



# Diksha Foundation

## ANNUAL REPORT

2013-2014







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# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE & TEAM



As an organization, we have been striving to co-create learning journey of children. Our students build and strengthen their capacities to cope up with life's challenges; to make efforts and actualize their greatest potentials. We through our transformative co-learning spaces pledge to be a companion in their learning journey. Our strength lies in the community we cater to. This year we witnessed greater participation from parents and strengthened leadership abilities in our children with effective functioning of children parliament and open house meetings.

The donations made to us are now exempted under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act, Government of India. It not only adds to accountability and transparency but will also benefit our generous donors who support us. We reached out to more people.

This year also we partnered to conduct "The IGNITE Campaign" being organised by National Innovation Foundation. Nidhi Gupta received the Ignite National Award from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, the Former President of India in a ceremony at Ahmedabad. She is from Muzaffarpur and is 13 years old.

At our Maadhyam centre in Delhi, children learn without fear. It is a vibrant and violence free space for the children of Kusumpur. We continue to work on our school redevelopment programs, Prarabdh, to facilitate the learning journeys of our

students and offer school facilities that are usually unavailable in rural schools in India. We are especially thankful to our partners Alok Charitable trust.

Through the UnManifesto campaign, we endeavoured to change the negative perceptions or inhibitions youth harboured about politics among youth. It is a journey for transforming youths who are the future of our upcoming society, and we were associated in the campaign "Youth Unmanifesto" with the support of Pravah & Youth Collective.

It brings us joy to share our work with you. This year we put relentless efforts towards creating open, accessible and non-violent spaces, bridging digital divide and enhancing creativity in our programs. It has been satisfying to see each of our learner's journeys in creation. We are on a joy ride and hope to spread happiness.

- *Diksha Team*

## Vibrant Open Spaces

We are working to create open, accessible and non-violent classrooms. Children are encouraged to fearlessly ask questions and seek answers. Our classes are happy, cheerful and filled with the creations of children. Each day at Diksha a teacher and a student reverse their roles and break stereotypes. Our students and teachers are co-creators of each others learning journey. We are putting a lot of our efforts and thought into building the physical and psychological aspects of our learning spaces.

## Bridging the digital divide

We have been working to bridge digital divide by introducing Information and communication technological tools for our young learners. Both students from rural and urban communities need access to, and need to be comfortable with new kinds of technologies. We are working to increase access to open source information to make up for the lack of traditional learning support to effectively break out of the poverty cycle.



## Being creative

The hallmark of our children is their ability to think out of the box, express boldly how they view the world around them together with our children we bring a lot of creativity in our programs. It has been a rewarding aspect of our work.

## Promoting volunteerism

We have engaged with people from diverse backgrounds to nurture the spirit of volunteerism. It has enabled our volunteers to move out of their comfort zones and learn with our communities.

# ORGANIZATION CULTURE



We maintain an open culture and everyone is a contributor and comfortable to sharing ideas and opinions. In our weekly meetings over a cup of tea, we all ask questions and seek answers irrespective of brackets and tags. Our place is designed to encourage interactions across teams, to spark conversation about work and more.

At Diksha, we communicate without barriers in an un-ranked environment and have an eye for innovation and creativity. With the right balance between freedom and self-discipline we treat one another with equality, openness and work towards a shared vision of holistic education for all.

This year in our classroom children discussed over choosing between the Panchayat System as Bal Panchayat or the Parliamentary system as Bal Sansad.

This year on 5th of September, votes were casted by 96 children in the presence of teacher and student observers. Children constituted as Bal Sansad with ministerial setup. It includes the leader as Prime Minister, the deputy Prime Minister, Drinking Water Minister, Arts Minister, Sanitation Minister, Health Minister, Tree Plantation Minister, Sports minister, Discipline Minister and Education Minister. It will instil democratic values and love for working towards a shared vision.



