



Gateway at Deepalaya

We are happy to inform all that an easy, efficient and secure way of transferring money to Deepalaya has been worked out with UTI Bank. Under the Payment Gateway arrangement, online payments made through Master/Visa Credit Cards from any part of the world will be processed and payment received by Deepalaya without loss of time.



A Blooming Flower

For Chandni, a student of Deepalaya School, there is no looking back now. She recently stood first in the Ist semester of the Ancillary Nursing & Midwife training at the SOS Nursing School, scoring a whopping 95%. This training has been sponsored by the Dewan Foundation, UK.

Chandni has had her entire schooling at Deepalaya. Daughter of a roadside cloth merchant, and the youngest of nine siblings, she has always stood out for her confidence and leadership qualities. "A girl with the guts of steel and determination, who has always been in the top slot during her entire schooling", according to Ms. Shikha Pal, the Headmistress. She has been taking part and excelling in various competitions and cultural programs.

Today Chandni is a role model for the other children from her community, especially the girls. Her parents, Mr. Karan Singh and Mrs. Maya Devi are indeed happy that their 'nanhi- munny' (youngest daughter) now is heading towards a secure and confident future.



Yet Another Feather in Deepalaya's Cap

Deepalaya's Executive Director, Brig. R.E. Williams and Sr. Officer, Ms. Maya Rachael, participated as special delegates in a two day "Donor Doers: Best Practices Meet" organized by the Centre for Social Responsibility & Leadership in January, 2007. For the participating thirty NGOs it was a wonderful opportunity to demonstrate their achievements and best practices. The audience comprised of donor agencies, corporate houses and PSU's.

Deepalaya through its presentation highlighted its mission statement, vision, ethics and values, approach and methodology as well as the existing Best Practices and Achievements. Deepalaya was one out of the three NGOs awarded for the best presentation.



Welcoming the excluded



Children of Swagat Kendra - looking ahead to a secure future.

The Swagat Kendra is a shelter home/drop-in centre set-up two years ago to reach out to destitute and exploited children. It is located in the community centre adjacent to the Okhla whole sale vegetable market in South Delhi.

Swagat literally means 'Welcome'. The centre welcomes children working at the market, adjacent railway platform and bus terminal. They have been subject to various kinds/degree of abuse and exploitation at these venues. The rehabilitation program presently caters to 14 boys in the age group of 7 to 15 years.

At the Kendra the children are being provided with boarding and lodging facilities, health care (including awareness), education (both formal and non formal), vocational training, recreation, counseling and talent development.

Of the 14 boys, seven have been mainstreamed into formal schooling

since the last academic year. Rajesh and Munavar are also enrolled in the Electronic and Electrical Training and Photography training respectively. The academic performance of all the children has been very encouraging. Jitender of Class III has secured 85% in the second term examinations and has also been awarded a scholarship of Rs.300/-. The children also attend remedial education classes which provide additional academic support.

The other children are attending the non formal education classes and will be mainstreamed into formal schooling in the academic year 2007-2008.

The centre also reaches out to the other children in the community. These include children who are forced to work due to unfavorable condition at home / who are abandoned, orphaned and otherwise neglected. Efforts are made to counsel their parents/employers so that they allow the child to come and spend time at the centre. Here they are involved in non formal education,

recreation, deliberation on their rights and problems. Currently 35 such children access this facility at the centre.

A much welcome support has come to the Swagat Kendra from the employees of Aricent/Cisco TAC. Known for its skill in networking for the Internet, the company is networking with a humane touch.

More than 150 employees have pledged a monthly support to the Swagat Kendra since January 2007. The very first month saw an overwhelming response with a collection of Rs.68,000/-. The employees will also spend time with the children, thereby strengthening the bond.

A special mention should be made about the role of Mr.Keshav Sharma. Team Manager at AVVID and also a sponsor parent since March 2006, who has played a lead role in building this partnership. ■

Jobs for Deepalaya Students

Deepalaya has been imparting Vocational Training to community youth. Skill training is being provided in electrical / electronics, computer hardware/ software, videography and

photography, dress designing and beauty culture.

Apart from the training, Deepalaya has also been networking with corporates / institutions for the successful placement

of these candidates. Many others have established their own unit.

