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“And suddenly...the penny dropped!”

There are so many moments in our life when suddenly a concept that you have struggled with for long becomes crystal clear. Imagine a theory, a point of view, a premise or an understanding that you couldn't comprehend just falls into place magically like pieces of a puzzle. That's what WeGyaan has achieved with thousands of students in only one year.

With an endeavor to provide high-quality education in government-aided schools mired with problems of limited funds, poor infrastructure, and conventional teaching-learning resources the WeGyaan was born in the year 2019 by Huntsman International (I) Private Limited and Arch Foundation Development.

With initial R&D it was established that the overall outlook towards science amongst school authorities, teachers and students is not very positive. Uninteresting delivery of the subject made it difficult for the children to follow simple concepts in the syllabus which resulted in poor performance. There was low motivation amongst the teachers and students alike.

A subject like science cannot be confined within the classroom. It cannot be understood within the pages of a thick textbook. It is vast, exploratory and often self-understood by discovery.

Keeping in mind this very nature of science ARCH proposed the installation of the WeGyaan lab to promote the concept of Watch - Do - Learn. A Science lab is a place to stimulate curiosity, provide practical opportunities to explore a concept in easy ways and develop a love for concepts that are pointedly absent today in rural and municipal schools.

The initiative of Huntsman International (I) Private Limited in collaboration with the ARCH Development Foundation in 2019 has started an interesting journey to undertake WeGyaan Project by designing and executing exclusive activities to increase scientific temperament in children studying at government Schools from Mumbai, Maharashtra.

WeGyaan is a very powerful and innovative instrument to revolutionize the study of science and make education increasingly accessible. It is a catalytic channel that is fun, engaging and interactive, aimed to raise awareness among children and teachers from a less privileged section, of the value of learning - with a focus on science.

WeGyaan has a range of 109 tabletop working models with back-drops and manuals providing hands-on experience for learning science and mathematics from Class 5 to 10.

MESSAGE FROM HUNTSMAN

Huntsman believes in providing sustainable solutions to enhance the lives of the present as well as future generations, be it industrial needs or the needs of the communities where Huntsman intervenes to make the future a brighter one for its citizens.

A large part of our children studies in Government aided schools with more or less infrastructural facilities that seldom meet their learning needs and generates interest in what is learned. We at Huntsman believe that a sustainable infrastructure is a must to reinforce and push the children towards creating interest in a subject. Science as a subject is not only feared by the children but almost all the time was seen as inaccessible for many children due to less infrastructural facilities to learn.

Project WeGyaan is an initiative to ensure that each child is brought closer to science, made to learn through hands-on experience and make sure that no child is left behind from learning how much fun science is. With a resource set of a lab comprising of 109 tabletop working models based on physics, biology and chemistry.

we are building the true essence of learning by inviting children to experience science hands-on. We are also creating a platform for children to showcase their knowledge, skill, and excellence in science through several competitions, co-curricular interventions, and teamwork. This ensures holistic scientific progress along with psychological development in children who often lack self-esteem and confidence.

The basic premise behind conceiving this project is to build knowledge and understanding among the children and allow them to create new technology and innovation and drive positive change and conservation.

We, at huntsman, believe that there are many reasons that learning science is very essential and beginning of an enabling, reinforcing environment is the first step towards ensuring that our children do not shy away from learning about the wonders that the world of science has in store for them!

MESSAGE FROM ARCH

“That is what learning is. You suddenly understand something you have understood all your life, but in a new way.” – Doris Lessing

Re-iterating these famous words, ARCH Foundation believes in fostering creativity in the minds of the children and increasing their capacity to engage in active learning activities.

WeGyaan was conceived with the idea of making science fun, engaging and participative for the children. ARCH has always believed in creating an environment of collaboration where each one contributes and creates an environment of learning that is conducive to the learning requirements of the children.

For the purpose, a gap of required needs of the schools was identified and through active collaboration efforts, a partnership with Huntsman was established in identifying how science can be made participative and engaging. WeGyaan is not an activity that was planned in a day.

It took months of persistent efforts of teachers, students, stakeholders, and community members alike to identify how to get the students to love science and think of it as a subject they can pursue in the future.

It was thus planned to create a strategic alliance that is self-sustainable in terms of access to learning infrastructure and enhancement of skills of the teachers for improved content delivery. This not only ensures engagement in the subject but encourages active learning, at the same time giving a platform to exhibit the content which is learned.



PROJECT INTRODUCTION

Effective teaching and learning of science include a perpetual state of show and tell. It is important to combine classroom teaching with lab experiments to ensure that the children grasp the concepts and can synthesize the learning and comprehend meaning out of it. Learning by doing is by far the most effective tool of teaching and learning which not only clears the concepts but ensures retention of the concepts taught.

It is important to give the correct equipment and environment to the students so that the learning can be facilitated. The schools must have the latest science lab supplies and equipment to make science interesting and effective for students and to encourage them to make significant contributions in the field of physics, biology, chemistry, and other streams of science later in life. The schools, by the virtue of being equipped with the advanced and latest science equipment, schools can contribute a great deal in the scientific advances.

Equipping a science lab in the schools is an excellent example of what education experts call active learning or inquiry (also "hands-on" learning). It is a very effective instructional method; indeed, it is recommended as a cornerstone of successful science teaching.

Yet, according to the National Research Council, active learning is not employed often enough in the classroom and its absence is seen as one of the key factors behind kids losing interest in science and not performing to their potential.

Among other reasons, it is said and believed that the children are not interested in taking up science as a subject, however, many studies have claimed that it's not that the students' interests are declining but the very fact that they don't feel motivated enough to study what was being taught.

The WeGyaan was initiated to make the schools self-sustainable in terms of being equipped with science equipment to motivate the children to be interested in science.

The major objective of the science lab is not only to be instrumental in providing physical equipment but also to support activities that kindle interest amongst the children regarding the subject. Some of the activities include science quiz to spark interest and interactive sessions where conversations take place revolving around science.

While establishing Science Lab is important, it is also important to channelize the interest of the children but more than that it is important to engage the teachers and the community members in the activities of science in the schools so that transparency of learning is established and the pedagogy of teaching science subjects is improvised at a manifold level.

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