Library  
through years children open inside  
Foundation  
examination slum National school Patna campaign set groups Events  
IGNITE  
working now give initiative girl low Diksha holistic access make  
books Pradesh KHEL lot digital House New Training latest UnManifesto  
hygiene organised Health based focus about Uttar schools journey  
communities India Science medium youth one written  
Day under learners Last being issues oral towards held  
lives like creative support education world Parent  
teachers support creativity inculcating build rural  
innovative Alok environment community

**"Woh raat bhar parhai nahi karti hain, jaldi so jaati hain"**

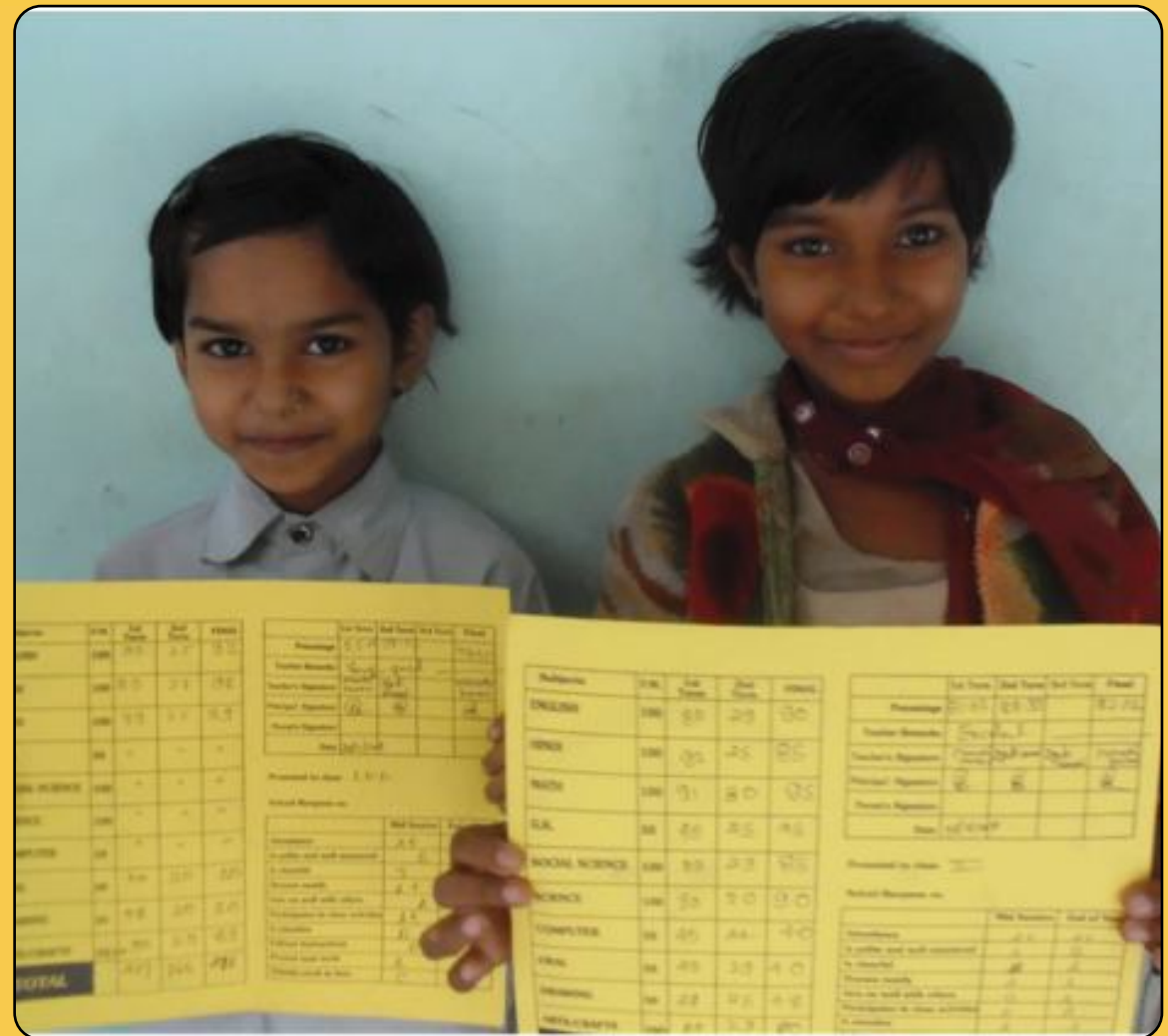
( She does not study through the night and goes off to sleep early )

**"Good Results!! Good Going !!**

Two little sisters Priyanka (left, in a white dress) & Rani (right) display their awesome report cards.

