

Annual Report 2008-09



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**Association For Promotion of Creative Learning
Patna**

www.creativelearning.in

Association for Promotion of Creative Learning (APCL) was established in the year 1997-98 as a not-for-profit organisation to promote creativity in the society. It is registered under Societies Registration Act of 1860 at Bihar (India) vide registration No. 171/79-98.

Vision

It visualizes a world free from all discrimination where each individual is able to develop his/her full creative potential. It would be a learning society where

- ☞ Every occasion is a learning occasion.
- ☞ Every place is a learning place
- ☞ Every person, animate object becomes a learning object, learning facilitator and learner.

Mission

- ☞ Universalisation of Quality Education
- ☞ Development of full Creative Potential of all human beings.
- ☞ Evolution of a Learning Society

Focus

Creativity has assumed great importance in the context of globalization and new economic order. It is creativity, which is going to make major difference in the social, economic and cultural status of different societies. Childhood is the main period for the development of creativity. If creative potential of a society has to be tapped, the main focus has to be on the development of creativity right from childhood. Further, focus on creativity would also be helpful in bringing equity in society as underprivileged section of society has a great untapped creative potential. This potential being properly recognised, nursed and developed can be a major tool of their empowerment.

Nature of Activities

APCL strives to work for promoting creativity through following activities.

Research: Working relentlessly to find out new ways to develop creativity in persons of different age-groups and developing new pedagogy for creatively mainstreaming the underprivileged



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The wheel of Creativity
never stops.

It ventures into unknown,
explores the farthest realms,
questions the most conventional
wisdoms and creates
the simplest yet
the unimaginable.

Training: Working for capacity building and skill development of teachers, parents, educator-planners and other persons involved in promotion and dissemination of creative skills in society.

Demonstration and Extension: Creating awareness regarding use of teaching learning methods and materials, which can lead to development of creativity and help people to learn throughout life; establishing institutions and networking with other institutions.

Major Activities (2008-09)

Making schools functional

The project on Making Schools functional continued this year (upto 31.12.08) also with the assistance of Actionaid India. The basic objective of the project was to strengthen enabling environment, which can make government schools functional in Jamsaut panchayat.

Shabari Ashram or Creative Learning Centre (CLC) for vulnerable children

To ensure educational rights of vulnerable children Creative Learning Centres or Shabari Ashrams were run for the underprivileged section in their Tola. It was used to track the vulnerable children encourage them to go to school and supplement and complement their learning needs. It functions as a link among learners, community and school.

Such centres were run at 6 underprivileged Tolas in Jamsaut Panchayat at Mathiapur, Dhibara, Sikandarpur Musahari, Nargada Chamartoli, Khagari Musahari, Jamsaut Musahari from 1.1.08 to 31.12.08.

Training of Community mobilisers

From 30.4.08 to 4.5.08 training of the community mobilisers in the techniques of making school functional was organised at School of Creative Learning.

The community mobilisers were trained in the use of following formats.

- *Bal Paryavekshan Vivarani* Format
- *Prabhavi Schoolan Masik Padank Paryavekshan* format
- Guidelines for filling Bal Paryavekshan Vivarani Format
- Guidelines for filling Prabhavi Schoolan Masik Padank Paryavekshan format

Underprivileged has great potential for development of creativity.



Children of Shabari Ashram displaying their cultural talent

Workshop on the Role of Vidyalaya Siksha Samiti

A workshop was organised at School of Creative Learning, Nargada on 31.5.08 to discuss the role of Vidyalaya Siksha Samities and empower them so that they can discharge their roles effectively.

Materials prepared by the children of Shabari Ashrams were also displayed in the form of an Exhibition. It was heartening to see how children were motivated and how they have started attending such functions in large number. Their display particularly their terracotta work was really amazing. The exhibition was displayed for each Shabari Ashrams separately. Participants of the workshops were taken around the exhibition.

Cultural programme of the children of the underprivileged children of different schools was organised.

