



# LITERACY INDIA

EDUCATION WITH A PURPOSE



(Literacy India Regd. under Trust Act 1872 No.7331, DIT (E) 96/97/316/96/612 REGD u/s of IT Act ,1961.Exempt under 80G L-316/96/419, FC(R) ACT,1976 No. 231660156

## And miles to go

### From the Secretary's Desk

May I take this opportunity to wish our readers a very Happy New Year. Like 2003, the last year was very hectic, busy and productive. Our objective to educate and empower the underprivileged remained on track. The beneficiaries vindicated our stand on basic education, vocational work, self-reliance and adult literacy in Chauma village behind Palam Vihar in Gurgaon, Haryana. Slowly but steadily what seemed to be a very hard task began showing results, a difference in the attitude of children, youth and adults of the village. To MAKE ONE LANE OF CHAUMA VILLAGE LITERATE is happening gradually and effectively.

Women, driving cars is no big deal in the cities but WOMEN from villages taking on DRIVING as a career sure caused a furor amongst the villagers. There was a lot of skepticism. Yet we went ahead in their training believing that the girls could do it. Now we have four girls hired as drivers in the Maruti plant. It definitely was an event to celebrate the girls and us in LI. Lot of counseling and convincing had gone into it. Our motto of EDUCATION WITH PURPOSE had become VISIBLE. Children kept coming in growing numbers to make us dream beyond our modest beginning nine years ago.



**SUSHMA FIRST FEMALE DRIVE SELECTED BY MARUTI**

### Our New Centres

Like the last quarter, we opened two new centers - one Karigari center in Ishapur Khera on the 23rd Nov 2004 and an Adult education center in Dharu Hera in association with Omax India Ltd. Furthermore, we started Beauty Centre in H-Block Palam Vihar with 10 girls and intend to start soon the same in Bajghera.



**New Basic Literacy center at Dharu Hera**



**Anita & Asha recently joined Maruti As Motor Drivers**

### About Us

Literacy India is a non-profit organization formed in October 1996 and registered as a trust under the Indian Trusts Act 1872. This NGO is working towards education of underprivileged children living in slums and rural areas. Literacy India's key Projects are:

#### Vidyapeeth

(Non-formal Education Center)

**Gurukul** (Main Streaming Higher Schooling for the Above Average Students),

**Pathshala** (Tuitions & Literacy Program for the working children),

**Karigari** (Vocational Education for the youth )

#### Jagrukta

(Awareness Programs) and

#### Shiksharth

(Talent building)



### Visitors

- Mr. Jitendra Wadhwa from Wadhwa Foundation
- Mr. Shankar Ghosh Trustee & Chairman Charkha
- Mrs. R.K. Singh Power Grid's Employees wives association
- Mr. Viren Rana
- Mr. Bill Adams, Founder of Super football Academy

### Our Special Thanks

We are extremely grateful to the following benefactors :

**Mr. S.K. Tandon, Mrs. Preeti, Ms. Preeti Bhambri and Ms Smita Kapoor** who generously organized meals for our children



*Beauty Culture Class at Palam Vihar*

Super football Academy

- Mr. Ron Victor, An IT Expert from USA

**Shambhri and Ms. Shita Kapoor who generously organized meals for our children at school on different occasions.**

## Reporting on Projects

Vidyapeeth provides non-formal education along with various workshops to educate the children of construction workers, as well as children from slums and villages. Operating from Delhi Haryana border, Literacy India reaches out not only to that underprivileged class belonging to Haryana but also migrants from the states of Bihar, U.P, West Bengal, Orissa & Rajasthan.

**Vidyapeeth** began with the nursery classes and now is a full-fledged school up to Class-V. Vidyapeeth aims at encouraging children for a non-formal preparatory education. These children are otherwise likely to be engaged in child labor or other menial labour at a very early age and can never be expected to go to school due to their poverty. Volunteers from Literacy India talk and counsel parents to let their children attend our school. Vidyapeeth situated at Village Chauma, Gurgaon, successfully completed four years in April 2004. During this period the number of children increased from 70 to 230.



