

Virtual Site Visit Report

Prepared by: Asha Seattle Project stewards- Seema Chaudhary and Amruta Deshpande

Partner Organization: **Avehi Abacus Project**

Programs: **“Sangati”, “Saath Saath”, “Manthan”**

Date: January 19th, 2023

Objective:

1. To interact with the students, teachers and Avehi Abacus team and understand the individual role and experiences. We invited several schools to join in, interview students, teachers, principals, Field representatives, volunteers and Avehi staff.
2. To understand the current status of activities, their field work, outreach impact and activities. .

Online Zoom Meeting attendees = 116

List of Participants

1	Seema Chaudhary	Asha for Education- Steward		
2	Amruta Deshpande	Asha for Education – Steward		
3	Deepali Bhagvat	Asha for Education - Volunteer		
4	Vibha Deo	Asha for Education - Volunteer		
5	Bhooshan Dixit	Asha for Education - Volunteer		
6	Nisha	Asha for Education - Volunteer		
7	Simantini Dhuru	Avehi Abacus Project		
8	Chitra Patil	Avehi Abacus Project		
9	Gauri Murakar	Avehi Abacus Project		
	Avehi Abacus Team	School Name	Teachers Name	Students Name
Sangati Programme				
1	Suvarna Yevale and Simon D'souza	Varsha Nagar English MPS	Shirin Ansari and Prachi Ghodekar	Ritesh Kanojiya
2				Ayush Gupta
3				Abhishekh Yadav

4				Anju Jaswal
5				Nameer Shaikhe
6				Anju Gupta
7				Manshi Tiwari
8				Shakshi Gupta
9				Ayueshi Gond
10				Anjali
11				Mahak Shaikh
12				Hasain
13				Anshikha Rao
14				Samiksha Gawade
15				Vasni Upadhyay
16				Asha Yadav
17				Priti Kadam
18				Chandani Maurya
19	Elvina D'souza, Dhanashree Walinjkar and Yogita Patil	Chikuwadi CBSC English	Mrs. Pushpamary Chandrashekar	Sharvari
20				Arya
21				Lakshika
22				Dhrumil
23				Pradnya
24				Vedant
25				Vihan
26				Audut
27				Kirti
28	Manisha Jain and Mohini Kharat	Prabodhan Thakare Hindi	Digambar Khare	Kohinoor Ali
29				Ragini Vishvkarma
30				Sonal Gautam
31				Shahrbano Siddiqi
32				Akanksha Vishvkarma
33				Mehek shaikh
34				Shailja Jaiswal
35				Drushti Yadav
36				Shtrughn Singh
37				Shivam Pasi
38				Sharad Gupta
39				Raunak Vishvkarma

40				Aryan Sahani
41				Mubin Shaha
42				Mohnish Khan
	Vaishali Nivate and Dinesh Chavhan	Gurunanak Hindi School	Aadesh Joshi	
	Kapil Mohape	Shenave Ashram School	Asha Padalkar	Std 5
43				Mrunali Pardhi
44				Harshla Sathe
45				Diksha Mondul
46				Prabha Pichad
47				Hira Zugare
				Std 6
48				Sangita Shejvad
49				Nikita Lakhan
50				Amruta Pathare
51				Poonam Hindal
52				Darshana Bhala
				Std 7
53				Roshni Fufale
54				Sngita Bhangare
55				Pratibha Dadhavad
56				Vevdika Vakh
57				Gayatri Dhongde
				Std 8
58				Shamika Nirguda
59				Pooja Aare
60				Sonu Nirguda
61				Sarika Vad
62				Aapeksha Nirguda
				Std 9
63				Aarti Shejvad
64				Gauri Dhapte
65				Shamila Kalchida
66				Rupali Bhagat
Saath Saath Programme				
67	Sharaddha Mishal and Madhavi Jadhav	Abhudaynagar Hindi School		Mahima Chaudhari
68				Vipin Sadu

