

“Even an army cannot stop
an idea whose time has
come.”



Ten years of
celebrating the
story, & the story in
education!

1989-1999

Katha

executive director's report

1997-98

“Find purpose, and the means will follow.”

– Mahatma Gandhi



Katha

executive director's report

HIGHLIGHTS

1997-98



The Katha School of

Entrepreneurship

- Eleven hundred students participate in our creche, preschool, nonformal education centre and senior school programmes!

- **356 children** from preschool and **176 children** from our nonformal education centre, where children who have never gone to school or have dropped out a long time ago come, have been helped into formal schools entering various classes!

- **Results excellent:** 100% success in various examinations conducted. In class X it is 94%. *Yes, here we can do better!*

- Graduation ceremony for the first batch of KSE held! They are earning upto Rs 2500/- month!

- The National Open School recognizes Katha as an accredited centre for vocational courses. And has named us an examination centre.

- Katha helps an Okhla village to start a school- Vidyashala is our first Outreach programme.

Shakti-Khazana

- The women's cooperative is getting good orders. They have not touched the Revolving Fund, yet earn Rs 1000/each/ month.

- And ... They have repaid the Rs 8000/-loan they had taken!

SPONSORED BY THE DORABJI TATA TRUST

Sishya Workshops

- CultureLink Workshops held in 10 schools in Chennai, Delhi, Jaipur.

Kalpana

TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAMME

- Both In-service and Pre-service training given this year. Total: 56 teachers. 16 students pass out this year from our **One Year Certificate courses**.

With its innovative "Teacher at the Centre of Community Development Component" our 9year old programme has been **recognized by the National Open School**.

SPONSORED BY THE NETHERLANDS EMBASSY

MATERIAL DEVELOPMENTS

- Chaand! the Preschool kit tested out this year.

- Work on the English Kit nearing completion.

Kanchi

PURNA SIKSHA INITIATIVE

- Katha starts its **academic publishing programme** called ALT (Approaches to Literature in Translation). Six books have been commissioned.

- These are being discussed at the IAS, Shimla, later this year.

- **Teaching Translation Workshops** for teachers conducted

in Madras University, Chennai, St Stephen's College, Delhi, Faculty Staff College, Jaipur University, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar.

- **Culture Link workshops** for students created excitement in colleges in Delhi, Chennai, Vellur.

- Katha conducted the **first Careers in Translation Certificate Course** in TV & Media.

- **Katha Barani, the Translation Resource Centre** starts work.

SPONSORED BY THE FORD FOUNDATION

Tamasha!

Relaunched at the *Tamasha!* mela at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. Released by Shri Soli Sorabjee.

SPONSORED BY THE MACARTHUR FOUNDATION

Dhammakadhūm!

- Karin launches a pilot issue of a magazine for primary school children.

- It brings to children excitement from India's vast linguistic, cultural and story storehouses.

Katha Vilasam

- Katha releases six books to "a round of applause ..." These are *Katha Classics - Mauni*, *Katha Prize Stories, vol 7*, *Visions/Revisions vol 2*, *Separate Journeys*, *Sleepwalkers and Mapping Memories*

- The Second Katha All India Translation Contest comes

to a satisfying close with the Award Presentation ceremony. 1700 persons participated in the contest, translating from 12 languages into English.

SPONSORED BY THE BRITISH COUNCIL

- The second Katha Creative Writing Workshop held in Delhi. Dr Clark Blaise, director of the famous Iowa Writers' Workshop and Dr Bharati Mukherjee, writer and Professor, Berkeley - University, conduct the workshop.

- **The Vāk Utsav**, celebrating Translation, held in Chennai. Four Vāk books released in Bangla, Kannada and Tamil, products of a year long intensive hands-on translation programme.

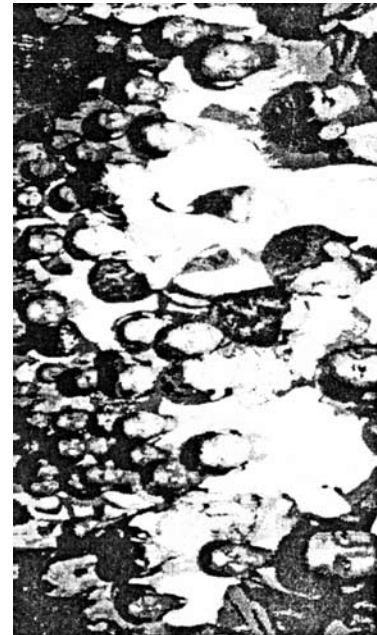
- **Kathakaar** - Katha restarts its centre for child literature. Our first book is *The Princess with the Longest Hair*, which won the ChitraKala Award for its illustrations by Vandana Bist.

- **Sāt Sahelia** - Our Centre for Adult Literacy produced

Katha Vachak series: Seven books this year - Writers include Mahasweta Devi, Jayant Dalvi, Premchand, O V Vijayan, Ismat Chughtai.

SPONSORED BY DEPT OF EDUCATION, GOI

- **Stree Shakti** - in Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, English and a text free version. Our exciting new innovation for this



year that we hope will enable neo-literates to participate in creating a book in their own languages.

SPONSORED BY THE NETHERLANDS EMBASSY

- The Tamil publication programme is well on its way with our second book, a collection of O'Henry's Award winning stories translated into Tamil.

SPONSORED BY USIS, CHENNAI

- **Katha Utsav** - a three day star-studded extravaganza brought this financial year to a close.

Kalpa Ishtika

- Katha launches its **REACH! Fund Initiative**. Funds are desperately needed for Khazana! Or we may have to close down!

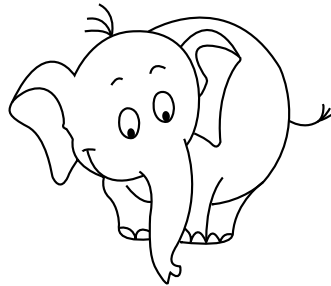
KATHA UTSAV 1998

	Saturday, 28 March	Sunday, 29 March		Monday, 30 March
10	VAK VAIBHAVAM Inauguration by Prof U R Anantha Murthy Eminent Writers & Artists talk about stories and creativity. Writers: Ambai, U R Anantha Murthy, Bhupen Khakhar, Indira Goswamy, Jeelani Bano, Krishna Sobti Painters: Kanchen Chander, Sheila Makhijani, Manisha Geva Baswani, Srinidhi Seshadri, Venkatesh Bhadra	TAMASHA! MELA Inauguration by Zohra Segal Students discuss. School! Literary/Lan guage Games Quiz By Aishraj, Ajay Mahajan, Jaya Iyer, Mallika Verma, Mandira Mitra, Sweta Magic by Karuna Sankar	FOR TARENTS & TEACHERS HANDS-ON LANGUAGE TRTS & CRAFTS Language and Translation Games DISCUSSION: Creative Learning Asha Singh, K K Krishna Kumar, Puja Kevlani, Shalini Advani WORKSHOP: Making Reading Interesting Paro Anand, Deepa Aganval	THE KATHA COLLOQUIUM Participants Winners of the Katha Awards for 1997 and invitees. CREATION/RECREATION: The Acts of Writing and Translation Mrinal Miri, Mrinal Pande and the recipients of the Katha Awards for 1997
12	LITERARY TRENDS AND INNOVATIONS An interactive session Ambai, U R Anantha Murthy, Bhupen Khakhar, Giridhar Ratti, Indira Goswamy, Jeelani Bano, Krishna Sobti, K Satchidanandan, Vijayalakshmi Quereshi, Ashish Sharma, Antara Devsen, Binoo John, Christopher Thomas, Eta Datta, Hassan Sarur, Kaushik Mitter, Maseed Rahman, Nilanjana Ray, Prasannarajan, Ratnotamma Sengupta, Sagarika Ghosh, Shuba Chowdury, Santwana Bhattacharya			11:30 RELEASE: Separate Journeys A collection of memorable fiction from women writers. DISCUSSION Panelists - Madhavan Palat, Mangesh Kulkarni, P K Dutta, Patricia Uberoi
2 - 2:30	RELEASE: <i>Panch Parameshwar</i> by Premchand Arjun by Mahasweta Devi EASY READERS in Hindi for Adult Neoliterates & STREESHAKTI A book of stories in Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam and Write-Your-Own-Text versions The books will be released by Prof Moegiadi, Director, UNESCO DISCUSSION From Literacy to Literature Exploring the Continuum Women, Literacy & Empowerment Panelists: Asad Zaidi, Kamaleshwari, Madhu Kishwar and Members of the Khazana Working Women's Cooperative	Sing Along with Alka Shankar Storytelling by Sigrun Shrivastava, Shaila Chabra, Viji Vasudev Cartooning with BS Bagga	RELEASE: KATHA'S BOOKS FOR CHILDREN <i>Tamashal!</i> <i>Dhammak Dhum</i> (Children's magazines) <i>The Princess with the Longest Hair.</i> Recipient of the ChitraKala Medal 1997 By Soli Sorabjee DISCUSSION: Growing up with Books PANELISTS: MS GILL, SOLI SORABJEE, VIBHA PARTHASARATHY	INDIA & PAKISTAN RELEASE: Bazdeed (in Urdu) Mapping Memories Sleepwalkers By His Excellency Ashraf Jehangir Qazi, High Commissioner of Pakistan in India Prof Moegiadi, Director, UNESCO , will receive the first copies Abid Hussain to preside DISCUSSION: Urdu as a language of Peace Panelists: Ali Sardar Jafri, Gorichand Narang, Jeelani Bano, Kamleshwar, A M Khusrro
2:30 - 4:00				
4:30 - 5:30	READINGS Eminent writers read from their works and discuss the making of their stories Kartar Singh Duggal to preside G P Deshpande, Indira Goswamy, Joginder Paul, Krishna Sobti			
6:00	ARTFUSION A dance/theatre presentation by Maya Krishna Rao, Navtej S Johar	AN EXCITING PLAY FOR CHILDREN by the national school of Drama TIE/Sanskaar Rang Toli Rani Aur Pinto directed by Mohan agashe		THE 7TH KATHA AWARDS CEREMONY The Awards will be presented by ALL SARDAR JAFRI Abid Hussain to preside Dance by Leela Samson
And ... Every Day!				
10-5	CHILDART: YOUR OWN GALLERY OF ART - Children invited to draw and put their drawing up in this space. All ages.			
10-5	GREAT STUFF! YOUR OWN GALLERY OF STORIES & POEMS - Children invited to create their own poems, stories. All ages.			
10-5	IN OTHER WORDS: YOUR OWN GALLERY OF TRANSLATIONS - Adults & children invited to try their hand at translation. Stories/poems from ten Indian languages will be available for translation. The best will be showcased!			
10-8	VAK VAIBHA VAM GALLERY: An exhibition of writings by outstanding writers and the translation of this into other media by oainters.			
10-8	THE WORLD OF PICTURE BOOKS: A Gallery of Paintings and Drawings from Illustrators for Children.			



