

India - Driving Education Empowerment & Development (IN-DEED) Foundation



Annual Report 2018-19

PROGRESS OF ACTIVITIES

IN-DEED Foundation is a registered Trust that engages youth volunteers and harnesses technology tools with a vision to enable provision of quality education to every child in India to improve their learning levels and academic performance.

Since its inception in May 2014, the Foundation has been running following programs for students of rural government schools in several districts of Rajasthan:

- ‘*Adhyayan*’ focusing on understanding of curriculum topics,
- ‘*Sambhavna*’ involving extra-curricular activities, student exchange and peer-learning,
- ‘*Jigyasa*’ fostering curiosity and enhancing interest in science and technology, and
- ‘*Samiksha*’ conducting regular assessments,
- *Digital Empowerment* - bridging the digital divide between rural and urban students

Student volunteers regularly conduct the following activities:

1. Extra classes on curriculum subjects with special focus on students from class V, VIII, X and XII appearing for RBSE Board examinations in 2019
2. Preparation for competitive exams - English, GK, Reasoning, Mathematics
3. Co-curricular activities, games, sports and yoga
4. Fostering interest in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Mathematics) by arousing curiosity and explaining concepts through demonstration of working models and robotics training
5. Foundational skills (*literacy-numeracy*) for primary and pre-primary level children
6. Career Counseling, motivation and guidance sessions by experts and IN-DEED volunteers

The Foundation has set up a Digital Resource Centre (DRC) in a remote village in Pali district, that functions as an integrated learning space, where Practical computer training, IT & MS Office skills are provided to senior school students, youth and interested villagers.

In the current academic year as a pilot initiative, IN-DEED has commenced computer based testing for students at the Digital Resource Centre and selected government senior secondary schools. Students from senior classes (*VIII and above*) and youth searching for employment opportunities will be able to improve their digital skills while enhancing their subject knowledge through repeated tests and also compare their scores. Requisite software has been developed to allow students to register and login for tests, where after each test they can view their scores and also track performance improvements over time. Students become familiar with working on computers and it also prepares them for the future to confidently sit for online and other computer-based tests that are increasingly becoming the norm in every field.

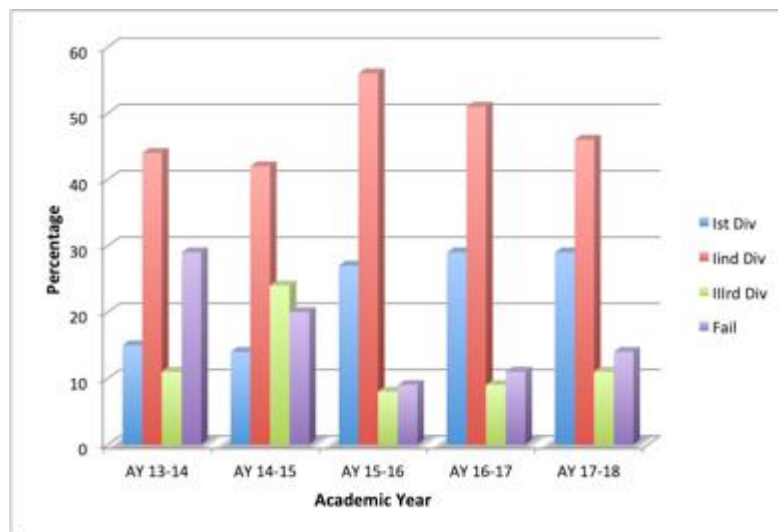


Figure: Improvements in RBSE Class X results from 2014-2018

IN-DEED Foundation organised **टाबर** (*taabar*) an edutainment fair on 03 February 2019, a first of its kind event where rural children and youth of Pali and Jodhpur districts got the opportunity to interact with and learn from students and teachers of some of the best schools and colleges in Rajasthan. The purpose of the fair was to provide awareness and exposure, encourage peer learning, stimulate interest in technology and robotics and make learning fun for rural students. During the day several activities like Air show, exhibitions, live demonstrations of science experiments, doodling, painting, interactive games, skits and plays, folk songs, turban wrapping, student competitions and fashion show were organised.

