

T publications
E films
M workshops
O fairs
resource centre
C web

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COMET
M E D I A
FOUNDATION

the trail

In 1985, a year before Comet Halley appeared, a small group drew together to produce a series of films on the history of science and technology on the Indian subcontinent. Comet Halley's periodic appearances have seen different stages of development in science and society through the ages. Inspired by the associations with this clock of the centuries, the group called themselves the Comet Project, and began work from an office in the Nehru Centre.

Later registered as the Comet Media Foundation, this non profit organisation has undertaken various projects to produce communication material on a range of development issues related to women and children. The group's special interest lies in research and in developing suitable media to communicate complex ideas, and to make them accessible to wider audiences.

This quest has led us to experiment with various forms of media from the conventional, like film, video, photo documentation and print publication, to evolving our own genre in the form of educational development resource fairs which we call the vividha series. We hope to be able to work with interactive media in the future, and to have a website on the history of science in South Asia soon.

the trajectory

- to create awareness of development-related issues and the choices in science, engineering and technology available to society
- to develop communication material centred around development issues, using appropriate forms of media
- to build a resource centre with material by academics and activists, giving access to information not commonly available otherwise
- to facilitate issue-specific and skill-enhancing seminars, workshops and meetings

Hemu Adhikari
scientist & theatre person

Sharit Bhowmik
sociologist

Nirmalendu Jajodia
business executive

K. P. Jayasankar
film maker & media researcher

Maithreyi Krishnaraj
researcher in women's studies

Swatija Manorama
researcher in women's health

Chandita Mukherjee
film maker

Smriti Nevatia
film maker

P. V. Paranjape
researcher & science movement
activist

the board

funding

Bharat Ki Chhap
National Council for Science & Technology Communication,
Govt of India

Beyond Illness
Bombay Community Public Trust

Another way of learning & There's more to school

Sir Dorabji Tata Trust
Sir Ratan Tata Trust
Pirojsha Godrej Foundation
K.C. Mahindra Education Trust
N.M. Wadia Charities

Our school is a happy place
UNICEF
Zilla Parishad, Amravati, Maharashtra

Slowly but surely
British Council

AVEHI - empowering people through media
AVEHI
World Health Organisation

vividha series of development resource fairs
Aga Khan Foundation

Comet Resource Centre
Sir Dorabji Tata Trust
Centre for Innovation in Voluntary Action
Tata Iron and Steel Company Limited

**Research study on representation of women in print
and electronic media**
Media Advocacy Group, New Delhi

Bali Umar ko Salaam
BBC World Service Training
Ford Foundation

Womens' Workers Rights Project
International Labour Organisation

Sangati
Ford Foundation

you can help us

- with raising donations for our corpus fund, to sustain our activities
- with financial and technical support in setting up our proposed studio for films on developmental issues

you need to know

- we are registered under the Societies Act of 1860
- donations are exempted under Section 80 G 5 of the Income Tax Act

milestones

resource centre

Comet Resource Centre (CRC) collects materials brought out by various organisations involved in activist and academic work on development across the country. It also runs a library equipped with almost two thousand books along with periodicals, newsletters, journals and videos on various related topics. The CRC offers users Internet facilities. The material in the CRC covers a range of subjects, including:

- science, engineering and technology
- education, communication and media
- environment-related issues
- women, health and sexuality
- ideology, social movements, voluntary organisations and governance
- history, language, culture, religion

Apart from collecting published material, the Comet Resource Centre also conducts training programmes on various innovative learning methods. It seeks to provide an open forum for discussions on development issues, and provides its members the opportunity to view films on these subjects.

films

Comet Media Foundation has produced a number of films on various subjects like the history of science and technology in the Indian subcontinent, alternative learning methods, women's movements and how media is used to support development work in communities. These have been screened through both broadcast and non-broadcast channels. Several of the films have received national and international awards.

recognition and awards

- **Bharat Ki Chhap**, awarded Prix Jules Verne, an international prize for science communication, awarded by the Government of France, 1989
- **Another way of learning**, awarded Rajat Kamal, the National Award for the Best Scientific Film, 1995; First prize in the Education Category at the International Festival of Videos on Science, Development and Society, Trivandrum 1995
- **There's more to school...** selected as part of Indian Panorama 1995, a selection of films made by Govt. of India to represent the country in international film festivals and other cultural gatherings
- **Our school is a happy place** awarded Third prize in the Education Category at the International Festival Of Videos on Science, Development and Society, Trivandrum 1995
- **AVEHI - empowering people through media** participated in the North-South Encounter film festival, Geneva, Switzerland 1999

publications

- **Bharat ki Chhap**, a book on the history of science and technology in India
- **Beyond Illness**, a health manual for paraprofessionals working with urban women
- **Readings on Women Workers in India: selected annotations**, an annotated bibliography of books, articles and reports on the situation of women workers in India
- Publications to mark events like fairs and workshops conducted by Comet

promotion of educational materials

Round the year, Comet conducts exhibition cum sales of educational workshops, at venues such as annual day functions of schools and colleges and at seminars and exhibitions conducted by various organisations.

