

IMPACT STORIES FORMAT

Story Title	Transforming Lives Through Education: The Story of Kamala Meena
Date	02/09/2024
Prepared by	Gayatri Seva Sansthan
Name of partner Organization	Gayatri Seva Sansthan
Name of Daksha/Daksh	Manju Meena
Name of SKB centre	Ghora Fala Centre
Cluster	Parsad Cluster
Block	Sarada Block
District	Udaipur, Rajasthan

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT:

Manju Meena, a dedicated educator from the Udaipur district, has been working as a Daksha at the Sakhiyon Ki Badi (SKB) Centre in Ghora Fala since 2017. The Parsad Cluster, where the center is located, is a remote area surrounded by dense forests and hilly terrain, making access to education difficult. However, through her dedication and leadership, Manju has transformed the Ghora Fala SKB Centre into a hub of learning for children who previously had limited opportunities for schooling.

CHALLENGES FACED:

Manju faced significant challenges when she first began her role as a Daksha. The children in the village, most of whom came from economically disadvantaged families, were not attending school regularly due to the long distances they had to travel. Additionally, their families often prioritized manual labor and household work over education, making it difficult for Manju to convince them of the value of schooling. Despite these hurdles, Manju remained determined to change the narrative for the children of Ghora Fala.

INTERVENTION/ACTIVITIES:

Manju started by conducting a baseline survey in the village to identify children who were not attending school. After much effort, she successfully enrolled 35 children at the Ghora Fala SKB Centre, focusing on providing them with a solid educational foundation.

Through her innovative teaching methods, Manju made learning engaging and relevant for the children. She used creative techniques to teach core subjects like Maths and Hindi, which helped the children quickly adapt to the formal education system. Her passion for education extended beyond the classroom as she also

worked to convince the children's parents of the importance of education, particularly for girls, who were often expected to stay home and assist with household chores.

Manju regularly attended teacher training workshops organized by Gayatri Seva Sansthan (GSS) and IIFL Foundation, which equipped her with new strategies to address the specific challenges of teaching in a rural setting. She implemented these strategies to great effect, creating a safe, nurturing environment for her students.

OUTCOMES:

Since 2018, Manju's efforts have led to the integration of 26 children from the Ghora Fala SKB Centre into formal schooling. One of her standout success stories is that of Kamala Kumari Meena, a young girl who had discontinued her education after the ninth grade. Through Manju's mentorship and encouragement, Kamala was able to return to school and eventually score 76% in her Class 12 exams. Kamala is now pursuing higher education at Meera College in Udaipur, and she actively motivates other girls in the village to prioritize their education, following in Manju's footsteps.

Manju's impact has not only been felt by the students but also by the entire community. Parents who were initially resistant to sending their children to school have now come to appreciate the value of education, and the village as a whole has witnessed a positive shift in attitudes toward learning.

Today, Manju continues her work with passion and dedication, inspiring not just her students but also other educators in the region. Her story exemplifies the transformative power of education and the far-reaching impact one individual can have on a community.

GOOD QUALITY IMAGE: - 3-4 IMAGES (Attach below)