

A photograph of two women in saris looking at a comic strip on a table. The woman on the left is wearing a brown and white patterned sari, and the woman on the right is wearing a bright orange sari. They are both looking down at a comic strip that is laid out on a table. The comic strip has several panels with drawings and text. The background is a simple room with a blue door.

**Report from WCF and
WCI joint workshops**

India 2009

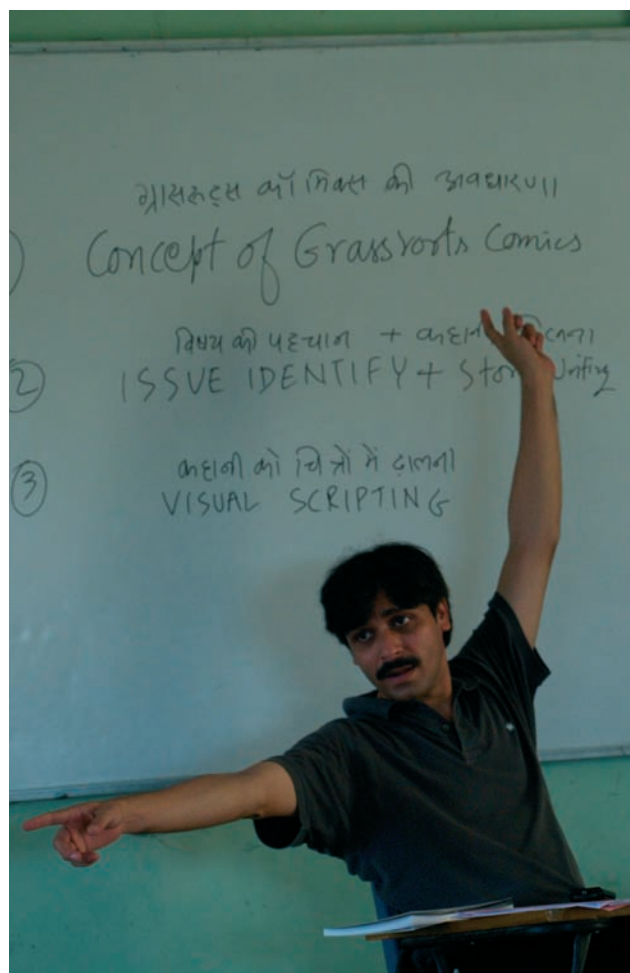
OCTOBER 5–11, 2009:
TRAINING OF TRAINERS WORKSHOP IN GVNML, RAJASTHAN
OCTOBER 13–14, 2009:
ADVANCED COMICS TRAINING IN LADY IRWIN COLLEGE IN DELHI



October 5 – 11, 2009: Training of trainers workshop in Gram Vikas Navyuvak Mandal Lapodia (GVNML), Nagar, Rajasthan. Participants: 20 trainees and 30 test group participants (see appendix 1).

October 13 –14, 2009: Advanced comics training to 7 WCI comics artists and 11 mass communication students, in Lady Irwin College in Delhi (see appendix 2).

Resource persons: Ms. Kaisa Leka and Leif Packalen of World Comics Finland, Sharad Sharma of World Comics India. In-group support and monitoring by World Comics India's senior tutors: Lakhindra Nayak, Sundermohan Murmu and Ralkimtawna Kawli. Interpretation by Ali Shassir.





JAIPUR

Before the workshop, on Saturday, October 3, Sharad, Kaisa and Leif made two presentations in Jaipur, one in The School of Arts in Rajasthan and the other in the International College for Girls. The whole team, now including Sunder Mohan and Lakhindra, left for GVNML, Nagar, on Sunday afternoon. The first participants arrived late on Sunday evening.

