

In a world, so full of competition amongst the rich, the powerful and the rank holders, that the inner self of a human being often finds itself lost or rather trampled. We live in a world which is being ruled by Money, Power, Status, and Corruption. Power always demands its source to keep it going, hence power brings yearning for more money. Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely. It is, indeed, a vicious circle entrapping and enslaving human beings to serve them more and more. Power is thus so powerful that it sometimes tries to over-power the creator. Whether one believes it or not, there are still some people around us who could have become powerful, both in

strength and in financial means. But who dared to create an equitable world sans hunger and ignorance despite being surrounded by wealth and power.

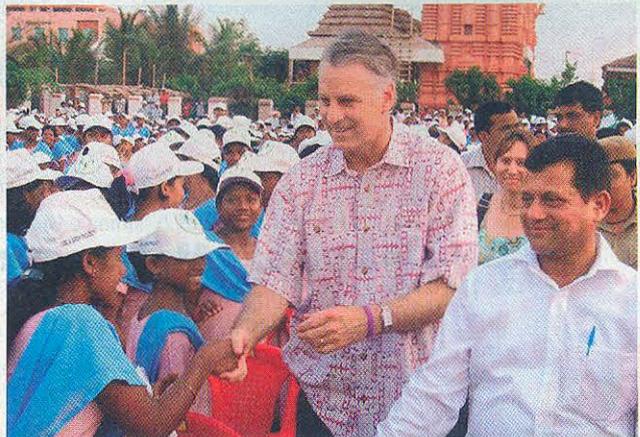
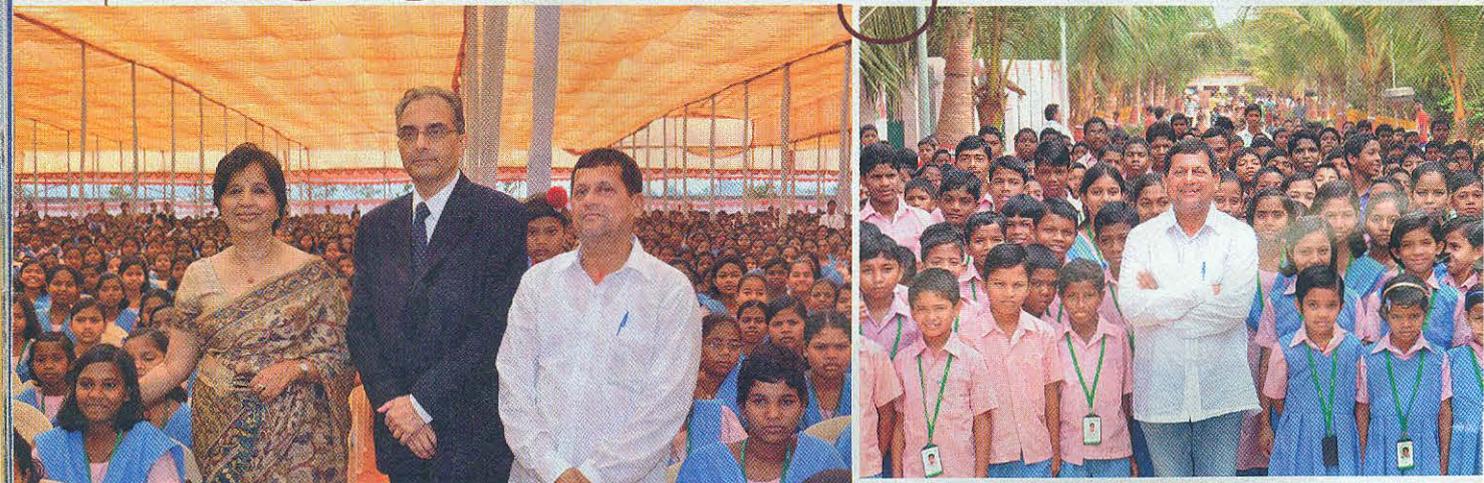
It was during the early sixties, when Indian economy was in a very bad shape because of several socio-political factors, a non-descript village Kalarabanka in the district of Cuttack was preparing itself to present the world a solution to deal with absolute poverty, hunger, and ignorance. Today, looking in hindsight one finds that after 45 long years, the non-descript obscure village Kalarabanka and its surrounding villages have become an education hub for the region, acquiring the status of a model Panchayat, with the village

Kalarabanka becoming the first village in India to cover its citizens by Health Insurance. The unbelievable trait has happened, not through any miracle, but through the continuous and dedicated effort of its prodigy. A frail looking young man Achyuta Samanta who has risen there against all hopes of survival due to the untold miseries inflicted on him and his family by cruel destiny.

Wild spinach and rice were all that his mother could give Achyuta for sustenance for she had to fend the entire family of seven in absence of her husband who died untimely when Achyuta was only four. It can be left to one's imagination to visualize the horrendous life young Achyuta was leading

Achyuta Samanta

# Temple Learning of



with a dilapidated thatched roof over his head, leaking in rainy season and turning into an inferno during summers.

