

“IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO RAISE A CHILD”

Disha India Community School - based on the principles of Experiential Learning and Nai Talim



On Oct 2 2021, during the foundation stone-laying ceremony of the community school

On Oct 2, 2021, **Mr Madan Mohanka (PGP 1967)** laid the foundation of and funded the Disha India Community School in Padha, a village in Karnal, Haryana. This will be the one of the first schools in India which will run with the participation of the village where the education and learning will be based on the principles of Experiential Learning and Nai Talim. The big idea is to construct a theory and practices of Experiential Education that use real-life experiences from the child's local context as a pedagogic medium for developing knowledge, skills and character.



Using natural farming as a pedagogic medium to develop the required skills and concepts



Students during the '4-months food and farming expedition' where they experience growing organic food and vegetables. Here, they have grown peas, carrot and radish with holistic learning.

DISHA INDIA COMMUNITY SCHOOL is an Experiential Learning school where we use real-life experiences from the local context of the child, as a pedagogic medium for teaching the required curriculum, skills and values. The idea is to demonstrate how a community can design its own education program based on its context, challenges, aspirations and possibilities, so that education is rooted in the local context and prepares children for a future that the community aspires for. At the school, the pedagogy is experiential, contextual and personalized. We use local experiences as pedagogic medium for developing the required knowledge, skills and values. The idea is to move from 'near to far' and from 'concrete to abstract'.

At present, we have grades Nursery to 4 and will add one grade every year. We have 100 students till grade 4 and eight local educators. All educators are from the same village, know all the students and their families which makes teaching and learning more effective and responsible.

Learning design principles that guide our teaching and learning:

- Contextual and personalized education
- Productive work (from the local context)
- Free and integral child - physical, emotional, cognitive and spiritual development
- Self-directed personalized learning
- Bilingual medium of instruction
- Diversity and inclusivity
- Community participation

- Sustainable living
- Non-violence

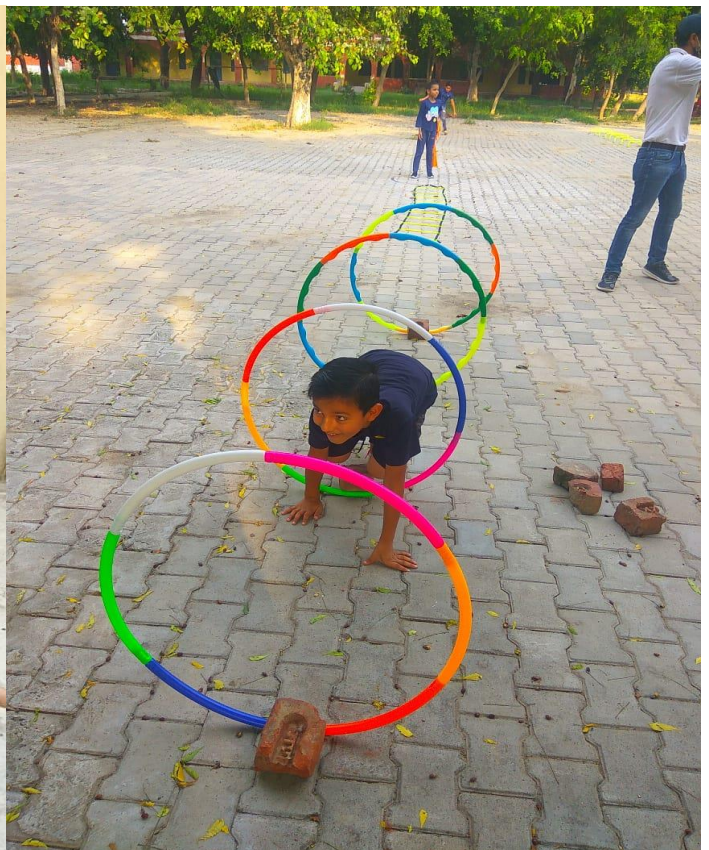
DISHA INDIA EDUCATION FOUNDATION is striving towards redefining education and learning based on the principles of Experiential Learning and Nai Talim, thereby facilitating the reinvention of schools and our country's education system at large. The underlying assumption is that learning through real and contextual experiences has the potential of truly making education personalized for each and every child. Secondly, teaching through real life experiences leads to an integrated and systemic understanding of the curricular goals and context, which prepares children for life. We are designing an experiential curriculum based on natural farming and local crafts as a pedagogic medium for developing the required curricular goals and contextual understanding.

THEORY OF CHANGE - COLLECTIVE COMMUNITY INITIATIVES The driving idea is to create more community schools in partnership with diverse communities across the country, where communities take shared responsibility of providing quality, equal, contextual and personalized education for children at an affordable price. They will demonstrate how a community can design its own education program based on its context, aspirations, challenges and possibilities, to prepare children for the future that the communities aspire for. These innovative model schools will work in collaboration with local government schools to improve the quality of education in the whole community/region, with a vision to also strengthen the government schools.

The vision of the initiatives is to give a new direction to education in our country by demonstrating how community can take charge of educating its future generation and how education can be used as a process for bringing the desired change in society at a larger scale.



Learning by doing



During the evening sports program - Focus is on each and every child



Independence Day celebration at the community school. The senior citizens of our village were invited as chief guests. They shared how life was before independence.