IMPACT STORIES FORMAT

Story Title	Hard Work is the Key to Success: The Journey of Shyamlal Meena
Date	28/09/2024
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Name of partner Organization	Gayatri Seva Sansthan
Name of Daksha/Daksh	Shyamlal Meena
Name of SKB centre	Singodiyafala Centre
Cluster	Satola Cluster
Block	Chotisadri Block
District	Pratapgarh, Rajasthan

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT:

Shyamlal Meena, a 37-year-old man from Pratapgarh district in Rajasthan, is a shining example of how hard work and dedication can transform lives. Living with his wife Sanjana Devi Meena, who is also a Daksha at the SKB 'Patelfalfala' center, and their two children, Shyamlal faced significant financial hardships. Before joining the Sakhiyon Ki Badi (SKB) Program in 2017, Shyamlal worked as a security guard in Udaipur. His family's economic condition was dire, and he yearned for an opportunity to improve their circumstances. That opportunity came through SKB.

In August 2017, Shyamlal opened the Singodiyafala center in Harmara ki rail village of Chotisadri block, enrolling 30 children after conducting a baseline survey. Most of these children were out of school, dropouts, or had never been enrolled in formal education.

CHALLENGES FACED:

The initial challenge for Shyamlal was balancing his personal ambitions with the responsibility of teaching children from diverse backgrounds. Many of the children had never been exposed to formal education, making it challenging to engage them in traditional learning. Moreover, his family was still struggling financially, which added pressure on him to succeed in his new role as a Daksh.

INTERVENTION/ACTIVITIES:

Despite these challenges, Shyamlal's commitment to his students was unwavering. Over the next two years, he transformed the Singodiyafala center into a thriving learning environment where 50-60 children regularly attended, far exceeding the initial enrollment target of 30. He taught Hindi, English, and Mathematics in creative ways, using stories, poems, gestures, and games to make learning enjoyable. His innovative teaching methods were highly appreciated by the children, who responded with enthusiasm.

In just two months, Shyamlal's work caught the attention of the IIFL Foundation's Sahil ji and Gayatri Seva Sansthan's Director, Dr. Shailendra Pandya. They visited his center and were impressed by its vibrant learning atmosphere, complete with Teaching Learning Materials (TLMs) and decorations. They recognized Shyamlal's potential and encouraged him to aim higher, predicting that he would one day become a supervisor.

OUTCOMES:

True to their words, Shyamlal's hard work paid off. After two years of dedicated service at Singodiyafala center, he was promoted to Cluster Head in 2019, overseeing 13 centers in the Satola cluster. As Cluster Head, Shyamlal worked tirelessly, monitoring the centers, organizing cluster meetings, and engaging with parents and the community. His rapport with PRIs (Panchayati Raj Institutions), government officials, and community members strengthened, and he became a respected figure in the cluster.

In 2021, Shyamlal's dedication was rewarded once again when he was selected as the Block Head of Chotisadri Block, overseeing 50 centers. Today, Shyamlal is well known in the community, having built strong relationships with local stakeholders and established a reputation as a dedicated leader. His work as Block Head has further solidified his standing in the region, where he has participated in 19 training programs and even served as a resource trainer for Daksha training in Pratapgarh.

IMPACT ON FAMILY AND COMMUNITY:

Shyamlal's success has not only improved his own family's financial stability but has also made him a source of pride for his community. His journey from a security guard to a Block Head is an inspiration to many, and his story highlights the transformative power of education and hard work. His wife, Sanjana Devi, continues to support him, and their family is now in a much better financial position. The community members are proud of Shyamlal's achievements, and many look up to him as a role model.

Shyamlal credits Gayatri Seva Sansthan and the IIFL Foundation for their support and for inspiring him to pursue his dreams. He remains passionate about his work, continuously striving to make a difference in the lives of the children and families in his block. Through his perseverance and commitment, Shyamlal has become a symbol of hope and success for his village and beyond.

GOOD QUALITY IMAGE: - 3-4 IMAGES (Attach below)





