

Navigating Boundaries: Neeraj Patel's Educational Journey Amidst Family Migration

Learning and Migration Program (LAMP)

BACKGROUND

Neeraj Patel, a 9-year-old residing in the Godihari Village of Sarangarh District, comes from a family facing economic challenges. His parents, Ramlal, and Urmila Patel, migrated to Nagpur in pursuit of better livelihood opportunities, leaving Neeraj under the care of his grandmother, Amarin Patel. Neeraj's family consists of four members, and their primary occupation is agriculture, which proves to be insufficient for sustaining the family's needs.

EDUCATIONAL CHALLENGES

Despite being in the 4th grade, Neeraj faced difficulties in understanding his class curriculum. Regular visits by Samerth team members to the school highlighted Neeraj's struggle to concentrate during lessons, although he maintained a positive and respectful attitude towards his teachers. He could not even read the textbook of grade-3. During Home visits, it was found that Neeraj's parents were planning to migrate to Nagpur, Maharashtra along with Neeraj and after discussions with Neeraj's grandmother, she revealed that Neeraj also has a desire to accompany his parents. The project team along with SMC members counseled his parents as well as Neeraj about the importance of education. The family was also introduced to our Learning Resource Centre (LRC) implemented by Samerth Charitable Trust with invaluable support of American India Foundation as a potential hub to bridge the educational gap. Samerth's team motivated Neeraj's parents to keep him with his Grandmother to ensure there is no gap in his education process. As a result of this process Neeraj's parents agreed to keep Him in the care of Grandparents.

LRC INTERVENTION

Neeraj's initiation into the Learning Resource Center (LRC) was marked by initial obstacles. Initially reserved and hesitant, he refrained from expressing himself or sharing concerns. The team, recognizing the need for a pedagogical approach, embarked on a journey to integrate Neeraj into the LRC through dynamic activities, engaging games, and the strategic use of teaching aids. Despite occupying a higher grade, Neeraj exhibited weaknesses in fundamental subjects like Mathematics, English, and Hindi. Through a comprehensive baseline survey, the team gauged Neeraj's academic level and tailored their approach, placing special emphasis on age-appropriate learning using various Teaching Learning Materials (TLMs), STEM kits, and a joyful learning methodology. Through consistent interaction and collaboration with Neeraj and his family, the team witnessed a positive shift in his LRC attendance and academic commitment. This dedicated engagement, coupled with the implementation of specialized tools, led to a notable transformation in Neeraj's academic performance. Thus LAMP pedagogy helped in shaping the academic performance of Neeraj.

IMPACT ON NEERAJ'S LIFE

Regular communication with Neeraj's Grandmother revealed a marked improvement in his academic performance. The family expressed gratitude to AIF and Samerth for the positive changes observed in Neeraj's attitude towards education. His increased interest in learning and active participation in LRC activities showcased his enthusiasm towards education. Neeraj's life was evident through improved academic performance and a newfound positive attitude towards education. Regular communication with his grandmother describes the change witnessed in Neeraj's educational journey. The family's expression of gratitude reflects not only the success of Neeraj's story but also the acknowledgment of the crucial role played by the Samerth Charitable Trust with support of American India Foundation and the LRC in shaping his positive educational trajectory.