

D U Centenary Smart Village Project

The National Education Policy 2020 envisioned *Equity* and *Inclusion* in higher education. "Entry into quality higher education can open an array of possibilities that can lift both individuals as well as communities out of cycles of disadvantage. For this reason, making quality higher education opportunities available to all individuals must be among the highest priorities"(Para14.1; p 41). As a part of its Institutional Social Responsibility (ISR), University of Delhi has adopted Jaunti village to develop it as a smart village with a focus in the field of education. Jaunti village is located 32 km away from DU North campus in the Kanjhawla sub division in the North West district of Delhi. The village has historical signages with architects depicting the symbols of *medieval period* as it was considered to be a resting place for the moughal emperors as they used to visit the *jungle* for hunting purposes. Later, as the place was ruled the king Jaun Pal, the village was named as Jaunti on his name. The village has a population of approximately 5000 people, urbanised, well connected with public transport system with nearest villages and city of Delhi. The village has a primary and also a co-ed Sarvodaya higher secondary school. The rich income group of the village prefer to send their children to the private school and the middle class and lower class have opted for Sarvodaya Vidyalaya due to affordability issues. The Delhi University Smart Village team charted out the following objectives and began its work in the month of March 2022. The objectives of the centenary smart village project are as follows:

- To setup a Yuva Urja Kendra (Career Guidance Centre) and to mobilize about 100 youth to be its members
- To set up a Community Knowledge Centre in the village
- To facilitate the development of a social network surpassing kinship, caste or political network

Activities carried out from April 2022 onwards

Building connect with the village and people

Meeting with RWA Members: The team interacted with the office-bearers of PWRD Society (PWRD Society). They are Mr. Kuldeep Chhikara, President; Mr. Jai Bhagwan, Secretary; Mr. Ishwar Saini, Treasurer; and other executive committee and ordinary members of the PWRD Society. The date of resource mapping was finalised as 12th April 2022

Prof. Sanjai Bhatt, Convenor of Village Adoption Committee and faculty member of the Department of Social Work, University of Delhi, briefed about the village adoption project as a part of Institutional Social Responsibility (ISR) of Delhi University Centenary celebration. He added that Delhi University wants to extend educational and other extension services to make this Village as a SMART village. The collaborative initiative would enable youths as good decision-makers in terms of their career choices and self-employment. The members present in the meeting shared a brief history and their concerns as well as the need for dialogues and joint actions.



Interaction with School Children: There are two government schools in Jaunti village. One is primary and the second one is from nursery to higher secondary level. The team visited the senior secondary school and interacted with the 12th class students and teachers. Teachers expressed that there is a need for career guidance on New Education Policy and the admission processes in different university and colleges.

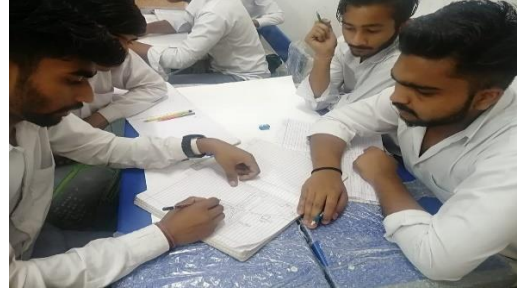
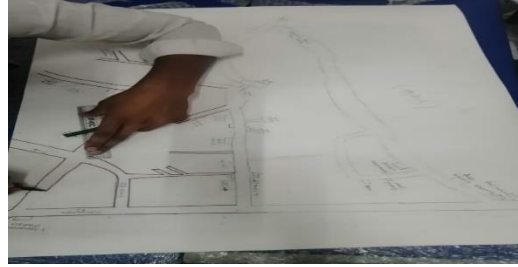
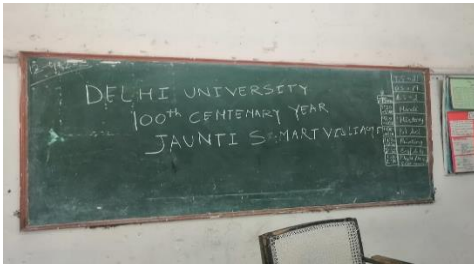


Meeting with School Principal and Staff: On 7th April 2022, the team visited the Government School and interacted with Ms. Pramila Joshi, the Principal of the school, and Ms. Pinky, the school coordinator. The meeting started with a brief introduction about Delhi University and its proposed centenary celebrations. Dr. Sudhir Maske, faculty member, has briefly explained the purpose of the village adoption project and Delhi University proposed an intervention to extend educational services and resources to make this Village SMART and would largely benefit to the student community.



