

GSK – Girirajpura 2020 Annual Update : Q & A

I compared the list of students that you had provided for this year compared to last years. It looks like about 28 children would be dropping out, while 54 are continuing and 43 new children would be joining this coming year. Out of the 28 children that are dropping out, 18 are girls and 10 are boys. I am attaching the sheet that I used. Can you confirm if the analysis is correct?

As per the comparison between the 2 sheets, here is our analysis:

1. At some places there are differences because of the different spellings used in children's names.

As per our analysis, below is the comparison between your analysis and ours. The dropped-out children were coming from the neighboring villages and are currently enrolled in the nearby public or private schools.

	Mohit's Analysis	GSK's Analysis	Mohit's Analysis (Updated)
Last Year #	82	82	82
This Year #	97	97	97
New	43	31	43
Continued	54	66	64
Dropout	28	16	18

What is the reason behind such a large dropout and large influx?

5 children were earlier enrolled in Uday-Fariya School. After the Girirajpura School received the affiliation for grade 8, they are now enrolled in the Girirajpura School. There are a couple of children from the neighboring villages who were earlier enrolled in the government schools but have now taken admission to Uday Schools. The actual status is mentioned in the excel sheet (Column F in worksheet 2020-21 of attached excel file).

The dropouts are mainly because of either the distance of the school from their village or because of the migration of child/family to other place. Please refer to the column H in 2019-20 worksheet of the attached excel file.

Some other questions that came up in our meeting:

1. Are the teachers continuing to be paid through this COVID lockdown period.

Yes - as of now, the entire team is getting on-time salary.

2. You had mentioned that there is no planned increment for everyone. However in the updated budget I still see a 10% increase from last year for the school teachers. Is that not true for everyone then?

In the former budget sheet (2020-21), the average annual teachers' salary is Rs. 1.98 lakhs. While in the revised budget sheet that I have recently shared with you, the average salary is Rs. 1.78 Lakhs.

In 2019-20 budget sheet also, the average salary of the teachers was Rs. 1.95 Lakhs. The difference between this year's revised salary and of the previous year was because of the change in the school's staff.

3. On nutrition

- Have you explored government schemes for mid-day meals? If not, why?

We have experienced and realized over a period of time that at least in the communities where the Uday Schools are functioning, affordability of food is not a big challenge. There was a need of an attitudinal shift towards nutrition and this is where we have been emphasizing since the beginning of the programme. In our schools, 100% of the children are bringing tiffins to the school. They are also having breakfast before coming the school and have lunch when they go back home after the school. Therefore, we do not see any need of a mid-day meal programme in the area.

As it is evident from the health records of the children, there has been significant improvement in the health status of the children. Parents have also become more conscious about the diet and nutrition provided to the children. Initiatives such as kitchen gardening and cooking clubs in the school have helped us in having a more regular discourse on nutrition with the children and the parents.

- Have you approached NGOs such as Akshaya Patra that support mid-day meals?

Akshaya Patra is not functional in areas near Sawai Madhopur. Moreover, we are not feeling any need of initiating programme such as mid-day meals in the Uday Schools as I shared with you earlier.

4. How many children in the village are above Grade 8? How many are going to school and how many have dropped out after Grade 8? How many girls are not going to school in this group?

There are 7 children in the village below 18 years of age who have been graduated from 8th grade. Out of these 7, 3 are girls and the rest are boys - all of these children are currently studying and enrolled in schools.

5. On the above question, could you provide some data on past years as well?

Here is a list of children -

S. No.	Name	Class	Status
1	Lothanti Gurjar	11	10th results are awaited
2	Manisha Gurjar	11	10th results are awaited
3	Vikas Gurjar	11	10th results are awaited
4	Rajkranta Gurjar	11	10th results are awaited
5	Pooja Gurjar	11	10th results are awaited
6	Dilkhush Gurjar	10	Enrolled in 10th grade
7	Neeru Gurjar	10	Enrolled in 10th grade

6. Is the school accredited up till Grade 8? What does accreditation mean for the school?

Yes, the school has received affiliation till grade 8. It means that the school can now accommodate the children studying in grade 8.

7. Do you plan to expand the school beyond Grade 8?

We have focused largely on the elementary education, i.e. grade 8. The emphasis has always been to strengthen the elementary education system and transformed the children into self-learners. We have now begun to work with the adolescent girls from poor social-economic background and those who are studying pursuing secondary education (grade 9 and 10) from the government schools.

