

# **Artreach + KNMA Teaching Fellowship with Udayan care home**

## **Final Report**

by Gargi Chandola

### **Introduction**

There is a common notion that Art is supposed to be serious and thought provoking. However artworks that have humour and satire often communicate the deepest of thoughts and emotions. Throughout this fellowship our key strategy has been to playfully introduce artistic exercises. It translated into students being creatively spontaneous and open to share their idea, without any inhibitions.

This report details our experiences and insights through the course of the fellowship and personal observations of the participants in a care home setup. It discusses the approach, the methodology and the take away.

### **Overview**

This teaching fellowship started from June 2021 to November 2021 with three different care homes of Udayan care. I conducted these workshops with a group of 10-12 participants online on Zoom. I had about 8 regular participants from one home and a few participants joining from new homes on and off. These workshops were conductive on alternative week-ends (either Saturday or Sunday) and roughly lasted about two to two and a half hours.

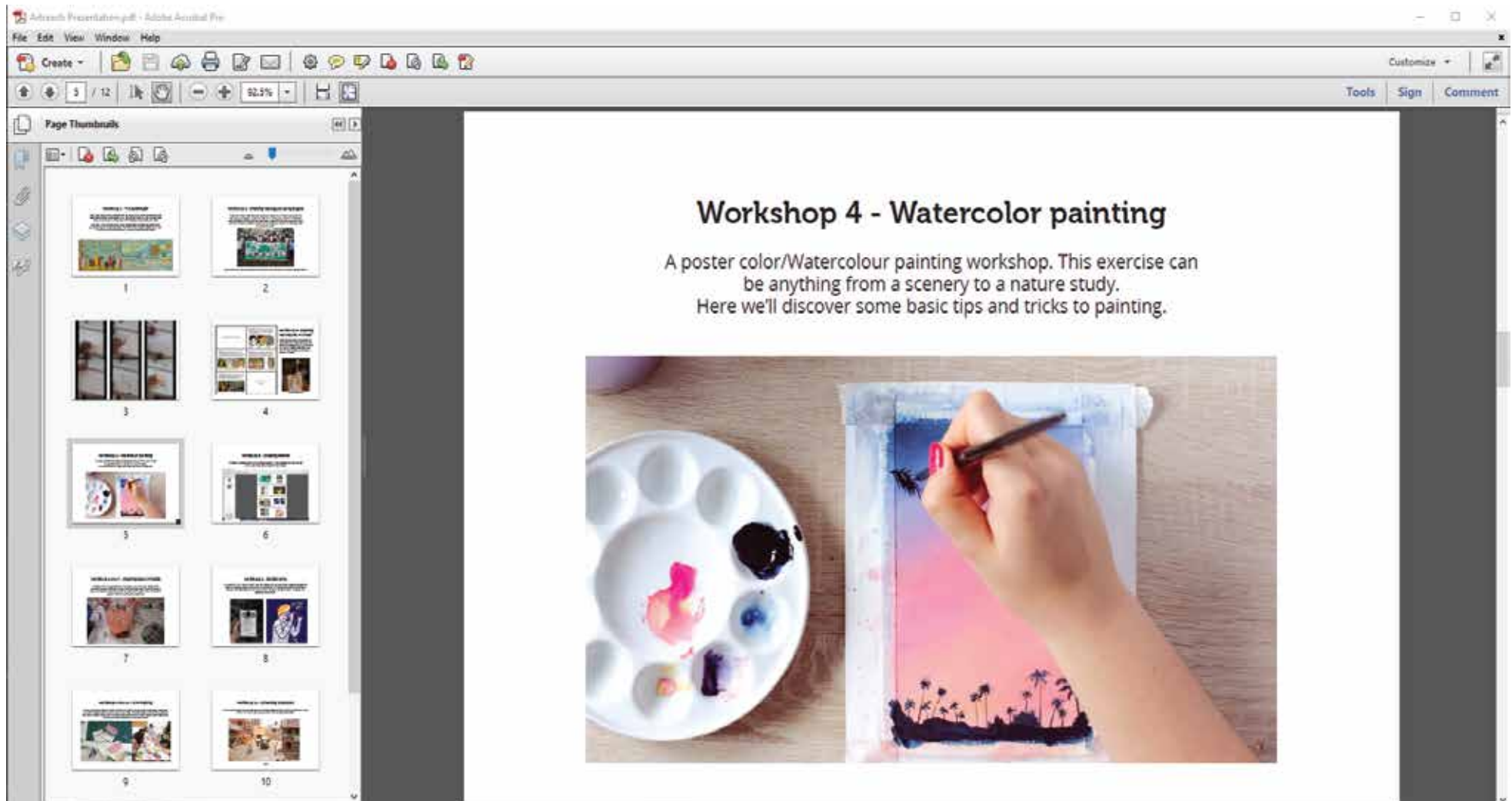
The module was designed around exploring visual storytelling with a sprinkle of humour. Together we did various drawing, painting and narrative building exercises - From drawing techniques to spontaneous collaborative storytelling.