ACTIVITIES & PROGRAMS

EXTRA CLASSES

IN-DEED volunteers helped students prepare for RBSE 2019 Board examinations - at the Digital Resource Centre in rural Pali, at an orphanage in Kota, in several villages, at various government schools using computer-based online tests.



COMPUTER-BASED TESTS

IN-DEED Foundation launched Computer-based Tests wherein students from rural government schools can take curriculum subject tests on computers. Highlights:

1. Regular practice on computers is expected to make rural students comfortable and proficient in computer usage
2. Understanding of course subjects like English, Mathematics, Science, Environmental Science and others will be enhanced through timely and regular assessments.
3. Besides being able to instantly check their scores upon completion of tests they shall also be able to track improvements over time and compare their scores with other test takers, leading to improvements in academic performance particularly in Board Examinations.



STUDENT EXCHANGE

Exchange students under the American Field Service program studying at Rajmata Krishna Kumari School Jodhpur volunteered with IN-DEED Foundation to teach class III-VII students at partner schools - helped children revise the course (in Geography, English & Mathematics) and brush up their General Knowledge.

Also taught them a smattering of Italian language.



NAVODAYA VIDYALAYA PREPARATIONS

Volunteers from RTU Kota have been teaching students from class V and VIII, everyday, for the last 10 days, helping them to prepare for Navodaya admission tests.

Entry into the elite Navodaya Vidyalayas means an immediate transformation of education quality and career prospects for the child opening up immense possibilities for a brighter future.



MISSION संभावना (SAMBHAVNA)

In addition to the regular teaching of course content from curriculum subjects, Indeed volunteers from JDB Govt. Girls College Kota (Gurucharan Panchal, Nisha Renwal, Priyanshi Nama, Rinki Saini and Yashaswini Saini) are conducting awareness sessions in villages of Kota district (Bhojpura & Khera Rasoolpur) on:

1. Right to Vote - explaining the importance and value of exercising this democratic right & asking students to convince their parents to go out and vote on election day - very important in view of the upcoming Assembly elections in Rajasthan
2. Self defence training for girls
3. Computer training and Extra curricular activities



FOUNDATION SKILLS LITERACY & NUMERACY

Starting in December 2018 special emphasis is being laid on enhancing Foundation skills in Literacy (English & Hindi) and Numeracy (arithmetic) for pre-primary and primary children. A baseline assessment is conducted to check the present learning level of each child - i.e. recognition of numbers and alphabets, performing arithmetic operations, reading and understanding words, sentences, paragraphs and so on. Regular sessions are conducted at the Digital Resource Centre in rural Pali by IN-DEED Foundation's Teaching Fellows Mr. Pritam Singh & Ms. Khushi to help the children move on to the next level/s of learning through detailed explanations, practice, focussed personal attention and handholding each child.



LEARNING CAMPS

First 3-Day Learning Camp organised by IN-DEED Foundation at nodal village in Pali district - 6 volunteers from NIFT Jodhpur stayed from 19-21 October at the Digital Resource Centre conducting following activities:

1. Foundation skills (literacy and numeracy) for pre primary and primary children - using smartboard, interactive games, poems, recitation, and other fun methods
2. Extra classes on curriculum subjects for Class VIII and X students
3. Preparations for competitive exams - reasoning, English & mathematics - for graduates and XII pass students
4. Drawing, painting and other co-curricular activities
5. Embroidery, tailoring and stitching for self employed women and interested girls and boys



A team of 6 volunteers (2nd and 3rd Year engineering students) from RTU Kota organised a 4-day LEARNING CAMP from 31 Oct to 03 Nov at IN-DEED's Digital Resource Centre in rural Pali, conducting the following activities:

1. Foundation skills (literacy and numeracy) for pre primary and primary children - using smartboard, interactive games, poems, recitation, and other fun learning methods
 2. Extra classes on curriculum subjects (Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics & English) for Class X & XII students
 3. Explanation of science concepts - conducting practical experiments, demonstrations and Robotics sessions
 4. Preparations for competitive exams for graduates and XII pass students
 5. Drawing, painting and other co-curricular activities
1. Students from several villages of Jodhpur and Pali districts namely Chopra, Hariyada, Holpur, Hungaon, Lanera, Napawas, Naya Gaon, Rajola Kalan and Ramasni took part in the activities organised during the Camp.



