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MODEL ANGANWADI PROGRAM
ANNUAL REPORT
2023-2024

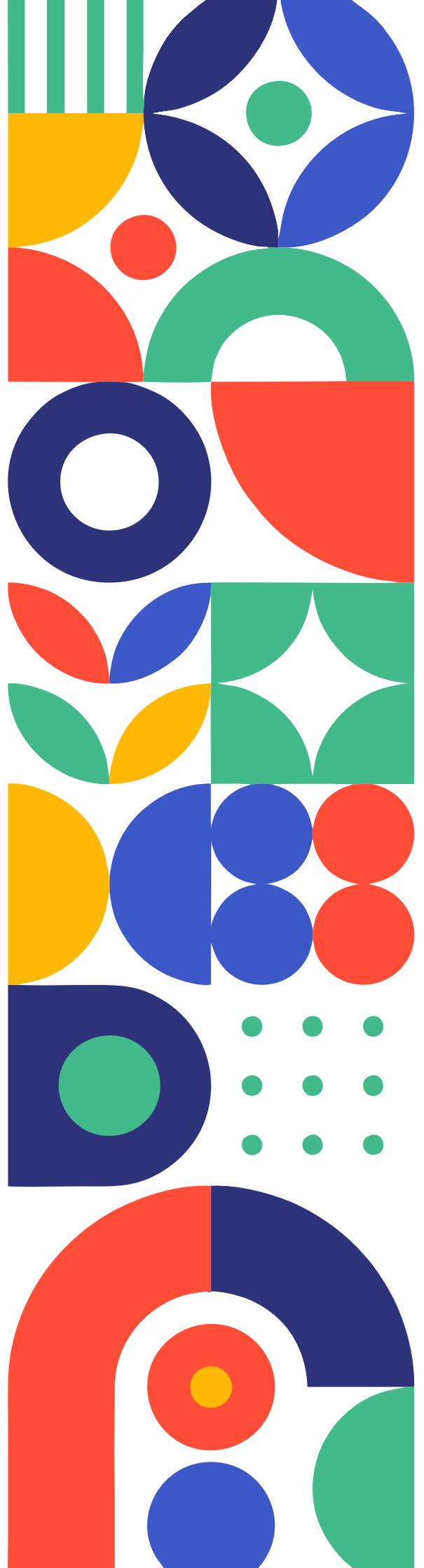


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THE KALMESHWAR CHAPTER



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The Kalmeshwar Chapter 2023-2024



Summary

Navnirmithi Eduquality Foundation's (NEF) initiatives in the municipality of Kalmeshwar in Nagpur, Maharashtra began in 2018 and have weathered the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic. Today, Kalmeshwar serves as the best example of NEF's extensive efforts to bring fundamental improvements to Anganwadi (AW) schools across the Taluka region. NEF's ability to partner with the Anganwadi Workers (AWW) and engage parents of Anganwadi students shows the organisation's success as a provider of and advocate for quality Early Childhood Education (ECE) in Kalmeshwar. 104 Model Anganwadis have been set up between 2018 and 2024 of which 76 Anganwadi Centres are ISO-certified. Community engagement has been prioritised to ensure that parents of AW students, Gram Panchayats, and respective personnel of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), work



harmoniously to create a holistic learning environment for the children. The Palak Sabha initiatives conducted in July 2023 and January 2024 are examples of NEF's efforts towards this goal.

2018	Phase 1	18 AWCs
2021	Phase 2	40 AWCs
2022	Phase 3	20 AWCs
2023	Phase 4	26 AWCs

Activities in Kalmeshwar 2023-2024

A. Classroom Observation and Demonstration:

The objective of these visits was to assess the performance of relevant AWs. This involved observing the pre-classroom preparations made by Sevikas before beginning a class, demonstrating certain activities to conduct classes more efficiently and organising the study materials in the classroom in a manner that aligns with the requirements of the curriculum. Evaluations of classroom activities in 20 AWs in August 2023, reported that Sevikas had a sound understanding of using the Teaching Learning Modules (TLM).



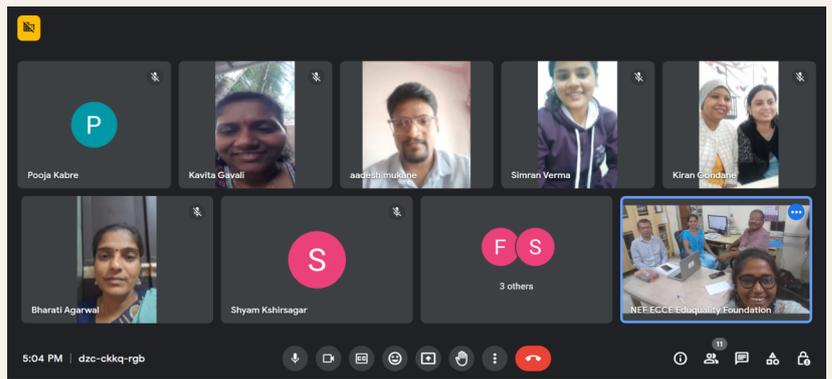
B. Anganwadi Workers' Workshop:

A review visit was conducted in May to observe the extent to which the Helpers have understood the approach and goals of the Model Anganwadi Program. NEF team members also assessed how effectively the workshop's methods were retained and incorporated into the classroom by the Helpers. A total of 18 days of capacity-building training sessions were conducted in 2023 with the Anganwadi sevikas for 86 sevikas and 6 days of training for 86 helpers.





