

# SKILL Foundation Annual Report 2012

*We Develop Skills*



Thank you for your valuable support in 2012! We are pleased to share with you SKILL Foundation's 2012 Annual Report. In 2012, SKILL Foundation enrolled 721 students, including 100 students from the Orphanage at Apna Ghar in Patna, and 107 and 100 Students from SKILL Foundation's Gola Road and Chandan (Banka) branches respectively.

SKILL Foundation is an educational Trust registered in Mumbai with branches operating in Patna and Chandan (Banka). The mission of SKILL Foundation is to develop life skills of the underprivileged youth in the country. Through its many activities, the Foundation is helping underprivileged children develop a well-rounded personality to become employable and seize the emerging opportunities in a vibrant economy. The immediate requirement of the underprivileged children in India is learning English and Computers. The Foundation at the moment offers unique courses in English and computers. It has also taken up a challenging task of training the children at the government of Bihar orphanage 'Apna Ghar'.

SKILL Foundation's impact can be gauged from the fact that in a short span of 5 years it has seen a phenomenal growth in its activities and has attracted an incredible response from the community. Our free English and computer courses have become successful, with children pouring in from all parts of the state. A number of them have got employment or admission in MBA, engineering and other higher institutions including IIT. Unfortunately, because of the Foundation's limited resources, we are forced to refuse admission to many children on a regular basis. These eager children are drawn to the Foundation because of its unique teaching methodology and positive feedback from the Foundation's alumni, many of whom continue to be associated with the Foundation as teaching assistants.

The Foundation is running on the principles of collective leadership. Unlike some other trusts SKILL Foundation is unique because two of its trustees Mr. Prem Verma and Himalay Verma are directly involved in the day to day activities of the foundation.

The Foundation has developed a program to involve students in the management of its activities. Some of the willing students are selected as Teaching Assistants (TAs) and Trainees. These TAs and trainees are involved in class management, attendance of students and administrative work. On account of this special training they become more employable and are able to get jobs outside as well as at SKILL Foundation. Furthermore, some students get associated with the Foundation to get work experience for career enhancement.

**Total classes:** SKILL Foundation conducted 1654 classes in 2012, under various disciplines i.e. English, Yoga, Library, Computer, Karma Yoga, Movie, Apna Ghar, Music and Dance – a testament to the significant increase in the Foundation's activities.



**English Training:** SKILL Foundation has developed a unique Yogic method of English teaching. During the year we organized 305 English language classes. Every class at SKILL Foundation begins with a 10 minutes session of Yoga consisting of Tadasana, Bhramari Pranayam, Meditation and Prayer. SKILL Foundation has developed a unique method of teaching English through its proprietary **Nine SKILL Mantras** represented by a set of triangles. This helps the students practice simple

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sentences. At the end of the class, the students have a Fun and Games session to encourage them to speak in English. In the 2012 academic session, we put special emphasis on pronunciation, which resulted in significant improvement in students' speaking skills. At the Foundation's Annual Function, the guests greatly appreciated the students' English speaking skills.

**Four-months compressed paid English Course (for college students and other adults)** has picked up well. We held 205 classes in 2012, representing an attendance of 1687. As an incentive the Trainees and Teaching Assistants are allowed to attend the Paid course for advanced training.

**Mantra Chanting Classes:** SKILL Foundation uses Mantra Chanting classes consisting of Kirtans, Mahamritunjaya Jap, Hanuman Chalisa, and other mantras every Saturday evening. Mantra Chanting has a special place in our curriculum, as it helps to hone the students' diction and voice modulation for public speaking. Kirtan uses sound for focusing the mind and developing aural perceptions, emotional expression, self-confidence, and creativity, and is therefore an effective tool for teaching a foreign language. Kirtans are so simple that even the youngest child can sing them. All the children in the class spontaneously join the singing and dancing.



