dear friends,

On the 5th year anniversary of Shikshantar Andolan, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for being an important part of this movement. As I look back, what inspires me the most is how much we have been able to do with very little money. (I remember being told many times in my life by the System that you need a lot of money to do anything meaningful). Passion, commitment, friendships and honesty can go a long way. Our energy as a vibrant and organic movement comes from all the ‘little things’ that people like you have done – sharing our materials with a friend, raising questions and striking up conversations, making new connections, trying new experiments to take control over your own learning.

In many ways, it has been a difficult year, oftentimes discouraging. We witnessed the brutal bombing of Iraq by the American war machinery despite massive protests around the world. One was left wondering how to stop all this violence? How to keep one’s hopes alive in the midst of such devastation? How to create new tools for dissent?

For these reasons and many more, this past year has also been one of deep reflection for us. We have tried to think about what things have worked well over the past five years, where do we need to improve, and where should we focus our attention in the coming years.

Our provocative publications continue to remain one of the core strengths of Shikshantar. This year we published: Paths of Unlearning, If the Shoe Doesn’t Fit, The Dark Side of Literacy, McEducation for All, Shravan Kai Bina Shiksha Kaisa?, Rang Bhare Jeevan Mein, Apni Vaat newsletter, Dharti Re Sang newsletter, Gavita Jayjo Manera ra Geet song-booklet. Excerpts from several of these in addition to previous publications were translated into different languages (ranging from Marathi to French) by different groups and republished in other publications around the world as well as used in workshops and courses. We also collaborated closely with Abhivyakti to contribute to their Expressions Annual Journal and with Sindh Education Foundation to contribute to their EDucate magazine.

In the future, we would also like to explore the use of other media forms – beyond just print - in order to engage a wider range of learning styles and open more possibilities for generative dialogue. Producing the video, If the Shoe Doesn’t Fit, with our friends at Abhivyakti, was one small step in this direction.

Another of our core strengths is our trans-local partnerships which are part of the Learning Societies Network. We have spent much of the year putting these partnerships into action in order to bring together dynamic groups of people for mutual learning and dialogue. Some of the exciting events we were involved in during 2003 included:
* Co-hosting the ‘Experiments in Self-Rule (Swaraj) Learning Journey’ in northern India, in collaboration with Pioneers of Change.
* Co-hosting Diversity in Learning Conference in Beirut, Lebanon in collaboration with the Arab Education Forum.
* Co-hosting World Youth Leadership Jam in Rishikesh, India in collaboration with Youth for Environmental Sanity! (USA), Institute for Popular Education (Mali, Africa), Native Movement (USA).
* Co-hosting first annual A Celebration of Walkouts Utsav in Bhandardara, Maharashtra in collaboration with Abhivyakti, Manzil Learning Centre and Multiversity.

We also continue to work very closely with IDSP-Pakistan, Kufunda Learning Village-Zimbabwe, Coalition for Self-Learning-USA, Berkana Institute-USA, Communities of the Future-USA, Learning Development Institute-USA, Hampshire College-USA, and UNESCO Collective Consultation of NGOs.

A third core strength is the relationships that we have formed with children, youth, families, artists, artisans, farmers, and many others in Udaipur as part of the Udaipur as a Learning City process. These energetic and creative interactions are, in fact, the source of much of our day-to-day hope. We continue to attract and dialogue with citizens from different ideological persuasions, and manage to inevitably find common ground to work on together. In the future, we would like to connect ourselves more
with more groups in other cities who are committed to redefining various dimensions of urban living.

With our roots in place, it feels like Shikshantar is entering into another stage of life, with the steady emergence of many more young life-affirming leaders. For example, this year saw the birth of the Walkouts Network. We anticipate that this will constitute a major area of Shikshantar’s activities in the coming years. We would like to work at two levels. One is directly supporting the learning and networking between walkouts and those who wish to walkout. The other is researching and documenting the experiences of ‘walking on’ - the diverse learning resources that walkouts are connecting to and creating in their own lives – to expand our vision of learning for 21st century. As part of the Walkouts Network, we are also planning to support families who wish to unschool themselves.

