# Sikshana Foundation



# 2011-12 Annual Report

## **Executive Summary**

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ikshana is a child-centric program, aimed at evolving a sustainable and replicable model for the Public Education System (PES). It recognizes the fact that each school has its own unique problems and these cannot be addressed through template solutions. Short of assuming direct control over the affairs of a school, the only viable option seems to be to assist the schools to acquire the skills necessary for analyzing the problems they face and to come up with appropriate solutions. The schools will need 'handholding' during this phase of development; the assistance includes financial support to the extent of funding the solutions that emerge from their analysis. In the process, Sikshana ensures that they are looked at as facilitators, rather than providers, which effectively shifts the burden of responsibility and ownership of the program to the schools. Under this approach, Sikshana has evolved into a highly decentralized initiative, built around empowerment of the stakeholders. A corollary is that the positive impact achieved is self sustaining to a large extent and long lasting.

Sikshana works with the Government, using its strengths and getting around its weaknesses. Accordingly, it does not venture into areas such as infrastructure which are within the domain of the State; on the other hand it focuses on motivation as the tool of intervention. Operating within this ambit, the program has been able to achieve significant enhancements in the learning levels in the class room at a typical cost of less than Rs 500 per annum per child. Viewed against Rs 10,000 plus that is incurred by the State, Sikshana appears to emerge as a potential contender for the most successful and viable intervention for improving the quality of Education under the PES.

#### We believe that

Government schools have latent capabilities. Our intervention has proved it.

Improvement can be brought out with change in mind set and not merely monetary aid. Our students are a witness to it.

Empowerment of stakeholders and community is the key to successful intervention. Active Parent and teacher committees are a witness to this. A whooping Rs 14,93,120 has been generated by the community for Sikshana activities this year.

Providing right tools at the right time and at the right place has proved to be beneficial to the students and schools. Assessment results reflect the exemplary improvement in the schools adopted by us.

Facilitating schools is the key to sustainability of initiatives.

# Message from the Founder



Sikshana has always had a firm commitment to the Public Education System which it has demonstrated through its dedicated and undiluted support to the State run schools over the last decade. When many other large initiatives have drifted away from schools, opting for a softer program based approach during this period; Sikshana had chosen to stay the course with the schools and kids. In the process it had also laid the foundation for crossing the 1000 mark for the number of schools and 100,000 for the number of students covered by June '12 - a no mean achievement by any standards. The scope of intervention too has been enhanced from Primary to 10th Std in High schools.

The introduction of RTE has now brought about new and unforeseen challenges to the Program. The abolition of PUC and introduction of Higher Secondary schooling with the possible elimination of the SSLC examinations may need a review of the scope of our intervention in the current High School system. We may have to seriously consider reframing our Mission goals too in the process. These changes will no doubt have serious financial and systemic issues to contend with.

Challenges have ever deterred Sikshana from following the path that it has chosen; they have actually brought out the best in us. I am sure we will take the right decisions on this occasion too and face the future successfully. Whatever is the shape that it assumes as a result, I am confident that Sikshana is bound to emerge as a significant factor to contend within the field of Public Education System.

#### **E S Ramamurthy**

#### **Founder Trustee**

# Chairman's message



## **Greetings!**

2011-12 saw Sikshana scaling up its project and reaching new heights. I am glad to say that Sikshana is now reaching out to 75,000 children across 650 schools in three states, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat in India. Our focus remains intact with 'improving learning levels across the grades' as our mission.

It is my privilege and pleasure to reach you through this Annual Report for the financial year 2011-2012 highlighting key events and milestones for Sikshana.

We appreciate the continued faith and support of Sikshana's many donor organizations. The positive impact of programs is a result of the hard work and dedication from all esteemed members of the board, our trustees, mentors and volunteers.

Finally our special appreciation and heartfelt (from our hearts) to the hundreds of teachers who are responsible in making our efforts fruitful.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

## **Prashanth Prakash**

## The year that was...



Sikshana Foundation has been rated among the top three in the Times Social Impact Awards (Sept 2011) instituted by Times of India in partnership with J P Morgan. The recognition is for the demonstrated scalability of the program which has made widespread and tangible impact in the field of education for these children.

In terms of coverage, Sikshana this year adopted three entire taluks / blocks (Kanakapura, Kalghatghi and Hoskote) under the Primary School Program and one entire district (Ramnagar) under the High School Program. Under our outreach program the 15 schools in Bharuch, Gujarat in partnership with Gram Vikas Trust (GVT) continued for the second year. In Andhra Pradesh, we expanded our outreach to 45 schools from 15 with continued support and partnership from Gandhian Organization for Rural Development (GORD). With this the reach of Sikshana went up to 650 schools and over 75,000 children.

This year, the intervention in high school was expanded to cover an entire district, Ramanagara, near Bangalore which was in the 26<sup>th</sup> position among all the 32 districts in the state of Karnataka. With only 9 months of Sikshana's intervention, the district moved up to 9<sup>th</sup> position in the state in the 2012 annual board examination. In the primary schools the continuance of the ASER based assessment has seen a marked improvement with over 85% of the children acquiring the required language and arithmetic skills.

In addition a few specific initiatives were undertaken which will aid in the exit of the Sikshana from the schools. The 30 schools in Harappanahalli taluk near Davanagere was run completely by two mentors guided by the Program Manager with no visit to the

project site from senior management. Also the community mentoring concept was expanded to cover schools / villages in all blocks in Karnataka.

While we are extremely happy with the results of the initiative, we find that there is a lack of academic analysis of our efforts. We are very excited to sign a MOU with University of Pennsylvania, Graduate School of Education, USA who will undertake a 3 year study in order to learn about NGO interventions in Indian education, to help Sikshana develop research inquiry models for mentors, and to articulate the emergent processes by which Sikshana has achieved its school successes thus far. Their goal is to collaboratively produce published work and new methods that will further Sikshana's goal of 'improved education for all in India'.

Prasanna V.R.

CEO

# New Initiatives

**More schools under Sikshana:** Sikshana expanded its coverage from 400 to 650 this year with nearly 75,000 students benefiting from it. The focus was on improving learning levels across the grades.



