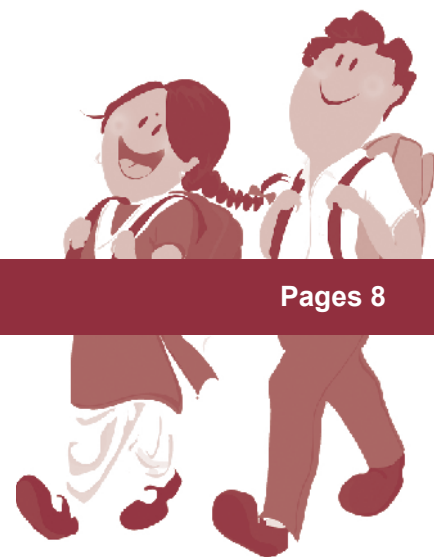




# The Peace Gong

Connecting Children for a Non-Violent Planet



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## MEDIA: A Mirror of the Society

Media Literacy programme trains The Peace Gong young reporters

A large number of conflicts and ill feelings in the world are a result of miscommunication. Many are the result of media frenzy and misrepresentation of facts. There are others which are fuelled by media violence and the zeal of our media channels to score over others. Media today is all pervasive; it has entered into our bedrooms and there is no escape from it.

In such a scenario, developing a greater understanding and insight into how the media functions is extremely important for we young people. We children realise that we have to hold our pen high, and ideals higher, to end the turmoil and promote non-violence that makes this world a better place.

Our aspiration should be to dispel the fantasies from the minds of children, so that they know how to separate fact from fiction. Developing communication skills will make us learn how to use the media. This knowledge will enable us to make media take up our causes and concerns against different forms of violence against children. It will make us develop ourselves as advocates.

Article 13 of the Convention of the Rights of the Child says, "The child shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of the child's choice."

It is in context, that *The Peace Gong* Bureaus throughout India, in association with the South Asian Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC), facilitated our training in media literacy and communication. This training will enable *The Peace Gong* team members and other new members to understand the nuances of the media, and how we can respond to issues related to violence against children.

The training programmes came out with interesting recommendations from our team members. These included how training in different forms of communications will help us in making bridges of friendship with friends across India and abroad, and initiate effective dialogues on issues like our health, education, child labour etc.



Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary General, in his Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech in 2001 said, "We have entered the third millennium through a gate of fire... New threats make no distinction between races, nations or regions. A new insecurity has entered every mind, regardless of wealth or status... In the early beginnings of the 21st century – a century already violently disabused of any hopes that progress towards global peace and prosperity is inevitable -- this new reality can no longer be ignored. It must be confronted... Peace must be made real and tangible in the daily existence of every individual in need. Peace must be sought, above all, because it is the condition for every member of the human family to live a life of dignity and security."

To ensure peace and nonviolence, and motivate young people like us to be committed to nonviolent actions, communication and media literacy training are important. It will enable us to initiate dialogues, and use our skills to advocate for peace and resolve conflicts amicably, and promote mutual respect.

*Martin Luther King Jr. has rightly said, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about the things which matter." So let us step forth to end passivity -- with a pen, paper and our thoughts to uphold the realities.*

**Kanupriya Gupta**  
Class X - Carmel Convent School, BHEL  
Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

# Bridging the gulf in South Asia -- Impacting on Peace & Non-Violence

## Twin Perspectives on Media Training

Two young journalists of *The Peace Gong* share their thoughts and experience



### Syeda Rumana Mehdi

former Associate Editor & now Coordinator,  
Bennington College, USA

I believe that media is the most important weapon we have today. It is a double edged sword and if used in the right way, it can move mountains. Media has always played a seminal role in inspiring the youth to stand up against non-violence. The 'Arab Spring' is an apt example in which a major revolution was triggered through Facebook and Twitter.

Today's generation is much more sensitive; the more the exposure, the more they are forced to think and react. So young people who acquire communication and media literacy skills are in a position to use these effectively and contribute to the culture of peace and nonviolence in a greater way.

Media literate students can understand conflicts and their underlying causes better. When students read articles, research and are able to skillfully use different forms of communication, they discover a whole new range of ideas and experiences.

It is mind boggling to see that even today in India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and many other countries, there are women who are abused and children are forced into slavery and child labour.

The problems are all the same, but the children and young people who know more, and understand these issues critically, are more likely to figure out the root cause behind these problems.

