

An Update of our Activities



Kindergarten Children Showing us their Favourite Colours!

Summary

It has been a hectic and action packed quarter with very exciting work that Ahvaan undertook, in addition to the ongoing Programmes – Neev and Pathshala. Here's a look at what to expect from this Quarterly Update:

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Knowledge Partners

Ambedkar University Delhi (AUD)

Funding Partners

Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC)
HT Parekh Foundation (an HDFC Initiative)
The ONGC
Sir Sobha Singh Public Charitable Trust
Hindustan Media Ventures Limited

Letter of Commendation

Saumya Gupta, IAS



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This letter is to congratulate the Ahvaan Trust for their valuable contribution towards education of children in the schools of Directorate of Education, Government of Delhi. Ahvaan's small, but talented and committed team has been working in 5 Sarvodaya Vidhyalaya of North Delhi since 2014 by running a Teachers' Professional Development Programme, based on modern and progressive teaching methodology. Their work was in alignment with the Delhi Government's own thrust on quality education.

By 2015, Ahvaan was working with nearly 1200 children, teaching them English and Maths and 50 Primary teachers. The Curriculum designed by Ahvaan with the help of the primary teachers of the schools they were working was found to be very effective and was referred by SCERT in its trainings. In 2016, Ahvaan was invited by SCERT to participate in designing the Pre-Primary curriculum.

In 2017, Ahvaan started working closely with 19 Sarvodaya Vidyalayas on two Projects – Pathshala (with primary school children of 4 schools) and Neev (with Pre-Primary teachers of 16 schools). The team gathered valuable information about the challenges faced by teachers of first generation learners and incorporated that in their work.

This year, Ahvaan has expanded to work closely with the teachers and children of 50 schools. The organisation is already working closely with the District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs), to train teachers in innovative and active teaching practices – such as storytelling, drama-in-education, circle time, questioning as a teaching aid, etc.

The Directorate of Education, Government of NCT of Delhi, hope the Ahvaan Trust would be able to scale up further and rapidly to benefit more and more children of our city.

We wish the Ahvaan team the very best.

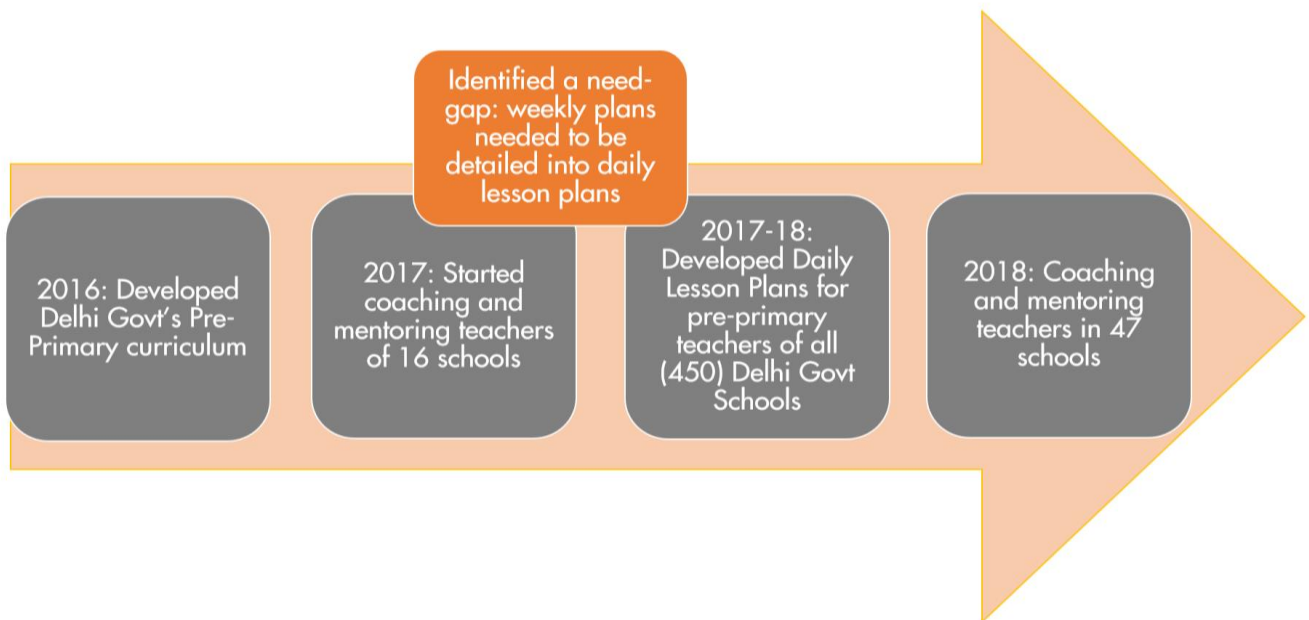

(Saumya Gupta) 2/07/18

In July we received a letter of Commendation issued to Ahvaan by the outgoing Director of Education – Ms Saumya Gupta.

The Neev Programme

In July, we scaled-up our in-school Programme with Pre-Primary teachers to include 33 more schools, making it a total of 47 schools. The Neev Programme involves training and classroom support to Pre-Primary teachers to transact the SCERT's Nursery and KG curriculums.

Neev: In a Nutshell



The Ahvaan team had spent 28 full days in June conducting a variety of training programmes for teachers.