Panchayat Prathmik Siksha Sammelan

A Panchat Shiksha Sammelan, first of its kind in Bihar was organised at Jamsaut on 4.7.'08. The main objective of the Sammelan was to empower Panchayati Raj bodies to discharge its role in respect of elementary education. It also aimed at making schools accountable to Panchayti Raj bodies and bringing transparency in the functioning of school system

Main Participants in the workshop were Principal secretary, Social Welfare, Subdivisional and Block officials, Panchayat Functionaries, academicians, Unicef representatives, representatives of School Education Committees and teachers of the schools of the Panchayat.

We have realised that unless we empower Panchayats by making them capable in discharging their duties related to Elementary Education as enshrined in constitution we cannot achieve the goal making the schools functional. In fact, due to sheer ignorance Panchayats remain dormant. In this connection it was decided to use the platform of Panchayats to ensure accountability of schools and school teachers. It was thus decided to hold a Panchayat Prathmik Siksha Sammelan in collaboration with Jamsaut Panchayat. Mukhiya Smt Badamo Devi agreed to issue invitation letter for the Sammelan. She was also asked to circulate a format for report card for the presentation of the schools.

Scholarships to School children were also distributed in the Sammelan

Report cards of School

To monitor the status and development of the school report cards have been prepared. The latest report card was discussed in the Panchayat Prathmik Siksha Sammelan.

Strengthening systems at Panchayat is one of the important steps towards realisation of educational rights.

Independence week celebrations

Independence Week was celebrated from to to inculcate sense of patriotism among children. During this week we organized various activities to inculcate sense of patriotism among children.

National Flag making

The children were given training of making national tri-colour flag. They were given sticks and coloured papers and asked to make tricolours. It was seen as a great fun by the children. They also got attached to national flag as they learnt about the dimensions of the flag, meaning of different colours and wheel, their location, etc. They also enjoyed learning about the history of the flag.

National Anthem singing

The children were given training of singing national anthem. They were also asked to sing in such a way that the time of 52 sec is maintained.

Cultural Programme

The children displayed their cultural talent by performing various songs and dances related to patriotic feelings.

We learnt that children of underprivileged community have little exposure of national festivals and symbols. They need to actively participate in the national days celebrations.

It would be desirable to expose them to various national symbols.

Lok Khel kud Pratiyogita

Ordinarily in schools we do not give much importance to games. Even if we organise competitions related to games and it is generally the sports played in the towns or mainstream society. The children of underprivileged or marginalised society have no knowledge of such games so they are not able to effectively participate in those games.

In order to encourage children of the underprivileged section of society we planned to organise competitions related to the games such children play in their daily life.

On 13.9.08 we organised competitions in the following games and activities

- Patta pahchan
- Goli khel
- Gulli danda
- Tyre race



Tyre Race: a great occasion for expressing latent talent of underprivileged

- Masala pahchan
- Ank yog
- Rassi Dor
- Powder pahchan
- Bouncing ball
- Toffee race

148 children participated in the activity. It would be interesting to note that the participation was so high in this activity whereas in other activities of academic nature participation of such communities is generally low.

As usual we found that the children showed great enthusiasm in participating in sports event related to folk games.

Amit Kumar takes interest in playing marbles. He so much likes the game that he skips school and keeps playing marbles. The community mobilisers tried to counsel parents to persuade him to go to school. But they also expressed inability to help as it was difficult to motivate him to go to school. However, when he is given an opportunity to participate in any sports, he feels happy. He was extremely happy to participate in the Khel Pratiyogita. .

Seeing the enthusiasm it was found necessary that such games should be organized in all schools in regular way. This would help us in improving retention and achievement in schools.

Bal Mela

On 21.9.'08 we organised Bal Mela to provide children opportunities to participate in creative activities and also to provide children opportunities to show their abilities through folk crafts and paintings. 82 children participated in the event.

