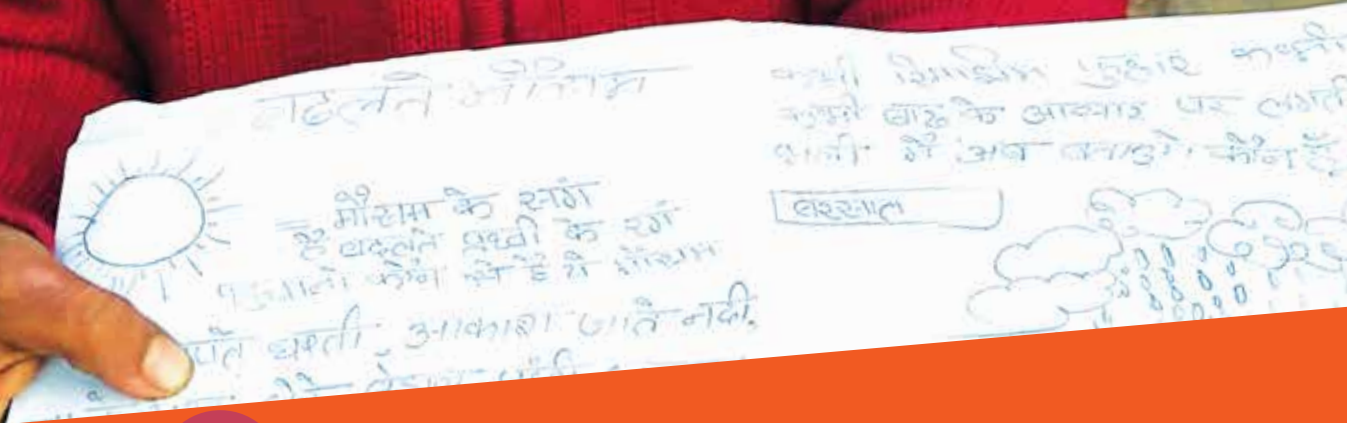


creating a nation where every  
**child  
reads!**



**KATHA**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S  
REPORT 2016-17



“There is a huge need for effective reading in India; nearly 50% of our children in schools cannot read well. This seriously affects their ability to stay in school and become contributing members of society. Katha is on a mission to change things for our children. Bringing reading to every child and thereby building a nation where every child counts means uniting with like-minded people and organizations, and supplementing the government’s effort.”

– Ms Geeta Dharmarajan, Founder-President, Katha

Dear Friends,

We started the year 2016-17 with mixed feelings - excitement coupled with concern. The excitement of looking at our many wonderful children who redefine what’s possible by the minute, and with a deep concern over the enormity of challenges that lie ahead of us, the obstacles that most children in India still face in reading and learning.

A UNESCO report in early 2016 pointed to the fact that despite efforts on the part of the Government and its civil society partners, children in India are still battling their inability to read, and India would be half a century late in achieving its universal education goals. Out of the 300 million primary school-going children in India, 50% cannot read well! The worrisome findings of the report brought about a moment of reflection for us. We wondered whether we have done enough, particularly when so many of our children are struggling to read as we speak...? What does the future hold for these children? What more can be done for them? Have we truly reached as many children as we possibly can? These questions begged answers and these thoughts spurred our efforts to do better, do more, and reach deeper into the sections of the population that needed us.

After a lot of critical thinking and soul-searching, Katha’s Founder-President Ms Geeta Dharmarajan ideated and initiated the 300 MILLION CHALLENGE, a nation-wide campaign to bring all 5-10 year old children into reading for fun and for meaning at an early age so they do well in school and are prepared to bring change to themselves and society, leading to sustainability for the people and the planet. Through the year, we partnered with other like-minded organizations that are committed to the cause, and helped them leverage individual strengths and expertise to bring every child to the road to reading.

Today, we’re at a watershed moment. The valuable learning that we have gleaned over the past three decades only drives us to expand and excel for a better future for all our children. Bringing the 300 million school-going children into the ambit of reading is a mammoth task that requires sustained efforts and resources. Our need for support, both from the Government and from our partners, will be greater in the coming years - we have to think of ways to innovate, strengthen and grow this programme. As we realise the magnitude of our efforts, we are only humbled. And we know that together with our supporters and partners we can be more innovative and achieve our mission in a strategic manner.

We are thankful to the many hands that stretched out to support us both financially and morally. But the enormity of our programme always necessitates the support of contributors, mainly from the perspective of sustainability. We realise that we wouldn’t have come this far without the support of those who helped us along these years - be it donors, volunteers, governments, our own teams, and our beloved writers, illustrators and translators. Our special thanks go out to them.

We are also extremely grateful to GuideStar India for honouring us with the GuideStar India NGO Transparency Award 2016. Katha has been rooted in the ethos of transparency and accountability, and getting an award for something that all of us at Katha live by, makes the Award extra special.

I would personally like to thank our Founder-President, Ms Geeta Dharmarajan, under whose illustrious leadership we have been marching ahead with a clarity of purpose. She constantly inspires us to better the best that we can do for our children.

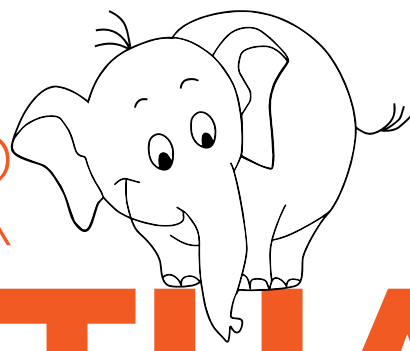
On behalf of Katha, I present you the Annual Report for the year 2016-17 with the aim to give you the crux of our programmes, our reach, our progresses and plans, our achievements and our financial credentials. With the hope that your support towards millions of children will continue during this journey, I also invite new members to join our cause and help us meet the 300 Million Challenge in a speedy and efficient manner. Let us actively be involved in building a society of hope and promise. Let us together be the reason for relevant and responsive education and reading for all our children - regardless of which side of the many divides they’re on!

*Cordially*

*Parvinder*

Parvinder Kaur  
Executive Director, Katha

# OUR KATHA



## AN ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

Our “Katha” started in 1988, when our first volunteer found a friend – a fat and friendly elephant called Tamasha. Tamasha has set the fun and friendly tone and culture since then, helping make Katha the storytellers for the nation.

We at Katha endeavour to spread the joy of reading, knowing, and living, amongst children and adults, the common reader and the neo-literate. Formally registered as a society on 8 September 1989, Katha has striven to establish a code of excellence in all that it does, to enhance the quality of life in every project it has attempted. A non-profit organization, Katha works with equal dedication and commitment through well-defined programmes in areas of literacy, and education; in literature, culture and translation.

### CREDO

Uncommon  
creativities for a  
common good.

### VISION

No child will  
live in poverty –  
social, personal,  
intellectual, cultural,  
or environmental.

### MISSION

To enhance the joy of reading for children and adults, thereby helping every child realize his or her full potential. To combat social injustice and poverty through active story-based learning, quality education and community action.

## OUR CORE STRATEGIES

Provide high-quality, holistic education to underprivileged children using innovative methods that make learning fun and relevant. Actively help children attain grade-level reading skills, stay in school and complete their education.



Train teachers to use child-centric methods to creatively engage children in learning.



Mobilize communities to solve local issues and support all children going to school.



Transform government schools into vibrant learning spaces that deliver quality education to all children.



Publish and disseminate beautiful storybooks that celebrate India’s rich cultural heritage and entice children to read.



# OUR INNOVATIONS

## → KREAD (KATHA RELEVANT EDUCATION FOR ALL ROUND DEVELOPMENT)

Our philosophy that education must be relevant to the lives of children and must empower them to solve real-life problems by bringing community challenges - water and sanitation, health, education - into the classrooms.

## → SPICE

Our education model promotes multidimensional growth in children to overcome five poverties - Social, Personal, Intellectual, Cultural and Environmental.

## → STORY PEDAGOGY AND ACTIVE STORY BASED LEARNING

Our innovative teaching methods that use storybooks, not textbooks, to help children learn standard national curriculum and encourage them to Think, Ask, Discuss and Act!

## → VIDUNIYA

Our method of integrated-subject, theme-based learning. Each year we choose a new theme and our teachers link all academic and co-curricular lesson plans and activities to this theme. They also coordinate activities across subjects, creating a seamless learning experience for children.

## → KATHA TOOLKIT

We train our teachers to use a variety of teaching tools to engage children and make learning a fun experience through music, dance, theatre, discussion, debate and surveys.



# THE 300 MILLION CHALLENGE

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*creating a nation where every child counts*

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According to a UNESCO report of September 2016, "India will be half a century late in achieving its universal education goals." Hence, we will achieve universal primary education only by 2050, universal lower secondary education only by 2060, and universal upper secondary education only by 2085.

Without a reading population, India will be unable to sustain a strong rate of growth. In a country like India, it is a monumental task to ensure that every child is reading for fun and for meaning... a task that the government cannot accomplish alone.

This is where Katha steps in... We try to work closely with like-minded organizations and people to ensure a nation where child counts. We strive to improve reading levels in hundreds of thousands of children with the help of volunteers.

...the inability to read hits India's poorest the hardest; it leads to entrenched poverty

01

...every child must have a strong foundation in reading irrespective on which side of the social divide she's on

02

...if all early learners read well, they will do well in school and be prepared to bring positive change to all

03

...the fate of a child's future rests on reading

04

...on not just being able to read but read for fun and for meaning.

05



**WE  
BELIEVE**

# THE HOWS AND WHYS

## Of Bringing India's 300 Million into Reading

What needs to be achieved to build a sustainable future for all our children is well known. The question is how to achieve it. That's why we have a multi-pronged strategy that looks at the problem from every angle and at every level.

### CORPORATE PARTNERS



### STRATEGIC PARTNERS



- 01 WE DEFINE THE PROBLEM**  
We define and quantify the problem in order to find effective solutions.
- 02 WE ARE DISRUPTIVE**  
We strive to be innovative – faster, more frugal, more far-reaching and efficient.
- 03 WE LEAP!**  
We Leverage, Advocate and Partner, with like-minded organizations and people, so all children and adults can make Reading as Inclusive Public Learning.
- 04 WE BELIEVE THAT CONTENT IS QUEEN!**  
We publish innovative content for varying reading proficiencies to aid the development of reading and learning and offer inclusive access to content.
- 05 WE BRING IN GRASSROOTS AND CIVIL SOCIETY VOLUNTEERS**  
We involve dedicated volunteers who spread the spirit of reading and progress all over India.
- 06 WE STRENGTHEN THE GOVERNMENT SYSTEM**  
We bolster government efforts by bringing good society volunteers to help bring equitable quality to all.
- 07 WE USE TECH AS LEVER**  
We equip children (and their parents/teachers) with technology-friendly learning, so that they can understand and find solutions for challenges.
- 08 WE WORK ON SCALE**  
We leverage our individual and collective strengths and expertise, so every child can read well, for fun and meaning.
- 09 WE EXAMINE AND EVALUATE**  
We relentlessly ask ourselves tough questions, to find answers of greater impact and resonance.

