



Newsletter

April - September 2023



Director's Message

Education is a fundamental tool for achieving the full potential of human beings and for the prosperous growth of society. By providing quality education, we can develop citizens who are critical problem solvers, decision-makers, and have the ability to lead society towards betterment.

It is essential that, as educators, we move towards promoting skills that are essential and focus less on rote memorization of facts. It is crucial that opportunities are created where the student has a voice and can decide how, when, and where they want to grow and learn.

Through our initiative, we create opportunities for the learners to grow and learn in a playful manner. By promoting the **Right to Play**, opportunities are created where they can play and nurture skills that are essential for the future.

At The Toy Bank, we prioritize giving students practical, hands-on education via play-based learning. The objective is to support students as they use exploration to build their knowledge. Play equipment and educational tools facilitate the development of new knowledge, connections, and the practical application of existing knowledge. The goal is to inspire students to design their own learning experiences by assisting them in transitioning from the known to the unknown. As NEP 2020 points out, pedagogy must evolve to make education more experiential, holistic, integrated, discovery-oriented, learner-centered, discussion-based, flexible, and, of course, enjoyable.

The Safe Playroom Program ensures equal access to high-quality education for every child, bridging the gap between learning and allowing individuals to develop at their own pace. We feel that education should lead to self-realization and liberation, and in order to achieve this, a safe space is made available for them to playfully explore, experiment, and acquire new information and learning. At present, we have seven effectively operating safe playrooms in Delhi's municipal schools, serving over 3,000 students from families with limited resources.

Vidyun Goel
Director
The Toy Bank



Embracing Diversity and Celebrating Unity

Education is the single greatest tool for achieving social justice and equality. Inclusive and equitable education, while indeed an essential goal in its own right. It is critical to achieve an inclusive and equitable society in which every citizen has the opportunity to dream, thrive, and contribute to the nation. At The Toy Bank, we aim at create spaces that are inclusive and non-discriminatory. India has many cultures and traditions spread across its territory. We have people from diferent language, religious, and cultural communities. And, it is essential that a culture of inclusivity be promoted among young minds so that they respect and appreciate diverse cultures. To promote this, we celebrate the rich diversity of festivals with our students in the Safe Playroom created at various Municipal Corporation schools in Delhi.

From celebrating and sensitizing students about our national festivals and cultural festivals like Independence Day, Raksha Bandhan, Janmashtami, etc. A variety of activities were organized that are age-appropriate and engaging.

Fourth and fifth grade students created Independence Day badges and wore them with pride. On the occasion of Raksha Bandhan, students created colourful and beautiful Rakhi's for their brothers and sisters. Some even gave it to their siblings, creating a special bond among them.

Through organizing a variety of activities, we instil in students the appreciation and respect for different art and cultures that are essential in creating future citizens.





Primary Teachers Dive into the World of Playful Learning

The Toy Bank organized a capacity-building session for primary teachers at MCD Nigam Pratibha Vidyalaya Kanya, Malviya Nagar on 20th May 2023. The focus of the session was to promote the use of toys in the process of learning. The session also aimed at bridging the learning gap between the experiences that a child brings to the school and the learning that materializes in the school. The session involved different activities using different toys to help the teachers understand the role of toys in the learning process.

Many areas, including **the significance of play, types of play, the role of a child in play, etc., were covered, including the activities that can be conducted in different disciplines of language, numeracy, and environment.** The teachers participated in a variety of activities involving toys that gave them an insight into the significance of using toys and enhancing learning outcomes.



Donor Visit

Mr. Manmeet Wasnik from the SBI Foundation visited our safe playrooms on July 12, 2023. The aim was to observe how toys and games enhance the teaching-learning process. The Toy Bank team explained how the utilization of toys while teaching the concept and engaging students helps in improving the foundational learning of the students. The visit also focused on interacting with the school staff, principal, and students to understand the effectiveness of the program at different levels.



Play Camp at Gandhi Darshan

During the summer holidays, the Toy Bank team, in collaboration with **Gandhi Darshan Samiti**, conducted an event filled with many activities and games focusing on the emotional well-being of the students coming from varied age groups and sections of society.

A variety of activities, such as burst your fear, treasure hunt, and build the tower, were conducted with the students, and a variety of games, like building blocks, Tambola, Jenga, Pictionary, and many other games, were played. Students enjoyed the activities and were engaged throughout the day. Different types of plays allowed the students to work in groups, learn leadership skills, and handle emotions. The event was concluded by giving away the trophies to the winning team and consolation prizes to all the children for active participation.

Overall, the event focused on promoting the emotional well-being of each student through a variety of games and activities that focused on encouraging students to observe and learn. Play helps students to enjoy and, at the same time, learn about different skills that are otherwise difficult to inculcate.



A session on G20: Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam

It was a moment of pride and respect that each of us had, as India hosted the G20 presidency this year. Our hearts were filled with pride as we collectively participated in the success of the event.



It was essential that we share our pride with our future generations as well. The Toy Bank conducted a session on G20 with primary grade students at various Municipal Corporation schools in Delhi. The focus was to make students aware of an event of prestige significance. Different activities, such as flag drawing, solving world puzzles, and marking G20 countries on the globe, were conducted to highlight the significance of the event. The session also highlighted the meaning of the logo by focusing on the motive, **Vasudev Kutumbakam**.

Students from third to fifth grade participated actively and were involved throughout. They shared their lived experiences and were amazed to learn about the event. It is important that the younger generation is made aware of the happenings around the world in order to develop citizens who are informed and are able to make right decisions.



Heartfelt welcome to our new member

In our family, a new member has joined to support our vision and mission. **Mr. Joseph Rajan Passah, residing in Indirapuram, Ghaziabad**, has collaborated with us to open a toy collection centre at their residence. People residing nearby who are willing to support our cause and want to donate toys can connect with us and support our vision of no child being deprived of toys.

Sharing leads to caring : celebrating joy of togetherness

The Toy Bank hosts a team lunch for the Toy Bank family once every quarter. Having lunch outside the office premises allows the team to promote team bonding and boosts motivation to work towards the organization's vision.



Toy Collection Drive

The joy of giving is greater than anything. The smiles we are able to put on the faces of the beneficiaries are all that matters in the end. To instil the value of sharing among young minds, we organize toy collection drives in different schools. Students from different age groups and backgrounds enthusiastically participate by donating their toys that they no longer play with. Through this initiative, young children learn that giving is joyful and may make a difference in someone's life.

These efforts aim to teach young children that, while not everyone is affluent, they still have right to play that they may be denied. It is essential that we recognize the disparity and help by sharing with people in need.

The following schools participated are:

- VV DAV Public School, Vikaspuri
- Pathways, Noida
- Mount Abu Junior School, Rohini

