

Report of Activities

March 06

I. Start of the new session

The new session at Uday started on 1st July 2005. As we had expected earlier the number of parents wanting to send their children to the school had increased considerably. The increase was not only in the villages from where children were coming; a large increase was from Charoda, a village from where only one boy came in the first year. Although we had planned to keep the number of children to 100 in the second year but due to the pressure from the community the number increased to 115. We also had a set back, one boy Kishan from Rawal dropped out as his parents thought that the school was too far from their house. Now the school has five groups of children. Phulwari, Bagachia, Guldusta, Gul and Khushi with one teacher for each group.

II. Appointment of new teachers

With increase in the number of children in the school, new teachers were appointed. One of them was an experienced teacher from Bodh Shiksha Samiti and other two inexperienced ones (one male and one female). The appointment was done in three phases - in July, August and October. These two teachers need training. One has already been sent to Bodh Shiksha Samiti for training and the other one will be sent when Bodh or Digantar will conduct the next training.

III. Partnership with Bodh Shiksha Samiti

Bodh Shiksha Samiti has agreed to help the organization for next one year. BSS will help train our teachers and provide us the technical and academic support. One of our teachers Anju Lakshmi Sharma attended a training programme at Bodh in October- December 2005.

IV. Constructions at the school

One more step was taken in the construction of the school. The community generated funds to make a kuttcha boundary wall on the school land. A mud wall had been made on half of the land. The remaining work could not be done as rain had stopped. A total of work worth Rs. 37000 was done.

V. Workshops

Regular fortnightly workshops are being conducted since July 2005. The teachers present the report of the activities done in last 15 days and the action plan for next 15 days. These workshops are also the forum of discussions on academic, personal and administrative matters. Teachers also present the innovative methods of teaching and new TLM in the workshop and the team of teachers approves the ideas after long discussions.

VI. October Workshop

A six days long workshop was conducted in October 2005. This workshop was conducted in the organization office at Sawai Madhopur. We made reading material for environment studies for children who had reached the stage of reading and writing. The next six days workshop is being planned in the last week of December. We will be working on EVS and art education.

VII. December Workshop

A workshop for six days was organized in the last week of December. We made reading material in environmental studies on the concepts in science equivalent to std. Five of NCERT and SIERT syllabus for self-learning children. Shiv Kumar a noted artist spend two days in the workshop and help us understand art education in elementary school education.

VIII. Establishment of office

The organization is in process of establishing an office in Sawai Madhopur.

IX. Interactions with Save the Children Fund, Finland

SCF, Finland an organization committed to work for child rights in the country started communicating with GSK in October for possible partnership and support to the initiatives of the GSK. SCF agreed to support the outreach programme mentioned in the concept note of the organization. A project in collaboration of GSK and SCF to improve the quality of education on 20 selected villages of Sawai Madhopur was finalized in November 2005. The project will start in March 2005.

X. Community Meetings

The community meetings were stopped due to a dispute between the community members in Feb-March 2005. We restarted the regrouping the community after July 2005. It was still very difficult to make them sit together. So we decided to conduct separate meetings in each village. These meetings have been quite successful. We are at present sharing with them the progress of each child and the academic activities being done.

XI. Consultancy Support

Mr. Shiv Kumar, a noted artist from Jaipur has agreed to spend time with our teachers for next one year. Mr. Vinod Padraj (a noted poet in the state) has agreed to help us form a work plan to work on literature.

XII. Art Education at school

We have been managing maths, Hindi, and evs, sports to a satisfactory levels but art education and English language had been problem area. We have not been able to do what we would have liked to do, as we do not have such teachers in our school. We have been talking to quite a few people to work part time at the school in the above two subjects. Mr. Shiv Kumar has supported the teachers in art education but we needed someone to work directly with children. Mr. Arvind Jodha has started working on art education with our teachers and children and spends 5-10 days a month at the school. He has been working on paintings, sculptures, paper work, and clay work since January 2006.

XIII. Exhibition of Creative work by Children

An exhibition of creative work done by children of the school in last eight months was organized at the school on 6th of March 2006. This exhibition included paintings, drawings, spray paintings, group paintings, sculptures, story illustrations, picture stories, poems, stories, the daily school news paper, school magazine, photographs and creative work by community especially women. The exhibition has one section which displayed the teaching methodology, curriculum, TLM, our philosophy, classroom management systems and a list of frequently asked questions (we have no text books, no headmaster, no red pen, no school bag, no prayer, no examination, no uniform, no class system, multi level and multi grade not only as a management system but as pedagogy, no school bell). The exhibition extended to almost 500 mts and exhibited nearly 1500 items. The District Collector was the chief guest of the

programme. He spent some two hours at the exhibition looking at the creative work done by children. Nearly 1000 people from villages and city came to the exhibition.

XIV. Hand Pump at school: We were able to have a hand pump at the school in March first week. The hand pump was dug out of consultancy earned by one of the team members. It's a 330 feet bore.

XV. Other Activities at the school

1. **School Panchayat:** The school has its own panchayat body. It has an adhyaksha and two members. The students elect all three in a democratic manner. Initially the objective of having such a body was to educate children of the panchayati raj system (what it is, how it is formed and how decisions are taken). But now we are trying to make it more actively involved in school decision-making processes. The body is elected every three months. At present the major work area of the group is to decide upon *apna kaam*, school daily newspaper and daily wall magazine. We are thinking of involving the body in other school activities also.
2. **School News Paper:** Children of the school prepare a daily newspaper and put it on the school notice board every day. The newspaper has an editorial board and a team of reporters. The reporters bring news from their respective villages and give it to the editorial board, who then edit and write the paper for next day. This team is also for three months and changes with the school panchayat elections.
3. **School Magazine:** Everyday children bring some creative writing which is included in the magazine. This includes stories, poems, and paintings. The magazine also has a similar managing committee.
4. **Apana Kaam:** This is any work on the school decided to be done by teachers and children on Saturday afternoons. The work may be to dig pits for plantation, repair the school, clean the school or repair anything in the village.