DIGITAL EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

ANNUAL REPORT
2020-2021
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page Number</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>ABOUT DEP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Objective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>PROJECT BRIEF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Objective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>TARGET VS ACTUAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Beneficiary Enroll</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Month wise Attendance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>CUSTOMIZATION OF DIGITAL LITERACY SYLLABUS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Standardize syllabus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>BENEFICIARY’S GROWTH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Graph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>SUCCESS STORIES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Best Stories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>FEEDBACK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Feedback from School teacher after training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Feedback from Parents on Online education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Feedback from Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION INITIATIVES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Digital Enablement for Teachers of Partnership Schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cyber Security Awareness Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Digitization of Documents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>APPROACH TO PANDEMIC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New Normal mode</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Student Tracking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Door to Door Mobilization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ed Tech Tools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>HIGHLIGHTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tech Fest 2020-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Summer Camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Computer Trainers Upgrade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sanskriti Festival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>VOLUNTEERING PROGRAMS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>CHALLENGES &amp; PLAN AHEAD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
About Digital Empowerment Program

“Digital is no more an option it has become the default.”

The need for digital literacy is critical in Education, Health Care, Citizen Services, Financial Services, or any other basic need. Technology and Connectivity make a huge difference to the socio-economic levels of a community, and ultimately to the country since true progress comes from inclusive growth.

The Digital Empowerment program (DEP), is the IT hub of VIDYA and DEP provides

- Digital literacy to VIDYA’s Beyond School Program, School Partnership Program through the curated Digital Literacy Syllabus for Children mapping to the UNESCO’s Digital Literacy Framework under Sustainable Development Goal 4.4.2. This project addresses around 4000 students across Mumbai every year.

- Digital Empowerment opportunities through different employability courses to build competent portfolios for the Youth and community members at large. This project addresses around 700 to 750 youth every year across the 4 community DEP Centers at Chaitanya Nagar, Milind Nagar, Parksite, and Surya Nagar around Powai.

Program Objective

Digital Literacy to Children:
- To educate students on the fundamentals of computer hardware and software operations
- To expose and educate students on digital content creation, communication, and collaboration
- To create awareness on digital ethics
- To introduce the students to emerging technology tools and prepare them for the 21st-century workplace

Create Employment Opportunities for youth through Skill Development
- To prepare and improve their employability skills
- To provide opportunities to build a competent portfolio
- To provide the digital skills and soft skills needed for a successful transition into the workplace not otherwise provided by their colleges
The importance of Digital Literacy is evidenced all over the world and the government of India has launched Digital India in the year 2015 to digitally empower every citizen. A recent report by the Digital Empowerment Foundation indicates that 30% of our population lags on basic literacy and thrice that for digital literacy (90%).

There is a huge gap in Digital Literacy in private and government schools. The lack of resources, qualified teaching professionals in the government schools creates a digital divide among the students.

To fill this inequality, VIDYA’s Digital Literacy program prepares the students for the technological advancements happening in the society and life through the School Partnership program in Digital Literacy. This is an in-school supplemental learning program to teach Digital skills. This project is undertaken in the low income trustee run private schools from Grade 1 to 10.

VIDYA offers the Computer Lab Setup and maintenance, Trained Computer Trainers and an in house curated Digital Literacy Curriculum. Each student enrolled in the project will attend weekly one hour of Digital Literacy classes, which leads to an average of 32 hours in the academic year. More emphasis is given on the practical knowledge. Internal assessment mechanisms are conducted to assess the learning outcome.

**Project Based Learning (PBL) approach** is introduced to ensure the clear understanding of the software tool learnt and as well us to develop the deep understanding of the chosen topics from regular academics. Multiple opportunities are given to work together as a team and present the project thus fostering the building of 21st century learning skills of communication, creativity, collaboration & critical thinking.

**Objectives:**

- Empowering the students with 21st century learning skills like Communication, Collaboration, Critical Thinking and Creativity through the Project Based Learning Approach.
- Basic training for Improved Workforce Skills;
- Improved enrolments and consistent attendance rate in the Digital Literacy Classes;
- Equity in learning Technology learning (equality opportunity to learn technology lesser privileged communities).
Out of 2650 students target planned for School partnerships, we were able to achieve 2419 students.

Initially, the students had challenges in connecting on virtual platform, device unavailability and adoption of online mode. Gradually, with constant follow up and interesting lesson plans improved the attendance percentage.

