Newsletter

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Computer Shiksha

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Computer Shiksha is a team of like minded people working towards computer literacy among underprivileged children. Our mission is to provide Computer Knowledge and Training with passion and commitment, to deliver Value in the form of Computer trained people, who use this skill for the betterment of their lives in every possible way.

Two New Partner Schools

The first batch of children at Sankalp School, Sushant Lok. Class size 30. Batch size 137.

In the month of April 2013, Computer Shiksha started classes at two new schools in Gurgaon. These schools are run by the *Sankalp Welfare Society*. One school is in DLF Phase IV where lessons started on 1st April 2013 with 147 children and the other is in Sushant Lok where classes started on April 3, 2013 with 137 children. Before starting classes a test run was done on 30th and 31st March to ensure that there are no last minute technology glitches and the effort paid off. Classes started seamlessly on the designated dates without any hitches.

Apart from this the Guru Learning Centre has also added another batch of students taking the number of students there to 57.

Classes at Nai Kiran, Ardee City continue to go ahead full steam.

The first batch of children at Sankalp School, DLF Phase IV. Class size 30. Batch size 147.

Sankalp Welfare Society
Sankalp is a Gurgaon based registered non-profit organization founded in 1996 solely to provide education and equal opportunity to the marginalized children so that they can get quality education enabling these children to reach their full potential and contribute to their community and world. The society runs three primary schools and facilitates higher education through the Vidyarthi programme. It is managed entirely by a team of volunteers comprising professionals and educationalists and is funded entirely from donations from corporates and individuals. As a result of this encouragement and support, Sankalp has over the years achieved and sustained great improvement in the infrastructure and environment to create a lively and positive environment for children who are otherwise exposed to an extremely harsh life.

With this the number of children engaged with Computer Shiksha takes a big leap and crosses the 500 mark. This is almost a tenfold increase in 11 months.

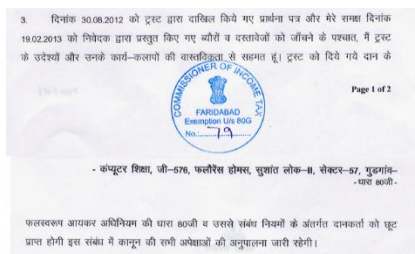|	
Nai Kiran Universal school Ardee City, Gurgaon	197
Guru Learning Centre DLF Phase I Gurudwara	57
Sankalp school Sushant Lok	137
Sankalp School DLF Phase IV	147
Total # of children	538

Steady Progress

With four schools and more than 500 children enrolled Computer Shiksha's six day schedule looks like this –

Mon	9:30 – 13:15	Sankalp (DLF Ph IV)
Tue	9:30 – 13:15	Sankalp (DLF Ph IV)
Wed	9:30 – 13:15	Sankalp (Sushant Lok I)
	3:30 – 5:45	Guru Learning Centre
Thu	9:30 – 13:15	Sankalp (Sushant Lok I)
	3:30 – 5:45	Guru Learning Centre
Fri	8:30 – 15:00	Nai Kiran, Ardee City
Sat	8:30 – 15:00	Nai Kiran, Ardee City

With the additional work the number of employees also has gone up with the addition of Suraj Kumar as an administrative staff member. We are now looking for a couple of trainers too. These trainers will start as assistants to the current trainers and then work independently when we add more partner schools. Now we dare say that operationally Computer Shiksha has started functioning like a true organization on its own steam. It is working all 6 days of the week and trainers and staff have a holiday on Sunday.

Section 80 G approval

Computer Shiksha had applied for a 80 G certificate from the Income Tax Authorities in August 2012. We are glad to inform you that the approval has come. Here's a cutting from the letter issued to us.

Now all donations to Computer Shiksha are exempt from Income Tax. All donors can now use our receipts to claim exemption from Income Tax.

This will also now help us raise funds from Corporates as all Corporates are eager to take a tax exemption when making a charitable donation.