What I set out to achieve :

- Learning basic drawing, painting and craft skills for practical implementation to develop new artworks across mediums.
- Exploring the depth of imaginations and far out ideas.
- Open environment for creative discussion by engaging in healthy friendly banter.
- Storytelling and character building exercises.

# Workshops


We began each workshop with an icebreaker exercise which was either visual and movement based depending on the structure of the session. I introduced the concept for the workshop with a presentation slide that included references and different artistic approaches to it. After doing a quick QnA, I would proceed to giving a live demonstration of the techniques. For eg. In “The study of basics of watercolors” workshop, I had set up my camera at a top view angle to show the participants different tips and tricks to painting with watercolors.



The image shows a screenshot of a presentation slide titled "Workshop 4 - Watercolor painting". The slide is displayed within the Adobe Acrobat Pro interface, which includes a menu bar (File, Edit, View, Window, Help), a toolbar with various icons, and a "Page Thumbnails" panel on the left side showing a grid of 10 slide thumbnails. The main content of the slide is as follows:

## Workshop 4 - Watercolor painting

A poster color/Watercolour painting workshop. This exercise can be anything from a scenery to a nature study. Here we'll discover some basic tips and tricks to painting.



**Workshop 2** Transform daily objects into whimsical creatures - The participants were asked to transform daily objects into whimsical creatures and paint them using the watercolor techniques they learnt in the previous workshop. We had some interesting results from Winged wiper to Rodent shaped bottle to a Screaming chair!



## Workshop 5 - What is a Meme?

This was a workshop I had conducted with students of Karm marg on invitation from Lokesh as part of his fellowship. Here I used some of the artworks from the previous workshop in the presentation. The participants created very hilarious and creative memes. Some works are shown here.



