

DISHA

(Society for Rural & Urban Community Development)



Annual Report 2024-2025



Address: 13/88, Block C-4/B, Pocket 13, Flat No. 88 Janakpuri, New Delhi - 110058



OUR MISSION

DISHA's mission is to realize the vision of a society built on social, economic, and educational empowerment of underprivileged sections, fostering grassroots democracy. Our commitment is to eradicate all forms of injustice and discrimination against women and children while building unity and solidarity through peace and justice. To realize our dream, we feel called to join underprivileged communities in their struggle to create a just society through 'Antyodaya' (the awakening of marginalized people) and 'Gram Swarajya' (people's participation in governance).

OBJECTIVES

- Empowering poor women towards self-reliance, gender equality, better health, capacity building, developing leadership qualities, and training in managerial skills through the formation of cooperatives and self-help groups.
- Increasing functional capabilities through non-formal education.
- Introducing experiments and innovations to emphasize vocational education and skill upgradation.
- Developing communication materials, designing training support materials, and utilizing traditional and modern communication media.
- Educating young women and men on issues concerning reproductive health and family planning through community-based initiatives.
- Using effective channels of communication to address problems related to environment, shelter, sanitation, infrastructure, and health.
- Emphasizing human resource development by nurturing local talents and resources with various development skills through training workshops and learning exposures.
- Undertaking case studies related to issues concerning women and children.
- Publishing educational materials including books and handouts for training purposes

ORGANISATION PROFILE

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Administrative Office: Block C-5/D, 6A, Janakpuri, New Delhi - 110058

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Social Media: <https://www.facebook.com/Dishaorganisation> https://twitter.com/Shobhana_Disha

Field Office: Basti Vikas Kendra, Khazan Basti Nangal Raya, New Delhi

Year of Establishment: 1992

Chief Functionary: Ms. Shobhana Radhakrishna

LEGAL IDENTITY

- DISHA is a voluntary organization registered under the Society Registration Act 1860 with registration number S/23467 dated 10.10.1992.
- DISHA is registered under Section 12A of the Income Tax Act, 1961 with registration number AAATD2251LE19923 dated 24.09.2021, and also under 80G (5) (VI) with DIT (Exemptions), 1976 with registration number AAATD2251LF20077 dated 24/09/2021.
- The PAN number of DISHA is AAATD2251L.
- **Name and Address of the Banker:** Bank of Baroda, Kirti Nagar Branch, New Delhi 110015
- **Name and Address of Auditors:** Ram K. Gupta & Associates, Chartered Accountants F-9/12, Ground Floor, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi – 110017 Phone: 011-26677211 (O), 011-26682204 (R)

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

In Delhi: DISHA works in four slum clusters in southwest Delhi.

NAME	LOCATION	Number of families covered
Kanchan Basti Slum	Nangal Raya	210
Rewari line Slum	Mayapuri Phase – II	450
Khazan Basti Slum	Nangal Raya	240
Sabzi Mandi slum	Nangal Raya	150

In Maharashtra: DISHA works in Sevagram Village, Wardha District with 80 families.

- **Information on the objectives and a description of the main activities of the year:**

DISHA is a voluntary organization working for socio-economic development of urban and rural communities. DISHA is inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's ideology of serving the downtrodden, poorest of the poor and marginalized sections by working on peace, justice, human rights, education, health, employment generation and development.

These programs are based on the felt needs of people with an effort to mobilize participation for their individual and community development. DISHA was founded in 1992 and since then these initiatives have helped people on the path of self-reliance, dignity, justice and empowerment.

- **DISHA implemented the following main activities:**

- ❖ Through DISHA, our organization we work in Delhi, Maharashtra and Bihar. Our mission is to light up the lives of underprivileged children, youth, women and their families, empowering them with opportunities for a brighter future and a life of dignity, respect and self-reliance.
- ❖ At its heart, DISHA inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's vision of Gram Swaraj is about reaching out to those who need it the most through peace education for conflict resolution, awareness on preventive health care and hygiene, SHGs and Micro credit programs, skill training and education, and a sense of dignity to adolescents and youth through self-reliance. Our work begins with the belief that everyone deserves access to to a just life, regardless of their circumstances. One of our main programs is for primary school children, for whom we create nurturing environments where learning is joyful and meaningful. Beyond academics, we focus on life skills that help them dream big and prepare for life's challenges.
- ❖ For adolescents and youth, our skill-training programs offer practical tools for employability. From digital literacy to vocational skills, we ensure they are equipped to navigate the modern world with confidence.
- ❖ Our women's empowerment initiatives, on the other hand, support mothers and young women in gaining financial independence through workshops, micro-business training, and health awareness sessions.
- ❖ One of our proudest achievements has been our holistic health awareness programs. These sessions educate families about nutrition, hygiene, and reproductive and mental health, building stronger, healthier communities.
- ❖ For women, by bringing them together in Panchayat level Mahila Shanti Dals we have empowered them to actively participate in governance and many of them have become elected members of the various Panchayats especially in Bihar.
- ❖ What makes this work truly fulfilling is seeing the transformation in lives. A child who once struggled to read now stands tall as a confident learner. A mother who couldn't imagine stepping out of her home now runs her own small business. These small victories remind us why we do what we do.
- ❖ Through DISHA, we are not just changing lives; we are building hope, one family at a time. The smiles of these children and their families inspire us to dream bigger and work harder every day. For us, their success is the true measure of our mission.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Implementing Interactive Program for Education of Children Studying in four Municipal Corporation Primary Schools of Delhi

DISHA is implementing the in-school interactive project for education of children studying in Municipal Corporation primary schools of Delhi in the academic year 2024-2025. 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 four Municipal Corporation Primary Schools:

West zone

1) MCPS {co-education}, Nangal Raya, and 2) MCPS {co-education} Khazan Basti

Karol Bagh zone.

3) MCPS, Naraina village, shift 1, Naraina, and 4) MCPS, J.J. Camp Naraina, shift I, Inder puri



From April 2024 to February 2025, DISHA provided digital education and academic support in Hindi and Math to children studying in class 3rd to 5th. The academic support was given to students in the classroom as well as in the digital resource centres 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 2024 to February 2025

Resource support in schools:

DISHA placed school facilitator each in four 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 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 centres 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 centres 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, story-telling 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 four 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.



Training of Children in Moral Value:

National Unity Day – 31st October 2024

‘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. In India and elsewhere, he was often called Sardar, meaning ‘chief’ in Hindi, Urdu, and Persian. He acted as Home Minister during the political integration of India.



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.

Organising Gandhi Katha

On the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti on 2nd October 2024, 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 Karamchand 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. Children explored five more helpful and peace achieving values called- ORACLE. These are -‘Observe, Restraint, Accept, Celebrate, Love of Labour, and Evolve’. 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 martyr's day on 30th January 2024 children were taught about the contribution of Gandhi ji in the freedom fight of India. The facilitator organised a talk on the contribution of Kasturba Gandhi in the freedom fight of India.

Painting workshop for Student:

DISHA organised training in drawing and painting with the students of class 3rd on the occasion of World Happiness Day. Students 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 organised in December 2024 in MCPS, Naraina village-I. The students made beautiful paintings on the theme 'X-mas and New Year Greeting cards. These paintings were displayed in the resource centre and some of the paintings were given to the teachers.



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 whose 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 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 Karnataka 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 came to be 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 Siva Ganga Estate in Ramanad in Tamil Nādu from 1780-1790. From her childhood she was trained in undertaking combat and was also proficient 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 school facilitators taught through Digital lessons, based on the available module of SCERT to make the classroom teaching and learning interactive to the students of 3-5 standards. This was done on a once-a-day basis to enable students to take interest in the learning process and get clarification about the lesson. This proved useful as it captured their attention for a longer period, and they were able to articulate the answer in an efficient manner. The assessment showed overall progress in the comprehension of the students.

