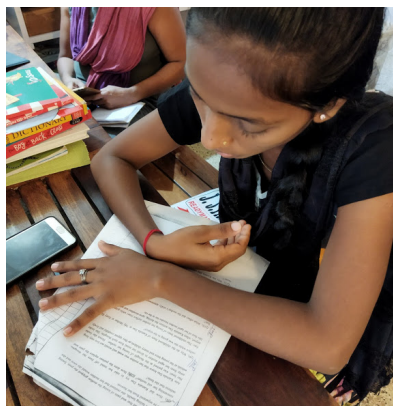




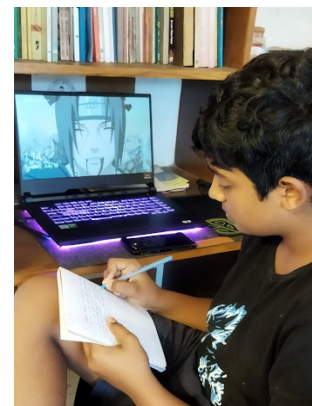
The idea of ‘**Community Classroom**’ took shape when the coronavirus hit and children could no longer go to school; no classes, no sports, no activities. Their routines were suddenly disrupted and they stood stranded. This is when our space, which has always been open to children, became a hub for learning, playing and a comfort zone for children from the neighbourhood. Thus the ‘Community Classroom’ was born.



Anjali (XII std) doing her studies



Jayprakash (IX std) practicing drums



Aryan (IX std) taking online class

Our ‘Community Classroom’ has some essential features:

1. **All children from the community are welcome** regardless of their socio-economic background. It is meant for children roughly between 8-18 years of age. The facility is open all day but children have varying schedules. Mornings are for school studies, afternoons for tuitions, homework and hobby classes and evenings for outdoor activities.
2. **Children from different backgrounds come together** to learn and work together. Because of this we have a varied pool of skills and talents and children can learn from one other. This helps children learn to appreciate diversity, overcome social prejudices and develop empathy for fellow citizens.
3. **High quality education is facilitated** through a wide range of books, art supplies and educational kits; computers, internet and a projector for digital learning; tutoring for the school curriculum and homeschooling; assistance for assignments homework and project work.



One of the spaces at the facility where children learn and play

4. **Multiple talents are nurtured** by providing facilities to learn music, art, craft, dance and theatre. Workshops are conducted on diverse skills like photography, filmmaking and robotics. Different resource persons are invited to give children exposure to a wide range of skills and talents from contemporary to traditional arts. This diverse exposure allows children to discover their passions and nurture their talents.



Shweta (X std) with needle craft she made Varun (VI std) with a Lego model that he made Kashyap (VIII std) with a dish that he cooked

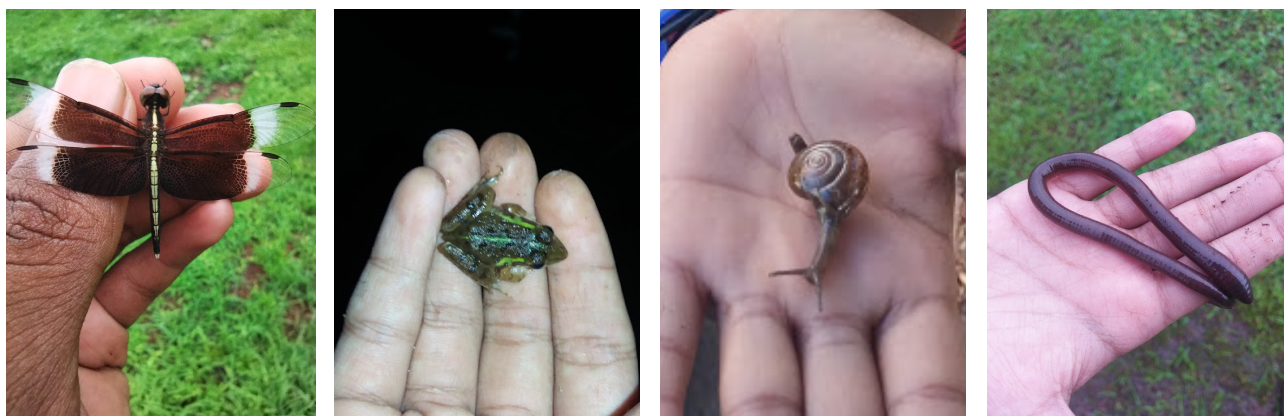
5. **Life skills are given importance** by involving children in cooking, cleaning, organising things and doing routine house chores. They are taught to use tools relating to carpentry, electricals and plumbing. Basic stitching and needlework is taught to all. They are trained to shop and manage money. Writing biodata, filling forms and making applications are also important skills that they learn.
6. **Outdoor learning is a major component of education** which includes learning about nature and learning from nature. We study the local biodiversity and learn to identify the flora and fauna around us. Farming and gardening is a routine activity. We make excursions to forests, lakes, seaside, waterfalls and hills and engage in activities like, swimming, boating and trekking. We also conduct trips to museums, libraries, archaeological sites and cultural events. We also visit construction sites, industrial units, workshops, waste management facilities, dams and plants. Every year we also go travelling to different parts of the country.



