

## **PROJECT PARIDHI- WINTER SOLSTICE, 2017**

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**'Project Paridhi'** is a science experimentation project by SPACE to popularize hands on science. Students from class VIII conducted **Winter Solstice** on **December 20, 2017** for the students class VI-X. **Aditya Jain** from class VIII gave the presentation to explain the procedure and importance of the project. 40 students participated in this project and replicated Eratosthenes method done in 3<sup>rd</sup> century B.C. to calculate the circumference of the Earth using very simple tools. They marked the shadow of the Gnomon and then using simple geometry and trigonometry, they were able to calculate the circumference of Earth with the help of student volunteers. Students learnt that science can be done without any complicated equipment. Students enhanced their scientific and organizing skills.

### **Note to the Editor:**

#### **About Project Paridhi:**

**'Project Paridhi'** is a science experimentation project by SPACE to popularize hands on science. This project was initiated by SPACE 7 years ago with the intention to increase awareness amongst Indians that science can be done without any complicated equipment. Under this project the students find out the circumference of the Earth by taking measurements of the shadows made by the sun in a day, as done 2300 years back by astronomer Eratosthenes, who was able to measure it within 2% of the present accepted value.

Project Paridhi can be done on any day of the year, but on days of equinox and solstices the sun is directly overhead on the equator or Tropics of Cancer/Capricorn hence making the calculation easier. This project also celebrates the days of solstice and equinox and helps participants understand seasons and motion of the Earth. Gnomons (a Greek word for an object whose shadow serves as an indicator of time, especially of the hour of the day) of all sizes and shapes have been used in the past - including soft drink bottles and cricket wickets to huge gnomons such as, Qutub Minar, Samrat Yantra at Jantar Mantar and sundial at Barapullah, Delhi.

#### **About SPACE:**

SPACE is a young dynamic company churning out innovative and exciting hands-on astronomy education and astro-tourism services.

The trademark of SPACE is innovation, passion and total commitment to spreading knowledge of astronomy and space sciences amongst the masses. Every project in SPACE is an opportunity for us to communicate our belief in developing scientific temperament to people, especially children, to create an intelligent and analytic global community.

For more information, visit our website: <http://www.space-india.com/>