

Academic Advisors/Teacher Counsellors

Report for the year 2024-25

Overview

To deepen the impact of educational initiatives at Deenabandhu, we recognized the need for subject-wise academic advisors who could offer sustained guidance to teachers, enrich classroom practices, and shape the academic experience for our students. These advisors were envisioned to serve as mentors — bringing subject expertise, knowledge of pedagogy, and an improved approach to teacher development.

We had proposed five such positions based on subject areas. For the academic year 2024–25, thanks to support from ASHA and other donors, we have appointed two advisors/counsellors:

- 1) Mr. Praveen Kumar (Science)
- 2) Mr. Ramakrishna Bhat (Language and Pedagogy)

Key Activities and Outcomes

- 1) Strengthening Science Education at the Teacher Resource Center (TRC)
 - Creation of new teaching aids for high school Science.
 - Handholding for new Science teachers in conducting classroom sessions using TRC resources
 - Mapping of TRC resources and documentation based on curriculum
- 2) Facilitating teacher professional development

Advisors conducted and facilitated numerous workshops and discussions with teachers. Topics included:

 - Linguistic vs. cognitive approaches to language learning
 - Neuroscience-informed perspectives on learning
 - Language across curriculum
 - Concept and content mapping of lessons
 - Bloom's Taxonomy and its application in classrooms
 - Different ideas in Lesson plan design
 - Understanding the nature of various subjects
 - Worksheets vs. Powersheets – designing more effective learning sheets
 - Educational value of School trips
- 3) Academic year planning for the next academic year

Since May, teachers have been working in subject-specific teams, such as lower primary, social science, mathematics etc. to develop academic plans and lesson

outlines under the guidance of the advisors. This process has encouraged collaboration and curriculum alignment across grade levels.

4. Resource development by teachers

- Teachers have been actively engaged in creating new academic resources.
- Field trips are also integrated into lesson plans, based on their need in the curriculum

The guidance and mentorship of our academic advisors are already making a difference and we are seeing the benefits in terms of improved teacher confidence, refined teaching approach and better academic planning. We are grateful for your support in making this work possible.