

Safarnama

Sambhaavnaa and Udaan ka Safarnama

October to December, 2019



A 6-day workshop with Social design students of Ambedkar University Delhi

Sep 29 to Oct 5, 2019

The core premise of this course was to understand the complex processes embedded within the production of urban and rural as one intervenes in varied geographic settings. The study involved understanding the nuances of social life in the varied context from the perspectives of caste-hierarchies, power-asymmetries, kinship-ties and inter-relationships, social-conflicts, decision-making processes, governance and public interfaces, ease of mobility, access to services, commons and collective spaces. As part of the workshop, students were expected to map urban-rural flows be it material, human, financial, technological etc, that significantly characterized the dynamic conditions of interchange and interdependence. We critically looked at the interface between the rural and urban beyond the obvious dichotomies in terms of numerous issues such as migration that blur these distinctions as part of the contemporary rural-urban debate. Also, we did various exercises like privilege walk and group work, to understand the depth of the issues and intersectionality. All the students were segregated into four groups and sent to the village to understand the interconnections of Energy, forest, agriculture and water.



Also, we critically examined, the notion of development – to understand it as a field of ideas. Examined the root causes of growing inequity in the distribution of wealth and resources and opportunities, and its impacts on nature and people, in a society fractured along the lines of gender, caste, race, class, ethnicity, religion, sexuality, knowledge and language.

Earth Shastra, a 9 day journey of young change agents

Oct 5 to 13, 2019

This workshop unravels the larger narratives of development, bringing deep awareness of self and system, with the curiosity to ask what are the right questions that one needs to ask as we continue to live in this world the way we do. It brought some moments of transformation by identifying unconscious patterns, traits that we as an individuals are living in, the stories we're taught and the stories we tell ourselves. We found ourself deeply immersed in nature, rebuilding our relationship with its elements. With mentors like Purvi Vyas, Ravi Gulati and, Deepa many possibilities and conversations opened which brought knowledge and wisdom together for the participants.



Perspectives: Ethnographic Research Methods for Activists

Oct 17 to 20, 2019



We began rethinking ethnographic research, representation, and ethics with Prof. Atreyee Majumder. We brought ethnographic research techniques to people outside the university system, especially those who work in the interventionist or activist mode. Activists, change agents, lawyers, development practitioners and design professionals are participating in this workshop.

Also, we learned about how to go out and do research on the ground. For this, we learned how to actively listen and retrain our eyes, how to mindfully travel into other people's realities, and how notice small moments that tell us something new about macro-phenomena. With Artreyee's guidance, we practiced how to write about this process so that marginalized points of view are represented as honestly as possible. Or rather, so that we let people narrate their own lives and selves. Relations of power are part of the research process, but with some work, we can learn to better navigate them.

A workshop on Development Finance

Nov 9 to 11, 2019



A four day intense workshop with rich content delivered by a diverse team of resource persons on Development Finance. The ground was laid by Dinesh Abrol talking about three decades of neoliberal agenda penetrating every sector. Commodifying the commons and removing funding from basic public services of health and education. Devidas Tuljapurkar spoke about the growing banking crisis and NPA's, the nexus of corporates and government to merge banks to loot the public of their hard-earned money deposited in the banks. We also got a perspective from Joe Athialy on how finance as a tool can help with various struggles from NBA to Tata Mundhra.* We also had Soumya Dutta leading expert of climate change who in his session on capitalism and ecology spoke about the growing trend of financialization of ecological services and how carbon credits will benefit the lead polluters of the world.

*** In a major win for Indian fishermen from Mundra in Kutch district of Gujarat, the US Supreme Court passed a historic decision making international organisations like the World Bank and its affiliates liable for legal action.**

बुलंद इरादे, सीखने-सिखाने और सकारात्मक बदलाव का सफर

Sep 11 to 15, 2019



बुलंद इरादे: पांच दिन की इस कार्यशाला में देश भर से आये कई सामाजिक कार्यकर्ताओं और छात्रों ने भाग लिया। नंदिनी और मृदु द्वारा जेंडर, पितृसत्ता, यौनिकता, कश्मीर दमन, संवैधानिक अधिकार के मुद्दों पर गहराई से चिंतन-मंथन किया गया। धारा 370 का हटाया जाना और कश्मीर पर इसके प्रभावों के बारे में भी बात की गयी।

इस कार्यशाला के मुख्य मुद्दे थे:

1. सत्ता क्या है? क्या यह सिर्फ नकारात्मक होती है या इसके सकारात्मक पहलू भी हो सकते हैं?
2. जेण्डर या सामाजिक लिंग और पितृसत्ता के बीच का रिश्ता क्या है?
3. क्या यौनिकता सिर्फ निजी है या वह हमारे जीवन के अन्य पहलुओं से जुड़ती है?
4. रज़ामन्दी या सहमति क्या है?
5. संविधान में दिए गए मूल अधिकार क्या हैं?
6. सहभागियों के साथ अलग-अलग भाषाओं में गाने गाना जिनसे प्रतिरोध की महक भी उठे और सकारात्मक ऊर्जा भी!