ENGLISH SPEAKING SKILLS

Volunteers from NIFT Jodhpur taught English (basic conversation & textbook chapters) to students of class IV-VIII at Vishnoi ki Dhani (Jheepasni Panchayat, Mandor Tehsil, Jodhpur) on 13 October 2018



TRAINING SESSIONS

21-22 September 2018: under the aegis of the Training & Placement Department of Rajasthan Technical University (RTU) Kota, IN-DEED Foundation conducted training sessions for Engineering and MBA students on:

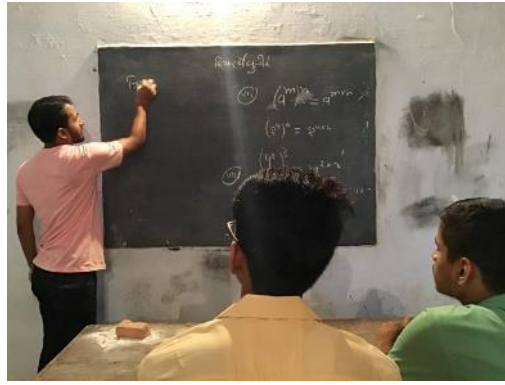
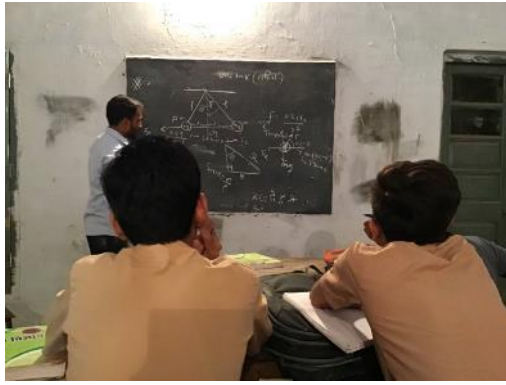
1. Critical Thinking for Career Planning
2. Communication Skills
3. Interview Preparation



VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS STARTED IN BIKANER DISTRICT

September 2018 - IN-DEED Foundation commences Volunteer led programs in Bikaner district of Rajasthan.

Volunteers from Engineering College Bikaner have begun conducting extra classes for students of class IX to XII at Government Senior Secondary School Sadul.



VIDEO MAKING SKILLS

Five student volunteers from RTU Kota attended the Training Program on 'VIDEO MAKING SKILLS' organised by Open Links Foundation in Pune, 1-2 September 2018. These volunteers will now train students (class VI-IX) at selected schools in Rajasthan to make their own videos on various topics from curriculum subjects. The purpose is to enhance understanding and make learning fun for school children.



ORIENTATION SESSION @ RTU KOTA

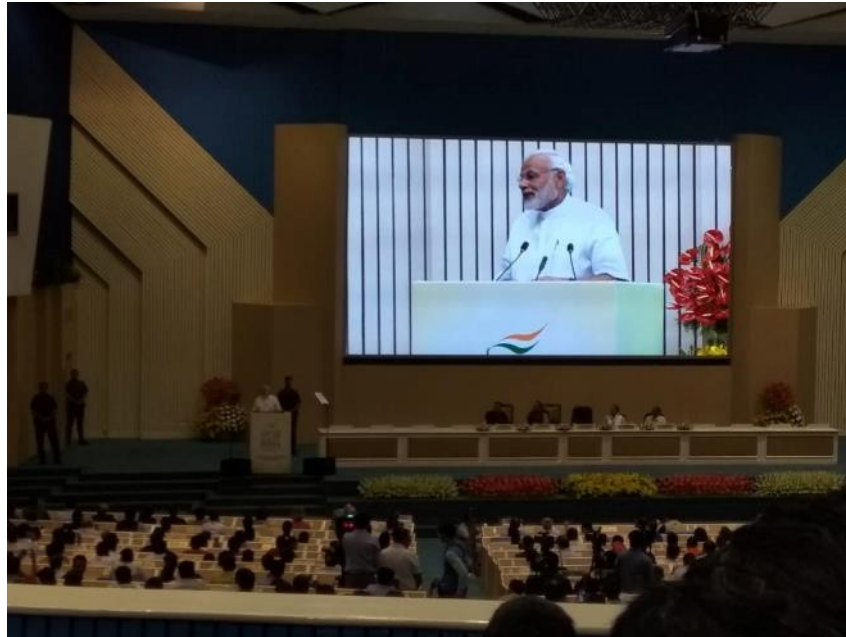
09 Aug 2018 - Orientation session for incoming Ist Year students at RTU Kota



