

Picture: Ville Tietavainen



*The Power group had the lessons under the mango tree. The Jan Vikas Centre main building in the background.*

# **TRAINING OF GRASSROOTS COMICS TRAINERS**

**ToT-Workshop in Jamshedpur**

**October 2007**



**Report compiled by World Comics  
Finland and World Comics India**



*The four groups at work in the Main Hall. Drawing from Leif Packalen's travel diary.*

## **Report from World Comics Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop in Jamshedpur, October 1 – 7, 2007 and the Delhi program October 8 - 12, 2007.**

The aim of the workshop was to train comics workshop tutors, who would be able to independently run local comics workshops in their respective organisations. In addition an advanced group of experienced trainers associated with World Comics India received further training in comics making skills. The workshop was a part of a World Comics Finland (WCF) and World Comics India (WCI) cooperation project 2007-2008, with support from the Finnish Foreign Ministry NGO funding.

**The workshop venue:** Jan Vikas Bharati Centre, Patel Bagan, Jamshedpur, Jharkhand.

**Resource persons:** Leif Packalén (Chairman, WCF), Ville Tietavainen (Graphic Artist, WCF), Ms. Hanna Anttila (Special Education Student, WCF), Sharad Sharma (Cartoonist, Secretary General, WCI) and Tarun Bose (Journalist/Editor, WCI).

**Participants:** 22 tutor-trainees from WCI's partner network in India (see separate list) and as a test group, 40 local NGO-activists from Bhopal (see separate list). An advanced group of 13 experienced trainers associated with WCI (see separate list).

### **Training material used in the workshop:**

Hindi wallposter comics manual 24 pages  
 English wallposter comics manual 24 pages  
 Hindi trainers' manual 36 pages  
 English training plan for wallposter comics workshop (enlarged, 40 pages)  
 Ville Tietavainen's handout on comics (printout, 7 pages and Powerpoint)  
 Black and white graphic styles reference file, 36 pages  
 Grassroots Comics – a development communication tool (book, 160 pages and pdf)

**A trainer's kit** was given to each participant. (a cd with videos, picture files, pdfs and Powerpoints, 22 laminated wallposter samples, training manuals in Hindi and English, the books "Half World Four frames", "Voices from the Field", "Grassroots Comics – a development communication tool", the bulletins "Comics for all" 1 -3, and an 8-page promotional comic).





The workshop banner welcomed the participants at the Centre's gate.

### Sunday, September 30

Lakhindra Nayak was in Jamshedpur since September 29 in order to set up everything and receive early participants. He was joined by Sharad Sharma on Sunday September 30. The first participants started arriving towards the evening. By the evening there were ten participants (Goa, Sri Lanka, Orissa, Jharkhand, Delhi). In the evening there were discussions on comics as a medium.

The WCF team left Helsinki at 2.15 pm, arrived in Delhi by midnight, checked into International Inn, near the airport.

### Monday, October 1

The workshop opened in the morning at 9.30 with discussions on mainstream and alternative media and the role comics can play. Thomas Sundi, President of World Comics India, presented the wallposter series "Sain Maskal" (Awareness), which is now distributed in 1600 villages in Jharkhand. The use of comics for issues like uranium mining, displacement, witch-hunting, alcoholism etc was discussed.

The WCF team arrived about 4 pm in Jamshedpur by air ( via Kolkata). At 5.30 there was a general session where the team members introduced themselves. This was followed by some discussions on grassroots comics in different countries. The workshop's organisation was explained:

The tutor-trainees (see Annex 1 ). The participants were drawn from WCI partner organizations from Andra Pradesh, Assam, Goa, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, West Bengal. There were also participants from Sri Lanka. The invited Paki-

stani team (two ladies) did not get a visa for their trip. All participants had previous experience from comics workshops.

The advanced group of experienced trainers (see annex 2). They are veterans in the World Comics India circles, as most of them have already run several workshops in the few last years. Ville Tietavainen's main task was to give them deeper insights and skills in the making of comics.

The mini-test group. An allowance was given to some small Jharkhandi organizations to send a test group in advance and nine persons were sent. This group was used as a test group for the tutors' training exercises.