Primary Classes started late in August month and Digital Literacy is weekly 1-hour intervention, on an average 32 session in a year for each child. Total number of sessions from Class 1 to 10 in DVS, DMS & MUHS and sessions from Class 8 to 10 in NUHS leads to the said target. But, we have taken extra sessions in the last academic year as shown in the graph.
The Digital Literacy syllabus for children has undergone more customization to suit mobile learning. Many of the applications and tools which were taught usually were not available as mobile apps. Hence Creative story creation using the mobile app, creating an android app using Sketch ware, creating simple web pages using Adobe Spark and Canva was taught. Weightage is given to enhance creativity, critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Each Google Meet class is recorded and put up in the student WhatsApp groups for later reference. Students who could not join during the online classes go through the recorded videos and do the assignments. Teachers have put a lot of effort to keep the momentum with the students and in connection with them.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1\textsuperscript{st} | • Digital ethics  
• Kids Paint  
• Story weaver (Level-1)  
• Educational Games  
• Introduction of computer | 6\textsuperscript{th} | • Digital Ethics for online Classes  
• Google Search Engine  
• Google Map & Translator  
• Educational Games & Videos  
• Toontastic |
| 2\textsuperscript{nd} | • Digital ethics  
• Kids Paint  
• Educational Games  
• Story weaver (Level-1)  
• Introduction of computer | 7\textsuperscript{th} | • Digital ethics -Online Safety on the go  
• Poster making  
• Video editing & presentation |
| 3\textsuperscript{rd} | • Digital Ethics for online Classes  
• Introduction of Computer  
• Input and Output Devices  
• Story weaver (Level 1, 2 & 3)  
• Educational Games  
• Google keep | 8\textsuperscript{th} | • Digital Ethics for online Classes  
• Digital ethics (Internet safety)  
• HTML |
| 4\textsuperscript{th} | • Digital Ethics for online Classes  
• Google keep  
• Educational Games  
• Story weaver (Level-1, 2,3 & 4)  
• Introduction of Computer | 9\textsuperscript{th} | • Digital Ethics for online Classes  
• Digital ethics (Internet safety)  
• Python  
• Sketch ware |
| 5\textsuperscript{th} | • Digital Ethics for online Classes  
• Digital ethics (Online Safety on the go)  
• MSW Logo  
• Educational Games  
• Toontastic | 10\textsuperscript{th} | • Digital Ethics for online Classes  
• Digital ethics (Internet safety)  
• Email ID Creation & Usage  
• Email Etiquettes  
• Google Drive  
• Sketch ware |
The graph shows that End Term Assessment scores of the students from primary and secondary sections, cumulatively shows that percentage of Creativity, Critical Thinking and Communication skills acquired.
Prachi Sanjay Angarkhe  
Dyan Mandir School, Powai

Prachi made Website on “COVID-19 Vaccination” during VIDYA Tech fest 2020-21. For this she discussed with few doctors, took their opinion. She don’t have laptop and desktop at her home but still with her own interest she made beautiful website using HTML & CSS. She also secured 1st Prize in Tech fest Web site category.

Sana Shakil Shaikh  
Nasheman School, Bhandup

Like other students Sana also faced same issue to adopt online mode, but after DEP trainers guidance now she not only adopted new normal but also helping other community students. Now she is the role model in her community.

Riyan Amin harshmin  
Mohammadi Urdu School, Bhandup

During Digital Summer Camp, Riyan faced many problems, he didn’t have Smartphone. His father usually came late from his work, after that he used his smartphone for project at night and completed project on Digital Marketing. “If there is will there is a way”

Sayali Gaikwad  
Dyan Mandir School, Powai

Sayali made her Portfolio website during sessions. Her parents were happy to see her interest and growth in such small age. She is fond of creative activities.

Iqra Khan  
Mohammadi Urdu School, Bhandup

Iqra is one the brightest students of Mohammadi School. She always take part in various events. In the Tech fest event she made Calculator app using mobile. She had very limited access of mobile while creating app as she used her brother’s mobile.

“Curiosity is the wick in the candle of learning.”

Chandrakala & Hemandri  
Chandrakala & Hemandri Gauda, sibling

made a project on topic Save water. They’re facing same problem at their village hence they know the importance of water. For this project they researched many case studies, they found some useful solution. They shared their project journey during Tech fest.

Diya Dongle  
Dharmveer School, Vikhroli

Diya staying at Vikhroli, where she found cleanliness is missing which affected her. Hence during Tech fest event, she selected “Swachh Bharat Abhiyan” as Project topic. She went few dirtiest point in community. She observed status of that common point, using this she made PPT with her solutions. She presented the same during Tech fest. In Tech fest her community friends and their parents visited her stall online. One day, her small step will make big difference.
Feedback

- **Feedback from School teacher after training**
  
  [Link to Google Drive](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Uz_lrk8p5XcP3mr0fQLBKhqgVWO9PtPv/view?usp=sharing)

- **Feedback from Parents on Online education**
  
  [Link to Google Drive](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IRNisbi_6VpFca4GCcfkLMwFV-v2TQ9b/view?usp=sharing)

- **Feedback from Students**
  
  [Link to Google Drive](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ArMo8i_vzAG6cwiX63pOqqc1yFRMTdfw/view?usp=sharing)
Digital Enablement for Teachers of School Partnership Schools

The School Teachers were enabled to conduct Academic sessions through Online Medium in the New Normal during and post COVID-19 Lockdown.