They are both students at our KHEL Centre an after school programme offering supplementary education and creative learning.

Priyanka was a little upset that her elder sister came only 2nd in her Class. She complained "Woh raat bhar parhai nahi karti hain, jaldi so jaati hain " (she does not study through the night and goes off to sleep early).





# SHIFTING LANDSCAPE



We have enjoyed every bit of this. However, the pressing issues were resolved with patience, hard work and great care. Our relationship with the communities has deepened over time. This year we witnessed greater participation from parents during our parent- teacher meetings and community visits. We also saw greater participation and better leadership abilities from children with the start and functioning of children parliament and open house meetings. We have been putting our efforts and striving to make our processes transparent and accountable.

# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

<b>Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st March, 2014</b>			
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Amount Rs.</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Amount Rs.</b>
By Salary and Honorarium	714,162.00	By Donation and Contribution from members and others	500,810.00
" Centre/Office Rent	65,000.00	" <b>Grant in Aid</b>	
" Accounting Charges	25,000.00	Received from Alok charitable Trust	530,062.00
" Bank Charges	1,685.40	National Innovation Foundation	110,222.00
" Miscellaneous Expenses	9,543.00	Received from Pravah	76,041.00
" Travelling Expenses	147,723.50	Received from Smile Foundation	58,840.00
" Telephone, Mobile and Internet	51,769.00	" <b>Grant Aid Receivable</b>	
" Postage and Courier	6,277.00	Receivable from Alok Charitable trust	153,774.00
" Repair and Maintenance	64,812.00	Receivable from NIF Ahmedabad	99,000.00
" Festival and Cultural expenses	12,339.00	Receivable from Smile Foundation	30,160.00
" Newspaper and Periodicals	3,884.00	" Received from Student(Stakeholders)	2,550.00
" Office Expenses	10,749.00		11,875.00
" Electricity Bill	8,469.00	" Bank Interest	
" Nutrition	56,000.00		
" Extra Activities	10,304.00		
" Expense on Award Function	15,635.00		
" Website Expenses	5,649.00		
" Printing and Stationary	67,288.00		
" Legal Expenses	18,000.00		
" Fooding and Accomodation Expenses	12,000.00		
" Paid to Smile Foundation	60,000.00		
" Project Allowance	22,100.00		
" Consultancy Charges	5,000.00		
" Donation	15,750.00		
" Training and Other Programme	14,037.00		
" Expenses(Madhyam Centre)	36,000.00		
" Meeting Expenses	1,000.00		
" Audit Fees	5,000.00		
" Depreciation	76,930.00		
" Excess of income over Expenditure transferred to Balance Sheet	31,228.10		
	<b>1,573,334.00</b>		<b>1,573,334.00</b>

