

# Workshop Journal

" I'm a very visual person, I just can't see." - Pete Eckert

## Days 1 & 2

After mutual introductions, our interactions were focused on how they 'interpret-construct-visualize' a scene, resulting from a



smell, touch or a sound.

Or if they already had a preconceived image for their environment.

Since a frame is what converts a mental image into a photograph, we used a wooden frame to make them understand

how to delineate a 'composition' from the surrounding environment whether it is their room or way to school or a garden or hills and streets.

The students were told about blind photographers around the world and about Vinod Bihari Mukherjee. Mukherjee was one of the

pioneers of Indian modern art. His murals display a subtle understanding of environmental and architectural nuances. He continued to paint and do murals even after he lost his eyesight completely.

## Days 3 - 5



Today we distributed digital cameras to all the participating students. The students learned how to hold a camera and were informed about its operation

in a very limited manner so as not to intimidate them with a flood of information about functions and buttons which were all designed for a non-blind user! Slowly, field sessions started. These sessions explored the student's joy with the camera as a device to record and communicate. The initial outings were limited to portraits and environment that they are familiar with. Then later they were expanded to the vegetable market, Chandan Nagar town,

children's playground, Railway station of Seoraphuli, ghats of river Ganga, Kali temple – slowly venturing out of their daily excursion routes.



## Days 6 – 7

Debrief session. We made selections from every student's work. We discussed about an exhibition of selected photographs along with a caption/paragraph by the photographer describing his/her photograph.

Students shared their feelings about being with and without camera. They were thrilled to experience the passion of capturing

*emotions. Their joy was boundless and their feeling of success was unparalleled. Their photographs stunned the viewers with their clear vision. The whole workshop was a huge success and brought immense joy to these visually impaired kids.*

*Amrita-Seattle is grateful to all the patrons and volunteers, for making this workshop a success.*