Following activities were organised

- Arian
- Exhibition
- Cultural Programme
 - Shabari

As it was found that children had great interest in claywork and they were seen doing clay work during offtime, they were asked to prepare models of clay, leaves, paper etc. They have shown great talent in clay designs. By preparing such models they refine their talent. They show great enthusiasm in such works



Bal Mela: an occasion for expressing creativity

and this can be used for generating enthusiasm for learning. Children were also asked to write their names address and school on a label for each display. They were also asked to make designs of their models on chart paper and write various uses of the object. This exercise was mainly aimed at teaching language through their creative skills.

Each Shabari Ashram was given a table where they were supposed to display their exhibits. A cloth was also put up behind the table on the wall where they put up the name of their Centre. Then they could also display their paintings and other exhibits. Apart from clay models they also displayed leaf designs, picture on paper/card boards, etc.

Each Ashram was given one area on the floor at School of Creative Learning. The Community Mobilisers drew the outline of the Gharounda and Aripa. Children were given the task of filling it with colours. Many groups of children prepared coloured sands. It was seen that children showed great enthusiasm this year in comparison to last year. It appears that such activity has to be continued on longer basis so that it may be institutionalized.

Children also made a collective presentation of different phases of life of the mythological character 'Shabari'. Each centre was given one phase of life for enactment. They were supposed to do script work and make presentation. The community mobilisers were asked to extend all help in this regard. In fact, worked as coordinators in the play. It was found that parents showed great interest in the event. They facilitated by providing clothes to their children. Some of the mothers even purchased new clothes for their child. This motivation was really exemplary seeing the fact that normally these parents do not display any concern for the education of the children.

Main guests were Sri Suresh Srivastava, Department of Botany, Patna University, Sri TN Mallick, Chief Engineer, IRCON(Retd), Smt Manjula Mallick, CDPO, Darbhanga, Prof. Shailendra Kumar Srivastava, Chairperson, CLF, Mr. Vijoy Prakash, Principal Secretary, Social Welfare, Bihar, Mr Indrajeeet Mukherjee, Asstt. Director, SC and ST Welfare, Govt. of Bihar, Mr. Anil Sinha, Mahadalit Developemnt Mission, Govt. of Bihar

Winner Shabari Ashrams were given group prizes.

We learnt that children of underprivileged sections of society have great kinesthetic ability and this ability can be used as initiation point for learning activities.

Bal Mela is a good occasion, which can be used as a motivator.

School Environment Improvement Activities

From 18.10.08 to 24.10.08 in Jamsaut Panchayat we undertook activities to work for creating a favourable environment for underprivileged children. We decided



Exhibition of items
produced by children

to take the learning in Shabari Ashrams to school so that it may become integrated to the school system. With this end in view Exhibition and learning games were organised in 6 different schools of the Panchayat.

We undertook following activities

- Exhibition
- Learning games
- Cultural Programme

Children were asked to display their exhibits related to claywork, leaf designs, paper crafts, Chartwork, etc. on the table of the school.

Some learning games such as faster addition, subtraction, etc. were also organised which attracts underprivileged children to school.

Therafter, children organised a small cultural programme where they displayed they cultural talents.

We found that

- Even teachers of the school were inquisitive to learn about these activities.
- Some parents were also taking keen interest in the activities.
- Some teachers assured that they would use these techniques for attracting children to school.
- It was also seen that children take lot of interest in cracking jokes. It would be desirable to supply jokebook to teachers and also to the library.
- Teachers asked that it would be better if these techniques are taught to them as well.
- Children showed great interest in being photographed. They loved to see their photographs. It would be desirable to show the photographs of their village and discuss with them. This would help them in developing oration and discussion skills.
- At the end of the session, we used to get the attendance and reaction of the teachers. At Madhya Vidyalaya , Nargada, teachers refused to sign. They appeared to be affraid that they might be asked explanation for this. Later after great persuasion all of them (seven in all) signed the attendance.



Children of
Shabari Ashram
enacting the drama
'Shabari'

Development of materials for child tracking

Child tracking tools have been developed and information about children was collected and computerised. It was used to track the vulnerable children to provide counselling to parents, teachers and students.