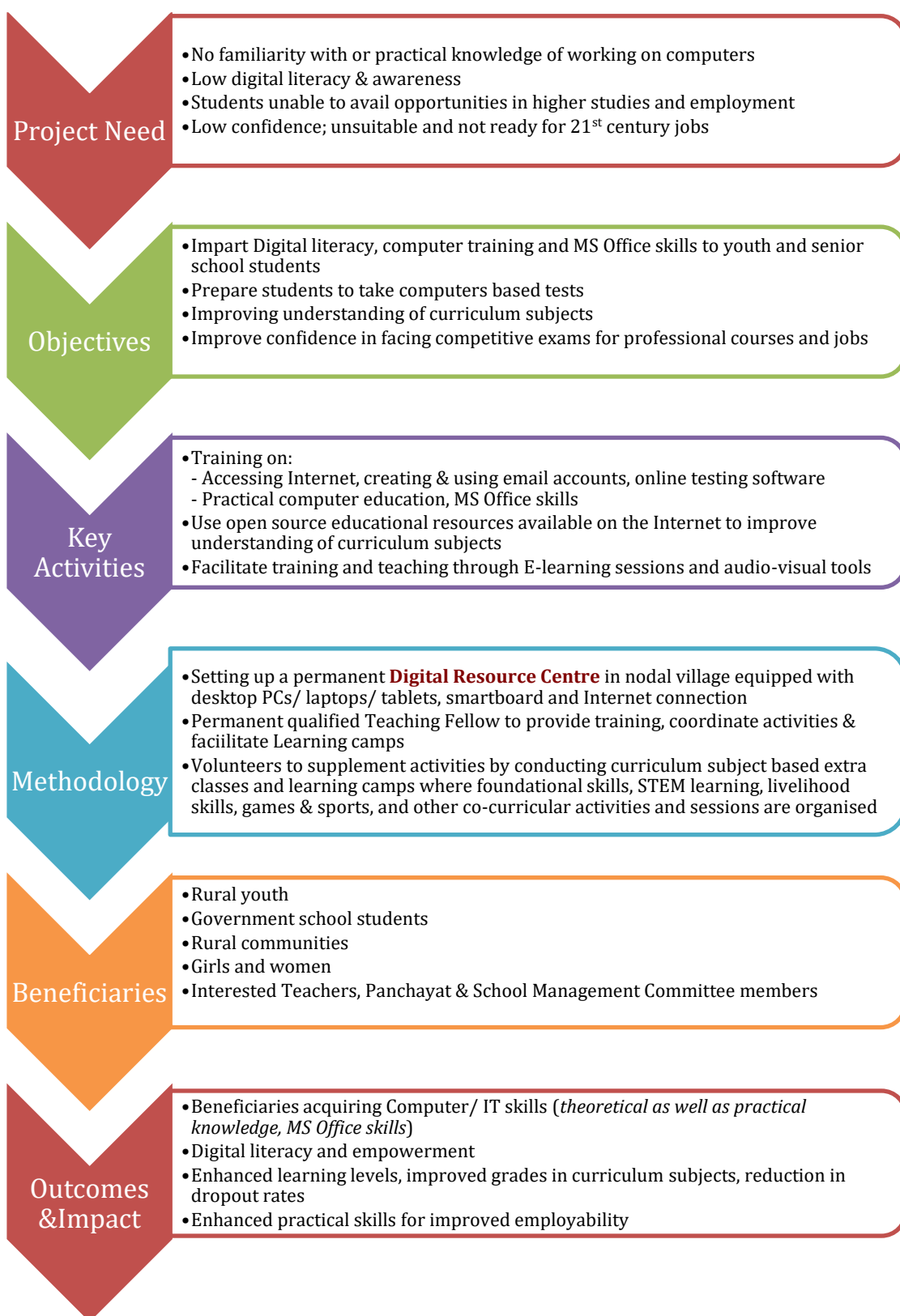
NEW INDIA CONCLAVE

IN-DEED Foundation participated in the New India Conclave organised by Y4D Foundation at Vigyan Bhavan on 16 July 2018.

