



ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ Sikshana

- Essential inputs • Infrastructural upgrades
- Enhancing learning levels • Motivation
- Training • Cost-effective, innovative ideas
- Professional management techniques
- Wise deployment of resources
- Improving the environment
- Small efforts → Big results → Lasting change



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Adopting,
empowering
and improving
government
schools





The Sikshana Advantage

In India, 90% of all children between the ages of 5 and 12 go to a government-run school. Only 40% of these children make it beyond Std 7; less than 20% advance beyond Std 10 and even fewer enter any kind of higher learning stream.

Paucity of resources—monetary and human—and lack of adequate motivation almost inevitably make government schools poor in staff, infrastructure and facilities. Any improvement that can be made in the government school system needs to begin here.

The good news is that effecting this change is not as difficult as it would seem. Bring together a dedicated teacher, a motivated child and a good environment for learning and you could ultimately change the face of education. Even in the most economically disadvantaged government school.

With active assistance from the State, Sikshana is doing just that.



What we do

In simple terms, we adopt government schools. Then, working with the existing staff, we set in motion a process of change and upgradation. We have a dedicated team comprising mentors and volunteers, who join us in:

Improving the environment, infrastructure and administration

- Building additional classrooms where space is critical.
- Effecting low cost environmental upgrades.
- Deploying available resources, concentrating on core essentials and avoiding frills.
- Improving efficiency and effectiveness by applying management concepts commonly used in other sectors.
- Providing technology inputs such as PCs and multimedia content.

Enhancing staff spirit and performance

- Holding training and motivational programmes for teachers and staff.
- Adopting modern teaching techniques and aids.
- Deploying additional teachers towards a 'teacher-per-class' norm.

Enhancing student spirit and performance

- Introducing programmes, scholarships and prizes to motivate students.
- Organising a strong library/dictation hour movement.
- Organising sports, cultural events, educational tours and field trips.
- Providing scholarships to deserving students to study through High School.



The difference we have made in schools we adopted...

Before:



After:



Sikshana has been introduced in 49 government primary schools in Bangalore Urban and Kanakapura school zones during the last four academic years. A total of more than 10,000 students in these schools currently benefit from Sikshana—making us one of the top such interventions in the State. Our partners include Asha for Education, Give Foundation, Vibha, Association for India's Development and Charities Aid Foundation.

An example of how a government school can change with Sikshana's involvement*

Before

- Total strength is 220 (Std 7 had 13 students).
- 70% pass the Std 7 open exams. Highest score is 60%.
- Poor reception to Std 7 students from nearby High Schools.
- Community indifferent to the conditions in the school; barely 100 attend the Annual Day at the school.

After

- Total strength goes up to 320 (Std 7 has 35 students).
- All students pass the Std 7 open exams. Highest score is 85%.
- First reverse migration from private schools on merit.
- Significant increase in community participation, marked by an attendance of 800 on the School Day.

*This school was adopted by us in 2003.



We believe...

- Any change we bring about in the educational model has to be from within the system—with the co-operation of the administrators and teachers involved.
- The model that we create has to be sustainable and replicable on a larger scale.
- The child should be the sole focus and beneficiary of our efforts. The child's interests should be served even if the parents or larger community are not responsive or encouraging.
- Our resources should be used solely to improve learning levels of children. All proposals for expenditure are judged against this criterion.
- Children need three things to enhance their learning abilities: good nutrition, adequate physical and emotional space and a dedicated teacher.
- Management concepts used in business and industry are equally applicable to education. Targets should be quantifiable and measurable and should be supported by suitable resources.
- Motivation, training and low-cost environmental upgrades go a long way to improving receptivity, involvement and performance.





What you can do

Our efforts are made possible by generous contributions—financial and in kind—from individuals and organisations. You could contribute in either or both ways:

Through financial contributions

To give you an idea of the difference your money could make:

- Rs 150 a month will see a Std 7 student through High School.
- Rs 500 a month will result in the improvement of the learning levels of 40 students in a class to normal standards.
- Rs 2,000 a month will help us provide an additional teacher.
- Rs 2,000 a year will provide annual prizes for an entire school.
- Rs 80,000 will help build a classroom.

You can send your contributions to:

Sivasri Charitable Trust
B 1103, Brigade Residency
Uttarahalli Road, Bangalore 560 061
Karnataka, INDIA

- Cheques/DDs should be drawn in favour of the Sivasri Charitable Trust.
- Donations are tax deductible under Section 35AC (for corporates and professionals) and Section 80 (G) (for individuals) of the Indian Income Tax Act.
- Sikshana has been audited by Credibility Alliance and KPMG and found to meet international norms for professional management.

Through contributions in kind

This could be products or services that you are in a unique position to give us: furniture, stationery supplies, computer-related items or software of different kinds, books, specialised training, volunteer time in educational or organisational areas... We would be very grateful for any personal involvement you could give us.



Sikshana's promises to you...

1. Every rupee is spent to benefit the child.
2. The "All essentials/no frills" check is tested on every programme we adopt.
3. Half-yearly un-audited accounts will be presented on 7 September and 7 April every year.
4. Our audited accounts for the year will be presented within six weeks of book closure (15 May).
5. Dedicated funds will be used for the specific purposes intended. Periodic feedback will be available through our website.
6. Our website will be constantly updated to keep you informed of Sikshana's progress.

