



Updates from Gramin Shiksha Kendra



Dearest friends,

I hope that you are staying safe. We have had an eventful and busy March- with an eduring focus on innovative academic practices, enhancing the agency of young girls and women through the Umang programme, building our teachers' capacity, engaging with De-notified and Nomadic Tribes, and strengthening community outreach. The world continues to experience the aftermath of the unprecedented year that was 2020. Your valuable support, however, has kept our morale boosted, helping us continue crucial efforts during extraordinary and challenging times. As always, I take this opportunity to convey my sincerest gratitude! Read on for last month's highlights.

Best wishes,

Shubham Garg

Director

Gramin Shiksha Kendra

The Unique Spaces that are the Uday Samudayik Pathshalas

The reopening of our three Uday Community Schools after over a year of COVID-induced closure has brought their characteristic liveliness and constant activity back to these spaces! Apart from continued commitment to our child-centric, multi-grade/multi-level pedagogy, teaching in Uday also lays emphasis on learning that takes place beyond academics, sometimes even the classroom.



Making the most of the open spaces, fresh air and nature surrounding our schools, sports and outdoor activities are an important aspect of our curriculum. Children from Uday Schools and our intervention schools are often seen competing at district, state and national levels, and our sports teams attend daily practice on the fields.



GSK's promotion of creative expression and critical thinking are rooted in its commitment to quality child-centric education. It is, therefore, that along with classroom learning, students engage in an array of co-curricular activities. Pictured is a student creating artwork during a 'best out of waste' activity.



आओ मिलके करें पाठशाला की सफाई! (Come, let's together keep the school clean!): To imbibe a sense of collective ownership and responsibility towards their school, the students periodically set aside time to clean up the premises themselves.

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

Apart from providing academic support and digital literacy sessions to our *Umang* cohort of adolescent girls- as discussed in earlier editions, our teachers have been regularly connecting with each other to review the life skills development modules they have created, after an extensive capacity-building programme; these are aimed at classroom activities for the girls, helping them bloom into confident, critically thinking and communicative young women. To that end, a leadership camp was also organised for them at our STEM campus in *Bodal*, located at the heart of the forest ecosystem. (To learn more about the activities conducted here, check out the March highlights on our Instagram account- don't forget to give us a follow on [there!](#))



Engaging with De-Notified & Nomadic Tribal Communities

Daily sessions are held for children of the *Bawri* community (at the *Bawri* and *Bamboribastis*), seeking to provide the children here a structured learning environment- in an attempt to ease them into eventual enrollment to the teaching, playing and socialising set-ups at nearby government schools. After their success in steadily increasing the attendance of children and engagement from parents, similar learning set-ups have been brought to the *Gadiya Lohars*, an acutely under-resourced and marginalised nomadic community, with daily sessions being held at *Khandar* and *Allapur*.



Efforts are being made to converse, and do fun learning activities, in small groups at the Gadiya Lohar bastis to encourage children and parents to enthusiastically and consistently participate in the new initiative.



A member of our faculty conducting a meeting with parents of children in regular attendance at the learning sessions held daily in the Bawri and Bambori Bastis.

Community Outreach

Apart from running the three Uday Community Schools and other initiatives in an attempt to reform the education ecosystem in the region to make it more child-centric and accessible, another crucial aspect of our endeavours to that end is encouraging local communities to get involved in matters of education. A shadow governing board for our schools, comprising of parents, has been constituted- with the intention of Uday eventually transforming into a completely local community-led endeavour. Additionally, we work with 75 parents' communities, including the former and current School Management Committee (SMC) members, in order to empower them to hold government schooling accountable for promised learning levels of children, performance of teachers and institutional infrastructure.



Our Forum Theatre troupe conducting a series of performances in communities and schools across villages in our programme areas- to spread awareness about, and initiate public discourse around, the twin menace of child marriage and girls dropping out of school.

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***