



CHANGE YOUR WORLD



Dear Parikrma friends,

First, I would like to thank you for giving us a brilliant 2013. I call it brilliant because it is in 2013 that we saw our Parikrma promise actually complete a full circle. We had 85 finish their Grade 10 and go to college - 45 with a First Class and 7 with Distinction. We had 32 children finish pre-university exams and get admission in reputed colleges. Our older children, that we continue to sponsor in universities, did us proud by getting grades above 60%. Our first batch of students is now well placed in high valued jobs as managers and supervisors in hotels, retail markets and call centres. We are proud of our students pursuing engineering, medicine, dialysis therapy, nursing and commerce and sciences. We are equally proud of our students who did not pursue higher studies and went through vocational courses and got employed and are doing well so far.

We have tried to pursue excellence with children that have been ignored and rejected by society. We saw a promise in them, and made them a promise of a better life and we see it happening today. In the last ten years we have discovered the real meaning of education which differentiates information from knowledge and knowledge from wisdom. So while we burst with pride when our children win awards in inter school competitions, our eyes moisten with joy when our children return expensive smart phones that they find in a bus or road. We believe we are in the right direction of true education.

2014 expects a great deal from Parikrma. We will have to raise the bar of quality and excellence even higher. Our children will have to do even better in the ASSET exams where they are slowly becoming at par with the good schools in the country. More of our sport stars will have to play for the state and the nation in football and taekwondo. They will have to get admission into even better colleges and better jobs. But more importantly they will in their own way have spread the message of love, compassion and tolerance in the community in general. We already see our young girls taking a stand and refusing to get married at age 14. We already see young boys in our schools treat girls with respect and care. We realise that we have to do more to make it their way of life. We also have to give them the courage to take a stand in the slums and not get deterred. To bring about this kind of social change is not easy at all. But that is our promise to us and to you.

In 2014 you will also see one of our dreams take shape in a gentle way. We have been working on the curriculum of the teacher training academy we call the Education Transformation Centre. Our first batch of government school teachers training will begin mid 2014. This is our way of spreading our model, showing greater impact and hastening social change which is transformation.

Transformation is the other name of Parikrma.

Shukla Bose
Founder-CEO

CELEBRATING THE LITTLE THINGS

Recently, a group of children were rushing from the bus stop to the Sahakaranagar school when they noticed a phone lying by the side of the road. This was not just any phone, but one of the latest smart phones on the market. They immediately picked up the phone and dialed the last number, informing the friend of the owner that they had the phone. When the owner rushed to Parikrma to pick up the phone he thought he'd lost forever, he was moved beyond words. He said that the phone, worth close to Rs 30,000/- was a prize find for anyone, yet the children of Parikrma chose to return it. He was impressed by the children's presence of mind and their complete honesty. "If I could choose any school to send my child to, my first choice would be Parikrma," he wrote in a letter of thanks to the school.

BANGALORE'S HERO



Shukla Bose was nominated one of Bangalore's Heroes by Bangalore Mirror, along with five others who are making a difference. She, along with the Education Quality Heads of Parikrma, had a chance to go to Bangalore Palace to receive the award... Read the full story on Page 4

COMPLETING THE CIRCLE OF LIFE

And this year, we are also celebrating the children who have not been what most would call a success – children who weren't academically inclined, children who could not overcome the numerous difficulties life threw their way. This year, in an effort to truly complete the Circle of Life that Parikrma is, we are going back to the few children who dropped out early in the journey.

It is stories like these that let us know that we are achieving what we set out to do. Not just focusing on the bright sparks and the achievers, but the ones who struggle to stay afloat. Not just churning out academically capable children, but young adults who are caring, sensitive to the world around them and willing to work hard to achieve their dreams.