There are many ways in which the young reporter can contribute to promoting dialogue among young people from diverse communities and cultures. By developing capacities to use different forms of media, especially the new media, we

connect with other youth in different parts of the world, and initiate a dialogue.

For instance, many *Peace Gong* feature articles by young people from different countries have common themes – which build up the way to a dialogue. I read these articles and say, "Oh well, India faces the same problem as we have, so why not sit down together and sort it out?"

*The Peace Gong* serves as a bridge to link countries and ideas together. It allows us to think and respect others' point of view, and then use them to solve problems.

As *Peace Gong* reporters, we can – and do – contribute to building a culture of peace and inter-cultural dialogue. I've had Skype sessions with the former *Peace Gong* editor Iflah Javed Qureshi, and we realized that there is no pressing conflict; it's just stubbornness from both sides.

I've received a couple of emails from other reporters regarding my poetry, and it is so nice. I also had the honour of co-writing an article with another former editor, Spandana Bhattacharya, for the International Clearinghouse on Children, Youth and Media.

In the article, we explored and delved on how deeper understanding of media and communication can help young people like us develop capacities to initiate dialogue in the community and contribute to peace. We had emphasized in our article: "Possibly a global effort aimed at introducing media education programmes for peace and conflict resolution can contribute to a culture of peace and non-violence."

There is a need to develop a curriculum on media literacy. The first thing that I would include is the fact that all points of view, beliefs and ideas of all people should be respected -- and given equal consideration. Also, in order to eliminate differences, it is important to understand them first.

*The Peace Gong* takes the line of eminent Gandhian from India, Natwar Thakkar, on the importance of 'emotional bridge building in all forms of communications'. This, I strongly feel, should be the fulcrum of media education for students at global level.

Our training in media should help us understand and appreciate all cultures and civilizations. For instance, our training should motivate us to celebrate together Eid, Diwali and Christmas -- as all these signify sacredness and peace.

## The Peace Gong

children`s newspaper



The Peace Gong is a media literacy programme to bring in a culture of peace and nonviolence. We are all volunteers and we get training in media literacy by experienced media people. Our objective is to bring peace to an otherwise violent world in many regions. We were taught how Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King used media to bring peace and promote nonviolence.

In Kerala, we promote youth festivals and sports events. We have been holding Asia`s largest school youth festival in Kerala for many years. But do the children of the state have a common media platform? I feel media literacy in our state is not at all taken seriously.

My experience as editor of *The Peace Gong* Calicut Bureau has brought a sense of deep awareness, which makes me more compassionate. My media experience has made me become a better – and active – citizen, and more peaceful at heart. Like me, if all students go through such a positive media literacy programme with a stress on volunteerism, we surely can bring peace and non-violence to a much troubled world.

Yes, media literate students can understand conflicts and their underlying causes better. But it depends on what sort of training they get in media literacy.

My media literacy training taught me the values of peace and non-violence, and we all got to know how great volunteering is. We now know the seriousness of the issues in the world, and through our *Shishu Panchayat* (Children`s Forum) try to seek solutions. Students who are positive media literate can understand conflicts and underlying causes, as they are taught to read between and behind lines as well as to think about the possible solutions.

There are a number of ways in which young reporters can contribute to promoting dialogues among young people from diverse communities and culture. Young reporters should meet people. They should leave the comfort of their schools and homes. Our *Peace Gong* group went to Chennai to attend a conference on Millennium Development Goals. Then they conducted a similar conference in Wayanad (Kerala) -- and also did extensive surveys among the general public, institutions and civic organisations.

This was then reported in *The Peace Gong*. Here my friends became news creators first, and then became reporters too. So, young people can contribute to social change by becoming catalysts in the society they live in. We know from our experiences that this is possible.

As a *Peace Gong* reporter I have gained many values which, I hope, have given me the ability to contribute to a culture of peace and intercultural dialogue. First of all, I have started to think seriously about the problems of the world, and how to make it more peaceful. Also, I realised the value of volunteering.

Earlier I wanted to be a leader, the best in whatever I do, better than others. Now I am trying to make everyone better than me -- and that thinking is making me feel good. Alongwith my

National Social Service (NSS) friends, I even participated in constructing a house for a poor student.

