

Vigyan Ashram Status Report

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Development of social space at Vigyan Ashram

EWB volunteer Emma Crichton along with DBRT students developed a social space on hill near VA. It was felt that Pabal village & VA do not have a garden or place where someone can socialize. The design brief given to students was 'To design and construct a social space at Vigyan Ashram. The budget is Rs 10,000 but use as much scrap material as possible and the design must have a low water use.' Selection of site, design of project and its execution was done by students in group. The project involved 2 weeks of planning (10 PowerPoint lessons and a Google Sketchup plan), 1 week of working on the space from 6.30am - 8am and 5 full days of construction. The students worked in small groups of 4. Four groups (16 students) designed and constructed the path up to the main space. Seven groups worked in the main circle (diameter 24m) on the decorations, furniture, sculptures, planting, shelter, games and lighting. All material used was bought locally or re used from waste material at Vigyan Ashram. In the end, Rs 8286 was spent.



Google sketch of Social Space at VA



Site selected for social space



Side view of social space after completion



Now Facility is open for villagers



Team Vigyan Ashram - on completion of project

More information on : <http://emmafcrichon.wordpress.com/social-spaces-project/>

And Face book →

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10151463309294746.584668.511619745&type=1&l=9a6c0ba99c>

Introduction to Basic Technology (IBT) – PLAN 100 update

(Supported by Lend-a-hand-India, Suzlon foundation, Hemendra Kothari Foundation)

Advocacy:

1) A new G.R on school time table for IX and Xth mentions only 2 periods for IBT program as against present 10 periods per week. The matter was raised with SSC board and vocational dept. Information was sought under 'Right to Information (RTI)' act about reasons of reducing the time allocated to pre-vocational program. We received reply confirming there is no reduction in time allocated to pre-vocational period and 2 periods allotted are from mandatory periods but rest periods can be taken from remaining school periods.

2) SCERT published draft of new curriculum for Ist – VIIIth std and asked for suggestions from public. We have observed that the syllabus does not include pre-vocational program for VIII std. We have submitted our detailed suggestion on revised syllabus. We have also submitted application under RTI for information of pre-vocational program for VIIIstd. We are waiting for the reply.

3) Director of vocational education & training (DVET) gave permission to only one school (Sagaroli Dist.Nanded) to start IBT program. This is due to the fact that DVET asked for Rs.5 lacs deposit in bank account and two workshop rooms before giving permission. Very few rural schools can fulfill this norms. We have written to Minister of Technical Education about the issue.

4) Yogesh gave talk at vocational teachers training program organized by Sarswati Bhuvan at Aurgangabad on 3rd Sept. Talk was organized by Director of vocational Education and SSB, Aurangabad.

5) A meeting of selected representative of teacher's organization was held at Bharati Vidyapeeth on 28th Sept. Yogesh gave presentation to representative about issues to be taken up with ministers regarding vocationalisation of education. We are planning to organize a joint state level conference for introducing work in education as essential component on the occasion of golden jubilee of Bharati Vidyapeeth.

IBT schools highlights:

1) IBT Coordinator Training Program – Three days residential training program for teacher co-ordinator was held from 15th to 17th Sept. at JP Naik Center, Pune. Total 14 school coordinator's attended the training. Apart from theory and drawing topics, we discussed planning and execution while implementing IBT program.



Teacher co-ordinator training at JPNC



Teacher co-ordinator training at JPNC

2) Lecture on snakes & snake bites was organized in 5 IBT schools (Amkhel, Chhadwel, Shanimandal, Tilali & Aichale) Dr. Latesh Patel & Dr. Kamlesh of Suzlon foundation conducted the session.

3) A meeting of school principals & instructors of IBT schools in Pench Forest area was held on 12th Sept at Devalapar. Action plan for IBT dept for coming months was made. Some of the administrative and logistic issues were discussed and decisions were taken. Mr. Kiran Inamdar (HKF) and Yogesh Kulkarni took the review of progress made so far.