Participatory Appraisal: Mr. Sudhir Maske and Dr. Seema Rani, the committee members, carried out various data generating activities adopting various participatory rural appraisal techniques with the help of school children of the village. The students

from the school actively contributed in these exercises and helped in the preparation of village maps and mapping of various social issues. The students from the Department of Social Work also participated in this data generating activity.



Meeting with RWA members and village dwellers 23rd November 2022

A two-member team comprising Prof. Neena Pandey, and Dr. Seema Rani of the committee visited the village Jaunti to discuss the project proposal with the RWA office bearers. The team interacted with the Rural Welfare Association (RWA) president Mr. Kuldeep Chhikara, Mr. K.K. Vats, and Key Person Mr. Dharamvir Singh. The team briefed them about the aims and objectives of the proposed activities. We discussed the three proposed programs in detail and did the brainstorming for the implementation plan.

All the present members agreed for giving their support in implementing the project. The RWA members gave their valuable suggestions about the activities under consideration of Yuva Urja Kendra. Some of them are as given below:

- Volunteer groups can be made to coordinate with the villagers and team.
- Identify the resource persons within the village and external sources to conduct the sessions on career guidance, social issues, life skills, etc.
- Establish the linkages between different organizations to initiate short-term courses for the youth i.e., English-speaking course, professional writing skills, green farming training, soft skills, etc.
- Fieldwork placement of social work students can be done under the centenary smart village project and also try to get the involvement of B.El. Ed Department and NSS volunteers for the same.



Infrastructural Development Initiatives

Yuva Urja Kendra : The idea behind a Yuva Urja Kendra is to make the students aware of different career options ahead of their senior secondary education through various admission tests such as CUET, JEE or NEET etc. There would be relevant information base that would enable them in choosing a career option as per their interests and capabilities. The centre would motivate the girls of the village to enroll themselves in various educational programs. The students have access issues because of the inherent digital divide and the digitalized nature of admission procedures. Many students would be in various forms of stress and would be requiring psychological support. Therefore, there is a need to provide a number of facilitating and enabling interactive sessions with the proposed members.



Created a logo for Smart Village Project: A beautiful logo had been created for the running project with the help of student volunteers of Sarvodaya Vidyalaya, MSW(DSSW), BSW (Aditi Mahavidyalaya) and team members of the project.



The logo reflects the symbolic message i.e., join hands together to help each other and make a smart and progressive village.

Whitewash and Paint of Panchayat Bhawan

The panchayat bhawan is located opposite to Sarvodaya Vidyalaya. The RWA members and the University team decided to make it the center of all the activities. The panchayat bhawan was in a dilapidated condition which demanded immediate renovation. The renovation was undertaken by The Ever Bond Paint Limited who sponsored the paint and all the raw material and completed the whitewash of the Bhawan. The picture Pre and post renovation of panchayat bhawan is shown below;

BEFORE



AFTER



Support/Coaching for Admission in higher education

Organized Workshop on Central University Entrance Test (CUET-2022): A workshop on CUET was organized at Jaunti village school on 21st April 2022. As many as 70 students participated in this workshop. Dr. Bhupesha Rathore, a member from Delhi University Admission Branch, explained about CUET and the procedures to be followed. She also addressed various queries of the aspiring students who want to appear for the CUET-2022.



An informative session on CUET on Republic Day 2023: On 26th January 2023, University of Delhi and Govt. Sarvodaya Vidyalaya, Jaunti celebrated Republic Day and National Voters Day together at Jaunti Village, North-West district of Delhi.