*The Peace Gong* has taught me the greatest quality in my life -- volunteering. It also made me a journalist, a strong person, but compassionate and empathetic. So, the key objectives and orientation that I would like to have in the media literacy curriculum are the following:

- Make sure that young reporters have more active role in the organisation than mere reporting. They should also be active volunteers working in the community.
- Include teachings of peace and non-violence in the curriculum
- Media literate students should have a greater focus in life, rather than simply trying to get a job.
- Ensure that values are shared, and the learning atmosphere should have opportunities for students to develop their inborn worth.
- Students should leave the four walls of their classrooms and learn about life from the ordinary people.
- The voice of the marginalised should be heard in the media literacy sessions, and they should also be included as resource persons.
- Try to get all schools in our area to start a newspaper like our own *The Peace Gong*.



**Ramsheena**

Class XII, Farooq College HS School, Editor, *The Peace Gong* Calicut, Kerala

# The Peace Gong MEDIA Literacy Programme

## Workshop Reports from the States



### KERALA

Hosted by *The Peace Gong* Kerala, Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore Foundation, BIRDS and AFRC India with support from SAIEVAC, the workshop was attended by 45 participants – 29 first year students from MMIT Technical School, 17 students from Communications department of AFRC, and two Plus-Two students from the local Malabar and Cooperative Colleges respectively.

Inaugurated by Block Panchayat president PK Anil Kumar, the workshop was presided over by K Prakashan, Municipal Councillor of Kalpetta. The speakers shared views on the democratizing effect of media and the need to keep away from sensationalism in news.

Laila Saein gave details of the *Peace Gong* and its objectives. She spoke about the association with the South Asian Initiative to End Violence against Children (SAIEVAC) and its thematic areas of work.

### Recommendations

- More frequent communication and media training needed for the students of the Waynad district.
- A proper strategy needed on how to involve children from different schools as a collective unit -- to make an impact at policy level, and in the administration.
- Training in how to effectively use the digital media. For example, mobile phones –in common use now-- can help young people use such technology more pro-actively.
- Involve more resource persons from various fields to make such events more persuasive and worthwhile, as more media exposure is immensely useful to the younger generation.

**Conclusion:** Such events are fruitful for every individual of society irrespective of age, sex, position, status etc. So, active participation of more people will increase media awareness, and bring positive changes in the society.

**Leader of the Year 2014:** Gouri Krishna (13), student of SKMJ High School, who is also the Bureau Chief of the *Peace Gong* Waynad chapter, was awarded the 'Leader of the Year 2014' prize. The Chief Guest of the event, PK Anil Kumar gave the prestigious award to Gouri for her contributions in upholding the rights of children -- and in bringing together the children to have a collective voice on issues of concern to the young people.

### Session 1: Reporting & News Presentation

Using practical examples, slides and role models, Anil Emage (director – AFRC) instructed the participants how to gather information from different sources in the field, and put together an effective news story. He discussed on how to develop questions for an interview. Through simulation exercises, students were asked to conduct interviews amongst themselves on issues such as child labour.

### Session 2: Role of media in moulding a collective social behaviour

MV Nishanth, (reporter – *Mathurbhumi*) underlined how through better understanding of the media, and using a platform like *The Peace Gong*, the young people can work collectively for the community and nation as a whole.

### Session 3: Media exercises

The students did news presentation exercises, reporting and editing sessions under the guidance of Laila Saein, MV Nishanth and Anil Emage.

### Takeaways – Voices from the Workshop

MV Nishanth, the reporter of *Mathrabhumi* Media organisation, said, "*The Peace Gong* is a model which should be introduced in every school and media institutions."

Reading from his presentation on 'The role of media in moulding a collective social behaviour', Nishanth said: "Media need to be connected to grassroots reality. The land and people should be pictured in a realistic manner in the media, both print and visual. The mad race for sensationalism was affecting the credibility of the media. Therefore, value-based life enhancing quality media work is the need of the hour."

**PK Anil Kumar**, Block Panchayat president, mentioned that "media should focus on reality, not sensationalism. The media gives unwanted importance to superfluous happenings in the society. The media needs better direction and monitoring."

**K Prakashan**, Municipal Councillor, was happy to have joined "this media initiative of *The Peace Gong*." He said that the media has a vital role in bringing people closer, and plays a crucial role in spreading communal harmony and national empowerment. "I would like to help expand *The Peace Gong* in different schools of the Municipality," he promised.

