Our journey

Since October 10, 1996

Our journey has been as eventful as it has been exciting! It has been thirteen years but seems like yesterday when we started with 5 children at a construction site in Palam Vihar, Gurgaon. Today we have ten centres in Gurgaon and Delhi and have reached out to over 12,000 beneficiaries.

Our objective has been to empower the underprivileged women and children through a broad-based educational framework, which goes well beyond curriculum-based schooling. Our programs include vocational training in tailoring, handicrafts making, paper bags making and computer education. Our focus is on imparting knowledge and skills that would make rural women and youth employable so that they can earn a living and support a family.

Building a foundation first

We realised early on that bringing a child into school is in itself a major challenge. Think of a household which is teetering on the brink of survival, struggling to muster enough resources to make it to the next day. For a family like that, to take out a wage earner and send her to school is a huge decision. To break this cycle, we realised we have to first win the trust of the parents by creating awareness about the world around them. By telling them about the importance of education and how it can give their child a better life than their own.

Once a family is convinced about sending their child to school, keeping them interested in coming back the next day is another huge challenge. A lot of work needs to be done on the child before she is ready to get an education. For a child who barely gets food or who might have got forced into substance abuse, education is farthest in their minds. To change their state of mind, we found that we need to raise their self-esteem through inculcating basic habits such as personal grooming and general hygiene. Sometimes, using role models helps in moulding behaviour.

Another huge way to build self-esteem is by providing a platform to these children to showcase their special creative talents. We get professionals to hold workshops in performing arts such as singing, dancing and painting. Through such workshops, we nurture and encourage our children. This has had a major impact on their self-confidence.

Imparting education

Once the child is psychologically ready to go to the next level, we put her through a higher secondary education. Our main learning centre is a thirty classroom facility complete with animation labs, library and a digital learning centre at Village Baigaher, near where we first started back in 1996!
Working with government schools located near our centres, children, mainly girls, were inducted into our Pathshala program. They were given special coaching classes, based on a specially designed bridge program, to prepare them for Class X CBSE examinations. It was very heartening to note that all sixteen students that enrolled at the Bijwasan centre cleared the examinations.

Encouraged by the success at our existing centres (at Chiranjeev Bharti School, Bajghera and Bijwasan), which are running at full strength, we decided to open two new centres each in Gurgaon (Jharsa Village and Sector 54) and New Delhi (Vasant Vihar and Neb Sarai, Saket). With this, the beneficiaries under this program have crossed five hundred. All our centres have drawn a very enthusiastic response from the communities they serve.

For the new centres, we worked with PVR Nest (for Vasant Vihar) and NBA and Charities Aid Foundation (for Neb Sarai). The Neb Sarai Centre has been christened as the E to E Centre, where the ‘E’s stand for Education to Employment. This is in line with our guiding motto of ‘Education with a Purpose’.

To sustain the interest of slum dwelling children that come to these centres, we run computer-based learning modules that are exciting.

**Achievement:** The program made major strides this year in terms of quality of content and student results. As the number of centres more than doubled from three to seven, the number of beneficiaries crossed five hundred.

Rehabilitation and mainstreaming of street children has been an exceptional achievement of this project. The dropout figures of children who studied with us before going to a mainstream school fell to almost nil!
Vidyapeeth

Non-formal curriculum to mainstream children into government schooling system (National Open School) after Class X. Total spend Rs.24 lacs.

Achievement: The number of children enrolled in the program approached six hundred and fifty. Children successfully passed their Open Board Exams.

Whereas the year gone by was a period of expansion for Pathshala, the focus at Vidyapeeth was on consolidation. With classes running up to Class X, this is our flagship project and is being run from our school building at Village Bajghera.

The culmination of our Vidyapeeth program is preparing Class X students for their Board exams, for which they appear through National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS).

Already, our school is preferred by some parents whose children are going to private schools in the nearby areas. Syllabi, pedagogy, facilities and laboratories are continuously upgraded to keep with the changing needs and trends. With a view to further enhancing the quality of our program, we plan to induct new teachers for higher classes.

We have also leased a large ground nearby, which we plan to develop as a sports field.

Towards the year end, Encore Capital agreed to sponsor several students of Vidyapeeth and Pathshala at various centres.