**Community mentors take the lead:** This year nearly 200 schools were handled by Community mentors. The pilot project which was started last year in 50 schools, has proved to be a very effective initiative and is now being implemented in all the taluks adopted by Sikshana.

# **Focus on community's support and involvement in Sikshana:** Sikshana has time and again realized the importance of the crucia



again realized the importance of the crucial role of community in its initiatives. What started in a small way to encourage the community's participation has today become one of the crucial factors to implement Sikshana's initiatives successfully. This year, Sikshana witnessed the support from the community in the form of funding and physical

support. The parents were encouraged to participate in sports and other recreational activities. This has helped the parents get actively involved in the school activities and appreciate it. The annual magazine 'Sikshana Sinchana' was published with support from the community in Anekal taluk. In some areas, the communities are funding spot prizes and newspapers for their schools, thus rendering support to Sikshana.

## The Outcome

## Performance of Sikshana High Schools

The High School initiative started by Sikshana last year has proved to be a successful initiative and has had a great impact on the performance of schools in the SSLC Board examinations. Mentors' rigorous monitoring and counseling of children to focus on exams and constant support from teachers and schools have proved to be the key factors for the academic success. This "Sikshana's work books and writing sheets have helped the students of government high schools in Ramanagara. This has helped in improving their writing speed during the SSLC exams. The results prove it too."

-Prahalad Gowda, DDPI , Ramanagara

year, many of Sikshana adopted schools have produced exemplary results in SSLC Board examinations.

#### Key highlights

- An outstanding pass percentage in three taluks, which were marked backward in the state. The overall pass percentage in SSLC examinations recorded in three taluks has been 89% in Kanakapura, 85.6% in Ramanagar and 91% in Kalghatagi. The results in Sikshana adopted High schools are on par with some of the leading taluks of Karnataka.
- Sikshana's intervention moves Ramanagar district to top 10 positions in SSLC results in the state. The 103 Government schools adopted by Sikshana, in Ramanagar district have moved to 9<sup>th</sup> position from 26<sup>th</sup> position in the State's SSLC board examination results.
- Schools in the remote taluk of Kalghatagi do well. Three schools out of 15 have recorded 100% pass results in Kalghatagi taluk of Dharwad district.
- **Repeat 100% results in Kanakapura.** Three schools in Kanakapura taluk under Sikshana repeated 100% results in SSLC board examinations.
- Timely intervention and monitoring made several students pass examinations. In Ramanagara district, 1700 students out of the total of 5438

were identified to be at risk of not passing the Board exams this academic year. With timely intervention and rigorous monitoring, the risk group number reduced from 1700 to 971. Further, rigorous efforts from Sikshan team, led to passing of 918 students out of the 971. In Kalghatgi taluk, out of 288 students, who were identified to be at risk of not passing the exams, 204 students passed.

Sl no	Area	No. of Schools	No. of Students	Average % Pass	No. of schools with 100% Pass
1.	Ramanagara district	103	5438	83.6	16
	Channapatna taluk	22	1397	92	6
	Magadi taluk	21	930	80	2
	Kanakapura taluk	34	1681	89	7
	Ramanagar taluk	26	1430	79	1
2.	Dharwad district			1	•
	Kalghatagi taluk	15	918	91	3

#### District wise performance of Sikshana schools in SSLC exams is given below:

#### **Indicators:**

- Sikshana's intervention has proved to be a successful model. Ramanagaram schools have moved ahead in the state's district wise performance of schools in SSLC. It has leaped to 9<sup>th</sup> position from last year's 26<sup>th</sup> position.
- 2. Timely help to students, who were at risk of failing, proves that every child is capable of learning and encouragement and motivation are the only key factors needed to help the child fare better in exams.

"Sikshana's intervention has brought the teachers closer to the students. Assessments carried out in Sikshana schools have revealed tremendous improvement in *learning levels of students.* Nurturing program of Sikshana has proved to be an effective program through which resources such as work sheets, dairies, spot prizes etc., are provided to the schools, which have *improved the learning levels* of students."

-Raghunath Reddy, Block Education Officer, Chikkaballapura

## Performance of Sikshana Primary Schools

Sikshana has been working with primary schools ever since its programs started. Intervention at this level is crucial as the child needs to have certain level of learning abilities to move forward in academics. We have efficiently used the ASER data, which has helped us in determining the overall progress of the children in the schools adopted by Sikshana.

ASER, the quantitative assessment tool (www.asercenter.org), is used to assess the progress of schools. As per ASER, a child studying in class 7 is expected to know how to perform a 2 digit

division and also be able to read Kannada (level 2) fluently.



The

quantitative

indicator (based on the ASER assessment www.asercentre.org) shows that the schools under Sikshana have produced exemplary results, way above the state and national averages. The assessment data collected from 413 higher primary schools under Sikshana intervention is shown below:

ASER Assessment									
Block	No. of Schools	No. of 7 <sup>th</sup> Class students	Arithmetic Skill - two digit division		Lan	Level 2 Local Language Reading			
Anekal	27	530	512	96.6%	451	85.1%			
Chikballapur	39	927	785	84.7%	695	75.0%			
Harapanahalli	26	430	381	88.6%	317	73.7%			
Hoskote	100	1844	1810	98.2%	1673	90.7%			
Kalghatgi	80	1942	1628	83.8%	1332	68.6%			
Kanakapura	122	2293	2250	98.1%	2010	87.7%			
Bangalore	4	62	53	85.5%	49	79.0%			
Hyderabad	15	299	293	98.0%	291	97.3%			
Total	413	8327	7712	92.6%	6818	81.9%			
2011 ASER rep	orted State Ru	ıral Avg.		40.3%		65.8%			
2011 ASER rep	orted National	l Rural Avg.		48.3%		72.4%			

**Indicator:** All primary schools had set a target of ensuring every child in class 7 to be able to perform a 2 digit division and to read age appropriate text in local or mother tongue fluently. The results indicate that the Sikshana schools are well ahead of the state and national averages. This means that no child will step into High School without the basic language and arithmetic skills.