Execution Mode:

Schools started contacting students and created WhatsApp groups in May 2020. From that time, VIDYA DEP trainers are members of the groups.

Initially, teachers used to follow the asynchronous mode of online learning i.e., posting worksheets in WhatsApp groups and students have to complete the assignments and submit them.

After virtual platform training, they started taking virtual classes, hence students are connected in Synchronous mode where the teacher teaches online or a blend of both the modes.

Teachers are confident about virtual teaching and started with their core academic subject teaching.

Outputs:

- Number of Schools training were given – 4 Schools
- Number of Teachers Trained - 110
- The number of students each teacher reached out to and the number of online classes conducted by each teacher are the indirect outputs.
Cyber Security Awareness Session

The pandemic pushed education from the offline classroom to the online platforms. In October 2020, in line with the ‘International Cyber Security Awareness Month’, VIDYA DEP conducted multiple online awareness sessions for the underprivileged families in Mumbai, on how to keep parental control on their wards while they are on their digital devices.

Sessions were conducted on:
- What are online frauds and how to prevent them
- Understanding Digital Footprint and how the families need to keep a watch on what information their wards share online
- Cyber Bullying and how to morally support their wards

650+ Families Participated

Digitization of Documents

VIDYA DEP started a new initiative ‘Digitization of Documents’ in October 2020. Community Students were taught digitization of documents through the use of mobile apps. In line with the Digital India Campaign, during Daan Utsav, the senior school students of VIDYA spread the concept of digitization among their communities, relatives, and friends by teaching them how to scan documents using mobile apps, how to store it on the cloud with safety measures, how this initiative can save our environment as well as safeguard the documents for ease of access and retrieval whenever required.

250+ Students participated and guided their families & friends
**New Normal mode**

The action taken before lockdown, distributed 7 old laptops to DEP staff for uninterrupted work & a team meeting was conducted to discuss the online mode and the responsibilities of the DEP staff. The Digital Empowerment Program (DEP) staff of VIDYA had regular interactions with available students and parents to bring them to the New Normal mode of Digital Education. VIDYA DEP has been in the field of imparting Digital Literacy for the last 8 years. With 20 trainers trained in all platforms, experience to tackle this, they could adapt to the new normal.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Old Normal</th>
<th>New Normal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Physical Classes</td>
<td>• Virtual Classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Classroom / Computer Lab</td>
<td>• Requires personal computing device</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Availability of all students in one classroom / Lab based on Time table</td>
<td>• Students availability based on the device availability (when Parents / Siblings could give their smart phone to the child)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Fixed timetable for the teacher in school hours</td>
<td>• No fixed timetable and need to conduct classes even in early mornings or late evenings depending upon the availability of devices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Students get more practical time on computers to learn the tools</td>
<td>• Students have to get adapted to the small screen and the android apps on the device. They have to start learning the digital tools</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Student Tracking**

The survey was conducted to identify the hurdles that needed to be addressed before online sessions. Efforts are now being taken to reach out to students through multiple mediums. After sessions restarted online, DEP team started conducting another leg of the survey to understand how students are managing to learn over the last one month. Tracking was continuously done for 5 months which started from May 2020 to September 2020. Following data found at the end of September 2020. DEP team called around 3000+ students during tracking.
**Door to Door Mobilization**

DEP School team did door to door mobilization with the help of School teachers during October 2020. The motto of mobilization was to encourage dropout students to re enroll in school. Team went inside community, explained parents about online mode and its advantages. Team went to Nasheman and Mohmmadi school community with following all safety guidelines. Team reached around 200+ students’ houses.

**Ed Tech Tools**

Due to lockdown and without outward exposure, some student’s (especially children) loose interest in studies and boredom is created to some more. During Online sessions, the teacher finds difficulty in assessing whether the student understood the concept. Hence the DEP team researched and came up with the idea of using interactive Ed Tech tools for children's Digital Literacy. Tools like Nearpod, Quizizz enhanced the quality and interaction of students during the sessions. The senior team members trained the trainers to use the tools. After using these Ed Tech Tools, students’ attendance has increased significantly. Students are asking more questions, taking part in sessions. The whole lesson plan is prepared in such a way with instant quizzes, polls, open-ended questions, inbuilt videos, etc. Created dedicated YouTube channel for each school, where trainers are uploading daily lecture videos for those students who unable to attended session on Google meet.
• **Tech Fest 2020-21**

Tech Fest is the annual event conceptualized, planned, and executed by VIDYA DEP. Every year during January or February, the event is conducted to showcase the talents of the students and give them exposure to the latest technologies.