Another key area of activity for the future will be to support to those who are starting or running learning centers around India. We are collaborating with Berkana Institute to initiate a Fund to support learning activists around the world who wish to start up new local learning centers.

Finally, we think it is important to deepen our search for other ways to generate resources for Shikshantar which reduce our dependence on the Global Market and strengthen our local economy. Linking our minds to the use of our hands and bodies is essential for our evolution as an organic learning community. So, we continue our efforts in organic farming. We continue to ride our bicycles. We have introduced a charkha in Shikshantar to spin our own cloth, and built inexpensive solar cookers from waste materials, to cut down on gas energy use. We will focus on trying to explore more opportunities outside of the mainstream State-Market framework.

What makes Shikshantar most exciting to me is that we never know what’s going to happen next – who is going to walk through the door, what new opportunity is going to pop-up, what inspiring story of self-learning we will hear. Our biggest challenge will be to keep ourselves open to connect to these spontaneous change forces and let them organically influence the direction of our work and our lives. We hope that you will continue to be one of these change forces for us.

With thanks and good wishes for the year ahead,

Manish Jain and the Shikshantar Family

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**Why We Call Shikshantar a *Jeevan Andolan* (‘Life Movement’)**

We are open to dialogue with any and every one; we continually try to transcend categories of ‘us’ vs. ‘them’/"the Other" in our ideas or practices.

No one needs any qualifications to be a part of this movement; there are no formal procedures for connecting with any of us.

We don’t believe in institutionalized ‘experts’ or ‘professionals’ but rather see each person as uniquely and completely qualified to share their ideas, experiences, and dreams about learning and living.

We believe in multiple paths, multiple ideas, multiple possibilities, and resist monoculture in all its forms. We don’t have a master plan to implement or a ‘grand utopian narrative’ to force into diverse peoples’ lives and realities.

In contrast to NGOs or didactic campaigns, we are not here to teach or provide ready-made answers, but more to question, experiment and learn together.

Unlike most professionals and institutions, we do not divide our work or our roles into compartments; we see ideas and practices as linked, and we link our personal lives with our public work.

We do not take any core funding from governments, multinational corporations, or international donor agencies. We find our resources from individuals, in the form of time, commitment, energy, love, support, in-kind materials, money, and their passion for co-creation.
So, I loved the Unlearning book. Very nicely done. I feel honored to be published and slightly vulnerable to have so much of myself on paper for the world to see! It's kind of a new thing for me to be that open. I've always preferred to be bit more invisible in the world. But, I kind of like the feeling it gives me to be open to the world. Thanks for helping me see that. I still fantasize about coming to India to visit and work with you for a while.

- Kate McAfee, USA

Well, it is a hot day in Spokane and I have been packing for Europe. I had placed Paths of Unlearning in my pile to take, when something invited me to take a break and sit down and begin to read.

This is an important collection. The stories told here are given a voice and a life of their own. They are an invitation into reflection, as you have intended them to be.

- Bob Stigler, New Stories, USA

Thanks for sending me a copy of Paths of Unlearning. Have been doing nothing but reading it since I received it yesterday. It's so heartening. Especially as I've been down and this connection seems to give me hope. Now I'm often down though not yet beaten and certainly not regretting any bit of it. Keep up the great work and thanks for the ray of hope.

- Gurveen Kaur, Centre for Learning, Secunderabad
I met you during a workshop on Liberate School organized by AeA in Chennai in 2001. Since then, I joined AeA in Paris and am now the desk officer for India. We are currently translating a document, *if the shoe doesn’t fit, footprints of learning societies in South Asia* into French.

- Sylvaine Bernard-Srinivasan, Aide et Action, France

We are using your materials in courses that I help to organize and legitimate - in a course on ‘learning in the 21st century,’ last term, and this term in courses on ‘adult learning theory and practice’ and ‘learning in conflict and post-conflict situations,’ I have a principle - provide a lot of relevant materials, papers, links, books, dialogues - but NO REQUIRED READINGS - these are simply resources that others have found helpful in exploring concepts and practices. Shikshantar materials all well suited for that - and I note that all your materials are ‘copyleft’. Thanks.