TRAINING IN JUNE 2018 AT A GLANCE	
Total number of Teachers trained	960
Number of School Leaders (Heads of Schools, Primary In-Charges, Master Trainers) trained	172

When the schools re-opened in July, our team began one-on-one coaching and mentoring of teachers of 47 schools. Each Ahvaan Mentor visits a school 2-3 times a month to conduct the following activities:

1. **Classroom Demonstrations:** Demo classes are conducted with children and observed by the Government school teachers. We aim to graduate to co-teaching (with the Govt teachers) in some schools soon.
2. **Classroom Observation:** The Ahvaan Mentor speaks to the teacher before her class, suggests any changes to the lesson plan, then observes the class while it is conducted and finally gives the teacher one-on-one feedback after the class is over. This year, Primary In-Charges have been actively involved in the coaching and mentoring process.
3. **Month-end/ Smaller Group Meetings:** regular smaller group meetings are held geographically. Group meetings on Storytelling have been happening since July. A month-end workshop took place in September.



In-School Support: Ahvaan's Archana Mahendru in a Post-Observation Conversation with a Nursery Teacher (the Primary In-Charge is observing the coaching session, while helping a child with her slate-work)

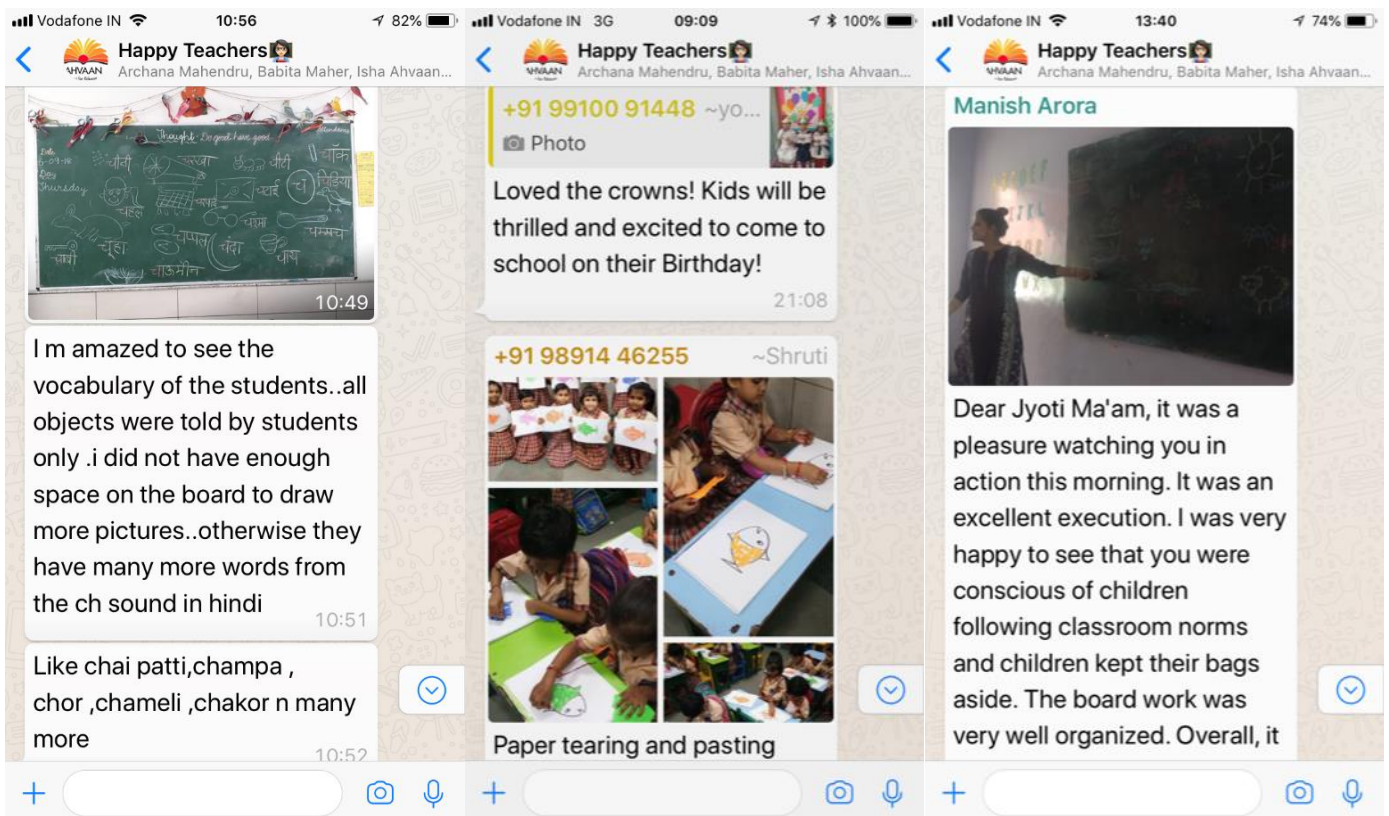


A smaller group meeting with Rituparna Ghosh (Founder, Your Story Bag, a storytelling organisation hired by Ahvaan to strengthen storytelling in Govt classrooms and for Ahvaan team's professional development). Focus: how to use storytelling to teach letter sounds.



Neev Teachers at AUD for September Month-End Workshop

A Month-End workshop was held on 29th September at Ambedkar University for teachers who were not able to attend the 4-day summer training. The full day workshop focussed on helping teachers understand the curriculum, the daily lesson plans, developing language skills in early years and storytelling. Teachers were also taken through a typical day's schedule for Nursery and KG.