Katha
Executive Director's
Report, 97

Kalpavriksham & Katha school of Entrepreneurship
Sishya & School Workshops - C9; Learning-is-Fun!
Kalpana & Teacher Training & T/L Materials Development
Shakti Khazana & Sat Sahelia & Katha Vachak
Tamasha! & Dhammak Dhum!
Katha Vilasam & Kathakaar, Centre for Children's Literature
ChitraKala Award & Katha Awards & Friends of Katha
Katha Books & Academic publishing & All India
Translation Contest & SAARC Translation Contest
Kanchi Initiative & Academic Centres & Careers in
Translation Courses & Teaching Translation Workshops
Katha Barani Translation Resource Centre & CultureLinking



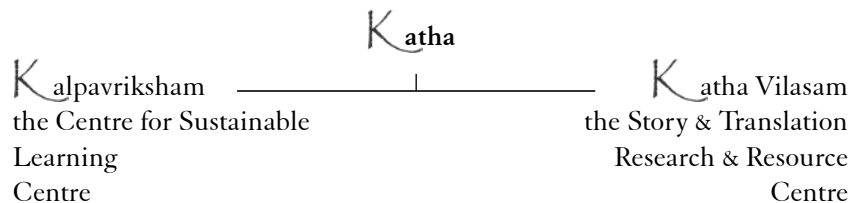
An Introduction

India has always been a land of storytellers. Over the centuries, we have honed the fine art of telling the short story - be it in our epics, our mythologies, our folk tales or in our more recent writings. Told by traditional Katha vachaks, village storytellers and one's favourite grand-mother, we have all heard stories that have taught us our values, our morals, our culture. "Katha" or the narrative is a special legacy that continues to exist in our country as a rich and fascinating tradition, moving with grace and felicity from the oral traditions to the written texts, from the heard word to the read.

We at Katha endeavour to spread the joy of reading, knowing, and living amongst adults and children, the common reader and the neo-literate. Started in 1988 and formally registered as a society on September 8, 1989, Katha has striven to establish a code of excellence in all that it does, to enhance the quality of life in every project it has attempted. Katha's main objective is to -

- Enhance the **pleasures of reading** for children and adults, for experienced readers and those who are just beginning to read. **And to -**
- Stimulate an interest in lifelong learning that will help the child grow into a confident, self-reliant, responsible and responsive adult.
- Help break down gender, cultural and social stereotypes.
- Encourage, foster excellence, and applaud quality literature and translations in and between the various Indian languages.

A nonprofit organization, Katha works with equal dedication and commitment through well-defined programmes at the two ends of the literacy-literature spectrum - in the areas of literacy, children's and women's education and empowerment at one end, and in language, literature, culture and translation at the other. In brief:





KALPAVRIKSHAM

THE CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE LEARNING

SISHYA THE LEARNING RAINBOW

KATHA SCHOOL OF INTEREPENURSHI

Learning centre for more than 1200 children, 0-16 years, from non-literate families in Govindpuri, Delhi.

SHAKTI-KHAZANA

Women's Empowerment Programme

- Khazana Women's Coop
- Small Svaings
- Literacy & Accounting

CULTURELINK STUDENT WORKSHOPS

- IN SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES
- Career in Translation Certificate Courses
 - C9 Workshops
 - Language-is-Fun! Workshops
 - Gura-Sishya Initiative

KALPANA VILASAM CENTRE FOR CREATIVITY IN

KALPNA

TEACHING

KANCHI

- Literacy Lab + NFE Resource Centre
- T/L Material development
 - Teacher Training
 - Purna Siskha
 - Veedhi Vidya Shala Initiative (Future plan)
- Academic Interface Programme
- Academic Centres
 - Teaching Translation Workshops for Teachers
 - Purna Siskha
 - Academic Publication Programme
 - Katha Fellowships

KATHA VILASAM

THE STORY & TRANSLATION CENTRE

KATHA BOOKS

Research/Publication.

Our various series are:

- Katha Prize Stories
- Katha Classics
- The Wordsmiths
- Katha Perspectives
- Yuvakatha
- Katha Cross Cultural Series
- Urdu Library
- Tamil Publishing Programme

KATHAKAAR

Centre for Children's Literature

- Tamasha!
- Dhamak Dhum!
- Yuvakatha
- Balakatha
- Tamasha Books

RESEARCH & RESOURCE CELL

- Decentralized Reseach
- Katha Barani: Translation Resource Centre
- Workshops for Librarians

KATHA AWARDS

- The Annual Search for Excellence in Creative Writing
- Translation
- Chitrakala Awards for Children's Book Illustration

SPECIAL PROJECTS

- Katha - VAK Project
- The Katha-All-India Translation contest
- The Katha-SAARC Translation Contest
- Creative Writing Workshops

SAT SAHELLA

- Post-literacy material Development
- Katha Yachak: Literature
- Shakti: Emowering Books

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

FRIENDS OF KATHA NETWORK

ADMINISTRATION & ACCOUNTS

KATHAMELA

- Distributors of quality books
- Trade marketing
 - Direct Marketing
 - Internet sales
 - Academic sales

KATHA VILASAM

THE SUPPORTING CELLS



Helping make education fun, relevant - in the
nonformaleducationtoheighereducationspan.

Kalpavriksham

Katha's Centre for Sustainable Learning was started in 1990. Its efforts have been in the areas of making learning a fun and relevant, lifelong experience for children in nonformal education.

The National Sample Survey (42nd Round) indicated that one main reason for poor attendance in schools or inattentiveness in class was

students finding classes "not relevant," "boring." Could Katha's integrated approach to learning make a difference, at least for a few children?



We have, over the past nine years, worked in integrating teacher education with teaching/learning materials development, community participation, women's empowerment and family wellbeing, striving to feed all this information and experience into the development of a suitable curriculum for sustainable education.

In the last two to three years, there has been a gradual change in our perceptions. Who needs sustainable education? Is it only for children from poor families? If ideas can go from the Third World to the First, can it not go from nonformal to formal? With more and more parents whose children go to expensive schools asking for *Tamasha!*, with teachers in formal schools and colleges keenly interested in the Katha pedagogy, it seemed as if they could. And this has been the major area of work last year.

It has been a year of imagining exquisitely integrated programmes, scheming and planning meticulously to make them happen! It has been a year of taking risks – but what satisfying risks! Even the Katha School of Entrepreneurship, tottering on the brink of closure for lack of full financial support, has provided an embarrassment of achievements!

The Katha philosophy has grown organically with each perceived need. Today Kalpavriksham has two major programmes under it—

SISHYA

The Learning Rainbow

Katha School of Entrepreneurship Workshops

KALPANA VILASAM

Centre for Creativity in Teaching

Kalpana Kanchi

Katha's Philosophy

LIFE education is a concept that has been developed in Katha. LIFE stresses knowledge that is relevant to life, which spells economic prosperity for the family' and greater happiness for all – the ultimate goal of all development and sustainable education. LIFE knowledge comprises –

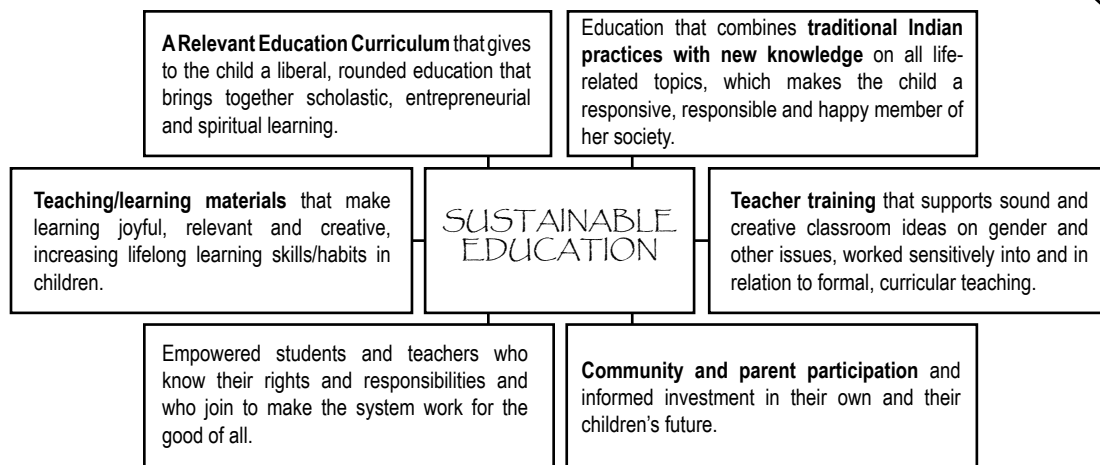
- Literacy lifelong learning skills
- Income-generation skills, business ethics, entrepreneurship
- Family wellbeing, health, environment, value-rich living
- Empowerment, including gender, equity and equality issues

Katha's classroom exercises with the 9Cs make LIFE ideas move into the classrooms, making vivadham, sishya samvadham and other child-centred education ideas possible. The 9Cs are –

- | | | |
|------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Curiosity | Creativity | Critical Thinking |
| Competence | Confidence | Commitment |
| Concern | Cooperation | Citizenship |

Our work with students and teachers in NFE have tried to keep these ideas in mind. **From this year**, we extend these ideas to our work with teachers in the nonformal to higher education spectrum; touching the lives of students from poor families to those studying in elite schools and colleges in India. **Purna Sikscha** is part of this initiative to bring out the best in us.

Katha's idea of sustainable education may thus be briefly stated as:



9Cs and Life as explained above, Geeta Dharmrajan, 1993

Extensive use of story/ katha, and fun/tamasha, make our classes come alive!

The **City as Classroom** approach of **Katha** works hand in hand with the **9Cs** to make education enjoyable for children from poor families.

Katha Khazana

In 1990, we started this community-based integrated learning centre, in one of the largest slum clusters in Delhi. Its main components are –

- **The Katha School of Entrepreneurship** consisting of the Kathashalas which have been striving to wean working children away from work; or to prevent younger children from entering the work force.
- **Shakti**, the women's empowerment component which supports the children's programme.

The community we work with lives in Bhumiheen, Navjiwan and Jawahar Camps, one of the largest Juggi-jompri clusters in Delhi. According to government estimates, there are more than 10,000 families living here, in about 600 hectares of land – making this one of the most crowded areas in Delhi.

Many of our children still work to support their families, though the numbers have definitely come down since Katha started working here. There is a mixture of Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs living here, with a small percentage of Christians. The people live in great communal harmony.