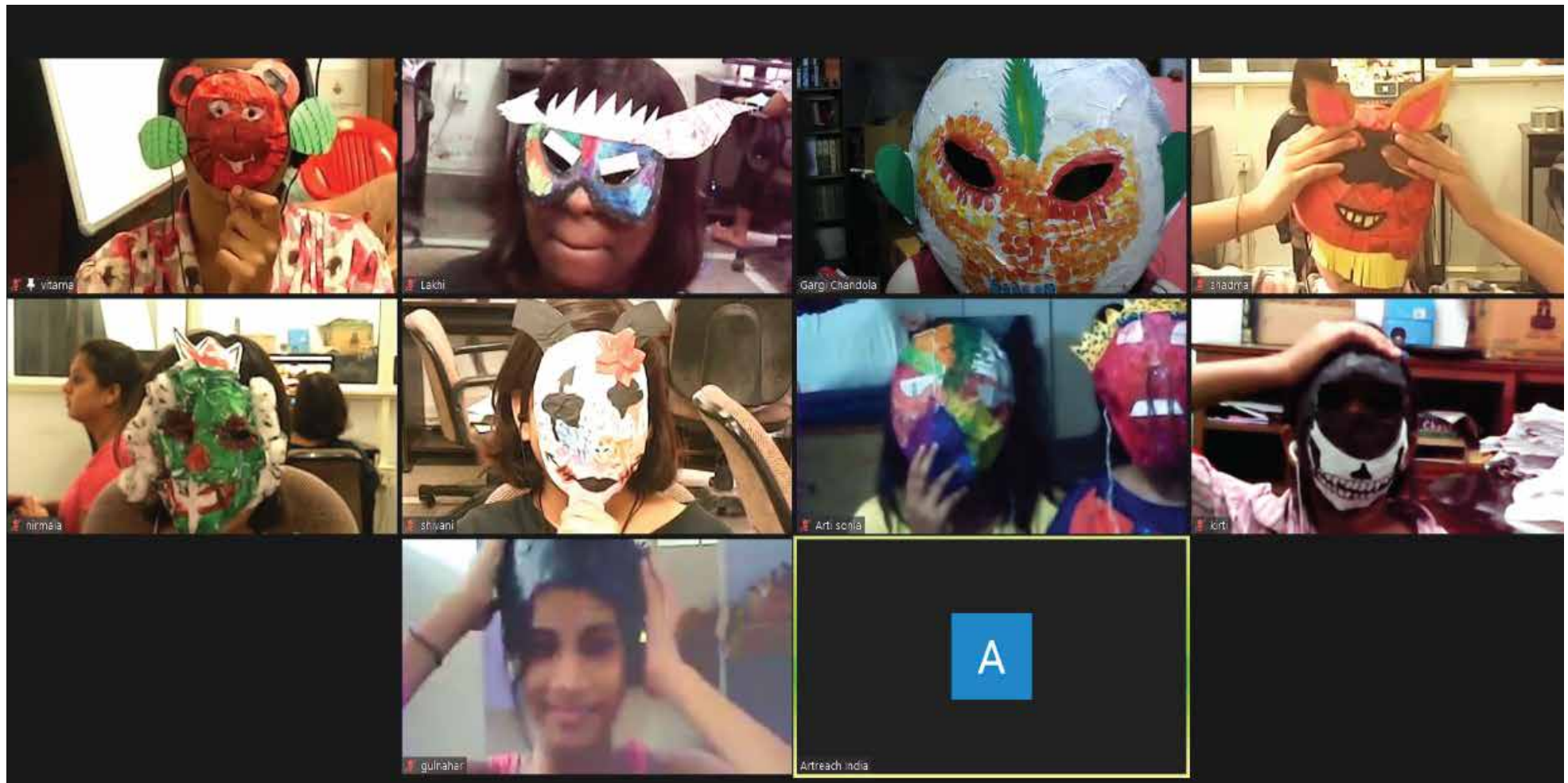
**Workshop 6 and 7** Creating characters masks using balloons and paper mache.

This was a two part workshop conducted on consecutive weekends. The participants were provided with material beforehand. In the first part, I gave a live demonstration of how to create the base. After which we sketched out our characters for the mask. In the second part, the participants painted the mask and completed it with paper cutouts and trtimmings. They were then asked to wear the mask and deliver a dialogue from the character they created.

Some interesting ones were:

“I used to think that my life was a tragedy but then I realised that it’s a comedy.”- Nirmala wearing her joker mask.

“Fake smile on the outside. Real pain on the inside.” Shadma wearing her bunny mask.



Participants at their workstations from four homes different of Udayan care.



