



Basic literacy and numeracy for
young children in slum clusters

***Bringing Hope Where There is
None***

Implementation Partner : Ritinjali

Nathupur Pahari Learning Centre



Nathupur Pahari is a slum in Gurugram inhabited by immigrants who earn their livelihood either by working for construction projects in Gurugram or as domestic help.



Nathupur Centre before Nov 2014



Nathupur Centre after utilization of grant

Ritinjali set up the Nathupur Pahari Learning Centre in 2005

- Operational under a thatched-roof classroom (picture above) built by the community .
- Would shut down during extreme heat, rain, or cold.

During 2014-2015, Hughes grant utilized in building a new semi-permanent Learning Centre

- Concrete boundary wall with metal pillars covered with bamboo to support the roof
- Room partitioned by a 3 feet high wall, separating it into 2 classes
- Tarpal roof
- Blackboards, storage shelves and an almirah to store student work
- Pour Flush-Pit toilet for the teachers and children
- Drinking water facility



(Front entrance with gate & Lock)



(Pit Toilet next to the rear wall of centre)

Result of the *pukka* structure

Attendance of children has improved even during extreme winter conditions

- 70 students enrolled with the centre, ~60 students attend the school regularly from Monday – Saturday.
- Centre divided physically into two halves by a 2 feet wall to segregate students at two levels- Level 1 (Age 3-6) and Level 2 (Age 7-14)



Inside view of the centre after construction

Learning programme

- Two teachers, along with a centre supervisor, plan and implement a learning programme designed for students between the ages of 4-14.
- Children undergo learning programmes which cater to their age group and learning abilities.
- Restructured to emphasise concepts through hands-on activities and practical units.
- Covers a large range of concepts essential for children to gain basic understanding and awareness of their environment and day-to-day activities.
- In addition to regular teaching in literacy and numeracy, writing and reading skills.
- Children given the opportunity to appear for exams equivalent to those for Classes III, V, and VIII, through the Open Basic Education (OBE) Programme
 - OBE a new initiative of the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS).
 - prepare for the OBE examinations by solving mock question papers.

Activities, Workshops

Multiple workshops were conducted for the teachers which expanded their skill sets in teaching-learning practices, conducting activities etc.



Image Theatre Workshop



Jodo Gyan workshop

Image Theatre Workshop

- Inspired the participants to realise their potential in various spheres of life.
- Practical brain-teasing exercises and theatre activities conducted providing an impetus to a state of self-awareness.
- Theatrical frozen images and exercises, helped reinforce techniques of team work, decision-making, balancing one's own strengths and weaknesses etc.
- Served as a medium for teachers to use similar activities with the children at their centres to build and increase awareness on their social skills.

Jodo Gyan workshop

- Objective to make learning of Math fun, and inculcate a love for the subject in students.
- Equipped the teachers with skills to make learning in Mathematics easier and fun for their students.
- Introduced to strategies that could be easily applied in the classrooms, most of which used toys, art, and stories to explain mathematical concepts that students can easily learn and relate to.
- Used basic equipment available at home to teach concepts easily, e.g. counting, decision making etc.

Movement Therapy workshop

- Specially designed to train teachers to help students express their emotion through dance and music.
- Teachers learnt the art of dealing with introvert and submissive children and how to get them to be more involved with classroom activities through integrating units with movements, imagery and dance.

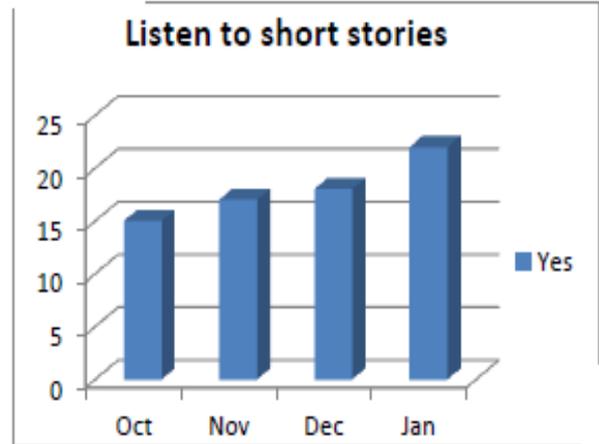
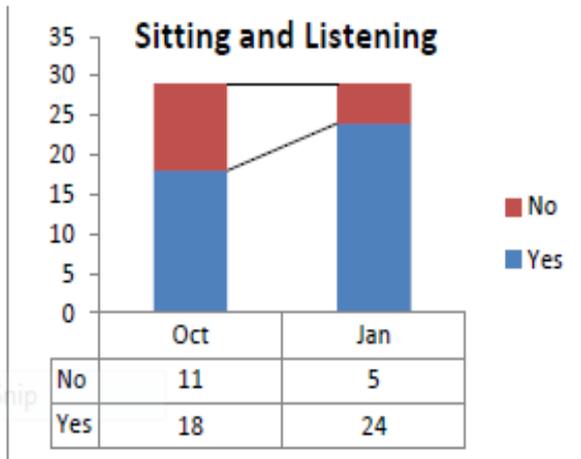
Monitoring and Evaluation