Enclosed is the report of the event. [Tech Fest Report](#)

• **Summer Camp**

The summer Camp was conducted in the month of June for the interested students from Secondary sections of three of the schools (Dharmaveer, Mohammadi & Nasheman) who have shown interest for the online activities.

During COVID-19 lockdown, since the Schools are closed, the students have no constructive engagement or opportunities to learn. Over to these, there are challenges:

- Parents and their families are facing severe stress due to economic hardship and potential health hazards in the locality
- Some parents do not have any means of communication in the form of mobile, data connectivity
- Some parents decided to migrate back to their hometown.

VIDYA reaches out to students and parents through the partner schools to provide a means of actively engaging the student, increasing awareness about online education which will be the new normal in the near future. With this intent, we decided to conduct a summer camp with the theme **“Go Online Learn with Fun” for a period of 10 days.**

- 166 Students showed interest to enrol in Summer Camp when we send out messages in student WhatsApp groups of the school.
- Out of which 111 (67%) filled the enrolment form, out of which 59 (53 %) participated in the summer camp.
- Out of which, 42 (71%) presented their projects during the ‘Google Meet’ online finale conducted by VIDYA DEP, where teachers and students from all the schools participated.
- Students were at ease to use the online video conferencing platform and presented their projects confidently.
During lockdown using the theme "Go online learn with Fun" of Summer Camp, the following outputs were created.

- How to overcome adversity in a positive way
- Students were able to explore their Digital skills, Creativity and Presentation skills
- Learned to use the available resources.

**Class 7 – Samiksha Mhetre - Project on Way to Become a You Tuber**
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1j1NMCBsf0ElMc6WWsEbG1i6cre0Fnk1S/view?usp=sharing

**Class 9 – Mohammad Raiyan - ‘Learn to Create & Market your Product digitally**
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1euUyezFLnBwJY1SOND1WQ5WQtBsJeNjd/view?
usp=sharing

- **Computer Trainers Upgrade**
  Basic Electronics training was conducted for the 6 interested trainers, who are assigned the Saturday Club activities and it was conducted for 21 days of 1 hour each day.

  Advanced HTML & CSS training was attended by 7 trainers and it was for 24 days of 1 hour each day.

  Advanced Scratch training was a need-based training to brush up the complex assignments like creating Games and Creating Simulation projects.

  Few trainers are undergoing Python Programming training through a volunteer and this project will be conducted for 5 months on weekends

  Around 12 trainers from DEP are undergoing training on Report Writing methods. This will also be conducted for 5 months on weekends
**Pan India Sanskriti Festival**

VIDYA brings opportunities to discover student’s talent. There were three ways to express, Students can either submit a write-up, create poem/verses or art of their choice. The contest being completely digital and many DEP students participated. Around 200+ students from DEP participated in this festival.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr No.</th>
<th>Winners from DEP</th>
<th>School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Khan Kushuma</td>
<td>MUHS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Arti Dilip Chorge</td>
<td>DVS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Khan Husna Musheer</td>
<td>MUHS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Shifa Khan</td>
<td>MUHS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Anushka Zodge</td>
<td>DVS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Nadeema</td>
<td>MUHS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Rubina</td>
<td>NUSS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Challenges & Plan Ahead

**Challenges**

The year 2020-21 was a challenging year worldwide due to the COVID-19 pandemic and all industries were affected. The day-to-day life changed for many and the worst-hit happened for people who are on daily wages. The urban slum communities where VIDYA works are also of the same kind and parents struggled to feed their children and support their education. Both the youth and children beneficiaries of DEP also faced a lot of challenges to attend their classes. For the children beneficiaries, the smartphone is shared with their parents and siblings, hence class timing needs to be adjusted. Also, data recharge is a problem for them. It was difficult for the students to practice computer applications using mobile screens. But still, DEP managed to find mobile apps to teach various courses and tools.

**Plan Ahead**

- DEP team has planned to create a standardized mobile friendly syllabus with the experience learnt from 2020-21
- DEP will focus on the Data collection and visualization of the intervention
- DEP team will start connecting with students at least 15 days before school reopening
- DEP team will work hand in hand with the school management for more support
- Assessment method and the question bank preparation will be completed before school reopening
- DEP School trainers will undergo upgradation training, demo classes in the supervision of senior trainers