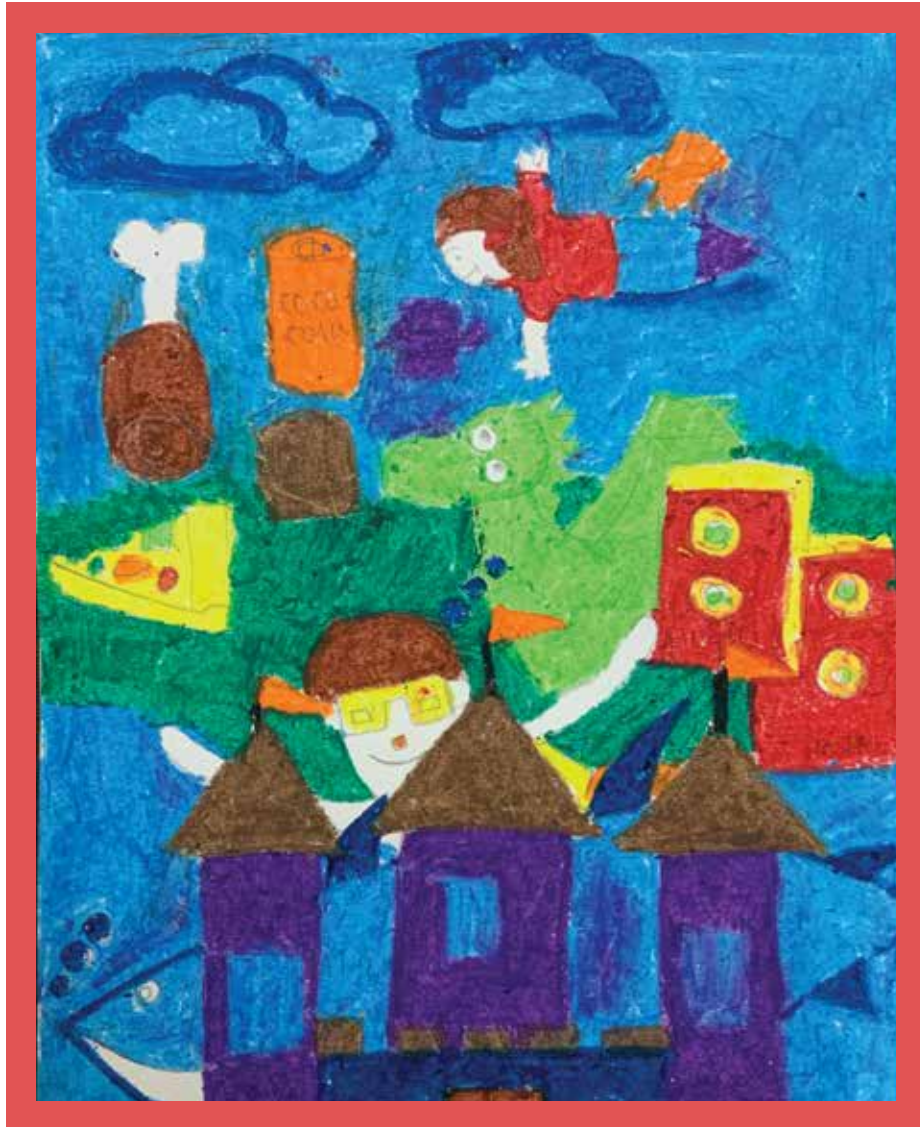
Participants wearing the masks they created.



**Workshop 8** - If you could create a new world (different from the one we live in) What would it be?

We started off this workshop with a word exercise. The participants had to write 5 things that were unique to their world and create a scene illustrating that. The most common feature that was written down was that there is no such thing as studies and school :)

Underwater world by Lakhi.