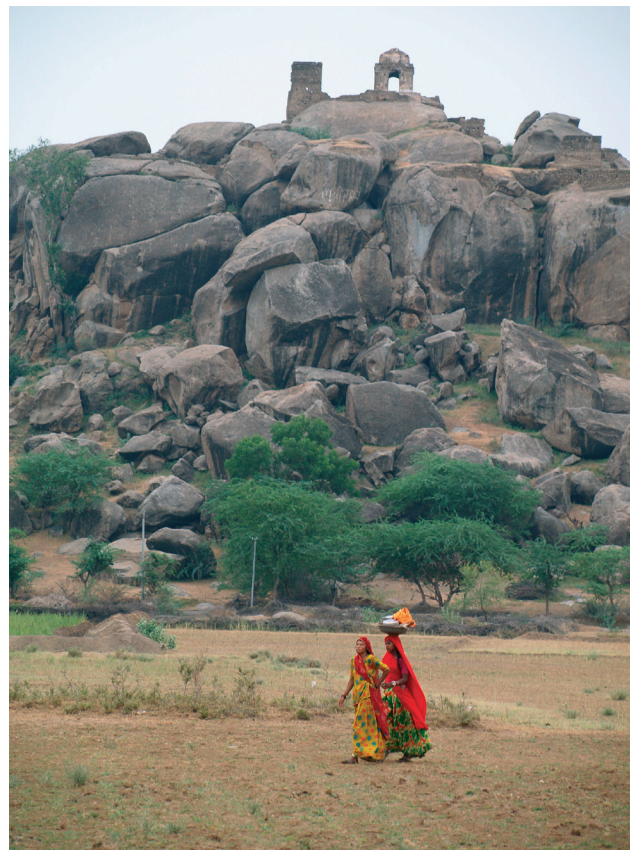




MONDAY, OCTOBER 5.

The participants arrived during the morning so we were ready to open the workshop at 10.30. The founder of GVNML, Mr.

Lakshman Singh, opened the workshop. GVNML is an organisation dedicated to sustainable development, engaging the community in water management and other environmental issues. We then made the introductory rounds between the participants and the resource persons. Sharad and Leif explained the grassroots comics concept and how wallposter comics have spread in the world. Leif introduced the teacher's



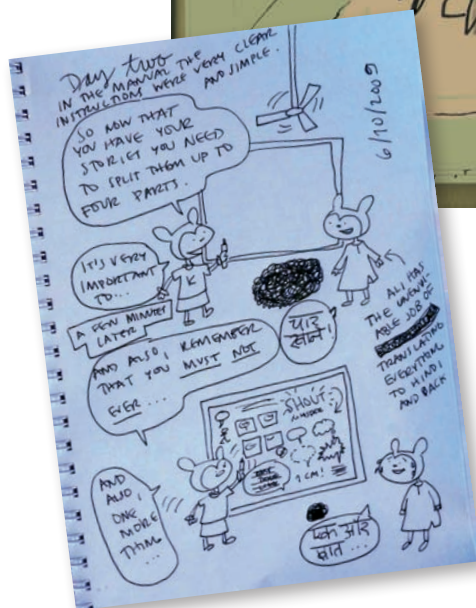
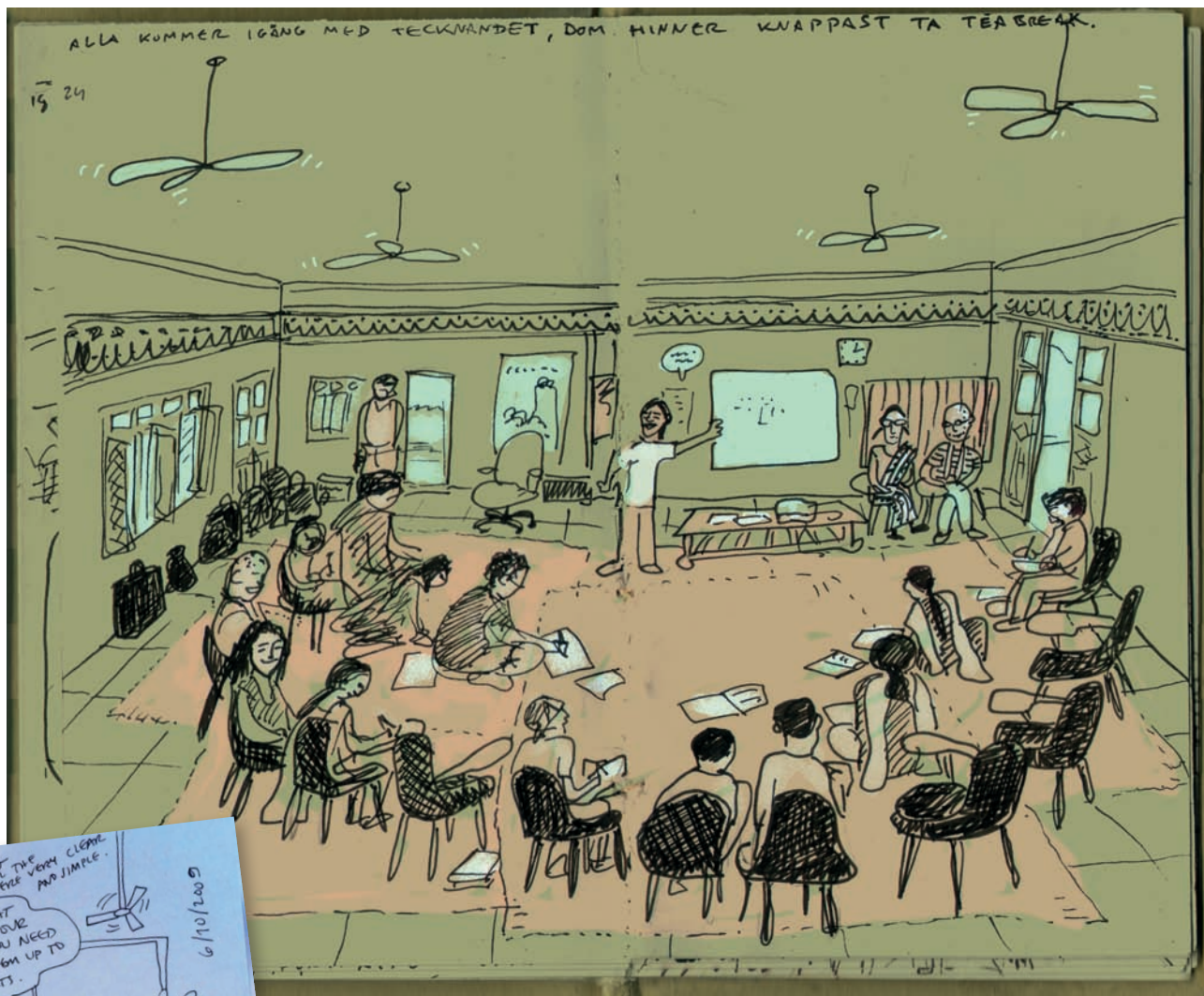
notebook idea.

