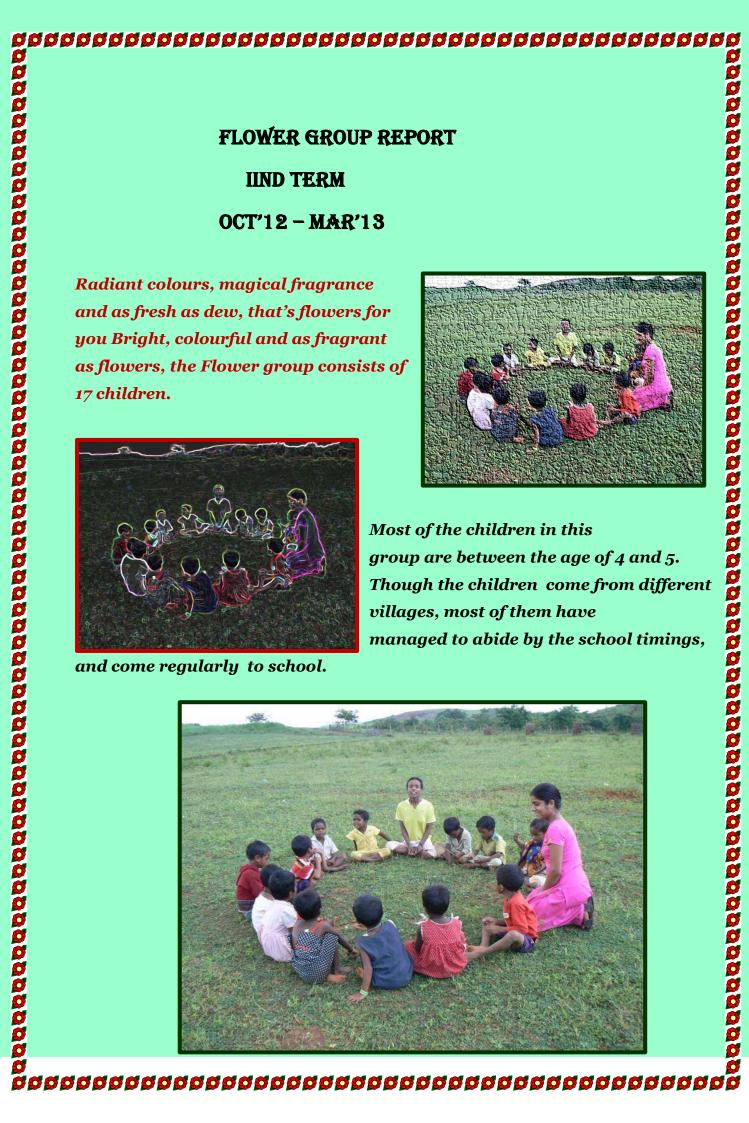
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The day begins with some cleaning up and all the children clean their classroom together. While some sweep the floor, others mop it and some simply

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rearrange things. There are others who pluck flowers, arrange them in the classroom and some light the incense sticks.

The children take turns to do all these chores, and who does what, and when, is a decision they take themselves. This has helped them evolve as a 'joyful collective' over the last few months.

After the physical cleaning up, it's time to cleanse the soul with devotional songs, mantras and shlokas being chanted.



Over the last few months the children have learnt three new bhajans –Chotto mandir in Oriya, Ishwarsheesh jhukate hain hum and Om bhaja man Om in Hindi. They have also learnt the Vishnu Strota – 'shantakaram .....' and





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strong smell. To tickle their taste buds the children tasted green papaya, carrots, beet root and lemon. With this experiential learning the children were able to remember the names as well as the smell and the taste.

### **HOW ABOUT CABBAGES AND CAULIFLOWERS FOR COMPANY !**

After this learning in the classroom, the children were taken for a walk to the school kitchen garden. Names of vegetables in both Hindi and English were reiterated here. The children were both happy and intrigued, and came up with some amazing observations and comments. One of the observation

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was about the 'pumpkin' as the child from the group thought for a moment and then said, " Why is it that the pumpkin unlike all other vegetables is not hanging on the plant, but seems to be 'sleeping' instead".

An interesting comment was made by another child who felt that the underground vegetables like carrots , potatoes ,beet root and radish were hiding under the ground and looking at them.

