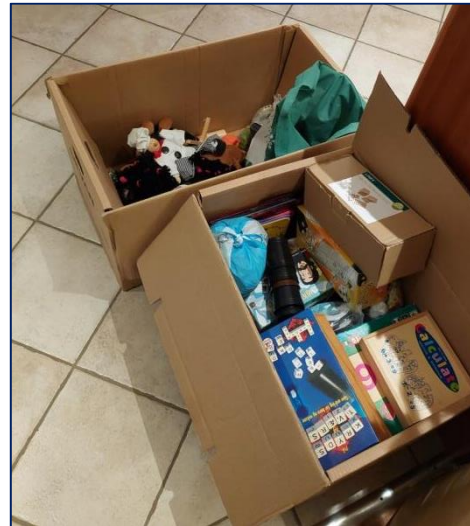
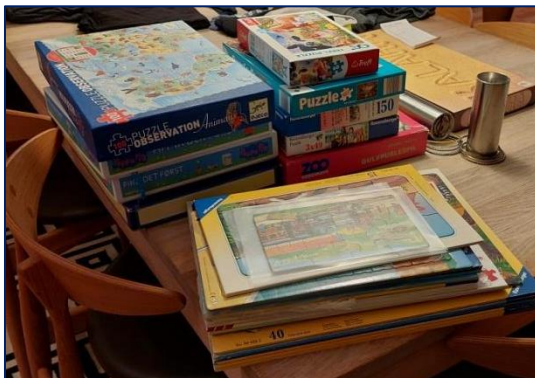


Dear everyone

- who joins the TellusArt Academy (TAA) - as part of the JOY OF GIVING project.

My next trip to India starts shortly - on 15 Nov. with Air India, which flies directly from Copenhagen to Delhi, and I can bring two suitcases with me - which gives extra good space for teaching materials, which this time are primarily learning games and puzzles. I have packed 39 kg. -mostly from the Scouts' Recycling.



Invited to a wedding

I'm going to a wedding party right when I get there. It is one of our female teachers who is getting married, and the one I lived with for a whole month last year. I'm really looking forward to it and hope to find some suitable clothes on the way out there... The bride, Anupreet, was one of our talented teachers, who in a good way broke the code - to how she could teach the youngest class, that is 25 to 30, 3-year-old students, with great love and creativity. After the wedding, she moves to her husband's family and later with him to Canada.



It can sometimes hurt a bit to lose the teachers you have come to know well and who have become really good at teaching based on the form of teaching Creative Teaching Skill Training (CTST), which I

have developed in collaboration with TAA - i.a. with a starting point and great focus on the individual student's ability, and with a conviction that everyone can learn.

As part of the school for many years, it has also become a joy to follow how the teachers mature and develop during their time at TAA.

And then "You learn for life" and "What you have learned, no one can take from you again"...

Everyday life at TAA

When the new school year started in April, there was a mother who signed her children out of school. She was not satisfied with -that they did not get enough homework, and therefore she did not think that her children learned enough at TAA.

Exactly the matter of homework is something we have talked about quite a bit. Many studies show, that the total benefit from homework is relatively low in relation to the time spent.

It is especially a challenge for the smallest classes, where the teachers have to use a lot of teaching time to write the tasks into each child's notebook and correct the homework afterwards, and many of the TAA parents do not have the opportunity to help their school children with their homework.



After a few months of the children attending a public school, this mother came back and asked to have them re-enrolled. She said, that now she could see that through TAA's student-active learning, despite less demands for homework, they learned a lot. -A happy little story from real life.

Mobile phones handed in at the office...

When I heard that - I was surprised that the students at TAA had mobile phones... - it turned out that it was not the students, but the teachers, who had been asked not to bring mobile phones to class.

The Principal told me how he experienced that the mobile phones disturbed the teachers in their teaching, and this affected both the teachers and the students' focus and learning.

Transport to and from school

TAA has received new students from villages in the surrounding area and parents from there are requesting transport arranged by the school...

I have chosen not to comment on it, - until now, it has been something the parents arranged themselves, and financially managed themselves, and immediately I think, that it must continue to be a task and a responsibility that lies with the parents.

In fact, it is already a big task for the school, just to get the school fees collected....



Do students learn something through play...

A short time ago Ajmer Sandhu, TellusArt's manager, was contacted by a young man from the school grounds. He had heard from one of our students, that at TAA they didn't study - they just played... and he thought we should know that....



It was surprising to him, why and how the school taught with play for learning, and how most of TAA's students finish their 5th grade with very good results in the state-controlled test.



Inquiries of this kind also challenge the school to be more communicative about their teaching style. This applies both to students, parents and others in the area - I think it will be important for the school's future recognition in the local area.



Reading English can be as homework, or at school like here, where they collaborate and can get help for the difficult.

Is this fun or is it a learning situation!

I think about - how would you experience it, if you came to the school as a newcomer?

In 2011 - when the school started the collaboration with TellusArt, the teaching was different, teacher-led.

I have no doubt that this situation is also very teacher-led - but in a different way.

TAA is not an "English Medium School", but English is a subject on the syllabus. At the moment we are lucky to have a teacher, Jimmy, who is proficient in English - both written and spoken, and is good at teaching.

We have talked quite a bit about, how it is important that the students both hear English, but also try to "have it in their mouths" - speak the language. I meet children and young people who go to English Medium Schools - they know their grammar - unlike me, but I am surprised by how difficult it is for them to speak English.

Festival at TellusArt Academy

A TellusArt Academy Festival is planned for November, where parents and everyone else from the area, the press and some high-ranking people are invited, in order to get to know more about TAA. The school will plan the Festival based on TellusArt Academy's teaching style and vision of "Everyone can learn" and "Play for learning". There will be learning games, presentations and games with learning.