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PEOPLE FOR PARIKRMA



On the course for Parikrma

GOLFING FOR EDUCATION

Terry and Keith Lewis have been friends of Parikrma for some time now, sponsoring children and joining us for school events. But they wanted to do something more, find new ways in which to share the Parikrma story among their friends and acquaintances in Bangalore. And so, on a crisp December morning, they organised a golf tournament to raise funds for and spread awareness about Parikrma. Forty eight people signed up, and received handmade goodie bags from the children, with original art work and thank-you notes. It was a morning of fun and a morning dedicated to the children of Parikrma. Our friends often ask us what more they can do for us, how they can go that extra step for Parikrma. Terry and Keith have showed us that there are no limits and no rules – as long as people are coming together, there is the opportunity to share the story of Parikrma.

GEOGRAPHY PROJECT ON MYANMAR COMES TO LIFE WITH IIM-B VISIT

Over the last 10 years, we have made friends near and far. The Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, has been a staunch supporter of the Parikrma children and they have brought many of their guests to visit Parikrma. Through their international programmes, they have brought groups of students from across the world to visit our schools and see our model in action. As luck would have it, they brought a group of wonderful friends from Myanmar to our Jayanagar school just when our children were doing a project on Myanmar. It was a great opportunity for learning for our children, whose questions never stop! Exposure is such a key element of education at Parikrma, and our friends from around the globe are our children's windows to the world.



Geography lesson comes to life with friends from Myanmar

FROM BOSTON TO BANGALORE: A SPECIAL VISIT



The Hon. Ms. Marianne Bowler, a judge from Boston, interacting with the Sun Class (KG) children at the Parikrma Centre for Learning, Sahakaranagar

“Where does legality end and morality begin?” Phalitha is a first year student of Law and this was the question she posed to the Hon. Ms. Marianne Bowler, a judge from Boston, who recently visited Parikrma Centre for Learning, Sahakaranagar. Having served as a US judge for 23 years, Ms. Bowler recently found herself at the centre of the Boston Marathon bombing case, a controversial and emotional issue. She shared her experiences with the children, answering their questions about the legal system in the US and what can be learnt from global systems to improve the Indian law. In answer to Phalitha's question, Ms. Bowler spoke of how difficult it is to balance the two, but that following the law is what is ultimately right. She said it was tough for her to put aside her anger as she read the bomber his rights, soon after her city faced the act of terror at its landmark marathon. Struck by the questions from the children, she said they weren't very different from those asked by students of National Law School who she met earlier in the day.

EDUCATION FOR GLOBAL LIVING



THE FACE OF PARIKRMA - OUR CHILDREN

Earlier in 2013, three students from Parikrma were invited to participate in an education conference. For the first time, our students would not just be in the audience, but would address the gathering as part of the panel on education. Phalitha, who is in her first year of college, and Divya and Sushmita who are in Junior College, represented Parikrma at the conference. As they spoke of all that they have learnt and absorbed from their education at Parikrma, they received a standing ovation from the gathering, which included many eminent people from the field of education. This experience taught the girls many things - about public speaking, participating in a conference and sharing their ideas. But it also taught all of us something. It taught us that our children are already representing Parikrma wherever they go. And we are proud to have such wonderful, articulate and intelligent spokespersons for our organisation. We couldn't have done it better ourselves!

FROM THE PAGE TO PARIKRMA



The joy of simplicity: Our children had homemade costumes!

There's nothing as wonderful as a good story. And nobody brings a story alive like the children of Parikrma. At this year's Bangalore Literature Festival, not one but two authors invited our children to present excerpts from their books. Aditi De launched her book *The Secret of the Rainbow Phoenix* with a special performance by our children, who scripted and conceptualised the performance to tell the adventures of Jorkel and Dorkel. The Rajah's Moustache by Asha Nehemiah had the children all decked up in royal gear and, of course, elaborately painted moustaches. With few props and handmade costumes, our children showed how enthusiasm can truly transform a stage and an audience. Many called it the highlight of the day, as the Parikrma children were amongst the youngest attendees at the festival, bringing with them their irrepressible joy and never-ending smiles.