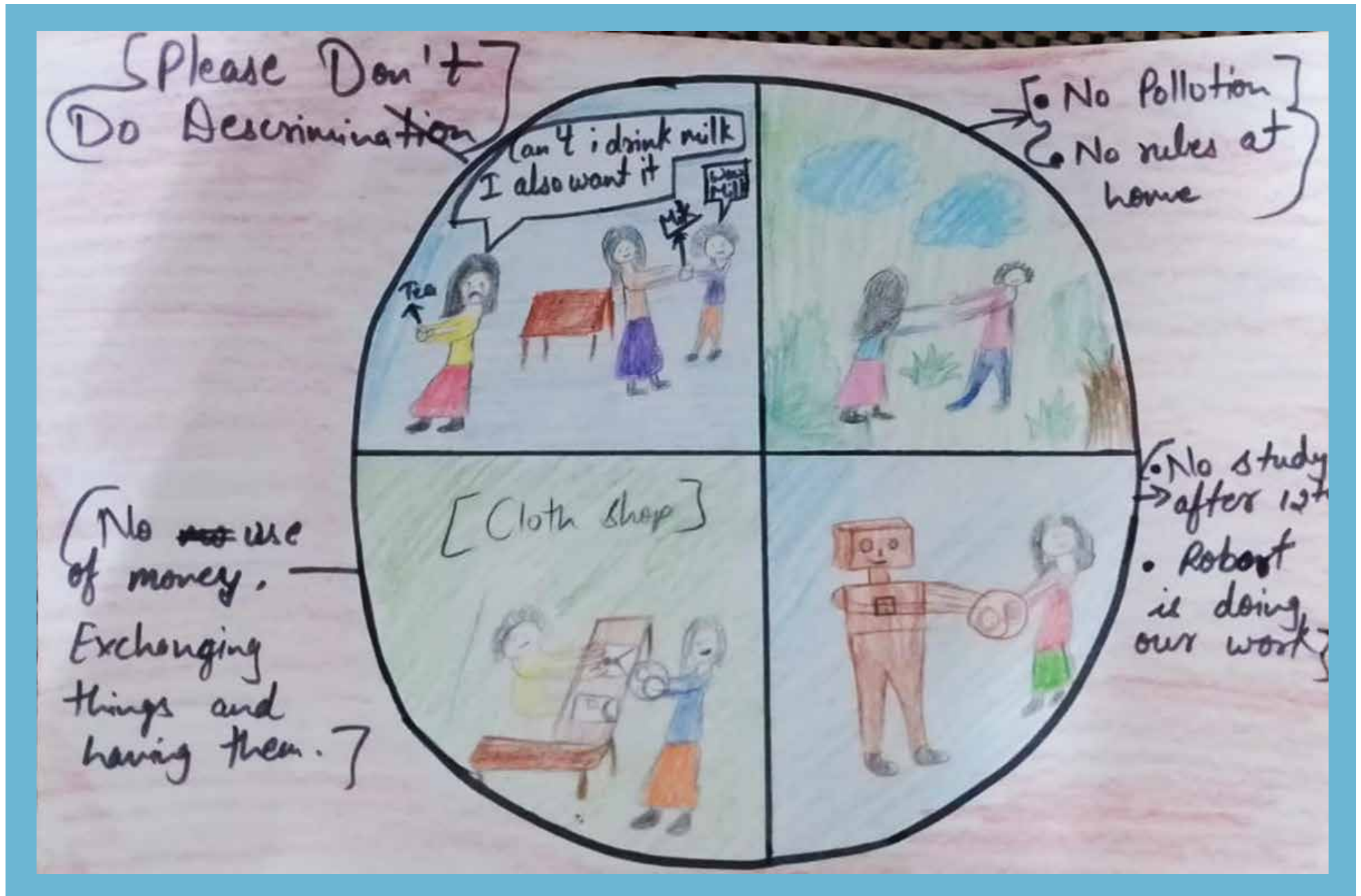


A world where monsters eat all day by Shadma





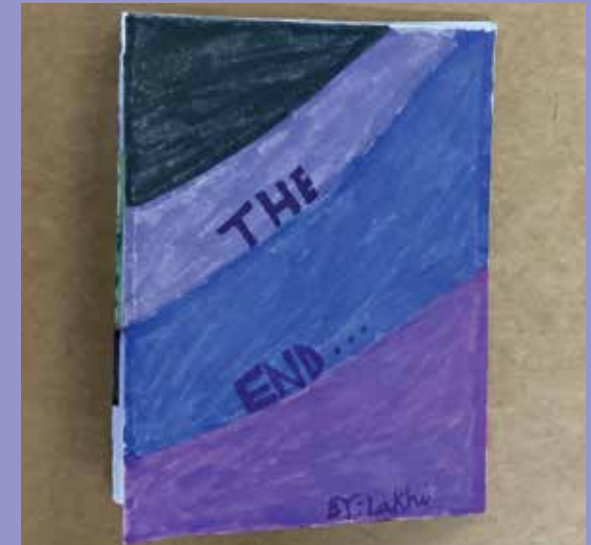
A world with equality and justice by Vitarna.



