

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



2007-2008



Dear Friends,

Once more I was given a front row seat to enjoy the sumptuous creativity of our 8000 punky children in 71 Katha Schools, my 160 colleagues and 500 volunteer-friends, the countless readers and participants in our various events. Once again imagination flashed through rooms where teachers and editors came and went discussing story stuff, from kids writing to translation to design to pedagogy and story stations. It was one more active year in the midst of visits to hospitals and ICUs, tangled in drips and dreary stuff that life sometimes doles out to help me remember to accept life with joy, to let it go without regret :)

Yes, myriad journeys marked Katha turning 20! We've moved from one-volunteer with a story seed and a dream to Team Katha: thousands of dreamers-doers achieving their potential. Our generous stakeholders say they're proud to be associated with us and we eagerly return their compliment: We could not have done it without each one of them.

We continued to positively impact social injustice and economic poverty in urban India. In our schools, we continued to leverage our mission goal on a single powerful idea: Children can help their communities get out of poverty.

We helped transform every child into a community leader. Katha Student Performance: 90%. Retention: 92%. Many of our children are in college today; many working in mainstream organizations like IBM, Citibank, Government of India, Delhi Government. About 400 Katha alumni [2004-2008] earned a total of **42 million rupees in 2008!** And when we consider that **12 years of their education cost India half what they have earned in one year**, Katha is probably a good model for the country to study. More: They helped their community women too. Our Govindpuri family incomes were Rs 600-800/month in 1990, according to a government survey. Today, our women earn up to Rs. 20,000/month! Katha's 9000 women across 60 slums proved Katha's belief once again: When women earn, children get to learn!

These achievements have led to a major collaboration with the Delhi Government and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi [MCD]. We'll help 300,000 children to, inshallah, read better and energize India's economy, through 2012.

Our books programme once again brought the best of India in translation to readers across the world. The children's book division launched lovely books for children including a brave new programme in baby books!

And so to a new year ... with a big BIG thank you for warmth, laughter and friendship to my innovative colleagues, children, women and volunteers, all our donor partners and individuals. And my dear doctors at AIIMS who got me back to work double-quick, albeit on a semi-colon :)

Here's for you then our world of 2007-2008.
Enjoy!



Geeta Dharmarajan
(Executive Director)

KATHA SCHOOLS: QUICK HIGHLIGHTS 1990-2008

8000 children today in **71** Katha Schools

36,315 children weaned away from labour into quality education

46,137 children have come into sustainable education through Katha Schools

91.8% Retention; **92%** Katha Student Performance

430 Katha alumni; **Rs 42 million:** total alumni earnings in 2008

ANNUAL REPORT 2007-8

ATTENDANCE: 86%. 800 students recorded 100% attendance

RETENTION: 91.8%

PERFORMANCE: Classes 4 & 6: We administered the test set by Education Initiatives last year for all our students.

Result: **Class X NIOS:** 90 pass %. Maximum marks: Hindi: 81. English: 76. Computers: 87. Science: 76. Home science: 83

54% secured first division

Katha Student Support Centre. **Class X CBSE: 94.2 pass %**

From **50** Katha community schools: **800** students admitted into govt. schools

Outreach programme: **10** municipal schools, **1540** children

CAREERS: 230 IT students got jobs this year; Top salary: Rs 16,000/month

Our KITES students now employed in: Airtel. Bharti Cellular. Idea. Tally Corp. Tata Indicom. Tech Books. Zee TV. Government of India [Geological Survey of India & BSES]

212 entrepreneurs graduated from Katha School of Entrepreneurship this year; maximum income Rs 8000/month

72 new Katha teachers trained

294 lesson plans and **378** teaching modules prepared.



KATHA WOMEN: QUICK HIGHLIGHTS 1990-2008

84,400: Women who took part in Katha community revitalization and economic resurgence initiatives across **74** communities

Rs 14 million: Total sales of the Income Generation Group

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

Rs 10, 06, 924: Annual income of women in Katha Shakti

ANNUAL REPORT 2007-8

Working Women's Forum: **810**

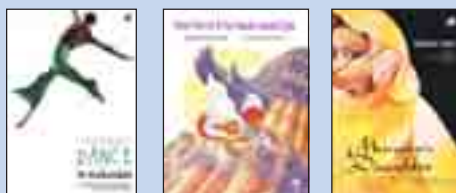
Number of Self Help Groups: **58**

Number of mothers in the Maa Mandal: **9000**

Beneficiaries of KALP, Katha Adult Literacy Programme: **1800**

Salaries of women trained at Katha maxing at: **Rs 20,000**

Sanjha Prayas: Under the Bhagidari Scheme, the Delhi Government has joined hands with our women to ensure health and sanitation in Govindpuri.



KATHA BOOKS: QUICK HIGHLIGHTS 1990-2008

. **Rs 7,46,22,253** worth books sold in 1999-2008; **Rs 70,25,708** in 2007-2008

. **250** titles published; **27** in 2007-2008

. **500 bookshops** across India stock Katha books; also libraries, universities and colleges

. More than **600** contributing writers, translators and illustrators; **21** languages

. **6,000** activists, academics, artistes, storytellers, litterateurs and lovers of literature in the Friends of Katha network

. First Indian publisher to bring out their books in Braille with bookshare.org.

ANNUAL REPORT 2007-8

Katha designed and developed two unique kits of 11 storybooks each for school children aged 5-17, to help them read for fun, and well, and reach a 600-word level in about 100 hours. These well-loved stories by master storytellers, beautifully illustrated by renowned artists, have been retold in Hindi to be used as special graded easy readers to improve vocabulary and impart basic reading skills to children, and adults, on the road to literacy. They are also used by our own teachers in Kathashala. **Total number of books distributed: 8240**

The adult fiction list included works of wordsmiths like Kamleshwar, Krishna Sobti, Damodar Mauzo, Jayakanthan, Bani Basu, M Mukundan, Santanu Kumar Acharya.

