



STRIDE

Towards A Brighter Future
Stories From Ugam World

NEWSLETTER | December 2019





वर्षों तक वन में घूम-घूम,
बाधा-विघ्नों को चूम-चूम,
सह धूप-घाम, पानी-पत्थर,
पांडव आये कुछ और निखर।
सौभाग्य न सब दिन सोता है,
देखें, आगे क्या होता है।

Purbi Singhbhum Training



600 teachers from 12 blocks Purbi Singhbhum
5 trainers from Ugam

Sanjay recited this poem by Dinkarji during the language teaching session, as 50 teachers from the Potka block were immersed in the two day teacher training by Ugam.

600 teachers from 12 blocks in Purbi Singhbhum made eager, curious and reflective participants as our 5 member team completed training at 12 blocks. Sessions on use of phonics were a revelation for many, the conundrum of 16 squares got them to reflect, the art of storytelling engaged all and the bal geets made sure teachers sang and danced!

The journey started in July-August when Ugam visited the district at the invitation of the District Collector and Education department. We were struck by the natural beauty of the district and the warmth and enthusiastic welcome from the education team and KGBVs. Our journey has kicked off and we are very thankful to Mr Shukla, Akhileshji, Binduji, Shivendraji, Pankajji, Vineetji and the many BEOs and teachers for their warmth!

KGBV Wardens: Our Heroes Padma

Although one can not see it, Chanchalaji 's shoulders carry a heavy burden. The 400 girls at Padma KGBV depend on her.

Maintaining the infrastructure and ensuring that the girls receive basic amenities on a daily basis is daunting. Chanchala was always worried since the arrangement of water and food has been challenging from the beginning. We too have often experienced this in the last 10 months; how the girls, teachers and school environment were dull due to paucity of water and delay in food. The impact of lack of basic amenities was proving to be a major deterrent to the girls' studies and health.

These problems, their underlying causes and solutions all emerged as the Ugam team and Chanchala completed the SWOT analysis for Padma KGBV Development Plan. Our team motivated Chanchala, activated the Baal Sansad and facilitated a meeting.

The warden says that "I was a little afraid at first in deciding, asking questions. I was thinking of rumors and doing nothing and could not reconcile between the interest of children and the rules of Kasturba. That's why the water issue persisted for many days. Together with Ugam I decided first that I will change the situation, what has been going on will not continue anymore, we did a lot of micro planning. Girls, teachers, cooks, SMC, Bal Sansad were all involved. I also took advise from fellow wardens of other KGBVs.

The work was decided, divided among all stakeholders, they all took responsibility and built some new strong systems so that the work could continue without pause. We got a hand pump installed, a lot of water started coming out and also the rumor proved wrong that there is no ground water. Built a motor running and shutdown system, fixed time, giving responsibility.

The issue of sitting and hygiene while eating food also disturbed the children for 2-3 hours every day. We decorated the dining room with benches and desks in it. Hygiene and time utilization proved to be of great use to girls. The school is developing and that is why I feel that my self-confidence and self-esteem has increased a lot more than before."

Ugam is working with 10 KGBVs (Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalays) in Hazaribag and 11 in East Singhbhum. The Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya Scheme (KGBVS) was launched by the government, to enable girls, predominantly from marginalized communities, to avail upper primary and secondary education through residential schooling. We develop warden, student and teacher leadership through systemic strengthening ensuring contextual and sustainable positive change in transforming the girls and the KGBVs.



Events

August 2019

Team Ugam reached Purbi Singhbhum and visited schools and KGBVs in the district. Attended District Gyansetu Review Meeting. We kickstarted our **teacher support** in Hazaribag with Gyansetu orientation with teachers in all KGBVs.

Our **leadership sessions with the girls** started off with gusto and the girls have been enthusiastically engaging in groupwork, thinking and questioning.

We conducted a training for the CRCCs in Dhenkanal. We welcomed Deep and her colleague from Vibha, who visited Dhenkanal and shared valuable feedback.

September 2019

We consolidated our future work in Purbi Singhbhum with the District Education department.