4) A meeting of schools interested to start IBT program in Tadoba forest areas was held at Moharli on 14th Sept. These schools lack basic infrastructure like classroom. The schools are held in rented space or old room of temples. It is unlikely that they will ever get recognition by Director of vocational education to start IBT program. But need of the program was felt by these schools. It is decided in consultation with HKF, to start the program in parts without formal recognition. (Permission is not required to do good work! and what we are doing is improving quality of education as envisioned in NCF2005). Schools were asked to send formal resolution of their management. We are planning to start the program after Diwali.

5) Omkar and Vishal conducted IBT camps for IBT schools in Dantewada and Bijapur Dist. From 26th – 29th Sept.

Various activities like wood lamination, solar charger etc were conducted during the camp.



IBT Workshop in Chattisgarh

6) Purchasing of tools for Gatam school (Chattisgarh) was done on 1st Oct.

Following are few examples of activities on the ground. We are trying to include report from different schools every month.

School Name	IBT activity
i) Ashram shala , Lohara	i) School has taken wheat crop last year (Rs.11800). They have fabricated grill for school from the money.
ii) Dhanaji nana vidyalaya, Khiroda	i) School constructed nursery of 40*20ft and made 5000 plants. They were planted on the roadside. ii) Completed fencing work of nearest school of size : 100 * 40 ft
iii) Ashram shala , Sakri	i) Fabricated rack for school 6 * 3 ft ii) Three table made by IBT school
iv) Rehmatpur School	i) Planted One acre of merry gold. They prepare seedling in nursery. ii) Planed 200 trees donated by local municipal corporation.
v) Malvan school	i) selling vermicompost through IBT @ 8 Rs/ Kg. So far they have sold vermicompost of Rs.3776.00 by putting on small advertising board on School gate.
vi) Vadacha par	i) This school has developed its own fruit orchid and also producing vermicompost.
vii) Devalapar	i) Sold भोपळा of Rs.3500 and कार्ली of Rs.500/- this month
viii) Walsang	i) Did fabrication repair work from village and earn Rs.200/-



Girls from Rehmatpur high school working in the field



Rehmatpur zhendu (merigold) crop

INDUSA-PTI

- 1) Shilpa Ballal is working with DBRT team to complete the power points on Agriculture and food processing chapter.
- 2) Powerpoint and OER made by EWB volunteer Emma are ready for upload.
- 3) We are updating our website www.vigyanashram.com and www.learningwhiledoing.in . The work is in progress.

6] DST Core Support Projects:

A) Dryer –

- After modification in dryer trial on Curry leaf was taken. Main objective of trial was to compare hot air electrical dryer for its drying quality, time required for drying and energy consumption. We are compiling the result.
- New dryer manufactured by SGS Pvt Ltd (fabricated in Pune) is received at Pabal for testing and trials.
- Garlic powder results – recovery 30 % (costing around Rs.38.00), Powder is still hygroscopic (absorbing air moisture) on which we need to work on.

- Cauliflower leaf powder, beet root/ leaf powder and sprouted wheat powder were tested for its nutritional analysis. It was done against requirement from Nobel21. We need to modify powder making process for increasing dilatory fibre content in final product for cauliflower and beet whereas, sprouted wheat powder has not shown any significant nutrient rise (compare to whole wheat).



- b) Solar Egg Incubator work – It is in the final stages of completion. We have re-worked tray rotation, heating system and sensors. New trial is planned from 15th October.
- c) *School on wheels* – Ranjeet visited Jawhar (Thane) with Vayam team on 25th / 26th Sept. It is decided that to start with poultry business. Two youth agreed to start poultry and they are ready to invest. Instructor from VA will provide them training on the job and in the process help them in setting up their business. These youth were given instructors to prepare place for poultry and also place order for chicks with hatcheries. Next visit of VA trainer when we will get delivery of 1 day old chick from hatcheries.
- d) Praj Animal Husbandry Project –
Goat shed is almost ready with partition, feeding arrangements, water system.
Electrification and main plumbing fixations work is in progress.
Selection of site for poultry is done.
- e) Anil is working on manufacturing of 'खजूर रोल' making machine against order from chikki manufacturer in Lonavala.
- f) Yogesh gave a talk on 'Engineering Opportunities in rural areas' at College of Engineering, Pune on 5th Sept on the occasion of Teachers Day and Engineers Day.
- g) Discussion of Amitraj featured in BBC news <http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20120926-desktop-drugstores>