First Corporate Tie up

Lushtrip.com an online travel booking service, whose Facebook page has more than 85,000 friends has committed to supporting Computer Shiksha with a contribution to Computer Shiksha for every sale that it does in India

This is Computer Shiksha's first corporate tie up. May this just be the modest beginning of a long list of such Corporate Partners.

Our team continues to grow

Born on 15th January 1941, **Arjun Verma** grew up in the small town of Jagraon where he finished his schooling in 1958. He went on to complete his Junior College in Arya College Ludhiana in 1960. After this he started working in LIC (The Life Insurance Corporation of India) in 1960 a job which he continued till 1971 as their Development Officer. He made a transition to being an entrepreneur a job which he has kept till now. He started with exporting Bicycle, Hosiery, Handmade Carpets etc. and continued to do this till 1983 at which point he moved to the United States of America. In the US too he continued to grow his business till 2006 when he retired from it actively handing it over to others. He came back and settled down in Gurgaon, where he continues to put his passion in an entrepreneurial spirit to the education of small children. Since 2012 he has been actively involved with the Government Middle School in Gurgaon helping the school build capability.

Mr. Arjun Dev Verma is now (physically) the oldest but most enthusiastic Site Manager that Computer Shiksha has ever had. He not only manages the two project sites at the Sankalp schools but actively participates in other management activities of Computer Shiksha too. His enthusiasm is infectious and Computer Shiksha feels blessed to have him.
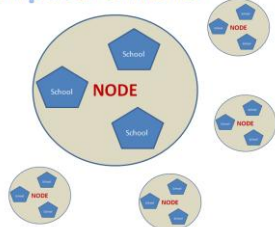
The Way Forward……

Given where we have reached from 60 children in May 2012 to 500+ in April 2013 the obvious question that many of you would have is how would

we grow and how would Computer Shiksha expand its footprint?

Here is how we plan to do it - Computer Shiksha will be a network of nodes. From our Gurgaon experience we have seen that a node constituting of 30 machines, three trainers, 6 site managers and 2 IT support personnel can cater to 3 project sites. Such a node will be able to cater to the learning requirement of almost 500 children.

We intend each node to be operationally independent working with laid down standard operating processes for each function and activity to be performed. We will then grow Computer Shiksha node by node.

We are however mindful of the challenges as we grow. Getting funds and people committed to the cause continues to be a challenge. There are several individuals / groups of people who have evinced interest in helping us expand in sites as far away as Indore and Kolkata but we are working on our due diligence methodology and checklists before we move in that direction.

The next few months will find us concentrating our efforts in building sustainable avenues of regular funding to keep this initiative going at the same pace. These efforts are going to be two pronged. *Friends of Computer Shiksha* is a programme which has been conceived to engage the community in Gurgaon to partner Computer Shiksha in its mission to bridge the digital divide. As a part of this, road shows will be held in all Residential societies (which permit us) to spread the word about Computer Shiksha and also invite people to participate. Apart from this a dedicated team will also work towards enhancing Corporate engagement especially those based / head quartered out of Gurgaon.

A small note to thank some individuals who do their bit without expecting anything in return. **Robin Gupta** who designed our brochure for the Friends of Computer Shiksha works with Makaan.com and willingly worked on creating the brochure at a a short notice. **Udit Budhiraja** who has brought the much needed sincerity to our efforts at organizing the road shows. Thank You Robin and Udit! Young people like you will keep Computer Shiksha growing.

We will shortly announce the website for Computer Shiksha. Till then follow our facebook page.
https://www.facebook.com/ComputerShiksha?ref=tn_tnmn

Picture Gallery

Children in Nai Kiran Universal school – Ardee City, Gurgaon. Computer Shiksha started with lessons for 60 children on 5th May 2012. Now the number is up more than three times

The Guru Learning Centre at DLF Phase I Gurudwara started with 1 batch of 25 children on 9th January 2013. Now there are 57 children in two batches here.

284 children started Computer lessons in two Sankalp schools on April 1, 2013.

Winning Friends and Influencing People
A small stall at DLF Carlton Estate. This is to publicize Computer Shiksha's work to include more and more people in this movement towards complete computer literacy