

## MORE ON KATHA

**KATHA** has been working in the areas of children's education, teacher training, and book publishing since 1988. We have an innovative and proven education model that has been designed based on decades of working with children from underserved communities. Our model puts the child at the centre of all learning and makes learning a fun, creative, holistic experience and also relevant to the world outside the classroom. We also train teachers to creatively engage students using Katha's Story Pedagogy® and to design classroom activities that make learning interactive and fun. Katha is also a renowned publisher of children stories and translated adult fiction. We have published 190 beautifully illustrated children's stories in Hindi and English and 106 adult titles. Katha is honored that CBSE has recommended 75 of our children's titles and that Katha's children's books have twice been nominated for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award for children's literature. More information can be found at: [www.katha.org](http://www.katha.org).

Katha's integrated and innovative approach to education directly benefits thousands of children each year. Last year we reached over 80,000 children in 122 slums. At the invitation of Government, Katha also works with children, teachers and principals in municipal corporation schools, with plans to extend to 500 schools in 5 years.

## GENESIS

Geeta Dharmarajan, the Founder of Katha, affected by the plight and sight of children begging and peddling wares at busy traffic junctions on the roads of Delhi and even more shocked by the standard of education in Delhi, started, in 1988, a health magazine for children that would help make them self-sustaining. Called **Tamasha**, a health and environment magazine that would enhance the joy of reading. But how could children love books if they could not read! **Katha Khazana**, a "deschool", was therefore set up in 1990 at Govindpuri, largest cluster of 8 slums, to cater to the children from predominantly non-literate families from economically backward communities. In order to not only attract but to retain and ensure their continuing interest in reading, a unique and innovative method of teaching through stories: **Story Pedagogy®**, was introduced. Income generation activities for the women in the community were initiated to enable the mother to send the children to school. With a focus on the girl child, to enable the elder girl child to attend school instead of taking care of her siblings at home, a **crèche** was created in the School to take care of the siblings. **KATHA** was formally registered in 1989 on World Literacy Day! At Katha we believe that children can change their world and bring themselves out

of poverty through relevant and quality education. At Katha "Poverty" is defined as social, personal, intellectual, cultural and environmental deficiencies. A value driver organization, Katha is guided by its:

**Vision:** No child shall live in Poverty.

**Mission:** To enhance the joys of reading and impact social injustice and inequity through active story-based learning, quality education and community action so as to enable every child realize his/her full potential. To nurture translation as a counter-divisive tool for Nation building and to culture link our many pluralities.

**Mantra:** Political, social and cultural empowerment.

**Motto:** Uncommon creativities for a common good. Katha's activities span the literacy to literature continuum and are all aimed at creating a fun learning environment where children can develop a love of learning and become aware, enriched and active participants in their communities. Katha's activities can broadly be organized under three pillars

### EDUCATION

- **Katha Lab School (KLS)** is Katha's incubator for its innovative approach to teaching and learning. Katha's education methodology involves: i) Active Story Based Learning, in which teachers use a variety of methods such as discussion, debate, story, dance, theatre and video to engage students in the learning process; ii) Theme-based curriculum, in which the National Curriculum (NCERT) is organized and taught based on themes; iii) Integrated subject teaching, in which teachers coordinate their lessons across subjects so that concepts are continuous between subject classes; and iv) Application of knowledge through classes in computers, bakery, tailoring and carpentry. The Lab School was founded in 1990 and is a haven where Katha's unique methods are developed and tested. Nearly all of Katha's education programs are external replications of innovations emerging from the Katha Lab School.
- **I Love Reading Campaign (ILR):** This is a literacy program aimed at kindling the joy of learning in children. Katha sets up libraries and trains teachers to bring its unique education methods into the Delhi government school system and into Katha's communities.
- **In Delhi Government Schools:** Katha, partnering with Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), has taken its ILR program to 50 Municipal Corporation of Delhi schools with plans to roll out into 500 schools within 5 years.
- **In Slum Communities:** Katha takes ILR into 122 slum communities annually bringing the joy of reading to approximately 80,000 children each year.

## **TEACHER TRAINING**

Katha trains teachers to actively engage K-12 class students using Katha's unique **Story Pedagogy**<sup>®</sup>, that helps them to think, ask, discuss, and act to become responsive, responsible citizens. Katha's training also enables teachers to develop learning materials that link classroom concepts to their own lives to ensure that learning is relevant and holistic. Katha's teacher training program is a platform where teachers brainstorm and collaborate in developing curriculum and teaching materials for the upcoming academic year. Teachers also interact with educators and other experts who help teachers in building their capacity. They learn to use tools such as discussion, dance, games, debate, and video in engaging students. Through the **I Love Reading Program**, Katha's trainers also provide capacity building to teachers employed in Delhi government schools. This transfer of knowledge and best teaching practices seeks to make Katha's involvement in the government schools sustainable even after Katha's reading program is completed.

## **BOOK PUBLISHING**

Katha also has a unit that publishes high quality children's story books and also translates and publishes adult short stories from India's many regional languages into English. The children's books, available in Hindi and English, contain the works of award winning illustrators and authors that entice children to read and learn while celebrating India's diverse linguistic and cultural heritage and breaking social and gender stereotypes. Katha holds annual "search for excellence" competitions to source the content for these children's books, which are also used as learning materials in Katha's education programs. Many of Katha's translated adult literature titles are also now available as e-books.