



Access to Anganwadi

To build access to a learning space for
Anganwadi children in hilly terrains

Leader Name : Sushila Kothiyal
Leader Designation: Principal

School Name: Government Primary School
Gular

Location : Tehri Garhwal, Uttarakhand
India

Testimonials

“If kids are coming here, at least they learn something new everyday. There is no Anganwadi but we still want children to be prepared for the school when they enter Grade 1. In this manner, they are becoming school ready.”

**- Sushila Kothiyal
Principal**

“Since the time Inam has started going to the school he has opened up. He enjoys being in the classroom with his other friends. One day Inam was very sick but still he did not want to miss his school because he believed that there would be something interesting in the school for him. He also repeats the poems and rhymes which he hears in the school and spends some time everyday in writing Aksharas (letters/alphabets) himself at home. Before joining the school he used to be very quiet but he has started expressing himself at home now.”

- Inam's Mother

(Inam is an Anganwadi child who attends Gular Primary School)





The Challenge

Rural regions in hilly terrains require children (roughly between the ages of 2-5) to walk and trek long distances to get to the Anganwadi Centres in their Gram Sabha. Naturally, parents hesitate to send their child to the centre. This limits their access to Anganwadi, resulting in lack of exposure to a structured learning system until they enter the primary grades. When this happens, it takes a considerable amount of time for the child to feel comfortable and well-adjusted in the primary school.

What Changed?





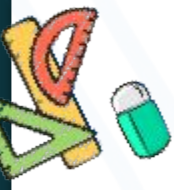




The New Education Policy 2020 highlights the need to build a bridge between Anganwadi centres and local primary schools to ensure a smooth transition for children.

We also observed this impact on our children. When students reach Grade 1 in this school, they feel comfortable, settled and familiar with their surroundings, teachers and peers:

- Children get used to the school timings and following the routine.
- Children learn how to actively reach out to their teachers for support.
- It helps the teachers know the students and understand their needs.



Project Steps

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- Collecting data on children (through primary school children and their parents) for whom access to Anganwadi is a challenge.
 - Engaging with the families of these children to understand the challenges in going to the Anganwadi centre.
 - Inviting children with their families or siblings to school and doing activities that help them feel comfortable in the school setting.
 - Creating 'buddies', by assigning each Anganwadi child to a student from grades 4-5, to help them familiarise themselves with the school systems and protocols.
 - Creating designated learning spaces for these children and gathering learning and engagement resources for them.
 - Consistent student and parent encouragement by assigning roles to Anganwadi children in the primary schools and through words of appreciation.
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