



Independence Day celebration

Digantar Shiksha Evam Khelkud Samiti, in short Digantar, is a non-governmental, not for profit organization, working in the field of education. Digantar School (Vidyalay) is at the Centre of the programmes and activities carried out by Digantar since 1978. At present, Digantar provide education to children through its two schools.

The Academic Resource Unit (TARU) is a significant unit of Digantar, distinguished by its commitment to enriching the quality of education for all children by developing a strong knowledge base and imparting training.

India's 77th Independence Day (Swatantrata Diwas) was celebrated across the country on 15 August, marking the freedom from British rule on August 15, 1947. This year also was marking the culmination of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, an initiative of the Government of India to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of independence and the glorious history of its people, culture and achievements. The Independence Day was celebrated with enthusiasm in both the schools of Digantar. On this day, the children, after necessary preparations, presented the journey of India's independence through a stage programme in which songs, drama, poems and glimpses through pictures were presented. A large number of parents of children and former students from the community came to watch the programme. Everyone appreciated children's programme.

In the small function held at the Diganatar main campus, George Cheriyan, Executive Director, hoisted the flag, in the presence of Reena Das, former Director. All staff at main campus attended the function.



Launch of School Organic Nutrition Garden

School nutrition gardens provide students with a real-time experience on how food is grown. Children of different ages are educated on the importance of the garden, learning how to grow -prepare the ground, sow the seeds, manuring, weeding and harvest, a variety of vegetables. This gives children first-hand experience with nature and gardening. Also



enhance the knowledge of children regarding nutritional aspects of vegetables.

As per the guidelines of the Ministry of Human Resources Development, Government of India, the School Nutrition Gardens scheme was initiated in the schools in India in 2019. In line with those guidelines, and as per Digantar's emphasis on self learning with experience, the organic garden and club was initiated at Digantar Vidyalaya at Bhavgarh village.

The launch meeting was held at Digantar Vidyalaya, Bhavgarh on Saturday, July 8, 2023, involving the children from upper primary to secondary level, along with Coordinators and selected teachers. In the Presence of George Cheriyan, Executive Director, Rajdeep Pareek, an expert in organic farming spoke about the importance of organic farming and its various aspects and steps. After the meeting, 20x55 sq. feet area, adjacent to the new block, which was already ploughed and prepared by the

students and staff, seeds of Corn (Makka), Ladyfinger (Okra), Maize and Guar were sown. At present the plants are growing well. An organic club with selected students, in charge of a teacher is also formed. The plants are being taken care by the students of the organic club and staff, and the children understand the process of growth - transformation from seed to plants, flowering and yielding fruits. Okra production has started and it is also being harvested. Makka (corn) also showing good growth. No chemical manure or pesticides are applied; instead the organic compost manure (mainly made from campus leaves) is provided to the plants.



School Foundation Day

School Foundation Day was observed in the schools of Digantar on July 20. On this day, first the teachers narrated the story of the school's journey from its beginning till now and also showed pictures related to the old school building to the children on the projector. For this day, the children also collected the experiences of the former students from nearby community, a day before and narrated these experiences to everyone in the gathering. The children currently studying narrated their dreams

about the school through picture and in written form. An exhibition of old photos and experiences of the students was also organized.



Bal Panchayat

Bal Panchayat is formed twice every year in the schools of Digantar. Its main objective is to help children understand democratic process of the local self government, taking responsibilities identifying problems and solving them. On July 27, Bal Panchayat was formed in two schools through a democratic election process. A day before, the children selected their candidates. After the election campaign, each child casted his or her vote and 5 Bal Panchayat office bearers were elected



