

Activity Report

Gyan Shala Middle School Program (Grades 4 - 8)

(December - 2017 to March - 2018)

Submitted to



Gyan Shala
Education Support Organization

Index

	Background	Page No. 3
1	Grade wise number of students covered at various community locations	Page No. 4
2	Attendance summary (December – 2017 to March – 2018)	Page No. 4
3	El exam preparations (grades 3, 5 and 7)	Page No. 5
4	Training of teachers (grades 4 to 8)	Page No. 5
5	NIOS Exam (grade 8)	Page No. 7
6	Cultural Program of Gyanshala Middle School program, grades 4 to 7 (2017-18)	Page No. 7
7	Stories from field	Page No. 8
8	Glimpses of classroom activities	Page No. 10

The report narrates the activities of the Gyan Shala Middle School Program (Grades 4 – 8) supported by SBI foundation for education of underprivileged children.

Background:

Education Support Organization, Ahmedabad runs its flagship program, 'Gyan Shala' for providing good quality education to the underprivileged children since year 2000-01, in urban slums of the city. Gyan Shala model has been developed on four principles, namely, i) good quality; ii) 'socially affordable' cost; iii) working at scale; and iv) replicable.

Having tested and demonstrated successful elementary program, Gyan Shala initiated middle school program for grades 4 – 7 in the year 2006, and further initiated Gyan Shala High School Program for grades 8 -10 in the year 2011 under the provision of open schooling, which enables a flexible duration study program close to the residence of children.

In the last report, we had shared the number of students, Average attendance of students from September to November - 2017, Refresher training of teachers, First semester exam evaluation and stories from the field.

This document provides summary of various activities undertaken by Gyan Shala Middle School program from December 2017 to March 2018. It includes the following:

1. Grade wise number of students covered at various community locations
2. Attendance summary (December – 2017 to March – 2018)
3. El exam preparations
4. Training of teachers
5. Cultural Program of Gyanshala Middle School program (2017-18)
6. Stories from the field
7. Glimpses of classroom activities

1. Grade wise number of children covered at various community locations:

As shared in the last report, following table 1- gives summary of grade wise number of children, including Male and Female children, where number of female children is little higher (53.3%) compared to the number of male children (46.7%). The girl students are more compared to the boys in the Muslim communities.

Grade 4 to 8 (2017 - 18)																		
Name of Zones	Garde - 4			Garde - 5			Garde - 6			Garde - 7			Garde - 8			TOTAL		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Amraivadi	33	33	66	27	30	57	29	23	52	29	43	72	22	20	42	140	149	289
Bombay Hotel	65	72	137	38	51	89	36	39	75	31	35	66	16	26	42	186	223	409
Khodiyarnagar - 1	27	33	60	33	16	49	22	23	45	20	21	41	29	36	65	131	129	260
Khodiyarnagar - 2	30	30	60	27	31	58	18	21	39	14	23	37	NA			89	105	194
Vadaj	25	31	56	20	21	41	23	27	50	23	18	41	14	22	36	105	119	224
Vasna - 1	50	41	91	40	43	83	34	28	62	40	36	76	58	56	114	222	204	426
Vasna - 2	27	52	79	35	33	68	23	32	55	20	38	58	NA			105	155	260
Vatva	50	67	117	39	45	84	24	33	57	21	31	52	4	7	11	138	183	321
Saiyadvadi	44	26	70	NA			NA			NA			NA			44	26	70
Meghaninagar	29	50	79													29	50	79
Chamanpura	27	46	73										16	16	32	43	62	105
Lalbaug	36	42	78										NA			NA		
TOTAL	443	523	966	259	270	529	209	226	435	198	245	443	159	183	342	1268	1447	2715

2. Attendance summary (December - 2017 to March - 2018):

Our children represent the section of the society, who are underprivileged. The parents in most cases are casual labourers, vegetable vendors, lorry drivers, potters and carpenters. Some belong to shepherd community, some are engaged in keeping and rearing animals while some work as domestic help. The parents, especially mothers are not educated up to grade 10 and do not have time to support children in their studies in majority of the cases. The average attendance summary for the period from December 2017 to February 2018 is mentioned in Table 2.

It has been found that the average attendance is in the range of 70 to 75%, which is less by 5% compared to the last report from September – 2017 to November – 2017.