69				Shaurya Pande
70				Nausin Bano Khan
71				Roshni Gupta
72				Janaki Gupta
73				Manisha Thakur
74				Srushti Kahar
75				Aditya Agrhari
76				Akash Jaiswal
77				Ravina Mali
78				Puja Gupta
79				Rupali
80				Muskan Chaudhari
81				Varsha Jaiswal
82				Smail Shaikh
83				Babulal Prajapati
84				Bulaisha Shaikh
85				Shama Shaikh
86				Shruti Jaiswal
Manthan Programme				
	Dinesh Chavhan and Vaishali Nivate	Anjuman Khairu D.El.Ed. College	Mehmuna Khalik	

About Avehi Abacus Project (AAP): The organization aims at empowering children to develop a comprehensive view of the world, beginning with their immediate reality. To appreciate the possibilities and limitations of AAP, it is necessary to locate it in the context of current educational beliefs and practices.

Without creating a parallel structure outside the school (Mumbai Municipal School – MMC) system or trying to completely reject it, AAP adopts a syncretic approach, drawing on elements from varied progressive educational philosophies. They seek to establish a space within the school system, but outside the rigid syllabus where alternative curricular and pedagogical strategies can be explored.

AAP has developed three integrated packages of educational materials for students and teachers in the formal as well as the non-formal streams of learning. These are “**Sangati**”, “**Manthan**”, and “**Saath Saath**”. The programs supplement and enrich the prescribed school curriculum, encouraging learners and teachers to actively engage with the world of knowledge both inside and outside school.

Simantini Dhuru, Director Avehi Abacus and Chitra Patil Chief Project Coordinator kicked off the meeting with an overview of Avehi outreach this year.

Interaction with Students, MMC school teachers and Avehi team

86 students, 7 teachers, 17 Avehi team members and 6 Asha Seattle Stewards/volunteers attended the meeting. Students and teachers took turns in expressing their gratitude and feedback towards Avehi program and staff. Here are some snippets:

School: Varshanagar English Municipal School

Program: *Sangati*

- *Vanshika Upadhyay* (Student) narrated the changes that she experienced thru the story of “*Maya*”. the encouragement, confidence she gained, the knowledge of recognizing good from bad, what is injustice and what are the rights of women/girl. How not to discriminate genders and what is necessary to change our thinking.
- *Shrin Ansari* (Teacher): “Students find *Sangati* very valuable. They enjoy the class and never miss it.”
- *Prachi Ghodekar* (Teacher): “Students connect themselves and can relate to *Sangati* teachings very well. They know the difference between Homo Erectus and Homo Sapiens. With the use of *Sangati* maps the students can find different countries, continents in a playful way. Flipcharts are also fun to use and learn from.” She added that “Avehi has created the books with a lot of thought and process gone into it, which has gamification in it to making learning fun. It makes the students learn and provokes to think and let them present their opinions and views.”

School: Chikuwadi CBSC

Program: *Sangati*

- *Dhumil* (Student) said “in the story of “*Maya*” he absolutely disliked that the grandmother used to discriminate between *Keshav* (Brother) and *Urmi* (Sister) by offering them different food, letting the brother go out to play and by asking the sister to do house chores. He added that the sister and the brother should have equal opportunities.
- *Avdhoot* (Student) said he loves to color the story books and read the information thru stories.
- *Kirti* (Student) learned that Europe discovered explosives to use them in the war and used it to conquer and rule the world. Human beings are killed in the wars. She absolutely disliked this and said the scientific discoveries or inventions should be used for human welfare.
- *Mrs. Pushpamary Chandrashekar* (Teacher) wrote “I am very happy to share my experiences regarding *Sangati*. *Sangati* is very unique. It helps the students to learn about our past and relates it with the present. The students learned about many civilizations, inventions, discoveries and values. It is worth giving time and putting efforts into such a fantastic teaching learning activity. The students were delighted to complete their activity book. The stories, games and other activities are splendid. The poems in the book are excellent. Parents too are satisfied with the *Sangati* activities. Above all *Mrs. Yogita's* contribution is remarkable. Thanks to the entire team of *Sangati*.”

School: Prabodhankar Thakray Hindi School

Program: *Sangati*

- *Kohinoor* (Student) talked about how she finds History subject important. She gets to learn from the past mistakes and can make better for the present.

