

Update from the Bodal School – July 9, 2007

Some interesting development is happening at Uday Samudayik Pathshala, Bodal. As you know last year the school had 74 students and there were three more schools in the area - government school and two private schools. This year the community rejected these three schools. They forced the two private schools to move out of the village. And the number of students in the government school has drastically reduced to 15. As a result of this at present some 135 students are coming at the Uday Samudayik Pathshala. In spite of all the efforts of the government teachers, the villagers refuse to send their children to there. This has happened owing to the poor quality of education being imparted in these schools.

The community has constructed a kuttach hut (60*20 sq feet) on a pasture land in the village. Everyone from the two villages- Bodal and Mor Dungari contributed. Every household gave Rs. 100/- and brought a log or some piece of wood. Almost everybody was present at the time when construction was being done. Children of the school cleaned the place and the elders constructed the structure. Though there was some resistance from the Forest department, villagers said that they were not satisfied with the education in government or private schools so they have opened a school of their own with the help of Gramin Shiksha Kendra so that their children got good quality education. This is their own school and they are going to make it and protect it.

The Deputy Director, Department of Education stopped at Uday Samudayik Pathshal, Bodal on 7th July 2007 while he was on a visit to the schools of the district and was surprised to see that the school had 130 odd children in spite of absence of any infrastructure whereas the government school with all possible basic facilities had only 10 children and 4 teachers. He spent half an hour at the school and enquired about his question to the teachers and community. He got the response that children come here because the **teachers at this school teach**. He then offered the two schools to run together, people agreed but with a qualifier that he had to guarantee that the government teachers worked as hard and gave the report of progress of each child every month as the teachers of Uday. There was no response.

This development becomes all the more important in the back drop of the recent Gurjar Reservation Movement where it seemed that this community wanted a slice of the easy cake. The above two villages are inhabited mostly by gurjars. Above is an example of community taking up the responsibility when they start feeling that the government system is not able to fulfill it's.

