



SHANTILAL MUTTHA FOUNDATION

Sahayogi Shikshan Abhiyaan

Progress Report
Pilot Phase

October to December 2020



Contents

1. Background	1
2. About BJS and SMF	2
3. Sahayogi Shikshan Abhiyaan	3
3.1 Goal and Objectives of Sahayogi Shikshan Abhiyaan	3
3.2 Present coverage	3
4. Activities conducted during the quarter	4
4.1 Content development	4
4.2 Identification and orientation of Taluka Coordinators	4
4.3 Capacity Building	4
4.4 Books printing & distribution	5
4.5 Focus Group Discussion	5
4.6 Mr. Muttha's appeal to Master Trainers and Taluka Coordinators	6
4.7 Experience sharing through ZOOM	6
4.8 Telephonic support to Shikshan Sarathis	6
4.9 Visits to Samaj Vidya Kendras	6
4.10 Revision of online training module	8
4.11 Learnings from initial implementation	8
5. Photo Gallery	9



Background

COVID-19 pandemic disrupted every aspect of life like never before. The pandemic necessitated school closure, which in turn adversely affected school-going children's psychological, mental, physical, social and cultural wellbeing. These effects are not limited to health and wellbeing but also extend to many dimensions of children's lives, their education, safety and poverty. There is also the added risk of children losing interest in education and their subsequent dropout of school.

In India as per UNESCO data, more than 143 million primary school students and 133 million secondary school students have been affected following these closures. Maharashtra, especially, has seen the temporary closure of nearly 98,831 primary schools catering to over 5 million (50 lakhs) children. According to the recent survey undertaken in Maharashtra prior to June 15 by MSCERT (in collaboration with the UNICEF), it has been found that 'only 50 per cent of government school students in classes I to VIII could access digital learning'. This means majority of the children, especially belonging to underprivileged communities studying in Zilla Parishad schools, are severely affected.

Given this background, in order to address this urgent need for the educational engagement of a substantial proportion of children, Bharatiya Jain Sanghatana (BJS) with support from Shantilal Muttha Foundation (SMF) has launched Sahayogi Shikshan Abhiyaan, a community-based programme. In this initiative, communities have started learning centres, namely, Samaj Vidya Kendra and deployed village volunteers (Shikshan Sarathi) to conduct learning activities.



ABOUT BJS AND SMF



SHANTILAL MUTTHA FOUNDATION

Bharatiya Jain Sanghatana (BJS) is a non-political, not-for-profit, secular non governmental organization (NGO) established in 1993 by Shri Shantilal Muttha. BJS has been working in the fields of disaster response, school education and social initiatives leveraging a strong volunteers' network across the country. As a response to all the disasters, BJS focused on sustainable contribution such as providing shelters or building schools and health centres in record time.

Maharashtra has been reeling under successive droughts and thousands of farmers lose their lives every year. In order to mitigate this problem, BJS developed "Sujalam Suphalam : A water resource development programme" to help rural Maharashtra combat drought.

BJS also created models for quality and value education since 2005 and successfully handed over the legacy of work in school education to Shantilal Muttha Foundation (SMF) established by Shri Shantilal Muttha in 2015 to exclusively work on education. Amongst its social initiatives, BJS has strongly progressed with its emotional empowerment programme for adolescent and young girls – "Smart Girl: To be Happy, To be Strong" covering more than 5 lakh girls till date.

SMF, with its programme namely "Mulyavardhan (MV)", has managed to make its presence in all the 67,000 Government primary Zilla Parishad schools in Maharashtra. Maharashtra State Council of Educational Research and Training (MSCERT) has approved MV programme and is implementing MV as their initiative since 2015, with technical support from SMF. Under this programme, MSCERT and SMF together developed 9000 Government resource teachers, who in turn trained 1,95,000 primary teachers on Mulyavardhan concepts and activities. These teachers started conducting these activities in their classrooms with nearly 44 lakh students. In order to provide on-field support to the teachers, SMF deployed a Taluka Coordinator in every Taluka.



