

Safarnama/सफरनामा  
February-March 2016





# संभावना कायाक्रम...



Reaching the Real India: Land Rights workshop; 25th to 29th February

Prafulla Samantara, Social Activist; Preeti Sampat, Researcher; Amit Kumar, Associate - NAPM; Rajendra Ravi - Social Activist and Madhuresh Kumar of National Alliance of People's movements conducted this informative workshop on the question of Land, its distribution, policies and legislation in India. 22 participants, mostly researchers, from different organisations attended the program

## Buniyaad – 15th to 29th March

This was the third time that we did our program for young activists. We toggled once more with the structure of the program, and started the process with spending two days on exploring our understanding of issues that move us. Starting with a sharing of personal journeys in small groups, the 25 participants threw up a series of issues that made a difference to them, then categorizing these issues and their root causes. Amit from Adharshila helped facilitate this process.

In the next three days we focused on power, privilege and identity issues of gender, caste and communalism. We had with us Palash Biswas, a journalist and Dalit rights activist. While his insights into history were fascinating, we saw participants getting impatient, as he spoke in monotone through long sessions. :) We followed this with questioning development. Devinder Sharma, on skype, walked us through issues of food and agriculture crisis. Rohit Prajapati looked at the impact of the current development model on the environment – exposing the reality of the Gujarat model. Prakash, posed the question – ‘Is sustainable development possible or should we be talking about sustainable living?’. These three sessions were then wrapped up by Praveen with a day and a half of economic history of capitalism and neo-liberal development.

Ujjwal and Anupama Modi, both Professors at Delhi University and Jawaharlal Nehru University, spoke of the nature of the ‘State’, the role of the Constitution and Citizenship. Highlighting the importance of the constitution as a means of empowering the people and limiting the power of the state, they pressed on the criticality of this in the public and political spaces in contemporary India. Over the last two days we looked at the role of social organisations and people’s movements in pushing for change, in challenging State power and status quo through struggles of resistance or efforts of renewal and alternative development. The program, threw up further questions for some, and resolved some questions for others.

Yogendra Yadav and Medha Patkar joined the group, again over skype. While Yogendra ji spoke of the challenges and relevance of electoral politics, Medha di spoke of people’s movements as agents of change. That there is a need for a psycho-social and cultural revolution if large scale political change has to be brought about and sustained, was the theme of the concluding sessions. Dialogues via films and readings, groups discussions and heated arguments continued till the wee hours of the night. **“Tay kaun karega?”** was the question of the program, cropping up now and then.







## Sustainable Tourism, 10th, 11th and 12th March

This program was organised in collaboration with a Bangalore based organisation, Equations.

Living in the mountains, along the coasts, in the most magnificent landscapes, in a country on the path of relentless economic growth, is no longer the same as it was two decades ago. More and more of the remote and so called "pristine" areas are under threat from the commercial tourism industry which rapidly alters the economy, landscapes, cultures and lives of people who reside in these areas for the worse.

"For those of us concerned about extractive and corporate tourism adversely impacting the community and environment, there have been two very clear responses - one, which resists mainstream tourism and the other which explores the participation of local people in creating models of sustainable tourism", said Swathi Seshadri from Equations.

The key question we dealt with was - Can tourism be managed and directed in ways that actually provides livelihood opportunities to those who need it and also preserves the environment?

Sharing experiences of alternative community based responsible tourism were participants from Tapas from Sunderbans, Rajendra Gurung from Sikkim, Norbu from Ecosphere, Lahaul. Nevil, Laxman and Ilyn D'souza from Gorai shared about their struggle against Essel World's commercial tourism in Mumbai.



"I'm not here to teach you acting, I'm here to probe you to 'ACT'" said Prabir Bose as we dived into the "Theater of the Oppressed" at Sanjha Manch. Theatre of the Oppressed, a dramatic form of popular education, now used by social movements in more than 70 countries was founded by Augusto Boal (16 March 1931 – 2 May 2009), a Brazilian author, playwright and director.

As Anju Uppal posed the question, "Hum yahan achchi-achchi baatein karenge ya sachi sachi baatein?", we learnt to observe ourselves, we learnt to feel how we feel and to look at ourselves from the outside. We looked at 'Power and Oppression' straight in the face, questioning patriarchy, economic development, the education system as it prevails today

We re-examined and challenged the standard understanding of 'Communication' as 'transmission of messages from sender to receiver' and experienced 'Communication' as 'creation of meaning'.

Thanks to Anju and Prabir for taking us on this journey while consciously never being drivers, but always, fellow travelers.

## Sanjha Manch: A 5 day Workshop on Participatory Communication and Theatre facilitated by Anju Uppal and Prabir Bose of Vikalp Kriya





# Upcoming Programs...

*Buland Iraade: A self Reflective workshop on  
Gender and Sexuality  
19<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> April*

*India Youth Jam  
28<sup>th</sup> April to 6<sup>th</sup> May*

*Jeevan Vidya: A Life-skills Workshop  
9<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> May*

*Thought for Food: A 5 day workshop  
18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> May*

*Nayi Dishayein: A 6 week Summer School on Rethinking Development  
24<sup>th</sup> May to 4<sup>th</sup> July*

*Annual Study workshop: New socialist Initiative  
18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> May*

*Nayi Dishayein: A 10 day Summer School on Rethinking Development  
6<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> June*

नीति और राजनीति की  
**सम्भावना**

# Udaan

The udaan team prepared a great presentation for the Parents-Teachers meeting in February and dialogued with the parents on the vision of alternate education.



Udaan learning center had loads of fun with quilling and other art workshops.

Udaan team with children conducting a newspaper and card board art workshop. →





# Farm to Plate



Square Foot gardening is a unique form of kitchen farming which saves on labour and input in the long run. Once prepared, the squarefoots need little tending and can be replenished with new seeds after harvest without much digging etc. Sambhaavnaa staff and volunteers got together and prepared ten 32 Square feet vegetable patches to grow seasonal vegetables. This method is also helpful to preserve manure and avoid runoff during rains.





# Farm to Plate...



Alex and the 'Pahar aur Hum' participants had prepared Gobar + Cow urine manure which was ready for use in . All trees got a boost from the potent mix!! Contact Mohammed for the recipe!





# Khaana Khazana

Saroj Di picking up new baking skills with help from Deer Park friends. Oven fresh bread and some whole wheat biscuits.