Grade 4 to 8 (Average Attendance in %) December 2017 to March 2018																		
Name of Zones	Grade 4			Grade 5			Grade 6			Grade 7			Grade 8			Cluster wise Avg. Attendance		
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
Amraivadi	75	80	78	79	82	81	85	69	77	81	83	82	84	88	86	81	81	81
Behrampur	68	72	70	71	69	70	80	76	78	70	79	74	68	69	69	71	73	72
Khodiyarnagar - 1	65	62	63	56	64	60	70	49	59	70	66	68	82	76	79	69	63	66
Khodiyarnagar - 2	69	69	69	69	79	74	79	80	79	77	78	77	NA			75	76	75
Vadaj	68	72	70	79	75	77	81	69	75	77	84	81	77	81	79	76	76	76
Vasna - 1	68	69	69	68	71	70	77	68	73	71	81	76	78	79	78	72	74	73
Vasna - 2	74	76	75	75	79	77	81	81	81	73	83	78	NA			76	80	78
Vatva - 1	64	67	65	77	76	77	66	69	67	69	69	69	55	78	66	66	72	69
Vatva - 2	69	70	70	NA									NA			69	70	70
Meghaninagar	63	74	68	NA									NA			63	74	68
Chamanpura	60	59	60	NA									67	78	73	63	69	66
Fatehvadi	68	65	66	NA									NA			68	65	66
Class wise Avg. Attendance	68	70	69	72	75	73	77	70	74	73	78	76	73	78	76	73	74	73

3. Major highlights of the ASSET Test:

Gyanshala always believes in independent, third party assessment to understand learning gained by the students. Organizations like Education Initiatives (EI) and CfBt have been involved in third party assessments. EI conducts ASSET (abbreviation of **A**ssessment of **S**cholastic **S**kills through **E**ducational **T**esting) test for Gyanshala students every year in grades 3, 5 and 7. ASSET is a benchmark test which compares the performance of the students in core subjects like Math and Science. EI also takes the test for first Language competencies other than ASSET. Many students of reputed English medium CBSE schools, coming from upper middle income group families, also take ASSET tests. This test provides comparison of performance of Gyanshala students with the performance of students from other good schools or programs.

In the year 2017-18, Gyanshala conducted the ASSET test for grades 3, 5 and 7. Apart from the ASSET test, Gyan Shala also conducts internal assessment of students twice a year (mid and end term). The results of the end exam and ASSET tests will be presented in our next report.

4. Training of teachers:

At every level, Gyan Shala model has provided an in-built mechanism of training and improving. Design team members are also trained by national level experts for their subjects at various intervals. Major three kinds of trainings are there namely, Core training, Refresher training and regular fortnight training – classroom activities. In fortnight training, teachers share their experiences with fellow teachers as well as design members, give feedback about activities and worksheets and also get trained for the next fortnight content to be covered.

The following table narrates the record of fortnight training from December 2017 to March 2018.

Monthly Training Details (December 2017 to March 2018):

Date	Type of training and grade	Trainer	Subject	No. of Days	Trainees	Materials Used	Time and Place
2 nd December, 2017	Fortnight training (Gr.- 8)	Subject Design team	Math, Science, Gujarati, English, Social Science, Hindi, Sanskrit	1	54	Teacher guides, Worksheets, textbooks	10.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. at Amraivadi
11 th December, 2017	Fortnight training (Gr.- 4 to 7)	Subject Design team	Math, Science, Gujarati, English, Project, Social Science	1	130	Teacher guides, Worksheets, Activity Materials	10.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. at Prabhudas Thakkar College
16 th December, 2017	Fortnight training (Gr.- 8)	Subject Design team	Math, Science, Gujarati, English, Social Science, Hindi, Sanskrit	1	54	Teacher guides, Worksheets, textbooks	10.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. at Amraivadi
23 th December, 2017	Fortnight training (Gr.- 4 to 7)	Subject Design team	Math, Science, Gujarati, English, Project, Social Science	1	130	Teacher guides, Worksheets, Activity Materials	10.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. at Prabhudas Thakkar College
6 th January, 2018	Fortnight training (Gr.- 4 to 7)	Subject Design team	Math, Science, Gujarati, English, Project, Social Science	1	130	Teacher guides, Worksheets, Activity Materials	10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. at Prabhudas Thakkar College
13 th January, 2018	Fortnight training (Gr.- 8)	Subject Design team	Math, Science, Gujarati, English, Social Science, Hindi, Sanskrit	1	54	Teacher guides, Worksheets, textbooks	10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. at Prabhudas Thakkar College
19 th January, 2018	Fortnight training (Gr.- 4 to 7)	Subject Design team	Math, Science, Gujarati, English, Project, Social	1	130	Teacher guides, Worksheets, Activity	10.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. at