Sahayogi Shikshan Abhiyaan

Leveraging on this track record of working with the community, including parents, teachers and students, under the esteemed leadership of Shri Shantilal Muttha, BJS and SMF together have launched a state-wide community-based initiative namely "Sahayogi Shikshan Abhiyaan". Under this initiative, willing parents and the village community together are taking the responsibility of their children's continuity of learning by setting up a "Samaj Vidya Kendra" in their village. The village community constitutes a village task force to oversee "Samaj Vidya Kendra" and identifies 2-3 volunteers namely "Shikshan Sarathi". These Shikshan Sarathis are trained by SMF on the content and pedagogy to conduct learning activities with children at a specified place and time as decided by the community/taskforce. This initiative also ensures close engagement of parents in their children's education.

SMF has developed a relevant curriculum for the purpose and has printed books (Guide book for Shikshan Sarathi and activity book for student). Apart from this SMF has developed and is using a dedicated Mobile App for sharing materials and also for tracking the progress in the learning centres.

3.1 Goal and Objectives of Sahayogi Shikshan Abhiyaan

Goal:

To ensure continued educational engagement of primary school children, affected due to Covid-related school closure, with the help of parents and community members.

Objectives:

- 1) To develop community-level learning environment for constructive engagement of children.
- 2) To increase involvement of the community in the education of primary school children.
- 3) To ensure the social - emotional wellbeing of children

3.2 Present coverage:

The project currently has the following coverage:

District	No. of Blocks	No. of Samaj Vidya Kendras	No. of Boys	No. of Girls	Total
23	44	105	946	958	1904

Note: Awaiting for consent from more villages by early January 2021

Activities conducted during the quarter

The pilot phase of the project was launched on 22nd September by Shri Shantilal Muttha. He addressed 71 past Taluka Coordinators of MV and explained the objectives of the programme and the process to start Samaj Vidya Kendras in their own villages. The following activities were undertaken during the present quarter:

4.1 Content development

Leveraging on the huge experience of developing content for Mulyavardhan programme, SMF developed simple, user-friendly teaching learning materials that can be used with children by educated persons with minimum training.

The content for this project includes the following:

- a. Audio songs, stories and conversations
- b. Some selected Mulyavardhan activities
- c. Few simple activities to promote listening and speaking
- d. Worksheets for Children of classes 3, 4 and 5.

Printed materials along with soft copy of the materials and audios are developed. Soft copies are shared through the App developed for this purpose.

4.2 Identification and orientation of Taluka Coordinators

Nearly 71 Taluka Coordinators who worked in Mulyavardhan programme have been identified and oriented about Sahayogi Shikshan Abhiyaan and the procedure to open Samaj Vidya Kendras in their own villages. Out of 71 Taluka Coordinators, 53 of them came forward to work on a voluntary basis and gave their consent. To gain hands-on experience, SMF asked these Taluka Coordinators to work as Shikshan Sarathi and conduct learning activities for children. They also manage the Samaj Vidya Kendras. Further, they are requested to identify two other potential Shikshan Sarathis who would be trained by SMF Master Trainers. These 53 Taluka Coordinators were supported by 6 SMF Master Trainers and together they managed to mobilise communities and set up nearly 80 Samaj Vidya Kendras during phase I.

4.3 Capacity Building

To build the capacities of Master Trainers, Taluka Coordinator and Shikshan Sarathis, the SMF team developed online training modules which focus on content, pedagogy of Sahayogi Shikshan Abhiyaan and Samaj Vidya Kendra management. Master Trainers, Taluka Coordinator and Shikshan Sarathis from various districts across Maharashtra underwent a two day-training programme (4-5 hours) which strengthened their capacities for further implementation. The participants were also trained on the App i.e. Octopus application which ensures the timely support of the field staff by providing Sahayogi Shikshan Abhiyaan content, mentoring as well as helps in real-time tracking of Samaj Vidya Kendra and programme status.

