



SHIKSHAMITRA REPORTS

SHIKSHAMITRA: Open Learning & Education Resource Centre
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GREETINGS FROM SHIKSHAMITRA!

Another year has passed with Shikshamitra having successfully completed its 14th year, working in search of appropriate pedagogy and its dissemination. With a rich school and library experience behind us, we have taken a focused step toward building the capacity of teachers in different parts of India, sharing our painstakingly developed educational resources and offering our expertise to interested organizations. We thank all of our friends and supporters for being with us. Although Covid put an abrupt halt to starting up our next phase, we take a moment to reflect upon a very busy year of trainings and interactions, attesting to the fact that our services are in high demand. We present our achievements here.

- *Sudeshna Sinha, Founder*

HIGHLIGHTS 2019-2020

- Began working with Wipro Foundation partners doing Need Assessment visits to U.P., Orissa, Assam, and Manipur, and conducting the first phase of English Training for the partners in the North East.
- 5-day English Language Pedagogy Workshop for the Resource Teachers of Haryana State Govt in collaboration with Digantar, an education resource organization in Jaipur)
- Sudeshna Sinha took up the role of Resource and Special Teacher for Techno India Group of Schools (Ariadaha, West Bengal).
- Biswajit Chitrakar and Gopal Mondal continued teaching maths in the teacher training program offered by Modern Academy of Continuing Education (MACE), Kolkata.
- Created the English Foundations & Unlock Learning worksheets developed by Shikshamitra with Mustard Seeds (a design initiative by Maura Hurley, one of the founder teachers of Shikshamitra) which is being appreciated by many users.
- A series of discussions by Sandeep Bandopadhyay was initiated: Knowing Historical Perspective and Understanding our Current Times for interested individuals (teachers, students, and general public).



Using flash cards at Digantar training,
Hands-on TLM making at MACE, Story
building exercise at Friends of Calcutta



ANNUAL REPORT BREAKDOWN

English Language Pedagogy Workshop for Haryana State Government Resource Teachers

This 5-day workshop was very well received by the resource teachers mainly due to its hands-on nature in contrast to the usual theoretical lectures these teachers have been exposed to for years. Feedback showed that they felt happy that for the first time they were equipped with some concrete pedagogy to offer English teachers in Haryana, which they had failed to do so far in spite of demands from the teachers.

Initiating Work with Partners of Wipro Foundation

It gave us immense pleasure to start the capacity building initiative with different organizations using the pedagogy that Wipro had enabled us to develop through our partnership over the last 12 years. It was a wonderful experience to meet so many young people from these organizations and see the work they are doing in challenging environments. After conducting the need assessments, Shikshamitra presented Phase 1 of English training with three organizations from the Northeast. Our final target in this program is to develop competent teachers and trainers who will be able to go on to serve as reliable resource persons in their respective communities. Moving forward with this, we have made the decision to focus on English, Maths, and Art as the priority areas.



Mustard Seeds takes on our In-house Design Work

For the first time, Shikshamitra began collaborating with Mustard Seeds for designing and formatting its documents and other materials. In addition to running an alternative learning library, Mustard Seeds upholds work for sustainability. MSeeds founder, Maura Hurley, who has been associated with Shikshamitra since its inception, has taken up some design assignments with the help of her team. Two sets of English worksheets were the first work produced out of this collaboration and were of commendable quality. Based on this, the decision to entrust them with all our design work has been finalised by Shikshamitra.



Shikshamitra Oversees Entire Maths Training Programme at MACE

Our Maths resource persons, Biswajit Chitrakar and Gopal Mondal will continue to take up this responsibility with their usual passion and dedication, and have committed to teaching two batches of teaching students every year.

A series of discussions by Sandeep Bandopadhyay

At the request of interested persons such as teachers, students from Shikshamitra and elsewhere, Shikshamitra initiated a series of discussions every Saturday on the topic of 'knowing the historical perspective to understand our current times'. Sree Sandeep Bandyopadhyay, an author specializing in history, particularly on the partition of Bengal, spoke on the topic followed by lively interactions by all. The sessions continued from November to February but had to be terminated due to the covid outbreak. We'd like to hear from you if you are interested in participating in an online continuation of this series.