Members of Centenary Smart Village Project of Delhi University; members of RWA, Jaunti; officer of Sarvodaya Co-ed Vidyalaya, Jaunti; and school management committee collaborated, managed, discussed and came together to spread awareness about CUET (common university entrance test) and to introduce the ideas behind Yuva Urja Kendra amongst the secondary and senior secondary students. As many as 220 students participated in the event.

The students were told about an upcoming public library in the village with the help of University of Delhi. Among many other benefits, it would enable digital literacy and access to digital platforms. They were further informed about the required preparation for CUET. The proposed Yuva Urja Kendra would motivate and assist students with correct information on how to fill and face CUET. Students also expressed their willingness to join the smart village project by University of Delhi and wanted to know about the proposed plan of action regarding the same.



Assisting to Fill up the CUET forms: The fieldwork interns are currently assisting the young aspirants to fill up their CUET forms for their higher education. Altogether 19 forms have been filled till now. The form filling exercise is still continued. The social work interns have created a whats app group of young aspirants and they keep posting the readings and newspapers on it. The day to day queries pertaining to entrance exams or subject related queries of the aspirants are being addressed.



Promoting Participatory Processes

Fieldwork Placement at Jaunti Village: Department of Social Work placed three MA Social Work students for field work and two B A Hons Social Work students from Aditi Mahavidyalaya were placed for their concurrent fieldwork from 15th April onwards. These students closely worked with RWA members and school children. They prepared comprehensive community profile and carried out activities and awareness generation programmes. They also campaigned to make this village plastic free. The students from both the places were interning in the current semesters also and focused on community work by making inroads in various aspects of villages. The students prepared community profile, did problem-solving, organised various meetings and events, conducted sessions in the community and schools, and networked with various offices and stakeholders as a part of the field engagements.



Medical Camp: On 11 December 2022, a Medical camp was organised by the DU Smart Village team, RWA members, in collaboration with Satya Pharmaceuticals. This camp helped in generating awareness towards health among the underprivileged sections of the society. This camp mainly focused on the issue of Eye, Dental, Gynaecological and the General Health concerns of the community dwellers. The camp was successful with the registration of 160+ people including both males and females. The camp focussed on developing community based health awareness programs and bridged the gap between educational institutions and rural communities. It was also joined by CDMO Dr Meenakshi and volunteers of National Service Scheme under Prof. Mamta sharma and Dr Mali Devi Sawariya , Aditi Mahavidyalaya and Delhi School of

Social Work to make the community organization practices part of learning in educational institutions. The Chief guest of the event was Dr Trivendra Kumar Chumbak, CMO, WUS West District, University of Delhi. The medical teams for health check up were led by Dr Sumit for General Health, Dr Sanjay Aggarwal and team from Satya Pharmaceuticals. There were more than twenty five women in the age group between 20-44 years who came with the concerns of reproductive and sexual health concerns that earlier remained untreated. Many of the older persons and children with the concerns of eye and general health indicate less awareness regarding health in the village.



Zonal Meetings: There were three zonal meetings organised. The details of the same are given below;

First zonal Meeting at Pratiksha Sewing Centre: 21st March 2023, Tuesday

Prof Neena Pandey, and Dr. Seema Rani of the project team with a social work trainee visited the village Jaunti, Delhi-110081 on 21st March 2023. This visit was planned with an aim to develop rapport and networking with community stakeholders. The members had interaction with young girls, women group during the visit. The aim of the meeting was to give awareness to the young population of the community members about the initiatives of University of Delhi take place in the village such as training for CUET(Common University Entrance Test), establishing a library and Yuva Urja Kendra etc.

Prof. Neena Pandey encouraged young girls to fill forms of CUET(Common University Entrance Test) and emphasized the importance of education and Dr. Seema Rani shared her life story which was so inspiring. She also belonged to Jaunti village. She had completed her education in the village itself. She overcame all the barriers and

achieved her goal. Many girls have shown interest in completing their education and were also concerned that they couldn't complete their education due to lack of support from their families.



