

Resilience Rewarded: Seema's Journey to Education

Seema, a young girl from the Salumber block of Rajasthan, faced a significant hurdle in her educational journey. In 2020, she was forced to drop out of school after completing Class 5 due to the absence of an Aadhar card, a crucial requirement for admission. With no access to formal education, Seema resorted to cattle grazing and household chores, all the while harboring a deep-seated desire to continue her studies.

Despite her keen interest, Seema's aspirations remained unfulfilled as her parents struggled to obtain the necessary documents for her Aadhar card. Their efforts were thwarted by various challenges, including missing information and bureaucratic hurdles.

However a Gram Panchayat survey conducted by GSS in Seema's village brought her plight to light. Daksha Shanu Jain, identified Seema as a dropout facing difficulties in pursuing her education. Promptly, Daksha shared Seema's story with Khemraj Prajapat, the Block Head of Salumber.

Moved by Seema's predicament, Daksha and Khemraj wasted no time in taking action. They facilitated Seema's enrollment in the Sakhiyon Ki Badi center, located in Kheriyaghati, within the Salumber block. Recognizing the importance of having proper identification, Daksha and Khemraj accompanied Seema to the Chiboda Gram Panchayat to apply for her Aadhar card.

After successfully obtaining her Aadhar card, Seema was taken to a nearby school and formally mainstreamed into the education system. In February 2024, at the age appropriate for her grade, Seema was enrolled in Class 7. The joy on her face was palpable, as she embraced the opportunity to resume her studies.

Since then, Seema has been attending school diligently, eager to make up for lost time. Her newfound enthusiasm for learning has not only transformed her own life but has also brought immense happiness to her family members, who are proud to see her pursue her dreams against all odds.

Puja Kumari's Journey: Overcoming Adversity through Education

Puja Kumari, a 10-year-old girl from Nalpada village in the Pipalkhunt block of Pratapgarh district of Rajasthan, belonged to a financially struggling family. As the eldest among her three sisters, Puja bore the responsibility of managing household chores while her parents, both farmers, struggled to make ends meet. Despite her desire to study, the lack of resources and the absence of a nearby school deprived Puja of her right to education.

However, a ray of hope entered Puja's life when the Sakhiyon Ki Badi Center, located in Chhapariya Pada, was established in her village.

Puja's journey towards education began when the Daksha of the center, Manju Meena, reached out to her family and explained the importance of education. Despite initial reluctance due to financial constraints, Puja's parents agreed to enroll her in the center.

Initially, Puja struggled with her studies, having been out of school for so long. However, with the patient guidance of Manju Meena and the supportive environment of the Sakhiyon Ki Badi Center, Puja's confidence began to grow. She showed remarkable progress in her studies, gradually mastering skills like reading and writing.

As Puja's academic performance improved, so did her aspirations. She expressed her desire to become a teacher one day, inspired by the dedication of her Daksha and the transformative power of education. Puja's parents, witnessing their daughter's newfound enthusiasm for learning, became staunch supporters of her educational journey.

Today, Puja Kumari serves as a beacon of hope for the children of Nalpada village. Her story showcases the impact of initiatives like the Sakhiyon Ki Badi Center in empowering marginalized communities and breaking the cycle of poverty through education.

A Journey of Education and Hope



Lakshmi Kumari Meena, a 10-year-old girl from a financially struggling farming family, had never been to school. Her future seemed uncertain until a chance encounter near the Sakhiyon Ki Badi center in Bheramangra changed everything. One day, while playing near the center, Daksha of Sakhiyon Ki Badi centre noticed Lakshmi and asked her if she attended school. With a hint of sadness, Lakshmi shook her head and replied softly, "No". Intrigued and concerned, Daksha knew she had to help her. Daksha spoke with Lakshmi's parents, explaining the importance of education and the opportunities it could bring. Lakshmi's parents agreed to enroll her in the Bheramangra Sakhiyon Ki Badi center. Lakshmi had no prior education, but with the dedicated Daksha's guidance, her progress soon became evident.