# **Activities 2011-12**

## Sikshana in High Schools

The focus of the high school initiative was to prepare the students for SSLC board examinations and to make them realise the importance of passing the board examinations. Some of the activities undertaken are as follows:

- Monitoring students who are at risk of failing exams: We identified students who were at risk of not clearing the SSLC board exams and brought it to the notice of the school staff and parents for special focus. This helped in understanding the student's issues and making them focus on their academics.
- Parent-teacher interaction: Initiated teacher/principal/headmaster interaction with parents to encourage students to perform well academically. The teachers paid personal visits to the students' houses to identify the problem and encourage them to study well.
- Providing appropriate aids which help students:
- **Spot prizes**: Stationary and oral hygiene products were given away to students who do well in academics. This is done to encourage children to learn.
- Model question papers: Monitored the progress of academically weak students, who were made to answer the Model question papers (question bank compiled over a period of time) on subjects they were not confident of passing.

## Sikshana's

#### Human resource support

- Mentors
- Community mentors
- Para teachers

#### Logistics support

- Stationary
- Spot prizes
- Diaries
- Access to newspapers
- Access to libraries
- Dictionaries
- Laptops

#### **Focus**

- Primary schools
- High schools

#### Interventions are

- Community supported
- Government supported
- Pro-Student
- Teacher friendly
- Empowering youth
- Creating employment in rural areas

- **Solar lanterns**: Distributed solar lanterns to those students who were poor and could not afford power supply facility at homes.
- Workshops for teachers: Conducted workshops for teachers, to efficiently execute their duties and to motivate the students in pursuing higher studies.
- Visits by resource persons: Organised visits by resource persons, to encourage and inspire students to study well and to pursue higher studies.
- Career Counselling sessions: Conducted career counselling sessions to help students understand the diversity in career choices
- Awareness programs for students and teachers:
- Made the students realise that failing in the examinations was not an option and that passing SSLC board exams is a must to either secure a job or pursue higher studies.
- Made the teachers, students and parents realise the importance of hard work and that there was no substitute to it. The results have reiterated the same.
- Linkages with state government bodies: Established a strong linkage with DDPI of the State government. This led to execution of Sikshana's plans without any hindrance.

## Sikshana in Primary Schools

Primary schooling forms a crucial stage in the overall development of the child. The foundation for learning is laid out at this stage and therefore is a crucial stage for the future development of the child. Sikshana has realized the importance of this and has undertaken various initiatives to encourage learning among primary school children.

### Activities to encourage learning

 Delhi tour: Children studying in 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> standard were encouraged to take a quiz competition wherein the winners were given an opportunity to visit Delhi. This process has evoked tremendous response from the children and has enhanced their learning skills.



Delhi trip winners being felicitated in the village

- **Spot prizes:** Each school is provided with prizes, which include stationary and oral hygiene products. They are given to the students by the teachers to encourage them to learn.
- **Sports:** Children are encouraged to participate in sports competitions organized by schools with support from Sikshana team. This helps the child to develop interest in attending school and increases his/her confidence level.

Create baseline rating for all the selected schools: To assess the progress of a child in school, quantitative assessments using ASER tool is conducted in all the schools adopted by Sikshana. The schools are ensuring that every child from a Sikshana primary school will have basic knowledge of language and Maths prior to entering high school.



Tracking the progress in writing ability

A child taking the ASER based assessment

### > Enhancing learning skills by providing appropriate tools

- **Providing writing sheets to the school:** Writing sheets are provided to all the schools and the children are encouraged to do their work using them. This helps them to cultivate the habit of writing, which is lacking in many government schools. This initiative is undertaken by Sikshana to increase the writing speed and improve handwriting of children. This has proved to be very helpful, as the children face difficulties while writing examinations.
- **Providing dairies to record day to day activities:** To maintain a log of the activities at school, children are provided with dairies. This helps them in organizing their work and also aids in assessing their progress in academics.
- Encouraging children to read books from the school libraries: Many schools have libraries but have remained unused while some of them lack libraries. Realising the importance of reading books, Sikshana helped schools in setting up libraries and providing books to children. Visits to libraries, book fairs have helped children develop

interest in books. Children are encouraged to pick their own books for their library, which has aided in increased interest levels in reading among children.

Equipping teachers through training programs: Sikshana mandates the application of Total Quality Management (TQM) concepts by teachers in their schools. In the pursuit of this goal, at least one teacher and the school principal from every school nurtured by Sikshana in Kanakapura, Chikballapur, Anekal, Hoskote, Kalghatagi and Madanapalle blocks get trained on the concepts.



Awareness programs to encourage the process of learning: Mentors and teachers undertake home visits to encourage parents in sending their children to school. The School Development Management Committees (SDMCs) meetings are regularly held to encourage the parent-teacher interaction. This has helped in actively involving the parents in the child's development. Parents are involved in recreational activities too, which helps them understand the activities of school and Sikshana Foundation. This has resulted in parents rendering their support to their children wholeheartedly.

## Stake holders Initiatives

# Our initiative has led to positive response from the communities that we work with.

The following are some of the efforts undertaken by individuals, communities, government bodies and groups in spreading the message of Sikshana:

 Active involvement and support from the government: One of the crucial factors which led



to successful implementation of the programs of Sikshana is the unconditional support from the government bodies and officials. The Block Education Officers and DDPI have been supportive of our programs and have endorsed our initiatives. In Ramanagar, Mr. Prahalad Gowda, the DDPI, has been actively supporting Sikshana's programs as he believes and trusts in Sikshana's methodology. In addition, the Block Education officers of the 4 taluks in Ramanagara too have rendered support in implementing Sikshana's programmes.

- Active involvement of School Development Management Committee (SDMC): Community support and involvement are crucial in implementing programs. Sikshana has been able to muster support and win the confidence of the communities it works with. Sikshana has won the support of SDMCs in the areas it works. SDMCs exist in every government school as a norm, wherein the parents and the school authorities jointly review the school's progress. In Ijoor village, Bidadi taluk, the local SDMC took the initiative of providing 'SSLC Margadarshi' to all the students studying in Ijoor government High School. This has greatly helped the students to do well in their academics.
- Spreading the message 'education, a tool of empowerment': In Thagachageri village, a milk-dairy voluntarily provided dictionaries to students. The dairy owner realised the importance of education and involved himself through this gesture. This reiterates the fact that Sikshana has been able to mobilise and motivate the community through its work and programs.