5,01,353  
BENEFICIARIES  
REACHED

3,52,209  
CHILDREN  
IMPACTED

27,367  
WOMEN  
MOBILIZED

657  
TEACHERS  
TRAINED

783  
CHILDREN  
COMPLETED  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
COURSES

2,000  
YOUTH  
VOLUNTEERS

502  
COMMUNITIES  
IMPACTED

18  
NEW BOOKS  
PUBLISHED

124  
KATHA BOOKS  
RECOMMENDED  
BY CBSE AND  
NCERT

424  
BOOKS PUBLISHED  
BY KATHA TILL  
DATE

NOMINATED FOR  
ASTRID LINDGREN  
MEMORIAL  
AWARD 2016  
FOR CHILDREN'S  
LITERATURE

AWARDED GOLD  
CERTIFICATE FOR  
TRANSPARENCY  
BY GUIDESTAR  
INDIA

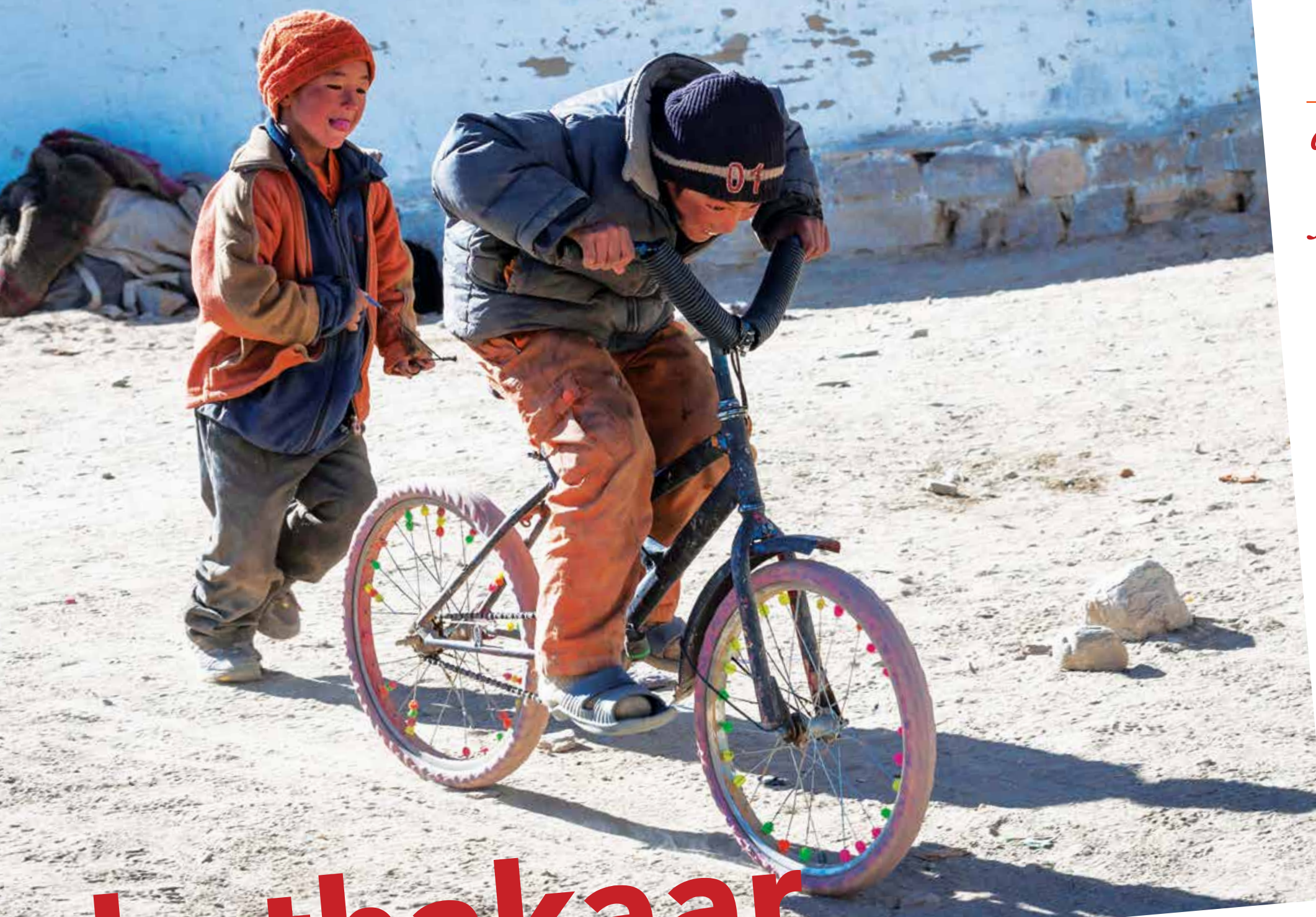
2016-17  
THE YEAR THAT WAS





# katha vilasam

the story research  
and resource centre



## *diverse and inclusive books for all children*

Katha has always believed that books play a very crucial role in everyone's life. Still a large population of children in our country struggle to read - a significant proportion of them being first-generation readers. Education of these first-generation readers is complex and challenging. It requires substantially higher commitment and a lot more work. While a wide range of reading material is available to them, it is usually written in a style that is incomprehensible and intimidating. Stories, poems and other literature are not available to a large number of readers with low levels of reading abilities.

In an endeavour to bridge this gap and to draw first-generation readers into the ambit of reading for fun and for meaning, Katha's children's books that focus on Girls, Earth, Equity, Kindness, empower children to forge ahead on their way to reading whilst mastering the challenges of today and shape the world of tomorrow. These books with their high-quality content, and design and layout that match the learning needs of these children, and brings the best of India's 2000 years of literary heritage, from the classical to the contemporary for shared and guided reading, attempt to reach the unreached child at an affordable price - a Katha way to democratize reading and education!

# kathakaar

18

New Books  
Published

62,300

Copies of Children's  
Books Reprinted

124

Katha Books  
Recommended by  
CBSE and NCERT

5

Times Nominated for  
the Astrid Lindgren  
Memorial Award, in  
2010, 2013, 2014,  
2015, 2016!

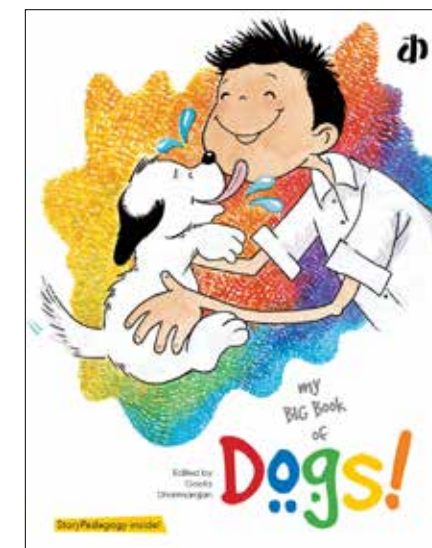
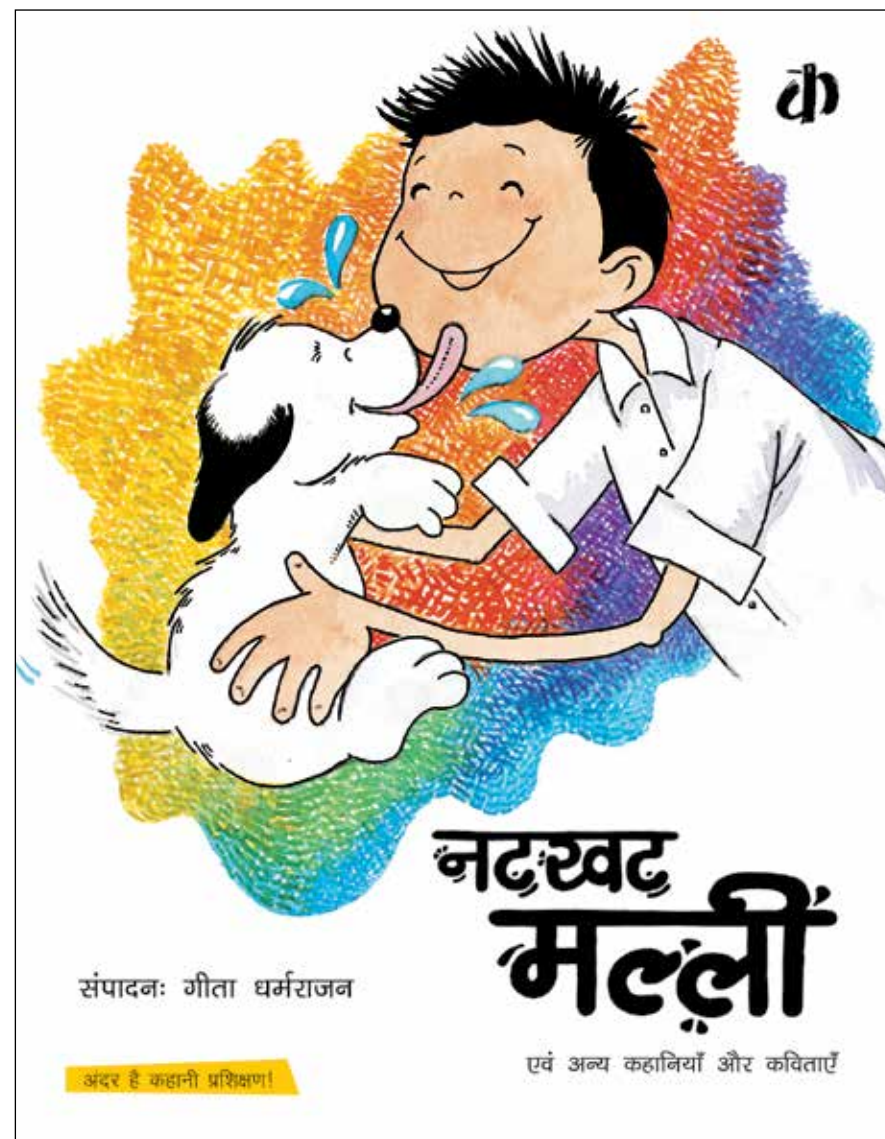


TAKE OFF TO  
READING!

Today, more than ever, children need diverse, inclusive and inspiring books – books that celebrate kindness and compassion. From exuberant poetry to thought-provoking stories, Katha, in the year 2016-17, published books that open windows to cultures around the world and mirror the experiences of all children.

## THINKBOOK SERIES

A series that draws the attention of young minds to big ideas such as kindness, climate change, gender, etc., these anthologies of fiction, non-fiction and poetry pieces are designed for easy reading and reference with illustrations, cartoons and photographs.