Workshop of proper functionalisation of schools for quality education

On 14.12.08 a workshop was organised to discuss the strategy and share the experiences related to functionalisation of government schools at A N Sinha Institute of Social Sciences.

137 people belonging to Govt. functionaries, Panchayat functionaries, I-NGOs, NGOs, Educationists, Field activists participated in the event.

Main Resource Persons were Mr. Vijoy Prakash, Principal Secretary, SC and ST Welfare, Bihar, Mr. Vinoy Ohdar, Action aid India, Ms. Anjella Taneja, Actionaid India, Mr Akhil Chandra Mishra, Actionaid India, Mr Binodanand Jha, Dy Director, Primary Edcation, Bihar, Prof. Sameer Verma, Department of Botany, Veer Kunwar Singh University, Arrah, Smt Badamo Devi, Mukhia, Jamsaut Panchayat, Mr. Trilok Prasad, Mukhia, Maner Panchayat, Mr Amar, Samajik Shodh Evam Vikas Sansthan, Mehasi, Mr Kapaleshwar Ram, PRAYAS, Mr Ravindra, Human Rights, Mr Choube jee, Teacher association, Sri Pradeep Priyadarshi, Pragati Grameen Vikas Samiti, Naubatpur, Mr Anil Kumar Sinha, Mahadalit Vikas Mission, Govt of Bihar, Mr Ajit Kumar Singh, Micronutrient Initiative, Dr Mridula Prakash, APCL

After lot of deliberations following recommendations were made.

- Panchayat Siksha plan should be made for each panchayat.
- A forum should be made for proper networking of organisations working for the rights of the children.
- A report card on educational right be published from community side.
- A resource centre should be developed for different rights.
- An information centre should be developed in each Panchayat.
- Mukhia and Other Panchayat functionaries including Vidyalaya Siksha Samiti Members should be properly empowered and programme should be designed for their capacity building.
- Link persons should be developed for schools and family.
- Advocacy group should be developed for Right to Education.
- Panchayt Siksha sammelan should be organised in each panchayat.
- All inspection report should go to Mukhia and Panchayat.



Inauguration
of the workshop

Aripan in community

During survey last year we had found that underprivileged community particularly Musahars donot have any exposue to paintings or anything written. It has also been found that the community where folk paintings are popular adopt learning particularly writing.

Wiith this end in view Aripan was drawn on all Shabari Ashrams three days before Deepawali. It was found to be quite popular as people showed interest in these activities.

We had been encouraging children of Shabari Ashrams to draw paintings on floor in the Ashram or at a central place. This year we decided to take it to community by drawing Arpans on the main place or roadside on the occasion of Deepawali on 25.10.08 so that people may become aware of the importance of Aripans.

Shabari Ashrams of Jamsaut Panchayats were associated in the process.

Right to education for underprivileged

From 1.2.'09 we started a project for ensuring right of education for underprivileged in Patania Panchayat of Darbhanga district with the assistance of Actionaid India. This would continue upto 31.12.'09.

We undertook following major activities under the project

- Transact walk and community meetings
- Survey of vulnerable families and children

Transact walk and community meetings

A transact walk was organised in the Panchayat to have a feel of the geographical area, people, nature of settlements of Patnaia Panchayat. In this process we also developed acquaintances with our partners, opinion builders, Panchayat functionaries. We also visited different schools- government and non-government of the area and had an interaction with the teachers and other functionaries.

In these transact walk Sri Vijoy Prakash, Executive President, APCL, Dr Mridula Prakash, APCL, Sri Manoj Kumar, APCL, Sri Shailendra Mohan Paswan, Mukhia and Adhyaksha, Bharat Gyan Vigyan Samiti(BGVS), Sri Surendra Prasad Yadav, Bharat Gyan Vigyan Samiti(BGVS), Sri Kamalesh Kumar Gupta, Nyaya Mitra, Benipur, Sri Ranjit Kumar Ranjan, Jnan Vijnana Samiti, Sri Kamendra Sada, Musahar Sewa Sangha, Baheri, Sri Ramshreshtha Sada, Prakhand Adhyaksha,

Biraul, Musahar Sewa Sangha, Sri Harendra Kumar Bhashkar, Teacher, Benipur, Sri Birendra Paswan, teacher, Benipur, Ms. Pinki Kumari, Teacher, Primary School Benipur, Ms Varsha Kumari, Teacher, Primary School Benipur, Sri Siya Sharan Yadav, Bharat Gyan Vigyan Samiti(BGVs along with many others participated.

