



## Observing Gandhi Jayanti

Digantar Shiksha Evam Khelkud Samiti, in short Digantar, is a non-governmental, not for profit organization, working in the field of education. Digantar School (Vidyalaya) 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.

Gandhi Jayanti, is celebrated on October 2 every year, commemorating the birthday of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, who was later known as Mahatma Gandhi, Father of the Nation of India. M.K.Gandhi was born on October 2, 1869 in Porbandar, Gujarat. So this year it was marking the 154th Gandhi Jayanti. The day is significant for honoring Mahatma Gandhi's life and principles, promoting his ideals of non-violence and civil disobedience, and advocating for peaceful resistance.

Gandhi Jayanti was celebrated in both the Digantar schools on October 2, 2023. On this day, children presented skits, plays, songs and poems on events related to Gandhiji's life. These presentations made all children aware about Gandhiji's ideas of true non-violence and Satyagriha. Also created an understanding of how the charkha brought about revolutionary changes in India's independence. Students also read and shared thoughts on Gandhiji's life spent at Sabarmati Ashram.

## Celebrating Teacher's Day

Every year, India celebrates the birth anniversary of Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan (September 5), former President of India, as National Teachers' Day as a tribute to his contributions in the education sector and achievements. Teacher's Day was celebrated in both the schools of Digantar on September 5, 2023. On this day, children of upper primary and secondary level played the role of teachers and taught children of the primary group. After this, they made a presentation in the group about their experience in enacting as the teachers. After games and a common lunch, teachers watched the movie OMG- 2 based on Indian Education System, and had discussion about it.



## School Management Committee



On September 15, 2023, the School Management Committee (SMC) was formed in Digantar Vidyalaya, Bhavgarh. A day before, all parents were informed. The President and Vice President were unanimously elected from the group of parents present on the day of formation. After the formation more people registered their names to join as members. As per the rules, the currently constituted committee includes 60 percent women and 40 percent men. After the formation of the committee, the members decided to hold the first meeting soon in the same month itself. Accordingly the first meeting of the SMC was held on September 29, 2023, in which various issues, such as ongoing activities, need for sending proper lunch, nutrition of children, were discussed.

## Workshop for Teachers

On September 25, 2023, the school was having a local holiday as per the order of the Education Department. However making use of the opportunity a one-day workshop was organized for the teachers. A day before, all teachers were given selected articles for reading. The given articles were 'Children and picture books', and 'Painting is an important part of children's education', and the key leanings were discussed. Thereafter, all the teachers presented a group-wise review of

the work done with the children for the last three months and it was discussed. At the end of the workshop, preparations for observing Gandhi Jayanti were discussed and planned.



## Guest Visits



On September 13, Sukeerti Raikwar (India Programme Coordinator, Abercrombie & Kent Philanthropy) and Nitin Mathur (Abercrombie & Kent India, Jaipur Office), visited school and had discussion about continued collaboration in future. As arranged by Abercrombie & Kent (A&K), Mrs. & Mr. Fuller from Australia visited Vidyalaya on Oct. 7. On Oct. 19, Paul Smit (former British Council) and Visaka, along with Faith Singh visited Vidyalaya.

On 25 October 2023, two guests from UK, Peter Simon & Mark Simon Visited School. Chairman, Secretary and Faith Singh also came along with the guests. After touring the school, observing the activities, a meeting was held in which the Secretary presented the education philosophy and future vision of Digantar.



## Study Visit



150 students and 7 teachers from three BLED Colleges, Miranda College, Jesus & Mary College and Lady Shriram College, visited Digantar Vidyalaya during September-October. During these visits, students made observations, learned Digantar's education philosophy by interacting with the teachers, students and the

Coordinators. During the community visit, the students interacted with parents of children, and met with alumni in the community. Other than the Coordinators, two groups also met with George Cheriyan, Executive Director during the evaluation session, one group met with Rohit Dhankar, Secretary and had discussions on Aims of education, Role of authority in Digantar & Curriculum, Pedagogy and Assessment in Relation to NCFSE etc.

## John Singh Sports Academy

The idea behind activating the sports academy in the name of one of the founders of Digantar John Singh is to give students an opportunity for getting good coaching in various Games activities, like football and in self defense (Karate). In addition to getting a good physical fitness, it also aims to teach the student's basic skills of Games foster a healthy interaction with teammates, engender fair play and sportsman spirit.



After hiring instructors through a proper interview process, the self defense classes started at Vidyalaya (Bhavgarh) on October 16. The coach is teaching Judo/Karate to the children for one hour per day, for three days a week. Children and parents are very much interested and excited about it. Everything is set to begin the football coaching from November 1, 2023.

**TARU** : Reading Circle and *Samvad* (Dialogue) are two ongoing activities of TARU. The idea of conducting voluntary online reading circles emerged, with the goal of delving deeper into education-related issues. Reading Circle is mainly meant for former participants of Foundations of Education (FOE) programme, to further develop their understanding and capacities. '*Shiksha-Darshan Samvad*' (Dialogue on Education Vision) is an online series on the Philosophy of Education. The series is recognized for its rare Hindi-language discourse on education

## ***Shiksha-Darshan Samvad***

It was decided to initiate a new series on Religion and Education from September 2023. According to the plan, this series consists of eight online *Samvad* (dialogue) that were scheduled to take place every Saturday. These *Samvad* are open, and free for all participants, and there are no fees associated with participation. Accordingly, the first *Samvad* of this series was held on September 23, followed by the second on September 30. On an average, 20 participants attended both of these *Samvads*. During these discussions, the topics explored includes the nature and concept of religion, along with an attempt to understand terms such as "*Atma*" (soul), *Astha* (beliefs), and *Brahm* (the divine).

## **Reading Circle**

The core team of the Reading Circle has continued with the chosen book "Pedagogy of the Oppressed" by Paulo Freire, to be read chapter-wise. In September, the group delved into Chapter 3. The session of was held on September 13, with the participation of 13 members. Chapter 3 focuses on various key topics, including education as the practice of freedom, dialogic and dialogue, dialogue and the search for programme content, the human-world relationship, "generative themes," and the programme content of education as the practice of freedom. In October, the session was held on October 5, with the participation of 6 members. During the session, a significant part of time was allocated to discuss the second half of the chapter 3, which discusses the 'generative themes' and the idea of 'limit situations'. Participants shared their interpretation of the text written and provided examples from their surroundings to illustrate these concepts.

## **Upcoming Courses**

The Academic Resource Unit (TARU) of Digantar in partnership with Wipro Foundation is offering the following Certificate Courses in Foundation Disciplines of Education.

1. **Sociology of Education : November 20-25, 2023**
2. **Perspectives on Learning : December 11-16, 2023**

Chandrayaan-3: Narration by children