The main test group (40 local NGO activists) was due to arrive on Thursday.

Picture: Sharad Sharma



Tutor-trainee participants Jibraim (Goa) and Pushpa (Sri Lanka).

## Tuesday, October 2

The morning session was a joint session for all. Videos from different workshops in Africa and Asia were shown and the differences of the workshops were presented and discussed. This was followed by a session to record the expectations the tutor-trainees had on the workshop (for full details see annex 3). They hoped that they would get a certificate showing that they were qualified to run comics workshops. The possibilities of earning a living as comics tutors needed to be discussed as well as ways of approaching different NGOs. Of particular interest was the possibility of making comics without any dialogue. Leif gave short comments on the expectations that came up, saying that the participants would get a certificate but the skills they acquired were more important than the formal certification in enabling them to find ways to run workshops in the future.

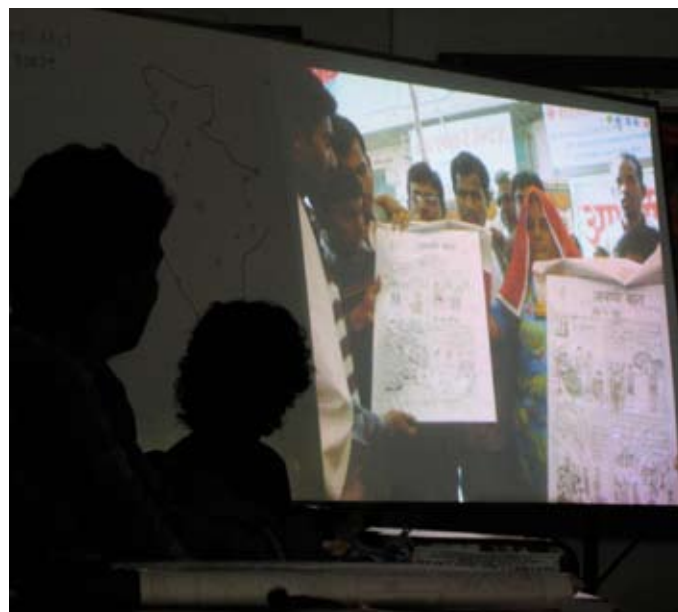
After this the workshop was organized in groups. The main group, 22 tutor-trainees was in the big hall with the nine-person mini-test group. The advanced tutors' group, 13 persons, used the second floor hall.

The advanced group began by discussing scriptwriting and storytelling in general. Ville introduced the topic. After that the participants were given the task of preparing the focused topic of the story, personal message (what they wanted to tell with those particular stories and to whom) and a short synopsis for the next morning. The participants were free to choose the format and the topics. They were not required to stick to traditional campaign comics topics.

The tutor-trainees group was divided into four groups, which were named as *Chak de India*, *Rising Stars*, *Power*, and *Saathuta*. After going through the training manual steps 1 – 11 the first training exercise was given. Each of the groups should give a lecture or exercise to the test group and this was then analysed.

Rising Stars presented in their exercise the concept of grassroots comics. Chak de India explained the concepts of focus, message and target groups.

The mini- test group participants gave their feedback on the training immediately and after that the other tutor groups were allowed into the discussion. As the discussions were quite detailed and useful, and took some time, we decided to have the remaining exercise demonstrations the next day.



A World Comics India video, "Swear by the River", about the Girl-Child comics campaign in Rajasthan was shown.

Picture: Sharad Sharma



Pratiba Rathore (MP), gives instruction to Amrish in the advance test group.



The tutor-trainees were asked to state which issue in their opinion was the most important to be covered. The issues that were mentioned ranged from Dalit rights to waste management. A wide spectrum of problems in the Indian society was brought up. After this, particularly sensitive issues were identified and discussed. Human trafficking, paedophilia, AIDS awareness (particularly in connection to violence against women) and mining were found by the participants to be especially difficult to handle.

