



## REPORT ON THREE DAYS TRAINING WORKSHOP ON CARTOONS AND COMICS

(23<sup>rd</sup> November 2017 to 25<sup>th</sup> November 2017)

SUPPORTED BY: HIMMOTHAN SOCIETY UNDER CENTRAL HIMALAYAN EDUCATION INITIATIVE



**INTRODUCTION:** The Mountain Children’s Foundation (MCF) and the Himmothan Society supported by Tata Trusts organized a three day training workshop on cartoons and comics under Central Himalayan Education Initiative (CHEI). The workshop was organized in Dehradun and was attended by the children of Vikasnagar Ghat Block of District Chamoli (Annexure 1). All these

<b>Date</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2017 To 25 <sup>th</sup> November 2017
<b># of Participants</b>	83 children From 20 Villages of Ghat block, District Chamoli
<b>Criteria of Selection</b>	2 girls & 2 boys From Each Bal Sangathan selected by their Bal Sangathan
<b>Aim</b>	To help the children understand and embrace Cartoons and Comics as a tool to bring social change. To promote the use of comics as a medium of communication in social change.

children are active members of the Bal Sangathans formed at the village level under the Central Himalaya Education Initiative. MCF believes in the collective strength of children and hence gathers this strength by forming Bal Sangathans i.e children’s groups in target villages. These groups which are seen as vehicle to bring lasting changes in their communities are given ample opportunities to hone their skills and knowledge. The workshop on cartoon and comics was one such opportunity.

**THE TRAINER:** The training was facilitated by Mr. Deepak Sah, who is an expert in making cartoons and comics. He has deep connection with Bal Sangathans as he was an active member of one of the Bal Sangathans formed in Gairsain. Through his Bal Sangthan he got the opportunity of being a part of the Umang programme which further helped him to become expert in field of journalism as the Umang programme was destined to provide platform to the youths and children of mountains to become journalists.

<b>DAY</b>	<b>CONTENT</b>
Day One: 23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2017	Story and its components
Day two: 24 <sup>th</sup> November 2017	Sketching Cartoons
Day three: 25 <sup>th</sup> November 2017	Designing Comic

**CONTENT OF THE TRAINING:** During the three days, the trainer focused on three topics viz. story writing, cartoon sketches and designing comics. He

initiated the training by telling the participants about essential components of story writing, from there, he moved on to sketching cartoons and finally the training concluded with the designing of comics.

**BRIEF ABOUT THE WORKSHOP:** The workshop began with lighting a lamp. The children welcomed the honorable guests from the Himmothan Society by offering roses. Mr. Dwarika Prasad Nauri introduced Dr. Yashpal Singh Bisht, Executive Director, Himmothan Society; Mr. Manish Jha, Project Officer (CHEI)-Himmothan Society, Mr. Virendra Verma, Team Leader- E-WaSH, Himmothan Society/TATA Water Mission and Mr. Deepak Sah-the trainer for the workshop. After introducing the guests to the children, he gave a brief introduction about the area from where the participants belong to. He requested the honorable guests to bless the children by saying few words. While interacting with the children, Mr. Bisht mentioned that, “Like you I also belong to a village called Deval and my village still does not have road”. He said that despite of all hardship of mountain children, they are blessed as they have access to the natural resources and have better food habits as the food they eat has high nutritional value. He also encouraged the children by saying, “It is not necessary that only people with good English can achieve higher rank, Hindi speaking people are equally able to achieve higher positions.” The only thing which needs to be ensured for betterment of the mountain communities is good quality of basic

facilities including Education. Mr. Verma thanked the MCF team for all the good work the team is doing. He supported the statement of Mr. Bisht- *“It is not necessary that only people with good English.....”* and motivated them to utilize the opportunity of being a part of Bal Sangathan to the best. He asked the children if they have heard about E-WaSH. He also mentioned that children in India are playing crucial role in *“Swachh Bharat Abhiyan”*. Similarly the Bal Sangathans can also play important role in ensuring cleanliness of their villages. Mr. Manish requested the children to receive the opportunity of learning about cartoons and comics well. He also encouraged them to share the skill with other members of their Bal Sangathans and adopt the tool for raising issues at local level and promised to support the initiative through IEC programme of the Himmothan Society.



After the session by the guests, the children introduced themselves. Before handing over the charge to Mr. Sah for the training, Mr. Nauni reminded the children about the rules which the children themselves drafted to follow during the workshop.

