

Maximising Educational Opportunity for All



The villagers living in Jhadol hamlets were unhappy with the nearest government school because of poor quality teaching and the far distance that their kids had to walk. In collaboration with Seva Mandir, it was decided to start a Bridge School to establish whether it was possible for their children to receive a better education in their own village. Mangilal, a qualified teacher living in the community, was prepared to take on the job.

Mangilal, who grew up in Jhadol hamlets, has a Bachelor's degree in education. Mangilal's teaching philosophy is learning through enjoyment, where children absorb knowledge much faster than in the government school. Mangilal says that he is motivated as a teacher by the children's willingness to learn.

The school building consists of two small rooms with Mangilal moving between groups, giving them assignments in Hindi, Maths, Science and English.



The Bridge School is changing the parents' attitudes towards education. Students are able to skip a grade in government schools when they transition. Some students even skip two grades.

While mostly illiterate, parents are active in ensuring a quality education for their children. They attend parent meetings every two months. At the last meeting, they collected contributions for buying uniforms and lunch boxes for the children.

Mangilal is much loved in the community. He is proud of the confidence he is able to build. One girl who failed a grade in the government school was told by her teacher that she would never amount to anything. Much offended, Mangilal took the girl into the Bridge School where she is now top of her class.

Mangilal attends Seva Mandir training workshops where delegates discuss the issues pupils face, and how to resolve them. In the recent past, he received the 'Best Teacher of the Year Award' from the Udaipur Rotary Club.



Bringing support to life

Sixteen year old Nirmala is today a student in Udaipur. This would never have been possible without her attending a Seva Mandir Bridge School a decade ago. Nirmala was first in her family to receive an education. Nirmala says that reciting poems and telling stories in the bridge school gave her the confidence to do well when she started higher education. When she graduates, she wants to become a teacher.

Following her example, Nirmala's two younger siblings are today themselves enrolled in Jhadol hamlets Bridge School.