The tutor-trainees gave examples of comics depicting sensitive issues. In Sri Lanka, comics about the consequences of social stigma resulting from rape had been produced. In Rajasthan, a series of comics about hiv told the story of a woman who contracted hiv from her husband but was seen as the one to be blamed for the infection.

In tribal society, the situation of women is better than in the mainstream Indian culture, where it is believed that to achieve salvation, it is necessary to have a son. Lately women empowerment has become better accepted by men than before. However, this does not mean that the men want the women to become equals. Because men themselves have become more empowered they want their spouses to improve. The intellectual gap between husband and wife should not become too vast.



Sharad Sharma explains about the daily schedules.

Picture: Ville Tietavainen



Tarun Bose addresses the advanced group.

Picture: Sharad Sharma



The tutor-trainees were divided into four groups.

Picture: Sharad Sharma



Sunder Mohan and Lakhindra Nayak (both from Jharkhand) with Ville Tietavainen in the advanced group.



*Drawing lessons.*



*Drawing lessons.*

### Wednesday, October 3

The Saathuta group performed the exercise of how to propose storylines and characters. The Power group made a drawing exercise on facial expressions. Both presentations were followed by thorough discussions as the day before.

Then we went through the remaining steps of the training plan. After that each group was assigned a topic on which they were asked to prepare a five-minute presentation. They were instructed to select one or two people to deliver the presentation. The presentations were timed and a bell was rung after five minutes to end the presentation. Only the test group members were asked to comment on these presentations. They found all presentations clear and understandable.

The problem of a time constraint in a workshop was discussed. The mini-test group commented that lack of time made it harder to understand the new material. It was also more difficult to memorize everything when things were presented in a hurried way. The tutor-trainees felt that it was difficult to perform under time pressure. Remembering the main points and staying focused on the logical sequence of material to be presented was more demanding with a time limit. It was especially hard to find enough time to check that the members of the mini-test group had understood the concepts correctly. Another problem was that since translations take time, it is difficult to fit them in when there is a lack of time. On the other hand, the participants felt that a time limit was useful because it helped to focus on the main points of the material and forced the trainer to be organized. Fast-paced presentations were considered useful for revision when the material was already familiar.

The participants came up with some suggestions for coping with time constraints during a workshop:

- By being aware of the starting level of the trainees and pacing the workshop accordingly was important.
- By using a manual and asking the students to read it as homework, one could make sure that the students already had some idea about the material before it was covered in the workshop.
- By using local down-to-earth examples it was possible to avoid lengthy explanations and abstract conceptualizations.

The set-up for the following days was explained in detail. The four tutor-trainee groups would train the four test groups in how to make grassroots comics wallposters with four panels. Backup support to the tutor-trainees would be available. The advanced group would also be involved to provide support.

After that each tutor group started to prepare a task list for their coming training. All training steps were listed and appointed to specific members of the group. The lists were gone through and commented by Leif and Sharad.





*The advanced group was in the top floor hall.*

*Picture: Sharad Sharma*

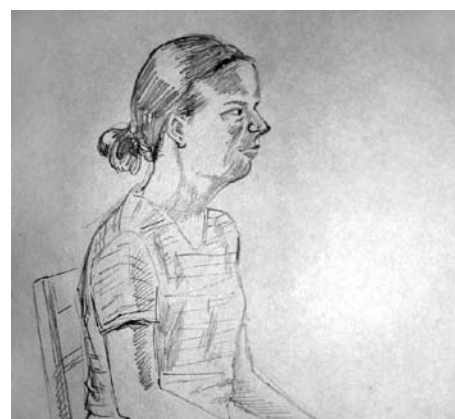
Meanwhile, the advanced group started by presenting their storylines which were discussed in detail and improved if needed. However, they were of excellent quality to start with. It was discovered that all participants had in fact chosen some social problem to depict. The storylines were far from stereotypical educational comics and conveyed the message with interesting drama.

The discussion about one unhappy end showed that everyone felt it would be too frustrating for the readers to end with a hopeless situation. The participants felt that they needed to give some hope for the readers.