उत्सवपूर्ण हो हमारे संघर्ष

Nov 1 to 5, 2019



उत्सवपूर्ण हों हमारे संघर्ष, चार दिवसीय कार्यशाला, जिसमें भावनात्मक पहलुओं पर कार्य किया गया। विशाखा संस्था जयपुर और संभावना इंस्टिट्यूट ने इस वर्ष तीसरी बार इस कार्यशाला का आयोजन किया। लता प्रज्ञा और भारत का कई अभ्यासों द्वारा महिलाओं के भावनात्मक और मानसिक स्वस्थ को बेहतर करने की दिशा में यह कदम काफी सराहनीय रहा।

विधियों का इस्तेमाल किया जिनमें – प्रकृति, श्वास व ध्यान से जुड़े प्रयोग, विभिन्न थेरेपी (Awareness Through Body, Expressive Art Therapy, Gibberish, Movement Therapy, Reflection Therapy) की मदद से भावनाओं से जुड़े प्रयोग, शरीर के मूवमेंट्स, नृत्य, योगा, योगनिद्रा हास्य, संगीत, मालिश, शेयरिंग, चर्चाएँ और विश्राम।

कार्यशाला में चार स्तरों पर काम किया गया, जागरूकता, विसर्जन, अनुभव बांटना और समझ निर्माण, सामूहिक हीलिंग।



Theater For Change

Dec 11 to 14, 2019



Theater for Change a 4 day workshop by Maya Krishna Rao and Zubair started with letting the body lead rather than mind and included a wide range of movement and walking exercises, aimed at connecting and resonating with the surroundings. The workshop focused on the different attributes of tension and conflict held participation as a central approach. Maya emphasized, the ultimate aim in performance is to build belief and to constantly look for possibilities. While understanding possibilities in any event/story, the workshop circled around exploring the body, the world and the devices that can be used for negotiation. The workshop defined the idea of performance as playing around the themes of time, space and relations in regard to tension/conflict.



Nayi Dishayein Winter School

December 19 to 30, 2019



Nayi Dishayein, winter school started with the questions of life journeys, fears, anxieties, experiences of injustice, discrimination, hopes and Inspirations. Dunu Roy deconstructed the notion of 'development'.

Bhanwar Meghwanshi, a journalist and social activist spoke about how caste-based discrimination is prevalent in our society. He also discussed the origin of caste, varna system in India, the question of reservation, the connection of patriarchy and caste, manual scavenging and government policies driven by Brahmanical ideology.

Nawal Ali Watali is a social activist, an independent researcher and a photographer from Kashmir. She spoke about how Kashmir conflict has affected tens of thousands of Kashmiri people for almost 70 years, making their existence subservient to military decisions taken by the Indian state.

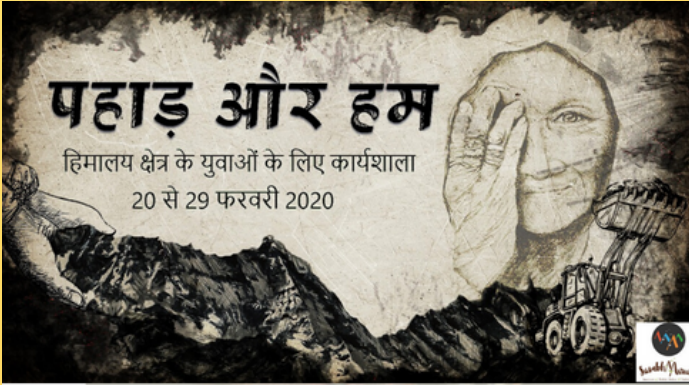
Janaki Srinivasan spoke about how 'Gender roles' focuses on the social construction of identities within the household, it also revealed the expectations from 'maleness and femaleness' in their relative access to resources.

Dr Dhiren Borisa highlighted the daily negotiations and caste, class and gendered hierarchies implicit in these queer spaces, pushing the field of Human Geography in South Asia to newer challenges posed by Queer and Anti-Caste Studies.

