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| Final Logo_02.jpg | | | | | | **SUPPORT A CHILD’S EDUCATION NOW**  Register at: **www.shikshasankalp.org** | |
| **Bi-monthly E-newsletter** | | **June 2010 (Volume-2)** | | | **Editor: Pooja Bhatia** | | |
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| **PROGRESS UPDATE**   * **Shiksha Sankalp** is now registered in the US as a non-profit corporation based in California. * Application for securing tax exempt status in the US under **Section 501 (c)(3)** will be submitted shortly. * The process of legal registration in India is being initiated. Here we will be known as **Shiksha Sankalp India Education Mission**. * Preparation for **Pilot Interventions** is now underway. First set of pilots to be launched in slums of west Delhi in August 2010. | | | | **PROGRESS IN NUMBERS**  Donor Pledges secured for educating **135** children from poor families.  Till date **54** donors have pledged support for educating poor children. | | |  |
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| primary class students final.jpg  *Photo Courtsey: Ms.Deepa Sankar* | | | **DID YOU KNOW?**  **…that nearly half of the Standard-V children across India are not able to read a Standard-II text?**  Nearly half of the Standard-V children across India are not able to read a Standard-II text and answer simple questions orally. This implies that these children are practically not capable of reading and comprehending simple text. How can India ever become a developed country if half her children remain practically uneducated?  *Source: Annual Status of Education Report, Pratham* | | | | |
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| To support the education of children from poor families, register as a donor at [**www.shikshasankalp.org**](http://www.shikshasankalp.org) | | | | | | | |
| **KNOW MORE ABOUT SHIKSHA SANKALP**  **How will Shiksha Sankalp transform school education for poor in India?**  Shiksha Sankalp has developed a seven pronged strategy to transform school education in India:  **1.** **Leverage the existing network of government and private schools**: At Shiksha Sankalp we believe that opening and operating schools is best left to professional teachers and educationists. Shiksha Sankalp leverages the existing network of schools, while focusing on evaluating academic achievement, monitoring attendance/performance, compensating families for the opportunity cost and providing guidance to poor families regarding their educational choices.  **2.** **Compensate poor families for the high opportunity cost and overheads of education**: Children from poor families provide support at home, tend to younger siblings, help at the farm and do other meager jobs outside to provide additional income to the family. Further, poor families face a harsh choice between urgent daily needs versus spending money on education. Shiksha Sankalp compensates poor families for all these costs, enhances accountability for learning outcomes and makes effective education possible.  **3.** **Strengthen accountability through stringent measurement of learning outcomes**: Absence of accountability for learning outcomes is a critical gap in the current schooling system, especially in rural areas. There is no system of standardized performance evaluation in India in the early classes like most developed countries have. Further, schools in India are not allowed to fail a student till grade-VIII. Students proceed from one grade to another without the commensurate increase in knowledge and skills. Shiksha Sankalp conducts the ***Annual Standardized Academic Performance (ASAP) Test*** for all beneficiaries under the project and provides ***Learning Rewards*** commensurate with performance.  **4.** **Foster the development of markets for supply of education goods and services for the poor**: Shiksha Sankalp enables the emergence of markets for educational goods and services. ***Learning Rewards*** provided by Shiksha Sankalp strengthen the parents’ ability to pay for services such as tuitions and coaching. Entrepreneurs from within the local community as well as NGOs supply such services. Some of the senior students also provide evening tuitions to junior students for a fee. Thus a market for auxiliary educational services develops.  **5.** **Strengthen the role of mothers in education of their children**: Shiksha Sankalp empowers women by mandating bank accounts for them and transferring monthly ***Learning Rewards*** amount into these bank accounts. In addition, Shiksha Sankalp also provides higher *Learning Rewards* to girl students to encourage female education.  **6. Inform and educate parents about education related matters**: Parents of poor students are often illiterate or barely educated, and are unable to guide their children in studies or in making appropriate academic/career choices. Shiksha Sankalp provides information and guidance to poor parents and their wards on important decision pertaining to education.  **7. Leverage donors and volunteers**: Shiksha Sankalp provides a vehicle for donors to support deserving children from poor families, while fostering trust emanating from highest standards of transparency and performance accountability. Shiksha Sankalp also leverages volunteers by allocating tasks commensurate with their educational qualifications and professional experience. | | | | | | | |
| **MEET OUR TEAM MEMBERS** | | | | | | | |
| **Sapna Jain.jpg**  **Sapna Jain** | Sapna is one of the driving forces behind Shiksha Sankalp, constantly exhorting the team to stand-up to our mission and step into hitherto uncharted territory. She is telecom software professional working as a Senior Technical Director at AT&T in Dallas, United States. An alumnus of Miranda House College of Delhi University, Sapna started her professional career as a software programmer with Telecommunication Consultants of India Limited (TCIL) and later with National Institute of Information Technology (NIIT). Later she moved to the United States to work with Sabre Technologies, before joining AT&T in February 2002. | | | | | | |
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