

DISHA

(SOCIETY FOR URBAN AND RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT)



Annual Report 2023-2024



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DISHA Organization Profile

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 - **Year of Establishment:** 1992
 - **Chief Functionary:** Dr.Shobhana Radhakrishna
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Main Activities Implemented (2023-2024)

- **Education for Vulnerable Children**
 - In-school interactive project for education of girl children studying in North Delhi Municipal Corporation primary schools
 - Distribution of educational material
 - Alternative educational classes for heterogeneous learners (including school dropouts and children with disabilities)
 - Focus on inclusive, equitable, and quality education aligned with UN SDG-4
 - **Digital Learning and Remedial Teaching**
 - Digital learning programs for children and youth
 - Computer labs and skill training in computer education
 - Remedial teaching for academically weak students in grades 5–10
 - Internal assessments showing marked improvement in student performance
 - **Skill Training for Women**
 - Vocational training in cutting and tailoring for women and adolescents
 - Focus on women-headed households, backward castes, and low-income groups
 - Training duration: 4 months
 - **Volunteering and Community Engagement**
 - Celebrations of International Yoga Day and International Non Violence Day
 - College students volunteering in educational programs
 - Festivals celebrated with cultural programs and community gatherings
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DETAILS OF MAJOR PROJECTS TILL MARCH 31, 2024

❖ Implementing Nai Talim for Education of Girl Children Studying in North Delhi Municipal Corporation Primary Schools of Delhi

DISHA is implementing Nai Talim education of girl children through the in-school education project in North Delhi Municipal Corporation Primary Schools of Delhi in the academic year 2023-2024. The project was implemented in close collaboration with the Department of Education, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi. The project started after obtaining the required permission Department of Education to carry out the project in two Municipal Corporation Primary Schools: 1) MCPS, Naraina village, shift-1, Naraina and (2) MCPS, J.J. Camp Naraina, shift-I, Inder puri in Karol Bagh zone.



DISHA provided digital education and academic support in Hindi and Math to girl children studying in class 3rd to 5th. The academic support was given to students in the classroom as well as in the digital resource centers for enhancing the quality of education of the students. DISHA also engaged the class teachers by sharing information and outcome of the innovative pedagogy used by DISHA successfully through school curriculum interventions.

Accomplishments from April 2023 to March 2024

Resource support in schools:

DISHA placed school facilitator each in two MCPS schools to provide the academic support to the students. They held regular meetings with the respective class teachers to gather information about the lessons planned by them. Thus, the school facilitators provided academic support in Hindi & Math for 3 days each to two sections from standards 3rd to 5th.



Regular meetings were held with the principals of both the MCPS schools with Program Manager and the facilitators of DISHA. As per their suggestions, the learning-disabled students from standard 3rd to 5th were identified by the school Principals and the class teachers and DISHA provided support by using digital school education courses for standard 3rd to 5th in Hindi and Math using NCERT framework. DISHA helped every student to easily understand topics and perform well in classes. The facilitators took up activity-based learning to help the students revise what the class teachers had taught in the classroom.



DISHA established resource centers in the space allocated by the school. The Teaching-Learning Materials, storybooks and resource materials were placed for the students to use and learn. Students were brought in digital resource centers to carry out activities with the teaching-learning materials. DISHA organized many non-scholastic events as well in the resource centre, including *sulekh*, book reading, poetry recitation competitions, drawing, role play, games, quiz, storytelling and outdoor games. Digital school education courses for standard 3rd to 5th in Hindi and Math were obtained from NCERT. This enabled every student to easily understand the topics, clarify doubts and perform well in classes.

School Curriculum Intervention and Classroom Support:

The two school facilitators from DISHA provided academic support to students in the resource centres. In the schools, the class-wise lesson plans were discussed with the class teachers and modified as per the weekly teaching plans.



Accordingly, the school facilitators provided academic support in standards 3rd to 5th.



Lessons in Hindi and Mathematics through Digital medium

The school facilitators taught through digital lessons based on the available module of NCERT for making the classroom teaching and learning ore interactive in each of the classes to the students of 3rd, 4th, and 5th standards.

