



KATHA

# Executive Directors Report, 1996

And Statement of Accounts 1995-1996







KATHA

Dear Abidbhai and Members of Katha's Governing Council,

I take great pleasure in presenting Katha's Seventh Annual Report and the Accounts for the Year 1995-96.

The past year has been one of great creative activity. It has also seen the launching of several new and exciting initiatives. While the report would give you an overview of the range of activities that we have undertaken, I would like here to draw your attention to some that have given us a sense of achievement.

- 25 books were published, besides two issues of *Tamasha!* and the StreeKatha Desk Calendar.

- The Katha School of Entrepreneurship, the first school of small business management for working youth, has taken off.

- A new building of 5000 sq ft is being added at Katha-Khazana.

- The Women's Cooperative at Khazana launched a campaign for water and sanitation. And the students of KathaShala campaigned successfully against child labour.

- We were honoured to have Srimati M S Subbulakshmi give away the Katha Awards for 1995 – a special year since it is the completion of the first half-decade of the Award. And Srimati Sonia Gandhi released *A Unique Odyssey: The Story of the United Nations*, in honour of the 50th Year celebrations of the UN.

All this brought with it great happiness, a sense of satisfaction, but also brought with it worries, frustrations and sleepless nights. Writing this report has made me feel that this has been worthwhile.

I thank all of you for your constant support and encouragement and, most of all, your trust and friendship. I also take this opportunity to thank each and every member of the Katha family – those on our staff and those who work with us from the outside.

With warm regards,

Your sincerely,

Geeta Dharmarajan

Executive Director

22 September, 1996

## INTRODUCING KATHA

India has always been a land of story tellers. Over the centuries, we have honed the fine art of telling the short story – be it in our epics, our metrologies, our folk tales or in our more recent writings. From traditional Katha vachaks and village storytellers to one’s favourite grandmother, everyone has heard stories that have taught us our values, our morals, our culture. “Katha” or the narrative is a special legacy that continues to exist 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, over the last few years Katha has striven to establish a code of excellence in all that we do, to enhance the quality of life in every project we have attempted.

Katha’s main objectives are to -

- Enhance the pleasures of reading for children and adults, those who are experienced readers and those who are just beginning to read.
- Stimulate an interest in lifelong learning that will help the child grow 4 into a confident, self-reliant, responsible and responsive adult.
- Help break down gender, cultural and social stereotypes. And, at the other end of the spectrum of our work.
- Encourage, foster excellence and applaud quality literature and translations in and between the various Indian languages.

A non-profit 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:

### KATHA

**Kalpavriksham**  
**The Centre for Sustainable**  
**Learning**

**Katha Vilasam**  
**The Story Research &**  
**Resource Centre**

# KATHA

## KALPVRIKSHAM THE CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE LEARNING

TAMASHA!	KALPNA	SATSAHELJA	KATHA SCHOOL OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP	SHAKTI-KHAZANA
The Easy-to-Read Development Magazine	NEF Resource Centre. T/L material development In-service teacher training.	Women's literacy Post-literacy material development Teaching Learning kits.	Learning centre for about 1000 children, 0-17 years, form nonliterate families Govindpuri, Delhi.	Women's Empowerment Programme Income Generation Small Saving Mahila Mandal Khazana Women's Coop

## KALPVRIKSHAM THE CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE LEARNING

RESEARCH & RESOURCE CELL	KATHA AWARDS	NETWORKING	VAK	SPECIAL PROJECTS
Pepository of translations and little/literacy magazines Regional lang fiction Articles/writings on translation, Creative writing workshops (small beginnings!	The Annual Search for Excellence in Creative Writing, Translation, Publishing. Proposed: The katha Awards for Children's Writing Children's Book Illustration.	Friends of Katha Network Interface with Academia	Research - Publication Katha Prize Stories Katha Classics, Katha Regional Function The Wordsmiths Kath Prespectives Youva Katha Stree Katha Literature Studies Theme Books	Katha - IIT, Delhi Project The Second Katha-British Council Division Translation Contest.



# KALPVRIKSHAM

## Highlight!

- ❖ *Tamasha!* celebrates the 50th Year of the United Nations with a special issue on development.
- ❖ Two BalKatha books published, starting off the series for young children.
- ❖ Katha embarks on yet another dream – a special kit for preschoolers called Chand!
- ❖ Teaching-is-Fun workshops are held for groups in Garhwal.
- ❖ Srimati Sonia Gandhi releases the first of the YuvaKatha books for young adults - *A Unique Odyssey: The Story of the United Nations*.
- ❖ *StreeKatha*, an “empowering story” for women on the road to literacy is published; simultaneously in Hindi, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Telugu and Urdu.

1995-96 has been a watershed year for our Centre for Sustainable Learning.

As Council members are aware, Kalpavriksham focuses attention on nonformal education of the child and the adult through two distinct operations publishing for them and working with them in our field project at Govindpuri, New Delhi.

Our publishing for this year started off with *Tamasha!*, Katha’s flagship project. The special story issue of *Tamasha!* was started in the last financial year. With translations from different languages that celebrated the spirit of creativity and fantasy, the issue was beautifully illustrated by some of our best illustrators, including Atanu Roy, Suddha Sasu, Sujata Singh, Vandana Bist, Sujata Chopra, Arvinder Chawla, DeshRaj and the Madhubani folk artists Who

have joined the pool of excellent artists Moti Karn and Satyanarayan Lal Kam - who did the cover for the issue.

At the request of the UN Country representative, Mr von Sponeck, we got a chance to work on a special issue dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the UN. This time, it was Atanu Roy who won the honours of doing the front cover. He chose to depict children of various nationalities. The issue carried articles on UN agencies, stories, games and poems in the usual careful mix that will keep the interest of a non-reading child alive. This *Tamasha!* meant more work than we had expected and ate into the time we would have spent on fundraising and the getting of sponsorship. Hence, we could not bring out the subsequent issues of *Tamasha!*

Funds has been one of the major problems of *Tamasha!* We have stubbornly stuck to our aim of keeping it a magazine for rural children and stubbornly again refused to reduce the quality of production or the use of four colours. Maybe we are wrong in insisting that third, fourth generation book-readers can manage with any kind of reading materials, because they love reading; but a person (especially a child) who comes tentatively to reading needs colourful, well laid-out, attractive books if she is to stay with reading. We hope we never have

to give up on our dream - but the fact that we have not been able to do two issues of *Tamasha!* bothers us ... We still live in the hope that some corporate house will see the need for a magazine like this that increases entrepreneurship and prosperity for the child, her family and the community at large - thus making the whole Country upwardly mobile in the long run.

**A** book that celebrates the 50th anniversary of the United Nations again, but this time with the young adult in mind is *A Unique Odyssey: The Story of the United Nations*.