Being sensitive to the environment, instead of adding a bus, we distributed about 25 bicycles to senior students for the commute to school.

The Dell Knowledge Centre for 3D animation and Science Labs were inaugurated during the year. The 2-D animation facility, sponsored by Teleperformance, is also fully functional.

Achievement: The number of children enrolled in the program approached six hundred and fifty. Children successfully passed their Open Board Exams.

Total lives touched since inception: 2,602
Indha & Karigari

Our vocational training module for youth & women, the thrust being on providing beneficiaries the capacity to earn beyond unskilled wages.

Indha: Total spend: Rs.26 lacs

Focus on consolidation, capacity building, aggressive marketing and product design have been the hallmark of Indha activities during the year. We now have 85 ladies regularly deployed at our centres at Daultabad, Baigera and Sarai. Keeping an eye on ongoing improvement in product and process, we have launched skill development activities at Bijwasan, Jahazgarh and Saket centres, with about 50 women undergoing training at any given time. Further, development and motivation workshops were organized at Baigera and Daultabad.

Keeping the environment in mind, we started a new paper-bag making unit at Baigera, which is now fully operational with six workers.

We inducted a full time marketing professional to penetrate new markets and expand our reach. We took several steps to build the Indha brand. Our products were sold through branded retail outlets, displayed at mall exhibitions and at displays at the premises of donor organizations. We decided to put up street plays and dance performances at shopping malls where Indha products were on sale as an innovative promotional tool. This also helps in creating awareness about the LI’s work. For tapping the export market, we decided to apply for registration as an export house.

The generous contributions of Tupperware and GPI Foundation’s RWBA women empowerment project ‘Janani’ have been instrumental in growing our activities & reach.

Karigari: Total spend: Rs.7 lacs

Seven of our ten centres have vocational training as an integral activity. In addition to the usual vocations like tailoring, embroidery, block printing and beauty culture, we have developed courses in DTP, web designing and Tally with an eye on increasing the employability quotient. Short modules on retailing, spoken English and personality development are also given. The faculty for these programs is a mix of in house resources and a pool of volunteers from the corporates working with us. Post training, we help place our beneficiaries in suitable jobs. 10 Karigari pass out were placed in various companies including MNCs. We also donate sewing machines under the tailoring program to provide them an opportunity to support themselves without investing in startup costs. Training in handicrafts and paper bag making is already a regular feature of the program.

GPI Foundation’s funding helped set up new centres for tailoring, stitching and handicraft making.

Being environment sensitive is quite big at LI. Accordingly, we started a paper recycling plant near the Baigera school, the money for which was generously donated by Tupperware.

Total lives touched since inception: 2,506
Shiksharth & Jagrukta

The intent is to introduce children to joyful learning through theatre, films and music and release the hidden creativity in them. Total spend Rs.4 lacs.

Shiksharth

Children from all our projects contribute to the success of this theatre group project, aimed at promoting performing arts. Our annual production was staged at Epicentre, the hub of cultural activities in Gurgaon. The august audience was a virtual who’s who of Gurgaon. Ms. Dipti Umashankar, Deputy Commissioner Gurgaon was the chief guest and with her came a large number of officials from the local administration. Senior corporate executives and other invitees thoroughly enjoyed the performance. A short animation film produced entirely by LI children was also screened, which left the audience amazed at the talent.

LI children were introduced to photography through an initiative sponsored by Adobe India. The program titled ‘Shutterbugs - Life as I see it’ tapped their passion and creative potential. A desk calendar for the year 2009 was also produced depicting the work done by our children. Copies of the calendar were distributed and sold to corporates and individuals. Besides this, children from Neb Sarai, Saket worked on a beautiful calendar with beautiful paintings helped by the well-known artist, Gautam Kar.

Jagrukta

This project has not attracted any sponsors and has more or less been subsumed by the Shiksharth. Details of the shows put up during the year are covered in the Events Section of the report.

Total lives touched since inception: 3,009
Gurukul & other programs

Sponsoring the education of meritorious students, who are desirous of receiving mainstream English education at public schools.