Involving former students in the school: Sikshana encourages the involvement of alumni in the schools it has adopted. There has been an overwhelming response from several former students of the schools. Some students have supported via financial aid. In Kanakapura, the Government Higher Primary School of Kachuvanahalli was on the verge of a shut down due to lack of teachers. The local mentor was trying hard to muster human and financial resources for the school to avoid it form being shut down. A former student of the school was approached for help his timely financial aid helped in saving the school from closing down. Similarly, a former student of Aralalusandra government school, who is now a successful business entrepreneur in Bangalore, has donated Rs 60,000 towards purchase of dictionaries for his school.

# Voices from the field...

Our intervention of facilitating the schools to realize their goals through our programs have struck a chord with the community, teachers, mentors and the children. We have firmly believed that our model will be sustainable and achievable only if we facilitate the intrinsic latent capabilities.

Today, our Silkshana family has grown in leaps and bounds, with several achievements to its credit. Voices from our teachers, students and other beneficiaries are a testimony to our intervention, which brings us immense joy and satisfaction in what we do. Their expressions have been captured in the form of their voices and photographs.

## **Our Children**



"My handwriting has greatly improved after using the writing sheets provided by Sikshana. I have won spot prizes too for doing well in academics. This makes me feel happy and I will continue to do well in my academics!"

- Deepa Badigera, 6th Std, Govt.Primary School, Kalghatagi

"Three of my friends, who studied hard, were selected for the Delhi tour by Sikshana. I too want get qualified for Delhi tour. I will study very hard to make it to this trip."

- Kumar Saggu Gundre , 6th std, Govt. Higher Primary school,

## Sikshana's intervention helps a 21 year old pass SSLC exam

Meet Venkatesh, a student of Maralawadi Government High School. This 21 year old man successfully passed SSLC exams this year. His teachers had given up on him. Constant fear of failing deterred him from passing exams. He was marred by personal and financial problems. His father died sometime ago and his mother makes a meager living by selling fruits and snacks outside his school.

Venkatesh, attended school on weekdays and worked on weekends as a labourer, earning Rs 200/-, which helped him in buying stationary and other supplies needed for his education. His determination and constant support from Sikshana helped him get through SSLC exams and also pursue arts at pre-university level in Government Junior College, Harohalli.



He had dropped out of school twice when he was young as he had to support his family. This made him repeat several classes. Venkatesh's teachers discouraged him from writing SSLC exams as they thought he would never be able to pass. However, all this changed when Sikshana adopted this school. Constant encouragement and support from mentors, instilled confidence in him. He says, "writing sheets, counseling, work books and special classes organized by Sikshana helped me greatly in my efforts to pass the exams." He now dreams of becoming a police officer or joining army in future.



Venkatesh's mother sells fruits to make a living

## **Our Teachers**

"I consider Sikshana as a boon to economically backward students in this region. Intervention by the Foundation has brought out a sea of change in the schools. Mentors and staff members of this Foundation are very helpful and are co-operative with the teachers." - Ramesh B, Head Master, Higher Primary School, Devikoppa Tanda Hasarambi

"Our students have greatly improved in their reading and writing skills. The Delhi tour and spot prizes have motivated the students to perform well in their academics. Parents are very happy to see this remarkable improvement in their children."

- Geeta Kulkarni, Head master, KGS Dhummawad

"I am very happy with Sikshana's work in Kanakapura schools. Since students are from poor families, the facilities provided by Sikshana are very useful. They are doing a great service."

- Vasantha Rani, Teacher, Kanakapura





## **Parents and Community**



"Thanks to Sikshana's intervention and support from teachers, my daughter Geeta, studying in 3<sup>rd</sup> std, is doing very well in academics. She is able to read Kannada language books prescribed for 10<sup>th</sup> std class. Earlier, she was studying in a private school but was not able to read and write simple sentences. We moved her to Bannikuppe government school this year and we are glad to have done that. I am grateful to Sikshana & its team members."

- Geeta's parents, T. Bannikuppe, Kanakapura

### Active involvement of School Development Management Committee (SDMC)

The School Development Committees are crucial in implementing programs in schools. As the parents of the children are also involved through this committee, the role of SDMC becomes crucial in the successful operations of the school. SDMC have been supporting Sikshana's programs and have helped in running it successfully.

In Ijoor village, Bidadi taluk, the local SDMC took the initiative of providing 'SSLC Margadarshi' to all the students studying in Ijoor government High School. This has greatly helped the students in their academics. Such efforts have come a long way.



## **Our Mentors**

"I have been working with Sikshana for the past one and a half years. I manage 20 high schools in Kanakapura taluk. I wanted my schools to achieve 100% results in SSLC board examinations. Initially I felt it was not possible to achieve it since one of the students was not regular to the school and had low confidence levels. I took it as a challenge and took necessary steps to achieve the same. I interacted with his parents, counseled him and instilled confidence in him. In the end my efforts paid off. My school achieved 100% results in SSLC board exams. I feel happy to have made a difference and thanks to Sikshana for supporting me throughout. "



- Anantharamu, Mentor, Kanakapura



"I like interacting with children and so I joined Sikshana Foundation to do my bit. I have been working with Sikshana for the past 4 years. The students of the schools that I work with have shown remarkable improvement in terms of academics as a well as in developing social skills. I visit schools and motivate children through stories and interesting facts. The children have appreciated this method of teaching. It feels very good when children come back to me asking for more and appreciate my work. I am glad that my efforts are worthy and have made a difference in the schools I work with." - Champa Wali, Mentor, Chikkaballapura "I joined Sikshana one and a half years ago. I work with the high schools in Channapatna Taluk. I chose to work with Sikshana to make a difference in education system in government schools. This year's SSLC results show remarkable progress in the students' academics. I feel glad that my efforts have paid off. All that it takes is to motivate children. This is exactly what I did in my schools. Spending time with them, understanding their problems and motivating them with positive thoughts has led to drastic improvement in the children. I play games with the children, which helps in bonding with them. I undertake motivation classes too, which has helped them in developing confidence and interest in studies. - Sarathi, Mentor, Channapatna Taluk





"I have been working with Sikshana since three years. I work with the primary schools in Kanakapura Taluk. Working with children has given me immense joy. I have tried to make a difference in my schools by effectively using appropriate tools and methods suggested by Sikshana. I involved the parents in school activities by making them give away spot prizes to children. This not only encouraged the children but made them feel proud to receive it from their parents. It has in turn helped in active involvement of the parents. I have effectively used newspapers as a tool to increase the knowledge of the children in my school. Each child is given an opportunity to read the newspaper and write the news stories on the black board. This way, the vocabulary of the children increased and also made them confident in expressing themselves. Thanks to Sikshana for giving me this opportunity.

