



# Safarnama

*Sambhaaznaa and Udaan ka Safarnama,  
October to December 2018*

# Buland Iraade

*November 19 to 23, 2018*



**Through group activities, introspective and reflective discussions, songs of resistance, and conversations, we explored the interlinkages between power, gender, patriarchy, and sexuality through institutions like caste, class, family, religion, education, health, media and politics, and also connected these interlinkages to constitutional rights, women's movement and other social movements in India. The diverse group of participants added significant dimensions to the workshop by sharing their own experiential knowledge and pondering over subject-matters concerning transgender rights, Adivasi issues, and the current narratives of the Kashmir issue.**

**The interactive and engaging discussions which inspired and ignited many debates, facilitated under the intellectual and insightful guidance of Nandini Rao and Dhiviya David, helped us in arriving at the 'right' questions insofar as the complex nature of the aforementioned issues is concerned, to think about the possibilities of addressing these issues in our own individually-specific ways, and in germination of new ideas.**

# Perspectives: Ethnographic Research Methods for Activists

October 18 to 20, 2018



Sambhaavna Institute continued its foray on the interstices of academia and activism through an anthropologically-inspired workshop, *Perspectives: Ethnographic Research Methods for Activists*. Our facilitator, Atreyee Majumder, an anthropologist, created a delightfully intense and thoughtfully intellectual atmosphere, through a discussion of the substantive aspects of ethnographic research and participant observation; importance of reflexivity, contextualization, and processes of meaning-making; and long-term qualitative study of sociocultural processes.



The interactive discourse fed into the practical components of the workshop, as we channelized the threads of this discussion from the theatres of our minds to actual fieldwork, albeit for a short duration. Through this research engagement and writing, we ruminated on dilemmas associated with fieldwork and writing, being an observer and/or advocate, speaking 'truthfully' or 'sincerely' in mutually reciprocal conversations with interlocutors, and building relationships with people with whom we are working as researchers. The workshop was critical in creating pathways to give coherence to our thoughts, and think in a more pragmatic way about anthropology as: sharing and support, teaching and public education, social critique, collaboration, advocacy, and activism.

# Cinema of Resistance

December 7 to 9, 2018



On December 7, filled with anticipation and enthusiasm, we launched our 3-day workshop-cum-film festival, *Cinema of Resistance*. Over the course the three days, we had an opportunity to delve into the possibilities of creating new spaces of community screenings of cinema, and in the process, attempting to move beyond the mere imagination of these spaces. As we joined the threads, we were able to reflect on utilizing the medium of independent cinema to think about a wider web of engagement – throwing a glowing light on the intricate layers of various social movements in contemporary India, and plethora of ways in which people are creatively channelizing different modes of self-expression.

Our facilitator, Sanjay Joshi, provided a lot of fodder to embroider our imagination with, through the processes of viewing and screening of several films, and moderating interactive and animated discussions. As we ventured into the intuitive terrains of the craft of cinema-making, film appreciation, and activism through cinema, the creative joy we felt was a source of immense contentment. The discussions regarding the use of metaphor and sound and different camera shots in cinema, ownership of cinema in this digital age, our changing capacities to screen films, shall strike a note of vibrancy in our sensibilities for a long time. The second day of the workshop became even more memorable as Subrat Kumar Sahu's film, *Ho Gayi Peer Parvat Si*, was premiered at the workshop. It added an additional emotional gear to our experiences.

WINTER SCHOOL OF RETHINKING DEVELOPMENT

# Nayi Dishayein

*December 21 to 30, 2018*



**The year 2018 concluded with our annual ten-day workshop for the winter, *Nayi Dishayein*. At a broader level, we unpeeled the thematic realm of the notion of ‘development’, and conversed with a plethora of narratives and discourses surrounding this notion, and the ways in which these narratives and discourses are constructed. Among other things, we did this by attempting to understand development, in new and creative ways, through the social prisms of power, technology, State, nationalism, class, caste, gender, ‘communities’ and social movements.**

***Dunu Roy, Director, Hazards Centre, facilitated the session on Development: Historical Contextualization and Theoretical Reflections.***



WINTER SCHOOL OF RETHINKING DEVELOPMENT

# Nayi Dishayein

*December 21 to 30, 2018*

*Janaki Srinivasan, Assistant Professor, Dept of Political Science, Panjab University, facilitated the session on Gender and Development.*



*Bhanwar Meghwanshi, a Dalit activist who has been associated with many social movements, facilitated the session on Caste and Development.*

*Benson Issac, who teaches in Azim Premji University, facilitated the sessions on Social Movements Transformative Politics, and Resistance.*



**As we attempted to distill the essence of some of these issues, many ideas also began to take on a different significance. Pondering over self-identity, hierarchies in knowledge production, our thought processes, and language led to a struggle with fundamentals of 'being neutral', objectivity, self-bias, our fractured perceptions, and the art of thinking through categories and labels. Amidst the alternate bursts of sunshine and showers during the last few days of December, the complex reflections of the participants emphasized the vitality of perspective-building, making imagination precise, myriad ways of telling the stories of our lives to ourselves, and the importance of having inner conversations and self-awareness. To animate and stretch our sensibilities, we also educatively amused ourselves through dinner dates, games like mafia and three men in a boat, invisible theatre, songs and cinema of resistance, and theatre of the oppressed.**

**While we genuinely make an effort to conclude our workshops on a sanguine note, in workshops like *Nayi Dishayein*, it can become an elusive aim since, after ten moving days, it is generally with a heavy heart that all of us bid farewell to each other, with the promises of enduring friendships.**

# Upcoming Programs...

**पहाड़ और हम!**  
हिमालय क्षेत्र के युवाओं के लिए एक कार्यशाला  
16 से 23 फरवरी 2019

**क्या आप**

- हिमालय के एक युवा हैं?
- पर्यावरण और विकास पर चुनौतियाँ कौन सी हैं?
- दूसरे पहाड़ी युवाओं और संस्थाओं से जुड़ना चाहते हैं?
- इस संदिग्ध में खुद की पहचान को तय करना चाहते हैं?