Screen Grabs from our WhatsApp group of Teachers



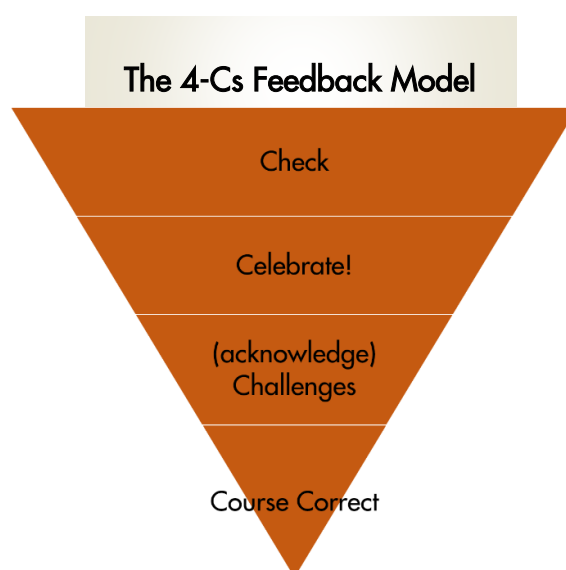
Sakshee Sharma, Senior Programme Manager, Ahvaan, who is one of our Mentors, giving a demonstration of an outdoor activity with children of Gokhale Marg School.

AHVAAN'S PRE-PRIMARY INTERVENTION (NEEV) AT A GLANCE	
Number of schools	47
Number of teachers (approx.)	120
Data from 15 Jul – 30 Sep	
Number of pre-primary teachers trained	890
Number of teachers trained under Neev	70
Total school visits	218
Number of observation visits	150
Schools where at least one demo is done	47
Principals met by Sr. Management	30
Number of children impacted (approx.)	3,300

Skill Development of the Ahvaan Team

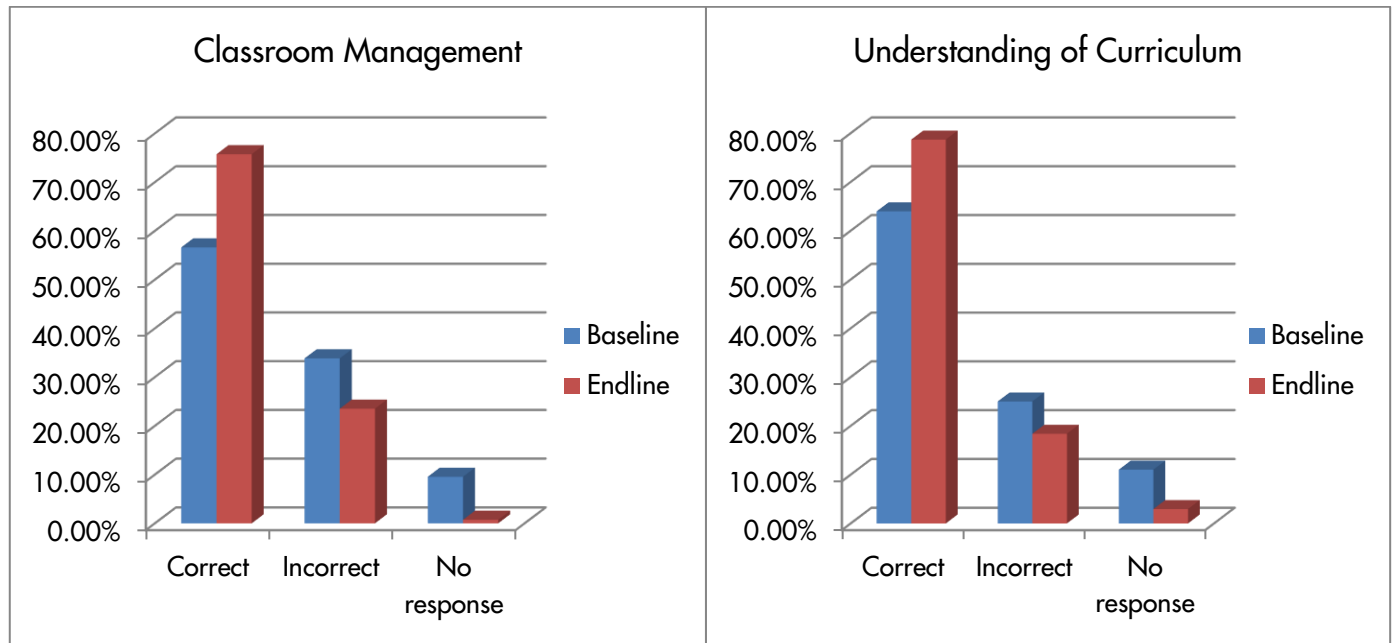
Out of 47 Neev schools, only around 12 have been identified by the team as “challenging”, where working with the teachers would be difficult due to receptivity or the ability/ motivation levels of the teachers. Our team seems better equipped to handle these challenges after the rigorous training that was organised from April to July. The training consisted of mock coaching and feedback sessions, along with the understanding of our larger philosophy of motivating teachers through ‘appreciation’ or celebrating their successes.

For the 12 challenging schools, the focus is on more frequent visits, greater interaction with the senior team of Ahvaan and with the senior management of the schools.