Imagine a warm red building housing an otherwise marginalized community, resounding with the learning joy of 1300 students ...What you get is sheer magic ... the magic that is today the

Katha School



COME READ OUR STORIES



The Katha School began in 1990 as a learning centre in the slums of Govindpuri, Delhi, with 5 children. Today we have 8000 children in 71 Katha Schools in Delhi and in tribal schools in Arunachal Pradesh. Today, our students, who were working to support their families when they joined us, have gone through college and earn many times what their families were earning in 1990.

Tamasha Roadshow: 20 pavement schools that operate from 2 schools on wheels.

Bow Wow, the Books on Wheels, Workshops on Wheels programme that touches 22 slum clusters. **Total no of children:** 1142

Children mainstreamed into government schools: 58.

This year, **72** new teachers were trained, **294** lesson plans and **378** teaching modules prepared.

The schools in the Katha Main Campus

Katha Primary School:

Creche, Preschool and Classes 1-4

The Class 5 Academy

Middle School:

Classes 6-8

The Class 8 Academy

High School:

Classes 9-12

The Katha School of Entrepreneurship

The Katha Infotech & eCom School [KITES]



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

Katha has wonderful schools and is a key contributor to our educational community of practice. So much so that the standards have even raised the aspirations of our UK schools.

- Nacton School, Ipswich, UK



The Katha Academies:

Kala Nivas, the 4 arts academy consisting of

The Fine Arts Academy

The Film Academy

The Dance & Music Academy

The Media Academy

Katha Josh, the physical training academy

The C9 Leadership club

Purna Siksha Holistic Education Programme

The Teacher Training Institute

OUR CHILDREN

In 1990, we said: We need 50 children in the Katha "deschool." Today we have 8,227 students who fill our lives with joy.

Through 1990-2008

Children in the first Katha School in 1990

5

Children in the 57 Katha schools/learning centres today

8,000

Children who have passed through Katha Schools

46,137

Children weaned away from labour into education

36,315

Children who have earned computer training certificates

14,900

The Katha Lab School: Creche, pre-school, primary, middle and high school with **1350** children.

No of children impacted: **1788**

Girls: **870**

Children mainstreamed: **154** (upto April 08.)

No of students who received Katha School leaving certificates.

Class 10 results: 62% of our students got above 60%, 17% above 75%.

The Katha School of Entrepreneurship:

We distributed certificates to **212** students of whom **175** students got employment.

Maximum income: Rs. **8,000** per month

The Katha Infotech & E-com School

(KITES): IT professional certificates distributed to **230** students this year, all of whom are now employed.

Top salary: Rs **16,000** per month

Our students have found jobs in Airtel, Bharti Cellular, Idea, Tallycorps, Tata Indicom, Tech Books, Zee TV, Geological Survey of India, Govt Of India and BSES.

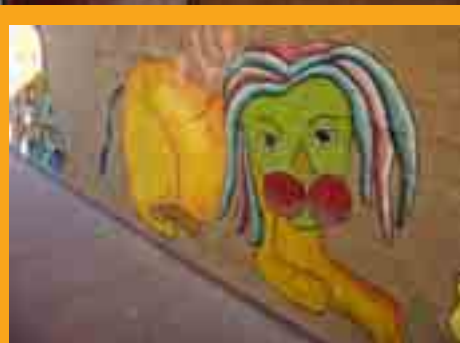
Katha English Academy: Over 60 students have been registered this year.

Katha Lisu Schools: No of children: **245**
No of girls: **153**

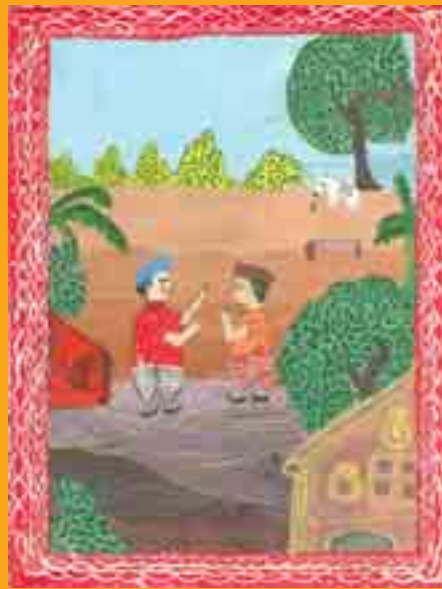
International Recognition Received:

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.





MADE BY THE CHILDREN OF KATHA KHAZANA



Tracking Tools for Bringing our Children on



With the World!

[PAR stands for Performance . Attendance . Retention]

Student academic performance and retention are important. However, in Katha, tracking does not judge children in competitive ways; nor push them into undesirable competition. The tests are continuous, sensitive to the needs of children. So, the constant questions we encourage our teachers to ask are: Are students learning as best as they can? Is the learning relevant and hence, rememberable? How can we improve pedagogy and classroom practices so the child benefits?

Want to join the Katha family?
Write to us at kps@katha.org

The Times of India

March 8, 2006

"Katha ... an excellent
[model] of creative solutions
for educational problems ...
Katha has marked a
breakthrough in teacher
training too ..."

PROF. KRISHNA KUMAR

Director, NCERT

India's premier national
teacher training
organization

External Evaluation Results, 2008

Three independent external evaluators, Dr Amita Govinda, Namita and Gaysu, had this to say:

"In general, the children seemed happy and confident of what they were doing... Their classroom behaviour presented a situation of cooperative learning. One could also see peer learning taking place in the clusters. There was no hesitation on part of the children in asking questions to the teacher or any new person. If one considers feeling comfortable with the classroom context and processes, being self-confident about one's capabilities and feeling secure in the physical and emotional context of the school, we can confidently say that all these are amply found among the children studying in Katha School."