Lakshmi's Level enhanced to the point where she could read stories in Hindi with confidence. She learned to read and write 'words' in English, and she can now do addition, subtraction, and multiplication in mathematics. Lakshmi's remarkable growth inspired her siblings to join the Sakhiyon Ki Badi program, embracing the opportunity for education. Lakshmi's success has brought happiness to her family, and her future now shines brighter than ever before. Her journey showcases the transformative power of education and the positive impact it has on a child's life. The Sakhiyon Ki Badi program has given Lakshmi a chance to break free from illiteracy and poverty. Her determination and the support she received have paved the way for a better future, inspiring others in her community to believe in the power of education.

The Inspiring Story of Pushpa Meena: A Teacher, A Police Officer, and A Role Model



Pushpa Meena, a 25-year-old woman from Kanpura village in the Pratapgarh district of Rajasthan, holds a Bachelor's degree and joined the SKB program in 2017. She established the 'Magdharafala' Centre as 'Daksha' on October 2nd, 2017.

Pushpa has a family of four, including her husband who studies and farms, and two children who study at the same centre. After conducting a baseline survey, she enrolled thirty out-of-school children to the Sakhiyon Ki Badi centre.

She discovered that most girls who joined the program were previously occupied with household chores, and getting a chance to study was their ultimate dream. This inspired her to teach with sincerity and dedication.

Pushpa's passion for teaching and her commitment to providing quality education to girls at the Sakhiyon Ki Badi helped her become financially independent and improve her confidence. She attended teacher training workshops organized by IIFL Foundation and Gayatri Seva Sansthan, which helped her develop and refine her skills.

Pushpa's rapport with her students, their parents, and the community members helped her receive support whenever needed. She often picks up and drops off her students, reflecting her dedication to their education and well-being. Through her hard work and determination, she became a positive influence on the girls she taught.

Despite her demanding job, Pushpa continued preparing for the competitive exam and achieved success within five years. She was selected in the Rajasthan Police on October 1st, 2022, and is currently undergoing police training.

Pushpa proudly states, **"When I joined the SKB program, my financial condition was very poor, but now our condition is better than before because by joining the SKB program, I got financial help and a job in the Rajasthan Police. My life has changed significantly, thanks to IIFL Foundation and Gayatri Seva Sansthan."**

Empowering women through the Sakhiyon Ki Badi program: Daksha kuwar's success story

Daksha Kuwar, a 27-year-old woman from the Udaipur district of Rajasthan, is a true inspiration when it comes to empowering women through education. Her journey began when she joined the Sakhiyon ki Badi Program in 2017 as a Resource Teacher, and the impact it had on her life and her community is truly remarkable.

Through her participation in the program, Daksha was able to establish her own learning center called "Maybefala" in the Piladar Cluster of Sarada block in Udaipur district. Her dedication and hard work enabled her to enroll 30 children in the center after conducting a baseline survey. This achievement not only helped her family's economic condition but also transformed the lives of the children in her community.

Daksha's efforts went beyond her job description as a resource teacher. She ensured that every child received an equal opportunity to learn and grow, especially those from economically weaker sections of society. Her commitment paid off over the years as more children started attending the learning center, and their level of education improved significantly.

However, Daksha soon realized that there was more that she could do to make a greater impact in her community. She joined an NGO called Seva Mandir, which was dedicated to serving underprivileged communities in rural areas. There, she used her experience as a resource teacher and her passion for education to develop and implement innovative health, sanitation, and educational programs for children in remote villages.

Daksha's work highlights the importance of tailoring solutions to the specific needs of each community. Her innovative approach to health, sanitation, and education programs demonstrates how creative thinking can bring positive change to remote villages. Her story is an inspiration for all those who want to work towards creating a more equitable society.

Daksha's journey of empowerment through the Sakhiyon ki Badi Program is a testament to the positive impact of education on the lives of women and their communities. Her success story is a reminder that individual efforts can make a significant difference in the lives of underprivileged communities.

The inspiring journey of kanta kumari meena



Kanta Kumari Meena's story is a testament to her unwavering commitment to personal and professional growth. As a B.Sc. nursing graduate facing economic challenges, she rose to become an ANM with a higher salary. From Salumber block in Udaipur, Kanta's dedication to the Sakhiyon Ki Badi (SKB) program as a daksha at the Harmor Fala center has inspired many.