The average family income was less than Rs 1,000 according to a Slum Wing, Delhi Administration survey (1990). Today, our women earn up to Rs 2,500/ month!

The programme, when small, was called Katha-Khazana. There are many components in it today and Katha-Khazana has become the name of the physical location of the project - in space given to us by **Delhi Administration's Slum Development Board**. We are grateful to them for continuing to support this programme to make available quality education for children of this JJ Cluster.

KSE today is a specially-designed integrated programme for working children and their siblings. It looks after the education needs of about 1200 children. We help them become self-reliant, confident and upwardly

The Class of 1997



KSE has a specially-designed curriculum that combines scholastic, vocational and entrepreneurship skills.

In the last four years Over 5,000 children have been encouraged to move from being or becoming full time working children and helped to enter formal schools.

mobile. Every year we put nearly 250 children into various classes of formal school. We hope the directed, integrated education will clearly show the student where she is going and which promises hope - hope of a future out of poverty, out of a slum atmosphere, out of hunger and want and lack of good health.

The Katha School of Entrepreneurship has:

- **A creche** for 0-3 year olds and a **preschool** for 3-6 years of age, it is seen as a means to prevent children from getting into full time working situations. A specially-designed curriculum opens wide the doors to the exciting world of knowledge to children, encourages curiosity, creativity, confidence and commitment in them, the beginnings of entrepreneurship.
- **A Nonformal Education (NFE) Centre** for 7-14 year olds who have never been to school or who have dropped out a long time ago and hence have lapsed back into illiteracy.
- **The Senior Open School** was started in 1994, specifically to address the needs of children 12 years and above. It has a specially designed curriculum that weaves together **scholastic, vocational and entrepreneurial training** in a one-of-its-kind programme.
- Students have a choice of many **vocational courses** which include computers, catering, baking, tailoring and embroidery, electronics and electricals. Our **Computer Lab** has two computers and hands-on training is given to all students enrolled here. Our **Math Lab**, which teaches business/relevant maths, and the **Science Lab** are favourite places for our students!



K

"I think many of our schools in the UK could learn from your work and teaching methodology."

— Kate Alexander, CARE, UK.



A rising star: Usha

The Katha School of Entrepreneurship

Started in 1994, KSE reminds us often about the importance of journeys, not just of goals! Commitment to our mission goals of bringing quality education to children led to KSE, but seeing the students makes the problems worth it! And, from the beginning, we have had a singular commitment from our students, many of whom still work to augment the incomes of their families.

The experiment, when it started, was to work first hand with children who could be readers of the magazine we had just started bringing out – *Tamasha!* But, on thinking further, it seemed to me that there was a need to take the experiment further, to see the whole curriculum for Kathashala from primary educational to high school- as one that builds a sense of creativity and curiosity and commitment; of competence and confidence and entrepreneurship; and bolsters the innate leadership and confidence they have. Katha's specially designed curriculum strives to give not just scholastic skills but also the all-important values that build character, that make individuals caring and creative, responsive, responsible citizens.

KSE was started as a series of workshops, with the Entrepreneurship Club as the organ that kept interests alive and the students together – a questing, bunch who would keep one another's fire alive. And today, I say with legitimate pride in our teachers and children that Katha indeed is an island of excellence! Our Guest Faculty, each one an expert in her/his field of marketing, negotiation or accounting, vouch for this.

What started from a small step as a workshop on an experimental basis, has gone on to become an unbelievable dream. The situation has now changed to one., which includes a total curriculum, complete and whole in itself. This is not to say that those involved in the conception, teaching and learning processes have stopped visualizing further.

We hope KSE's curriculum will help students make sense of their schooling and build in them an eagerness for enduring education; and help them acquire knowledge that will help each one of them to be looked up to by one's community, for what one is. Our hope and dream is to make the Katha School of Entrepreneurship a premier institute for small business studies, not unlike a mini-version, a school-level IIM!

Freedom from poverty is what we want for our students of Kathashala – freedom from a poverty of creativity, ideas, quality, values, as well as money.





THE YEAR THAT WAS!

The creativity, activity and commitment of the teachers and the principal of the Katha School of Entrepreneurship have once again made this a year of positive gains for the children. What I have tried to do is to cull out the highlights!

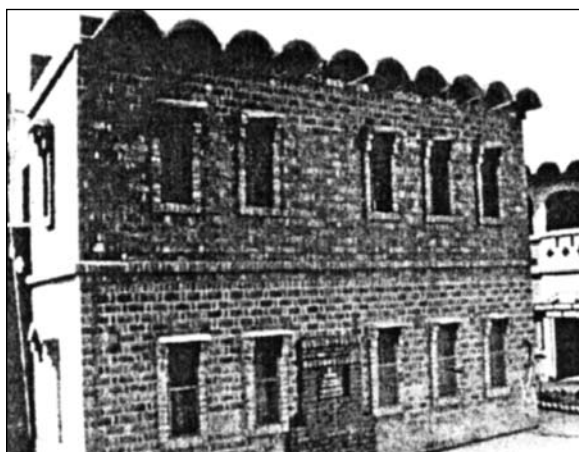
Results, as usual, have been excellent!

In fact, we in Katha have started looking at excellence as our very special inner imperative! And it is when people from outside, visitors, come and express awe and delight, that we stop being self-critical and feel rushed to pat ourselves on our back. I wish we would/ could do this more often. But money has been in extreme short supply and life has been difficult to say the least. The only thing that makes the whole exercise possible is the children!

HEALING TOUCH was started two years or so ago. These mentally challenged children add a ray of joy to our centre. They have been having regular classes under the care of Indrawati. Regular health check-ups are also organized.

PRESCHOOL: 356 children have gone to formal school, 5 children are continuing their education in their village.

Internal promotion was given to 43 students from preschool.



Nonformal Education: 176

children have been encouraged and helped to get into formal schools. 248 children were promoted to the next class in the junior and middle schools.

ACADEMIC: We have had 100% success in various examinations conducted at the school and National Open School/CBSE levels, from classes 4 - 9. In Class X, it is a 94% pass rate. Yes, room for improvement ... !

Seventeen students in computer course have got jobs at various places. They are earning up to Rs 2,500/month while seven students in tailoring have started earning money. Anju Singh secured 76% in bakery NOS X Board exam. She has been appointed head of the IGP bakery Vocational Stand Alone Course exams were conducted at Khazana for NOS. While 120 candidates were to appear in Play Centre Management, 69 actually took the exam. And for Bakery, 129 candidates were to appear in May - June 97; 48 candidates actually took the exam.

NFE Students regularly attended vocational classes - Tailoring, Bakery, House wiring and Computer classes.

Vocational:

Computer	37 from the community
Tailoring	95 from the community
Bakery	9 from the community
Electricals	34 from the community

Entrepreneurship Workshop

The summer Certificate Course in Entrepreneurship was conducted in June 97 for 11 days. This was the first workshop for our second batch. Experts from various fields enriched the workshop with their experience.

And, from 26th to 30th December, the second Entrepreneurship Workshop for the second batch was conducted by Dr Sridharan of NIESBUD.

One day in each workshop is devoted for meetings with successful entrepreneurs and industrialists. Workshop participants get an opportunity to interact with these people and receive information, courage, motivation and plan of action.

The National Open School: We are recognized as one of the accredited centres for vocational certificate courses. We also serve as an examination centre for NOS examinations in vocational/stand alone courses in X/XI.

We have got NOS accreditation to run vocational certificate courses in Home Science Courses on House Keeping, Catering Management, Food Processing, Electricals, etc.

Even though NOS offers self study based courses, family circumstances never allow our children to buy books/ notebooks, pen or pencil, etc. Most of them have never been to school. Some of them are primary dropouts. Few are secondary dropouts. With the help of our worksheets which are specially designed to cater to the needs of this kind of students. Some students have cleared their X in 1 to 2 years, while a few in 2 to 3 years. All the 5 students in our Bakery section have secured distinctions.

Katha starts Vidyashala, a new school that is supported completely by the community! This year, people from a slum cluster in Okhla specifically requested Katha to start a learning centre for them. Hence Vidyashala Okhla Phase I, has been started. We have been indeed extremely lucky to have Kate Richardson, a student of London University who is with us as a OTP-VSO volunteer, who took over the Okhla school and has done a remarkable job there! Under the guidance of Saraswathy, our dynamic Principal, Kate Richardson has been conducting English workshops for students and for Iq1azana staff She joined in September 97 and will be with us till 17th August, 1998.

Two students from the University of Tilburg, the Netherlands, Martin and Ildy, had been sent as volunteers by the Right Margin Foundation of the Netherlands. Martin was with us for three months and Lidy for about a

One of our students Mr Rashid, 16 years old, had taken exams in Xth, exactly one year after admission, in all the five subjects (English, Hindi, Maths, Science and S St). In May 1997, he got a I division with 71%.

Our teachers, our gems!



month. They interacted closely with the children and teachers of Khazana and have made a video of the work of the centre.

The Right Margin Foundation hopes to start training programmes in various centres to spread the philosophy of Katha and our methodology.

THE YEAR OF REACHING OUT!

This was a year of reaching out. In various different ways, our activities enhanced our role as an informal resource centre as we networked with educational institutions, other voluntary agencies in the city, with government and non-governmental organizations.

Dr Ambedkar College, Lady Irwin and Lady Sri Ram Colleges: Amongst other things, the students of **Dr Ambedkar College** helped conduct workshops for the teachers and teacher trainees in handling the physically handicapped and mentally disabled children.

At their request, we worked closely with government schools in the neighbourhood: Govt Senior Girls High School, Kalkaji, Govt Boys Primary School, Govt Girls Primary School, Kalkaji. In the past two years 4 students trained at Katha have secured merit scholarship in class XI on the basis of their performance in Xth board.

Training Centres that have worked with us this year include Shramik Vidya Peeth: who continue to help us in carrying out the electrical classes in our premises and NIESBUD and BYST.

Our greatest resources have been our volunteers.

Volunteers like Mrs Raj Malik really help us in every aspect. Raj helps our bakery women in revising the lessons which were taught by the Taj Group. She also helps in marketing their products. She conducted a dental camp for 15 days and two eye camps. Mrs Malik was kind enough to

provide medicines and spectacles for 130 people. She also handles tutorial mathematic classes when there is no teacher.

Block Associations in our neighbourhood conducted an eye camp in the centre. Out of the 300 patients examined by the eye specialist Dr Guha, 35 of them received spectacles. Nearly 200 were provided with medicines.

Other-workshops: On 4th March 1998, Madam Sushri conducted a Theatre Workshop for children and women. Workshops on AIDS, cancer, family planning and nutrition were also conducted by various resource persons/groups.

