

# Newsletter

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## Computer Shiksha

Address: G 576, Florence Homes,  
Sushant Lok II, Sector 57,  
Gurgaon 122011, Haryana, India,

**Email:**

swapnalekha.basak@computershiksha.org  
rakesh.suri@computershiksha.org



## Steady Growth



1<sup>st</sup> batch of children of Nai Kiran start with Module 3 –  
Text processing

Computer Shiksha started with 60 children on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2012 with 15 Notebooks, an LCD Projector, a screen and one full time employee – Noor, who continues to take care of setting up the entire class. Classes started at Nai Kiran School in Ardee City, Gurgaon. We are extremely lucky to have a partner school so committed to the cause of education that they have gone out of the way to ensure more and more children get enrolled into Computer Shiksha. Thus on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2012 the number of children went up to 139. There were 6 batches of students who got enrolled for lessons. These children went through their assessment on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2012. The next module started on September 8 and this time the number of children registered went up to 180 (2 batches of Module 3; 3 batches of Module 2 and 2 new batches started with Module 1). The first batch of kids also started learning text processing in Module 3. By now we had increased the Notebooks to 27.

Besides Nai Kiran, Computer Shiksha added another partner school “Umang” run by BG Foundation. The foundation runs 5 community schools in Gurgaon and Umang is run from



Children in “Umang” sit on the floor with their notebooks.

inside the premises of the Municipal school in Smaspur, Gurgaon. However it did not prove to be feasible to conduct classes in the same premises and BG Foundation rented another room in the village for the class to be conducted. Thus on 30<sup>th</sup> July our second site started in Smaspur Village, Gurgaon. The class constituted of 23 students. This site was run by the very devoted Colonel Narender Singh and Dr. Shweta Arora.

## We have a logo now!



Thanks to the efforts of Shruti Singhal, Computer Shiksha now has a logo. We wanted to keep it simple and to the point. Many of you might find it too simple – but we intend making a mark through our work and will wait for our logo to be known by our work.

## Organization Building

With almost 200 children already enrolled in classes and our aim to continuously grow, it is important that we build the organization in a way that we are able to run our operations in a sustainable manner. The most important resources in this entire mission are trainers. We are therefore steadily growing our trainer

base. Currently we have two full-time



The standee which is put up at all our sites to identify computer lessons in progress.

trainers and are looking for a third to mitigate risks. In order to ensure that the classes have a least prescribed level of quality, Madhu Bahl is engaged in building the course material in a way that it makes it as trainer agnostic as possible. However the quality of delivery of the trainer has to be ensured which she does by personally mentoring the trainers with the help of Anshul Jain.

In addition this Computer Shiksha now has a bank account with Kotak Bank Galleria branch, Gurgaon.

Fund Raising continues to be a challenge for us. We are very keen to develop a steady base of donors who contribute to Computer Shiksha on a regular basis. If you would want to do your bit please write to [Swapnalekha\\_basak@computershiksha.org](mailto:Swapnalekha_basak@computershiksha.org) – we will send you the details so that you could work out the most suitable method for you to make your contribution.

We are also very keen to involve the community (currently people in Gurgaon) to be engaged with this movement. We are therefore exploring ways of doing this. If you are in Gurgaon or have friends in Gurgaon who would want to be engaged please do let us know.

Computer Shiksha has got its PAN number allotted too.

We have also applied for our 80G certification required to make donations to us exempt from Income tax.

## Team continues to grow

Computer Shiksha has been able to grow with the efforts of a large number of people who have been generous with money as well as efforts. Our heart warms when we think of the enthusiasm with which people have reached out to contribute. We have been fortunate to have volunteers who are key to our success in this mission. Here are a few who require special mention.

### *Col. Narinder Singh*

Colonel Narinder Singh has retired after 39 years of service in the Indian Army. While in the army he was also a part of Operation Vijay during the Kargil war. He has been the site manager for the Smaspur village site and has had the classes conducted with the kind of discipline and rigour which only an army background can bring.