### MY BIG BOOK OF DOGS

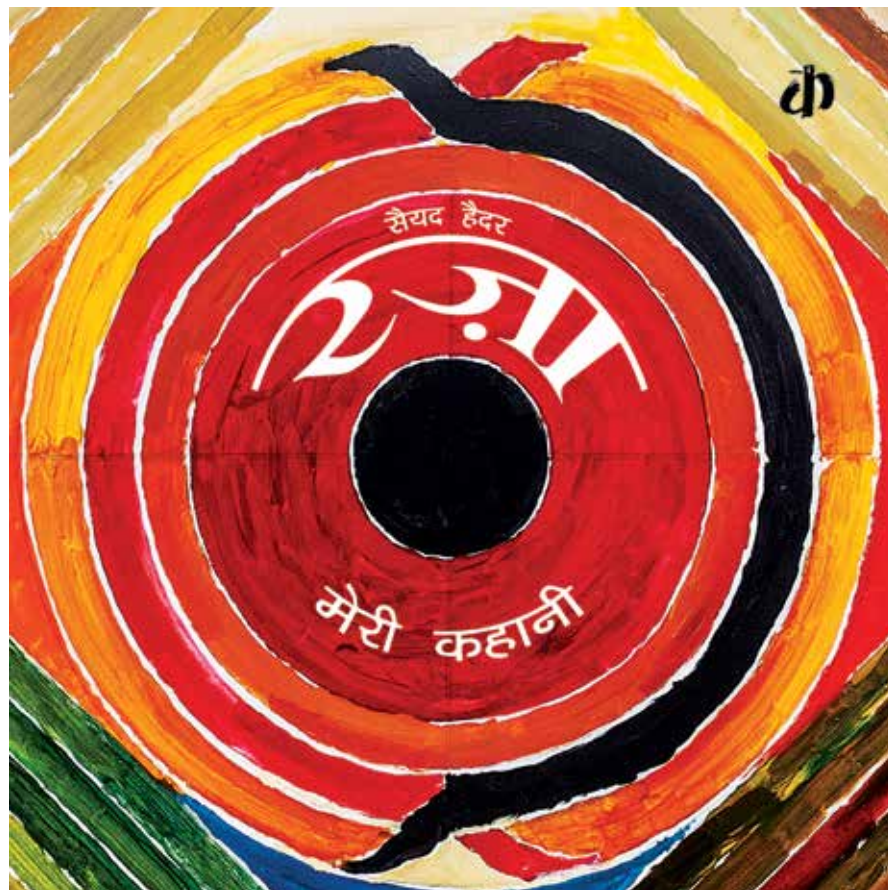
**Edited by Geeta Dharmarajan**

Wet noses, wagging tails, gentle licks, warm nuzzles – can life ever be the same without our canine companions? Here's a book that celebrates dogs, and gives us just one more reason to be thankful for the awesomeness they bring into our lives!

## ART AND POETRY SERIES

A Katha way of introducing young minds to our rich art and poetry heritage, this unique series leads children into a world of aesthetic sensibilities of some of the most renowned poets and artists. It generates amongst them awareness about art, artists and poets, enhances visual literacy, and gives children a more inclusive idea of art and culture.

The first book in the series that introduces children to one of the most important artists of our times, SH Raza, was brought out by Katha, with generous support from The Raza Foundation.



### RAZA BY RAZA

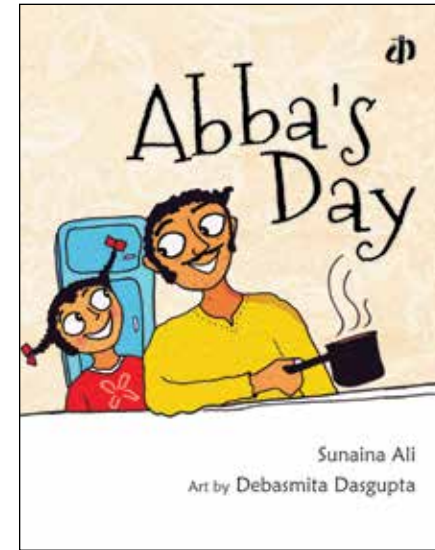
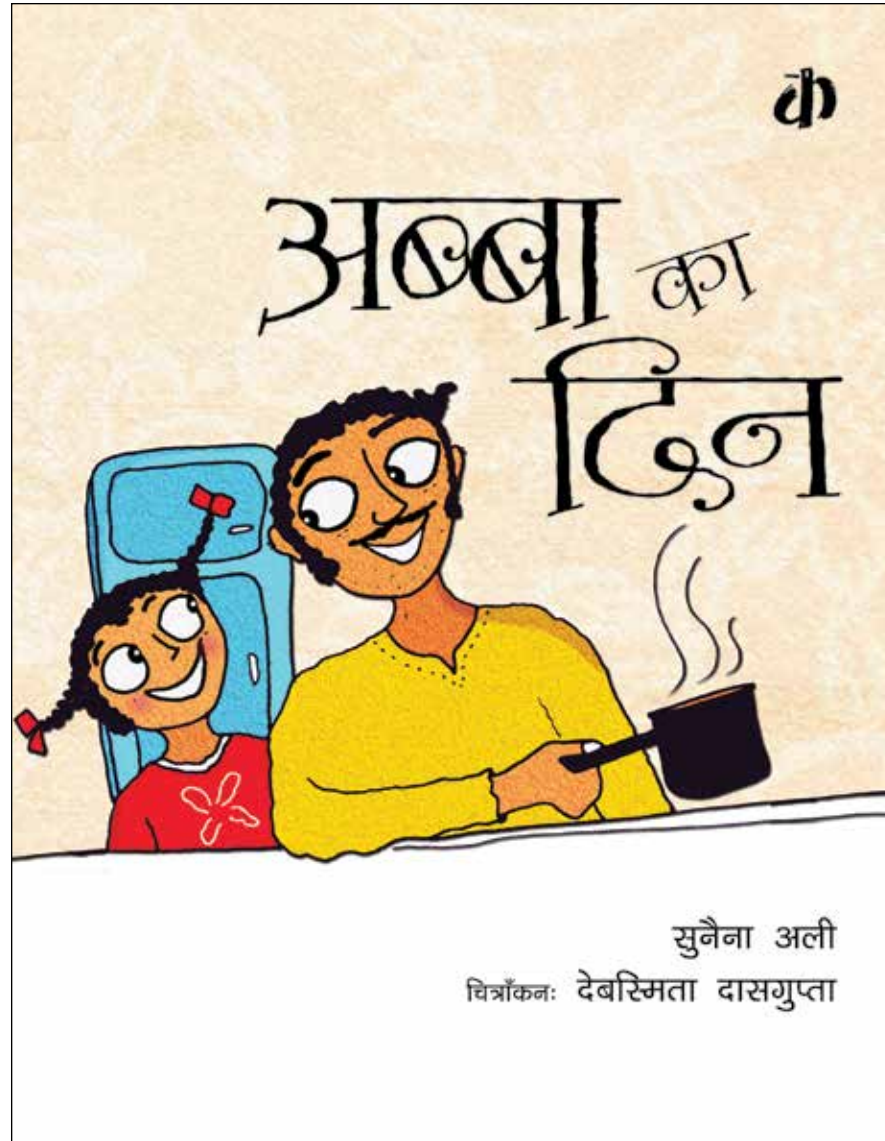
**Sayed Haider Raza**

With a narrative that will entertain art lovers of all ages, here's a fun way to introduce young readers to all the colours of SH Raza's life. The book combines simple text with spectacular reproductions of many of his important works.

## I LOVE READING SERIES

A one-of-a-kind series that brings new/diffident readers into sustainable learning. The books in this series help increase young readers' ability to read and to understand BIG Ideas for change; how to put them to work to break gender and other stereotypes.



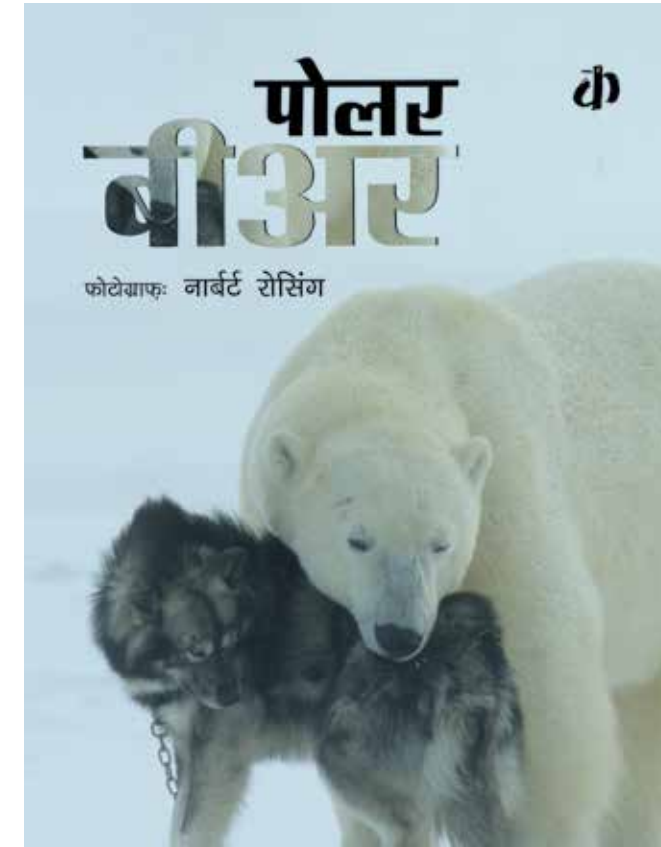


## ABBA'S DAY

**Sunaina Ali**

**Art by Debasmita Dasgupta**

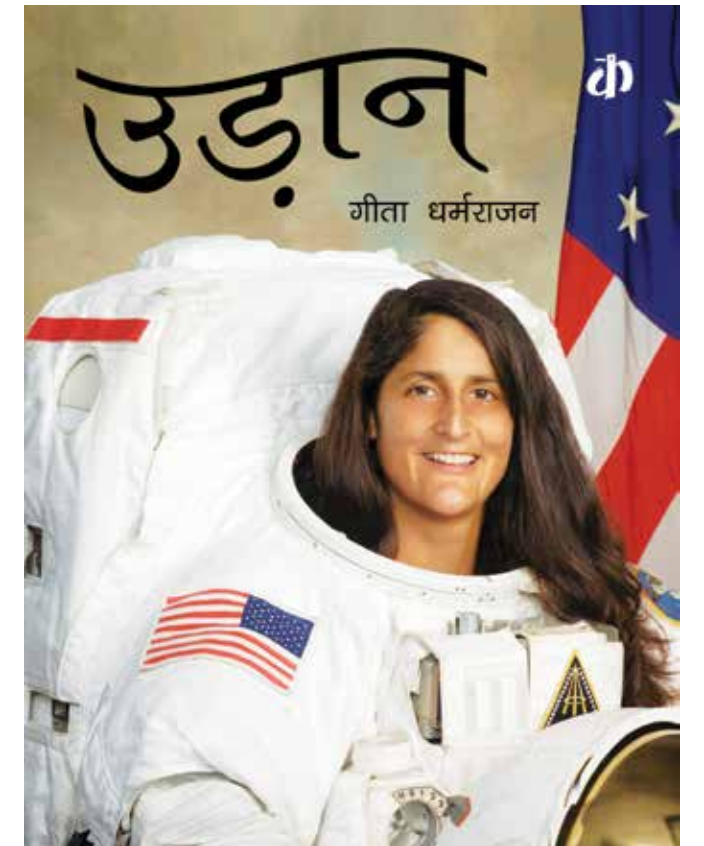
Ayesha's favourite day is Sunday, for it's her Abba's day. Come, let's find out what happens at Ayesha's home every Sunday and what makes it so special!