Guest-Speaker List included Hon'ble Vice President Sh. Venkaiah Naidu, Hon'ble PM Sh. Narendra Modi, Sh. Devendra Fadnavis CM Maharashtra, olympian Sh. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore among others



DIGITAL EMPOWERMENT – WITH ADITYA BIRLA CAPITAL



1. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The aim of this innovative program was to bridge the digital divide between students of rural and urban India in an effort to further the Government of India's Digital India Mission.

The program, supported by Aditya Birla Insurance Brokers Ltd. (a group company of Aditya Birla Capital Ltd.) was implemented by IN-DEED Foundation.

The overall objective was to impart digital literacy and IT skills to rural children while also helping to improve quality of education, learning outcomes and academic performance of school students in 12 villages in Jodhpur and Pali districts of Western Rajasthan.

1.1 AIMS & OBJECTIVES:

- Training on IT & MS Office Skills
- Practical experiential learning through practice on individual PCs
- Digital Literacy
- Learning curriculum subjects using Audio-Visual tools (SmartBoard)
- Online classes & E-learning

1.2 GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION & COVERAGE

The Digital Resource Centre (DRC) is located at the nodal village Rajola Kalan in Pali district of Western Rajasthan. Students from rural areas located within a distance of 10-15 Kilometer radius from the DRC participated in the computer and digital skills training, education and skill development activities conducted and facilitated here by IN-DEED Foundation.

1.3 FACILITIES @ DIGITAL RESOURCE CENTRE:

- Desktop PCs – 08
- Smart Board – 01
- High Speed Internet connection
- Qualified Full-time Teaching Fellow at the Centre to conduct training



Picture 1: Computer room @ Digital Resource Centre

1.4 TARGET GROUP:

- Rural government school students
- Undergraduate youth and community members

BENEFICIARIES TARGETTED: 450 *(in first year of program implementation)*

NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES TRAINED: 452

1.5 OUTCOMES:

- Students **Learnt to use Computers** through Practical Experience
- Gained knowledge of **MS Office Tools & IT skills**
- Spread of **Digital Literacy** in target rural areas
- Improved **Learning & Understanding** of difficult curriculum topics
- Improved **Performance in Board Examinations**
- Enhanced **Confidence and Employability**



Picture 2: Training of students at the Digital Resource Centre (DRC)

2. INTERVENTION ACTIVITIES:

2.1 MEETING WITH STAKEHOLDERS

At the outset, IN-DEED Foundation held awareness meetings at government schools in intervention villages where the details about the program were shared with the principal's, schoolteachers and students. There was a lot of support and enthusiasm for the program as most of the teachers and students are nowadays aware about the need to be proficient in computer and IT skills.

When it was conveyed that the program has been made possible through financial contribution from Aditya Birla Insurance Brokers Ltd. (a group company of Aditya Birla Capital Ltd.) whose support shall make it possible for IN-DEED Foundation to provide training '*free of cost*', the students were overjoyed. Communities in intervention villages expressed their sincere gratitude and thanks to the Aditya Birla Group. Students were requested to register their names with to enroll for the training on a first-come first-served basis.



Picture 3(i)



Picture 3(ii)



Picture 3(iii)

Picture 3: Meeting with school principals

- (i) Ms. Jyoti Sharma, Principal, Government Senior Secondary School, Lolawas
- (ii) Mr. Narendra Singh, Principal, Government Senior Secondary School Rajola Kalan
- (iii) Mr. Satish, Principal, Government Senior Secondary School, Chopra

2.2 CAPACITY BUILDING OF TEACHING FELLOW AND VOLUNTEERS

A qualified and experienced Teaching Fellow was hired to conduct training, support and facilitate envisioned programs and activities at the DRC. Having completed Masters in Social Work from the Central University of Rajasthan he has relevant computer skills and social sector experience in rural areas to successfully engage with rural communities and train students at the Digital Resource Centre.