This was done on a once-a-day basis to enable students to take more interest in the learning process and get clarity about the lessons. This proved useful as it captured their attention for a longer period and they were able to articulate the answers in an efficient manner. The assessment showed overall progress in the comprehension of students.



The children were also taught about Indian festival like Dussehara, Deepawali and chrismas. And they made good paintings on celebrations of festivals.

Digital Education

Introducing inspiring stories of unsung women warriors

As we celebrate 75 years of India's independence, we also remembered the stories of women forgotten by time, but who's contribution to our freedom movement is ever lasting. Our effort

was to celebrate the lives of some of the women who led the charge and lit the flames of protest and rebellion throughout the country during the Freedom Struggle and mobilized millions of people from every walk of life in protest against the colonial rule.



As part of the Digital education, we brought together the stories published by the Ministry of Culture in the form of pictorial illustrated stories to share with the students. The first in the series was a about Queen Abbakka from Ullal in Goa who nurtured a lifelong ambition of driving away the colonial rulers from the territory which lies in the West coast of Karataka in the later half of the 16th century. With her indomitable spirit she raised the army in rebellion against the Portugese who made several attacks over four decades to capture Ullal as it was strategically placed. For her bravery she known as the fearless queen. As she is regarded as the first woman freedom fighters of India.



The next freedom fighter was about the queen Velu Nachiyar of the Sivaganga Estate in Ramanad in Tamilnadu from 1780-1790. From her childhood she was trained in undertaking combat and was also profieinct in many languages like Hindi, Urdu, English, and French. She fought with the Nawab of Arcot who received patronage from by the East India Company She was the first Indian queen to wage a war with the East India Company in India. The next freedom fighter was about the Jhalkari Bai from Jhansi, who fought against East India company to support Rani Laxmi Bai of Jhansi in 1857.

The students in both the MCPS took great interest and raised questions to understand more about queen Abbakka, queen Velu Nachiar and Jhalkari Bai. They also participated in the question-and-answer sessions enthusiastically.

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Training of children in moral values

Organized UN International Peace Day

‘UN International Peace Day’ 21 September was celebrated with the 5th class children. Children were informed about pollution, global warming, and sanitation.



Children were also taught peace and non-violence and speaking truth, using the childhood story of Gandhi. They were surprised to know that how a shy child like them become a Mahatma applying truth and honesty. Children tried to understand different values like Honesty, Self-Reliance, and punctuality through role-plays, sharing their experiences etc.

Organizing Gandhi Katha

On the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti on 2nd October 2023, a series of Gandhi Katha were organized with the children of class 3rd to 5th. The Children were told about the various aspects of Mahatma Gandhi’s life, work and the independence movement. Topics covered were

Balak Mohan, Chhatra Mohan, Barrister Mohan Das Gandhi, his fight against racial discrimination in South Africa and the contribution of Mahatma Gandhi in the Indian Independence movement. Children were trained to recite the Gandhi Dhun.



Children were taught about peace, non-violence, speaking truth using the childhood story of Mahatma Gandhi. They were surprised to know that how a shy child like them become the Mahatma applying truth and honesty. Quiz competition was also organized on Mahatma Gandhi with children of class 4th and 5th section B and C in MCPS J J Camp Naraina and Naraina village. Children participated enthusiastically in the quiz competition and Prizes were distributed to the winners.



On the occasion of martyrs day on 30th January 2024 children were taught about the contribution of Gandhi ji in the freedom fight of India. Also, on 22nd February the facilitator organized a talk on the contribution of Kasturba Gandhi in the freedom fight of India.

National Unity Day – 31st October 2023

‘National Unity Day’ or ‘Rashtriya Ekta Diwas’ is celebrated in India on 31st October every year throughout the country. The day is celebrated to mark the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, who played a major role in the political integration of India. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was born on 31st October, 1875 in Nadiad district in Gujarat. In accordance with the above campaign, students were taught about the life of Sardar Patel.

Vallabhbhai Patel (31 October 1875 - 15 December 1950), popularly known as Sardar Patel, was an Indian politician. He served as the first Deputy Prime Minister of India. He was an Indian barrister and statesman, a senior leader of the Indian National Congress and a founding father of the Republic of India who played a leading role in the country's struggle for independence and guided its integration into a united, independent nation.