The theme discussion followed, and a list of topics was agreed upon. The issues were: environment, pollution, water, child marriages, atrocities on women, education etc. About half of the listed issues was about the environment, which was the main theme of the workshop.

The participants then started to prepare their story proposals. Kaisa explained diverse ways of coming up with good and interesting stories. After teabreak we had a drawing exercise, mainly doing facial expressions.

All participants made their stories and we started to discuss them one by one. We managed to discuss half of the stories before we broke for the day. We could not stretch the hours





too much, as many participants had arrived only in the morning after travelling the whole night.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6.

We started the day with drawing exercises, mainly doing postures and quick croquis drawing. After this we resumed going through the story proposals. After

teabreak Kaisa explained basic rules for comics and how to make lettering and place texts. This prepared the participants for the next stage: the visual script.

After lunch the visual scripts were brought to the resource persons for comments. Sundermohan gave a short demonstration on visual effects and Sharad spoke on how to make the titles smart and attractive. By the evening five comics were ready.

We finished working on the comics at 6.30 and Sharad showed videos on grassroots comics from Kashmir, Mizoram, Assam, Pakistan and Mumbai.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7.

We started by finishing the remaining comics and all inking was done by teabreak. The comics were sent for photocopy-





ing, while Sharad and Kaisa started the ToT part by going through the training plan step by step. The participants were divided in three groups: "Desert Rose", "Oasis", and "Pragatisheel" (Progressive). Sundermohan, Lakhindra and Tawna were assigned each a group, where they were to give in-group support (but not lead the group's work).

