

SHIKSHA Initiative in Action

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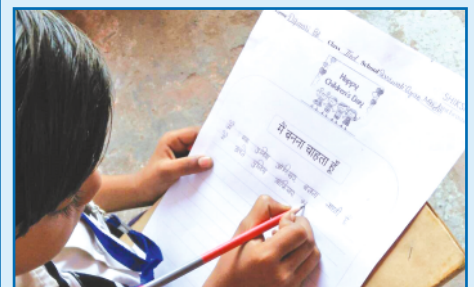
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Baal Diwas Celebrations at CoE

“ Shoot for the Moon, Even if you miss it you will land among the stars.”

– Anonymous

To tap the hidden talents of our little champs, SHIKSHA Initiative celebrated Baal Diwas on 14th November 2017. The celebration started with a drawing competition followed by recitation competition for Grade I students. During recitation competition, the students were singing rhyme with actions. The adorable actions and drawing skills of our tiny tots left the audience amazed. Grade II students displayed their public speaking skills through a 'show and tell' competition followed by a creative writing competition. During the creative writing competition, students shared what they want to become in life. The students were full of enthusiasm and performed outstanding in all the activities. To celebrate the success of our students best three performers of each activity were identified, recognized and rewarded.



Baal Diwas Celebrations and Certificate Distribution

SHIKSHA+ – Differentiated Learning Platform for Illiterate Adults

WHY DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION?

Centres are filled with learners who:



Differentiated learning involves providing different learners with suitable avenues to learning. It includes customized instruction by exploring new ways of transferring information and tailoring lessons to reach all types of learners. The instructor deliver differentiated instruction(s) depending on the learners' learning style. There are many learning styles depending on learner profile for example visual, auditory, kinaesthetic, verbal, logical, social and solitary. So, instructions should be personalized and learner adaptive as per their learning styles.

SHIKSHA+, an extension of SHIKSHA Initiative to eradicate adult illiteracy is one of the best example of differentiated learning. Learners in SHIKSHA+ platform vary in culture, age, socio-economic status, language, gender, motivation, ability/disability and personal interests.

An important component of differentiated instruction and assessment is to determine what learners already know. Similarly, pre-assessment of learners' is held in SHIKSHA+ to determine their pre-existing knowledge. During pre-



Pre-assessment

assessment, their learning preferences and interests are identified.

How Differentiated Learning Environment is ensured in SHIKSHA+ Center?

Optimal learning takes place through differentiating the learning environment. Learners in SHIKSHA+ are shy to attend class because they are adult. So, SHIKSHA+ centres are selected on the basis of learner's preferences. It may be in neighbour's house, nearby community area or any place where they are comfortable. Learners are divided in batches and they can choose their groups and batches in which they want to learn. The sitting plan of learners is in a semi-circular form, so that they can easily interact among them as well as with instructor.



SHIKSHA+ Learners



Technology- Mediated Learning

Technology-Mediated Learning

According to Mr. Bill Cope, Professor, Department of Education policy, University of Illinois, "The technology mediated environments can really help a lot. But the, only problem with them really is these isolated learner experiences. The way in which individualization means that there isn't structured interaction with other learners. Now I think we can work on that, and I think technology mediated environments, can do that in some very, very powerful ways." (*E-Learning Ecologies: Innovative Approaches to Teaching and Learning for the Digital Age*, by Dr. William Cope and Dr. Mary Kalantzis)

Accordingly, at SHIKSHA⁺ centre(s), the Interactive Digital Content is presented through projectors and laptop. In the digital content, the LSRW (Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing) learning style is followed for auditory, verbal, visual, kinaesthetic learners.

Flashcards, slates, chalk and some household available material are used for hands on activities. The instructor gives personalized and adaptive instructions to the learners as per their adaptive capacity and capability.

SHIKSHA⁺ Content

The content is differentiated / customized based on what learners already know prior to joining SHIKSHA⁺. The Interactive Digital Content covers the basic standards of learning. As some learners may not be familiar with the concept, so, the instructor differentiates the content by designing activities for groups of learners. For example, to write Hindi alphabets the instructor may create an activity of making alphabets by thread, prior to the write alphabets with a chalk or pencil. Another example is if

learners are to learn how to fill withdrawal form to withdraw cash from bank, instructor may create an activity by giving them withdrawal form to fill and create differentiated instruction for each learner to withdraw different amount.