- 29 regular students in Level 1 between the ages 3-7 years.
- Tracked over a 3 month period with a baseline assessment in October 2014 that covered a broad range of indicators.
- Learning Programme focus :
 - on Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing abilities
 - honing skills in understanding shapes, basic mathematics: numbers, time measurement etc.
 - learn about environment including plants and animals, culture, festivals and history.
 - programme integrates a variety of learning techniques like classroom teaching, movies, field trips, and workshops in music, movement and yoga.

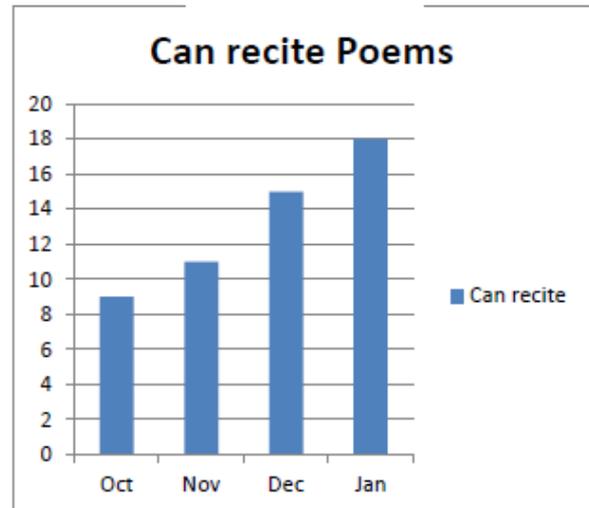
Methodology

- Detailed self-reporting survey form used to track students at Learning Centre.
- Teachers fill out the form each month based on their observation of students.
- A simple yes and no response is recorded across each parameter and the students are tracked both individually and as a group.

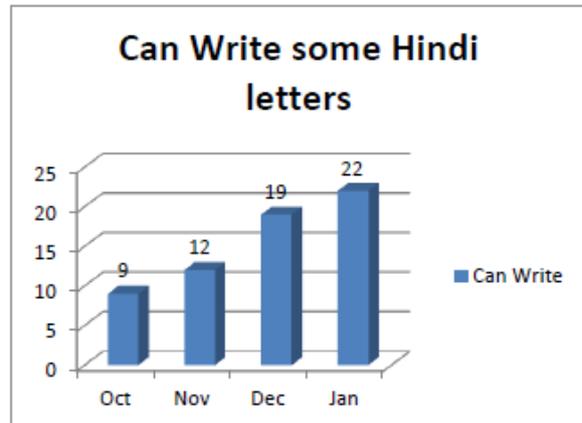
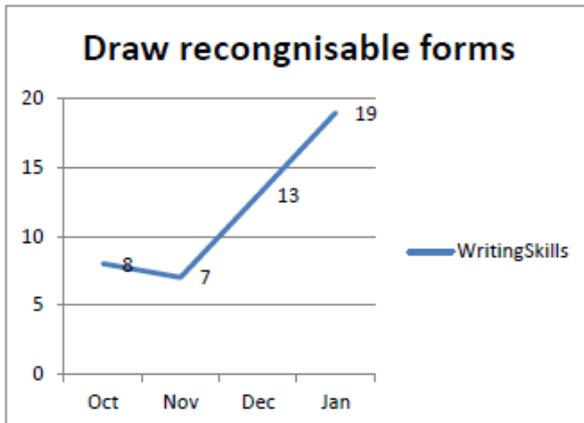
1. Listening Skills are the first step towards understanding of concepts. At the outset, we track whether younger children at our Nathupur Pahari centre have developed the skill to listen attentively.