The writing of the book was indeed an odyssey of sorts for Katha since getting the information, every possible data & detail of all the UN bodies, the photographs (some of them rare indeed, like the one of Gandhiji) took us on hair-raising adventures and encounters with interesting people. I am happy that Dinesh Shanna was with us, not just for this book. He and Arvinder Chawta, our designer, and her team consisting of Poonam and Chaman, gave us a book that looked good. Funded by the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, the book was released by Slimati Sonia Gandhi at a fundion held at their premises on 21st August, 1995. Written by Geeta Dharmarajan and illustrated by Atanu Roy, the book was also published in Hindi as *Ek Anokhi Yatra*.



### Some reviews:

- *The Book Review*: “An all-important, all-encompassing book ... Here, at last, is a book which takes a good, hard, honest look at the subject which should be the concern of every one of us ... Fact packed, fast paced, yet very easy to read ... A book which should be found on every library shelf in schools as well as in the homes of thinking individuals below 16 years.”

- *Indian Review of Books*: “Voyage of Discovery ... The whole concept has been cleverly adapted so that people from all walks of life may empathize with and gain an in-depth knowledge of the culture of the United Nations ... history, statistics, environment, and politics in a freeing mix of reality and fantasy, with personalized character-roles that will surely appeal to young readers.”

**B**alkatha. One more project that went from blueprint to publication is this series for very young children.

The first of the Balkatha books introduces Jaldi the tortoise. As we know, tortoises have lived longer than human beings and maybe know the secret of survival, yet they are at the brink of extinction, driven by the avarice of man. We could not think of a better mascot for the series on sustainable development

than a tortoise called Jaldi!

*The Secrets of Kalindi* is the first of the Balkathas. A multi-ending story, it encourages children to decide on a course of action and see the result of non-action and cowardice. Each page ends in a decision tree and readers choose what they want to do - With of course the option of coming back and choosing again. And again! The 80page book has some thirty stories and 45 endings. Conceived and written by Geeta Dharmarajan, and illustrated by Atanu Roy, a multimedia professional has taken copies, feeling it may be suitable for interactive learning.

**A** other colourful book in the same series was brought out in Hindi & English. *Swapasundari & the Magical Birds of Mithila* was written also by Geeta, and highlights the importance of various issues like health, environment, empowerment, women and girls, and was woven into a fantasy. The story, written to selected illustrations from *StreeKatha*, was well-received by readers at the Book Fair where it was launched.

**K**alpavriksham, the Centre for Sustainable Learning has, from the beginning, seen in-service teacher training as invaluable in the development of the child. A child centred teaching, a teaching that

develops creativity, curiosity and critical thinking, commitment, competence and confidence in a child. The curriculum that Katha has developed has been honed through working with our own teachers, improving each time we do a workshop and/or interact with teachers.

This year saw the completion of another project – the Teaching-is-Fun! Workshops for people working in the nonformal Education system that was funded by the Indo German Social Services Society (IGSSS). These were conducted for teachers in the Garhwal Hills. The first workshop took place in August '95 and the second in November '95 at Masi, Almora.

The workshops were on creative teaching methods developed at Katha by the Kalpana team with the teachers of KathaShala. The training aimed at sensitizing teachers to the special needs of children from non literate families and helped to encourage teachers to come up with their own innovative low-cost solutions to classroom problems. The programme was lauded by participating agencies.

**R**esearch and Development: For the year, Katha had set itself the task of developing two kits: An English kit called 'Jasoos Jishnu's Survival Kit,' which tried to address the

learning of English by working children and from basically non-English speaking teachers. The task was daunting but we have a tentative prototype ready for testing.

The Preschool Kit is more complete. Based on the premise that early learning should excite the thinking child and leave her feeling challenged and creative, the package is divided into four parts and gives a curriculum for science, math, geography and history, health and environment science. Full of fun and seemingly simple games and learning situations, the kit is presently being tested out in our preschool at Khazana.

**S**at Sahelia is the centre for research and development of literacy materials for women. The country has seen mass movements to make women literate. This, tied to the 73rd and 74th Amendments that gives power to local bodies and increases the representation of women in such bodies, has ushered in a new dawn.

Yet, in most languages, the upward surge of women's literacy has been a little dampened by the lack of material that takes beginning readers from the primers to newspapers and other commonly available materials. It is this area where Katha has been most active in the last three, four years as part of the work done

in Kalpavriksham.

This year saw the completion of a project that started off last year. *StreeKatha*, an ambitious translation and production project that was brought on the occasion of the Beijing Conference, but for completely local use with women who are just beginning to read. Brought out in Urdu, Hindi, Gujrati, Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam it was made possible by funding from the Royal Netherlands Embassy.

The book is designed for use at three-levels: At 0-level literacy, the 'survival words' given on each page are politically and culturally loaded and are to be used for starting reading with women. The methodology that could be adopted to teach reading is given at the back of the book.

For slightly more advanced readers, there are simply-written facts about gender, women's reproductive health, status of the girl child in the family, income-generation and empowerment; rights of women in cases of dowry harassment, your rights if you are arrested by the police, etc.

At the third level, for women who were more comfortable with the act of reading, there is a fantasy, that has the possibility of doubling as a reader/primer also. The book also provides guidelines as to how

and where to get Government and non-Government assistance. Designed and planned by Geeta Dharmarajan and written by her with Sheeba Choudhury who did the research for the project, the book was evocatively illustrated by the well known Madhubani artists Satyanarayan Lal Kam and Moti Kam. The book is meant for grassroot-level workers, organizations and for block development officers in the government setup.

The book was released in a seminar organized with the co-sponsorship of the India International Centre. Held at IIC, activists and women from various Delhi communities who were participating in empowerment movements started by various voluntary agencies participated in the workshop.

The workshop was preceded by the inauguration of a two-day exhibition of the *StreeKatha* illustrations, held in the exhibition hall of IIC. I'd like to take this opportunity to give a special thank you to Riet Turksma and Nandini Prasad of the Royal Netherlands Embassy who give so warm;; of their support and friendship. As also to Premila Ghosh and her team at IIC for constant encouragement.

The National Commission for Women got to see *StreeKatha* and came to us with a request for a **Desk Calendar** using the illustrations of *StreeKatha*. In spite of

various problems, and a short deadline caused by delays in placing the orders, we did manage to produce a product that was in keeping with Katha's stringent quality standards.

The StreeKatha project is followed by StreeKahani, a post-literacy kit-in-a-book which takes the ideas that were succinctly put in StreeKatha one step further. The book will have stories and features and tackle some important life and gender issues.

**T**he Kathavachak books are again post-literacy reading materials. The series brings stories of some of India's best writers in simple, lucid retelling for the reading pleasure of neo-literates. Each story has been chosen for its strong women characters, and story value. This year, we have done four books with funding from the Department of Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India: Rabindranath Tagore, Jai Shankar Prasad, Gurbachan Singh Bullar and Sughra Mehdi.