5 batches of online training were organised on 29th - 30th Sept, 16th - 17th Oct, 30th - 31st Oct, 20th - 21st Nov and 10th - 11th Dec 2020. These have benefited the participants with required knowledge and skill.

Capacity building is a continuous process as every month new Taluka Coordinators and Shikshan Sarathis are joining this initiative voluntarily. Further, based on the field level learnings and experiences, the training modules are being updated and refresher trainings are being conducted for Master Trainers, Taluka Coordinator and Shikshan Sarathis at regular intervals.

4.4 Books printing & distribution

To support Shikshan Sarathis in conducting the activities effectively and to keep the children engaged, SMF has developed Shikshan Sarathi guide book and student activity book. The guide book covers the activities related to Sahayogi Shikshan Abhiyaan curriculum and the training manual.

BJS with support from DAM Capital Advisors Ltd., have printed the Shikshan Sarathi guidebooks and student activity books. Books have reached nearly 1900 children and 100 Shikshan Sarathis.

4.5 Focus Group Discussion

Post online training, the Shikshan Sarathis started working towards setting up of the Samaj Vidya Kendras in their villages. Due to Covid, it was difficult for SMF staff to visit the centres and observe the implementation. To get an insight into possible challenges, the BJS and SMF teams organized a two-day focus group discussion (online) on 7th and 8th October 2020. All the Shikshan Sarathis joined the discussion and shared their experiences on topics such as community's support, initiatives taken by Shikshan Sarathis, children's response, parent's response, content suitability and delivery, resources and mobilization for Samaj Vidya Kendras, pictures and videos documentation and technology application related challenges, etc. The discussion provided an excellent platform to the Shikshan Sarathis to share their challenges and learnings. Also, the discussion enabled BJS and SMF teams to understand the ground reality and support systems required to facilitate the implementation process. The challenges were as follows:

- Some Sarpanches and parents are hesitate in starting Samaj Vidya Kendra due to the risk of Covid 19 spread amongst children and the community
- Not all parents are able to provide sanitizers and masks to their children
- At some locations more than 15-20 children wanted to enroll into Samaj Vidya Kendra. But Shikshan Sarathis are able to accommodate only a limited number of children due to lack of sufficient space considering the social distancing norms.
- Parents want Shikshan Sarathis to teach Mathematics, English and Science.

- Not all Shikshan Sarathis have compatible phones to use Octopus App technology platform.

4.6 Shri Shantilal Muttha's appeal to Master Trainers and Taluka Coordinators

Based on the very positive response from all stakeholders during phase I, it was decided to reach more villages during phase II. As a part of this process, Shri Shantilal Muttha addressed 120 Master Trainers and Taluka Coordinators through ZOOM platform on 17th October 2020. Many participants shared their concerns regarding education of children belonging to their villages and appreciated the programme. The appeal met good success and 71 Taluka Coordinators came forward to join the programme voluntarily.

4.7 Experience sharing through ZOOM

A ZOOM based event was organized on 22nd October 2020 to understand the experiences and challenges of phase I Sahayogi Shikshan Abhiyaan stakeholders. It was a notable event in which 126 participants from villages attended. Parents, Sarpanches, Master Trainers, Taluka Coordinators and Shikshan Sarathis and some senior journalists from different media groups interacted with them. The event provided an opportunity to understand the ground reality as well as how Sahayogi Shikshan Abhiyaan is benefiting the communities. Also, the journalists appreciated the programme and shared their learnings from the event on different platforms such as print and digital media.

4.8 Telephonic support to Shikshan Sarathis

Due to the pandemic, programme management teams were unable to visit Samaj Vidya Kendras and provide on-site support to the Shikshan Sarathis during initial periods i.e. October and November 2020. Hence, Master Trainers and senior team members were assigned to specific Samaj Vidya Kendras who in turn connected telephonically with Shikshan Sarathis on a daily basis and provided required support to keep them motivated.