On 21.3.09 we visited Narayanpur village. On 22.3.'09 we went to Sudak, Kichakapar, Boran, Rajbanni and Bhaini and on 23.3.'09 we went to Primary School, Narayanpur, Middle School, Patania, Primary school, Lalpur

Survey of vulnerable families and children

From 24.3.'09 to 30.4.'09 a survey of vulnerable families and children was done in the panchayat.

The survey schedules was developed. The survey schedules were got printed.

The survey of vulnerable families was done with the help of the survey volunteers. From 24.3.'09 to 31.3.'09 door to door meeting was organised. Initially we held a meeting of the community where the purpose of the survey was explained. We found that initially there was as apprehension for the survey as they were asking as to what they would get out of it. In the community meetings this was dispelled. However, it was difficult to get the help of people to the desired level. It took lot of persuasions to ensure their help. An advisory committee of local people was formed. This was of great help as APCL was a new organisation to the area. Therefore, initially there was resistance in cooperation, but with gradual discussion this was dispelled.

We also developed a manual for running Shabari Ashrams.

School of Creative Learning

SCHOOL OF CREATIVE LEARNING is an innovative school run by APCL (Association for Promotion of Creative Learning), a non-profit making organisation registered under Societies Registration Act, 1860. It has been established with the objective of promoting creative learning in society.

SCL(School of Creative Learning) is affiliated to CBSE, New Delhi for 10+2 examination. It transacts CBSE curricula with creative learning methodology.

What is Creative Learning?

After a long and painstaking research APCL has developed a new teaching/ learning methodology called Creative Learning which aims at developing creativity of a person. It believes that every child is born creative. The basic purpose of any learning system should be to develop his/her intrinsic natural learning process.

Based on information processing model of learning, it attempts to develop seven basic competencies called Core Creative Competencies (C³)- *Concentration, Power of observation, Memory, Thinking, Imagination, Emotional Management and Power of Expression/Communication.*

While designing teaching learning materials and methods, it takes care of different learning styles of children based on the concept of multiple intelligence. It also takes into consideration the unique role of symbols and patterns in multiple intelligence framework.

The new TLM evolves from the traditional cultural practices, which have been found suitable to develop creativity in society since time immemorial. In this context it has integrated Yogic method of learning into the modern learning system.

Based on Yogic method of learning, APCL has developed unique *Visualization Exercises* to develop processes of *Mental Image Making*. These exercises help learners to develop power of concentration, memory, imagination and ability for faster mental mathematics. It further helps them to have better emotional control, which is now considered to be so vital for achieving success in life. The new TLM basically aims at preparing child to keep learning continuously from womb to tomb.

The content of learning is chosen taking consideration of the uniqueness of learning environment. It is selected to meet the needs of self, family and neighborhood. Thus, it tries to develop a person not only as an individual, but also as a social being strengthening family ties and friendship bonds. Its activities are designed in such a fashion that it we should gradually reduce individual competition and enhance group cooperation. As emotions have been found to play an important role in the development of relationships and success of individuals, it is given due importance in the teaching learning process.

The new TLM has also developed a unique monitoring and evaluation system, which helps in understanding the strengths and weaknesses in the achievement of a learner. It also helps in diagnosing the actual problems in learning process so that appropriate and timely remedial measures may be applied.

The concept has been developed in the form of a book called *Creative Learning* (published by VIVA Books Ltd.).

