



Gramin Shiksha Kendra

Annual Report 2017-18

UDAY SAMUDAYIK PATHSHALA, GIRIRAJPURA

Uday Community Schools:

The Uday Community Schools initiative has over the years presented a new idea of education. As a fish bowl within the community, each school has allowed the communities to observe, learn and build their understanding on education. Uday Schools have emerged as 'centres' for quality education around the Ranthambhor National Park. The schools today are learning centres which are producing students who are able to take decisions based on cogent reasoning and are confident citizens. The Uday School has become a place where children want to, and love to come and where teachers feel motivated and happy to teach. The Uday Schools have also become resource centres for education in the area.

We are now seeing Uday schools as the base from where we can extend the idea to other government run schools in the vicinity. The community has been encouraged and is now beginning to demand similar standards from other government run schools. We believe that this process will eventually help the community take over active governance of the government school system.

Girirajpura:

The village Girirajpura is a settlement of two forest dwelling communities, viz. Mordungri and Padra, which were rehabilitated in 2011 by Forest Department as mandate under Project Tiger under Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

Villagers from both the communities are Gurjars and were buffalo-herders earlier. They were involved in cattle grazing for their livelihood.

At present, due to the unavailability of grazing land in Girirajpura, their dependency of cattle gradually faded away and now they have to rely on agriculture which require completely different skill-sets.

Village	Girirajpura
Panchayat	Amla
Block	Aligarh
District	Tonk

Uday Community School, Girirajpura:

Under Forest Rights Act, 2006, the villagers are entitled to have certain basic services such as - education, habitation, health, connectivity, etc. but till date, there is neither any public school nor any health centre in the village.

Realizing the need of having quality education for children at Girirajpura, Gramin Shiksha Kendra established Uday Community School at Girirajpura. Currently, the school is fully functional till grade 5 and having strength of 85 children and 5 teachers. Uday community school is currently providing education to children from 6 rehabilitated communities, namely, Mordungri, Padra, Kaali-bhaat, Gadi, Khorra and Kathuli.

Total numbers of boys	52
Total number of girls	33
Total students	85
Attendance	87.05%

1. Academic status at school

This session has witnessed increased enrolment in the school to 85. As some of the children are newly enrolled, their learning levels were not at the age-appropriate level and therefore, more work is needed to be done with them by the teachers to bring them to their respective age-appropriate learning levels.

Initially, the newly enrolled children were finding it difficult to concentrate but gradually they have now begun to show interest in the school activities and are now regular to the school.

2. Academic position and extra classes of 5th class:-

Children appeared for grade 5 board examination this year, as mandated by the state government of Rajasthan.

In order to prepare children for this new examination pattern, extra classes were conducted at the school where focus was on given on weak areas of children.

As a result, we have witnessed good results in these exams. **All of the children scored grade A in the exams.**

3. School and Classroom Management

- Regular work was done with children in correcting the sentences to be used while preparing and presenting Uday Patrika.
- Teachers participated along with the children in all the tasks right from the beginning to the end of the school hours.

Result:

There is improvement among children, in the sentences formation and articulation of news during the assembly.

Children are singing new songs in the assembly. They prepare these songs in advance with the help of their respective group teacher.

Teachers prepared themselves in English language and conducted classes successfully.

4. External Evaluation by Ignus Group

We invited Ignus group to conduct a thorough evaluation of our work with all the four stakeholders (children, teachers, School Management Committees, and parents community). A comparative study of Uday schools with government schools both covered and not-covered under Vistaar programme was conducted. The results show a clear distinction of Uday school with Vistaar and non-Vistaar government schools. The study also shows Vistaar government schools (intervention group) performing better than non-Vistaar government schools (control group) at all the four pillars.

The study also helped us in identifying our weak areas where we need to work upon.

5. Self-attendance System

An attendance sheet was prepared by the teachers in all the grades and pasted on the walls. Children were asked to mark their own attendance on daily basis using their own chosen symbols.



Result: This was an interesting activity for the children on the first place. But it also motivated them to come to school on daily basis and mark their attendance.