Second Zonal Meeting: 5th April 2023, Wednesday

Dr Sunita Bahmani and Dr. Mali Devi Sawariya of the project committee of the University of Delhi visited the village Jaunti to discuss the project proposal with the women, children, parents and the students who have applied for CUET. The team interacted with Sh Dalbir Singh and Sh Ramchadra Ji. They allowed the project to share the space of their house to conduct meeting with the parents and students. The interacted with Ms Sunita, Ms Manisha, Ms Shilpa, Ms Pooja Dass, Ms Rajbala, Ms Diksha and Mr Priyanshu who opted for CUET. They were also briefed about the Smart Village project and its activities. All the present members engaged in the discussion and asked about the process of preparing for CUET. They suggested that there is no economic support for accessing the resources for CUET preparation, hence a support system must be provided.



Third Zonal Meeting at Mangu Chaupal: 6th April 2023, Thursday

The zonal meeting at Mangu Chaupal was conducted by the village adoption Committee in collaboration with RWA members. The centenary smart village Project team arranged the venue and mobilized community members for the meeting with the corporation of RWA members. Prof. Neena Pandey and Dr. Seema Rani facilitate the process and interacted with community members and children who have filled CUET (Common University Entrance Test). The aim of the meeting was to develop rapport with community members and to aware the community about educational initiatives that have taken by Delhi University such as CUET form filling process. To achieve the desirable outcomes following key points were discussed in the meeting.



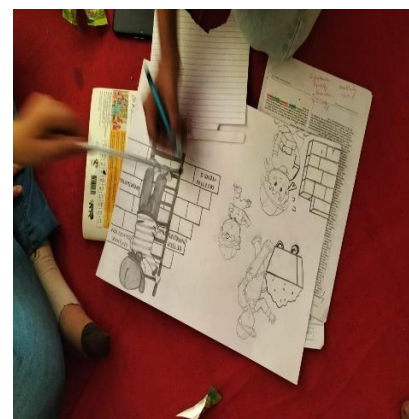
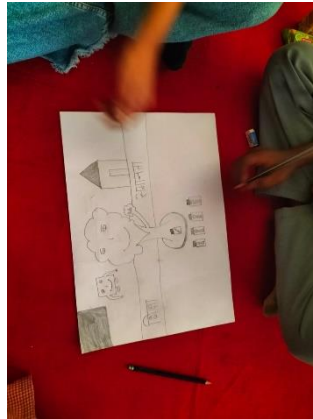
Developing IQ, EQ and SQ

Poster development for Medical Camp: The school children prepared the poster and banner of the medical camp. An art session was conducted by trainee social worker. She narrated the objective of the medical camp and the children drew pictures. This gave them an opportunity to express their own emotions with regard to their health and their understanding about their family's and community's health.

Three-day workshop at “Hamara Naya Panchayat Bhawan”: A three-day workshop on “Hamara Naya Panchayat Bhawan” was conducted at Panchayat Bhawan, Jaunti Village, by the University of Delhi centenary smart village project team. The event was scheduled from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The resource person for the event was Mr. Vikram (an artist). The event was inaugurated by Prof. Mamta Sharma, Principal, Aditi Mahavidyalaya and Mrs. Seema Hooda, Principal, Sarvodaya Vidyalaya, and members of Resident Welfare Association. Participants were students of Sarvodaya Vidyalaya, Jaunti, DSSW trainees, and B.El.Ed/BSW students of Aditi Mahavidyalaya. Faculty members of Aditi Mahavidyalaya also participated in the event and motivated children. Prof. Neena Pandey, Convenor Village Adoption Committee welcomed all the participants and narrated the objectives of Smart village project and the objectives of the workshop.

Prof. Mamta Sharma shared a beautiful and inspiring definition of energy by integrating it with Delhi University’s initiative of adopting a village to convert it into a smart village, and Mrs. Seema Hooda, Principal of Sarvodaya Vidyalaya, mentioned about her students that they are at the centre of this project and that this initiative will provide limitless opportunities for the creative minds and shared inspiring words.

