



Gramin Shiksha Kendra

Our Vision

Thoughtful, supportive and sensitive children will create a world which is equitable, supportive, which believes in peaceful coexistence, celebrates diversity and culture.

Our Mission

Education will set children free and help them to be curious, supportive, sensitive, thoughtful, aware, open to learning and have the abilities to take on responsibilities and fulfil them.



Since 2004, Gramin Shiksha Kendra has been running child-friendly, tuition-free schools known as Uday Community Schools for 400 children near the Ranthambore National Park. Our philosophy is that the school is an extension of the community and therefore, they must actively participate in the functioning of their schools in order to improve and maintain the quality of Education. Enabling the rural community through School Management Committees to raise questions, ensuring positive reforms in the school and managing the schools, is foremost aspect of our programme. Another important aspect is to ensure child-centered education in the schools. Children learn by doing and our curriculum involves sports, art, pottery, carpentry, theatre and embroidery. Our emphasis is local: all of our teachers are from Rajasthan and we encourage parents to be involved in their children's education through our community engagement approaches.



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Uday Community School, Jaganpura

Our Uday Community School, Jaganpura enrolls over 200 children from 5 villages in the surrounding vicinity in the classes pre-primary (Anganwadi) to 8. The school was built on the land donated by the community to us and they feel themselves responsible to manage and govern the school.

Uday Community School provides the children an education that teaches them to think critically, ask questions, and enjoy their education. A hallmark of the school day is our morning assemblies, during which the children sing songs, perform plays, and share news from their villages. The Jaganpura girls handball team is state ranked and competes across Rajasthan. Our alumni's many accomplishments include gaining admission to sports academies, being the first girl in the village to attend college, and joining the Air Force. In 2015, Uday Community School, Jaganpura was recognized as an **Ashoka Changemaker School** by the Ashoka Foundation. In 2016, **Ms. Princess Diya Kumari, MLA** for Sawai Madhopur Constituency recognized Uday schools for bringing "a lasting change for improving the lives of the children especially the girls of Sawai Madhopur."

Our Impact

- In the last 14 years, our attendance rate has increased from 40% to 80% regularity.
- 100% of our Grade 5 students have foundational reading and arithmetic skills.
- 87% of Class 5 secured Grade A in the 2017-2018 Board Examination.
- 75% of Class 8 secured a B or higher, with 15 out of 24 students securing Grade B and 3 students securing grade A.
- More than 150 children from Uday schools have played at state and national levels.
- 36 out of 37 at-risk girl students from our adolescent girls academic support programme Umaang in 2016 cleared board exams for tenth class and continue their education today.

Request for Funding

The cost of running Uday Community School, Jaganpura for five years is INR 2,00,00,000 equivalent to **INR 40,00,000 per annum**. We intend to use the funds for running and maintaining the school and sports facilities. In addition to regular operations, over the next five years we anticipate focusing on adolescent girls and ensuring they complete education until at least class 12.



Gramin Shiksha Kendra

Meet Some of Our Alumni



Pramila

Pramila is a graduate from one of Gramin Shiksha Kendra Uday school's first batches and is the first girl from her village to attend college.

While most of the girls in her village were being married off and starting families, Pramila decided to go for further studies, by always having a spirit of doing a little extra. She is full of power and wisdom; she is fierce and mindful all at once.

Apart from doing graduation, currently she is doing a course on tourism studies. Why tourism studies? "We were given three course options," she says, "food safety, NGO management and tourism studies. The professor told me not to do tourism management but to do food safety, because that was more appropriate for girls. I told him "we already spend a lot of time in the kitchen, we know about food safety, why would I need a certificate for that?" I opted for tourism management because I want to see all of India and I want to improve the economic situation of my family."

With her positive energy, her first journey started from her own community where she leads the way there, manifesting the history and culture of her village to the people coming from outside. She is a leader with a humble voice and an intelligent mind.



Maya

When Maya started studying at Uday school, she had already studied up to fifth class in a nearby government school. "Even though I was in fifth class I couldn't write my own name," she says, "I was on the verge of dropping out because I couldn't handle the anxiety of not knowing anything."

She began studying at Uday school in class one. "During my initial years at Uday school I received constant support and learned to cope with the anxieties I faced over challenges," she says. "Over time, a lot changed for me — I became world ready because of the safe spaces created by my teachers, my parents and the community."

Today, Maya is 24-years-old. Bold and confident, her dream is to become a teacher. She is passionate about gender equity, explaining that when she was growing up there were few education opportunities for girls. "I want to empower girls so that nobody can stop them in the same way that nobody stops boys," she says.

Maya believes that patience and kindness are the hallmarks of a good teacher. "You should teach children with love and not fear," she says. Only then children will face life difficulties objectively, come out of them thriving and make healthy choices.