C. Team Capacity Building Programs (4 meetings): May 2023, Mumbai: Mumbai: Training of the location team. December 2023, Mumbai: Training of the location team (online). The two-day long training in May 2023 in Mumbai was organised to provide training in theme-based planning. Team Capacity Building-related activities included demonstrations explaining the use of TLM kits to team members internally and to AWWs.



D. Selection of new 46 AWCs & Setup: A Need Assessment survey was conducted by NEF's team members in Kalmeshwar in June 2023 to verify the status of classroom infrastructure, and the



condition of TLM kits. Inputs on classroom conditions and the awareness of AWWs regarding the ECE curriculum were gathered from Sevikas through assessment forms. A similar assessment was performed in Phase 4 of the Kalmeshwar project in 26 AWCs in October 2023. Visits for the shortlisting of AWCs are conducted to identify those AWCs which require attention. In this process, we observed the infrastructure and premises. We also collected the basic information about the strength of children aged 3-6 years, Sevikas name, helper name their contact details.

E. Stakeholder Engagement:

- In August 2023, NEF's Kalmeshwar team visited the Panchayat Samiti office and met with the CDPO.
- Mr. Harshwardhan Navathe COO of the JSW Foundation inaugurated the Model Anganwadi of Nagar Parishad 2 and

interacted with other stakeholders such as the CDPO, Sevikas and helpers.

F. Anganwadi Visit for Student Assessment and Monitoring:

In 2023, Assessment and Monitoring visits were conducted a total of three times across approximately 80 AWCs. The children and Sevikas of 20 AWCs were assessed on their respective understanding of the usage of the TLM kits. In 11 out of 40 AWCs visited in October 2023, teachers reportedly used innovative ways to teach students using improvised TLMs

A total of four material distribution and setup-related visits were conducted in 2023-2024 covering approximately 46 AWCs. These visits involved teaching AWWs the importance of the different components of the classroom such as different study materials, unboxing, storage and organisation of study materials.



Highlights and Challenges

- a. Jatrangan 2024, Kalmeshwar:** NEF organised the Jatrangan education fair as a platform for increasing awareness of NEF's Model Anganwadi Program and the ECE curriculum. The Jatrangan was a two-day celebration of the progress of the Model Anganwadi Program, attended by 600 students and 220 parents from across 86 AWCs.
- The fair was inaugurated by dignitaries such as Block Development Officer, Anshuja Gharate, Mr Rajesh Jain, Plant Head of JSW Steel Coated Products, Kalmeshawr.
 - The dignitaries distributed ISO certificates to 26 Anganwadi centres.
 - A total of 132 Sevikas and 120 Helpers from their respective AWCs participated in the event. 12 stalls were set up to receive the participants of the event and explain to them the nuances of NEF's unconventional approach to learning and education.
 - 60 AW Sevikas and 40 students led the event as presenters.
 - The fair concluded with cultural events where pproximately 150 students and 120 Sevikas engaged the audience with 30 artistic performances.



b. Parents' Meeting (Palak Sabha): NEF recognises parents of AW students as stakeholders who play a critical role in incorporating key learning methods within the daily routine of the child. Parental support and synchronisation with teaching methods used in the classroom have the potential to create an inclusive learning environment. Parents can also be taught to improvise resources that are easily available at home and devise teaching methods that engage the child and enable application-oriented learning.

- The first Palak Sabha conducted in 21 AWs in June 2023, yielded reassuringly positive responses from the parents. This initiative served as a platform to introduce parents to our unconventional teaching methods.
- Observations by the team members in Kalmeshwar suggest that initiatives like Palak Sabha are likely to reduce dropouts and increase/retain the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in AWs.



Testimonials from Kalmeshwar

NEF's unconventional teaching methods and the TLM kits have been the features of the Model Anganwadi Program that have garnered the praise of children. Classrooms under the program are designed to make space for learning to be fun, and devoid of anxiety or monotony. An example of the enthusiasm created by the program among children is the story of a 4-year-old student by the name of Harsh. Harsh began attending the Anganwadi once NEF's work in his village, Gondkhairi was beginning to be noticed. Over multiple classes at the AWC, he picked up a liking for the games and puzzles on display in the classroom. The TLM kits not only engaged Harsh's curiosity but sustained his enthusiasm for learning in the Anganwadi environment. Harsh's excitement to attend classes at the Anganwadi every day, explains the rise in classroom attendance since the beginning of NEF's work in Gondkhairi.

Harsh and his classmates are not the only admirers of the Model Anganwadi Program. Pradeep Mahadevrao Chankapure, the Upsarpanch of the Ghumthada Gram Panchayat, is convinced that JSW and NEF have played a vital role in creating awareness among his citizens about health and hygiene. According to the Upsarpanch, NEF's work in his village reiterated the importance of the Anganwadi Sevika as an educator. NEF's training workshops weren't only helpful for making children better learners but also enabled the Sevikas to become better teachers. He was most impressed by the application of the TLM kits and related study materials which contributed to an increase in the enrollment rates of the Anganwadi.