**Bhagwat Geeta Classes:** The more than 5000 years old book Bhagwat Geeta has mantras that are powerful and especially useful for students. The students of SKILL Foundation started chanting of Chapter 12 with great enthusiasm, and a large number of them can now chant it with correct pronunciation. The chanting of Bhagwat Geeta by a dozen students was one of the highlights of the Annual function this year and was appreciated by everyone.



**Library:** The library of SKILL Foundation was further enriched this year by the addition of more books. The Library is open to the students on every Sunday 12 – 2 PM for reading. The students manage the library, and this year the library records have been fully computerized. The SKILL Foundation faculty guide students on the selection of books. The students have access to dictionaries to help them improve their vocabulary. We welcome contributions in terms of books for the library. The library now has 1181 books under the following categories:



- ❖ English Fiction-187
- ❖ Non-fiction English, Fiction and Non-fiction Hindi -306
- ❖ Children Books-248
- ❖ Management-58
- ❖ Yoga-215
- ❖ National Geography Magazine -73
- ❖ Encyclopædia Britannica Series: Macropædia ready reference -34 volumes
- ❖ Encyclopædia Gardening-3 volumes
- ❖ Dictionary-20

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**Sunday Movie:** English movies were screened for the students on Sunday afternoons. The movies were carefully selected by the faculty to help them learn English pronunciation as well as important life skills. SKILL Foundation has a collection of very good English films, which help improve the students' pronunciation. We added several new movies to the movie library in 2012. The Foundation screened 36 movies this year, which the students enjoyed immensely.



**Seva and Karma Yoga:** The SKILL Foundation Environment Council helps students learn the value of Karma Yoga, Seva (service), health and hygiene. The Foundation has adopted 10 streets in the locality, which the students keep neat and tidy. Every Sunday the students clean up these streets, and help the community to maintain a clean environment. We organized a special mega karma yoga event during the Chath Puja when the students cleaned the entire locality, a gesture that was greatly



appreciated by the community.

**Quiz Competition** is an important part of the curriculum of SKILL Foundation, to help students build confidence in English speaking. It was organized every Friday, in which the students' English speaking skills were tested. This has become a runaway success with the students because of the students' enthusiasm. They are divided into four groups - SKILL Panthers, SKILL Leopards, SKILL Lions, SKILL Tigers. The teams get scores to compete for the running trophy each year. A key rule of this competition is that if any student speaks a language other than English, his or her team loses points. Quizzing has proved to be a very good tool for removing the students' inhibition in speaking English freely. Apart from the fact that regular English training is given with laptop & LCD Projector, SKILL Foundation has started using power point presentation for Quizzing. This year the winner of the quiz competition was SKILL Leopards.

**Guest Lecture:** The Guest lecture program is a special tool employed by SKILL Foundation for development of the under-privileged children. The students get to meet people who have been successful in life and thereby learn various soft skills of life. The guests this year were:

1. Mr. S.K Gajadhar (Communications and English Faculty, Frank Finn Air Hostess Training Institute, Ranchi) – May 2012
2. Mr. Nilesh Kumar (Western Union) – June 2012.
3. Vinishree Verma (Architect) and Kavan Solanki, (Ahmedabad) – August 2012
4. Mr S K Sahay IRS (Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, Patna) – November 2012





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5. International Guests from Holland, Thailand and Singapore- November 2012. This group was on a tour of Bihar and spent two days with the students of SKILL Foundation. The guests also saw the students' preparations for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Function. In their feedback they said that they were very impressed with the working of the Foundation and how responsive the kids are.
6. Mr. Rahul Kumar (Final Year student of IIT Patna). He belongs to the first batch of SKILL Foundation and he told the students about how he benefited from the English speaking classes and yoga lessons. He said that SKILL Foundation helped him to achieve his dream and became confident. He promised to attend the SKILL Foundation Annual Function every year. He has also agreed to make an annual donation of Rs 10,000 to the Foundation under the SACP program, as mark of his appreciation.
7. Anand Sinha – Malinda and Bill Gates Foundation, India



**New trustee inducted into the trust:** Ashok Verma, Geologist, New Delhi.

**Morning Sadhana and Yoga Classes:** Every morning SKILL Foundation students do Morning Sadhana, which consists of chanting of mantras. The students also practice yoga asanas suitable for children under expert guidance. SKILL Foundation has seen a marked improvement in the pronunciation of English words and the confidence level of the students.