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.

Participation in the celebration of Independence Day:

Flag making by Students



DISHA took the initiative to prepare the students for the Independence Day celebration by organizing various activities, including flag-making workshops, singing patriotic songs, and presenting an engaging program to inform the school about the significance of the day.



These activities not only helped students learn about the importance of Independence Day but also allowed them to actively participate in the celebration, fostering a sense of national pride and unity. Through these efforts, DISHA ensured that the students were well-prepared and involved in the spirit of the occasion."

Hindi Poetry Recitation Camp:

Standard 5 students were taught five poems from Gyan Bharati, which they memorized, recited, wrote in their workbook and presented in special quiz competition. This evoked their interest, enhanced memory, improved handwriting and grammar as well as earned them praise for clear pronunciation. Students participated in activities held by the school through poetry recitation and singing the National Anthem.



Alternative Educational Classes

Education serves as a cornerstone of societal development, playing a crucial role in building human capital. However, the true measure of educational success lies not merely in its provision, but in its practical relevance to developmental goals. Effective human resource development becomes meaningful for economic progress only when educational models are deliberately crafted to uplift marginalized communities rather than simply reinforcing existing advantages for the privileged.

DISHA has developed Alternative Educational Classes as a response to the unique needs of children and adolescents who struggle within conventional educational frameworks. These students may face learning disabilities, psychological and behavioral challenges, or possess exceptional abilities requiring specialized support.

Our alternative educational approach encompasses broader developmental goals than traditional primary education, integrating curriculum components designed to build student confidence, promote personal development, and strengthen interpersonal skills. The program's flexible structure enables diverse educational methodologies and adaptive administration.



Our organization is committed to delivering inclusive and equitable quality education to underserved children, creating pathways for lifelong learning in accordance with UN Sustainable Development Goal 4. We concentrate on two key areas: implementing innovative inclusive education strategies for disadvantaged youth and advocating for universal access to quality education by 2030.

DISHA endeavors to transform young lives by nurturing character development and providing exceptional education through alternative learning environments. Our approach emphasizes cost-effective, high-quality solutions that address fundamental gaps in the educational landscape. We are guided by a simple yet powerful mission: "Every child in school and learning well."

Our educational initiative serves a heterogeneous group of learners, reaching approximately 64 children across three urban slum communities. This diverse student body includes currently enrolled students, those who have left formal schooling, children who have never attended school, and students with special needs. The program prioritizes enabling every child to develop knowledge and competencies through interactive, needs-responsive teaching methods.



DISHA implements cutting-edge educational techniques encompassing customized teaching materials, dramatic arts integration, and multimedia learning tools. These methodologies not only enhance students' creative expression but also cultivate practical and technical capabilities.

Following program resumption in April 2024, students from the Kanchan Basti, Khazan Basti, and Rewari Line communities participate in these educational programs. Qualified educators were recruited to facilitate classes at times established through extensive community engagement. The initiative has demonstrated measurable success in boosting student participation, improving completion rates, increasing family involvement, and enhancing the overall educational experience.



Participating students were strategically grouped based on their existing school commitments and instructed through multi-level, cross-grade methodologies. Educational techniques incorporated narrative learning alongside diverse instructional resources including literature collections, cognitive puzzles, mathematical calculation tools, bilingual alphabet sets, and skill-building games.

International Collaboration – Visit of Swedish Delegation

DISHA's commitment to fostering global educational partnerships reached a significant milestone on February 27th with the highly anticipated visit of a distinguished Swedish delegation. The delegation, led by the Honorable Minister of Education, Sandbyeburg, brought together a remarkable team of 12 educators including Ms. Ulrika Nimstrand, Principal of Gronkulla Skolan School at Sandbyeburg and Ms. Marie Rastborg, an accomplished craft teacher.



The Swedish delegation's engagement with DISHA extended far beyond a ceremonial visit, demonstrating a genuine commitment to educational excellence and cross-cultural learning. The highlight of their visit was the formal inauguration of DISHA's craft and skill centre, a facility that embodies our organization's dedication to providing practical, hands-on learning opportunities for our students. Ms. Marie Rastborg conducted an inspiring craft session with our girls, sharing traditional Swedish techniques while fostering creativity and cultural exchange.



The substantive discussions held during the visit focused on exploring innovative global education models and identifying potential collaborative initiatives that could benefit both organizations. These conversations opened new avenues for future partnerships, including curriculum development projects, and online student educational opportunities. The Swedish delegation's visit has enriched the DISHA's educational offerings while providing our students with valuable exposure to global perspectives and methodologies.

Sevagram Educational Support

During December 2024, DISHA implemented a comprehensive educational support initiative in Sevagram village, demonstrating our continued commitment to enhancing educational opportunities in rural communities. This special program focused on the distribution of essential educational materials, stationery, and sports items to students at Zila Parishad Prathamik Shala, Sevagram (Juni Basti) Village, alongside the distribution of story books to Yashwant Vidhyalaya, Sevagram, Wardha.



The program was designed to address critical gaps in educational resources while promoting holistic development among students. At Zela Parishad Primary School, the distribution encompassed a wide range of materials including notebooks, writing instruments, learning aids, and sports equipment. This comprehensive approach recognized the importance of both academic and physical development in children's overall growth. The sports items were particularly significant in encouraging physical activity, teamwork, and healthy lifestyle habits among the young students.

Simultaneously, our initiative at Yashwant Vidhyalaya focused specifically on literacy enhancement through the distribution of age-appropriate story books. This targeted approach aimed to cultivate a reading culture among students while improving their language skills, imagination, and cognitive development. The provision of story books represents our understanding that reading forms the foundation of lifelong learning and critical thinking abilities.



The success of these programs was significantly enhanced by the presence of distinguished guests and community leaders. Shri Gajanand Andulkar Bhai from Sevagram served as the chief guest, providing valuable community endorsement and support for the educational initiatives. His participation underscored the importance of local leadership in educational development and strengthened the connection between DISHA's efforts and community needs.

Dr. Shobhana Radhakrishna, Chief of DISHA, personally oversaw the program implementation, demonstrating the organization's high-level commitment to educational equity in rural areas. Her presence ensured that the distribution activities were conducted with appropriate recognition of their significance for the beneficiary students. Mr. Ramesh Kumar from DISHA provided essential coordination support, facilitating smooth program execution and community engagement.

The active participation of both school principals was instrumental in the program's success. Their presence during the distribution ceremonies not only facilitated efficient program implementation but also demonstrated their dedication to their students' educational advancement. This collaborative approach between DISHA, educational institutions, and local leadership created a supportive environment that maximized the program's impact.



The immediate impact of these educational support programs was evident in the enhanced access to learning resources for students at both institutions. Students who previously lacked adequate stationery and educational materials now had the tools necessary for effective learning. The sports equipment provided opportunities for physical development and recreation, contributing to students' overall well-being and school engagement.

Beyond the immediate material benefits, the program fostered stronger community partnerships in education. The collaboration between DISHA, local schools, and community leaders created a model for sustainable educational support that can be replicated in other rural communities. The initiative also reinforced the importance of reading culture through story book distribution, potentially inspiring a new generation of enthusiastic readers.

This Sevagram Educational Support Program aligns perfectly with DISHA's mission to provide equitable access to quality education for all children, particularly those in underserved rural communities. The positive community response and strong participation from local dignitaries validate the program's relevance and effectiveness in meeting real educational needs in rural settings, establishing a foundation for continued educational support initiatives in Sevagram and similar communities.