The following table highlights the KPIs achieved by NEF's intervention in Kalmeshwar

LIST OF ACTIVITIES	LIST OF ACTIVITIES	TARGET	STATUS
Need Survey (Phase 3 - 26 AWCs)	26 AWCs	Selection of 26 AWCs from 132 AWCs	Completed
Baseline Assessment (Phase 3- 26 AWCs)	26 Sevikas	26	Completed
Model Anganwadi Centre set up (Phase 2 - 20 AWCs)	46 AWCs	46	Completed
Capacity Building Training of Anganwadi Sevika (Phase 3 - 26 AWCs)	26 AWW Sevika	3 sessions of 6 days	Completed
Capacity Building Training of Anganwadi Helpers (Phase 3 - 26 AWCs)	26 AWW Helper	1 session of 2 days	Completed
Capacity Building Training of Anganwadi Sevika (Phase 2 - 20 AWCs)	20 AWW Sevika	3 sessions of 6 days	Completed
Capacity Building Training of Anganwadi Helpers (Phase 2 - 20 AWCs)	20 AWW Helper	1 session of 2 days	1 session of 1 day
Capacity Building Training of Anganwadi Sevika (Phase 1 - 40 AWCs)	40 AWW Sevika	3 sessions of 6 days	Completed
Capacity Building Training of Project Team	4 days	4 days	Completed
Children's workbooks (3010)	Part 1 - 20 & 26 AWCs Part 2 - 40, 20 & 26 AWCs	Part 1 - 20 & 26 AWCs Part 2 - 40, 20 & 26 AWCs	Completed
Anganwadi Educational Fair	2 days	2 days	Completed
Endline Assessment (Phase 1 - 40 AWCs)	40 AWCs	40 AWCs	Completed

THE PALGHAR CHAPTER



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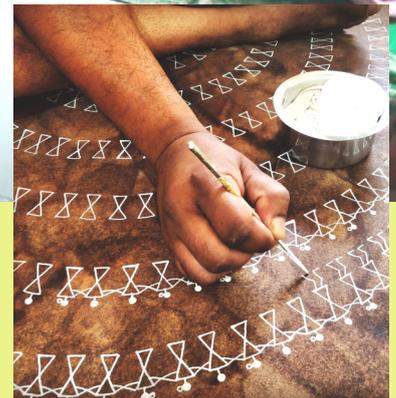
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The Palghar Chapter

Jawhar & Boisar

2023-2024



Summary

This chapter reports on the activities conducted in 30 Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) Anganwadis of Palghar district of Maharashtra between October 2023 and March 2024. Of the aforementioned Anganwadis, 20 are in Jawhar and 10 in Boisar. The three organizations collaborating on this project are the office of the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), the JSW Foundation and the Navnirmithi Eduquality Foundation (NEF). The project has been sanctioned by the Palghar Zilla Parishad for a period of three years from October 2023 to March 2027.

Activities in Palghar 2023-2024

A. Repainting of Anganwadis

ACTIVITY	PLANNED	ACHIEVED
Anganwadis covered	30	30

The JSW Foundation commenced the Model Anganwadi Program with the repainting of 30 Anganwadis in Jawhar in October 2023, and in Boisar in February 2024.

The paintwork complied with international standards as is evident from the following images.



B. Anganwadi Survey

Survey Visit to shortlist 30 AWCs: Jawhar and Boisar : Multiple Need Surveys and Baseline Studies to assess Anganwadi Sevikas and the status of AWCs were conducted in Jawhar and Boisar, as highlighted in the table below. The NEF team members recorded observations on the infrastructure and the state of the Anganwadi premises. Basic information such as the number of children in the 3-6 age group, contact details of Sevikas and Helpers, educational backgrounds of the Sevikas, and their awareness of teaching methods in the ECE curriculum.

ANGANWADI SURVEY MONTH	JAWHAR (PLANNED/ACHIEVED)	BOISAR (PLANNED/ACHIEVED)
October	22/22	NA
November	7/7	10/10

In October 2023, NEF's team in Palghar visited 22 of the shortlisted Anganwadis in Jawhar to propose the Model Anganwadi Program. Similarly, in November 2023, the team members visited 10 Anganwadis in Boisar for shortlisting for the program. Following these visits, NEF added seven new AWCs in Jawhar to the program. Need Surveys and Sevika Baseline Assessments were successfully conducted at the aforementioned AWCs in Jawhar. A total of 39 Anganwadi location visits and surveys were completed between October and November 2023.



The following table lists the 30 AWCs shortlisted for the Model Anganwadi Project in Palghar.

