

## “Aanganwadi”- a place to begin a journey called Life

It happened in one of those visits to the Village that we met a girl, maybe aged 9yrs, walking with her sister, 3 yrs or so with a tiffin in her hand, to Aanganwadi. An Aanganwadi center is a place where different types of services are provided like Food & Pre school education to the children of 0 to 6 years of Age. Health related activities are also done on every Wednesday. Pregnant & Lactating Women come here for their regular vaccination.

On getting in conversation with her, it came to light that the children do not come as the structure is dilapidated. Moreover the teacher presence is also irregular as she travels from far off village & since the children do not come, she too does not come.

An Aanganwadi is manned by two women, a Teacher & a “ Tedaben” whose job is to see that all registered children come across, cleanliness of the place & cooking the mid-day meal.

We then, visited Aanganwadi & truly it was pathetic. The roof may have given in anytime. Kitchen was a namesake with no facility for drinking water. Parents avoided sending their little ones. But since groceries were regularly received, food was made & children collected.

One Aanganwadi led to numerous visits before approaching ICDS (Integrated Child Development Services) Department, GOG for a list of such, which either needed renovation or reconstruction

On receiving a request from the ICDS (Integrated Child Development Services) Department, GOG , Halol Taluka, Dist Panchmahal. Integrated Child Development Services Program aim is to fight child Hunger, Malnutrition and Pre-school activities. A meeting with the then CDPO Jashodaben Patel was arranged for their existing facilities and problems they were facing. She requested us reconstruct/repair/ or build new ones. After receiving their letter & list of such Aanganwadis, visit was made for each Aanganwadi by our Civil Engineer & CSR Team.

### Images of Aanganwadi Pre our Intervention



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### Images of Anganwadi Post Reconstruction/Modification/Repair



87 Anganwadis have now been reconstructed/ renovated/repared. It is not only Mortar & Bricks that we are talking about, but also the Software.

Making facility for the basic needs, like Kitchen, Drinking Water, Toilets, PSWF has also provided for Water Harvesting facility

Each Aanganwadi is equipped with a TV, along with a pen drive which contains the teaching curriculum. It is Visual, Sing-song facility so that learning is faster & retention more.

Going beyond, understanding the needs of future, Training Sessions are organized for the

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Aanganwadi Teachers, wherein exposure to new participative & lively methods of teaching are given. It is a two-days full time programme. Once the Teachers W/shop is completed, a w/shop with relevant inputs in a Concise package will be covered for “Tedaben”.



Coverage : Faculty Bipin Baria ( Principal of Amrut Vidyalay)

### 1. Day One

- a. Ice Breakers
- b. Visualizing the Center – good things, challenges, supports, what should the center look like ?
- c. Role of Teacher & helper
- d. Daily Schedule
- e. Space Mapping
- f. Resource Utilisation
  - i. Preparing learning activities
  - ii. Games / Exercises
- g. Coordination Skills
  - i. Numeracy
  - ii. Counting
  - iii. Creating Patterns

### 2. Day Two

- a. Art of Story Telling
- b. Physical Skills
- c. AV Planning
- d. Mirror Image, Identifying change
- e. Theme based learning

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The W/shops are participative, making the participants practice the techniques taught. Each coverage is practiced & demonstrated by the participants.

Post the W/shops, Feedback is taken & an Action Plan is drawn. This is then monitored by the follow-up visits.

On a recent visit by the CSR Team to the Aanganwadi where all initiatives have been done, the situation is very heartening & fulfilling

1. Children’s presence for attending the classes has increased
2. Teachers are using the various methods that they have been exposed to during the 2 days Training Programme
3. Parents are happy to see their children going to renovated/ new premises with facilities.



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