

Proposal to Asha Foundation

Digantar Vidyalaya

Financial Year 2026-27

Context & Introduction:

Digantar Vidyalaya began in 1978 as an alternative school and today runs two completely free schools in Jaipur, serving 244 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 free, quality education to children from underprivileged communities on the outskirts of Jaipur so far.

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. For the one-time funding, we have identified five

possible investments. Each addresses a specific need, while some also have the potential to strengthen the Vidyalaya's future growth and financial sustainability.

1. Sound System
2. Ceiling in Four Classrooms at Kho Rebariyan Vidyalaya
3. Refurbishment of Four Classrooms for the Pre-Primary Section at Bhavgarh Vidyalaya
4. Desktop Computer for the Computer Lab
5. Tables and Chairs

1. Sound System

Context for Ask/Need: Celebrations, cultural programmes and common assemblies are an integral part of the Vidyalaya's educational approach. Drama, music, dance, storytelling and public performances are not extracurricular activities at Digantar; they are central to how children learn to express themselves, collaborate with others, build confidence and develop their artistic abilities. These shared spaces of performance and participation are an important part of the Vidyalaya's learning culture.

The existing sound system is very old and has undergone several repairs over the years. Despite repeated maintenance, the sound quality remains poor, with frequent interruptions and technical issues that disrupt performances and school events. A new sound system is therefore an urgent requirement for regular assemblies, national festivals, annual functions, alumni gatherings, workshops and other community programmes.

Impact: A reliable sound system will significantly improve the quality of the Vidyalaya's cultural and educational programmes. As the Vidyalaya continues to strengthen its work in theatre, dance, music and other creative arts, this system will directly support children and teachers in presenting months of preparation with the quality and dignity it deserves. It will also create a richer experience for parents, alumni, visitors and potential supporters who attend school events, helping them experience the vibrancy of learning at Digantar.

This investment goes beyond purchasing equipment. It strengthens an important learning space where children find their voice, gain confidence and share their creativity with the community. At the same time, it enhances the Vidyalaya's visibility, deepens community engagement and helps us present the work of our children and teachers in the best possible way for years to come.

2. Normal Ceiling in Four Classrooms at Kho Rebariyan

Context for Ask/Need: The four classrooms at Kho Rebariyan Vidyalaya have tin roofs, making them extremely hot during the summer months. For nearly five to six months of the year, with high humidity continuing through August, the heat becomes so intense that children and teachers find it difficult to remain in the classrooms comfortably for the full school day.

This has a direct impact on learning. During the hottest months, children are unable to stay in class until 3:00 p.m., and parents have requested that the school day be reduced to 1:30 p.m. We have had to accommodate this request, but the shorter school day means losing valuable time for teaching, practice, reading and other learning activities. What is essentially an infrastructure problem is therefore affecting children's learning time, their ability to concentrate and participate, and, to some extent, their physical well-being.

Impact: This has been a long-standing requirement at the Vidyalaya. Addressing it this year would have an immediate and lasting impact. Normal/Proper ceiling would significantly reduce the heat from the tin roofs and make the classrooms considerably more comfortable. Children would be able to stay through the full school day, regain valuable learning time, concentrate better and participate more actively in classroom activities. Teachers would also be able to work more effectively without having to constantly contend with extreme heat, while parents would see a tangible improvement in the conditions in which their children learn.

For us, this is not merely a matter of improving the physical infrastructure. It is about ensuring that children do not lose learning time because their classrooms are too hot to sit in. Completing this intervention would address a long-standing challenge, improve the everyday learning experience of children and teachers, and strengthen parents' confidence in the school's commitment to providing a comfortable, supportive and conducive environment for learning.

3. Refurbishment of Four Classrooms for the Pre-Primary Section

Context for the Need: This is a requirement we had identified last year as part of our Vidyalaya Vision 2030, and we had hoped to address it then. The old Activity Centre has four classrooms that could serve as a dedicated space for the pre-primary section, but they are currently not in use. The ceilings are damaged, the heat problem needs to be addressed, and the roof needs to be repaired or reconstructed in accordance with government norms.

We propose to repair and construct the ceilings and roof where required, address the heat issue, paint and refurbish these four classrooms, and convert the space into a dedicated pre-primary section.

Impact: A dedicated pre-primary space would enable us to create an environment that is more appropriate to the age, needs and ways of learning of young children. It would allow the pre-primary programme to function with greater consistency and provide children with a safe, comfortable and thoughtfully designed space for play, exploration and early learning.