# PROJECT UPDATES

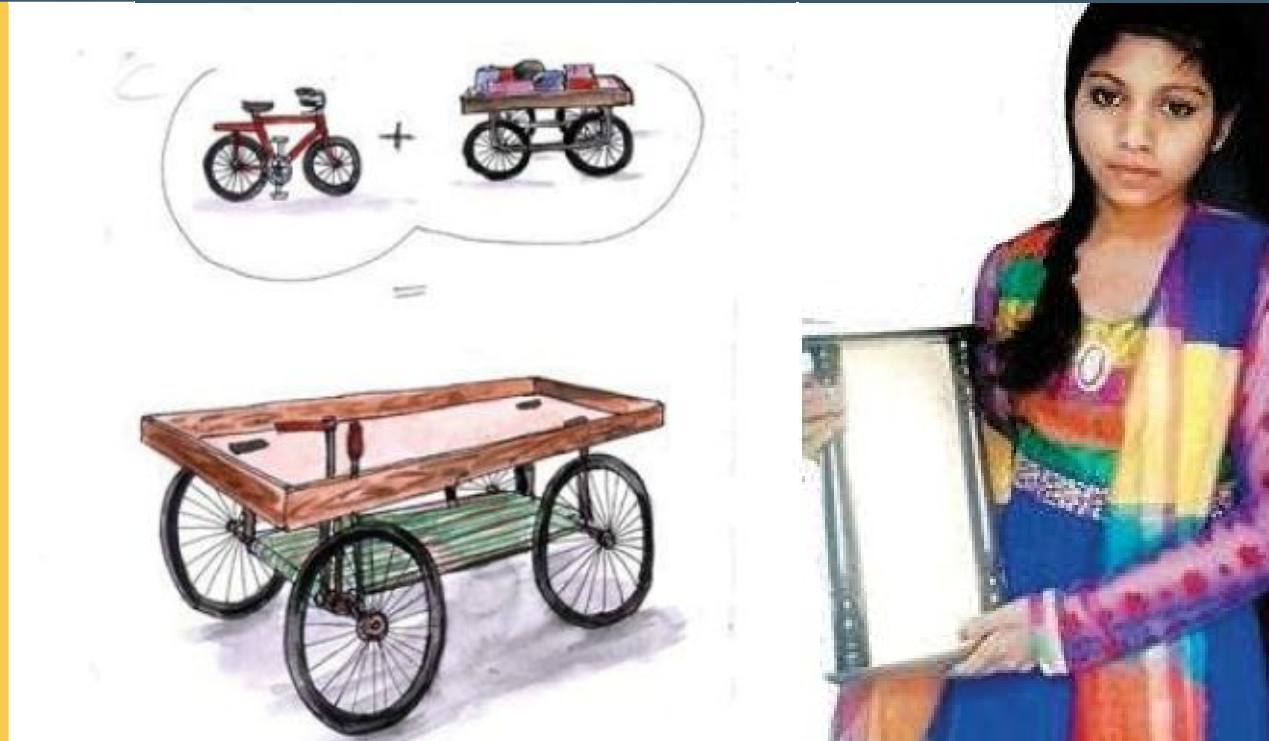
## IGNITE

Diksha has been a partner of The **IGNITE** Campaign being organised by National Innovation Foundation. It is an annual national competition to harness the creative and innovative spirit of children. It caters to children up to 18 years of age /Class 12 from government schools.

Under this initiative, we have supported children in coming up with innovative and creative solutions from them for the different geographical regions with distinct challenges and many children shared solutions to the problems that they see around them.

Last two years we have been taking this campaign to children across Bihar Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

Last year Nidhi Gupta, 13 year old girl child from Muzaffarpur received the Ignite National Award from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, the former President of India in a ceremony held on the 19th of February, 2014 at Ahmedabad.



## MAADHYAM

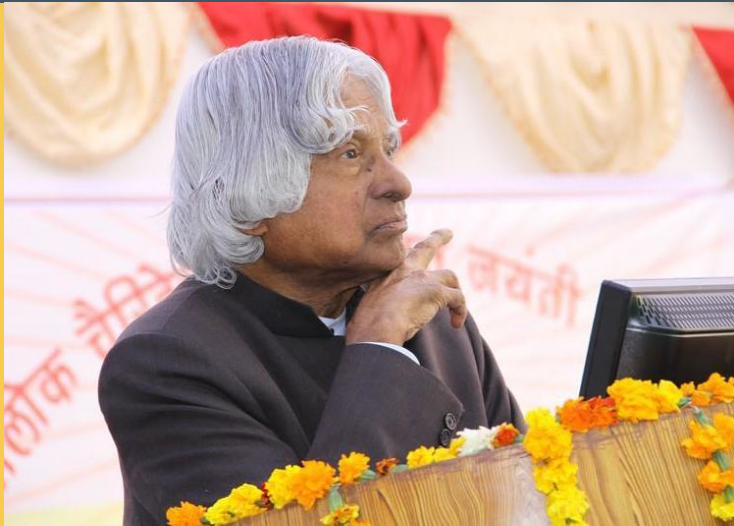
Maadhyam was set up in June 2010 in New Delhi when demolitions of slum communities were at a height in the nation's capital as a preparation for the Commonwealth Games.

