

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

Period: April 2011 to March 2012

Access to quality education to 1500 children in UP

IMPACT

Long term engagement is resulting in visible impact at ground as well as at systemic level.

- Subsequent to consistent effort (latest one in May 2011) Govt Order for SMC formation was made in June. It had such provisions, as demanded by BSM, like formation of SMC in open meeting of parents, sufficient parents in SMCs (11 parents in 15 person body), selection of parents from each class, Chairperson & Vice Chairperson from parents etc.
- RTE Rules was enacted in July. Except for few provisions, it was a satisfactory Rule. Major problem area has been on role of VEC (formed under B S Adhinyam) and lack of provision to fill the vacancy or to correct any discrepancy in selection of SMC members.
- UPPSS (Primary Teacher's Union) leaders were mobilized to send letter to its office bearers in support of effective formation. Being able to engage TU and seek their support is a major impact. Accordingly a few District & Block level TU Leaders have come forward with progressive views and effort.
- Two persons from the project assisted SSA in preparing manual and training design. On being requested with SPD, a hand book for SMC members was also prepared. This has impacted the possibility of better training.
- Due to consistent effort of BSM and THE PROJECT Scope of participation of NGOs as trainer was made by SSA. Three staff of the project became state level trainer and other 3 staff participated to become district level trainer (for 3 districts Raebareli, CSM Nagar & Pratapgargh). During MTOT supplementary reading material and posters were given to all 72 district coordinators of SSA and other 144 participants as well. Following MTOT, district level TOT was organized in which 3 staff of the project participated as trainer in three districts and 30 staff participated as block level trainer.
- 10 NGOs associated with Basic shiksha Manch also participated in State level MTOT to become district level trainer.
- Enrollment in directly supported four Junior School of Salon has increased by 110 (while for whole Block figure is just 70, implying that these four schools have improved substantially, compensating the fall in other schools).
- Attendance is being consistently being maintained around 75% to 85%. This is much better as compared to around 50-60 percent in other schools.
- The project also did Policy Advocacy for promoting the idea of Peer Learning among teachers. (Through workshop of knowledge Commission and through its regular advocacy effort). Now Peer Review at Cluster level has become part of New Framework of SSA (An Education Mission of MHRD).



OUTCOMES

- There is perceptible and growing change in attitude of teachers, parents, NGOs and Officials. Parents are taking leadership in SMC, Parent Association and even in mobilizing parents in neighborhood areas. They give importance to giving boys and girls equal opportunity and stimulating learning environment.
- Growing enthusiasm and participation of NGOs from about 40 districts for advocating for realization of educational right of children. There is growing capacity of BSM to organize large scale campaigns and activities at short notice through its participatory approach.
- Recently a booklet for teachers has been developed to enhance their understanding on promoting Reading Ability of Children. Effort to improve the school system has resulted in improved learning opportunity to about 10,000 children in about 200 schools of Raebareli District. Children are able to articulate their need and get better opportunity at home with better awareness of parents.
- The project tries to find spaces in departmental trainings and at CRC level Peer Review sessions to promote participatory learning and bring some clarity in some basic concepts, like Constructivism Approach to Learning (knowledge creation).
- There is good rapport among teachers and parents (including parent members of SMC) in most schools and newly formed SMCs have started having its monthly meetings (in 2/3rd schools). Some special activities like Bal Mela are being jointly organized by teachers and SMC/Parents.
- Teachers have are responding to some provisions of RTE Act like no punishment, no discrimination etc. Teachers are now more punctual and regular.
- With the promotion of Child Right and drawback of punishment for children's learning and growth, there has been reduction in such punishment even in families.
- Children are engaging with teachers without hesitation. They are open and frank during school time, thus more able to learn. There has been further reduction in children being scolded and punished.
- There is increased use of cooperative learning among children through group work. Some teachers are following it up. Children also adopt it in absence of teachers.
- Collective Dialogue among teachers of particular school has improved. New practices introduced by the project are being discussed. Some teachers are using TLM. UPPSS (Primary Teacher's Union) leaders were mobilized to send letter to its office bearers in support of effective formation of SMC.
- Parent Association were able to demand Officials for proper circulation of GO of SMC Formation.
- About 300 SMCs (out of 500 schools in the project work area) got properly formed. Regular monthly meeting got initiated in one third schools. About 25% of old members become member in reconstituted SMCs.
- Cluster & Block Parent Association is in process of reconstituted. Parent members of SMCs of a Gram Panchayat are being called for meeting at GP level. Selected members are being called at Cluster level.
- Suitable guidelines have been



prepared for the staff to work with SMCs that has the over bearing influence of teachers. Now teachers are engaged more.

- Region wise two day trainings has been organised for NGO staff and prospective SMC leaders. An interesting development took place in Allahabad City where a local NGO (UDAN) was supported and encouraged to go ahead with Parent Association. A few SMC leaders called us to assist them in evolving Ward level and City Level Parent Association. Initial meeting has taken place with good prospect.
- Some head teachers are proactive in letting parents know their rights and in opening dialogue with them through SMC meetings. Some Block level officials are proactive and giving space to the project in formal meetings.

