

Can we save Bandhyali School



What is Bandhyali School?

The Bandhyali is an upper primary school run by Digantar, Jaipur. It is in danger of being forced to close down. There are 325 children in this school, 201 are girls and 124 are boys. All these children are from educationally, socially and economically disadvantaged communities like Muslims, Malis and Gujjars. This school is a free school. There are no fees and all books, notebooks and stationery is provided for free. There are plans and resources available to make this school a senior secondary school for girls and begin an institute of education for innovative teacher education. The Bandhyali School is innovative in terms of teaching methods. Several people from government and non-government organisations as well as colleges from all over the country visit Bandhyali School every year to gain insights to be used in their own programmes.

The Bandhyali School was established with funds from the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. The Ministry supported the school for 12 years from 1992 to 2003. The results of this school have been excellent since inception in 1992. 315 children have passed class V in I, II and III

divisions and 87 girls have passed class VIII.

The Bandhyali School has been running on this land since 1993 – land that was decided upon by the community of the villages of Kho Nagoriyan and Bhavgarh Bandhya. The building itself was constructed with the help of the community and funds from the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. The school comprises 14 classrooms, 2 toilets and 1 hand pump.

Ownership of the land

The major issue around Bandhyali School is the ownership of the land on which it stands.

The next page has a picture of the board in front of Bandhyali School. It states that the land belongs to the government. It also states that it is the responsibility of the government to run good schools for deprived sections of society. It ends with a hope that we will be able to run this school without obstacles.

We have applied for allotment of this land at five different occasions. The first time on February 17, 1993, the second time on October 21, 1995; the third time on May 2, 2000; the fourth time on April 8, 2003 and the fifth time on June 19, 2003. We received a response from

the Jaipur Development Authority (JDA) only to our request of April 8, 2003.

It now appears that JDA has reserved this land for allotment to a “Mahima Shiksha Samiti” for a private university, ignoring all our requests,



applications and the absolute need of the existence of Bandhyali School in the area.

Given all this, we had to move the High Court. Fortunately, the High Court of Rajasthan directed the JDA to first consider our application and hear us. Since then the JDA has called us in one of their meetings to present our case where we were heard in a very cursory manner.

The Crisis

We are now in a crisis situation. On December 2, 2005, we were asked by the JDA to move the school in the next 3 days.

Our Appeal

- If you are convinced that Bandhyali School is worth saving,
- If you are convinced that the children need their school especially where no other options exist,
- If you are convinced that a free school for children of deprived sections of society should continue to function,
- If you are convinced that that legally Digantar has the first claim to the allotment of land due to existence of Bandhyali School for the past 12 years and as its application is pending with the JDA prior to the new applicant,
- If you are convinced that allotment of Bandhyali School land to a private for-

profit university is a blow to public interest and voluntary action

Please help us save this school by sending letters, emails, and faxes to the following decision makers:

- The Governor, Raj Bhavan, Civil Lines, Jaipur, Rajasthan. Tel: (O) 2228717, 2228792, Fax: 2228737
- The Chief Minister, Government of Rajasthan Tel. (O) 2227351, 2227308 (R) 2355567, Fax: 2227687
- The Education Minister, 127 Main Building, Secretariat, Jaipur. Tel: (O) 2227418 (R) 2293666, Fax: 2227418
- Education Secretary, 127 Main Building, Secretariat, Jaipur Tel: (O) 2227389
- Commissioner, Jaipur Development Authority

If you have any queries, please do get in touch with us.

We are:

Digantar Samiti on behalf of the children of Bandhyali School



About Digantar

Digantar is a registered society under the Rajasthan Societies Registration Act, 1958. We have been working since 1978 in the field of elementary education, though we registered only in 1987. We work in the areas of developing an alternative pedagogy for elementary education, curriculum development and teacher education.

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