Gurukul: Total spend Rs.3 lacs

Under Gurukul, we sponsor good students to study at mainstream English medium schools for Classes XI and XII. We also sponsor students who have the potential and want to study beyond Class XII. Some success stories include a girl who cleared CBSE Class XII and one who cleared Haryana open school class X this year. Another bright girl is sitting for her engineering entrance examination. Students sponsored by us under this project are doing extremely well academically and also in extra curricular activities. Generous donors including Rotary Clubs of Delhi and American Express have ensured that Gurukul children’s education is moving at a steady pace.

The new E to E Learning Centre

This project is a true amalgamation of the Pathshala and Karigari projects. In the true spirit of giving back to the community, a new learning centre was inaugurated in the back lanes of Saket, New Delhi in July 2008. It was officially dedicated to the community by BWB Asia. Painted in bright shades of blue and orange the centre had a new technology centre, activity room as well as a vocational centre that provided women training in crafts and other skills. The idea behind establishing the centre was to create a community-based livelihood enhancement model to achieve poverty alleviation. At the dedication ceremony, speakers including Mrs. Malini Thadani from HSBC, Mrs. Mala Ramadorai from Tata Sons, Capt. Indraani Singh from Literacy India, Kyle Korver and Pat Garrity, commented that these children, who had been taken out of slums, were real angels and hoped that they could truly benefit from the facility.

E to E centre within the first year of its starting finished a special adolescent literacy module using digital learning. With this, the children who are otherwise working in the neighbourhood to survive, were empowered and motivated to go beyond primary education. Many children have been mainstreamed into regular schools while the older kids are now following the National Open School curriculum. We are sure that in next two years they will finish Class X.

Health Centre: Total spend Rs.2 lacs

The health care program being supported by Youthreach is running to full capacity. It has been providing primary care and assistance counselling to villagers, especially girls and women. The reach of the program was expanded by weekly visits to our Indha centres by the health post in charge. During the year, special emphasis was laid on arranging treatment for eye related problems and specialized care was organized for those suffering. Free medicines and spectacles for the needy were also given out. The number of OPD visits to the Bajghera health post was recorded at more than 4,500.

Total lives touched since inception: 479
Sayana & her sisters

Sayana and her two sisters belong to a migrant Muslim family from Mewat. They were growing older without growing up. Their family was counselled and the sisters were inducted. They have now been mainstreamed and are attending Vidyapeeth.

Sabina

Sabina, lost her biological parents early and lives with her maternal uncle’s family. Earlier she was considered a burden. After three months of training under Manju, she started to teaching women independently and earns enough to get the respect of her family. She has also been counselled to pursue her higher studies. LI will bear all expenses of her appearing in Class X examination under National Open School.

Arif

His father, a migrant, works as a cleaner at a road-side dhaba. Being illiterate, Arif was working as a domestic help and was directionless. He use to loiter around the PVR Saket campus. We counseled him and after initial hesitation, he joined us. He has responded well and shown positive behavioural change. He has shown interest in reading, drawing and dance. After one year he has completed his studies up to Class V and is very eager to join school.

Nisha

Only 20 years old, Nisha has the unenviable task of earning bread for her family. After an accident a year ago, her father was no longer able to work. She has five family members to support. After two years of hard work, Nisha has become a tailoring instructor at our Daultabad centre. In her spare time, she makes fashion bags for Indha. She is one of the best craftswomen we have. At such an young she has overcome all odds, moving ahead with self-confidence and courage. She is really a ‘Janani’ of young India.

Mamta

Before she started classes at our centre in 2007, Mamta was an average student. After a year’s tuition she has improved considerably. She is a part of a large family and therefore needs financial help to continue her higher studies. Her father is daily wage labourer and we hope to find her a donor to pursue her dream.

Santosh

Santosh a widow at the age of 23 and a mother two children works hard to overcome the challenges of life. She is 10th pass and very eager to learn things fast so that she can earn her livelihood with dignity. She is very hard working and associated with Indha only from last 6 months. During her six months training she has learnt making paper products. She is also learning to manage the Indha store at Baighera. She is the true idol for all those widows who lost all hope after losing their life partner.