These materials include educational toys made by rural and urban artisans' groups of Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Mumbai. These toys are designed to develop the creative imagination and conceptual ability of the child. They enhance skills such as eye-hand co-ordination, visual judgement, logical and strategic planning and conceiving of forms in three dimensions.

Other educational materials include videos and books produced by Comet and other organisations from all over the country.

future paths

- to develop Bali Umar ko Salaam, a set of three pilot episodes for a television series for adolescents, into a full-fledged series. This workshop-on-air explores the broad area of growing up within a framework of responsible decision-making
- to mobilise swasthya vividha or a festival of well being, in continuation of the vividha series of fairs. The festival will bring together various experiments and attempts in alternative health care carried out by self-help and service providing groups
- to set up an in-house video studio to facilitate our production activities and also those of other non-profit organisations

posters

- a set of 12 posters in Hindi and English on the rights of women workers in India

photo-documentation

- a set of 10 photographic postcards documenting the lives of women workers in Maharashtra
- a photo exhibition on the theme of women at work

seminars and workshops

- seminars and workshops as part of the vividha fairs
- Comet Resource Centre's year round workshops for teachers on innovative teaching learning methodologies
- round tables and workshops on media related issues

fairs

The idea of the fairs is to provide a non-linear, unstructured, self-learning experience where visitors have the freedom to choose the order and degree of their learning from fair participants.

- vividha '97- a series of three fairs, giving a platform to various groups working towards self employment of the rural and urban poor
- stri vividha '98 and 2000--a development resource fair featuring the activities of a range of women's groups in India, in collaboration with the Indian Association of Women's Studies
- bal vividha '98 and '99--featuring innovations in education and alternative ways of learning, in collaboration with Bal Bhavan

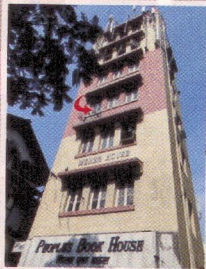
main features of the fairs

- exhibition and sale of products made by various development groups
- activity corners, for hands-on experience with the ideas and materials of participants
- a café, which forms the hub of informal interaction between participants and visitors
- workshops on related topics



drop into
Learning
LaDor

to dream



Meher House stands at the meeting point of Banaji Agiary Lane with Cawasji Patel Street. The landmark is People's Book House on the ground floor.

For **books**, **toys**,
games and **learning aids**
of all sorts

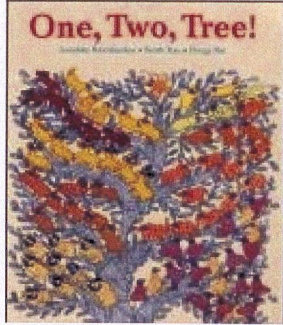
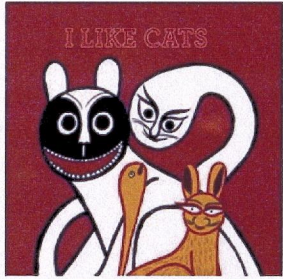
**Learning
Ladder**

