

SHIKSHA Initiative in Action

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A brain storming session was organized by SCERT (U.P.) to publish QR code on state basic education books.

For any queries, ideas and/or suggestions please contact:
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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- 1 Community Mobilization at Kasmanda**
A community awareness program will be rolled out in the month of May at Kasmanda to increase enrollment in both SHIKSHA Elementary and SHIKSHA+.
- 2 Impact Evaluation Report in May**
IIM Lucknow is on the verge of completing the study on the impact of SHIKSHA Elementary. Authorities from IIM have confirmed to submit final report by next month.
- 3 SHIKSHA Content Handover to SCERT**
First 10 chapters of SHIKSHA content will be handed over to SCERT to be synched with QR code in SCERT, U.P.
- 4 Stage setting for next 3 years plan**
A meeting with Chief Secretary, Uttar Pradesh and all development stakeholders of SHIKSHA is scheduled next month to foresee executable action plan for next three year.

Rejuvenated Minds for Expansion

SHIKSHA Initiative has entered into a new phase in the dawn of this month. The hyper-scale model of SHIKSHA+ got approved by the apex leadership making us committed to reaching out to 5000 adult learners in the running fiscal year. This way SHIKSHA family will also expand considerably by coming quarter.

I personally felicitate individual team member, who toiled day and night to convert this dream into reality. At the same time wish for the best of planning and execution of this prestigious responsibility.

Recreation is tonic for fertile brains, following the fact SHIKSHA team witnessed best ever Offsite training camp in first week of this month. Most of the SHIKSHA torch bearers have shared their experiences from camp, delivering a common feel that it was a milestone in their lives. Many of you have overcome toughest barrier of your life and developed a new you. I am glad that it was not just joy, but all of you united as one family, emerged as one team and showed alignment to achieve larger goal i.e. eradication of illiteracy. I am confident enough that all of you will keep on practicing what you have learnt in those power packed 3 days. Sharing your learnings and knowledge will surely serve as a power house for team SHIKSHA.



SHIKSHA Initiative, Project Director, **Robin Sarkar** (L) with apex Leadership, **Roshni Nadar Malhotra**



Energized SHIKSHA Team during Offsite training Camp, 2018

After rejuvenating our energies, I would request all of you to buckle up your seat belts for an extreme roller coaster ride ahead. We are not only sweating for hyper-scaling, but also executing an exciting summer program for kids "Umang" during April-May in SHIKSHA schools. In addition, we are also moving towards a better Learning Management System (LMS) by the time schools will reopen in July. We look forward to an action pact quarter ahead.

All of you are knowledge hub for our program. I would urge all of you to come up with innovative ideas to achieve our goal in most effective manner. Sharing ideas and knowledge empowers all of us as it is contagious and eventually create a positive aura around us. I wish you a very best of luck, keep creating miracles.

– **ROBIN SARKAR,**
Project Director, SHIKSHA Initiative

International Women's Day at SHIKSHA⁺

SHIKSHA⁺ celebrated International Women's Day with a unique approach. An exposure visit was organized for its learners to Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Bulandshahar. The objective of the visit was to introduce women learners with indigenous varieties of crops providing good yield in local climate. Training possibilities to empower them in their day to day life was also discussed.

On this occasion Dr. Satish Kumar, Dr. Shiv Singh, Dr. Vivek Tripathi & Dr. Kirti Mani Tripathi of Krishi Vigyan Kendra shared useful information by showing variety of crops, quality seeds, growing methods, and productivity of crops in local atmosphere. Furthermore, safety methods for crops from pests/insects were also explained to the visitors. Dr. Kirti Mani Tripathi introduced vocational training programs such as Achaar and Papad preparations. The visit will be a tool to enhance their knowledge and economic level.

Learners were curious enough to learn maximum out of this visit. Also they expressed keen interest to see more similar visits.



Group of Sikandrabad Center at KVK, Bulandshahar



KVK Officials explaining various processes to Learners

The visit was conceptualized and organized by Vijay Anand Verma (SHIKSHA⁺ Head), and supported by his team. Exposure of learners with scientific agricultural techniques truly made Women's Day at SHIKSHA⁺.

In addition to this a week long activity at various SHIKSHA⁺ centers was also organized, which included short films and painting competitions. ■

– **RAM LAKHAN SHUKLA,**
Senior Field Officer



IIM representative collecting data from parents & children

SHIKSHA Initiative Impact Evaluation Study

In August, 2017 IIM Lucknow added a feather in the cap of SHIKSHA Initiative by agreeing to carry out a research study to measure its impact. In March, 2018 second round of survey was conducted to collect required sample data. Moreover, parent's survey and student's case study were completed during 26–30 March. In the month of April, IIM Lucknow will share the Final Impact Evaluation report of SHIKSHA Initiative. ■



Confidence Building with Fun is उमंग (UMANG)

Primary Education is an important phase of a child's education. These formative years play a very important role in child's confidence building and desire to learn. Although, in government schools in U.P., during the month of April and May, the student's attendance is very low. In order to attract the students to school, build up their confidence and desire to learn, SHIKSHA Initiative has initiated UMANG, a summer camp. UMANG would provide the students an opportunity to explore newer ways of learning that fosters their curiosity.

