to cities like Kolkata, Shimla, Chandigarh & Mumbai, not to forget the memorable and rapturous **Joy ride on Airbus - 320 on CHILD RIGHT'S DAY. In the month of May 04 the**



President of India organized for Literacy India children to watch LEGEND OF RAM the lavish stage creation by Aamir Raza Hussein.

### Karigari (vocational skills)

*Work is love made visible  
and if you cannot work with love but only with distaste,  
it is better that you should leave your work  
and sit at the gate of the temple and take alms of those  
who work with joy.* - Khalil Gibran

Not to leave the children with mere education Literacy India developed this project to provide Vocational skills that would enable them to earn with dignity. There are tailoring centres in Village Dulatabad, Sarai, Rajendrapark where over 200 girls are learning tailoring skills. Literacy India helps in their placement and employment.



Many boys have been trained for housekeeping and placed in working situations. Tie up with the government for vocational training has given impetus to this project. Skills like Refrigeration, Driving (for both girls

### Jagrukta (reaching out to the community)

This programme involving our children is to reach out to their own surroundings and milieu to bring awareness amongst the adults. With the help of NSD our students stage



Street plays on various themes relevant for villages (population control, importance of girl child, communal harmony, hygiene and cleanliness etc.). This Project reached out to hordes of people from over 60 villages. In the year 2002 Coca Cola India supported this venture.

### MILES TO GO...

*Life is either a daring adventure or nothing.* - Helen Keller

Literacy India has indeed come a long way from its modest beginning. It has given all its workers, trustees, sponsors and well wishers invaluable confidence in the Vision, Projects and Methodology. It has also brought us to a stage where we felt compelled with our success and joy to further move on and create a bigger Vision, a more daring dream much beyond where we started from or stand today.

We would like never ever to refuse a forsaken street child admission into our programme because there is no space. We would wish that all get a meaningful vocational skill conventional, contemporary and futuristic, to find a job that gives them self-dignity.

Some of the tasks that require your support are as follows:

1. A larger building to house children from atleast 50 villages.
2. Expand Science facilities and Computer labs to provide skills to many more.
3. Build an Amphitheatre for the Centre to become a hub for the villagers to see Children's productions.
4. Create modest TV production facilities for these children to operate camera, lights, sound, graphics, editing and script writing.
5. Make areas for children to learn painting, music, dance, pottery and other crafts.
6. Develop a Science Park to create a scientific temper amongst children and their parents.
7. To create a dispensary of Alternate therapy, vaccines and treatment of common occurring diseases as well as to educate them about hazards of AIDS etc.
8. To create a Yoga Centre to make children understand their bodies.

The activities of Literacy India have been funded by Trustees, Corporate Houses and Individuals. Some of the Corporates which supported us in the hour of need are :

· Electrolux · Coca Cola India · America Express · Parsec Technologies · Radisson Hotel · Bharti Tele Ventures Ltd · DCM Shriram · Indian Airlines Ltd · Alliance Air

We have partnered and also taken help from organizations on various projects like PRATHAM, SANKALP, MOBILE CRECHE, JANSHIKSHAN, SHRI SATYA SAI BABA SOCIETY, TAARA HAAT, ROTARY CLUB, BEYOND HRD, WANAPARTY EDUCATIONAL TRUST & CHARITIES AID FOUNDATIONS etc.

### YOU TOO CAN HELP in many ways

- Sponsor a child in Gurukul @ Rs.8000 p.a
- Sponsor a child in Vidyapeeth @ Rs.6000 p.a
- Sponsor a child in Pathshala @ Rs.3500 p.a
- Sponsor a child in Karigari project and help him gain employment @ Rs. 5,000 (To meet direct costs only)
- Sponsor Jagrukta project @ Rs.5200 per play.
- Volunteer time at vocational training or sponsor services of a professional.
- Sponsor our theater productions and events
- Selling our Indha products

Send in your contribution or be a part of our movement at

LITERACY INDIA, J-1365, PALAM VIHAR, GURGAON - 122017, HARYANA, INDIA. TEL 91-9212809346  
FAX-91-124-4070238 E-MAIL-literacyindia@hotmail.com & indraani@literacyindia.org Website www.literacyindia.org

Our regd. Office C1/11, Vasant Vihar 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, New Delhi 110057

#### Note:

1. All Donations are exempt from Income Tax under section 80G of the Income Tax Act 1961. vide approval No. DIT (E)/2000-2001/L-316/96/419
2. Literacy India is registered with Govt. of India under Foreign Contributions (Registration) Act 1976 and is eligible to accept Foreign Contributions for its activities Vide Registration No. 231660156.

Courtesy FEEL,

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