After the discussions there were some drawing exercises in which the group first concentrated on a realistic depiction of objects and then on simplifying them into an efficient and clear presentation. This is the most important drawing skill for a comics artist who must be able to portray things in an instantly recognizable way. This proved to be difficult.

This method of practising was new to the participants and the results were uneven. There were some misconceptions, but they were cleared afterwards during the critique session.

After the critique, Ville spoke about drawing in general, making layouts, and breaking the storylines into visual scripts. After this introduction, the participants were asked to start making the visual scripts in which they dramatized their stories into comics with quickly sketched drawings.



*The advanced group made also live model drawing exercises.*



The five WCI grant receivers in 2007. Drawing from Leif Packalen's travel diary.

After dinner the five recipients of World Comic India workshop grants (200 euro/each for the year 2007) gave short presentations on their activities:

**Ms. Kabbu** of Haathma village in Barmer, Rajasthan, told how she and Hansaram have started a "Comics Forum" which runs workshops mainly for children. They make stories mainly on gender issues. Kabbu was a central participant in the "Rights for our Daughters"-campaign in Rajasthan in 2006.

**Ms. Babita Sundi** of Chaibasa, Jharkhand; started publishing a monthly wallposter called "Mirror of Knowledge", together with some women groups in the Chaibasa college and with tribal groups. The issues raised in the comics are mainly on health, education, elections, and alcoholism, all from a tribal angle.

**Mr. Tawna** of Mizoram Artists' Society, Comics Division, told about the workshops and cooperation in MAS in making malaria-prevention and aids control comics. The challenge was that the involved organisations wanted them to be made in colour. The comics were published in the "Kawhhmuthu" series.

**Mr. Suresh** of "Comics Forum" in Rajasthan, had created a monthly wallposter and had run several workshops in the villages, mainly with young boys. He had also made a locally distributed 8-page photocopied booklet on the issue of electricity. The comic was distributed during a public hearing on the issue in Barmer.

**Mr. Rahul** of Paridhi, Bihar, told about his running of workshops with the fisherman community, which was difficult as the fishermen left the harbour at 2 pm and returned back in the middle of the night (2-3 am). So he had them for one hour every day for two weeks.

Rahul has also run workshops with middle class schoolgirls living in an area which was a scene of a hindu-muslim riot in the Eighties and never really recovered as a community. Rahul has also made comics on the issue of "rangari" (gangsters extorting money from shopkeepers, rickshaw-pullers, barbers and other small businessmen).





*The Power group chose to have the lessons outdoors, under the big mango tree.*

Picture: Ville Tietavainen

#### Thursday, October 4

We received about 30 new people to attend the workshop as test-groups for the tutor-trainees. They came mainly from local tribal organizations, such as Jharkhand Human Rights Organisation, JOHAR, Tribal Research and Training Centre, Aasra, Adarh Seva Sansthan, Youth Group, Omen Mahila Sanghathan (see Annex 4).

The test groups were welcomed and then distributed to the tutor-trainee groups. Each group had ten test group participants and five tutor-trainees, which was a good ratio for our purposes. The work started vigorously and by the end of the day the situation in the groups was the following:

- Chak de India (Hall A-East) The group had finished with the stories and was prepared to start working with the visual script the next day.
- Rising Stars (Hall B) The group had finished their stories and was prepared to break them into parts the next day.
- Power, under the mango tree. The stories were finished.
- Saathuta (hall A West). The stories were finished.

The advanced group started going through visual scripts with Ville, one participant at a time. Corrections were suggested if needed. Things to be considered were layout of the panels, logic and func-

tionality of the drama, and how well the message was conveyed. In general, the visual scripts showed that their storylines were dramatized very well. The participants already had a good command of the basic skills of making comics and storytelling with pictures.

The advanced group did a quick inspection tour in the tutor-trainee groups. They made an assessment of the situation and reported back to the resource persons.

After that, there were some drawing exercises in which the participants first concentrated on a realistic depiction of human figure and then on simplifying it into an efficient and clear presentation. This time the participants understood the purpose of the exercise well: the difference between mechanical copying and interpretation with insight.

The rest of the evening was spent experimenting with different colouring methods.