Approach of The project is to convey to teacher that their larger problems that can only be addressed by larger combined power of parents and teachers. SMC can support teachers in negotiating local power structure and in problem solving. The project is trying to enable SMC members to emerge as effective group (being able to talk issues without blaming each other, being able to delve into root causes of the problem, being able to take joint responsibility rather than passing the buck to each other or to the government.

- About 100 persons from different Development agencies have got direct exposure the work of the project. Through external conventions, meetings, trainings & Publications, about 200 NGOs of UP are being influenced and sensitized for the practice of Parent Association.

Reach Out to Schools & Children

	Direct				total	Indirect			
	School	Teacher	Boys	Girls		School	Teacher	Boys	Girls
Rahi Block	14	59	1146	1216	2362	107	200	6000	6000
Salon Block	9	31	856	908	1764	81	150	5000	5000
Raebareli Town	7	28	400	672	1072	20	60	700	700
Pre Primary at AWCs	12		277	453					
Other Schools (Teacher Forum)		600				500			
Total	42	718	2679	3249	5198	708	410	11700	11700

SUCCESS STORY

Case-1

Junior High School of Baghoula is a very inspiring case of turnaround of a school in which Head Teacher was once helpless. Now he is a very happy and satisfied person with excellent progress in enrollment, attendance and parent participation (now through SMC formed under RTE Act). Enrolled has more than doubled in past three years (100 in 2008 to 215 in 2011). With attendance of about 8%, it is a challenge for the Head Teacher Mr. Ashraf Ali to consistently improve the quality of education with only two teachers (one himself). Now school campus looks clean and green, even though unfinished boundary wall got completed recently. Parents had so far used bamboo to make boundary. Children are consulted on quality of MDM. It is a matter of faith in the ability of teacher and active parent who have made so much progress with some assistance from The project.

School started getting support of parents who had become active in SMC of Primary School of same village. Their children were also going to junior school. At that time the project was not promoting SMC in Junior schools. Ram Dev Maura and Lakshmi Kant came forward, mobilizing parents to work with Teachers to keep the school clean and functioning well. Now SMC has formed under the RTE Act, during open general meeting with participation of 80 parents. As a reward of his effort Ramdev

became chairperson of SMC. Regular monthly meeting is taking place. Meeting minutes are read in the meeting. Members are made aware of expenditures done. Teacher & Members are able to mobilise support from Gram Panchayats. Since then, road to school has got repaired, floor has got repaired, handpump installed.

Teachers are able to provide children a better learning environment with the periodic support of The project. School library has been enriched and children started using them. A stimulating material rich environment was created with children's work being displayed on wall. A culture of self discipline and cooperative learning was promoted, to the extent that when teachers are away in meetings, children continue to effectively engage themselves in learning activities. With the effort of The project, extra effort was made in Class six to enhance reading ability of children lagging behind.

Case-2

Prashant, a class five student of Pure Parhari, is now considered a normal child, doing well in study. Three year back, this was not the case earlier, when he was hesitant and keeping one self secluded, not engaging in sport & generally keeping quite. Even his poor parents considered him mentally challenged. Teachers were regularly guided by The project team to give encouragement to Prashant and try to engage him in various activities. He was given responsibilities. Then he started taking and reporting to the teachers. He is able to engage with other children and seek their support.

This is a good indicator of how SMC (promoted under the project in 2009) & support of The project to teachers can lead to school becoming a place where even children like Prashant are able to grow, rather than being stigmatized & discriminated. Now with SMC being reconstituted under the Act father of Prashant Mr. Ram Kumar has become one of the members. Teachers are very enthusiastic with the progress and look forward to further development of the school. Attendance has to further improve from current 80%.

Case-3

Mahrusha is a student of Class 5 of Salon Dehat School. With support of her teacher and mother she is able to pursue her desire to learn and grow. Despite work load at home, her mother frequently visits school. Her father Mouideen has multiple disability and two brothers are doing odd work in Delhi to sustain the family. Mother Jabunishan is now a member of SMC. Her sister is able to continue her education to Junior school. According to her teacher, she is doing well in language, but has difficulty in mathematics. Teachers are able to provide need based support to her and she is able to learn and grow.

Case-4

Gram Pradhan of Chakballibur School (Rahi Block, Bhawn Cluster) provided sufficient plates for children so that they don't have to go home to bring it, and waste time in the process. Siblings used to take turn to eat from the same plate. This point was raised in the meeting of old SMC in which Panchayat members were also present. Accordingly lady Gram Pradhan Smt Nirmala (GP Ikaunja) took a quick step and on 21st August provided plates. This initiative has contributes to promoting equity and reducing caste based discrimination. Children clean the plate and keep it in school. Next day MDM workers again clean the plate and give to children. This new arrangement has reduced the time taken for MDM.