BALLET FOR A BETTER WORLD

At Parikrma, we have always strongly believed that extra-curricular activities and creative expression through the arts make us better human beings. At The Lewis Foundation of Classical Ballet, we have truly found kindred spirits who believe that dance is a powerful tool in holistic education. Since July 2012, the foundation has been training 65 students from Earth Class at our Jayanagar Centre. Earlier in 2013, our children went on stage to perform *The Emperor's Clothes* in ballet form. They were resplendent in their glittering costumes and proudly pointed their toes as they pranced about the stage, telling the much loved children's story. It is always thrilling to watch as our children prove, over and over again, that where they come from does not matter. What matters is the opportunity they get – because once they've grabbed that, there really is no looking back for them!



Children of Earth Class learning ballet at The Lewis Foundation



AIN'T NO MOUNTAIN HIGH - MANJULA'S EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME

On October 13, 2013, our student Manjula boarded the first plane of her life to spend 6 weeks in Holland, training with the Nova Institute. Manjula suffers from a mild psychological impairment, but nothing has kept her from being fully immersed in Parikrma and all its activities. One of our oldest and dearest volunteers at Parikrma, Elsbeth, invited Manjula to stay with her in Holland while at the course, learning how to cook, bake, live independently and be self-sufficient. She was part of the family, helping with the dishes and laundry at Elsbeth Akka's house. Manjula has come back with new stories, new friends and is all ready to take on the world on her own. At Parikrma, no obstacle is allowed to come in the way of living life to the very fullest.

EDUCATION FOR GLOBAL LIVING



CHANGING THE WORLD ONE EXPERIMENT AT A TIME

On September 14, 2013, the Nandhini Layout Centre hosted a Science & Art Exhibition on ‘The Evolution of Ideas in Science & Art’. The exhibition transformed the school - the rooftop assembly hall turned into a dense rainforest, darkened and filled with the sounds of animals and birds. The children explored the worlds of chemistry, physics and nature, while tracing the rise of ideas from early man. Even the littlest ones, from Mercury Class (Grade 1) proudly showed off their displays, answering questions and demonstrating their experiments. Learning at Parikrma is so much more than text books and classrooms. The children enjoyed themselves thoroughly, but also learnt some Science lessons they are likely to remember for the rest of their lives!



Students explain their Science experiments and art displays on the Evolution of Ideas to guests, teachers and friends

TAKING ON TECHNOLOGY

The children of Universe 2 U, Parikrma’s next generation Science programme, have been busy this last year. Eduard Muntaner from the University of Girona did a comprehensive workshop in Scratch software with the children at our Koramangala Centre. The children learnt to build robots using Lego blocks, and brought them alive using Scratch software. It was thrilling to watch the lion, crocodile and monkey robots racing around. Project Inventors4Change is an initiative that connects children around the world and encourages them to become agents of change in their communities, using ‘Technologies for Creative Learning and Digital Media Tools’. This collaborative experience will not only facilitate the exchange of ideas and information, but will also provide the children with a new perspective on the purposes of technology and digital media.



CELEBRATING AN EXTRAORDINARY JOURNEY

“Someone can display courage by doing the out-of-the-ordinary, another by doing the ordinary....” - Soren Kierkegaard



Shukla Bose & the senior teachers at the Bangalore Palace

This is the quote on the Bangalore Heroes website, an initiative of Bangalore Mirror to unearth ordinary individuals whose

extraordinary deeds have made a difference to their world.

This year, Shukla Bose was one among 24 nominees who have done unique work in fields as varied as sport, education, the arts and policy change. The criteria were Originality of the Idea, Impact on Society and Sustainability/ Continuity. The final selection of the 6 winners was conducted by a panel of achievers in the arts, public policy, branding and theatre.

After six weeks of nominations, online voting and the final selections, Shukla was chosen as one of Bangalore’s Heroes. Shukla and the Education Quality Heads of Parikrma had the chance of a lifetime - to spend an evening at the Bangalore Palace. It was an evening of celebrating change, of celebrating the ordinary achieving the extraordinary, with delicious food, interesting conversation and the feeling of having made history. This award stands testament to the fact that Parikrma’s model of change in education is being recognised by the world. Each time a Parikrma student helps a fellow traveller on a bus; each time a Parikrma alumnus achieves something special; each time Parikrma teachers are filled with pride at seeing their little ones grow into responsible citizens - each of these shows our children setting an example for a better future.