### FOCUS: STORIES

The session on STORY helped the children to develop understanding about:

What is story?	Story is a presentation of an event/character or human behavior in an artistic form.
What are the main four components of a story?	Four essential components of a story are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. INTRODUCTION (परिचय)</li> <li>2. EVENT (घटना)</li> <li>3. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS (घटना क्रम)</li> <li>4. RESULT (परिणाम)</li> </ol>

### ACTIVITY 1: Story reading and arranging the story into four components

#### OBJECTIVE: To develop ability to identify the four essential components in a story

After giving explanation about story and its components, the trainer divided the group into four sub groups for a group activity. He gave one story to each of the groups and asked them to read the story. He instructed the groups to divide the story into four components. The groups were given an hour of

time to complete the activity. One person was selected from each group to present the story according to the components.



### ACTIVITY 2: Writing Story

**OBJECTIVE:** To develop ability to weave story by using the four essential components

The trainer asked each of the participants to develop a story and the story must have the four components viz. INTRODUCTION (परिचय), EVENT (घटना), SEQUENCE OF EVENTS (घटना क्रम) & RESULT (परिणाम).

### FOCUS: CARTOONS

Through this session, the children developed understanding about:

<b>What is cartoon?</b>	Cartoons is distorted form of pictures	
<b>How to draw cartoons?</b>	<p>Use of circles, T and O for drawing various type of faces and expressions</p> <div> </div> <p>Stick figure (drawing person or an animal using lines, curves and dots)</p>	

### ACTIVITY 3: Drawing sketches as per the instruction by the trainer

**OBJECTIVE:** To develop ability to draw sketches

The children were given notepads, pencils, eraser and sharpener to draw cartoons. The trainer facilitated the drawing step by step on the white board and the children followed his instructions. The step by step method helped the children to draw different type of faces. They also learnt to draw a girl, a boy, a woman and a man.



## FOCUS: COMICS

The session helped the children to understand:

<b>What are Comics?</b>	A medium to express ideas by images combined with limited text
<b>Types of Comics</b>	<p><b>Grassroot Comics:</b> These are simple comics that tell a story drawn by local person in local language. These comics have local relevance. An effective way to give a voice to the unheard. They are also used for information dissemination and to raise awareness amongst the communities.</p> <p><b>Campaign Comics:</b> These comics focus on different culture and communities.</p>
<b>Why Comics?</b>	As they are an effective communication tool that transcend the barriers of language & literacy
<b>What are the features of a comic?</b>	Limited text fitted accordingly in different types of balloons. Example : Speaking balloon, thinking balloon, idea balloon and story balloon

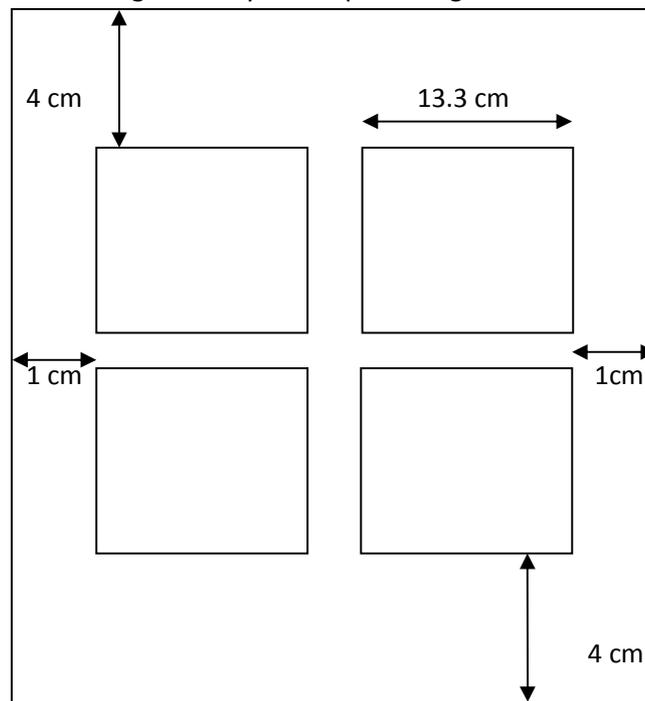
### ACTIVITY 4: Designing comics

**OBJECTIVE:** To facilitate the children to come up with their individual comic

The trainer divided the group into four sub-groups. Each child was given two A4 size paper for producing their own comic. The trainer gave instructions for drawing four panels by giving measurements and asked the children to come up with the layout (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Layout for producing a comic



