

2. Plants around Us:

For this theme, plant posters were created featuring Giant Milkweed, Singapore Cherry and Neem.

Along with this, two reading cards were also produced featuring common trees in the region. The content for this has been put together by the teachers at the Fig Tree Learning Centre and the Nature Classrooms team.

3. Biodiversity in a Peri-urban Landscape

The final resource was conceptualised in the form of a picture book that highlights biodiversity in a rapidly changing and dynamic peri-urban landscape. It is a bilingual picture book titled “There’s Nothing There!”/ “ಅಲ್ಲಿ ಏನೂ ಇಲ್ಲ!” The book was illustrated and designed by artist Karunya Baskar.

The illustrations are intricate and centre the flora and fauna that can often be spotted in and around the school. Wayside plants like the Giant Milkweed, Castor and Thumbe gida can be found amongst the pages and so can common trees like Jamun, Cluster Fig and Gulmohar. Encounters with many creatures are woven into the story – from spiders and insects to birds like the Indian Roller (the state bird of Karnataka) which are common in the area. The book draws from children’s experiences, conversations and art work and the attempt has been to capture the local environment, familiar paths and scenes through the illustrations.

In the coming months, we hope to engage children in and around Silvepura and Tarabanahalli through read alouds, walks, observation activities using the book.

All resources created under the Suttha Muttha project are open source and digital copies will be uploaded on the [Nature Classrooms website](#).

School Engagement & Trials by FTLC Team

Along with the Tarabanahalli Government Primary School FTLC teachers have been doing a project on the seasons over the past seven months to explore aspects of each season through observation activities, poetry and mind maps.

The children have created a book to record their findings using drawings and their own words. The season bingo sheets were used as a starting point and extension activities were added. In the Monsoon Bingo sheet children were asked to identify millipedes and centipedes. The children were encouraged to work collaboratively to document the similarities and differences between the two. In February 2022, the children created a display on seeds and seedpods and explored the different ways that seeds travel in relation to the Spring season.

In June 2022, FTLC and NCF teams used one of the posters to conduct observations and [activities around the Singapore Cherry tree](#) with students from the Govt. Lower Primary School in Tarabanahalli. The students were shown the plant poster and asked some questions based on the illustrations. Then in two small groups they observed the Singapore Cherry trees near the school- they were encouraged to record what they experienced using different senses and look

for creatures visiting, interesting shapes, patterns and colours. Later, they added to the poster their own observations, drawings and experiences.

In March 2023, FTLC and NCF teams used the poster on Giant Milkweed to encourage students to observe this plant and share their stories and experiences of knowing it. The children walked around in the neighbourhood to find a milkweed plant. They looked, smelt and touched the plant and looked at all the natural life around. They also drew pictures to show their own sensory experience of the plant and added it to the existing Giant Milkweed poster. The children were even able to identify the plain tiger butterfly directly from the plant and compare it to the illustration on the chart.

Way Forward

Though the Suttha Muttha project comes to an official close in March 2023, both FTLC and Nature Classrooms/NCF teams hope to continue using the teaching-learning material created as part of the project with students in and around Silvepura and beyond.

The Suttha Muttha project was nested within the Nature Classrooms initiative and the resources and learnings will continue to be in use in various engagements with schools and teachers in the coming years.

Learnings and Experience – from collaborators

“My experience working on this project to enable children to learn about Nature and their environment through stories, and illustrations is most needed for all children. I immensely enjoyed working on this project since it aims to make this learning a joy!”

- *Anu Mothi, Maadhyama Aneka*

“The process of creating the plant posters was especially engaging because we started by walking around the school and neighbourhood, observing the local plants and trees and the microecosystems around them. This approach enabled us to balance the hyperlocal, experiential perspective of nature and a more general natural history approach. As an educational resource creator, I found this balance very exciting, as these posters can be used not only locally, but anywhere these trees and plants are found. I hope these posters encourage teachers and students to engage with nature around them on their own terms, and build their own narrative and relationship with their surroundings.” - *Labonie Roy, illustrator and designer*

“I think the best part of this project was that I was given the space to explore and create to my heart’s content. To have been able to walk through the streets of Silvepura and Tarabanahalli, speak with the kids and teachers from the school there, and absorb their nuances, has deeply impacted me, and the outcome of our journey. I hope I have been able to justice to the beautiful little details I’d have missed otherwise.” - *Karunya Baskar, illustrator and designer*

5. Publications based on the Project with Title, Details and link (if any)

Connecting Learning to the Natural World

Suttha Muttha Plant poster on the Giant Milkweed was featured in an article written by Nature Classrooms, published in issue 7 of iWonder magazine [Teaching as if the Earth Matters] that is brought out by Azim Premji University

<https://azimpremjiuniversity.edu.in/publications/2021/magazine/i-wonder-issue-7>

Getting to Know A Gasagase Mara

By Sarojini Hedge, Gousia Taj & Jane Sahi

Published August 2022, Nature Classrooms Blog

<https://www.natureclassrooms.org/post/getting-to-know-a-gasagase-mara>

6. Information on ongoing participatory events (if any)

N.A.

7. Newspaper Article Links for the project (if any)

Teach 'Em Young: Appreciating Biodiversity Through Our Classrooms (April 2022, [The Bastion](#))

<https://thebastion.co.in/politics-and/environment/teach-em-young-appreciating-biodiversity-through-our-classrooms-with-nature-education/>

Suttha Muttha Project is introducing children to local biodiversity (February 2021, The New Indian Express' [Edex Live](#))

<https://www.edexlive.com/happening/2021/feb/01/the-suttha-muttha-project-is-making-it-easy-for-children-to-learn-environmental-science-heres-how-17678.html>

8. 2-3 Photos



Suttha Muttha plant poster used to learn about the Singapore Cherry trees around the school



Pages from the students' journal showing season specific observations



Children added their own observations and drawings to the Singapore Cherry tree poster



Children go looking for a Giant Milkweed plant near their school

9. Logos of Project