- Ash Hartwell, Center for International Education, Univ. of Massachusetts, USA

I would like the intellectual level on our <LearningCommunities> list to reach the level of your publications. I would particularly like good examples and discussion of real working “learning communities.” Although there are nearly 400 members of the list they are not very active. I would be most pleased to pass on other posts from you. Or, of course, you’d and others of your network would be welcome to use our list for your own discussions. Anyone can join at: <LearningCommunities-subscribe@yahoogroups.com> And I’ll be pleased to urge members of this list to join and contribute to your list, if you would like. It is my current plan to put a short blurb like the one below on others of your publications with information on how they may be purchased.

Bill Ellis, Coalition for Self-Learning, USA

It was nice meeting. Your ideas are a breath of fresh air. I read the whole of Gandhi’s Swaraj booklet. Intriguing stuff. I like it. I read your editorials in the two booklets on learning. I also like that too. It reminds me of the ideas we were immersed in just before the demise of apartheid around “education for liberation”, Paulo Freire, workers’ education, etc. Unfortunately political developments (“freedom”) pushed that all to one side and many people got absorbed into the Department of (Adult) Education. So this is great stuff for me. Yours in struggle,

- Trevor Ngwane, South Africa

A new level of understanding of deschooling society, and on initiating life-long self-learning, is being developed by ‘The People’s Institute for Rethinking Education and Development.’ This world wide network of scholars and activists has published a number of publications on resisting the culture of schooling. AND they are now available at stealing prices from <www.100fires.com>.

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You are doing great work with your learning communities concept and especially the focus on how unlearning and new learning (such as uplearning) principles can be applied differentially in rural and urban areas to bring important connections among diverse people and ideas leading to community transformation.

I am very interested in the idea you and I discussed about developing metanetworks of key people in the world that would interested in real collaboration to help create environments where people will see the importance of unlearning (as you defined it) and thinking about new ideas such as those which undergird our COTF System of Community Transformation... I find very few leaders can think in this nonlinear method that is so natural to your way of thinking and acting.

- Rick Smyre, Communities of the Future, USA

organic farming with city families

over 20 families, from various neighborhoods and backgrounds, are growing their own organic vegetables and medicinal herbs at home (on rooftops, terraces, lawns, driveways, etc.). in the coming year, we are working with them to include rainwater harvesting, vermicomposting, and solar cooking in their homes.

‘dharthi re sang’ organic and natural living bulletin
four issues produced in 2003 by gopal

ii. udaipur as a learning city

invites individuals and families to contribute their interests/talents to redefining urban living and co-creating organic learning webs in Udaipur
community dialogues and exhibitions

we hosted several city-wide conversations this year on issues like TV turnoff, walking spaces in the city, and reclaiming our creativity from a ready-made world. we also re-explored local festivals, like rakshabandhan and ganesh chatturti, using games, theater, posters, and creative expressions.

I learned about TV turnoff week in Sukhadia Circle and decided to join in. My TV has been off ever since!
- Gopal Nagda, Bhimana

I am still very interested in what you folks do… I am very interested in how neighbours within a typical US inner city might find ways to come together to learn and grow in deeper more personal ways. Social cohesion and sustainability (safety, security, wellness, economic viability, etc) is very much under question here, new ways of learning/being together and somehow expressing our individual ‘spirituality’ are the only answers as far as I can tell. Any thoughts?
- Michael Dobbie, USA
Anil Maikhuri, who was previously with SIDH, is writing and editing our newsletter, PABAM. He has told us about the wonderful work you do with children. We have sent you the latest issue of the magazine. Did you receive it? We had written about your work in Udaipur in a previous issue, and will be sending you that copy as well. We would love to get your thoughts about the magazine and any ideas you have about what we can cover in it.

