

# Preparing children for life



through  
life...



**"We must teach our children to dream with their eyes open."**  
*Harry Edwards*

**Disha India Community School is an initiative of Disha India Education Trust in collaboration with the village community. The vision is to create an Experiential Learning School where the community takes a shared ownership for providing quality, equitable, contextual and personalized education for all its children at an affordable price. The big idea is to demonstrate how the community can take the shared ownership for designing an education process for all its children in the village.**



**The school will be a higher secondary school. In the first year, we are starting from Nursery to Grade 3 and will add one grade every year.**

# Principles that Guide our Teaching and Learning

- 1. Contextual and Personalized Education** We use local problems and possibilities as a context and pedagogic medium for teaching the required curriculum.
- 2. Productive Work** We believe that mind learns through hands. Doing quality work will help children experience and understand the value of craftsmanship, excellence and self-reliance.
- 3. Integrated and Free Child** The idea is to focus and develop the whole being of the child i.e. physical, emotional, cognitive and spiritual.



- 4. Self-directed Personalized Learning** The idea is to have a customized and personalized learning plan for each child depending on his/her uniqueness, context, pace, interests and aspirations.
- 5. Diverse and Inclusive** School community will be the microcosm of the larger village community.
- 6. Sustainable Living** We will practice sustainable ways of living and being in the school and community. The idea is for children to experience and understand how to use natural resources in a sustainable way.
- 7. Non-violence** Through education we will develop a deep understanding of non-violence and use it as a core value and practice in building the culture and character of the school and village.
- 8. Community Shared Ownership** We would like parents and the community to be engaged and involved in the school from the beginning- we see them as real stakeholders in the school. There is a Community Education Core Team that works in collaboration with the school management. The core team is a microcosm of the village community i.e. it has representation from all the sections of the village community.

## Our Learning Partners



**HERITAGE  
XPERIENTIAL  
LEARNING SCHOOL**

**Heritage Xperiential Learning School (HXLS)**, with its commitment to an experiential project-based pedagogy and integrated curriculum,

has established a formidable reputation for itself as a progressive, innovative school in just over a decade that it has been operational.  
[www.hxls.org](http://www.hxls.org)



**EL Education**

**EL Education, USA** is one of USA's leading pre-K-12 education organizations committed to creating classrooms where teachers can fulfil

their highest aspirations and where students can achieve more than they think possible. For more than 20 years, Expeditionary Learning has helped new and veteran teachers – in all types of school settings – strive for a vision of student success that joins academic achievement, character, and high-quality work.

[www.eleducation.org](http://www.eleducation.org)

**Anand Niketan, Sevagram, Wardha** draws its inspiration from Nai Talim and Gandhi's larger vision of an equitable, non-violent and sustainable society. Anand Niketan, restarted in 2005, inherits its space, philosophy and spirit from the earlier Nai Talim experiment (1937-1970s) and continues to explore their relevance in today's context. The school aims to create democratic environment where holistic development of the child can be nurtured such that all three faculties Head, Heart and Hand are developed to its fullest potential.



Experience Based Learning Systems, Inc. USA

**Experience Based Learning System, USA** is a research and development organization founded by Dr. David Kolb

and Dr. Alice Kolb for the advancement of the theory and practice of experiential learning.

[www.learningfromexperience.com](http://www.learningfromexperience.com)



**Waters  
Foundation**  
Tools to help you THINK

**Waters Foundation, USA** is recognized worldwide for making systems thinking accessible and practical, both for children in classrooms as well as

executives in boardrooms. Their team of experienced facilitators work across the U.S. and around the globe to develop systems thinkers.

[www.watersfoundation.org](http://www.watersfoundation.org)

## Curriculum and Pedagogy

Our curriculum, pedagogy and assessment are inspired and informed by the following:

1. Dr. Kolb's theory and principles of Experiential Learning
2. Gandhian principles of Nai-Talim
3. Expeditionary Learning design principle and core practices
4. Theory and principles of Systems Thinking and Sustainability
5. Integral Education based on the principles and teachings of Aurobindo



## Our Mentors



**Steven Levy** is a consultant for Expeditionary Learning Schools. He works with teachers to design curriculum and improve instructional practice, and conducts workshops in project-based learning throughout the world. He was recognized as the 1992-93 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year, and honoured by the Disney American Teacher Awards as the national Outstanding General Elementary Teacher in 1994-95.



**Dr. David Kolb and Dr. Alice Kolb** founded Experience Based Learning Systems (EBLS) a research and development organization devoted to research and application of experiential learning in organizations worldwide. EBLS has developed many experiential exercises and self-assessment instruments including the latest Kolb Learning Style Inventory 4.0.

**Disha India Education Trust** is striving towards redefining education and learning based on the principles of Experiential Learning, thereby facilitating the reinvention of schools and our country's education system at large. The big idea is to construct a theory and practices of Experiential Learning and design an integrated experiential curriculum that uses real-life experiences from the child's local context as a pedagogic medium for developing knowledge, skills and character.

The underlying assumption is that learning through real and contextual experiences has the potential of truly becoming a personalised learning for each and every child. Secondly, teaching through real life experiences leads to an integrated and systemic understanding which prepares children for life. For the last 15 years, Disha India has worked intensively with The Heritage Xperiential Learning School, Gurgaon on the design and implementation of the experiential curriculum and pedagogy in the elementary program.

Disha India through its open program, Courage to Lead - a certified program in Experiential Education, works with educators and organizations to develop their capacity to design and implement experiential curriculum and pedagogy in their context. Every year around 50 educators and organizations from all over India participate in the program. Some of the schools that have participated in the program are The Assam Valley School (Assam), Welham Girls' School (Dehradun), Azim Premji Foundation (Bengaluru), Akanksha Foundation (Mumbai and Pune), Delhi Public School (Surat) etc.

Disha India designs and facilitates KHOJ Learning Expeditions for children, based on curriculum needs, children's interest and life skills. Every year around 1200 students experience KHOJ as part of their curriculum. Some of the schools that have participated in KHOJ are The Heritage Xperiential Learning School (Gurgaon), Bombay International School (Mumbai), American International School (Chennai), Daly College (Indore), DPS (Surat), etc.



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**disha india  
community  
school**

**Village Padha, Karnal, Haryana**

Call 9810646129 | [www.dishaindiaeducation.org](http://www.dishaindiaeducation.org)