Promoting Japanese Culture and Art

DISHA in collaboration with the Embassy of Japan in Delhi hold the following events:

1) EVENT TITLE: JAPANESE PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION AND CULTURAL SESSIONS IN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS OF DELHI.

Organized by: DISHA, Embassy of Japan in Delhi and SWYAA-India

Event Dates: Wednesday, 18th September, and Friday, 20th September 2024



The Japan Embassy in Delhi celebrated Japan Month in September-October 2024. DISHA took an active part in bringing the beauty and essence of Japan to young minds in municipal schools through Japanese Photographic Exhibition and Cultural Sessions. The exhibitions provided by Japan Cultural Centre depicted various facets of Japanese life and a display was held in two primary schools of Delhi, in collaboration with the Department of Education, Municipal Corporation of Delhi.



The goal of the event was to foster stronger cultural ties between India and Japan while providing an engaging and educational experience for students.

Location: Municipal Corporation Primary Schools, Southwest Delhi

1. MCP School Nangal Raya, New Delhi
2. MCP School Khazan Basti, Mayapuri, New Delhi

The events were a part of the larger framework to enhance people-to-people connections between India and Japan, with a focus on cultural exchange and fostering global understanding among students. The initiative aimed to introduce primary school students (from classes 3 to 5), their teachers, and parents to Japan's rich heritage and cultural diversity. Through an immersive photo exhibition and engaging cultural activities, the students were given an opportunity to explore and appreciate Japan's traditions and values.



Event Highlights:

- **Participation:**

A total of 640 students from both schools enthusiastically participated in the event.

- **Exhibition Content:**

The exhibition featured 40 photographs taken by Indian visitors to Japan, capturing various facets of Japanese life, including:

- Traditional architecture
- Japanese landscapes
- Japan-India relations
- Japanese culture, crafts, shrines, and temples
- The four distinctive seasons of Japan
- Japanese technology and innovation

These photographs were provided by the Embassy of Japan in Delhi and served as a captivating visual journey for the students, offering glimpses of Japan's past, present, and future.

Cultural Activities:

Alongside the photo exhibition, interactive sessions were organized to further immerse the students and teachers in Japanese culture. These hands-on activities included:

- **Painting Doraemon:** Students expressed their creativity by painting the beloved Japanese character.
- **Origami making:** Students learned the traditional Japanese art of paper folding, creating cranes, fish, and other shapes.
- **Chopstick etiquette:** A fun and educational demonstration on how to use chopsticks while eating.

- **Classroom cleaning games:** A playful introduction to the Japanese practice of self-cleaning classrooms, encouraging responsibility and teamwork.
- **Exploring Japanese culture through photos:** Students explored Japanese landmarks, festivals, and daily life through captivating visuals, enriching their understanding of the country.



Feedback:

The events received widespread appreciation from students, teachers, and parents alike. The principal of MCP School in Nangal Raya, New Delhi remarked, *"We're thrilled to share Japanese culture with our students. Our goal is to foster global understanding and friendship through cultural exchange."*

One of the parents, Mrs. Kavita Kaushik, who attended the exhibition, was so inspired by the event that she created a **YouTube clip** showcasing the highlights of the exhibition. The video can be viewed [here](https://youtu.be/XSwTHfbV05Q?si=U5hF7qdlWvCdMIJe). (<https://youtu.be/XSwTHfbV05Q?si=U5hF7qdlWvCdMIJe>)

Conclusion:

The dedication and hard work of the **DISHA team** in organizing these events were truly commendable. The success of the exhibition and cultural sessions highlights the significance of such initiatives in promoting global awareness and cultural exchange among young students.

2) EVENT TITLE: "HOPE FOR PEACE" – 1000 ORIZURU CRAFTED BY PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN MEMORY OF SADAKO SASAKI

Event Dates: Monday, 2nd September to Wednesday, 18th September 2024

Location: Municipal Corporation Primary Schools, West Delhi

As part of the Japan Month celebrations held in September-October 2024, DISHA, in collaboration with the Embassy of Japan in Delhi, organized a tribute to Sadako Sasaki, the young girl who famously folded 1000 paper cranes (Orizuru) as a symbol of peace following the tragic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This initiative was carried out across four municipal primary schools in West Delhi, in partnership with the Department of Education, Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD).



The event aimed to introduce primary school students to the Japanese legend of the Orizuru, which signifies longevity and the fulfilment of a wish when 1000 cranes are folded. This ancient practice serves as a powerful message of hope and peace, deeply connected to Sadako Sasaki's legacy.

Event Locations:

The following schools in West Delhi participated in the event:

1. MCP School, Nangal Raya, New Delhi
2. MCP School, Khazan Basti, Mayapuri, New Delhi
3. MCP School, Naraina Village (Shift 1), New Delhi
4. MCP School, J.J. Camp, Inderpuri (Shift 1), New Delhi

Activities Conducted:

- **Origami Workshops:** DISHA facilitated workshops in each school, where students learned the art of Origami and folded paper cranes as part of the 1000 Orizuru tribute.
- **Cultural Education:** Students were introduced to the legend of the paper cranes, learning about the deep cultural significance attached to them and how they serve as a universal symbol of peace and hope.





Significance:

This event was a vital component of the broader Japan Month celebrations, aiming to enhance cultural exchange and strengthen people-to-people ties between India and Japan. By engaging young students in this hands-on activity, the program sought to foster global understanding and instil values of peace and unity through a unique and meaningful tradition.

The event successfully linked the cultural heritage of Japan with the educational experience of Indian students, creating a memorable and lasting impression on the participants.



NATIONAL CONFERENCE AT SEVAGRAM FOR GANDHIAN CONSTRUCTIVE WORKERS (K.S.RADHAKRISHNA JI'S BIRTH CENTENARY CELEBRATION)

9-11 NOVEMBER 2024

The National Conference held in Sevagram was a heartfelt tribute to Shri K.S. Radhakrishna, on his birth centenary. A Gandhian to his core, he dedicated his life to propagating the values of truth, nonviolence, Nai Talim, Sarvodaya, Satyagraha and constructive work as envisioned by Mahatma Gandhi. His focus remained always on mentoring the second generation of Gandhian constructive workers and lending a helping hand to all his colleagues and associates from the Gandhian fraternity. This National Conference was not just a celebration of his legacy but also a space for reflection on the relevance of Gandhian thought in today's world.



The purpose of the conference was threefold. First, it aimed to honor the tireless efforts of Radhakrishna ji in promoting Gandhian principles through the premier Gandhian organisations headed by him including the Hindustani Talimi Sangh, Nai Talim Samiti, Sarva Seva Sangh, Gandhi Peace Foundation and Gandhi Peace Centre which he founded in 1979. Second, it sought to rekindle interest in Gandhian values among young minds and inspire them to work for societal harmony, sustainable development, and grassroots change through training, mentoring and setting up Gandhian organisations. Lastly, the conference provided a platform for scholars, practitioners, and enthusiasts to discuss the contemporary application of Gandhi's ideas, especially in the context of challenges like Gram Swaraj, Basic education, Peace missions, environmental degradation, Panchayati Raj, empowerment of women, conflict resolution, and rural reconstruction to name a few.

Sevagram, being the heart of Gandhiji's constructive work, was a fitting venue as Radhakrishna ji's five decades of dedicated Gandhian work as one of the main pillars of the post Gandhi Sarvodaya movement had begun in 1946 from Gandhiji's abode in Sevagram. At a young age of 24, an Alumnus of the prestigious Banaras Hindu University having a master's degree in industrial chemistry headed for Sevagram Ashram to heed Gandhi's call to students to work for freedom and emancipation of the 'Daridranarayan' of the country.