### *Shweta Arora*

Dr. Shweta Arora was a part of the telecom industry for 11 years in marketing and HR roles before giving it up to become a freelance trainer and teacher in management schools. She has mentored our trainer and students at the Smaspur village site and thus contributed to the successful implementation of this project.

### *Rajesh Gulati*

Rajesh Gulati has worked in the corporate sector for 16 years. His last assignment was that of a Profit Centre Head. He has extensive experience in the Telecom, Services and Yellow Pages Industry in India. Since 2003, he has been running his own Real Estate Consultancy Company. Rajesh is now a part of the core committee of Computer Shiksha and contributes among many other things to the Fund Raising efforts.

## Success Stories



### *Charul Verma*

We often tend to believe that the only beneficiaries of Computer Shiksha are the kids. Here is *Charul Verma* our 17 year old bright and young trainer. Charul works for Computer Shiksha to fund her graduation. She is working hard both as a teacher and student. We are proud of her and feel blessed that we could make a difference in the life of an aspiring young woman.

### *Noor*

*Noor* is a 20 years old boy from West Bengal. He can read and write in Bangla but struggles with Hindi and English. Noor used to earn a living by doing petty chores at homes. He got noticed for his sincerity and meticulous ways.



Computer Shiksha hired him to set up class i.e. connecting all notebooks, projector, setting up screen and all of what is needed to set up class. He is also responsible for ensuring that the children wash their hands and line up for entering class. Noor is doing a wonderful job at it. But that is not what makes this our success story. Noor has joined Adult Education classes and is fast moving towards completing his school education. In addition to this he also learns computers by the side and now it is a familiar sight seeing him helping out the other children. Well done Noor!

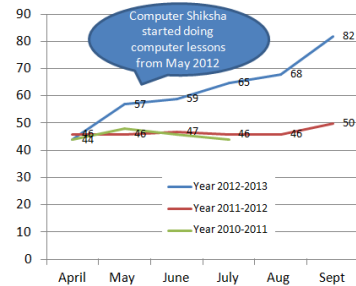


**Kanchan**

Kanchan can't hear or speak! When you look at her work it does not look any less than her classmates – she is just different. In fact we tend to think that she leverages her inability to hear to concentrate better. We feel blessed that teaching her has sensitized us to the crying need for inclusion in schools.

**A tangible Impact**

New Admissions in Nai Kiran Universal School, Ardee City, Gurgaon



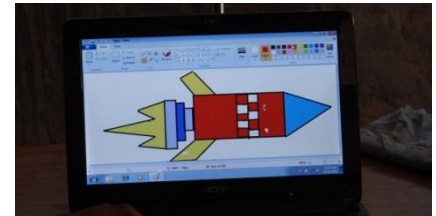
Nai Kiran used to struggle in convincing children of migrant labour in the neighborhood to come to school. We are glad Computer Shiksha has reversed the trend. Admissions have risen by 60% and without any extra effort. The hope of getting to learn computers has driven children and their parents by hordes seeking admission. The school has had to add a classroom and teachers to cope with this positive problem in their hands.

**The Way Forward.....**

There is an estimated population of more than 8000 children in Gurgaon who are in NGO schools outside of the formal education system. Till now we have managed to touch only 200 children. So we know the woods are lovely dark and deep – we have promises to keep and miles to go before we sleep – miles to go before we sleep. So while we steadily build our organization, we continue to register partner schools to increase Computer Shiksha's footprint. We are also looking at innovative methods to involve the community where our projects sites are because we realize

that is the only way development can be made sustainable.

**A Peek into the Past**



6 weeks earlier this computer artist did not know what a computer looks like!



A happy Pooja after having completed her work as a part of the Assessment for Module 1



Gowri Shannkar is an expert at making rangolis on the floor and now on .....a computer.



On Sundays enthusiastic volunteers coach the children (who are waiting for their turn) on other life skills like speaking in English.