Festival Celebration: All major festivals of all religions were celebrated.

Picnics & Educational Visits: CCERT and Katha teachers took responsibility for this most popular activity in KSE.

Important Events: On 19th November, we took out a procession against the exploitation of children. The procession was taken from the Jantar Mantar to the Shram Shakti Bhavan. Around 1200 women and children took part in the procession. Later they submitted a memorandum against exploitation of children signed by 3025 persons to Ministry of Labour, Govt of India.

In March, we celebrated **Katha Utsav 98** for three days on 28th, 29th and 30th March at the India Habitat Centre. On 29th, a Bal Mela was organized for children who belonged to various schools including the Khazana kids.

PTA Meetings were held regularly at the centre. Each teacher calls her/his class students' parents. The mothers stay back for the Maa Mandai gathering. Parents of pre-school and NFE were urged to put their wards in formal school.



A Maa Mandai in session

Shakti Khazana

Shakti is a community-specific programme, concentrating on income-generation, literacy, water and sanitation, raising of awareness and empowerment of women of Govindpuri. Many of the community households are headed by women who mostly do unskilled labour to support their families.

The programme was started in 1990, in the hope that money: coming directly into the hands of the women would mean better nutrition and schooling for their children. We believe that it is Shakti which has helped swell enrolment and performance in KathaShala.

• The programme includes a training and income-generation programme that has been tailored to the need of the community and the needs of the marketplace. After a survey, Shakti-Khazana's Women's Coop chose the following income-generation activities:

The fact that more than 800 women have been trained over the last nine years has meant a greater degree of confidence in them. You should see our women today as they walk tall looked up to by their community.

- Catering The women supply office lunches and take orders for special occasions also.
- Bakery. This unit makes excellent cookies, cakes, puffs and pastries which are being bought by individuals, neighbourhood shops and organizations like the American Women's Association. They were handpicked by the chefs of Taj Mahal, Hotel, Delhi, for training. And now, this stands them in good stead. Today, their products are better than even what the Taj makes – or so people say!

• Squashes and Pickles Unit. Small. For local consumption. The income-generation programme is totally run by the women, with support being slowly withdrawn as they become more self-reliant. When we started, the average family income here was Rs 600-800/month (according to a Delhi Government survey). Today, our women earn up to Rs 2500/ month and have formed their own Khazana Women's Cooperative!

THE WOMEN'S COOPERATIVE: This has been doing well over the year, though most of us do believe - along with the women! that we could have done better.

About 80% of the teachers we have in KSE today are women who joined the teacher-training programme from the community. Today each one of them educates her children and basks in the achievements of their offsprings!



Women can work without a worry because of the **Katha Creche**

Some of the women of the Khazana Coop, with Saraswathy and Nisha.

The training given to the women by the chefs of Taj Mahal Hotel, is paying rich dividends. Our women have improved the quality of biscuits, pastries, cakes and they are able to produce more varieties which are generally not available in the market.

After this workshop our women are able to get good orders - Daily they make 400 patties and sell them in nearby govt schools. They are able to get Rs 1000/- each without touching the revolving fund. They have repaid Rs 8000/- interest free loan also.

Amongst the workshops held this year was one on Savings Schemes by the Manager, Punjab National Bank, Alaknanda Branch, and on Investing by Mr Joseph from BYST .

CRY: This year we got orders from CRY for stitching 300 sets of knickers and shirts.

Members of the Coop being trained by a Taj Mahal Hotel Chef



The American Women's Association is always helpful and considerate to Katha. This year, because of them, the Khazana Cooperative Women were invited to serve their guests at the

residence of the US Ambassador to India. The Ambassador was kind enough to honour the occasion and to compliment the women on their performance!

The Sishya Initiative

The Sishya Initiative has been working for more than a year, striving to take the excitement of Indian stories and writings into schools, thus helping to enhance the liberal education component of the kind that Dr Radhakrishnan, for example, spoke of.

THE SISHYA WORKSHOPS IN SCHOOLS

The enthusiasm of principals in schools meant lots of workshops last year.

Katha South held workshops over three months at **Olcott Memorial School**. Other workshops include, **Krishnamurthy Foundation School**

Bala Mandir

Sriram School

Apeejay High School,

Sarvodaya Girls High School

Vasant Valley School

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan School, Jaipur

Salwan Public School

Delhi Public School. A workshop was done for 72 teachers. They also want a workshop for their students in the coming academic year.

Salwan, Vasant Valley and Modern Schools have also asked for workshops.

One of the most successful aspects of the workshops has been the way in which students have come forward to pay for the courses.

Dhammak Dhuml is used extensively in the work we do under Sishya. It introduces the bhashas to primary school children, and also a real appreciation of the many cultures we allow to flourish and grow in our country. It is a monthly that will cater to the curiosity of children four years and above.

Tamashal the Translation and Activity Magazine for Spreading Holistic Awareness, continues this experience into early adolescence - with stories by our favourite writers and poets, plus lots of cultural and related information. The magazine which has made a welcome comeback with a brand new look and lots of new ideas and excitement, has an English edition that we hope will attract the urban child. But *Tamashal* continues, every quarter, as a magazine that reaches out to children from non-literate families.



Zohra Segal enthraling the audience

The school outreach programme of Sishya hopes to work in four fronts:

Culture Link Workshops for students in classes 6 - 9; and class 11. These will explore stories from the various Indian languages, translated into Hindi or English (in north India) and into the language of the State in the other places we intend to organize these workshops.

Language-is-Fun! Workshops. These will help enhance students' working knowledge of at least two Indian languages, by encouraging them to participate in translation activities. We have also planned C9 Workshops.

Kalpana was started in 1990 to • Develop teaching/learning materials for use in non formal education. • Enhance the skills of teachers through in-service workshops. *Tamasha!* has been at the fulcrum of all the work we do in Kalpana.

The materials developed under Kalpana this year include:

- **Jasoos Jinshu's Survival Kit**, a basic fun package for learning/teaching English to children growing up in a mainly Hindi-speaking environment. Kate Richardson, from London University, has been testing out a packet she has developed at the Okhla school.
- **Chand!** A simple and fun learning package for use with preschoolers, which provides an exciting and fun-filled integrated approach to science, maths, language, is in constant use in KathaShala. So is **Hulgul ka Pitara**.

Teachers' Pre-service &, In-service training, especially for those in nonformal education/working with working children. We believe strongly that unless teacher education improves, children cannot get

quality education. The NFE workshops Katha does, foster and encourage creative teaching and making learning enjoyable for teachers working with children in nonformal education centres.

TEACHER TRAINING

Our Teacher Training Programme is in collaboration with the National Open School. The trainees will receive certificates from NOS and Katha.

The Teacher Training Curriculum is specially designed, containing -

Teaching is fun module, Teacher at the centre of community development, Low cost/waste material teaching aids, Psycho-pedagogy in the classroom.

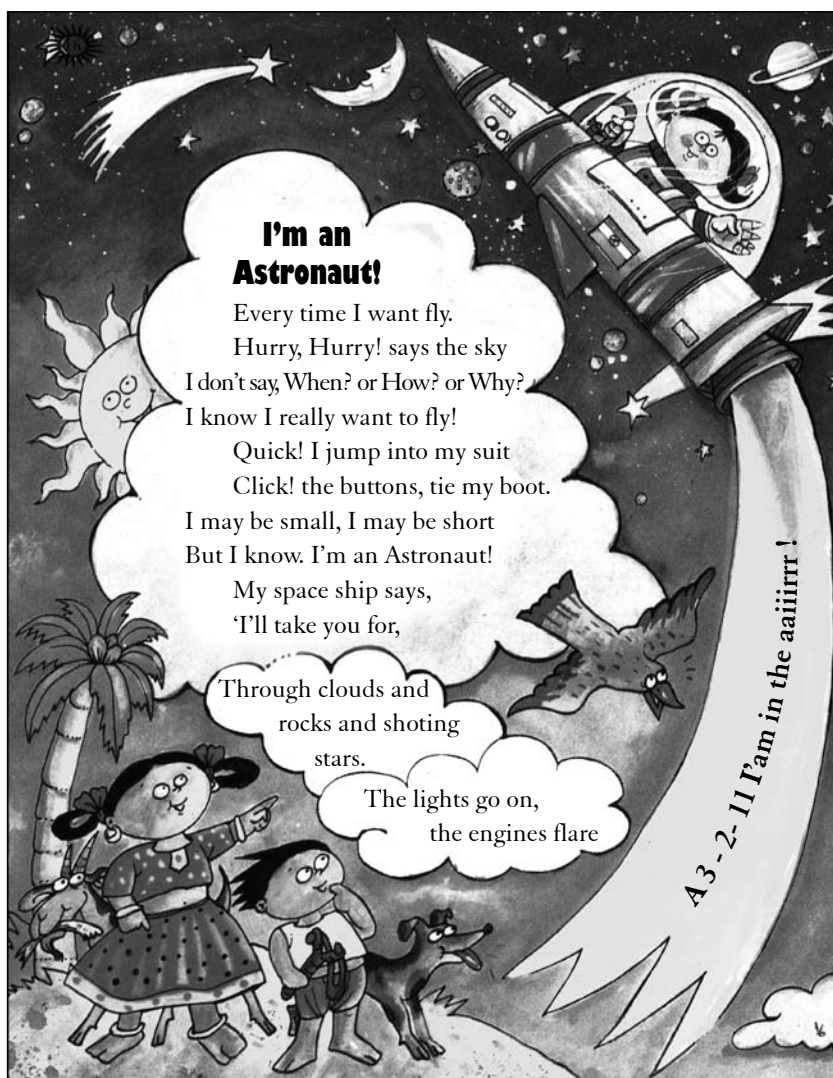
Pre-Service teacher trainees were sent to Bal Bhavan for various exposures. They had done practice teaching at Katha and also at Vidhyasala, Okhla Phase I. They took their Katha exams in April and NOS exams in May 97.

In-Service workshops: NGOs who requested for these workshops this year are - Kalakar Trust and Mobile Creches.

• Kalpana's one-year pre-service NFE-teacher training programme has continuously happened since 1990 and has trained twenty women each year in non formal education methods. A one-year rigorous course, it has a three-month placement at the end. Most of the women have come from the JJ Cluster in which we work. And today they are working in many different organizations.

• At the in-service teacher-training programme, on request, we organize and conduct short-term courses for interested groups.

Mass culture can be disabling. Social change can only happen if education can help build a critical culture that can make the difference. Staying in touch with reality helps in this process. And stories, written by master storytellers, portray reality as nothing else can and lend themselves to vicarious, enduring learnings. Kanchi and Sishya Initiatives support the growth and maturing of people as individuals and as members of an amazingly diverse, multicultural country like ours. And aids in making confident ,citizens of the coming global village.”



