UDAY COMMUNITY SCHOOL, GIRIRAJPURA

Half-yearly Report
2017-18

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<td>BOYS</td>
<td>52</td>
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<td>GIRLS</td>
<td>33</td>
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<td>TOTAL 85+6 (+3 age children not enrolled)</td>
<td>91</td>
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<td>Average attendance</td>
<td>75</td>
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<td>Percentage</td>
<td>82.41%</td>
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<td>WORKING DAYS</td>
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Presented by:
Ashok Sharma
Team Leader – Uday Community School (Girirajpura)
Background

Two villages, Mordungri and Padra, were displaced in 2011 and were rehabilitated near Amli (Tonk district). The rehabilitated village was named ‘Girirajpura’. The villagers were assured of a package of Rs. 10 lakhs for providing plots for housing and agriculture, and other basic amenities such as school, hospital, concrete road, etc. but the area has still not been converted into revenue land. Community members have not received the ownership rights of their land till date.

On demand from the community and the administration, Gramin Shiksha Kendra started Uday Community School to provide quality education to the children of Girirajpura in 2014. Gradually, children from nearby villages have also started to come to the school. Currently, the enrolment in the school is 91.

The initial six months have shown a remarkable increase in the enrolment and stability of children in the school. This session has witnessed an increase in the enrolment in the schools, i.e. from 47 to 91. The continuous efforts of Uday teachers towards improving the status of education in the school and bringing new ideas to the school have encouraged more and more parents to get their wards enrolled in the Uday schools. The continuous interaction between Uday teachers and Girirajpura community has reinforced the trust between each other and led community members to involve more in the functioning of the school. Children from other nearby villages have also enrolled in the school in this session.

30 households from Gaddi village have been relocated near Girirajpura in the past 6 months. Nearly 43 more households are expected to be rehabilitated by the end of this session.

Enrolment and stability

The position of the school according to the data:

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<th>2016-17</th>
<th>2017-18</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>No. of students = 47</td>
<td>New students enrolled = 38</td>
<td>85 enrolled children</td>
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<td>6 children (3-5 years of age)</td>
<td>91 children</td>
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ACADEMIC POSITION

This academic session has witnessed an increase in the enrolment of children in schools and therefore, some of the recently enrolled children were not up to their age-appropriate learning level. Over the six months, the situation has improved considerably and these children are also showing improvement in their learning levels.

Other initiatives:

1. Night adult literacy classes

Some women were interested in learning to read and had mentioned that to the Uday team. Uday teachers started Hindi classes for women during the evening hours.
Around 10-15 women used to come to the class every day. Apart from the academic purpose these classes served, they also became a platform for women to come together and interact. When the teachers taught these women, they realised that many of them were too shy to even talk but gradually they began to enjoy the learning and felt more comfortable in presence of the teachers. These classes served as a good way to initiate work with the women of the community by getting them to talk freely and express themselves. If these classes continue, it can serve as a medium for building the women’s confidence and then maybe also starting some livelihood activity with them.

This initiative was started in the previous session and has been resumed in the current session also.

2. Rehabilitation support to Girirajpura:

The children with whom we worked in Girirajpura were from villages which were relocated out of Ranthambore National Park in 2011 and 2012. After more than 5 years of relocation, this community still does not have land ownership of the agricultural or the homestead land given to them by the Forest Department at the time of the relocation. This and many other promises made by the Forest Department at the time of relocation are yet to be fulfilled. The timeline of the recent happenings in this case is mentioned below:

**7 Dec 2016** - 19 community members from Girirajpura village visited Delhi from the 6-8 December 2016. There they sought an appointment with the Inspector General, NTCA, Mr. H. S. Negi and the Deputy IG, Mr. Rajgopal Prashant. These officials claimed that in order to complete the process of relocation, the forest land on which these villagers were relocated in Girirajpura was to be converted to Revenue land and in order to do that, a compliance report, providing details of families relocated along with the extent of land to be diverted, was to be sent by the Ranthambore Tiger reserve authorities to the NTCA, which has not yet been received despite sending out two reminders. A copy of one such reminder letter sent from the NTCA office to the Forest Secretary, Jaipur in May 2016 was procured by the community members. Mr. Negi set up a meeting with the Chief Wildlife Warden, Jaipur on the 16th December to inquire about the reason for such prolonged delay in final settlement of the relocated villagers. These officials asked the community members to follow up with the progress of compliance report and from the Chief Wildlife Warden, Jaipur.
19 December 2016 - 4 community members met Chief Wildlife Warden (CWW) at Jaipur, Mr. G.V. Reddy. The CWW was shown the letter received from the NTCA’s office asking for sending of the compliance report and the community members shared the problems they faced due to non-transference of land ownership records in their names. He assured them that the work would be done and forwarded the letter to the Field Director’s office in Ranthambore. He also asked the community members to meet up with Sudarshan Sharma, the Assistant Field Director, to follow up on the progress of the compliance report to be sent to NTCA.

