

Deepalaya's Mission

Introduction

If last year was an exploration of where we were, this year has been an exposition of where we are headed. Two of the main focuses have been the Girl Child and the Street and Working Child. The two groups, which are highly marginalized and much talked about, still remain two of the most oppressed groups in the country. It is our intention that within the next few years:

- All of our Programs have an equal participation of both Boys and Girls
- Deepalaya Gram at Gusbethi will house 200 more boys and girls from the streets and unlivable family situations

Vision

A society based on legitimate rights, equity, justice, honesty, social sensitivity and a culture of service, in which all are self-reliant.

Mission Statement

We in Deepalaya commit ourselves to:

- Continue to identify with and work along the economically and socially deprived, the physically and mentally challenged - starting with children, so that they become educated, skilled and aware
- Enable them to be self-reliant and enjoy a healthy, dignified and sustainable quality of life
- And to that end, act as a resource to and collaborate with other agencies – governmental or non-governmental, as well as suitably intervene in policy formulation.

Raising the “Whole Child”

We aren't following traditional educational models, others are following us. This is evident from the success of children such as Komal of class V, shown in the picture, who won an award from the President of India for capturing the picturesque Mughal Garden on paper. Or Chandni of class XIII who won the first prize in an on the spot debate competition at the India Habitat Center. She spoke on “Is the space on earth being properly used or not.” Children at Deepalaya Schools are excelling in contests with their privileged counterparts from public schools. Our mission is not only to encourage traditional academic performance, but also to develop the vocational proficiency, personal character and social values of the children. Our approach is looking at the child as a whole, nurturing every aspect of their existence, and allowing them to sustain their own growth by giving them the options, not leading them down a path we've chosen. To reach this goal we encourage the arts and vocational skills in all our schools, and value student participation in the teaching process. This is producing independent and creative thought, which are sure signs of future leaders who can guide us away from the inequity in the world today.



Foreword



The year 2002-2003 was an eventful one for the universe as a whole. An unwanted war was imposed upon Iraq, overruling the United Nations role in settling issues through internationally accepted norms. The suffering meted out to the innocent people, specially children and women was unprecedented. All this in spite of public opinion against it and demonstrations against the war from all over the world, especially from the developed world.

India continues to suffer from the onslaught of terror nurtured by fundamentalists groups in spite of an extended hand of peace. The Indian Parliament for the third time had to withdraw the Women's Reservation Bill due to male chauvinism and vested interest of coalition politics.

The latest census data indicated a negative sex ratio, increased percentage of female foeticide and infanticide, especially in well-to-do and elite sections of society. This, not out of ignorance or tradition, but out of a prejudiced gender equity approach. The sex determination and the selective foeticide of the girl child are rampant and are only increasing, despite the laws of the land that ban them.

Deepalaya in its strategic planning exercise included gender equity as a major thrust for its involvement. The Mewat project on women's empowerment through self-help groups, micro credit and micro enterprises has become a landmark in the emancipation of women. The reproductive health program, especially among adolescents, is enhancing the dignity of the girl child and women and has enabled not only girls but also parents to take appropriate decisions to prevent child marriages and limit family size.

Deepalaya demonstrated against female foeticide on Girl Child Day in an elite locality of Delhi to bring home the message that girl children have the right to be born and such practices belong to an uncivilized society.

Deepalaya has planned and taken the initial steps to provide for shelter, nurture, education, skill and rehabilitation to girl children in vulnerable sections namely girl children of sex workers, girl children of life convicts etc. A girls' hostel is being established in Deepalaya Gram with the support of the Japanese Government. The program to practice positive discrimination to the girl child and to educate girl children, by providing free tuition and transport is catching up. A large number of girl children are getting enrolled in Deepalaya School, Deepalaya Gram in Mewat, an area where girls are neither counted among the children in the family nor given their rights to education. This has been made possible through the "Nanhi Kali" program of Mahindra Foundation and the organization "To the Heart" corporate social responsibility project of Tele Atlas.

