# Shiksha Sankalp

A Resolve to Educate Every Indian Child

## Shiksha Sankalp Foundation



## Annual Report 2010-11

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# Message from Board of Trustees

Among the many challenges that India faces, perhaps the challenge of lack of effective education for a majority of her children is the most heart rendering. Children from poor families with illiterate parents face critical difficulties in acquiring effective education that would render them under-educated and in turn poor for life – a phenomenon known in economics as "*Intergenerational Transfer of Poverty*". Every child who fails to acquire a minimum level of education today would tomorrow join the large pool of Indian citizens who would be uneducated (or under-educated) and possibly under-skilled and therefore incapable of being adequately employed for life.

On the other hand, the ability of Indian economy to sustain high growth rates in the vicinity of 10 percent per annum is constrained by lack of adequately educated (literate at the very least), trained and skilled manpower. India also continues to lack in human development and other social indices because of lack of awareness on part of families and communities. Politically, the lack of education translates into sub-optimal (and often harmful) voter choices as well as inability to enforce accountability of governance institutions and political representatives. Thus, lack of effective school education lies at the very heart of the multitude of challenges faced by our country.

Shiksha Sankalp Foundation has been formed with the objective of achieving universal school education across India. During the first year of our existence, we have tried to develop an in-depth understanding of the complex barriers that prevent poor families from obtaining effective school education for their children. We understand why nearly half of primary school students in India are unable to read a simple grade-2 text. And why two of every three children in India drop-out of school by middle grades. We find that the inability of poor students to learn has its roots much beyond the quality of education at school. It stems largely from the socio-economic condition of their families. School education is a losing proposition for poor families. It does not make economic sense for poor families to invest time, effort and money into the education of their children.

The challenge of universal and effective school education is important, complex and urgent. At Shiksha Sankalp Foundation we are now developing and piloting solutions that can be easily replicated for spreading effective education to millions of poor children within a short period of time. At the same time, we are imposing the highest standards to transparency and accountability on ourselves to establish greatest level of trust with our donors as well as beneficiaries.

"Shiksha Sankalp" in Sanskrit means "Resolve for Education". Shiksha Sankalp Foundation is our resolve to ensure that every under-privileged child in India achieves age-appropriate level of academic knowledge and skills. And the last one year was just the first step towards achieving our resolve.

-sd-                                    -sd-                                    -sd-
Ashok Sharma                    Shekhar Bhatia                  Gaurav Malhotra
(Founder Trustee)              (Founder Trustee)              (Founder Trustee)

# Progress Report

## Expectations at the Beginning of the Year

We started the year by setting modest but important targets. The first target was to set-up Shiksha Sankalp Foundation as a legal entity. And then to raise corpus funds for initiating our activities. We also decided to hold consultations with education experts and development economists to develop scalable and replicable models for promoting education without ourselves operating schools or tuition centers. Further we set the target of initiating the development of systems, procedures and tools necessary for scaling-up operations going forward. And finally we decided to implement a pilot module to test our ideas. Looking back we find that broadly all the targets for the year have been met.

## Shiksha Sankalp Foundation Registered

Shiksha Sankalp Foundation was registered as a public benefit trust on September 3 2010. The Trust Deed is the defining organizational document that lays down the objectives, roles, responsibilities and basic procedures for Shiksha Sankalp Foundation. The registered office has been set-up in hired premises at A-160, Vikas Puri, New Delhi-110018. A Bank account has been opened with ICICI Bank Prashant Vihar, New Delhi. We also obtained the PAN number from the Income Tax department.

## Corpus Funds Arranged

Initial corpus funds have been arranged through contributions by settlers as property held under trust and donations from Mr. R.K.Bhatia, Mr. Srikumar Tadimalla and Mr. Mikul Bhatia. Our Learning Rewards model has been particularly appreciated by Mr.Mikul Bhatia who has agreed to support the organization through generous funding to the corpus in the initial phase. Information about the donors is provided on page-8 of this Annual Report.

## Consultations held with Experts

Before embarking on implementation activities, the Shiksha Sankalp Foundation team held extensive consultations with education experts and development economists on the Learning Rewards model. Interactions were undertaken with Prof. Lant Pritchett, Prof. Ricardo Haussman and Prof. Joshua Goldman of the Harvard University to share the Learning Rewards model and obtain their feedback. The Learning Rewards model was also discussed with some experts from the World Bank (in their individual capacity), educationists and non-profit practitioners. This has enabled Shiksha Sankalp Foundation to understand what ails education in India and how the challenge has been addressed in other countries.