**Gouri Krishna**, Bureau Chief, *The Peace Gong* Waynad said, "*The Peace Gong* has made me aware about the rights of the children. I wish all schools include *The Peace Gong* and media literacy in the class rooms. Involving children like us in media initiatives will develop our social sense, and also help us to filter reality from sensationalism."

**Jincy**, student representing AFRC, pointed out that "Practical media training helps student to get an insight in the way journalists work. We found the training very useful in our personal lives. Also the exposure to different forms of violence against children, like child trafficking, made us reflect more deeply as citizens and what we should do."

**Sujith**, student representing AFRC, said: "Students with media literacy training get to realise the way media works, and also become more interested in engaging with media activities."



## ASSAM

The Tezpur chapter of *The Peace Gong* organised the workshop on December 20, 2014. Sixteen boys and girls of Classes 7 – 12 (from Tezpur Gurukul, Shankar Dev Sishu Vidya Niketan, Government Girls Higher Secondary School, DK High School, Don Bosco High School, St. Joseph's Convent School, Darrang College, LPJ College and Tezpur College) attended the workshop held at Tezpur Axomiya Balika Mojoliya Bidyalaya. Co-hosts were BIRDS, GRTE, *Surovi* and *Sadou Asom Moina Parijat* with support from South Asian Initiative to End Violence against Children (SAIEVAC).



The participants were briefed about the objective of the workshop and the thematic areas of SAIEVAC. Mr Rihan Ali (Founder-

Coordinator, *Surovi Shishu Panchayat*) made a presentation on *The Peace Gong* and how it was connecting children from different regions.

### Recommendations

- ▶ More workshops wanted for further learning.
- ▶ Need more time to learn and develop writing skills.
- ▶ Develop *The Peace Gong* wallpaper in Assamese.
- ▶ Training methodology should have fun exercises and games, and not merely lectures.

**The first session** was conducted by Pramathesh Borkotoky, editor of the online variety magazine *Fried Eye*, who familiarised the children on the different types of writings, and gave them some idea about how to identify story ideas and how to develop a story.

He gave them a topic 'Tezpur Festival' and asked them to write whatever they could about it. The children could not come up with much at first, but after a little more probing from him, two of them came up with points to cover while researching for information on the topic.

**The second session** was conducted by Rihan Ali who recounted his own experiences of starting *Surovi*, a platform to promote child participation, and how they have been working for the society. He talked about the importance of participation in the development of the society and about the role that they, as children, could play in the growth and betterment of the society.

Ali narrated stories and cited examples of the ways young people have contributed to changing the society -- by being the change themselves. He explained the issues of child marriage in the region and problems faced by children with disability in *chaporis* (riverine islands in the Brahmaputra).

Participants were told about how *The Peace Gong* was trying to take up the thematic areas of South Asian Initiative to End Violence



against Children (SAIEVAC), and how children were doing reality check exercises on these issues.

**The post-lunch session** was conducted jointly by Muktikam Hazarika (Research Assistant - Department of Sociology, Tezpur University) and Tinam Borah (Programme Associate - *Green Hub*, North East Network). Muktikam taught the children about different types of news, and how to differentiate between them as well as to identify newsworthy information. His session also included an exercise in which children were asked to draw a picture of a princess exactly the way he described her. Though he gave specific instructions, the children ended up drawing the princess as per their pre-conceived ideas of how a princess should be. The resource person then explained to them how information can be modified, when published or telecast in the media.

Tinam's session was about the structure of a news story, its different elements and characteristics. She also explained to them about how to prepare for and conduct an interview. A mock interview was conducted by two of the participants after this session.

### Takeaways – Voices from the Workshop

**Ankita Kalita** (Class 10, Govt Girls HS School) said that she learnt many new things like violence against children, rights, concerns of missing children, child participation etc. She also learnt about social responsibility, and how to work for the welfare of the society. She got to know about the inverted pyramid style of writing, and how to write news and features. She felt more exposure was needed for conducting 'Reality Checks'.

**Biraj Kakati** (Class 11, L P J College) said that he had learnt many new and interesting things. He came to know how children like him could use the media to write on issues of concern to children. He said he and his team would like to do 'Reality Check' on the problems of child labour in Tezpur.

**Dolly Choudhury** (Class 8, Govt Girls HS School) was happy that she got the chance to learn about writing news story. The session with resource persons prompting participants to reflect on new ideas was significant. She had also learnt to look at news more critically, and absorb the different dimensions of concerns like child trafficking. She wanted to be an active member of *The Peace Gong* team and raise her voice against exploitation of children.

