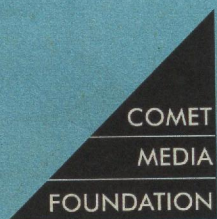
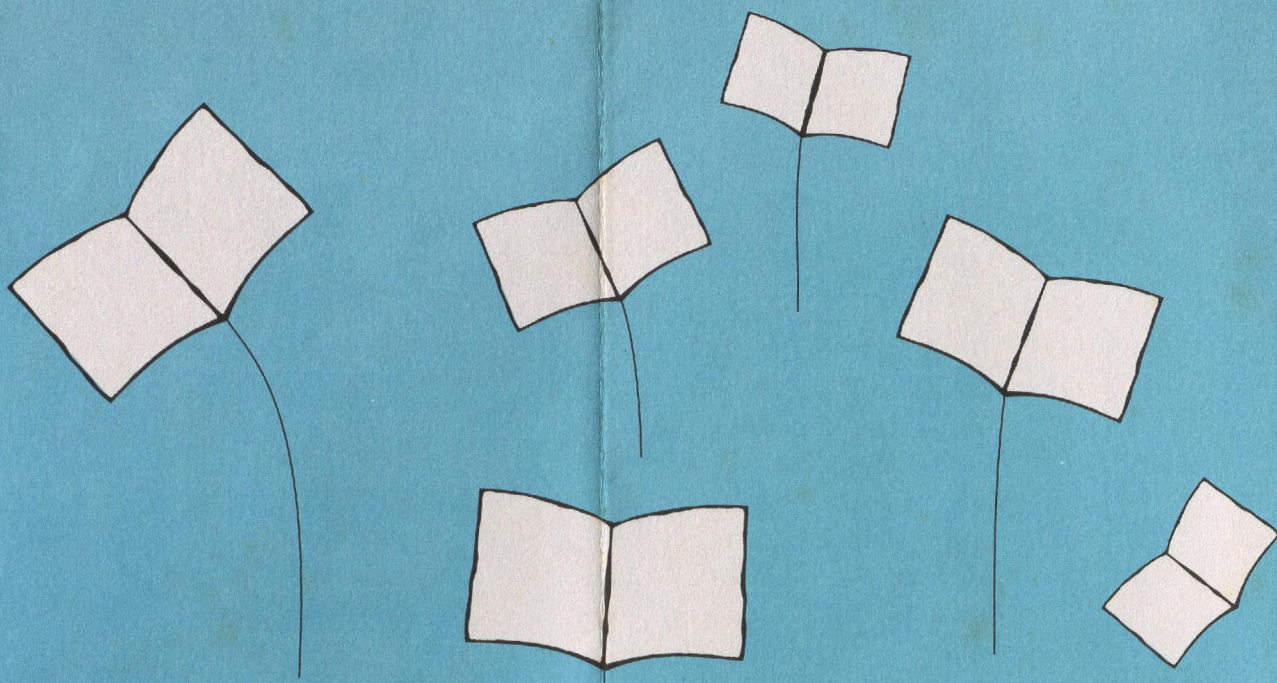


Comet

**Resource
Centre
Newsletter**

January 2004





Greetings from Comet for the New Year!

CATCHING UP

November saw us busy with the *bal vividha 2003* festival at N L High School in Malad in the north and Bal Bhavan on Marine Drive at the southern end of Mumbai.

In keeping with our theme *transforming everyday materials into tools for learning*, we had a range of interactive corners conducted by some twenty organisations. Here children had a chance to express their creativity. They made newspaper hats, animals, flowers, birds, boxes and handbags through origami. Children eager to try their hand at the potter's wheel continuously surrounded the potters. Kalamezhuttupattu, a form of rangoli from Kerala using powders made of organic colours and several other crafts were on show.

The attractions in the amphitheatre included Agni Nrityam, a traditional dance form of Kerala performed with fire, gymnastics with rope malkhamb, puppet shows and story telling. A selection of films was screened, accompanied by workshops introducing children to film making and animation. A mini-planetarium encouraged children to explore the night sky.

Between the two *bal vividhas*, 27 workshops were organised for NGO workers, teachers and children. These promoted alternative approaches to teaching and learning methods.

The Sir Ratan Tata Colloquium on Education was on the theme *Virtual learning—an elusive reality?* It drew a range of people who deliberated on the role of ICTs in the Indian education scenario. A report of the proceedings will soon be available.

LOOKING FORWARD

Outreach activities in January

1st to 4th Jan Safdar Hashmi Memorial Vasai Book Festival

Visit our bookstall at this annual book fair at Samaj Unnati Mandal Grounds opp. Manickpur Petrol Pump at Vasai Road West. Open from 10am to 9pm everyday, excepting the 1st when it opens at 6 pm. We welcome all our friends in that part of Mumbai and Thane to this festival.

9th and 10th Jan Ananya 2004

Ananya 2004 is an intercollegiate youth event organised by Sophia College for Women on the theme of women and the environment. Visit our bookstall.

10th and 11th Jan Parent fun 2004

We will exhibit our educational toys and books at this annual event of the Indian Association for Preschool Education, this time at Swami Vivekanand International School, Parikh Nagar, Swami Vivekanand Road, Kandivili West.

16th to 21st Jan World Social Forum 2004

This mammoth international gathering on the theme of *Another World is Possible* will bring about a lakh of people to NESCO Grounds, on the Western Express Highway at Goregaon East for a

memorable week of workshops, seminars, films, rallies, concerts, theatre, art exhibitions, book stalls, craft stalls and many other attractions.

Comet will conduct an interactive exhibit there featuring the *Soof Patchwork Tapestry*, a collaborative work of art with contributions from all over the world. In addition, we will do an exhibition and sale of our learning toys and books.

More on WSF at www.wsfindia.org. Come and meet us there!

Upcoming workshops

7th Jan Innovative teaching strategies
Shailaja Muley, in English
Participants will learn inventive methods of teaching language and other subject, evolved over several years by an experienced teacher.

8th & 9th Jan Gender sensitivity
Meena Deval & Vandana Khare, in Marathi
This workshop will help the participants to recognise deep rooted gender prejudices and to develop strategies to deal with them.

15th & 16th Jan Child rights
The Meljol team, in Hindi
A workshop introducing child rights, to provide participants with the skills to communicate this awareness to school students.

22nd Jan Handmade paper-making
Naheed Hafeez, in Hindi
Making handmade paper from recycled organic materials encourages children's environmental sensitivity. This workshop will show the process of handmade paper-making and suggest its uses.

28th Jan Concentration, coordination and movement
Aban Bana, in English
Can mathematics and language be taught through movement and group dynamics? Participants will learn methods of enhancing concentration and physical co-ordination through rhythmic exercises.

29th Jan Environmental education
The CERE team, in English
This workshop will show participants how environmental education can be incorporated into every aspect of the school curriculum.

If you would like further information on the workshops or would like to register please call us at 23869052 or 23826674. Please pass on this newsletter to friends who may be interested.

Send your feedback to comet_media@vsnl.com

bal vividha 2004
bal vividha is an ongoing event. We welcome proposals from interested partners, both rural and urban, so that we could reach new venues.

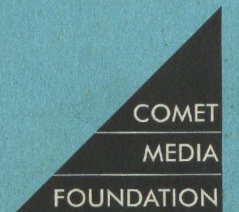
Our plans for 2004 are taking shape. We have two *bal vividha* festivals coming up in Gujarat.

14th to 16th Feb at St. Xavier's High School Bhiloda, in Mehsana District, near Ahmedabad.

20th to 22nd Feb at Bright Day School, Baroda.

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