6. BMI & malnutrition

Body Mass Index (BMI) of all the children in the school was calculated using the charts recommended by WHO. Below is the status of nourishment among the children:

Aug-17		Nov-17		Feb-18	
Thinness'es found	Severe thinness'es found	Thinness'es found	Severe thinness'es found	Thinness'es found	Severe thinness'es found
18	17	16	14	17	11

7. Project work (literacy)

Objective of the project: To learn the process of conducting surveys and to know the literacy level in the village.

Activity: A questionnaire was prepared by teachers and was shared with children. Children were given basic guidelines on how to ask questions and to record those.

Children were divided into two groups, one was sent to Mordungri community and the other to Padra community. Children in pair surveyed the villagers successfully.

Result: All of the children, except three to four were able to collect data properly.

The data shows that the literacy status of the village is as follows:

Population	Literate	Illiterate	Currently studying	Highly educated
217	78	72	63	4

Project work on:

1. Toilet
2. Hand-washing and
3. Information of local plants and trees



These are related to health and hygiene three project done in December 2017. The data of toilet and hand washing is complete.

Objective of the project: To make children and the community educated about the best health and hygiene practices to be adopted at household level.

Project: Total number of surveyed households = 80

How many houses have toilet	21
Number of households using toilets	14

Project: The total number of responses is 79.

Hand-wash pattern after going to toilet (total-68)	Number of responses
Soap	28
Ash	17
Mud	23
Number of children who wash their hands every time after having lunch	62

8. Election:

Objective: To enhance leadership qualities and inculcate the habit of collectivism among children.

Activity: Children were informed about the election process and the schedule and were asked to nominate themselves. After getting the nominations and their symbols from children, they campaigned for themselves followed by conduct of the election in presence of the community members. Once the polling ends, the teachers in presence of the children counted the votes and declared Sarpanch and Panch'es.

9. Library: There is a regular time-slot in a day allocated to all the grades for library activities. Moreover, children are free to use libraries for referring books related to different subjects and stories. Teachers are also using the library for enhancing their capacities.

10. Creativity and Art: Children are actively engaged in activities related to creative writing and arts, as part of their curriculum. Their creations are being published in the monthly magazine Morange.



11. Plantation:

15 plants were planted in the school in this session. Children themselves allocated responsibilities of taking care of the plants.

As part of the project work, vegetables such as carrot, radish, spinach and grams were also planted in the school premise, through which the problem of malnourishment is intended to address.



12. Labelling and safeguarding trees

For the safety of trees, small boundaries were made around the trees. Name plates of the trees were hanged on the respective trees. **Result:** Children and teachers know the English and Hindi names of the trees planted in the campus which resulted in the improvement in their vocabulary.



13. Cleaning the playground

Playground for Kabaddi and Kho-Kho was prepared collectively by teachers and children. Children prepared for intra-school competition after the school hours. School Management Committee (SMC) provided Rs. 900/- for cleaning the playground.

14. Time line of the School:

Time line of Uday Community School was developed by community members, children and teachers showing all the major activities and events happened in the school since its inception in 2014.

15. Exposure visit to Tejaji's fair:

Objective: To know the local folk songs, connection with the culture and community, and entertainment.

Activity:

3 teachers along with 22 students went to Tejaji's fair in Amli village where they experienced a cultural program, listened local folk songs. After the visit, children wrote their personal experiences about the visit followed by a discussion with them on significance of such fairs.

16. English mentorship program:

The English mentorship sessions for teachers are conducted every Wednesday after the school hours. The improvement in the group has been observed since these sessions began. Teachers now need to work on listening and speaking abilities.



