



Gramin Shiksha Kendra

**Uday Community School
Girirajpura**

**Programme Report
(July'19 – March'20)**

Submitted to

Asha for Education

By

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About Gramin Shiksha Kendra

Gramin Shiksha Kendra (GSK) is an attempt by the rural parents' community of Sawai Madhopur to ensure access to Quality Child-Centred Education for the children. We believe that a school is an extension of its community and hence the community must play an active role in its functioning and to hold the teachers more accountable towards them.

Uday Samudayik Paathshala's - The community-led schools:

A key component of the Gramin Shiksha Kendra approach is community engagement. GSK believes that schools are an extension of the community and works closely with community members on the management of the schools, providing them with skills needed to drive the demand for quality education in the area. GSK's emphasis has always been contextual, driven by a belief that quality education can be achieved with local-level resources. Since 2015, Uday Community Schools are elected Change-maker school by Ashoka Foundation. GSK runs three Uday Community Schools located at:

- i. Jaganpura on the western periphery of the Ranthambhore National Park.
- ii. Fariya on the eastern periphery and
- iii. Girirajpura – a relocated village resided by communities which earlier lived inside the core area of the National Park.

Core Activities at Uday Community School Girirajpura (July 2019 – March 2020)

English Programme:

Most of the children are first generation learners and English is an alien subject to them but for the children to learn English as their secondary language, we began the English Programme in collaboration with the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) in 2015. A theme-based approach while contextualizing the content and using it with various teaching-learning aids for maximum exposure of the language.

Practice is one of the most important aspects of learning a language; therefore the programme and the teachers ensure the use of the language on a regular basis inside and outside the classroom through assemblies, excursions, games, library etc. The progress is assessed according to the use of the language in daily conversation, reading, writing, ability to complete the activities given at the back of the textbook by themselves etc. The students have shown this progress in this semester, although there is a lot to improve on.

Action-Research by Uday-Teachers

The Print-Rich environment has been an integral part of the Uday classrooms the results of which our teachers Mr. Ashok from Uday Community School Girirajpura and Mr. Tarun from Uday Community School Fariya are studying while engaged in the classroom practices. The action research is guided by the NCERT during which they are analyzing the effect of creating a print-rich environment in the classrooms for the children to visualize and learn. Labeling the objects and making them visible in the classroom is one such measure. This can be seen in the examples of the kitchen garden and the daily objects around them.



Morning Assemblies:

The Morning “Sabha” is a time of congregation of all the students in the school. It is the time of the day where students sing poems, songs, recite stories, share the news of their own villages, enact plays, practice morning yoga and physical exercises etc. Uday schools have recently added a couple of more activities in their morning assemblies. In Uday Community School Girirajpura the teachers are using morning assemblies as a platform for encouraging the usage of English by the children. Therefore the students recite the news from their respective villages in English with assistance translation from the teachers. It is also recited in Hindi for the younger students to be able to catch on to some words with the help of familiarity.



Rethinking Education in the Age of Computers:

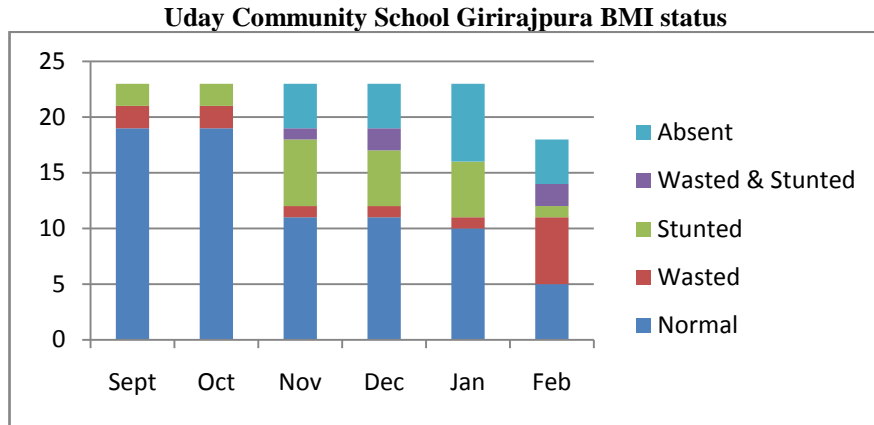
The computer education program in Uday Community Schools is helping in bridging the digital divide in students and teachers and is directed towards being computer literate. Both students and teachers are in the process of enabling themselves in using windows paint, doing typing in Hindi and English, using basic features of applications such as - Microsoft Word and Excel, and making use of the internet facilities. The program is not only helping to explore creativity and imagination but is also helping to understand technology. The students from Uday Community School Girirajpura are practicing the basic functions of Microsoft Word and Excel Such as Copy, Paste, Typing, and saving the document. They are also taught how to use a Pen-Drive and the internet for information.