Ongoing Assessment in SHIKSHA⁺

Instructor assesses learners regularly to inform instructional strategies. This may be by a self-assessment, other learner's feedbacks, metacognition, discussion and formative assessment. The instructor employ formative assessments during a lesson to provide understanding about what the learner is learning. This formative assessment may be held directly by instructor or by the Interactive Digital Content. Moreover, daily assignments are given to learners which are related to their daily life. Thereafter, at end of the course, a summative assessment is held. Hence, each learner in SHIKSHA⁺ program absorbs knowledge and create a new impact to their day-to-day environment through Differentiated Learning Environment. ■

– **LOMESH KUMAR**
Instructional Designer

Meeting with Government Officials in Sitapur

■ Meeting with Chief Development Officer (CDO)

SHIKSHA team comprising of Senior Project Manager (SPM), Mayank Sinha and Senior Resource Coordinator (SRC), Deenanath Tripathi met Chief Development Officer (CDO), Dr. Arvind Kumar Chaurasiya on November 16, 2017. During the meeting, Dr. Chaurasiya discussed about the Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Panchayat Yojana and shared that for the implementation of the yojna, one district is selected from every state and from U.P Sitapur district is selected. Furthermore, this plan is going to be implemented in 140 gram- panchayats of Sitapur district. Dr. Chaurasiya proposed SHIKSHA Initiative to install its ICT smart class project in the schools of these selected 140 gram-panchayat. Subsequently, Mayank Sinha (SPM) requested him to share a formal document from the nodal officer stating requirements and expectations from SHIKSHA Initiative. ■

■ Meeting with Block Development Officer (BDO) of New Blocks

- **Nov. 10, 2017:** A joint meeting was conducted by SHIKSHA team comprising of Senior Field Supervisor, Anil Kumar and IT Support Engineer, Mirza Shiran with BDO, Mr. Shashank Tripathi of Machhrehta block, secretary of 10 villages and a representative from the Education Department. The objective of the meeting was to explain about the SHIKSHA Initiative, its implementation and to discuss logistical issues pertaining to SHIKSHA's ICT enabled classrooms in 10 selected schools of the block. Mr. Shashank Tripathi assured support to initiate the infrastructure work at the earliest.
- **Nov. 27, 2017:** A similar meeting was conducted with BDO, Mr. Tulsi Ram of Sidhauri block and Secretary of 9 villages regarding the infrastructure work in 9 selected schools of Sidhauri block. Mr. Tulsi Ram asked Assistant Development Officer to prepare an estimate budget for the infrastructure work in the schools. ■

Visit to Maiden Male Learners' SHIKSHA⁺ Centre



SHIKSHA Initiative Project Director and Team with SHIKSHA⁺ Learners

On November 1, 2017, SHIKSHA Initiative Project Director Robin Sarkar along with Senior Project Manager Mayank Sinha visited SHIKSHA⁺ centre of Male learners at Gram Panchayat Kanmau, Village Maheshpur. Since the first assessment was undergoing at the centre visitors got the opportunity to witness the real-time assessment performance of learners. Post-assessment they interacted with learners/instructors and learnt about their experience of studying at this age. Learners shared that it is very challenging for them to manage the time as they have multiple responsibilities i.e. familial, agricultural and social engagements. Few learners stated that due to their poor eyesight they face difficulty during studies. However, besides all these challenges learners stated that they are making best use of it and learning new numbers, signs and letters. Visitors also had a glimpse of assessment sheets and were amazed with the performance of learners.

Everybody seeks for motivation and support while attempting something different and new, same is with learners of SHIKSHA⁺. This visit not only enhanced the enthusiasm of learners but visitors also got the drive to make this initiative more productive and effective to work for the mission of eradication of illiteracy. ■

Installation in New Blocks of Sitapur

In the month of November, 6 new installations were completed in two blocks i.e. Gondlamau and Khairabad. Post installation, SHIKSHA team explained the teachers about the SHIKSHA Initiative content and how to operate the smart class. Teachers were excited to teach through ICT based means and SHIKSHA Initiative is looking forward to get positive results among the students from the intervention. ■

STORIES from the Field

Sagar, Grade II,
Primary School Bishara,
Dadri

7-year-old Sagar is a Grade II student of Primary School Bishara, Dadri, Gautam Buddha Nagar. He lives with his parents and elder sister in Dadri. His father works as a daily wage labourer and mother is a housewife. Sagar is a polite

and obedient child. Moreover, whenever her mother is not well he helps his sister with household chores before coming to school.

Sagar joined the school in Grade II and he has not studied through ICT method in Grade I. As all the students were already familiar with the ICT method it took some time for Sagar to get used to it since it was a new way of learning for him. Though he was bit afraid in the beginning but gradually he was comfortable. After attending few classes, he was really impressed with the method of teaching and showed great interest in all the subjects. Sanjay (Field Officer) stated that Sagar enjoys studying through projection and is curious about learning new things.

Moreover, he proactively asks questions if he doesn't understand anything during the class, which is noteworthy development. The only challenge that Sanjay faced while mentoring Sagar was to make him listen first and ask questions afterwards. Earlier he used ask question without properly listening to the teacher.

Currently, Sagar is very attentive, he listens carefully and then responds. His energy in the class is remarkable and his curiosity to ask countless questions has influenced his class fellows as well as other students in the school. Furthermore, he scored well in all the subjects and proactively responds during the oral test.