at Comet Media Foundation

301 Meher House, 15 Cawasji Patel Street
Fort, Mumbai 400001

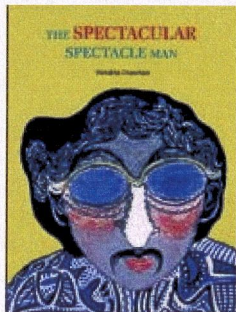
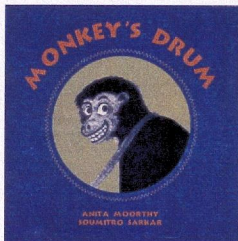
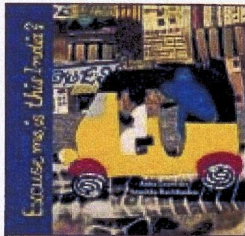
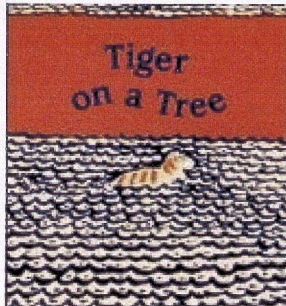
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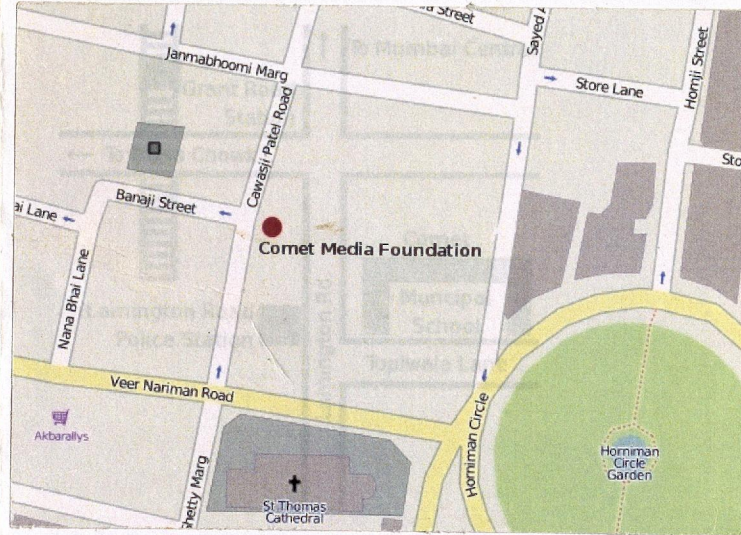


Children's books

Books help children to reflect and develop their own identities. We have a wide range of books, from stories to be read aloud to books on environmental issues and the classics, all from publishers not usually found on bookshop shelves.



Learning Ladder



A visit to the Learning Ladder online or in person enriches the experience of knowing and growing.

Comet Media Foundation

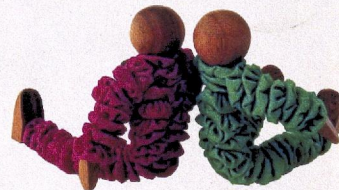
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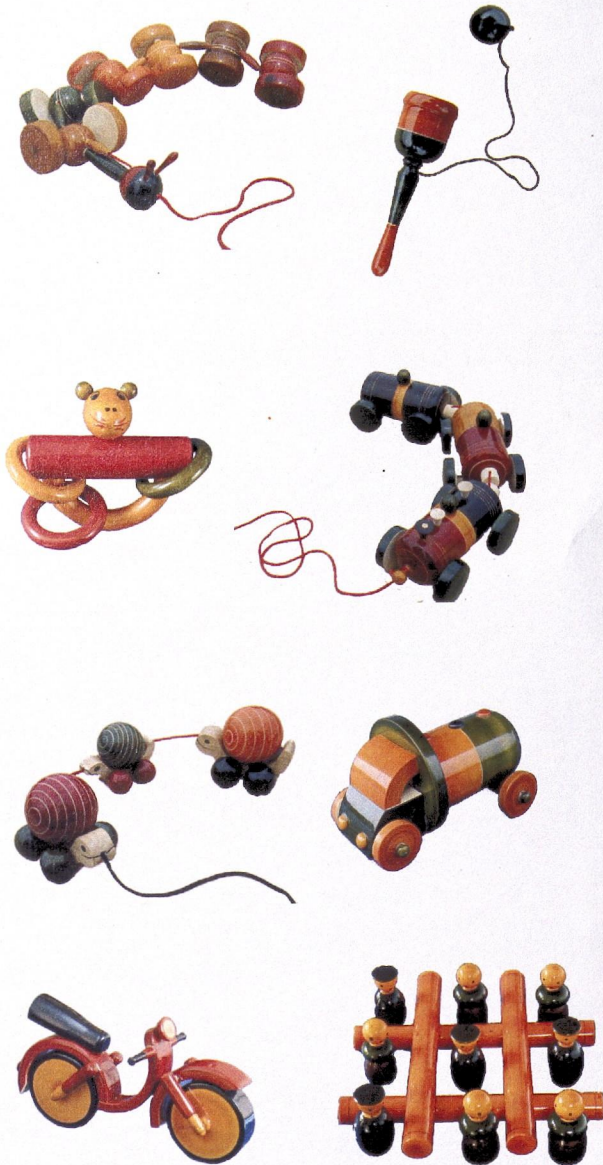
Learning Ladder

toys, books & lots more



Lacware toys

These traditional toys are made by craft families in Andhra and Karnataka with hand processes, using wood, lacquer and organic pigments.



Dolls and puppets

These are toys that encourage fantasy play, dialogue and provide props for the creation of imaginary worlds.



Wooden jigsaws

A wide range of jigsaws for under-fives, of two, three and more pieces, each a little more challenging than the previous.