COMMUNITY SERVICES

THE EVER PRESENT PARENTS

Our student attendance at school is probably amongst the highest in the country, but that isn't the surprising news. What's amazing is that Parikrma also clocks 100% attendance at our Parent Teacher Meetings! A rare phenomenon even in privileged schools around the country (and perhaps around the world), we have packed houses at our meetings. The Parikrma Circle of Life would be incomplete without the involvement of parents, and our Community Development Services (CDS) team has worked tirelessly to emphasise this amongst the families of our children. So at a recent Parent Teacher meeting at the Koramangala Centre, the room was bursting at its seams. Parents are not only eager to understand what their children are learning and how they are progressing, but they also want to be a part of their child's education in whatever way they can. There is a widespread myth that parents who live in poverty don't want to educate their children. Parikrma has revolutionised education for the poor and proven this idea wrong. All parents want what's best for their children; all parents want their children to lead better lives than they have.



DEALING WITH ADDICTION

Like any children with parents who suffer from addiction, many of ours at Parikrma, live in unstable homes, broken apart by unemployment, violence and depression. Having recognized alcoholism as a major issue plaguing the communities that our children come from, the CDS team set out to address it. With the support of the counselors from Sukrut, along with Alcoholics Anonymous, a deaddiction programme has been devised. To begin with, representatives from AA met with 32 fathers and several more mothers from the Koramangala Centre. Many of the fathers are still in denial of their problem, and so the first step is creating an atmosphere of acceptance and openness. The programme will also hold awareness and counselling sessions for the children, helping them to deal with having an alcoholic parent at home. After awareness programmes at all the centres, AA will offer the parents a 10-day complete detox with the 12 steps to recovery programme to the fathers of our children. As always, acceptance is the first step to handling a problem, and our CDS team is striving to bring more fathers into the Parikrma fold. Our Circle of Life cannot be complete until families and communities understand and work together with us to ensure their children's well-being and happiness.

EATING FOR A HEALTHIER TOMORROW

Nutrition is an essential aspect of the Parikrma Circle of Life programme, which includes breakfast, lunch and a glass of malt for every child every school day. A couple of years ago, we also introduced eggs into the diet of our students. In an effort to further improve the programme, the Singapore International Foundation sent three volunteers to Parikrma in September 2013. They spent their time with students, their families and communities, the suppliers of the food in our schools, teachers and the CDS team to understand the dietary patterns of our children. With an understanding of food preferences,

ingredients, cooking techniques and the identification of malnourishment in the children, they will now plan a series of workshops with students, teachers and the community. The Specialist Community Nutrition Project, as it has been named, will provide critical information to families to make better food choices, tailored to local needs. It will give them tips on cost-effective ways to improve their diets and overall health. A holistic nutritional programme can lead to a more holistic and healthy lifestyle. And the impact is not just on our children, but for their families and communities too.





THE FINAL LEAP



BACK TO SCHOOL, BUT STUDENTS NO MORE



Earlier this year, Zamsei (Zam to all of us), who graduated from school three years ago, decided to come back and spend some time at his alma mater. There are no better words to tell this story than his own:

“If an outsider takes the initiative to work here then why not I work in my own school?”

It's important for us students to realize where we come from and who has brought us up. It feels good to come back and do what I can for our school. The work might be small or big but what matters is for a person to have the heart to come back do any work at Parikrma... To be a student once and now an employee in the same school, the experience is awesome and challenging. I also have learned how people work so hard towards our education and to get us to an equal level to other students from the outside world. I'm very grateful to be associated with Parikrma as an employee; it is also a proud moment as this is the place where I come from..”

Jalajakshi, who finished Junior College in 2010, dreamt of being a teacher and went on to do her Diploma in Education at NSVK College. She is now a teacher and librarian at our Nandhini Layout Centre for Learning, where she is thriving. While there is a sense of comfort to be amongst those she knows and cares for, she has also learnt the challenges of teaching. She says that the teachers no longer treat her as a child, but as a teacher who has responsibilities towards children too. Jalajakshi hopes to inspire the children she teachers, just as her teachers helped her to change the course of her life.



