



## SHIKSHA Initiative in Action September 2017



### Roshni Nadar's Visit to Sitapur

Roshni Nadar Malhotra, a Trustee of the Shiv Nadar Foundation and Sundararajan Mahalingam, Chief Strategy Officer, Shiv Nadar Foundation visited government primary schools (P.S.), namely P.S. Patara Kala and P.S. Mohanpur on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2017, wherein ICT enabled education has been introduced by the innovative SHIKSHA Initiative. Further, SHIKSHA+ centres of villages Maleli and Fattehpur under the Gram Panchayats of Peernagar and Bamhera, respectively were visited by her, as well. She was pleased to note the extent of involvement of students, teachers and SHIKSHA+ learners in digital content. Further, teachers and instructors conveyed that integrating ICT education in the classroom has also helped in fostering digital literacy. In view of above, their experience and knowledge have been broadened. Further, it not only makes learning relevant, but also eventful.

Moreover, ICT enabled education has significantly improved the attendance rate of the students. The teachers' as well as the instructors' understanding of the digital content was acknowledged by her.

Roshni and other team members present during the visit were pleased to note the progress of learners, who could sign their names instead of putting thumb impression. Moreover, she suggested the female learners to sensitize their husband and get enrolled in SHIKSHA+ centre.

### Trainings

Training and capacity building are an integral part of the effective implementation of SHIKSHA Initiative. Thus, following trainings were organized in August 2017:

- **School Teachers Training:** The objective of the training was to acquaint teachers with SHIKSHA Initiative and with its content and pedagogy, as well as with Shiv Nadar Foundation.
  - o **Private School Teachers Training (August 1-3, 2017):** A 3-day orientation training was organized for 23 teachers of 11 Private School in Kasmanda.
  - o **Government School Teachers Training (August 29-31, 2017):** 19 teachers of 10 schools participated in the 3-day training in Kasmanda.
  - o **Government School Teacher Training at CoE (August 23-25, 2017):** 5 teachers of 2 schools attend the training at SNU, Dadri.
- **Field Supervisor's Training (August 21, 2017):** 1-day workshop was organized in Kasmanda for field supervisors to emphasize the importance of ice-breakers during trainings and during classroom teaching and for the enhancement of their verbal and non-verbal communication skills.
- **SHIKSHA+ Learner's Attributes Enhancement Training (August 23-25, 2017):** Attribute enhancement training of 11 instructors selected in the interview was conducted in CoE. During the training, instructors were observed and given training on basic characteristics i.e. Hygiene, Interpersonal Skills, Communication, etc. Subsequently, 8 learners qualified on the basis of their performance.



### Meeting with Government Officials

A joint meeting was conducted by SHIKSHA team comprising of Resource-Coordinators Deenanath Tripathi, and Sharad Kumar Trivedi with Block Education Officer, Assistant Block Resource Coordinator and Nyaya panchayat Resource Coordinator to discuss logistical issues pertaining to SHIKSHA's ICT enabled classrooms in 47 government schools and 12 private schools. The then present officials were requested to kindly look into the issues and to kindly check the status of teaching-plan during their visits in schools.

### Amitabh Mehrotra's Visit to Kasmanda

On 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2017, Amitabh Mehrotra, the Founder, Chairperson and Director of SPARC India visited Kasmanda. He was keen on understanding how ICT based education has been integrated in schools by SHIKSHA Initiative, as well as how it could be incorporated to empower individuals who are differently abled. He categorically mentioned that technology enabled learning has become an essential element in the area of education and can contribute to universal access to education. He has expressed his interest in collaborating with SHIKSHA Initiative to the effect that he will be sharing a detailed scope of work.