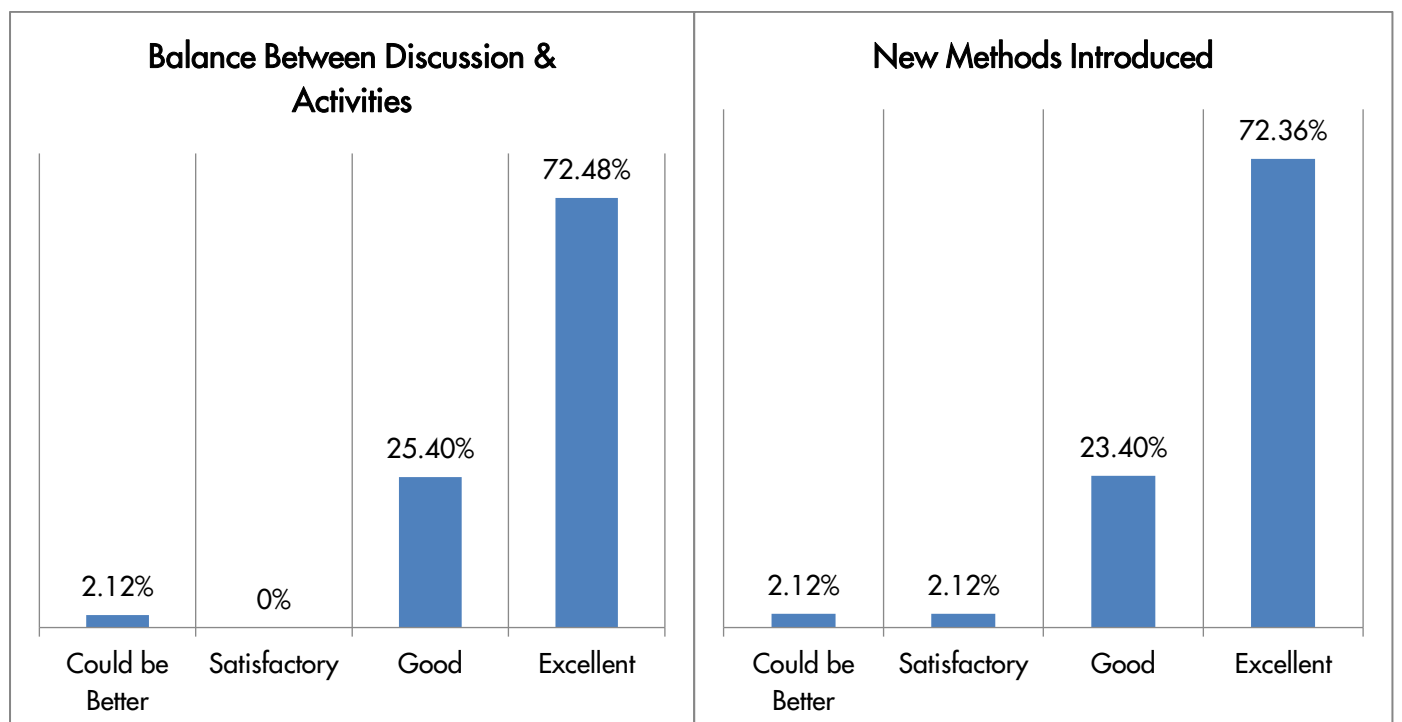
Workshop Outcomes: Baseline-Endline Analysis of Teacher Understanding (52 Teachers)

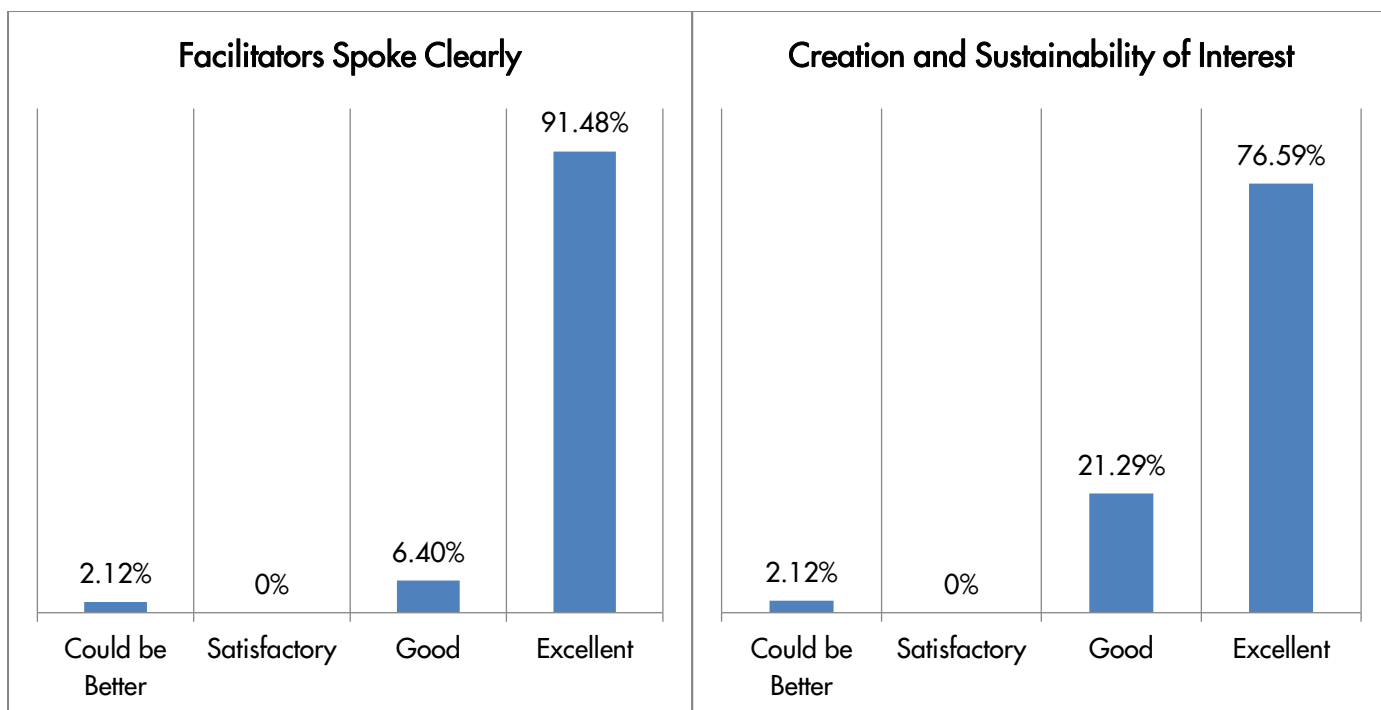
A survey was conducted at the start and end of the four-day summer workshop with the new teachers under the Neev Programme. The main aim was to gauge teacher understanding with respect to classroom pedagogy before and after the workshop. It was heartening to know that the teachers had gained significantly in the areas of Classroom Management and Understanding of the Curriculum.