Patel was raised in the countryside of the state of Gujarat. He was a successful lawyer. He subsequently organised peasants from Kheda, Borsad, and Bardoli in Gujarat in non-violent civil disobedience against the British Raj, becoming one of the most influential leaders in Gujarat. His commitment to national integration in the newly independent country was total and uncompromising, earning him the sobriquet "Iron Man of India". He is also remembered as the "patron saint of India's civil servants" for having established the modern all-India services system. He is also called the "Unifier of India". The Statue of Unity, the world's tallest statue, was dedicated to him on 31 October 2018, which is approximately 182 metres in height.



Painting workshop:

DISHA organized training in drawing and painting with the children of class 3rd on the occasion of World Happiness day. Children also made drawings on the symbol of the human chain and different emoji. The paintings were given to the principal for display in School. A painting workshop was organized in December 2023 in MCPS Naraina village-I. The students made beautiful paintings on the theme 'Christmas and New Year 2024 greeting cards. These paintings were displayed in the resource center and some of the paintings were given to the teachers.



Participation in Celebration of Independence Day

DISHA actively participated in the Independence Day celebrations across all four schools. Students were trained in flag-making and were provided with materials to create their own national flags. This activity not only encouraged creativity but also instilled a sense of patriotism among the students.



In addition to flag-making, students performed vibrant dances and engaging plays in the school auditorium, showcasing the spirit of freedom and unity. Their performances were filled with enthusiasm and showcased the cultural diversity of our nation.

The event received an overwhelmingly positive response. Both teachers and students thoroughly enjoyed the performances, appreciating the dedication and talent displayed by the participants.



Education for vulnerable children in Delhi

Alternative Educational Classes

Education is widely recognized as a cornerstone of development. Its role in building human resources cannot be overstated. However, it is not merely the provision of education that matters, but the *relevance* of that education to national development goals. Human resource development contributes meaningfully to economic progress only when the developmental model is inclusive—designed specifically to uplift those in the lower economic strata, rather than reinforcing advantages for those already positioned to benefit from growth.

With this understanding, DISHA established Alternative Educational Classes to support children and adolescents who are unable to thrive in conventional school settings. This includes learners with learning disabilities, psychological or behavioral challenges, and those with advanced or unconventional learning needs.

These alternative classes are structured with broader educational and developmental goals than typical primary education. The curriculum is designed not only to enhance academic performance but also to build self-esteem, nurture individuality, and strengthen social and emotional skills. The flexible structure and administration of these classes allow for a diverse range of teaching methods, enabling a more responsive and inclusive learning environment.

Through these initiatives, DISHA continues to ensure that no child is left behind on the path to meaningful learning and personal growth.



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Digital Education Classes

To complement its Alternative Educational Classes, DISHA introduced digital education **classes** to ensure continued academic support for children who face challenges accessing traditional schooling. During 2023–2024, 32 children participated in these online sessions, which were designed to be engaging, interactive, and responsive to individual learning needs. The digital classes provided structured academic instruction alongside opportunities for emotional and social engagement, helping children stay connected to learning in a consistent and meaningful way.

This initiative not only bridged learning gaps but also promoted digital literacy and confidence among children from underserved communities. DISHA's efforts in this area have laid a strong foundation for future blended learning models that integrate both physical and digital platforms for inclusive education.



Remedial Teaching Support



DISHA's remedial teaching program aims to provide academic support to disadvantaged students from slum communities who struggle to keep pace with regular classroom learning. Students from Classes 5 to 10 who were academically weak received targeted assistance through this initiative. Remedial classes were conducted in two separate batches for boys and girls, held after school hours to avoid disrupting their regular education schedule.

Priority was given to students who found it particularly difficult to cope with classwork and homework, especially in the context of digital learning environments. Through focused academic guidance, regular assessments, and personalized attention, DISHA facilitators helped students strengthen their foundational knowledge and study skills.

As a result, students demonstrated noticeable improvement in their academic performance. Internal assessments conducted by DISHA revealed significant progress in their scores, and many students became more confident in handling their school curriculum. Parents expressed deep appreciation for the dedicated efforts of DISHA's facilitators in helping their children catch up and thrive academically.

