



Updates from Gramin Shiksha Kendra



Dearest friends,

I hope that you are staying safe. We have had an eventful and busy February- with a continued focus on innovative academic practices, strengthening the agency of young girls and women through the Umang programme, enhancing the capacity of our teachers, and engaging with De-notified and Nomadic Tribal Communities. Your valuable support has boosted our morale, helping us continue our efforts through unprecedented and challenging times. I take this opportunity to convey my sincerest gratitude; with you by our side, we look forward to consolidating our programmes this year, to make them further need-based and effective!

Best wishes,

Shubham Garg

Director

Gramin Shiksha Kendra

After a prolonged break, our Uday Samudayik Pathshalas reopen!

Despite the national lockdown, and its several extensions, we engaged with children through frequent home visits and running *dhaani-kendras* (hamlet/village centres), while following necessary Covid-safety guidelines. It is almost after a year that our three Uday Community Schools are now re-operational for classes VI-VIII, as directed by the Rajasthan government. Meanwhile, younger students continue to be provided a space to learn and play everyday at the *kendras*, until it is considered safe for them to be back to school.





'Umang': Enhancing the Agency of Young Girls and Women



To break the taboo around adolescence and menstruation, awareness-building sessions were organised for the girls in our Umang Programme cohort and their mothers.



An excursion to Jaipur was organised for our Umang alumni cohort. For these girls, who are seldom allowed to step out of their village, this trip- that provided everything from an opportunity to immerse oneself in history at the Amer Fort, get a glimpse of ancient scientific acumen at Jantar Mantar and experience a bit of the city life through a metro commute, was a necessary taste of life outside their village.



Our teachers have been regularly connecting with each other to review the life skills development modules they have created for the children, after an extensive capacity-building programme. We are excited to see the outcome of this training in the form of wonderful classroom activities for our cohorts of adolescent girls- helping them bloom into confident, critically thinking and communicative young women!

Community Outreach through Theatre



Dr. Sanjay Ganguly, the Founder of Jana Sanskriti, a Calcutta-based grassroots theatre collective, and a pioneering force behind the advent of Theatre of the Oppressed (TO)/Forum Theatre in India, has conducted a week-long training workshop for GSK's Forum Theatre troupe. A pupil and comrade of the late Augusto Boal (Brazilian theatre practitioner and founder of the Theatre of the Oppressed pedagogy), Dr. Ganguly is the locus of the global TO movement today, and we are honoured by our deepening partnership with Jana Sanskriti.

Theatre of the Oppressed is a form of popular community-based education that uses theatre as a tool for social change. Forum Theatre, a TO technique, explores unresolved scenes of oppression, which are replayed with the audience invited to stop the action, replace the character they feel is oppressed, struggling or lacking power, and improvise alternative solutions. The audience is thus transformed from mere spectators, to 'spectactors', allowing them to practically visualise a better future with liberation consciousness.

Engaging with De-notified and Nomadic Tribal Communities



Health camps were organised for the residents of the Bawri Basti and Raekheda village to conduct crucial routine checks, identify common health issues, build awareness regarding nutrition and hygiene, and provide medication. For the socio-economically disadvantaged Bawri and Bhopa communities, malnutrition among children and lack of pre-natal care for pregnant women are among the major concerns that we sought to tackle as part of our ongoing endeavours to gainfully engage with De-notified and Nomadic Tribes in the area. A total of close to 700 children, youth and senior citizens participated in the health camps at the two locations.



We love sharing with you all that your support helps us do! To continue contributing to efforts that seek to enhance access to quality education, and serve some of the most marginalised and neglected demographics in rural Ranthambore, click [here](#)!

We wish you good health and high spirits!

Warm regards,

Team Gramin Shiksha Kendra