**Sponsor a Child Program:** This year 101 students were provided free English and computer training at SKILL Foundation. They have been trained under “Sponsor a Child Program”. Under the SACP, well wishers of SKILL Foundation donate Rs 10,000 for English and computer training of four needy children during the year. All donations to the SKILL Foundation are exempt under section 80 G of the Income Tax Act. The names of the donors and the students sponsored by them are published on the Facebook page of SKILL Foundation and the website [www.skillfoundation.com](http://www.skillfoundation.com). SKILL Foundation would like to deeply thank its donors for their liberal contribution to this mission of development of the underprivileged.

## 2012 Contributors of Sponsor a Child Program:

Aatmesh Shrivastava	Melisa Melina	Sonya Chee	T. S. Krishna Murthy
Amitanshu Choudhary	Meera Siva Soathy	Juliet Jacobs	Nilkanth Sakharam Bhide
Ramlal Arora	Ezra Zaid	Adeline Choong	Dr. Ranjan Akhoury
Amritesh Arun	Umapagan Ampikaipakan	Natalie Sia	Arunima Patel

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Lizzie Shunmugam	Charles Peters	Sharaad Kuttan	Ananda Bose
Satsuki Koju	Venus Ho	Carla Sapsford	Manas Jena
Dinesh Shetty	Malek Ali	Caroline Oh	Shiwa Agrawal
Harish Thungani Durgaiyah	Chwi Lynn Lee	Melani Delilkan	Rachana Chowdhary
Yen Hui Tan	Azura Rahman	Jayakumarindran	C.K Lijesh
Annie Wong	Lim Soon Heng	Ben Y K Ng	Anubha Verma
Lani Low	Ken Lim	Reena K Abraham	Sunil Chadda
Crystal Ch'ng	Ali Johan	Abhishek Arun	Dr. Madhurendra Kumar Sinha

**Apna Ghar:** We have been very fortunate to be able to teach the students of Apna Ghar, a Government of Bihar orphanage. We teach English to about 100 students at Apna Ghar. Admittedly, this has been a life changing experience for us and the SKILL Foundation students who volunteer. We use yogic methods of Mantra chanting, Kirtan and dance, simple yogasanas and selected movies. The result has been phenomenal. The children have started to follow simple instructions and behave in a disciplined manner. Very few children have ever been to school. The students who found it difficult to even sit for the full duration of the class have now begun to enter and leave the class and sit in an orderly manner. They have slowly started to engage with the trainers.



**Computer Class:** Computer classes are held from Monday to Saturday. We teach basic & advance computer, Tally, AutoCAD, photoshop and so forth. In 2012, we held 330 computer classes representing an attendance of 2,808. We are unable to increase the average number of students per class because of lack of PCs. We look to your support for increasing the number of PCs.



**Gola Road Branch of SKILL Foundation:** In the branch at Gola Road we had 85 English classes and the attendance was 565. We are unable to grow this class for lack of a proper building and other infrastructure facilities.

**Chandan Branch of SKILL Foundation:** This branch is located in Siljori village in the Banka District. In 2012, we held 48 English classes in this branch, representing a total attendance of 2,980. Given its rural location, we face challenges in smoothly running these classes. The classes have to be adjusted and at times discontinued to accommodate students who help their family in farming activities in certain months. We are seeing a very strong demand for our English courses among rural children in Chandan.