- Vairamudi, Mentor, Kanakapura Taluk

# Awards & recognition

Sikshana Foundation has been rated among the top three in the Times Social Impact Awards (Sept 2011). Times of India in partnership with J P Morgan have recognized Sikshana Foundation's widespread and tangible impact in the field of education.



The award was given away on the basis of key parameters such as scale, replicability, sustainability, people's participation, innovativeness and promotion of equity. Sikshana is happy to share that a large

number of TOI readers voted for Sikshana, which helped in winning this award.

# Media speak

Several leading vernacular and English newspapers have draw attention to Sikshana's initiatives and highlighted its work. Due to extensive coverage in the media, Siskhana's programs have received a positive response from the people. Here are a few articles which appeared in some of the leading newspapers and magazines.



The work book distribution program organised in Kanakapura schools was covered by the local press. A write up on the same appeared in Vijaya Karnataka, one of the leading newspapers in Karnataka. This was published in the newspaper on 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2011, appreciating the work of Sikshana.

An article focusing on Sikshana's programs and schools appeared in Deccan Herald, one of the leading English newspapers in Karnataka. This article appeared on January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Anedoddi school, located in Kanakapura, found a special mention in the article for its tremendous improvement and Sikshana's efforts.



IN CONVERSATION

## Of the new school



Meet VR Prasana, CEO of Sikhana Foundation, A young and enthusiastic social entrepreneut, he give up a cushing II job in the US to make all for ference in the education sector in India. Today, under his stawardhin, Sikhana Proundation has reached out to over 600 government schools in the states of Kamataka, Andrha Pradesh and Gularat. The schools adopted by Sikhana have shown remarkable eardemic improvement. Students and teachers alike are serious about education as opposed to the bylical substandard government schools. All this was made possible with limely professional support via sustainable models adopted by Sikstana. The participatory approach involving the local community has paid of hich dividends in these schools. Prasanna shares his views on social entrepreneurship with **Poromina Kandi**.

How did Sikshana happen?

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The interview was a part of their coverage on social entrepreneurs, who are making a difference to the society. The interview appeared in their February edition.

A write up on students selected for the Delhi trip appeared in Praja Vani, the Kannada news daily. It appeared on the 24<sup>th</sup> of November 2011. The article highlighted how Ashwini, a student of Government Higher primary school, located in Hatakinala, a remote village of Kalghatagi taluk, made it to the Dlehhi trip with help from Sikshana.



# About Us

## Vision

To evolve a sustainable and replicable model for an effective and decentralized public school system through a holistic approach which includes all the stakeholders- the teachers, students, parents and the community.

## Values

The 3 guiding principles of Sikshana are:

- Keep it collaborative with the State

- Keep it sustainable

- Keep the focus on children's learning levels, happiness and well being

## Mission

To accomplish our vision, we

- Work in collaboration with the State from within the system.
- Share our model, expertise and experience with anyone in a similar space

• Create and adopt methods, systems and techniques that improve learning levels and put these into practice with quantitative targets and time schedules.

## Strategy

- Assume the role of a Facilitator rather than a Provider in the System
- Motivate the schools to set their own goals and work towards achieving them
- Provide the necessary resources for the above in consultation with them
- Equip the staff with the necessary skills and empower them

- Work towards the stakeholders and the State assuming the responsibility for the entire process over a period of time

# **Board of Directors**



*E.S. Ramamurthy* is the Founder - Chief Mentor of the Foundation. He has had a long and distinguished career in industry, culminating in his position as the CEO of a large organisation. Subsequently, Ramamurthy functioned as a Senior Adviser to the Govt. of India for a period, before

taking a decision to become engaged exclusively, and on a full-time basis, with socially productive causes.

*V.R. Prasanna*, Executive Director of the foundation came on board in 2007. Under his stewardship Sikshana has grown from 49 schools to cover over 650 schools in 5 years. Prior to his engagement with Sikshana, he was the Founder CEO of Softrends, Inc USA for 10 years, where he designed Transaction Processing



Software Systems. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from S. J College of Engineering, Mysore and a Master's in Computer Engineering from Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas. After 17 years in USA, Prasanna decided to relocate to India, where he is putting his energy and talent to use in a different area: making a difference in the lives of the less fortunate. This is not a new area for him while in the USA, Prasanna had worked with various NGOs in India. In 2005, he cofounded Pragathi, with a few like-minded individuals in Austin, Texas, with a goal of funding deserving NGO's in India.



**Prashanth Prakash** is the Chairman of the Foundation. He is a partner at Accel Partners, India a venture capital firm based out of the Silicon Valley. He holds a Masters degree in Computer Science from the University of Delaware, USA, and an Undergraduate degree, in Computer Science, from the Bangalore Institute of

Technology, India. He started his career at S3 Technologies USA, a division of GSE systems, building Case Tools for real-time simulations (GemCase). He went on to found VisualReality, a multimedia publishing company. He also founded NetKraft, which grew into one of the leading offshore solutions companies, with a focus on retail and healthcare verticals. NetKraft was subsequently acquired by Texas-based Adea Systems. After a stint as Partner at Erasmic Venture Fund, Prakash became a Partner at Accel., where his focus is on internet, healthcare and retail domains. He serves on the Boards of Kaati Zone, Cnergyis, HolidayIQ and other early stage companies.

*Meenakshi*, the driving force behind Ramamurthy, always believed that giving was more important than receiving. Her viewpoint has only grown stronger, and more concrete, with time. It is worth noting that the foundation was started with her funds—at a time when she could least afford it.