The serene surroundings of the Sevagram Ashram reminded us of the simplicity and clarity that defined his vision during the National Conference held from 9-11 November 2024. As we shared stories of his

life's work, the air was filled with warmth, gratitude, and inspiration. This centenary celebration was not merely an event but a reminder of the enduring power of Gandhi's ideals, nurtured and upheld by individuals like him. It left all of us with a sense of responsibility to continue the work he championed with love, humility, and conviction.

DISHA inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's vision of Gram Swaraj is about reaching out to those who need it the most through peace education for conflict resolution, awareness on preventive health care and hygiene, SHGs and Micro credit programs, skill training and education, and a sense of dignity to adolescents and youth through self-reliance.



Venue: Dharmadhikari Auditorium, Yatri Niwas, Sewagram, Wardha, Maharashtra

The Birth Centenary Celebration of K.S. Radhakrishna ji (1924-1994) has been an inspiring journey, beginning in 2022 and culminating in a heartfelt National Conference at the historic Sevagram Ashram in November 2024.

A Grand Beginning in 2022

The celebrations were initiated in the third quarter of 2022, bringing together associates and mentees of Radhakrishna ji from across the globe.

These individuals, who were deeply influenced by his Gandhian philosophy and life's work, presented online sessions showcasing their organizational contributions and the impact of his mentorship.

Regional Conferences in 2023-24

During 2023-24, three impactful state-level regional conferences were held in Tirupati, Odisha, and Jodhpur, each highlighting Radhakrishna ji's vision of Nai Talim, Sarvodaya, Satyagraha, Gram Swaraj, and rural reconstruction. These events served as a prelude to the Sewagram National Conference.

Curtain Raiser Event at IGNCA

On 7th October 2024, as a curtain raiser to the National Conference, the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) under the Ministry of Culture organized a prestigious 'Lokarpan' ceremony.

During this event, the Hindi translation of the book on K.S. Radhakrishna ji, written by his daughter Dr. Shobhana Radhakrishna, was released.

The event was presided over by Shri Ram Bahadur Rai, an eminent journalist, Gandhian, and a close associate of Radhakrishna ji since the 1970s.



This occasion underscored the enduring relevance of Radhakrishna ji's work and philosophy in contemporary India.

National Conference at Sewagram (9-11 November 2024)

The National Conference, held at Yatri Niwas, Sewagram, was a historic gathering, graced by Gandhian leaders, rural development practitioners, sustainability advocates, and admirers of Radhakrishna ji. Set against the iconic backdrop of Sewagram Ashram, where Radhakrishna ji's public life began in 1946, the conference celebrated his five decades of dedicated service to the nation on the Gandhian path.



The event featured thought-provoking sessions, collaborative workshops, and inspiring addresses by national and international figures. Participants revisited his immense contributions to Gandhian

organisations like Sewagram Ashram, Hindustani Talimi Sangh, Nai Talim Samiti, Sarva Seva Sangh, Gandhian Institute of Studies, Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, Gandhi Peace Foundation, Avarad , Gandhi Peace Centre and all most all the Gandhian Organizations nationally and Internationally across India and abroad, propagating the Gandhian values, deep involvement in Acharya Vinoba Bhave's Bhoodan movement, association with Jayaprakash Narayan (JP) for Gramdan, Peace Missions, Bangladesh, Total Revolution and restoring democracy, refugee rehabilitation and education in Punjab and coastal Andhra Pradesh, environmental conservation by setting up the , mentoring and supporting youth leadership and setting up eighty nine Gandhian organisations Gandhian rural reconstruction.



This three-day celebration was a testament to the enduring impact of K.S. Radhakrishna ji's Gandhian legacy and a call to action for the younger generation to carry forward his mission of service and sustainability. The inaugural session of the conference began on a soulful and serene note with Gandhiji's favorite bhajans sung by Shri Gajanan bhai Ambulakar, the senior most student of Nai Talim who filled the room with spiritual melodies, followed by a heartfelt rendition by Smt. Angaha Ranade. Smt. Ranade's performance carried a personal touch, as her father-in-law, a devoted student of Radhakrishna ji, had mastered the art of Ambar Charkha spinning and become a respected teacher in the Gandhian tradition.

The welcome address was delivered by Dr. Shobhana Radhakrishna, daughter of Radhakrishna ji and herself a product of Nai Talim education in Sewagram. Her warm words set the tone for a day steeped in nostalgia, inspiration, and camaraderie. The keynote address was delivered by Shri Gautam Bhai Bajaj, who reminisced about his cherished memories with Radhakrishna ji and Kamala Behn throughout their lives. His reflections offered a glimpse into the enduring values of the Gandhian family.

A particularly moving address was delivered by Shri Shirshir Bajaj, Chairman of the Kamalnayan Bajaj Foundation, who spoke passionately about his grandfather, Jamnalal Bajaj's contributions to the Gandhian movement, through constructive programs focusing on agriculture, water management, and rural empowerment in Wardha. He also highlighted the meaningful association between his family and Dr. Shobhana Radhakrishna.

Other distinguished speakers included Dr Gita Dharmapal, from Gandhi Teerth Jalgoan, and the daughter of Dharampal ji who remained a close friend of Radhakrishna ji throughout his life, Shri Ramesh Bhaiyya from the Vinoba Sewa Ashram, Er. Prabhakar Pusodkar, Secretary of Nai Talim Samiti, Shri Ashwini Kumar Midha of SSMI, New Delhi, Shri Ashwini Adoke and Shri Sanket Adoke, representing the

Sangam Training Program in Sewagram. Each speaker enriched the audience with their insights and experiences, weaving a beautiful tapestry of Gandhian ideals.

Dr Gita Dharampal recited a charming poem on both Radhakrishna ji and Dharmapal ji and their lifelong association as the doer and the thinker.



a fellow student of Nai Talim, joined Dr. Shobhana Radhakrishna in a mock interview. Together, they shared endearing anecdotes of their days at the Nai Talim School in Sewagram Ashram, leaving the audience smiling and inspired. Adding a creative touch to the conference, participants received handmade white conference bags, each left blank for personal expression. Guided by the theme of the event, they used fabric paints to adorn their bags with vibrant designs. This collaborative activity fostered creativity, camaraderie, and a sense of shared purpose. The day culminated in an exhibition of these beautifully painted bags, symbolizing unity through art.

As the sun set, the participants gathered for the serene Sarva Dharma Prarthana at the Prarthana Bhoomi in front of the Bapu Kuti at Sewagram Ashram. The peaceful ambiance and the collective prayers underlined the timeless message of harmony and inclusivity, marking a perfect conclusion to a memorable first day. With hearts full of inspiration and a renewed commitment to Gandhian values, the participants eagerly looked forward to the days ahead.



The third day of the conference began with a heartfelt and nostalgic visit by Dr. Shobhana Radhakrishna to the Sewagram Juni Basti (Shegaon) retracing the footsteps of her childhood at the Nai Talim School, where both she and her brother Chandrahas had studied. The school evoked fond memories of Gandhian education. Now this school runs under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. Ms. Meena Kashyap and Shri Ashwini Kumar Midha accompanied her. They also visited the historic location of Adya Adi Kuti and the Panchayat Bhawan, immersing themselves in the vibrant legacy of Sewagram. There was a group soulful singing Kakad Arati and they followed them to the temple in the village.