For more information on DST core activities. visit <http://vigyanashram.wordpress.com/>



Staff quarter work (Supported by Mr.Dai Meghaji) –

- Plastering work of ground floor is completed.
- Construction work (RCC and brick) of first floor is completed up to slab level.
- Steel bending work for first floor has started.

7] DBRT update (Supported by Asha for Education & Tech Mahindra Foundation)

i] Mr.Ganesh Pingale conducted Vermicompost training at J P Naik centre, Pune on date 11th Sept. Eco club teachers from 39 Z.P school attended the training. Program was organised by Center for Environmental Education, Pune.

ii] DBRT student Diler Mirza dried 6 kg of garlic and made packets of 25gm. Similarly Pravin and vivek made 5kg पुरण पोळी ready mix and sold it for Rs.1600/- and earn profit of Rs.800/-. They got additional order of 500 packets of 100gm.



iii) Teachers Day was celebrated on 5th Sept. Students conducted all lessons and handled administrative responsibility of ashram on that day.

iv) DBRT students took order to supply sugarcane seedlings from Pabal farmer Mr.Ramkrishna Agarkar. They have planted 9576 seedlings sufficient for 2 acres.

v) 7 new admission for DBRT course from October 2012. 16 students took admission to Welder Cum Fabricator course.

vi) Ganesh Festival Celebration- VA hostel celebrated Ganesh festival from 19th – 25th Sept. Students practiced Barchhi Dance on Dhol and Tasha for almost a month. They perform dance in front of Ganesh procession in village.

vii) Safety Day – VA observed safety day on 25th Sept. We have taken review of all safety measures in VA. All sections were inspected for accidents and Corrective actions were taken.



Figure 1 Sony delivered calf गो-हा on 8th Sept

taluka visited VA. They hold their block level gathering at VA. We discussed with them about our educational program and philosophy.

ii) Mulgami CD was shown to 50 School teachers / head masters of (Pabal – Kendur area) meeting in VA campus on Date 15th Sept.

iii) Dhamari IBT school donated 200 plants of Subabhul to VA.

iv) Yogesh visited Sevagram and CSV – Wardha on 13th Sept. We are exploring idea of adopting new technologies from CSV in VA program.

ii) Environment :

Rainfall of the month: 73.79mm, total rainfall of the year: 245.01mm

Water level in the well: 4.1 meter

Min Temp – 35.96 degree, Max temp – 23.7 degree

Humidity – 87%

ii) Energy consumption:

Diesel: lits, Electricity (MSEB): 1231 units, Three phase bill : 732 units, Single phase bill : 499 units

Biogas consumption – 30 cubic meters

vi) Team from Tech. Mahindra foundation visited VA on 26th Sept.

vii) Sony cow delivered गो-हा on 8th Sept and Gauri cow

delivered गो-हा on 28th Sept.

viii) Electric community Service :-

- Nitin and chandan worked on installation of submersible pump in Wafgaon.
- Repaired wiring in temple on Chowdhary vasti.

9] Other Tit-bits

i) Total 125 teachers from primary school in Shirur, Ambegaon, Rajgurunagar

Data Report- All section wise data report are available on Google pages:

<https://docs.google.com/open?id=0B3-4RfsZ2K2ORmUxUWhVtkFEdTA>

Photo Gallery:



Head master meeting at Moharli (Chandrapur)



Sugarcane seeding nursery



200 plants of Subabhuil received from Dhamari IBT



Testing Solar charger : Chattisgarh IBT camp



Students making hollow bricks



खजूर रोल मशिन : In process

September photo link -

<https://plus.google.com/u/0/photos/116182572661944016966/albums?hl=en>