JAWHAR

No.	AWC	No.	AWC
1	Borale	11	Kundachapada 2
2	Jambulvhir west	12	Sarsun
3	Kalidhond	13	Vanganpada
4	Kaprichapada	14	Balkapra
5	Kelichapada	15	Bhorhatti 2
6	Khadadipada	16	Dhanoshi
7	Khadkhad	17	Doharepada
8	Khumbharkhand	18	Karolpada
9	Kogde	19	Katkaripada Mohacha
10	Kokanpada	20	Walvande

BOISAR

No.	AWC	No.	AWC
1	Katkarpada	6	Navapur
2	Dandipada	7	Kurgaon
3	Saravali	8	Patilpada
4	Aagwan	9	Shivaji Nagar 1
5	Palm	10	Kolawade

Need Surveys and Baseline Training Workshops: The training covered the introduction of Anganwadi Sevikas with the JSW Foundation's initiative that is aimed at transforming ill-equipped Anganwadi Centres into a Model Anganwadi Centres. The training also briefed team members on the importance of maintaining etiquette while interacting with Sevikas. Team members developed a deeper understanding of the usage of questionnaires, procedures for infrastructure assessment, and techniques to interview Sevikas and assess their awareness of the teaching methods of the Early Childhood Education (ECE) curriculum. The training also focused on teaching members how to politely and patiently interact with AW children during surveys and baseline studies focused on the students. Such interactions involved the use of rapport-building and icebreaker exercises. Training sessions for Project Team Members were conducted both online and offline. These specifically focused on demonstrations highlighting the relevance and usage of Teaching Learning Module kits, and logistical and operational planning for respective AWCs. Team building exercises to enable project team members to function efficiently in the field were also a component of these workshops. NEF's Palghar team met its target of conducting 39 visits for need surveys and baseline training workshops in 2023-2024.





C. Meeting with Stakeholders (ICDS):

- **Meeting with CDPO and Supervisor at Jawhar ICDS Project Office:** NEF Central Team led by Jyoti Francis (Director & CEO) made its first formal visit to the ICDS office, Jawhar location on September 14, 2023.
- **Meeting with CEO, Zilla Parishad (Palghar):** On November 29, 2023, the NEF's Central Team visited the Zilla Parishad Office in Palghar for an appointment with Mr Pravin Bhavsar, Deputy Chief Executive Officer (DpCEO) of the Women and Child Development Department.
- **Permission Letter obtained from CEO's Office, Zilla Parishad:** The NEF's Palghar team successfully received the official project authorisation letter from the CEO's Office, of the Palghar Zilla Parishad.
- **Meeting with CDPO:** On April 2023, the Project Co-Ordinator had a meeting with Mrs Vaishali Dhangada, CDPO, Boisar Block, Palghar-District. A copy of the permission letter from Zilla Parishad was also handed over to the CDPO by the NEF team. A short briefing about the program was conducted with the CDPO.
- **Meeting At ICDS:** The NEF team met at ICDS with the supervisor, Mr. Santosh Mahajan on February 1, 2024, and briefed him about the program. NEF coordinators met with the CDPO, Mr Yogesh Yende, in Jawhar. They gave a small introduction about the project and updated him on the training sessions for the Sevikas.

D. Capacity Building Training of the Location Team: In February, offline and online training meetings were planned for the location teams to gain a deeper understanding of the program. The training workshops focused on the following topics:

- Model Anganwadi Orientation
- Planning of Model Anganwadis setups.
- Orientation on the importance of Teaching-Learning Materials (TLMs)
- Orientation on relevant tools for analysis in the field.

I. Sevika Training at Jawhar

- On February 16 and 17, 2024 training sessions were conducted for 21 Sevikas in Jawhar. The training was conducted by NEF's team from Mumbai. In the training workshop, the topics covered were Free Play, Picture Story, Hand Puppet Story, Songs, Story etc.

II. Sevika Training at Boisar

- On March 5 and February 6, 2024 eight Sevika's in Boisar were trained in using games and other creative learning methods by the NEF's team from Mumbai. The topics covered were, Free Play, Picture Story, Hand Puppet Story, Songs, and Story Telling.
- TLM Demonstrations were also given to Sevikas by the NEF team.

E. Anganwadi Set up

- **Model Anganwadi Setup in Jawhar:**
Model Anganwadi Setup at Jawhar Block has been completed in all 20 Anganwadis.
- **Model Anganwadi Setup at Boisar Block :**
Model Anganwadi Setup in Boisar has been safely completed in nine Anganwadis.

SR. NO	DATE	ANGANWADI NAME	SR. NO	DATE	ANGANWADI NAME
1	29-02-2024	Shivajinagar	6	02-03-2024	Katkarpada
2	01-03-2024	Pam	7	09-03-2024	Saravli
3	01-03-2024	Navapur	8	09-03-2024	Aagwam
4	02-03-2024	Kurgaov	9	28-03-2024	Dandipada
5	02-03-2024	Patilpada	10		Kolwade





F. Visits to Anganwadis for Classroom Observations: The NEF Location Team (Field Coordinator) has visited Anganwadi Centres to conduct classroom observations. The goal of the Anganwadi visit was to observe classroom hygiene, Sevikas' interactions with children, and the teaching methods being used by Sevikas to build foundational literacy and numeracy for the children's Holistic Development. The classroom observations influence the NEF's design of the Model Anganwadi Project training curriculum.