**Garima Borah** (Class 10, St. Joseph's Convent) said it was important to learn how to conduct 'Reality Checks' and interviews, how to communicate with the people and use her communication skills to raise child rights issues. She also learnt about the problems of child labour, child trafficking, etc.

## MANIPUR

Our Voice

Let's give Media Literacy Training

To one and all!

Specially the school teachers

The moulder and the maker

The spectator

Of children's future!!!

Two separate workshops were held – one at Maheiral Sindamsang Khurai, Lamlong on November 8, 2014, which had 54 participants – two Bachelor of Arts seniors from DM College, and the remaining 52 school students of Class 8 – 12.

The host school had 39 participants, and 9 more schools had sent their students for the workshop: 3 from Kha-Imphal High School, 2 each from Akash Institute of Arts & Science and Haobamarak Girls School, and 1 each from Sika Higher Secondary School, Akash Higher Secondary School, Kendriya Vidyalaya– Lamphel, Elite Higher Secondary School, HRD Academy, and Heritage Convent.

The second workshop, held in Ibotonsana Girls Higher Secondary School, Uripok, Imphal on December 3, 2014, had 79 participants – 2 seniors from DM College (3<sup>rd</sup> semester B Com and 5<sup>th</sup> semester B Sc) and 77 school students of Class 9 – 12.

There were 71 students of the host school, 2 from Akash H S School, and 1 each from HRD Academy, Elite School, Kendriya Vidyalaya - Lamphel and Kwakeithel Boys High School.

*The Peace Gong* Manipur chapter organised both workshops -- in coordination with GRTE, BIRDS, *Surovi Shishu Panchayat* and Kasturba Gandhi Institute for Development (KGID) -- with support from South Asian Initiative to End Violence against Children (SAIEVAC).

Christina Khundrakpam, Associate Editor of *The Peace Gong* and a student of Kendriya Vidyalaya – Lamphel, gave good support to both the events. Speaking about *The Peace Gong* Media Literacy Training Programme at Maheiral Sindamsang Khurai, she pointed out the impact of media in today's life, and the ways it can bring about a peaceful world – and how the workshop will help students understand the harm violence causes, while developing their communicative skill to promote peace and nonviolence.

An interesting game of 'Chinese Whispers' was played at both the workshops. Participants learnt how misreporting of news happens when it is from an unverified source. "We can get different types of news—which are actually deviations from fact," they were told. Some times, such deviations lead to unwanted violence -- like riots.

From this session the students came to realise the importance of proper and effective listening and clearing their doubts before making news out of the information received.

One session at Lamlong venue had the children sharing their views on issues of child trafficking, child labour and cases of increased violence against children across the state and the North-East.

The participants, asked to construct messages against violence on children, came up with their own slogans on issues like child trafficking. Finale was a song "*Suno Suno a Dunia Walon Babu ki Yeh Amar Kahani*" from *The Peace Gong* team.

At Uripok, Hemanta Kumar, editor of the daily *Huyen Lanpao*, conducted a session on 'Effective Communication and Media Literacy'. He expressed that effective communication and media literacy is just like the two faces of a coin -- it goes parallel to each other.

In another session, Prof Ganesh Sethi, Head of Mass Communication department - Manipur University, instructed the participants about what News is and how to create it, using a simple but effective formula – 'the five Ws and one H'.

The five Ws of News are: What, Where, When, Who and Why while H stands for How.

- ▶ What shows the aim
- ▶ Where gives location and site
- ▶ When fixes the time and date
- ▶ Who indicates target -- people
- ▶ Why explains the purpose, &
- ▶ How details the methodology.

This formula, said Prof Sethi, is the bed-rock of every News Item article – and communicates the true sense in a very effective way. The students were given a brief exercise to learn hands-on how reporters gather factual information from the field and develop their news stories.

The Media Literacy Programme has shown how to expose-extend ideas through knowledge and skill development, and to bring out and spread the message of peace and non-violence.

## Takeaways – Voices from the Workshop

Attending the Lamlong workshop, I Manoj of Class 12, Akash Institute of Arts & Science, said: "*The Peace Gong* is a good way to promote non-violent communications amongst children, as it is the need of the hour. We have to respect each other, only then can we address the issues of violence."