Maths TLM time at MACE, Biswajit's unique problem-solving class at community library, Knowing books on your shelves at NEET Library workshop



Engaging teachers at Nalanda School in Bangladesh

SHIKSHAMITRA GOING FORWARD amidst Covid?

Training opportunities, Sustenance and Financial Challenges

In 2017, Shikshamitra decided to function in its present mode till the year 2022-23, sustaining itself through its earnings from training fees and material sales, adding a part from its funds in reserve as required. It was decided not to raise funds proactively from donor groups. Donations would however be received. It was observed that except for Wipro, most of the current training demands were only for a short duration and coming from organizations/institutions with rather limited budgets. If such a trend continues, Shikshamitra will have to dig deeper into its own reserve funds and are happy to accept support through donations by bank transfer:

PAN: AADAS7971E
Bank Name: AXIS BANK
Branch: Rashbehari
Account: Shikshamitra
Account No: 253010100175050
IFSC: UTIB0000253

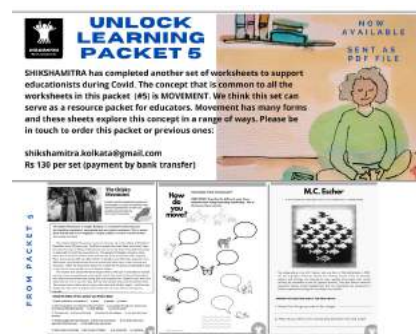
Going forward with programming

In Feb-March 2019, detailed plans for a Maths training at Gramoththan, Orissa were set up and dates had been finalized for April. Similarly, preparations were made for a rather large-scale Art and Music workshop in Kolkata to tentatively take place in September 2020. We were in the midst of booking accommodations for participants who would travel from different

areas. The outbreak of the pandemic, followed by lockdown, in March put an abrupt stop to many of our programs and making future plans has been fraught with difficulties. To the extent possible, we moved our local classes online but larger plans were canceled. Since things look so very uncertain even now, we are forced to proceed with extreme caution and for the time being, we wait for the right moment to begin picking up the threads again.

Collaboration with Wild Chhotonagpur Plateau Trust (WCPT)

Satyajit Hatui has been a close associate of Shikshamitra over the years. Satyajit, based in Bankura, formed WCPT to work for the development and education of children in tribal communities in the Khatra block of Bankura district, West Bengal. WCPT has sought help from Shikshamitra to assist them in ascertaining the educational needs of these students and setting up an appropriate education program for them. They have also requested Shikshamitra to serve as their resource organization.



Be sure to introduce our work and materials to others you know -- parents, educators, and anyone interested in education that allows children to become more fully involved with the world around them.

TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION WORKSHOPS COMPLETED



**2-3 April & 14-15
May 2019**

WITH TECHNO INDIA GROUP OF SCHOOLS

Need for and process of storytelling; Need for worksheets and how to create them

July - August 2019

WITH MODERN ACADEMY OF CONTINUING EDUCATION (MACE)
Primary Maths

19 August 2019

WITH PBKOJP
Accelerated Bangla Reading and Writing Programme

12-13-14 Sept 2019

WITH FRIENDS OF CALCUTTA
Maths, Bangla, and English

28 Sept - 2 Oct 2019

WITH DIGANTAR
Foundation English for Resource Teachers of Govt of Haryana

12-13-14 Oct 2019

SHIKSHAMITRA IN-HOUSE TRAINING FOR FUTURE TRAINERS
Accelerated Bangla reading and writing program

22-23 Oct 2019

WITH MODEL SCHOOLS OF GOPIBALLABHPUR AND NAYAGRAM
(FOR LANGUAGE TEACHERS)
Accelerated Bangla reading and writing program; Foundation English

NEED ASSESSMENT VISITS TO WIPRO PARTNERS

30 Oct - 1 Nov 2019

SETD, ALIGARH, UP

4-6 Nov 2019

LFA, MANIPUR

17-19 Dec 2019

GRAMOTHAN, ORISSA

20-24 Jan 2020

NEET, GUWAHATI AND AYANG TRUST, MAJULI

2-3-4 Dec 2019

NALONDA SCHOOL IN DHAKA, BANGLADESH
How to run a library

24-28 Feb 2020

PARTICIPANTS FROM NEET, AYANG, AND LFA
English Phase 1 Foundation course & Learning to run a library as an open learning space

