

## **Shikshamitra: 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Report, April 2018 – March 2019**

Starting its School in 2005, **Shikshamitra** began sharing its pedagogical experiments with the teachers and students from different Non-Government Organizations and Government schools in 2007.

In 2011 Shikshamitra decided to focus chiefly on Teachers' Training, Material Development, Library, and Consultative initiatives through its Resource Centre.

Since 2016 Shikshamitra is sustaining itself solely on the training fees and sale of materials and continuing with its services (trainings, materials and consultations).

### **Highlights**

**New Address:** Shikshamitra has a new address in 17/11, **Baishnabghata**, Kolkata – 700047, since September 2018. The space belonging to Mahua and Priyatosh Dutta, the managing committee members, was made available at a nominal rent.

We are very grateful for the gesture.

**Shikshamitra again:** It was for a while that our **ex-students**, all grown up young working women and men, had been expressing their wish to meet up regularly for chats, interactions and queries....like the good old days.... The first meet was held on 10<sup>th</sup> March with 7 students and 3 teachers exchanging personal news and expectations. It was decided to meet up regularly and a what's app group was formed.

**WATIS (Wipro Applying Thoughts in Schools), now renamed the Wipro**

**Foundation** had been one of our prime funding agencies from 2005 to 2015. In

December 2018, Shikshamitra conducted a 1 day orientation in 'running of a library' for its new partners and fellows in Guwahati. **In March 2019, Wipro Foundation showed interest in Shikshamitra's training programme for its current partner organizations. A MOU for one year and a half was signed accordingly.**

**Save the Children Assignment and its Use:** Save the Children through its collaborative program with 25 Govt. primary schools in Kolkata, has been trying to improve the schools; quality of education being of foremost importance. DRCSC has been its implementing partner and Shikshamitra continues to provide subject trainings for capacity building of the DRCSC and the Govt. school teachers.

Save the Children had assigned Sudeshna Sinha to develop a Level Assessment Tool and Activity Book with appropriate Instructional Guidelines (for teachers) for the preprimary and the levels 1 and 2.

The above documents were developed and tested in the classrooms through August 2018 to March 2019 by Ms Sinha and her collaborators. Shamil, a preprimary centre took care of the preprimary works.

*The Assessment Tool* is officially and successfully being used by the DRCSC teachers in the 25 Govt. primary schools as baseline test, along with some interested Govt. teachers.

*The Activity Handbook* has become a must and a necessary companion for the teachers and is being used every day in the classrooms. It's a very heartwarming and satisfying news for us!

### **Training:**

**Modern Academy of Continuing Education or MACE:** After providing useful and much- in -demand remedial maths modules for the teacher trainees for 3 years at MACE, Shikshamitra has been invited to take up the regular teaching of Maths for every batch since 2018. Diligence, sincerity and student friendly approach are always recognized.

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**Techno India Group of Public Schools:** On request from TIGPS, Shikshamitra conducted a 5 day training programme in Maths and English. The training was attended by the teachers *from* all the TIGPS schools in West Bengal. Shikshamitra continues to be a consultant to TIGPS, Ariadaha, helping them in curricular planning, teacher capacity building and analysis of classroom transactions.

**An Observation:** *It is a matter of deep concern that over the past one year and more, demand for Bengali training is practically nonexistent while need for English is on the rise. Maths training demands remain steady as before. This feature corroborates with the current trend of ignoring Bengali in general.*

**The other trainings covered** - Praajak- Tata Metallica; Hummingbird School in Majuli, Assam; Samayita Math Rural Schools and Convent School in Bankura