OUT IN THE REAL WORLD



Parikrma Alumni at a gathering where they cooked for everyone & played games

This year, our first batch of students who went to college graduated and have begun working. Sandesh, who finished Parikrma in 2010, has completed his B.Com and is now working at a realty firm as a Business Development Executive. Dressed smartly in a suit, and proudly distributing his visiting card to his former school mates at an



Business Executive: Sandesh

alumni gathering recently, Sandesh remembered hearing Shukla talking about her dream to see a Parikrma student running similar schools in the future. He hopes that in the next 5 years he can make this a reality. “This is my promise to Shukla Akka,” he says. Usha Rani, who also finished school in 2010 is juggling two jobs, helping her family and saving for the future in not one, not two, but four bank accounts! “Love, Explore, Excel, that was my school motto and I remember this in everything I do!” she says.

Manikandan who loves art, had to start working after two years of his Visual Arts course. He now has a job at Infosys and continues to study part-time. He is also a freelance artist, painting murals in homes.

Mani M wears a hoodie, a broad smile and has a small stud glittering in his ear. In his second year of B.Com now, Mani is also taking a DJ course. “When I compose my first song, I will dedicate it to Parikrma,” he says.

Our students are showing that they have absorbed every moment of their lives as students as Parikrma.

BETWEEN THE CRACKS

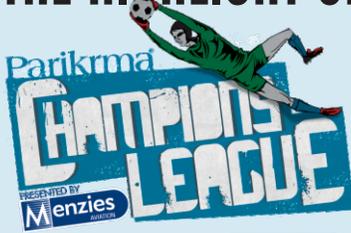
In our ten years, there have been a few children who did not stay in school. Some dropped out because of a need to start working, some because they weren't inclined to academic study and some because they could not overcome the various difficulties and influences they faced. We strongly believe that our Circle of Life won't be complete until we have reconnected with those children who slipped between the cracks along the way.

This year, we have made every effort to discover the whereabouts of these children. Through their communities, old friends and teachers who they kept in touch with, we have managed to find many of them. Some are working already, some still haven't really found their way. Seven young boys were eager to come back into the folds of Parikrma and are now part of the Bosch Vocational Training Programme, which will prepare them for stable jobs. Some others aren't so forthcoming, are embarrassed at having left school so young. We know they have nothing to be embarrassed about, and are trying to create a network to ensure we stay connected with them, and that they stay safe and well. We committed to stay on this journey until the circle of poverty was broken, and we continue to try and break this cycle every step of the way.

If you would like to support a child through college please write to Jayshree at jayshrees@parikrmafoundation.org



THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE SCHOOL SPORTS CALENDAR



The third edition of the Parikrma Champions League in September 2013 continued to fly the tournament flag high, while pushing the edge of excellence even further. Having established itself as the highlight of the school sports calendar, this year's tournament took the love of sports to a new level with a series of workshops the week before.

With the expanding sports industry in the country, we felt it was relevant to introduce young footballers to careers in sports – journalism, management and entertainment. With experts in the field like Charu Sharma, this was a fun and eye-opening experience for the students.

To tackle the issue of overage players, the age verification testing was done by a hospital days in advance. A Parikrma All Stars team took on the Bangalore CEOs Football team in a match that raised roars from the audience, and resulted in the youngsters winning. While introducing new aspects to the tournament, the league that has been called one of the best organized football events in the country, also brought back some favourites from last year.

JR from New York was back to cheer on the teams and bond with the children of Parikrma. A group from Menzies Aviation was back to work on the tournament with a Parikrma team, making it a truly international affair. As we strive towards excellence in sport and everything else we do, we also strive to ensure that everyone involved is happy. And the smiles in the crowds were enough to tell us that we had succeeded.