After lunch the groups made their first training exercise, and they were requested to explain (as in a workshop situation):

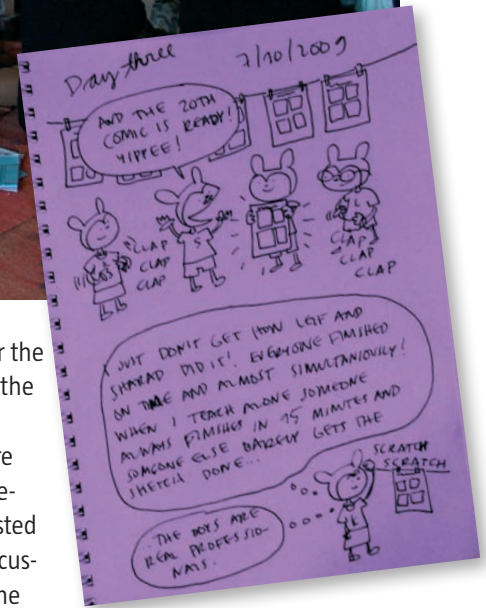
1. The concept of Grassroots Comics
2. How to identify the theme of the comic and make story proposals
3. Visual scripting.

The three tutors' groups were given the task of organising

their work schedule for the test group training for the next day.

The participants were then coached for the review session, which lasted up to 7.30 pm. The discussions were lively and the meanings of the stories from different parts of India and abroad created many questions. The critique session was also a learning experience for the participants, as everybody was assigned a comic on which they would lead the discussion.

Our monitors, Lakhindra, Sundermohan and Tawna, who run workshops independently since many years, reported of





their findings of the first part of the workshop. They played the now the role of participants and kept a low profile. Their observations included:

- We should use our manuals more efficiently, and always refer to the relevant pages, when a new thing is introduced.
- In the manual we should elaborate the portion on visual scripts better with more examples (text to visual script and script to final comic).
- The meanings of the words we use (panel, pointer, balloon etc) should be explained in the beginning of the workshop.

The monitors found the experience rewarding as they could quietly ponder on the different aspects of how the workshop progresses from the participants' point of view.





THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8.

We started in the morning going through the tutors' task lists to see how each group had divided the responsibilities.

After welcoming the test group participants, we showed the Rajasthan documentary of the Girl Child comics campaign. After a brief introduction by Sharad, Kaisa and Leif, the test group participants were divided into groups. The test participants came mainly from the GVNML local networks (12 women and 22 men).

Oasis had changed their name to New Thought and occupied the ladies' dormitory, where the mattresses were put aside. Desert Rose occupied the main hall and Pragatisheel used the downstairs storage area as their training space.

The work started in earnest and all groups chose to start with drawing exercise. After lunch, all groups were doing story proposals and by the end of the day most participants had their stories ready.

The test group participants left before sunset (they all live in the area) and we had a tutors' feedback session.

Main observations:

- the plan of work division held reasonably in all groups
- at the story stage all discussions were strong and forceful (most test group members are local activists)
- some tutors tended to dominate the teaching
- latecomers were not properly introduced to the others

The observers' comments:

Sundermohan (Pragatisheel): the manuals should be more utilized and stricter discipline in taking turns should be encouraged.

Tawna (Desert Rose): To start with drawing lessons made everybody feel at home.

Lakhindra (New Thought) Translation was not perfect, some trainers were a bit impolite, general coordination was good.

Sharad introduced his booklet "Learning from Grassroots comics trainers", and it was distributed as evening reading for everyone.

The day ended with Kaisa's presentation of her work, she showed excerpts from her books, pictures from her diary (daily) blog, her magazine work, etc.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9.

All three groups continued working and made steady progress with visual script and final artwork, until at the end of the day all comics were finished and ready for photocopying and review session. It was a remarkable feat. Four new participants arrived and they were accommodated in the Desert Rose and New Thought groups and given individual tuition until they caught up with the others.

Sharad, Kaisa and Leif visited GNVML water catchment sites and a middle school in Kali Hardiya. We were accompanied by Ram Gopal from GNVML. As there has been virtually no monsoon rains in this area this year, the agricultural outlook is very poor for next year. Water management becomes crucial.

In the Kali Hardiya school GNVML has a training room, in which different youth activities take place. We found out that making comics was one of them. Some teachers and GNVML staff had even prepared a small manual on how to make wall-poster comics. Some of the comics were on the wall, and all comics were archived.

At the end of the day there was a tutors' session and all three groups reported that, there was better coordination and of course they were already more familiar with their students. Our observers shared their views; there had been no major problems.

In the evening we decided to have the field testing before the review session, as the feedback from the people could best be discussed in the review session.

The night ended with a performance of Rajasthani folk songs, by a spontaneous group.





SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10.