Core Creative Competencies (C³)

Concentration
Power of observation
Memory
Thinking
Imagination
Emotional Management
Power of Expression/Communication.

Development of Creativity
is a child's birth right.

APCL was invited to make a presentation about the concept before the august audience of the NCERT faculty.

Presentation about Education Underprivileged has also been made in Bihar Vidhan Parishad Annexee in the 'Vimarsh' programme.

It has developed a unique teaching learning methodology, based on our age old Indian learning system properly blended with modern learning technology, to promote Quality Education in society. It believes that the problems of our society in new millennium, can be solved only by universalising Quality Education.

Major Activities in School of Creative Learning

Word/Sentence Chain Competition

On 5-4-2008 word or sentence chain competition was organised. This activity is intended to develop memory of linked words and sentences. This was organised in two groups.

Junior Group - Word Chain

Senior Group – Sentence Chain

Creative Writing Competition

On 21-6-2008 creative writing competition was organised in two groups.

Junior Group - Poem Writing

Senior Group – Story Writing

Celebration of Independence day

On 15.8.08 Independence day was celebrated. On this occasion the flag was hoisted by Sri Yugal Kishor, Senior Advocate, Patna High Court. Thereafter, a cultural programme was displayed by the children of the school. The different formation of pyramids made by children were simply exceptional.

Celebration of Teachers day

On 5.9.'08 teachers day was celebrated with great enthusiasm. It was a celebration organised by the children. They were asked to celebrate the day in such a way that they learn the art of management also. They decided how to collect donation for celebration. The donation was limited to be taken from children and teachers only. They made a detailed plan of action. They also conducted meetings, maintained minutes of meetings, distributed work among various children. They also maintained the accounts and after the function submitted the detailed report on the function.

Poem and Story writing should be taken up before children start learning essays.

On the Teachers day a grand cultural function was organised by the children in the honour of teachers. Sweets were distributed among teachers and learners. It was a celebration by the children for the teachers.

All teachers were also given gifts by the school management.

Poem Writing/Recitation

On 20-9-2008 Poem writing and recitation competition was organised for the primary section of the school.

Std- I & II (Poem recitation)

Std- III to V (Poem Writing)

Speech Contest

On 20-9-2008 speech contest was organised for std VI to VII. The topic of the speech was 'हिन्दी भारत के लिए जरूरी है।'

Slogan Writing

On 18-10-2008 slogan writing was undertaken with a view to stop crackers in two groups.

Junior Group - Slogans in Hindi

Senior Group –Slogans in English

Rangoli & Gharounda competition

On 25-10-2008 Rangoli and Gharonda competition was organised. Entire corridor was divided into different sections and children of different houses were allotted space on which they were asked to make Rangoli on floor. Thereafter they were supposed to decorate with Gharonda.

Children's day

On 14.11.08 children's day was celebrated in the school with due gay and eclat. It was a celebration by the teachers for the children. Sweets were distributed among the children and teachers. A cultural programme was also organised by the teachers in the honour of children.

Gifts were given to all children on behalf of school management.

Clothes distribution

On 17.12.'08 free clothes were distributed among children of underprivileged section of Jamsaut panchayat.

Handwriting contest

On 19.12.08 Handwriting contest was organised among children.

General Quiz contest

On 03-01-09 a General Quiz contest was organised.

Celebration of Republic day

On 26.1.09 Republic day was organised in the school campus with due gay and eclat. It started with flag hoisting and March Past. A very good cultural programme with Patriotic songs and drama was displayed by the children.

Celebration of Saraswati Puja

On 31.3.'09 worship of Saraswati Puja was organised in the school. Children celebrated the Puja with great enthusiasm. It was celebrated in such a way that children develop managerial ability so important in modern world. They were asked to prepare detailed plan, raise funds, keep accounts and prepare the final report. They were also supposed to learn about distribution of duties, delegation of functions and power, keep minutes of the meetings, negotiating prices, selection of best items within given prices, how to manage jerks, etc. Children also composed songs and slogans on Goddess Saraswati.

Board of Management

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