

## READ RAJASTHAN REPORT (October 2008 to March 2009)

### October to December 2008

After summer camp in 17 districts, the strategy was to mobilize volunteers and train them along with government school teacher inside the school so that they can do various reading and arithmetic activities within the school premises with the help of teachers. They used previous year's TLM and Summer Camp TLM for activities.

#### KEY CAMPAIGNS:

1. *Read Dungarpur:* The DM of Dungarpur district has invited Pratham Rajasthan to design a program to run classes in all the schools of the district to ensure good reading levels of children. He liked the TLM of summer camp and promised government's support of Rs. 300/- per school for TLM. Around 1000 non-paid volunteers were trained and mobilized to conduct classes in schools.
2. *Volunteer Mobilization:* The block coordinators' team of every district contacted several higher (up to 10<sup>th</sup>) and senior (up to 12<sup>th</sup>) secondary schools to mobilize students of Std. 9 and 11 as volunteers. These volunteers were oriented to conduct a daily 1 hour reading class in their village. The teaching learning material for this campaign was paragraph cards, available from the time of summer camp. The objective of the campaign was to ensure that every child in Std. 3-5 should read fluently.

#### TRAINING SESSIONS:

##### *Training of teachers:*

A team of 20 Block Coordinators were trained for 2 days to conduct a one day teachers' training across Dungarpur district. This team then trained one teacher per school at cluster level in 10 days. Demonstration was an integral part of the training.

##### *Training of volunteers:*

Orientation of students of Std. 9 and 11 was conducted in many schools. The schools supported the initiative and every student was given a task to ensure that he/she should conduct classes to ensure that every child in Std. 3,4 and 5 can read fluently.

Following are the number of schools participated in orientation program:

	Bikaner	Jodhpur	Udaipur	Jhalawar	Nagaur	Banswara	Jaipur
Schools oriented	118	210	200	128	132	150	205

#### MAJOR EVENTS:

##### *Books Collection Week:*

Reacting to the need of books in flood relief camps in Bihar, Rajasthan team decided to contact schools, institutes and individuals during first week of November and collect as many story books as possible. District coordinators and Block coordinators collected around 8,000 books across 10 districts of Rajasthan. The books are under process of collection at Jaipur, from where, it will be sent to Bihar.

##### *Children's Day Drawing Competition:*

Keeping in mind the importance of this day, drawing competitions were organized in one school of every block where BEO, BRCF, CRCF, Sarpanchs and Teachers were also invited. In Banswara,

300 students of 12 schools participated in a joint competition. ADPC of Banswara was also present on the occasion.

**CHALLENGES FACED:**

- Though district administration has promised support of TLM per school, but as soon as the then DM got transferred, it become very hard to get that money.
- At some places, TLM of summer camp was not in usable condition due to excessive use during summers 2008.


**OPINION OF LOCAL TEAM:**

Volunteers of Dungarpur have expressed their experiences in schools, one of which is as follows:

पुत्रसं राजस्थान  
 भद्रों राजस्थान अभियान  
 जिला - दुंगरपुर  
 ब्लॉक समन्वयक :- गिरिश गौड़

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"पुत्रों राजस्थान - बच्चों से जूझान"  
 प्राथमिक विद्यालय नं. -16  
 अहरी ब्लॉक, दुंगरपुर  
 स्वयं सेविका :- लीना चौवीसा



कक्षा - 3,4,5

भद्रों राजस्थान अभियान में प्राथमिक विद्यालय नं. 16 में विगत अगस्तियों से चलाने जा रही हूँ। मैं यह कार्य अपनी इच्छा से करती हूँ। मैं बच्चों को खेल-खेल में पढ़ती हूँ और नीचे के माध्यम से लाभ तब कि सख्खा व विस्तारित मान लिखाती हूँ। जिसके अतिरिक्त के दिन में मैं खेल तथा पर्वों पौटनी से सामान्य जान भी सिखाती हूँ। उसमें बच्चों में रुचि जाती और उन मुझे और भी प्रशंसा आता है बच्चों के साथ इस सामग्री से पढ़ने में। जब मैं यह सामग्री में बच्चों पढ़ने लगे हैं वह अपनी बात भी अभिव्यक्त कर पाते हैं। इस कार्य से सन्तुष्ट हूँ और नोमिष करूगी कि बच्चों को इसके ज्यादा से ज्यादा फायदा है।

**January to March 2009**

After working with partnership of Government of Rajasthan<sup>1</sup>, during last academic year, it was necessary to strengthen the skills of volunteer mobilization and training to gain new knowledge and

<sup>1</sup> REACHED AROUND 12 LAKH CHILDREN OF AROUND 32000 GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS ACROSS 14 DISTRICTS DURING *effective implementation months* OF FEBRUARY AND MARCH ONLY.

skills related to advanced programs<sup>2</sup> next year. Also, demonstration of the impact on learning of children through a volunteer based campaign is essential in light of new Government in Rajasthan and bureaucratic reshuffle.