*Srivatsa Krishnaswami* an M.Tech from IIT, Chennai—is senior software professional with a major multinational firm in Bangalore. With a passion for the cause of developing an excellent public education system, he is a strong motivating force behind the Trust and

all its programmes.

*Indira Sharma*, a Post-graduate in Business Administration from the University of Mysore, received State- and University-level awards for her excellent academic performance. She is presently a Vice-President in a large, reputed company, responsible for



marketing its products in a highly competitive environment. She has a strong parallel interest in primary education, to which she devotes considerable effort and time



*A. Balamuralikrishna*, the financial expert in the Sikshana Initiative group, is a highly successful Chartered Accountant, with an extensive practice both in India and abroad. His personal interest in assisting social causes drew him to work with us.

*Ravindra Krishnappa*, is an Angel Investor and Product / Start-up incubation specialist. Currently he is the founder Director, VertEXperts Consulting LLP. Previoiusly he was the Director and Co-Founder of Inatech Infosolutions Pvt. Ltd. and has been in the IT industry for more than two decades. After earning a degree in



Mechanical Engineering, he began his career with Tata Unisys and has worked in the US, UK and Switzerland. He is a regular speaker at seminars and is also on the board of several companies in an advisory capacity. On a personal level, he has a passionate interest in the public education system.



**Dr V.A. Sastry**, Director of RelQ, holds an Electrical Engineering degree from REC Warangal and a PhD in Computer Applications from the University of Waterloo in Canada. Dr Sastry has been credited with the achievement of obtaining an ISO 9001 / TickIT certification for

Infosys Technologies Ltd, Bangalore, at which he was a Director on the Board responsible for quality and productivity. Dr Sastry subscribes to the idea that a healthy mind makes a healthy body and believes this is best achieved through meditation and spiritual cleanliness.

*Dr Ashoka Gurudas*, is a physician by profession. He completed his M.B.B.S. from J.N.M.C. Belgaum, Karnataka University in the year 1981. Subsequently, he acquired a postgraduate specialisation as Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) from Bangalore Medical College. He is



also one of the Promoters of the 15-year-old Bangalore Hospital, South End Circle, Bangalore, highly reputed for its excellent medical facilities and care. In addition to his profession activities, Dr Gurudas has been actively involved in the family business of horticulture, farming and real estate for more than 20 years. In addition to being part of Sikshana he is also the Secretary of Basavanagudi Brahmo Samaj.

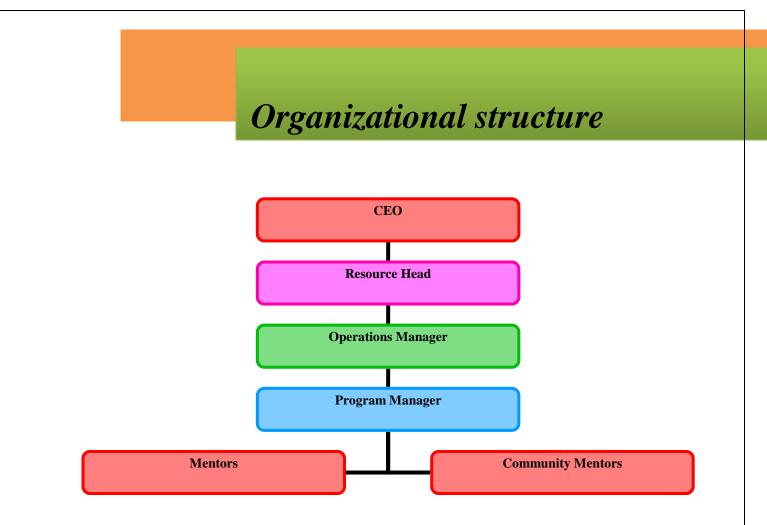


*K. K. Subramaniam ("Subbu")*, is a post-graduate in computer science with a deep interest in designing elegant and reliable system software products. He has over two decades of experience in UNIX/Linux based software in the areas of real-time embedded kernels, device drivers and network stacks. On a personal level, he

has deep commitment to the cause of education in the true sense of the term, and has been studying the subject extensively from academic and technical perspectives.

*Gayathri Parthasarathy (Gai)* is Executive Director, Partner at Accenture. Prior to this she was a senior executive at Capco, Accenture, i-flex solutions. She has a Masters, Mathematics, Physics, Statistics from University of Madras. Her desire to make a difference in the lives of the less fortunate children attracted her to Sikshana.







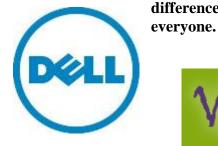
The program is headed by the CEO and is ably assisted by the Program managers and Mentors in the field who are typically in charge of a set of schools / villages. The field team is supported by the back office team in Bangalore and Kanakapura.

Name	Role	Location
Anantharamu	High School Mentor	Kanakapura
Anish Kumar	Resource Head	Bangalore
Arunkantha	Mentor	Kanakapura
Ashwath	Mentor	Anekal
Basavaraj S B	High School Mentor	Kalghatagi
Champa M Wali	Mentor	Chikballapur
Chandana M K	Backoffice Intern	Kanakapura
Chethan	Mentor	Kanakapura
Chetana	IT intern	Bangalore
Chowdappa Hulimani	Mentor	Harapanahalli
Gowri S K	Mentor	Kalghatagi
Kashinatha S.	Mentor	Harapanahalli
Kiran Kumar	Mentor	Kanakapura
Krishna K B	Mentor	Kalghatagi
Murali N	Mentor	Hoskote
Mutharaju	High School Mentor	Kanakapura
Nijaguna Swami	Mentor	Kanakapura
Prasanna V R	CEO	Bangalore
Rajkumar	Operations Manager	Bangalore
Ranjini M	Mentor	Anekal
Roopa B K	Community Mentor	Kanakapura
Sarathi H R,	Manager High School Mentor	Channapatna
Shambuling B	Mentor	Kalghatagi