## Workshop 9 and 10 - Create your own Zine

I began the workshop with a collaborative storytelling exercise. I offered the participants the first line of a story. Each participant had to take the narrative forward by adding their own line building a cohesive plot and a strong end. Thus, the workshop aimed at developing skills for both storymaking and collaboration.

Here is a Zine by Lakhi called 'Teleport girl', born out of her desire to travel the world.



The zines created by some of the other participants.



**Workshop 11** Onground workshop- Puppet making and Stop motion Animation

Me and Anarya conducted the last workshop in person at one of the homes of Udayan care. This was the first time I met the girls and I was wondering how they will respond to me. They met me with such warmth and familiarity and it was soon apparent how excited and eager they were for the workshop. We began with a movement icebreaker which involved a bit of goofing around and exercise. After which the participants were asked to create puppets made out of paper. I walked them through the whole process. Looking at the progress and works of the participants, Anarya suggested that we create small stop motion clips with the puppets. She instructed the participants how to create animation on her Ipad. Despite the students learning animation on an app for the first time, they had an intuitive understanding of technology. At the end of the workshop we created a series of short clips which later collated by Anarya. This workshop turned out to be a fun and spontaneous day for creating art. It was a real learning experience for me to understand where the participants live, what is their daily routine and know their life in the care homes.





Participants applying watercolor techniques from previous workshops.



Participants working on their puppets.