Teachers' Feedback (52 Teachers)

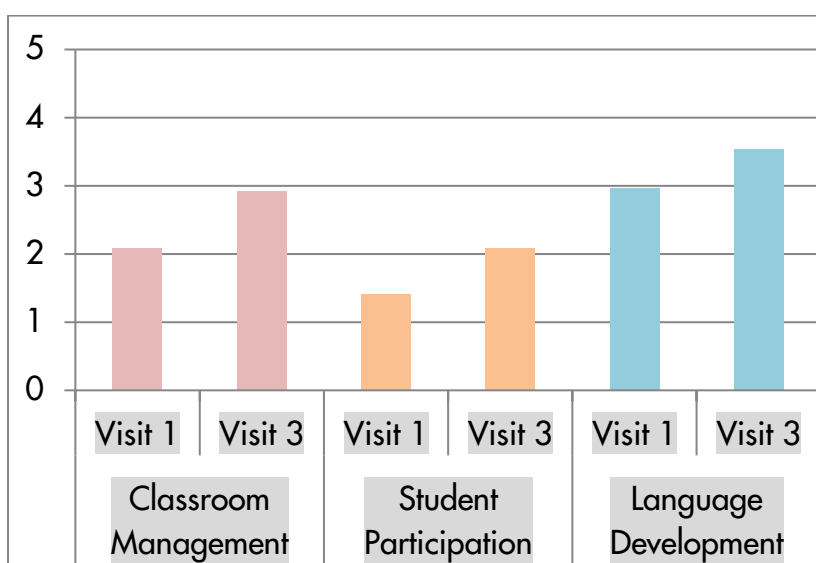
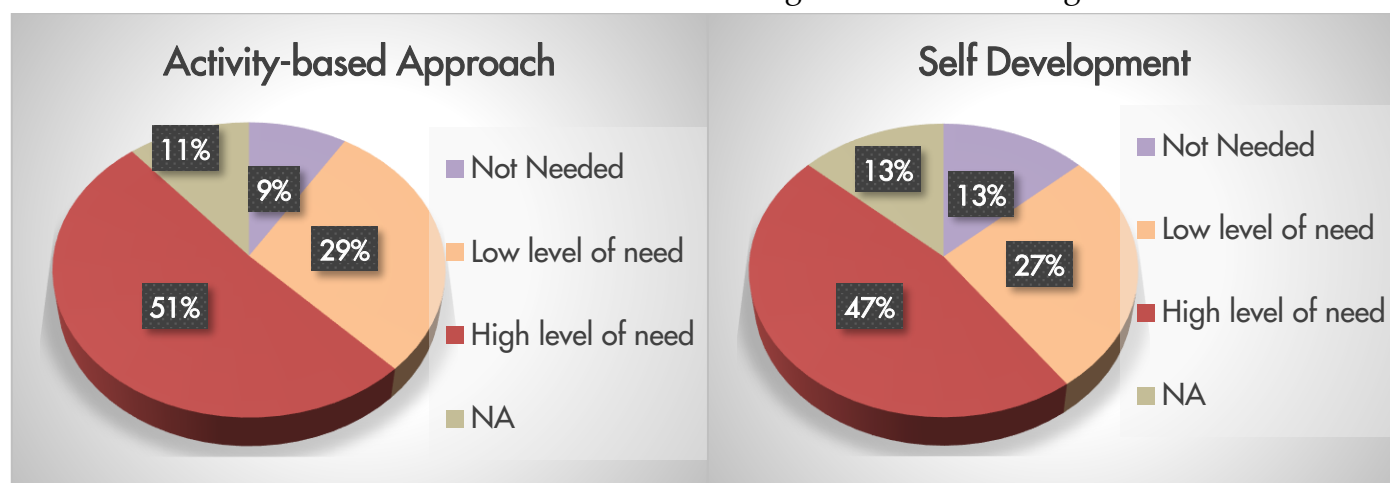
Below is some of the feedback Ahvaan received from the teachers in June, suggesting that the 4-day workshop was experiential, interesting and gave teachers new ideas on their methodology.





Teachers' Feedback – Training Needs Analysis:

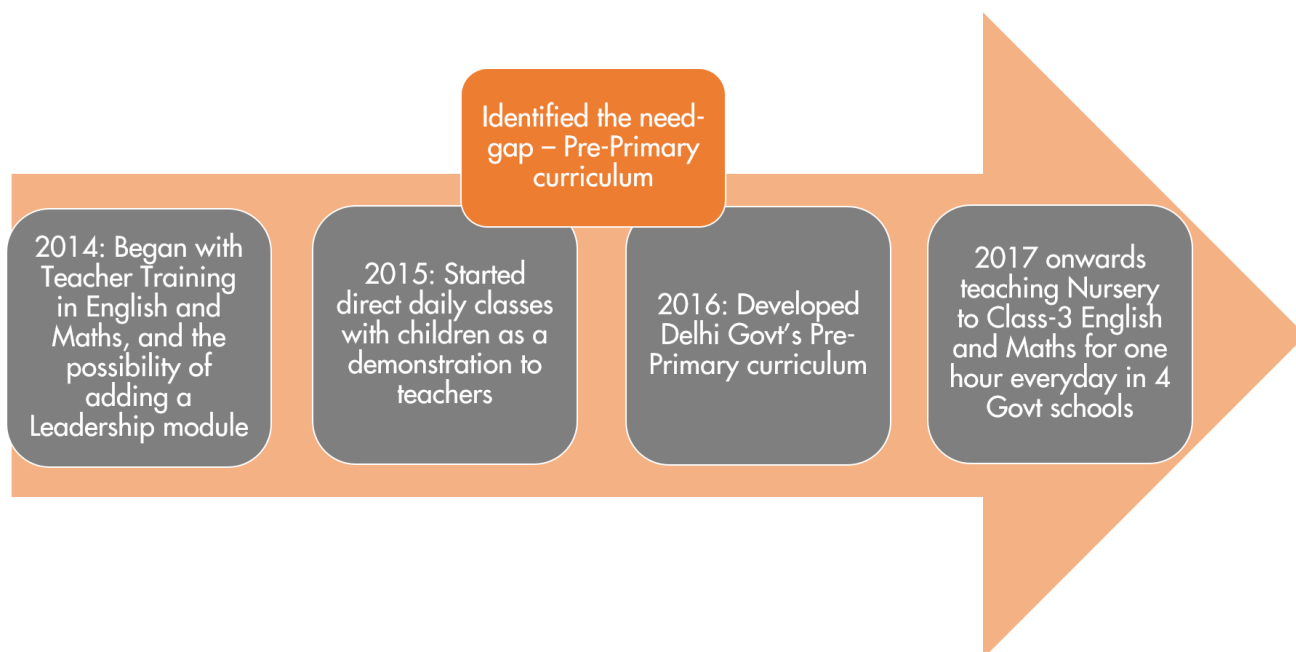
Here is what Govt school teachers have identified as high needs for training:



In-School Support: Improvements in Teacher Ratings

As depicted by the chart, improvements in teachers' performances are already being witnessed. A significant change is seen in the way teachers are managing their classrooms – which is a challenge in any pre-primary classroom.

The Pathshala Programme: In a Nutshell

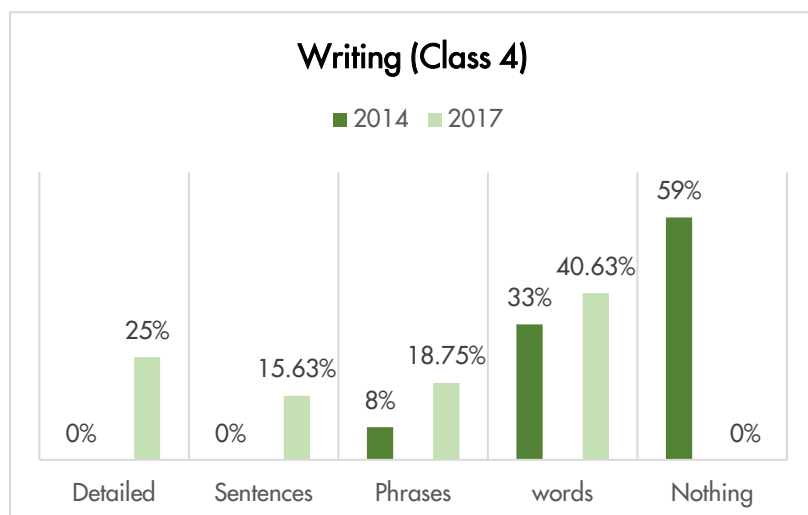


From the month of July, we have been focussing on those areas where children need extra help. Our testing with children during the month of April had concluded that there was need to work with children more concertedly in Maths, which is a subject that often gets neglected due to our focus on English. Most children performed well in English reading, however there was need to focus on comprehension and speaking skills. So this learning has impacted our intervention with children in the new academic year. Pic: Pul Bangash Class-1 students matching pictures with numerals.

Annual Assessment of the Pathshala Programme

The assessment of Ahvaan's Pathshala Programme is done annually by the School of Education Studies (SES) at Ambedkar University Delhi (AUD). A team of scholars of SES go to different Pathshala schools and conduct assessments with Class-2 and Class-4 children in English and Maths. Following are some of the highlights of this year's assessment report.

All Class-4 Students are Writing!