Nutrition

The state government has acknowledged the fact that prevalence of malnutrition in Rajasthan is extremely high and it performs badly as compared to other Indian states. The Uday Community Schools have taken this seriously and have started creating interventions to help the situations. After the recognition of the deficiency of iron in children, the students are being given iron tablets weekly in all the 3 schools including Girirajpura.

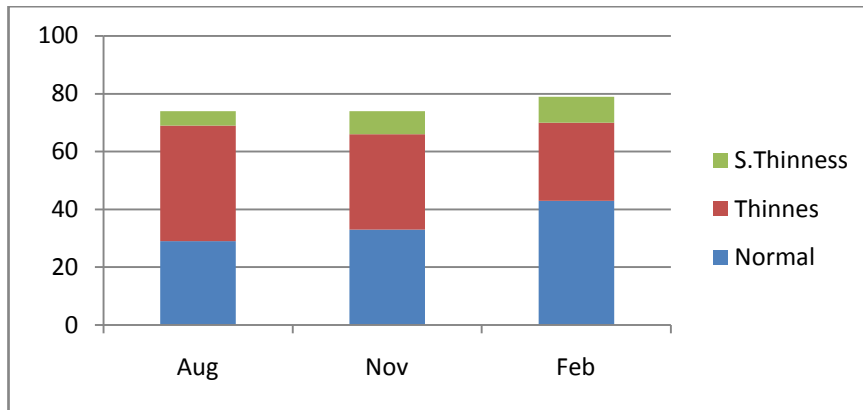


The schools are making initiative to increase awareness amongst the students through the cooking club, kitchen garden and science lessons encourage certain basic health and hygiene practices and certain types of food. We collect and analyze the health records of the children on a regular basis. The Body Mass Index (BMI) of children once in every quarter for children above 5 and the height, weight and age of children between 2 and 5 years and is analyzed with respect to standards stated by the World Health Organization (WHO) . We are in the process of creating a referral system for children in severe conditions and discussing with the parents of these students.



BMI data of students from Pre-School (total no. of students is 23)

Note: In February, 5 students turned five and therefore their records have been added to the +5 Report



BMI data of students of age 5 and above (total no. of students- 74 + 5 students added in the month of Feb)

Contextual learning

How do we ensure that the students are able to understand the abstract contexts that are being explained and retain the information? At the Uday Community School Girirajpura, this is being resolved by making connections between the experiences that the students have had to the topics being taught. For example:

1. **Canvas:** The 1st and 2nd Grade children learnt about how to read maps with the help of a large canvas, the canvas being mud. Children love playing with mud. The teachers noticed this and decided to use it as a tool. Once the students were shown an example of a map, they were asked to close their eyes and imagine their path from home to school. Then they used their playground as the canvas. In sometime the playground was filled with beautiful stories, adventures and directions.



2. **Field visits:** Recently, the 7th and 8th graders were taken to a nearby field for understanding Rabi crops. The children used their senses and skills of observation to understand the different parts of the crop and the inputs for growing each of the crops and the process. They could relate their field exposure with their

classroom learning latter which helped them understanding the crops better.

Co-Scholastic Clubs:

In order to provide maximum exposure for the children to realize their interest areas and potential, the schools have initiated the co-scholastic clubs of various activities in their respective schools. The health and wellness clubs on school can help in the development of habits, values, attitude, increase brain function, increase self confidence, create a space that practices healthy competition, expose them to specialization of an activity of interest and importantly enjoy what they are doing.

Cooking Club:

What is more soulful than cooking as a community?

The Cooking Club is all about teamwork, hard work and excited rumbling tummies. The children learn to cook various traditional healthy dishes, learn the importance of a healthy diet and apply their Science and Math knowledge while cooking and also eliminating the gender-bias among the children as both boys and girls participate in cooking exercise. The cooking club also cooked a feast of Daal Bhati Churma for the Children's day celebration.



Dance Club:

Dance is an activity that demands movements, flexibility and confidence. The Dance club is a platform to remove the hesitation or shyness, to introduce moments filled with joy and movements that express the energy and enthusiasm of the children. The children at Girirajpura practiced choreography to perform at the Republic Day function, held on the 26th of January.



Sports Clubs:

Uday Community Schools have always strived to push boundaries in sports, by ensuring the participation of students in various levels of competitions, continuous practice and opening the door of sports as a viable career for many of the students. Therefore to encourage the specialization and continuous practice various sports clubs have been introduced.



The students at Girirajpura practice Handball, Football and Kho-Kho. This year has been eventful for the boys and the girls of the sports team as they have been able to take part in tournaments held during the Kilol at Uday Community School Fariya and at the tournament at the science fair held at Girirajpura. They are hoping to participate in district and state tournaments in the next season.

Kitchen-Gardening Club:

Practical exposure of a kitchen garden teaches them the value of patience, regular maintenance and the effort to take care of the plants by regular watering, weeding and even harvesting. The children enjoy the produce that they grow and learn the different types of crops and the nutrition value of the various produce.