PERCENTAGE OF CORRECT ANSWERS OBTAINED BY STUDENTS OF CLASS IV ON SPECIFIC LANGUAGE TASKS

NATURE OF TASKS	CORRECT ANSWERS
1 Grammar and Other Language Skills	
Identification of correct spelling	77.58%
Choice of most suitable word	53.45%
Choice of most suitable word (Antonym)	75.86%
Use of correct tense	80.46%
Use of correct preposition	81.60%
2 Reading Comprehension	
Everyday use of language	61.20%
Singular/plural no. in context	72.41%
Global comprehension of passage	55.86%

The Katha Students Support Centre: Number of students: **349**. Through this we achieved a **94.2** pass percentage in class 10 CBSE exam.

The Katha School of Entrepreneurship (KSE): 5 girls selected for training in catering management by the Taj group of hotels and have received their certificates. 10 women are currently working to make soft toys and cloth books for children.
Number of children: **322**
Course completed: **212**
KSE certificates distributed: **212**
Maximum salary: Electricals **8,000**
Number of children getting jobs: **175**

The Teacher Training School: **72** new teachers trained this year.
Number of students appearing for NIOS: **308**
Number of students learning computers: **1984**
Number of students shifted to formal education or mainstreamed: **1012**
Children weaned away from child labour: **286**

Outreach Programme: Katha is working with **1540** children of 10 government schools, using the Katha story pedagogy curriculum.

Ways Forward: The Delhi Government has invited Katha to work with **60,000 teachers** and **3,000 librarians** to spread the joy of reading and extend the web of knowledge to **2.4 million children** (aged 5-17). The ambitious **INDIAN READING LEAGUE** project will cover 4 zones of Delhi, with 13 franchisees and 13 leagues in each zone.



A Touch of Class
[any school which has a touch of class programme has a touch of class!] brings volunteers into our schools.

Enabling Change

*from deep
silences
to stories*

Katha believes there are many types of hunger and poverty. The poverty of creativity and compassion, of culture and of family bonds are as debilitating as economic poverty. Since its inception in 1988, Katha has fostered culturelinking through translation, and socio-economic and intellectual transformation through storytelling that benchmarks alternative education. And by the empowerment of women and children living on the margins. Using **'story'** as the most powerful **tool** in building a level playing field for all, and breaking age-old gender and socio-cultural stereotypes, Katha has driven its community initiatives and activism on a single powerful idea: **Children and women can help their communities out of poverty.**

In 1990, we started a small community school, a **"de-school"** called **KATHA KHAZANA**, in Govindpuri, one of Delhi's largest slum clusters. But only five children came. The reason? They were working. So we said, If we can get Rs 800 into the hands of the women – a family earned just that much in those days – then we could ask them to send their children to school. Thus began 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 going upto Rs. 20,000/month! In 2006-07, 13 more locations were added. Today, we help bring positive change into the lives of more than **8,000** children and **250,000** adults living in 74 street and slum communities across Delhi and Arunachal Pradesh.

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 **58 self-help groups**, about 20 to a group; **65 welfare societies** look after health, sanitation, water in Govindpuri.

Working Women's Forum

810 members today.

Mahila Panchayat: 15 members

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 going upto **Rs. 20,000/month!**

1990-2008

84,400: Women who have participated in Katha community revitalization and 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

Rs 10,06,924: Annual income of women in Katha Shakti

This year, **72** new teachers were trained, **294** lesson plans and **378** teaching modules prepared.



our katha
our **l.i.f.e.!**
lifelong learning
independence
family wellbeing
empowered lives!

helping
keep the
family
viable



2000 girls

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

9000 mothers

are part of the **MAA Mandal** group who meet regularly to dream for themselves and their children. Ours is a proactive dreamer-doer group!

Sanjha Prayas

Under the Bhagidari Scheme, this year, the Delhi Government has also joined hands with our women to ensure health and sanitation in Govindpuri!

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, 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 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 an epicentre of activities that have transformed the Govindpuri Basti."

– **The Week**

SHE squared!

The **SHE]2** initiative ensures access to **Safe Water & Sanitation, Health & Housing, Education & Economic Resurgence**. Through **60 welfare societies**, Katha initiated a unique process of empowerment with women as community leaders, focusing on democratic decision-making within the community.

our hardworking
women!
our delightful
girls!

Empowered

With IT training for about 100 women every year since 1990, diverse income generation activities, adult education programmes, self-help groups, welfare committees, our women have been able to fight for rights usually denied to those in poverty. And to empower their lives with literacy and independent incomes, in turn facilitating their own and their families' well-being – ensuring better education, better health and brighter futures for their children. Because **when women earn, children learn!**

Ways forward

Work is on to spread awareness to the 50 slums we are working in, and to get more women to join the movement.



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K a t h a v i l a s a m

We believe that stories help forge friendships of a rare kind – across cultures and languages; across economic and social chasms; and across time. Since 1991, KATHAVILASAM, the story research and resource centre, has fostered and applauded quality fiction from **21 Indian languages in the voices of over 600 writers and translators**, bringing the best of these diverse worlds to a wider readership through translations. KATHA BOOKS began in 1990 with *Tamasha!*, the children's magazine, and one Katha Prize Stories collection a year. Today, we have 250 published titles, including picture books for children, novels, poetry, biographies, critical essays and commentaries, anthologies of award-winning stories from master storytellers, stories that subvert stereotypes and celebrate the glorious polyphonous multiplicity that is India.

THROUGH 1990-2008

- . Sales of **Rs 7,46,22,253** in 1999-2008; **Rs 70,25,708** in 2007-08
- . **250** titles published; **27** in 2007-08
- . **500 bookshops** across India stock Katha books; also libraries, universities and colleges
- . A growing database of more than **600** contributing writers, translators and illustrators
- . An expanding Friends of Katha network of **6,000** activists, academics, artistes, storytellers, litterateurs and lovers of literature
- . Readers ... Spread across the world and number probably in the millions!
- . First Indian publisher to bring out their books in Braille with bookshare.org.

