

Communicating Science to Marginalised Communities

A report on 2 field-trips for orphaned children from Chennai
slums in South India

Hello, my name is Aurovrata

I grew up in Pondicherry (India)



I am an Astrophysicist

Undergraduate in Physics (London)

PhD in Astrophysics (London)

European Space Agency (Madrid)

2006, back in India...



European Space Agency



Imperial College
London



I am a passionate Science Communicator

Course in Science Journalism (London)

BBC Horizon TV science show (London)

ESA School lectures (Spain)

Multiple school lectures (India)



European Space Agency



Project Inspiration (2009)

METRO

NEWS SPORT ENTERTAINMENT SOAPS LIFESTYLE VIDEO SHOWS
UK LONDON POLITICS US WORLD CRIME TECH SCIENCE



Idea >

The school under a bridge in New Delhi

Home > News > World

Teacher has been holding free lessons for slum children under a bridge in India

Good News

Delhi shopkeeper runs school under Metro bridge for 300 poor children

The open house school, whose roof is a Delhi metro bridge, has five blackboards painted on the wall of the metro complex and some stationary such as chalks and dusters, pens and pencils.

Project Inspiration

Educating children of migrant populations



Partnering with an NGO



Shabnam Resources, Chennai

Dir: Mr M. R. Hubert

To show proper care in wholesome way to the needy, deprived and abandoned children, guiding them to positive way of life and raise them as future progressive citizens.

@ShabnamResource (Twitter)

A Challenge

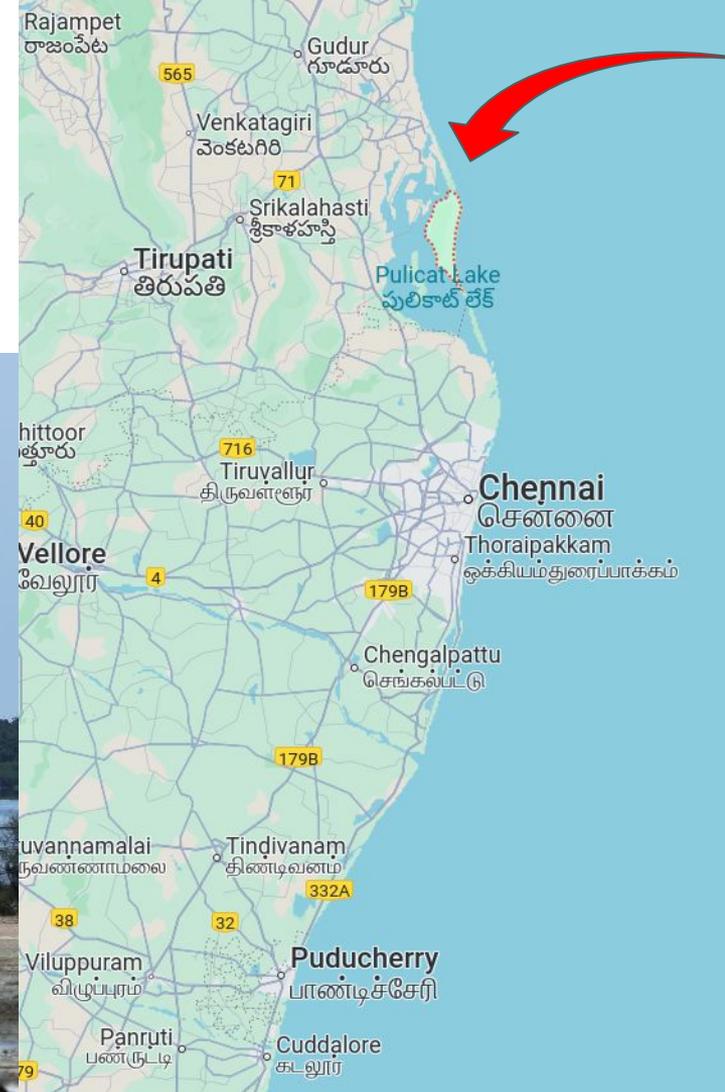
- without mastery of the local language,
- without school education



How to communicate science ...non-verbally

.... in Chennai

India's Space Port



Fund Raising.... in Chennai

- Talks on Indian Space program for kids and adults
- A picnic and visit to the Space Port for a rocket launch
- Session on Indian wine tasting



Mercedes-Benz



A trip to Sriharikota...

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) spaceport, 3 hours north of Chennai
- Top 3 places in the world to witness a rocket launch
- Indian rocket PSLV launches multiple times a year.
- It is very cost effective.
- The children were briefed before hand.



A Visit to the Yamaha Factory

Sponsored by Yamaha
India CSR Initiative

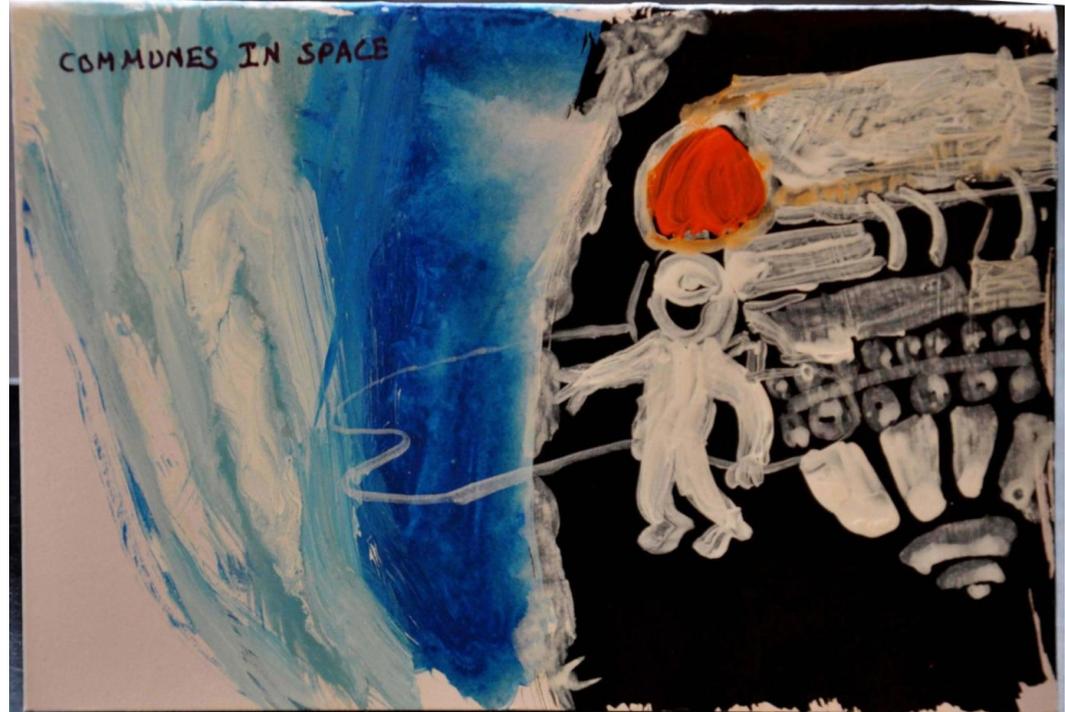


Gauging the impact



Lessons learnt

- Communicating science can overcome language barriers!
- Children takeaway is valuable knowledge
- Financial contribution is relatively easy to obtain for such projects
- It is a very **joyful experience!**



Thank you

Any Questions ?

