

REFLECTIONS OF CSR STEM WEEK (APRIL 2023)

We are in an age of technological and scientific revolution, and students from all strata of society must overcome their apprehension about studying science and related subjects. This thought led the Newgen CSR team to choose STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) as the topic of CSR Week for 2023. Over 120 girls from government schools (in Harkesh Nagar and Tekhand) played around with Lego robotic kits throughout the week-long program – Tinkering with Robotics.

Thank you to the entire team of India STEM Foundation, principal and teachers from schools, volunteers, and the supporting staff of Newgen.

Experiences of Newgen CSR Team Members-

“These first-timers surprised everyone with their eagerness, energy, and involvement. It took them only five days in a workshop to understand the concept of AI, coding, sensors, and robotics. This workshop was a completely new experience for most of them- memorizing all the steps, utilizing new tools, materializing concepts, and shaping an idea all in a given timeframe. They knew robots could be seen in only movies, but playing with them was a distant dream, let alone making them in a workshop with Lego models. It was a triumphant experience. We are grateful to Meena ma'am, from India STEM Foundation, who made it easy for the students to understand the process.”– [Santosmita Chatterjee](#)

“The ‘CSR STEM Week’ has been an eventful week of exposure to science and technology for all the students. They are at a time in their lives when they must recognize their interests to pick the right stream for further studies. Exposure to robotics may encourage them to take up science and technology in the future. The week-long robotics training helped the students shed their apprehension as they understood that the hands-on approach to learning science is the easiest way. The session encouraged a student to return home, share the knowledge with her brother and create a robot together. We look forward to encouraging girls to take these learnings ahead and enable them to be a part of the STEM workforce in the future.”– [Barsha Dutta](#)

“Initially, STEM sounded like an alien discipline to the students, but we saw a paradigm shift in their mindset when they played around with the robots and made exquisite models. We never thought we'd receive such an encouraging response from the students and Newgen volunteers. The India Stem Foundation's extensive curriculum made the students interested in science. We are now anticipating more girls taking up science as their major. We were amazed to see the models built by the young girls of NDDP, and the way they exhibited their models during the final showcase was quite captivating.”– [Shweta Kaushal](#)

“I have never heard of initiatives like STEM Week in government schools. Having studied in a government school, I can imagine how thrilling the STEM week must have been for the students. Along with the students, I've learned a lot of new science-based information that I never knew before. My experience during this week was excellent since I learned how to make a robot. I had a wonderful time as I discovered many new things in the world of technology.”– [Raveena Prasad](#)

“My STEM Week experience was a wonderful one. I learned a lot of new things that I didn't know earlier. In school, science was only a subject for me, but after attending STEM week, I realized how interesting it is to try things independently. I am glad that I got an opportunity to attend STEM Week.”– [Jyoti Rai](#)

“During STEM week, I learned a lot of new things about science and technology. I had a chance to talk to people from different fields of work and understood that science is not a complex subject but an interesting one. I noticed the girl students were enthusiastic and curious throughout the workshop. They learned robotics and made different types of robots. I enjoyed the week thoroughly.”– [Kajal Devi](#)

“In today's increasingly technology-driven world, STEM skills are in high demand. Students develop foundational skills and gain knowledge, essential for being future workforce ready, by engaging in science-driven activities. They gain exposure to emerging technologies, critical thinking, problem-solving, and innovation. They are valuable assets in an evolving job market, as we know the future will be all about meta-verse and technology. ”– [Deepak Maity](#)

What's Next?

Learning is a lifelong process, not a one-day activity. To continue our endeavor to empower the students, we plan to introduce a Summer Robotics Camp. We're looking forward to seeing the students practice and try out new robotic models in the form of humanoids, cars, machines, etc., and the active support and participation of our enthusiastic Newgen volunteers.