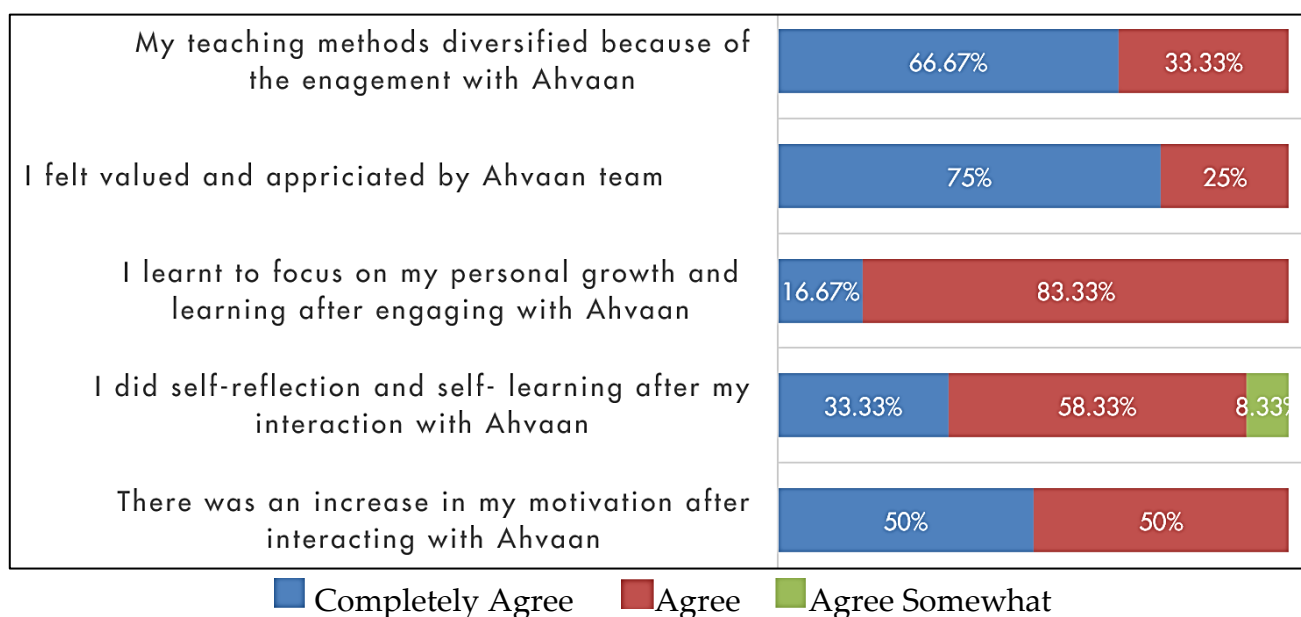


The representation on the left is of the writing ability of Class-4 children. Before Ahvaan began its intervention in 2014, 59% of the children were not able to write anything independently. In 2017-18, Ahvaan had worked with the students of Class-4 for two years – i.e. when they were in Class-2 and Class-3. A fourth (25%) of the children who were tested in 2017 showed the ability to write independently. The most

important finding is that all children were able to write something – words, phrases or simple sentences. There was not a single child who was tested who was not able to write anything.

Teachers Need Self-Development

From the teachers' feedback it was clear that Ahvaan needs to focus far more on their self-development needs. In the graph below a majority of teachers have not completely agreed that Ahvaan focusses on personal growth and helps teachers in self-reflection and self-learning, where as in all matters related pedagogy and school development, a majority of the teachers completely agreed with what Ahvaan had contributed.



Storytelling Day In Pathshala Schools

Ahvaan has been conducting Storytelling Days in our Pathshala Schools. The Ahvaan teachers prepare age-appropriate stories and narrate them, using different styles, to the children. The aim of each teacher's story is different – from language development, to building values, to developing thinking skills. The overarching objective is to help our teachers engage with children in a methodology we believe in deeply – storytelling. Each storytelling day was observed by Rituparna Ghosh from Your Story Bag and our team received feedback from her.



Lalita of Ahvaan with the children of Pratap Nagar school, narrating a story using flashcards

Engagement with Other Stakeholders

Principals' Feedback

Forms were given to Principals of Neev schools to gauge their feedback on the Programme, their understanding of their teachers' progress and to take their suggestions. Here are some grabs from their feedback forms:

9. One thing I like about Ahvaan's way of functioning

The ideas or the tips given by the Ahvaan's team is really wonderful and help us a lot to make the teaching learning process more interesting

10. One suggestion for Ahvaan to work better

Please continue to share the videos and your suggestions.

For Ahvaan

[Signature]
31/8/18
Principal
For School

9. One thing I like about Ahvaan's way of functioning

कक्षा में दिया गया मार्ग प्रदर्शन प्रेरणादायक है।

10. One suggestion for Ahvaan to work better

विद्यार्थियों की कक्षाओं का समय कम होना चाहिए ताकि अध्यापकों को पाठ योजना की तैयारी का पर्याप्त समय मिल सके।

For Ahvaan

[Signature]
6/9/18

[Signature]
6/9/18

[Signature]
6/9/18

Principal
S.K.V. C-Block No. 1,
Yamuna Vihar, Delhi-53

8. Overall I am satisfied with Ahvaan's work and approach Yes ☒ No ☐

9. One thing I like about Ahvaan's way of functioning

Teaching - Learning process has been more interesting and this motivates the child to come to school regularly.

10. One suggestion for Ahvaan to work better

Organizing work shop for the left out teachers.

[Signature]
31/8/18
Principal

Meetings with Parents

Ahvaan has started conducting regular meetings with parents of Neev schools. The main aim is to help parents understand the pedagogy and philosophy behind the pre-primary curriculum and to give suggestions to them on how they can partner in their child's education. All the meetings have been very encouraging and useful. Some grabs from the feedback we have received:

क्या बताता है? **कहता है कि मुझे मंडम जो सिखाती हैं वो अच्छा लगता है। मंडम कविता सुनाती हैं। डाइंग करवाती हैं।**

क्या बच्चे को हिंदी एवं अंग्रेजी के अक्षरों की पहचान होनी शुरू हो गयी है? **हाँ** **नहीं**

क्या बच्चा नए शब्दों का प्रयोग करने लगा है? अंग्रेजी एवं हिंदी? **अंग्रेजी** **हिंदी**

क्या बच्चा घर में चीज़ों को गिन पाता है? (1 - 5) **हाँ** **नहीं**

क्या बच्चा वर्कशीट याँ drawing file में स्वतंत्र रूप से काम कर पाता है? **हाँ** **नहीं**

क्या बच्चा कहानी /कविता सुनाता है? **हाँ** **नहीं**

क्या अभिभावक कहानी /कविता सुनाता है? **हाँ** **नहीं**

अभिभावक ने बच्चे के व्यवहार में कुछ बदलाव देखा है? **हाँ** **नहीं**

क्या बदलाव देखा? **वह बहुत बदल गया है, वह बहुत अच्छे से धुने का करता। वह पहले ऐसा नहीं था बहुत बदलाव हुआ है।**

क्या आपको आह्वान के बारे में पता है? **हाँ** **नहीं**

क्या आपको इस मीटिंग से कोई फायदा हुआ? **हाँ** **नहीं**

क्या आपको स्कूल में सिखाये जा रहे नए तरीकों के बारे में जानकारी मिली? **हाँ** **नहीं**