Another voice here was of Lanleima Devi-- Class 10 student of Maheiral Sindamsang Khurai, who said: "We all know about the concerns of child trafficking. But the workshop made us reflect on the gravity of the situation. We children should come together on *The Peace Gong* platform -- to have one voice against violence of any kind on any child."

At the Uripok Ibotonsana that I

workshop, O Ronibala Chanu of Class 12, Girls School, said: "I could never imagine could reach out to so many people just by being non-violent in my communication. Training in Non-violent Communication should be made compulsory for school students."

Ningboikim Kipgen of Class 11 from the host school said: "Teaching us how to collect information and then write the news was inspiring. I aspire to be a *Peace Gong* reporter and hope to write on issues of concern in my community."

Lhingneihei Touthang, a Class 12 student of the same school, said: "I will be happy to work with students of other schools of Manipur in *The Peace Gong* team and take up the issue of violence against children."

## Recommendations

### Uripok Workshop

- ◆ Regular sessions on communication and media training in different schools of Manipur as part of *The Peace Gong* initiative.
- ◆ Poster making classes on various new topics by *The Peace Gong*.

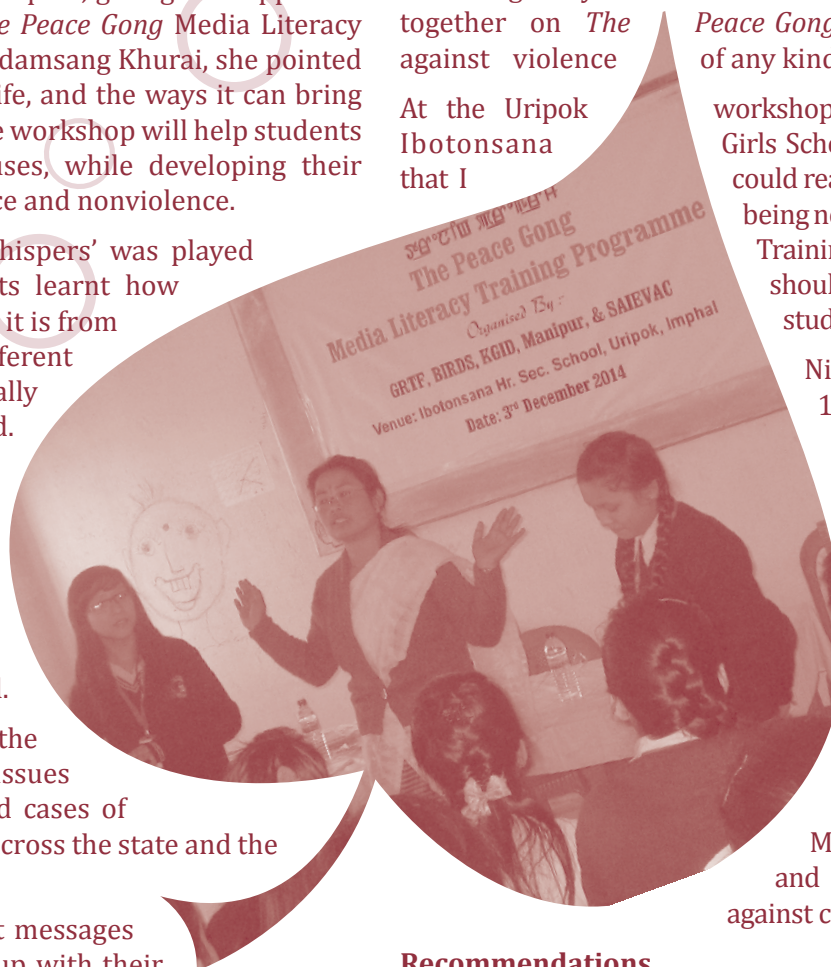
### Lamlong Workshop

- ★ More structured sessions on Nonviolent Communications as part of *The Peace Gong* Media Literacy Programme.
- ★ Workshops on health related issues.
- ★ More Quiz and Debates on environment and violence against children.
- ★ More 'Awareness Programmes' on Violence against Women and the Girl Child.

## MADHYA PRADESH

The Bhopal chapter of *The Peace Gong* organised the workshop on December 12, 2014 at Anand Vihar School, Bhopal, in coordination with BIRDS, GRTE, *Arushi*-- with support from South Asian Initiative to End Violence against Children (SAIEVAC). For the 21 participants, students of Class 10 from Anand Vihar School - Bhopal, there were two local Resource Persons -- journalists Rajesh Gaba (*Dainik Bhaskar*) and Khushboo Joshi (*Hindustan Times*).