Manju devi

She was illiterate, but after joining LI she has attained a certain level of reading and writing skill and has learnt stitching and tailoring. She has a large family of six children. Her husband is working at a dhaba and earns Rs.2,200/month. The financial difficulties led to arguments and fights at home. She now runs a small tailoring shop from her house and earns enough to support her family.

Geeta

Geeta was a school drop out due to financial problems since the past 2 years. Her father suffers form a chronic disease. After joining LI she prepared and cleared the entrance examinations for admission to a regular Government school. She would be joining classes starting in July ’09 in Class VII.

Success stories

How we transformed lives of people who felt they had no hope
Alka Kumar, Head of Academics

My association with Literacy India started in 2001. It has taught me one thing for sure - if one is inspired by faith, optimism and perseverance, dreams are realisable. Way back in 2001 when I first came to LI, I was moved by the trying conditions in which the project Vidyapeeth was being run. I was highly motivated by the enthusiasm and never die spirit of Indraani and her team. I was assigned to take up the academic segment of the project and my first goal was to upgrade Vidyapeeth up to Class V. We developed the curriculum, trained the teachers and upscaled to the next higher class every year. I must thank Indraani who not only gave me a free hand but also made sure that I was never short of funds to complete the task. It is only now that I realise how tough it must have been for her to raise funds. We crossed the first barrier of Class V, but did not stop there. New goals were set and the bar was raised. We have a fully equipped new building and a batch of thirty three children is ready to appear for Class X exams this academic year through Nation Institute of Open Schooling. Amazing, to say the least! My experience with LI has reinforced my belief that children from the under served and underprivileged background are as sharp and bright as those from the upper echelons of society. In fact they are even more eager to make the best use of the opportunities that come their way than those who take such things for granted. I am proud of our children and I am sure they would do well in life. Our goal is to ensure that the children are imparted education in a fashion that they learn employable skills and can either participate in livelihood generating activities if they desire to do so after schooling or pursue higher studies. Whatever has thus far been achieved would not have been possible without the dedication and untiring efforts of the academic and support staff of LI and the confidence placed by the trustees in the Vidyapeeth team. Of course, Indraani has stood by us like a rock whenever we confronted difficulties.

Caring for the children is our main concern. The work goes on, the cause endures and our dreams are alive. We can not afford to be satisfied with what has been achieved. To keep the momentum going, we strive to be driven by the desire to excel, to experiment with fresh ideas, to innovate, to upgrade the curriculum for emerging needs and to keep strengthening the academic capacity.

Satya Prakash, Projects Coordinator

The Journey with Literacy India was started six years ago. I joined as IT trainer in the organisation but over the years evolved as Project Head who implements digital learning projects for rural India. While working at Literacy India I have become a good communicator and demonstrated a high degree of initiative and self motivation. I enjoy the challenge of a busy, demanding work environment. I have developed the ability to maintain a consistently high standard of work under pressure. I have got the opportunity to interact with people from different parts of the World. Today I am a good coordinator, motivator, team member and a leader.

Literacy India is continued to play the role of a catalyst in mobilising and empowering the marginalised communities directly. To fight with the issues of adult unemployment we have planned to initiate a bottom-up strategy process through IT. This process was evolved from the learning of existing process and reengineering the task of implementing e-learning to the elementary level in the current education process and system of Literacy India. My vision for 2010 is to start a e-Learning Education and Employment centre where both, a child and an adult, will have facility to learn through E-Shikshak (E-Tutor) and through the internet they can access the digital knowledge library and mass database of employment opportunities.

Sohit Yadav, Incharge, Pathshaala

When I started to work with street child, it was very difficult to understand them. Street children have to work for themselves for their own survival or for their family. But slowly their approach changed and a positive attitude emerged and I became the member of their group. Due to improper shelter and unhygienic living condition on streets, children suffer from a various diseases and difficulties. Children have addictions like smoking, sniffing glue, and whiteners. Street children become the victims of the crime due to ignorance. Their problems are multifaceted and we will have to identify their problems and needs. I joined them to not solve their problem but to empower them to get rid of difficulties and find a way to earn a livelihood.

In future, while working with children, I will try to ensure that every street child should get dignity and respect. I will work towards facilitating all round empowerment of the child and improvement in the quality of life by providing help regarding health issue, education and any problem. So they can live a better quality of life and join mainstream of society to become good citizen for country.
Events and Activities

Children staged a skit in English at the premises of Fluor Daniels. A cheque for Rs 36,000 was presented by Fluor Daniels for the multimedia lab.