- Aditi, Smita and Anil, Mountain Children’s Forum, Uttarakhand

2003 saw the co-creation of over 50 workshops in ten different neighborhoods, four schools, and a local computer institute of Udaipur. These critical media and creative expressions workshops explored multiple media: theater, visual art, video, puppetry, clay, dance, music, tai chi, and origami. Using our hands and local waste materials was a prime focus, as was teamwork, self-expression and imagination.

**some key ULC contributors**
- ambikesh and pooja sharma
- anita
- b.l. and rameshwari sharma
- dayalchand soni
- deendayal dashottar
- dilip sharma
- ganesh and gayatri sharma
- gunjan doogar
- hemant dwivedi
- jeevan singh shekhawat
- kiran murdia
- kishore and sudesh saint
- koshal kumawat
- kundan dhaybhai
- nirmal prajapat
- prakash and manju jain
- rajaram sharma
- raghuvir and jyoti dhaybhai
- rajkumar menaria
- ravi and chandra bhandari
- r.c. mehta
- renu and sandeep bordia
- shahid and shariq parvez
- sharmila rathore
- sunil gang
- sunny gandharva
- veena gaur

**creative expressions with children, youth and families**
I receive your *Aapni Vaat* regularly, and it is so much fun to read. My heart usually fills with joy when I read it. I know all your efforts in Mewari are going to fill a lot of peoples’ lives with color. Your hard work and efforts speak louder then words through your publications. I think it is praise worthy.

I am touched that you published my bhajan in your bulletin, it is a matter of great pleasure for me. I am sending a few other bhajans and dohas with this letter. This is my very humble contribution to the movement you are working on to bring back happiness into the lives of people through Mewari and our local knowledge.

- Dr Vinod Somani (Hans)  
Ajmer, Rajasthan

I am a young writer who likes to write short pieces that are very personal and related to my experience. Most of my writings have been either in hindi or english, never in my local language mewari. Most of my conversations at home and with friends have always been in mewari and yet I never wrote in mewari. I have started listening to more and more stories in mewari from my aunts and neighbours ever since I read your book. I am slowly getting ready to write my first story in mewari for your publication. I think by spending more time listening and appreciating these stories, I have been able to get away from the television. You will soon receive a story or poem from me.

- Hemlata Dadheech  
Udaipur, Rajasthan

It was great meeting you the other day at Soochna Kendra and, even though our interaction around Mewari and local languages was very short, it was very inspiring. At that point you also shared with me some issues of *Aapni Vaat*, your monthly bulletin. I read it with great interest. All the pieces in the issues made me think more deeply about my life right now and also reminded me of many of the stories my grandparents told me as a child. They were great. They provoked me to write my own little song, which I am sharing with you today. The whole process was very important for me. I want to thank you for all that you are doing and the way you inspired me.

- Ram Dayal  
Udaipur, Rajasthan
I really can’t explain how enthused I feel after the five days we all spent together during the walkouts festival. Those five days together made me think of more questions, more ways of living and being. I think it would be very inspiring for those who are thinking of doing things differently. I really believe that if we don’t share our own experiences and stories we will stay trapped in the world that makes us all slaves and parrots. I look forward to more interactions like these.

- Praveen Pagare
Nashik, Maharashtra

You will be glad to know that I encouraged my daughter to take a gap year after school and catch up on what we have talked about, and it’s a great experience till date. Yet another success story for your mission.

- Tony Singh
Delhi

I really really enjoyed the ‘A Celebration of Walkouts’ article. I ‘walked out’ of school halfway through Standard Nine determined to go and find ‘young people like me’. I called the first workshop that I ran at 16, Youth With Vision and in some way or other, I have never stopped looking for these peers, even though I have never been able to define who they are. This article helps and inspires hugely in that regard. I am very aware of that I take on too much, so I won’t do it now, but sometime in the future, I’d be very keen to convene such a gathering in South Africa.