## POLAR BEAR

**Photos by Norbert Rosing**

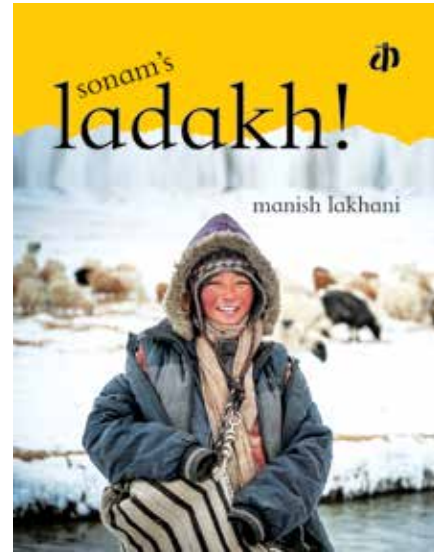
An adorable tale about a most unlikely friendship, and a perfect prezzie for the little ones!



## FLYING HIGH!

**Geeta Dharmarajan**

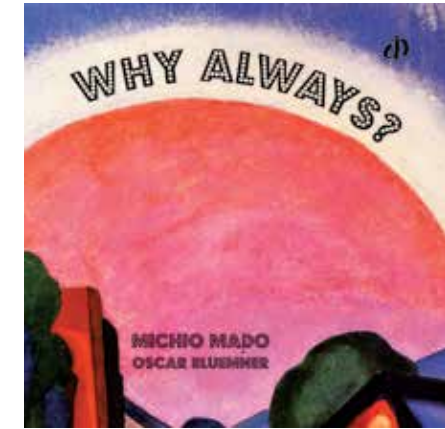
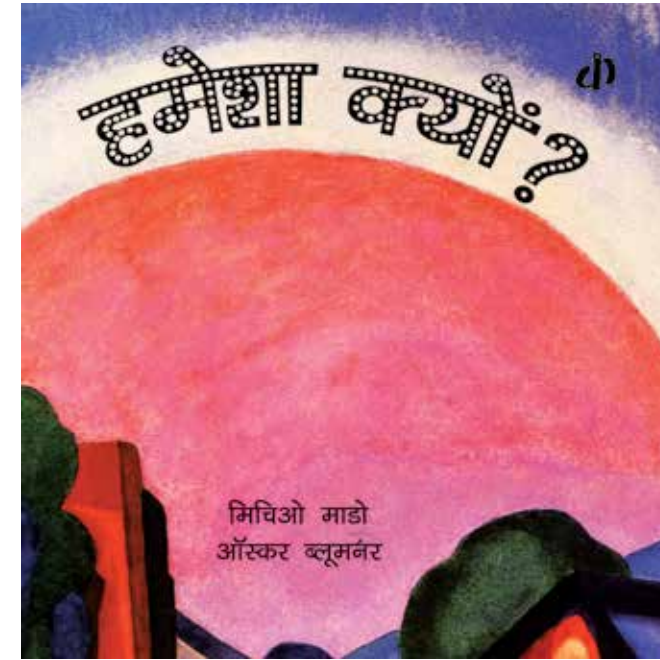
Meet Suni Pandya, a girl who wanted to fly ... a girl who, with her sheer determination and hard work, reached for the stars!



## SONAM'S LADAKH

Photos by Manish Lakhani

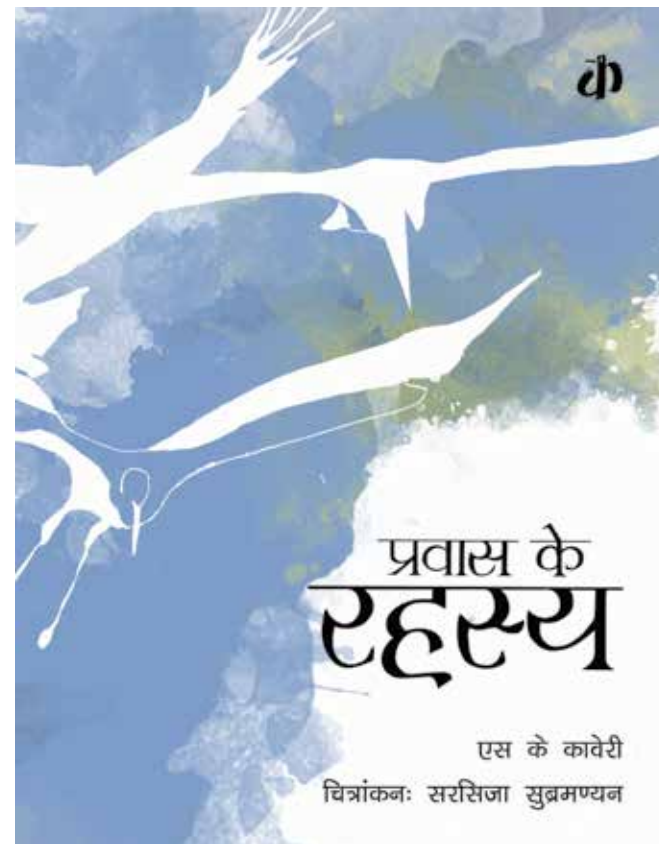
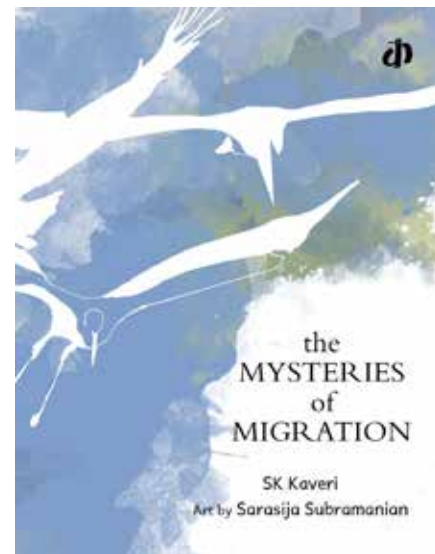
Do some armchair travelling and journey through the magical land of Ladakh with your little friend, Sonam!



## WHY ALWAYS?

Michio Mado  
Art by Oscar Bluemner

A beautiful poem that tells us how if we take a precious moment to 'really look' at our natural world, we can find and share powerful moments of beauty and inspiration. A wonderful showcase of some of the most inspiring works of Oscar Bluemner, too!



## THE MYSTERIES OF MIGRATION

Geeta Dharmarajan | Art by Sarasija Subramanian

Some birds, animals and insects travel thousands of miles away from home, and then travel back again a few months later. Why do they take this journey? How do they know where to go? How do they find their way back home? Read this book and find out about migration and its great mysteries!



## TIGERS FOREVER!

Ruskin Bond  
Art by David Stribbling

A thoughtful piece of work by one of the finest storytellers of our times, this wonderful poem blends nature and adventure, mystery and suspense, humour and fantasy - brought alive by the awe-inspiring art of David Stribbling!



happy  
news!

The year 2016-17 brought us our share of good cheer and recognitions. We are beyond grateful to all our supporters who showed belief in our aspirations!

nominated for a fifth time for the astrid lindgren memorial award

Katha was nominated for a fifth time for the most coveted award in children's literature – the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award (ALMA). ALMA rewards works or activities of the highest quality but the laureates must also embrace the humanistic values that Astrid Lindgren treasured. The nominees were suggested by more than a hundred organisations from all over the world, and Katha was one of them!

big little book awards 2016

Katha illustrator and long-time friend Atanu Roy won the Big Little Book Awards 2016! A first in India, the Big Little Book Awards seek to recognize and honour significant contribution of Indian illustrators to children's literature.

the hindu young world-goodbooks award 2017

The first book in the Katha-Srishti Story Lab, *Aamu's Kawandi* by Shrujana Niranjani Shridhar, was nominated for The Hindu Young World-Goodbooks Award 2017 in the illustrator's category!

*"Thank you for a wonderful visit. It has been a pleasure to see your impressive work. Best of luck!"*

**– The Jury of ALMA**



# kalpavriksham

the centre for  
sustainable learning





# katha lab school

## *not a school, a life coach*

Education can only bring about change effectively if it is relevant, and that means it must build character and a worldview. With this thought and spirit, Katha Lab School was established in 1990, with just five children. Over the years, it has become a model for high-performing schools that redefine what is possible for children from low-income communities, and has the power and the potential to drive wider systemic reforms. An inclusive learning environment where children can grow into individuals who are sensitive, empathetic, and accepting of differences - be it language, culture or ability, Katha Lab School lays the ground for delivering forward-looking education and helps children keep abreast with the ever-changing world.

The School also works towards imparting entrepreneurship and computer training to students, as well as professional skills development for young professionals and marginalized women from the local communities, part-time academic support to students enrolled in other schools and quality education to children from crèche to Class 12, including children with special needs.

Katha Lab School is built on the philosophy of relevant, holistic development. To ensure we cater to all-round development of children in the school experience, we have created a five-point approach:

- 1 PROGRESSIVE PEDAGOGY
- 2 EMPOWERING EDUCATORS
- 3 STAKEHOLDERS AS PARTNERS
- 4 MAXIMIZING POTENTIALS.  
MAXIMIZING RESOURCES
- 5 ACCOUNTABILITY TO LEARNING



*“Thank you for showing us the terrific work of Katha. The attitude of children and the staff was inspirational.”*

**– Ms Amanda Horton Martin, Comic Relief**



## Crèche

Katha believes in giving children limitless opportunities to learn through imagination, creativity and play, while offering parents the peace of mind that comes from knowing that their children are receiving care of the highest standards in a safe, healthy and stimulating environment, and the older siblings the freedom and opportunity to attend classes. The Katha Lab School crèche caters to children 0-3 years of age.

*“What a lovely bright colourful school. It is great to see the children being encouraged to be creative. And very motivated and energetic teachers. Well done!”*  
**– Mr Mark Westenra, New Zealand High Commission**

# from education to excellence

The various components that define Katha Lab School while setting it apart from the rest, are:



## Phulwadi

Katha has always believed in inclusivity, and a special programme at Katha Lab School is dedicated to Children with Special Needs (CWSN). The programme focuses on overall development of differently abled children. In Phulwadi, functional education is imparted along with parallel intervention using allied therapies depending on the needs of the child.