SHIKSHA Initiative firmly believes that ICT empowers teachers and learners, making significant contribution to learning and achievement. Hence, introduction and the adequate use of ICT is beneficial and effective in children's learning and achievement. ■

– **SANJAY KUMAR**
Field Officer



SHIKSHA⁺ Case Study

Priyanka, Instructor
Batch 5, Chhauas Centre

Education is one of the most powerful instrument in overall development of individuals enabling them to become active participants in the societal transformations. As per the 2015 UNESCO report, in terms of absolute numbers, India, with 28.7 crore illiterates –has the highest population of illiterate adults. Furthermore, gender disparity in education is widespread. Women are the indispensable part of a society and the development of future generation chiefly depends upon the education of women. Moreover, in terms of the educational status, Muslims being the largest minority community in the country, which constitutes 14.23 % of the population, lag behind. In view of above, SHIKSHA Initiative introduced SHIKSHA⁺ a profound intervention that uses an ICT based methodology to instil the fundamentals of reading, writing and numeracy to illiterate adults who have not attended a formal school.

This is a story of Batch 5 of Chhauas centre where 8 Muslim ladies of same family study and learn together- Chunmun (20); Iram (21); Nasim (32); Nazma (39); Amirbano (42); Pari (50); Rosanara (52); and Riyazbano (52). They all are housewives and live in close proximity to each other. The centre operates from Nasim's house during the morning. Out of all the learners, Nasim and Nazma were the first one to know about the SHIKSHA⁺ through a batch that was previously running in their



SHIKSHA⁺ Learners

colony. Upon enquiring, they received positive feedback from the learners, which motivated them to join. Thereafter, they spoke to other ladies of family and all of them immediately agreed to join. Subsequently, their husbands were informed and they readily agreed. Prior to joining the course, all the learners had studied Urdu and only Nasim and Iram had basic knowledge of Hindi alphabets.

Currently, they have completed more than 75 days in the course and all the learners are excited to study and look forward to attend classes every day. Moreover, if they have to attend any religious ceremony or personal engagement they all ensure that they don't miss their classes. Learners are quite passionate about their studies. The aforesaid was exemplified when Nasim requested Priyanka (SHIKSHA⁺ instructor) to conduct classes where she was recovering from her illness so that she doesn't miss out any portion of the lesson. Moreover,



SHIKSHA⁺ Learners, Batch 5, Chhauas Centre

whenever any guest visits their house they ensure that guests are informed in advance about the class and their presence doesn't affect the studies.

The duration of the class is 2 hours but Nazma stated that they have no problem if class is extended beyond 2 hours in order to avail more time to study. Also, Amirbano, one of the oldest learner stated that they will be satisfied if the course duration is extended beyond 3 months. In addition, Nasim shares that whenever they get time at home they do practice and take help from their kids if they face any challenge. Husbands of all the learners are very supportive and encourage them to study and learn.



Rosanara, Learner

Referring to challenges, Rosanara expresses that as a women we have a lot to manage Viz. family, friends, and household chores along with studies which makes it difficult for us to make room for learning. Moreover, age is a crucial factor in learning and understanding, too. Adults tend to learn less rapidly with age. However, with the support from instructor and other learners she is able to learn. Accord-

ing to her experience, she states we are slow in reading but we want to read fast. Thus, irrespective of age all the learners are excited to study.

Presently, all the learners have learnt Hindi alphabets, can recognize words, and write their respective names, their respective husband's name and village name in Hindi. They have

also learnt numbers and have got knowledge of addition and subtraction.

Speaking about their instructor Priyanka, they said that she is hardworking and is always ready to help and support. She is never annoyed irrespective of the number of queries placed before her.

Nazma shared that though they want the course to be extended but if it's not

possible since the course duration is 3 months they will continue their practice and will join tuition classes. Priyanka, as per one of her experiences, states that once Nazma's husband and her daughter came to the centre to call her for some personal work to which she responded that she will first finish her class and then go along with them. As a result they had to wait for her class to be over and their presence didn't distract her in her studies because she was totally engrossed in studying.

Iram who is one of the youngest learner was enrolled by her mother in law since she wants the generation to be literate. Iram shared that she is grateful to her mother in law for getting her enrolled and once she has learnt Hindi she would like to learn English language.

All the learners unanimously expressed gratitude to SHIKSHA Initiative for introducing SHIKSHA⁺ in their village and said they will certainly inspire other ladies of their village to join centre and learn. ■



Nazma, Learner

SHIKSHA Initiative Data (as on 30th November 2017)

	SHIKSHA Elementary		SHIKSHA ⁺	
	CoE	Expansion	CoE	Expansion
No. of District	2	1	2	1
No. of Block	2	1	2	1
No. of Villages	50	132	10	20
No. of Schools/ Batches	35	89	19	37
No. of Students/ Learners	2280	5538	190	339
Total staff	52	22	11	21
Attendance (Present %) Month – October	67.36%	56.01%	75.68%	76.93%