



Street plays as powerful tools for social mobilisation

Although we have been working for "Nayee Talim" (new education) all these years, so far, our course was mapped out. We have now before us uncharted waters, with the Pole Star as our only guide and protection. That Pole Star is village handicrafts.

- MAHATMA GANDHI

Nothing is quite like the company of a good teacher.

- ZAKIR HUSSAIN



Team spirit in kids across age barriers instills great confidence

Wealth is a golden cage in which children of the rich are bred into artificial deadening of their powers. Therefore, in my school (Shantiniketan), much to the disgust of people of expensive habits, I had to provide for this great teacher - this bareness of furniture and materials - not because it is poverty, but because it leads to personal experience of the world.

- RABINDRANATH TAGORE



Today's student, tomorrow's conscientious leader

What children need from the teacher is encouragement, proper material, class management and companionship.

- DEVI PRASAD



NDPL Energy Club children invoke the divine powers

We have come to this world to accept it, not merely to know it. We may become powerful by knowledge, but we attain fullness by sympathy with all existence.

- RABINDRANATH TAGORE



Child art says it all!

Let the growth of the child's mind be under Nature's generous and joyful space and time. Today, education is sitting on the child's shoulders as a burden.

- RABINDRANATH TAGORE



A 'nukkad naatak' by Gram Prabandhaks (Rural Managers) in a village



Kids show how natural light can make a fashion statement

Nothing is more crushing to the infant spirit than a parents' or a teacher's contempt for those creative efforts of expression, as child's art, which is its passport to freedom, to the full fruition of all its gifts and talents, to its true and stable happiness in adult life.

- HERBERT READ



Camaraderie across age barriers in the neighborhood

Every act done with a sense of beauty, grace and human relevance is art, and every object created with care is an artifact.

- DEVI PRASAD



Awards & Scholarships as morale boosters

It is the egocentricity of the teacher that he thinks that he can teach. As long as we cherish this pride, we will never be able to understand the essence of education.

- VINOBA BHAVE



Maitreya kids try out their hand at chess under watchful eyes of a parent

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AUROBINDO ON EDUCATION:

- The first principle of true teaching is that nothing can be taught.
- The second principle is that the mind has to be consulted in its own growth.
- The third principle of education is to work from the near to the far, from that which is to that which shall be.
- The chief aim of education should be to help the growing soul to draw out that in itself which is best, and make it perfect for a noble cause.
- The teacher is not an instructor or a taskmaster; he is a helper and a guide. His business is to suggest and not to impose.



Parents join the crusade to save energy, and get en'lightened' too!!

THE SOIL OF THE SCHOOL

The school should help its young people to discover their vocations and responsibilities; it should be the soil in which they can grow without fear - happily and integrally.

- J. KRISHNAMURTHY

REACHA

Reaching out, touching lives



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Go in search of your people, love them, learn from them,
plan with them, serve them, begin with what they know,
build on what they have

...Anonymous

REACHA REACHING OUT, TOUCHING LIVES

REACHA, or Research and Extension Association for Conservation Horticulture and Agro-forestry, is a Voluntary Organisation registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, within jurisdiction of NCT of Delhi since March 1992. Contributions to REACHA are exempted u/s 80G of the IT Act. It is registered with CAPART, Govt of India, and under FCRA, Govt of India, for foreign contributions.



A handbook on Disaster Management

REACHA was set up primarily to function as a meaningful bridge between the governmental systems on the one hand and disorganized mass of the people on the other. Voluntary Organizations are often seen as claiming to represent the people. This is not always true. Governmental systems claiming to be people-friendly are seldom so, inspite of their best intentions. Local bodies and Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) are supposed to be, Constitutional Amendments notwithstanding, peoples' representatives at the grass-roots' level, but their functioning over the last fifty years has only reduced them to the status of resource-poor and ineffective arms of the Central and State Governments. Few State Governments have shown the courage and wisdom to delegate genuine and effective functions of self-governance to these local bodies. With globalization of the economy and the progressively receding role of the public sector even in genuine and essential functions of governance, a golden opportunity for the emergence of real peoples' power seems to be visible on the horizon.

