The Vision of Antyodaya
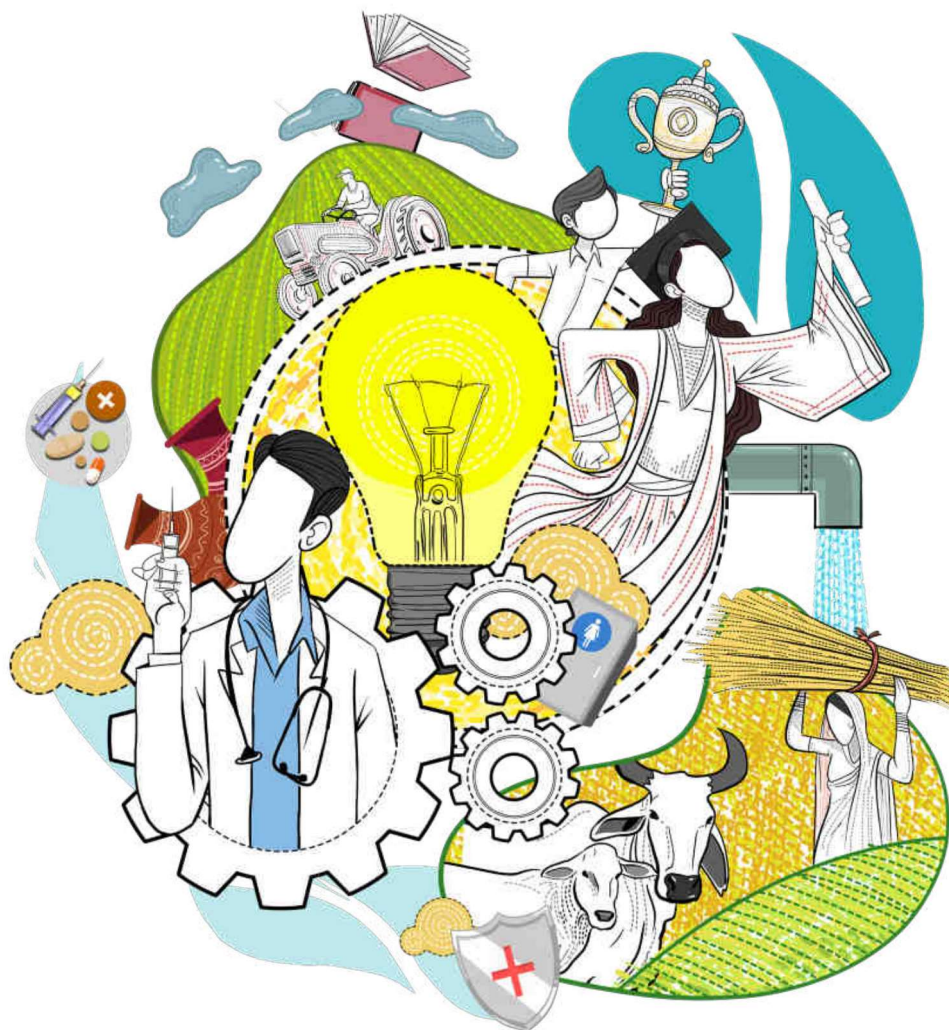
Documentation & Compilation of the Best Practices of Sustainable Development As Propounded by Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya

A Glimpse of Antyodaya Vision
(Short Compilation of Antyodaya Best Practices)

ISRN
Indian Social Responsibility Network

Book Unveiled by
Hon'ble Vice President of India

Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri M Venkaiah Naidu unveiled the book **'The Vision of Antyodaya'**, a compilation of best practices across India focused for the upliftment of last men of the society.

"Bringing computer literacy to the under-served children of our society and reaching out to a million children across the country by 2020 is our dream which will help bridge the digital divide"
-Dr Rakesh Suri, Founder President, Computer Shiksha

Organisation behind the practice:
Computer Shiksha

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It's time for Computer Literacy - Bridging the Digital Divide

Meaningful computer education still remains beyond the reach of most government, municipal, and even private schools. Bringing the promise of an equal footing in the digital world to the underprivileged students of these schools is 'Computer Shiksha', a non profit endeavor from Gurugram. The organization employs a comprehensive methodology including hardware, software, training material, as well as training the trainers to mitigate the twin problems of non-availability of the resources, and of rapid obsolescence of installed infrastructure and techniques in information technology.

Computer Shiksha (CS) draws upon generous support of corporate sponsors to supply computers to beneficiary schools. Their meticulously developed teaching programs are delivered to schools via resource persons and trainers trained by Computer shisksha, and also through prerecorded lectures in several Indian languages. The system ensures availability of updated hardware, training on current technologies, and remarkable consistency of teaching.

Run by a very lean team of under 20 people, the program has resulted in better attendance at the schools and more enthusiastic participation by more modest institutions in 14 states reaching over 50,000 students.

India's gaping digital divide

While Digital India dominates the policy discourse in India, penetration of Information and Computer Technology (ICT) education at school level remains abysmal. As per a government survey of schools in 36 states and Union Territories in 2014-15, only 26.42% of schools had any form of computer. In most of the institutions that boast computer labs the computers are often outdated and the software running, and being taught, even more obsolete.

Most government schools and smaller private schools lack the resources to establish computer centers and to constantly upgrade them. The pace of change in technology makes keeping up an expensive affair even for most good schools. Same is true for trained computer teachers. Availability of ICT trainers is scarce given the better opportunities in software industry. The rate of obsolescence in ICT teachers makes the problem even more acute.

