

## FACT SHEET

(March 2012)

**The Problem:** Systematic surveys have revealed that nearly every second child in Grade-V in India cannot read a simple Grade-II text. By middle grades, two of every three children drop out of school, and only one in five actually completes school education.

**Our Vision:** Every economically underprivileged child in India attains effective school education by 2035.

**Our mission:** We provide outcome based assistance to economically weak families, based on demonstrated academic performance of their school-going children, by leveraging support from donors all over the world, through trust emanating from high degree of transparency and accountability, with the ultimate aim of alleviating poverty and achieving universal education.

**Our Model:** We have developed the unique **“Learning Rewards Model”** that can be defined as an **“Achievement Linked Conditional Cash Transfer”** scheme. The scheme works as follows:

1. Identify school-going students from poor families and register them upon verification of eligibility.
2. Help mothers open bank accounts for direct transfer of monthly stipends called *Learning Rewards*.
3. Assess academic progress every four months through *“Standardized Academic Performance”* Tests.
4. Pay monthly cash stipends (*Learning Rewards*) commensurate with the student’s performance.
5. Provide regular performance feedback to students and their parents.
6. Provide learning material and teaching aids to children and tuition centers.
7. Encourage students to enroll into good schools and after-school tuitions using stipend money.
8. Monitor attendance, performance and grade promotion of students at school.
9. Foster accountability of teachers by encouraging parents to take interest in school affairs.
10. Ensure complete transparency in all transactions through the internet based *“Pardarshee”* MIS system, to which donors also have a log-in based access.

**Funding:** Individual, corporate and institutional donors across India and USA. Donors can access updated information about beneficiary students, learning achievement and use of funds through the MIS system.

**Pilot Project:** Pilot project launched at Indira Camp No.4, Vikas Puri, New Delhi. Starting with 14 students of grade-3 in November 2010, the project would support 80 students across grades 3, 4 and 5 in May 2012. Additional projects are being planned based on operational processes developed through the pilot.

**Impact:** Forty three poor children benefitted with an average stipend of Rs.425 per month. Learning Rewards have increased family income by about 8-10% on an average. In all Rs. 207,124 provided as stipends till date. Thirty eight mothers have opened bank accounts. Significant improvements in learning are evident from results of SAP tests. Seven independent tuition centers are catering to students supported by us.

**Progress:** Organizations established in USA and India, tax exemptions secured, FCRA clearance being applied for, grant rules and processes formulated, operational processes developed, SAP tests for grades 3 and 4 developed, Pardarshee MIS developed, basic marketing materials developed, pilot implementation underway, procedures for undertaking projects through partner NGOs being developed.

### Our Team:

SHIKSHA SANKALP INCORPORATED, USA		SHIKSHA SANKALP FOUNDATION, INDIA	
<b>Mikul Bhatia</b>	IIT Delhi / IIM Ahmedabad / Harvard / World Bank	<b>Gaurav Malhotra</b>	Univ. of Technology Sydney / Mumbai Monorail Project
<b>Baishali Mukherjee</b>	University of Richmond / HSBC / Sapient Corporation	<b>Shekhar Bhatia</b>	IMT / Lawyer Delhi HC / Education and IT Entrepreneur
<b>Sagheer Ahmad</b>	IIT Delhi / Univ. of South California / Nvidia Corp.	<b>Ashok Sharma</b>	PEC / Consultant on Quality and Operational Strategies
<b>Deb Hughes Hallett</b>	Professor at Univ. of Arizona / Harvard Kennedy School	<b>Amit Kumar</b>	IIT Roorkee / Deloitte
<b>R. James Breiding</b>	IMD / Harvard / Rothschild / Templeton / Naissance Capital	<b>Advisory Panel</b>	
<b>Suhail Kassim</b>	BITS Pilani / IIM-A / Tata Admin Services / World Bank	<b>Rajender Kr Bhatia</b>	Delhi Univ. / IIT Delhi / Indian Telecom Service (Retired)
<b>Kalpna Jain</b>	Brandeis Univ. / Harvard / Business Standard / ToI	<b>Sapna Jain</b>	Delhi Univ. / SMU Cox School of Business / AT&T (Dallas)