



Greetings everyone! I am **Zaneta Prarthana** of the 1st batch of PGCDs students at ABIDAT. The 10-month program flew by quickly with several good memories right from orientation to the graduation ceremony, some of which I would like to highlight. All the 12 courses with the BGU staff were very interesting and enlightening. Since we were few in number, we received personal attention and could interact freely and ask doubts; those we missed in class we could ask via email. Even though we were separated by thousands of miles and the classes were via zoom, we didn't feel the distance as even the practical field and lab work were shown through videos occasionally. What I really enjoyed was the discussion of recent articles on current topics for class assignments. We were given access to the university's e-library and made use of it for presenting the seminar topics. Last, but not least, a special mention to the wonderful opportunity I got, to continue my research at BGU physically towards a master's degree in desert studies under Prof. Noemi Tel-Zur. It has truly been a great journey!