Given these constraints only the most affluent students going to very good schools get an ICT education that would stand them in good position in the job market. This is creating an ever-widening chasm between the

digital-have and digital-have-not students that augurs ill for the country's digital future.

Using information technology (it) to take ict education to grassroots

In early 2012, Dr. Rakesh Suri and a few friends did a survey of about 40 schools in Gurugram on the state of ICT education in them. The results appalled them. Most schools did not have computers, many managements had not even thought of the possibility of their schools teaching computers. Most schools that had computers, were very outdated models. many did not work. The computer teachers were conscripted from different subjects; hardly any school had dedicated trained computer trainers. And, to their horror, they discovered the technologies being taught were at least a decade old. A lifetime in ICT terms!

At the same time, the institutions were severely constrained by their modest resources and the insurmountably high expenditure of setting up and running modern computer labs.

Dr. Suri devised a turnkey model to address the problem. He put together 15 laptops, one trainer, and one assistant. The unit, he proposed, would teach 60 students over 4 hours on weekends at one school. He called it Model 1. Dr. Suri pitched the solution to several schools free of any charges. They of course lapped it up. The free infrastructure coupled with exceptional teaching material and trainer was soon a hit. More schools learnt of the ICT Manna from heaven.

The problem of plenty hit the organization. They had plenty of demand from deserving schools for free infrastructure and trainers, and no resources to meet the demand. They reached out frantically to corporations with the CSR worthy story. The corporations responded surprisingly quickly. With the help of corporate sponsors, Computer Shiksha started installing computers, instead of laptops, in beneficiary schools. They also developed resource persons to install and look after the installations. The system expanded exponentially.

Though the hardware problem was taken care of, the problem of supplying good trainers waxed. Enter Model 2 of Computer Shiksha. The organization got the initial instructors to video record their lessons, and sent the video lessons with teacher manuals to schools. It was

Computer shiksha's Approach

Safalta Me Saajhedar
Started in the year 2012, CS has been a success with the support of its team members, funders, partner schools and organizations and most importantly with the support of underprivileged children, youth and their families.

Operational Model 1
- 66-week curriculum designed by experts for computer edcation
- 2 Operational Nodes
- Each node covers 3 schools, 600 students, institutionalized delivery of 31 laptops, 1 projector, 2 trainers, 1 technician, 1 site-incharge

Operational Model 2
- School elicits interest in imparting computer literacyprogrammes
- School identifies a resource to facilitate these classes
- Computer Shiksha handholds the school administration to install commission equipment
- Computer Shiksha trains the resource to facilitate classes to an optimum standard
- Computer Shiksha monitors, provides distance support and ensures quality standards
- Evaluates students for certification

E-Learning Module
- Covering entire course of open office
- Course in different languages
- Each lesson has a video for teaching the contents
- Basic and Advanced certification course for students

Key Roles OfComputer Shiksha
Arranging hardware equipment for schools including Computers, LCD, Projector, Speakers
- Operation and maintenance of the donated hardware
- Providing chat support to locations where internet is not available

- Training new resources/facilitators at the school
- Training of local resource
- Until full course has been done once by the NGO/School/Community
- Evaluation of students understanding and absorption
- Issuing certificates after successful evaluation

The Model 2 of CS is now operational benefitting more than 14 states

More than 57000 students from under-served communities are getting free computer education
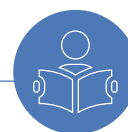
350+ CS enabled centres operational in schools

Skill Development
Enabling children and youth to get good career opportunities by developing their skills in ICT

Quality Education
Enhancing the quality of edcuation through E-learning modules

Alignment with PM Vision 2022: 'RAINBOW' Power of India

now possible to rapidly proliferate the system while achieving consistency in lecture delivery.

The system scaled magnificently and aims at enrolling 1,00,000 students by 2020. The courses are now available in six Indian languages and more are being worked upon. Preparing over 60 trainers every month, CS now has over 1000 trained trainers in over 350 centers. The mission has spread to Assam, Karnataka and Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, Haryana, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Punjab, Bihar, Maharashtra, Tamilnadu, Kerala, and West Bengal.

Computer Shiksha has leveraged IT and CSR to successfully establish a model that may bridge the gaping digital divide in India.

Keeping the Mission Funded

Computer Siksha is a capital-intensive mission. The initial capital expenditure is high owing to the cost of computers; the cost of keeping the technology current, too, needs constant investment. For a project completely sustained by donations, managing donor expectations through efficient fund deployment, and complete financial transparency are critical. Computer Shiksha excels at both.

The management team is kept extremely small at under 20 people. Currently the ratio of managers to students stands at an impressive 1 manager per 3000 students. This keeps the overheads low and fund deployment efficient.

- The donors get regular updates and proofs of utilization of their donations. The reports include:

- A monthly progress report of achievements with numbers

- Details of schools where the donor computers have been installed with photos of live classes

- 2 photos of the live computer class of the specific school where donor computers have been installed every 4 months

- A list of students certified every year

The meticulous reporting has shown results. The organization's donor list is stellar with many multinational corporations as well as Indian industry stalwarts ■

"I want to learn more as I am enjoying my computer classes a lot. I don't want to miss even a single class. I like making Doremon in MS Paint. I want to become a software engineer when I grow up."
- Says Sujit, a fourth grader from learner Empower Uplift foundation Bal Shiksha Kendra, Gurgaon Haryana.