**Sitting From Left to Right Parujeet, Urmila & Rahul Standing from Left to Right Doliram & Kamal. All of them are Working in Film Blue Umbrella**



**Humari Kahani Performance in Jashnayachpa**

**Pathshala** an open school Project marked the opening of Literacy India. It started with the non-formal education of 5 children and has touched the lives of over 700 children. Pathshala aims to get a child to read and write within a time frame of 3 months to a year before they get into the formal school. Pathshala also helps students to cope with their studies in their formal education. The adult education wing was started last year with 35 adults. Following the National Literacy Mission, the Pratham module is showing great results. We always have a constant attendance of 130 children. PATHSHALA opens classes every summer also for the schools drop outs from various govt. schools. This non-formal schooling project has put many children back into to the formal stream.

**Gurukul** identifies Pathshala students with potential and have sent over 36 children to nearby Public Schools with the help of various donors. This project began with just 3 children in the year 1996.

**Humari Kahani Performance in Jashnayachpa**

**Shiksharth** - Theatre, music, arts, craft & sports created an ambience to put our school drop outs back into school. This fun learning method along with creativity has reached out to over 1300 children. Under this Project LI has developed & staged professional theatre productions such as **Pied Piper, Alibaba, Charandas Chor, Humari Kahani & Pinti ka Sabun**. Children are not only getting to shake hands with great personalities like President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam but also to act in feature films like Neeli Chatri due to be released in March 2005. Shiksharth has discovered talent among the village girls & women. Theatre as a strategy has brought in a phenomenal change in them.

**Karigari** Project caught momentum in 2002. From mere 10 we have now trained over 390 students with various vocational skills and helped them to be placed in various companies.

**Jagrukta** Started with one village and we have been to reach out to over 50 villages creating awareness on issues like Importance of Girl Child, Population Control, Hygiene and Education with special help from sponsor like Coca Cola

## Activities & Events

### • End of the Session

#### OCTOBER

A picnic was organized for the Gurukul students at the Haldiram Entertainment park. The children enjoyed various games and helped themselves to a variety of snacks.

Literacy India organized a yet another visit to Agra for the new batch of girls of our tailoring centers of Daultabad and Sarai. Like the last batch it was a first ever visit for all of them to see the **Taj Mahal** and to get a historical glimpse of the Mughal period. The magnificent monument overwhelmed them. It made them relate to the much-acclaimed Hindi movie Mughal - E - Azam.

### The Magnificent Five

After auditioning 500 children from across all over India Vishal Bhardwaj a noted lyricist Director & now a Producer from Bollywood chose Monu, Rahul, Doliram, Kamal & Urmila for his latest children's film NEELI CHATRI (written by Ruskin Bond). During the month of October the children did shooting for the film in Dalhousie. They were given marathon coaching sessions to cope up with the pending school syllabi. The movie is expected to be released sometime in 2005. Deeply impressed by the performance of the children, Vishal is adopting few children's education with LI.



**Seema With Cricket Team of CAF**

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### **POPPY an EXPERIMENTAL DIGITAL FILM NOVEMBER**

A five-minute film with Capt Indraani Singh's stunt along with the three girls of LI, is being produced through the prestigious Digital Shorts Scheme. It is a UK Film Council initiative to create innovative digital films by up-and-coming talent. The UK Film Council are commissioning and funding the film along with South West Screen, the Regional Screen Agency for the West of England. The Production Unit from London wrote to us after reading about the acting skills of our children on the net.

### **Drawing Cartoons**

We are happy that Mr. Rao, an Animation expert, is associated with us to conduct classes in drawing and painting of cartoons for primary classes.

**Painting and drawing class  
in full swing**

### **Creativity & Certificate Distribution**

A 3-day Creative workshop was organized in the villages of Daulatabad & Sarai for the girls who had completed their tailoring classes. Mrs. Mohini Mathur a renowned personality from the field of theatre conducted this workshop. Amazingly girls who expressed themselves in the form of skits and poems, had subtly highlighted alcohol addiction in the men folks showing how insignificant was the role of women in the village community. On the last day Certificates were distributed.

