

Mosamat Budhiya Shiksha Nirman Sangathan (MBSNS)

Annual Report 2022-23

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INTRODUCTION

The Mosamat Budhiya Shiksha Nirman Sangathan (MBSNS), was registered under the Trust Act on 11th October, 2017. Since then it has been committed to learning and education across age groups, irrespective of caste, religion and gender. This year as the Mosamat Budhiya Jeevanshala grew in strength and spirit, the focus was more on its work. Like the Trust, the Jeevanshala, is named after our local (s)hero Mosamat Budhiya, a brave widowed peasant woman, from the minority community who challenged indigo farming in the British times.

THE JEEVANSHALA – Our residential educational centre

The Jeevanshala has been in existence since the inception of the MBSNS Trust, but its form has changed over the years. Picking up from last year the Jeevanshala (JS), has increased its numbers of enrolled students from 22 to 30 students. This was a mild strain as the infrastructure could only be marginally upgraded and human resources at the JS's disposal also did not change much. However, everyone stepped up to this new challenge of the larger numbers.

Through the year we had many visitors at the Jeevanshala including youth activist Satyendra and Delhi Government school teachers Isha and Rajani, who are interested in the pedagogy. They interacted with the children and also stayed with us to understand how we were helping children learn. The Saturday workshops, focused on sex education, good-bad touch, health concerns, disability and yoga, with techniques like shadow puppetry, Theatre of the oppressed (TOTO), other theatre techniques and shadow puppetry. The shadow puppetry workshop which happened in January, 2023, was in some ways a real high point for the jeevanshala, where we all braved the cold to be part of the workshop. A short film made on the workshop can be seen here <https://youtu.be/j6frKtarpXg>

The nutritious food at the centre, was also supplemented with the introduction of a meat diet, atleast once a month, while milk and seasonal fruits continued.

The academic year was also marked with learning from nature, continued innovations in classroom pedagogy and two Parents Teacher's Meets, where the TL (Teacher-Learner) team had an opportunity to sit with parents and children together and also try and see if families could find a way to strengthen the learning that the children were being exposed to in the Jeevanshala. We also had our annual sports day, in which students participated enthusiastically. This year also has seen the coming together of a library, with books, for children across age groups, donated by friends of the Jeevanshala. However,

much more work needs to be put into making the library more functional with proper cataloguing and access to children of age appropriate books.

However the happiness from the strides forward was dampened by the demise of one of our former TL, Nisha. Nisha was a young person and we lost her to a serious but undiagnosed medical condition. The children had a difficult time coping with this loss, but they shared some beautiful memories of Nisha.

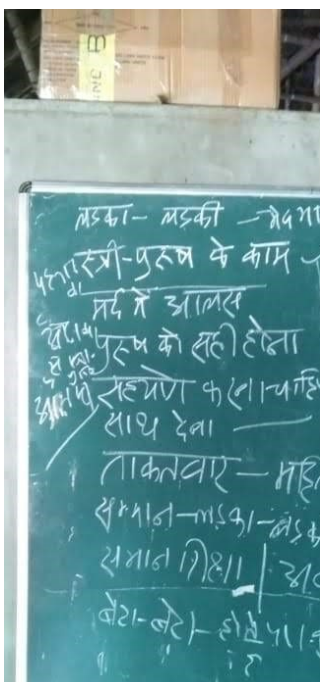
For more detailed report on learning at the jeevanshala please do see our website and read about the jeevanshala work at <https://mbsns.org/jeevanshala/>



AMBEDKAR NAGAR – An NFE centre

The Ambedkar Nagar centre, being run in a safai karmi colony, continued to flourish. However, the challenge of involving the community and finding a safe physical space to run the centre continued, as the community continued to be divided and threatened by this small educational effort. But this setback aside, the children continue to come and engage in learning outside of school hours, every evening.





HOSTING THE MEN'S GENDER WORKSHOP

Nasiruddin ji, ex editor of Hindustan, and a very old friend conducted a workshop on gender with Men. There were 15 participants from various villages of Araria and Katihar. The main points discussed were around division of work at home and understanding equality in a relationship between men and women. Second part of discussion also included the constitutional ideas of secularism and communalism.



STORY TELLING WORKSHOP LED BY JEEVANSHALA Tls

MBSNS Jeevanshala Tls have been providing training to youths working with children on story reading. Story reading and writing is an integral part of our classes and is an important tool for developing language skills and imagination.



ACADEMIC EXPOSURE VISIT

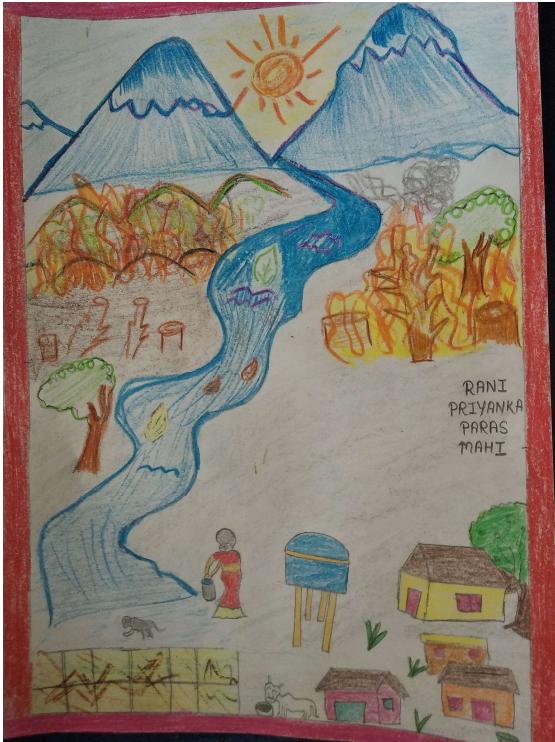
The exposure visit this year was most interesting. Paras, invited us to their Nature Camp, Camp Sparrow, in Jeolikot, Nainital. A team of 6 students, from the senior grouping and 6 TLs went to the camp. It was the first time that we actually experienced the healing touch of nature and how much we could learn from nature. Before this we had tangentially referred to the importance of learning from nature, and only theoretically drawn from thoughts of educators like Krishnamurti and Tagore.

As we reached Paras and his team let us explore the touristy side of where we were and we spend the day around the great Naini Lake, boating and generally getting excited by the hills, the greenery and the water. However, once we were in Camp Sparrow, we woke up to morning yoga sessions, healthy food, long nature walks, bird watching, a visit to the arboretum and soaked in whatever mother nature had to offer. In the week we spent there we also interacted with the local government school children and their teachers. One day involved visiting the local Government mushroom harvesting and bee rearing and honey collection programmes. But the highlight of this trip was the jungle picnic to the haunted house. We lugged all the supplies on our back and had a eco friendly picninc, creating no waste and making ourselves a perfect vegetable biryani with everyone's efforts pooled in :)



Another exposure for us was visiting the HAPPY CHILDRENS' LIBRARY, founded by Jaya di and

Atul ji. The library as the name says has these amazing children visiting form the nearby villages, all happy and excited about their library. The library doesnt limit itself to just helping children read, but organizes regular activities for them and help them also do better in formal schooling.



The trip, like all good things had to come to an end. But we were thoroughly touched by nature and generosity of our hosts. The last day the team stopped in Delhi and we visited historical monuments like the qutub minar and red fort, while also partaking of Delhi street food.