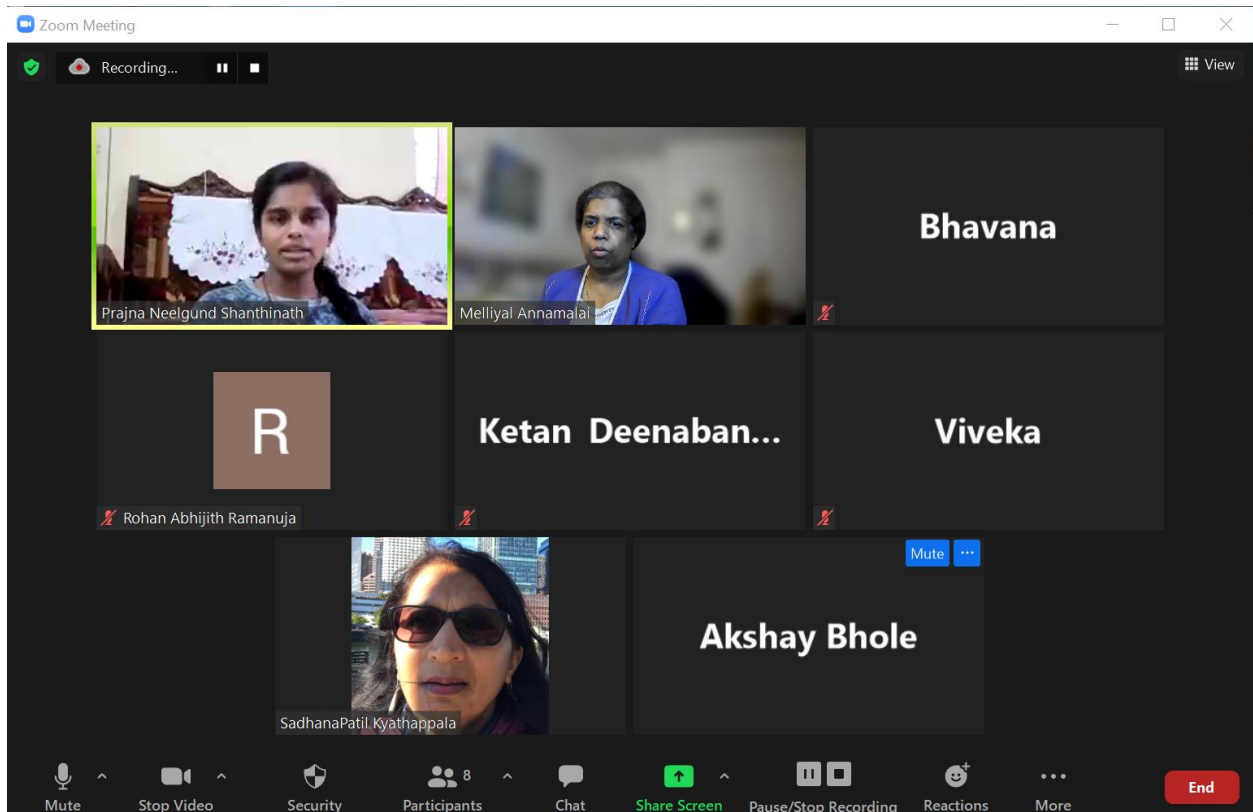


Zoom Visit, July 13, 2021

Asha Boston: Melli, Bhavana, Sadhana, Akshay

Deenabandhu team: Prajna, Ketan, Rohan, Viveka



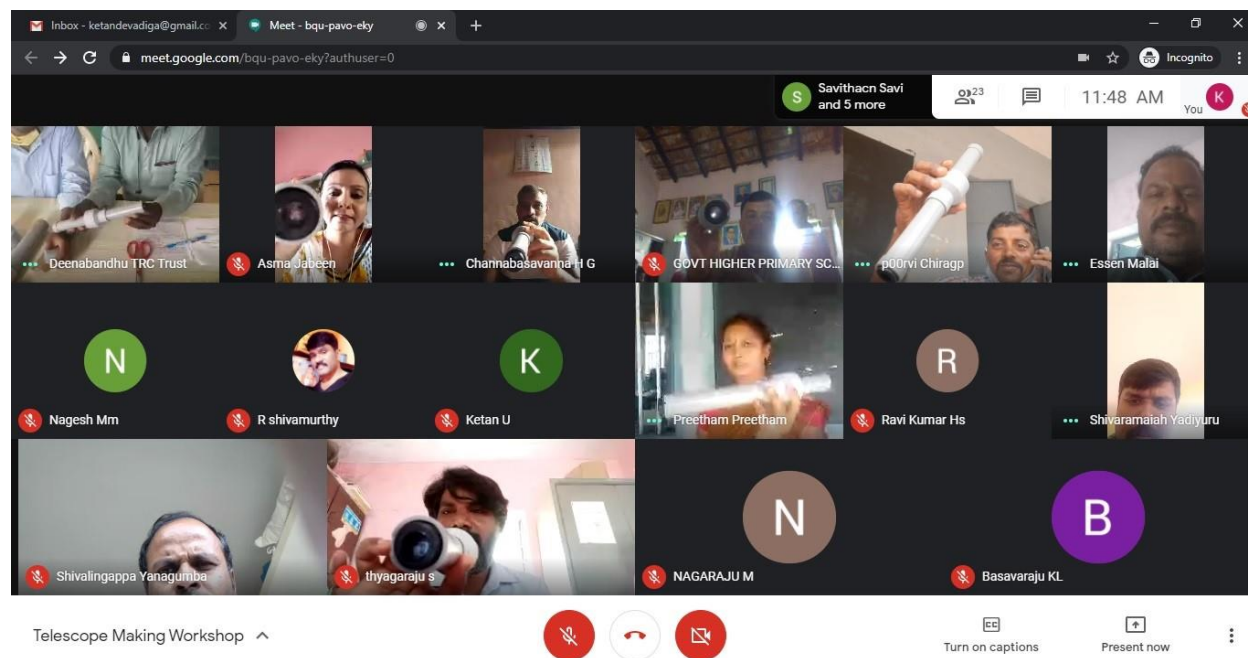
Asha Boston met with the Deenabandhu team on July 13, 2021. Asha Boston has worked with Deenabandhu in the past, but not all volunteers were familiar with them, so Prajna gave an overview of Deenabandhu's start and their activities. Prof Jayadev had started the organization while teaching in Chamarajanagar, with a children's home for boys. This has since grown to include a children's home for girls, a school for children from surrounding villages, and an experiential Science teaching program in government schools in the district which has also expanded to Davanagere district in central Karnataka.

Prajna highlighted how "Asha has always been there." Asha has been able to partner with them several times when they started a new project, and also when they were in a difficult funding situation. The relationship between Asha and Deenabandhu is one of friendship, built on mutual trust and affection.

We focused our discussion on the support-a-child needs at Deenabandhu and the Science teaching activities in area government schools. This report focuses on the Science teaching activities.

The government schools are closed, but the training of the government school teachers continues on Google Meet. Deenabandhu staff continues to explain to teachers how different Science concepts can be explored with hands-on work, and the sessions have been well-attended, much to our delight.

Oracle gave an additional grant in the second half of last year which they used to create a Science Gallery, which is a Science museum for children. This houses a lot of the hands-on apparatus they have designed over the years (with local materials) for learning Science. As an example, a fantastic outcome is detailed here: <https://boston.ashanet.org/2020/12/20/a-do-it-yourself-telescope/>



### *Teachers Workshop conducted online*

They have focused on 200 government schools in Chamarajanagar district. Teachers from these schools attend the workshops. Some of these schools, which can be geographically considered a nodal school (easily accessible from a cluster of schools) have been set up with a "Learning Corner." This is a Science lab/Science corner for middle schools, which is a platform to provide other schools with learning resources, training and other learning activities. The Learning Corners contain several experiments that Deenabandhu has created at their Teacher Resource Center using locally available materials. Teachers from the surrounding schools can borrow equipment from the learning corners.

They are actively looking for donors to continue this project. Their goal is to raise Rs. 50,000 per school per year, and Rs. 2,50,000 per learning corner per year.