## Involvement of IIT Delhi and IIT Roorkee Students

College students possess immense energy, creative ideas and the passion to implement. With appropriate guidance their energy can be suitably harnessed towards projects. During the year, Shiksha Sankalp Foundation secured the involvement of students from Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IITD) and Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee (IITR) in its activities. A group of students from IITD students is now helping us prepare our marketing strategy. Another group from IITR is supporting the development of online communication tools. The task of developing a new website has been assigned to an entrepreneurial venture of IITR students called Airzign. The company would undertake this assignment on a commercial basis.

**First Pilot Module Launched**

The first pilot module of Shiksha Sankalp Foundation was started in August 2010 at Indira Camp No.4, Vikas Puri, New Delhi.

*Identification of Target Area*

In order to select the location for our first pilot module, we thoroughly examined ten slum areas in West Delhi. While some of the slums were too large (more than 1300 registered households), some were too politically entrenched and others posed logistical difficulties. We finally selected Indira Camp No.4 in Vikas Puri which offered politically neutral atmosphere, good communal mix (hindus and muslims in roughly equal numbers) and convenient logistics for a total of 341 households.

*Target Area Assessment*

Shiksha Sankalp Foundation team conducted a detailed sample survey (25% sample) of the households in the area. We found that most men in the area are engaged in fish trading, driving, tailoring and other small-time jobs. While some women are working as housemaids in the neighborhood (22%), most of them are not gainfully employed. The average household income is about Rs.4400 per month –which sustains a family of 6-8 members.

Children in the area face a highly constrained academic environment at home. Nearly 60% of fathers and 76% of mothers are illiterate. Not a single parent in our 25% sample was a high school graduate. Parents who are themselves under-educated are incapable of guiding and assisting children in their studies at home.

Dwelling units in the target area are typically single room set-ups of about six feet by eight feet, and caters to a family of 5-6 persons. The room has kitchen set-up in one corner, a single bed, a second-hand refrigerator and usually a television. Children find it extremely difficult to study in the small crowded household.

Almost all children are enrolled at neighboring government (MCD and Sarvodaya) schools – some also in private schools. However, as shown in the graph below, many children are enrolled for classes much below their age appropriate class. For example, while 12 year olds should be ideally in class-8, in this slum area they can be found across all classes from 3 to 8. Similarly, class-6 should ideally have 10 year old students, but in this slum area, it
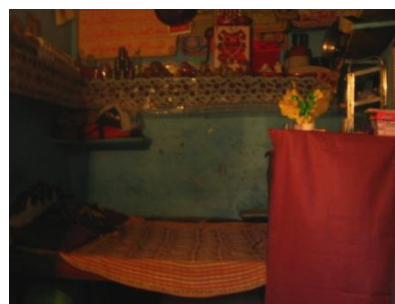

*Slum children pose for a photo in front of Sulabh Shauchalaya (Toilet)*


*A tailor shop in the module area. Tailors typically earn about Rs.2600 per month.*
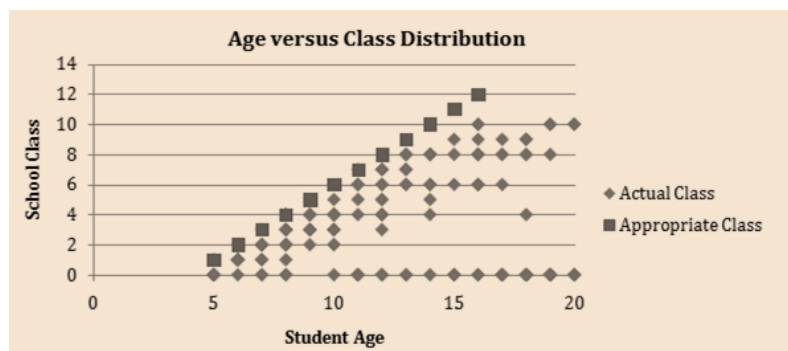

*A typical lane in the slum area*


*Interior of a typical slum household. Usually 6-8 persons live in such a house.*

has students who are anywhere between 10 to 17 year old.


**Age versus Class Distribution**

We also carried out detailed surveys of schools, banks and other NGOs in the area. We interviewed school teachers to understand factors behind poor academic performance of children from the target area. We confirmed that all the necessary documents for verification of identity, address, birth, school enrollment and grade promotion are available with most families in the area. Also, our survey revealed that nearly 23% of mothers in the area already have a bank account and most others were favorable to opening accounts if needed.

*Registration Program for Grade-3*

Having identified the target area, Shiksha Sankalp Foundation initiated a program to support children in Grade-3. This grade was specifically chosen because by Grade-3, children are old enough to participate in academic tests, but not too old to catch-up with the back-log on academic curriculum.

To be eligible for registration, the children should have been enrolled in a government recognized school in Grade-3 and parents should be able to produce a documentary evidence of residing in the target area. The registration process included collecting all basic information about the students, their families, their school performance and the mother's bank account (where available). In several cases the parents did not have the necessary identity documents. Shiksha Sankalp Foundation provided them guidance for obtaining the same. In all 14 students enrolled for the program at the onset, though in subsequent months the number increased to about 50.