As part of Deepalaya's strategic directions, Uttaranchal State became the choice for Deepalaya to phase in and undertake Rural Development among the marginalized in the newly created hill state. In this Deepalaya would promote "Area Development" in partnership with communities and an NGO, Chirag in Uttaranchal, whose credibility among the Uttaranchalis is very high.

The livelihood sector as part of the Natural Resource Management is getting priority. The traditional handicraft called Chankeri made out of sheaths of wild wheat stem is being promoted as part of efforts reviving the ethnic handicraft form and offer employment during off-season and livelihood, capturing national and international markets and is supported by the Unniti Foundation

This year Deepalaya had the benefit of collaboration with Art for the World, British High Commission, Dewan Foundation, Indian Foundation for Cooperative Development, Latter-Day St. Charities, Foundation Children of Tomorrow, Mahindra Foundation, Namtech Business School, Sapient Corporation, To the Heart, Unniti Foundation, whereas Concern India Foundation, Department of Science and Technology, German Embassy, I.C. Trust, National Institute of Urban Affairs, Maulana Azad Education Fund, Punjab National Bank, Sehgal Foundation and Save the Children Fund, SOSVA, Schlumberger, Sterlite, Wakf Board (Haryana and Punjab), UNICEF, UNESCO and The World Bank have phased out.

Rtn. T.K. Mathew

Secretary & Chief Executive

The Girl Child is the Mother of Any Nation

This year has seen an increased enrollment of girls in Deepalaya schools and exponential growth for the Women's Self Help Groups (SHG's) of the Mewat Region. We reluctantly accept boys at the Deepalaya schools because we want to close the gap in the enrollment rates. To empower the girl child to become a leader in her community is difficult as in slum communities it is the

prevailing belief that educating a girl child will bring no financial gain for the family. We are constantly organizing awareness programs to debunk this myth and show that to educate a boy is to educate an individual, to educate a girl is to educate a family. In our own organization we are working earnestly at addressing gender bias and building the capacity of our female employees.

Gender Equity



Update on Tavru

Tavru is a block in Harayana on the way from Delhi to Jaipur. Our SHG program has enabled the women of the region to strive for economic independence and an increased standard of living through careful saving and micro-enterprises.

Statistic	'01-'02	'02-'03	% Increase
Total SHG Savings	7.6*	14.1*	86%
Total Amount of Loans	1.5*	3.9*	271%
Interest Collected	0.4*	1.9*	370%
MDA Matching Grants	0.13*	4.4*	3300%
Matching Grants	2.0	60	2900%
MDA SHG Dev Fund	0.06*	3.7*	6120%

* In Lakhs of Rupees (100,000 - approx. \$2,200)

Achievements

- Our Staff is 51% Male and 49% Female, well above the national average.
- Vocational Training programs provided for 1025 girls, giving them independence, both financial and professional.
- Enrollment of girls in Deepalaya schools has increased from 12% in 1979 to nearly 50% today!
- Semi-Annual Gender Equity Workshops held for Deepalaya Staff.
- Implemented strong strategies at poverty reduction among girls in high-risk areas, providing educational services, gender awareness training (for men and boys as well), and vocational training with the participation of the community.

Girls Demonstrate against female foeticide

On the occasion of Girl Child Day on 24th September 2002, Deepalaya organized a silent demonstration by a thousand girl children to protest against the growing cases of female foeticide (the killing of female foetuses) in Delhi. They carried black banners and black placards and wore black ribbons to underline their message.

The demonstration was near the posh South Delhi colony Hauz Khas. According to recently released figures of the National Census of India, this colony shows the lowest sex ratio of the Capital with only 841 females per 1000 males! Female

foeticide is thought to be one of the main reasons for this.

Renowned social activist Ms Nafisa Ali attended the demonstration and had a dialogue with many of the girls present. Reporters from all the major national newspapers and television channels covered the protest Deepalaya school girls made their point clear on their banner.



