



## Annual Report for the year 2006-07

### *Introduction*

The year 2006-07 was an important year in terms of the achievements of Samskriti Foundation. This year too saw a giant leap in the activities of the Foundation. The report of activities for the year 2006 07 is as follows:

### *I. Development of Self-Teaching Interactive Multimedia Package on the ancient Script of Sharada:*

After successfully creating a Self-Teaching Interactive Multimedia Package on the ancient Script of Grantha, which was greatly acclaimed by the National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM), Govt of India, funds were released by the (NMM) to the Foundation to take up the work to develop a similar Multimedia Package for Sharada script. The same was undertaken in right earnest and the details of the same are as follows:

#### **SHARADA LIPISIKHSHAKA**

'An interactive Multimedia tutorial on Sharada Script'

Objective: To create a unique multimedia tutorial on Sharada Script, that is simple, user-friendly and knowledge-oriented.

The objective of this document is to provide information on the nuances of creating this product, through intensive research, knowledge gathering and technical evaluations.

Product: An interactive multimedia tutorial on age-old Sharada Script, that One can click through an user-friendly interface with relevance to Devanagari Script.

Audio sounds for each alphabet have been included, enabling the users to easily identify the Sharada alphabets, and aid them to phonetically pronounce them perfectly.

An option to practice the calligraphy has been provided to teach the user the correct process of writing the Sharada Script for a better understanding of the language.

The 'Write' button in the interface enables a feather tip utility to practice the calligraphy, with options to 'Erase' and 'End' the practice session.



These options have been included to provide maximum flexibility for the learner to practice umpteen numbers of times, learning to improve the calligraphy style each time.

Features: The product includes many unique features, to facilitate users to learn the script through an interactive approach, making an interesting fun-based learning.

### Feature include,

- Display of Sharada alphabets
- Calligraphy of Sharada Script
- Devanagari Equivalent
- Practice Area To enable the User to write and practice the calligraphy of the alphabets
- READ option for understand the phonetics of the alphabets with audio files of the respective alphabets
- WRITE option for practicing the calligraphy



Content: The product is a one of its kind, comprehensive, interactive learning package, which empowers the Users with in-depth understanding of the Sharada Script.

### Content includes,

- Vowels
- Consonants
- Ka gunithas
- Conjunct Consonants
- Words
- Sentences
- Exercises to evaluate Oneself after thorough learning
- Read manuscript option Sample scripts written on palm leaves, books
- Tell Me More Background of the Sharada Script and its evolution
- Final observations Scholar's observations about the script, its importance and relevance in this modern context



### Production Approach:

Primarily the product development was approached through a prototype using Visual Basic as front-end to display respective Sharada alphabets based on specific inputs, with relevance to Devanagari Script. This successful prototype formed the basis for the development of the product.



## **II. Conducting of free Sanskrit and Yoga Classes at the Premises of the Foundation**

As in the previous years, Sanskrit and Yoga classes were continued to be held in the premises of the Foundation. This year too, the response was very encouraging and students from Italy, Germany and other places attended the classes. The classes were conducted throughout the year. This year the focus was on the teaching of the Natya-Sastra and its relevance to the modern world.

## **III. Collection of Manuscripts and Library**

Collection of books and Manuscripts for the library continued this year as in the previous years also.

## **IV. Future Plans**

### **R & D Centre**

It is proposed to house an exhaustive reference multi-lingual library that will quench the thirst of knowledge-seekers from around the world. The library will house books, CDs, audio cassettes covering all branches of traditional as well as contemporary subjects. It will also cater to the needs of the rural folk, helping them with information in their own language. Further, these books will be used to conduct in depth research into varied aspects and publish them. The library will be computerised so that retrieving the required information will be instant and easy. Photocopying, computerized storage and other facilities will also be provided to the researchers, along with internet access. Already the foundation has about 5,000 titles under its possession

### **Weekend Courses**

It is proposed to have weekend courses for people of all age-groups. Families as a whole would be encouraged to attend the courses in groups which will help them to gain perceptiveness to the joys and pain of others. The week-end courses begin on Saturday afternoon. Lecture courses on the banks of Kaveri (where Samskriti Foundation proposes to procure some land on rent for which negotiations are underway) will be followed by observation of rare species of birds that dot the river bed as well as the rock-islands in the river. Prayer meetings after sun-set will help them learn the ways of worshipping God. They will be taken on a guided tour of campus on Sunday morning to get acquainted with various projects of the Foundation. There will be also a mini session of Yoga for the participants. Spiritual discourses by eminent scholars will be followed by a one-to-one interactive session with the spiritual master who will clarify their doubts about various aspects of life. After spending some time in the sylvan surroundings of the campus and sumptuous lunch-pure south Indian vegetarian with rare dishes and delicacies, will bring the course to an end.



## Developing a garden for Aroma Therapy

Among the many new innovative curing systems, Aroma therapy is the principle mode of cure that is fast catching up. It is found that aroma reaches brain directly before the medicine does and produces the desired effect. For example, if a person who is a diabetic and is made to savour the appropriate aroma, it will coax the brain to send the right signal to the pancreas to produce the required amount of insulin. Aroma therapy is also devoid of the side effects that are associated with such drugs. There is an abundant amount of information in the ancient Indian Sanskrit texts that give us details in this therapy. Samskriti Foundation has direct access to this information, and has done the ground work in this regard. It is proposed to create a small garden that will serve as the sites for aroma therapy. As a first step, research has begun to extract the information in the ancient Sanskrit texts available to us. If successful, this will go a long way in serving the public who are suffering from diseases. This is one of the main projects of the Samskriti Foundation.

### **Implementation of 'rishi-krishi paddati' or the system of zero cultivation:**

'Rishi-krishi paddati' or the system of zero cultivation was the method of cultivation that was practiced successfully by our fore-fathers. Modern farming thinks it is smart to maximize produce and wipe it clean without a care for the strain on the earth. Ancient farming included leaving a large portion of produce to birds and animals which would automatically help re-cultivate. The ancient way was to live with nature, not treat it as a profit centre. This centre would be a model in this regard and will take the visitors to those days of yore when everything from grains to fruits, creepers to flowers would grow naturally, all by themselves. This method of farming is self-sustainable and is based on man-nature-animal symbiosis

## **IV. Conclusion**

When one looks back at the activities of the Foundation in the present year, it can be said with a good amount of satisfaction and contentment that some of the important aims and objectives of the Foundation were well achieved with the limited resources available. It is proposed to continue the good work in the coming years also with the cooperation of scholars and philanthropists.

