

### **Non Formal Education Center – Village Jamun**



The story of the Non Formal Education Center (NFE) of village Jamun is an inspirational one. The village has one Government Middle School but as many as 37 children were out of school when a survey was carried out in the year 2004.

The reasons for these children being out of school were following-

- a) The Government Middle School is very far.
- b) The teachers in the school did not show up most often and if they did, they would not teach. So many of the enrolled children had dropped out from the school due to non-comprehension. And
- c) Most parents of these children go out to work as laborers and so children would tend to the cattle or do household work. Therefore encouraging them to go back to schooling was difficult.

The village is very interior and there was not much reason for the parents to send their children back to the school. The Village Development Committee (GVC) and the youth-leaders took initiative for these children's schooling and they went to each home to meet the parents. It took them five months to encourage the parents to send their children to the Seva Mandir-run NFE as an alternative option. The NFE was set up in a location relatively close to most children. Later, the enrollment grew so much that an additional instructor was appointed to cater to all children.

Today there are 32 children who come regularly to the NFE and have shown an extremely good progress in reading and writing. Kamal Lal, the dedicated instructor has been able to build a good rapport with the parents. The parents attend the monthly meeting and discuss their concerns with



Kamal Lal. He says –“ Before the children stayed untidy and would hesitate to speak. Now they stay clean and have achieved reading-writing skills. They have also learnt some rhymes and songs in a short time.”

As someone has said, **“If you care at all, you’ll get some results. If you care enough, you’ll get incredible results.”**

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