Ever since its inception in 1992, REACHA has been endeavoring to organize genuine Community Based Organizations (CBOs), which, on the one hand respect the dignity of the individual, and on the other, promote community interests in a collective manner. This implies empowering people with knowledge and know-how, for which the only tool is the education system. Sadly, the education system in the country today hardly imparts genuine life skills. REACHA has successfully experimented with education and knowledge-sharing in communities. Results of these exhaustive experiments have been encapsulated into deliverable modules for schools, neighbourhoods, institutions and corporate organizations, so that they can be effectively plugged onto the existing educational system and learning environments.

REACHA has also been instrumental in orienting over 10,000 volunteers in the last one decade, to improve the living conditions in the rural areas of the whole country. Lucknow, the capital of Uttar Pradesh, is one district where the consequential process of rural transformation has now begun to become visible.



Intense training workshops

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'Maitreya' children prepare to give back to nature



Workshop on Animal Husbandry

shed development in rain-fed areas & comprehensive rural development (REACHA undertook a project in 1996-98 with support from NABARD, under RBI, for the above programme) & training of Rural Managers (an ongoing programme, in association with India Literacy Board, ILB, Lucknow. ILB is also an important IM). REACHA also took up the greening of barren lands at Bhatti Mines near Delhi in 1992-93.



A unique effort to 'touch' the less fortunate

Ante-natal Care of pregnant women are important initiatives. **"ALLEVIATION OF HUMAN MISERY"** ("पीड़ा निवारण दिवस"): is observed every year on 3rd Dec to commemorate the Bhopal Gas Tragedy (1984) by 1000's of NGOs & individuals as an All-Religion Prayer.

EDUCATION:

REACHA has been providing training, guidance and support to school children (both formal and non-formal stream), school managements, teachers and parents on social issues:

Vidya-daan Scholarships: are provided to children of war widows, marginalised workers and other underprivileged classes, for the furtherance of their education.

'Kaasha' Vidyashilp Learning Center: is a non-formal Learning Center run by BEL Officers Ladies Club (BOLC), Ghaziabad, an IM, and assisted by REACHA, where 60-70 children from the weaker sections

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT:

REACHA oriented the faculty at Yug Nirman Mission, Shantikunj, Haridwar, one of our distinguished Institutional Members (IM), for setting up a 'rachnaatmak prakosh't' (Creative Cell) at Shantikunj, for training farmers, government functionaries, volunteers of NGOs and individuals in Self-Help-Group (SHG) formation, mobilisation of micro-credit for local development, rain-water harvesting through water-



Fieldworkers being sensitized on RCH

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE:

REACHA worked extensively with other NGOs for maximizing the reach of the Pulse Polio Immunisation Programme from 1996-99 (with WHO support); holds workshops on Women's Empowerment, "Health for All", and Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) in collaboration with ILB, Lucknow, and Population Foundation of India (PFI). Population stabilization &



A SAMEER Club being launched

of society are provided primary education, with the objective of making them literate and subsequently, through vocational training, self reliant as well. Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) is a PSU under Ministry of Defence, Gol.

SAMEER Clubs : or **S**ocial **A**ction **M**ovement for **E**ducation and **E**co-**R**estoration Clubs have been conceptualised by REACHA (at Manava Bharati School, New Delhi, also our IM) as a means to provide a platform to school children to practice moral values in school through the method of "learning-by-doing". Educational experts from CBSE, ILB and NIEPA have recommended this approach for implementation in schools. This concept has been adopted by a number of public schools. REACHA's partnership with NDPL (elaborated later) for running NDPL ENERGY CLUBS is based on these "learning-by-doing" modules of child development evolved through SAMEER CLUBS.