4.9 Visits to Samaj Vidya Kendras

After travel restrictions were relaxed, in order to understand Samaj Vidya Kendra's functioning, challenges, community involvement and to motivate Shikshan Sarathis to improve their voluntary engagement, the Master Trainers and Programme Management teams visited 20 Samaj Vidya Kendras during 4th Dec to 19th Dec across 6 districts. During the visits the team was able to observe 20 Samaj Vidya Kendras and interacted with 19 Shikshan Sarathis, 29 parents, 12 Sarpanches and 19 students. The

interactions provided an opportunity to understand the Shikshan Sarathis' understanding related to content and pedagogy and parents and community's involvement in Sahayogi Shikshan Abhiyaan.

Key findings are shared below:

➤ **Sarpanch**

- All Sarpanches are satisfied and very happy with the initiative
- They are aware about Samaj Vidya Kendras's benefits and are trying to convey the same to the parents
- They are willing to support Shikshan Sarathis for the smooth functioning of Samaj Vidya Kendra

➤ **Parents**

- All parents who have enrolled their children in Samaj Vidya Kendras, are satisfied with the initiative and happy to send their children regularly
- 32 percent parents visited Samaj Vidya Kendra to observe Shikshan Sarathis
- 70 percent parents feel that the initiative is bridging the educational gap of their children
- 56 percent parents even expressed an interest in paying incentives to Shikshan Sarathis to keep up their motivation

➤ **Shikshan Sarathis**

- 75 percent of Shikshan Sarathis mentioned that they are receiving enough support from Master Trainers and Taluka Coordinators
- 70 percent of Shikshan Sarathis are conducting home visits to interact with parents and motivating them to send their children to Samaj Vidya Kendra regularly.
- 81 percent parents are expecting that school subject should be taught in the Samaj Vidya Kendra
- 85 percent Shikshan Sarathis feel that the Samaj Vidya Kendra curriculum is easy to conduct with children and useful for their development
- 95 percent Shikshan Sarathis realized that they have developed good rapport with the children. 65 percent also observed that parents interact with them respectfully

➤ **Master Trainers and Taluka Coordinators**

- According to Master Trainers and Taluka Coordinators
 - o Shikshan Sarathis require more time to gain classroom management skills
 - o Skills of Shikshan Sarathis to apply pedagogical practices are very limited

- o Incentives like honorarium will increase the involvement of Shikshan Sarathis in the programme and keep them motivated
- o Shikshan Sarathi guide book and student activity books are helping them to conduct the activities effectively
- o Shikshan Sarathi need more handholding which will gradually improve the Samaj Vidya Kendra's functioning
- o Students likes to attend Samaj Vidya Kendras regularly

4.10 Revision of online training module

The physical visits by Master Trainers to 20 Samaj Vidya Kendra's revealed that Shikshan Sarathis who were not from a teaching background, needed more focused and detailed guidance on conducting all components of Samaj Vidya Kendras, pedagogic as well as operational. The online training delivery and content was accordingly revised and made more learner friendly.

4.11 Learnings from initial implementation

- **Refresher training :**
 - Revise the training modules based on observations and experiences and conduct refresher trainings for all Shikshan Sarathis
- **Improving volunteer engagement**
 - **Designing a Training module** for volunteer engagement
 - **Fortnightly online meeting** – to review the center status and efforts to develop Shikshan Sarathi on various aspects and which will help them improve center functioning and their individual development.
- **Scaling up the Programme** – Aim to reach 1000 Samaj Vidya Kendras by end of January 2021
- **Handholding visits** – Conduct regular field visits to support Samaj Vidya Kendras and Shikshan Sarathis

Photo Gallery



Ashti, Beed



Ashti, Beed



Patoda, Beed



Kurkheda, Gadchiroli



Mul, Chandrapur



Karvir, Kolhapur

Shikshan Sarathis engaging the children in various activities
at **SAMAJ VIDYA KENDRAS**



SMF trainer conducting the training on content and pedagogy of **SAHAYOGI SHIKSHAN ABHIYAAN** through Microsoft Teams platform



SMF Trainer facilitating **Focus Group Discussion** with Shikshan Sarathis, Master Trainers and Taluka Coordinators through Microsoft Teams platform

Community involvement



Shikshan Sarathi (Ashti, Beed) distributing masks to the children. The **contribution** was made by the **community** for the safety of their children.