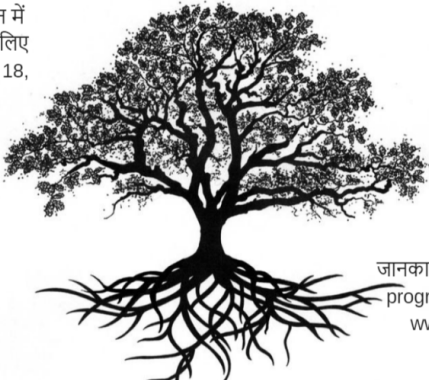
**Environmental Compliance**  
**Closing the gap**




A workshop for Environmental Justice activists  
26 to 28 February 2019

**बुनियाद**  
सामाजिक परिवर्तन में कार्यरत युवाओं के लिए कार्यक्रम मार्च 9 से 18, 2019



जानकारी के लिए – 889 422 7954,  
programs@sambhaavnaa.org  
www.sambhaavnaa.org



**Spring Eco Camp**  
A beginning towards environmental consciousness  
Udaan Learning Centre  
March 17 - March 26

Experience spring amidst the beauty of Dhauladhar mountains!  
For 12-16 years old  
Contact us:  
9460969188/ 8679475925  
Fatema@sambhaavnaa.org  
Palampur, HP

# Gup-Shup Chabootra



## Sahib Singh Tulsi

*Coordinator, Sambhaavna Programs Team*

**There's a new member in our family now, Sahib Tulsi, who has joined us since November as the Programme Coordinator. Sahib has completed his M.A. in the disciplines of Economics and Development Studies, respectively.**

**Through his experiences at Sambhaavna Institute, he desires to saunter in the realm of ideas, to add new dimensions to his intellectual journey, and to contribute in creating warm and intimate spaces at the Institute, to nurture creativity, curiosity, and imagination. His inclinations are academic, primarily, and he aspires to do doctoral studies in anthropology in the near future.**



**Architecture students (first batch) from Satyabhama University, Chennai, visited us on December 3, to understand the nuances of the vernacular architecture, at our campus.**

**We conversed with them about the Institute, our mud buildings, and creative use of local material such as mud, bamboo, river stone and slate.**

**Second batch visited us on December 4. We spoke about the Institute, our philosophy, and Abhimanyu also shared about Udaan Learning Center and their work with the community and schools in Kandbari.**

**Third batch visited us on December 13. Mohammad discussed about the Institute, vernacular architecture and the Kodaikanal issue.**





# Udaan Learning Center



**1. We conducted sessions in Government Sr. Secondary School, Kandbari, for 3 months with IX standard, and 4 months with VIII standard. We met them thrice a week, to discuss about following issues;**

- understanding needs, interdependence of nature, effects of industrialization and consumerism.
- sociocultural inequalities in terms of caste discrimination and gender roles
- plastic pollution was also one of the topics

**All of this was done through activities, simulations, group projects, short films etc. We concluded the module through presentations by the students.**

**2. We conducted a five-day workshop with "Combined Action For Progress" (CAFP) from Delhi, on dissecting social inequalities in the society, and environmental awareness. We engaged with them through a plethora of activities like privilege walk, simulations, movies, songs, field visits, and talks,**

**3. We also held a self-awareness workshop with local kids. This was a 2-day workshop conducted by a leadership coach, Aditya Minocha. He spoke about the different kinds of inherent fears within the self, and opened up an opportunity for children to talk about themselves, grappling with their fears and breaking their comfort zones.**

**4. Aero Inspire team conducted a 2-hour session in the local govt. school and Udaan on the basic principles behind the process of flying the airplanes.**



*Udaan School - For some time now Udaan School has been documenting the experience of its journey. We regularly post updates on school activities, pedagogical methods, reports on guest lectures, and school ethos on our facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/udaanschoolkandbari/> People are invited to visit and leave their comments and suggestions.*

# Farm To Plate



**We are also glad to note that we made some additions to our poultry farm. We purchased more hens and roosters, and extended our physical infrastructure to provide them with a space of comfort where they can hop around playfully. Consequently, we are enjoying the joy of consuming of organic eggs on a daily basis now, adding to the growing list of organically-grown comestibles on our campus.**

**We also have three cows. Two of them gave birth to a calf each recently. The third one, who has seen twenty beautiful summers in the mountains, has served us for thirteen years. We are trying to take care of her to the best of our efforts. We are also looking forward eagerly to add more traditional cows to our family here at Sambhaavnaa. Cattle rearing has become an important activity for us in the light of violence, and harsh treatment, against male calves in the last few years in the state.**