The resource person (Mr. Vikram) motivated children to generate new ideas and thoughts to transfer their creative thoughts into wall painting. He also taught them the basics of painting and designing. The students were highly motivated to learn, explore, and grow. They were encouraged to draw on paper at the event. It was a practice session for children so that they can draw well on the walls of Panchayat Bhawan. Through art, each group has shown their creativity and expressed their thoughts.



Key Observations:

- There is an urgent need for resource mobilisation and resource networking for making CUET related information accessible to the candidates who have filled the form.
- It is important to engage the women and children of the community in the beautification of the panchayat bhawan. The community women possess inherent skills of making decorative pieces that can lead their participation and ownership in the process of beautification. There is a picture of a woman from a community who shared her skills in creating crafts from waste material.
- There is also a felt need amongst the CUET stakeholders who wish to have some mock tests so that they can prepare and assess their examination status.

Our Partners

The Smart Village Project team expanded its wings to collaborate with various partners to meet the objectives of Institutional Social Responsibility (ISR):

- The team got connected with Residents Welfare Association (RWA) and got their full support and participation in the outreach work.
- The team developed linkages with government offices such as, District Magistrate (DM), and Directorate of Education (DOE) to get their support for the project.
- Department of Social Work, University of Delhi and Aditi Mahavidyalaya, University of Delhi placed interns of Department of Social Work for field work.
- National Service Scheme, Aditi Mahavidyalaya engaged their volunteers for the project.
- Department of Education Aditi Mahavidyalaya got involved in the Project
- The WUS University of Delhi extended its support for making the Medical Camp a huge success
- Satya Pharmaceuticals along with its team of Dental, Gynecologist, Ophthalmologist, and general physicians partnered with the project.
- Chief Medical Officer, North-West district, Delhi and PHC, Jaunti Village partnered with the project.
- Sarvodaya School and Primary School jaunti village are the constant participating agencies
- The Ever Bond Paints Pvt. Limited sponsored the white wash and Paint of Panchayat Bhawan
- Tata Vocational Skill Training Center is a big resource
- Pratiksha Sewing Center, Rotary Club is supporting the project with engaging its members with the project
- Mr. Vikram Kumar, an eminent painter of Delhi, collaborated with the workshop on 'Hamara Naya Panchayat Bhawan'.
- The Media partners - Loksatya, Dainik Jagran and Times of India covered the initiatives of the Project.

The way forward

- Conducting sessions on CUET and subject based mentoring and remedial classes for students appearing in CUET and various entrance examinations
- Building the Community knowledge center
- Organizing theater in community to generate felt needs on education and generate awareness regarding career options

- Practice of Mock tests of CUET
- conducting zonal meetings
- Setting up a library
- Create awareness about the green environment.
- Continue fieldwork placement
- Conduct sessions with children on IQ, EQ and SQs
- Engaging people in cultural events

THE TEAM DETAILS

Following are the members of Smart Village Jaunti Committee:

Sr. No	Name of Member	Designation
1	Prof. Neera Agnimitra	Convener, Central Co-ordination Committee
2	Prof. Pankaj Arora	Convener, ISR Committee
3	Prof. Sanjai Bhatt (DSSW)	Convener, Village Adoption Committee till 31st January 2023
4	Prof Neena Pandey	Co-convener till 31st January 2023 and presently Convener, Village Adoption Committee
5	Dr. Seema Rani Aditi Mahavidyalaya	Member and Presently Co-convener, Village Adoption Committee
6	Mr. Pratap Behera (DSSW)	Member
7	Prof. Mamta Sharma (Aditi Mahavidalaya, DU, Bawana)	Member
8	Dr Sunita Bahmani (Aditi Mahavidalaya, D.U.)	Member
9	Dr. Rakesh Choudhary (Aditi Mahavidalaya, D.U.)	Member
10	Dr. Mali Devi Sawariya (Program Officer, National Service Scheme, Aditi Mahavidalaya, D.U.)	Member