Reviews

Anoma's Daughter

Archaeology, romance, prophesy... all packed into this interesting read.

–*The Statesman*

Dance

Dance throbs with meanings. Straddling divergent worlds, merging of antithetical cultures, gaining and dissolution of identities and a diminishing world are concepts that flit through the slim volume.

–*The Hindu*

Dark Afternoons

... tantalisingly surreal... Basu displays a clever sense of structure in her use of this warp in time ... a novel that can be read from cover to cover in the course of an afternoon, dark or otherwise...

–*Hindustan Times*

Tohellwithyou Mitro

A handsomely produced translation-cum-tribute.

–*The Hindu*

Memory's Daughter

... vibrant and faithful translationA must read for literature buffs.

–*The Hindu*

Sunflowers of the Dark

Sobti takes care through her language to build on the character and her situations. The book resonates with startlingly refreshing modernity.

–*The Hindustan Times*

SKETCHES FROM MEMORY

Laxmibai Tilak

Translated by Louis Menezes

The autobiography of a woman who flung societal dogma to the winds, *Sketches From Memory* traces Laxmibai's life with her husband Tilak, the revolutionary Marathi poet, and her self-education.

Katha Marathi Library

2007 . PB. Rs 350

5.5" x 8" . pp. 488

ISBN: 978- 81-89020-73-6

Translated from the Marathi

Sketches from Memory is a remarkable self-portrait and transformation of a child bride into a poet and social revolutionary... turning carbon scribbles into a sociological and literary masterpiece...

- *The Hindu*

THESE ARE MY CHILDREN

Damodar Mauzo

Translated by Xavier Cota

Poignant, bittersweet and earthy. Nine heartwarming slices of life from Goa about empty nests, affections betrayed, relationships made and unmade, from the pen of one of Goa's finest writers.

Katha Konkani Library

2007 . PB. Rs 200

5.5" x 8" . pp. 152

ISBN: 978-81-89020-99-6

Translated from the Konkani

NOT FLOWERS OF HENNA

Kamleshwar

Translated by Jai Ratan

The fifteen stories handpicked in this collection meld memory with experience, craft with subtle art. Sensitively translated by the trailblazer of Indian language translations, Jai Ratan, these stories defy easy conclusions. Restive, moving, memorable.

Katha Hindi Library

2007 . PB. Rs 250

5.5" x 8" . pp. 208

ISBN: 978-81-89020-21-7

Translated from the Hindi

Kamleshwar's stories are a staggering experience, reminiscent of taking in a Caravaggio painting for the first time: a pronounced chiaroscuro.

- *First City*



Stories are ways of seeing and understanding



DANCE

M Mukundan

**Translated by D Krishna Ayyar &
K G Ramakrishnan**

A passion for dance. A celebration of the body. A meeting of contrasts. A journey of becoming, and unbecoming. A voice from the wilderness of cyberspace with a strangely compelling story. Told with the quiet seduction and fluidity reminiscent of skates on ice. Katha presents a haunting tribute to dance, and the elusive quest for self in a shapeshifting world. A many-layered work, perfectly executed by a pioneer of contemporary fiction.



ANOMA'S DAUGHTER

Santanu Kumar Acharya

**Translated by Bibhas C Mohanty
& the Author**

An ancient house. A timeless river. A man's passionate quest to unearth his past. Renowned Oriya novelist Santanu Kumar Acharya revisits the legend of Buddha, but with a tantalizing twist. Will Raghumasré find the key to the mystery? Archaeology, romance and prophecy, packed into a tight-knit, richly detailed historical thriller. An absorbing read, startlingly fresh.



DARK AFTERNOONS

Bani Basu

Translated by Nandini Guha

When Jina takes up a job to fill her empty afternoons, she doesn't know that her secure, insular world will soon be taken by storm. That the darkness lurking in the recesses of the city will rise to lift the veneer from her middle-class bhadrak existence. A jigsaw puzzle, a gripping tale that unravels slowly, this novel strips bare the truth about human relationships.

others, and learning more about ourselves.



TOHELLWITHYOU MITRO

Krishna Sobti

**Translated by Gita Rajan &
Raji Narasimhan**

Krishna Sobti's lively, unapologetic portrayal of a married woman who brooks no limits to her sexuality is as compelling, pertinent and provocative today as when it first shook the literary world in 1966.

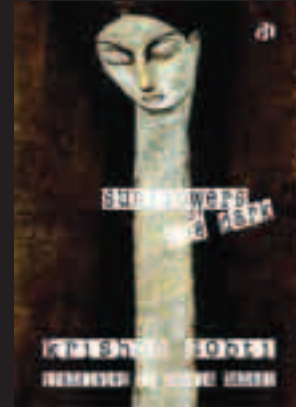


MEMORY'S DAUGHTER

Krishna Sobti

**Translated by Smita Bharti &
Meenakshi Bharadwaj**

Krishna Sobti's pathbreaking first novel, *Memory's Daughter* follows in the footsteps of young Pasho as she is bought and sold like cattle in the war-torn climate of the Afghan and Anglo-Sikh wars of 19th century Punjab.



SUNFLOWERS OF THE DARK

Krishna Sobti

Translated by Pamela Manasi

She's a good girl, sweet and brave. Battling a decades-old darkness. Stark, sensitive and immensely subtle, this unusual novella is a woman's journey through years of longing, loss and withdrawal, until she finds herself and rediscovers desire. Once again, Krishna Sobti breaks new ground, challenging normative truths with profound insight and compassion.



kathakaar

STORIES FOR CHILDREN

Stories spin a magical world in a child's vibrant, fascinated mind. Stories strengthen that inner voice and give it a logic that can and must last a lifetime. Stories inform the child of the world s/he lives in. Started in 1990, Kathakaar, our children's book publishing programme is poised to be such a magician – for nearly 250 million children in India. Kathakaar has its roots in *Tamasha!*, the children's magazine with which Katha began in 1988. It focuses on beautifully illustrated stories from Indian and foreign languages as well as strong storybooks for school children and neo-literates, with the aim of nurturing the habit of reading in them. We showcase contemporary stories, rescue forgotten folktales, myths and legends, retelling them in books lovingly crafted by gifted illustrators from across India and the world.