Zubair Idrisi introduced some theatre exercises including Columbian Hypnosis.

Upcoming Programs...

Please click the links for more details and spread in your networks

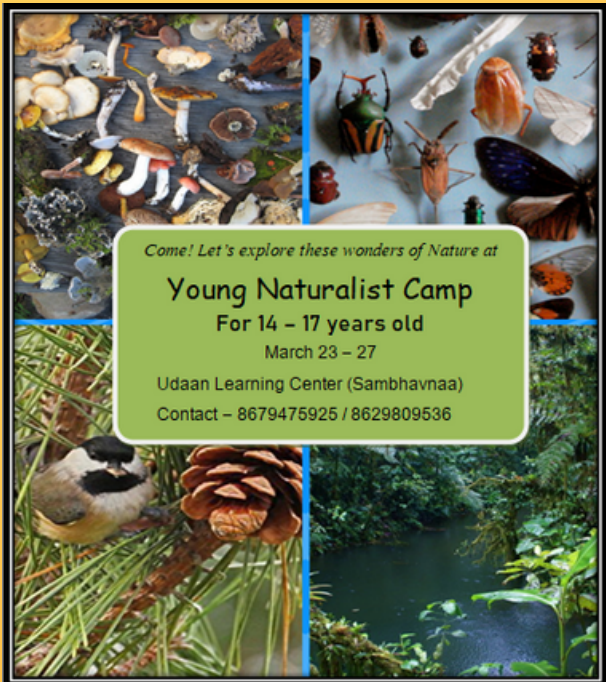


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Activities @ Udaan Learning Center

Scavenger hunt with ULC local children – Scavenger hunt gives an opportunity for a fun learning session, here children explore the neighbourhood with the idea of winning through team work and survey, each riddle or a question drives them to find the answer in an explorative way building their critical thinking.



Every sunday movie screening – Screening helps us to strike a conversation about a particular topic and screening attracts children to come to the learning center.

Binna making workshop with ulc local children – Promoting local art was the idea behind this workshop, however , children realised that their mothers and grandmother are artists those who have been reusing local and waste material. Though children could not make the Binna, they made braids out of the corn husk and made an art out of it.



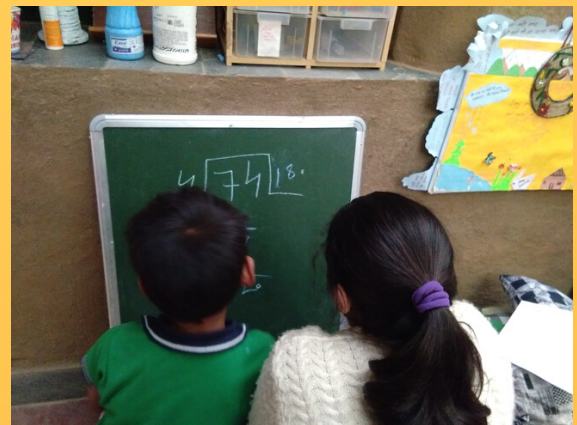
फूल कला प्रदर्शनी वर्कशॉप – 3 children from the regular ULC members participated in this workshop, where they choose their choice of flower and made an art work out of it, which was displayed at the “Badi” Kala Sangam (Gallery) at Kalholi (Kandbari).

Activities @ Udaan Learning Center

Arts and crafts and tuition new games etc

New Learning Center space has attracted many children from the nearby villages to come for after school fun and creative learning.

1. Our passionate volunteer Shane Hines has started taking regular physical training exercise with LC children, these games are inclusive which means all age groups and genders can happily play them in a team.
2. Children read stories everyday. We have started engaging with around 15 children on a daily basis at our new learning center through stories, tuition, film screenings , structured and free play, indoor and outdoor games, puzzles, etc.



