

## Shikshamitra Annual Update 2016 – 2017

Shikshamitra has nearly completed a full circle trying to reach its objectives set in 2005. Much has been achieved in the span of 12 years. Questions have lingered in the back of one's mind as

- For how long should an organization continue?
- After a certain point of time what should be the mode of operation?

Unavailability of funds for such a small org. and lack of a strong second line in the organization have set one reconsidering these questions.

### **Important decisions based on various reflections by the Managing committee, the Shikshamitra staff and Secretary, Sudeshna Sinha:**

- Shikshamitra( SKM) will continue to run solely as a training organization
- Some important documents on the works of SKM, relevant to education, will be published
- Funds will not be sought from any funding organizations. SKM will raise its own funds from the training and consultation fees and sale of materials
- Biswajit Chitrakar , SKM's oldest member will be the chief coordinator of training and correspondence. He will be the only person to draw a full salary every month.
- The three other staff (trainers in Maths, Bengali and Library) will be hired for their expertise as and when there are requests for trainings.
- Sudeshna Sinha will work part time continuing to advise and help in shaping new training modules. She will also be responsible for all the documentations.
- Accounts person Poonam Agarwal will continue part time
- The SKM space will be retained for trainings, special meetings and short courses offered by Shikshamitra or in collaborations
- SKM will produce materials as long as the demands prevail
- The new structure will be tried for a year (April'17 till March18). If it is found to be viable, SKM will continue along a set plan of action for 3 years.

### **April 2016 – March 2017**

A strong drive to raise funds with the help of a professional did not yield results. Receiving an offer of a space at a reasonable rent from a friend, SKM shifted its office to the new address on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2016. From July16 till March 17, SKM followed a new work schedule (4 days at office and 1 day from home).

### Teachers' Training

This has been the sole focus of SKM. Since January 16 the training requests soared up and continues to do so.

**Our chief partners are as follows. Their work has been consistent, well supervised and the teachers have been keen on improvement.**

1. **Save the Children** work with Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan ensuring quality education in the primary schools in the backward wards of Kolkata. SC worked through 2 NGOs to ensure quality. Shikshamitra has been their consulting education partner. SKM provided capacity building in teaching of Maths, Bengali and Class Management for 30 govt teachers; Running of Library and Multilevel teaching for the NGO partners. Follow ups however yielded positive results in only 2 schools.

2. **Young Men's Welfare Society** run 3 primary schools in South 24 parganas for 1500 students with 32 teachers. SKM provided Math training in phases with close follow ups. The students have been reported to have mentionably improved.

3. **MACE** is a teacher training unit run by the Birlas at Modern High School. SKM continues to teach Maths to the teacher trainees, twice a year. February to March 2017 SKM also conducted remedial classes in Maths and English for the candidates who needed some help to strengthen their basics. SKM teachers got a warm ovation from the students at the convocation. In November 16, SKM was requested for a 3 days Math workshop **for Modern High School primary teachers**.

4. **One of the many schools, run by TECHNO INDIA**, in Kolkata, has an extremely motivated Headmistress and a dedicated team. SKM has been associated with the school since 2015 through trainings in Bangla, Math and English. Continuous follow up and mentoring has been sought by the school showing great improvements in the classrooms.

Miscellaneous Trainings were conducted for Praajak and RCHSS in Malda.

English trainings for Mantra 4 Change, Gubbachi, teacher educators from APF in Bangalore, I -saksham in Bihar and Shamil teachers in Kolkata took place. Consultation for teaching English to teachers was also sought by Ruchi Ghosh from APF in Jan2017.

### **Space for Teachers**

After many trials and revisions SKM has been able to come up with a list of teachers out of its interactions since 2011. These teachers are consistently commendable in their work in the classrooms, as trainers and some as leaders and administrators. These teachers could be useful as resource persons in the future and could be further groomed.

#### **Group 1 – with leadership qualities**

Rumi Ganguli( High School English teacher and resource person); Joyeeta Dasgupta( head of a private school) and Biswajit Chitrakar( Assistant Coordinator, Shikshamitra)

**Group 2** - 8 teachers from different NGOs and schools - DRCSC, Right Track, YMWS and Shamil.

**Publications:** has taken a back seat chiefly because of distribution. SKM has decided to go ahead with publishing its own works and that of its children in the form of books, booklets and workbooks in the coming years.