The year also saw us getting another grant from the Government for seven more books for use in Jan Shikshan Nilayams. The first of the second batch of books is *Faisla*. Written by well known Hindi writer Maitreyi Pushpa, the story had won the Katha Award for Creative

Writing in 1993. It was illustrated in the Mithila style by Sri Satyanarayan Lal Karn & Smt Moti Kam. Through the coming year, we hope to finish the other six books. The other writers we hope to include are O V Vijayan, Ashokamitran, Ism at Chughtai, Rajinder Singh Bedi:

**T**his year saw us doing a project on water and sanitation with the women of Khazana. Funded by Action-Aid, the programme included the making of a teaching/learning kit that started off with simple doh as by Kabir on water and environment and went on to major issues like health, empowerment and family wellbeing. Designed by the women themselves with help from the Katha team, the prototype is ready.



# KATHA-KHAZANA

## Highlights

- ❖ The Katha School of Entrepreneurship is inaugurated with a specially-designed curriculum that brings together scholastic, entrepreneurial and vocational education in an exciting relevant education package for young adults.
- ❖ Enrolment figures cross 1,100 children at our Govindpuri Learning Centra.
- ❖ Classes become integrated with the admission of mentally-handicapped children in to KathaShala.

**M**ay 1995 was a very special month for Katha with the starting of the **Katha School of Entrepreneurship!** For some time now, we have been looking for ways to keep our young boys and girls in education. The temptation of earning money is great in Delhi; the temptation to have spending money. We were finding that long term

planning was not a priority with families that lived in the community we worked with. The day's existence was too major a problem for them which shadowed everything else. And the old question still rankled: Does education really improve one's chances of earning more money? What about all those uneducated youth, then? The challenge was to come up with a good enough reason to stay in education till at least a school-leaving certificate could be procured, Delhi being not a small town where some education would be enough.

From January - March, 1996, consultations had been held by the Executive Director with a panel of distinguished people

drawn from the fields of education, to prepare a curriculum for the first school of management for working children. "It must be as good as an IIM," we told ourselves and ... the First Course in Entrepreneurship and Management of Small Business, gave us dividends far more rewarding than we had dared to dream!

This 11-day workshop was inaugurated by the then Chairman of the National Open School, Sri Mukhopadhyaya was the Chief Guest. Representing Katha on the dais were N.N. Tandon, Director (Retd.) UNIDO, Geneva and K Dharmarajan, former Joint Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development – Governing Council Members. NDTV covered the opening ceremony. Sri Mukhopadhyaya said that a management course with resource people of the calibre of the faculty of KSE would normally have cost Rs 20,000 per participant. He also said this was the first time that something like this was happening for students such as those in KSE.

Twenty-seven students participated in this workshop which had a great faculty made up of professionals and leaders from many of the related fields. Heated discussions, concentrated team learning, creative problem-solving in areas such as inter-personal relationships, negotiation skills, management, accounting, raw materials marketing, assessment of consumer needs, pricing ...

Many were the topics learnt the simulation game-way, many the lessons the faculty said they learnt from the enthusiastic, street-smart kids we are proud to have in Katha! They went for a visit to a press. They saw how a newspaper is printed. One day they

went to an entrepreneur's restaurant. They interviewed the owner and had lunch there. On the closing day, parents were invited, the community was also there to cheer the qualifying students and spur them on to greater heights. Pradhan Mahendra Rai, the local M.L.A Sri Sheesh Pal and Sri Tandon and Dharmarajan from Katha were with us when certificates were distributed to the participants.

We have been indeed lucky to have Saraswati Subamaniam as Principal of Katha's Schools - KathaShala and the Katha School of Entrepreneurship. Without her dedication and concerned enthusiasm I don't think we could have such a programme. So much praise has been heaped on the programme by visitors and others. It has been said that the centre is a "tourist spot for anyone visiting from Europe!" N C Nirula has been the director of the programme and has been a pillar of strength for the organization. Having retired as Chief General Manager of Coal India, he has proved to be extremely good with the community and the teachers and with the children.

Education, Curricula and Attendance: The Creche, Preschool, Nonformal Education Centre; the Katha School

of Entrepreneurship and the Tutorial programme together had a strength of about 1100 children through most of the year, with a drop in attendance during the summer months and during the festival season. Some of our children went away to participate in harvesting in their villages and weddings and happenings back home in their villages (the ties are still; very strong!) also disrupted school life. But a flexi-time schooling and a dedicated staff made up for this and saw to it that children didn't feel too difficult to catch up. This is one way in which KathaShala has been different from formal schools - though we have been moving closer to a via-media arrangement where we have adopted the best of the formal and nonformal patterns of education for our children.

Changes have been introduced in the curriculum and the syllabi for the various levels this school year. A specially designed pre-entrepreneurial component was added to nonformal education of the 7 - 14 year olds. Excitement danced in the air! Eighty students from pre-school alone had gained admission into class one of formal school; more than 15 had got into various higher classes ...

And their success spurred others to join our Centre. New students came into our nonformal education centre, 7 - 14

year olds who had never been to school or had dropped out a long time ago and had often lapsed into illiteracy. They came, swinging colourful bags, repudiating the fact that this was a school situated in one of the largest slums in Delhi; with shining eyes and faces scrubbed clean they came hanging to the pallor of their mothers or the firm hands of elder brothers and sisters, eager to be part of the excitement that is KathaShala.

News about the KSE had spread in the community because of the summer workshop. Students who had reached the levels of classes 8th, 9th, 10th and Open Senior and Junior students were queuing up to admit themselves into the Katha School of Entrepreneurship that would, for the first time in the country, give an education intertwining 16 scholastic, entrepreneurial and vocational training for them, making education visibly relevant, challengingly enticing! Eight courses were offered as options in KSE this first year! These are:

- Computer
- Tailoring & Embroidery
- Electrical & Electronics Bakery
- Cooking Catering
- Commercial Art
- Marketing Accountancy

Two hundred and sixteen students were admitted in KSE this year.



The Creche, Preschool, Nonformal Education centre and the Library, the science, math, history and English Labs have continued to have interesting programmes. Performance has been as expected, both from children and teachers. The Creche was provided with six swings walkers, perambulators, beds, bed spreads, covers and chairs.

The Library increased its existing holding of 25,000 books with books worth about Rs. 30,000/-

The Labs were provided with more modern equipments useful for students upto class XIIth. Rs. 25,000/- was expended on these equipments.

English-Medium Sections in Katha Shala: When some children who had been admitted into the English medium school in the neighbourhood, we had all felt very good about it. Then when that school had to close down, we did the only thing we could: We started an English medium section at the request of the community. This year, this has extended itself into an English medium section in the nonformal education centre also. We believe that the power base of English has to be watered-down and, living in Delhi and having to look for jobs in the Delhi market, our students need knowledge of English.

We have made no excuses for teaching English to our children and have had the complete support of the community in this.