UMANG is a 24 days program from 16 April to 19 May. The program will



focus on the basics of Elementary Education through fun filled activities, designed for grade 1 and 2. To facilitate the stakeholders an orientation program was conducted on 30 March, 2018 in Sitapur, followed by 31 March, 2018 at CoE. The Senior Field Supervisors, Field Supervisors, Resource Coordinators,

Project Associates and IT team of CoE and Expansion participated in orientation with full enthusiasm. Program is conceptualized and designed by the SHIKSHA Initiative Academic team. ■

– MUKTA OJHA,
Deputy Manager, Academics

लर्नर के शब्दों में ...



बहतरीन,
लर्नर,
छोलस केंद्र,
गौतम बुद्ध नगर

मेरा नाम बहतरीन है। मेरे गाँव का नाम छोलस है। जब तक सेंटर पर नाम नहीं लिखा था, उससे पहले मुझे कुछ पढ़ना नहीं आता था। मुझसे पहले मेरी दो बहनें एक साथ सेंटर पर पढ़ चुकी हैं। जब मैंने उनको पढ़ते हुए देखा, तो उस दिन से मैंने भी मन बना लिया था कि मुझे भी पढ़ना है। अब मुझे दो महीने हो गए पढ़ते हुए, जिनमें कुछ छुट्टी भी हो गयी है। मैं बहुत कुछ लिखना-पढ़ना सीख

गयी हूँ। सेंटर पर पढ़ने के बाद मुझे जब भी टाइम मिलता है, तो मैं बिना किताब के नहीं बैठती हूँ और मेरे दोनों बेटे मुझे रोज पढ़ाते हैं। जब मेरे दोनों बेटे काम से आ जाते हैं और मुझे पढ़ाई करते हुए देख लेते हैं, तो बारी-बारी से मुझे पढ़ाते हैं। अभी कुछ दिन पहले मैं अपने बड़े बेटे के साथ कहीं गयी थी, तो मेरे बेटे ने कहा कि बताओ आप इतना पढ़ती हो, तो हम कहां आ गये? तभी मैंने सामने देखा तो एक बोर्ड लगा हुआ था, जिस पर बुलंदशहर लिखा हुआ था। वो मैंने अपने बेटे को पढ़कर सुनाया तथा उसके दो दिन बाद मैं अपने छोटे बेटे के साथ हॉस्पिटल गयी थी, फिर मेरे छोटे बेटे ने कहा बताओ हमारे सामने कौन से डॉक्टर का नाम लिखा हुआ है? मैंने पढ़कर सुनाया मनोज तथा नवीन लिखा हुआ था तथा अब यदि मुझे कोई भी कुछ पची देता है, तो मैं पहले पढ़ती हूँ। पढ़कर हमको बहुत कुछ पता चलता है और बहुत फायदे

भी हैं। मेरे बेटे अब मुझ पर बहुत नाज़ करते हैं और मेरी बेटी भी पढ़ाती है। सेंटर पर पढ़ने के बाद मैं घर पर भी रोज पढ़ती हूँ। मुझे अपने आप पर अब इतना भरोसा हो गया है कि मैं कहीं भी लिखा हुआ पढ़ लेती हूँ, मिला-मिलाकर। अभी और अच्छे से सीख जाऊंगी। इसी के साथ मैं सभी का धन्यवाद करती हूँ, जिन्होंने भी हमारी पढ़ाई के बारे में सोचा है। ■



लगन से पढ़ती बहतरीन

HCL - Samuday Team visited SHIKSHA Initiative



Project Coordinator, HCL Samuday at SHIKSHA+ Center interacting with learners.



HCL Samuday visitor at SHIKSHA elementary intervention school, PS Usri Gadi.

Visit Date: 7–8 March 2018

To understand the ongoing activities of SHIKSHA elementary and SHIKSHA+ on 7 March 2018, Ashish Singh, Project Coordinator and Supriya, Project Associate, Samuday visited SHIKSHA, Initiative, Sitapur. In full day meeting attendance data collection process, daily

field visit reports, progress tracking methods and monitoring program challenges were explained to the visitors by SHIKSHA Initiative Project Associate. In addition, lesson and assessment planning presentation created this knowledge sharing more beneficial. On 8 March, Samuday team visited

2 SHIKSHA+ centers Bithera, i.e. PS Usri Gadi and PS Mahuli at Kasmanda.

During the visit, Ashish Singh shared that, “It is an eye opener to see the impact of program on learners. Efforts delivered in limited resources and odd situations makes this program an extraordinary delivery. It is a priceless experience for us.”

SHIKSHA+ learners appeared for NIOS Examination

Action speaks louder than words was translated into reality and a proud moment for SHIKSHA+, when 121 learners from Sitapur location appeared in National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) examination on 25 March. Each of the learner was dressed as going to attend a celebration. They appeared as

torch bearers of the program and highly excited to attend NIOS exam. “Although it was just an exam to assess our learnings, but center prepared each of us more than that. We are feeling proud as we can read, write and even answer a written question paper”, said one of the learner attempting NIOS exam.

