Report on visit to Prakuti Badi/ Timbaktu Badi, July 21-22 2012

I spent the weekend at Prakuti Badi, with Vaneeta as my very generous hostess. It would have been worth the trip purely for cups of her basil/ginger tea.

There were, however, many other things to recommend the experience. I saw an immaculate building where the agricultural cooperative’s products are packaged and stored, and the handloom building (it was getting a complete scrubbing-out in anticipation of the inaugural celebration for their new gift store). I caught a glimpse of the Children’s Resource Center (about 8 kids on the porch at around 10 in the morning).

Primarily, my time was spent at the school. Vaneeta reported that the reorganization of children based on ability rather than age has been progressing well – children who were hopelessly lost before now have less frustration and increased confidence.

I took two blocks of time – one on Saturday and one on Sunday - to teach some new games to the kids. Afterwards and between-times there were opportunities for more informal play, as well as discussions about the challenges of identifying appropriate leverage points for structural change.

I was very impressed with my time at the school – the kids, the staff, the food, the community – it ran like clockwork without losing any heart along the way.