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| Final Logo_02.jpg | | | | | | **SUPPORT A CHILD’S EDUCATION NOW**  Register at: **www.shikshasankalp.org** | |
| **Bi-monthly E-newsletter** | | **April 2010 (Volume-1)** | | | **Editor: Pooja Bhatia** | | |
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| **PROGRESS UPDATE**   * Process for Incorporating ***Shiksha Sankalp USA*** as a non-profit corporation initiated. * Preparation for securing tax exempt status in USA under ***Section 501 (c)(3)*** now underway. * Registration process for ***Shiksha Sankalp India*** being initiated shortly. * Design of an ***internet based transaction platform*** has been initiated. | | | | **PROGRESS IN NUMBERS**  Donor Pledges secured for educating **102** children from poor families.  Till date **45** donors have pledged support for educating poor children. | | |  |
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| **SUPPORT US**  We have set a target of **donor pledges for 300 children by June 2010** in order to launch our pilot projects. You can help us by reaching out to your friends to solicit donor pledges for educating poor children. Funds would be transferred to Shiksha Sankalp only a few months ahead of the launch of pilot projects.  You can also provide **funding for development of an internet based transactional platform** which would foster highest levels of transparency and outcome accountability in our operations. Contact us at [shikshasankalp@gmail.com](mailto:shikshasankalp@gmail.com) to make contributions. | | | | | | | |
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| primary school children final.jpg  *Photo Courtsey: Ms.Deepa Sankar, World Bank* | | | **DID YOU KNOW?**  **…that nearly two of every three children who join school in India drop out by middle school?**  Efforts by the Government over the last decade have pushed the primary school enrollment in India to 96%. However, nearly two of every three children who join school at the primary level drop out by middle school; only one in five children actually complete school; and only one in eight enroll for university education. | | | | |
| Most poor families feel that higher incomes from education would accrue only in distant future, and would require sustained academic achievement. On the other hand, the costs of education including time and effort, educational overheads and opportunity cost of going to school are immediate. Faced with a precarious economic condition, poor families find school education to be a losing game.  *Data Source: DISE 2008-08, Flash Statistics, NUEPA* | | | | | | | |
| **KNOW MORE ABOUT SHIKSHA SANKALP**  **What does Shiksha Sankalp do?**  Shiksha Sankalp promotes education among poorest sections of the Indian society by providing cash incentives to families based on demonstrated academic performance of their school-going children. It leverages support from individual and corporate donors all over the world, based on trust emanating from robust performance evaluation systems and high degree of transparency and accountability.  Shiksha Sankalp conducts independent examination of students’ learning achievements through the Annual Standardized Academic Performance (ASAP) Test. The ASAP test enhances accountability for effective delivery of education by schools as well as effective learning achievement by students. Shiksha Sankalp also awards certificates of academic achievement to students and certificates of teaching excellence to teachers. By enhancing the capacity and willingness to pay, Shiksha Sankalp fosters a market for educational services such as private schools, books, stationary, uniforms, coaching/tuition services etc. The Shiksha Sankalp model empowers women by mandating Bank accounts for mothers and transferring incentive funds directly into such accounts. | | | | | | | |
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| **dhh_color_150x210.jpg** | **SINCERE THANKS**  Our sincere thanks to Prof. Deb Hughes Hallett of University of Arizona (also a senior faculty at Harvard University) who has provided the necessary funding for legal processes for Shiksha Sankalp USA. She has also been very supportive of our efforts right from inception of Shiksha Sankalp. | | | | | | |
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