20th December 2016 - 4 community members met the Assistant Field Director, Ranthambore Tiger Reserve, Mr. Sudarshan Sharma on the 20th December 2016. He informed that a few details were missing from the compliance report which he has prepared and will send within 2 days. The community members asked for a copy of the report which he informed could be procured from their office within 2 days. The forwarding letter of the compliance report was collected by GSK on the 22nd December.

17th January 2017 - Children wrote a letter to the Prime Minister of India stating the difficulties of their parents without having ownership documents of their lands.

24 March 2017 - Journalist from Down to Earth visited Girirajpura and covered the entire story of the grievances of the community. It is expected to get published in the upcoming months.

27 March 2017 - People from Girirajpura filed an RTI seeking reason for the delay in releasing the ownership documents of their lands from forest departments. The letter was forwarded to the Deputy Field Director, Shri Sudarshna Sharma to respond from the field director’s office. A copy of the same has been sent to the applicant, Shri Puniyaram Gujjar.

Later a series of RTI were filed by the Girirajpura community taking support from Gramin Shiksha Kendra, seeking for the following information:

1. Date at which the conversion of land going to happen?
2. To provide the rehabilitation compliance report of Mordungri and Padra villages.
3. To provide the details of the money spent from Eco-development Committees’ account.
4. To provide EDC’s account number and copy of the bank passbook.
5. The reason for the deduction of Rs.13000 from the amount provided to the villagers for building their houses.

18 April 2017 - Another intern from People’s Archive of Rural India (PARI) visited Girirajpura and interviewed the relocated people from Mordungri, Padra, Kalibhaat and Tilak Nagar and is planning to write a story on their struggles.

3. Anthropology Study and Exhibition –Tali and Anjali
An anthropologic study was conducted by Gramin Shiksha Kendra with the help of a American India Foundation Fellow in Girirajpura and the nearby villages. The purpose of this
study is to showcase the connection of the villagers with their culture and art forms through participatory approach. The outcome was an exhibition organized in the community on the World’s Environment Day, 5th June 2017, where all the community members, NGOs, government officials and people from hotel and tourism industries were invited.

4. Growth Monitoring in Uday Schools:
BMI of all the students, i.e. from pre-primary to class 5th of the school was calculated and shared with the parents.

Condition of the students according to the assessment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary 5+ (total no. of students)</th>
<th>Normal</th>
<th>Thinness</th>
<th>Severe thinness</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>73</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>17</td>
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Pre-Primary:

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<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Stunting</th>
<th>Wasting</th>
<th>Normal</th>
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<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>13</td>
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<td>September</td>
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<td>13</td>
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5. PLANTATION
Fifteen plants were planted in the school, all the students have divided their responsibilities to take care of the plants.

6. PROJECT WORK (LITERACY)

Problem statement: To collect the data about the literacy level in the village and analyse it.

Activity: Questionnaire was prepared by teachers, who also educated the children on the way of collecting the responses from the community members.

Then students were divided into two big groups, one group was sent to Mordungri village community and another to the Padra community. Students divided themselves in pairs and collected the data. Except 3-4 students all the students were able to fill the questionnaire properly.

The literacy of the village according to the data:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Literacy</th>
<th>Illiterate</th>
<th>Currently Studying</th>
<th>Completed higher education</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>213</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>4</td>
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7. INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION
Independence Day was celebrated in the school, 25 students participated in the cultural program of the celebration. 50-60 nearby villagers and parents attended the program.

8. ELECTION
Objective: To inculcate the leadership traits among the children.

Activity:

Children were informed about the election process. Students nominated themselves for contesting the election. Then teachers gave symbols to the representatives and the students conducted election campaigns. Teachers conducted the election in the presence of the community members both male and female. The teachers then disclosed the result of the election. The elected students are as follows:

President: Budhi Prakash Gujar

Ward member: Shivraj Gujar, Rahul Gujar, Narendra Singh Tanwar, Bhagwan Singh.