THIS YEAR

Based on classics of contemporary Indian literature like **Tagore, Premchand, Ismat Chughtai**, Katha has designed and developed unique kits of 11 storybooks for school

children aged 5 -17, to help them read for fun, and read well, and reach a 600-word level in about 100 hours. These well-loved stories, beautifully illustrated by renowned artists, have been retold in Hindi and English to be used as special graded easy readers to improve vocabulary and impart basic reading skills to adults and children on the road to literacy. They are also used by our own teachers in Kathashala.

Total number of books distributed: 8240



Abu Aur Badi Hawa

Shanti Krishnaswamy
Art by: Vandana Bist

Kamal Se Bhara Aakash

Shanti Krishnaswamy
Art by Sujata Singh

Shanno Aur Uske Sau Haathi

Geeta Dharmarajan
Art by Atanu Roy

Jadui Martabaan

Mala Marwah

Kokila Ka Mast Matka

Geeta Dharmarajan
Art by Sujata Singh

Mitzi

Kaveri D
Art by Atanu Roy

Bagh Ka Panja

Shanti Krishnaswamy
Art by Jay

Aisa Bhi Hota Hai

Vibha Kaul
Art by Jay

Gapgupangamdas

Charu Anand
Art by Sujata Singh

Jishnu Phir Ek Baar

Meenakshi Bharadwaj
Art by Sujata Singh

Kash Ek Beta Mera Bhi Hota

Geeta Dharmarajan
Art by Atanu Roy

TAMASHA EASY READERS - 11 BOOK SERIES

These books sensitize children towards social, environmental, civic and health issues. Each book creates awareness about the importance of self-reliance, creativity, scientific temperament, alternative energy resources, cleanliness, companionship, education for the girl child etc., through delightful stories. Each book is loaded with activities and games. At the end of the 11th book, the child should have a reading vocabulary of 600 words. As well as an inbuilt ability to read anything and everything!

"Interesting stories for children."

-The Hindu





YUVAKATHA

Eleven gems handpicked from ten languages. Unusual, enchanting, unforgettable short stories from master storytellers. Now retold in illustrated, reader-friendly Hindi translations, with interactive exercises for classroom teaching. The best way to entice young readers to the best of Indian fiction in translation, of knowing India through her stories.

"... Katha is back with that rare commodity – stories in Hindi that will make kids want to turn the page themselves... Katha's new set of Yuvakatha books could help to change more minds. Written by authors as varied as Bibhutibhushan Bandopadhyaya, Ambai and Sanjay Khatu, the collection showcases writers from across India."

–Time Out Mumbai and Delhi

BHIKU KI DIARY

Meena Kakodkar

Come, peek into Bhiku's diary and catch a glimpse of his life. It will make you laugh, it will make you cry. A simple tale as lucid as life.

DAGADU PARAB KA ASHWAMEDH

Jayant Kaikini

Mounted on a wilful, whimsical mare, Dagadu, the unwilling bridegroom sets off to marry. But little does he suspect that fate will take him on such a merry ride. A hilariously ironic, surreal suburban tale.

CURFEW

Manoj

Away from home and family, a soldier's life is full of hardships, and a soldier is often harsh. But somewhere inside him hides a child, a father, a human being. A simple, poignant story.

PANDRAH

Ambai

Adolescence comes tumbling with umpteen doubts and questions, finding the answers to which pose many a profound dilemma for both Chellam and Champakam. A gently funny coming-of-age story.

KALEH AND THE SINGSONG CASTLE

Rizio Yohannan Raj

Art by Anahita Taymourian

Do you know of a quirky crow who loves cheese but loves singing more? Do you too love to dream like Kaleh? Then come along and see how a simple song can take you a long way and make your dreams come true!

POKIRI PARROT AND THE NEEDLE-NOSED OJHA

Meenakshi Bharadwaj

Art by Stephen Aitken

A smart white parrot called Pokiri is whisked away by the wicked Needle-nosed Ojha. Can little Rajkumari save her precious parrot? A superb blend of magic and reality. Join Pokiri, Rajkumari and the Ojha on a hair-raising adventure across extraordinary India. Real fun!

THE FAMOUS SMILE

Geeta Dharmarajan

Art by Rashin Kheiriyeh

After several failed attempts, Agar Magar finally makes it big. Come, take a tour of the mighty river, the deep forest and the big town as Agar Magar goes places, flaunting his sparkling, shiny teeth and his Famous Smile.

Kaleh and the Singsong Castle

A simply delightful story! The narration is supported by colourful and vibrant illustrations.

–Parenting

Pokiri Parrot and the Needle-nosed Ojha

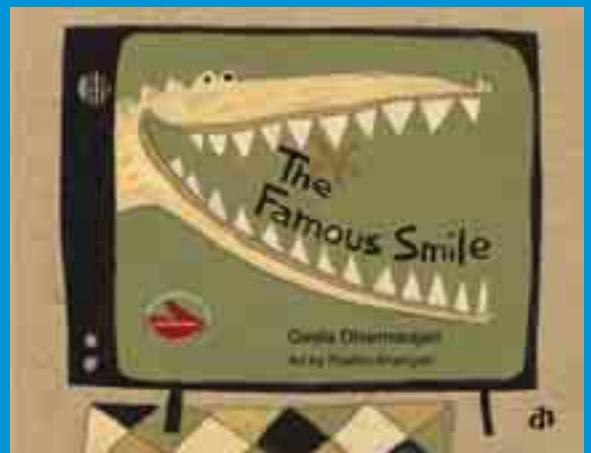
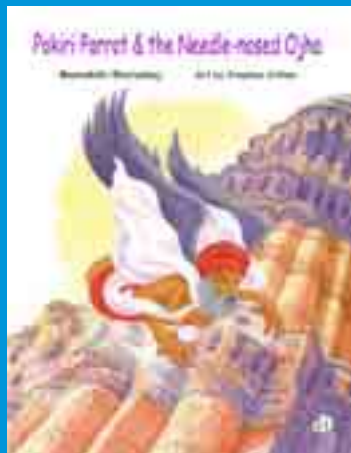
Replete with factoids and trivia, it can also serve as a great geography primer for kids.