A recent association with Devyani International Limited (DIL), an associate company of the R.K. Jaipuria Group, saw seven students absorbed by DIL to be employed at various Pizza Hut outlets in Delhi. The selection process included a written test followed by a group discussion. The candidate will undergo a one year training (monthly stipend of Rs. 3100) after which they will be promoted and posted at various locations. This is indeed a big opportunity for our children and we are thankful to DIL for extending their hands in partnership.

SEEDS of climate change

Deepalaya Schools believe in a holistic approach to Education. Students are exposed to a wide range of activities which help them discover the world. To this effect, Chandra Prakash, Anand Prakash, Sanil Mathew (Class X) and Sumit (Class IX) of Deepalaya school, Kalkaji Extn. attended a 5 day workshop on Climate Change at Mumbai. The workshop was organized by Schlumberger Excellence in Educational Development (SEED) in which 8 schools participated from across the country.

A large number of activities like presentations, model making, watching films and a quiz competition on climate change took place. Sanil Mathew, a member of the winning team received a citation which read as "excellent participation in the quiz". Additionally, the children were fortunate enough to see the processes of oil extraction, water recycling and waste management and disposal at close quarters. Their visit was made memorable by a sightseeing tour to the Nehru Science Centre and Gateway of India. To sum it up, the children had an enriching experience. ■





Newsflashes

Mela for the Differently Aabled

Deepalaya along with 50 other NGOs recently participated in a two day exhibition (Mela) organized by the Blind Relief Association, Delhi. On display were various handicrafts fabricated by the physically and mentally challenged. The items on display at the Deepalaya stall included candles, *putul* craft, greeting cards, bead works and paintings. Both print and electronic media covered the event. On this occasion the Art of Living Foundation, a non-profit organization also distributed aids and appliances like Hearing Aids, Calipers, Crutches, Tri Cycles and Cerebral Palsy chair worth over Rs. 54,000/- to the children of Deepalaya.



An Example to follow on Best Practices

It is a matter of pride for Deepalaya to be one of the two NGOs (out of 80 shortlisted) chosen by the GTZ and the Ministry of Labour to study under the project – 'Restructuring and Expanding the National Vocational Training System (NVTs) in India'. A report has been prepared laying down the essential methodologies and processes that can be identified as the Best Practices. The Deepalaya-Chameli Dewan Vocational Training Centre (VTC) located in Kalkaji (S Delhi) was studied to provide inputs for the report. The report is to be a guide for organizations that seek to have an efficient networking and information flow between trainers and trainees in vocational skill training. The VTC at Deepalaya has focused on flexi timings, flexi training scheduling, gender equity, soft skill and motivational training and other unconventional methodologies which have been systematically structured in the overall vocational education and training package. While the actual methodologies adopted by Deepalaya is recognized and built into the report, the basic philosophy and approach of Deepalaya was found by the report to be worthy of emulation.



Colophon

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Deepalaya wins First Prize



The Special Olympics Women's Championship organized a Bocce and Soft Ball competition for the mentally challenged at Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium on March 19th and 20th, 2007.

Five differently abled children namely Rakhi, Pinky, Jyoti, Sangeeta and Shivani from Deepalaya actively participated in this competition. Jyoti, a cerebral palsy patient got the first prize

and all the rest, the third prize. Mrs. Kiran Bedi, Senior Police Officer graced this occasion and gave away the prizes.

Other programs organized included Dental camp and cultural show in which Deepalaya and other schools participated with enthusiasm. In all 400 differently abled children from different NGOs took part in this two day event. ■

Update on IFCW

As you may be aware, Deepalaya, as a member of the International Forum for Child Welfare (IFCW) will be hosting this year's World Forum from 21-24 August at Intercontinental, The Grand, New Delhi. The World Forum (WF) is an annual capacity building, leadership training and network building exercise for NGOs, where people interested in child welfare issues exchange ideas that would facilitate the promotion of advocacy on child rights.

As part of this event an array of luminaries will deliberate and review

the 8 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) set by the UN. Hence, World Forum 2007 is an important stock taking time to assess the progress made in achieving the target that were clearly spelt forth when the MDGs were set up.