17. Meetings

i. Community Meetings:

8 meetings were held with the parents and other community members. The topics mainly discussed in the meetings were: Contribution by villagers in the construction of classrooms, rehabilitation case, sharing of academic report, encouraging the parents to visit school and participate in the school meetings



ii. SMC meetings :

12 SMC meetings were conducted in this session.

One new member was also elected in the committee, this year. In meetings, school development plan was discussed and shared. In addition, children's learning level and health records (BMI) were also shared with the members. Parents were also encouraged by the SMC to contribute in the form of manual labour.

iii. Umang Group meeting:

Umang group is the group of Uday alumni who are either working or studying on different places. Regular meetings between Umang children and teachers are organized at school. In this session, some of the main issues discussed in the meeting are:

- a. Connecting Uday alumni and female community members to the school library.
- b. Opening playground space for alumni after the school hours.
- c. Academic issues faced by children

iv. Women's meeting:

Two meetings with women were conducted in this session. Main topics discussed in the meeting are: cleanliness in the kitchen, personal health and hygiene, cleanliness among children, health records of children, and negative effect of tobacco consumption and smoking.



Results:

Three female and one male member from the community have left consuming *gutkha* (tobacco).

18. Other activities:

- Board examination specific extra classes were conducted for children studying in grade 5.
- A friendly match for children and community members was organized on the occasion of Republic day.
- Four SMC members took responsibility of collecting funds for the construction of classrooms and collected Rs.1500/- from the community.

19. Discussions with the stakeholders:

Uday School opened a discussion forum for the stakeholders of the school, viz., children, teachers, parents and other community members, which focuses on the topics related to the school and education.

i. Government schools and Uday school:

The situation of government school was analyzed in regard to Uday School with community members. At the end, community members were appreciative of the practices and processes adopted in Uday school.

ii. Children's safety in the school:

Various nuances of children's safety in the school were discussed among the teachers and community members. This helped them in building their understanding on the safety precautions and best practices followed in the school to provide a secure and safe environment for children.

20. Community Contact:

Teachers are paying regular visits to the community, meeting parents and sharing the learning levels of their wards. Nutritional status of children are also being shared with the parents while having discussion on improving it.

Importance of cleanliness among children was also discussed along with encouraging them to regularly participate in the meetings at school.

21. Construction & seating arrangement: Three classrooms were constructed in this academic session with the help of Asha for Education, individual donors through crowd funding and the community. Community contributed in the form of manual labour and donations.

22. Independence Day

Independence Day was celebrated in the school at which 25 students participated in the cultural program. Nearly 50-60 community members also attended the program. The financial aid provided by the villagers at the event is Rs.1321/-.



23. Republic day Celebration

The celebration of the Republic day was done with the help of the community. A friendly football match was also conducted with the community and the staff of the school.

Community contributed Rs. 1800/- at the event.

24. Distribution of De-worming tablets to children :-

8th February, 2018 was marked as the Deworming Day in school, when deworming tablets were distributed for children.



25. External visits to school and village:

- i. Delhi Government Teachers' visit: Ashoka Foundation organized a two-days' visit of nearly 20 Delhi government school teachers to Uday Community Schools, where they observed the classroom processes and school management systems being practiced by Uday schools. Teachers interacted with children, Uday teachers and community members and appreciated the participation of each of them. They were quite convinced with the dedication of the teachers and the approach used in Uday schools. They promised to implement some of the practices used in Uday schools in their schools also.

- ii. **Research on assessing the level of ground-water in Girirajpura and Anandipura:** Owing to poor rainfall in the previous monsoon season, both the villages are witnessing deficiency of ground water



in the area. As a result, they are not being able to irrigate their fields and meeting their household needs. Gramin Shiksha Kendra approached the organization - SAMERTH, an NGO working in Kutch region of Gujarat and in Chhattisgarh on water management with the communities.

They conducted a preliminary research on groundwater level at Girirapura and another nearby rehabilitated village - Anandipura. The report submitted to us by SAMERTH suggests installing dug-wells at identified locations near to the water rechargeable zone in the area. The report was also shared with the Forest Department, Ranthambhor and followed up to incorporate the solution in Forest Department's future action plan.

25. Women's Day:

International Women's day was celebrated in the school by organizing a meeting at the school, where women's health related issues were discussed by our teachers. At the end, women also showed their skills in pottery.