*Opening Mothers' Bank Accounts*

Shiksha Sankalp Foundation carried out a mothers' empowerment program, under which mothers of the registered


*Men sitting and relaxing on the outskirts of the slum area.*


*A snack-seller in the slum area*


*Each day the children have to fill-up water from the common tap*


*Some children from the slum*


*A child writes her SAP test*

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students were provided guidance on opening and operating Bank accounts. Our local contact person Mr. Sanjay Sharma, who lives in the same community, assisted several women in opening Bank accounts. Some mothers had to first obtain identity documents such as Election Identity Card before they could open their Bank accounts. In some cases, accounts were opened in the name of the child, with the mother operating the account as the guardian. This has helped empower several women who were so far deprived from access to banking institutions. Later, cash flows from the Learning Rewards model further empowered these women.

*Performance Assessment Program*

Under its Performance Assessment Program, Shiksha Sankalp Foundation conducted the first ever Standardized Academic Performance (SAP) test in September 2010. The test was conducted at Kerala Public School – a private school located at the outskirts of the target area. In all fourteen students appeared for the test. The tests revealed that children knew very little for their grade level. Many of them could not even read and write properly. Tests were conducted for three subjects – English, Hindi and Maths. Each of the test papers was designed to progressively test skills pertaining to grade-1, grade-2 and then grade-3. Therefore, the test score was a direct measure of the grade-appropriate learning that a child had acquired. The pattern of questions in this first test was revised in the subsequent tests and therefore the data from the first test is not comparable with the subsequent tests. This data is not included in the data set provided.

*Learning Rewards Program*

Each student was provided a stipend (called Learning Reward) proportional to his/her performance in the SAP Test. The stipend was transferred into the mother's bank account on a monthly basis. The amount of stipend varied between Rs.100 to Rs.900, depending upon the score, and remained fixed for a period of four months after which the amount was revised based on the performance in the next SAP test. The stipend amount was designed to be sufficient to enable academically weak students to enroll for paid after-school tuition; while for better performing students it was sufficient to cover the fees of local private schools.

During 2010-11, fourteen students benefitted from Learning Rewards. List of beneficiaries is provided on page-10 of this report.


*Children playing by the garbage dump near the slum*


*The first ever SAP test was held in September 2010*


*Students and their families outside the SAP test venue*


*Sap Test in progress*


*SAP Test in progress*

*A glimpse of the Pardarshee MIS system under development*

***Pardarshee MIS System***
In order to ensure systematic adherence to procedures, as well as accountability and transparency, Shiksha Sankalp Foundation has initiated the development of an internet based management information system (MIS) called *Pardarshee*. The system would be accessible to our staff and volunteers working on the Learning Rewards Model, as well as to our donors across the world. Donors would be able to retrieve all pertinent information about the group of students funded by them through password protected login to the Pardarshee system.

# Plans for 2011-12

Just like 2010-11, our targets for the next year remain modest in terms of number of students that we would support. Our objective for 2011-12 would be to deepen the Learning Rewards model by assimilating feedback from pilot operations, strengthen our organizational systems, build the necessary tools and procedures, and expand the pilot implementation. The specific targets we set for ourselves for 2011-12 are as follows:

1.  Secure Tax Exemption for Shiksha Sankalp Foundation under Sections 80G (for donors) and 12A (for the non-profit) of the Income Tax Act.
2.  Expand the pilot at Indira Camp No.4, Vikas Puri, New Delhi to support at least 40 children across grades 3 and 4.
3.  Develop the testing methodology for Grade-4 students which would be needed during the year.
4.  Arrange funding for an additional 30 students which would be added to our pilot operations during the year.
5.  Arrange funding for an additional 50 students who would benefit from the Learning Rewards model in 2012-13. This may be arranged from Indian or foreign sources (Indians settled abroad) if needed.
6.  Complete the development of the new Shiksha Sankalp Foundation website.
7.  Take forward the work on development of the *Pardarshee* Management Information System, incorporating the operational processes of the Learning Rewards model based on the experience of the pilot implementation.
8.  Strengthen the financial management systems at Shiksha Sankalp Foundation through use of Tally or some equivalent software.
9.  Collect systematic data from the pilot implementation to facilitate impact review at a later stage.
10. Expand the network of people interested in Shiksha Sankalp Foundation and the Learning Rewards model through communication and outreach activities.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
*(All figures in Indian Rupees)*

### Balance Sheet as on 31.03.2011

| LIABILITIES | AMOUNT | ASSETS | AMOUNT |
|---|---|---|---|
| Donation for Specific Purpose | 204,300.00 | **Fixed Assets** | - |
| Rent payable | 3,500.00 | **Capital Advance** | 7,500.00 |
| | | **Current Assets and Loans & Advances** | |
| | | Cash in Hand | 172.00 |
| | | Cash at Bank | 158,266.96 |
| | | Deficit during the year | 41,861.04 |
| | **207,800.00** | | **207,800.00** |