Skill Training in Computer Education

To equip young learners with essential digital skills, DISHA conducted a computer training program for 34 students at its Nangal Raya Centre. The participants included 14 boys and 16 girls, all of whom received hands-on training in basic and advanced computer applications.

The course was structured in two phases. The first month focused on the fundamentals of computer hardware, operating systems, MS-DOS, and basic computer concepts. The advanced module covered MS Office Suite, including MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, MS Paint, along with internet browsing, email creation and usage, and data entry operations.

To ensure effective learning, the trainer organized the students into two shifts, allowing for personalized attention and better engagement.

Students showed great enthusiasm and progress. They became proficient in creating visual content using MS Paint, working with MS-DOS, and efficiently using MS Word, Excel, and PowerPoint for everyday tasks. By the end of the course, participants demonstrated strong foundational digital literacy—an essential skill set for further education and employment opportunities.



To facilitate better learning, the trainer divided the students into two shifts, ensuring individual attention and interactive sessions. All students became proficient in using MS Paint and DOS, successfully creating various designs and models in MS Paint. They also showed strong grasp of MS Word, Excel, and PowerPoint, demonstrating their ability to use these tools effectively for basic documentation, data handling, and presentations.

Celebration of Festivals

Students from the Alternative Educational Classes actively participated in celebrating Diwali, Christmas, and New Year, fostering a spirit of joy, togetherness, and cultural understanding.



They organized a lively cultural program, exchanged handmade Christmas and New Year cards, and enjoyed a warm get-together with songs, laughter, and festive treats. These celebrations provided an opportunity for creative expression, social bonding, and the nurturing of shared values among the children.



For this, each child contributed to his or her ability and made this event memorable.



Skill Training for Women

Recognizing the urgent need to support economic recovery within underserved communities, DISHA launched a vocational training program in cutting and tailoring for adolescent girls and young women, following the lifting of the lockdown. The program aimed to equip women with income-generating skills and promote financial independence.

Beneficiaries were identified through a screening process, which included interviews to assess both their socio-economic condition and aptitude for the course. Based on this assessment, the first batch of trainees was enrolled in a four-month structured training program.

The minimum age for participation was set at 18 years and above, with preference given to women from female-headed households, economically weaker sections, and marginalized communities including backward castes.

This initiative not only provided practical skills but also helped boost the self-confidence and agency of women participants, enabling them to explore home-based or small-scale employment opportunities upon completion.



Skill Training in Tailoring

A batch of 20 women from low-income households, facing limited educational and economic opportunities, enrolled in a skill training course in tailoring at Basti Vikas Kendra, located in the Khazan Basti slum, Nangal Raya. The training sessions were conducted daily from 2:00 to 5:00 PM.



The course began with basic hand-stitching techniques, including hemming, making eyeholes, fixing hooks, and sewing buttons. Participants were introduced to the sewing machine, gaining familiarity with its parts, functions, and safe handling. They also learned how to draft patterns on paper, which they practiced by hand before progressing to machine stitching.

As the training advanced, participants developed proficiency in:

- Sewing terminology
- Accurate body measurements
- Advanced machine stitching techniques
- Designing, drafting, and pattern making
- Layout planning and fabric estimation
- Cutting, tailoring, and finishing garments for children, women, and men

By the end of the course, the trainees had acquired a comprehensive set of tailoring skills, empowering them to undertake small tailoring assignments, launch home-based enterprises, or pursue self-employment opportunities. The program successfully laid the groundwork for enhancing their livelihoods and achieving economic self-reliance.



Celebrating International Yoga Day

On the occasion of International Yoga Day, the staff at our Nangal Raya Centre took the initiative to organize a special session promoting health, well-being, and mindfulness. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from the community and was conducted with dedication and joy by our team members.



Simple yoga asanas, breathing techniques, and relaxation practices were introduced, encouraging everyone to make yoga a part of their daily routine. The celebration reflected our commitment to holistic health and the Gandhian principle of balanced living.

New Delhi

Ravi Chopra
Secretary

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