### State Visit Pertaining to HCL Grant 2018

SHIKSHA Initiative supported HCL Grant that aims to achieve sustainable development of rural communities by supporting NGOs, which are doing path-breaking work towards transformation of rural India. In this regard, Al Furqan Shah Khan, Associate Project Manager, SHIKSHA Initiative, got an opportunity to conduct due diligence and paid visit to the organizations that have applied for HCL Grant 2018. He covered 7 states during his tour. During his tour, he visited the following organizations:

- 1- Akshara Foundation- Rural Bangalore
- 2- Nav Bharati Jagriti Kendra- Ranchi and Jharkhand
- 3- Room to Read- New Delhi and Chhattisgarh
- 4- National Institute for Women, Child and Youth Development- Nagpur and Mandla, Madhya Pradesh



### Assessment

SHIKSHA Initiative conducted paper-pencil based assessment in its schools in both Centre of Excellence (CoE) and Kasmada (expansion) *en mass*. In expansion, on the basis of post-test result, augmentation class was conducted by teachers and accordingly post augmentation test was held in the schools.

SHIKSHA Initiative has also initiated another intervention to conduct assessment through technology *aka* Tab Assessment. This initiative will make assessment automated and robust. Currently, it is in the pilot phase.

### SHIKSHA Initiative Data (As on July 31, 2017)

Particulars	CoE	Expansion
No. of District	2	1
No. of Block	2	1
No. of Villages	50	132
No. of Schools	35	61
No. of Students	2271	3575
Student Attendance %	61.79 %	53.17 %
Total Staff	56	34

### SHIKSHA+ Data

**CoE:** 5 centers running in Gautam Buddha Nagar and Bulandshahr with 44 learners

**Expansion:** During the month of August, 8 new batches got started. The total number of enrolled learners is 80.



## Stories from the Field



**Sakshi, Grade 1, Saraswati Gyan Mandir School**  
**Teacher: Divesh Pratap Singh**

Sakshi who was born in 2010, is a grade 1 student of Saraswati Gyan Mandir, lives with her parents in village Bilsuri of Sikandrabad block. Her father works as a daily wage labourer and her mother is a homemaker.

When she had enrolled in SHIKSHA Initiative class, she neither knew Hindi nor had any idea about English alphabets. Moreover, she was diffident and consequently introvert. Thus, a major challenge was to incentivise her to learn and engage her with other children in the class.

Gradually, after attending class regularly, she started enjoying ICT based teaching and fostered confidence through enjoyable learning experiences. She was more responsive and she was able to understand what was taught in the class. Teacher's instructions were well understood and a palpable enthusiasm was observed in her during class-work. She expressed keen interest in her homework as well. Sakshi's attendance considerably improved. She wasn't shy anymore and proactively socialised with other children. Furthermore, she learnt Hindi and English alphabets in the class.

During her journey with SHIKSHA Initiative, a significant transformation was observed in her. Thus, capitalising on the access to education brought about by SHIKSHA Initiative she not only gained the knowledge she would need to succeed in school, but also the confidence she would need to succeed in life.



**Riyaz Bano, SHIKSHA+ Learner, Chholus Centre**  
**Instructor: Priyanka Gahlot**

Riyaz Bano who is 52 years of age lives with her husband in village Chholus of Dadri block. Before her marriage, women in her community were not allowed to go out of the house. They were usually unable to pursue education and end up getting married at a young age. Similarly, Riyaz Bano had no choice but to do the same and forego her interest in studying and get married. After her marriage she moved to Chholus and was engaged with household chores. In 2017, when she learned about SHIKSHA+ literacy centre in her village to impart education to illiterate adults, she asked her husband to get her enrolled. Initially, her husband was not supportive. However, she rationalised that at present she is helping him by only sitting in shop but after the course she will help in managing accounts as well. She took responsibility for her learning and managed her household chores and class efficiently. Earlier it was difficult for her to manage, but she never gave up her determination to become literate. Moreover, at home whenever she gets free time she engages herself in practice. Looking at her dedication, her husband has also started supporting her. As soon as the class is about to commence he asks her to leave for class. Currently, she is a regular learner of the 5<sup>th</sup> Batch of SHIKSHA+ at village Chholus.

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