यह मीटिंग साल में कितनी बार होनी चाहिए और कब? **हर महीने** **छे: महीने में** **साल में**

क्या बदलाव देखा? **पढ़ाई और खेलने दोनों में मन लगाती है, खुशी-खुशी स्कूल आती है**

क्या आपको आह्वान के बारे में पता है? **हाँ** **नहीं**

3 क्या बच्चा स्कूल में की गई गतिविधियों के बारे में बताता है? **हाँ** **नहीं**

4 क्या बताता है? **बस नहीं खाना खाईस धार कि चीज़ें खाना खाईस बाहर कि चीज़ें नहीं खाना खाईस**

5 क्या बच्चे को हिंदी एवं अंग्रेजी के अक्षरों की पहचान होनी शुरू हो गयी है? **हाँ** **नहीं**

11 अभिभावक ने बच्चे के व्यवहार में कुछ बदलाव देखा है? **हाँ** **नहीं**

12 क्या बदलाव देखा? **बच्चे ने कहा कि मम्मी बलैड लाईन दी है**

20 है रुक जाओ

(In the last form – the parent is writing that the child asked her to stop at a red light!)



Pic collage: Neev Parents' Meeting at Keshav Puram SKV

Engagement with Other Institutions

Workshop with Tech Mahindra Foundation

Ahvaan conducted half-day workshops, in two batches, on Storytelling for Tech Mahindra Foundation on 14th September. Tech Mahindra foundation is running an In-Service Teacher Education Institute (ITEI), established in 2012 as a Public Private Partnership (PPP) between the East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC) and Tech Mahindra Foundation. The aim is to ensure continuous professional development of teachers and school leaders to create happier classrooms.

Ahvaan was requested to design a workshop for 90 Municipal Primary teachers to demonstrate different styles of storytelling and to lay emphasis on the role stories can play in language development.



Ahvaan's Suniti demonstrating 'Teacher in Role'



Teachers Engaged in a Storytelling Activity

Celebrating International Literacy Day with Pratham and Your Story Bag

Ahvaan joined hands with Pratham Books and Your Story Bag to celebrate International Literacy Day (ILD). While ILD is celebrated on 8th September, the teams extended the joy through the month of September with special storytelling in the schools Ahvaan works with. A Tribe of Storytellers performed and read from the story 'A Cloud of Trash' by Pratham Books. The target audience – Primary school children, enjoyed the story thoroughly.



A storyteller attempting to get rid of the 'Cloud of Trash' from above her head, has the children of Sarvodaya Vidyalaya (Sector-16, Rohini) enthralled

Team Development

Enabling Personal Excellence

Education for Integrating Life (EFIL) and Ahvaan Trust conducted Phase-1 of 'Embedding Personal Excellence' – for Teacher Maturity and Capacity Building – from 20-22nd September.

Background: Teachers are the critical connect between knowledge and the students. They form the fulcrum to make the experience of education enhancing and evolving, or the most challenging. But if we think about it deeply, this is usually not a technical competency issue but a human attitude issue. Yet most inputs given to a teacher address their competency in teaching and learning, and minimal inputs are from their human capacity building point of view. EFIL has designed a unique program titled "Enabling Personal Excellence" that addresses the personal maturity and capacity building of teachers, that questions their deepest beliefs and attitudes towards life and education.



A session in progress at the Old Conference Hall in Sanskriti Kendra

The main aim of this workshop was to enable the young Ahvaan team handle the human issues that they confront in life, question and reflect on their perspectives and beliefs, build alignment with higher level of clarity in vision and values, and use parables to teach and learn.

Phase-1 of this residential workshop was conducted by Dr Kalpana Sampath (Director, EFIL Educational Services) in the beautiful and serene environment of Sanskriti Kendra. The team also got the opportunity to enjoy the excellent, homely meals, walks around the museums and the lush green gardens, and stay in the comfortable dorms and rooms of the Kendra.

The combination of the content, the venue and the team's commitment to their personal development, made the three-day workshop an enriching experience.



The team enjoying the beauty of Sanskriti Kendra while engaged in a group activity



The team, with Vandana Malik and Dr Kalpana Sampath (4th and 5th from left) at Sanskriti Kendra

Ahvaan's Three-Year Strategy Plan

The Ahvaan team is currently in the process of developing a three-year strategic development plan with Ishita Chaudhry – our consultant.

About Ishita Chaudhry: Ishita is an Ashoka Fellow, INK Fellow and Founder and Managing Trustee of The YP Foundation, a youth-led organization. As an independent consultant, Ishita works with UN agencies, governments, civil society and youth groups to improve adolescents' and young people's access to health and education, developing policy and programmes at national, regional and global levels on the same that advance youth leadership and social justice, particularly the rights of young women and girls.



Ishita interacting with the Ahvaan team and Executive Committee (4 September)

Ishita spent time with the team, the Board and the core-team of Ahvaan to understand the organisation and each stakeholder's aspiration for Ahvaan. A four-day Theory of Change workshop was held and the team went through an exercise to understand and imbibe Ahvaan's Vision, Mission and Core Values.

Currently a three-year goal is being worked on with a theory of change to support it. The process is likely to be completed by early November. The Ahvaan team would be presenting the 3-year strategy plan to the Board in the next Board meeting.



Ishita interacting with Ahvaan's Board of Trustees at the Board Meeting (8 September)



The team working on Ahvaan's Vision, Mission and Values, during the Theory of Change workshop, held at our Founders' residence (26 September)

To End With...



These are Class-2 children of Pratap Nagar school – where both our Projects – Neev and Pathshala are running. The children are in a huddle working on their Classroom rules. After they re-framed the rules, with consensus, they presented them to their Pathshala Teacher for her final approval and implementation.

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