A fund raising event was organized at American Express Gurgaon. The proceeds from the event were earmarked for the midday meal and sponsor a child program.

Personality Development Program conceptualised and delivered by a team comprising of Major General D. N. Verma, Lt. Gen. Bhatnagar, Major General Satbir Singh Ms. Surita Banerjee, and Ms. Isha Singh was conducted with 16 undergraduate students. Ten successful students were awarded certificates at a small function held at Bajghera.

Summer Break: A stream of activities aided by volunteers and Vidyaapeeth staff were undertaken during the summer break. Workshops were held on theater, performing arts, computers, spoken English skills and value based education.

Young volunteers from The Heritage School, Gurgaon; The Hindu College, Lady Shri Ram College and foreign students from Canada, Africa and the US came in regularly to Vidyaapeeth to work on enhancing the skills of children in various fields.

A workshop on value based education was conducted by Acharya Vasudev and he stressed on the six methods of imparting good education viz. Thought of the Day, Silent Sitting, Group Singing, Story Telling, Group Activities, and Life Applications. Acharya Vasudev emphasized on improving personal, social and universal values through story telling and yoga.

Deputy Commissioner Gurugram Mr. Rakesh Gupta along with the Director of Dell, Mr. Vivek Agarwal, inaugurated the Science and Animation Lab. The children of Vidyaapeeth thanked the guests for the Lab and presented a cultural program in their honour.

Boys from Class VIII and IX went to Rotary Public School for a cricket match against IIPM College. Himesh of Class IX won the Man of the Match.

After the summer break, there were quite a few new faces amongst the students and children spent time to catch up with old friends and getting to know the new entrants.

A workshop by Prof. Mammoohan Choudhary for teachers was held. Given the background of the children, it was emphasized that a more interactive and soft approach should by the guiding spirit at Vidyaapeeth.

Viren Rana, LI committee member celebrated his son, Aditya’s birthday at the school with the Kindergarten children. They all relished the cake and snacks and the birthday boy was gifted a little toy by the children of Vidyaapeeth.

E to E Learning Centre sponsored and funded by NBA (USA) was inaugurated at Neb Sarai, Saket, New Delhi. NBA stars dedicated the centre to the community at a function attended by Mrs. Malini Thadani from HSBC, Mrs. Mala Ramadori from Tata Sons, Capt. Indraani Singh from Literacy India, Kyle Korver and Pat Garrity among others.

Children from Pathshala and Vidyaapeeth visited Rashtaratari Bhawan. They saw the museum and met the Honorable President Smt. Pratibha Patil. The President in her address to the children emphasised the importance of education. Children also joined the President for lunch.

Women from the Indha were invited by the President of India to participate in the launch of Roshini, a project aimed at making the Rashtrapati Bhawan an eco friendly place. Keeping up with the spirit of the occasion, women from Indha demonstrated their skills making bags and other products from waste paper.

Independence Day was celebrated at Bajghera, Bijwasan and Saket centres. After the flag hosting ceremony at the Bhaghat, the children put up a cultural performance. The day ended with distribution of sweets at all the centres.

Tupperware sponsored the products brochure for Indha products and formally launched the same during their All India Managers Conference held at Agra.

Diwali was celebrated at all the centres with great pomp and show. Drawing and Diya making, decorating competitions were organized.

50 children from LI went to Central Mall, Gurgaon on the occasion of Children’s Day. They put up a dance performance and a street play. Visitors to the mall were very impressed with the program. A declamation contest with students from different projects was also held on the same day at Bajghera.

A cultural festival, ‘Utsav II’ was held at Epicentre, Gurgaon. It included dance performances, an animation film produced by LI children and ended with the play ‘Hamari Kahani’ in front of an appreciative audience comprising of State Government officials, executives from the donor organizations and theatre enthusiasts from NCR. Ms. Deepita Umashankar Deputy Commissioner was the chief guest.

‘Shutterbugs - Life as I see it’, an initiative sponsored by Adobe India was formally launched by Ms. Rashmi and Ms. Deepita Umashankar. Shutterbugs aimed at introducing children to Photography.