Selected student volunteers from Rajasthan Technical University Kota, MBM Engineering College Jodhpur and National Institute of Fashion Technology Jodhpur were also engaged in the program. Volunteers from these prestigious institutions have already been participating in education programs of IN-DEED Foundation in previous years.

The teaching fellow and volunteers attached to the program were informed about all aspects of the program including the objectives, scope of activities and expected outcomes.

2.3 LIAISON WITH INFLUENCERS TO CREATE AWARENESS

During the months of April and May 2018, IN-DEED Foundation staff and volunteers met with teachers, students and youth, elected representatives as well as prominent community members and influencers in the target villages. The project details were shared with them to bring them onboard and increase acceptability of the program in the community.



Picture 4: Meeting with students - sharing information about training and skill development courses being provided at the DRC

2.4 SETTING UP E-INFRASTRUCTURE @ DIGITAL RESOURCE CENTRE

E-infrastructure including 08 computers and a smartboard were set up at the DRC. An inverter to provide electricity backup preventing interruptions caused by frequent power failures was also set up so that training sessions can be conducted seamlessly without breaks.

2.5 BASELINE STUDY TO CAPTURE RELEVANT PARAMETERS

The awareness of and expertise in computer knowledge and digital skills of all participants were recorded both before and after undergoing training through baseline and endline surveys.

Trainees take a standardized test with 20 questions at the end of training helping to track the improvement made possible through the training. The endline survey also records the trainees' review, response and feedback on the program.

Information is being collected in predesigned survey forms from each student at the beginning and the end of training. Data from all 450+ participants trained at the Digital Resource Centre under the program has been collected and processed. Key findings are mentioned in the to, review implementation, assess benefits of the program and learn lessons for improved results in future.

2.6 COMPUTER TRAINING & DIGITAL EMPOWERMENT:

Computer training is being offered as two separate courses with varying content and durations:

1. MS Office skills including Digital skills: has been designed as a one-month (35 hours) training covering basic computing, MS Office (*Word, PowerPoint and Excel*), accessing useful information online, safe browsing of Internet, creating and using emails, information on useful sites for academics, career planning, utility bill payments, travel ticket booking etc.
2. Digital Skills (*only*): is a one-week (8-10 hours) training that focuses only on the digital literacy portion of the full course mentioned in point one above.

In order to develop the Digital Resource Centre as an integrated learning space in the village, in addition to practical computer training the following activities were also conducted:

7. Extra classes on curriculum subjects with special focus on students from class V, VIII, X and XII appearing for RBSE Board examinations in 2019
8. Preparation for competitive exams – English, GK, Reasoning, Mathematics
9. Co-curricular activities, interaction sessions and peer learning
10. Fostering interest in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) by arousing curiosity and explaining concepts through demonstration of working models and robotics training
11. Career Counseling, motivation and guidance sessions by experts and IN-DEED volunteers



Picture 5: Smartboard facilitated extra classes



Picture 6: Practical Demonstration for fostering curiosity and interest in STEM



Picture 7: Preparations for competitive exams

2.7 CERTIFICATE DISTRIBUTION:

On successful completion of training, all participants were given certificates. This was done during the 'Taabar' edutainment fair organized by IN-DEED on 03 February 2019 at the Digital Resource Centre.



Picture 8: Certificate distribution to trainees during 'Taabar' fair @ Digital Resource Centre on 03 February 2019

The fair was organized to provide awareness and exposure, encourage peer learning, stimulate interest in STEM and make learning fun for rural students. Besides distribution of certificates to trainees, several activities like doodling, wall painting, interactive games, skits, folk songs, turban wrapping, student competitions, air-show, robotics, experimental demonstrations and fashion show were organized. Students and volunteers from prestigious schools and colleges of Rajasthan took part in the fair, shared their knowledge and experience, conducting several interesting activities during the day.