From a Little Girl to an Upright Woman – Metamorphosis, Book on Girl Children

It was busy in the Lecture Hall of the India International Centre, on the night of 12th September 2002. Dozens of people had come to attend the release of the book “From a Little Girl to an Upright Woman – Metamorphosis!” by Justice J.S. Varma, Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission.

The book is the result of a seminar that Deepalaya had organized in October 2001 on Girl Child Education and Empowerment. The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) supported the seminar and the book. The book gives a unique and comprehensive overview of the status of girl children and women in present-day India. From a wide range of professional angles, the book shows that this status has remained pathetically low.

It is clear that we need a big change in the Indian male psyche to create equal opportunities for women. To achieve this change we should address social, educational, legal, organizational, religious, cultural and political issues - all of them. Only by such a holistic approach we can actually change the deep-rooted discrimination. That is why Deepalaya is promoting this approach in its Gender Equity Program.



Nanhi Kali Rural Girl Child Education Project

‘Nanhi Kali’ means tiny bud. It is the name of the K.C. Mahindra Education Trust project whose aim is to provide primary education to the under-privileged girl child. In December 2002 Deepalaya was chosen as a partner to nurture these fragile flowers at our village school in Gusbethi,

Hararyana. The Trust is sponsoring 100 Girl Children from the economically deprived and socially backward region of Mewat to receive education at the Deepalaya School for at least the next three years. This grant provides the girls with a modern education rivaling public schools, all of their school

materials, and the administrative costs of the school. What makes this project extremely significant is the area in which it is being executed. The Mewat region is marked with extremely low literacy and independence for girls and women. Without this resource it is quite possible that none of these girls would have

passed a 5th grade education from the government school. Now they have a chance to have a say in their lives, their families’ lives, and the future of the community. A warm round of thunder for the generous rain of K.C. Mahindra Foundation!

Did You Know?

‘The non-market rate of return on education for girls is much higher than for the boys. Every rupee of primary education spent on girls will generate more non-market benefits - healthier children, birth control and the like.’

World Bank Report ‘Primary Education in India’ (Outlook, 14th May 1997)

Empirical studies show there is an inverse relationship between infant mortality and female literacy. If female literacy increases, infant mortality rate decreases.’

Nobel laureate Professor Amartya Sen, The Statesman, 15th November 2001



Sharon Lowen



**World Famous Odissi
Dancer on Deepalaya’s
Work with Girl Children**

“Deepalaya is an institution that wisely puts girl child development as a core priority and puts it into clear action. They deeply understand that education and confidence building in the girl child will result in the most comprehensive upliftment of economic, health and social wellbeing of the next generation. Today’s girl is tomorrow’s woman, and through her, the home and community will be empowered.”

Education

Kids of Deepalaya growing without bounds



In line with our mission of providing universal education we are working alongside government schools to build their capacity and increase community involvement. We are also establishing a series of links with international schools, so as to expose our children to other cultures and ideas. Through these initiatives we are not only teaching the lessons of academia, we are teaching the lessons of life skills to children who are fighters indeed, not ready to accept the life our society has written for them. They truly are the motivating force behind everything. They are called the recipients, but truly it is everyone who receives.

Achievements

- Partnerships with 11 new organizations
- Vocational training was provided to 1706 students in the areas of beauty culture, electronics, electrical, computers, dress making and secretarial skills.
- Remedial Education Classes were provided to 3375 students in 7 projects, giving formal as well as non-formal students a chance to get ahead.
- Deepalaya students competed in various competitions with counterparts from private and government schools, placing themselves among the top in many categories.

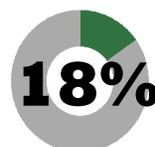
Micro Planning With Government Schools

As part of Deepalaya's long-term goals to attain universal education and overall qualitative improvements in Government run schools, we are working with 16 MCD schools. Our plan is to establish cordial relationship with these schools which allows us to organize parents and community members into "pressure groups" who can work with teachers and administrators to establish goals and demand educational excellence from the system. We then link them with government and non-government bodies to provide facilities such as libraries, playgrounds, toilets, drinking water. We also are building the capacity of teachers through trainings and providing students with remedial education; fostering their confidence and creativity.