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**Annual Function:** The Annual Function is an important part of SKILL Foundation's curriculum. The function is entirely organized by the students and the preparation work



is an important educational tool for the students. The function is the culmination of months of rigorous practice and preparation. During this period, the students develop numerous skills such as leadership, organization, motivation, working in a group, karma yoga and public speaking. It is truly a showcase of all that the students



learn at Skill Foundation.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Function of SKILL Foundation was held on Sunday December 2 from 12PM to 4PM. This year, the function was held in the campus. The venue was teeming with guests, parents and students of current and older batches. In addition to the 200 students, over 500 guests including the parents and friends of SKILL Foundation attended the function. The chief guest of the function was Sri Mr. S K Sahay, IRS, Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, Patna.



The event organized and managed by the students was a grand success. The students demonstrated



their English speaking talent through speeches, thoughts, kirtan, and dances. This year, the highlight of the function was the Bhagwat Geeta recital by our students. The Ramayana play in English was enacted very well and everyone noted the improvement in the students' pronunciation.



A number of students demonstrated their skill in English by speaking confidently before a large audience. The students were awarded certificates for a successful completion of the English & Computer courses. About 20 students were given awards for their special skills. Skill Leopards were given the Quiz Shield for the year 2012. The valedictory address was given by Mr. Prem Verma, Founder Trustee of SKILL Foundation.

## **SKILL Foundation Annual Function at Gola Road Branch:**

The students of SKILL Foundation at Gola Road celebrated their first Annual Function on 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2012. The function was a grand success and was attended by a large number of students. Notably, the faculty and the students put up the show on their own. The students demonstrated their English speaking skills through speeches, thoughts, kirtan, dance



and the popular English play Ali Baba and Forty Thieves before a packed audience, which included the parents of the students.



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**Alumni Party:** Graduate students of the 6<sup>th</sup> Batch of SKILL Foundation held an Alumni Party on the December 2, 2012 in the SKILL Foundation campus. The function was organized by the students themselves. They enjoyed themselves and also felicitated the faculty.

**Alumni News:** Rahul Sinha, an alumnus of SKILL Foundation, who went on to study at IIT Patna, secured a well paid job. Manish Kumar, another alumnus has been selected in the Central Industrial Security Force. Pallavi Kumari has secured a good job after completing her management studies. Umakant Kumar Bharati is now a Pantaloon employee. Rakesh Kumar has passed the Railways and banking services examinations. Birender Kumar is a government school teacher and has been selected as a traffic officer in Railways. He is very proud of what he has gained from SKILL Foundation and informed us that most of the first batch students now have employment. He has promised to be the coordinator for the first batch alumni to get feedback and updates on their progress. Most of the ex-students who are still pursuing their studies are augmenting their family income by teaching English in their spare time.

**FCRA Registration:** After a two day rigorous inspection on 24-1-12 and 25-1-12 and a submission of significant amount of supporting documentation, SKILL Foundation received the registration for the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) in 2012. This registration allows SKILL Foundation to accept donation from foreign individuals and organizations in foreign currency.

## SKILL Foundation Statistical Report for the Year 2012

Subject	Trainers	No. of Days	No. of Classes	No. of Hrs	Attendance for the Year	Average Students per Class
English Reading, Writing & Speaking	Vinita, Rajendra, Ranjeet	250	331	572	11,816	36
Mantra Chanting	Himalay	46	46	74	2,582	56
Seva & Karmayoga	Vinita	40	40	40	1,516	38
Sunday Movie	Vinita & Rajendra	36	36	72	1,858	52
Apna Ghar	Himalay	18	18	29	1,288	72
Library	Rajendra	42	42	84	2,015	48
SKILL Foundation Computer Class	Ranjeet & Vinita	254	330	2,306	2,808	9*
Morning Sadhana & Yoga	Himalay	337	337	659	5,188	15
English Paid Course (for College Students and other adults)	Rajendra & Pinki	132	205	335	1,687	8
Annual Function Preparation Classes	Vinita, Prem Verma,	273	322	328	8,366	26
Bhagwat Geeta Chanting	Prem Verma	122	122	244	1,984	16
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,401</b>	<b>1,654</b>	<b>4,560</b>	<b>36,698</b>	<b>22</b>

Note: \*We are unable to increase the average number of students per class for our computer courses because we have merely 9 PCs.