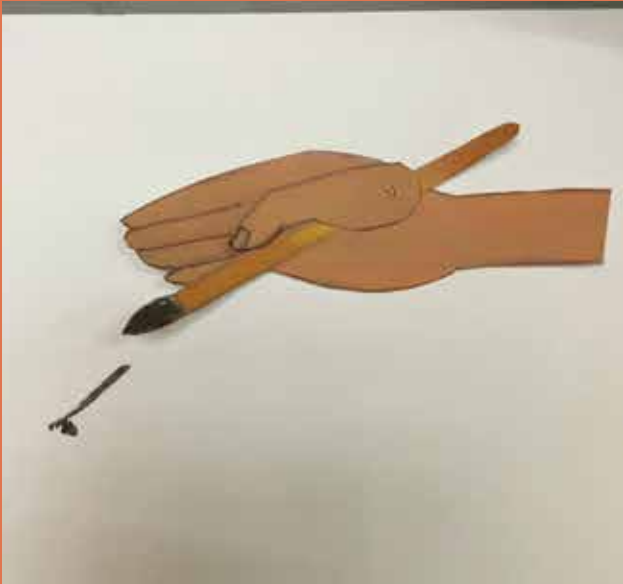


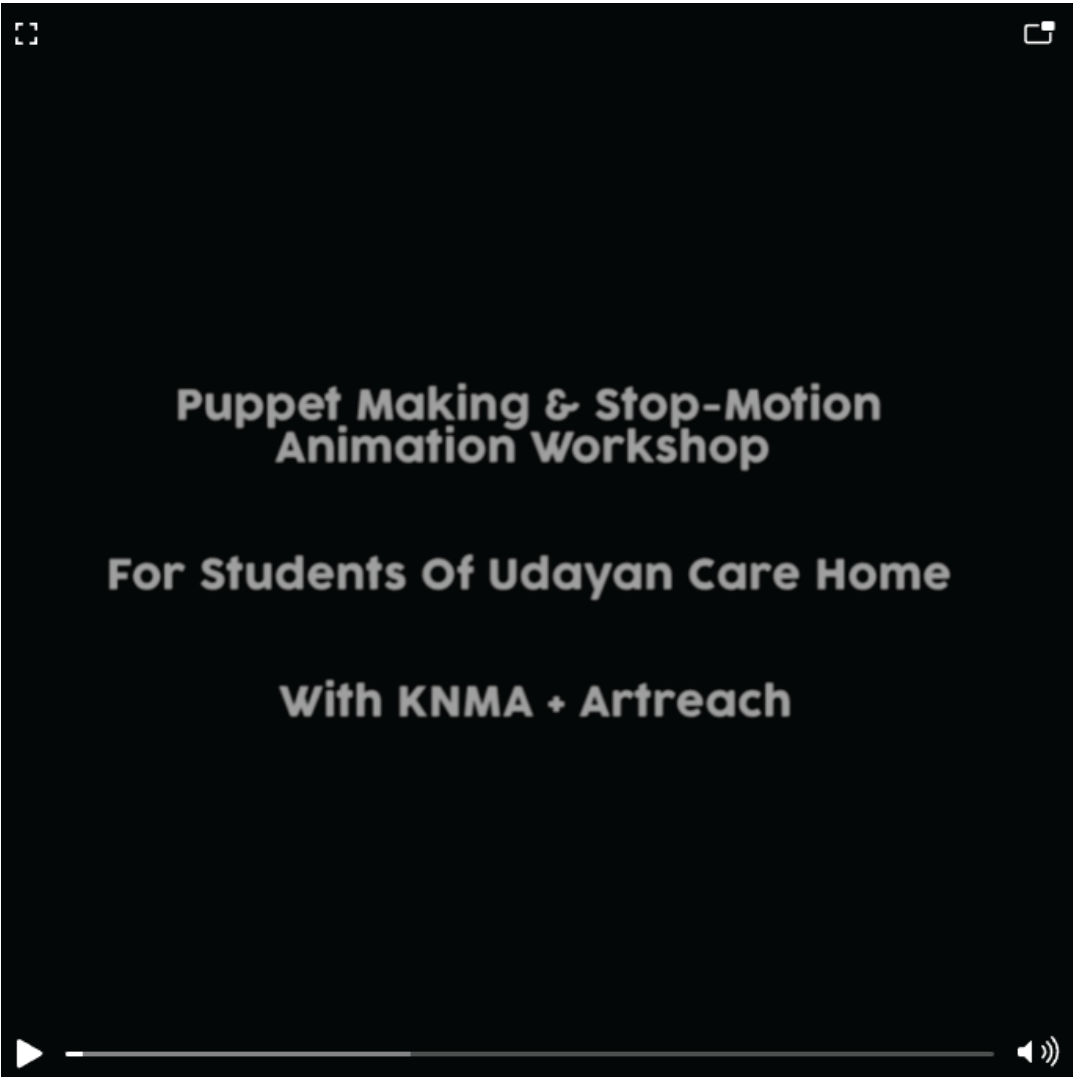


Here the participants are working together to create stop motion clips using an App on the I pad.



Paper puppets created by the participants.





**Puppet Making & Stop-Motion  
Animation Workshop**

**For Students Of Udayan Care Home**

**With KNMA + Artreach**



## **Achievements and Challenges.**

From the very beginning the participants were curious and attentive. They were quick to adapt to a new situation if I threw a curveball towards them like asking them to find solutions in case of absence of some art material. They followed the skill based workshops well as was evident in the application of their learnings in the preceding workshops. We did a few spontaneous word exercises and I found that their responses were sharp and observations often insightful. I was also very impressed at their intuitive understanding and comfort with technology.

Throughout the workshop I had 7-10 regular participants with good attendance and stable internet. However, a recurring issue was that some of the other participants from different locations left and new ones joined us, some of whom had bad internet connectivity.

There were also a few times where the participants ended up creating art which came from a place of deep personal experience. Learning to navigate that without having a shared context was one of the biggest challenges and achievements of this fellowship.

Here I have to congratulate and thank Anarya and the Artreach team for all their help and insights. Their understanding of what is required for the progress of these young participants in life shows a lot of care and time spent by them building an excellent ecosystem.

As feedback for myself and Artreach, I observed that the response from the participants was more enthusiastic in the workshops where they got to work with new materials.

Art education offers a opportunity for young people to grow in life. As much as this is true for the participants, it is the same for me as an Art educator.