To know more and to participate in the World Forum please visit www.worldforum2007.org. Limited scholarships for participants from developing countries are available on first come first basis. Apply Now! For scholarship and queries, please email to support@worldforum2007.org ■

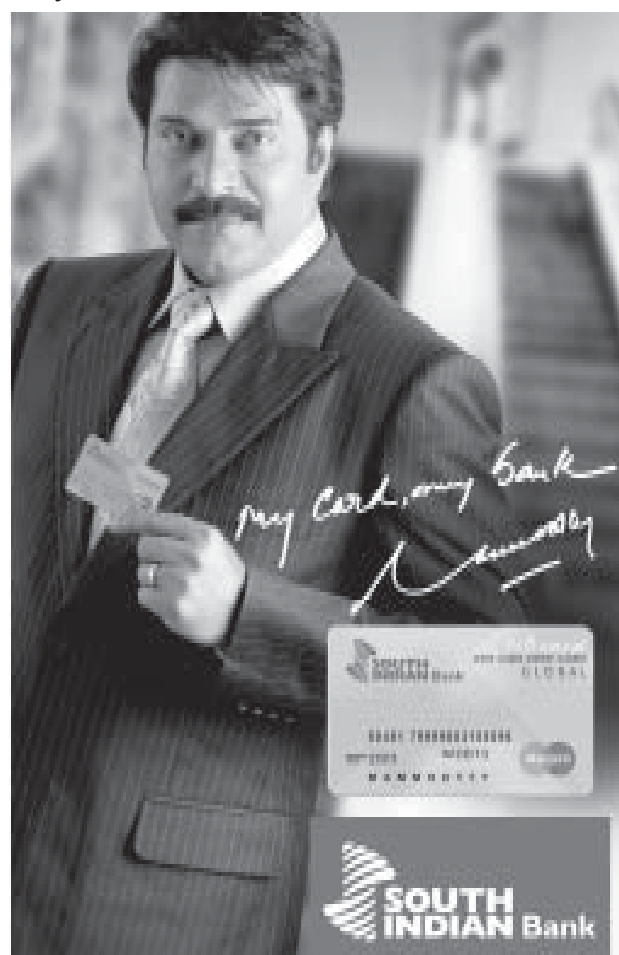
Fostering Stronger Ties

In February, an intercultural study week focusing on worldwide cooperation in Education was organized in Netherlands. This was a joint venture by the Windeshelm University of Professional Education, OIKOS Foundation and Edukans Foundation. The objectives of the meet were:

1. To make students acquainted with development cooperation
2. To build a network with schools and teacher-training institutes in developing countries.
3. To stimulate the mobility of students to developing countries.

Mrs. Gitanjali Krishnan, Principal, Ramditti J.R.Narang Deepalaya School represented Deepalaya in this meet. Apart from enlightening the gathering about Deepalaya and its various activities she also made a presentation on Indian Culture and Education System. The audience she feels "have been very

receptive. We have been able to connect to a cross section of people in the Netherlands who have expressed support to Deepalaya's activities." ■



Letter to the Editor

Art & Joyce Daniels of United States have been involved with Deepalaya for the past 15 months under the auspices of the India Liaison office of Latter-Day Saint Charities. They have been teaching the children of Deepalaya School, Kalkaji Extension music and dance of New Zealand, Africa and America. The visitors were full of appreciation for the students in their letter to us. To quote a few lines:

"We are so very proud of what's being done at Deepalaya. May you and all of your organization be blessed as you continue to serve and bless the lives of so many children and their families. We see your dream of a great Deepalaya Choir becoming a reality. And the behaviour of the children has been remarkable. We've had many guests to visit with us. Every one has remarked as to how happy the children are and how well behaved. We are so very proud at what's being done at Deepalaya".

Alumni in the Spotlight



I am Amrish Sharma, 23 year old and in the final year BA correspondence course of Delhi University. My father was selling crockery but had to give it up due to the recent demolition drive. My mother is a housewife. I have two brothers and two sisters.

I completed Grade VIII from Deepalaya and Grade X from a Government School, and rejoined Deepalaya to complete Class XII through the NIOS. Deepalaya was like a second home to me and after leaving it, it was not easy to adjust to other environments. Teachers in Deepalaya were warm and friendly and instilled self confidence in us.

On completing XII, I got a job as a Customer Care Executive in a franchise company of Airtel. Deepalaya had enabled me to attain fluency in English and this was the main reason why I got my job.

Ultimately I would like to become a professional singer. I take heart from my teachers who said, "dare to dream, believe in yourself and pursue your dreams with passion".

I am thankful to the sound education I had which has taught me how to face challenges in life. I wish to place on record my gratitude towards my sponsor, Ms.Mary Stitts, my teachers and all others at Deepalaya.