Kanchi: 1997-1998

Kanchi is an integrated learning experience that focuses attention on teachers, students, translation and Indian writing in the bhashas. It consists of –

Academic Publishing: Production of comprehensive teaching/learning materials for use in academia, since now the main problem is not whether universities, autonomous colleges are interested in teaching from Indian texts in translation (they are), but the fact that there are not enough primary texts, secondary sources or texts and other aids that are necessary for a teacher to do justice to teaching translation. This year we release six books. We head for a national workshop in September, at the Inter-University Centre at the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla.

Workshops: Application of materials developed through specific courses for college teachers, especially of languages in Delhi and Chennai. These In-service workshops were on topics such as Teaching Translation. Each year, Katha shall conduct four such workshops.

Careers in Translation. Certificate Courses for students in translation and translation-related activities: Special courses have been designed for students in Translation, Subtitling for Films and Television, The Art of Fiction Editing, The Craft of Reviewing. This was an intensive 30-hour course, giving career options to students. The first was held at Gargi College. We hope this will not only make language courses exciting and relevant but also increase the pool of quality translators, reviewers and fiction editors - much needed professionals in India today.

Culture Link Workshops held last year in schools and colleges in Chennai and Delhi, as well as in Velur, Jaipur and Amritsar, have striven to forge linkages between regions, peoples, cultures, through Indian fiction in translation.

Katha-Barani, the Translation Resource Centre: Most teachers contacted felt that teaching translation was a difficult activity since primary source materials, secondary texts, support documents and texts were not easily available. Hence the urgent need for a Materials Loan Centre was felt and work was started on this front last year. This year, we hope to start making the centre visible.

A special 30-hour course for students in translation and translation-related activities was held at Gargi College

Katha is in the process of setting up Academic Centres in five universities - Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, North Eastern Hill University, Shillong, SNDT, Mumbai, Bangalore University, and in Chennai.

Our work started in April 1998 as a continuation of our previous Ford Foundation-supported Yak initiative. During the period April 1, 1997, to March 31, 1998, we made considerable progress on all fronts.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING THE YEAR

SURVEY

A survey was undertaken by Katha South to see what kind of resources teachers have; and what they want. Besides this, various meetings of the Executive Director with members of the teaching community had led in the direction of the formulation of this programme.

Our findings: The study of translated texts, even in language courses, has not been too popular. And those who do or want to teach translated texts worry about the lack of teaching/learning materials available; their own lack of tools and resources and training. English departments, in most universities, seem to be faced with dropping attendance and enrolment. This has led to a feeling of stagnation and frustration amongst the teaching staff. Also, language departments in many universities are burdened with a rigid syllabus that has not changed over the years. So, even if they want to, they are not able to introduce translated texts from the other Indian languages into their courses. For instance, Tamil departments in Chennai prescribe critical theories from Aristotle to Derrida, but their reading lists in poetry, drama and fiction is confined to works written originally in Tamil. A healthier exchange of Indian literary talent would be possible if language departments included not just works written originally in that specific language but also works translated into that language.

However, since Universities can prescribe only when a substantial body of books are available, the onus for this task lies largely with the translators and the regional language publishers.

WORKSHOPS: The most exciting component of the KANCHI INITIATIVE, this year, were the workshops.

The success of the initial workshops led to the **Curriculum Development Meeting** to formalize the pattern and the content of these workshops. This was held at Delhi and participants included out-station academics also.

Teachers' workshops: The first workshop for teachers conducted by the Delhi staff took place at **St Stephen's College**. The choice of venue went a long way in ensuring success. At Delhi, the series of workshops/seminars which followed in **Hindu College, Gargi College and Lady Sri Ram College** generated much interest in translated Indian literature that backs the issue of prescribing translated texts at the English Honours level at Delhi University.

In Chennai, Katha South held workshops at **Stella Maris College, Madras Christian College and at Ethiraj College**, as well as at **Kandaswami Kandar College** at Velur. The Stella Maris College workshop focussed on gender. We had experts who came in to talk on various topics ranging from advertising to the 73rd and 74th amendments.

Impact of Workshops: Katha's commitment to forging cultural linkages through translations in literature in such a multi-lingual country as ours has by now substantial experience to be shared. Many colleges have consulted our Katha staff on what translated texts to include in an optional or a compulsory course in their colleges. It is for the first time as far as we know that such a concerted effort has been made in this direction.

The passion that most of us have for our mother tongues is what has made Katha a known name and activity in India, over the past ten years. And this same passion we saw in students and teachers in all our interactions.

1998 - 99:

We are in the process of setting up Academic Centres in five universities: Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, North Eastern Hill University, Shillong, SNDT, Mumbai, Bangalore University, and in Chennai, we are exploring possibilities.

In Delhi, Gargi College wants two certificate courses next year' - at the intermediate and advanced levels. Lady Sri Ram College, where we have had one workshop already, wants a more intense programme this year. Other colleges are Sri Ram College of Commerce, Indraprastha College and Zakir Hussain College.

Katha will soon start CultureLink workshops at IIM, Bangalore, and the IIFT, New Delhi.

The ALT programme is off to a well-timed start with seven books in the pipeline.

This year we also start workshops in professional colleges - a semester of work at Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore; a 20-hour certificate course at the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi. Jaipur University has requested for one more workshop in translation. Intense, hands-on.

The indirect but definite impact of this consciousness, says Dr Sukrita Paul Kumar, who is the honorary director of this ambitious programme is demonstrated by the fact that the draft syllabus under scrutiny by the Academic Council of Delhi University at present has a whole paper on translated Indian Literature at the Honours Level.

THE ACADEMIC PUBLISHING PROGRAMME: APPROACHING LITERATURE IN TRANSLATION OR ALT LITT is the name given to the academic publishing programme. Our continuing dialogues with teachers at various colleges in Delhi and Chennai, in the English, Tamil and Hindi departments, as well as with young academics has led to a cementing of forces amongst those wanting change. Katha sincerely hopes that its interface with academia will eventually result in becoming a movement to make language and literature studies in this country more meaningful.

Never, as far as we know; has such a programme, focussing on translated texts, been conceptualized. An ALT Committee was formed under the chairmanship of Geeta Dharmarajan, who has conceptualized the Kanchi Initiative and formulated the vision paper for this series.

LAST SEPTEMBER, IN ORDER TO CONSOLIDATE OUR THINKING IN THIS MATTER, KATHA INITIATED AN ALT meeting. Co-sponsored by Sanskriti, the workshop had participants from Madras University and the SNDT University, Mumbai. Eminent academics, scholars and translators participated in the deliberations. This included people like Dr Meenakshi Mukherjee, Dr Sujit Mukherjee, Dr Nirmal Selvamony, Dr Malashree Lal and Dr Mitra Parikh.

The work has taken off well over the last few months. Two books are in the final round of editing. Five books have been commissioned this year.

THE KATHA RESOURCE CENTRE: This was the last to take off But a lot of work has happened, helping us meet the targets we had set ourselves. We found obtaining information from different resource people in the different languages, particularly those outside Delhi, was more time-consuming than initially anticipated.

WORK DONE: A shortlist of eminent writers in ten languages has been made.

When you are fun,
everyone wants you!
So we're there in
Kalpavriksham and in
Katha Vilasam. Both
great places to be!

Tamasha!

the discovery & exploration
magazine for children
8 years and above

Dhammak Dhum!

the fun magazine for
3-7 year olds

Tamasha

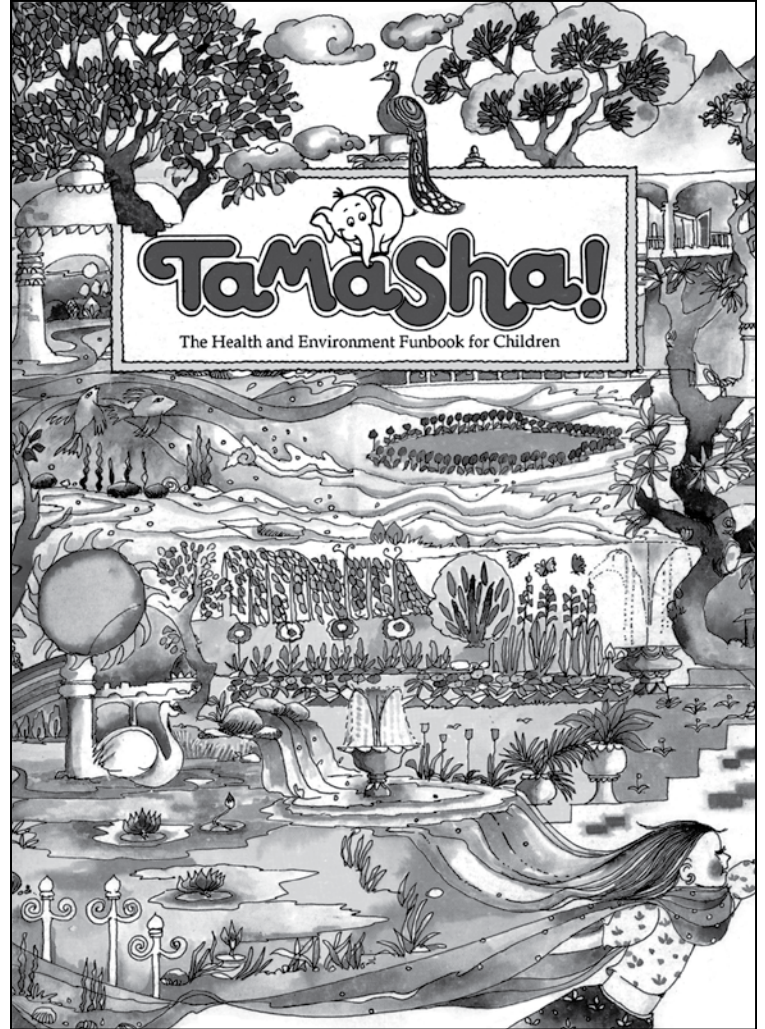
In 1988, work that was to set the tone and culture of Katha began with a quarterly magazine called *Tamasha!* This is specially written and designed for the first-generation school-goer. Katha perceives them as children with special needs. *Tamasha!* has, over the years, changed and grown from being a story, health and environment magazine to a truly Indian magazine for children. It has been coming out in Hindi and in English.