At.po. Dhamanvane, Chiplun, Ratnagiri

SMF Master Trainers and Shikshan Sarathi **interact with parents** to discuss **Samaj Vidya Kendra's functioning**



At.po. Deolgaon, Kurkheda, Gadchiroli

Children are engaged with student activity books



SAMAJ VIDYA KENDRA student Radhika Chafe from Beed expresses **“It feels like I am in school again, I can sing, play, draw, listen to stories and I like being here with my friends”**. Her mother has also expressed her gratitude and was happy to send her child to the Samaj Vidya Kendra.

Shri Shantilal Muttha requested the former Master Trainers and Taluka Coordinators to voluntarily get involve in Sahayogi Shikshan Abhiyaan



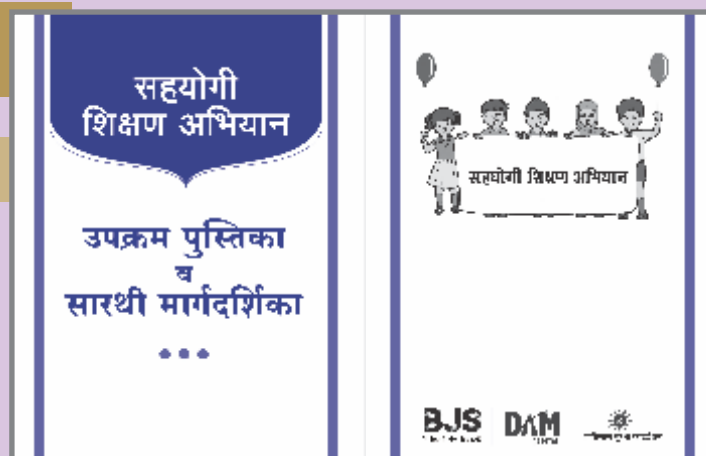
Shri Shantilal Muttha addressed 71 Master Trainers & Taluka Coordinators through Zoom call on 22nd Sept 2020



Shri Shantilal Muttha addressed 120 Master Trainers & Taluka Coordinators through Zoom call on 17th Oct 2020

Teaching learning material

Activity and guide book for Shikshan Sarathi



Activity book for Student

सहयोगी शिक्षण मोहिमेद्वारे पुन्हा भरले वर्ग

पुणे : शांतिलाल मुग्धा फाऊंडेशनच्या 'सहयोगी शिक्षण' द्वारे गावातील समाज विद्या केंद्रांत भरघाला सुरुवात झाली आहे. प्राथमिक स्तरावरील विद्यार्थ्यांकडे ऑनलाईन शिक्षणासाठी तांत्रिक अभाव असल्याचे महाराष्ट्र राज्य शैक्षणिक संशोधन परिषदेने युनिसेफच्या सहकार्याने केलेल्या पाह आले. या परिस्थितीत मुलांना शिक्षण प्रक्रियेत गुं विस्कळीत झालेली शैक्षणिक परिस्थिती पूर्ववत व शांतिलाल मुग्धा फाऊंडेशनने सहयोगी शिक्षण सुरुवात केली आहे. यात सरपंचांच्या सहका समाज विद्या केंद्राची स्थापना केली. १ ऑक्टोबर सहयोगी शिक्षण अभियानाला १६ जिल्हातील २४ प्रायोगिक तत्त्वावर सुरुवात समाज विद्या केंद्रांमध्ये विद्या टप्प्यात २०० केंद्रे सुरु व आठवा घेण्यासाठी झूम कॉट आले होते. यात सहभागी मुल समन्वयक, शिक्षणतज्ज्ञ, साम घेऊन चर्चा केली. हा उपक्रम अशी सूचना सर्वांनी केली. सरपंच विद्या केंद्र उभारण्यासाठी पुढे या आले असून त्यासाठी १७६८०८१९०६८ या क्रमांकावर स