Despite facing difficulties, Kanta successfully managed the center for two years, bringing about significant improvements that left a lasting impact. Her creative skills and attention to detail were highlighted in the beautiful

Teaching Learning Material (TLMS), which she designed to enhance the learning experience for the children under her guidance.

Kanta's journey serves as an inspiration for anyone facing similar challenges, demonstrating that determination and support can enable one to overcome adversity and achieve their aspirations. Her story emphasizes the importance of creativity and attention to detail in making a positive difference in the lives of others.

Kanta's success not only marks her personal growth but also positions her as a role model for other resource teachers within the SKB program. Her story reflects how hard work, perseverance, and creativity can be catalysts for success. In essence, Kanta Kumari Meena's transformative journey stands as a beacon of hope, showcasing the incredible outcomes that dedication and passion can bring about in one's life.

From Daksh to Educator: Ganpat Meena's Inspiring Journey through the Sakhiyon ki Badi Program

Ganpat Meena, a 25-year-old from Rajasthan's Pratapgarh district, embarked on a journey of empowerment and success through the Sakhiyon ki Badi Program. His story is a testament to resilience, dedication, and the transformative power of education to change lives.

Despite economic hardship, Ganpat took on the responsibility of opening the 'Baroljagir' center in July 2019, located in the Chotisadri block of Pratapgarh district. Despite initial challenges, Ganpat's dedication and outreach efforts led to the enrollment of 30 children at his center following a thorough baseline survey.

In the midst of his commitment to the Sakhiyon ki Badi Program, Ganpat pursued his own education, earning degrees in B.A. and STC. His relentless pursuit of knowledge and unwavering determination set the stage for his remarkable transformation.

Driven by a vision of greater opportunity and impact, Ganpat set his sights on the REET exams, a significant milestone on his path to becoming a government school teacher. With resilience as his compass, Ganpat devoted himself to rigorous preparation, balancing his duties as a Daksh with his personal aspirations.

On September 26th, 2021, Ganpat's perseverance bore fruit as he achieved a remarkable success, clearing the REET exams with an exceptional score of 121 out of 150 marks. This milestone marked not only a personal triumph but also a testament to the transformative power of education and determination.

Today, Ganpat stands as a beacon of inspiration, proudly serving as a government teacher at Government Primary School Hamerpura Chauki. His journey from Daksh to esteemed educator underscores the boundless potential within each individual and the profound impact of perseverance, dedication, and support in overcoming adversity.

Ganpat Meena's story resonates as a testament to the human spirit, reminding us that with unwavering resolve and the right opportunities, anyone can overcome challenges and achieve their dreams.

Nandu meena, a daksha who became cluster head

Nandu Meena, a 25-year-old woman from Rajasthan's Pratapgarh district, is a testament to the success of the Sakhiyon ki Badi Program. In 2017, Nandu joined as a Daksha and received three days of intensive training from August 11th to 13th. By August 14th, she opened the 'Bhatkhedi' center in Chotisadri block of Pratapgarh district, enrolling 30 children after conducting a baseline survey. At the time, Nandu's family was struggling financially.

Thanks to the Sakhiyon Ki Badi program, Nandu completed her education in B.A., RCIT, and BSTC, and is currently preparing for Reet exams. Her hard work and determination paid off when she became the Cluster Head on April 1st, 2018. Since then, she supported her husband, who is also a Daksh at the Sakhiyon ki Badi center 'Biliya Talab', and helped stabilize her family's financial situation.

Nandu has been a Daksha herself and understands the importance of education and the value of a good teacher. When she first joined the SKB, she found it challenging to teach Hindi to children who only spoke their local languages. However, with hard work and support from trainers and training sessions provided by Gayatri Seva Sansthan & IIFL, she overcame this hurdle and provides help and support to new teachers. Nandu enjoys teaching Maths and Hindi in a creative way and credits the training by IIFL and GSS, which inspired her to become a teacher. Parents of children who she taught still express gratitude for the positive impact she had on their children's lives. Nandu's dedication and creative approach have transformed the lives of many.

Peer inspiration

Priya (Altered name) an eleven-year-old SKB student in Lasadiya is witnessing the change process of the fact that even a young child can be positively influenced by the actions of their peer group.

Before Sakhiyon Ki Badi Programme came into her life Priya could be seen helping her widowed mother with housework. She lost her father at a very young age. Her mother Kalki Bai was subsequently forced by their impoverished state to get both of her daughters involved in arduous physical labor at the terribly tender ages of 8 years and 11 years. Both the sisters worked at the MNREGA site besides helping with basic farming activities in order to bring additional income into their poverty-stricken lives.

Despite her difficult life Priya always harbored a dream of going to school just like some of her numerous village friends. She would watch these young girls with great inspiration as they happily skipped to their local Sakhiyon ki Badi center, always keen to get to there on time. These girls were learning exciting new things every day at the center. Young Priya, brimming with the desire to escape from the mundane life she was leading, finally took it upon herself to visit the Harkafala center and personally met with the Daksha in order to explore the possibility of being part of the SKB program; the determined young girl did not involve her mother in this process. Having independently decided on what she wanted to do Priya then gradually worked on her mother, finally convincing her mother of the importance of education in their lives. SKB very soon became an integral part of her life and that of her entire family. The family now takes a lot of interest in Priya's academic progress. Much to her mother's amazement, the diligent Priya recently declared that she would like to become a teacher one day in order to enable many more girls to gain from the benefits of education. She may very well be a valuable SKB teacher one day!

Transforming Lives: Bapu Devi Meena's Journey with Sakhiyon Ki Baadi Program

Bapu Devi Meena, a 30-year-old woman from Pratapagarh district, joined the Sakhiyon Ki Baadi program on January 1, 2019. She was shy and had a low skill level, but her active participation in the Daksha training by IIFL and GSS helped enhance her skills.

Bapu Devi Meena grew up in a large family with limited financial means. Despite the challenges, she took on the responsibility of managing the household chores while attending school. She continued to work diligently throughout her academic career until she got married during her 12th grade due to her family's financial struggles.

Bapu Devi Meena has a family of four, including her husband who is a farmer and a student. Although her family's economic situation is not ideal, it is not dire. She lives in a modest house with her two children, who accompany her to the Sakhiyon Ki Baadi center.

The Sakhiyon Ki Baadi has brought about a significant positive change in Bapu Devi Meena's life. She received support and training that helped her secure a job as an ANM in a local hospital. Joining the Sakhiyon Ki Baadi has not only helped her to secure a job but has also brought about a significant improvement in her confidence and self-esteem.

Bapu Devi Meena is no longer afraid to speak up and share her opinions in public. It has also helped her manage her finances better. She has learned to save and invest money wisely, which has improved her family's financial stability. Her children are now attending school regularly, and she is hopeful that they will have a brighter future.

Bapu Devi Meena's success story is a testament to how hardwork can bring transformative change in people's lives. Her journey with Sakhiyon Ki Baadi is a shining example of how investing in skill development programs can empower individuals and helps them break out of the cycle of poverty.

Transforming Lives Through Education: The Story of Kamala Meena

Located in the Parsad Cluster of Sarada Block, the Sakhiyon ki Badi Center 'Ghora Fala' has been a beacon of educational transformation. Prior to its establishment, the children in this remote area faced challenges in accessing schooling due to the dense forests and hilly terrain. However, since its inception, the center has enrolled 35 children, providing them with opportunities for education and growth.

At the helm of this initiative is Daksha Manju Meena, whose dedication and honesty have become instrumental in shaping the educational journey of the children. Since 2018, 26 children have been successfully integrated into formal schooling through the efforts of the center. Among them is Kamala Kumari Meena, a young girl who had discontinued her education until the center's intervention.

Kamala's parents, engaged in manual labor and homemaking, initially did not comprehend the importance of education. Consequently, Kamala had ceased her studies up to the ninth grade. However, upon joining the Sakhiyon ki Badi Center, Kamala was encouraged and guided by Daksha Manju Meena, who emphasized the significance of education.

Under Daksha Manju's mentorship, Kamala was admitted to the nearby Chanavda Vidyalaya. Despite facing regular challenges, Kamala persisted with her studies. In the academic year 2023, she achieved remarkable success by scoring 76% in her Class 12 exams. Presently, Kamala continues her education at Meera College in Udaipur, much to the joy of her family.

Inspired by her own journey, Kamala now motivates other girls in her village to attend the SKB center. Through her efforts and the support of Daksha Manju Meena, the educational landscape of the village has witnessed significant improvement.

The story of Kamala Meena exemplifies the transformative power of education and the dedication of individuals like Daksha Manju Meena in empowering communities through learning. Through their collective efforts, the SKB center has not only provided access to education but has also ignited hope and ambition among the children, paving the way for a brighter future.

Overcoming Obstacles and Inspiring Change

Manju, a 10-year-old girl from a financially struggled tribal family in Salumber, Rajasthan, had never been to school. She spent her time grazing cattle and crossing through Barol Jagir center where she saw children studying. She talked to Daksha and expressed her desire to study.

Despite facing significant challenges when she began attending the 'Barol jagir' Sakhiyon Ki Badi center in Sohanpura village, Manju persevered. Her family initially opposed her attendance, believing that education was unnecessary, particularly for girls. They were concerned that her studies would interfere with her household chores. However, Daksha persisted and sought the help of Block head, Cluster Head, and others in the community to explain the significance of education to Manju's family. Her efforts not only convinced Manju's family but also motivated her to pursue her studies with greater determination.

Through her hard work and dedication, Manju excelled in her studies and completed her Class 5 exams. She now attends Class 6 at the local government school. Manju's academic achievements have had a profound impact not only on her own life but also on her family and community. Her younger brothers now attend school, and her parents have come to understand the importance of education in a family's life. Without Manju's perseverance, her family would have missed out on this valuable opportunity.

Manju's story is a testament to the transformative power of education. Despite facing opposition, she demonstrated that education can change lives and communities. Her determination, combined with the support of her community, helped her overcome the challenges and achieve academic success. Her success has not only impacted her own life but also the lives of those around her, inspiring her family to recognize the value of education and encourage her younger brothers to follow in her footsteps. Manju's story is proof that with determination and support, anyone can achieve their goals and make a meaningful impact on the world.

A Beacon of Hope: The Story of Kalmi Village



Nestled amidst the tranquil waters of the Jakham River and the verdant Sitamata Sanctuary, Kalmi Island stands as a testament to resilience amidst neglect. Accessible only by a half-hour boat ride, this isolated community of 45 mud huts has long been overlooked by public representatives, with basic amenities like cooking gas and electricity remaining a distant dream.

Education, a fundamental right, had eluded the 30 children aged 4 to 14 years in Kalmi, with no primary-level school in sight. However, the arrival of youth leader Sohanlal Meena, pursuing his B.Ed., brought a glimmer of hope. When the Block Head learned of the

village's plight, an initial survey was conducted, leading to the establishment of Sakhiyon Ki Badi 'Kalmi' by GSS on New Year's Day in 2023.

With only four paddle boats bridging the gap between Kalmi and the main road, Daksh Bhawar Lal Meena's dedication shines through. Rowing for 30 minutes and walking an additional 15, Bhawar Lal, a skilled teacher with a passion for education, defied the odds to bring learning to the village.

Since joining the Sakhiyon Ki Badi Kalmi Centre, Bhawar Lal's innovative teaching methods have transformed the educational landscape. Children now thrive under his guidance, with their progress serving as a testament to his dedication and intellect.

On January 26th, 2023, a historic moment dawned in Kalmi as the national flag fluttered for the first time in 75 years of independence. Through the efforts of GSS and IIFL Foundation, the village experienced unity, joy, and a newfound sense of pride.

As the Kalmi Centre completes its first year, the villagers rejoice in the education and knowledge their children receive. With an average daily attendance of 27-30, hope blossoms anew in Kalmi, signaling a brighter future for generations to come.