

**GRAMYA SANSTHAN: THE EXPOSURE PROJECT  
(2017)**

## **GRAMYA SANSTHAN: THE EXPOSURE PROJECT**

- a). BAL MAHOTSAV**
- b). GIRL STUDENTS EXPOSURE TRIP**



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## 1. Project Summary

Since 1996, Gramya Sansthan has done extensive work in the Chandauli District of Uttar Pradesh, India, towards educating children; spreading awareness about employment, health and education rights; and group activities involving both men and women of the tribe.

Gramya has eight education centres across Chandauli district. It has total 575 students, who receive primary education up to 8th standard, after which these students transition to mainstream schools in nearby towns and cities.

*But is classroom learning enough to make the transition from village to city successful?*

No. These villages are very remote and cut off from the rest of the world. The majority of these children have never seen a train in real life and do not have television at home. Gramya organizes two annual events for the overall development of students to make smooth transition to cities or more developed villages:

1. The Bal Mahotsav: Since most of the Gramya schools have less than 100 students, the Bal Mahotsav (Kid's Fair) has been an exceptional opportunity for students to interact with each other, learn team work, and new skills.

2. Girls site visit to Varanasi: Most of the girls from these villages have never stepped out of their neighborhood and therefore are more likely to drop education after standard 8<sup>th</sup> to avoid going away from home. To overcome this hurdle, Gramya beginning this year will be organizing site visit for standard 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> students everywhere. The trip to Varanasi is an extraordinary chance to experience the city, its culture, and in building self-confidence.

Not only do these exposure projects make the students more independent and prepared to make the eventual shift, but also gives them many more skills to make their future successful. After all:

*'You can only aspire to your level of exposure and awareness.'*

Students will learn how to interact with their peer and will also learn from each other. They will explore various activities- art, sports, performances, etc. These children will get an opportunity to explore their creative side, going beyond the traditional route and recreate methods of traditional schooling. They learn to self-apply things that they have been taught but are difficult to apply in a classroom.

These events are great ways to keep students interested in attending school reducing the number of drop outs. Children are rewarded for their achievements during the Mahotsav, thus motivating them to participate, perform better, and give them a taste of reward and success.

## 2. Project Background

Gramya Sansthan has been active in Uttar Pradesh's most backward taluka, Naugarh (district Chandholi) since 1996. The Mooltaya adivasi tribe resides in this place, surrounded by mountains. In this economically, socially and politically backward tribe the literacy rate is 22%. Female literacy is only 8%. Due to the lack of irrigation facilities and unfertile land, there is little agriculture in this area. Because of this reason, this tribe is known for poverty and hunger. It is a Dalit and tribal community where the number of the girls is more than the boys. They are facing many social, political and economic problems. There is one Govt. school which is very far from the village. Naugarh district was divided into 10 villages to improve its social, economic and educational situation. The focus of Gramya Sansthan is just that. Increase awareness about human rights, violence against women, and child development. Gramya actively participates in helping the 10 villages of Naughad taluka.

The overall objective of Gramya is to educate tribal children who are deprived of these opportunities, and to promote awareness and importance of education and overall development.

### (a) Short Term:

(i) Ensure quality education (the development rights of the children) to the marginalized Children of Dalit Community i.e. Musahars & Chamar along with Children of Minorities.

(ii) Ensure participation of community in the Management of Education Centre and sensitize the community towards children education along with enrollment of girls.

### (b) Long Term:

(i) Make the community empowered so they are capable to analyze and seek possible sustainable solutions to their problems.

(ii) Strengthen the community bonding so that they may be able to demand schools from the Government and be sensitive towards ensuring education to all children along with securing other child rights as contained in the UN Charter.

To achieve all of these goals, it is important to give the children a well-rounded education and preparing them to transition into the world beyond their village. An essential part of this education is Gramya's annual Bal Mahotsav for all 575 students of the region; and the girls trip to Varanasi. This Exposure Project gives the students an opportunity to interact with new people in new places, and discover qualities about themselves which prepare them for their future as independent adults.

## 3. Project Objectives

a) Exposure Opportunities: These children grow up in remote small-size villages, and a well-rounded education includes exposing them to the world beyond. At the Bal Mahotsav, they are introduced to a new place and their peer from neighbouring regions.

The Girls trip to Varanasi will expose them to the closest big city where they would potentially move for future education and work.

b) Extra-Curricular Opportunities: All the students at the Bal Mahotsav get an opportunity to participate in various extra-curricular activities ranging from art and singing to sports competitions.

c) Health Awareness: Health awareness is given substantial time at the Mahotsav, passing on important information to the collective group at once. The Girls trip will teach them how to manage themselves with confidence in a big city environment.

d) Skill Exploration: All the students at the Mahotsav get opportunities to experience various arts and sports, that they might not experience otherwise.

**Pictures of Baal Mela from previous years:**



**#Teamwork**  
**#Fighting gender differences**  
**#learning new skills**



**Girl students playing Kabaddi**  
**#Breaking gender roles**  
**#Importance of physical health in women**



#Learn importance of team work  
#Never give up



#Public speaking  
#Building confidence



#Health is wealth  
#Learning co-ordination and co-operation

#### 4. Expected Outcomes:

a) Self-learning: With all the opportunities to mingle with new people, experience a new place, and explore new activities- the students will learn more about themselves and their interests- both at the Mahotsav and the girls trip.

b) Peer-learning: Interacting with students from 8 different education centers will be a perfect learning opportunity for these students. Also, working along with other students at the various activities at the Mahotsav will give all the students this opportunity.

c) Preparedness: Since the Gramya educational centers only teach students up to the 8th standard, these children have to move to nearby cities, like Varanasi, to transition into mainstream schools. Exposing children to these new experiences will prepare the students to better adjust to their new life in the city.

d) Confidence Building: The exposure, activities, exploration and learnings not only prepare the children for further education but also build in them the skills to tackle new experiences with confidence in themselves.

#### 4. Budget:

(Also Included under the Gramya Sansthan 2017-2018 budget)

GRAMYA SANSTHAN				
Budget for the Year 2017-18				
S. No	Particulars	Details	Amount In Rupees	Total
<b>1</b>	<b>Bal Mahotsava (Balmela):</b>			
1	Food (650 Children x Rs70/- Per Children)	650x70	45500.00	
2	Tentage	7000	7000.00	
3	Generator Set & Mike Set	4000	4000.00	
4	Bedding	4000	4000.00	
5	Prizes for Children	12000	12000.00	
6	Conveyance	10000	10000.00	
7	Banner, Photography, Stationery, etc.	3000	3000.00	<b>85500</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>All Girls Varanasi Trip</b>	Once in Year		
1	Travel & Conveyance	125x250	31250.00	
2	Food	125x150	18750.00	
3	Miscellaneous Expences		5000.00	<b>55000</b>
	<b>In Rupees</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>140500</b>
	<b>In USD (\$1=Rs65)</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>2162</b>
	<b>Rounded off In USD</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>2200</b>