The Vocational Training Department has had enough equipment. The Tailoring & Embroidery unit has twenty machines for use that they share with the women's programme. We were able to get two computers with up to date facilities like a CD-ROM which is being used by teachers and students. One of the computers is a second-hand one; the other came as a donation from the German Embassy in Delhi. We thank Mr Smaltz who has been an excellent friend of Katha ever since he came to Delhi. We thank Mrs Smaltz also for her friendship and support. And the International Labour Organization.

Integrated Teaching: For the last many years, Katha has wanted to integrate children with mental/physical handicap into our various programmes. Tentative starts were made but not pursued. This year, Katha announced its wish to start regular work with mentally handicapped children. One of our teachers, Indrawati, was sent for training to Jan Madhyam, a voluntary organization working with special children. For three months Indrawati

took the children to Janmadhyam at least thrice a week to get them acquainted with being with other children, and for various aptitude tests to be conducted. They were regularly given medical checkups also.

I take this chance to say a big thank you! to Ranjana Pande for always being there for us, ever-willing to help.

**C**ampaign Against Child Labour: As part of our contractual work for ILO, we started campaigning against child labour. But the topic is emotional and politically loaded and we found that the initiative took off on its own, almost. Religious heads in the neighbourhood participated to talk against child labour, and children held heated discussions and vivadham to bring out the ills of starting to work too young. Parents and children came together for discussions on what could be done to combat the incidence of child labour. Marches and jathas to raise awareness happened through the year. Students also participated in another campaign this year raising awareness about polio and the need for clean water.

**T**he Ma Mandal was started for the first time in Katha, in an effort to have families participate more fully in planning for the future of their children and to help them

take responsibility for the education of their wards. Six hundred and fifty mothers of the students of Khazana came together on 29th July '95. In September we held five meetings, in small groups, to acquaint them with the objectives of the Mandal. The group was encouraged to understand gender and social biases and strive to break them; and to get involved in Katha's women's and community development programmes. They were involved in health, hygiene and family wellbeing programmes and participated in savings schemes and the activities of the Khazana Coop.

**W**e celebrated Teachers' Day late this year, on October 28th, with the **Kalyani Awards for Excellence** being given to teachers; the **Kitta Awards for Creativity** to outstanding students. These two awards are named after the parents of Guha Krishnaswamy, a Friend of Katha.

The **Bhagavati Ammal Award**, instituted by the Krishna Ayyar family, went to chosen teachers for community work. Eleven teachers and 16 students received these two awards.

The Lusaka Scholarship was given for four students from another corpus set up with funds sent by the Indian Ladies Association of Lusaka. Sri Manjeet Singh, Director, Slum Development Board,

local M.L.A Sri Sheesh Pal and the local pradhan Sri Mahendra Rai were the chief guests. Coralie Srivastay, a student of British School, Delhi, presented students with 1,357 notebooks and 204 books that students of her school had collected.

**E**xtra-curricular Activities: On 3rd November Katha organized an Art Competition. Four different age groups were chosen and different topics were given to each groups. Three judges from outside were invited from outside. Twenty-one students were selected for prizes from all the four groups. They were given Book Coupon of the National Book Trust as prize to promote 'reading for fun' activity. And this summer, as usual, we had a summer fun programme, organized by Veena Nanda, coordinator of the women's programme. Workshops on street plays, craft world and paper machine were conducted.

**Balika Mandai:** Forty children from Katha Khazana took active participation the Sahitya Kala Parishad Workshop from 22 December to 23 January. On 23 January, Sriram centre organised a "Play" called "Natkhath Utsav" which was enjoyed by nearly 600 audience.

This year, as always, all festivals were celebrated at the centre. On 20th October students organised a Diwali Mela with various games under the guidance of Gargi Bose. Shops were organised by

Veena Nanda. Picnics and excursions have been part of the various sessions, including the Dinosaur show at the Science Museum.

On December 26th the Second **Entrepreneurship Workshop** was conducted by NIESBUD - the National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development. Students received certificates from NIESBUD.

**Regular Health Checkups:** An arrangement has been finalized with Dr. S. Srinivasan MD (P.Ed) for regular visits to the centre to render medical checkups of our students.

**Visitors to Katha-Khazana** included **Mr von Sponeck**, Country Representative for the United Nations visited our centre. Three hundred and twenty five members of the Ma Mandai were there to greet him, along with the students of Katha, and the women.

A group from Germany; Mr. Hari Pansh Jha, Educational Director of the Centre for Economic and Technical Studies, Kathmandu.

Mrs. Sochman and Mrs. Ronach, two Parliamentarians from Germany, were also with us during their visit to India and Wife most appreciative of our efforts.

On 28th March a get together was organised by Mrs. Nika Schmaltz at her residence. Twenty ladies from the community which included few teacher and staff visited her place.

# SHAKTI-KHAZANA

## Highlights

- ❖ In response to a felt need, a **Water and Sanitation Programme** started with the women of Govindpuri.
- ❖ The fifth consecutive teacher training programme starts off on time!
- ❖ The Women's coop starts a small savings scheme. Rs 25,000 deposited!

**S**hakti-Khazana is the women's programme at Khazana. Started in 1990, in an effort to get money into the hands of the women so that the children can go to school, the programme has seen a blossoming over the years, the women moving from being shy and diffident members of households that earned about Rs. 600 - 800/month to becoming earning members of families whose income they had raised to Rs 2,500 or so a month! The women hold their heads high today and are looked-up to

in their communities. They have indeed come a very long way ...

**T**he year took off with the usual mix of songs and dancing and course in income-generation and skills upgradation and empowerment. The small group of dedicated staff members saw to it that the enthusiasm of the Women was kept bubbling in spite of a difficult year with excessive rains, blocked drains and sewage spill-overs and the usual sicknesses and ill-health. In

spite of everything, the women continued to come, smiling, their pallor slipping off shy faces brimming with the eagerness to be part of the cooperative adventure they have started off on! Even getting on to a bus is fun for them, visiting local shops, buying raw materials on their own and managing their cooperative bakery and catering units, their tailoring and embroidery work ...

**The Teachers Training Programme** had a total of thirteen students this year. Chosen from the development in community.

**T**he Khazana Coop is not yet a registered body, but it brings the women together and has been a way of channelising their efforts into cooperative work and shared interest in larger earnings. It has functioned basically on its own, with the women slowly becoming more confident of taking things into their own hands. Under it are various income-generating programmes.

**T**he Khazana Catering service is about to break even! They have managed to procure regular orders from some offices in Sarvapriya Vihar, also at Sale Express, Elviss, etc. The rasoï also serves daily lunch to the children in our preschool and creche. Part of the ILO programme, the tie-up has meant that the children get good, wholesome food, cooked in a way that they are familiar with, and there is no wastage or pilferage since the children are their own and there is a commitment on the part of the women to serve the best. This midday meal programme had the input of a nutritionist in its initial phase. Also, the women have been given training in the preparation of “pousthik khana.”

