

## Asha for Education (Sheffield Chapter)

### Progress Report :

#### GVT - Sikshana Project Summary

GVT-Sikshana is a child-centric program, aimed at evolving a sustainable and replicable model for the Public Education System (PES). It recognizes the fact that each school has its own unique problems and these cannot be addressed through templated solutions. Short of assuming direct



control over the affairs of a school, the only viable option seems to be to assist the schools to acquire the skills necessary for analyzing the problems they face and to come up with appropriate solutions. The schools will need 'handholding' during this phase of development; the assistance includes financial support to the extent of funding the solutions that emerge from their analysis. In the process, Sikshana ensures that they are looked at as facilitators, rather than providers, which effectively shifts the burden of responsibility and ownership of the program to the schools. Under this approach,

Sikshana has evolved into a highly decentralized Initiative, built around empowerment of the stakeholders. A corollary is that the positive impact achieved is self-sustaining to a large extent and long lasting.

GVT-Sikshana works with the Government, using its strengths and getting around its weaknesses. Accordingly, it does not venture into areas such as infrastructure which are within the domain of the State; on the other hand it focuses on motivation as the tool of intervention. Operating within this ambit, the program has been able to achieve significant enhancements in the learning levels in the class room at a typical cost of less than Rs 500 per annum per child. Viewed against Rs 10,000 plus that is incurred by the State, Sikshana appears to emerge as a potential contender for the most successful and viable intervention for improving the quality of Education under the PES.

#### *Performance of GVT-Sikshana Primary Schools*

As per ASER ([www.asercenter.org](http://www.asercenter.org)), a child in class 7 is expected to know how to perform a 2 digit division and also be able to read fluently level 2 Gujarati. Data from Asha For Education (**Sheffield Chapter**) supported schools in Viagra block is shown below. The end of year results are way above the state and national averages and the schools are well on their way to getting a 100% which would mean that no child will enter high school without the basic language and arithmetic skills.

#### The ASER assessment

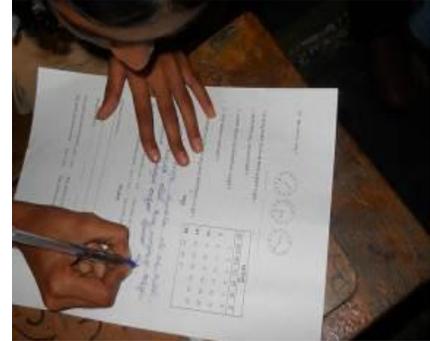
Block	No of Schools	No of 7 <sup>th</sup> std students	Gujarati Level Start -> End	Arithmetic (2 Digit Division) Start -> End
Viagra	1	39	59.87 > 84.32	39.00 > 78.10
State Rural Avg. 2012			62	42
National Rural Avg. 2012			74	57

## Activities 2012-13

Primary schooling forms a crucial stage in the overall development of the child. The foundation for learning is laid out at this stage and therefore is a crucial stage for the future development of the child. Sikshana has realized the importance of this and has undertaken various initiatives to encourage learning among primary school children.

### ➤ **Create baseline rating for all the selected schools:**

To assess the progress of a child in school, quantitative assessments using ASER tool is conducted in all the schools adopted by GVT - Sikshana. The schools are ensuring that every child from a GVT-Sikshana primary school will have basic knowledge of language and Maths prior to entering high school.



### ➤ **Activities to encourage learning**

- **Spot prizes:** Each school is provided with prizes, which include stationary and oral hygiene products. They are given to the students by the teachers to encourage them to learn.



- **Sports:** Children are encouraged to participate in sports competitions organized by schools with support from GVT-Sikshana team. This helps the child to develop interest in attending school and increases his/her confidence level.

### ➤ **Enhancing learning skills by providing appropriate tools**

- **Providing writing sheets to the school:** Writing sheets are provided to all the schools and the children are encouraged to do their work using them. This helps them to cultivate the habit of writing, which is lacking in many government schools. This initiative is undertaken by GVT-Sikshana to increase the writing speed and improve handwriting of children. This has proved to be very helpful, as the children face difficulties while writing examinations.



- **Providing dairies to record day to day activities:** To maintain a log of the activities at school, children are provided with dairies. This helps them in organizing their work and also aids in assessing their progress in academics.
- **Encouraging children to read books from the school libraries:** Many schools have libraries but have remained unused while some of them lack libraries. Realizing the importance of reading books, GVT-Sikshana helped schools in setting up libraries and providing books to children. Visits to libraries, book fairs have helped children develop

interest in books. Children are encouraged to pick their own books for their library, which has aided in increased interest levels in reading among children.

- **Equipping teachers through training programs:** Sikshana mandates the application of Total Quality Management (TQM) concepts by teachers in their schools. In the pursuit of this goal, at least one teacher and the school principal from every school nurtured by GVT-Sikshana in Vagra, & Jhagadia blocks get trained on the concepts.



- **Awareness programs to encourage the process of learning:** Mentors and teachers undertake home visits to encourage parents in sending their children to school. The School Development Management Committees (SDMCs) meetings are regularly held to encourage the parent-teacher interaction. This has helped in actively involving the parents in the child's development. Parents are involved in recreational activities too, which helps them understand the activities of school and GVT. This has resulted in parents rendering their support to their children wholeheartedly.

### Stake holders Initiatives:

*Our initiative has led to positive response from the communities that we work with.*

The following are some of the efforts undertaken by individuals, communities, government bodies and groups in spreading the message of GVT - Sikshana:

- **Active involvement and support from the government:**

One of the crucial factors which led to successful implementation of the programs of GVT-Sikshana is the unconditional support from the government bodies and officials. The District Primary Education Officer and Block Resource Coordinator (BRC) have been supportive of our programs and have endorsed our initiatives. In Viagra block, Mr. Karangiri Goswami BRC has been actively supporting GVT-Sikshana's programs as he believes and trusts in GVT-Sikshana's methodology. In addition, the District Primary Education officer of the Bharuch has rendered support in implementing GVT-Sikshana's programmes in other school in the District.

- **Active involvement of School Development Management Committee (SDMC):** Community support and involvement are crucial in implementing programs. GVT-Sikshana has been able to muster support and win the confidence of the communities it works with. GVT-Sikshana has won the support of SDMCs in the areas it works. SDMCs exist in every government school as a norm, wherein the parents and the school authorities jointly review the school's progress.
- **Spreading the message 'education, a tool of empowerment':** In Lakhigam village, a salt association voluntarily provided educational material to students. The salt owner realized the importance of education and involved himself through this gesture. This reiterates the fact that GVT-Sikshana has been able to mobilize and motivate the community through its work and programs.

### *Voices from the field*

#### **Our Children**



*"My handwriting has greatly improved after using the writing sheets provided by GVT-Sikshana. I have won spot prizes too for doing well in academics. This makes me feel happy and I will continue to do well in my academics!"*