A large team of volunteers and senior officials visited the Bajghera Centre to launch their Sunday volunteering program. The program has caught the fancy of the children at different LI centres and Maruti employees. The volunteers now regularly visit five of our centres for mentoring children.

Christmas celebrations continued throughout the second half of December. As a part of celebrations, volunteers from Aricent, Teleperformance, Maruti Suzuki and American Express visited Bajghera centre and distributed chocolates and sweets. LI kids put up short play to add gaiety to the occasion.

District Judo Championship was held at Bajghera. Ms. Deepita Umashankar as chief guest awarded the winners with medals and prizes. Children of LI, competing against participants from a number of schools, performed very well.

Workshop on empowerment and motivation of women was held by Dr. Utpala Mukherjee. 150 women from various centres attended the workshop. They were treated to lunch at the centre.

Lohri festival was celebrated at Bajghera campus. Children had a great time with the staff members joining in reciting tradition Lohri songs.

Wirkel Technologies organized a cricket match at the newly laid grounds at Bajghera.

Republic day was celebrated at all the centres. Flag hoisting and march past activities were performed by the children.

Workshops for teachers on the theme of peace, love, truth and non-violence was organized by Satya Sai Bal Vikas.

Junior Achievement India started a series of workshops on career opportunities. The emphasis is proposed to be on children having a evolved perspective on academic, social, personal and professional environment.

Encore Capital was added to the LI family. Volunteers and employees celebrated Holi with Pathshala children at Sector 54 centre. Everyone had a great time with colors and sweets.

Children from LI participated in the CS Sharma Memorial open chess tournament organized by Delhi Chess Association. 12 Children from Class V to X took part in the event.

Putting a smile on their faces...
In Appreciation

We acknowledge, with grateful thanks, all our donors and supporters for various projects. Their generosity has been the major factor for success in our programs. Their association has given us the strength and resolve to continue our mission. It is a matter of great satisfaction that most of our donors continue to be with us year after year demonstrating their confidence in our work. It is even more gratifying that the support from corporate and individual donors has continued despite the global recession. Their encouragement propels our growth and we are forever indebted to them for their help. May God bless them all!

Shiksharth
CRM Services India Pvt. Ltd.
Muskan Productions
Richika Sahni
Sunil Hura
Tupperware India Pvt. Ltd.
Vinod Chopra films Pvt. Ltd.
Vinod 5 Ullal
Zee Entertainment Enterprises

Indha
Alok Ruia
Charities Aid Foundation
Lacey Rotary Courtney

Health Post
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Literacy India
Abhishek Dalmia
Akhil Bansal
Alka Kumar
Art Laureate
Ashok Kumar
Ashok Purohit
Avinder Srivastav
Balwant Singh Bains
Capt K.S. Cheema
Capt. Indraa Singh
Centre Mall
Deepak Khoshy
Dr. Pankaj Jain
Ekta Foundation
Give Foundation
Globle Giving S.N.
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IBM India Pvt. Ltd.
ESTS Infotech Solution Pvt. Ltd
Jitender Wadhwa/ Kumal Wadhwa
Kirat Singh Grewal
Lacey Rotary Courtney
Monarch Catalyst Pvt. Ltd.
Monarch Catalyst Pvt. Ltd.
Nikhil Raj
P.D. Patil
Phat Phish Pvt. Ltd.
President District Sport Council Gurgaon
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Revathi Equipment Ltd.
Rio-Grand Departmental Store Pvt. Ltd.
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Pathshaala
American Express
Insourced Accounting Team,
MCU Team, Vivek Bhasin
Charities Aid Foundation
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Harichand Kathpal
Induja Sridharan
Kanchan Mishra
Kanika Bahl
Manjusi Mudholkar
PVR Nest

Gurukul
American Express
Dayanand Bandlekar, Rajesh Gajree
Sanjay Babra, Sanjeev Ananthakrishnan
Control & Compliance Team
Francoise calliea
Gurcharan Singh Kainth
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Manju Raja
Ritu Bansal
Sanjay Mehta
Surekha Nagpal
Surita Banarjee

