



ENABLING CHANGE

*from deep
silences
to stories*

KATHA, a nonprofit organization working in the areas of storytelling and translation since 1988, is one of India's top "profit for all" social organizations. Katha schools today are bringing positive change in the lives of children and women in 61 slum communities. Katha also showcases contemporary Indian fiction from some of our best literary talents in 21 languages. And we bring happy books to children, ages 0-17.

We started a small community school in 1990. It was called the Katha Khazana Experiment. However, we could not get more than 5 children to join us. The reason? They were mostly working. So we said, If we can get Rs 800 into the hands of our women – the whole family was earning just that much in those days – then we could ask them to send their children to school.

Thus started our work with women's economic empowerment and community revitalization. In Katha we believe that empowering oneself is a personal journey. Each one of us must feel the need to be, as Gandhiji said, "the change we want to see in the world." And this is what our women have done! Today, salaries of women trained at Katha are maxing at Rs. 20,000/month! And we have 7,000 children in our schools. Our attendance, retention and performance levels are dancing in the mid-90s!



uncommon creativities – since 1988 – for a common good



1800 women

have earned their creativity! They have got their certifications from **KALP**, the **Katha Adult Literacy programme**. They are teachers today. And more!

1200

determined women make up our **Women's Self Help Groups**, about 20 to a group.

Working Women's Forum

266 members today.

Target: by end 2008:

1500

our women

In 1990, when the average family income was Rs. 600-800/month/family, we said: When women earn, children learn; we wanted Rs 800/month in their hands. Today, salaries of women trained at Katha are maxing at Rs. 20,000/month!

1990-2006

84,400 women have participated fully in Katha community revitalization & economic resurgence initiatives

Rs. 14 million: Total sales of the income generation group

Rs. 31.6 million: Total earnings of community women trained at Katha

International Recognition Received

International recognitions include the Social Enterprise Laboratory award by Digital Partners. The Stockholm Challenge 2002 finalist. The "NASDAQ Stock Market Education Award" 2002 from the Tech Museum of Innovation.



helping
keep the
family
viable



Katha's work is of tremendous significance in building a new India.

All of us in public life need to ensure that Katha flourishes.

– Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India, as reported in *Business Standard*

“... a dream come true ... tailored to meet the needs of the community and simultaneously caters to the needs of the market.” – *Changes*.

“Katha realised that however great the motivation, economic compulsions would force children in poor families to work ... the Katha School of Entrepreneurship ... was a response to the felt need of slum children, whose essential aim remained, beyond education, employment ...” – Pavan K Verma, *The Hindustan Times*

“The modus operandi employed at the school can be described, in the absence of any other word as “different.” The students are free citizens of the land ... [Katha meets the] emotional demands of the growing pre-adolescents ...” – *The Statesman*

“The name (Katha-Khazana) could not have been more apt as the endeavour has contributed to stories of women's empowerment, stories of would-have-been school dropouts becoming school toppers and now the story of how despite being housed in a dirty slum, a wonderfully clean bakery churns out delightfully tasty biscuits ... It is also a story of struggle waged by women such as Manjula and Urmila to cast away the veil that shrouded their existence and step out of their homes to establish their worth not just to the outside world, but also to themselves ... Katha is epicentre of activities that have transformed the Govindpuri Basti” – *The Week*



2000 girls

are proud certificate owners of the adolescent girls group at **Katha's Balika Mandal**.

Over **4000** mothers are part of the group who meet regularly to dream for themselves and their children. Our **MA Mandal** is a dreamer-doer group!

Sanjha Prayas

To secure our futures Government of Delhi has joined hands with our women!



our katha our
l.i.f.e.!

lifelong learning
independence
family wellbeing
empowered lives!



*our hard working
women
 our delightful
 girls*



when women earn children learn

*our women: income generation self help groups,
 1000 women coming together, have earned for
 their community over the last 18 years ...
 this has meant better education, health and futures
 for their children*



*[she]2 stands for safe water and sanitation; health
 and housing; education and economic
 empowerment, [she]2 stands for double woman
 power! / the [she]2 committees numbering 2000
 women fight for rights usually denied to people
 in poverty/18 years of experience tells on
 bargaining power!*