### **Timely Help in Health Checkup**

Shri Satya Sai Seva Samiti, Palam Vihar organized a medical camp at Vidyapeeth for our children and the local village residents. The two doctors examined 53 female and 58 male patients. Free medicines were also given to the patients.



**Indraani InShort Digital Film along with  
three girls of Literacy India**

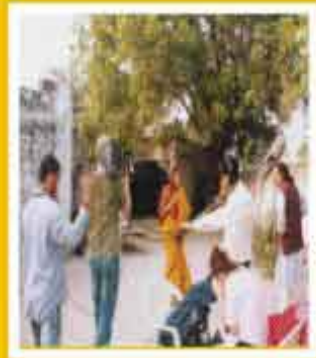
### **Reading Room - Finally**

Without the generous contributions from Fluor Daniel India Pvt. Ltd our Library would not have seen the light of the day. Finally the ribbon was cut and the children read out poems and speeches about how they view life, which were interesting and witty.

### **Hurray We won again**

In 2004 Literacy India entered the National Children's Theater Festival organized by National School of Drama with HUMARI KAHANI. It had been staged at the Rashtrapati Bhawan in Nov. '03. The play was adjudged the best in the festival just like Charan Das during the previous year (2003) festival. Batting to Raise Fund We are thankful to Charities Aid Foundation to have organized a cricket match for Literacy India at JNU stadium, New Delhi.

The Literacy India team comprised of the Corporates & Deepalya whereas the other team was made up of media persons & Literacy India. In spite of posting a good total Literacy India had to be content with the second prize. Theatre workshops did pay off here too as the kids did a fantastic commentary on their own.



**Indraani InShort Digital Film along with  
three girls of Literacy India**

### **Youth Reach-----REACHED OUT**

Youth Reach organized a fete at the Citi Bank branches at DLF Square and Connaught Place in New Delhi. We displayed the products made by our village women as well as Cards for the Season

### **Angels Came Out to us - ON CRISTMAS EVE.**

Women from Power Grid Mahila Samaj - Shristi, Gurgoan, baked cakes at home for our children on Christmas Eve. This touching gesture has left a lasting memory in our hearts. They contributed for children's education in Project-Vidyapeeth for which they raised money by selling products in various functions. Kudos to their efforts! Chancellor gave us a chance Chancellor Club, Palam Vihar, Gurgoan organised Christmas Carnival organized in aid of Literacy India. We raised money with the help of GSK, BRITANNIA and the sale of Greeting Cards, Antiques and games organised by the Vidyapeeth teachers and students.



**Childrens with Santa  
at Christmas celebration in  
Literacy India vidyapeeth**

### **Chancellor gave us a Chance**

Chancellor Club, Palam Vihar, Gurgoan had a Christmas Carnival organized in aid of Literacy India. We raised money with the help of GSK, BRITANNIA and the sale of Greeting Cards, Antiques and games prepared by the Vidyapeeth teachers and students.



*Literacy India' Stall at  
Chancellor Club on the Eve  
of Christmas*

## Special Column

**Mrs. Pushpa** Singh started working with us as a teacher the same year when LI started the Pathshala Project. She has been with us with the same dedication. She believes in our cause for education and her love for children has made her the oldest and loving teacher in the organization. Her presence is important for us.

**Col. B.S Ahlawat** was Chief of operations from 2001-2004. His honest and sincere approach in everything he did in our organization has brought in a quality change in the organization. He has migrated to USA. We wish him well wherever he is and will miss him.

**Mr. S.K Tandon** Joined up as soon as Col. Ahlawat left. He is an account and finance wizard of our organisation. Whatever had been lacking in our organisation he has streamlined them within a month. He is an asset for us and hope he continues with a same dedication.

### LITERACY INDIA

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