



SKILL Foundation

We Develop Skills

Annual Report, 2009 - SKILL Foundation

This year all together SKILL Foundation has imparted skills in English, Speaking, Reading and Writing more than 700 students.

SKILL Foundation also held quiz competition every Sunday. The students of the Foundation were divided into three teams SKILL Lions, SKILL Tigers, and SKILL Panthers, A trophy has been established for the winning team. The winners of this year's quiz competition are SKILL Lions. This quiz competition is a novel teaching technique developed by the Foundation which brings out the best English from all the students.

English movies were screened every alternate Sunday for the students of SKILL Foundation to help them learn contemporary English and pronunciation. Movies such as Cinderella, Jungle Book, Macbeth, King Solomon's Mines, Ice Age, Harry Potter, Ben Hur etc have been screened.

SKILL Foundation has an excellent library to cater to the needs of the students. The library of the Foundation is an important tool to help develop the habit of reading and for expanding the knowledge base.

Yogic Methods of teaching is being applied to English teaching by SKILL Foundation. According to Paramhansa Satyananda Saraswati – "Yoga will emerge as a mighty world power and change the course of world events". We at the Foundation practice yoga on a regular basis. We have 5 minutes yoga before every class and a yoga session on Sunday mornings.

SKILL Foundation uses the yogic teaching technique of Kirtan for developing auditory attention which is very important for learning. Kirtan is a method of using sound for focusing attention and developing aural perceptions, as well as expressing emotions. Therefore, the Foundation organizes Mahamritunjay Jap and Kirtan on every Saturday.

SKILL Foundation has observed that instruction in ecology and environment in schools and colleges comes from textbooks and rarely results in positive action. The Foundation believes that we need to first stir love and curiosity for nature so that children can become aware of the environment and motivated to take action to preserve it. Children need to come into direct contact with nature to study the ecosystems and environmental problems, e.g., pollution, deforestation, and conservation processes. SKILL Foundation Environment Council is a very successful activity setup to achieve this objective. The Environment Council has adopted about 10 streets in the locality which is kept neat and tidy. The members of the council come every Sunday and take up the noble work of cleaning the community. The council teaches the benefits of seva, dignity of labour, cleanliness, health and hygiene and instills the awareness of the environment. In addition, it has initiated children to the environment through quiz, lectures by experts, field trips including visits to museums, Demonstration and workshops.

SKILL Foundation sent two batches of students to Bihar School of Yoga, Munger. During the camp, the students have learnt Seva, yoga, gardening, Kirtan, and numerous aspects of life at the ashram. The trip helped the children learnt the Dynamics of living in a group, fun and games, leadership and coordination.

Teaching Assistants (TA) program is followed in the western universities (e.g. Harvard, M.I.T, and Cornell). It was an ancient *Ashrama Pratha* fallen in disuse in India. This year SKILL Foundation has reintroduced the teaching assistants program with the twin objective of



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developing various life skills of the students by actual practice and obtaining tangible help in the day to day management of the foundation.

At Skill Foundation the TAs performed the following functions:

- Maintenance, Cleaning and arrangement of the classroom.
- Organize footwear bikes & mo-bikes of students
- Maintenance of attendance register & taking roll call before class
- Writing of Notices and Thought of the Day
- Ensuring orderly entry & exit of students
- Maintenance of order & ensuring that students speak English in the class before arrival of teacher
- The experienced TAs also assist the teacher in conducting Yoga & Prayer, writing scores in Quiz, as also in writing on the board
- Act as leaders in the Environment Council of SF for Karma Yoga
- Assisting in Computer Training
- Organizing Teachers Day, Republic/Independence Day, Guest Lectures & Annual Graduation Day Ceremonies through Committees & sub-Committees.
- Assisting in Admission Process.

The Teaching assistants programs has helped in adding numerous skills such as leadership skills, organizational skills – for events, admission etc, management of people and events, collaboration – learning to work in a group, tech savvy, maintaining a clean and orderly environment etc. The take aways for the teaching assistants were the art of volunteering, diligence at work, sense of responsibility, work experience, initiative, self-respect, dignity of work, discipline and many more.

SKILL Foundation has developed a special technique of teaching English speaking through which the students are encouraged to organize programs on Republic Day, Independence Day, Children's day, Teachers Day and Annual Function. The Foundation celebrated its 3rd Annual Day on 20th Dec. '09, in which the students put up an outstanding performance. They enacted two plays in English - Cinderella and Ali Baba and 40 Thieves as well as dance, music/kirtans, public speaking, The students spelled out the Foundation's Nine SKILL Mantras for Teaching Assistants, and the 12 gifts as laid out by Jim Stovall in his book The Ultimate Gift. The students spoke about their learning experience and promised to "dream big dreams and never give up". The students won awards for demonstrating the Foundation's SKILL Mantras and beliefs.

The Annual Function is an essential component of Skill Foundation's curriculum. The preparation for the function is itself a part of the process of learning skills in English, Computer, and other life skills. During this period the students developed numerous skills such as leadership, organization, motivation, working in a group, karma yoga and public speaking. The Annual Function was the culmination of months of rigorous practice and preparation. Apart from bringing out the hidden creativity in the children and making them joyful and happy, the students' performance demonstrated their teamwork, sense of responsibility, sincerity and hard work - the very qualities that the Foundation seeks to instill in the students through rigorous rehearsals. The annual day function served as a showcase of all that the students learnt at skill foundation and the parents were visibly moved by their brilliant performance!