–Time Out

The Famous Smile

Katha has a real soft corner for kids. Which is why it has created such a gorgeous picture book for children.

–Time Out



Katha Events 2007-08

storytelling

workshops

illustrations

theatre

translation

nature

creative writing

reading

seminars

carnivals

performances

heritage walks

book launches

meet the author

music

Each Katha event contributes to a framework of inspiring, dynamic interaction between the organization and the world. It is a living web of literary excitement!

Through our various events in the past one year, we touched nearly **5,000 students** and children from the underserved communities, **2,000 college goers**, **10,000** parents and **100 schools**, **500 teachers**, more than **500 book lovers** and academics

Katha Books

- ✍ Katha organized an 'Evening of Sharing' in memory of renowned Hindi writer and TV show host **Kamleshwar**, and released his acclaimed short story collection, ***Not Flowers of Henna*** (*Aur Kitne Pakistan*) at the India Habitat Centre. The doyen of Hindi literature Krishna Sobti released the book.
- ✍ **Krishna Sobti's *Memory's Daughter*, *Tohellwithyou Mitro* and *Sunflowers of the Dark*** were launched at the Habitat Centre. More than 300 academics and book lovers attended. Pavan K Varma, author, diplomat and Director -General of the ICCR, released the books and applauded Katha's efforts in promoting translations. There were dramatic readings in both Hindi and English by noted theatre activist Arvind Gaur's troupe, Asmita. Writer Geetanjali Shree, Professors Vasudha Dalmia, Sukrita Paul and Prof Anoop Beniwal shared memories of Sobti's generosity and inspirational zest for life.
- ✍ **M Mukundan's *Dance*** was launched at the Café Turtle, Greater Kailash. Noted poet and critic, K Satchidanandan and the author read from the English translation and the original (Malayalam), followed by a discussion. Also launched were Katha trailblazers ***Dark Afternoons***, and ***Anoma's Daughter***.



Discussions

- ✍ Katha organised a day-long discussion on Krishna Sobti's books ***Tohellwithyou Mitro*** at the Kamla Nehru College on September 18th. The panel constituted poet and academic Ashok Vajpeyi, author Ajeet Caur and theatre activist Arvind Gaur. Sobti critic and expert Dr Sukrita Paul moderated the lively session attended by more than 300 students from Delhi University.
- ✍ At the Jamia Book Fair, we organised a reading and discussion of our books ***Ismat Chughtai: Her Life and Times*** and ***A Madhvaiah's Padmavati***.



Tribute

- ✍ A small prayer meeting was organised in memory of theatre colossus and pathbreaking playwright **Vijay Tendulkar**, at the Katha premises, with readings, reminiscing, and discussing his work and life.

Festival

- ✍ Katha took part in the **Indo-Bangladesh Festival of Books & Writers** organized in Dhaka in November, which brought together writers, translators, academics, publishers and book lovers from both countries.



Rekowned artist Jatin Das talking to children about creativity, imagination, and ways of seeing.

Storytellers Unlimited

To encourage children to read, we launched Katha Storytellers Unlimited in January 2007, touching more than **5,000 children** over the year. The theme of the year was **environment and wildlife celebrated through stories** with the Delhi Zoo, Asola Wildlife Sanctuary and Jawahar Lal Nehru University, based on our nature picture books: ***The Magical Web Bridge, Earthsong, Ma Ganga and the Razai Box, Walk the Rainforest with Niwupah.***

📖 On April 22, we celebrated **Earth Day** with Geeta Dharmarajan's book ***Earthsong***, a fun-filled storytelling session, and earth. A hundred school children made clay models, pledged to do their bit to save Mother Earth and keep the environment clean.

📖 In partnership with The Energy and Resource Institute (TERI), Katha used **storytelling to create awareness** on the environment amongst children aged 9-14 through docu-films on **World Environment Day**, observed on June 5, ending with an interactive session on solid waste management.

Picture Books

📖 **September 8th, 2007, World Literacy Day**, was very special for Katha. We celebrated our **19th birthday** and launched the Tamasha Easy Readers at INTACH. Eminent astrophysicist Prof Yashpal interacted with 300 children. Kathashala's theatre troupe performed plays based on the books. In January, at the **Winter Reading Carnival**, there was a host of events, including storytelling, creative writing, painting and theatre workshops based on these books. More than **3,000 students, teachers, slum children, NGOs and children** took part.

📖 Bangla writer Bimal Kar's book ***Satyadas*** was read out to **200 school children**. Neeta Gangopadhy, the illustrator was also present.

📖 Katha Chitrakala Award Winning entries, ***The Famous Smile*** and ***Kaleh & the SingSong Castle*** were released by noted environmentalist and filmmaker Mike Pandey and illustrator Vandana Bist; more than **500 children** attended the storytelling session.

📖 ***Pokiri Parrot and the Needle-Nosed Ojha*** was released by environmentalist Ranjit Lal in Delhi and Gurgaon; 350 children enjoyed the interactive storytelling session.

Book Making Workshop: What Shape is the Book

✍ A five-day workshop at the India Habitat Centre on book making. From storywriting to theme to editing to proofreading to production, each of the 20 children (aged 10-14) made their own book. Katha editors helped the children pen stories while artist Vandana Bist helped them illustrate their stories. Our production team shared tips on book binding, press and production.