ANGANWADI NAME	FEBRUARY (P/A)	MARCH (P/A)	ANGANWADI NAME	FEBRUARY (P/A)	MARCH (P/A)
Borale	-	3	Doharepada	-	1
Jambulvhir west	1	3	Karolpada	1	2
Kalidhond	1	2	Katkaripada Mohacha		2
Kaprichapada	1	2	Walvande		2
Kelichapada	1	2	Shivajinagar	1	2
Khadadipada	1	2	PamNavapur	1	2
Khadkhad	-	2	Kurgaov	1	2
Khumbharkhand	1	2	Patilpada	1	2
Kogde	1	2	Katkarpada	1	2
Kokanpada	-	3	Saravli	1	2
Kundachapada 2	1	2	Aagwam	1	2
Sarsun	1	2	Dandipada	1	2
Vanganpada	1	2	Kolwade	1	2
Balkapra	1	2			2
Bhorhatti 2	-	2	Total Anganwadi Centre Visit	30 / 22	60 / 62
Dhanoshi	1	2			

Highlights and Challenges:

a. Introduction to TLM kits and the ECE curriculum: Awareness of the ECE curriculum and the usage of TLM kits was lacking among the Sevikas. Given the absence of the necessary infrastructure to operate classrooms as per the provisions of the ECE curriculum, multiple AWCs in Palghar merely operated as centres for midday meal distribution and the provision of polio vaccine doses. NEF first responded to this situation by repainting AWCs with thematic painting focused on correcting the ambience of the classrooms. Further, TLM kits were introduced to the AWCs which were never before brought into the classrooms with the objective of creative learning. These initiatives boosted attendance in the AWCs and led to the involvement of the AWWs becoming more consistent.

b. Facilitation classes for Sevikas: Before NEF's intervention, clarity about the features of the ECE curriculum, relevance of organizing study materials in the classroom, and the use of TLM kits were limited. This was addressed by NEF teaching Sevikas to efficiently organise study materials in the classroom and maintain operational discipline. NEF members often enacted the teaching methods in the AWCs to orient Sevikas to the necessary style and approach to teaching the curriculum. This involvement by NEF members increased classroom attendance and students

were reported to enthusiastically participate in the classroom. Parents of AWC students were recorded as feeling optimistic about the upgrades to the classrooms.

c. Linguistic Gap: Given that the language of instruction in the AWCs is Marathi, NEF team members have discovered a language barrier between students and Sevikas. Many students in the Boisar and Jawhar areas speak in tribal dialects thereby creating a language barrier. NEF is in the process of preparing measures to train Sevikas to understand certain local minority languages. The training of students in language skills to learn Marathi will receive additional focus.

Testimonials from Palghar

In an interview, Swaraaj Kokaate expressed his fondness for attending his Anganwadi in Khadipada, Jawhar. He mentioned that in the Anganwadi, he has been exposed to various activities, including playing games, participating in sing-alongs and dances where even the teacher participates, and learning stories from them. Swaraaj further elaborated that he has particularly enjoyed playing classroom games like, Bahuli Ghar, Doctor-Doctor, and engaging in activities like playing with toy cars or practising with a bat and ball. He emphasized his appreciation for the learning opportunities provided, including the teaching of the Triangle Story. Overall, Swaraaj conveyed his satisfaction with the experiences and activities offered at the Anganwadi.

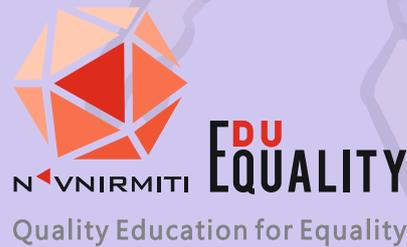
In an interview, Sakoo Gopal Bhambhera, the parent of a 4-year-old attending the Khadaadipaada Anganwadi in Jawhar, mentioned the positive changes observed in the Anganwadi. She stated that the Anganwadi now appears much better, with walls displaying pictures and educational materials. The introduction of interactive classroom activities, such as singing songs and storytelling, has been well-received by both children and parents. Furthermore, the provision of quality educational resources has enhanced the overall experience for children attending the Anganwadi. Sakoo Bhambhera expressed satisfaction with her child's enthusiasm for attending the Anganwadi regularly, emphasizing the positive impact it has had on her child's development. She also noted her child's eagerness to share the songs and lessons learned at the Anganwadi with her family, indicating a deepening engagement with the educational activities provided. Overall, Bhambhera conveyed contentment with the educational progress offered by the Anganwadi.

During a conversation with NEF members, Manisha, a veteran Sevika at the Khadaadipaada Anganwadi in Jawhar, shared insights into the changes observed in the Anganwadi over time. She mentioned that the Anganwadi now boasts walls adorned with pictures and murals of various fruits, flowers, and alphabets, creating a vibrant atmosphere. Manisha expressed satisfaction with the resources provided by the organization, such as musical instruments, storybooks, and teaching-learning materials, which have significantly enhanced the AWC's appearance and quality. Additionally, she noted that parents in the village are pleased with the positive changes in the Anganwadi, given their children's enthusiasm for attending and participating in activities. Manisha also highlighted the effective use of Teaching-Learning Materials (TLMs) in enabling creative learning methods for children, such as recognizing shapes, colours, and animal sounds. Furthermore, she mentioned the valuable guidance received through training sessions, which have aided in language development and overall improvement in the Anganwadi's environment. Manisha credits the progress of her Anganwadi to the JSW Foundation and NEF's interventions.

