



A ray of sunshine for less privileged children

Board of Trustees

Anu Aga

Ex Chairperson,
Thermax India
Ltd.

Shaheen Mistri

Founder and
MD, The
Akanksha
Foundation

Srila Chatterjee

Producer,
Highlight Films

Nandita Dugar

Ex-Boston
Consulting
Group

Neel Shahani

Head Trader,
Credit Lyonnais

Amit Chandra

MD,
DSP Merrill
Lynch

Ramesh Srinivasan

Partner,
McKinsey & Co

Luis Miranda

President &
CEO,
IDFC AMC

THE AKANKSHA MISSION

To impact the lives of less privileged children enabling them to maximize their potential and change their lives.

ABOUT AKANKSHA

The Akanksha Foundation is a non-profit organization that educates less privileged children from slum areas. Over the past 15 years, Akanksha has managed to create opportunities for over 2500 children who study in 49 Akanksha centres (30 in Mumbai and 19 in Pune) and another 2105 children through the Municipal School Project (4 schools in Mumbai and 6 in Pune)

WHY AKANKSHA?

Out of every 100 children born in India today:

- 63 births are not even registered
- 25 are not immunized against any disease
- 16 will have no access to clean drinking water
- 15 will never go to school
- Out of every 100 kids that begin school, only 52 will reach the 5th standard.

If we believe that our future lies in the hands of our children, this presents a staggering problem.

In Mumbai alone 2.3 million children live in slums and on the streets.

Akanksha exists to give its children the education, training, and skills to change their lives.

HISTORY

The Akanksha Foundation was started in 1990. Registered as a charitable society and trust in 1991, Akanksha has grown from an organisation run completely through voluntary efforts to a professional institution with full-time and part-time staff that channel voluntary efforts towards providing educational opportunities to less privileged children.

Akanksha began with a simple idea. There were thousands of slum children who needed and wanted to be educated. There were thousands of college students who had the energy, enthusiasm and time to teach these children. And there existed pockets of available spaces located in schools that seemed ideal teaching environments. The simple idea then, was to bring together the three – kids, student volunteers and spaces. Once we made this three-way connection the first Akanksha centre was born.

Patrons

Deepak Parekh
Chairman, HDFC

Anand Mahindra
Vice Chairman
and Managing
Director, Mahindra
& Mahindra Ltd.

Arjun Waney
Chief Executive,
Argent Fund
Limited

Sponsors of Akanksha Centres

**Aditya Birla
Group**

Ad Astra Trust

Aviva

**Carnegie Social
Initiatives
(Sweden)**

Castrol India

Citigroup N.A.

KINOE (UK)

**DSP Merrill
Lynch**

Eaton

Forbes Marshall

HDFC Ltd

**Kirloskar Oil
Engines Ltd**

**Mehta Family
Foundation**

**Merrill Lynch
Investment
Managers**

In a very cost effective way, Akanksha reaches out to the under-privileged children. It teaches them more than the regular subjects. With care and affection it helps them to assess their value systems and exposes them to a larger canvas. The volunteers while giving their time get affection from the children. At Akanksha there is no one way street. Everyone is giving something and receiving something in return.

Anu Aga, Ex Chairperson, Thermax India Ltd.

AKANKSHA BELIEVES

Akanksha believes that an early start with good basic education is the best way to help India's slum children help themselves. The organisation aspires to provide less privileged children a balanced education that focuses on both intellectual and emotional development. Akanksha centres are places to learn, play, create and experience the joys of childhood. Each centre runs in under-utilised spaces such as schools, colleges and offices after working hours, every day.

AKANKSHA'S VISION

We want each Akanksha child to

- have a *strong educational foundation*
- have a deep sense of *self-esteem*
- have a *good time* in a space where they can be children
- grow into concerned citizens and *leave with a job*.

We want to encourage them to dream. But more importantly, we want to empower them to deliver on their dreams.



