

Sita School Report, December 2014



The school opened in June with four new children including two older children who had faced learning difficulties in the nearby school. One boy, Shashi Pavan is doing the 7th standard exam this year and the other boy Alwin is learning some very basic skills in literacy and numeracy. The five year old son of the Kannada teacher in the nearby school also has joined, along with the youngest pupil Sangeeta whose Mother had died of cancer in December 2013. We now have 29 children in the school.

Karthik, a young man joined the school in August and has proved a great asset to the school. He has a B.Com but has done an apprenticeship in woodwork and is very gifted in craft and has been teaching math across the school. He has been doing work with the Scratch programme on the computer with all the children including the younger children and also has supported children to do many experiments using Arvind Gupta's books. Sumalatha who had been working in the school for just over a year left in September.

Susan Loucks who has been the Asha steward over the last three years left to return to the US. We will very much miss her as she has been a very good support on all levels during her

time of stewardship She has arranged for Padmanava , and Aanchal to take over and we are looking forward to their site visit in the near future.

In August we had a visit from a group of student teachers from the Institute of Education from London. This is the second occasion when they have worked with the children. They came every day for a period of ten days and did a number of craft activities with groups of children across the school. The crafts included scrap cloth weaving, braiding and plaiting and kite making and constructions from natural materials.



Weaving from scrap materials to make doormats





Kite making

Making constructions from natural materials



A new batch of students will be visiting next February and will be doing some simple science experiments using low cost materials. They are planning to prepare a number of kits with leading questions for children to work on independently.

In June the Karnataka Government introduced new text books. In August we had a meeting with a group of teachers under the auspices of a teacher Training College in Jayanagar, Bengaluru to review these books.

A number of additional classes have been continuing over the year. Roshan Sahi continues to come regularly to do gardening and related activities including mapping with the youngest children. They also had an interesting experiment with making characters from natural materials and then told stories about them.





The weekly music classes have continued along with model making and story telling. We have been fortunate that Santhosh's mother continues to support us with the teaching of Hindi. In October a friend came and did some intensive work with Abhilash for English for a month to help him towards his exam in April.

Some new publications have come out that are related to work that has been done in Sita School. These are: *Everyday English Teachers' Manual Book Two* and *Everyday English Book Three*. The book, *In Our own Words* is at the proof stage and will shortly be printed by Eklavya an NGO Publishing House in Madhya Pradesh.

There have been some practical problems over the application for the National Open School and with the help of Santhosh Padmanabhan we are in the process of trying to sort out some technical difficulties over the change of address of the Society. The auditor has been very co-operative and has assured us of his help and we are hoping that this can be sorted out by early next year.

In January there will be a week's workshop on the Scratch design programme which will include some of Sita School children and also other children from the village.

In February we are planning to have a meeting with friends who have been closely associated with the school to think about the future and what would be the best way forward. A report on this will follow after the meeting.

Jane Sahi December 8th 2014