

“Imagine a brick and stone building. Warm. Intimate, resounding with the laughter of 1200 children, 4000 women who come in to discuss issues of resurgence and learn, nearly 80 teachers, many volunteers. Imagine a community of 150,000 people many of whom keep walking into the school that is at the centre of its resurgence. Started in 1990 with five children, we have

stretched out to 54 communities that live around us, each at the edge of many poverties. And now imagine its curriculum and pedagogy. Specially devised for our students, ranging in age from 0-17. Each trimester, the flavour of the learning changes, and the excitement bubbles within teachers and students as they look forward to one more window opening . . .”

SOME QUOTES FROM THE INTERNET

The *Katha School: Where Learning Matters* ... In the slums of Delhi, educators help a community rise out of poverty.

**Richard Hanzelka in
*Educational Leadership: Educating the Whole Child***

“An example of how a private school can achieve a transformation in hugely disadvantaged settings is Katha in Delhi.”

**Brian Caldwell, Jessica Harris, in their book
“What we have learnt from outstanding schools around the world.”**

Katha ... schools in communities of deep poverty in New Delhi that were in better physical condition than many public (government, state) schools in Australia.

**Brian Caldwell,
Managing Director, Educational Transformations Pty Ltd**

Katha – the acclaimed story institute and literary publishing house located in India’s capital of New Delhi, is as kaleidoscopic as India herself.” “Katha lives and breathes within [a] urban context, striving to empower, enlighten and educate through the power of story. It celebrates the artistic, cultural, architectural, historical, linguistic and religious diversity of Delhi while striving to confront the social stresses and inequalities faced by a city of such contrast and rapid growth..”

Amanda Leigh Lichtenstein, USA

“Govinpuri’s Katha public school, set in former block of one-room dwellings, is showing how it can be done. ... The school is a haven of creativity and child friendly learning So the school has gone full circle, having first worked hard to draw in parents, it is now sending out the pupils to help them solve the problems of their daily lives and the statistics they gather can be used to put the case for improvements to city authorities.”

Brendan O’Malley, UNESCO

“The pupils at the main Katha school are given opportunities that many British schoolchildren would envy ...”

The Independent, UK

“Katha ... a wonderful creative school ...”

Tony Houghton, SEEDA, South East England Development Agency

Effective Teaching”

Team Digit

At Katha school in the slums of New delhi, 10 year old students can edit a newsletter that will surprise interns at established newspapers in terms of coherence, design, aesthetics and general "quality".

United Nations Global Alliance for ICT and Development

“The Katha School is an example of the kind of learning environment that India's National Curriculum Framework 2005 is trying to move toward.”

Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development., USA

Katha School in Delhi is using One Laptop per Child's XO's to educate the children from the slums of Delhi.. Amazing results”

Satish Jha, USA

The moment we entered the school, we realised that Katha's work with communities living in poverty is strongly proactive and pro-poor, which is clearly visible from the very simple and cost effective infrastructure. Students learn through peer learning, projects, self-designed and directed work that includes activism and community work, how to make the process of learning a lifelong companion. They also learn to use computer as a friend for life, as a means for peer learning, and for economic and social advancement - seeing the whole field of IT as one which demolishes caste and class structures and rewards true merit - which fosters the participation of a whole community in the building of a classless, merit-based civil society ... We were so much excited about the KITES programme, and over the next two days it was the topic of our discussions with our colleagues, Jayalakshmi and Sulakshana. We realised that, there is no doubt that KITES initiative helps the local community break the class, caste and the language barriers by expanding the reach of English into poorer communities. It creates hope and livelihoods opportunities for the poor - especially children and women - by forging alternative futures and community revitalisation through cooperative information technology at an affordable cost. Katha produces a talented computer trained personnel for a fee of INR 5400/- (US Dollars 120) within 18 months, whereas, the same courses in other private computer training institutes costs more than INR 50000 (US Dollars 1100).” ...

[Vignesh Sornamohan](#)

Every Friday afternoon, the Katha kids walk in, shouting out to their assigned AES students’“Hello Madame, Hello Sir”. They sit upright, listening attentively to every word that spills out of our mouths. They plaster big smiles upon their faces as volunteers ask them to physically multiply 239856345796 x 59385729. They walk out with greater smiles on their face as they savor everything they learnt. Every Friday they come to learn from us, but the truth is that we should be learning how to appreciate the gift of education from them.”

**Learning to Teach, Learning to Learn,
American Embassy School, New Delhi, India**