Picture 9: Edutainment activities during 'Taabar' fair @ Digital Resource Centre

2.8 COMPUTER BASED ASSESSMENTS:

Starting February 2019, computer based assessments were introduced at the Digital Resource Centre in another effort to empower and engage students by improving their learning levels and digital skills. Testing is done using Google forms in multiple-choice question format to improve academic skills of students. Tests were introduced for students of classes X and XII in Science and Mathematics, but shall soon be extended to other classes covering all subjects. Computer based tests shall also be used to test general knowledge and reasoning skills of students helping them in preparations for competitive examinations for higher studies and jobs.










Picture 10: Computer based tests at the Digital Resource Centre and selected government schools

2.9 LEARNING CAMPS:

Two Intensive Learning Camps were organized at the Digital Resource Centre in October and November 2018, wherein IN-DEED volunteers were present at the Centre continuously for a period of 3 to 4 days, conducting the following activities directly impacting over 100 students:

- Foundational skills (*literacy and numeracy*) for pre primary and primary children - using smartboard, interactive games, poems, recitation, and other fun methods
- Explanation of science concepts by conducting practical experiments, through actual demos and Robotics sessions
- Preparations for competitive exams for youth i.e. undergrads, graduates and those who have completed schooling
- Interactive games, drawing, painting and other stimulating co-curricular activities
- Games & sports, yoga and other outdoor activities
- Embroidery, tailoring and stitching for self employed women and interested girls

TARGET GROUP	ACTIVITIES
 Preschool & Primary	- Videos/ cartoons/ activities to teach alphabets, numbers, shapes, colours, nursery rhymes etc. - Games and activities
 All children	- Spoken & conversation English - Drawing & Painting - Games & sports, Yoga and physical activities
 Class VIII/ X/ XII	- Preparations for Board exams - Science, Mathematics, English - Difficult concepts from curriculum
 Class VI and above	- Explanation of science concepts by conducting practical experiments - Raising interest in STEM - Robotics
 VI-VIII	- Extra curricular activities (creative writing, debate, poetry recitation, dictation) - Basic English - Interactive activities and games, Role-plays
 XII pass/ Undergrads/ Graduates	- Preparations for competitive exams – extra classes, quiz and tests in GK, English, Reasoning
 Self employed women	- Embroidery, stitching & tailoring

3.

3. OUTCOMES AND INSIGHTS GAINED:

Information gathered from students registering for Computer, MS Office and Digital skills training once again highlighted the wide disparity in computer awareness and training between rural and urban students. The digital divide is a harsh reality and the sooner it is recognized and steps taken to bridge the gap, the better it will be for the next generation of Indians. It is in this regard, that the current program is an extremely useful intervention and a very welcome initiative by Aditya Birla Capital Ltd. through ABIBL. There is pressing need not only for it to be continued in the coming years, but also to be expanded in terms of geography covered, scale (number of trainees) and scope of activities included in the program to ensure digital empowerment in remote rural areas of Rajasthan.

Salient points emerging from the baseline survey are:

1. Over 90% of the trainees do not have access to a computer at their homes and therefore did not even know how to switch on/ off a desktop PC or laptop
2. Only 1 in 10 students had ever worked on a computer; even among these students a significant majority used computers only for listening to songs, watching movies or playing games
3. Fewer than 10% of the youth and students had ever used the Internet before taking training at the Digital Resource Centre.
4. Only 5% of the students reported having viewed videos related to course subjects on YouTube or had ever searched for useful information on popular search engines like Google
5. 98% of the trainees didn't even know how to send or receive emails, although some 15% of them reported having a Facebook account and around one in four was active on WhatsApp
6. Only 2% students had ever used MS Word, less than 1% reported having used MS PowerPoint and none had ever used MS Excel
7. Significantly every single one of the trainees mentioned that they had a keen interest in learning how to use computers

The end-line survey conducted at the end of the training period elicited the following response from the trainees:

1. All students who had completed training mentioned that they were now sufficiently familiar with computers and would feel comfortable using them
2. Similarly every single one of the trainees reported being comfortable using the Internet post training at the DRC
3. Almost everyone said that they would, in future, access curriculum related videos on YouTube
4. Over 90% students and youth trained in Digital Literacy reported being aware of useful sites on the Internet to access information related to educational content, sample question papers, to search and apply for jobs
5. All the students taking training on computer and MS Office skills at the DRC reported having gained knowledge of and being able to send/ receive emails, create profile/ CV in MS Word, create and deliver a PowerPoint Presentation and being able to work on MS Excel
6. 100% of the trainees accepted that the course was useful for them
7. On a scale of 1 to 10, the trainees gave the course a rating of 9.93



Picture 12: Embroidery and tailoring skills for women and girls



Picture 13: Foundation skills for primary class using animations, videos & interactive games

4. PROGRAM SUSTAINABILITY – BEYOND PROJECT PERIOD

The support of ABIBL helped set up the Digital Resource Centre in 2018 at a remote village in Pali district of Western Rajasthan. The Digital Empowerment initiative implemented there has gone beyond initial expectations. Not only have the targeted number of beneficiaries (450+) received computer, MS Office and digital skills training, several more students and youth benefitted from the other awareness and capacity building programs regularly conducted at the Centre.

In academic year 2019-20, practical computer and digital skills training shall be continued by IN-DEED Foundation. Besides senior school students (*class IX and above*), those in upper primary classes (*class VI to VIII*) shall from now on be enrolled for training. In addition, learning camps, extra classes and computer-based examinations shall also be continued and coverage expanded to include students from several other rural schools besides the ones already included in the program.



Picture 14: Extra classes for class XII, X and VIII students @ DRC

ANNEXURE 1 – COURSE OUTLINE

DAY	Session Topic	Explanation/ Remarks
Day - 1	Introduction to Computers	familiarisation, parts of computer, configuration, storage & devices, benefits & uses, startup & shutdown, creating and saving a folder
Day 2-7	MS Word	Opening a word file, typing in MS word, saving the file
		Clipboard, cut, copy, paste
		Font – theme, size, shape, colour
		Save/ Save As, Tab, Shift, Caps Lock, Ctrl, Backspace
		Insert menu – table, picture, chart, word art, textbox, clipart, symbols, shapes
		Theme, page setup, margins, page break
		Page background – colour, watermark, border
		Paragraph, text alignment, bullets, numbering, line spacing, shading
		Convert MS office document into PDF
Day 8-13	MS PowerPoint	Opening a PPT, typing, saving the file
		Slides – insert new slide, delete slides, typing
		Insert menu - table, pictures, clipart, shapes, textbox, symbols
		Design - themes
		Animation and Transition menu
		Slide shows
Day 14-19	MS Excel	Opening an Excel file, typing
		Font, text alignment, wrap text, merge & centre
		Insert and delete cells, find and select
		Sort & Filter data – ascending/ descending
		Formulae and functions – arithmetic operations, average, percentage
		Charts – plotting data, editing, copying
Day 20-25	Digital Literacy	Uses and Benefits of Internet
		Emails and social media platforms - creating Gmail account, sending and receiving emails
		Searching useful information online – search engines (<i>Google</i>)
		Transactions on the Internet – shopping, ticket booking
		Cyber Security – staying safe, not sharing sensitive information
		Few useful websites – http://rajeduboard.rajasthan.gov.in http://dce.rajasthan.gov.in/scholarship.aspx https://scholarships.gov.in/ ; http://www.google.com http://rajasthan.gov.in/Services/pages/utilitybillpayment.aspx#close https://www.irctc.co.in ; https://www.naukri.com http://transport.rajasthan.gov.in/rsrtc
Day 26-30	Practice, Doubts and Queries	MS Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Internet, Email
		Students to present a PPT on what they learnt during the training
		Each student to prepare their Profile (<i>for school students</i>) or CV (<i>for those who have completed schooling</i>) in Word File
		Assessment and Certification



Picture: training on computer and MS Office skills – trainees learning and practicing skills on individually assigned computers



Picture: Training in progress at the DRC



Picture 3: Trainees making PowerPoint presentations after completion of training



Picture: Co-curricular activities at the DRC



Picture: Preparations for competitive exams



Picture: Interactive games and activity based learning for primary level children



Picture: Student assessment to review learning and performance