The evening programme included the film about the Barmer Girl Child Campaign and the film of the Goenkar Changemakers. Mr. Denis and Mr. Jibrahim from Goa gave the latest news from the activities in Goa. There are now about 15 very active comics trainers that run 2,5-day workshops mainly in schools, but also with some NGOs related to the protection of children.



Picture: Sharad Sharma



A test group participant in the Saathuta group chose to draw in the verandah.

Sometimes only seclusion could help in concentration. Manish (Rajasthan) from the advanced group writing his story in the stairway.

Picture: Ville Tietavainen



Debajyoti (Assam) and Rahul (Bihar) of the advanced group work on their scripts.





Picture: Ville Tietavainen

*Rekha Rashmi Das (Orissa) was the only female participant in the advanced group. Tarun Bose is in the background.*

## Friday, October 5

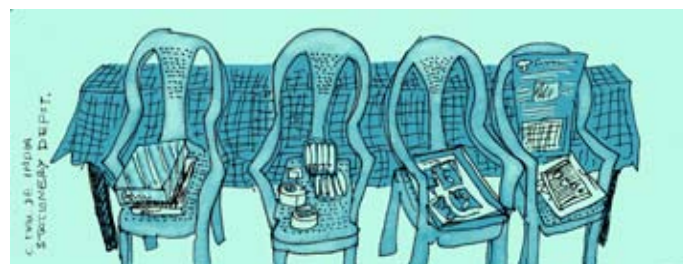
Work continued in the groups. All four tutor-trainee groups progressed well and by the late afternoon, most of the test-group participants were already working on their final artwork. The fourth group Saathuta was behind the others, probably as they had to have many translations (Sinhalese, English, Hindi)

Six of the participants had got an eye infection, which seemed contagious. They were taken to a clinic and received medication.

In the morning the advanced group started making the final sketches for their stories. The stories became approximately six pages (A4) long and making the final sketches took the whole day.

Every once in a while there was a short presentation and some discussion on relevant topics, like composition, illusion of space and colouring. These subjects were real eye-openers for the participants in the advanced group. There were good discussions on the topics.

The advanced group did another quick inspection tour in the tutor-trainee groups. They reported that things were going well, but some tutor-trainees had asked them to help by showing how to draw.



*Chak de India group's stationery depot. Drawing from Leif Packalen's travel diary*



*Eye infections affected some participants. Drawing from Leif Packalen's travel diary*

Another problem was readability of text, most groups had not given much weight to it.

The tutor-trainees were called to a meeting in the big hall at 6.30 pm for a discussion of the progress and to receive instructions for Saturday, the last day or the test groups.

*Pictures: Sharad Sharma*



*The Chak de India test group members proudly display their comics. All participants finished their comics.*



*Pratiba Rathore leads the critique session of the Chak de India group. These sessions are of great importance to the participants and each group spent 3 - 4 hours going through each comic and discussing it.*

## **Saturday, October 6**

The day started with frantic finishing on the original artwork. Some of the test-group participants had worked on their comics during the night. By lunch-time the Power group was finished with their originals just in time before the heavy rains that would have made it impossible to continue working under the mango tree. The other groups were finished by mid-afternoon, so that the critique sessions could be started.

Copying of the wallposters posed a problem, as the center's machine was not running well. However, as there was a strike on in the Jamshedpur market area, we decided to make the wallposters on two A4s with the center's machine. It was of course more time-consuming.

The tutor-trainee groups were ready for their critique session, as follows:

Power group by 5 pm

Rising star by 6.30 pm

Chak de India and Saathuta by 8 pm

The critique sessions took their time and all were finished by 10.30 pm. Before each session, the tutor-trainee groups were reminded of what is important in the critique and also to avoid lengthy discussions.

The advanced group continued making their final sketches. Since the test groups would be leaving the next day, the advanced group needed to get their final sketches readable by the evening. One participant of the advanced group had to leave the workshop early in the morning, so he had completed his final sketches during the night. Most of the final sketches were ready by the evening. Some lagged behind because of eye flu. The sketches were put on the walls so they could be read as whole stories. The tutor-trainee groups and the test groups visited the exhibition one after the other. The test group participants were quite impressed with the 4–8 page stories and their execution, even as sketches.

