

Learning & Education (contd.)



***Clockwise:** Early morning yoga, pottery, outdoor exploration and farm work at Imlee Mahuaa in Balenga Para hamlet in Kondagaon, Chhattisgarh.*

“ Very few of us come to school just to learn to read and write and do math and science. We come here to listen to stories of adventure, to read books that take us into faraway lands, to dig into sand and clay, to go walking on the long boundary wall, to draw and paint, to play games, to go for picnics, to run up the slide the wrong way, to sing, and to chat merrily with our friends. So each of us spends our time at school playing, doing and learning only those things that fascinate us in a culture that deeply respects our individuality.” - students of **Imlee Mahuaa**, a rural school in Chhattisgarh’s tribal belt, that trusts children to take responsibility for their own education. The school fosters independent learning in an atmosphere where the children enjoy full freedom to decide when and what they would like to do or learn at school, and to initiate and implement it on their own or with the involvement of adults.

On the other hand, **Marudam Farm School** in Tiruvannamalai, Tamil Nadu does have scheduled classes. But within this framework it still allows for freedom of choice that cherishes hands-on, project based and experiential learning including arts, crafts, drama and outdoor activities. The school is committed to an inclusionary model based on bringing together a body of students and teachers with very diverse backgrounds.



***Left to right:** At Marudam Farm School, individual learning such as sewing blends seamlessly with collective exploration of landscapes and creative pursuits such as film-making and music.*