Naduvinamani	Mentor	Kalghatgi
Sharanappa V Kattimani	Program Manager	North Karnataka
Shivanand M.H	Mentor	Kalghatgi
Shivarudra	Mentor	Hoskote
Siddayya Swami	High School mentor	Magadi
Srikanth D V	High School mentor	Ramanagar
Srinath	Mentor	Chikballapur
Supriya	Programme Coordinator	Bangalore
Suresh Gudadar	Mentor	Kalghatagi
Suresh N	Mentor	Hoskote
Vidya Urs N	Backoffice Intern	Kanakapura
Vishwanatha K S	Program Manager	South Karnataka
Vyramudi	Mentor	Kanakapura

# **Our Partners and Donors**

We appreciate the constant support, encouragement and association of our donors and partners who have helped us achieve our goals. We are very appreciative of the invaluable involvement of many individuals and families. Their support has made a difference in many areas. We offer our gratitude to each and

































# **Financial Data**

# The Numbers in simple terms

Expense	Amount	Percent		
Category				
School	2,05,32,346	73%		
Expenses				
Mentoring	6002787	22%		
Admin	1429488	5%		

The cost per child for the Sikshana program is calculated as the Total Expense by number of children.

Total amount spent for the year 2011-12 = Rs. 2,79,64,621/-

Total number of children

				A/WallB-II/5.691/5			
	10000		RA No. 0944211	86 DATED 9.9.200			
RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR 31,3.2012			R THE YEAR END	DED 31ST MARCH 2012		2012	
vevious Year	RECEIPTS		1999	Previous Year	PAYMENTS		
		Ra	Ra		By Closing Balances:	Rs	Rs
	To Operating Balances:				by Doard Basaces		
	Cash in Hand:			CONSTR-	Cash in Hand	1000	
3,226	General A/c	14,368		14,368	General A/C	788	
668	FORA A/C	317	100000	317	FCRA A/c	11	
3,894	0.00	10000	14,685	14,685		2 N.	7
	722-3752 au 020				Print internal		
Trance	Cash et Bank: Ads Bank General A/c	15,62,874		15.62.874	Cash at Bank: Axis Bank General A/c	23,51,634	
12,15,515	SBH - General A/c	1002			58M General A/c		
6,764	SBH - GHISBLAC	2,003		7,003	Seri - General Arc	7,274 23,58,908	
cereer, ers		and the second s		anterior (	THE REPORT OF TH		
77,000	Axis Bank FCRA A/c	1.39.920		1,39,920	Axis Bank FCRA A/C	2,26,606	
77,000	2000.0000.0000.000.000	1,39,920		1,39,920	and the second second second second	3,25,555	
12,99,279		Developed a	17,09,797	17,09,797			25,85,5
				0.000000023	<ul> <li>A second state of the second stat</li></ul>		
	GENERAL ACCOUNT:	100000		14,00,000	<ul> <li>FIXED DEPOSIT WITH BANK - GENERAL A/C</li> </ul>	-	
1,29,941	Interest on SB arc with Axis Bank	1,02,982		C.C.S. 20/81	and the second	-	
279	Interest on SB a/c with SBM	271	1,53,253		GENERAL ACCOUNT:		
		- manager	1,00,253	1997			-
1,36,01,695	Donations Received	1,31,07,854	_	4,57,601	Administration Expenses	3,66,120	
25,628 1,36,27,324	Asvents & Other Income	100 Contract	1.31,07,854	6,18,435 42,20,848	Scholarship to Students School Program & Evaluation Expenses	47,016 31,36,161	
1,36,27,324			0,31/07/854	16.00,816			
					Computer & Peripheral Maintenance Training, Education Tour & Other Exp.	4,191 30,63,737	
17,210	TDS Collected		43,656	3,51,384 76,650	Shikshima Project	30,63,737	
				14,77,579	DELL IT Project		
	FOREIGN CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED:			38.05,728	Ubrary Project		
14,37,652	ADC Grant	1000 PL000 PL		28,900	Special Protect		
14,17,194	ASHA Southe, U.S.A.	10,24,401		-	Special Project-NOTV	33,44,127	
15,06,141	CN <sup>2</sup>	10,30,701		9,57,337	Mentaring Project	21.16.122	
	Achite Grant	2,00,000		1.	Interest on Car Loan	60,244	
8.10.811	Deshpande Poundation	31,73,920		1,99,302	Website Development Charges	1 P -	
44,529	Global Giving	73,575		1,19,93,764		3,21,37,718	
6,486	Indus Valley of Fox	-					
13.96.458	Monsanto fund	27,26,920 48,73,387			Capital expenditure:		
23,06,679	Quakoren	46,75,387 61,52,817			Purchase of Computers	89,309	
51,63,686 75,999	VIBHA V San	1,54,782			Furchase of Car- Apportioned	61,682	
6,312	Individual Donors	6,486			Purchase of Camera	38,150	
5,272	International Section S	1000	1,94,16,970		Purchase of Printer	18,375	
1.41.75.397			112 11 199 21 12		Purchase of Audio Systems	8 6-1	
				17,210	Payment of IT (TDS)	39,212	
80,960	Interest on SB a/c with AXIS Bank		1,02,117	5,000	Repayment of Car Loan	94,835	1,24,79,31
		1		+		-	
79,401	Collected (T(TDS) Payable		63,945	1,20,15,974			
				1.12.155	<ul> <li>PCRA ACCOUNT:</li> </ul>	10000	
				1,16,400	Scholarship to Students School Program & Evaluation Expenses	2.56.965 1,43,12,518	
				45,000	Training, Education Tour & Other Exp.	1,41,12,518	-
				28,33,860	Mentoring Project	36.95.528	
				Sausadeo	School Building Repairs & Improvement	20112,102	
				5,09,136	Administration Expenses	8,30,841	
				2,26,000	FUEL Project	2,25,493	
				56,720	ADOBE IT Project	-	
				6,830	DELL IT Project Bank Charges		
		-		197	Sank Usarges	1.94,28,257	
					a anomal of IT (TRA)		
		-		74,401	<ul> <li>Payment of IT (TDS)</li> <li>Rental Deposit</li> </ul>	68,396	
		1		1,42,73,109	Concer Patrone		1,94,96,6
				-			
2,94,13,645	TOTAL		3,45,62,277	2,94,13,645	TOTAL		3,45,62,27
Stole	As per Report of even date				The above are trugto the best of our knowled	ge and belief.	112-122-122
Y. 61 2	11 dout			1	al th	Che	mar.
Well Name	Main	-		/	2001	Clayo	luer
11.31	R RAGIWEEDRAN, B.S., F.C.A., DID	Alleren .			- o chief	0.039	
Col	Chartered Accountant Hembership No. 22686 (1983)	(back)			19th	One Even	wite Opline