Umang Tarang Theatre Workshop: actors@work

✍ Using theatre as a medium to promote storytelling, Katha organized Umang Tarang, a ten-day theatre workshop for children (aged 9-13) conducted by Arvind Gaur, culminating in a play, *Ansuni* at the India Habitat Centre on June 15.

Storytelling with a vision

✍ Katha celebrated **International Book Day** (April 2) with theatre personality Arvind Gaur reading out stories to children from the National Blind School and a few NGO schools. These stories were from our new Yuvakatha series for children – ***Padak, Curfew, Dagadu Parab Ka Ashwamedh, Pinti Ka Sabun*** and ***Jalebi***.

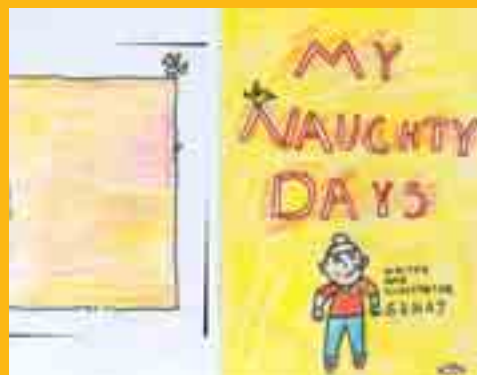
Illustration Workshop: artist@work

✍ Artist@work was a week-long workshop on illustrations for children, to hone their drawing skills and enhance their creativity. Illustrators Srivi Kalyan, Vandana Bist and Vikram Nayak conducted the workshop.

Storytelling for Parents

✍ Under our Reading for Resident Welfare Association Programme, we took our books ***Ma Ganga and the Razai Box, The Magical Web Bridge*** to Yamuna, Mandakini and Narmada Apartments in Alaknanda, Delhi. Harpreet read out from these books to parents.

Workshops





LINKING DIVERSITIES FORGING IDENTITIES

Katha celebrates culturelinking and the ways in which we learn and stay anchored in the many Indias, even as we move confidently into the globalized spaces of today. While on the one hand, Katha helps children from non-literate families find their potential in self-affirming, sustainable ways, on the other, it supports cross-disciplinary work in translation and helps forge linkages between writers, students and teachers.

With its beginnings in the Katha National Institute of Translation, since 1997, the **KANCHI** wing of Katha has been working to enhance the pool of translators, editors and teachers of fiction in translation, to build spaces for comparative literature in colleges and schools, and to teach translation as a career option. KANCHI operates through Katha Academic Centres in the country: The Katha Centre for Film Studies, the Ahmedabad Chapter, KTEN in Bangalore, in addition to the Delhi Centre. Through these centres, and the colloquia and seminars held regularly, Katha brings to the general reader an awareness of caste and gender, class and power.

TRANSLATING FOR EQUITY: KTEN

There are two distinct Indias: one that knows English and one that doesn't. High schools and colleges attract immigrants from rural India from diverse socio-cultural backgrounds. Caste, class and language, all stand as obstructions to individual dreams. Working with students from underserved communities since 1990, Katha realized two urgent needs: Knowledge that prepares these young adults for a college education and/or career pathways. And upward mobility and sustainable skills in English.

Based in Bangalore, Karnataka, the **KATHA TRANSLATION FOR EQUITY NETWORK (KTEN)**, set up earlier this year, is working to create a level playing field for all, by breaking language barriers through translations of literary and non-literary texts, using the bilingual capabilities of Indian students in acquiring knowledge, so as to build a more equal India.

KTEN Objectives

- ➡ To help students from bhasha schools do well in college and expand their knowledge base by providing quality translations of seminal syllabus texts across disciplines in their own languages.
- ➡ To enable college students to teach themselves English and improve their reading, writing and comprehension by creating study materials for bhasha stories in English.
- ➡ To collate and translate local knowledge produced in Kannada on the cultural and social history of Karnataka into English and other Indian languages.

Ways Forward

- ➡ Translation of English texts in History, Sociology, Psychology, Economics, Gender Studies and Journalism for undergraduate and post-graduate students.
- ➡ Translation of recent, cutting-edge work on the post-1980s, globalized world in the above-mentioned disciplines to help universities update their syllabi by providing collated texts in English and the bhashas of South India.
- ➡ Translation of seminal texts on community and region-specific issues produced in local languages by scholars, to be collated discipline-wise or period-wise, and then translated into English and the three other South Indian languages.
- ➡ Conducting one-day workshops, seminars, courses on translation and related issues for students in local colleges and universities in and around Bangalore, as part of the activities of the Regional Academic Centre for Translation.
- ➡ The stories in the 13 KPS volumes will form the basis for source books for learning English. Which demand that our learners use the bi- and multilingual resources they possess to negotiate learning English on their own.



KATHA AHMEDABAD CHAPTER

This year, Katha's Ahmedabad Chapter moved to a new place – the Mudra Institute of Communications, Ahmedabad (MICA) campus. MICA offers a PG Diploma in communications management, focusing on advertising, account planning, brand management, market research, media planning, buying, and new media. For Katha, therefore, MICA and its students are a completely new area of focus, be it in terms of profession, perspective or background. The only common ground is their mutual love of stories. But over the year, the Katha centre soon managed to make its presence felt through several successful interactive events.



MICA students at the Bhasha Academy in Tejgadh



Bhasha Academy in Tejgadh



Wooden idols worshipped by a tribal community on display in the Katha museum

October 07 to June 08:

- ✍ Katha's first session at MICA included a reading of the story *And The World Changed* by Muneeza Shamsie, and a screening of the film *Khamosh Pani*, followed by discussions involving students.
- ✍ Readings of short stories from the Katha Prize Stories collections and others, followed by discussions also touching upon matrimonial ads and website technology, focusing on the inclusion of caste and religion in both.
- ✍ A daylong trip to the Bhasha Academy in Tejgadh organized for 40-odd students as part of the "Metaphors and Narratives" course, focusing on understanding tribal life and its narratives through first-hand experience. This course was a first step towards integrating Katha activities into MICA's broader academic fabric.