- Leigh Meinert
South Africa

iii. walkouts network

is a group of individuals from around India, who have ‘walked out’ of dehumanizing institutions and narrow attitudes, and are ‘walking on’ to discover and create their own webs of learning and living.
I heard about you at the Open Space technology Conference in Bombay... Education is a subject very close to my heart - has been for years - and I have in my own way contributed to deschooling at least mentally many children of various age groups. Have always taken care that I have been able to stroke positively and support them to find ways and means of expressing themselves multidimensionally...

I went through your site and was impressed at the number of articles written by so many people - which all matches with the things we feel and think about education. The practical question on my mind right now is what can I offer my ten year old. There might be many who are trying initiatives in their own ways, but I have contact with not many. Do you have some database of such parents - are there any methods which I can experiment with - without giving up what I am doing right now. These are the thoughts on our mind - can you help? U would like to form groups, write, research, reinvent the wheel if necessary, to make learning enjoyable and fun and, in the years to come, I would like to drive this movement with passion.

- Sudha Canan, Mumbai

I got your e-mail from the SWARAJ website which I visited yesterday and was quite impressed with the kind of articles you offer on your website. I write regularly for the Pakistani newspaper ‘Dawn’ on educational issues. Your website is another interesting forum I have discovered.

- Shabid Siddiqui, Pakistan

I found your site content most refreshing. My two daughters - Bethan and Wendy - have a great liking for Indian poetry, and have been learning Hindi for the past few years. Its great to come across a modern website that expresses some of the same love of freedom and individuality as is extolled in the old poems! I would like to put links to your sites on my links page.

- Gareth Lewis, Freedom in Education, UK and France

Shikshantar has one of the most comprehensive websites that I know of that is addressing the world-wide crisis in education. I invite you participate in the RadFEST/Midwest Social Forum and do a workshop about the growing movement in the Global South that is challenging the very fabric of ‘Modern Factory Schooling’ and developing a dynamic discourse about the various meanings of education for the 21st century.

- Camy Matthay, USA

I have just glanced at your website, and am excited by your willing to be much bolder than we are! (see www.hakielimu.org)... I look forward to reading more of it and sharing it with colleagues, and time willing get back to you with comments. Let’s keep the connection.

- Rakesh Rajani, Tanzania

iv. www.swaraj.org/shikshantar

freely shares radical and practical ideas/experiences with the web world
One reason I got attracted to your group is that I absolutely agree that education is not that stops with schooling and there are other ways to learn than a school. I am a believer that if the education can turn a person into life long learner then the world would be such a beautiful place... I am also at the same time interested and working on opening a resource center and starting a network of like minded people and schools in India. I would love to know what you all are doing and how can we all combine forces to bring this unique opportunity to the students of India. I would love to hear from each one of you in detail and hope we can start a network soon.

- Shetal Dandage, USA

It is during the last six months, after reflecting on TanPIC’s activities, that I personally started thinking about deschooling. Our blind spot is we assumed that learning can take place only within school or we have equated learning with schooling, anyway that is what the prevailing perspective of the society. As you have mentioned, we have to concentrate on what is learning, how it is happening in the communities and also we have to explore creating alternatives ourselves. I also understood if we ask questions like if not schools and jump into quick answers we may end up again in the same process of schooling but may give different names.

As of now I wish to share my perspectives with my colleagues and partners to evolve it further. In fact I have already started discussing with few people, they were shocked and asked how we can take such a stand in the middle, when TanPIC’s original objective is to strengthen the schools... Even yesterday I have attended a consultation meeting on “Free and Compulsory Education for Children Bill 2003”, but because of my new understanding, I could not participate fully. I also wish one day you visit Chennai for a discussion with us. I am also looking for an opportunity to visit your place.

- V. Balakrishnan, Tamil Nadu

I’m planning to quit my teaching job and to start a resource network, for learning alternatives, in Andhra Pradesh. I would like to meet you some time later.

- Chandrasekhar Devana, Andhra Pradesh

India overwhelmed me with life I saw coming from everywhere. People planting and living in hard conditions and showing us all that we can live simple...colors, smells, sizes, beauty... I wrote an article about my experience at Shikshantar for our student’s magazine at my university. Let’s see what people say about it... Another project for the future is already in our minds. My brother Marcos is very touched by the breeze of ideas I shared with him. Together we are starting to plan something for the piece of land we have. I am in this beautiful place right now. Once again, I want to thank you for all the things you did for me, thank you for this beautiful chapter in my life.