The children followed the instruction for measuring the A4 size papers. Once the layout was ready, the instructor asked them to use the story which they have drawn on the first day of the workshop to develop their comic. As a result of this activity the children came up with the comics on wide range of topics:

Sanitation and hygiene	Hand washing with soap	Tree plantation
Importance of Anganwadi	Strength of Mahila Mangal Dal	Condition of school
Gender discrimination	Inaccessibility to school during monsoon	Efforts of PABAM

**DISPLAY OF THE COMICS:** On the last day of the training workshop, all the comics made by the children were displayed (Annexure 2). Mr. Cyril R. Raphael was the special guest on the occasion. The children explained their comics to him and he congratulated the children for coming all the way to Dehradun from Ghat. He emphasized on the strength of the Bal Sangathans and their ability to bring lasting changes in their communities. Later on he shared his feeling with his friends and profession group in following words:



*"I spent an energized Saturday yesterday with 83 children from Ghat Block, Chamoli - 60 of them had never been out of Ghat Block and visited Dehradun for the first time in their lives. Basically reminding them that they were the Ambassadors of their villages, asking them to go beyond the miracles of WhatsApp and technology they can use but to never forget the power of face to face friendship and associations. Above all, reminded them that children now have their own place more than ever before in their societies and they must be considered, worked with and*

*promoted beyond just being appendages to their families. That government and planners must have a separate and specific thinking for children and not club them as also ran entities in the development of the mountains."*

**MEDIA COVERAGE:** The workshop pulled the attention of the media. The event was well covered by newspapers like Amar Ujala, Dainik Jagran and the Hindustan. The clippings are given in the (Annexure 3).

**CHILDREN'S FEEDBACK:** On the last day of the training workshop after display of the comics, the children were taken to Malsi Deer Park for an outing. They were asked to write their feedback (Annexure 4) in the evening. Through the feed-back the children were able to recall the content of the training workshop. The children enjoyed the workshop and most of them said that it was educative, they learnt a lot from the workshop. Some of the thoughts reflected by the children are as follows:

Sapna Gaud from Kurud: *"We learnt many things in the workshop. For example, Deepak bhaiya taught us to write stories, draw cartoons and make comics. We all made comics which were later on displayed. I also enjoyed the poems which Deepak bhaiya sang for us during the workshop. I enjoyed everything in the workshop but not the noise made by the children in night."*

Ashok from Farkhet: *"For me Cyril ji's talk was most interesting. Though I know that I am not very good at drawing still I made an attempt to make a comic and I learnt many things."*

Dheeraj from Mathkot: *"We learnt to make cartoons and write stories. I liked the workshop very much. I also enjoyed the food and my stay here. I was upset about going home early. The children were making noise which I did not appreciate. If we would have given more training days we would have become perfect in making comics."*

**IMPACT AND CONCLUSION:** The training was well received by the participants. The children learnt how to tap their creative skills and create stories from their reality and turn those into comics. The participants grasped the idea that raising issues through comics can pull attention of not only the literate section of the society but equally facilitate the illiterate section to think about the issue. Thus the comics can be used as an effective medium/tool to bring social change. By just looking at the comics prepared by the children during the workshop, it can be projected that at least 40 % of these children will practice the art and further hone their skills.

Apart from direct impacts (story writing, cartoon making & developing comics) the workshop also had indirect impact on the children. For 60 of them it was first opportunity to visit Dehradun and for all of them it was their first visit outside of their villages without their parents accompanying them. Hence they learned to travel and to stay with other children, to make new friends, to present themselves, to take care of themselves & their belongings and several other such abilities which will help them become versatile individuals.

<b>Output of the training workshop</b>	83 children from 20 villages and 21 Bal Sangthans received training on making cartoon and comics
<b>Expected Outcome</b>	These children will work as Master Trainers and impart training to other members of their Bal Sangathans.  The Bal Sangathans will use the comics as a tool to raise issues and seek solutions. These comics will feature in the PABAM Magazine.

**ANNEXURE 1: REGISTRATION OF THE PARTICIPANTS**



**ANNEXURE 2: COMICS MADE BY THE CHILDREN**



ANNEXURE 3: MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE WORKSHOP



ANNEXURE 4: FEEDBACK BY THE CHILDREN

