

# Digantar Vidyalaya

## Requirement of Solar Panel & Laptop

### Financial Year 2025-26

#### **Context & Introduction:**

Digantar Vidyalaya began in 1978 as an alternative school and today runs two completely free schools in Jaipur, serving 204 children between the ages of 3 and 17 from underprivileged communities. Over the past three decades, it has educated more than 4,200 children. In regions once marked by deep gender bias and limited access to education, Digantar has played a transformative role—girls from these communities are now completing school and moving forward into diverse pathways: teaching, sports, and higher education, as well as becoming empowered caregivers who actively support their children's education.

The Vidyalaya also serves as a Learning Site and Resource Centre for educators. Each year, 500–600 teachers and student-teachers visit to engage with its innovative practices, including 5–8 groups from leading Delhi colleges such as Miranda House and Mata Sundari. A further strength of Digantar is its development of effective, self-guided learning materials in Language, Mathematics, and EVS—resources that are widely used by schools and NGOs across the country to bridge early learning gaps.

#### **Why is this Important for Vidyalaya?**

Digantar has been committed to providing completely free, quality education to children from underprivileged communities on the outskirts of Jaipur. Along with meaningful education, we also ensure students receive free textbooks, stationery, learning materials, and other essential facilities.

However, sustaining and upgrading school infrastructure and with necessary equipment continues to be a major challenge. As a non-profit initiative, we rely entirely on grants and donations. Inadequate or aging equipment affects the learning experience—particularly for children from low-income families who rarely get access to dignified, well-equipped educational spaces and materials. At Digantar, we strongly believe that quality education cannot be separated from the physical spaces where children learn. Safe, functional, and inspiring learning environments are not luxuries - they are necessities for ensuring equitable and meaningful education for all.

At Digantar, providing free quality education also means creating dignified and sustainable learning spaces. Rising electricity costs strain our limited resources, reducing what we can invest in classrooms, teachers, and learning materials. Installing solar panels would cut these recurring costs, allowing savings to be redirected toward children's education.

**Need for Solar Panel:** We have long aspired to install solar panels but have not yet been able to. Solar power would significantly reduce our electricity costs and also serve as a live example of sustainable energy use—offering a rich learning opportunity for children. It aligns with our values of sustainability and can be integrated into our teaching as a real-life TLM (Teaching-Learning Material).

**Need for Laptops:** Teachers and coordinators rely on laptops daily for maintaining children's profiles, conducting assessments, generating reports, and planning. Most of our current laptops are over 10-12 years old - bulky, outdated, and very slow - significantly affecting the quality and efficiency of our work. We urgently need good-quality, updated laptops that will also support occasional classroom use, such as showing educational content, stories, and subject-related videos in small groups.

### **1. Requirement of Laptops at Digantar Vidyalaya**

At present, most of the laptops available with people in decision-making positions at the institution have become very old. The coordinators of Digantar Vidyalaya are currently working with laptops that are nearly **12 years old**, and these devices are no longer functional for regular use. They frequently hang, shut down unexpectedly, run at a very slow speed, and are unable to support updated software. The batteries need repeated replacements, adding to extra costs and further hampering efficiency and quality of work.

**Responsibilities of Coordinators and the Role of Laptops:** The role of coordinators goes far beyond administration; they are deeply involved in academic quality and the overall functioning of the school. For them, laptops are an indispensable tool in carrying out their responsibilities, which include:

- Searching for and preparing teaching-learning materials for children and teachers.
- Planning workshops and preparing presentations (PPTs).
- Preparing detailed reports of school programs, classroom observations, and assessments.
- Designing and sharing plans with visitors and collaborators.
- Fundraising-related tasks and official communication (emails, documentation, etc.).
- Enhancing the visibility and outreach of school programs through social media.
- Collecting and analyzing data (such as enrollment, attendance, and progress reports).

- Use canava and design flyers etc.

For all of these responsibilities to be performed efficiently and effectively, **new laptops are essential. Providing new laptops for the two coordinators of Digantar Vidyalaya is therefore critical for ensuring academic quality, effective planning and execution of programs, and the optimal use of resources.**

## 2. What is the expected impact or savings for the project?

*Note: The description is for Solar Panel*

1. **Direct Cost Savings:** By harnessing sunlight, solar panels reduce our reliance on costly grid electricity and immediately cut down utility bills. An 11.8 kWp installation will save the Vidyalaya approximately Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 12,000 each month. These resources, instead of being spent on electricity, can be channelled into enriching classrooms, supporting children's learning, and developing new educational initiatives. At present, our school spends almost Rs. 1.5 lakh annually on electricity. Solar energy will not only reduce this recurring expense but also ensure that these savings are invested where they matter most—children's education.
2. **Reliable & Secure Energy:** Solar panels ensure uninterrupted power, even during outages. With a lifespan of 25+ years and minimal maintenance, the system guarantees stable, low-cost energy for libraries, digital classrooms, and community activities.
3. **Living Classroom for Students:** Beyond savings, solar panels act as a real-life teaching tool. Children learn how sunlight is converted into electricity, gaining hands-on exposure to science, math, and sustainability. This fosters problem-solving and environmental responsibility.
4. **Environmental & Health Benefits:** Each kilowatt of solar power offsets nearly 0.8 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> per kWh - equivalent to planting hundreds of trees over its lifetime. Cleaner energy improves air quality and reduces pollution-related health risks.
5. **Long-Term Community Impact:** For over 25 years, solar energy will make Digantar Vidyalaya a model of sustainability - securing financial resilience while inspiring families and the wider community to adopt greener practices.

### Estimated Budget:

Items Name	Cost (Rs.)
Solar Panel (11.8kwp)	4,00,166 Lakh
Laptops (3)	1,00,000 Lakh
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,00,166 Lakh</b>

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