- Maria R Ortiz, Paraguay

We trained as architects and have been working in rural areas for the past 15 years. Currently, we are starting a centre for tribal children here in a remote Tamil Nadu village. We have taken our two children off from school [they are aged 6 and 11]. We would very much like to receive the material that you publish and also get to know of your programs. We just got the update regarding the celebration of Walkouts... We found it fascinating and also very much in tune with what we are trying to do too.

- Anuradha and Krishna, Tribal Health Institute, Tamil Nadu

emerging partnerships

I am quite impressed by two of your bulletins (April 2001 and June 2002). Before I joined here, I was experimenting with the open education in West Bengal in late 70s. Perhaps I was one of the pioneers of Vimukt Shiksha. I am very much interested about the movement you have started. I may help you in several ways. If you want to open a West Bengal chapter of Vimukt Shiksha. There may be workshops, seminars and publication of literature in Bengali about Vimukt Shiksha. Gradually a centre can be developed where students get enough scope to interact.

- Ranjit Chaudhuri, Dean, Institute of Gandhian Studies, Wardha
I wish you are shining as always! I want to express my gratefulness for the time shared together in India. This has been one of the most enriching learning experiences in my life and I am very happy this could be possible to do it in your friendship. I send you a big, big hug from Quito. The stars are shining and tomorrow will be a good day!

- Dania Quirola, Pioneers of Change, Ecuador

Thank you for bothering to spend so much of your time talking to us. I think that was one of the best conversation i've had with anyone in a long time. What struck me the most was your way with the children. And I always thought that there were only two people i know who have a way with children: a close friend (who informed me about Shikshantar) and myself! All of you out there are doing a great job.

- Mitali Purohit, Mumbai

i enjoyed my visit to shikshantar and have been keeping myself busy reading your literature. certainly, your ideas are helping me as i am trying to formulate my own ideas on education in south asia. i wish you the best in trying to channel diverse learning opportunities in udaipur and elsewhere. please include me in your quest and let me know how i can help.

- Kimberly Parekh, USA

I have been thinking often (daily) about our conversations in Udaipur, and particularly as my role as a ‘teacher’ in China and a teacher of the English language, no less.... I will be publishing some articles written by various authors in a political youth magazine put out by the International Federation of Liberal Youth; and the South China Morning Post. I was wondering if you might be interested in contributing some words on the work of Shikshantar and how it works to address the impact of globalization on education and how it is fighting the dominance of factory schooling. The focus of what I am writing is a comparison of China and India in the context of creating “alternatives” to factory schooling.

- Alonzo Emery, USA

I wish you are shining as always! I want to express my gratefulness for the time shared together in India. This has been one of the most enriching learning experiences in my life and I am very happy this could be possible to do it in your friendship. I send you a big, big hug from Quito. The stars are shining and tomorrow will be a good day!

- Dania Quirola, Pioneers of Change, Ecuador
v. our own learning community

at 21 fatehpura, learning opportunities abound: charka (hand spinning wheel), vermicomposting, solar cooking, organic farming, painting, collaborative games, and of course, our extensive library of books, videos, CD-roms and musical instruments.

I would like to thank you for taking the time to show me around your organisation, and for letting me sit in on a very entertaining and enriching workshop! I really appreciate your effort and many thanks for a great lunch too! I hope that in the future I could contribute in some way to what you are working towards. And I’m positive, I can apply it to what we are doing in South Africa... It’s great to see so much positive energy and commitment go into a project as exciting and challenging as yours.