This year, the Khazana Coop started the **Khazana Canteen** within the Khazana campus. Patties, bread pakoras, cutlet, chutney sandwich and lunch

orders were got on a regular basis from AIIMS, Asha and people from Khazana used to come regularly. Tea, coffee, lassi, sharbat were also served. The women learnt how to make dosa and vada and Katha was able to invest in an idli-grinder and other equipment, with funding that came in last year from the Indo-Canadian Cooperation Office (ICCO) and the British High Commission.

The women have been earning up to Rs 800/month for basically half a day’s work, five days a week. Besides this, they get some dinner or lunch orders also. Amongst efforts made this year are those to improve packaging quality, and to control of wastage.

**B**akery: Following items were made - Patties, this item was the most demanded one in canteen, schools, Sponge cakes, pastries etc. were made. Apart from this, birthday cakes, eclairs, black fruit cakes etc. were also made. Singer biscuit, Jam biscuits were: made. But there were some difficulties faced. The size of biscuit was not alike. Ministry of Foods & Nutrition liked our recipes and made a film on this.

**P**ickles, Jam, Squash, Chutney made by the women have had a ready market. The Khazana Coop has steady sales of these items,

their red chilli pickle being the current favourite! But difficulties are there, including electricity failures that have made life miserable in summer and lack of water that has meant the bringing in of tankers – added cost and lesser amounts of water.

**Cutting and Tailoring:** On an average we had about 20 women attending the training programme conducted in the Centre. A six-month Diploma Course was started in which they learnt, among other items, how to make shirts and blouses and petticoats; jute folders and purses. Embroidery was also taught to these interested. In January, the women landed an order for 20 jute bags. The next month a larger order for 200 bags. And soon, the women were making around Rs 400/month for half a day's work. They were slowly learning other skills, too: How to talk to customers and clients. How to choose and buy appropriate raw material. How to sell their products.

**Embroidery:** Women have been working on cushion covers for which there is a ready market. We have encouraged them to take orders only when they feel they will be able to finish at the specific date. Meeting deadlines

causes a major hassle for them still. Their skills have improved but the women still hesitate to take bulk orders. Earnings for a half-day's work, 20 days a month bring the women about Rs 500 or so.

**Greeting Cards:** Khazana greeting cards have been a sure draw even at the World Book Fair. Hand-made and unique, each card is different and brings out the creativity and delightful colour schemes of the women.

**Water and Sanitation Project**  
Last year, the women of our community had come to us with a problem: The water in the Sulabh Sauchalaya was dirty, causing stomach aches and other related diseases. So when ActionAid, a funding organization asked Katha if we could do a project with them as partners, we suggested a water and sanitation programme. The idea was to work with the women on ways and means to procure better quality services for women and children. As part of this exercise was empowerment skills and some literacy also.

The year saw a variety of activities, including talks and lectures, jathas and processions and film shows, dances and music and street theatre activities. Slogan-writing competitions and debates were also held. As part of this process, a

literacy kit was developed by the women with the active assistance and guidance of the Katha team from Sat Sahelia.

**A**dult Education: Twenty-six women were given training on how to do read and write. They also participated in a workshop held at India International centre, where they learnt how to develop further skills. This year their self-confidence and sense of togetherness had them coming together for various activities, and, in the month of June they enacted a play on the need for community literacy to fight child labour!

**S**aving Scheme: 21 women are members of the saving scheme. All are depositing money regularly. Fixed deposit certificates were made for around Rs. 25000 is now deposited in the bank.

**A** new building is coming up! The exciting news is that Katha has finally managed to get all clearances and a brand-new, 5000 sq ft of space is being built for the Coop wing. It will house a functionally set up kitchen and bakery. It will also contain space for a canteen, an office and renovated space for the tailoring and embroidery units.

It is being built by the Laurie Baker Building centre, New Delhi, on the advise of the Slum Wing's Director. Proper permissions have been sought and gained before the construction was started. Coordinated by Padma Kumar, the building plans are innovative and highly attractive. Low-cost and functional, we hope to have the building inaugurated in September, 1996.

Funding for the new building was provided by the British High Commission, the Canadian High Commission and by SEWA, the Indian Women's Association of Riyadh.

**W**ell do I remember 1989, the year we started work in 24 Govindpuri. A DDA survey of 1988 had shown that the average income of the family in this community was between Rs 600-800 per month, per family. Today, our women are earning up to Rs 2,500 a month! And are treasured members of their community. We hope the day will come when another of Katha's dreams is fulfilled, when the women take over and run this on their own, bringing Katha's involvement in the Khazana Experiment to a logical end.

*Space for Katha-Khazana is provided by the Slum Wing of MCD.*

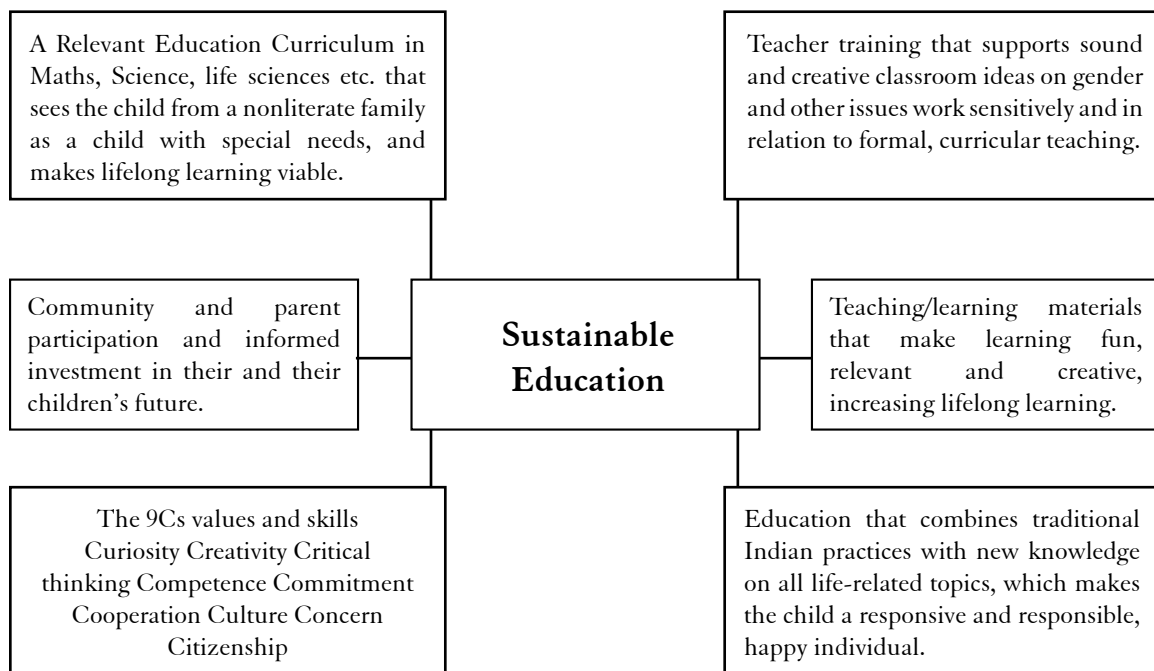
**KALPAVRIKSHAM, The Centre for Sustainable Learning** was started in 1990. Its efforts have been in the areas of developing interesting and fun-filled teaching/learning materials for use in nonformal education, and in working with teachers through Teaching-is-Fun! and other creative teaching workshops.