Students			
Activity	Male	Female	Total
Formal School	999	731	1730
Pre School	990	859	1849
Non Formal Education	528	477	1005
Remedial Education	1862	1513	3375
Micro Planning with Municipal Schools	8722	6624	15346



Neha, is a Deepalaya alumni, currently pursuing her M Com (IInd year) from Delhi University. She studied in Deepalaya till VIIIth grade and completed her senior secondary from a private school with the sponsorship support of Deepalaya. (Deepalaya was not conducting classes beyond 8th grade at that time). Her father has a tea stall and her mother is a housewife. Neha has completed a certificate course in Computer Applications, Advanced Diploma in Computer Software Technology, Computer Hardware training from Deepalaya and has stood first in her batch with 75.5% marks. According to Neha, "My entire family has benefited from this association with Deepalaya. By serving thousands of children through education, health and other facilities, the organisation is extending a helping hand to deprived communities. Deepalaya is a second home for me... the love and affection that I have got from my teachers cannot be stated in words. Deepalaya means the 'Abode of light'. We are its little lamps with bright rays. In the future I would like to take up a banking job. It's my earnest wish to sponsor a child at Deepalaya as I myself have been sponsored by someone"



Community Contribution Meter

■ Community Support 2,524,943/-
 ■ Deepalaya Funding 14,075,737/-

Our Stance: Prevention is the first cure.

As usual, this year also we strongly focussed on preventive health care. Preventive care includes education about issues like sanitation, family planning and reproductive health as well as services such as pre and post natal care, immunizations, eye checkups and dentistry for those who do not have knowledge or access. By targeting potential health hazards before they become a threat to life and livelihood, the strength of the community is fortified, and development can continue.



Achievements

- Training for adolescents and young married couples on topics like Reproductive Tract Infections / Sexually Transmitted Infections, HIV/AIDS, and various contraception methods.
- 129 Awareness Programs conducted by way of plays, magic shows, rallies, films and more.
- Indian Systems of Medicines clinics (including Ayurveda, Homeopathy and Unani) provided consultation to 8996 people.
- Health Care / Health Education Services provided to 46979 people.

Reproductive and Child Health Services

Infant mortality and poor post-partum care are major problems in our country. In line with our mission of giving every child a chance to succeed, we are providing them and their families with the education, immunizations and counseling they need to make it through those important first years.

Activities	Male	Female	Total
Primary Immunization	926	1321	2247
Pulse Polio Immunization	9110	8738	17848
Healthy Baby Contest	306	409	715
Pre & Post Natal Care		1008	1008
T.T. Immunization		286	286
Referrals To Hospitals	85	201	286
Total	10427	11963	22390

Daru Bandh Campaign a Success!

For the residents of Bissar Akbarpur, a village in Harayana about 100 kilometers from Delhi, happy days are here again. Total prohibition or Daru Bandh Abhiyan has been introduced in the village, thanks to the efforts of Deepalaya.

With a mixed population of Ahirs and Dalits (outcastes), the village faced severe social and health problems due to excessive drinking. Deepalaya developed self-help groups, empowering the women, and ensuring economic self-reliance.

Around 160 women from these self-help groups joined the Daru Bandh movement. Many of them participate in Deepalaya initiated income generation programs. The women's groups are now collectively opposing social oppressors in the village.

With the full support of the sarpanch (headman) Shri. Rattan Singh, a group of 25 youths, regularly make rounds of the village, fining anywhere between Rs 250 to 500/- for drinking. The funds collected are used for welfare projects within the village. "It was a big challenge reasoning with the men folk who are habituated to drinking. The women demonstrated great leadership and collective strength as they were the most affected by alcoholism," said Ms. Rajshree Thakur, Project Coordinator, Deepalaya.