“Akanksha's most important gift to Slum Children is not only Education but Hope. To see the sparkle in the eyes of Akanksha kids is to know that goodness is alive in the world.”
Alyque Padamsee

THE AKANKSHA CENTRE

- Uses under-utilized spaces for 2.5 hours each day to run Akanksha centers
- Teaches children using non-formal, innovative, fun and practical teaching methods
- Employs qualified educationalists to teach in the Akanksha centers
- Effectively draws on a large group of volunteers to assist paid teachers and staff
- Integrates children into the formal school system, (supporting them thereafter)

Novartis India Ltd

St. Joseph's Mission Action Group

Star India Pvt Ltd

The Akanksha Fund

Thermax Ltd

WNS Global Services Pvt Ltd

Zensar Technologies

OTHER AKANKSHA PROGRAMMES

- Medical Education project for parents and children, including routine check-ups and treatment for all the children
- General Awareness Programmes instructing the parents and children on aspects such as hygiene, sanitation and family planning
- Value Education and self-esteem
- Field Trips, outings and Summer Camps to encourage learning through recreation
- Computer class
- Art for Akanksha
- Mentor programme
- Empowerment programme
- Drama club
- Sports Programme
- Dance Class

The Learning to Lead Prog. seeks to identify those children from Akanksha who have the potential for leadership and excellence and instill in them a sense of purpose and determination to succeed, by providing them with intensive academic and leadership opportunities.

The Akanksha Municipal School Project represents Akanksha's first effort to work within the formal school system. It is an effort by Akanksha to extend its activities in the field of education, leveraging our experiences with less privileged children to improve the quality of learning in Municipal Schools. Specifically, we hope to provide inputs in the fields of teaching, extra-curricular activities, community support and infrastructure that will significantly enhance the learning opportunities for children in MCGM schools.

MOBILIZING RESOURCES IN SOCIETY

Akanksha operates with the belief that each of us has a responsibility to improve the situation in which our children live. Akanksha encourages people to think about what they can do - give money, time, expertise or space. Akanksha then finds a concrete way to match their contributions with Akanksha's needs.

Space for Akanksha Centres

Many Akanksha children have never been to a school prior to joining the program. Akanksha makes use of high quality private and government aided schools, office spaces and public spaces to run Akanksha centres. Each space provides an atmosphere conducive to learning, and one that is a real change from the conditions in the slum.

Sixty less privileged children study at each centre from Monday to Friday. The centre gives each Akanksha child quality time each day away from the harshness of the slum. The structured, safe environment provides them the security necessary to gain self-confidence and kindles their ambitions with a desire to change their lives.

"At Highlight, we are often questioned about how we manage to have so many noisy kids in our office. It has been three years, and I am happy to say a few grubby fingers on cushions have been our only grouse! There is a very special feeling in being able to make even a little difference in so many lives, and if all we do is allow them a few hours to be children every day, I believe we have done well."

Srila Chatterjee, Producer, Highlight Films

Office Space
Voltas Limited

**Space for
Akanksha
programmes**

**King George
V Memorial**
Art Class

**Colaba
Municipal
School**
Art Class

**St. Xavier's
School**
Art Class

World Links
Computer
Class

**Nehru
Science
Centre**
Computer
Class

**Nehru
Planetarium**
Drama Class

**DSP Merrill
Lynch**
Mentor
Program

Voltas Ltd
Mentor
Program

IDFC
Mentor
Program

RPG
Mentor
Program

IMRB
Mentor
Program

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers form the backbone of all Akanksha activities. Over 300 individuals annually volunteer their time at Akanksha. Volunteers are school and college students, housewives and professionals. The Akanksha volunteers add energy, creativity and compassion to each Akanksha centre.

Volunteers help in many ways such as:

- Assist in teaching the children at the Centres
- Help at the art class and other vocational training classes
- Collect and donate materials for the centres
- Conduct workshops for our kids
- Make worksheets and other educational aids for Akanksha
- Organise special events for the children
- Lend a hand with administrative tasks in the office

For every volunteer, Akanksha is a unique learning, giving as well as receiving experience.

CORPORATE SPONSORS

The Akanksha Sponsor-a-School scheme enables corporations to adopt an Akanksha centre. Besides financial support, sponsors are encouraged to get involved through direct volunteer teaching, celebrating special occasions with the children, mentoring, purchasing artwork done by the children, providing advice in areas like finance and marketing, making donations in kind, etc. Each corporate employee has an opportunity to develop a relationship with a group of children at their centre.

“Akanksha is a rare testimonial to Human Spirit and Initiative by the citizens of Mumbai. Having developed and sustained a methodology that reaches out to over 1,500 underprivileged children, Akanksha provides hope where there is not much to hope for and even less to dream. Due to their endeavours we are confident that thousands of underprivileged children will at least have a future. DSP Merrill Lynch is proud and privileged to work closely with this outstanding organization across a number of initiatives. Akanksha has helped us in our endeavour to be socially responsible and we are grateful to them for the association.”