In India we have found that, even when enrolment figures are close to acceptable, performance levels have been low. The National sample Survey (42nd Round) indicated that one of the main reasons for this was students finding classes ‘not relevant’ and ‘boring.’ This is well in keeping with Katha’s learning that sustainable education becomes possible only when it is linked to integrated development. Our working concept of education has focused on LIFE education.

- LIFE education is a concept that has been developed in Katha as part of its philosophy. LIFE stresses knowledge that is relevant to life, which spell better economic prosperity for the family and greater happiness for all - what Katha believes is the ultimate goal of all development and sustainable education. LIFE skills comprise of –

- Literacy/lifelong learning skills
- Income-generation skills
- Family well-being
- Empowerment

**Katha’s idea of sustainable education may be stated briefly thus:**







# KATHAVILASAM

## Highlights

- ❖ **M S Subbulakshmi** gives away the Katha Awards for 1995, at **Madras**. And **Katha Prize Stories, Volume 5** goes for reprint in a record 45 days!
- ❖ 13 **Books** published this year!
- ❖ **YuvKatha** books for young adults launched.
- ❖ Katha gets a presence on **Internet ...**
- ❖ **Vak**, a project to enhance translation capabilities between Bangla, Kannada and Tamil takes off! And short stories with **AajKal** and **Hans** take off.
- ❖ The **Katha-IIT, Delhi Project** all set to start off in the coming year.
- ❖ The **Second All-India Translation Contest** receives 1700 entires.

Over the last seven years, our efforts in Katha Vilasam have been to gain greater popularity for Indian fiction in translation and to help make known quality writing from the regional languages.

As part of this exercise, we have tried to get translations accepted for study in language courses in Indian universities.

The Katha Awards 27<sup>th</sup> presentation Ceremony was held on 30 March '95, at the Museum Theatre, Madras. We were honored to have Smt M S Subbakshmi as the chief Guest for this, the fifth year of the Awards. The awards ceremony gained added lustre by an invocation on song from M S herself, a happening that Katha will never be able to forget. A large number of guests witnessed the writers, translators and journal editors receive the awards from the famous singer.

An experimental activity planned by Katha to bring the arts together was made possible by Geeta Chandran who specially choreographed a Bharatanatyam recital to the words of the story in translation of Asha Bage's prize winning Marathi story, "Pankh" – read out by Rajiv Chandran.

**W**e were “found” by Rajesh Jain of Ravi Database Consultancy Services, who came with the enticing offer of putting Katha on Internet. Since March 12, 1995, eight stories from KPS 1-4 were carried on India World.com. We know people have been accessing us all over the world, through letters that have come, mostly from Indians, saying ho much they enjoy Indian stories in translation! Katha has also got a presence on the Web, with two Home Pages being hosted by two agencies on a voluntary basis. Our addresses are:

<http://www.oneworld.org/katha>  
[www.alcazar.com/katha](http://www.alcazar.com/katha)

Having a Shell Account with the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd., has meant a chance to interact with universities across the world, to "attend" workshops and conferences and start off, oh so tentatively but gloriously, on **KathaMaya, a Virtual Classroom in Translation!** Movement is slow on this front, but there is interest

from unexpected quarters – an Internet friend in Australia; another in Croatia; two in USA ...

**N**etworking at ground level has been happening also, including a seminar, to finish the old financial year and give a sound start to the new, on **Art, Culture, Imagination: The Making of a Story.**

About 130 writers, translators, editors, teachers from all over the country, as also research students participated in this one-and-a-half day seminar at Madras University, sponsored jointly Katha, the English Department of the University, and the Madras Book Club.

The workshop could not have happened without the efforts and unstinting support Dr C T Indra, Head of the Department of English, Madras University.

The participants were divided into four groups and Indian fiction was examined from the perspectives of the writer, the fiction editor, the translator and the reader. While in Madras, the Katha Vilasam team made contacts with a number of colleges.

**T**he most ambitious of projects undertaken by Katha Vilasam in 1995-96 was the **Vak Project** sponsored by the Ford Foundation.

Involving three languages – Bangla, Kannada and Tamil – the project is mainly concerned with improving the pool of translators between various Indian languages. It aims to enhance the quality of translation between these languages, foster and applaud quality translation, form advocacy groups and to facilitate the publication of translated fiction and plays through existing publishing houses/magazines/literary journals etc. With the help of bilingual resource persons, through workshops, discussions and exchanges, a model will hopefully evolve for future translations – not only inter-cultural (as in English to Bangla or English to Tamil) but intra-cultural (as between Tamil, Bangla, Kannada). In Tamil, the project has an interesting extension-translation of plays through a production process. The coordinators for the totally decentralized project are: Enakshi Chatterji (Bangla; in Calcutta); Nataraj Hulyar (Kannada; in Bangalore) and D Dilip Kumar and Mangai (Tamil; in Madras). The end of this financial year saw a meeting of the project people to strategize and cooperatively solve problems faced.

**T**he Second All-India' Translation Contest. The success of the First Translation Contest co-sponsored by Katha and the British High

Commission, British Council Division, led to a request from the SHC-BCD for an encore. All the initial work of identifying languages, selecting stories by well-known writers that have not been translated before, obtaining copyright permissions, cataloguing entries, mailing out stories, receiving and acknowledging translations has been completed.

The remaining task we had thought would be comparatively less time-consuming – but we had planned without the postal strike! ... I wish Katha had been able to handle it better. Yet, there were 1700 entries (last year's was 1200) and interest of people has been amazing. I take this opportunity to thank them for their patience, goodwill and participation. It is anticipated that the results will be finalized around end- October, 1996.

Katha has one more exciting project launched this year: The Katha-IIT Delhi Project To be part of the Approaching Literary Translation series, the project is slated to start in the new academic session in July 1996. This year-long project will focus on two books on/about translation/translation theory. Dr Rukmini Bhaya Nair of IIT will be the Project Director.

As a research and resource centre, Katha Vilasam was able to provide stories to the ICC quarterly special issue on Kerala; to Vikas Publishing House

for inclusion in one of their readers; four stories from Katha Prize Stories 5 to Operation Daywork, a NGO from Denmark, for possible inclusion in an anthology of modern Indian literature for Danish high school students. Katha Vilasam has done work as a literary agent, providing information on writers, for recommending texts for studies in, comparative literature, gender studies, Asian literature etc.

