

MATA SUNDRI COLLEGE FOR WOMEN, UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

Date: 10/11/2025

Time: 1:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Venue: Mata Gujri Hall

Resource Person: Ms. Jyoti Rathi (Facilitator, Vidya Bhawan, Udaipur)

The interactive session on Alternative Schooling was conducted by Ms. Jyoti On 10th November 2025. It began with the screening of the educational video “The Golden Key” by OELP, which set the tone for the day by highlighting the importance of imagination, curiosity, and meaningful learning experiences for children. Following the video, the group engaged in a creative language activity through the poem “Pahadi Pe Ped Tha,” where participants not only recited the given lines but also extended the poem with their own thoughtful additions. This was followed by a reflective guessing game in which members shared words and concepts associated with formal schooling and alternative schooling, enabling a comparative understanding of the two educational systems. A thought-provoking visual was then presented, depicting various animals such as an elephant, fish, and monkey being given the same task of climbing a tree. This image was used to stimulate discussion on learner diversity, unequal expectations, and the limitations of uniform assessment methods.

Building on this idea, she explored four significant alternative education initiatives in Rajasthan: Vidya Bhawan Society in Udaipur, Digantar in Jaipur, Barefoot College in Tilonia, and OELP in Kishangarh. For each institution, participants discussed the founders, their guiding philosophies, and their distinctive approaches to child-centered and community-oriented education. The session further emphasized the importance of contextual learning, particularly through poems, stories, and storytelling, as a means to make classroom experiences more meaningful and culturally relevant for young learners. The session concluded with discussions on how students can engage with such institutions in the future, along with a brief conversation about possible career pathways after completing the B.El.Ed programme. Overall, the session offered valuable insights into diverse educational practices and the need to recognize and nurture the varied abilities of all learners.