

# Gyanankur English School

Nurturing "Seedlings of Knowledge" for the transformation of India  
Keshand Village, Pune • Feb 2008 • [www.gyanankur.com](http://www.gyanankur.com)



In our villages and all over India, there are millions of girls like Shobha (fictional name). Just because Shoba is a girl, she is far less likely to go to school. Because she is from a low caste she will be told all her life she is less human and not worthy even to be touched by those of higher caste. If she does get to school she will attend a government school where teachers either don't show up or barely teach, where the teaching is all memorization-based, where her opinions aren't valued or invited, and where she may be verbally humiliated or even beaten with a stick. Her village has no clean water, sanitation, and is full of preventable diseases. Shoba will probably go her whole life without ever hearing that she is precious beyond all measure, without ever having the chance to pursue her dreams. The story of Shoba is the real story of millions of children in India: a country where roughly 70% of the population is low caste, rural, and poverty-stricken. We want to help children like Shobha. You can help us help her!

**The vision of Gyanankur School is to have a large-scale and lasting impact in transforming this reality, through:**

- Providing the highest quality education to the most underprivileged children
- A school where street children, orphans, rural, low-caste children learn side-by-side with elite kids, learning to stand against prejudices and see all individuals as equally valuable
- An inclusive school where children of all learning abilities are cherished, and lovingly encouraged to blossom to their full potential
- Training teachers and enriching the national curriculum to promote creativity and critical thinking instead of mere rote learning; and for this model to be shared to serve other schools, the public education system, and a future teacher training college
- Transforming rural communities, through community development initiatives (adult literacy, health, sanitation, agricultural innovations)
- Teaching Biblical values of justice, peace, integrity & sacrificial love to train a generation of ethical leaders and critical thinkers who refuse corruption and act for the development of their country
- Promoting education for liberation, by empowering the poor to bring about change in their own communities



## Progress Report!

- ❖ We are excited to have a new website! Please visit us at [www.gyanankur.com](http://www.gyanankur.com)
- ❖ Our 180 current students (Nursery to 2<sup>nd</sup> Std) are making great progress in their learning, and we are expecting around 100 more students next June!
- ❖ Our teachers are learning to move beyond the textbook to encourage children to enjoy their learning through songs, charts and activities
- ❖ It has been exciting to connect with many others with similar visions, as we brainstorm ideas for the large-scale transformation of education in India. We are starting an online network for educators to collaborate in this goal – let us know if you would like to join!

## CHALLENGES: We are in urgent need of -

**Teachers, Teacher-trainers and Volunteers** (short- or long-term) as well as adequate funds to be able to pay our staff proper salaries  
**Sponsorships** for all our kids who cannot afford their real schooling costs (\$30/Rs. 1000 per month). For the price of one evening out you could transform the life of a child!

**Transport!** We urgently need 2 more vehicles to transport our teachers and students. Please help us meet our target of \$15,000 by May 08 – every dollar counts! (Donations can be made on our website)

**Friends!** Please help us by telling individuals or organizations willing to adopt us! We also welcome donations of school supplies, children's books or crafts, and any other resources that could help our kids.

Please consider how you can partner with us in serving underprivileged children and breaking the cycle of poverty in India. Thank you!



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