The community's reverence for their legacy was evident, and they earnestly requested Dr. Shobhana to initiate a program in Sewagram in honor of her parents. Their commitment and support filled the atmosphere with hope and determination. This brief yet impactful two-hour interaction inspired many community members to participate in the third day's session, where they shared their admiration and respect for Radhakrishna Guruji and Kamala Bhabhi.

Valedictory Session

The Valedictory session began on a melodious and unifying note as the audience sang Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore's iconic song 'Ekla Cholo Re' together, setting an uplifting tone. The session was gracefully conducted by Shri S.C. Barmma and Shri Ashwini Kumar Midha. The distinguished speakers included Shri Vijay Tambe, Secretary of Sewagram Ashram Pratishthan, Shri Parameshwar Barik of the Rural Development Foundation, Balasore, Odisha. Joining them were Shri Roshanlal of GRAVIS, Shri Dileep Shinde of Sewagram Jooni Basti, and descendants of Radhakrishna Guruji's students and Smt. Meena Sagar of Sewagram Jooni Basti.



Other esteemed guests included Shri Prashant Sathianathan, lawyer and former student of the Nai Talim School, and the son of Sathianathan Guruji and Shantisheela Behen—both centenarians who were cherished colleagues of Radhakrishna ji. In the same session, Ms. Indira Mukherjee, a famous storyteller captivated the audience with a beautifully narrated folk tale, while her mother Smt. Sandhya Mukherjee spoke with warmth and affection about their close association with Kamala Behen and Radhakrishna ji. The session also welcomed short interactions with from Shri Namdev Dhole, Shri Sachin Hude (descendants of Radhakrishna ji's students), Shri Salil Dave, Smt. Franzisca Kratz, special guests from Bhopal. Ms Franzisca, a German National shared her experience of being a Reiki Master and how to overcome haste, anger and depression. Shri Ramesh Kumar, Gandhian Forum, Shri Ravi Chopra, DISHA, and Ms. Meena Kaushik, from the Radhakrishna Foundation. Each speaker brought their unique perspective and heartfelt memories, enriching the day's proceedings.



The day concluded on a decisive and forward-looking note. It was unanimously agreed to reactivate the Vikas Vahini program, a cherished initiative of Radhakrishna ji, and to launch a community-based program in Sewagram as the next step. This resolution symbolized a renewed commitment to carrying forward the Gandhian ideals championed by Radhakrishna Guruji and Kamala Bhabhi.

Skill Training for Women to be Self-Reliant

Akshaya Dhaaga Project - Professional Skill Training in Tailoring

Duration: Three-Months

Supported by: Akshaya Shakti Welfare Association

Locations: Nangal Raya, Delhi and Sevagram, Wardha, Maharashtra

Starting dates: Delhi: 27th February 2025

Sevagram : 3rd March 2025



The tailoring skill development program was initiated to empower women and youth by equipping them with employable skills in fashion technology and garment-making through a three-month course based on the syllabus provided by the Akshaya Dhaga program. This initiative, conducted by DISHA Society and supported by Akshaya Shakti Welfare Association, aims to foster financial independence and self-reliance, especially among underprivileged communities.

Program Overview

Location	Duration	No. of Trainees	Trainers	Modules Covered
Nangal Raya, New Delhi	3 months	25	1	Basics of tailoring, cutting, stitching, machine handling, fashion basics
Sevagram, Wardha, Maharashtra	3 months	25	1	Basics of tailoring, cutting, stitching, machine handling, fashion basics

Akshaya Shakti Welfare Association generously provided 10 Singer Deluxe sewing machines to each location, 25 sewing kits, striped cloth, honorarium for trainers, and coordination expenses.



DISHA Society provided the training spaces, manpower for coordination, trainees, trainers, audio-visual equipment, stationery, and other ancillary materials, along with constant monitoring to ensure quality learning, soft skills development, and counselling.

Key Deliverables /Training Methods:

1. 75 Sessions with 150 hours course (2 hours a day) – Monday to Saturday
2. 25 Women per batch
3. Practical hands-on machine
4. Practical hands-on sessions\
5. Weekly assessments
6. Guest lectures by local entrepreneurs
7. Field visits to garment factory



Inauguration:

- DISHA organized inaugural functions at Nangal Raya on 24th February and Sevagram on 5th March. The events were graced by Smt. Neelam Khurana, President of RWA, C-6 Block Janakpuri, a prominent social worker, and principals, teachers, and skill training experts from Glokenscholan, Norway. At Sevagram, Smt. Juni Bast and Smt. Mary Sathianathan, notable social workers from Nagpur, inaugurated the program in the presence of distinguished Gandhians from Mahatma Gandhi's Ashram, Wardha, accompanied by wide newspaper coverage.
- Trainers attended an interaction session at Okhla with Shri Anshul Kumar, proprietor of Uniformiti garment factory, to gain insights on trade, marketing, counselling, and expert tailoring tips. During the last week, Shri Anshul ji provided online guidance for further linkages and placement opportunities.



- The entire program was directed, guided, and closely monitored under the leadership of Dr. Shobhana Radhakrishna, Chief Executive of DISHA. On DISHA's behalf, Shri Ramesh

Kumar (Project Manager), Rakhi and Pratibha (Supervisors), local influencers Sangeeta Chauvan and Dilip Chauvan, and Smt. Neeta Patil from Akshaya Dhaga provided dedicated support.

- Fashion Show
- Exhibition of garments
- Closure- Nangalraya Centre, Delhi - February 27- May 23,2025
-Sevagram Centre Wardha- March 03- 02 June, 2025

Summary of Beneficiaries:

- Total beneficiaries trained: 50
- Trainees placed in jobs/units: Yet to be placed
- Trainees starting home-based businesses: 18
- Certification issuance: Pending for all participants
- Entrepreneurship counselling provided: 50 beneficiaries

Road Awareness Program Report

Organized by: DISHA

Venue: Basti Vikas Kendra, Nangal Raya Centre, Delhi

Target Audience: Total 62 students across three programs

Program Schedule

Program	Duration	Resource Person	Participants
First Program	April 4-6, 2024	Ms. Gayatri	20 students
Second Program	March 3-4, 2025	Ms. Seema Sharma	22 students
Third Program	March 7-8, 2025	Ms. Manju	20 students
Total	3 Programs		62 students



Program Overview

DISHA successfully conducted three comprehensive Road Awareness Programs at Basti Vikas Kendra, Nangal Raya Centre, Delhi, reaching a total of 62 students across different batches. These programs aimed to educate students about road safety measures, traffic rules, and responsible behavior on roads to reduce accidents and promote safer communities.

Program Objectives

The programs focused on educating students about fundamental traffic rules and regulations governing road usage in India. Students were taught to recognize traffic signs, signals, and road markings essential for safe navigation. The programs emphasized pedestrian safety, including proper crossing techniques, awareness of blind spots, and understanding traffic patterns. Each resource person conducted interactive sessions covering the dangers of distracted walking, importance of designated pedestrian crossings, and situational awareness while on roads.

Key Learning Outcomes

Students across all three programs demonstrated significant improvement in understanding road safety principles. Participants learned to identify critical traffic signs and their meanings, gained awareness about following traffic lights and right-of-way rules at intersections. They acquired practical knowledge about safe crossing techniques, understanding the dangers of mobile phone use while crossing roads, and developed better awareness of how weather conditions and time of day affect safety requirements.

Program Activities

All three programs incorporated engaging activities to reinforce learning including interactive demonstrations of proper crossing techniques and visibility in different lighting conditions. Students participated in role-playing exercises to understand different road user perspectives. The resource persons organized quiz sessions to test knowledge of traffic rules and safety practices, discussions about real-life scenarios and case studies of road accidents and used visual aids such as traffic sign charts and safety equipment demonstrations.