- Jacqueline Joubert, Pioneers of Change, South Africa

2003 interns
maria glauser (paraguay)
alok singh (u.k.)
karthik patel (ahmedabad)
jyoti rai (delhi)
naveen kumar (tamil nadu)

shikshantar core team
gopal lal sharma
guddi prajapat
kishan prajapat
manish jain
panna lal patel
ramawtar singh
shilpa jain
vidhi jain
vishal dhaybhai

team learning journeys 2003
vimala thakar (mt. abu, rajasthan)
brahma kumaris (mt. abu, rajasthan)
r.t. doshi, city farmer (mumbai)
jeevan vidya camp (udaipur, rajasthan)
tapovan ashram (naya kheda, rajasthan)
patel family farm (bedla, rajasthan)
**Special thanks to the following friends for their financial (cash and in-kind) contributions for fiscal year 2003-2004**

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<td>Vijaya Chauhan</td>
<td>Datta Shinde</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vasudevan Rajaram</td>
<td>Jackie Joubert</td>
<td>Shubhada Joshi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anand and Chandu Goyal</td>
<td>Dushyant Shukla</td>
<td>Swaraj Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aaron Falbel</td>
<td>Suresh Parekh</td>
<td>Abhyavakti Media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susannah Sheffer</td>
<td>Shammi Nanda</td>
<td>Sehgal Family Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Del Hornbuckle</td>
<td>Mandakini Mathur</td>
<td>UNESCO (Learning Societies Conf.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naomi Swinton</td>
<td>Aradhana Nagpal</td>
<td>Berkana Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ganpat and Madhu Jain</td>
<td>Narendra Kumar Gupta</td>
<td>Altermedia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Cienfuegos</td>
<td>Mona Patrao</td>
<td>Other India Books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manish Bapna</td>
<td>Venkatesh Iyer</td>
<td>Visthaar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Munir Fasheh</td>
<td>Vivek and Charu Bhandari</td>
<td>Friends at the World Social Forum</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

After teaching and studying for eleven years in various locations and grade levels, I have now come to realize the extent of my inquiry. As an educator, parent, student, and global citizen, I am interested and concerned about the perceptions and practices of a dominating education system in a local and global context, and about the lack of regard for diversity, spirituality, and unique student potentials in educational discussions and decision making. I look forward to any future discussions with individuals or the team of Shikshantar, and I commend you on your work and efforts to rethink and reshape education and development for the 21st century. We have a long way to go, but even small steps are making a difference.

- Nadine Cruickshanks, Victoria, Canada
### EXPENDITURES for Fiscal Year 2003-2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Honoraria</td>
<td>237,300</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference/Meeting Expenses</td>
<td>236,511</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Rent</td>
<td>186,000</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publications Printing</td>
<td>110,875</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tours and Travelling</td>
<td>81,857</td>
<td>8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office Expenses</td>
<td>39,033</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Auditor's Fees</td>
<td>36,200</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone/Fax</td>
<td>19,018</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photocopying/Stationary</td>
<td>16,411</td>
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<tr>
<td>Repair/Maintenance</td>
<td>10,940</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postage/Telegram</td>
<td>7,092</td>
<td>.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Books and Periodicals</td>
<td>6,700</td>
<td>.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricity/Water</td>
<td>4,180</td>
<td>.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank Charges</td>
<td>847</td>
<td>.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>Rs.992,965</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>US$22,066</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the stories, ideas, and actions told in the publications, I was able to note that perhaps one of the key learning for me was the affirmation and validation of the need to develop locally-based and home grown methodologies in how we seek to address development challenges. I found this to be indeed a bold realisation, and needless to state that its also empowering as it demands us to break ways from the burden of the past as imposed by education institutions and by our failure to critically examine and accept the negative impact that ‘copy cat’ modelling has for our societies. It is this above-mentioned affirmation effect that has challenged me to forego the burden of thinking that I know, and I started to actively seek means and ways to learn to co-create. And this has made all the difference.

- Linda Mbonambi, eThekwini Municipality
  Durban, South Africa
The land and people of Mewar are amazing,
And so is the language Mewari,
Great are the festivals of Mewar,
And so are the songs in Mewari,
The creations and common wisdom of Mewar is amazing,
And so are the colors of Mewar,
I just want to keep learning from Mewar and its beauty...

- a song by Guddi Prajapat