The expansion of the school to grade 10 or 12 largely depends on the availability of funds and the presence of the government schools in the area. As we are now seeing that the government is planning to have at least one senior secondary school in every Gram Panchayat, we plan to act as a resource agency for these government schools in order to strengthen the quality and the participation of parents. We are already working with this model from Jaganpura and Fariya Uday centres. We plan to initiate the similar model from the Girirajpura school in the next 1-2 years.

8. What is the current 5 year plan for the school? Is the plan to have this funded by the Govt at some point?

As I shared above, the role of Uday Community Schools is to help improving and strengthening the public education ecosystem of the region. We are already doing it in Fariya and Jaganpura, and now plan to start working with the

nearby 15-20 government schools and their SMCs near Girirajpura - mainly catering to the rehabilitated communities from Ranthambhor.

We are clear about handing over the school to the community and approach the government and ministry of HRD to support this intervention (Uday + outreaching government schools) at least for the next 5-10 years. Since the past one year, the community has gladly accepted our invitation to take over the school and started to contribute for building a corpus for the school. The community is now very active and supporting the school in raising funds from the nearby *bhamashahs* (high net-worth individuals). The community is taking interest in understanding the nuances of the governance, management and the financials of the school.

In Girirajpura, we aim to initiate the following programme having Uday Community School as our resource centre -

1. A programme with the adolescent girls mainly focusing on their core life-skills and help them realizing their identity as individuals.
 2. Career Counseling programme for the youth - A focused intervention with the youth (both girls and boys) on guiding and counseling them on the possible career options and help them in pursuing those options.
 3. We are a part of the network of organizations working extensively on addressing the issues related to the rehabilitated communities from the forests. We aim to initiate a community-led intervention through Forum Theatre - theatre of the oppressed, to help the communities raising their voices against the atrocities and violations of the Forest Rights Act, 2006. The theatre will help them understanding the political, social and economic issues related to the rehabilitation and provide a channel to these communities to express their concerns in public and in front of the administration.
 4. Sports Initiative: In Girirajpura, Sports programme is now taking shape and the children are taking interests in the group sports. Girirajpura Sports team of children participated in the sports tournaments in the previous year which significantly improved their confidence. We aim to institutionalize the culture of community sports in the villages near Girirajpura.
9. What has been the long term plan with other schools that GSK runs : Bodal, Jaganpura, and Fariya

For the Jaganpura and Fariya schools also, we aim to handover these schools to their communities. The process of shifting the ownership has now started. Uday Schools have now made their presence felt in the education fraternity of Sawai Madhopur. The schools are acting as catalysts and resource units for the government school system of the area.

The Uday Schools are also going to act as the resource agencies for the government schools and other government and non-government organizations working in the education space.

In the previous year, we also conducted a capacity building workshop at Uday Schools for the Gram Panchayat members of Narmada district of Gujarat building their perspective towards Quality Education.

Uday Schools will also act as the research and advocacy units in the field of education.

Our *Umang* intervention with the adolescent girls has just received a funding support so as to be able to re-initiate the programme at 1 centre near Jaganpura. Through this pilot programme, we now aim to come-up with a need-based scalable intervention to be initiated with Fariya and Girirajpura communities.

We are also aiming to initiate career-counseling for the youth at all the three centres and their catchment areas.

We aim to improve the infrastructure of Jaganpura School so as to be able to accommodate the children and teachers and provide them a better teaching and learning-supportive environment.

Our STEAM initiative has largely appreciated by the government schools near Bodal. We aim to setup similar labs at Jaganpura and Fariya schools which will act as resource units for the nearby government schools.

10. Was Bodal school converted to a Govt school?

We adopted the government school of Bodal for 5 years. In 2016-17, we phased out of the school and handed over the school to the government teachers and the Bodal community. The school is currently functioning effectively having an active presence of the parents in its functioning. The SMC is active and taking active participation during the meetings and otherwise.

Just adjacent to the Bodal school was a plot which we took on lease and where we were running a school during the early days in Bodal. The plot was converted into a STEAM (Science Technology Engineerig Arts Mathematics) laboratory which is now acting as a resource lab for the nearby 17 government schools.