Erratic electricity supply hampered all activities during the evening.





*The finished wallposter comics were distributed in the nearby Nandjura village.*



### **Sunday, October 7**

The test groups left in the morning. The tutor-trainees prepared for field testing. The wallposters were made ready and the four groups were instructed on how to go about distributing them and also collect feedback on them from the people. The village chairman had been approached and he had granted permission to paste the posters in the village. The posters were pasted on house walls around the main street of the village, and in some common areas (main square, bathing place). Before the posters were pasted on walls, the owners of the houses were asked for permission. Discussions about the posters and around the issues described in them started immediately. As a whole, the villagers had a positive, if somewhat reserved, attitude to the comics.

After returning from the village, the groups were asked to present their experiences. Comics was found to be a medium that was well understood.

By comics it was also easy to tell what was right and wrong. The message was accessible even for illiterate people. Generally, the feedback had been positive. Some women had been told about a comics on witch-hunting and they had wanted to go and see it. Others said that they understood a comics story about malaria. Youngsters and children were very interested in comics, whereas the adults did not pay so much attention. The villagers had reported that for them water was a problem. They were hoping that they could use comics to initiate a change. People were also happy to get the posters on their walls.

Some of the tutor-trainees felt that in order to get more attention to the comics it would be necessary to arrange some activity which would attract people. They felt that by purchasing some plastic balls for the village children, and organizing a game of football which was then turned into an educational session around one of the wallposter comics, they had achieved the kind of attention they were after. However, this kind of approach could, on the other hand, create false expectations. The comics should speak for themselves.

Meanwhile, the advanced group members chose one page from their stories to be inked or penciled with added contrast, so that they could be copied on a black and white copying machine. After receiving 4–5 copies they started colouring trials with different techniques. This helped them to see what kind of colouring enhanced their stories. The participants had eagerly awaited this stage of the process. Some of them were surprised about how challenging it was to make the finishing touches, while others were amazed at how professional-looking their work became.



Picture: Ville Tietavainen



Picture: Sharad Sharma

Hanna (left) led the evaluation discussions. Waseem (Kashmir) translated Pratiba's comments.



Picture: Hanna Anttila

Our slogans were all over the place.

Lalita Bari (Jharkhand) with Mala and Kumari (Sri Lanka).

### Evaluation of the workshop: Tutor-trainee group, led by Hanna and advanced group by Leif.

The tutor-trainees felt that the workshop had been a valuable learning experience. They had been inspired by their co-participants and the trainers. They also appreciated the chance to impart their earlier learning to others and to display their work. Many participants also reported increased confidence resulting from experience as a trainer. The experience also gave new self-knowledge: by learning to know one's flaws as a trainer, it was possible to improve.

The valuable experience of meeting people from different cultures within and outside India had been enjoyed by many participants. The participants also found it useful to train Jharkhandese locals who formed the test groups, since for most participants they represented a different culture from their own, which was a challenge. It was felt that there was a good team spirit among the participants. The heterogeneous age mix was appreciated by those participants who previously only had experience working with youth.

It was also felt that the workshop was a good blend of work and entertainment. In the evenings the participants had spent time together, singing and playing games, and this had been very much enjoyed.

Thorough feedback throughout the workshop was appreciated. Field testing of the comics produced was found useful and interesting. It was also mentioned that the sick were well cared for. The new workshop structure had been enjoyed by participants who had previously attended comics workshops. Support from Sharad to attend the workshop was considered very important.

The advanced group gave positive feedback on the instruction they got on the process of developing an issue into a story, presenting a story, making a long story into comics. The colouring techniques shown by Ville were found particularly exciting and useful. Also an understanding of modern comics had been gained. The participants felt that Ville had respected them, and helped them to understand more about making comics. They also appreciated his insistence that for each element in a comic it was necessary to have a justification.