Mainstreaming Differently Able

Achievements

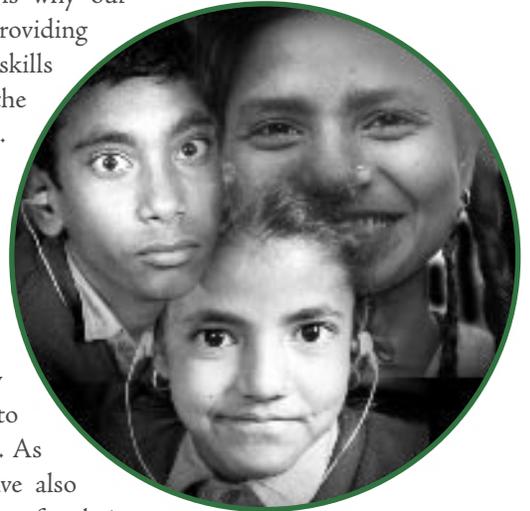
- Mobility aids worth Rs. 89,040/- provided to the differently abled.
- We have exceeded the government regulation on hiring of disabled persons by 100%.
- Since the inception of the Special Project in 1994, 656 disabled people have received our multiple services.
- This year, we identified 200 people with disabling conditions by conducting 19 surveys in 9 different locations. Of these 200, 126 are physically challenged and have been assessed by our occupational therapist.

Update

Enabling the Abilities of Everyone

You like your independence, right? So do those who are physically and mentally challenged. That is why our focus is on providing mobility aids and skills training for the differently abled.

We want to allow them to develop their potential, not be lost in the perceptions of others who would try to deny their significance to society and culture. As in the past, we have also been actively lobbying for their rights to access public buildings as a right of a citizen.



Youth Club Brings Hope, Empowerment

A Youth Club, exclusively for differently abled girls began functioning in Sanjay Colony (South Delhi) in April 2002. The eight members of this group

are involved in education, training and income generation activities.

The group was formed to help the young, adolescent handicapped girls in the community develop self-confidence, channelize their energies and make optimum use of their time to pursue a gainful occupation. Of the eight members, six are polio afflicted and two mentally challenged.

The group meets every afternoon and learns to weave carpets, make bags and table mats using raw materials easily available in the community. Responsibilities are assigned depending upon the mental level of the children. They also learn to make snacks and savories once a week and also try different hairstyles or personal grooming styles once a month.

Daily interactions with each other have improved their social skills. In addition they are learning about money and time management, banking and post office skills and also work ethics. Educational tours and outings are organized to help enhance learning.

Today, the carpets are regularly marketed in the community and to Deepalaya contacts. "We want more and more people to purchase our products, we can also contribute to our families and make better use of our lives", says Soni a member of the group.

Institutional Care For the Vulnerable

Update

Come Share in Vision of Deepalaya Gram

The brightest star of this year's success is Deepalaya Gram, which is quickly becoming a haven of opportunity for the children of unfortunate circumstances forced to work or live on the streets. We are providing these children with educational opportunities greater than that of many public schools.

By receiving quality education and a loving environment, the children are learning that they matter, a fact they had never heard before. Armed with purpose and self-respect they will become influential in addressing the societal woes they were forced to endure.



The Program Motivation

- 1) Due to family conflicts and poverty, thousands of children run away from home and end up in Delhi. They do not have any support from their family and their future is highly uncertain.
- 2) There is no adequate institutional care in Delhi for highly mentally challenged children of poor parents.
- 3) Many aged people from poor backgrounds suffer from loneliness and feel abandoned by their children.

In Deepalaya Gram, a project site in the village of Gusbethi (Tavru Block, Haryana), all these three issues are being tackled. Last year, the formal school was built in generous partnership with the Maulana Azad Education Fund, and the Edukans Foundation. To The Heart Foundation (Belgium) supports the recurring expenses of the School and Latter Day's Saint

Charities has helped furnish the School and the hostel for runaway boys. The Technical Education Centre has been constructed with the help of the Japanese Embassy and has been equipped by the Edukans Foundation. The Japanese Embassy has committed assistance for a hostel for runaway girls and girl children of sex workers and life convicts. We are not

only providing for children who are homeless and working at the railway stations, bus terminals and other undesirable locations, but also for children from the local villages. We are also helping the community in Tavru, organizing them into self-help groups.



