



we build schools so that children can be taught in them.

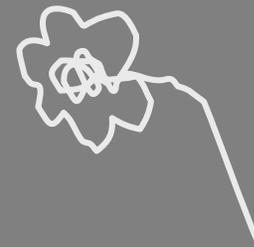


implying that a school = a building which stores children for a prescribed period of time wherein teachers can then administer the prescribed teachings in an orderly fashion.

this is the paradigm that we end up injecting into our educational system and concurrently in our social fabric.



hmm..



but what of learning?

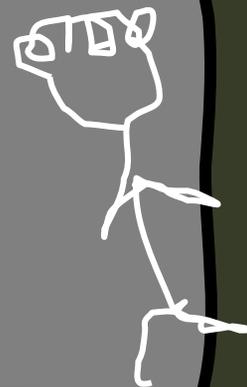
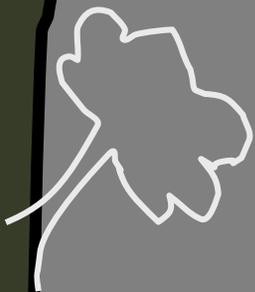
why can't the learning precede and preside over the school building?

and is the building really such an essential part of a school?

what is a school??

maybe we aren't close to answering any of these questions yet...

because we still build schools so that children can be taught in them.



the learning home..

a gram mangal experience



prologue



the learning home was to shift to a new campus. at the community meeting, two options were placed:

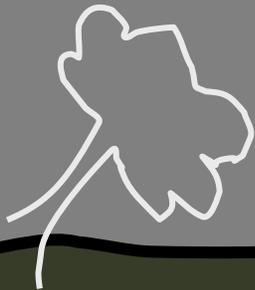
option a:

a campus that would be designed by professional architects and designers and built by a team of labourers. one which would be complete within a prescribed time limit so that the children could then occupy it and the learning would begin.

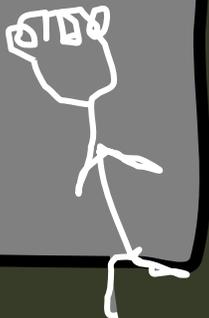


option b:

a campus designed and built by the school community with aid from volunteers and labourers. one which may not necessarily be complete within the prescribed time limit. but one which needn't be too, assuming that learning is by 'doing' and is diffused in everything around us if seen as an opportunity.



the community thought option b was better...





LEARNING HOME



આચાર્ય રામી સુભાષ દેસી,
અધ્યક્ષ, ગાંધી સેન્ટર ઈ.એલ.સી.
અને
આચાર્યના આશ્રમ
અને સ્વયં સેવાક પાઠશાળા,
અ શેઠશિવ દાસ
જિરાવે હાઉસ (Learning Home)



















the learning home has been designed by the children over a series of sessions spread over a couple of months.



these sessions dealt with a wide variety of situations, experiences and activities which were translated into tangibles and physicalities.



we travelled through maps, scales, feelings, perceptions, simulations, models, responsibilities, decisions, discussions, what's, why's, how's, design, space, time, materials, junk, shapes, sizes, priorities, visualisation, communication and not to mention science, geography, maths, history, civics, economics, languages and perhaps a bit more...



so to sort of sum it all, we started with a building inside our head and ended with our head inside a building...





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