## K-12

A full-time school for children of all ages, covering grades 1 through 12. In addition, Kala Nivas, our four arts centre for music, dance, theatre and fine arts, hones the creative skills of children. The sports wing of Katha Lab School Katha Josh, offers children a range of sports facilities.



## Katha English Academy (KENGA)

A specialized academy at Katha Lab School that increases the employability prospect of youth from underprivileged backgrounds by training them in conversational as well as written English.



## Katha Student Support Centre (KSSC):

A specialized centre that helps students who have moved into formal schools. Mostly they get into government schools which have a low student-teacher ratio. Hence, individual attention on which they thrive in Katha Lab School is missing. Katha makes up for this by providing tutorials to students, thus helping them to stay on in school.



## Katha School of Entrepreneurship (KSE)

In making learning relevant to real-life so that there is transition from learning to applying, Katha School of Entrepreneurship is a one-of-a-kind learning centre, which has ideation, innovation and entrepreneurship at its core. It endeavours to radically transform the content and context of real-life education for children through various skill-development courses certified by Ministry of Human Resource Development as well as National Institute of Open Schooling.



## Katha IT and e-Commerce School (KITES)

The centre offers quality IT education to children as well as the men and women from the communities to enhance opportunities for them. This innovative centre has proven to be one of the most successful and unique projects in Delhi's slums.



## Katha Social Work Institute (KaSWI)

A centre that helps children understand social issues and embrace active citizenship through the integrated poverty reduction activities, community action, awareness campaigns and surveys.



curriculum for

life

An integrated, well-rounded approach to quality learning and exploration forms the bedrock of Katha's educational philosophy. Our vision revolves around the creation of a curious, creative, happy environment where we develop, harness, and polish the inbuilt abilities of the future citizens in the making. Our progressive methodology, honed for over three decades, ensures a learning environment that enables every child to excel, find and follow their passion to fulfil their potential and become the best they can be.

# vidduniya, our teaching framework

The theme for the academic year 2016-17 at Katha Lab School was 'Kal, Aaj Aur Kal: Free, Fair and Fearless India'.

All classroom activities, modules and lesson plans were developed around this theme. Children learnt to appreciate the many tribes in India and the world, their habitat, ethnicity, culture, beliefs, arts and crafts. They also learnt about tribal model houses, jewellery, herbarium, bookmarks, totems, seals, masks, etc.

The main ideas covered through the academic curriculum were as follows:



# 1

## LAND AND CONTROL OVER RESOURCES

Concepts of area and density, Zamindari system, money lending and interest. Scientific and geographical concepts like flora and fauna, rain, ecosystem, floods and natural calamities, etc.

# 2

## CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNMENT

Constitutional rights of the tribals, government schemes and programmes, denotified tribes, tribal history from pre-historic to modern times, tribals under the British rule.

# 3

## DISPLACEMENT AND MIGRATION

Tribal migration, factors of migration, consequences of migration, patterns and coping mechanism, atrocities and exclusion.

# 4

## GOOD HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Tribal habitats and health sciences, nutrition and diseases, food chart, herbal medicine and their methods.

# 5

## ARTS AND CULTURE

Food culture, dance, arts and crafts, festivals and rituals, utensils, tools, etc.

# 6

## TODAY'S CHILD TOMORROW'S LEADER

The education of the Adivasi child population. Are we neglecting these children, the future agents of change? The issues and challenges in education of Adivasi children - dropouts, language, curriculum and incentives.

# 7

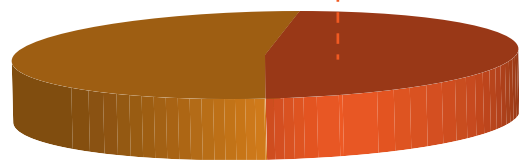
## ADIVASI ACTIVISM

Constitutional provisions for the Adivasis, land rights of tribal populations, constitutional amendments and rights, the role of the United Nations, NGOs advocating tribal rights. The overall impact of developmental projects across the country on the Adivasis has often been loss of livelihood, massive displacement, and involuntary migration. Children critically examined how Adivasis are affected and what needs to be done to protect their interests.

# numbers that matter

**1350**

**New enrollments through the year**

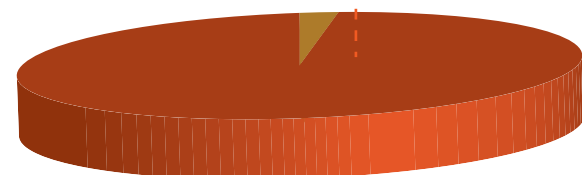


**48%**

Girls enrolled

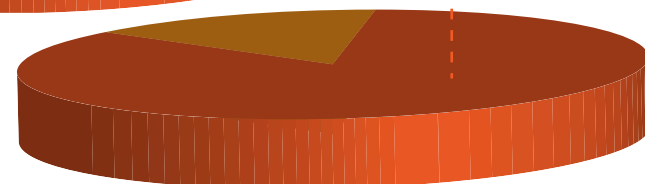
**93%**

Total attendance



**98%**

Total retention

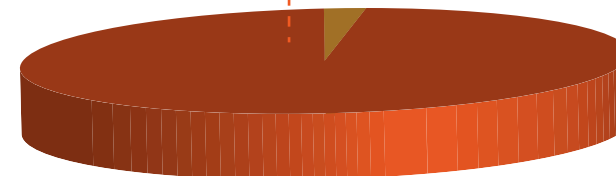


**85%**

of the 356 students who completed IT Professional Courses from Katha IT and E-commerce School (KITES) found employment with reputed firms like IGI Airport, Airtel, Reliance Jio, Zion Computers, Wipro, Digicell, etc.

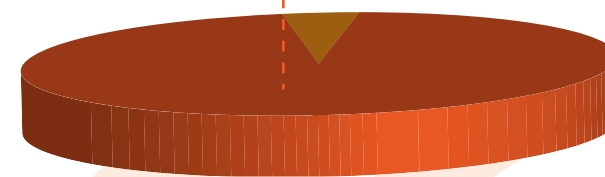
**98%**

Students passed the NIOS Board Exam for Class X



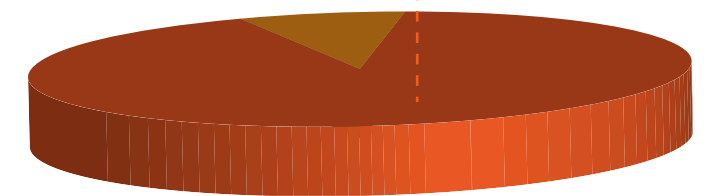
**96%**

Students Passed the NIOS Board Exam for Class XII



**87%**

of the 427 students trained as Young Entrepreneurs at Katha School of Entrepreneurship (KSE) found employment with reputed organizations such as Kerala Bhawan, Hotel Park Royal, Cinnabon, Café Coffee Day, Angel My Kitchen, El Posto, etc.



**92%**

of the students who passed Class XII from Katha Lab School enrolled themselves for higher studies at renowned universities like DU, IGNOU, and Jamia Milia Islamia.

*“Thank you for sharing your wonderful school with me...”*

– Ms Bronagh Key, Wife of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of New Zealand

# key highlights

## ANNUAL THEME

The Vidduniya theme was introduced in all wadis (Jhunjhun, Hulgul, Tamasha and Khoj). All classroom activities, modules and lesson plans were developed keeping in mind the theme 'Kal, Aaj Aur Kal: Free, Fair and Fearless India'.

## SCHOOL VISIT BY MS BRONAGH KEY

Ms Bronagh Key, spouse of Mr John Key, Hon'ble Prime Minister of New Zealand, visited Katha Lab School in October 2016 interacted with children. She conducted a riveting storytel session for children.

## INAUGURATION OF KATHA CHESS CLUB

Katha's Founder-President Ms Geeta Dharmarajan inaugurated a Chess Club in April 2017 at Katha Lab School in the presence of International Arbiter (IA) Mr S Biju Raj along with FIDE Arbiter (FA) and chess coach Rupesh Kumar (of Delhi Chess Association).

## VOLUNTEERING PROGRAMME

Annual volunteering programme was conducted in collaboration with United States India Education Foundation (USIEF).

## KATHA LAB SCHOOL COLLABORATION WITH UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE (AUSTRALIA):

Katha did an educational collaboration with Melbourne Graduate School of Education (The University of Melbourne). The motive of the collaboration was to share the teaching and learning methods with literacy focus in communicative languages.

## KATHA DAY CELEBRATIONS

On 8 September 2016, Katha Lab School celebrated Katha Day with a plantation drive. Children planted saplings, made beautiful posters, and created greeting cards.

## WORKSHOP ON MALNUTRITION

A team of doctors from Apollo Hospital and Billion Hearts Beating conducted a workshop on nutrition in August 2016 at Katha Lab School. The purpose of this workshop was to make children aware of the importance of right nutrition and balanced diet for proper growth and development.

## LIFE SKILLS EDUCATION WORKSHOP

In September 2016, Katha Lab School organized a life skills workshop for 12 to 17 year olds. The workshop helped children recognize their potential as individuals, leaders and change-agents.

*"What a delightful morning amidst such lovely, responsive and attentive children. Kudos to Katha family and to Geeta for this amazing project and journey."*

– Ms Shovana Narayan, Padma Shri Kathak Guru

## INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

Katha Lab School celebrated Independence Day with the theme 'Celebrating the Tribal World'. Children participated in a tribal fashion show, sang tribal songs, and created tribal arts and crafts.

## HEALTH CHECK-UP AT KATHA LAB SCHOOL

Around 350 Katha Lab School students went through a health check-up by a team of doctors from Apollo Hospital. The team of doctors who visited the school also shared with children good practices to remain healthy and disease-free.

## EXPOSURE VISIT

Katha Lab School children visited Raj Ghat, India Gate and Lotus temple with Melbourne University teachers as part of an exposure visit.

## PLEDGE FOR SWACHH BHARAT

On 23 August 2016, students and teachers of Katha Lab School pledged to devote 100 hours in a year to contribute towards making India clean.

## CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

On 14 November 2016, Katha Lab School celebrated Children's Day. To mark the occasion, *My Big Book of Dogs* was published and launched by Katha. The renowned Kathak dancer, Padma Shri Shovana Narayan, graced the occasion.

## KOREAN CULTURAL FESTIVAL

Students from Katha Lab School participated in Korean Cultural Festival organized in November 2016 by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism.

## RALLY ON SAY-NO-TO-CRACKERS

In November 2016, 100 Katha students took out a say-no-to-crackers rally. Students prepared posters and placards with anti-crackers slogans and advocated a safe and eco-friendly Diwali.