The additional four classrooms would also increase the Vidyalaya's overall classroom capacity as the school continues to grow. This is particularly important for our longer-term plans for CBSE affiliation, which will require us to progressively strengthen our infrastructure and ensure adequate classroom capacity.

This investment would therefore address an immediate need while also creating infrastructure that will serve the Vidyalaya for years to come. It would strengthen our pre-primary programme, enable planned expansion, and contribute to the institutional development required to realise our longer-term Vision 2030.

4. Desktop Computer for the Computer Lab

Context for Ask/Need: The main desktop computer used by the Computer Teacher-cum-Office Clerk at the Vidyalaya is old and increasingly unreliable. It frequently hangs, shuts down unexpectedly, runs very slowly, and is unable to support updated software. Repeated repairs, including a motherboard replacement, have increased maintenance costs without providing a dependable solution.

The computer is an essential part of the Vidyalaya's academic and administrative work. It is used for maintaining children's learning profiles, attendance, enrolment, admission and parent records; documenting teachers' weekly plans, work reports, meeting minutes and reflections; collecting and analysing school data; and preparing teaching-learning materials, workshops, presentations and school reports. It also supports storytelling and other activities with children, preparation of information for visitors and collaborators, and the design of flyers and other communication materials. With so much of the Vidyalaya's routine work dependent on this system, the existing computer has become a significant constraint on the efficiency and continuity of work.

Impact of a Reliable Desktop: A reliable desktop would make a direct difference to the efficiency of the Vidyalaya's academic, administrative and documentation work. More importantly, it would strengthen the systems through which the Vidyalaya records, understands and responds to children's learning. Staff would be able to maintain and analyse children's and school-level data more efficiently, prepare teaching-learning resources and reports on time, and document teachers' work and school processes more systematically. It would also support classroom activities and enable the Vidyalaya to communicate its work more effectively with parents, visitors, collaborators and supporters.

A good desktop is therefore not simply a replacement for an old computer. It is an investment in the Vidyalaya's everyday functioning, helping staff work more efficiently, maintain better records, use data meaningfully, prepare better learning resources, and reduce the time and energy currently lost to an unreliable system.

5. Tables and Chairs

Context for Ask/Need: The tables and chairs currently used in the Vidyalaya are old, and many are damaged or no longer in good condition. Despite this, they continue to be used because replacing them all at once has not been possible. We propose purchasing approximately 100 tables and chairs to provide children with safe, functional and appropriate furniture for their everyday learning. At the same time, we see an opportunity to make better use of the Vidyalaya's spacious campus by developing it as a centre for competitive examinations and other external examinations. Adequate furniture is an essential requirement for hosting such examinations in an organised and appropriate manner.

Impact: Good-quality furniture would immediately improve the everyday learning environment for children, giving them a comfortable and functional space to sit, write, read and work. It would also improve the overall appearance and usability of the classrooms.

Beyond its direct benefit to children, this investment could help the Vidyalaya turn an existing asset into a modest and sustainable source of additional income. By making the campus suitable for hosting competitive and external examinations, we could generate revenue from infrastructure that is otherwise underutilised during certain periods. Over time, this could contribute towards meeting recurring school expenses and reduce our dependence on external funding.

Thus, the investment would serve a dual purpose: improving children's everyday learning environment while also strengthening the Vidyalaya's capacity to generate its own resources and move gradually towards greater financial sustainability.

Estimated Budget:

S.N.	Items Name	Quantity/Rate	Total Cost (Rs.)
1.	Sound System		
	Stage Speaker (Ahuja SMS-450) (Quantity 2)		42,000
	8-Channel Mixer (Ahuja AMX-812) (Quantity 1)		11,446
	Wireless Handheld Mic (Quantity 2)		9,900
	Wireless Headset Mic (Quantity 2)		14,000
	Wired Microphone (Quantity 2)		4,374