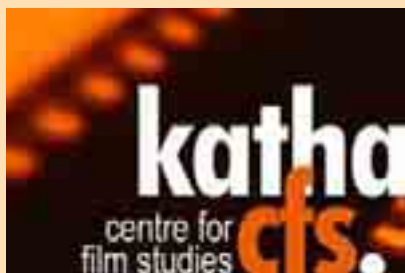
A Garoda storyteller in Gujarat

- ✍ Screening of the film *Khuda Ke Liye* for the new executive MBA batch, followed by discussions involving students and faculty members.
- ✍ A discussion on "Imaging The Other" as part of a course titled "Texts and Contexts".

Ways Forward

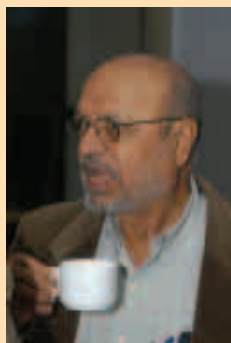
Some of the new projects Katha wishes to undertake include in the coming year:

- ✍ A book on the Gujarati short story, to be edited by Dr Rita Kothari.
- ✍ Regular Katha Sessions - thematic, and to be documented for further research.
- ✍ A monthly storytelling session aiming to understand the transitions and dilemmas of the middle class in India today.
- ✍ To launch a website on the Katha Ahmedabad Chapter so that events planned can be better publicized to generate greater interest in the organization and its activities, draw new friends for Katha.
- ✍ To form a group of translators from Gujarati literature departments so as to create a new social sciences archive by translating from Gujarati into English.



KATHA CENTRE FOR FILM STUDIES, till last year based in Mumbai (now relocated to Delhi), is a response to a growing need to understand and appreciate the significance of cinema as a unique language of contemporary art practices, a language that has enormous impact, and to use this art form effectively. With its enviable collection

of films and literature on cinema, the centre organizes film festivals, along with orientation courses in ways of looking at cinema, and intensive script-writing and film appreciation workshops.



THANK YOU,
DEAR CONTRIBUTORS, DONORS,
VOLUNTEERS AND
FRIENDS!!!



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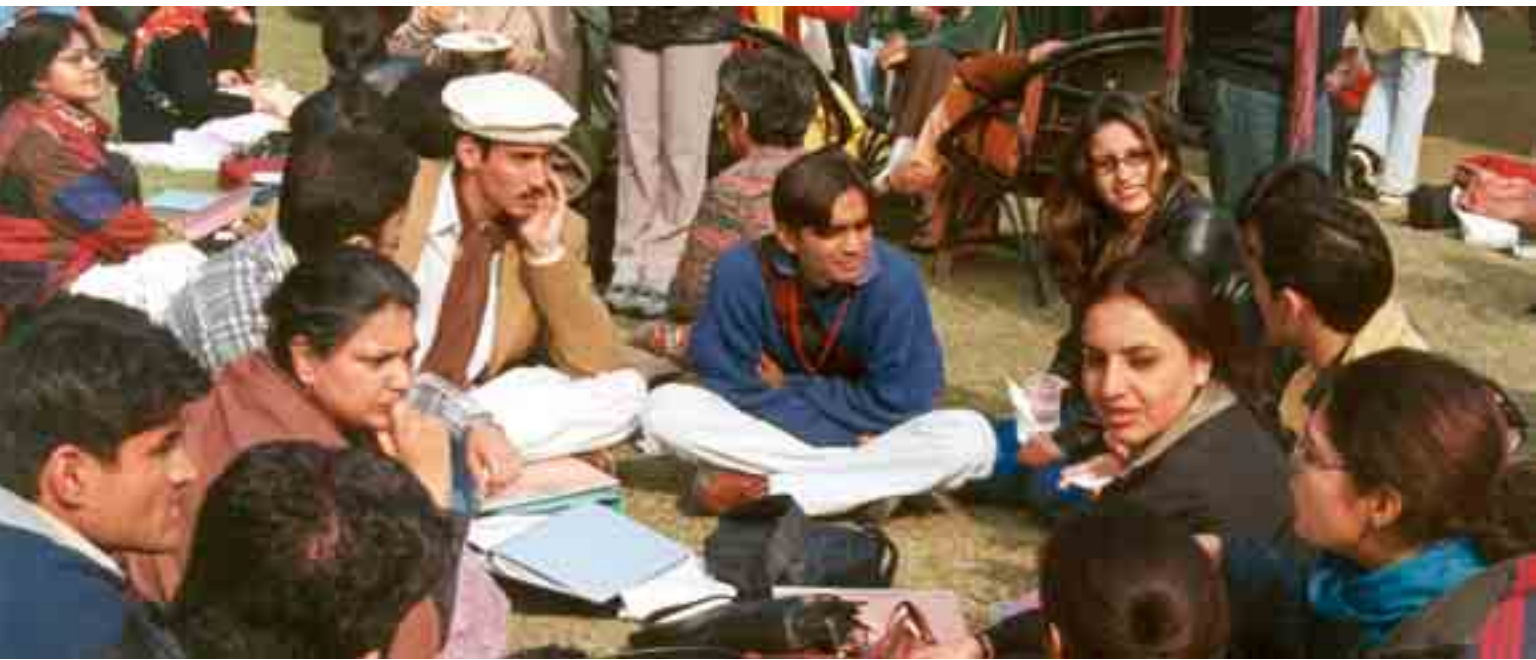
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Warm greetings from Katha! Katha is a unique model that seamlessly connects grassroots work in education, urban resurgence and story. Since 1990, we've driven our education model on a single powerful idea: Children can bring change that is sustainable and real. We run 71 schools in slum communities. And work with the government to bring the joy of reading to more than 200,000 children. We see translation as a non-divisive tool in nation building. We are a "profit for all" social organization.



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