For the last two years, we were unable to bring it out, for we had no money. Now, with a small grant from Ford Foundation we hope to turn the magazine around. This year we re-launch the new-look *Tamasha!*

Tamasha! will continue to introduce some of India's best writers through translations and retellings. It is India's first children's 'magazine that brings the best cultural practices to the notice of children. It

encourages children to decide on what to keep, of age-old traditions, what to accept of the new; It takes BIG ideas like accepted and emerging ones on sustainable living, water and energy management, family well-being, culture and entrepreneurship to children, through lively stories, fantasies, real-life incidents and other innovative means.

And *Tamasha!* continues to be at the core of creative and fun ways of learning that is being used in Khazana, our centre for non formal education. And in Katha's Sishya Initiative that hopes to help teachers make learning relevant and fun for children across the country.



Tamasha! was chosen as a best practice in magazine publishing by the British Council, UK, for the 13th Conference of Education Ministers, at Botswana, August, 1997. The exhibition has been travelling around the world after this.

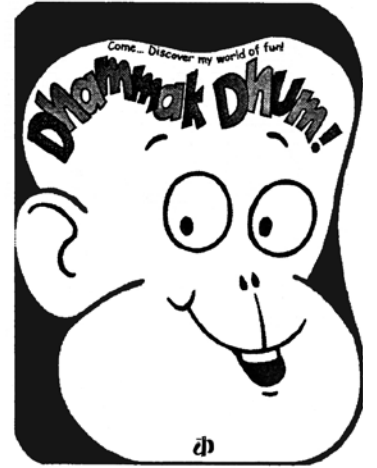
Dhamak Dhum!

Dhammak Dhum! is a special, fun-filled magazine. Just entering the market, it is specially designed for the primary school child. It hopes to bring the excitement of story from the different languages to the child, making her aware that she is part of a linguistically and culturally rich and exciting land. As they say, what is learnt in the cradle, lasts a lifetime. We hope that it will provide this for the child, so she grows up into a responsive, caring adult. Learning how to obey a conscience is hard. Good literature helps. Which is what *Dhammak Dhum!* hopes to give.

Meant for children who study, willy-nilly, in English medium schools, it simultaneously introduce English in purely India-centric ways to children in bhasha schools; We hope to make it a magazine that enriches the child's world, that makes language skills a creative pursuit, not just something that will help a child pass an exam. The magazine will celebrate books and reading and help readers move gently but unforgettably into the magical world of stories!

Like *Tamasha!* what makes *Dhammak Dhum!* already a favourite with children is the beautiful illustrations that our artists turn out each and every time. A labour of love for each one of them, Katha cannot thank them enough for their love and care and, most of all, their wonderful sense of fun and creativity!

Illustrations in
this report by
Atanu Roy,
Vandana Bist,
Shuddho Basu &
Sujata Singh!



Moment We Cherish ...



The Hon President, Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma, gives away the Katha Awards at the Yellow Room, Rashtrapati Bhavan, in October 1992.



M S Subbalakshmi gives away the Katha Awards, 1996, at the Museum Theatre, Chennai.



The Hon Vice President, Shri K R Narayanan, presents the prizes for the first Katha-British Council Translation Contest, August 1995.

Shri Abid Hussain addresses the Katha Awards Session, March 1997, while Srimati Mahasweta Devi, Srimati Krishna Sobti and Srimati Geeta Dharmarajan look on.



the story &
translation
centre

Katha Vilasham

Celebrating Language, Culture & Translation,
in the literary to literature continuum

“Katha deserves a round of applause for continuing to give writers in Indian languages much-needed exposure, unearthing a cache of talented translators and revealing the wealth and diversity of literature that lies hidden and unappreciated in this amazing land of ours.”

– **Jaya Banerji,**
Indian Review of Books,
16 April - 15 May 1998

“Katha is doing an incredibly heroic work. By making available in English translation the best of Indian short fiction, Katha is presenting the ‘real’ India to English readers across the world.”

– **Bharati Mukherjee** as quoted in
The Indian Express

“Katha has several achievements, the most important one being the cultivation of a whole new readership for translations of contemporary short stories drawn every year from Indian languages.”

– *The Express Magazine,*
February 8 1998

“It used to be said that Indian language writing, translations could never adequately capture the quality and spirit of the original. Year after year Katha has been triumphantly proving this proposition wrong. The boom in the last few years in English translations of Indian fiction – all the big names in Indian publishing have got into the act – owes much to Katha’s trail blazing effort. And, unlike almost all the other publishing house where the quality of releases have fluctuated wildly Katha has shown impeccable taste. Both in ill choice of stories and in the quality of its translations, it has consistently upheld high standards.”

– *The week,* February 22, 1998

“Katha has commendably applied the mountain will-come-to-Mohammed adage to bring the richness of India’s literature to English habitues, in a manner uniquely its own.”

– *Economic Times,*
8 February 1998



Dr U R Anantha Murthy gave away the All-India Katha Translation Contest Awards

As heartening as our work with children and neo-literates, the

enthusiasm with which readers pour over Katha books!

Katha Vilasam

The Story and Translation Centre was started in 1989, and spans the literacy to literature activities of Katha. Enhancing the quality of translations between the Indian languages, including English; increasing the pool of sensitive translators; publishing are some of our main mission goals. Our other major initiative has been to foster and applaud quality short fiction being written in the various languages and excellent translations.

Foregrounding India's diversity through stories, we think will also help children develop positive, proactive tolerance that comes from an understanding of peoples and cultures and practises, so they know how to handle a Kaveri issue, or the question of nuclear options for India. Quality reading offers the best of many worlds to a child. And helps build and sustain creativity, one of the most important tools to survive in to day's world. And this is the case with neo-literates, people, especially women on the road to total literacy.

- The Katha Awards were instituted in 1990 to honour the best from the regional presses, from small journals to mass-circulated magazines. **The Katha Awards for Creative Fiction** are given to writers, both established and new, path-breakers and exciting talents all. Stories for the awards are chosen through a rigorous process from those nominated by eminent critics and scholars from each of the languages. **The Katha Awards for Translation** and the **A K Ramanujan Award** go to nominated translators in each chosen language. **The Katha Journal Award** goes each year to magazines that published the Katha-award winner.

The Second AU-India Katha Translation Contest was held this year. It attracted more than 1700. entries. The awards were given away by U R Anantha Murthy, writer. Work has started this year, on the **Katha SAARC Translation Contest!**

- **The Friends of Katha** is a growing circle of 3000 people who are interested in quality fiction, and their translation into other languages. We thank them for what we are!

When Katha was started, many were sceptical. Today, ten years down the line, Katha's translations have gained a degree of acceptance – and Katha has been called a “pioneer” in the field of translation, in a country that has only a 2000-year tradition in translation!

Our Publishing Programme has garnered interest and praise from readers and reviewers alike. The Katha Prize Stories continues to showcase the best of contemporary Indian fiction.



Leela Samson performing at the Katha Awards ceremony

The year started with resounding success for Katha Vilasam, with excellent review for **Katha Prize Stories, Volume 6**. We went on, in May, to a three-day **Yak Utsav in Chennai**, with seminars and discussions each day, the release of five books of translation, and the staging of a play that had been translated under the Katha Yak Project. And ended it with the **Katha Utsav in Delhi**. A three-day extravaganza which concluded with the Katha Awards being given by **Janab Sardar All Jaffri Sahab**, and a dance recital by noted dancer, **Leela Samson**.

The Katha All-India Translation Contests: As Council Members know; there is a constant effort in Katha to find new translators. One of these has been the collaboration with the **British Council Division**, British High Commission, to conduct a Translation Contest in 1993. Success of the first contest led to the Second Katha All-India Translation Contest, with 1700 entries. Results for this were recently announced. These prize winning translation have been published by Katha as **Visions Revisions, Volume 2**.

The Katha Classic, **Mauni**, was released in May. In Chennai by **Shri C Subramaniam**, well-known statesman. In the United Kingdom, by **Girish Karnad**, both in May, 1997.

KPS-7 was released in a well-attended function, by eminent writer, **Bhisham Sahni**, at the American Centre, New Delhi. Almost all the Delhi-based award winners and Nominating Editors were present. This was followed by a dance performance by noted Odissi dancer, **Kiran Segal**. Funding: India Cements.

Separate Journeys, Mapping Memories and **Sleepwalkers** were three other books released this year at the Katha Utsav. While the first book is a 'tribute to the varied journeys undertaken by women and translated into writings, the other two are powerful reminiscences about the Partition and the spirit of nations and people.



Shri Bishma Sahni
released Katha
Prize Stories, Vol 7.

Some of Katha's
exciting offers during
1997-1998:
Mauni
Visions Revisions 2
Separate Journeys
Mapping Memories
Sleepwalkers
Katha Prize Stories 7

KATHA PRIZE STORIES VOL 7 Edited by Geeta Dharmarajan & Meenakshi Sharma

"Each story describes a different world, yet speaks of something universal. They draw heavily from immediate surroundings for both the setting and the imagery, which gives them a very Indian flavour. At the same time, they present a view of what lies beyond the apparent. They are like excerpts from life, magnified to allow the intricacies to come through. Together, the kaleidoscopic view of these 'worlds' brings home the concept we know as India."

– **Business Standard**, Feb 3 1998

"The volume is superbly produced, which makes it a welcome change from the unattractive get up of most books of translation in the country."

– **The Telegraph**, Jan 2 1998

"Sound, phonetically aflame English translations have become the distinguishing trait of the Katha series. This volume doesn't disappoint. The rich and vital sounds, dialects and peculiar flavours of various regions are astutely preserved."

– **India Today**, Jan 26 1998

"All the stories in this collection are representative of the wide diversity of Indian cultures, habits and customs and reveal the depth of talent available in our country. Katha's attempt to showcase this talent is laudable."

– **The Statesman**, Feb 9 1998

"Without mincing words, and holding out till the end, I have to say immediately that it's Brilliant."

– **Indian Review of Books**, Apr 1998

MAPPING MEMORIES Edited by Sukrita Paul Kumar & Muhammad Ali Siddiqui

"All the stories in the collection, from the serious to the light-hearted, the poignant to the bizarre, the surreal to the frightening, are well etched vignettes that transcends all caste,

creed, language barriers to create a language of their own."

– **The Statesman**, June 29 1998

"Katha's *Mapping Memories* ... in the fiftieth year of Independence, appears as a timely panacea for the divisive ills festering in the nuclear heat of the current political imbroglio. This exquisitely produced collection of fifteen Urdu short stories has been fastidiously and lovingly put together in accordance with the laudable editorial principle of capturing the 'human predicament in the subcontinent' and telling 'the

tale of the shared cultures nourished by India and Pakistan.' Perhaps the signal achievement of the collection is that it opens windows to a vista hitherto closed to non-Urdu speaking readers ... With apparent effortlessness, the translators have accomplished a marvellous job in capturing the idiosyncratic resonances of the spoken language. In becoming the vehicle for the message of peace and harmony, these stories acquire a 'godly' character and, as a body, take on the appearance of a welcome 'bridge over troubled waters.'"