*The tutor-trainee participants are happily showing their certificates.*

*Picture: Leif Packalen*

Negative feedback and suggested improvements for future workshops were not as numerous. However, the participants did give some good comments. The timetable of the workshop was not followed exactly as planned. The numerous translations had caused some people to lag behind. The division into groups could have been done in another way. Outdoor sketching would have been a nice exercise to get to know the region. It was also commented that more information about the demanding climate had been given in advance, so that the participants could have been better prepared. Generally, it was hoped that more workshops would be organized in the future. Having to part was the most common negative experience reported by the workshop participants. During the week they had genuinely started to like each other and felt sad about saying goodbye.

The advanced group members wished that Ville would also be running the next workshop. It was also suggested that the advanced group workshop should next time be arranged at a different time from the ToT workshop.

The participants were given certificates and a trainer's kit: cd with videos, picture files and Powerpoints, laminated wallposter samples, training manuals in Hindi and English, the books "Half World Four frames", "Voices from the Field", the bulletins "Comics for all" 1-3, and the 8-page promotional comic.

Concluding speeches were given and group photographs were taken.

*Picture: Ville Tietavainen*



*New friends now have to say goodbye to each other...*





*The workshop is over, the participants have left, but the comics remain on the walls in the village...*

## Conclusion

As a whole, the tutor-trainee workshop went well. Many participants reported increased confidence as a result of the workshop. It was useful to have the so-called mini-test group in the beginning of the workshop. Its members were quite frank in their feedback and this prepared the tutor-trainees well for their real tutoring task.

For each step of the training plan, only a few tutor-trainees had been assigned. This was done to guarantee that each trainee got a chance to practice tutoring skills. However, the people waiting for their own turn tended to interfere in the tutoring of the others. When they had been told not to do this, the problem decreased somewhat.

All the forty test group members completed their comics in the workshop. This is a good achievement. The tutor-trainees also felt that they had gained some new understanding through the comics made by the test groups. The test group members were visibly proud of the comics they had produced.

Despite technical and health problems, the advanced group had time to go through all scheduled

On the next day, after the field testing, a group of participants (Jibrahim, Danis, Sunder Mohan, Lakhindra, Tawna, Thea) visited the same village again. All the comics were intact on the walls and they could still find people around the posters reading them. A few of them said they had seen the posters but couldn't read them, so one young man took the initiative and offered to read the comics for the others. One man said he didn't go to see the posters, but he saw children around them all the time.

One of the villagers said it was good to see that all these posters were drawn by the Jharkhandese people themselves, and also in the local language, but "we would like to draw ourselves on our own issues, so please invite us next time".

workshop phases. Most of the participants were determined to complete their stories after the workshop and send them to World Comics India.

The advanced group participants said that they gained a huge amount of knowledge in making stories and dramatizing them into comics. Practical aspects of composition, drawing, and colouring, as well as the individual guidance given by Ville were greatly appreciated.





*Discussing the comics in Nandjara village.*

### **Monday, October 8**

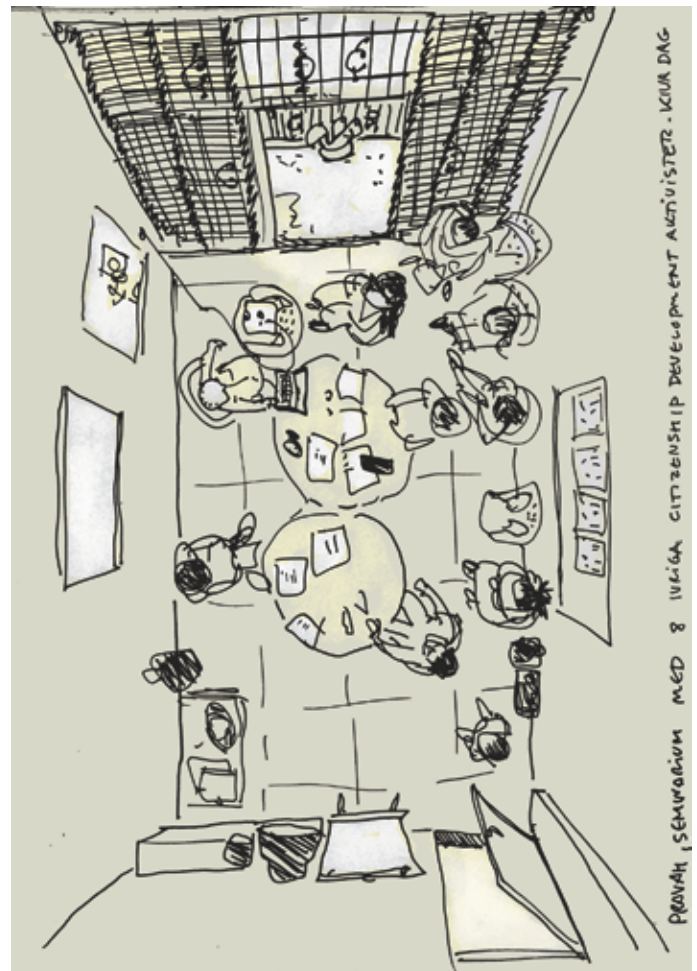
We took a minibus to Ranchi airport. The journey took five hours. We reached Delhi at 7 p.m. and checked in at Hotel Bright.