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The regular guest lecture program running through out the year at SKILL Foundation is another important technique for teaching English It helps in developing public speaking skills in the students and expanding their horizons. Also, it acts as career counseling sessions for the students. The guest lecturers this year include

1. Mr. Tarkeswar Singh, Chief Commissioner of Income tax
2. Mr. U. K. Choudhary, Commissioner of Income tax
3. Mr. A. S. Thakur, Retired Chief Commissioner of Income Tax
4. Dr. A. K. Akhauri, eye specialist, Retired Head of Department, PMCH
5. Lawrence Henshaw and Danielle Kolko, from Colorado, USA
6. Dr. Anil Kumar Sinha, Child Specialist, Retired Head of Department, PMCH
7. Dr. Pratap Sinha and Dr (Mrs) Anuja Sinha from Mumbai.
8. Mr. Lalit Kumar Srivastava, Engineer -in-chief, Bihar
9. Mr. Sinha, Retired Air Vice Marshal
10. Mr. Shiv Sinha, Knowledge Manager, Oliver Wyman, USA
11. Mr. Anunay Ashish, Senior Manager, National Securities Depository Limited, Mumbai
12. Mr. G. Sharan, Former Director General, Road Development, India.
13. Mr. R. R. Kumar, Retired IRS officers
14. Mrs. Meera Prasad, Prof. J. D. Woman's College
15. Colonel Sanjay Agarwal, from the Indian Army and Mrs Rajshree
16. Mrs. Tarana Verma. HR Manager, Singapore
17. Mr. Ashok Verma, Geologist, BP India

The visit of the two guest volunteers Lawrence and Danielle from Colorado, USA, needs special mention since they stayed at the Foundation for five days and participated in all the activities here. Through this visit the students got a glimpse into life and culture of the American people, up close and personal. Danielle and Lawrence have now become friends of SKILL Foundation and its international face.

Apart from the round the year classes at 5pm & 7pm in our premises, this year we have embarked on assignments outside these premises.

We have taken up assignments at the Kamla Nehru Shishu Vihar High school, which is steeped in history. This school was founded by Sri Jai Prakash Narain's wife and named after Kamla Nehru the wife of Sri Jawahar Lal Nehru. We are proud to report that we are teaching about a 100 students from class 6 to class 12. In addition, we are also conducting a training program for the teachers of the school. We would like to thank Mrs Sunita Prasad for her unwavering support for this program.

We have successfully carried out two batches of English Course at the Uma Baleshwar Charitable Trust, Chajjubagh. Like today, we also had a graduation function for the students there. Some of those students are here today. We would like to acknowledge the support of Mr. A.S. Verma, Managing Trustee Uma Baleshwar Charitable Trust, Mr. Anwar Hussain, Mr. Pratik Sinha and Ms. Rachna Verma.

We have been very fortunate to be able to teach the unprivileged students of Apna Ghar, a Government of Bihar orphanage behind Lalit Bhawan at Punaichak. We are teaching English to more than 100 students at Apna Ghar. We must admit that this has been a life changing experience for us as well as most of the students who have accompanied me to Apna Ghar. We would like to acknowledge the support of Mrs. Daisy Narayan, Chairperson of Child Welfare



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Committee and Mr. P. N. Chowdhary, Superintendent of Apna Ghar.

Another novel and extraordinary experience for SKILL Foundation is the class that is being conducted at the Remand (observation) home, Gai Ghat. Mr. K. K. Upadhayay, superintendent at the Observation Home, has been helpful in organizing this program.

SKILL Foundation would like to take this opportunity to thank all the guests for sparing their valuable time for the students of the Foundation.

SKILL Foundation organized two free medical camps for its students. We would like to thank Dr. A. K. Akauri and Dr. Nizamudin for their effort, help and support.

SKILL Foundation would like to acknowledge all those individuals and groups who have donated, to the foundation

1. Mr. U. K. Choudhary - Computer
2. Mr. Binoy Verma- Computer
3. Mr. Ashok Verma- Aansis, Mats and Exhaust fans cash donations.
4. Mr. Sanjay Kumar, IRS Mumbai – 2 LCD Projectors
5. Mr. A. S. Verma, Encyclopedia and National Geographic Magazine for Library
6. Uma Baleswar Charitable Trust - Support for 1 batch of 6 students and 2 batches of 20 students each for the Computer program.

In pursuance to our mission to add skills to the vast unskilled labor market, SKILL Foundation had applied for the approval of a SKILL Industrial Training Centre. A very successful computer course is already running at the SKILL Foundation since 2008. This is a very good computer course run by the Foundation and is making a very big impact in the community which is non-conversant with computer. The Foundation is presently running courses in MS office, AutoCAD, TALLY etc.

It is a matter of great pride to announce that the SKILL Industrial Training Center has been approved by the Government of India. The land for the said institute has already been taken on lease. The engineering trades of Fitter, Electrician and Diesel Mechanic have already been approved. The foundation proposes to now add some other engineering trades such as Information Technology and Electronics System Maintenance, Interior Decoration, Building Maintenance, Architectural Assistant and surveyor.

In the field of Non -Engineering trades some skills that is proposed to be added are in Computer Operator and Program Assistant, Data Entry Operator, Corporate, Institution, Hotel, Hospital House Keeping, Front Office Assistant, Secretarial Practice, Craftsman Food Production, Dairying, Baker and Confectioner, Preservation of fruits and vegetables,