### Income and Expenditure Statement
### For the Year Ended 31.03.2011

| EXPENDITURE | AMOUNT | INCOME | AMOUNT |
|---|---|---|---|
| To Scholarship   * | 23,140.00 | Excess of Expenditure over Income | 41,861.04 |
| To Bank Charges   * | 193.04 | | |
| To Printing & Stationary | 1,157.00 | | |
| To Student Exp. | 1,871.00 | | |
| To Honorarium | 12,000.00 | | |
| To Rent | 3,500.00 | | |
| **Total** | **41,861.04** | **Total** | **41,861.04** |

### Sources and Applications of Funds
### For the Year Ended 31.03.2011

| RECEIPTS | AMOUNT | PAYMENTS | AMOUNT |
|---|---|---|---|
| Donation for Specific Purpose | 204,300.00 | By Printing & Stationary | 1,157.00 |
| | | By Scholarship | 23,140.00 |
| | | By Bank Charges | 193.04 |
| | | By Student Exp. | 1,871.00 |
| | | By Honorarium | 12,000.00 |
| | | By Capital Advance | 7,500.00 |
| | | By Cash in Hand | 172.00 |
| | | By Cash at Bank | 158,266.96 |
| **Total** | **204,300.00** | **Total** | **204,300.00** |
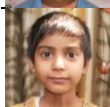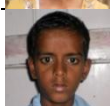
**LIST OF DONORS**

| Name | Address | Amount |
|------|---------|--------|
| Mr. Gaurav Malhotra | K-1/215, New Palam Vihar, Phase-I, Gurgaon-122017, Haryana | 500 |
| Mr. Shekhar Bhatia | A-258, Vikas Puri, New Delhi-110018 | 500 |
| Mr. Ashok Sharma | QU-305A, Chitrakoot MIG Flats, Pitampura, New Delhi-110088 | 10500 |
| Mr. Mikul Bhatia | A-160, Vikas Puri, New Delhi-110018 | 167700 |
| Mr. R.K.Bhatia | A-160, Vikas Puri, New Delhi-110018 | 5100 |
| Mr. Srikumar Tadimalla | 50 M, Shanti Path, Chanakya Puri, New Delhi-110021 | 20000 |
| **TOTAL** | | **204300** |

**LIST OF BENEFECIARIES**

**Indira Camp No.4, Vikas Puri, New Delhi-110018**
**Grade-3**

| | Name | Mother's Name | Father's Name | Address |
|---|---|---|---|---|
|  | Aasim | Nazma | Khalid | H-329 A Indira Camp No 4 Vikas Puri, New Delhi-110018 |
|  | Ajay | Prem Lata | Chogan Lal | 14-Indira Camp No 4 Vikas Puri, New Delhi-110018 |
|  | Ajay Saini | Rita Saini | Ram Jatan Saini | D-167H-153 Indira Camp No 4 Vikas Puri, New Delhi-110018 |
|  | Arjun | Kamlesh | Ram Dass | 17 Block-W167 Indira Camp No 4 Vikas Puri, New Delhi-110018 |
|  | Chand | Samida | Md. Yunus Ansari | W167/29 Indira Camp No 4 Vikas Puri, New Delhi-110018 |
|  | Farzana | Tanu | Roshan | 119 Indira Camp No 4 Vikas Puri, New Delhi-110018 |
|  | Irshad | Zamila Khatoon | Md. Sakir | WZ-58 Indira Camp No 4 Vikas Puri, New Delhi-110018 |
|  | Muskan | Afsana | Sattar Khan | 119 Block-W167 Indira Camp No 4 Vikas Puri, New Delhi-110018 |
|  | Naushad | Zamila Khatoon | Md. Sakir | WZ-58 Indira Camp No 4 Vikas Puri, New Delhi-110018 |
|  | Noor Alam | Zamila Khatoon | Md. Sakir | WZ-58 Indira Camp No 4 Vikas Puri, New Delhi-110018 |
|  | Ram Nivas | Rekha | Suresh | 264 Block 167, Indira Camp No 4 Vikas Puri, New Delhi -110018 |
|  | Razaul | Saalsa Khatoon | Md. Hasib Absari | H146-Indira Camp No 4 Vikas Puri, New Delhi-110018 |
|  | Rukhsar | Roshan Ara | Md. Sultan | 107-Block W 167 Indira Camp No 4 Vikas Puri, New Delhi-110018 |
|  | Umar | Rebun Khatun | Rehmat Ansari | 298 - Block W167 Indira Camp No 4 Vikas Puri, New Delhi-110018 |

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