

# Slum kids to get lessons in mother tongue

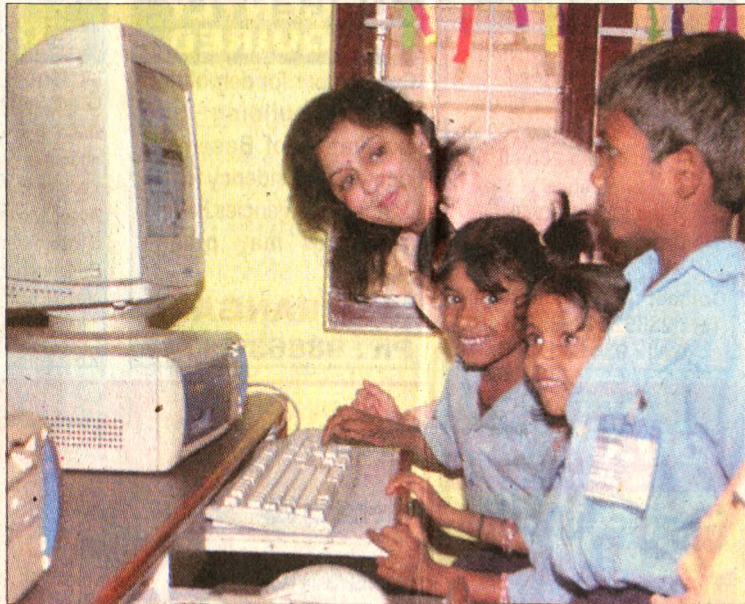
VIJAY TIMES NEWS

**Bangalore:** The state government will now bank on the mother tongue to educate 1.5 lakh slum children and extend improved facilities for poor students in government schools.

Speaking to reporters after inaugurating Akshara Khazana- a children's library set up by Akshara Foundation and Juniper Networks, T M Vijay Baskhar, Secretary for Primary and Secondary Education, said that the programme will be launched from the next academic session starting June after the selected teachers have undergone a 45-day training.

Lamenting that libraries in many of the government schools were left unused, he said that necessary steps like keeping them open for students on holidays were under consideration.

Rohini Nilekani, Chairman, Akshara Foundation, said that the Foundation, set up in 2002, had



**Akshara Foundation chairperson Rohini Nilekani with children at the inauguration of 'Akshara Khajana', a children's library, at Annasandrapalya.**

embarked upon a programme to set up libraries for poor children in government schools three years ago.