Kanupriya Gupta, editor of *The Peace Gong* Wallpaper told the participants about the workshop objectives and the thematic areas of the SAIEVAC. They were told about how *The Peace Gong* was bringing together children across South Asia to write on common concerns. The efforts of NGO *Arushi* for people with disabilities were discussed, and how the NGO *Arushi* was partnering to bring out '*The Peace Gong* Talking Paper' to ensure involvement of children with disability in the team.





**A media literacy training programme was organized for children with visual impairment in Bhopal on February 28, 2015. About 15 students took part in this programme. Sessions on understanding the media, how to be an effective communicator, interviewing techniques, researching and constructing stories for the media were held.**

The first session -- on 'Importance of Developing Communication Skills' was held by Khushboo Joshi, *Hindustan Times* correspondent – was about the missing children in Madhya Pradesh, and how newspapers carried news stories on the issue.

She then introduced the participants on how news was constructed, the difference between 'hard' and 'soft' news, and shared her own experiences of reporting. Then she delineated differences between news, features, editorials, advertisements and op-ed page articles.

In the second session, Rajesh Gaba of *Dainik Bhaskar* narrated his experiences, and the way it feels to work as a reporter. He explained about the different 'beats' in which reporters worked, and discussed how reporters cultivate contacts and develop sources to write news stories and features.

"Research and interviews are important to become a good reporter," he pointed out. Through simulation exercises, students were told how to conduct interviews and the salient features of good interviews.

The third session saw the launching of *The Peace Gong* Talking Paper. Kanupriya Gupta gave moving examples of how children with visual impairment could become part of *The Peace Gong* team. The students were motivated to not only write for *The Peace Gong*, but also how they could lend their voice in the 'Talking Paper'.

#### Takeaways – Voices from the Workshop

Neha Vaishnav, Class 10 student of Anand Vihar School - Bhopal: "The workshop helped me realise how to start my own media project and take up the causes of children like me. Better understanding of the media and communication skills are important in today's world to take up social concerns.

Shubhangi Gupta (Class 10): "My first exposure to media and communication training, where I learnt how to collect information and interview people. Workshops like this uplift our thoughts and inspire us to do something positive for the society. I had never thought on the issues of missing children and those with disability before. We children should get together and work out on how we can bring changes in the lives of these children."

#### Recommendations

- Needed more focused training programmes on 'Reality Check'.
- Expanding this training programme to other schools and institutions.
- Tie-up with the state education department to make *The Peace Gong* reach the government schools.
- Develop vernacular editions.
- More practical training sessions needed to be effective communicators.

## Training Programme in Kanpur



A week long training programme was organized by the Peace Gong Kanpur team from December 20, 2014. Every day two hour long sessions were organized. The thrust was on practical work.

Led by the Coordinator, Mr Ashish Tripathi, sessions were organized on : conducting reality checks, writing news and features, analyzing news in newspapers and television, interviewing techniques, organizing dialogues and discussions and use of traditional media like street plays, etc to take up child rights issues. Discussions were organized on the five thematic areas of SAIEVAC during the week long programme.

Simran Soni, a Class XI student of Gyan Bharti Balika Vidhyalaya said the training programme gave new ideas of how to take up social causes. Anshika Dwivedi, a student of Class XII said it was stimulating to learn on how to take the lead to organize discussions and dialogues involving young people.

Some important recommendations which emerged from the training programme was the importance of

publishing in Hindi and other vernacular languages. The participants felt that through language editions one can reach out to more number of children. The children suggested that children in slums and other marginalized areas need to be trained in communication so that they can take up their causes.

## WEST BENGAL

The Kolkata chapter of *The Peace Gong* organised the workshop on December 3, 2014 hosted by the Journalism and Mass Communication department of Jyotish Ray College, Bijoygarh – Kolkata. Schools from all over the state sent 52 participants of children of Class 8 – 12. They were from Patha Bhavan, West Barisha Kamala Vidyamandir, Jadavpur Bijoygarh Shisha Niketan, Sukharanjan Vidyamandir and Benuria NB High School.