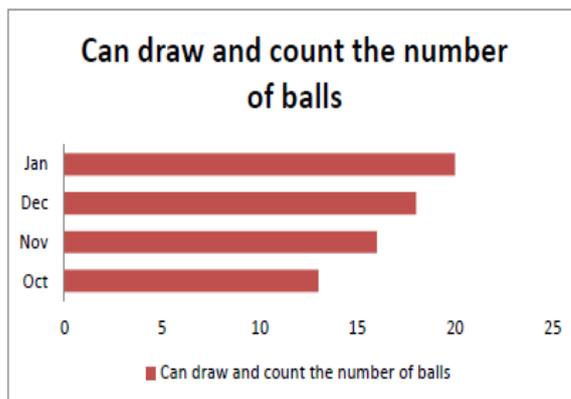
2. Speaking skills start with being able to say your name, wishing and greeting, and then further progressing to sing, rhyme or recite.



3. For Level 1, the students also learn to draw shapes and forms and write in Hindi. In the period that the students were observed, there was more than a 120% increase in the number of children who could draw shapes and write letters in Hindi.



4. Pre- Math and Math Concepts are essential parts of the learning at our centre. Students learn how to read time, count, sort, and also basic mathematical operations. What can be seen is that Maths skills have also shown a tremendous increase from Oct – Jan.



Going forward, the focus will be on further enhancing the centre's functionality and adding elements that will result in the creation of a stimulating learning environment for the children

***Dalil Ekta Learning Centre
(now known as Vasant Kunj Learning Centre)***



Dalil Ekta Camp is a 250 jhuggis slum cluster located behind Vasant Kunj Police Station.

- Ritinjali Learning Centre provided basic numeracy and literacy skills to children in these slum clusters.
- It operated on the sidewalk of the C block road of Vasant Kunj which was nonoperational during extreme weather conditions.

During 2015-16, Hughes grant spent on upgradation of Centre, monthly recurring expenditures and introduction of two new programmes

- Existing structure enlarged and a tin roof added.
- Walls extended, flooring redone to level the ground.
- New furniture procured.
- Books, Stationery, speakers, soft boards, teacher's desk, Folding Tables for children, Almirahs and soft boards procured.
- Centre primarily serves as an after school programme for about 65 children in the slum.
- Centre helps strengthen the children's learning at schools following a basic curriculum on the lines of the curriculum for ages 4-14 yrs.



before the upgrade



after the upgrade



Introduction of two new Programmes :

- The Arts Integrated Programme
- The Reading Programme

Features of the Programme:

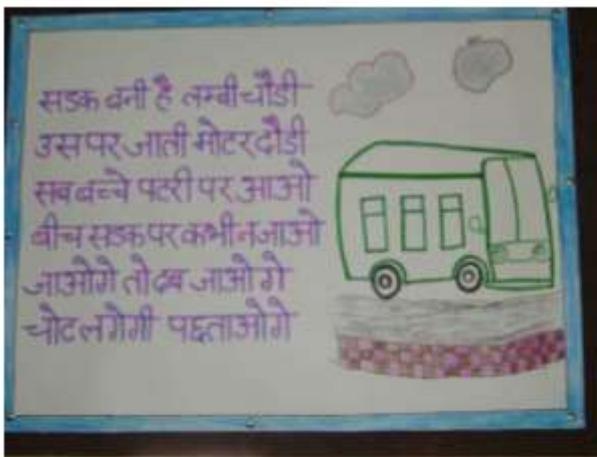
- Differentiated curriculum in numeracy, literacy skills, scientific literacy, communication skills, life skills etc.
- Bridge programs through Open Basic Examination (OBE) and NIOS to mainstream children into formal schools
- Arts Integrated Learning and Reading Programme to enhance learning opportunities
- Community Engagement to extend learning to homes
- Health and Hygiene Awareness and Immunization drives



Children learning through workbooks



Learning about traditional Madhubani Art



Displays at the Vasant Kunj Learning Centre based on units of transport and solar system