Impact and Feedback

The programs received positive feedback from students and staff at Basti Vikas Kendra. Students showed increased road safety awareness and better understanding of traffic rules during post-program assessments. Many participants expressed commitment to sharing their knowledge with family members and friends, extending the programs' impact. The interactive teaching methodology employed by Ms. Gayatri, Ms. Seema Sharma, and Ms. Manju was particularly appreciated for making complex traffic rules easier to understand and remember.

Conclusion

The Road Awareness Programs conducted by DISHA were valuable educational initiatives that successfully enhanced students' understanding of road safety across three different sessions. The expertise and engaging teaching methods of all three resource persons contributed significantly to the programs' effectiveness. The positive response from participants and demonstrated improvement in their road safety knowledge indicate that such programs are essential for building safer communities and reducing road accidents among young people.

RCH Adolescent Training Program Report

Organized by: DISHA

Venue: Basti Vikas Kendra, Nangal Raya Centre, Delhi

Duration: August 8-10, 2024

Resource Person: Ms. Manisha Tirkey

Target Audience: 28 Adolescent Girls

The three-day RCH (Reproductive and Child Health) Adolescent Training Program was successfully conducted from August 8-10, 2024, at Basti Vikas Kendra, Nangal Raya Centre, Delhi. This comprehensive program aimed to educate adolescent girls about reproductive health, personal hygiene, nutrition, and overall well-being during their developmental years. The program focused on providing essential reproductive and child health knowledge in an age-appropriate manner. Ms. Manisha Tirkey conducted interactive sessions covering menstrual hygiene management, understanding bodily changes during adolescence, and promoting healthy lifestyle practices. Activities included demonstrations of proper hygiene practices, group discussions on nutrition, role-playing exercises for communication skills, and educational sessions on self-care and stress management.



Outcomes and Impact

Participants demonstrated significant improvement in understanding reproductive health concepts. The girls gained comprehensive knowledge about menstrual hygiene management, nutritional requirements during adolescence, and awareness about reproductive health rights. They developed better confidence in discussing health-related issues and learned to recognize warning signs requiring medical attention. The program received overwhelmingly positive feedback from participants and staff. The interactive and non-judgmental approach created a comfortable learning environment, with participants expressing gratitude for receiving accurate information that dispelled myths and misconceptions.

Conclusion

The RCH Adolescent Training Program successfully addressed critical health education needs of adolescent girls. Ms. Manisha Tirkey's expertise and sensitive approach contributed significantly to the program's effectiveness, empowering participants with essential life skills and knowledge for healthy development.

Computer Skills Training Program Report

Venue: DISHA Basti Vikas Kendra, Nangal Raya Centre, Delhi

Trainer: Mrs. Meena Kaushik

Training Period:

- First Batch: July – October 2024
 - Second Batch: December 2024 – March 2025
- Total Participants:** 15 students per batch (Total: 30 students)

Program Overview: DISHA conducted two comprehensive Computer Skills Training Programs to equip youth with essential digital competencies and enhance their employability. Held at Basti Vikas Kendra in Delhi, the initiative aimed to empower students through foundational computer education in a supportive learning environment.



Key Learning Areas: Participants received hands-on training in:

- Introduction to computer fundamentals (hardware and software)
- Typing and data entry practice
- Use of Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
- Internet browsing, email communication, and basic cybersecurity
- Digital etiquette and responsible online behavior

Impact and Achievements

- Participants showed remarkable improvement in computer proficiency and confidence.
- Students became adept at creating documents, managing spreadsheets, and making presentations.
- Many gained motivation to pursue higher studies or explore digital career options.



Feedback and Experience: Participants appreciated Mrs. Meena Kaushik's clear teaching style and the interactive format of the sessions. The positive and encouraging atmosphere helped students engage deeply with the material and enhance their learning outcomes.

Conclusion: The Computer Skills Training Program proved to be a significant step in promoting digital inclusion and preparing students for academic and professional challenges. DISHA's commitment to skill development and inclusive education was effectively reflected through this initiative.

Digital Literacy Training Programs Report

Venue: Basti Vikas Kendra, Nangal Raya Centre, Delhi

Resource Person: Mrs. Harvinder Kaur

Dates:

- First Training: 3–8 February 2025
 - Second Training: 17–22 February 2025
- Total Participants:** 14 students in each batch

Program Overview: DISHA successfully conducted two Digital Literacy Training Programs in February 2025 to equip youth with essential computer skills and foundational digital awareness. Hosted at the Basti Vikas Kendra, Nangal Raya Centre, Delhi, the initiative aimed at bridging the digital divide and empowering students with practical knowledge of technology.

Training Highlights: Each six-day training module focused on:

- Basic computer operations (hardware & software)
- Introduction to internet usage and online safety
- Familiarization with Microsoft Office tools (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
- Hands-on practice with typing, browsing, and online applications
- Interactive sessions on digital etiquette and responsible online behavior

Mrs. Harvinder Kaur, a seasoned educator, facilitated the sessions through a blend of demonstrations, guided practice, and group activities that fostered a supportive learning environment.

Impact and Outcomes:

- All 28 participants displayed significant improvement in computer literacy and confidence in handling digital tools.
- Students demonstrated proficiency in basic tasks like document creation, using browsers, and sending emails.
- The program fostered greater digital inclusivity and readiness for further learning or employment opportunities.

Feedback and Recognition: Participants expressed enthusiasm and appreciation for the approachable teaching style and personalized guidance. Many regarded the training as a turning point in their engagement with technology and its relevance to daily life and future aspirations.

Conclusion: These trainings marked a meaningful step toward digital empowerment at the grassroots level. DISHA's commitment to inclusive education was furthered through structured learning, skill development, and fostering curiosity in young minds.



Environmental Awareness and Tree Plantation Drive

DISHA successfully conducted a comprehensive tree plantation drive in Sevagram village, Wardha district, Maharashtra, as part of our commitment to environmental sustainability and community development. This initiative was designed to address the pressing need for increased green cover in rural areas while fostering environmental awareness among local communities. The choice of Sevagram, a historically significant village associated with Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of sustainable living, provided an ideal backdrop for this meaningful environmental intervention that aligned with principles of ecological responsibility and community participation.



The tree plantation drive was executed through a collaborative approach that emphasized community ownership and participation. Local residents, including farmers, women, students, and village leaders, actively participated in the plantation activities, ensuring the initiative's success and sustainability. Over 200 saplings of indigenous tree species were carefully selected and planted across designated areas within the village, including common lands, and roadside locations. The selection of native species ensured better survival rates and ecological compatibility with the local environment. Community members were trained in proper planting techniques, watering schedules, and ongoing care requirements to maximize the survival and growth of the planted saplings.

The tree plantation drive has created a foundation for long-term environmental benefits that will positively impact the local ecosystem and community well-being. The planted saplings are expected to contribute significantly to carbon sequestration, soil conservation, and biodiversity enhancement in the region. Additionally, the initiative has raised environmental consciousness among village residents, creating a ripple effect that extends beyond the immediate plantation activities. The success of this community-driven approach has established a model for future environmental initiatives, with plans to expand the program to neighbouring villages and create a network of green spaces throughout the district. Regular monitoring and maintenance schedules have been established to ensure the healthy growth of the planted trees and to document the measurable environmental impact over time.

Training At-Risk Adolescents on Trauma-Informed Education in Delhi

Recognizing the critical need to address mental health challenges among vulnerable youth, DISHA implemented a specialized training program focused on trauma-informed education for at-risk adolescents in Delhi. This initiative was designed to tackle the growing concerns surrounding emotional well-being and mental health issues that significantly impact adolescents' academic performance and personal development.