Eye Testing and General Health Check up Camp



An Eye Infection Testing and General Health Check up camp was organised at Digantar Vidyalaya on August 3, 2023 in collaboration with Santokba Durlabhji Memorial Hospital (SDMH), Jaipur. A team consisting of two doctors, Dr. Anil Matai (Head of the Department, Ophthalmology) and Dr. Yagya (General Medicine), and four other technicians participated in the camp, along with Pankaj Upadhyay (Eye Technician). Around 240 students from both the schools, Bhavgarh and Kho-Rabarian, participated in the Camp. The eye infection (Pink Eye Conjunctivitis) test of

all students was done. Free eye drops were provided for those students-who were infected. In addition, vision problems were diagnosed among 18 students. They were given prescriptions, and advised for further tests and remedies accordingly. Along with eye testing, general health check up and blood group testing of all students were carried out. We express our thanks to Shri Yogendra Dhurlabji, SDMH for the free eye testing camp, and to Smt. Jane Himmat Singh, Member of Digantar Executive Committee, for coordinating and making it possible



Training At Vidyalaya



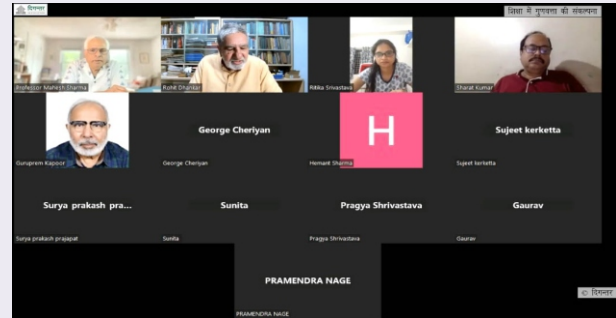
A group of 5 teachers from Maadhyam Charitable trust, which is engaged in providing quality literacy and numeracy support at the primary level at selected Government Schools in Jaipur, underwent training at Digantar Vidyalaya for 3 days from August 22 to 24, 2023. The purpose of the training was to observe and understand the methodology of group teaching and learning level wise classroom teaching. Also to understand the day-to-day teacher planning and evaluation process at Digantar.

Hemant Kumar Sharma and Noratmal Pareek, Coordinators facilitated the training that included classroom observation, teacher interaction and a critical discussion on observations. A session was held at the end of the training by the coordinator which was helpful and enlightening. In the second phase, an understanding was formed with the group of teachers, after in-depth discussion on the methods of assessment and evaluation through understanding the philosophy and history of Digantar.

Shiksha-Darshan Samvad

On July 1, 2023, Samvad 24 titled "Shiksha mein Gunwatta Ki Sankalpana" (Quality in Education) took place. On July 8, Samvad 25 took place, which was an open session to decide further topics to be discussed in the series. Both Samvads had a consistent participation of 15- 18 attendees. These Samvads were facilitated by Rohit Dhankar. On July 15, an open and free webinar (Samvad 26) on "Literacy & Numeracy: Comprehension and Understanding" by Professor Mahesh Sharma took place. He is one of the participants in this Samvad series, and it was decided

collaboratively that he will be leading the next session. Professor Mahesh Sharma currently works at the Centre for Teaching & Learning Mathematics. The webinar was attended by 40-45 participants from various organizations.



Reading Circle

The core team of this reading circle has chosen "Pedagogy of the Oppressed" by Paulo Freire to be read chapter-wise. The first session on the book, held on July 19, had the active participation of 7 participants. Prior to the session, they were expected to read the introduction and preface, which were subsequently discussed. In August, the team delved into Chapter 1 and Chapter 2 on the August 9 and 28, respectively. Chapter 1 focused on the status and nature of oppressors and the oppressed. Some questions that arose during the sessions included the author's definition of terms like "humanization" and "dehumanization" and whether situations

could exist where the oppressed could also be the oppressor simultaneously. Chapter 2 explored the Banking Model of Education, discussing its key characteristics in terms of the roles of teachers and students, content selection processes, pedagogy, and the teacher-student relationship. It also introduced the concept of problem-posing pedagogy as a means to liberate both the oppressed and oppressors by humanizing them. On average, seven participants attended both sessions. The circle's aim is to continue exploring the book in a collaborative manner, diving deep into each chapter and fostering meaningful discussions.

School children preparing land for organic farming