### **Tuesday, October 9**

Free day for Hanna and Ville. Sharad and Leif met with a team at the National Open School Institute, a government distance learning organisation with about 300.000 learners. NOS is interested in adding comics as an optional module in their "Mass Communication" subject.

### **Wednesday, October 10**

The day was spent with a full-day grassroots comics seminar at the organization *Pravah* in Delhi. Pravah is a citizenship development organisation and has a wide variety of activities and programmes that could use comics. Some members have already attended WCI-led workshops, and some had even run their own workshops on a small scale within the Pravah programmes. Eight Pravah activists/staff attended the seminar, which ended at 5 pm. After that, we had a short meeting with Mr K.Kannan, Coordinator-Communications & PR, of Plan India. Kannan is a WCI Board member.



*Bird's-eye view of the Pravah seminar. Drawing: Leif Packalen*

## Thursday, October 11

We had a meeting at the Finnish Embassy with Second Secretary Ms. Anna-Kaisa Heikkinen and PR-officer Mr Dharmesh Kumar. Sharad, Leif, Ville and Hanna participated.

Ms. Heikkinen said there is obviously a high demand for a Hindi version of the book "Grassroots Comics" and promised to contact the Ministry in Helsinki to ask if they were interested in publishing it. We reported on the Tatanagar workshop. Then we discussed the possibility of getting Small Projects Funding for preparing a curriculum and distance learning lessons to be used by the National Open School Institute as an option module in their "Mass Communication" subject. Ms Heikkinen said the funds were not normally for cooperation projects with the government, but as NOS is an educational institution it might be acceptable.

Later, we met Mr. Subhjit Sahoo, World Comics India's auditor. He briefed us on the system of taxation and auditing of Indian voluntary organizations.

In the afternoon we all went to WCI's office, wrote reports, cleared accounting matters and had discus-

sions on how to proceed with various projects and proposals.

## Friday, October 12

Morning was free, and in the afternoon Sharad joined us and we continued with the discussions, the reports and exchanging picture files. The Finnish team left for the airport at 9 pm and arrived in Helsinki at 6 am, Saturday morning.

Helsinki/Delhi, October 20, 2007



Sharad Sharma



Leif Packalen



Ville Tietavainen



Tarun Bose

Caricatures by  
Sharad Sharma



Hanna Anttila

Working on the workshop report in the office of World Comics India in Mayur Vihar, Delhi.

Picture: Ville Tietavainen







*Comics were pasted up everywhere in the village. Danis (Goa) invites the villagers to come and read them.*

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### **Report from World Comics Jamshedpur ToT workshop, October 1 – 7, 2007**

The aim of the workshop was to train comics workshop tutors, who would be able to independently run local comics workshops in their respective organisations. In addition, a group of trainers from World Comics India received advanced training in comics making.

The workshop was a part of a **World Comics Finland** and **World Comics India** cooperation project 2007- 08, with support from the Finnish Foreign Ministry NGO funding.