Conducting any exam in not less than a challenge in itself. In the absence of local administrative support to organize the same, it appeared a gigantic task to be executed. Efforts of the expansion team are appreciable that instead of all odds team coordinated with local administrative and government machinery and turned an arduous task possible.

Though the results from department are awaited but conducting such rewarding assessment is an achievement in itself. “It was a sigh of relief and satisfaction that whatever input we had applied is actually working and program is delivering what is expected out of it”, said Mayank Sinha, Senior Project Manager, Kasmanda.

Robin Sarkar, Project Director, SHIKSHA Initiative further added that, “NIOS exam has completed the learning cycle. This is how SHIKSHA+ program is getting integrated into government system. I am glad to see the enthusiasm of learners and SHIKSHA Initiative Team.”



Learners attending NIOS Exam at Kasmanda

3 Es between CoE and Expansion Teams



CoE and Expansion Team at SHIKSHA office, Kasmanda, Sitapur

Visit Date: 15–17 March 2018

Experience, Exchange and Exposure...3 Es set a bench mark for CoE and Expansion team during CoE team visit to Kasmanda. A four member team consisting of three instructors and field supervisor from CoE with SHIKSHA+ Program Head, Mr. Vijay Anand Verma

had an understanding of SHIKSHA+ Kasmanda operation, challenges and possible solutions during three days visit.

Idea behind the visit was to provide a platform to CoE instructors that how same resource (content) is being used for teaching in different demography. Visitors had an opportunity to under-

stand what are the challenges with respect to learners' background and cultural difference, CMS delivery style, and mobilization.

On the first day of visit CoE team interacted with Kasmanda instructors to get familiarized with their actions. Field visits were scheduled for the second day with the purpose of observation and interaction with learners. On final day, CoE team witnessed the teaching methods at expansion centers.

SHIKSHA+ Head, Vijay Anand said, "An experiential learning after this visit would certainly provide a new horizon to both teams to understand content execution, mind set of learners with different socio-economic and cultural backgrounds. Eventually, it will help us to attain desired results of the program. More similar visit may occur in near future."

Development coming closer to End User



Deepak Madan, Sr. Manager, ERS at SHIKSHA centers

Visit Date: 23 March 2018

Any product developed as per user need is not only establish bench mark, but also a futuristic approach to sustain. Close contact with end user converts this

thought in action. It got reflected from Sitapur visit of Mr. Deepak Madan, Sr. Manager, Engg. and R&D Services (ERS), HCL Tech. handling SHIKSHA development with SHIKSHA IT ace Mr. Pranjal Baruah.

Tech team visited SHIKSHA+ and elementary centers at Sitapur. "Content delivery process at ground zero with end user will help me to adopt best possible platforms and innovative development approach", said Mr. Madan.

Looking at an 80 year old lady writing his (Deepak's) name at one of the SHIKSHA+ centers, he further added, "In my 20 years of IT industry experience, I have delivered many projects. You feel good when efforts are appreciated, but when it's evident your

efforts are adding value to lives; it takes to the level of satisfaction and becomes most rewarding act. This is what I experienced during this visit. It gives me immense pleasure and proud to be associated with unparalleled Journey called SHIKSHA." Need not to mention that such deep rooted interest of development stakeholders may take the content to next level.



First Time Learner writes, right

LAPA Fundraising, MD visit to SHIKSHA Initiative

Visit Date: 13 March 2018

Mr. Michael Taylor, MD, LAPA Fundraising visited to SHIKSHA expansion at Sitapur. He expressed keen interest to understand the philosophy of SNF run SHIKSHA Elementary and SHIKSHA⁺ centers.

The values and objectives were delineated by Sitapur team and on ground execution was much appreciated by Mr. Taylor.



Mr. Taylor with SHIKSHA, Sitapur team at one of the SHIKSHA Elementary schools (Sitapur)

QR code in Basic Education Books, UP



SCERT session being addressed SPM, SHIKSHA

U.P. state government had decided to give SHIKSHA content QR code in its basic books. A brain storming session

was organized by SCERT (U.P.) to publish QR code on state basic education books. Session was facilitated by

Ms. Hiba and Mr. Balaji Central Square Foundation (CSF) team; and Ms. Aliya from NGO, Ek Step.

CSF is developing and providing QR codes for the chapters of basic education books. SHIKSHA Initiative Sr. Project Manager, Mr. Mayank Sinha participated in the session to discuss key strategies viz. how to create own content, upload the ready content and how to post it on DIKSHA (SCERT partner), portal. Administrative right for this portal and mobile app will remain with SCERT.

SHIKSHA Initiative Program Status (as on 31st March 2018)

	SHIKSHA Elementary		SHIKSHA ⁺	
	CoE	Expansion	CoE	Expansion
No. of District	2	1	2	1
No. of Block	2	3	2	1
No. of Villages	50	134	10	35
No. of Schools/ Batches	35	101	47	60
No. of Students benefitted/ Learners	2280	4960	466	630
Total staff	52	19	10	21
Attendance (Present %) Month –February**	64.21%	50.80%	61.33%	67.77%

Source: CoE and Expansion Stats.