The groups instructed their members on the ground rules for field testing (not to go to religious or government buildings, and permission must be asked for from the owners of the buildings).

The groups went into the village centre and put up wall-poster comics in the bazaar area, in the water reservoir area and in two schools. There were lively discussions in many parts of the village. About 50 comics were distributed.

Much animated by the response from the villagers, the groups came back and held their review sessions. The direct feedback from the people added much to the discussions on the comics in the review sessions.

After lunch the test group participants' closing session was held. GNVML Nagar Centre's leader Ramji Lal was the Guest of Honour.

After the testgroup's departure we all went to GVNML Headquarters in Laporiya, where we were received by the founder of GVNML, Mr. Lakshman Singh. He showed us the water





catchment and groundwater recharging systems and explained how total water management must be understood and embraced by everybody in the area.

In the evening Sharad held a session on the logistics of the following day's travel and our Tibetan participants told about the struggle in Tibet, which very few knew anything about.





SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11.

We started with a general feedback on the field testing experience. It had proved a good idea to do the field testing before the review session, as it had added much information into that session. The participants could compare this with their own critique session from earlier in the week.

We then had talks on campaigning with comics and went through the small manual. Leif spoke on campaigning in general, the path of behavioral change and messages in campaigning. Sharad related the campaigning experience within WCI and showed the video about the corporal punishment campaign in Uttar Pradesh. Kaisa spoke on green campaigning in the town of Porvoo and her own political campaigning using comics.

Sharad explained the 8-pager comic and made a short exercise on folding it.

Workshop evaluation.

We asked the participants to list

1. What was positive about the workshop?
2. What was the best moment of the workshop?
3. Was there something that could be improved?
4. How will you use your new skill in your work?

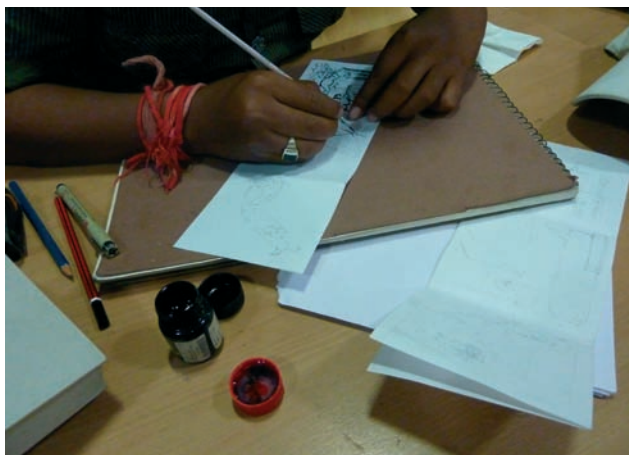
A summary of the replies showed that the overall response was positive and for the majority the best moment of the workshop had been the field testing in the community. All were eager to go back to their organizations with their new skills.

Closing ceremony.

We started with speeches by the resource persons and after that each participant had the opportunity to say something about their experience of the workshop. Many of them mentioned that this had been the first time they had met so many people from different parts of India and other countries.

After thanking the GVNML staff and being blessed by them





with a *tika* on the forehead, we left at 3 pm for Jaipur in a hired bus. Most of the participants left for Delhi and their on-wards journeys by the 7.30 bus.

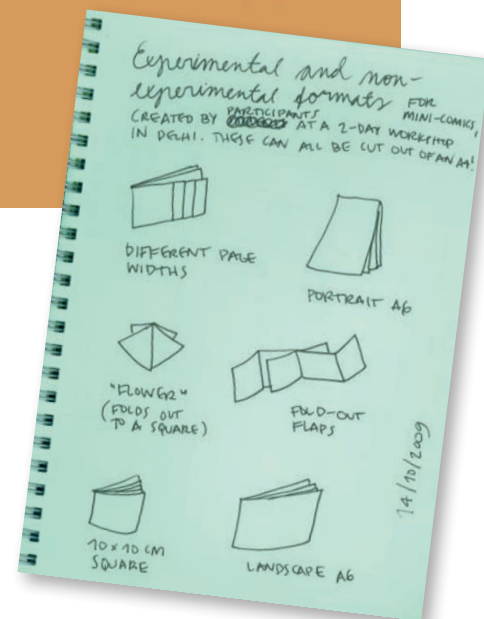
MONDAY, OCTOBER 12.

