



## Special Edition of the Photo Workshop

### About this Edition

We have a volunteer from Germany who is also a student. He did a photo workshop for one week. It was really amazing and we took lots of pictures. He liked to teach us. He taught us things about cameras that we didn't know before.

After the workshop he gave us some projects. We are six students - two students have an interview project and four students have a photo project. We interviewed visitors and took photographs of the things we like.

Finally we publish our project results in this special Campus Times.

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### Contributors

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Before the workshop we did not know how we can do different styles with the camera and take different types of pictures. We liked it.

### Interview Thukjay Dolma

She is from Shara and 43 years old. She was a staff member at SECMOL last year.

She is one of few blinds in Ladakh.



Jannis: What are you doing now?

Thukjay: I don't have work. So now I have free time. I have got a part time Job in an NGO which is selling the lottery tickets.

J: What is your favourite food?

T: My favourite food is Mutton Momos.

J: What is your favourite activity?

T: My favourite activity is Music. I like singing and dancing. Actually I am not good at dancing. Singing is like my future.

J: Do you like Ladakh?

T: I like ladakh. Actually Ladakh is very cold. Ladakh is made by the people. Actually, they say about disability that it is very important to make products. But I can't do products, it is so difficult for me.

J: What kind of people do you like to be around?

T: I like everybody. I like people doing farming and tailoring and teaching.

J: Can you share an interesting experience from your life?

T: One experience is very important: Wake early morning. There you do exercises, and the mountains are fresh.

J: Did you experience any dangerous moments?

T: Now I know everything, everybody says you have to study. Studying is very difficult for me.

Raza: Achay Dolma, how do you read the path?

T: When I go somewhere new I'm looking for the road for three, four days. Actually I like to be independent. Ladakh is very difficult because the road is not good.

J: Would you say that you lead a rather happy or unhappy life?

T: Very very happy life. Before I very shy, you know. That time I meet one person, Tashi. She is working for LNP (Leh Nutrition Project, and old NGO). She asks me: What do you know? I said that I don't know anything. She told me: 'Please, you can sing a song'. I was very very shy, you know. But she asked some person from the radiostation to give me a chance for singing. And then I sang in the radio. That time I was very happy.

Another time was when I went to Stok Kangri (a Peak of 6161m) in 2007.

J: What is your dream?

T: My dream is that everybody is a good person and then I will share with everyone and be friendly. And I want to do good work, that's my dream.

### Interview Saurabh

Saurabh is 29 years old and he is from Pune. He came to Secmol to give an earth construction workshop and help constructing a new mud building in solar passive design.



Dechan: What are you doing now?

Saurabh: The last couple of months I've been in SECMOL, I have been helping to run courses on earth construction and solar passive design. I have been traveling for a while now. I will leave for Himachal Pradesh in the next day or two.

D: What is your profession?

S: I am a school teacher, a builder, a designer and an architect. I design and build using natural materials. I have taught school children about ecology, biodiversity and culture identity.

Jannis: What is your favorite food?

S: Whatever is on my plate, wherever I go is my favorite food.

Chondol: What is your ambition?

S: I don't really have an ambition. It has been this way since I was a child. Everyone would complain about how I lack ambition. I personally think it's not such a bad thing. All I know is that I don't want to hurt anyone.

C: What are favorite activities?

S: Most of the things I do are my favorite activities. Building with mud, working with children, traveling, cycling, rock climbing – I enjoy all of these things.

C: Do you like Ladakh?

S: Yes, I like Ladakh very much.

C: Why?

S: Before I say why I like Ladakh, I must say that I like most places I go to. It is really interesting to go to a new place, meet new people and understand what is going on. Ladakh has shown me how people can coexist happily. I love the landscape and the culture here.

C: What kind of people do you like to be around?

S: I like working with people who are honest. I think that is why I like working with children. They can say anything without fear. I have been told by children 'You look funny'. No adult will usually tell me that. I find it refreshing to be around people who can say what they feel.

C: Can you share an interesting experience from your life?

S: When I was in college, I was a student activist working on ecological issues. I once saw some people dumping earth into a lake. I complained against them and I got all of them arrested. I felt that I needed to be honest with them. So I went over and introduced myself as the person who was responsible for their arrest. I wanted to tell them that I had nothing against them. That they were good people otherwise but what they were doing was wrong. When I told them this, they were really angry and they threatened to kill me. I had thought that I needed to be honest with them but, as it turned out, they didn't appreciate my honesty. I found this interesting.

C: Have you experienced anything dangerous?

S: I have seen people fighting and beating each other up many times on the roads. I find it very disturbing. Sometimes I try to jump in between and stop them. Sometimes when it is beyond my capacity, I have felt sorry for it but, I have not done anything. I have never hit or fought with anybody. I don't understand violence.

C: Would you say that you lead a rather happy or unhappy life?

S: I feel that I lead a very happy life and I am very grateful for it. Currently, I am grateful to all of you because you are the reason I am happy now. I try to lead a life which is very simple. I ask myself almost every day and almost every single moment 'Am I happy?' I wonder what gives me happiness and how is it that I can share happiness with more people.

C: What is your dream?

S: My dream is to make a lot of people happy. Currently, I want to create different kinds of schools where children can learn in a way that they enjoy. I am dreaming of a happy education system.

### Photo Portrait

**Agmo Hanlay** Hi, I want to share something that I like to do but this is shown in the pictures. I am 17 year old now I am a foundation student here for one year. Actually I came here for learning English basics because that's why I dropped the eleventh class exam. I didn't know about Secmol before this, but I think I am so lucky to have come here.

**Jigmet Kumdok** I am from Rupsho which is in eastern part of Ladakh. I completed my study two years back, now I am a staff member here. I take bodhi classes for volunteers. Foreigners said my teaching methods are good so last year I went to Switzerland and I also took a class there. Then I got lots of trophies and I also want to teach Ladakhi students.