**A**s part of Katha Vilasam's efforts to encourage and applaud quality fiction. Katha Vilasam had requested the magazines Aajkal and Hans to help us hold short story writing competitions in Urdu and in Hindi respectively. The results of the Aajkal-Katha Contest have been decided. The Hans-Katha Contest entries have been shortlisted and are in the process of final evaluation. The prize-winning stories will be published in the-respective magazines.

**T**his year being the fifth continuous year of the Katha Awards, we had asked some 3000 Friend of Katha to suggest stories from the languages they read that were world class and needing to break out of the constricting walls of regionalism. Many people responded and the result?

One of the best collections of stories it has been our fortune to felicitate and publish! Award-winners included well-known names like Ambai. U R Anantha Murthy, Asha Bage, Harekrishna Deka and Prabhakaran; and interesting new talents.

**T**he Publishing Cell: A large number of books were released this year, during the World Book Fair, held at New Delhi, in February. 1996.

**Visions-Revisions:** The end product of the First All-India Translation Contest (1993-94). Visions-Revisions was released on July 21 1995. The release function, co-hosted by the British Council, was held in the Library Hall of the British Council Library. Mr Hilary Synott, acting High Commissioner, BHC, released the book and presented the first copy to Ms Devinder Kaur Assa Singh, joint-winner of the contest in the Punjabi section, and one of the oldest participants.

The release function was followed by a high tea. The event was covered by NDTV as the peg for a feature on "the increasing market for translation. It was telecast in a business programme on Zee Television. The book was reviewed by *The Pioneer*, *The Hindu*, *Business Standard*; *Economic Times*, *Indian Review of Books*, *Indian Express*. *Asian Age* and *Deccan*

*Herald* carried extracts from it.

On 16 December 1995, we had a major book release function with the simultaneous release of *Katha Prize Stories 5* along with *Masti*; and *YuvaKatha 1-4* at a well-attended function held in the auditorium of the American Centre.

**Masti:** The first in the Katha Classics series was presented to Shri U R Anantha Murthy by Shri H Y Sharada Prasad. Dr Ramachandra Shanna, the editor of the volume was present. Illustrated by Suddhasatwa Basu and designed by Taposhi Ghoshal, the book has received favourable reviews in *The Pioneer*, the *Indian Review of Books*, *Indian Express* and *Outlook* as well as *Business Standard* and *Biblio*. The *Economic Times* carried a full-page extract from the Masti collection, which included the story, “Ranga’s Marriage.”

**Katha Prize Stories 5:** The eagerly awaited annual event, the *Katha Prize Stories, Volume 5* was released by: Ms Qurratulain Haider, who lauded Katha and Ms Dhannarajan on the exceptional quality of the work that was being done and hoped that soon the Katha Prize Stories would come out in translation in other languages as well.

Owing to the consistently outstanding reviews this volume received in all major

newspapers and journals, the book went into a second printing in 45 days!. and sold extremely well during the World Book Fair, 1996.

**YuvaKatha, vol. 1-4:** Along with Masti and KPS 5, Katha was able to launch an entirely new concept in publishing for young adults, the first four volumes in the series were released by Dr Chitra Naik educationist and Member, Planning Commission.

Planned as a series of twelve books that contain carefully chosen, reader-friendly translations of some of the best short stories from regional languages along with a good selection of original writing in English, the covers have been designed and illustrated by Sujata 31 Singh.

The December book releases were followed by an exciting quiz, open to the audience – based on Indian literature and language. Aably conducted by Bhaskar Bhattacharjee, the enthusiastic participation of those present proved that there is an inherent interest in literature and it needs to be exploited.

Particularly impressive was the performance of Geetanjali Mittal of Class IX (Mother's International School). The first prize went to Dhananjay Kapse, and Anshuman of Kirori Mal College received the second prize.

**YuvaKatha 5-8:** The next four books in the series were released during the World Book Fair in early February 1996.

**The Wordsmiths:** An unusual book in terms of design and content published this year was *The Wordsmiths* – a project that was conceived in and executed during 95-96. *The Wordsmiths* takes the reader into the mind and world of five major writers – U R Anantha Murthy, Bhupen Khakhar, Krishna Sobti, Mahasveta Devi and M T Vasudevan Nair, through interviews, their favourite short story! and a piece of non fiction each.

*The Wordsmiths* was released by the Vice Chancellor of Madras University, Prof P K Ponnuswamy. A copy of the book was presented to Shri K S Padmanabhan of the Madras Book of East-West Books, our distributors (with Rupa & Company).

Katha's participation in the World Book Fair 96 in Delhi, was the high point of February, 1996. We put all the money we had to producing books – six of them! Contacts were established with a number of educational institutions, centres for adult literacy, primary education and some foreign publishing houses.

The KathaNet expanded considerably during the fair as a large number of people entered their names in the Friends of Katha register. Some have already become

involved in Kathavilasam's activities.

Books were also sent to Bologna book Fair, courtesy Sunandan of NBT and international marketing was launched in a small way on Internet.

Setbacks have included people leaving us, people we loved working with; and loss of the book on Vyankatesh Madhulkar for the Katha Classics series. It is hoped that at some later date a new editor may be found to undertake this assignment. Our marketing has not been as good as it should have been, for, though we had excellent reviews, the books have not always been as visible as they should have been. Katha Vilasam has had its share of missed deadlines, too.

Thank You! There were so many, many people who were with us right through this year. Special mention is being made here of:

Quarratulain Haider, U R Anantha Murthy, H Y Sharada Prasad, Chitra Naik, Bhaskar Bhattacharya, Sushil Ansal, the Kamataka government, the Masti Trust and Shri Lakshman, M S Subbulakshmi, K S Padmanabhan and affiliated East-West Press, the Madras Book Club. Geeta and Rajiv Chandran, Vice Chancellor of Madras University,

Shri K P Ponnuswamy, Bhupen Khakhar, C T Indra, the faculty & research students of the English department of Madras University, Gita Krishnankutty, Sadanand Menon, N S Jagannathan, Ashokamitran, Vasanthi, Kalyani Dutta, Enakshi Chatterjee, Upendra Nanavati, Krishna Sobti, Mahasweta Devi, M T Vasudevan Nair, Prasanna, Ganesh Devy, Babli Moitra Saraf, Tarun Bhartiya, Jayeeta Sharma, Pratibha Ray, Indira Goswami, Moti Nandy, Rajendra Yadav, J Birje-Patil, Muhammad Umar Memon, Lakshmi Holmstrom, Dilip Kumar, Sara Rai, Makarand Paranjape, Hilary Synnott, Richard Walker, Rajni Badlani, K Ramanathan, the British Council, Usha Balakrishnan, Joanne and David Krecke, USIS, Delhi, Anmol Vellani and Sharada Ramanathan, the Ford Foundation, Sujata Singh, Taposhi Ghoshal, Neeraj & Pallavi Sahai, Shuddhasatwa Basu, Atanu Roy, Sonia Gandhi and the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, the Sahitya Akademi, Crossword, Mitra Phukan, K Satchidanandan, Meera Warriar, Vijayalakshmi Quereshi, Purabi Panwar, Sharad Chandra, Ira Pande, Abrar Rahmani, S R Kidwai.