## NATIONAL SCIENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

National Science Day was celebrated in Katha Lab School in February this year with great enthusiasm and many fun activities were conducted in Katha's Science Lab.

## SOFT SKILLS WORKSHOP BY BT GLOBAL VOLUNTEERS

A bunch of volunteers from BT Global conducted a workshop for Katha Lab School students in developing and honing their soft skills. The workshop that covered communication skills, personality development, how to face an interview, office culture, work ethics and time management, was immensely helpful for the students.

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

The students of Katha Lab School took out a rally on the occasion of Women's Day on 8 March 2017 to spread awareness against domestic abuse and violence.

## GREEN SCHOOL PROGRAMME

Katha Lab School participated in the Green School Programme organized by Centre for Science and Environment and conducted an environmental audit in the school.

## URBAN GARDENING WORKSHOP BY SWECHHA

An Urban Gardening workshop was organized in Katha Lab School by NGO Swechha.

## WORKSHOP BY HOTEL HILTON VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers from Hotel Hilton visited KLS and interacted with the students. They conducted a session on motivation and personality development.





# school quality enhancement programme (sqep)

## *schools as colourful learning spaces*

While Katha Lab School is the hub of creativity and innovation, it has extended its reach to mainstream the innovation and improve the effectiveness of elementary education in government schools by partnering with South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) and The Education Alliance (TEA) under School Quality Enhancement Programme. Katha adopted two South Delhi Municipal Corporation schools, in Kilokri Tank and South Ex II, to mainstream its Story Pedagogy.

Katha introduced and implemented integrated module-based curriculum which is aligned with National Curriculum Framework based on the NCERT syllabus. Based on Story Pedagogy, the methodology emphasises on Active Story Based Learning (ASBL) and is a successful classroom tool being used by Katha for the past twenty-eight years. It integrates the important function of enquiry (signified by the "active" in ASBL) into story-based learning.

Through this unique curriculum, an effort is made to make teaching child-centric, creative, engaging and fun in the partner schools. The Four C's - Curriculum Development, Classroom Design, Continuous Assessment and Community School Linkages - are the four pillars of Katha's innovative education.

*Katha-adopted SDMC South Ex II School  
has been awarded the Best School Award in  
Central Zone.*



In the two partner schools, Katha brought in the following changes:

### **INFRASTRUCTURE**

Neat, clean, safe and secure school premises. The schools have become fun-filled, non-threatening and happy learning spaces for children.

### **FACILITIES**

Purified drinking water, clean playgrounds, computers & IT labs, smart boards, projectors, CCTVs, digital pads, music rooms with instruments and robotics labs.

### **ENROLLMENT**

The net enrollment of students has increased by 195% in South Ex II School and 257% in Kilokri Tank School.

### **ATTENDANCE**

The average attendance of students has increased from 50% to 81%.

### **ACADEMIC IMPROVEMENT**

There has been a significant improvement in the reading levels and learning outcomes of children, especially in Hindi and Mathematics.

### **TRANSFORMATION IN TEACHERS**

The average attendance has increased to 90% for teachers. The teachers have embraced Story Pedagogy and actively take part in training sessions. The average attendance of the teachers in the training sessions is 96%.

### **COMMUNITY-SCHOOL LINKAGE**

Parent Teacher Meetings (PTMs) and School Management Committee Meetings (SMCMs) have become more regular. Parents' participation has increased to 300% in PTMs. 12 communities have been reached so far through the programme.

*Karan Kumar, a student of class IV in SDMC South Ex II School, has been selected for the Medhavi Pariksha 2017.*



# i love reading

creating  
reader-leaders



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## *reading, a chance for a better life*

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There are multiple benefits of reading - developing language skills, imagination, empathy, and above all, reading for the sheer joy of reading! But are we guilty of restricting this joy to a privileged few? Ever thought of how our society would transform from within if children from all sections of society were excited about books and learning? In response to the low reading levels of the children in the country, Katha initiated its flagship programme, I Love Reading, in Delhi's municipal government schools and the surrounding slum communities. Today, the programme is operational in 100 government school and 151 slum communities and is catalysing existing resources and energizing structures to generate large-scale improvement in children's ability to read fluently and confidently.

In our endeavour to make learning fun for children on their paths to becoming independent readers, in the year 2016-17, Katha set up 30 vibrant, conducive and dynamic Story Rooms in MCD schools. We also reached out to various communities and schools and strove to increase the reading proficiency in thousands of children - one child at a time. To support the growth and needs of the programme, the continuous development of teaching-learning approaches, methods and materials as well as training were the ongoing activities through the year.

*“We had reading-challenged children who did not take any interest in learning. But when we adopted Katha’s Story Pedagogy and teaching methodology in the classrooms, children showed keen interest in reading and learning.”*

– Smt Sushma Jain, Teacher, Pul Pehladpur, SDMC

## the creative components of ilr

### literature to literacy

ILR uses Katha's culturally rich storybooks to improve the reading abilities in children. We not only work towards literacy, but go beyond that to help children engage with content.

### multi-stakeholder engagement

ILR works with all major stakeholders: children, teachers, principals, community, and the government. This enables us to address the many challenges children face in attending school.

### in schools & communities

ILR employs a two-pronged approach of working in both schools and the surrounding communities.

### public-private partnership

ILR is a Public-Private Partnership to transform the government school system. We liaise closely with government to enable systemic change.

### scalable, replicable

ILR is a replicable model that is designed to be scalable. Katha has successfully demonstrated that the model helps children improve their reading abilities, and is also planning to expand into other states.

### reading championships and reading mentors

ILR employs a system of continuous evaluation by way of Reading Championships that measure levels of reading literacy in children. An innovative and motivated team of reading teachers or mentors create reading interest in children.

## ilr in mcd schools

**100** SCHOOLS IMPACTED

**92,612** PARTICIPATING CHILDREN

**139** MCD SCHOOL TEACHERS TRAINED

**763** CHILDREN TRAINED TO BECOME MASTER STUDENT LIBRARIANS

**4** STeP TEACHER-TRAININGS HELD

**4** PACT (PRINCIPALS ALLIANCE FOR CREATIVE TEACHING) MEETINGS HELD

**51,496** BOOKS DISTRIBUTED

**151** COMMUNITIES REACHED

**1,18,229** PEOPLE BENEFITTED

**2,000** DOYTs FORMED

**25,617** MOTHERS MOBILIZED

## ilr in communities

*"If Katha would not have come to my school, I would've never come to know that school learning can be so exciting and fun-filled. I might have left school earlier, but now I will study and become a teacher."*

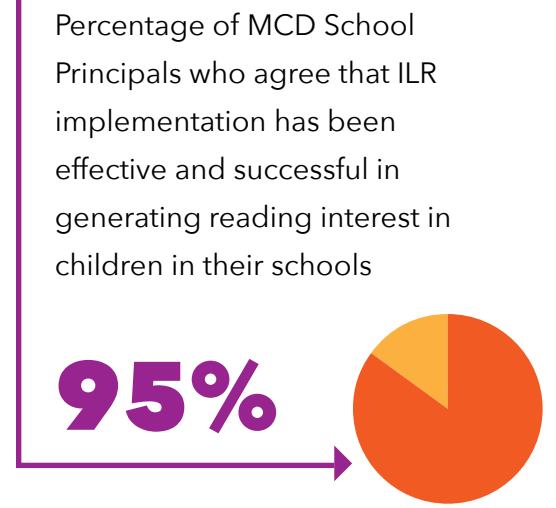
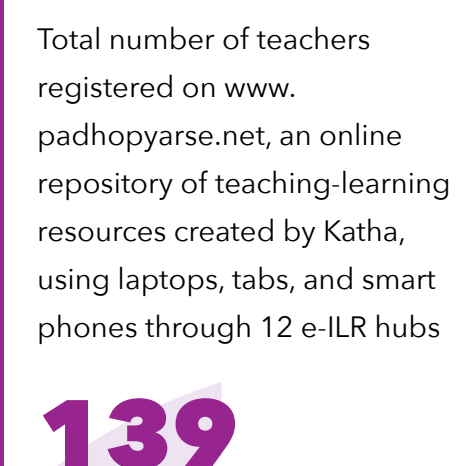
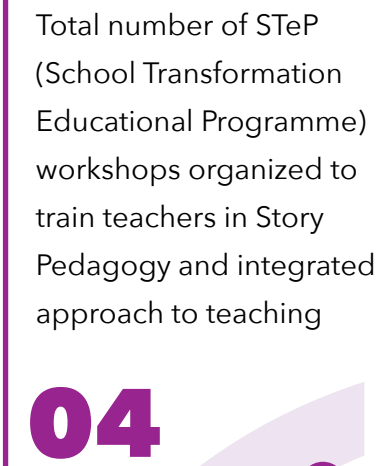
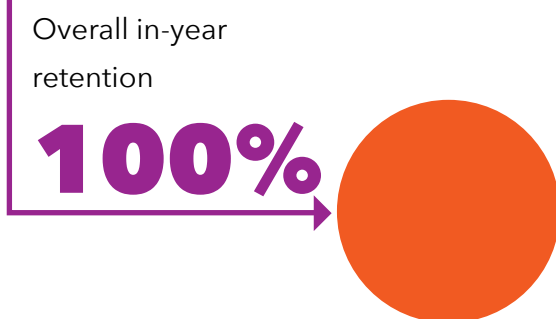
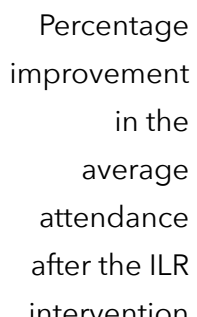
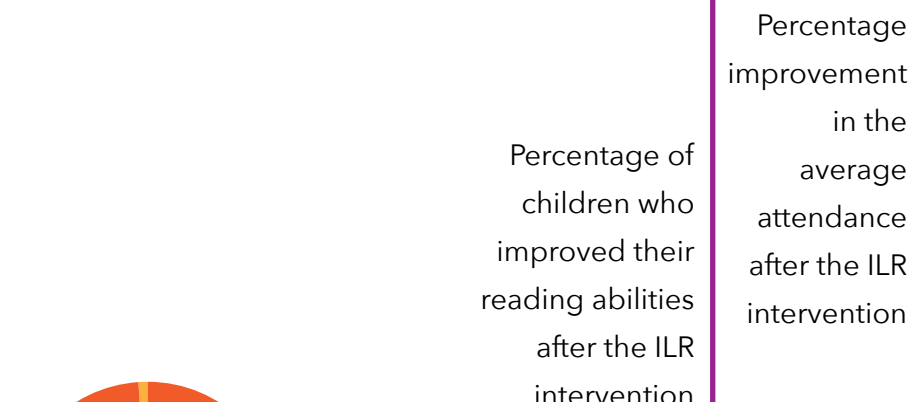
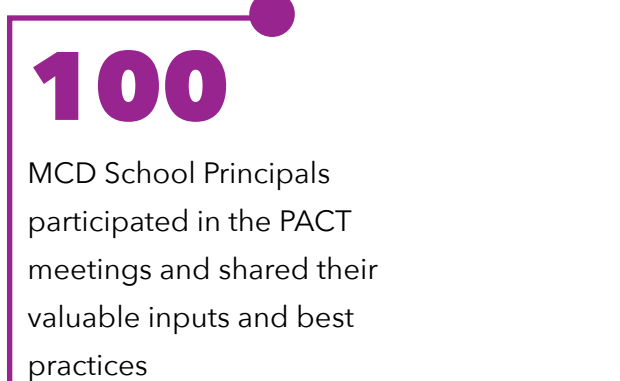
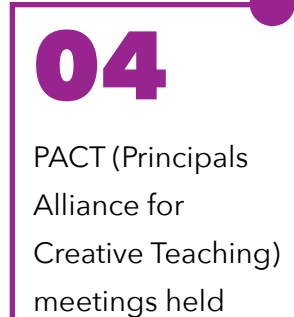
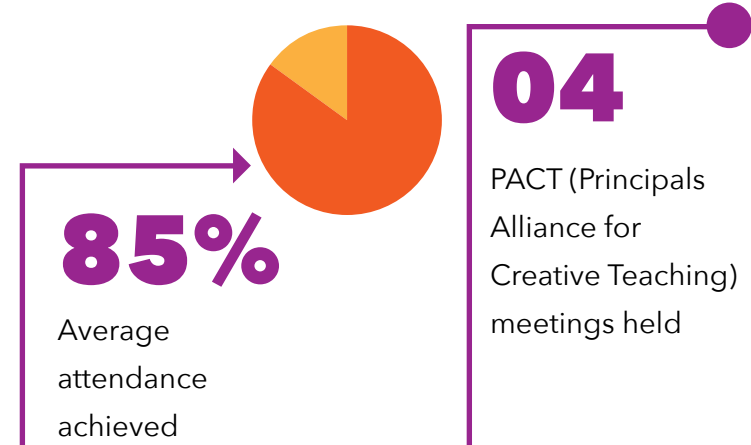
– Ruby, Class 5, School: Ambedkar Nagar