9. ARRANGEMENT & MANAGEMENT

- Children were corrected by the teachers in the language of Uday Patrika and the way of presenting the news.
- Teachers were reassigned the groups where they need to participate in all the tasks along with the students, from the beginning of the school till the school is over.

Result:

- After this management, there is improvement in the sentences of the Uday news.
- Children recite new songs in the morning assembly. They also prepare themselves for the assembly in advance with the help of their respective group teachers.

10. MEETINGS

Two meetings have been conducted with the community members, one on the reformation of School Management Committee and another was the social audit on the information shared by the Forest Department against the RTI filed by the community.

11. CULTURAL PROGRAM

Objective:

To connect the children with their culture, and folklores.

Activity:

3 teachers along with 22 students went to Tejaji’s fair in Amli village where they saw cultural program, listened local folk songs and then the students wrote their experiences.

Example: What is the importance of fair?

Why fair is being conducted?

What is the importance of Culture and local folk songs?

There was discussion about the fair with all the students in the assembly.

12. DISCUSSION

On 15th and 16th September, Uday teachers conducted a two days Sammelan, where they and community members got together and had discussions on the following topics:
i. Education in Government school vis-à-vis Uday School.
ii. Children’s safety in the school.

i. Government school verses Uday School:
The topic was discussed among Uday School teachers and community members. From the parents who recently enrolled their wards to Uday schools from the government schools, we got to know some detailed insights on the difference between Government/ private School and Uday School. They are as follows:

- There is a good environment of learning in the Uday School.
- Children are eager to come to the Uday School, earlier when they were in the other school they used to refuse to go.
- In Uday schools, the children are not being supressed or abused, the teacher make them understand with different activities.
- The teachers are very irregular I the government schools.
- Uday school teachers work hard with the students than the teachers in other schools.

ii. Children safety in school:
This topic was discussed among the teachers only, where they discussed about the safety of the children in the schools. Below are the points which should be taken care of:

- Teacher and a student can’t be alone in school.
- Teacher will maintain distance from the students and he/ she should teach in open, without closing the door.
- Children shouldn’t do any activity which can be harmful for him/her or any other children, alone. The activities which could be harmful or dangerous should be done in the presence of the teachers.
- A discussion was conducted by the teachers about the traffic rules which were also shared with the children.
- The first aid kit should be in reach of the children.
- There was discussion with the parents on the children’s safety. The mobile numbers of teachers and parents were also shared.
- Parents were also advised to avoid junk foods for their children and provide healthy and nutritious food to them.

13. Other activities

i. Construction & sitting arrangement: In this session, the construction of one class room was completed, but because of the relatively low number of classrooms, children are still facing problem.
ii. **Visits:** Uday Community School, Girirajpura was visited by a group of government school teachers from Delhi. The visit was facilitated by Ashoka Foundation. The teachers were happy to see the learning level of children in the school. They also noticed the learning environment and the pedagogy followed in the school. Some of them also promised to adopt same pedagogy in their classrooms.

iii. **Mentorship program:**

There is an improvement in the group members, the members are active during the session, ask their doubts and also participate but they need to practice more (speaking as well as writing).

According to the evaluation done in the month of September only two members have done well.

14. **Summer Workshop:**

A 25 days’ workshop was conducted in June for capacity building of the teachers, reviewing the past activities and planning for the current session. Some of the key highlights of the workshop are:

- Academic workshop on different subjects (Science, mathematics, English, computer science) and topics were conducted with the teachers.
- Review of the activities conducted in the previous session and the outcome were discussed among the team members.
- Planning for the current session was done.
- A session on the modern banking system was taken by executives from National Payments Corporation of India.
- Health and nutrition – session on growth monitoring of children, best food practices was conducted with the teachers.
- Child Safeguarding Policy was introduced to the teachers. The policy was understood by all the staff members so as to ensure the safe learning environment for the children in our project area.
Uday School Girirajpur (2017-18)

Subject: Environmental Science, Project Work: Literacy

Date: 22/09/17

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<tr>
<th>Name of the surveyor:</th>
<th>Group:</th>
<th>Name of the village to be surveyed:</th>
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<tr>
<th>Sl. no.</th>
<th>Name of the Family members</th>
<th>Age 1</th>
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<th>Age 7</th>
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<th>Age 9</th>
<th>Age 10</th>
<th>Age 11</th>
<th>Age 12</th>
<th>Graduation</th>
<th>PG</th>
<th>Others</th>
<th>Illiterate</th>
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Thoughts of family members about education: .................................................................................................................................

Conclusion: .........................................................................................................................................................................................

Teacher’s signature