

Digital Fridays



"The sessions have increased an intent of learning in me. I always ask the other teacher to open his phone during the sessions, and we both practice the sessions alongside. This has helped me enhance my own skills and has also made me feel confident that I can now learn anything! I want you to hold such similar sessions for the teachers in my cluster also " Mr. Amarjit Singh, Centre Head Teacher (CHT) of Majri Cluster, Mandi Gobindgarh shares his experience with the Digital friday sessions started to support teachers for technical upskilling.

'Digital Fridays' are weekly online learning sessions based on Digital upskilling , organised for the teachers of entire district. These 1 hour sessions were aimed at supporting teachers to conduct effective remote teaching during the Covid-19 lockdown.

During the Pandemic ,Teachers had to conduct zoom classes, create learning videos and collaterals of learning material. A few training sessions at the district level were held for the teachers on using apps like Zoom, Canva, and YouTube. Few teachers did really well using the digital medium to teach and create resources, but most teachers could not catch up due to no follow up support. The use of applications on such short notice led to stress and anxiety for not being able to cope with the fast-paced changes.

The need for learning specific digital skills was continuously coming from our interaction with the teachers on the field. We decided to take this as an online project for the District teachers. The idea was to create a platform & a space wherein teachers could come 'voluntarily' and learn something new every Friday. These learning applications were chosen to keep in mind the idea of empowering teachers in optimum utilization of time and resources, creating interactive classrooms, and pedagogical improvement. The project aimed to bring every teacher on a common platform and become part of collective learning. It created an environment of sharing individual challenges and ideas, learning to work together, and growing towards a common purpose.

Participants shared their work with us



In the first set of sessions from July 2021- to Sep 2021, teachers took sessions on using CANVA, Google meets, Creating audio-video content on different apps, and using YouTube. Teachers who had never used these before started to explore these applications. They also reached out to the team whenever they needed help.

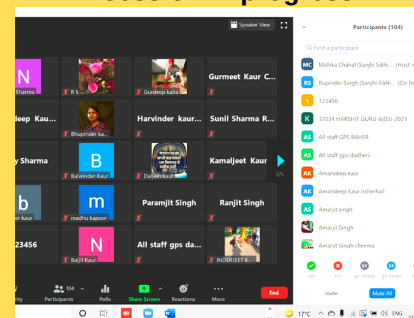
Sr.No	Name	Class	Marks
1	Aman	5th	80
2	Kiran	5th	70
3	Pawan	5th	87
4	Kamal	5th	90
5	Mankirat Kaur	5th	97
6	Pritpal Singh	5th	98
7	Inderpal Kaur	5th	99
8	Navdeep Kaur	5th	87
9	Preety	5th	88
10	Manveer Singh	5th	76
11	Jaismeen Kaur	5th	89
12	Damandeep Singh	5th	90
13	Sejal	5th	85
14	Seema Rani	5th	23
15	Ravinder Kaur	5th	75
16	Inderpal Kaur	5th	80
17	Veerpal Singh	5th	99
18	Pavandeep Kaur	5th	100
19	Anmolpreet Singh	5th	87

In the second version of the sessions after the third lockdown, the focus shifted on how to make online learning more interesting for the students as teachers faced the challenge of bringing the students online and retain their attention .

A few of the positive outcomes we could see from these sessions were :

- Teachers increase in interest and confidence in using technology.
- Formation of learnings and communications specific Whatsapp group.
- Foundation of an online space to communicate, share and co-create with teachers from different blocks and clusters.
- Teachers expressed their increase in comfort in utilizing the applications in their school work.

A session in progress



The team could also see the excitement of these sessions among the teachers. Teachers often mention 'Digital Fridays' and share their experiences with us during our school visits. Some told us how they practice with their children after the session. Few teachers shared their work with the team on the whatsapp group and asked for the feedback .

It was beautiful to see that teachers had become comfortable with the team in online interaction and, therefore, were quickly and openly asking their queries in the session. More importantly , devising solution to address the need of the hour not only helped the Team to build trust with the stakeholders but impact the learning of students in a positive way.

EXPERIENCES OF OUR PARTICIPANTS



Ms. Monica, Block Master Trainer (BMT) of Mandi Gobindgarh, shares, *"I always enjoy the sessions held by your team; there is always something new to learn."*



"Before the training I used to face many difficulties while using these applications, but after the sessions I understand them better. Many of my doubts were cleared during these sessions and now I am able to implement those learnings in my work." -- Bhupinder Kaur, GPS Manela, Block Khamano



"These sessions were very informative as well as interesting. In fact I now utilize these things in my school projects. I would really like it if such sessions are conducted again in the near future."- Jaspreet, GES Sarkapda, Block Kheda



. Mr. Inderjit Singh (Ludhiana) shared, *"I still enjoy attending these sessions. I have already learned so much from the team and wish to keep learning. Slowly, I'll also try to get the other teachers of my school to attend these sessions."*