

Half Yearly Report
July 2006-December 2006
Uday Pathshala- Shikshan mein Gunvat-ta (Quality in Education)
An initiative of Gramin Shiksha Kendra

Introduction

Gramin Shiksha Kendra has been running Uday Pathshala with the support of Vibha Trust and Asha Trust since June 2005. Although the school has been running with the support of the community and friends of Gramin Shiksha Kendra since June 2004. The number of children studying in Uday Pathshala had increased from 60 in the first year to 110 in the second to 160 at the beginning of the third year i.e. July 2006. The school is being run on a piece of land provided by the community. The community had made a locally appropriate thatched structure in which the school ran for the first two years. Uday Pathshala aims to demonstrate an alternative model of education to the community to enable them to demand a similar education from the government system.

Start of the new session

The third session of the Uday Pathshala, Jaganpura started on 1st July 2006. This time the number of children had risen to 160 and many more parents wanted their children to get enrolled. We had to say to the community that we could not take more children due to lack of resources. We also had cases of a few dropouts. 3 girls who have been regular in the school, dropped out at the start of the session. Efforts are being made by the teachers to bring them back to the school; chances are pretty low, as they have been engaged in household chores and agricultural activities. The session started with seven teachers and a support staff, for 160 children divided in seven different groups. In the month of September one teacher left us (on personal grounds) we had to re adjust the groups thereby reducing the number of groups to six.

The Second School

The second Uday Pathshala was started at Bodal in Dumeda Panchayat. Bodal is a small village on the periphery of the Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve mostly inhabited by Gurjars and small percentages of Bairwas and Meenas. We had been talking to community members of different villages in the Dumeda Panchayat about the school, but we were forced to open the school at Bodal owing to the pressure and demand from the villagers of Bodal. Children from two villages- Bodal and Mor Dungari (a village inside the forest)- come to the school. At present, there are 74 children in the age group of 4-9 years and three teachers at the school. The school is being run under a tree. The community is trying hard to get a piece of land allotted for the school by the government.

Construction of the school

This year the community formally donated the land for the school and got it registered. Construction of four classrooms of dimension 15 *20 sq. feet was completed with the support from friends of Gramin Shiksha Kendra and community. The remaining four rooms and the library of the primary wing are likely to be constructed by March 2007.



Partnership with Bodh Shiksha Samiti and Unnati

Bodh Shiksha Samiti has been supporting the school by transferring the funds till June 2005. But due to some internal reasons of Bodh Shiksha Samiti, the partnership could not continue. Any way, the partnership on the other fronts i.e. technical guidance remains as it was in past. Due to this, we had to undergo a financial crisis for almost 7 months until Unnati (an organization based in Ahmedabad) started supporting the schools.

Appointment of new teachers

The organization appointed five new teachers for the two schools who were trained in the month of May- June along with the teachers of other NGOs supported by SCF.

Workshops



Regular fortnightly workshops are being conducted since July 2006 (12 till December). The teachers present the report of the activities done in last 15 days and the action plan for next 15 days. These workshops are also the forum of discussions on academic, personal and administrative matters. Teachers also present the innovative methods of teaching and new TLM in the workshop and the team of teachers approve/disapprove the ideas after long discussions.

Winter Workshop

The winter workshop for this year was organized from 26th December 2006 to 1st January 2007. We planned to hold the workshop in the campus of an organization called Urmul Marusthali Bunkar Vikas Samiti, Phalaudi. Apart from being a workshop where we discussed the action plan of the organization in coming 10 years, it was also an opportunity for all the team members to spend some time of



leisure together. We took out 2 days to visit places like Jaisalmer and Jodhpur.

Kilol – The annual function

This year the annual function of Uday was celebrated as a joint event of Uday and Vistaar (an initiative of GSK with government schools). The function was organized at the campus of Uday Pathshala, Jaganpura. This was a two-day function, which was participated by children of both



the schools and visited by community members of some 10-15 villages and all the children of the neighboring government and private schools. Apart from exhibiting what all we do at the school it also provided opportunity to all the visitors to actually get involved in all such activities.

Introduction of new subjects

This year we have introduced a couple of new things at the school. These are carpentry and pottery. At present we are not thinking in terms of vocational education but as an extension of art education.

We have also introduced Theatre as a subject in the school. For this one theatre artist has joined our organization. We would like to develop a curriculum in theatre as a subject in school.