

Vidya Ashram

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Report of Activities : Year 2006-07

1) Society and Education :

a) Bhaichara Vidyalaya :

- Evening schools in five villages for children of 5-10 years of age. These villages are Saraimuhana, Newada, Singhpur, Kakarahiya and Hiranpur of Varanasi District. They attract children from the poorest households. (List of students in each school is attached.)
- Children of these schools brought out village level rallies with a message of brotherhood. (Saraimuhana 20 January, Newada 22 Jan., Singhpur 24 Jan., Kakarahiya 25 Jan., Sarnath 27 Jan.). (Photographs attached)
- A multiplication table recital competition for children of these schools was organised in Sarnath market on 29 Jan. It drew encouraging response from the people. (Photographs)
- Regular training for teachers of Bhaichara Vidyalaya at the Ashram.

b) Bal Vidyalaya :

- An evening school for children (5-10 years) named Bhikkhu Jagadeesh Kashyap Vidyalaya from poor households from the surroundings is being run at the Ashram. An average of 20 children come. (Photo)

c) New Academy :

- During summer months May and July capacity building courses in Science, Mathematics and English for students of class 9,10 and 11 were organised at the Ashram. they were attended by batches of 6-8 students.

d) Dialogue in Schools :

- A dialogue on education was carried out in 6 schools. It was accompanied by a set of posters. (photographs)

They were attended by students of class 9,10 11 and 12 and the teachers. Lively question answer sessions showed the interest of both students and teachers. Each dialogue used to last for two and half hours. The topics were –

- **Locations of knowledge**
- **Storm in knowledge domain**

- **Education for equality**
- **Inclusion of knowledge traditions in education**

S. No.	Date	Name of the school
1.	24.11.06	B.S. Convent School , Paigamberpur
2.	04.12.06	Bindhyeshwari Kanya Inter College , Chiraigaon
3.	05.12.06	Shri Gandhi Inter College, Gaura
4.	08.01.07	Shri Krishna Inter College , Parashurampur Chandauli
5.	08.01.07	Shri Vishwanath Singh Mahavidyalaya, Chandauli
6.	22.01.07	Mahatma Gautam Buddha High School , Gaura

2) Kisan Peeth :

- In May 2006 Kisan Peeth Bulletin was published. It was titled ‘ Kisan aur Bazar’ . (Attached)
- A day long conference on 14th May 06 on the theme of Kisan aur Bazar was organised at the Ashram. Farmers , farmer leaders, social activists, and NGO workers from Varanasi, Azamgarh, Balia, Mirzapur, Chandauli and intellectuals from universities participated. About 80 persons engaged in this dialogue on mainly the supply side and the output market for agriculture.(Photographs)

3)Kala Sadhana :

Evening classes for boys and girls in vocal and instrumental music. On average 5 students.

4) Chintan Varta :

Thought provoking dialogues are regularly held at the Ashram. In these meetings and discussions social activists and philosophically inclined individuals participate. Five such meetings were held this year. These meetings were attended by about 40 persons.

S.No.	Date	Topics
1.	03. 09.06	Samaj mein krantikari parivartan ka vidyagat adhar
2.	15.11.06	Shiksha mein arakshan
3.	28.12.06	Shiksha vahi jo gair-barabari door kary
4.	25.02.07	Kisan ki ladai ladane योग्या keise bane

5) Lokavidya Samwad :

- The 18th issue on the theme of “ Gyan ki duniya aur buniyadi rajniti ka swaroop “ is in the press.
- A special bulletin “ Bauddhic Satyagraha “ was brought out in November 2006. (Copy attached)

6) Dialogue on Knowledge in Society :

- Organisation of workshop “ *Knowledge Satyagraha* ” in India Social Forum (ISF) , Jawaharlal Nehru stadium New Delhi, 11 Nov. 2006. (Photographs)
- Publication of bulletin “ *Knowledge Satyagraha* ” for the ISF workshop. (Copy)
- Publication of bulletin “ *Radical Politics and Knowledge Question* ” for distribution in WSF Nairobi, 20-25 January 2007. We could not go because of financial constraints. The bulletin was distributed there. (Copy)
- Publication of papers written for our workshop at WSF in Karachi , March 2006. Bulletin entitled “ *Virtuality and Knowledge in Society* ”.
- Organisation of a *Yahoo group Knowledge Dialogue* on the Internet for knowledge dialogue.
- Participation in Edu-Factory Trans-National Project : A dialogue on “*Conflicts in Knowledge Production*” the net conducted from Austrelia.

7) Website :

- Vidya Ashram has a website by the name *vidyaashram.org* It provides information about the activities, concerns and philosophy of the Ashram.

8) Participation in Social Struggles/Movements :

- Members of the Ashram participated in the following ___
 - Kisan Panchayat in Haridwar (June06) and Allahabad (Jan.07)