



Updates from Gramin Shiksha Kendra - April



Dear Friends,

The past two months have changed all of our lives. The Covid-19 lockdown has also affected our schooling system where the schools have been shut down until further notice. The disaster has affected more or less the entire humankind and the most affected are the marginalized and vulnerable communities living in both urban and rural areas.

In such trying times, we are working to find out and experiment with various alternatives to ensure

education for all the children. We are also reaching out and providing humanitarian aid to the marginalized de-notified and nomadic communities in Sawai Madhopur which are struggling badly during the lockdown. Kindly read on to know more about our outreach and experiences of teachers during these days.

Best wishes and stay safe.

Director

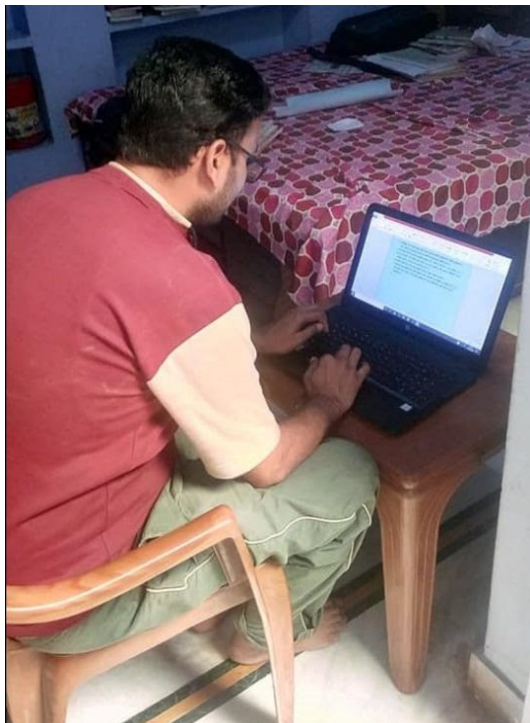
Gramin Shiksha Kendra

Virtual Connect and Capacity building

With the introduction of the computer programme, the teachers and students regularly worked on learning the use of the technology available to them. This learning has helped especially during the lockdown. As the teachers sit at home, they use phones, laptops and tabs to continue their capacity building. The teachers have kept in touch with each other and the community with the help of messages and other virtual platforms. They have used various online video conferencing apps to continue their workshops and capacity building, subject wise and project wise through discussions, interactions, readings etc. We are also exploring innovative solutions to ensure the children to continue their learning during these times and sending them activities which they can perform at home with the help of their siblings and parents. Our teachers are also spending time in understanding the philosophy of Education and thinking of the ways to implement it in today's context.

The teachers have also participated in various webinars by other organizations and specialists on various topics to improve their understanding of the current scenario under the lens of Gender, Education, and Development.

"Never stop learning, because life never stops teaching."



Updates from the schools

Teachers contacted the parents to check on the current situation in the community and to continue to keep the children busy and to not stop their learning. The main issue that rose was the fact that not all families had phones and therefore not everybody could be contacted. The teachers are finding a way to resolve the issue. Parents were asked to provide the phone to their children for a certain time of the day to continue their learning through lesson plans shared by the teachers and were also asked to call the teachers for any doubts or clarifications. The parents were asked to take care of the basic hygiene and health habits of their children and to keep a check on their daily school work.

The Team leader of Uday School Fariya Mr. Rajesh continues to contact people to arrange a vehicle for students to attend school. One of the major issues that affect the attendance in Uday School Fariya is the distance of the school for many of the students. To solve this issue the school plans to have a van to bring the students safely to school. 34 families have agreed to send their children by van. Once the schools reopen the students will be able to attend school with no difficulties.

Contact with students

All schools have created whatsapp groups with numbers of parents who have phones to send learning material for the students to keep them busy and ensure productivity of students. It is important to keep the children busy especially during these times, to ensure continuous engagement. In addition to this a reading group with 12 to 13 children from Uday School Fariya was made on WhatsApp. The children are given a certain reading task on the group and respond once they are done and with any doubts. Once the task is completed the students discuss their understanding of the reading on the phone with teachers and discuss it with their friends as well.



Humanitarian Assistance to the Community aid during Covid-19

With the advent of the global pandemic disease COVID-19, there is a sign of fear and distress across the globe. After the government announced the national lockdown for 21 days, an extension of 19 days and then an extension of 14 days, the lives and livelihood of the rural communities have been severely affected. All the APMC Mandis in the district closed, the situation has caused many farmers to stock their produce at home. Those who don't have storage capacity had to either refrain from harvesting or had to

just leave their harvest in their fields. In both cases, it is causing severe damage to their products and ultimately to their income.

Even with the relief package announced by the government, it hasn't proved to be sufficient especially for large families and for families with no ration cards. Therefore these vulnerable families have to rely on their neighbours or relatives to provide them with the necessary grocery or feed them. There are highly vulnerable communities in Sawai Madhopur district who have been badly affected by COVID-19 and the lockdown situation economically. The need of the hour is to provide them access to food supplies at their doorstep in order to ensure food security to them.



After a survey on the communities that are facing difficulties, GSK selected 747 families of nomads, tribal communities and disadvantage communities that need help, including the Bhopa, Ghadiya Lahar, Mogya, Baori and Kanjar communities. In the last week, the organization has provided ration materials to 387 families of nomadic tribes residing in Khandar and Sawai Madhopur blocks of the district, 230 material kits to Alanpur, housing board road, Hammer Bridge, near the collectorate, near the post office and to families of Gaadia Lohar, Bhopa and Kandar community residing in Adalwada.

The volunteers also followed all the precautionary and safety measures to be taken. The organization will continue to reach out for support to help the community in these dire times.

Teachers review on National education Policy 2019

Education means knowledge and this knowledge will not only help us all to become a complete human being but is fully capable of building a civilized society and telling humanity its true meaning. Education is a tool which builds the future of the youth. This is the reason that developed countries accept education as a national goal. Education is a national goal in India too. The government is constantly trying to keep India ahead in the field of education compared to other countries in the world. In the same sequence, a committee was chalked out to prepare the draft of new national education policy under the chairmanship of Dr K. Kasturirangan in order to change the form of education to a higher level. The aim of which was to create such an education that allows students to learn the necessary skills and knowledge, as well as to suggest new changes in education so that all students irrespective of class, caste, gender or religion of the country can be connected to education. Everyone should have access to education in it and education should pay attention to the basic things like equity and quality. The committee highlighted 5 important things namely-

Accessibility, Justice, Quality, Affordability and answering body.

This is a part of a report written by Mr Tarun Sharma on the understanding of the national education policy. Each teacher has discussed and also written a report on their understanding of the National education policy (2019), the NCF (2005) etc.



The pandemic has changed the daily routine and has also changed our way of looking at education. The organization is constantly discussing ways to adapt and improve the education provided to the students. One other aspect that the organization continues to discuss is the long-lasting effects of the pandemic and the misinformation that has been a constant part of the past few months. The long-lasting effects will include discrimination, isolation and prejudice against groups and misguided practices. Education is the best way to create awareness among students and communities on the misinformation that has been spread. The school which is a part of the community will act as a centre to provide verified and accurate information during these dangerous times and will continue to advocate the importance of an equal and compassionate society.

We wish and hope that you and your family are safe and healthy in these trying times and to come out of the crisis safely.

Thank you

Sincerely

Team

Gramin Shiksha Kendra

