

## NEWGEN SOFTWARE TECHNOLOGIES

# Digital discovery paathshalas

The Newgen Digital Discovery Paathshala (NDDP), the flagship initiative of Newgen is directly implemented by the CSR team of the company. It is specially designed to develop e-learning skills amongst students and make them digitally literate by imparting knowledge in schools through the digital medium. The Digital Paathshala is an interesting way to learn textbook concepts digitally and empowering school children with tools for a

digital future.

The programme was designed to develop research-oriented skills amongst students studying in government-run schools and to impart the knowledge through web-based technology. The programme uses visuals which have a greater and long-lasting impact on the students as they are able to grasp more by seeing the AVs and also understand the concepts better through the PPTs. Students are free to select their own

keywords/topics they want to study to get more clarity on the topic. Children are also able to relate to the topic in the classes taken by their teachers after watching the PPTs and AVs.

The company starts by identifying schools which are in the vicinity of the organisation and have a minimum enrolment of over 1,000 students in classes 6th, 7th and 8th. Post identification, CSR facilitators carry out recesses of the schools and shortlist them based on the parameters defined by Newgen and the willingness from the school administration to accept such a programme. After due identification, Newgen



*Adopting schools and imparting skills*

approaches the Directorate of Education and submits a full-fledged proposal for their approval.

Once Newgen has approvals from the school administration, it launches a pilot phase of the project with trust-building exercises, setting up of NDDP labs for 80-100 children depending on the size of the room allotted, procurement of iPads as well as initial introductory sessions with students of one particular class. There are challenges as well. For example, the children who come to Senior Secondary from

Primary School are not proficient in reading or writing. This becomes a major problem while making them use iPads initially. The duration of the class is another challenge as the team does not get sufficient time with students. Thus, the process becomes slow, impacting learning as well. However, these issues are addressed during the pilot phase. After necessary approvals from DoE, the NDDP project is rolled out for all the classes.

Let's take the example of the Government Girls' Senior Secondary School,

Harkesh Nagar, Okhla, which was the first school that was adopted under the programme. Newgen approached the Directorate of Education and proposed to conduct the NDDP programme for a duration of five years at the school. The school was officially adopted on 1st April 2016. During the academic year, April 2016-March 2017, over 900 students of classes 6th and 7th attended the NDDP sessions. In April 2017, students of class 8th also joined the NDDP programme and Newgen furnished the classrooms for 1,500+ students. There was no looking back after that. By 2019, 1,300+ children attend sessions every week at the school. A state-of-the-art computer lab has been set up by Newgen, which can accommodate nearly 100 children at a time. After achieving success at Harkesh Nagar, Newgen adopted two more schools – Soami Nagar Model School and Government Girls Higher Secondary School at Tekhand; thereby imparting education to over 4,000 students. The Newgen facilitators are passionate about the way they interact with the children, and that's key in bringing about the real impact. They work hard to make lesson plans, perform daily monitoring, reporting and evaluation. Newgen is making sure that facilitators are putting their best foot forward. ♦