#### **CHANGE IN STRATEGY:**

*Thus* during the last quarter of this financial year, as part of Read Rajasthan campaign, we have shifted our focus on 4 districts, Jaipur, Alwar, Ajmer and Dungarpur districts. Teams from different districts came in these four districts. The campaign, was planned to focus on children who are either not able to recognize letters or can recognize letters but not able to read words. Each district had different intensity of work:

- Jaipur - one block coordinator per 40 villages
- Alwar – one block coordinator per 80 villages
- Ajmer – one block coordinator per 65 villages
- Dungarpur – one block coordinator per 100 villages

#### **KEY CAMPAIGNS and TRAINING SESSIONS:**

Aadhar, was the key campaign during this period. The campaign had following processes:

- A group of 3-5 volunteers was mobilized for every school.
- The block coordinators were trained with 70% of time of training devoted for demonstration.
- The volunteers were trained by block coordinators. The training was organized at a cluster of 8 villages and volunteers of schools of that cluster have participated in that training. Demonstration was an integral part of training. More than 8000 volunteers were trained during last 10 days of January 2009.
- 1 hour reading period was introduced in school timetable to carry out joyful learning activities with children.
- Testing of children was an integral part and volunteers were forming their classes only after testing.
- The group of volunteers was conducting the reading period.
- A manual has also been provided to volunteers, which elaborated classroom process and teaching methodology in pictorial format.
- Training was imparted to all students of Std. 9 and 11, both at government and private schools.
- These students formed groups as per their convenience and conducted activities during evening hours at their home with children living nearby their home.

#### **MAJOR EVENTS:**

*Field visit by Sh. C P Joshi, State Head, Congress:*

When we reached school, 2 volunteers were running classes with children. Both ladies, Smt. Anita Verma and Smt. Sumanlata Verma, were running classes in school from past one month. Sh. Joshi

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<sup>2</sup> R2L – 'READ TO LEARN' PROGRAM TO ENHANCE EXPRESSION AND COMPREHENSION OF CHILDREN AND ENGLISH PROGRAM- TO IMPROVE ENGLISH LANGUAGE READING AND COMPREHENSION SKILLS OF CHILDREN. PILOTS OF BOTH PROGRAMS ARE CURRENTLY UNDER IMPLEMENTATION.

observed the class with lot of interest and we acquainted him with our teaching methodology and TLM. During the interaction Sh. Joshi asked how these volunteers are working without any monetary compensation. Both volunteers said that they want to gain experience of teaching and of course, it is a great contribution from our family to the entire village. His visit was a turning point in terms of starting dialogues with new government as later he apprised CM of Rajasthan about Pratham's campaigns.

*Field visit by Sh. M L Mehta, Chairman, Pratham Rajasthan:*

Mahla, one Gram Panchayat, located at Jaipur-Ajmer highway, is a great example of PRI. The Sarpanch mobilized 21 volunteers and conducted a meeting, when BC appealed him to improve reading skills of children. To meet him and see the work of volunteers, Sh. M L Mehta visited this village and appreciated the work done by volunteers.

*Field visit by BEO, Laxmangarh block, Alwar:*

After a meeting with block coordinator, BEO went for the field visit and appreciated the efforts put in by volunteers. He promised continued support from his side.

*Meeting with Principal Secretary, Education:*

An update report of the campaign is presented to Sh. R P Jain, PS, Education in a meeting with him. He was curious to know about Pratham and promised a longer meeting and discussion after assembly elections.

**CHALLENGES FACED:**

- Even after repetitive efforts with district government officials, they have not issued letter for 1 hour class in schools. Though most of the block education officers have supported and issued letter for their block, few of them even threatened teachers if they allow conducting classes.