Art Club:

Art is a form of expression that comes easily to students and even peaks their interest in daily routine. Recently, children at Uday Community Schools Girirajpura had a learning session through artistic activity where they were involved in drawing and painting the walls of their school.

With the assistance of the pottery and sports teacher Mr. Murari Lal the students painted the walls everyday during club hours. Children from 5th 6th and 7th took turns throughout the week. Once it was completed the students and the teachers labeled the various activities, elements and positions in the painting to create a Print Rich Environment through the walls of the school.



Science and Sports Fair at Girirajpura

The teachers and the students at Girirajpura had a busy month in February. The Science teacher and the other subject teachers decided to have a fair at the school for the students and the community of Girirajpura and Amla. On the 28th of February after a long preparation the fair was conducted. It was a celebration for the children, teachers and the community.



Around 40 running models were made to understand the concepts of science and Mathematics, which was explained and demonstrated to the students and teachers of government and private schools and parents. The fair contained Sanskrit, art and language corners as well.

A tournament of Kabbadi and Handball was conducted among the Uday Community Schools of Jaganpura and Girirajpura and the Government school of Amli. Both matches were won by Girirajpura. (2nd time that the school had competed in a tournament)



Community interaction:

For increasing enrolment/attendance regularity in all the schools, our community worker consults, conducts meetings with them and strengthen the process. This year meetings were held to discuss the process of handing over of the school by creating a shadow board committee who will be responsible for the governance of the school, to decide monetary contribution amount to ensure an accountability of the school for the community and creating the committees for the same. Parent teachers Meetings were also held to discuss the student's cleanliness, nutrition levels and Academic growth.

Community Ownership: (Transferring the ownership of School to the Community)

The idea of the community owning the school was the ultimate vision of the Uday Community Schools so that the community can independently run the school demonstrating an example of a Cooperative model for Education. Uday Community Schools will functionally and financially form a self- sustainable institution which will be owned and governed entirely by the community.



1. Functional aspect:

To ensure that they feel confident in the technical and managerial aspects of running an education

institute, capacity building of the community has been done through parent teachers meeting and community meeting sessions. The other step that we have taken is the formation of the shadow board. The board consists of 10 members both parents who are representatives of the villages from where the students come and teachers of the Uday Schools who will be responsible for the governance of the Uday Schools. **We are happy to inform you that a shadow board comprising of 10 members has been formed in Girirajpura.** Over the next year, these members will learn various aspects of governance of the school.

2. Financial Aspect.

The Schools have initiated the collection of a monetary contribution periodically after a discussion with all the parents which was led by the community being direct active participants and direct beneficiaries of the school and thus the importance of contribution. The monetary contribution has started comprising as one of the funding sources and the amount that has been collected so far in Girirajpura is:

School Name	Amount collected by parents (INR)	Amount collected from Donors (INR)	Total (INR)
Uday Community School Girirajpura	45000	9300	54300

Major Events and Activities in 2019-20

1. Aga Khan Rural Support Programme, India invited Gramin Shiksha Kendra to build a perspective of the Gram Panchayats of Narmada district of Gujarat towards Quality Education through a 11-days capacity building programme.
2. We are also trying to involve the civil society of Sawai Mahopur in contribute for ensuring access to Quality Education to the children in the Sawai Madhopur district.
3. Theertha Ravindran, an India Fellow, is working with us on the project to improve the health status of our children in Uday Schools and subsequently in the government schools. She is also building a curriculum on delivering Sex Education to the children enrolled in Uday Community Schools.
4. Capacity building workshops were held during the Diwali and Winter breaks for the team members.
5. Children's day was celebrated by the children and the teachers at all the three Uday Community Schools.
6. Children from Uday Schools were invited to participate in the Ranthambore Music and Wildlife Festival where they attended a series of workshops (theatre, creative arts, and block printing).
7. Republic day was celebrated at the school with various different acts and dances by the students and the raising of the flag.
8. Kilol was held at Uday Community School Fariya and the students from Girirajpura also participated in the tournaments, dances and recitals.
9. Holi the festival of colour was celebrated in the school with active participation of students and teachers.
10. Teachers and students continue to be engaged during the lockdown through virtual methods. Teachers are working on capacity building and keeping in touch with the students and parents.

Way Forward for this academic session:

1. To hand over the school to the community by setting up a legal vehicle for them to effectively run the school in a democratic arrangement.
2. To initiate an adolescent girls empowerment programme to provide the necessary life-skills to the girls who are dropped-out or at risk of dropping out of the school system.
3. To focus on promoting Sports among the community to be pursued by the children and youth especially the girls.
4. To initiate a Computer Literacy Programme for the youth especially the girls in the village.

5. To emphasize on the health and hygiene among the children and promoting nutritious food and balanced diet using the locally available resources.
6. To introduce Sex Education in the Uday schools' curriculum - this will also include the sensitization of the children towards Gender, Child abuses, and Child safety.
7. To discuss the relevance and utility of menstrual hygiene and sanitary pads with the adolescent girls and women within the community.