I would also like to thank many others, unnamed here, who have been good Friends of Katha. Thank you!

**R**eviews of books published between April 1995 and March 96:

**Visions-Revisions** Edited by Keerti Ramachandra (July 1995)

• **The Financial Times:**

"[This] is the extremely successful result of Katha's all-India Translation Contest ... the printed results feel immensely earthy and Indian."

• **The Pioneer:**

"The stories are rich in themes - human relationships, a haunted house, a mystery – and of course rich in terms of the culture they present. Together they bring us the magic that is India."

• **The Indian Express:**

"This major endeavour is a step in the right direction ... This reader-friendly effort ... caters to the discerning and woos a new breed of readers."

• **Business Standard:**

Winning Collection ... This was the first time that a competition of this magnitude was held for translators.

**Masti Venkatesa Iyengar.**

Katha Classics series. Translated and Edited by Ramachandra Sharma (December 1995).

• **Business Standard**

"Grandpa's Tales ... The first of the Katha



Classics does not belie expectations.”

- **Indian Review of Books:** "Masterly Rendition ... For those of us who are familiar with the series, Katha Prize Stories, this wonderful collection of short stories by the Jnanpith award-winning writer, Masti, comes as no surprise. This collection measures up to the high standards of excellence set by the earlier titles ... The layout, the colour of the paper, the choice of types are all rather unique and contribute in no small measure to the pleasure of reading these stories. Living in a world of post-modernism, wherein we are confronted by a seeming crisis of meaning, it is refreshing to read Masti's stories:

- **Biblio:** "Old world charm ... Elegantly produced in hardcover, Katha Classics are designed to endure."

- **The Pioneer:** " ... an immensely enjoyable, readable and gentle book."

**Yuvakatha**, (Volumes 1-4. Edited by Geeta Dharmarajan, Dec. 1995, Volumes 5 - 8. Edited by Keerti Ramachandra, Feb. 1996)

- **Biblio:** "Heady tales ... an interesting selection that this over the hill adult enjoyed reading. Katha has been doing a fine job of bringing us the best of fiction in Indian languages. Wonderful stuff."

- **The Hindu:** "Tales of, well, innocence ... an effort which is both aesthetically satisfying and politically correct."

- **Indian Review Books:** "The Yuvakatha series not only recognizes the existence of young adults but also creates a forum that will impart greater identity to them. More importantly it may sensitize the adult world to the literary and intellectual requirement of the young ones ... a rich fare of aesthetic excellence ..."

**Katha Prize Stories 5.** Edited by Geeta Dharmarajan and Meenakshi Shanna, December 1995. [Seventh on the list of bestsellers in both the *Indian Review of Books* and names of *India*

- **India Today:** "Choice Stories: Another triumph for Katha ... This collection of 15 stories is one of the nicest New Year gifts anyone can give you. For the past five years, Katha has been publishing English translations of what it calls the best stories written in India over the past year. Each 34 volume has proved that they have devised the best strategy for picking out the winners"

- **Business Standard:** "Hand-picked gems ... Katha is doing yeoman service by bringing out such a volume every year."

- **The Economic Times:** "A rich fare of intriguing Indian short stories ... The publication of the yeally collection of the Katha Prize- stories is an event anxiously awaited by discerning readers, writers, and translators ... Katha's endeavour, however, remains a solitary only and therefore commendable. Katha, a not-for-profit publication house, has even persuaded some private entrepreneurs to invest in its efforts. Perhaps more business houses should follow the lead taken by ITOG, the East India Hotels Ltd., and the Ansals.

- **Outlook:** ... a rewarding experience for the reader ... the choice of stories has been made with admirable circumspection."

**The Wordsmiths** Edited by Meenakshi Sharma, March 1996.

- **India Today:** "This delightful collection from Katha ... provide[s] the reader with a fairly comprehensive portrait of the writer ... at the end of each story there is a sense of oneness with the author 'and pride that there is in every part of India a living tradition of creative energy."

- **Business Standard:** "Many Spendoured Tales ... The quality of the interviews is remarkable ... Katha's profile seems to be the best ... for its sheer

variety, vitality, sensitive insights, and the interest it sustains through the entire read."

- **The Hindu:** "A Telling Tale ... The book, in short, is studded with gems from writers who are known for their excellence."

- **The Economic Times:** "Wordsmiths is one more success story of Katha ... a venture exciting enough to be hailed as the 'future' of Indian publishing and a laudable act of bridge-building.

**Conclusion:** As the council is aware, our accounts have been audited promptly and regularly each year and presented each year to the AGM and subsequently to the Income-Tax Department. Returns have been filed till 1994-95.

I am happy to inform the Council that we have excellent financial support from A.P. Transcontinental, an organization headed by Dr Mritunjaya Athreya and Shyam Ponnappa. Shyam has been always there for us and his voluntary help has been more than welcome to us! Thank you Shyam.

**OTHER DETAILS:** Katha has the following permissions:

The **80G** from the Income Tax Authorities that grants tax exemptions for all donations made to the organization. Also the **12A** exemption.

The **FCRA** which allows foreign contributions to be made to Katha.

Our work has been made possible by funding from various donor organizations. We are very happy to have them as partners.

**Kalpavriksham:**

Our workshops were made possible by a grant by IGSSS and we especially thank Sonali Bist for her co-operation.

The Katha Vachak books' were supported by Government of India and we thank them for the same.

The Katha School of Entrepreneurship was made possible by ILO, the International Labour Organization. And we thank the officers of the organization for the grant.

**Katha Vilasam:** We thank The Friends of Katha for their constant support and friendship. And our editors for helping us maintain our quality. Mr Rajan Mehra and Mr K S Padmanabhan for marketing our books. Our reviewers and the newspaper/magazine editors. The printers, binders and other people involved in the act of editing, producing and publishing.

**A**nd last, but not least, a sincere and heartfelt word of thanks from one member of the team to others of the team, the family that is called Katha. I mean here,

All the people who have worked with me through this year all the teachers, the other staff members of Katha-Khazana.

Our administrative staff, including Jose and Sarnam, Harswaroop and Raju; and especially, Shalini Gupta, Manjeet and Poonam of the Accounts Department for conscientious and dedicated work;

Dinesh Sharma; and all the people who have been on short-term assignments with us on various Kalpana work. Our Design Unit under the creative leadership of Arvinder Chawla. And our production unit and Ganeshan especially. Our desk top publishing unit, and Suresh and Sandeep.

And the Katha Vilasam team headed by Keerti Ramachandra who has been much more than a just a colleague, and Meenakshi Sharma; also Kaveri, Madhavi, Mridula and others who have been consultants with us on various projects. A BIG Thank You to all my colleagues. Katha has done it because we have been in this together!

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