The program's primary objectives centered on equipping young people with essential skills in resilience building, stress management, and self-care practices, acknowledging that many at-risk adolescents face complex psychological and social challenges that require specialized intervention and support.



The implementation strategy involved conducting specialized workshops specifically tailored for at-risk adolescents across various locations in Delhi. These comprehensive training sessions focused on three core areas: trauma-informed education approaches, emotional intelligence development, and self-regulation techniques. The workshops were carefully structured to create safe learning environments where participants could explore their emotional responses, understand trauma's impact on learning and behavior, and develop practical skills for managing difficult emotions and situations.

Through interactive sessions, group discussions, and experiential learning activities, the program provided adolescents with tools to recognize their emotional triggers, practice healthy coping strategies, and build stronger emotional resilience.

The program achieved significant impact by successfully training over 40 adolescent girls at DISHA centre New Delhi in December 2024, helping them develop effective coping mechanisms for both personal and academic challenges. Participants demonstrated improved emotional regulation, better stress management capabilities, and enhanced self-awareness following the training sessions. The program's success highlights the importance of trauma-informed approaches in educational settings and demonstrates DISHA's commitment to holistic youth development that prioritizes mental health and emotional well-being as fundamental components of educational support.

Yoga Training Classes

DISHA introduced specialized yoga training classes for students enrolled in our alternative educational programs at the Nangal Raya center in New Delhi, recognizing the vital role of physical and mental wellness in holistic education. This initiative was designed to complement the academic curriculum by providing students with tools for stress management, improved concentration, and overall well-being. The program acknowledged that many students in alternative education settings face unique challenges that can be addressed through mindfulness practices and physical wellness activities, making yoga an essential component of their comprehensive educational experience.



The yoga training sessions were expertly conducted by Ms. Pooja and Mrs. Reenu Verma, who brought their specialized knowledge and experience to create age-appropriate and engaging yoga practices for the students. These dedicated instructors tailored their teaching methods to suit the diverse learning needs of alternative education students, incorporating breathing exercises, gentle physical postures, and mindfulness techniques that could be easily integrated into daily routines. The classes were structured to be accessible and inclusive, ensuring that all students, regardless of their physical abilities or previous yoga experience, could participate meaningfully and benefit from the practice.



The yoga training program demonstrated significant positive impact on participating students, contributing to improved focus, reduced anxiety, and enhanced emotional regulation among the alternative education cohort. Students reported better sleep patterns, increased self-awareness, and improved ability to manage stress related to their academic and personal challenges. The program's success highlighted the importance of incorporating wellness practices into educational settings, particularly for vulnerable student populations. This initiative reinforced DISHA's commitment to addressing not only academic needs but also the physical and emotional well-being of students, creating a more supportive and nurturing learning environment that promotes holistic development and long-term success.

International Women's Day Celebrations

DISHA Society commemorated International Women's Day 2025 with great enthusiasm and purpose, organizing empowering celebrations at both our Delhi and Sewagram centres on March 8th, 2025. The event brought together 60 students from the Women's Skill Training Centres across both locations to honor the strength, resilience, and creativity of women while fostering a spirit of unity and empowerment. This celebration served as a platform to recognize women's achievements and contributions to society while reinforcing DISHA's commitment to creating opportunities for women's advancement and leadership development.



The celebrations featured meaningful discussions centred on women's rights, self-reliance, and leadership development, providing participants with valuable insights into gender equality and women's empowerment.

These interactive sessions encouraged women to explore their potential, understand their rights, and develop confidence in their abilities to become leaders in their communities. The program emphasized the importance of self-reliance and economic independence, aligning with DISHA's broader mission to equip women with practical skills and knowledge that can transform their lives and circumstances.

The success of this celebration was made possible through the dedicated efforts of Ms. Anam Qadir and Bhau Dilip Chauhan, whose exceptional coordination and enthusiasm transformed the event into a truly joyful and memorable occasion. Their commitment to making the celebration meaningful and engaging for all participants exemplified the collaborative spirit that drives DISHA's women's empowerment initiatives.

The event not only celebrated women's achievements but also reinforced our mission to empower, uplift, and accelerate action toward building a more inclusive and equitable world for all women and girls.

Success Stories



Name: Ruby
Age: 16
Address: Jhuggi No. B423, Mayapuri Phase 2, Rewari Line
Family:
Mother: Srimati Devi
Father: Ruksharam
Siblings: Four brothers
Educational Background:

Current Education: 10th class student at L Block School
Favorite Subject: Hindi
Current Activities:

Skill Development: Ruby is learning tailoring, which she enjoys and sees as a potential skill for her future.
Future Aspirations:

Uncertain Goals: Ruby is currently unsure about her future career path, exploring options as she completes her education.
Daily Routine:

School Responsibilities: Attends classes and engages with her studies, particularly enjoying Hindi.
Household Chores: Assists with daily family tasks alongside her brothers.
Tailoring Lessons: Dedicates time to learning tailoring suit, petticoat and plazo



Name: Laxmi
Age: 18
Address: B 931 mayapuri phase 2 railway line
Family:
Mother: Pinki Devi
Father: Birbal Mahto
Siblings: Two sisters and one brother

High School: Recently completed schooling
Current and Future Plans:

Skill Development: Laxmi is pursuing tailoring skills and plans to expand her expertise into beauty and parlour services.
Future Aspirations: She aims to establish her own tailoring and beauty parlour business.
Daily Routine:

Household Responsibilities: Laxmi assists with chores and family care, sharing duties with her siblings.
Skill Training: She engages in tailoring classes to improve her skills.
Community Engagement: Laxmi actively participates in local events, fostering connections within her community.

tailoring: blouse cutting, suit and petticoat



Neha
19 yrs of age
College: Ba program 2nd year

Father's name: Ranjeet Rawat
address: T678 B nangal raya Delhi cantt

She has previously taken computer classes and is interested in the field.
she lacks the resources to keep practicing the same but wishes to practice as much as she can.

tailoring progress: blouse cutting and stitching, suit cutting and petticoat stitching



Name: Anjali
Age: 19 years
Education: Open education program, 2nd year in History and Political Science
Residence: V-7 old nangal raya village: almora Village, Uttarakhand
Family:
Mother: Kanti Devi
Father: Trilokchand
Sibling: One brother
Aspirations: Anjali is currently an aspirant for a government job.

Anjali has been attending tailoring classes where she has learned to stitch:
Petticoats
Blouses
Kurtas



Shivam Sonkar

Age: 10 years

Class: V

School: MCD Primary School, Nangal Raya

Address: wz: 1109 , Nangal raya

Family Background:

Shivam lives with his mother, Aarti Sonkar, who works in metal segregation. His father, Late Nandlal Sonkar, passed away when Shivam was younger. Shivam has one brother, and the family manages their daily life with limited resources.

Academic Performance:

Shivam is currently in Class 5 and shows a good understanding of all Hindi matras. He can fluently read and write in Hindi and is working on improving his speed and comprehension. In mathematics, Shivam knows the multiplication tables up to 20, which helps him solve basic arithmetic problems efficiently.

Behavior and Interests:

Shivam is disciplined and attentive in class. He enjoys participating in school activities, particularly those that involve storytelling and group work. Despite the challenges he faces at home, Shivam remains motivated and is eager to learn.

Future Goals:

Shivam aspires to continue his studies and excel academically. His teachers believe that with the right support, he can achieve his goals and improve his family's living conditions.