Alphonsa: The Warmest Warden

Alphonsa Augustine is the 'Warden' at the Transit Home at Ghusbethi. Does that give the impression of a stern disciplinarian? On the contrary Alphonsa is a soft-spoken, loving "mummy / didi" whom children love to be with. She has been at Ghusbethi since October 2002. What prompted her to be with the runaways and destitute and that too away from urban surroundings? "My parents tell me that as a child I was always reaching out to those who did not

have enough. As far as I can recall, it makes me happy to share with others. These children have nothing to call their own. The harsh experience at home and the miserable life they have lived on the platforms has made them totally lose out on the essence of childhood. I want to change that situation."

Currently pursuing her graduation, Alphonsa also teaches music and dance to the children. "They are all full of talent and energy and wanting to learn so much. And I want to make the most of my life in getting them all back on the right track." Her prescription for that is "a lot of love and affection tempered with a pinch of discipline".

Fundraising & Communications

Hitting the Streets, Looking For Support

The Direct Dialogue Program was launched in July last year. It is an innovative program where recruiters go onto the streets and conduct face-to-face fundraising. The recruiters visit high profile market places, office complexes, and entertainment areas trying to convince people to extend support to Deepalaya.

The support comes in the form

of a mandate in which the individual commits a donation to Deepalaya either through a credit card payment or a direct Bank debit.

The program is still in its infancy and has not yet reached a break-even point. We have recruited more than 500 donors and have had the opportunity of reaching out to over 2000 people.

Achievements

- Corporate Tie-ups resulted in Rs. 700,000 worth of donations
- 344 new child sponsorships. New sponsorship schemes introduced for the Girl Child, the Disabled Child, and the Street Child and solely to Educate a Child.

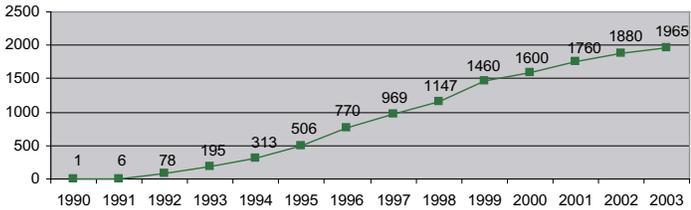
Sponsorships

“Sponsorship at Deepalaya means helping poor children study. It is nice to mention that my family is able to do that. We have been receiving regular reports about Pratima and Umesh and I have always wanted to meet them. Today I am very happy to see them. Deepalaya is giving them an opportunity to come up and I am glad my parents decided to support the organization.”

-Supraja, a sponsor



Sponsorships By Year



Year	Sponsorships
1990	1
1991	6
1992	78
1993	195
1994	313
1995	506
1996	770
1997	969
1998	1147
1999	1460
2000	1600
2001	1760
2002	1880
2003	1965

Fundraising

Type of Donation	Amount	% of Total
Direct Mail	465,354	4.75%
Greeting Card Sales	161,334	1.65%
Donation Boxes	199,840	2.04%
Events	77,786	0.79%
Advertisements	117,700	1.20%
Direct Dialogue	319,160	3.26%
From Other Sources	676,299	6.90%
General Donations	2,017,473	20.59%
Corpus Fund	1,014,932	10.36%
Street & Working Children Project	172,554	1.76%
Health Programs	220,638	2.25%
Girl Child Education	56,917	0.58%
Disability Project	137,511	1.40%
Specific Donations	1,602,552	16.36%
Gifts	40,817	0.42%
Sponsorships	6,137,469	62.64%
Total	9,798,311	100.00%

✱ Funds raised for specific projects (Rs. 4,406,588) are not included