The following table highlights the KPIs achieved by NEF's intervention in Palghar

Model Anganwadi Project, Palghar Oct 2023-March 24 Key Performance Indicators		
INDICATORS	PLANNED	ACHIEVED
Need Survey / Baseline	35	Completed (39)
Baseline Assessment (Students)	30	Pending
Capacity Building Training of Project Team	4	Completed
Model Anganwadi Classroom Set up	30	Completed
Capacity Building Training of Anganwadi Sevikas (Batch 1 comprising 20 Sevikas)	4	Completed
Capacity Building Training of Anganwadi Sevika (Batch 2 of 10 sevikas)	10	Completed
Classroom facilitation per anganwadi	6	Completed

THE PATIALA CHAPTER



The Patiala Chapter 2023-2024



Summary

The Patiala Chapter of NEF's initiative posed unique challenges and required the organisation to adapt to cultural, linguistic, and political factors different from its other locations in Maharashtra. The Model Anganwadi Project (MAP) in Patiala covered 12 AWCs. NEF's intervention in Patiala went beyond infrastructural upgrades to AWCs, and introduced its unconventional teaching methods. These elicited a positive response from the AWWs and children. The implementation of the MAP in Patiala led to a rise in classroom attendance. The transformation of the AWCs under NEF garnered the optimism of the children's parents. NEF team members in Patiala focused on upgrading the ambience of the classrooms in a manner that encouraged creativity among children.

Activities in Palghar 2023-2024

A. Anganwadi Worker Training: Routine training of Anganwadi Sevikas in understanding teaching methods of the Early Childhood Education curriculum, use of Teaching Learning Modules (TLMs), and related orientations were conducted throughout the year. Training programs were also conducted to train NEF team members in conducting relevant surveys and getting oriented with the local setting and culture. A total of two training workshops (4 days) scheduled for 2023-2024 were conducted as planned. Two more will be conducted for the year 2024-2025.



B. Educational Kits & Learning Corner: NEF's intervention in Patiala covered the distribution of TLM kits and relevant study materials. Sevikas were taught the application of these kits. Further, Sevikas explained the importance of organising the classroom in a manner that is conducive to creative learning. The objective of this exercise is to foster classroom discipline and some standardised practices to ensure compliance with the curriculum as well as NEF's creative methods of teaching. The number of TLM kits distributed in the 12 shortlisted AWCs at the location for 2023-2024 is estimated to be approximately 85 kits. Sevikas of these respective AWCs were trained in the usage of the TLM kits in the classroom.

C. Infrastructural Upgrades for shortlisted AWCs: Relevant infrastructural upgrades have been made in all 12 AWCs. These upgrades range from building and reinforcement of walls, kitchen repairs and bathroom works, waterproofing, etc. Thematic painting-related upgrades have been completed in all the shortlisted AWCs.

Name of AWC	Location	Infrastructure & Civil Upgrades	Thematic Painting Upgrades
Bathonia Kalan	Patiala	Phase 2 works Completed	Completed
Bathonia Khurad	Patiala	Phase 1 works Completed	Completed
Nanhera - 1	Patiala	Phase 1 works Completed	Completed
Nanhera - 2	Patiala	Phase 1 works Completed	Completed
Ballopur	Patiala	Phase 1 works Completed	Completed
Sanjarpur	Patiala	Phase 1 works Completed	Completed
Khalaspur	Patiala	Phase 1 works Completed	Completed
Shambhu Kalan - 1	Patiala	Phase 1 works Completed	Completed
Shambhu Kalan - 2	Patiala	Phase 1 works Completed	Completed
Gadapur	Patiala	Phase 1 works Completed	Completed
Mardanpur - 1	Patiala	Phase 1 works Completed	Completed
Mardanpur - 2	Patiala	Phase 1 works Completed	Completed
Untsar	Patiala	Phase 1 works Completed	Completed

D. Ambience correction and thematic painting: As observed at multiple AWCs throughout NEF's various locations of work, the 12 AWCs of Patiala also required interventions based on infrastructural upgrades and classroom ambience correction. The NEF team in Patiala arranged for a designer from JJ School of Arts in Mumbai to consult on the theme of the paintwork to be carried out for AWCs. The theme involved highlighting the virtues of Punjab as a state in a manner that resonated with the students. Further, a blank wall patch was provided at the average height of a six-year-old to provide a space for scribbling and creative expression.





E. Meeting with Stakeholders: A total of 10 meetings were conducted with stakeholders. The Child Development Project Officer's (CDPO) help was enlisted throughout the year for various functions such as securing the supply of water and electricity to AWCs, and permissions for relevant logistical operations. Regular meetings were conducted with the CDPO updating them on the developments of NEF's work in Patiala and its status. Regular review meetings with representatives from the JSW Foundation were conducted online and offline to appraise them of the work done during different phases of the project. These meetings involved discussing the results of need surveys, and criteria for shortlisting AWCs.

F. Number of Anganwadi Visited: AWCs were closed in June and July our project was affected due to floods. A total of 12 Anganwadis were visited for class facilitation by local field coordinator each month. These visits were essential for the orientation of activities conducted in the training with inputs in local language and cultural practices. They were also relied upon for the tracking of routine classroom interactions and supporting the work of the Sevikas as and when it was needed.

G. Capacity Building Training for the Location team: Teams were briefed on the usage of TLM registers and kit-based planners to be able to teach these functions to Sevikas. In total three capacity training sessions were conducted in 2023-2024.