Karigari
Godfrey Phillips India Ltd.
Marc Van Heyningen
Partha Pratim Saha

Vidyapeeth
American Express (India) Pvt. Ltd.
Anita Danturty, Ankur Agarwal, Ritesh Bhatia,
Ruchi Khanna, Jagjeet Singh Rishi, Subarna Nyan,
Richa Agarwal, Rahul Rana, Sameer Gupta,
Fixed Assets Japa Team
Adesh Poddar
Adobe System Pvt. Ltd.
Anita Danturty, Ankur Agarwal, Ritesh Bhatia,
Ruchi Khanna, Jagjeet Singh Rishi, Subarna Nyan,
Richa Agarwal, Rahul Rana, Sameer Gupta,
Fixed Assets Japa Team
Adesh Poddar
Adobe System Pvt. Ltd.
Financial summary

Report by Trustees on Financial Summary

The financial summary relating to the year ended March 31, 2009 is extracted from the financial statements, which were approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf on August 17, 2009. Auditors Rajnish & Associates gave an unqualified audit report on these financial statements.

The financial summary is compiled by Literacy India from the audited financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2009.

This financial summary may not contain sufficient details to gain a complete understanding of the financial affairs of the charity. The full audited financial statements and auditors’ report may be obtained from the Literacy India office.

Air Marshal Keelor, Chairman
Capt. Indraani Singh, Secretary

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Explanatory notes
1. The difference between the “Inflows less Outflows” and the growth in cash & bank balances is represented by depreciation, a non-cash charge and changes in Fixed Assets and Working Capital.

2. **Corpus Fund**: consists of donations received from donors specifically for creating a corpus or for capital expenditure and not to be used for day-to-day running expenses.

3. **Contingency Fund**: Historically, there have been timing differences between projects needing funding and donors funding the same. Further, donor budgets tend to expand and shrink with the economic climate they operate in. To make sure our beneficiaries stay unaffected by such vagaries, we have created a Contingency Fund, which is equal to six months’ spend.

4. **Outreach Fund**: consists of resources set aside for expanding the reach of our existing projects. These could be doing more in the existing geographies or expanding to wholly new geographies. For example, this year we expanded our number of centres and also initiated a project in Purulia, West Bengal. Next year, we are looking to expand into the Mewat region of Rajasthan, which is reputed to be among the poorest in India.

5. For a copy of our audited accounts, please write to info@literacyindia.org.
Report on Governance

We strongly believe that we act as trustees on behalf of our donors and our records must reflect the transparency that ought to go with being trustees.

Board of Trustees

No remuneration has been paid to any member on our Board of Trustees, including to the Head of the NGO, Founder and General Secretary, Capt. Indraani Singh.

Further, no money was paid to any of our Board members as reimbursement of out of pocket expenses incurred for furthering the cause of Literacy India.

Remuneration & gender equality

We also try to ensure that there is a reasonable gap between our highest paid and lowest paid staff. We find this furthers harmony and team-work. Whereas our highest paid staff gets Rs.20,000 p.m., our lowest paid (part-time) staff makes Rs.1,500 p.m.

We stand for gender equality and the table below, which gives a summary of the monthly gross remuneration (including benefits) we paid our staff members during the year, confirms the same.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Slab</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 5,000</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 - 10,000</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 - 25,000</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 - 50,000</td>
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<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 - 100,000</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 100,000</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Travel costs

Even though we raised Rs.24 lacs via foreign donations, this was all done by the goodwill created as a result of past experience of our donors with work done with their money. Not a single Rupee was spent on foreign travel during the year.

Likewise, no domestic travel expenses were incurred. Capt. Singh being a commander at Indian Airlines helped in flying without spending!

Gandhiji on Trusteeship: “I venture to suggest to you that you are not using your riches wisely, though you seem to be using them profusely. The art of amassing riches becomes a degrading and despicable art if it is not accompanied by the nobler art of how to spend wealth usefully. Let not possession of wealth be synonymous with degradation, vice and profligacy.”
Path ahead...

**Projects**

We see the coming year as a year of consolidation and growth.

For Vidyapeeth, we would like to enhance our sports facility better along with better library for the children. To cater to the increased strength in higher classes we plan to induct additional qualified faculty, specially for English. We also plan to conduct regular career counselling sessions and workshops by faculty/speakers from the corporate sector as well as advisory organizations.