		od. Office: 8 1103, DTS1642M Regd. PI	CRA No. 0944211	36 DATED 9.9.20	05 IDFr	31ST MARCH 2012		
Previous Year	EXPENDITURE	31.3. Rs	2012 Re	Previous Year		INCOME	31.3. Rs	2012 Rs
	To EXPENSES	153			Bø	INCOMES	142	na
1,19,93,764	· GENERAL ACCOUNT		1,26,95,443	3,735 1.098	•	Interest Accrued on Fixed Deposit I Interest Accrued on Fixed Deposit II	5,135 1,16,870	
1,41,96,788	· FCRA ACCOUNT		1,94,28,257	1,30,180 1,35,003		Interest on 58 A/c Axis Bank & 58M	1,03,253	2,25,30
3,356	· DEPRECIATION ON FIXED ASSETS		4,65,299	1,36,01,696 25,628		Donations Received Awards & Other Income		1,43,28,47
17,65,207	EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		13,93,037	1,62,964 1,41,75,397 90,960 3,838	•	Foreign Contributions Unublated Aveas brought Forward from Last year Addi Recoved during the year Interest on SB arc with ANIS Barre Interest on FO with ANIS Barre Lesse Unutlased funds carried forward to Next	2,24,371 1,94,16,970 1,02,117 5,328 1,97,48,786	
				1,44,23,159 2,24,371 1,41,95,758		year	3,20,529	1,94,28,25
2,79,61,115	TOTAL	-	3 39 82 035	2,79,61,115	-	TOTAL		3,39,82,03
	As per Report of even dete R. BACHAVENDRAN, B.Sc., F.C.A., DICN Charlenal Accountsm	(MOC),					Clar Clar Clar	Morite
	Membership No. 22686 (1983)						. Ciel stress	an com
Place: Bang	Jalore L	Date: 15.06.2012			-	SIVA SRI CHARITABLE TRUST		
		BALA	NCE SHEET AS O	N 31ST MARCH	1 20	12		
Previous Year	LIABILITIES		2012 Rs	Previous Year	-	ASSETS	31.3 Rs	2012 Ra
100000000000000000000000000000000000000		- NS	ria.			ED ASSETS:	00000	158
13,33,190 17,65,207 30,98,397	CAPITAL FUND: Opening Balance Add: Excess of Encome over Expenditure FERA ACCOUNT:	30,98,367 13,93,037	44,91,434	23,087 3,356 23,078	CAS	Depring Belance Aubi: Addition During the year Lass: Depreciation for the year Dosing Balance PLTM HAND:	19,731 16,68,164 4,65,299	12,22,59
2,24,371	Unutilised Funds C/F (Refer FCRA Balance Shoet)		3,20,529	14,368 317 14,685		General A/c FORA A/c	788	2
	CAR LOAN		7,05,165	15,82,874 7,003 15,69,877	- 1	H AT BANK Kais Bank — General A/c 58M — General A/c	23,51,634 7,274 23,58,908	
				1,39,920 1,39,920		Axis Bank FCRA A/c	2,26,606 2,26,906	25,85,5
				73,289 3,735 77,024 14,05,500		Fixed Deposit 1 Adub Interest Accrued for the year	77,024	62,33
				1.000		Fixed Deposit II Adult Interest Accrued for the year	14,01,088 1,05,289	15,06,3
				75,298 3.838 79,134	FDB	ED DEPOSIT WITH BANK FCRA A/c Add: Interest Accrued for the year	79,134 5,328	B4,4
				10,000 845	RET	SHWA FOUNDATION DEPOSIT MTAL DEPOSIT FORA A/C 20ME-TAX DEDUCITED AT SOURCE ICICE (10-11) 20ME-TAX DEDUCITED AT SOURCE AXIS EPAID INSURANCE		9,0 10,0 8 13,0 2,2
					-	TOTAL		55,17,12
33,22,768	TOTAL		55,17,128	33,22,768				
Mind 1 2250	TOTAL As per Report of even date Intian Report of even date As PAR Report of even date Report of even date		55,17,128	33,22,768	1:52	The above are true is inglogery our knowledge	and belief. Club	ana .

# Get involved...

We wouldn't have sailed so far in our mission without support. We still need it to continue in future. Countless individuals and organizations have provided generous services through donations and products, to make Sikshana possible. We are grateful for all the help that we received and welcome any form of support that you can lend. Be a part of our mission in making a difference!

Sikshana model has evolved over time and views a school holistically, encompassing all the key elements; children, teachers, community and government. We have realised that program specific interventions such as 'reading-only' or 'technology input-only' will not suffice. In the current Sikshana model, a school with 120 children typically will need an investment of Rs. 50,000 per annum to make a significant improvement in the learning levels.

Any form of support from individuals/corporate will be beneficial for us in embarking on our journey. For details on how to get involved in our program, visit our website <u>www.sikshana.org</u>

Send in your donations in form of DD/cheques in favour of 'Sivasri Charitable Trust' to our office:
Sikshana Foundation
298/C, 7th Main,
4th Block, Jayanagar,
Bangalore 560 011

All donations made are exempted from income tax under 80(g) of the Income Tax Act.

# Contact Us...

### **Operations Office:**

298/C, 7th Main, 4th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore 560 011 Phone: 080 4121 0762

## **Registered Office:**

B1103 Brigade Residency, Uttarahalli Road, Bangalore 560 061, Karnataka, India

V. R. Prasanna at: Phone: +91 99720 39890 e-mail: prasanna@sikshana.org If you' want to know more about us, contact

E.S. Ramamurthy at: Phone: Landline: +91 80 26931153 Mobile: +91 98806 65003 /

OR