			Science			Materials	Prabhudas Thakkar College
27 th January, 2018	Fortnight training (Gr.- 8)	Subject Design team	Math, Science, Gujarati, English, Social Science, Hindi, Sanskrit	1	54	Teacher guides, Worksheets, textbooks	10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. at Prabhudas Thakkar College
3 rd February, 2018	Fortnight training (Gr.- 4 to 7)	Subject Design team	Math, Science, Gujarati, English, Project, Social Science	1	130	Teacher guides, Worksheets, Activity Materials	10.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. at Prabhudas Thakkar College
17 th February, 2018	Fortnight training (Gr.- 4 to 7)	Subject Design team	Math, Science, Gujarati, English, Project, Social Science	1	130	Teacher guides, Worksheets, Activity Materials	10.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. at Prabhudas Thakkar College
1 st March, 2018	Fortnight training (Gr.- 4 to 7)	Subject Design team	Math, Science, Gujarati, English, Project, Social Science	1	130	Teacher guides, Worksheets, Activity Materials	10.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. at Prabhudas Thakkar College
3 rd March, 2018	Fortnight training (Gr.- 8)	Subject Design team	Math, Science, Gujarati, English, Social Science, Hindi, Sanskrit	1	54	Teacher guides, Worksheets, textbooks	10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. at Pravinnagar, Vasna
17 th March, 2018	Fortnight training (Gr.- 4 to 7)	Subject Design team	Math, Science, Gujarati, English, Project, Social Science	1	130	Teacher guides, Worksheets, Activity Materials	10.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. at Pravinnagar, Vasna

5. National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) exam:

As per RTE norms, children are being mainstreamed up to grade 8 into either government schools or recognized private schools without any hindrance. After completion of Grade 8, as RTE norms are not applicable for secondary education, Gyanshala had applied for National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) accreditation. In 2013, Gyanshala has been declared as accreditation agency under NIOS. So the children here take the test of NIOS for level C equivalent to grade 8 exam. After having this certificate, children do not have any problem in getting admission in grade 9. NIOS accreditation certificate has solved purpose of mainstreaming even after grade 8.

Result of the NIOS exam for the year 2017-18 is to be declared and will be presented in our next report.

6. Cultural Program of Gyanshala Middle School program (2017-18)

Cultural event is hosted by the students and the staff of Gyanshala in all communities every year. The purpose of this program is to build confidence as well as inner capability of the students to face the audience and to bring out the best in them. Age appropriate activities are planned like Action songs, Social theme based dramas, folk dances and Elocution competition. Our field staff takes care of all the planning and manages to execute this program effectively.



This year also in the month of January, it was held in all communities at different intervals. Our field staff as well as teachers organized the program keeping in mind all the minute details like making announcements in the communities, arranging the sound system, gathering all essential commodities and managing all the performances as well as the audience.

Cultural activities like 'Tiranga song' (English rhyme) with action in standard 4; 'Yeh taara wo taara' group song with action in standard 5; introductory speech on the topic 'Importance of trees in our life' in standard 6 and drama on the topic 'Swachha Bharat' in standard 7 were performed amazingly by the students of Gyanshala.

On the whole, students practiced well for all performances along with their studies. Teachers' contribution in preparing their students for the performances cannot be overlooked. Everyone tried their best to make the event a successful one.

8. Stories from the field:

In this section, we are sharing background and aspirations of few of our students. As mentioned earlier, our students' parents are either casual laborers, vegetable vendors, auto rickshaw drivers, lorry-pullers, housemaids, etc. Although coming from lower-middle income group families, our students are full of hopes for their lives. While interacting with few of them, they have shared their aspirations.

	<p>Mahesh Vanzara</p> <p>He is a student of grade 6, son of Mehrubhai Vanzara, a truck driver by profession. Among his siblings, Kavita is the youngest studying in grade 4 in Gyanshala, Nikita is in grade 7 at present and Nitesh the eldest of all has already cleared his 10th and is now studying in college. Mahesh is good at math. He says, "After completing 10th from Gyanshala I will join college and select commerce as my subject and later on I will start my own business."</p>
	<p>Neha Prajapati</p> <p>She is a bright student of grade 7. Her father, Chandrashekhar Prajapati is engaged in ice delivery business. His job is to deliver ice on his cart as per the demand of his customers. Neha's brother Deep is also a student of Gyanshala. He is in grade 6. Neha says, "I like Gyanshala because the teaching is good here. My parents also feel tension free as the school is nearby. I like science subject and I aim to become a doctor in near future."</p>



Shubham Vaghela

He joined Gyanshala in grade 1 and at present he is studying in grade 8. His father Chandubhai Vaghela died six years back. Since then his mother Kailash ben Vaghela is bearing the expenses of the whole family. The mother works as a domestic help and earns a lump sum of 5000/- only per month. She manages her other two children, Karan presently studying in grade 10 in Gyanshala and Priya an ex-student of Gyanshala, at present in 11th commerce at Prashant School. Shubham says, "I like Social Science and Maths. They are my favourite subjects. After 10th I will complete my graduation with commerce as my subject."

8. Glimpses of classroom activities in the form of pictures:

I. Whole class teaching:





II. Independent work and Group Discussion:



III. Cultural Program Activities:





IV. Teacher Trainings:



V. Interaction of teachers and students with visitors:

