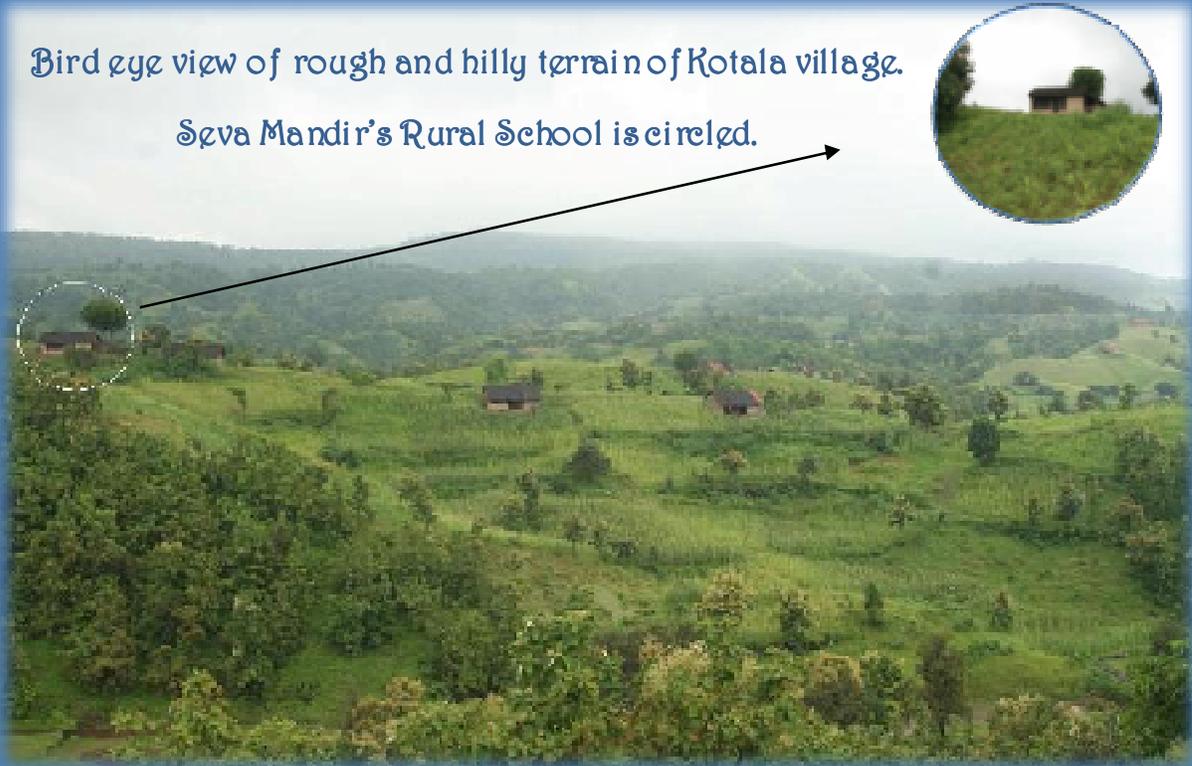




## Let's visit to one of our Rural Schools

Bird eye view of rough and hilly terrain of Kotala village.

Seva Mandir's Rural School is circled.



Kotala Rural School is located amidst hillocks. It was started in 2003.

Currently, 30 children are enrolled in this school.

Do you want to know from where these children come?



The 06 to 14 years old children in this village walk up to Kotala rural school every morning.

Some of them live as far as 2 kms. The Government school is far and most often the teacher doesn't show up regularly. These children wouldn't mind to walk to the government school. Why then, they come to the rural school instead?

Most of these children come from families who they live below half a dollar a day. To supplement family income, often they perform household chores, take care of younger siblings or go for wage labor work.

If attending the government school doesn't enable them to learn how to read and write or carry out simple math calculations, the children get frustrated and drop out of schools very soon.



In rural schools, the children experience quality education, which gives them satisfaction and joy. So they don't mind walking!



In Kotla rural school, children are divided into groups. They do assignments together and also independently. The pedagogy is such that children are allowed to think, reason, and question and not just memorize their lessons. They learn Hindi and Math, recite poems, read story books, and perform calculations with the help of pebbles and twigs. They also play games and sing songs.





### What does the Instructor Dasrath Kumar say?

'We face many challenges to run this center. The foremost is that the children who are not regular, lag behind and it takes a lot of effort to bring them all at same level. I have to work very hard with such children'.

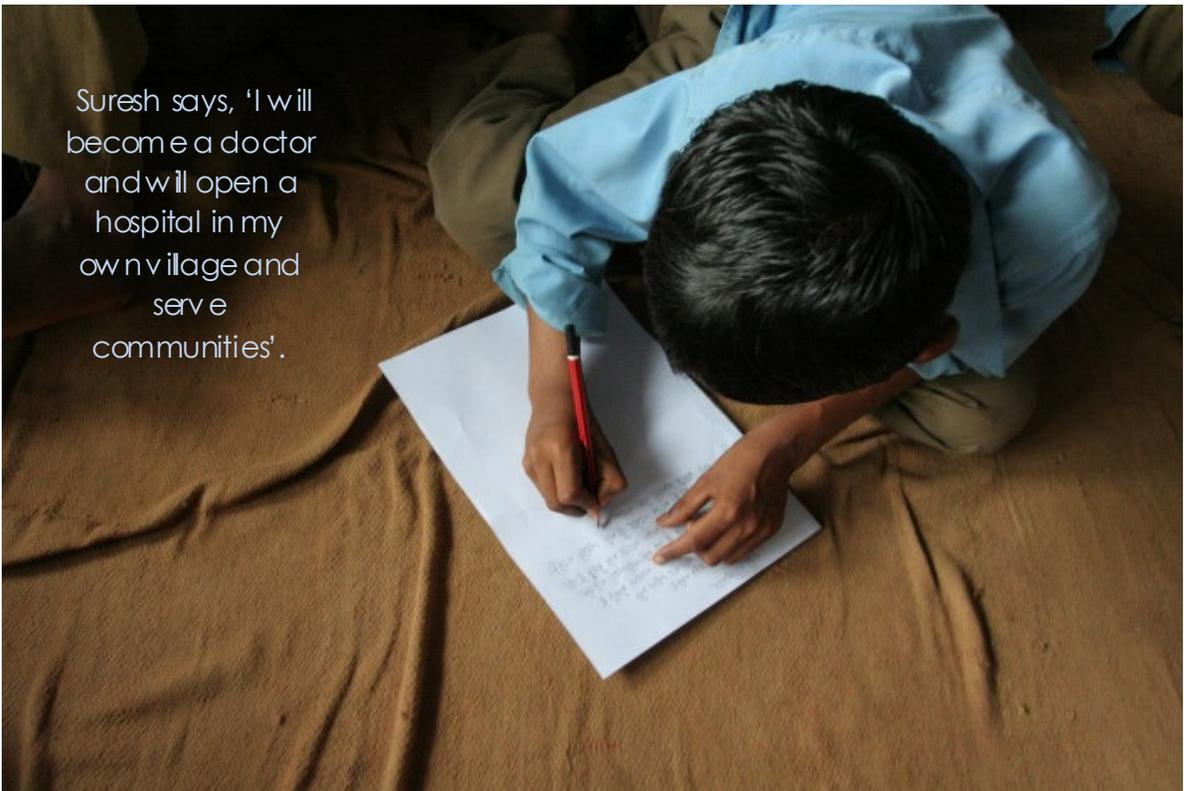
'I feel that the future of education in my work area is bright because now a days it is hard to survive in any of the trades like farming, business, labor etc. without good education'.

The instructors or teachers at these rural schools are sourced from within the village itself. Most of them have education up to 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> standard. Since none of them are trained to be teachers, heavy investments are made to build their capacities and skills. Moreover, several rounds of trainings also help them break their attitude towards teacher-child relationship which they have acquired from the society and their own experience of being a student in traditional schools. Improving their skills result into creating better classroom environment in rural schools.



Suresh has been studying in Kotala rural school for three years. When he came, he didn't know how to read and write. He was very shy and wouldn't talk much. Slowly he began to enjoy interacting and learnt how to read stories from his books. He also learnt basic calculations. This year Dasrath is preparing him for admission in a government school for further education. Suresh is very excited about it and takes much pride when asked to read a story or write about anything in the class.

At home Suresh helps his parents in household chores. He takes his 5 goats for grazing every day after the school hours. Many times he helps his father at the farm and likes to do 'Rakhwali (protecting crops from animals and birds)' in his farm.

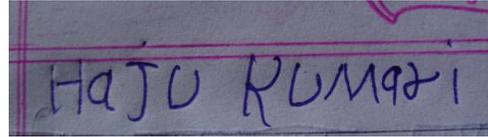


Suresh says, 'I will become a doctor and will open a hospital in my own village and serve communities'.



Haju says, "We learn three subjects at the school, Hindi, Math and English. We follow a timetable everyday - usually Hindi class is scheduled in the morning and mathematics is in the second half. We learn English language for half an hour after our lunch break".

Haju can read and write in Hindi independently. She has a keen interest in learning English. Currently she knows some alphabets and how to write her name



Haju along with his younger brother attends Rural School daily.

She is fond of reading storybooks. After school hours, she helps her family with household chores such as cooking and cattle grazing.



Children going home after finishing their school.

These children are enjoying their childhood as much as they enjoy studying in Kotala rural school. It has been all possible because of support from you.

**Thank you so much for supporting children like Haju and Suresh of our area.**



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