These bright, sparkling children are always encouraged to ask, and they do so, without any hesitation whatsoever. With questions galore, the answers too come from within the group. One child asks, and another one responds, like the one here:

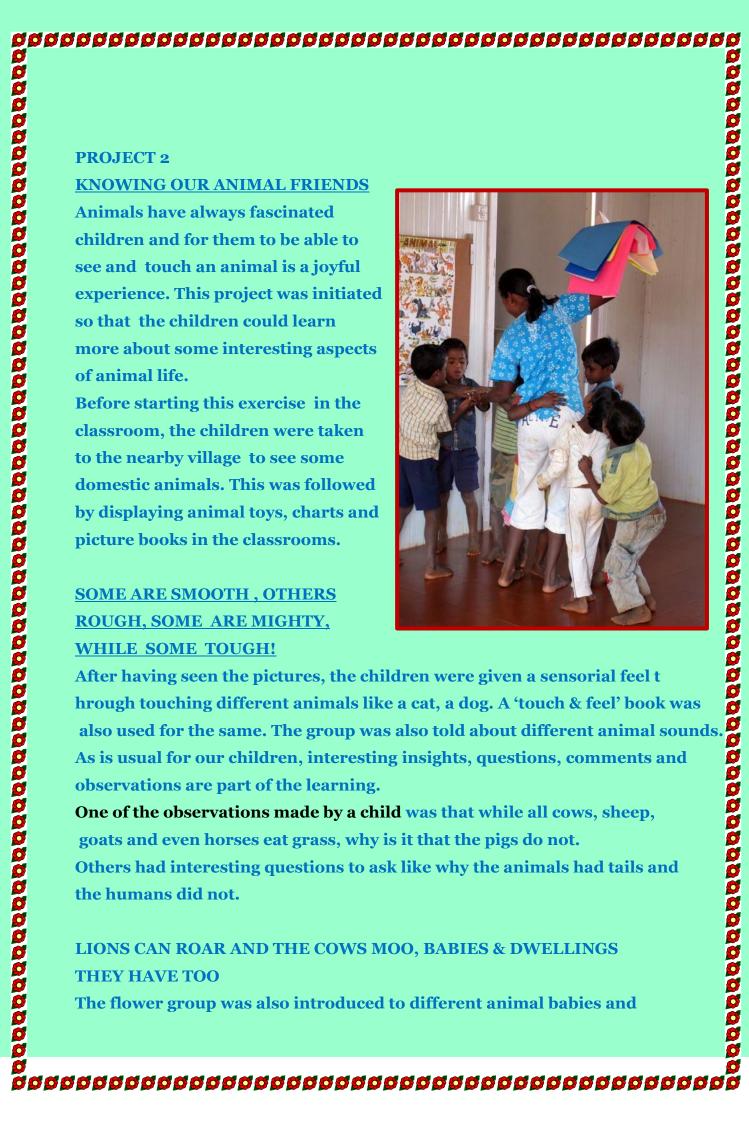
Question: How did the vegetables get their colour? Answer: The sun picked up the colours from the rainbow and gave one to each vegetable. LARGE AND LEAFY, WE SEE NATURE'S CREATIVITY IN THEM

No activity is done in the school without adding a creative element to it. Vegetables provided us with a golden opportunity to dig into our

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ethereal quality to all occasions. Keeping this in mind, the group didi initiated

this project by decorating everything in the classroom with flowers on day one. The children were surprised and very happy to see this. Due to the strong association of flowers with devotion, the group immediately sat quietly, closed their eyes, and started chanting.



### **FLOWER FRIENDS**

Before the group could open their eyes, the group didi asked them to reflect on 'what the flowers were trying to tell them'. After some thought to the question, each child in the group had an answer. One of the answers that came was that the "flowers are telling us that we must work with concentration". Like with other projects, language building was also being worked on simultaneously. The group learnt the names of flowers in Hindi and English. They also learnt about flower shapes and sizes and some parts of a flower. To enhance their sensory development, the children were blindfolded and then asked to touch and feel the texture of various flowers. Through the project all children came up with interesting questions and comments. One of the comments made by a child was that "roses have thorns because they are so beautiful and that anyone would want to pluck them".

### **FLOWER FUN**

There is so much that can be done with the flowers creatively, and there was so much that the flower group did.

Drawing and flower pasting

Drawing and colouring flowers

Making flowers from clay

Making flowers with paper

Drying and flower pasting





### Songs and stories

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 The group learnt some new songs together :Hum hain sare phool, rang birange phool ; hari dhal par lage huve thi nanhi pyari kali ; bagoon mein phool khilen ; jab se hum ne phool lagayen, har din koye milne aaye.

They also learnt a new Sanskrit song about flowers: ekum, dyea, treene, voyam pushpani

• The group collectively made a story and called it, ' The butterfly and the flowers'.

### THERE WAS SOME MORE THAT WE LEARNT

### Maths

In the last six months the entire group has learnt oral counting till 30. The group didi has also initiated a one digit addition and subtraction using an object to make it easy as well as fun for the children.

### **Physical development**

Indoor and outdoor play is an integral part of our curriculum. The group exercised to various songs, puzzles and stories are all part of indoor activities. When outdoors, the children play games like bat& ball, football and fun games

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months, the children of the flower group have become very conscious of it. The