उपक्रम १ ली ते ५ वीच्या विद्यार्थ्यांना मिळणार प्राथमिक शिक्षणाचे घडे 'सहयोगी शिक्षण अभियान' सुरु

कालीन ४०० शैक्षणिक केंद्रांना सुरुवात झाली आहे. यात १०० केंद्रे प्राथमिक स्तरावरील विद्यार्थ्यांसाठी उघडण्यात येतील. यात १०० केंद्रे प्राथमिक स्तरावरील विद्यार्थ्यांसाठी उघडण्यात येतील. यात १०० केंद्रे प्राथमिक स्तरावरील विद्यार्थ्यांसाठी उघडण्यात येतील.



शांतिलाल मुग्धा फाऊंडेशनच्या सहयोगी शिक्षण अभियानात सहभागी विद्यार्थ्यांचा एक चित्र.

अनर्दायी शिक्षणातून विद्यार्थ्यांना शिक्षण

शांतिलाल मुग्धा फाऊंडेशनच्या सहयोगी शिक्षण अभियानात सहभागी विद्यार्थ्यांचा एक चित्र.

शिक्षण मुलांच्या दृष्टी

शांतिलाल मुग्धा फाऊंडेशनच्या सहयोगी शिक्षण अभियानात सहभागी विद्यार्थ्यांचा एक चित्र.

...अन् पुन्हा भरले वर्ग

शांतिलाल मुग्धा फाऊंडेशनच्या सहयोगी शिक्षण अभियानात सहभागी विद्यार्थ्यांचा एक चित्र.

सहयोगी शिक्षण अभियानामुळे ग्रामीण विद्यार्थी मुख्य प्रवाहात!

पुणे, दि. २२ (सोशलमेड) - विद्यार्थी हे देशचे भविष्य आहेत. कोणत्याही देशाचे भविष्य कोणत्याप्रकारे बनते हे त्यांच्या शिक्षणावरून ठरते. शांतिलाल मुग्धा फाऊंडेशनच्या सहयोगी शिक्षण अभियानात सहभागी विद्यार्थ्यांचा एक चित्र.

शांतिलाल मुग्धा फाऊंडेशनच्या सहयोगी शिक्षण अभियानात सहभागी विद्यार्थ्यांचा एक चित्र.

मुग्धा फाऊंडेशन देणार विद्यार्थ्यांना आनंददायी शिक्षण

शांतिलाल मुग्धा फाऊंडेशनच्या सहयोगी शिक्षण अभियानात सहभागी विद्यार्थ्यांचा एक चित्र.

समाज विद्या केंद्राद्वारे विद्यार्थ्यांचे शैक्षणिक वर्ग

पुणे : करुणार संभाजीराजे शास्त्री यांच्या अंतर्गत शांतिलाल मुग्धा फाऊंडेशनच्या सहयोगी शिक्षण अभियानात सहभागी विद्यार्थ्यांचा एक चित्र.

शांतिलाल मुग्धा फाऊंडेशनच्या सहयोगी शिक्षण अभियानात सहभागी विद्यार्थ्यांचा एक चित्र.





Operational Partner



Donor Partner



Technical Partner



SHANTILAL MUTTHA FOUNDATION

📍 Level 8, Muttha Chambers II, Senapati Bapat Road, Pune, Maharashtra 411016

☎ +91 20 6605 0000 +91 20 6605 0191

✉ info@mutthafoundation.org 🌐 www.mutthafoundation.org