Backyard ecology class conducted by Tallulah. Rakesh, Kumar, Sachin and Varun with her.

7. **Social values & Community service is inculcated** by encouraging children to participate in cleanliness drives, tree planting drives, caring for stray animals and awareness campaigns.
8. **Children are nurtured in a home-like atmosphere** where we cook and eat together, there are spaces for children to sleep and rest, children are counselled about emotional issues or behavioural problems.
9. **The facility is free for students.** Expenses are met through contributions by the founders, contributions by parents, donations by benefactors and grants by institutions.

10. **The Community Classroom teaching method and career guidance:** We begin with identifying each child's unique talent and preferred learning method. In accordance, they are put on to a learning trajectory that shall help them realise their true potential. We provide individualised training and career guidance to ensure a happy future for each child.



Children learning to observe and identify different organisms in their backyards

Why Community Classroom is the need of the hour:

With regular schooling suspended, the Community Classroom allows children to learn and play in small groups within the safety of a space close to home. The current education system, even when it is functioning, is unable to deliver quality education, or nurture diverse talents, or inculcate core social values. The centralised curriculum is devoid of any local context and that makes education unrelated to everyday lived experiences. The Community Classroom addresses these key issues. Unlike the industrial schools catering to a mass of students, the Community Classroom is for small groups of children within their neighbourhoods.

How does the Community Classroom benefit the Community:

A Community Classroom builds a sense of community. It encourages society to take joint responsibility for its less privileged members, share resources and extend help. It helps people from all strata of society to bond and promotes a spirit of cooperation. This makes our community spaces more friendly and nurturing.

The Community Classroom is created by the sharing of resources. Sharing of spaces like a yard, a verandah or a hall. Sharing of things like books, toys, sports equipment, old laptops or spare bicycles. Sharing of responsibilities like caring for children, teaching them, playing with them, sharing skills with them or taking them for an outing.

The Community Classroom gives back to society by producing responsible citizens. We create a volunteer base for community causes and social initiatives. Our students care about the environment, they ensure public spaces are clean and safe, they care for the elderly and they help the disadvantaged.

How you can support the Community Classroom:

The Community Classroom has the capacity for 20 children and has a monthly running cost of about Rs 50,000/- . You can contribute monetarily, or in kind, or with your time. Contact details below.

We can also help you start a Community Classroom in your neighbourhood:

If you have a small space that you can use to start a Community Classroom and have children in the neighbourhood who can benefit from it, we shall be most delighted to help you. Contact details below.

Founders and Facilitators:

Tallulah D'Silva - Architect, environmentalist, writer, public speaker, educator, mother
Arnaldo Do Carmo Lobo - Geologist, technical trainer, youth mentor, educator, gardener
Vishal Rawlley - Artist, designer, educator, adventurer

Contact:

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