

Women in School Leadership (WISL) program 2023-24

Case study - Gender Equity: Empowering Girls in Education

As part of the WISL program 2023-24, Dr Anju Tandon, Principal, Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan Mehta Vidyalaya School and Kim Mitchell, Assistant Principal, Aintree Primary School completed a collaborative action research project focused on empowering girls through education.

Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan Mehta Vidyalaya is a K-12 public school located in New Delhi, India. Originally founded in 1954 as a community service project, the school is recognised for its commitment to academic excellence and the celebration of traditional Indian cultural values. Aintree Primary School is located in the south-west metropolitan area of Victoria. The school serves a multicultural community and fosters a learning environment that values diversity and inclusion. Both schools recognised the need to address gender equity in their respective contexts.

Dr Anju Tandon and Kim Mitchell developed their joint action research on the need to use academic and mathematic mindset data to improve girls' learning and overall wellbeing. Both schools aimed to address questions of student identity, agency, and the role of girls and women within their respective cultural communities. Throughout the WISL program, they engaged in virtual meetings and visited each other's school during the in-country immersion to plan and implement the 'Girlosophy' program. This initiative aimed at developing pedagogical content knowledge, celebrate diversity and improve the perception of ability amongst girls in mathematics. It involved a team of 20 Year 6 girls from both schools who participated regularly in online mathematics lessons and cultural knowledge exchanges.

At the conclusion of the Girlosophy program, both school leaders collected data demonstrating improvements in the areas of intercultural understanding, school connectedness, student empowerment and a sense of belonging, and impactful international school-to-school collaboration.

In 2024, Dr Anju Tandon and Kim Mitchell have continued their virtual collaboration efforts by expanding the Girlosophy program and are developing a sustainable framework for advancing gender equity in education. Their ongoing collaboration aims to empower girls academically, socially, spiritually and culturally.

For more information on the schools featured in this case study, visit:

- [Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan Mehta Vidyalaya School](#)
- [Aintree Primary School](#)