We left for Delhi at 2 pm and arrived at 9.30 pm in Delhi. We checked in at Continental Hotel in Lajpat Nagar.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13.

Leif and Kaisa ran a workshop in Lady Irwin College, Department of Mass Communication, from 12.00 to 4.30. There were two groups at the workshop, the Lady Irwin College mass communication students and the World Comics India comics activists. The college students had done only wallposter comics before and now wanted to learn new formats and procedures. The comics activists wished to improve their understanding on the production of other formats.

Leif started with showing the college students how to scan and assemble the comics in Photoshop. They then proceeded





into making an eight-pager story. The topics the students chose were: water scarcity, traffic safety, education, and the dangers of firecrackers during Diwali festivities.

Kaisa led a discussion and demonstration on format, papers and printing processes with the activists. Then each of them proposed a story made in a specific format of their choice.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14.

The workshop continued at Lady Irwin College. Sharad joined us in the afternoon. Both groups continued their work. In the advanced group, four participants completed their comics and three were in advanced inking stage, so their comics were easy to finish after the workshop.

With the college students' group all had their eight-page stories more or less ready, but as we had to close the session at 4.30 pm, we did not get them photocopied anymore.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15.

All resource persons had a meeting at the office of World Comics India. We went through the accounts of the workshop, collected the documents for the report, and exchanged

picture and video files. The report will be completed in Finland by Kaisa and Leif.

In the afternoon there was a short meeting with the WCI senior activists.

Leif and Kaisa left on Friday morning 8.35 am and arrived in Helsinki at 13.30.



ANNEX 1.

Participants for ToT Workshop-2009

GVNML, Nagar, Dudu, Jaipur (Rajasthan) India

No	Name	Organisation	Contact Detail
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3	Mr. Akum Jamir	Nagaland	5th Mile Dimapur-797112 Nagaland 9615128637 akum_02@yahoo.co.in
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10	Mr Dhaval Khatri	Gujarat, Madhyam	B/13, Isanpur, Ahemdabad Gujarat. +91-9925849020 art.dhaval888@gmail.com
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12	Mr Rajendra Gupta	Rajasthan, Samantar	Samantar Ph-9672627350
13	Ms Teena Sharma	Rajasthan, Samantar	Samantar, Jaipur Raj-301001, Ph-982860990 veena1983.alwar@gmail.com
14	Mr Ugyen	Dharamshala	Petoen School, Dharamsala H.P. Ph-9816153116
15	Mr Lobsang Tsering	Dharamshala	Petoen school, Dharamsala H.P. Ph-9816524406
16	Mr Bhagirath Singh	Rajasthan, Nagaur	GVNML, Dudu-Dist Jaipur
17	Mr Raj Kumar Tailor	Rajasthan, Nagaur	GVNML, Dudu-Dist,Jaipur
18	Mr. Abhishek Pareek	Rajasthan	Shivaji colony, Street No.4, Newai, Tonk, Rajasthan-304021 9887433443 abhisheknewai@gmail.com
19	Mr Tawna	Mizoram	Mizoram Artists' Society
20	Mr Lakhindra Nayak	Jharkhand, WCI	WCI
21	Mr Sunder Mohan	Jharkhand, WCI	WCI
22	Mr. Ali Shassir	Ladakh, WCI	WCI
23	Mr Rajeev Sharma	Delhi, WCI	WCI
24	Mr Sharad Sharma	Delhi, WCI	WCI
25	Mr Leif Packalen	Finland, WCF	WCF
26	Ms Kaisa Leka	Finland, WCF	WCF



Test group:

Desert Rose

Gopal Ji (GVNML)
 Lalita (Sugum Sansthan Bichun)
 Kalyan (GVNML)
 Prithvi Singh (GVNML)
 Shyam Lata (GVNML)
 Ram Lal Choudhari (GVNML)
 Hemraj (Nagar)
 Ram Ratan (Nagar)
 Mohan Lal (Niwai)
 Ram Avatar (GVNML)

New Thought

Kanaha Ram Choudhari (GVNML)
 Sadik Mohommad (Nager)
 Sahzad Bano (Davel)
 Cheetar Mal (GVNML)
 BhanwarLal Sen (GVNML)
 Hemlata (GVNML)
 Rajendra Khatik (Nagar)
 Mahaveer Thakkar (GVNML)
 Kamalash (GVNML)