The workshop had four activity sessions, conducted by special guest Bappaditya Paul, Senior Reporter of *The Statesman*, Kolkata, and Dr Biplob Loha Chowdhury, professor - Centre for Journalism and Mass Communication (CJMC), Visva Bharati, Santiniketan.

The session with Bappaditya Paul was on one of the basic skills of reporting -- 'listening'. He told a news story, followed by an interactive session with participants on questions related to the news.

In the second session, the participants were introduced to the five major thematic thrust areas of SAIEVAC: Child Labour, Child Marriage, Corporal Punishment, Child Trafficking, and Sexual Harassment. Participants were divided into five groups, and each group got one topic to work on it. The selected groups had to go out of the college campus, and collect primary data and information related to their respective topics within an hour.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> session saw presentation by participants of the information collected on their respective topics. Resource persons Prof Nilay Ray, Prof Soumik Chatterjee, Shanta Chowdhury, Supriyo Hazra and Bappaditya Paul enriched the participants' knowledge about these issues by describing them in detail.



## JHARKHAND

There was much excitement when the Jharkhand chapter of *The Peace Gong* announced holding of the Media Literacy Training programme at Bharat Sevashram Sangh, located in Indraprastha Colony, Joda Talab, Bariatu, Ranchi.



On February 14, 2015, the Jharkhand Coordinator of *The Peace Gong*, Sujay Sarkar, conducted the event -- along with colleague Tej Lal Bhagat. Preparations started early, and the student organisers were very curious about the display material.

The Coordinator explained that the photos on the flex sheets were called IEC (information – education – communication) material,

and “we will discuss this during our session.” The students were asked observe them critically, as he would be asking what all they perceived from the material.

A session was held to develop the students' observation and analytical powers. The participants were asked to use these powers as reporters and bring up issues affecting the locality and society. Each student was given one topic from the three subjects:

- ▶ Child marriage – a boon or bane and why?
- ▶ Child labour -- a boon or bane and why?
- ▶ Education – a life building measure. The students spoke one by one on any one topic of their choice, and tried to give their own explanation. There was much clapping to encourage each another, and to learn to move together ahead in life.

The third session was group activity where the students formed groups of three. Chart papers were distributed to each group with a set of crayons, pen and pencil.

Then, the group had to choose one of the three topics already given. After deciding, the group was asked to collectively perform, draw, write slogans etc.

The students were also asked to write about themselves, and the problems faced on the back of the chart paper. The best chart on each topic got a prize. Ram Munda was declared as the Jharkhand Bureau Chief for speaking well and giving a short speech on all three topics. Earlier, the coordinator had asked, “Who amongst you can write well?” Ram volunteered and was asked me to document the proceedings.

Anil Oraon, Bagray Munda, Bandhana Oraon and Inder Pahan were awarded for speaking well too. Books on Swami Vivekananda were the prizes – and would be the subject of discussion in the next session, which would also be on how to read a newspaper in a group and develop vocabulary power.

- **Ram Munda,**

Class X, Bureau Chief, The Peace Gong Jharkhand

## Editor

Kanupriya Gupta, Class X, Carmel Convent School, BHEL, Bhopal

Jharkhand: Ram Munda, Class X, Bariatu, Ranchi, Jharkhand

Advisors: Ms Razia Ismail, Prof T K Thomas, Prof K V Nagaraj, Dr Biplab Loho Choudhury, Ms C Indira Dasgupta, Mr Vedabhyas Kundu, Ms Sharmila Sinha, Mr Abhijeet Sinha, Dr B S Panwar, Mr Pramod Sharma, Ms Amita Dahiya, Ms Archana Jyoti, Mr Javed Naqi, Mr Anil Mudgal, Mr A R Patil, Mr Praveen Panjiar, Ms Laila Saein, Dr Oinam Sareeta Devi, Mr Anil Emage, Mr Sushil Kumar Jha, Ms Anjuman Borah, Mr Rihan Ali, Mr Mumtaz Ahmad Numani, Ms Sayantani Roy, Mr Siddhartha Bhattacharya, Mr Rajdeep Pathak, Mr Ashish Tripathi, Mr K Venkatesan, Mr Shemeer Machingal

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For any suggestions and inputs, please write to the Editor: [thepeacegong@gmail.com](mailto:thepeacegong@gmail.com);

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<http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Peace-Gong/187829521307498>

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E-mail: [boscopress@gmail.com](mailto:boscopress@gmail.com)

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