I plan, among other things, to create a learning activity where the parents can swing on the school's long swing.

The swing was part of a sculpture workshop in 2014, organized by TellusArt, where I, in collaboration with a blacksmith, built this "12 swinging play stand", financed by the project "100 women give coins" from 2011.



This Dall has become more and more palatable, parents have continuously come up with suggestions for improvements, and it is said that occasionally parents and others come by on Saturday to have a meal with them - wonderful.

I have made up my mind, that I will learn how to make this dall - so that I can make it when I get back home.

And of course, dall must also be served for the Festival.

I am looking forward to reporting how this day will be...

I know from experience that sometimes -and occasionally to some frustration on my part, that in India anything can happen...

-But the meaning is good enough.

152 students

Since the spring, the classes have grown, something the teachers have put a lot of effort into. They have visited the area's villages and talked about the school's work and vision - that "All students can learn".

Their goal is to have 200 students by the start of the new school year in April 2024".



The school employs 8 teachers, a headmaster/Principal, a maid and an all-possible man. The school's all-possible man also drives the "school bus", an agreement he has with the parents in two villages.

Maintenance of the school

In the spring, I expressed my astonishment at the lack of maintenance of the school grounds and equipment, as well as the order in the library and in the classrooms, and that I connected it with a lack of responsibility and an unfortunate role model for the students. - You might think if it is my domain to comment on this... I thought it necessary to express frustrations in order to ensure continued good cooperation.



I can see from the photos they send that there have been changes, and I look forward to experiencing it myself.



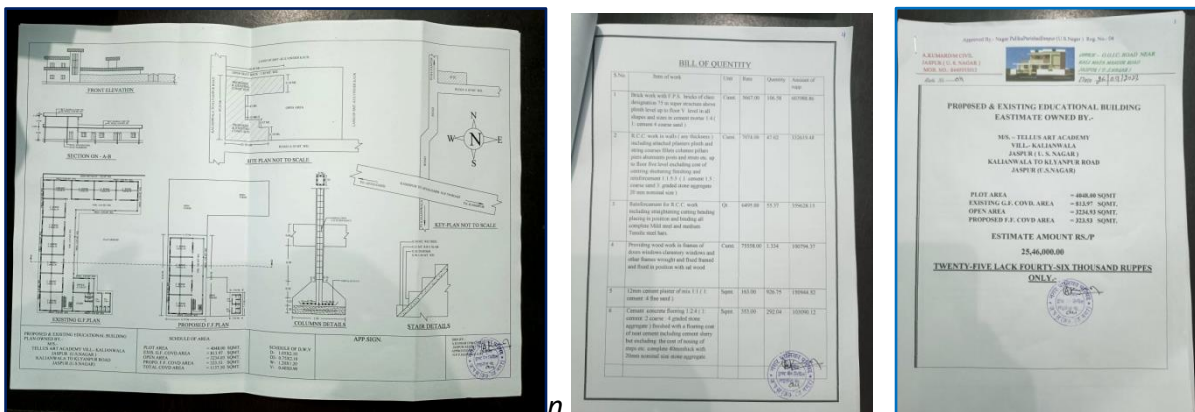
The school furniture, which was made in connection with TAA's new school in 2013, has been treated against rust and painted.

Future

Work continues towards a 3-year extension of TAA, because it is crucial to be able to give students 3 more years on TAA in 6th, 7th and 8th grade. Today, there are still too many of the school's students who, after finishing school as 11-year-olds in 5th grade, do not continue at another school, thereby reducing their opportunities to get an education for adulthood.

I've been writing about this expansion for a long time, and probably imagined we were done a long time ago... but things take the time things take, and many smaller steps had to be taken first, steps that I had no possible concept of, so now I'm just glad we started early.

Now it seems that everything is ready for state approval of the school's expansion.



Among other things, we have now received the architect's drawings and construction budget for the extension.

The three grades we are going to expand with, must belong on the 1st floor. This provides a specific separation of the student groups, which the school wants - to have the best school day, both for the small 3 to 11-year-olds, and for the older 12 to 15-year-olds.

We do not have the finances for this entire project right away, hope that financial gifts, lecture activity and other things will eventually lead to us getting the construction completed.

And we are very happy to receive gift amounts if someone can see meaning in it..

Creative Teaching Skills Training

I am looking forward to 3 weeks with the teachers, the children and life over there.

In the CTST training, we must work on "Passing on knowledge to each other" between the teachers and the students, in order to focus on what can be done, so that the teaching content is understood. An exercise in organizing the teaching based on the recipient and not just the academic content.

There are three new teachers - therefore all the basic elements of CTST must be woven into the training - but in a new way, so that it is not experienced as a boring repetition of the others. It's actually one of the things that I thought was an enormously fun challenge - and here my creativity gets plenty of space.

I will send out a newsletter before Christmas - when I am back home.

And - if you want to give to the school, it can be done on account number 2290 4379226731 in Nordea Bank with an indication of what you would like to give to - ex. construction, school uniform, - school fees, - teacher's salary,... or free disposable, where I choose, where in the school the need is greatest. I then transfer them to the appropriate account.
Thank you in advance for your possible participation.

Good autumn greetings - with beautiful colors in nature.

Pernille Toft Lund

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- I have just put together a new lecture - about my work together with TellusArt Academy.
So do you know anyone who is interested...
The fee goes uncut to the further development of TAA.
-Remember that TellusArt Academy can be followed on Instagram under "tellusartacademy"



Learning materials can be used in many ways...

What happens here is precisely what I describe as the important start-up "brain gymnastics", for further development and learning.