Hemendra Kothari, Chairman, DSP Merrill Lynch

HDFC
Mentor Program

Novartis India Ltd
Mentor Program

Essar
Mentor Program

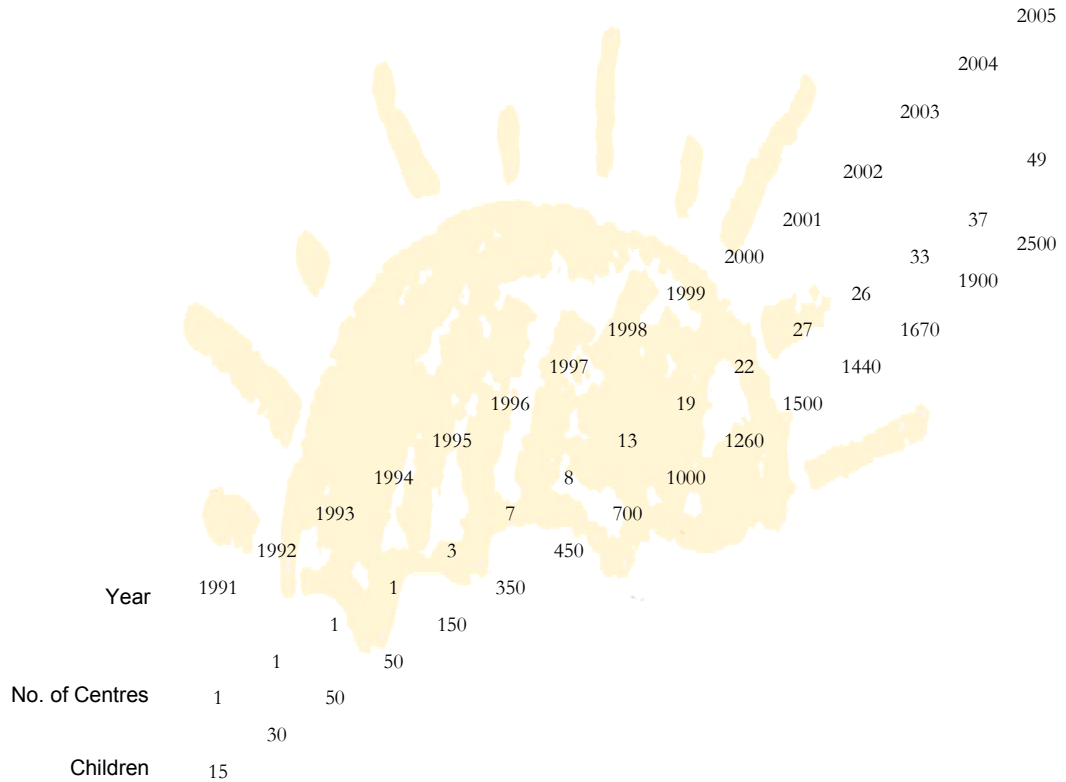
ICICI Bank
Mentor Program

Bombay International School
Learning to Lead

REACHING MORE CHILDREN

Akanksha began when a group of college students got together and started teaching a few children in a slum in Mumbai. Over the past 15 years the organization has expanded from 15 children in one centre to over 4000 children today in 43 centres and 9 municipal schools across Mumbai and Pune.

Growth of Akanksha



The scope of Akanksha's work has grown significantly in the past few years and the future holds even more promise. Akanksha plans to offer a greater number of opportunities to our children. The focus will be on improving the quality of teaching and learning happening across centres. The existing centres will continue to provide Akanksha students with increasing opportunities to learn in multi-faceted ways, expanding programs like the Mentor Program, and focussing on vocational education for the older children.

At the same time, we are reaching out to more children both through our centre model and by working within formal schools, both municipal and government aided.

Mumbai: Voltas House 'C', T.B. Kadam Marg, Chinchpokli, Mumbai – 400 033.

Tel: 23700253 / 23729880

Pune: Chandrakant, Bungalow 2, Ashwini Housing Society, Shivaji Nagar,

Pune – 411 005. Tel: 25535581 / 82

www.akanksha.org