- In June 2023, the location team in Patiala given an orientation training on teaching the usage of the TLM registers and Kit-based planners. These instruments are meant to enable Sevikas to better organise their classes and effectively use the TLM kits for the intended applications.
- The June training program was followed up with another one for the location team in the month of July 2023. This program focused on the same topics as mentioned above, but also focused on how team members should demonstrate specific teaching methods. This required team members to also facilitate activities in the classroom along with the Sevikas for the children.
- In December 2023, the location team was trained in teaching the usage of different TLM kits such as Jodo Blocks, Animal Classification kit, and Story Cards. One of the sessions also included orientation on the Model Anganwadi setup.

Highlights and Challenges:

a. Usage of TLMs and relevant teaching methods: The NEF team at the location identified that knowledge about the use of TLMs and teaching methods of the ECE curriculum among the Sevikas was limited. To address this, team members arranged for a training session for the Sevikas with Professor Kuldeep Singh of Patiala University. Professor Singh's research in child education and ability to fluently communicate with the Sevikas, enabled them to grasp the features of the ECE curriculum, the usage of TLMs, and better understand their roles. This exercise helped NEF to build a rapport with the Anganwadi Workers (AWW).

b. Community support: Support was provided by local schools, Gurudwaras and Dharamshalas, the provision of a location for the long-term operations of AWCs was mainly temporary. Guaranteeing the continuation of multiple AWCs required patient and long-term relationship building with similar community stakeholders.

c. TLM kit provisions and classroom ambience: The novel teaching method involving toys and group activities received a positive response from students and Sevikas alike. Additionally, enthusiasm from TLM kits inspired Anganwadi Helpers to learn to use the kits and engage the children. These measures have translated into a marked increase in attendance and classroom participation of the students. NEF team members in Patiala report that these measures have been a morale boost for all participants of the AWC space, including parents.

Testimonials from Patiala

Mrs Sandeep Kaur, the Sevika for the Ballopar Anganwadi in Patiala, reflects on the transformation of their centre, which was once devoid of bright colours and proper resources. Today she says it has turned into a vibrant space with teaching-learning materials (TLMs) and improved amenities. Parents have now witnessed a new Anganwadi where children engage in activities joyfully, shedding the notion of formal schooling. The introduction of TLMs has fostered creativity and social interaction among children, evident in instances where previously reserved children have actively participated and collaborated in play. The positive impact has extended to newcomers, wherein children who previously were hesitant or anxious have immersed themselves in class-activities. This is all thanks to the availability of toys and supportive guidance from NEF's mentors. The incorporation of TLM kits and the beautification of Anganwadi spaces have alleviated some of the workload for Mrs. Sandeep Kaur and her colleagues. With better tools to engage children, including those of varying ages, helpers can now undertake childcare tasks more effectively. This improvement has not only lightened the burden on AWWs but has also enhanced the learning environment for children. This has also led to elder children taking an interest in assisting their younger peers with classroom activities. The provision of clear guidance and resources has empowered helpers to navigate childcare responsibilities with confidence, ensuring a smoother operation within the Anganwadi setting.

Sevika Anju Rani of the AWC in the village of Bathonia Kalan reports that the Anganwadi, established in 1996, had remained neglected until now. The building had deteriorated over time, with no painting or maintenance undertaken. The condition worsened during the monsoons, with the smell of sewage

spreading in the space. Arrangements for seating during group classroom activities were also inadequate. Therefore, activities had to be conducted outdoors on the ground. Parents often withdrew their children from the AWC, citing concerns about hygiene and lack of proper classroom facilities. However, with recent renovations and the arrival of teaching-learning materials (TLMs) and toys, significant improvements have been observed. The introduction of new activities has impressed both children and parents. This has translated into enthusiastic classroom participation from children of all age groups. Daily activities now focus on learning colours, shapes, and other educational elements, fostering continuous growth. According to Anju Rani, children are often so engrossed in the activities that they ask their mothers for more time at the Anganwadi to play. This positive transformation has garnered attention from the local primary school, with even the headmistress expressing admiration and requesting similar resources. Overall, the Anganwadi has undergone a remarkable transformation and has drastically improved in quality and appeal.

THE VASIND CHAPTER



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Quality Education for Equality

The Vashind Chapter 2023-2024



Summary

NEF's relationship with Vasind extends as far back as 2013 when it worked with all 552 Anganwadis in Vasind through its General Anganwadi Program. This project involved only the distribution of TLM kits and study materials to these AWCs and training the Sevikas in their usage. Although the program was successfully concluded by 2017, NEF and JSW Foundation's experts identified a need for focused efforts to upgrade AWCs in the region. Following deliberations with other stakeholders such as the offices of the ICDS and the Zilla Parishad, The Model Anganwadi Project was proposed for 61 AWCs starting in 2023. NEF's experience with working in different parts of Vasind and interacting with various district and gram-level bodies was leveraged to ensure a smooth start to the project. While work has already begun, NEF team members in Vasind expect newer challenges compared to their previous work in the region. To accommodate these, new members have been recruited to the team, and plans for the use of software tools to increase operational efficiencies are being considered. Additionally, greater focus has been given to building ties with local government officials. This was done through regularly briefing the officials on the developments in AWCs and inviting them to training programs to increase their awareness of the progress so far. The initiative in Vasind is set to serve as an example of the progress an Anganwadi can make throughout its long-term engagement with NEF.