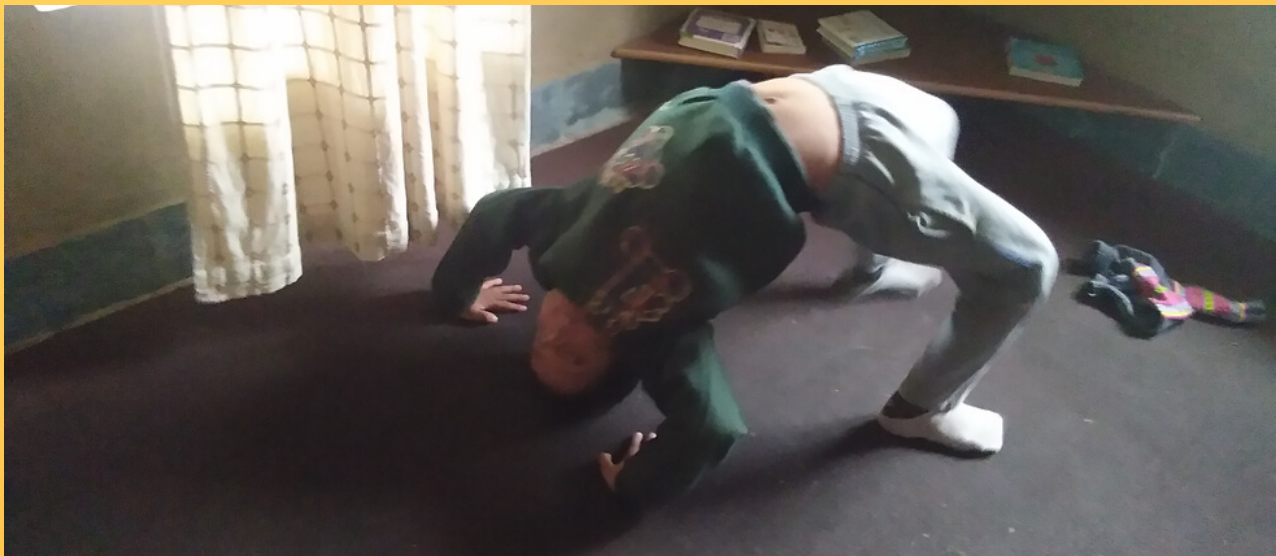
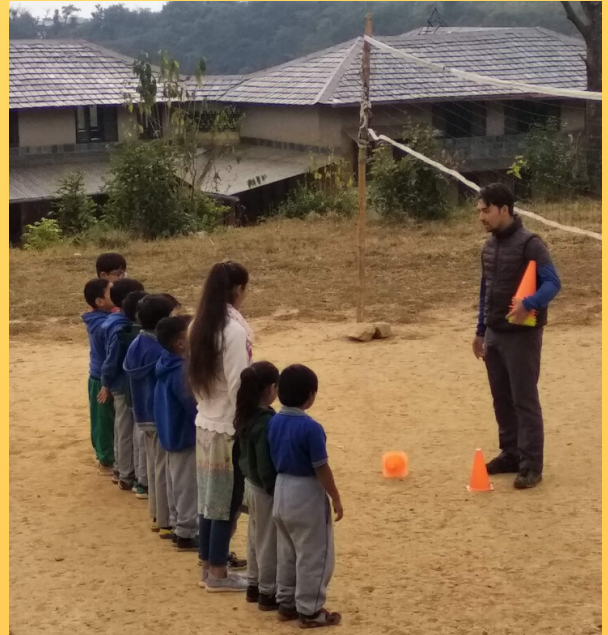
Workshop with Youth For Understanding India: The team of Youth for understanding India visited us to explore Himalayan culture and lifestyle. We did mushroom foraging, pottery and with local children.

Mushroom cultivation workshop with local ULC children and ladies - We invited Shrey Gupta. a mushroom expert from Solan, to host a mushroom foraging and cultivation workshop.



Activities @ Udaan Learning Center

Udaan school session - ULC has started taking sessions with Udaan School, on physical training, creative learning like sewing, pottery, art and craft and vocabulary buliding.



Activities @ Udaan School



Udaan school has been busy in their second term with their daily activities of studying, playing, exploring and growing.

Children's day was celebrated on the 14th of November. The children saw the short film "laddoo" and the film "Up".



All the children went for a trip together to the Shoba Singh art gallery in Andretta. They did half the trip in the train, catching the train from Maranda.

All the activities done by the children are worked into their curriculum and the children talk about these, write about them and make picture books too.



Activities @ Udaan School

Sports day was celebrated with a lot of gusto, every child participated! There was a sack race for the very little ones and a spoon race. Kabbadi was played by the older children!



A kitchen garden has also been started and the children planted vegetables and are now watching them grow and are learning about them.



In December we had another PTM and gave a presentation about the activities and work being done by the children.



Gup-Shup Chabootra



ULC team has been grateful by a new team member Ms Anjali Devi, she is our physical trainer and a versatile facilitator.

Farm To Plate



Apart from the late monsoon fresh produce from our farm, the grass on the entire estate was harvested and stored for the winter. The haymaking finished by hanging neat bundles on branches of freshly trimmed trees.