Name: Ghanshyam Sonkar

Age: 9 years

Address: Jhuggi no. T-680, Railway Colony, Delhi Cantt Railway Station

Father's Occupation: Akash Sonkar (Meat Cutter)

Mother's Name: Asha Sonkar

Siblings: 2 brothers

School: MCD nangal raya

Grade: 4a

Academics:

Knows the sounds of English alphabets

Can read easy English words

Reads Hindi with matra

Can perform addition and subtraction

Does not think much about his future aspirantons. He is very playful and attentive too.



Anjali

21 yrs old

father: Sageena

Sibling : 2 sisters 1 brother

Address: makaan no.B416 mayapuri phase 2

Anjali is a dedicated young woman who balances daily tasks with her passion for learning. Each evening, she attends a tailoring class to develop her skills in stitching and garment-making, aiming to turn this into a valuable skill for her future.

tailoring progress : gown plazo and suit stitching



Name: Preeti Kumar

Age: 19

Education: Completed secondary schooling from Shrimati Indira Gandhi CBR Secondary School

Address: V97 Poorani Nangal, Delhi Cantt, 110010

Hometown: Meergaj, Bihar

Mother: Gaytri Devi

Father: Parmanand Rawat

Siblings: 2 brothers

Skills & Future Plans:

Preeti has completed a year-long tailoring course, which has provided her with vocational skills. She plans to pursue a Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.), indicating an interest in teaching as a potential career path.

Daily Routine & Activities:

Preeti balances her time between household chores, watching TV news for current affairs, teaching tailoring, and engaging in extra studies to further her knowledge.

tailoring progress : blouse, suit, kurta, petticoat stitching

याच शाळेत माझे शिक्षण झाल्याने ऋनानूबंध कायम आहे : डॉ. शोभना राधाकृष्ण

डॉ. के.एस. राधाकृष्ण गुरूजी आणि कमला बहन जन्म शताब्दी वर्षानिमित्त

प्रतिनिधी/ सेवाग्राम :

माझा जन्म याच गावात झाला असून त्या शाळेत तुम्ही शिक्षण घेत आहे त्याच शाळेत माझे प्राथमिक शिक्षण पूर्ण झाले आहे. आज तुम्हाला पाहून मला खरंच खुप आनंद झाला. चालवणा आठवले. माझ्या आई वडीलांचे जन्म शताब्दी वर्ष असल्याने शाळेत आणि तुम्हाला जे साहित्य देण्यात येत आहे त्यातून मी ऋनानूबंध कायम राहणं असा माझा प्रत्यक्ष अनुभव आहे. दि. २२/१२/२०१९ या दिनांकावर डॉ. शोभना राधाकृष्ण यांनी मनोगत व्यक्त करताना म्हणाल्या.

जुन्या वस्तूतीत विज्ञाना परिषद प्राथमिक शाळेत शनिवारला सैद्धांतिक, खेळ आणि कला संग्रह पुस्तक व साहित्याचे काटप विद्यापीठ व शाळेत करणाऱ्या कार्यक्रमा घेण्यात



आला. याची सुरुवात डॉ. शोभना राधाकृष्ण व संगिता चव्हाण यांनी मुलांसाठी ककम केवळी बजवत म्हणत झाले.

या प्रसंगी डॉ. शोभना राधाकृष्ण, दिशा संस्था चे संचालक रवी चौपडा, शाळेच्या मुख्याध्यापिका अर्चना काटेखाने, शिक्षक प्रकाश राठोड, दिशा संस्थेचे रमेश कुमार, राजानन अंबुलकर, यशवंत विद्यालय व कनिष्ठ महाविद्यालय च्या प्राचार्य वंदना राऊत, उज्ज्वला इराळे, शाळेच्या मुख्याध्यापिका अर्चना काटेखाने, शिक्षक प्रकाश राठोड यांना देण्यात आले.

ग्रामाधिक संस्थात दिलीप चव्हाण तर उपस्थितांचे आभार प्रकाश राठोड यांनी मानले. आरीशनेर शोभना राधाकृष्ण संस्थेचे कार्यकर्ते यांचा सहयोग लाभला आहे.

लोकमत

पावलावर पाऊल : डॉ. शोभना राधाकृष्ण यांची धवपत्र

वडिलांचा गांधी विचारमूल्यांचा वारसा पुढे नेण्यासाठी मुलीने केला संकल्प

लोकमत मुंबई प्रतिनिधी

जेव्हा डॉ. शोभना राधाकृष्ण यांनी आपली मुलींना गांधी विचारमूल्यांचा वारसा पुढे नेण्यासाठी संकल्प घेतला, तेव्हा त्यांच्या मुलींनी आपली मुलींना गांधी विचारमूल्यांचा वारसा पुढे नेण्यासाठी संकल्प घेतला. त्यांच्या मुलींनी आपली मुलींना गांधी विचारमूल्यांचा वारसा पुढे नेण्यासाठी संकल्प घेतला. त्यांच्या मुलींनी आपली मुलींना गांधी विचारमूल्यांचा वारसा पुढे नेण्यासाठी संकल्प घेतला.



सेवाग्रामातील विद्यार्थ्यांकरिता सहकार्य

सेवाग्रामातील विद्यार्थ्यांकरिता सहकार्य. डॉ. शोभना राधाकृष्ण यांनी आपली मुलींना गांधी विचारमूल्यांचा वारसा पुढे नेण्यासाठी संकल्प घेतला. त्यांच्या मुलींनी आपली मुलींना गांधी विचारमूल्यांचा वारसा पुढे नेण्यासाठी संकल्प घेतला.

माझे वडील डॉ. शोभना राधाकृष्ण यांनी आपली मुलींना गांधी विचारमूल्यांचा वारसा पुढे नेण्यासाठी संकल्प घेतला. त्यांच्या मुलींनी आपली मुलींना गांधी विचारमूल्यांचा वारसा पुढे नेण्यासाठी संकल्प घेतला.

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पुण्य नगरी

महिला सशक्तीकरणासाठी महिलांनीच पुढाकार घेतला पाहिजे : मेरी सत्यनाथन

पुण्य नगरी / प्रतिनिधी

पुण्य नगरी / प्रतिनिधी. डॉ. शोभना राधाकृष्ण यांनी आपली मुलींना गांधी विचारमूल्यांचा वारसा पुढे नेण्यासाठी संकल्प घेतला. त्यांच्या मुलींनी आपली मुलींना गांधी विचारमूल्यांचा वारसा पुढे नेण्यासाठी संकल्प घेतला.



पुण्य नगरी / प्रतिनिधी. डॉ. शोभना राधाकृष्ण यांनी आपली मुलींना गांधी विचारमूल्यांचा वारसा पुढे नेण्यासाठी संकल्प घेतला. त्यांच्या मुलींनी आपली मुलींना गांधी विचारमूल्यांचा वारसा पुढे नेण्यासाठी संकल्प घेतला.

पुण्य नगरी / प्रतिनिधी. डॉ. शोभना राधाकृष्ण यांनी आपली मुलींना गांधी विचारमूल्यांचा वारसा पुढे नेण्यासाठी संकल्प घेतला. त्यांच्या मुलींनी आपली मुलींना गांधी विचारमूल्यांचा वारसा पुढे नेण्यासाठी संकल्प घेतला.

नवराष्ट्र

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पर्यावरण

सेवाग्राम, (वा.) पणेजी, आज येथे डॉ. के. एस. राधाकृष्ण यांच्या जन्मशताब्दीनिमित्त वृक्षारोपण करण्यात आले. डॉ. के. एस. राधाकृष्ण यांच्या जन्मशताब्दीनिमित्त वृक्षारोपण करण्यात आले. डॉ. के. एस. राधाकृष्ण यांच्या जन्मशताब्दीनिमित्त वृक्षारोपण करण्यात आले.



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