Pragatisheel

Saddam Hussain (Nager)
 Kailash Chandra Sharma (GVNML)
 Chanta Kumari (Nagar)
 Sarita Kumari (Nagar)
 Ram Kanya Devi (GVNML)
 Sunju Devi (GVNML)
 Mandan Lal (Sugam Sansthan)
 Ghasi Lal (GVNML)
 Shankar Singh (GVNML)
 Shankar Lal Sen (GVNML)





ANNEX 2

Participants at the Lady Irwin College, Delhi, workshop 13-14.10.2009

*World Comics India group of senior tutors,
group tutored by Kaisa Leka*

Lakhindra Nayak
Suresh Jaipal
Sunder Mohan Murmu
Raltawnkima Kawlni
Siddharth Sarathi
Ajay Mishra
Rajeswari Saha



*LIC mass communication students' group,
tutored by Leif Packalen*

Ms. Garima Tyage
Ms. Swati Sharma
Ms. Charu Garg
Ms. Nidhi Arora
Ms. Raina Aggarwal
Ms. Mapreet Kaur
Ms. Vineeta Khatri
Ms. Megha Bakshi
Ms. Tanri Arora
Ms. RidhyKrishnan

PHOTOGRAPHS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

SS=Sharad Sharma, LP=Leif Packalen, KL=Kaisa Leka

Cover: Activist lady distributes comics in the Market of Nagar.
SS

Page 2

- The GVNML Training Centre in Nagar. SS
- Our interpreter, Ali Shassir and Leif. SS
- Sharad Sharma, KL

Page 3

- Leif and Sharad at Jaipur Fine Arts College. KL
- Lecture at the college, drawing by LP
- Main hall at GVNML, during a break. KL

Page 4

- Leif and Sharad prepared to start. KL
- From Kaisa's blog
- Temple hill near GVNML. SS
- Dawn, drawing by LP

Page 5

- Main workshop hall, drawing by LP.
- From Kaisa's blog
- Most participants drew their comics on the floor. SS

Page 6

- Group discussions in the main hall. SS
- from Kaisa's blog
- Overview of main hall, drawing by LP.
- Tawna and Sunder Mohan – our group monitors. KL

Page 7

- Preparing for the critique session. SS
- Ladies' dormitory, in day-time used by the group "New Thought", drawing by LP
- Lunch break. LP

Page 8

- "Desert Rose" test group session. KL.
- Kaisa Leka. SS
- "Pragatisheel" test group session. KL

Page 9

- Kali Hardiya village water pump. LP
- Rajasthani folk singers, drawing by LP
- Looking at comics made in Kali Hardiya School. KL
- Cattle in Kali Hardiya. KL

Page 10

- Pasting up comics at the water reservoir, drawing by LP.
- The participant distribute comics in the market, and in a girls' school. KL, SS

Page 11

- Distributing comics at the water reservoir. KL
- Comics at the girls' school, drawing by LP
- Comics at the barber shop. SS
- Comics at the tea stall. SS
- Comics at the wine shop, drawing by LP.

Page 12

- Lakshman Singh, founder of GVNML with Leif and Sharad. KL
- GVNML headquarters is in the ancient home of Lakshman Singh. KL
- The participants singing in the bus when leaving the workshop.

Page 13

- The professor and her students at Lady Irwin College, drawing by LP.
- Inking in action. KL
- From Kaisa's blog
- Leif demonstrates how to make an 8-page story. KL

Page 14

- Time to leave the College. KL
- Kaisa, Tawna and Suresh. LP
- Bittoo Sondhi's office. Bittoo, a motorcycle racer, is a benefactor and supporter of World Comics India, drawing by LP.

Page 16

- Workshop participants instructing test group. SS

Page 17

- WCI Senior Comics Artists at workshop in Lady Irwin College. SS
- Students at Lady Irwin College working on their comics. LP

Page 19

- Most of the comics made at the workshop had environmental themes. This comic by Rajendra Gupta, tells a story about careless use of water. Rajendra is a member of the local organisation Samantra.

Page 20

- The newly trained tutors and their monitors in a last-minute group photograph. KL

सम करो



RAJENDRA GUPTA
 "SAMANTRAO"
 RAJESTHAN



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