Gurukul aims to generate additional funds for children wishing to pursue higher studies after Class XII. We are in the process of identifying children who have the desire and potential to enter professional courses after finishing school.

Pathshaala plans to establish a new centre in a small tribal village in District Purulia, West Bengal along with some UNICEF workers. Despite logistical challenges we have decided to go ahead and set up a model in the place.

Indha will make further efforts to increase the market share for its products by aiming for deeper penetration of the market in addition to exploring export markets.

Karigari will look to address the challenges of finding suitable vocational and career options for those children who wish to start working after Class X. As always, the intent would be to impart the training required to enable them enter income generating professions. We plan to extend all assistance in training and placement of such children. This year’s target would be to train more children in 2D animation. We would also be looking to raise funds for our Adolescent Literacy Program in a digital format.

**Governance**

As a part of our commitment to strengthen governance and compliance efforts, we have registered with Give India in addition to the existing collaboration with Charities Aid Foundation. We already have an internal audit firm overseeing the accounting activities. Complete transparency is a norm at Literacy India and we encourage our sponsors and partners to participate in our strategic decision making process.

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**Registrations**

- Indian Trust Act 1872: Registration No. 23614
- Foreign Contributions (Registrations) Act 1976: Registration No. 231660156

**Board of Trustees**

**Vidyapeeth**

- Alka Kumar
- Sudhir Gahlot
- Nisha Dohroo
- Prity Mouza
- Sadhna Sharma
- Sheela Verma
- Sarita Wali
- Poonam Anjeerwal
- Anuradha Nigam
- Pushpa Singh
- Anita Rani
- Poonam Khanna
- Madhu Upadhyay
- Shashi Pal
- Smita Kodukula
- Namita Das
- Madhu Dang
- Gopal Saran Dubey
- Shashi Khera

**Pathshaala**

- Sohit Yadav
- Sunil Kumar Singh
- Sunita Devi
- Rajeshwary Moray Singh
- Dolly Rana
- Sarita Wali
- KP Singh
- Gopal Saran Dubey
- Pushpa Singh
- Poonam Singh
- Jyoti Kaoshik
- Babloo Singh
- Tina Wesily
- Dharmendar Yadav
- Manju Rani
- Suman Pilania
- Sonika Sejwal
- Kanchan Pathak
- Poonam Rana
- Mantta Rana
- Ms. Azami
- Manju Prasad
- Sarla Sharma
- Rita Sharma
- Reena
- Jaya Massey
- Deepika Rani
- Manoj Kumar Sananswal
- Laxmi Kardam
- Kumaresh Mitra

**Management Team**

**Vidyapeeth**

- Alka Kumar — Head of Academics
- Satya Prakash — Projects Coordinator
- Sohit Yadav — Coordinator Pathshaala
- Nikhil Raj — Coordinator Shiksharth
- Shrivardhan Trivedi — Coordinator Shiksharth

**Pathshaala**

- Sohit Yadav
- Sunil Kumar Singh
- Sunita Devi
- Rajeshwary Moray Singh
- Dolly Rana
- Sarita Wali
- KP Singh
- Gopal Saran Dubey
- Pushpa Singh
- Poonam Singh
- Jyoti Kaoshik
- Babloo Singh
- Tina Wesily
- Dharmendar Yadav
- Manju Rani
- Suman Pilania
- Sonika Sejwal
- Kanchan Pathak
- Poonam Rana
- Mantta Rana
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- Manju Prasad
- Sarla Sharma
- Rita Sharma
- Reena
- Jaya Massey
- Deepika Rani
- Manoj Kumar Sarsanswal
- Laxmi Kardam
- Kumaresh Mitra

**Contact us**

- www.literacyindia.org
- info@literacyindia.org
- + 91.92128.09346
- + 91.124.407.0692

**Auditors**

- Statutory Auditors: Rajnish & Associates
- Internal Auditors: Gupta & Thomas

**Banker**

- Syndicate Bank
- Bijwasan
- Najafgarh Road
- New Delhi

**Legal advisers**

- Jagjit Singh

**2008-09 annual report**