'Apnepan ka vistaar' - parents adopt a 'cause'

Maitreya Clubs: have been initiated by REACHA for mobilising the constructive time and talent of parents in neighbourhoods, to share with each others' children, as a means to spread social harmony, assist in personality development of children, enhance their Social Adaptability and generate constructive synergies in society. Children's Maitreya Clubs are successfully running at many residential colonies in Delhi, Lucknow & Amritsar.

Week-end "Magical Colours of Maitreya (MCoM)" Workshops: to help every parent and child understand themselves better - through group discussions, brainstorming sessions, creative art and mind-mapping, personality testing, interviews, family quizzes, pranayaam, adoption of a cause, and open forum. These are organized on request from people.

NDPL Energy Clubs: North Delhi Power LTD (NDPL) is a joint venture between Tata Power, Mumbai and Delhi Govt, for power distribution in North Delhi. REACHA shares its expertise with NDPL to run these clubs in a number of schools in North Delhi, to sensitise children, and their parents, on issues concerning energy conservation.

Maarg-darshak Counselling: in schools to provide guidance and counseling support to students and parents.

Child Development Workshops/sessions in Schools/Corporates/Residential Colonies : have been held in association with the following: NDPL; Think Inc; Manava Bharati School, Panchsheel Park (South), New Delhi; Manava Bharati School, Mussoorie; City Montessori School, Lucknow; CRPF Public School, Rohini, New Delhi; Prabhu Dayal Public School, Delhi; Lancers Convent, Delhi; Bal Bharati Public School, Delhi; DAV Shreshth Vihar, Delhi; Apeejay School,



A SAMEER Club child explains the 'way forward'



Students & teachers provide valuable feedbacks



An Energy File (e-File) presentation by students of NDPL Energy Club

originate in Uttaranchal. Every water stream & water source of this state contributes water to these two rivers. To keep **Ganga & Yamuna** clean, Uttaranchal has to wake up! The State Govt & REACHA (ILB) are working together for this. This campaign has now acquired an All-India dimension with the inclusion of all **the rivers, water streams & water sources of India**. Every Indian is requested to join. Eradication of **Parthenium (Gaajar Ghaas)** is yet another major initiative launched since 2003 **by cutting it in June & up-rooting it in July every year**.

PUBLICATIONS:

ILB publishes a quarterly magazine "**ऋचा ऋतम्भरा**" in Hindi from Lucknow, in association with REACHA that focuses on action & result-oriented creativity. It is widely circulated to all District Magistrates in the country, premier developmental institutes, schools, colleges and conscientious citizens & NGOs. "**कुछ तो करना ही होगा**" - is a compilation of articles written by Chairman, REACHA, since 1997 to 2005, pointing out glaring areas of deficiency in society & the remedies thereof by citizens themselves. "**A BAT for all Seasons**" is a satire on the education system today, in the form of an engaging fable, reminiscent of the Jataka Tales. The theme of 'Maitreya' (friendliness) as the way forward runs through the fable. "**Disaster Management: towards a National Response System**", "**Let's Do Something for Everyone**", "**Uttaranchal : A Perspective**" are some of the other publications.



School kids 'pump the air' in solidarity

Pitampura, Delhi; Delhi Public School (DPS), Amritsar; BEL, Ghaziabad; BEL Officers Club, Chandernagar, Ghaziabad.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION:

REACHA campaigns extensively for eco-friendly development. It seeks to develop partnerships with other govt & non-govt organizations for achieving goals of sustainable livelihood. One such is **keeping the rivers, water streams & water sources of Uttaranchal clean:** Ganga & Yamuna, the two most sacred rivers of India,



'Maitreya' kids on a cycle trail - exploring to seek!



A 'Maitreya' child has a story to tell!

REACHA is always on the lookout for simple, sincere aspirants who have the courage to experiment & explore their own hidden talents & offers them partnership on equal terms in this man-making enterprise.

Join us in this adventurous journey..... !!