

SPECIAL BULLETIN ON 'ANGANWADI TRANSFORMATION'

Smart Anganwadi Project

A pilot supported by 'SmartPowerIndia' to build three model Anganwadis



How do Anganwadis function without electricity?

Quality education calls for better infrastructure & amenities

In 2017-18, Samaaveshi conducted a survey in 50 tribal villages in Karjat block, to identify children with disabilities (CWDs) aged 3 to 6, and understand local opportunities and challenges related to their education. We sought help from local Anganwadi teachers to meet CWDs, and speak to their families.

What we saw in the process was painful at both ends: while a majority of CWDs were either out of school, or dropped out after a few years of schooling; the condition of Anganwadis were beyond shocking. These rural centres tasked with providing early nutrition, healthcare and education, were operating from dark single-room spaces without electricity, toilets and other basic amenities.

Thus, in late 2021, Samaaveshi in collaboration with SmartPowerIndia embarked on a mission to transform Anganwadis in three villages of Karjat: Jambhulwadi, Savale and Shingdol; and demonstrate them as model 'smart Anganwadis' that have basic infrastructure for proper functioning and quality early education.

After initial focus on infrastructure transformation, we plan to provide on-site training and hand-holding support to build knowledge and capacity of these three Anganwadi teachers, to improve child enrolment, classroom engagement, and overall learning experiences among rural preschool children.

FEATURES OF SMART ANGANWADIS

Solar power

Smart TV

Toilet, handwash & water filter

Furniture, books & play items

Ramps & wall paintings



'Mini-library' kits to 50 Anganwadis

A resource-distribution project funded by Cholamandalam CSR



Empowering Anganwadis with better learning & play materials

6-month training on inclusive-ed skills

In August 2019, Samaaveshi began a pilot called 'Inclusive Anganwadi Teacher-Training' with a cluster of 10 Anganwadi teachers in Karjat. The idea is to build a cadre of inclusive early educators who have the mindset, knowledge and skills to gradually transform rural Anganwadis into 'inclusive' early education centres for all children, including children with disabilities.

The other reality that needs transformation is that most rural Anganwadis are severely under-resourced. They lack adequate teacher-learning materials (TLM) and classroom resources to deliver quality early education. Thus, in January 2020, Samaaveshi donated a 'mini-library' kit comprising picture books, multi-sensory play/learning materials, to the 10 Anganwadis that completed the six-month training on inclusive-ed.

Thereafter, Samaaveshi expanded the teacher-training programme to 50 new Anganwadis (three clusters) in 2020-21. But we couldn't hand out these resource kits to the teachers due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Thanks to our first CSR partnership, with Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited; Samaaveshi could accomplish the task of giving these mini-library kits to the subsequent 50 Anganwadis.

APPEAL: 'Gift A Brick' to build a new inclusive school in Karjat

Samaaveshi has been operating from a four-room rented space with a small playground, in Kashele village. Since there's no scope for expansion in the current location, we need to build our own inclusive school infrastructure that allows us to add a new classroom every year, and expand operations to realize long-term goals of Samaaveshi.

Crowdfund for new school project (get 80G):
www.Ketto.org/Spf-school



WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR WORK:

1. Support a child's education at Samaaveshi: (get 80G): www.Samaaveshi.org/Donate
2. GIFT a few classroom requirements from our 'Amazon wishlist' (delivery address given): <http://www.Amazon.in/hz/wishlist/ls/23GHAEQCVRSD4>