– **The Pioneer**, June 13 1998

SLEEPWALKERS

Edited by Keerti Ramachandra

"Throughout this amazing tale of the real and the imaginary, what is and what was, paradise lost and paradise regained only to be lost again, there is a compassion, a sense of complete empathy with these troubled, night-walking souls. Joginder Paul has obviously trod similar ground and experienced at first hand the bewildering uncertainty of the migrant sensibility. Reading the novels in English one feels truly in a world transported, not created or recreated as most translations attempt to do."

– **The Hindu**, June 7 1998

"This collection is multifaceted and worth buying. The translators give the reader a taste of the richness of Urdu literature."

– **The Statesman**, June 11 1998



SEPARATE JOURNEYS
 Edited by Geeta Dharmarajan
 Co-published with Garutman

"A splendid showcase of short stories by Indian women writers."

– The Telegraph, April 24 1998

"Her selection reveals a pattern of echoes, resonances and related trajectories pointing to the common concerns of modern Indian writers, and it highlights what some see as women's determination to shed the confining garments of decency in which they have been clothed by male critics."

– Times Literary Supplement

"After reading *Separate Journeys* one feels that the very diversity that differentiates the stories also loops them together, sensuously, delicately. It's like some bright colours cajoled into each and every fibre by varying hands and minds."

– The Statesman,
 May 25 1998

KATHA CLASSICS: MAUNI
 Edited by Lakshmi Holmstrom

"It is not usual for a review to come dripping with gratitude. This time, though, that is precisely how it must. For Mauni: *A Writers' Writer* is the most tastefully produced, the most sensitively edited and translated, the most imaginatively formatted Indian book that I have ever come across. Everything is simply dazzling about this 'collaboration' of love. The series editor Geeta Dharmarajan's resolve to 'resurrect' him before the world; the sensitivity and hard work evident everywhere in Holmstrom's introduction and translations."

– Jaidev, Indian Review of Books,
 Sept 16 1997

"Mauni's short stories is one of the most serious collections to hit the Indian literary scene in recent years. The credit for this goes to the Katha team and the dynamism of Geeta Dharmarajan ... Looking minutely at the translation of each story one must congratulate Lakshmi Holmstrom on her

brilliant translations.

– Vijaya Ramaswamy, The Book Review,
 Jan 1998



"The present translation by Lakshmi Holmstrom made from a rare copy of his collected work ... [t]hey leave an impact nevertheless even though indefinable ... translation is excellent."

– The Statesman, Oct 31 1998

VISIONS REVISIONS 2
 Edited by Keerti
 Ramachandra

"The reader is provided with a thread to journey through myriad stories from India's rich multilingual fabric. In the final analysis, both the original and the translation stand on trial. And both the vision and the revision equally compel the reader's attention, one for content, the other for expression ... *Visions Revisions 2* represent quality translations."

– The Pioneer, Mar 7 1998

"There's so much of a haunting greatness in vernacular literature that one feels like being a linguist and lapping up all of it ... And Katha should be lauded for offering us the gatepass to such a happy savouring session. Its compilation of award-winning English translations of regional literature is simply something to be treasured."

– The Statesman

"In this age of factionalism, to read a book like *Visions Revisions 2* is reassuring, especially if you were beginning to wonder if there is any point in holding on to the idea of India as one country ... The volume makes for easy reading. Though it is normally agreed upon that something is always lost in translations, a lot of effort seems to have gone in to retain the basic flavour of each linguistic and cultural tradition."

– Business Standard, Mar 19 1998

"Everyone knows that Katha's doing a fine job building bridges between regional subcultures. *Visions Revisions 2* is proof. Twelve stories, translated from twelve Indian languages into English, paint a portrait of India that is in places interestingly different."

– Indian Review of Books, June 15 1998

The Princess with the Longest Hair

Komila Raote

Illustrations by Vandana Bist



The first
Kathakaar
Offering!
Winner
of the
Chitrakala
Award for
1998

Kathakaar

Katha's Centre for Children's Literature is a new venture that has been part of the "Audacious Plan" almost from the time I started Katha! I have been told by well-meaning friends that you can't do children's books without money, so it might be. Katha began this journey with books like *The Secrets of Kolindi*, the *YuvaKatha* Series with its eight volumes and *A Unique Odyssey*. But the first illustrated children's book, *The Princess with the Longest Hair*, bright and beautiful, would not have been possible without a small grant from Mr Vellayan of TI Cycles. And we hope others will help fund this, the most important thing we can do for our children.

Kathakaar hopes to bring out books from the vast treasurehouse that is literary India. Stories help build character, caring and empathy and we hope these books will do just that!

In this age of globalization, what we need to build up is our confidence and a knowledge of ourselves – which stories give in plenty!

Kathakaar is part of the excitement in the world of books today. We do not have the money to make these books and friends have called this Katha's castle in the air. *The Princess with the Longest Hair* by Komilla Raote, an exquisite and unforgettable book, has illustrations by Vandana Bist, who Wins the first ChitraKala Award instituted by Katha for Children's Book illustrations. We hope to find support that will allow us to do enough books that will make children's publishing in India a sustainable activity.

Princess was released at the Salmela, held on 30 March, 1998.



Sāt Sahelia

The adult literacy materials development cell was an organic growth of our work with the women of Govindpuri. The women's programme called for pro-active work on our part. But our strength does not lie in being activists. Ours is in publishing and reaching out to people through story, Katha, the written word and our work with children and women at a very ordinary level. And thus, the empowerment programme that Katha has embarked on has the evocative name, Sāt Sahelia. But we do believe we are the only agency which is producing literature in translation for people on the road to total literacy.

The Katha Vachak Books

The series brings stories of some of India's best writers in simple lucid retellings for the reading pleasure of the neo-literates. Each page is beautifully illustrated with about 50 words in larger point-size. Funded by the **Dept of Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India**, these books follow on previous stories by writers like **Rabindranath Tagore, Jaishankar Prasad, Gurbachan Singh Bhullar, Sughra Mehdi and Maitreyi Pushpa.**

This year's titles are –

- **Arjun** by **Mahasweta Devi**. From the Bangla. Illustrated by D Sharma
- **Panch Parameshwar** by **Premchand**. From the Hindi. Illustrated by Atanu Roy
- **Bhola** by **Rajinder Singh Bedi**. From the Hindi. Illustrated by Sujata Khanna
- **Samudra Tat Par** by **O V Vijayan**. From the Malayalam. Illustrated by Swapan Sarkar
- **Sparsh** by **Jayant Dalvi**. From the Marathi. Illustrated by Sujata Singh
- **Abhishap** by **Puduvai Ra Rajani**. From the Tamil. Illustrated by Sharada Natarajan
- **Do Haath** by **Ismat Chughtai**. From the Urdu. Illustrated by Shuddho Basu

The Govt plans to distribute these books for use in Jan Shikshan Nilayams, all over the country.

The adult literacy materials development cell has produced seven profusely illustrated books this year under our Katha Vachak series; and *Stree Shakti*, a user's manual, in multiple languages.



Last year, *Stree Katha* was done in six Indian languages – Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Telugu, Urdu. The technique of “Survival Words” is a concept developed in Katha by the Executive Director. Learning to read needs a vast investment of time and energy from women, and we hope these books are relevant, but fun always, and inviting.

Stree Shakti is divided into six major topics – Education, Health, Environment, Empowerment, Income Generation Programmes and Awareness. The book is produced in Hindi, Malayalam, Kannada, English and a text-free volume which is one of the most innovative ideas Katha has come up with so far, to take information and materials across a linguistically varied and exciting country like India!



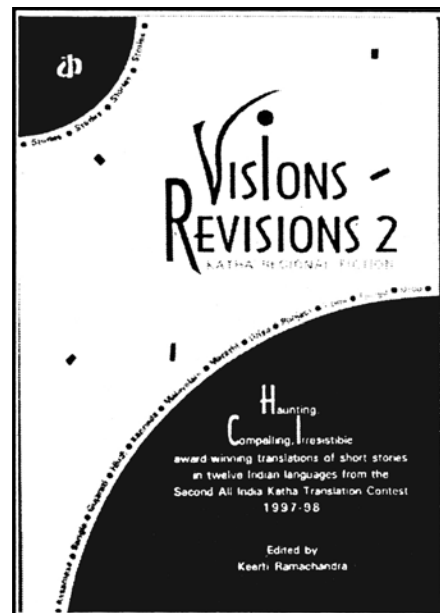
Funded by the Royal Netherlands Embassy, the books were released by Prof Moegiadi, Director, UNESCO.

Prof Moegiadi, Director, UNESCO, releases StreeShakti.

Special Project

The Second All India Translation Contest (KTC-2): The project was sponsored by the British Council Division of the British High Commission. There were about 1700 entries from all over India. Results were announced in June 97. 12 entries received the prizes (awards), 12 commendations and 12 special mentions. 12 prize winning stories have been published in **Visions Revision 2**.

The project culminated in a 2 day workshop at the BCD, where Shri U R Anantha Murthy gave the keynote address. The grand finale saw the release of **Visions Revision 2** by Shri Anantha Murthy and Mr Colin Perchard Minister (Cultural Affairs) of the BCD receiving the first copy of the book. He also gave away the awards to the prize winners. At the end, a film adaptation of the story "Bhoj" (The Weight) a prize winning story by Vandana Bist in Katha Prize Stories was screened by Shri Umesh Bist.



Creative Writing Workshop: In Delhi, December is the month that we have held the Creative Writing Workshop. This year a week long workshop was conducted by Dr Clark Blaise, Director of the prestigious Writer's Workshop, University of Iowa, USA, and Dr Bharati Mukherjee, writer and teacher at Berkeley.

Katha South organized a month long Children's Creative Writing Workshop in May 97. Ms Renuka Rajaratnam and Mr Samanta Roy were the coordinators of the workshop.

Mapping Memories: To showcase Urdu as a language of peace, UNESCO asked Katha to develop a project that could be completed in six months. Under the guidance of Sukrita Paul Kumar, the work was completed on time with a collection of stories from some of the best writers from India and Pakistan. Katha published the book in Urdu and in English translation. A truly outstanding collection, the book was mentioned in a Times of India editorial which spoke of "Building bridges and not bombs."



Shri Abid Hussain, Mufti Sahab and Sardar Ali Jaffri Sahab at the release of Mapping Memories.

Research & Publication happen regularly at Katha Vilasam, with a high degree of quality consciousness. The output is small, and not really at a sustainable level, but has shown there is a need for such work. Last year's included a study of **Translation of a Play through a Production Process**, under our VĀK Project. Though the project had ended in March, the products of the year-long work was showcased in May, during the Vāk Utsav. It included the release of four books in translation into Bangia, Kannada and Tamil, by the renowned statesman **Shri C Subramaniam**. And the staging of a play.