In Hazaribag, we started work with the **KGBV wardens on leadership development** using the KGBV Development Plan to solve ground level problems.

A training session with the teachers introduced use of graphic organizers. Besides continuing our leadership sessions with the girls we also worked hard to activate the Baal Sansad in the KGBVs.

We participated in the district review meeting for the Gyan setu program.

In Dhenkanal we introduced simple body percussion activities to the CRCCS and we received videos from them as they took this forward to their nodal meetings and schools.



October 2019

Great excitement for us as we worked in 12 blocks and 600 teachers in Purbi Singhbhum. Along with the training we visited the KGBV at Potka. The KGBV, its infrastructure, teachers, wardens and girls - whether their artwork, their football field, their vegetable garden, were very impressive.

Our thoughts were echoed by the team when they expressed a need for **career guidance/awareness** for the girls of class 11 and 12. We are now actively working towards that.

November 2019

After Diwali and Chhath Puja work began to get back on track in the field. Sanjay and Kena were invited at the District Band Competition among all KGBVs. It felt wonderful for the team to hear and feel the positive warmth from all the girls and KGBV staff and officers as Sanjay addressed the whole gathering.

The girls at KGBV now eagerly engage in our leadership sessions on critical thinking. We had sensed a need for information from the girls about **menstrual hygiene** from our baseline assessment. We created **posters** on the same and girls at each of the KGBVs are busy reading these!



Girls Voices

When you enter a KGBV and are greeted with so many smiles, quietude and warmth that you may be lulled into feeling a sense of tranquility. Many of these girls have started writing and if you really listen with your heart you might hear the roar of emotions in these smiling silences.

Manisha Kumari asks what can I do for my mother? Manisha Kumari has a sister and her mother is a single parent. The girls lost their father early in life. Their mother with immense faith and resilience decided that she will make sure her two daughters go to school and stay there. Manisha and her sister were the first girls to be sent "away" to a KGBV from their community.

Sanjita Tirkey wonders why her parents and everyone around asked her to stop playing sports once she grew up?

Niku fondly remembers "मुझे मस्ती करना पसंद है, डांस करना और खेलना पसंद है, मुझे मेरे दोस्त पसंद है. हम सब दोस्त (लडका और लडकी) साथ साथ स्कूल जाते थे. अब मैं १४ साल की हूँ तो सब बदल क्यों गया?

Suhani has chosen to not remember her difficult childhood. She feels grateful to her teachers from the village school at Kedali because they ensured her admission to the KGBV.

Her burning question is "मैं कैसे मेरे पापा का बेटा बनूँ ?

Kiran says....

"जबसे मैं उगम के लीडरशिप प्रोग्राम का हिस्सा बनी हूँ तबसे मैं खुद में कुछ-कुछ सोचती ही रहती हूँ। ऐसा लगता है कि अब तक समझ कर सीखने के आनन्द से ही वंचित थी।

अब समझ में आने लगा है कि समझने के लिए जरूरी हैं सवाल उठाना, कारण जानना, क्यों, क्या, कब और कैसे, जैसे मन में उठने वाली जिज्ञासा को अभिव्यक्ति देना।

अब मैं खूब सवाल पूछती हूँ, खूब सोचती हूँ, पढ़ाई अब पहले से ज्यादा हल्की-फुल्की, रोचक और मजेदार लगने लगी हैं!"

- किरन कुमारी

कक्षा 11th

क. गां.बा.वि. चरही, हज़ारीबाग, झारखण्ड।

Appeal

Do you hear what we are saying?

Enough data suggests that when you support a vulnerable girl, and it pays forward generation to generation, lifting families out of poverty, empowering children, increasing health and turning victims into champions.

We value the support of...

- District Collectors and District Education teams of Hazaribagh, Purbi Singhbhum and Dhenkanal
- Drishti Team
- Madhu Jayakumar
- Vineethbhai
- Dr. Usha Krishna

We Thank Our Donors

- Parle Biscuits Pvt Ltd
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