It was set up in the Kusumpur Pahari slum community, which is one of the last remaining large slums inside the city. It is a vibrant and violence free space for the children of Kusumpur. Now they can learn without fear. With this in mind the centre was set up inside the community near the homes of our students so they can access this space.

Maadhyam converged with Diksha in 2012. With similar goals in education and community development Maadhyam now runs as one of the learning spaces of Diksha.



# PROJECT UPDATES



## PRARABDH (UTTAR PRADESH)

Prarabdh is designed to facilitate the learning journeys of students and offers school facilities that are usually unavailable in rural schools in India. As a school redevelopment program, it addresses the changing paradigms in education. It is being implemented at the SRB Alok School in the village of Gangagarh in Bulandshehar District of Uttar Pradesh. We are working in collaboration with the Alok Charitable Trust. We have equipped the students to become holistic learners by inculcating early reading habits. The library has pictorial books, short stories, Panchtantra books, science books. With the help of Cognizant a Multi-National Company, we have jointly set up a modern computer lab for the students. The school now has an impressive infrastructure with lively and creative inputs under the concepts of BALA (Building as Learning Aid). Diksha team have been adding its expertise in the area of ICT based learning. We have periodically carried out teacher training programs for the staff and teachers for creating awareness for the latest educational pedagogues and practices.

## YOUTH UNMANIFESTO

We are transforming lives through our vibrant youths who are the future of our upcoming society, for the fundamental reason we initiated one of our campaign in partnership with Pravah & Youth Collective and with the support of Centre for Social Equity & Inclusion. Our approach through the UnManifesto campaign endeavoured to change the negative perceptions or inhibitions youth harboured about politics.

### Participant Details

No. of Participants: - 8000

Promises Collected: - 3123

Male Participant: - 1965

Female Participant: - 1158



**“This project has encouraged them to actively engage with their local leaders and vote on the basis of issues and manifesto promises.”**

# PROJECT UPDATES

## Knowledge Hub for Education and Learning (KHEL), Patna

KHEL is an after school remedial supplementary program. It was started in December 2010 with an objective to provide holistic education to the children with a particular focus on the girl child. We focus on building awareness among children about the threats to the surrounding and their responsibility as citizens to save the environment. It works for economically and socially backward communities, belonging to schedule castes and low-income households of which majority of them are daily wage workers working as construction workers, cooks, carpenter, and other petty trades. We have completed three and half years and aspire to bring in a positive impact on the disadvantaged learners. We enable students towards broadening their horizons, increasing self-esteem, building and strengthening their capacities and educate them with the skills necessary to actualize their greatest potentials through creating trans-formative co-learning spaces. Through peer learning group's children, also support and motivate each other. Activities at Khel

**Open House meetings:** We conducted open house meetings every month where children placed their ideas, issues to discuss and address.

**Children parliament:** Bal Sansad was formed by the students of the centre. The parliament is functional and took the issues democratically.

**Parent Teacher Meeting:** Each Sunday Parent Teacher Meeting was organized almost on all Sundays at the doorstep of the children.

**Teacher Training:** Teacher Training workshops were organised towards enhancing focus on creativity in



teaching techniques of teachers. Teachers also attended workshops on Library Project workshop.

**Arts and Crafts:** Sulekha Ali from Arzoo visited our Centre & guided the children in preparing greeting cards by recycling waste paper. Arzoo is an educational and activity centre based in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India. <http://arzoolive.org/>

**Assessment and examination:** We continuously conducted oral and written assessment where Instead of marks only remarks were given after their assessment. We did not organise any formal examination.

**Nutrition and Health:** We organised sessions on personal hygiene periodically, and student volunteers did regular check. We tried to provide students with fruits & snacks once a week. The quality of the food was checked by the staff & students of the centre. Due to some budget constraints we have discontinued this activity at present.

**Celebration, Exposure Visits and Events:** Children celebrated events like Gandhi Jayanti, Republic Day, Independence Day, Teacher Day, National Science Day, and Earth Day with great zeal and enthusiasm. With a

# PROJECT UPDATES



variety of activities of inculcating values and focusing on wholesome improvement, we are moving on confidently and preparing children at Diksha Foundation to take on the world.

