



*The Uttor Chandipur Community Society*

**Supporting a rural community: creative solutions to education and health**



is a community organisation working since 2004 in rural West Bengal, focusing on education and health for adivasi and other marginalised children. Suchana now runs 8 programmes at the Education Resource Centre (ERC) and further afield:

• **The Pre-School** • **The Early Learning Group** • **The Tuitions Programme** • **Computer Courses** • **The Library and Mobile Library** • **The Health Project** • **'Activity Groups'** • **Supporting Adivasi Identity Programme.**

The ERC is open 7 days a week, and aims to support literacy and make learning relevant, enjoyable and accessible. Currently, about 240 children participate, facilitated by paid and volunteer teachers from within the community. Our 'mobile' project in 10 villages takes library books and basic health and hygiene care to a further 500 children.

If you would like more information, please contact us at  
[suchana.india@gmail.com](mailto:suchana.india@gmail.com)

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### NEW AT SUCHANA

#### **The Integrated Approach to Technology in Education (ITE) project**

Suchana is delighted to have been selected as one of eight organisations across India implementing the Sir Dorabjee Tata Trust's new ITE project. This exciting and progressive project at one level aims to address the Digital Divide making computer technology available to those currently excluded. At another level, it aims to revolutionise teaching approaches, using the technology as a tool to centralise the role of student created projects in the learning process.

Suchana is currently preparing to implement the ITE approach in its Tuitions Programme. Until now, tuitions have been taught to secondary school students as back-up to their school study. They are closely linked to the school curriculum and text books, and although the approach used in Suchana has encouraged understanding and analysis it has not often moved on from there to making opportunities for students to consolidate learning through creating their own learning artefacts. The ITE puts facilitating these opportunities in the centre of the picture. Preparation for implementing involves training, as well as lesson planning so that projects can be designed to capture important steps in the curriculum.

Suchana's computer teaching has from its beginning tried to foreground the ways in which computers can be tools for children's learning. However, these activities were not co-ordinated directly with the school curriculum, nor were they systematically approached as projects in their own right. Computer teaching was separated from tuitions teaching, with the result that not all children arrived at useful ways to take advantage of the technology for their learning.

The ITE project aims to fill the gaps and join the dots - and we look forward to reporting on progress as the project progresses.

### EVENTS UPDATE

Four of Suchana's older students appeared for **Madhyamik Exams** this year and we are pleased that 3 passed and are in class 11 now. So Suchana now has 8 students studying at 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> level. We hope they will also go on to college after passing the Higher Secondary Exams.

At a different end of the education spectrum, for **World Literacy Day**, **Pratham Books** from Bangalore, organised a massive story reading session throughout India. An story in English called **Papu the Giant** was adapted / translated for this event into regional languages across the country. Suchana teacher, Narayan Hembrom translated the story into Santali and read it out at the Mobile Library Centres.



*Narayan reading aloud Papu The Giant in Santali as part of celebrations for World Literacy Day.*

### **Friends of Suchana CHRISTMAS FAIR**

**AT SHELDWICH VILLAGE HALL  
Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November 10.00-3.00**

For those of you in Kent, please come and join Suchana's first Christmas Fair - to raise money for the Mobile Library.

Christmas gifts \* wrapping paper \* food stall \* refreshments \* tombola

For information contact [angela@claresforstalplus.org](mailto:angela@claresforstalplus.org)

### The ITE project cont ...

There have already been some exciting developments for Suchana as we prepare to start this new teaching – three teachers went to Kolkata for a 4 days **Master Trainer's training**. They then came back and conducted a training themselves – for Suchana's other teachers, 6 new recruits and 4 Government School teachers who will all be implementing the project starting from January 2014. Recruiting 6 new teachers was also a big step – and we are pleased to welcome Sarada Das, Churki Hansda, Ashish Goswami, Mongol Das, Laxman Hembrom and Sandip Mahji into the Suchana teaching family.



*Practicing techniques for the ITE project*

### COMING SOON: Our next annual event is the **Hands-on Science Mela**

Suchana's students and some children from the government high school will be demonstrating principles of science in very simple ways, with locally sourced low cost / no cost equipment.

We welcome your participation!

Watch this space for the date in January 2014.

### EVENTS UPDATE continued ...

In July, **Proma** from **Shikshamitra**, Kolkata, came for a 2 day review workshop on the "**Story Cards**" which Shikshamitra developed and Suchana has really enjoyed using in teaching.

As a continuation of our **Adivasi Support Programme**, a **number chart and flash cards** were printed and distributed supporting literacy teaching through Kora and Santali. And preparations are on for more "My Book in My Language" publications - in August we had a wonderful workshop on **Kora Creative Writing**. Suchana's 4 Kora teachers and 6 of the older Kora students jointly produced fine poems for a book for young children.

Suchana has also hosted a number of 'exposure visits' for teachers implementing similar teaching methods in other organisations supported by the Sir Dorabjee Tata Trust. 15 teachers from **Shikshasandhan**, Odissa visited in August for a 3 day exposure workshop, followed by a similar 2 day workshop for 8 teachers from **Nayantara**, West Bengal. In this context Suchana's upstairs has really become helpful - we can accommodate up to 16 people there for night stays.

In October we had our well attended **AGM** followed by the much awaited **Tuition Tour** to Kolkata over the Pujas. The cyclonic weather condition added a few hitches but the children loved it! Just before the Pujas on 10<sup>th</sup> October, Suchana's children were given out clothes collected by Mustard seeds and Calcutta International School, bringing big smiles all around!



### THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE HELPED US

Friends of Suchana would like to thank: The Community of the Presentation Trust for a grant of £1000; Zubin Roy, aged 16, for cycling from John O'Groats to Lands End raising £1756; Judy Seymour-Ure, aged 73, for swimming 1km and raising £749; Susan Ghosh for continuing our Just Giving subscription; Urmila Rajkhowa for paying our joining fee to Virgin Money Giving; for fundraising: Kirsty Reid and Naomi Betts; children at Sheldwich Primary School; the Mere group for holding a Strawberry Tea, 2 Coffee Mornings, a Ceilidh and a World Wide Fair; an anonymous donor for the proceeds of selling an antique clock; all those giving by Standing Order and Gift Aid, now amounting to over £1,400 pa; and to Izzy Binnie-Dawson for creating our new Facebook page [www.facebook.com/FriendsOfSuchana](http://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfSuchana). Also thanks to everyone saving their spare change in our **Change for Change** scheme (do join – see our Facebook page!).

Suchana is also very grateful to Mustard seeds and Calcutta International School for the Puja-season clothing drive; and to Jhilum Saha, Srabani Ghosh Raghavendra Chattopadhyay, Gautam Basu, Debasish Gangopadhyay for their handsome donations. A special thanks to Dr. Sumita Basu for serving a huge lunch and arranging a place to stay for 70 students and 6 teachers over the Tuition Tour to Kolkata during the Pujas. We are grateful to Samar Bagchi and Director, Birla Industrial & Technology Museum, Kolkata for letting us have a free run of the museum and taking care of us all.

### **Suchana: The Uttar Chandipur Community Society**

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