

Newsletter

Contents

- Sustaining Operations
- Himalaya Healthcare helps out
- Impact of Computer Shiksha
- From the Desk of the Computer Shiksha team
- Picture Galley
- Gaining Popularity

Computer Shiksha

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

Email:

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



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.

Sustaining Operations

Currently Computer Shiksha does computer lessons for more than 1000 children in six schools in Gurgaon. Over the last 18 months we have grown from 60 to 1000 children – a 20 times growth.

Currently each day of the week two project sites of Computer Shiksha are on.

Name of school	Days allotted
Govt. Secondary School, Chakkarpur, Gurgaon Sankalp School DLF Phase I, Gurgaon	Monday Tuesday
Govt. Secondary School, Nathupur, Gurgaon Sankalp School, Sushant Lok II, Gurgaon	Wednesday Thursday
The Happy School, DLF Phase 1, Gurgaon Nai Kiran, Ardee City, Gurgaon	Friday Saturday
6 schools	6 days a week

As a result of the expansion administration has become an onerous task now. While **Mr. Arjun Verma** remains our most spirited volunteer for managing the sites we now feel the need of a full time resource to manage both the sites. By the time the next newsletter gets to you we would have a full time resource to actually manage the sites on a regular basis. The site manager shall be accountable for adhering to all process guidelines and metrics laid out for running the classes like class duration, class start time, attendance procedures etc. The site manager would also be responsible for co-ordination with the school administration to collect information, give feedback and find avenues for collaboration for empowering the students in as many ways as possible. If you are wondering what collaboration means let us share with you a recent development.

Computer Shiksha is engaged with the Nathupur Government school with approximately 200 children of class XII taking lessons there. Based on interaction with these students one of the patrons of Computer Shiksha Mr. V.D. Bhasin felt the need to do something more for these students to get them ready to step out of school after Class XII. He has now designed and is doing Personality Development for these students doing some small modules for imparting valuable life skills like Communication, Managing Interpersonal Relations, Building self worth etc.

Himalaya Healthcare helps out

Since the time we have started we have looked at Computer Shiksha as an opportunity to impart not only computer skills but other values too. Some of these are punctuality, attention etc. Besides this we have always insisted that since each laptop is going to be used by multiple children each child should wash hands, use a sanitizer and then touch the machine. Every kid before leaving class uses a soft cloth to wipe the machine and then get up. Continued insistence on this practice has made the children develop a habit for keeping their hands clean. We are also happy to share with you that Himalaya Healthcare donated a pack of twelve 500ml packs of Hand Sanitizers.



Thank You



Kids using a hand wash prior to using the machine.



Kids clean with a soft cloth after using the machine

Impact of Computer Shiksha

If we were to ask you who the beneficiaries of Computer Shiksha are most of you would probably think it is these 1000+ children who are engaged in taking lessons from Computer Shiksha.

But the good news is that there are many more beyond these kids. Take for eg. our trainers. All our trainers are MCA students who are funding their education by teaching at Computer Shiksha. More than the money they earn they are also building important life skills like Presentation skills, dealing with children (remember these are teenagers in government schools with multiple distractions), developing an honest work ethic. We know they will move on from Computer Shiksha to greener pastures and other such students will follow suit.

Mr. Arjun Verma came back from the United States to settle in Gurgaon mainly to contribute to education. He is an honorary member of a Govt middle school management committee and his involvement has driven discipline and delivery in an otherwise poorly managed school. Now four days a week he is gainfully employed in managing Computer Shiksha today. Speaking to him you will hear him count the miracles that have happened in his life. Let us tell you one! When he joined us he used to walk with a Walking stick and his back was a little bent. Take a look at the picture (taken on 28th September 2013) in the next column would you believe this?



Mark True or False

- Computer Shiksha does computer lessons for kids and young children.

If you said True, your answer is wrong. Seen above is octogenarian Dr. Dua who sits along with the children (seen in the photograph below) and learns like any other student. After his first day in the class he said “*bhai mazaa aa gaya*”

Picture Gallery



Bridging a divide of another kind as senior citizens and children attend the same class



Students at Sankalp school learn to draw and paint the Tricolour on the eve of Independence day

Gaining Popularity!

Computer Shiksha has more than 1200 Likes on Facebook now.



From the desk of the Computer Shiksha team

It has been 18 months now and what a journey it has been!

Computer Shiksha was born out of a passion to make a differencethe passion was to bridge a divide – we did not know which one! However our lives had prepared us to help bridge the digital divide and so we got working on it. On the way we have found some incredible friends who have supported us when we had no success story attached to our request for help. They and many more still keep us going.

Over these 18 months we have seen two significant areas where Computer Shiksha has made an impact –

a) The glamour of the screen has pulled in more children into the formal education system than even the most successful mid-day meal scheme. Nai Kiran School at Ardee City has no place for a new admission now. It's the same school which used to struggle to get parents to send their kids to school 😊

b) The second node has about 350 students of Class XI and XII of two municipal schools engaged. Learning to use computers to draft a letter and make a spreadsheet has enhanced the prospects of these young men and women getting a job. Thus learning to leverage IT is going to definitely affect their employability quotient.

Now the next challenge for us is to raise funding to sustain the current operation and sponsorships to start and maintain new nodes too. In spite of the fact that we are an above board NGO with great governance in place, we have been unable to garner corporate support. We tried many large companies and their CSR wings but to no avail. Our request gets lost in e-mails and nothing happens. You have been our fellow traveler and the first port of call for help is you. We would be obliged if you could help us with references to

a) FMCG corporates who can sponsor our consumables requirement month on month (hand washes and sanitizers)

b) Companies with a large presence in Gurgaon to either sponsor maintenance of a node or sponsor other parts of the expenses whichever they would like to.

We thank you for being a part of this incredible journey.

Rakesh Suri
Swapnalekha Basak
Rajesh Gulati