**Innovation and creativity:** Workshop on Innovative teaching methodology for Science & Mathematics was attended by Ms Sangita Devi, Mr. Awdhesh Kumar organised by CSEI. Also, Gunjan Kumar our team members participated at round table Conference on the issue of Social Inclusion and Institutionalization of inclusive practices" organised by Save The Children.

# PROJECT UPDATES

## Niraj Kumar Memorial Learning Centre (KHEL) Hilsa

This project is joint Initiative of Alok Charitable trust, Media Guru and Diksha Foundation. This project intends to meet the learning aspiration of underprivileged children and give wings to their dreams. The total number of registered students is 105 who fall under the age group of 6 to 14 years. Few students also come from socially disadvantaged communities who are in the age group of 13 to 21 years and are also a part of the program. These learners are enrolled in the classes between I to XII and belong to the disadvantaged communities. We are almost completing three years and are focusing on supplementary education of those children who are school dropouts or are irregular school attendees. A day at KHEL Hilsa, Bihar under the joyous informal learning environment learners were being educated in two groups - seniors and juniors. Morning classes started at 6 am and continued till 8.00 A.M. The afternoon classes started from 3 pm to finish at 5.00 P.M. Classes were conducted about the latest developments using audio visual aids. The students assemble for collective prayer before the commencement of classes. Health and hygiene are paramount at the centre. The benefits of good health and hygiene were discussed elaborately with stress on personal cleanliness like nail cutting, hair cutting, brushing of teeth and bathing.

### Some activities:

**Arts and Crafts** Apart from this every Sunday we are running regular dance and Art & Craft classes under the guidance of community volunteers. Weekly oral and written assessments are conducted to test the written and oral skills of the children. They have shown gradual improvement over a period.

**Parent, teacher and communities:** Parent teacher meetings were regularly held. During the meetings, parents discussed issues related to their ward's education and sought advice for their improvement. Community visits were done at Mayee Village. It showed good results and talking to the parents proved helpful. They were satisfied with the quality of their children's learning outcomes.

**Celebration, Exposure Visits and Events:** Children celebrated Republic Day with great enthusiasm A colourful program was held befitting the occasion.

Children showed great enthusiasm and participated with zeal.

At Diksha, we celebrate all the major religious festivals. We see the celebrations as ways to bring together communities and also reduce inhibitions that children develop about different identities owing to our largely divisive societies.



# GOVERNING BODY AND ADVISORY

Ajit Kumar

Arun Gupta

Avikaran

Gautam Gauri

H. N. Sahay

Mohita Katariyar

Nishant Anand

Nishant Kumar

Pratyush Mishra

Rashee Mehra

Ravi Gulati

Saurabh Kumar

Vikas Gupta

# TEAM AND VOLUNTEERS

Anil Bharti

Awadhesh Prasad

Awdhesh Pandey

Bidwati Devi

Dheeraj Kumar

Gautam Gauri

Gunjan Kumar

Mukesh Kulariya

Rajendra Prasad

Rashee Mehra

Sangita Devi

Suchitra Gauri

Supriya Bharti

Surbhi Rani

Uma Kumari

Krishna Banarjee



# WE ARE GRATEFUL

FOR THE INDIVIDUALS AND PARTNERS WHOSE  
GENEROSITY MAKE OUR WORK POSSIBLE.

Ajit Kumar Mishra

Alok Charitable Trust

Animesh Dubey

Anjan Lele

Ankit Katariyar

Anuradha Anand

Apoorva Kumar

Asha for Education

Ayesha Dsouza

Bhagat Singh Gauri

Commutiny the Youth  
Collective

Honey Bee Network

Jyotsana Jolka

Khalid Rauf

Kumar Akshay

Kunal Kishore

Media Guru

National Innovation Foundation

Neera Katariyar

Nishant Kumar

Poonam Sethi

Pravesh Saha

Premanand Sinha

Rahul Gulati

Ranjana Rani

Rashee Mehra

Ravi Gulati

Ritu Saxena

Ruchi Katariyar

Saket Jha

Shruti Makheja

Smile Foundation

Smita Jha

Soni Jha

Sumita Jha

Surbhi Kumari





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