SELF DEFENCE IS IMPORTANT: JANCY, AGE 10

Taekwondo is one of the sports that our children have excelled in over the years. It trains them in self-defence, skill, discipline and mental strength. At the 28th National Taekwondo Championships in



December 2013, many of our boys brought back medals as usual, but a Parikrma girl made her mark at the tournament too. And how! Jancy Mary is little, very little for her age, but she is fierce and fights hard. And she won a Gold medal. Aged 10, she says that she likes

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A BLUE & GREEN WAVE

The footballers at Parikrma are getting used to winning. The teams have taken their streak of victories in their stride. The U-14 team won the All India Leap Start Tournament and the U-16 team won the Greenwood High tournament. On field, our children may look the smallest, but they are tough and they put up a fight even against the taller, fitter boys at other schools. They come rushing back to school bursting with pride and grinning widely, showing off their medals and trophies to their teachers and friends. Paoneo, our star footballer who graduated from school in 2013, is now studying at St. Joseph's College. He had earlier been selected for the Sports Authority of India training programme, and he stayed at the hostel playing football for several hours a day, while balancing school work as well. This year, he has been selected by the Jindal Steel Works Foundation that has recently taken over the Bangalore Football Stadium and started the Bengaluru Football Club, for their U-19 team.

SCALING NEW HEIGHTS: THE EDUCATION TRANSFORMATION CENTRE



The plan for the ETC that is being inaugurated with a teacher training programme in mid-2014

People always ask us how we plan to scale our model of education – will we open more schools, increase class sizes? At Parikrma, education goes beyond numbers. We are with every child for more than 18 years, from kindergarten till first employment. Education is in-depth, addresses every aspect of a child’s life and focuses on relevant and global exposure. Therefore, Parikrma will begin sharing its model with the teachers of government schools in mid-2014, at the teacher training academy we call the Education Transformation Centre (ETC).

Our model is based on three simple tenets: every child has the potential to excel if all elements of life are addressed with care; educational content must be relevant and holistic; and the model can be spread through the ETC. The thought behind the ETC, is to provide the benefits of the Parikrma model as a whole rather than just a few elements of it. The Parikrma model is one that has shown results and is now well-established. Instead of starting from scratch again, the ETC will be a nerve-centre to impart knowledge, do further research and collaborate with organizations around the world to improve overall pedagogy, in the field of education for the underserved.

ABOUT PARIKRMA

Parikrma Humanity Foundation is a non-profit organization registered under Section 25c of the Indian Companies Act. Contributions in India are tax exempt to the extent allowable under Section 80G. Parikrma USA Inc. is a 501c registered non-profit organization in the United States. For more on Parikrma, you can log on to www.parikrmafoundation.org or write to us at info@parikrmafoundation.org.

HOW YOU CAN BE A FRIEND OF PARIKRMA

Since we began in 2003 with two centres for 360 children, we have grown to 4 Centres for Learning and a Junior College. Many of our children are now pursuing a variety of professional courses at some of the best universities in the city, while others have completed their courses and have been placed in high valued jobs. Eleven years since the idea of Parikrma was born, we continue to record 96% attendance year on year, and a dropout rate of less than 1%. As the numbers of children we support from Kindergarten to age 21 increase, we are increasingly struggling with funding. In order to sustain our programme and ensure that every child has the financial stability to finish college, we depend on friends and well-wishers. There are many ways you can support us at Parikrma – sponsor a child at school, provide a scholarship to our college-going children, or support a programme in school like Sport, Art or Nutrition. You will receive regular updates on how your funds are being used and how our children are faring. If you would like to contribute to our programme funds, do write to Jayshree at jayshrees@parikrmafoundation.org.

MAKE HALF A DAY’S PAY LAST ALL YEAR LONG

In a non-profit like Parikrma, continuity of funding is one of the most critical challenges we face. Given the depth of our program and the length of our journey with each child, consistent and long-term support is vital. Each year, therefore, we approach thinking, working professionals who want to make a lasting difference to the lives of underserved children by joining Parikrma’s Revolution for Equal Education. Bangalore, India’s Silicon Valley, has some of the biggest software companies in the country. The Half Day Pay Campaign is a unique program by which people working in these large companies and corporates, can spend as little as half a day’s pay to support children at Parikrma. If you would like us to visit your company and share the story of Parikrma’s Revolution, do write to us at jayshrees@parikrmafoundation.org.