# key highlights



*“I Love Reading programme has been beneficial for children. The Katha Marg, designed and developed by Katha in integration with the NCERT syllabus, has made teaching very easy for teachers.”*

– Shri Veer Singh, Principal  
Gautam Puri No. 2 Boys School, SDMC



*“I didn’t like going to school but now I just love reading. Stories help me learn new words and build my vocabulary without any difficulties. I like to study through stories and I do not get bored.”*

– Khushi, Class 5, School: Badarpur



## ilr in nagaur, rajasthan

In association with Australian High Commission, Katha extended reading support to the children of Nagaur District in Rajasthan through its I Love Reading programme.

Under the programme, Katha:

- Disseminated beautifully illustrated storybooks in 332 government schools & communities in and around Nagaur.
- Held trainings for government teachers on Story Pedagogy.

the  
upshot

**332**

SCHOOLS PHYSICALLY  
VISITED

**18,270**

BOOKS DISTRIBUTED

**73,154**

DIRECT BENEFICIARIES

**250**

VILLAGES REACHED

**328**

TEACHERS AND PRINCIPALS  
ORIENTED IN KATHA'S  
STORY PEDAGOGY

**7**

TRAINING SESSIONS  
CONDUCTED

**50%**

OF THE DIRECT  
BENEFICIARIES ARE GIRLS

**2,39,154**

ESTIMATED BENEFICIARIES  
OF THE PROJECT



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*a community  
project, supported by  
worldreader*

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With a clear vision to make Delhi the reading capital of India, Katha partnered with Worldreader for the project 'Mobile Reading to Children'. The project seeks to promote pre-literacy skills among young children (0-6 years old) by encouraging their parents, teachers, volunteers and caregivers to read stories to them from the Read2Kids app.

making technology  
work for our children:  
'read2kids' app

key  
achievements

92

Communities  
Impacted

15,866

Community Members  
Reached

2,351

Frequent Users who Use  
Read2Kids Mobile App  
to Read to Children





# **kalpana vilasam**

educating the  
minds...and hearts

Katha has always believed that education is a process and learning, an ability. The guidance a child requires determines the bond between teacher and student, and this bond enables the nurturing that the students require. Therefore, Katha has, over the years, developed a very specific role for the teachers; those who have the potential of being educators and agents of change. What truly determines our search for teachers is a passion for the cause, to drive the creativity and innovation required to effectively reach out to children from challenging backgrounds.

Each year, Katha teachers are taken through a rigorous programme that includes quality- and assessment-based workshops to ensure that our teachers are always in touch with the most recent pedagogical practices from across the world, and are well aware of innovative teaching-learning ideas that are implementable in their own classrooms.

Through these activities and workshops, we hope that our teachers are ingrained into the 'Katha way', a forward-looking engagement approach with each child. Through the years, this framework has become a vigorous practice for all our teachers in Katha.



## in-service training

Katha's teachers are given 160-hours of training each year plus weekend workshops twice per month. The modules for the training cover topics such as early learning curriculum, classroom practices, continuous assessment, community linkages, etc. Katha also conducts 2-day workshops for in-service teachers from other NGOs/low-cost schools.



## training for youth reading mentors for ilr-c

Katha's trainers train and give ongoing support to Reading Mentors who help run ILR-C in slum communities.



## distance training

Katha has successfully developed a system to impart trainings via a combination of direct training and digital/mobile media. Katha has now launched [www.padhopyarse.net](http://www.padhopyarse.net), a website offering e-books and teaching-learning material.





Katha's guiding principle of 'educating the educators' has fostered a culture of transforming a teacher into a 'reflective practitioner' who is herself a thinker, learner and above all a knowledge originator. Katha's teacher-training has helped teachers bring sustainable enjoyment to all children. We train teachers to creatively engage children into learning and bring the classrooms to life. We introduce them to fun ways of teaching using our very own Story Pedagogy and Active Story Based Learning methods.

katha holistic early  
learning centre (khel!)

*"The goal of the project is to support teachers in making classrooms more innovative and improving the quality of learning, thereby impacting children in civic body schools, and many more in the near future."*

— The Hindu



## teacher training in ranchi

Katha trained 90 Ekal Teachers in Ranchi. Conceptually, 'Ekal Vidyalaya' stands for single teacher-based, multi-grade, informal schools operational in Jharkhand and many other states. Ekal teachers are residents of the rural areas in these states. Katha trainers imparted trainings in Story Pedagogy, importance of seating arrangement, building confidence, community interaction, teachers as leaders, and use of teaching-learning material.

### the main objectives of this project were:

- To engage with SDMC Trust as a Teacher Training and Knowledge Partner.
- To provide innovative, modified and well-designed training sessions in Ranchi for 90 (30 + 60) teachers of 90 (30 + 60) Ekal Learning Centres.
- To creatively train teachers to engage with children in the mixed age-groups of 6-14 year olds, helping them attain minimum level of learning and bringing classrooms to life by following Katha's Story Pedagogy © and Active Story Based Learning (ASBL) methods.
- Provide Reading Kits to teachers.

### highlights

- Katha trained 90 'Ekal teachers' at Ranchi.
- 90 Tamasha Easy Reading Kits were given to the teachers during the training.
- 98% of the teachers who were trained said that Katha's training on Story Pedagogy has helped them manage their classrooms better, and the training in effective use of TLMs has boosted their confidence.



## reading carnival at jharsuguda, odisha

Katha strongly believes that if children enjoy reading they will do well and stay in school longer, which will enable them to become inspiring reader-leaders who can lead their families and communities out of poverty. Seeing the low levels of reading amongst first-generation school-goers and their limited exposure to innovative, fun books, Katha organizes Reading Carnivals across the country.

As part of Katha's I Love Reading programme, the Reading Carnivals aim to spread the joy of reading and to bring children into sustainable reading, and thus learning. The programme also hones reading habits in teachers, bringing to them literary creativity that helps enhance students' performance across subjects.

a mega reading carnival was organized for 18 government schools in jharsuguda, odisha, for seven days to promote and create reading interest in children.

More than 1600 children participated in the Reading Carnival.

Workshops and training sessions on reading-based activities on selected themes such as art and craft, film appreciation, music and dance, were organized.

1690 children's books were distributed during the carnival.



**katha mela**



## the outreach programme

A substantial part of our success derives from our ability to harness the energy of individuals and institutions with whom we work to achieve our goals. Katha's many successes have come through lasting partnerships with like-minded people and organizations, and Katha's outreach programme helps us tap into this highly exciting ecosystem. With a bevy of workshops and interactions, Katha events are a sure way for children and adults to be drawn into the world of books, reading, learning and enjoying!

## at the world book fair

Katha presented a host of new and popular titles at the Katha stall at New Delhi World Book Fair 2017. We added to the excitement with events, storytelling sessions, panel discussions and more.



## book release: my big book of dogs

Katha has always believed that stories have the power to transform our lives and the world we live in. With all the burnings, killings and abandonment of dogs, Katha started questioning the existence of compassion that should be an inherent quality in all human beings. And since Katha believes that children are the changemakers, on 14 November 2016, Katha launched *My Big Book of Dogs* at Katha Lab School. Padma Shri Kathak Guru Ms Shovana Narayan graced the occasion. After the launch, the Kathakaars (storytellers) set out in their Katha Karavan and conducted storytelling sessions for children at various locations in Delhi (India Gate, Jantar Mantar and Select Citywalk).



## book release: raza by raza

On Raza Sahab's 95th birthday, on 22nd Feb 2017, a children's book based on Raza Sahab's memories - from a happy childhood on the banks of his favourite river, Narmadaji, to his days in Bombay and Paris - was launched by Katha at the India Habitat Centre. The book combines simple text with spectacular reproductions of many of Raza Sahab's most beloved works that will resonate with young readers. The event was most generously supported by the The Raza Foundation.

the fourth  
edition of

katha

WTSaw

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*worlds within words.*

*words within worlds.*

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The children of today are impatient to take their rightful place as global citizens. They need to understand their roots so that they can appreciate global cultures. And what better way to learn who they are and where they come from than through stories and poems from their own backyards. Storytelling, creativity and imagination are the most wanted skill-sets for the twenty-first century. It is incumbent upon us to create a new breed of storytellers and writers. This is an urgent and essential responsibility of all educational institutions and educators.

Launched in partnership with CBSE in 2013, Katha's Search for Excellence in Creative Writing helps students use their creativity and imagination to create some great stories, poems and translations. Designed to promote creative writing, illustration and translation skills in children 8-17 year old, the programme has been designed to nurture the creative instincts in India's children and to give them a platform to share their writing and celebrate their work, thereby inspiring generations of future writers.