- *Akanksha Vishwakarma* (Student) spoke about the fun stories from *Sangati* books. She takes more interest in learning and reading as the books have different pictures, stories, and information. She solves the problems while getting to color the activities.
- *Sonal Gautam* (Student) referred to the story of Maya and said “If I was in the place of Maya, I would never marry young. I would study further, get a job and stand on my feet and then get married.” She added that the boys and girls should be treated equally.
- *Mr. Digambar Khare* (Teacher): “I have been teaching *Sangati* for many years with passion. I got to identify the difficulty and incoherency in the regular academic curriculum due to learnings from *Sangati* and Aveshi’s workshops. *Sangati*’s pictorial and storytelling method of teaching has made other subject’s learning a lot easier on our students. We have integrated the *Sangati* program into regular curriculum in a successful manner and it has shown positive changes in the students.

School: Gurunanak Hindi School

Program: *Sangati*

- *Mr. Adesh Joshi* (Teacher): He has been teaching *Sangati* since 2016 to grade 6th. He says “Students have found a passion of reading and liking towards learning as they gain knowledge from books those include pictures, stories, and role plays. It’s an easier medium to teach thru *Sangati* books. It enriches the formal curriculum while any subject can be taught thru this medium.” He gave an analogy – The *Sangati* student is an ideal student like a Wrestler, who has wrestled on the mat in contrast to a Wrestler who has only built a strong body by nourishing well but without hands on experience.

School: Ashram School - Shenve

Program: *Sangati*

We interacted with 25 students and 1 teacher from this schools. This is a girl’s school. *Sangati* is taught for 5-9th grade students.

- *Pratibha Dandwat* (Student): She said “I Liked Hari and Lal’s story. The wall that’s separate them two shall be destroyed. Only then people can rejoin.” When asked about the caste discrimination she said” Yes, we still come across the caste discrimination, and I oppose it.”
- *Pooja Aare* (Student): She said through *Sangati* she learned that there its constant change happening around you.
- *Sonu Nirguda* (Student): She said” I learned about monthly periods from *Sangati* program. Previously I never talked about it and was shy about it. Now I talk and express the changes in me due to periods, with my friends with an open mind.
- *Ms. Asha Padalkar* (Teacher): She said, the Shenve School is girls’ school and so knowing information about monthly periods and the changes that a girl body goes thru is very important to learn. The girls talk to each other about this topics as *Sangati* builds that confidence in them. Thru the story of “*Maya*” girls have learned that education is more important and that should be gained before getting married. The girls come from rural and Adivasi community, where parents get their girls married at very young age. But thru *Sangati* the girls want to learn and attend schools. This impact is seen on parents, changing their minds and into a positive outlook towards their daughters.

School: Abhyuday Nagar Hindi School

Program: *Saath Saath*

- *Nauseen* (Student): She said “The things that I can’t talk about, I am able to write in the *Saath Saath* book. The book also has questions those are not asked us anywhere so by answering them in the book we are able to express our feelings to others.
- *Vipin* (Student): He said the books have information on changes a girl’s body goes thru in adolescence. I also have women family members those go thru similar changes. Due to this learning, I understand my family members better.

Teachers Training College: Anjuman Khairul College, Kurla
Program: *Manthan*

Ms. Mehmuna Abdul Khalik (Principal): She appreciated and thanked *Manthan* volunteers and stressed on the benefits of the curriculum being enjoyable and at the same time very well thought out. She mentioned an experience “the college has a primary school within the campus. One day the head mistress of the school called Ms. Khalik and asked, are there new teachers appointed in the school. She noticed the new and effective teaching methods implemented in the school. Which had games, storytelling involved.” Ms, Khalik replied to the headmistress that their teachers are learning new methods of teaching thru the *Manthan* program. This change is necessary in teachers training program as it is aligned to the D. Ed curriculum which now includes topics such as social issues, psychology, and physically or mentally disabled students. *Manthan* includes these topics in their program seamlessly.

Photos on following pages →

Varsha Nagar MPS School



Chikwadi CBSC



Prabodhankar Thakray Hindi School



Gurunanak Hindi School



Ashram School – Shenve





Abhyuday Nagar Hindi School



REDMI NOTE 5 PRO
MI DUAL CAMERA



Anjuman Khairul College, Kurla



--End of document--