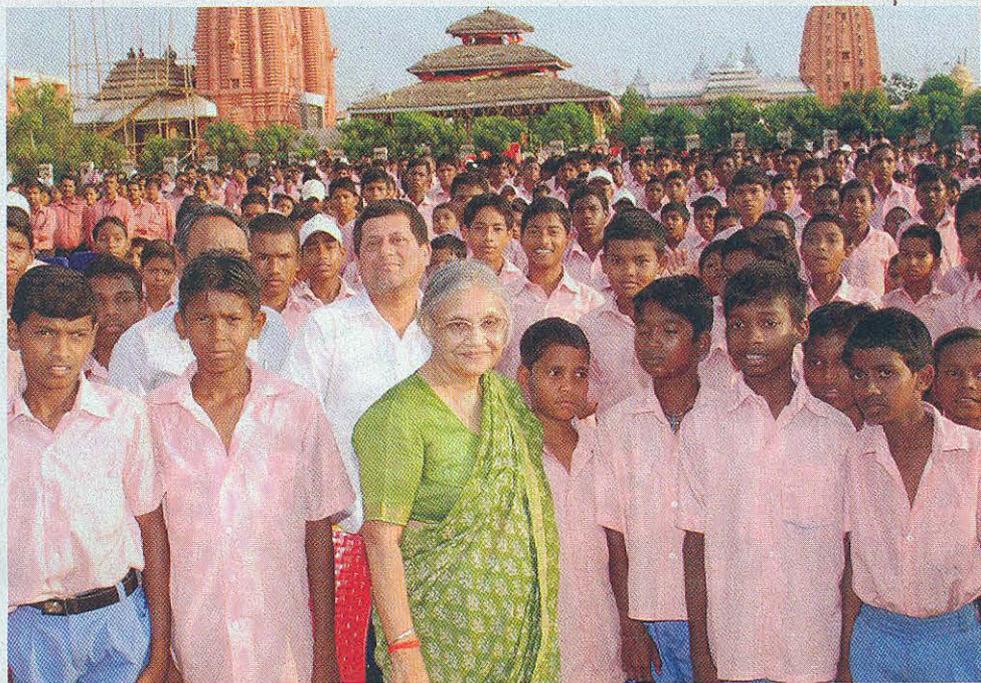
It was indeed a difficult choice for anyone grown in such a hopeless situation to think of getting education, but as if driven by an instinct, young Achyuta followed the few elderly boys to reach the school. Surprised by his will to stay in class, the headmaster had to give in and the journey for the young lad started. Journey from a primary School to High School, from High School to College, and from a College to the University, always with the merit scholarship was both fascinating and challenging for Achyuta.

Scholarship was not enough for him to sail, through for which he had to give tuition classes to other students. The penury he experienced made him struggle and stand in the midst of just a very microscopic few who could transform their woes to advantages. The logical end to a struggling young man's quest was a job to sustain himself and help the family back home. His academic excellence got him the job of a teacher in a local college; but his destiny had other plans for him.

While walking the dusty and, muddy roads of his village to attend the school, Achyuta thought of some of his friends and hundred others who were forced to help their parents because they

had no means to go to school. It was this thought that made Achyuta think something big for deprived children. Achyuta had to leave his job for getting fully involved in his resolve. It definitely needed courage to give up a secured future to run after a mirage. Few people dare to think of coming near the horizon but a very few set their own Horizons; and Achyuta was proving to be one of them.

With all his savings, a paltry sum of Rs. 5,000/-, Achyuta started a small Industrial



Training Institute in 1993, which has grown into one of the finest multi-disciplinary Universities of the country. It was not his aim to open up an Industrial Training Centre and then upgrade it to an Engineering College to mint money; it was rather a calculative move to earn something which could be spent for the poorer sections of the society. He mandated that whatever the Engineering Institute would earn, a portion of that would go for taking care of the poor children. A round this time, Achyuta started a small school for 125 children belonging to the under-privileged section of the society. That small institute-Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) has now grown into the largest institute of the world for 18,000 tribal children, who are provided here with accommodation, food, health care, and education from KG to PG, absolutely free.

Born out of love, passion, and dedication, KISS today stands testimony to Achyuta Samanta's expression of feelings and his sincerity to empower millions of under privileged aborigines through education. Through KISS, Achyuta Samanta ensured that no child should ever have a nightmarish, shattered childhood. He now plays father to nearly 20,000 children, as he knows what it means to be a father less child. Love and care helped the tribal children to shine in every field. Whether it is to represent the nation in International sports, or to secure position in various qualifying examinations, the indigenous children have proved beyond any

doubt that given scope, they could outshine everyone. Participation of world organizations like UNDP, UNICEF, UNESCO, UNFPA, and US Federal Government in various projects of KISS that it has become the most accepted model to empower and create sustainable livelihood through education.

Great economic planners and statesman, including Presidents, Prime Minister, Chief Ministers, Nobel Laurets, and Social workers while appreciating KISS and its founder Achyuta Samanta express the inability to understand the financial management of the institute, which does not get any financial help from the Government.

Establishment of KIIT and KISS shows just a small glimpse of Achyuta Samanta's persona. Samanta does not even remember the names who were being helped by him. Infact this humane quality has earned him hundreds of awards and honors, including couple of honorary degrees from world-class Universities.

The income that comes from KIIT University and the loan for its expansion can help anyone lead a life of luxury, except for a man like Samanta for whom luxury means very little. He finds the greatest satisfaction by his Gandhiaans lifestyle. He shares the pain of others and for him kindness & thinking creates profoundness and kindness creates love. It is the love for humanity that inspires Achyuta Samanta to stand as a class of his own in the midst of great Philanthropists. □