## broad objectives

- 1 Enhance the joy of reading in students so that they become reader-leaders for India and the world tomorrow.
- 2 Sustain this initiative and ensure participation from maximum schools with fair representation of children from diverse background and to bring them on a common platform for equity and equality.
- 3 Create a forum to give exposure to children to have a wide range of global perspectives through the Katha Writers' Workshops with reputed national and international mentors and inspire the participating children to achieve greater creativity.

In its fourth edition, the Search for Excellence with our partnering schools brought in excellent stories and poems from over 2700 students. We held regional Writers' Workshops for the selected students in North, East, West and South zones in October and November 2016.

Through workshops on story writing, the programme helped students use their creativity and imagination to create their own stories. Here's a brief trajectory of the programme.

Step 1: Online submission of stories and poems. Participating schools organize the Search for Excellence in their respective schools. Selected stories are then submitted online to Katha at [www.ilovereadin.in](http://www.ilovereadin.in).

Step 2: A jury is formed by Katha to screen the online student submissions. The semi-finalists are selected for the four Regional Writers' Workshops, in East, North, West and South zones. At the end of the regional workshops, students submitted their entries for the final round.

Step 3: Following the Regional Writers' Workshops, a team of resource people screen the submissions for Katha Utsav. The finalists, accompanied by their teachers or parents, participate in the workshops with national mentors and attend master classes with international writers and illustrators at the Katha National Utsav in New Delhi.

# 87

SCHOOLS PARTICIPATED

# 428

STUDENTS PARTICIPATED

# 22

STATES IN INDIA WERE REPRESENTED THROUGH THEIR SCHOOLS. ONE SCHOOL FROM OMAN ALSO PARTICIPATED.

# 100

TEACHERS & PARENTS PARTICIPATED IN APPROACHES TO LANGUAGE TEACHING IN THE 21ST CENTURY

REGION	SCHOOLS PARTICIPATED	STUDENTS PARTICIPATED
EAST	18	210
NORTH	55	302
WEST	18	225
SOUTH	31	263

## KATHA UTSAV 2016

*a celebration  
of creativity*

The Katha Search for Excellence culminated into Katha Utsav and Awards wherein the finalists were divided into groups for their TADA (Think. Ask. Discuss. Act.) workshops with the national mentors.

The children left the sessions with their heads teeming with new ideas and their hearts full of the inexplicable joy of experiencing and expressing the magic of the word. The mentors too came away charged with the energy that children carry - the energy of hope and finding a new generation of writers.

The winning entries were felicitated with awards, and each participant was given a certificate.





# ALT21 - APPROACHES TO LANGUAGE TEACHING IN THE 21ST CENTURY

A freewheeling exchange between experimenting educators, parents and creators of children's books, the Approaches to Language Teaching in the 21st Century this year brought together an eclectic forum that discussed the importance of kindness and compassion in today's world. A panel discussion was organized, headed by our Founder-President Geeta Dharmarajan and Executive Director Ms Parvinder Kaur. The esteemed panel included Dr Suman Sachdeva, Technical Director (Education) Care India and Ms Vyjayanthi Sarkar, Founder and Executive Director for Centre for Science of Student. The active panel discussion was followed by an interactive session with all participants, emphasizing on how teaching through stories can bring about lasting values that will make every student a contributing member of society in the long run.

# OUR PILLARS OF STRENGTH

Over the years, many people have joined hands with us to improve the lives of India's children and securing the country's future. Together with the governments, our corporate and institutional partners, and our young volunteers, we have tried to transform our vision into a reality that we can be proud of. And we thank each one of them for their invaluable support and encouragement.

We would like to extend a huge thanks to our wonderful partners who've been instrumental in taking our work forward in the year 2016-17...!



We would also like to extend a special 'Thank you!' to **Rt. Hon. Patricia Hewitt, Mr. Tom Singh, Ms. Anamika, Professor Vijay Kapoor Memorial Trust, Tool Box, J Sagar Associates, iProbono,** and the **Dharmarajan family** for their valuable support, and to **Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India,** for bringing us on to its esteemed panel..

## Credibility Alliance Norms Compliance Report

Annual Report  
2016-17

### IDENTITY

We are a not-for-profit organization registered under the Societies Registration Act 1961 [Registration No- S-20336, dated September 8, 1989].

### VISION AND IMPACT

VISION: No child will live in poverty – social, personal, intellectual, cultural and environmental. Culturelink India through quality translations.

MISSION: To spread the joy of reading and help break down gender, social and other stereotypes.

MOA and Rules are available on our website.

- We are registered u/s 12A of the Income Tax Act, 1961 [Registration No. DIT/A-3491, dated November 14, 1990] and u/s 80 G [Registration No. DIT/ E-2007-08/ K-45/4002, dated March 20, 2008]. Our FCRA registration no. is 231650637, dated 15-05-1992.
- Visitors are welcome at Katha, A3, Sarvodaya Enclave, Sri Aurobindo Marg, New Delhi 110017.

### NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE MAIN BANKERS

- Axis Bank Ltd, Hauz Khas, Ground Floor, Flat No. G1-G7, Basement Flat No. SB Mother's House, Plot No. 22, Yusuf Sarai, New Delhi 110049
- HDFC Bank Ltd, F-126, First Floor, Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi 110016

### NAME AND ADDRESS OF STATUTORY AUDITOR

V. SHANKAR AIYAR & CO, CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS 202-301, SATYAM CINEMA COMPLEX, RANJEET NAGAR COMMUNITY CENTRE, NEW DELHI 110008 (INDIA)

### GOVERNANCE

Please see the list of Governing Council Members.

- None of the members of the Governing Council is related to the other by blood or marriage.
- The Executive Director is not related to any member of the Governing Council by blood or marriage.
- Elections to the Governing Council are held as per rules of the Society. A Rotation Policy exists and is practised.
- No member of the Governing Council receives any remuneration or reimbursement from Katha.
- The Governing Body met three times in the last year with the requisite quorum: on 30th Jul, 2015, 29th Oct, 2015 & 27th Feb, 2016. The 27th AGM of Katha was held in New Delhi on 29th October, 2015. It was attended by 6 members.
- The Agenda was adoption of Annual Report, Annual Budget, Balance Sheet 2014-15, Statutory Compliance report, New Proposals, Review of Balance Sheet 2014-15 & Budget 2015-16, Cash Flow Status, Grant disbursement of KENGA project, Preliminary budget for financial year 16-17 and appointment of Internal Audit for FY 15-16.
- Minutes of the meeting are documented and approved in the subsequent meeting.
- The Governing Council of the Society approves programmes, budgets, annual activities, Audited Financial Statements and the Annual Report.
- Katha complies regularly with statutory requirements of Income Tax Act, 1961 and Foreign Contributor (Regulation) Act, 1976. The donors' compliances are duly met.

### ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

- No remuneration, sitting fees or any other form of compensation has been paid to any Governing Council member since the inception of the Society.

- No travel or other reimbursements have been made to any Governing Council member.
- Remuneration of three highest paid staff members (CTC/year):

S NO	NAME	DESIGNATION	CTC /YEAR
1	Parvinder Kaur	Executive Director	15,84,000
2	Mamta Nainy	Sr. Editor	9,60,000
3	Deepthi Dubey	Project Head	9,00,000

- Remuneration of the lowest paid staff member (CTC/year): Rs. 1, 34,004

### STAFF DETAILS: (AS OF MARCH 31<sup>ST</sup>, 2015)

GENDER	PAID PART TIME/ SHORT TERM CONSULTANTS	PAID FULL TIME	UNPAID VOLUNTEERS
Male	14	24	1555
Female	28	65	518
Total	42	89	2073

### DISTRIBUTION OF STAFF ACCORDING TO SALARY LEVELS

SLAB OF GROSS SALARY (IN RS.) PLUS BENEFITS PAID TO STAFF	NO. OF STAFF MEMBERS
< 9000	3
9001-12000	8
12001-20000	65
20001-30000	28
30001-50000	17
50001-75000	8
75000>	2
Total	131

### TRAVEL:

All travel done with specific invitations. Costs were borne by respective donor-partners.

Total Cost of National Travel

(i) Executive Director: Rs 64,529

(ii) Asst. Executive Director: Nil

(iii) Governing Council Members: 99,657

(iv) All personnel (including volunteers): Rs 2,45,565

Total Cost of International Travel

(i) Executive Director: Nil

(ii) Asst. Executive Director: Nil

(iii) Governing Council Members: Nil

(iv) All personnel (including students): Nil

### President

Geeta Dharmarajan  
(from September 2014)

### Vice President

Syed Shahid Mahdi

### Executive Director

Parvinder Kaur

## GOVERNING COUNCIL MEMBERS

Anshu Vaish

Arun Seth

Kapila Vatsyayan

Leela K Ponappa

Preety Kumar

R Balasubramanian

R Govinda

S Krishnamoorthy

Sanjana Kapoor

Shanta Sinha

Shyam Menon

Sudhir Narang

Sudhir Singh Dungarpur

K Dharmarajan

(Special Invitee)

Winner of Promising Practices Award 2015 for Katha's innovative Story Pedagogy for all grade levels.

Nominated five times for the world's most coveted award in children's literature – Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award, in 2010, 2013, 2014, 2015 & 2016!

Winner of Millennium Alliance Award 2013 for our innovative I Love Reading programme.

Winner of ICICI India Inclusive Award 2012.

124 Katha books recommended, to date, by CBSE and NCERT.

10 of Katha's books chosen in **101 Indian Children's Books We Love** by Young Zubaan.

**Moon, Ramu and I** won the Darsana National Award 2011 for the Best Children's Book.

**Bioscope** included in the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) list in 2011.

**My Haiku Moments: An Activity Book for Young Haiku Lovers** received Honourable Mention for Best Book for Children by the Haiku Society of America.

**Chouboli and Other Stories**, Volume II, won the A K Ramanujan Book Prize for Translation 2012 and the Asian Publishing Award 2011 in the Best Book Category.

**Not Flowers of Henna**, Jai Ratan's translation received Jury's Commendation at the Muse India National Award 2011.

North India winner of India NGO Awards for Quality Work, Accountability and Transparency 2009, by Rockefeller Foundation and Resource Alliance, UK.

**Aamu's Kawandi** shortlisted for the prestigious The Hindu Young World-Goodbooks Award 2017 in the illustrations category.

## कथा KATHA

Katha is a non-profit organization that has seamlessly connected grassroots work in education, teacher-training and publishing for nearly 28 years.

We believe that by providing children with holistic, relevant books and education, and fostering in them a love of learning, they can become agents of change who can lift their families and communities out of poverty. Our innovative education model, integrally supported by our award-winning book publishing programme, benefits over 160,000 underserved children and 1,100 teachers annually.

Our mission is to help every child realize his/her full potential through community-based quality learning; to spread the joys of reading; to reduce injustice and poverty through education; to enhance linguistic diversity and to help break down gender, social and other stereotypes through story and translation.

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Follow us on **Twitter**, and keep a track of us  
on our **Facebook** page!