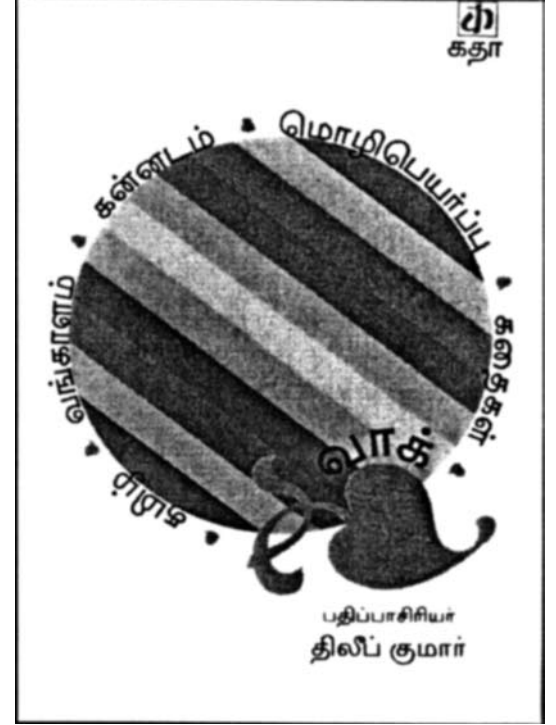
Panchali is the Tamil translation of **Shaonli Mitra's** Bengali play, **Nathabathi Anathabat**. Co-sponsored by the **M S Swaminathan Research Foundation**, it was presented at the "Vāk Utsav" of Katha South at the Museum Theatre on May 2. **Panchali**, performed by Palkalai Arangam and Voicing Silence, drew its inspiration from the traditional total theatre of the Tamils - Koothu. The play was directed by **Palani**, a research scholar on Koothu.

We were lucky to find excellent and dedicated coordinators - **Srimati Enakshi Chatterjee**, **Dr Nataraj Huliya**, **Sri Dilip Kumar** and **Dr Mangai**.

Katha South hosted the Vāk Utsav from 1st May to 3rd May 97. Coordinators and translators from all three target languages participated and along with local resource persons and deliberated on various issues that translators confront in their profession.

The translations and a Katha Classic on the Tamil writer Mauni were released on the occasion by Mr C Subramaniam. A Katha workshop and meeting of the different translators from Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Bengal took place on May 2 and 3.

Katha South is also in charge of a collection of north American stories from the O'Henry award-winning stories. The book is being edited by **Shri Ashokamitran**, the noted Tamil writer. The project is funded by **USIS, Chennai**.



Vak books, in Tamil and Bengla



Summer of 1997, I was invited to UK, France and USA. Basically a time that I used to introduce Katha to people in these countries. Other work was also accomplished. Amongst these, **Oneworld.org/katha** will take the world of Indian stories, in translation. We are to have an interactive page which is being designed for all visitors to the site so they keep coming back. The story is one of the main tools we are using to do this. While at UK, I was asked to write the Child Labour Guide as a la-minute walk for their Internet site - <http://www.oneworld.org/>

The Seminar on Translation. Celebrating 50 years of India's independence, Birmingham, was a high point for Katha. The keynote address was given by Dr Sujit Mukherjee who chose to talk about two exciting happenings in the field of literature: The Katha Initiative and the Macmillan Project. Katha's latest book in the Katha Classics series was released in Birmingham by Girish Karnad. And the first copy was presented to Mr Niven of the British Council. Mr Niven, accepting the first copy, spoke about the "excellence" of Katha's publications. **Co-publishing Tie-up:** Dr Peter Bush, Director, Centre for Research in Translation, University of Middlesex, has suggested a co-publishing programme, starting with two books. The meeting also brought about an **Invitation to the Frankfurt Book Fair:** I spoke on the Politics of Translation. Katha was also given a stall there.

University of East Anglia and the British Centre for Literary Translation, Norwich. The Director of the centre, Mr Terry Hale, and Dr Jean Boas-Beier, specialist in Stylistics at the School of Modern Languages at Norwich, were informed about Katha's activities. Dr Boas-Beier has agreed to be a distance faculty member for Katha's Interface with Academia programme in India.

Roundtable in Creativity in Development was at Church House, Westminster Abbey complex, London. I was one of the invited speakers. Other speakers included people from Africa and Scotland as well as representatives from UNESCO, Paris and the British Council, UK

Setting up of the Katha Chapter in the UK Mr Stephen Watts, a British poet and a keen translator has suggested that we should have a chapter of Katha in UK. Katha-UK has been formed informally with Stephen Watts as its coordinator. People on the board include Ms Ranjana Ash, Ms Lakshmi Hohnström and Ms Shirley Daniels, Inspector of Schools, London.

In PARIS, 20-27 May, 1997. As an invitee of the French Government, I had a chance to discuss with Monsieur Alain Grund, President of Edition Grund, and Madame Souchon, their chief-editor, a co-publishing venture. Other people I met included, Raj de Condeppa of Editions Kailash, Monsieur Yannick Guiliou, Edition Gallimard, Monsieur Pierre Astier, Edition le Serpent le Plume, Madame Anne Freyer, Editions du Seuil; Dr Marianne Lederer, Directeur, Ecole Supérieure d'Interpretariat et du Traduction, Université de PARIS DAUPHINE, and Dr Florence Herbulot.

While in the US, the highlights were the interest shown by Indians there to the setting up of Katha's USA Chapter and organizing cooperation with the University of Iowa. I met members of the Indian community at Houston, Texas, Los Angeles, Johnson City, Tennessee. In New York, I had the opportunity to introduce Mr Sonny Mehta and the Vice Presidents of Sesame Street to Katha.

Our Publications

Books form Kalpana and Kathakaar Hul Gul Ka Pitara

A teaching/
learning kit
Hindi for -14
yr olds.

Gili Gili Gola
Ek Tha Mota Raja
Uran Chu
Adha Raja Adha Ojha
Tero!

Sāt Sahelia:
Easy Readers
for Women
Stree Katha in
Literacy
More!

Gujarati
Hindi
Kannada
Malayalam
Telugu
Urdu

Stree Shakti in
Follow-up on
Stree Katha

Hindi
English
Kannada
Malayalam
a text-free version

Katha Vachak
Classic for
women

Stree Ka Patra by Rabindranath Tagore
Thakavat by Gurbachan Singh Bullar
Paro ki Kahani by Sughra Mehdi
Puruskar by Jai Shankar Prasad
Faisla by Maitreyi Pushpa
Samundar Tāt Paar by O V Vijayan
Bhola by Rajinder Sing Bedi
Sparsh by Jayant Dalvi
Abhishap by Pudevai Ra Rajani
Arjun by Mahasweta Devi
Panch Parmeshwar by Premchand
Do Haat by Ismat Chughtai

Balkatha

Secretes of Kalanid
Swapnasundari and the Megical Birds
of Mithila (Eng & Hindi)
The Princess with the Longest Hair
Tamasha! a fun magazine for children
7 and above
Dhammak Dhum! a discovery
Magazie for primary school-goers

For Young Adults

Yuvakatha Vol 1 to 8
A Unique Odessey (English)
Ek Ankhi Yatra (Hindi)

For Seasoned Readers
Katha Classic:

Masti Venkatesha Iyengar
Mauni
Vaikom Muhammad Basheer
Raja Rao

Regional Fiction

A Southerm Harvest
Visions Revisions 1
Visions Revisions 2
Katha Prize Stories Vol 1 to 7

Reference

The Wordsmiths

Urdu Library

Mapping Memories

Stree Katha

Separate Journeys

Katha Perspectives

Sleepwalkers

Bhasha Publications

Kaveri to Ganga (Bangla)
Kaveri to Gamga (Tamil Stories)
Kaveri to Gamga (Tamil plays)
Kaveri to Gamga (Kannada)
Bazdeed (Urdu)

**Posters, Vrikshianjali Calendar,
Greeting Cards**

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Shri N N Tandon,
Director (Retd), UNIDO, Vienna.

Dr Veena Das, Sociologist and Professor,
Delhi University.

Our Sincere Thanks to...

Katha would like to thank all those of our friends, supporters, advisors and well-wishers, who have stood by us, and believed in our cause, these many years. We extend our sincere gratitude and best wishes to Shri/Srimati :

Aishraj, Ajay Mahajan, Ali Sardar Jafri, Ameena, K Ansari, Ananda Apfelbaum, Anil Wilson, Anita Dighe, Ann Quin, Anuradha Vitachi, Anwar Sadeed, Aravind Kumar, Arif Hassan, Arshiya Sethi, Artur Hertle, Arun Grover, Asha Singh, Ashok Vajpeyi, B S Bagga, Bairavan, Bharati Mukherjee, Bhisham Sahni, Bhupen Kakkar, Bill Hamblett, Brandon O'Malley, Brinda Balakrishnan, Chanchal Pal, Chandra Mohan, C J Daswani, Clark Blaise, Cleo en Emile den as, Daryl Rose, Deepa Aggarwal, Devirupa Mitra, Doris Visscher Canter, Durgadas Gupta, Eva Apfelbaum, Farkhanda Lodhi, Francis Junod, Gautam Mukerjee, George Abraham, Gita Atreya, Gopichand Narang, Harish Trivedi, H C Goel, Hemant Roy Chopra, Hema Raghavan, Hema Ramanathan, Hirak Ghosh, Hubert Schmalz, H Y Shiv Prakash, Ira Pan de, Jacquelin Ruth Lundquist, Jai Deep Singh, Jaya Iyer, Jeelani Bano, Joginder Paul, Kalyani Singh, Kamleshwar, Karuna Sankar, Kashyap, Kiran Segal, Krishna Sobti, K Sachidanandan, K Srinivasan, Lakshmi Krishnamurthy, L C Trivedi, Leela K Ponappa, L K Joshi, Madhu Kishwar, Madhuleena, Mahendra Singh, Mallika Verma, Manjit Singh, Manoj Chowdhary, Marianne Liwwet, Mathew Cherian, Mei Zegers, MMukundan, Moegiadi, Mohd S Zamam, Mridula Bajaj, Mrinal Pande, M S Gill, Mufti Jamiluddin Ahmad, Mandira Mitra, Nagma Zafir, Namita Gautam, Neena Afreen, Neeru Govil, Nigam, Niharika, Nika Schmalz, N K Ambast, N Srinivasan, Pankaj Mishra, Pankaj Pachauri, Paro Anand, Peter Armstrong, Poonam

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