Activities in Vasind 2023-2024

A. Anganwadi Worker Training:

- An orientation meeting was held with 20 Anganwadi Workers at Vasind Anganwadi on 4 th October 2023 in the presence of JSW's Head CSR for Vasind, Mr Prashant Kalshetti and Supervisor for the ICDS, Vasind, Mrs Bhere.
- Anganwadi visits were planned with ICDS and JSW officials in October to understand the current situation of Anganwadis at the location.
- AWWs were given detailed explanations on the merits of the Model Anganwadi Program.

B. Educational Kits & Learning Corner: A selection of TLM kits was finalised for distribution in January. A total of 60 TLM kits were distributed at the JSW plant in Vasind in February 2024.



C. Number of Anganwadi Visited: All AW visits were planned with officials from the ICDS and JSW Foundations. Visits in October were completed to better understand the current state of Anganwadis in the region. Data on the number of AWs visited is still to be reported as the visits are still ongoing.

D. Meeting with Stakeholders (ICDS): A total of four meetings were conducted with stakeholders in the last two quarters.

- a) A joint meeting with JSW officials, CDPO, Supervisor from ICDS, and local stakeholders was held in October at the JSW plant in Vasind. Future challenges related to the project were discussed.
- b) Action plans also were suggested by the team. One of the suggested plans was to involve other partners and agencies to increase the effectiveness of the program.
- c) In November 2023 ICDS officials at Zilla Parishad in Thane were introduced to the application and the use of TLM kits. The Deputy CEO was given a brief idea about the Model Anganwadi Program.
- d) A joint meeting was held with ICDS officials and JSW officials in December to discuss the MOU between JSW, Navnirmiti and ICDS.
- e) In January 2024, the aforementioned MOU was finalised by Navnirmiti Eduquality Foundation and JSW Foundation in consultation with Zilla Parishad Thane. Following this, the MOU was submitted to the Zilla Parishad office for the signing of the final authority.

E. Capacity Building Training:

- a) The Capacity-building training of 60 Anganwadi workers was conducted in March 2024. JSW Foundation and Navnirmiti Eduquality Foundation conducted this two-day training workshop. The workshop explained the Sevikas about the objective of the Capacity Building training exercise in the context of the Model Anganwadi Program. The session involved various icebreaker exercises and games to engage the participants and better explain the features of the program. A session was also conducted to specifically demonstrate the usage of the TLM. This included demonstrations on the use of kits such as Fun with Patterns and Design, Flashcards for classifying animals, wooden blocks, etc. The kits were given to the Sevikas for hands-on learning and lessons on the usage of the kits were revised during the rest of the training workshop. All the Sevikas actively participated in the group activities during the training.



- b) Anganwadi workers presented their feedback regarding the training workshop which will be taken into consideration while planning future sessions. JSW CSR Education head Ms Savita Mundhe addressed the Sevikas and motivated them with her kind words.

5. Highlights and Challenges:

- a) Unlike other locations which have seen NEF's intervention, official requests to conduct the project in Vasind have been delayed in their approval. This has been mainly because of the transfer of the previous CEO of the Zilla Parishad in Vasind who had extensively interacted with NEF. Consequentially the CEO's replacement required a review of NEF's MOU submitted to operate in Vasind thereby causing some delays.
- b) NEF's general Anganwadi project (involving only the distribution of TLM kits and training for their usage) had covered 552 AWCs in Vasind by 2017. However, a 2022 baseline study identified a need for a more elaborate intervention. The awareness of the usage of TLM kits was low among the Sevikas, the number of TLM kits available had reduced, and the teaching methods characteristic of the ECE curriculum were not consistently followed. This has been the objective behind NEF's and the JSW Foundation's decision to resume work in 60 AWCs in Vasind under the Model Anganwadi Program.
- c) With that said, recent training sessions have displayed a marked increase in the awareness of the TLM kits and the ECE curriculum among the Sevikas. Going forward NEF will be using newer methods to better the retention of the creative learning methods taught to Sevikas to ensure their consistent application. This will also involve teaching Sevikas how to make improvised TLM kits with easily available resources in the AWC.
- d) NEF has successfully managed to build a reliable working relationship with stakeholders such as CDPO and the Supervisor of the ICDS. Their interest in understanding how TLM kits and other unconventional methods of the program have translated into administrative support going forward. Even Zilla Parishad officials have enthusiastically followed up with the progress made by NEF and the organisation's plans in Vasind and have assessed the pre and post-intervention reports for Vasind. Community stakeholders such as the Gram Panchayat of different AWCs have been supportive of NEF's initiatives in the Anganwadi space.

The following table highlights the KPIs achieved by NEF's intervention in Vasind

Model Anganwadi Project, Vasind Oct 2023-March 24 Key Performance Indicators		
INDICATORS	PLANNED	STATUS
Basic TLM for 60 AWCs	60	Completed
Basic refreshing training Training of Anganwadi Sevika (Batch 1 of 20 sevikas)	4	Completed
Basic refreshing training of Anganwadi Sevika (Batch 2 of 40 sevikas)	4	Completed
Documentation	2	Completed
Baseline assessment children	20	Pending