

Solar, smart Anganwadis

Systemic transformation in early education needs investment in better infrastructure

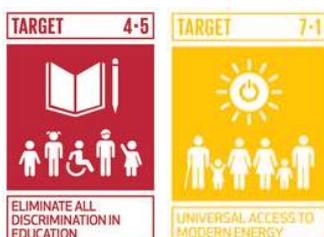


MORE UPDATES ON THE NEXT PAGE:

Remedial classes for students without access to digital tech

Collaboration with SETHU to draft 'inclusive curriculum'

Celebrating two years of Anganwadi teacher-training



A pilot to build 5 'inclusive' smart Anganwadis

Over 50% Anganwadis in Karjat block do not have electricity

As Samaaveshi donated a smart TV and a smartphone to the Anganwadi in Wadap village, the teacher couldn't believe her eyes. 'I have given more than 15 years of my life to being an Anganwadi teacher. It's so difficult to sit here without a fan during summers. Children too prefer to stay home than to come to an Anganwadi centre without basic facilities,' she said as her eyes welled up with tears. 'It's one of the best days of my life... I hope the children will now want to play and learn in this new Anganwadi,' she added with a smile.

The story of Anganwadi is the story of the failing education system in India. Over 50% Anganwadis (total 300) in Karjat block, a location barely 100 km from Mumbai, do not have electricity supply. The result is: a vast majority of rural children often start their educational journey from a dark, under-resourced room that has very little to call it a classroom. And this eventually leads to **poor foundational learning outcomes and high school dropouts.**

After solar power installation at five Anganwadis in July 2021, Samaaveshi is installing a smart TV and a smartphone at five tribal villages: Kadav, Wadap, Kautewadi, Gudwan and Sanjay Nagar, as part of PILOT called 'Solar, smart Anganwadis' which aims to **transform the Anganwadi ecosystem in Karjat.**

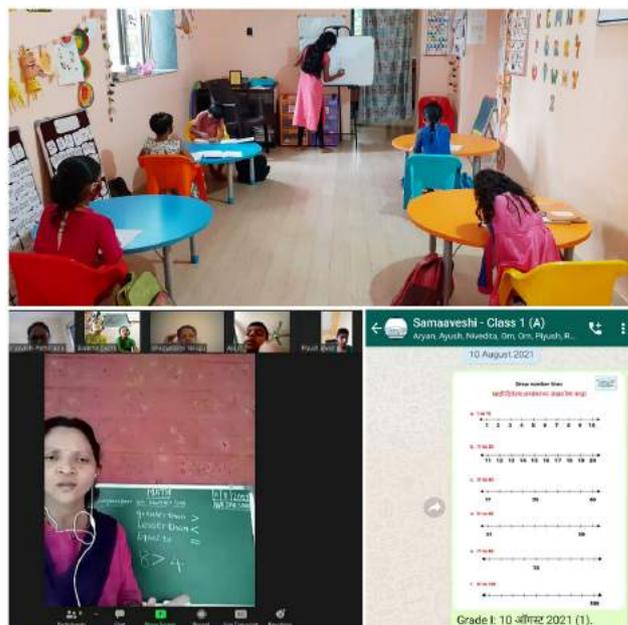
Remedial classes for students without access to digital tech

One-hour 'online' session for remaining students

While Samaaveshi has been facilitating 'home-based learning' since March 2020, by sharing daily stories, worksheets and sign language videos to 30 students (10 CWDs) via WhatsApp; of late we're trying to adapt more to the learning circumstances of our children.

Since 1st August, we started 'remedial classes' at our school premises (one-hour/Mon-Fri) for a group of six students, including two children with disabilities, who couldn't study at home due to limited access to digital technology, or lack of parental support.

Also, as certain concepts in mathematics and science require more explanation and engagement, we formed a second group within Grade 1, to take a one-hour 'online' session, five days a week, via ZOOM.



Collaboration with SETHU to draft 'inclusive curriculum'

Focus on school policy, pedagogy & lesson plans

Samaaveshi is happy to collaborate with SETHU, a Goa-based organization that provides rehabilitation and family-support services, and conducts training and research on disability and inclusive education.

The idea is to develop a skill-based, inclusive pre-school curriculum, following the principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL). It's a two-year partnership under SETHU's 'Tarang' programme which includes one-year teacher-training, and one-year mentorship.



Celebrating two years of Anganwadi teacher-training

Building a cadre of 'inclusive, early educators'

Eight months into our journey of starting Samaaveshi, we launched 'Inclusive Anganwadi Training': a six-month teacher-training on inclusive education skills aimed at transforming Anganwadis into 'inclusive, early education centres' for all children with diverse learning needs.

The programme started with a realization that when a child with disability is discriminated or rejected at the Anganwadi, the result is: the child and the family do not have the motivation to send the child to a formal school.

Thanks to continued co-operation from Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Karjat; we could expand the programme from 10 to 60 Anganwadis in Karjat.



WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR WORK:

1. **Support a child's education at Samaaveshi:**
www.Samaaveshi.org/Donate
2. **Donate school and library requirements via our 'Amazon wishlist':**
<https://tinyurl.com/rxz3arpx>