	Amplifier (Quantity 3)		22,000
	Total (5)		1,03,720
2.	Ceiling at Kho Rebariyan Vidyalaya		
	Total area: ft = 1,440 sq. ft. (4 classrooms $\times$ 18 ft $\times$ 20)	Rs.150 per sq. ft	2,16,000
3.	Refurbishment of 4 Classrooms at Bhavgarh Vidyalaya		
	Ceiling Painting (Total area: 1,440 sq. ft.)	Rs.20 per sq. ft.	28,800
	Wall Painting (Total area: 684 sq. ft.)	Rs.16 per sq. ft.	10,944
	Installation of Wire Mesh on the Walls of 4 classrooms Wall Size: 5 ft (width) $\times$ 20 ft (length) Total Area of 4 classrooms: 400 sq. ft.	Rs.250 per sq. ft.	1,00,000
	Installation of Doors in 4 classrooms		35,000
	Total (2 & 3)		3,90,744
4.	Desktop <i>HP All-in-One PC Core i3 (8 GB DDR4/512 GB SSD/Windows 11 Home/23.8 Inch Screen/24-cr0901 / 24-cr0905) with MS Office (Shell White, 40.9 cm $\times$ 54 cm $\times$ 18.6 cm, 5.27 kg</i> https://www.flipkart.com/hp-all-in-one-pc-core-i3-8-gb-ddr4-512-ssd-windows-11-home-23-8-inch-screen-24-cr0901-24-cr0905-ms-office/p/itm176d9af24b4cd?pid	1	60,990
5.	Tables & Chairs	50, 3000 per set	1,50,000
	Total (1 to 5)		7,05,454

Digantar Vidyalaya

Support to Academic Coordinator Salary

Financial Year 2026-27

Justification for Supporting the Academic Coordinator's Salary

Children's learning can only be sustained when the Vidyalaya is able to retain committed and capable teachers and provide them with the academic support they need. Asha Foundation has generously supported teachers' salaries for several years, and this support has enabled us to continue providing education to 244 children. In 2026–27, Asha is supporting the salaries of eight teachers, including primary and upper-primary teachers. Building on this support, we propose support for the Academic Coordinator's salary for the following reasons:

1. With the growth of the Vidyalaya, an increasing number of children and teachers, and several new teachers joining recently, there is a growing need for dedicated academic guidance and supervision. The Academic Coordinator supports primary-level teaching and learning by orienting and mentoring new teachers, helping them understand and practise Digantar's curriculum and pedagogy, supporting them in preparing weekly plans, and demonstrating classroom practices. When the third primary teacher could not be appointed and a new primary group started in July, the Academic Coordinator, with support from existing teachers, took responsibility for managing the group. This continued through July and August until the third teacher joined on 18 August, ensuring that the new group could function without disruption. The coordinator also regularly teaches Hindi at the upper-primary level.
2. This role is important to ensure that the growth of the Vidyalaya is accompanied by a corresponding strengthening of the quality of teaching and children's learning. In the longer term, stronger academic quality can also help us attract more families who are able to contribute towards fees, thereby supporting the Vidyalaya's financial sustainability. In addition, the coordinator conducts weekly Sharing Meetings, reviews teachers' lesson plans, provides ongoing academic support, and steps in to take classes whenever required, particularly when teachers are absent.
3. Most importantly, the support already provided by Asha to eight teachers will be more meaningful and effective when these teachers receive regular

academic guidance, mentoring, and supervision. The Academic Coordinator helps ensure that the investment in teachers translates into stronger classroom practices and better learning experiences for children.

Below is the list of teachers whose salaries are supported by Asha, along with the proposed salary support for the Academic Coordinator.

Bhavgarh Vidyalaya Personnel Costs						
SN	Name/Head	Designation	Basic Salary	Per Month	Year 26-27	Remark
	Salary					
1	Suman	Pre-School Helper	10,000	10,750	129,000	Funded by Asha
2	Ghanshyam Kumhar	Primary cum Art Teacher	20,000	34,760	417,120	Funded by Asha
3	Shivangi Lahumi	English Teacher	20,000	35,500	426,000	Funded by Asha
4	Ashwini Vijya Salunke	Social Science Teacher	20,000	31,000	372,000	Funded by Asha
5	Raju Gurjar	Computer Teacher	20,000	26,160	313,920	Funded by Asha
6	Balkishan Dabodiya	Librarian	20,000	23,500	282,000	Funded by Asha
7	Gunhmala Jain	Hindi Teacher	20,000	27,140	325,680	Funded by Asha
8	Jitendra Sharma	Mathematics Teacher	20,000	32,000	384,000	Funded by Asha
9	Hemant Kumar Sharma	Academic Coordinator cum Teacher	45,000	54,450	653,400	Proposed to be funded by Asha
		Total Personnel Costs			3,303,120	-
