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.

Beginning of the scale up

Our dream at Computer Shiksha is to wipe out the digital divide in our country. We acknowledge that it is lofty dream and we know that scale is extremely important to achieve this. However a long journey starts with one small step , one which we took in March'12 to start Computer Shiksha. It has taken us 18 months to firm our processes and put in place a capable and committed team. Early this year, we decided to grow Computer Shiksha as a collection of nodes each serving an identified constituency of students. **Node** is the nomenclature we use to define one set of hardware (32 laptops, one projector, one screen, the electrical paraphernalia) 2 trainers, 1 IT / Admin staff and one Node Manager. One node can conduct classes for approximately 500 children. We believed that the establishment of the second node would be a test of our capability to scale. Fortunately Computer Shiksha took the test and passed with flying colours.

The notebooks have the names of the donors put and the machine is numbered and colour coded to indicate which bag they would go inside after the class.

Second Node added

The success of the first node and the impact that it had prompted us to identified three more partner schools in May which could be serviced by another node. And with the support of donors, staff and friends on 8th July the second node became operational. Putting together the new node consumed the entire management bandwidth of the Computer Shiksha management these last three months.

Funds were raised to organize the hardware. The machines were acquired, checked, labeled, software loaded (Open Office) and tested at the new sites.

New trainers were hired and trained to take these classes.

Direct Impact on employability

The new node has two government secondary schools of Gurgaon as partner schools. In these schools Class XI and XII students are taking computer lessons now. We feel that becoming computer literate would enhance the employability of these young girls and boys as they move out of school at the end of the year. An accelerated course has been prepared for the Class XII students and the courseware has also been modified to cater to these older students. (The first node of Computer Shiksha does lessons for younger children). We are continuously working to make the course as relevant as possible.

The first batch of students at the Govt.Secondary School, Chakkarpur. Class size 30.
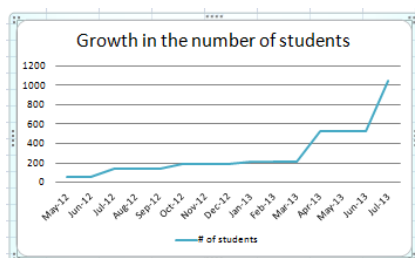
The second node partners 3 schools.

Name of school	# of students	Days allotted
Govt. Secondary School, Chakkarpur, Gurgaon	*210*	*Monday Tuesday*
Govt. Secondary School, Nathupur, Gurgaon	*182*	*Wednesday Thursday*
The Happy School, DLF Phase 1, Gurgaon	*144*	*Friday Saturday*
3 schools	*536 students*	*6 days a week*

We are thankful to the management of these schools for collaborating with us and helping us seamlessly deliver at their schools. Without active cooperation of the participating schools it is impossible for us to deliver.
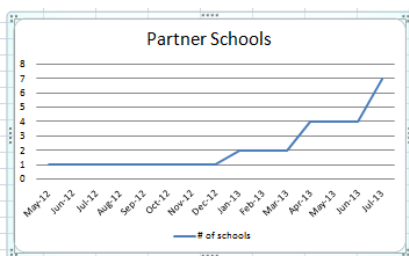
With the addition of the second node the number of children engaged with Computer Shiksha takes a big leap and crosses the *1000* mark.

Milestones on the way…

Statistically speaking…………..

……the number of students has grown from 60 to 1050 in 14 months.

…. we are engaged with 7 partner schools – we started with one. Here are some of the other milestones on our way to where we are today.

May'12	Computer Shiksha starts classes
Jun'12	Class size increased from 15 to 25. Computer Shiksha registered as a charitable trust.
Jul'12	Quarterly Newsletter launched
Jan'13	Lessons start at a second site, Guru Learning Centre
Feb'13	12 A certificate awarded 80G Certificate awarded Friends of Computer Shiksha launched
Mar'13	Class size goes up to 30
Apr'13	Two schools (Sankalp welfare society) added as partner schools. Number of students goes up to 500+
Jul'13	Node 2 launched. No. of kids crosses the 1000 mark

The Team continues to expand……….

The pace and the direction in which Computer Shiksha has grown in the last few months is due to a lot of inspiration from Mr. V.D. Bhasin.

Mr. Bhasin a mechanical engineer from AMU has had a long stint in the corporate world in the automotive industry and the last corporate position he held was that of Vice President, Hyundai. Post retirement

from the industry he donned the entrepreneur's hat and now his company is a Consultant to the likes of General Motors.

Besides supporting various other NGOs, Mr. Bhasin is a trustee of the NGO Sankalp (the NGO which runs two of our partner schools) too. After seeing Computer Shiksha's work at the two schools he inspired us and also helped us to expand our operations to where it would make the maximum impact – which is making Class XI-XII students computer literate. He actively worked to help us build partnerships with the two municipal schools in Gurgaon.

His advice and guidance are invaluable and his passion for the cause of education amongst children is infectious. Consider this - currently he has enrolled himself in P.G. Psychological Counseling so that he can develop specific courses and initiatives for the children of NGO schools to develop a positive attitude towards life.

Computer Shiksha also welcomes on board Ms Sofia S. Mani to lead all Marketing Communications for the organization. She would build and sustain the Computer Shiksha brand and develop and implement a marketing and PR plan for the organization. Sofia is a seasoned advertising professional, having worked with brands like Hyundai and

LG. She is also extensively engaged with multiple management schools in Delhi and Gurgaon where her engagement ranges from teaching to managing media for educational institutions. The diversity of experience that Sofia brings to Computer Shiksha will be invaluable!

In the Media

Computer Shiksha was written about in Times City, Gurgaon edition on 6th May 2013.

The word about Computer Shiksha is spreading now. In the last three months we have found mention in a leading daily and on the web too. On 6th May Times of India, Gurgaon City edition carried a feature. You will also find a citizen journalist's report on Computer Shiksha on iCNN too.

Recognition by mainstream media validates our belief that we are contributing and also help us in having more and more like minded people engaged with us.

The Way Forward……

While we are very proud of the growth that Computer Shiksha has had we are also mindful of the fact that sustaining this growth is a huge challenge.

We dare say that Computer Shiksha operations are run with the crisp efficiency of a corporate. This is because of the background of the people who have founded the organization and running it. Now with the growth of the organization it has become imperative to bring on board people who would carry the tradition forward in a way better than before. Unlike many other NGOs, from the beginning itself we have avoided being totally dependent on volunteers and have instead had the practice of hiring professionals and holding them accountable.

We are now looking for a **Manager – Operations.** The manager shall be responsible for liaising with the partner schools and monitoring the progress of the classes for all 1000+ students enrolled with Computer Shiksha in Gurgaon. The person will be responsible for all problems solving on a day to day basis. He / she would be held accountable for adherence to all laid out processes

ensuring that all classes happen at the expected level of standards set.

Picture Gallery

Class XII students at Govt. Secondary School, Chakkarpur, Gurgaon.

Students of Class III and IV at the Happy school, DLF Phase 1, Gurgaon.