

# AN INVESTMENT IN KNOWLEDGE PAYS THE BEST INTEREST

## BACKGROUND

Priyanka, a 12-year-old girl, currently enrolled in the 6th standard at the government primary school in Kachanda, belongs to the OBC community. Residing in Kachanda village under the Jaijipur block of Shakti district, Chhattisgarh, Priyanka's parents engage in agricultural work. However, due to water scarcity in the village and the seasonal nature of their occupation, her parents face periods of unemployment, prompting them to migrate to other villages in search of livelihoods, particularly at the end of November and December each year. Priyanka and her siblings represent the first generation in their family to pursue formal education. During interactions with our team, Priyanka shared the challenges she faced when her parents migrated for labor work, leaving her in the care of her grandparents. Her siblings accompanied her parents, affecting their education and overall upbringing.

## TRANSFORMATION

Regular attendance at the LRC, along with her siblings, became a norm for Priyanka. Engaging in diverse learning activities such as word and sentence formation, rhymes, storytelling, and visual presentations, she demonstrated a keen interest in every aspect of the program, appreciating it as a joyful learning experience. Over time, her learning levels have shown a significant improvement, showcasing the transformative impact of educational interventions on young minds like Priyanka's.

## IMPACT

Priyanka's family, once focused solely on migrant labor, has become a village role model for prioritizing their children's education. Their positive influence extends beyond their household, with Priyanka inspiring other children to attend the Learning Resource Centre (LRC). Our field team's regular interactions have led to a community-wide shift, motivating other migrant families to send their children to school and the LRC. Now, when Priyanka's family migrates for work, they leave their children with grandparents, ensuring their continuous education. This strategic balance between livelihoods and education sets a powerful example for responsible parenting and fosters a broader appreciation for education within the community.

## OUR INTERVENTION

Given the first-generation learning context, her parents initially struggled to grasp the significance of education. The turning point occurred when our facilitator of the Learning Resource Centre (LRC) visited Priyanka's home. The facilitator explained the importance of education and introduced the program's emphasis on enhancing learning approaches for low-level learners, incorporating Teaching-Learning Materials (TLM), STEM and various methods such as rhymes, storytelling, dance, and digital learning through tablets. Inspired by the prospect of a more enriched educational experience, Priyanka eagerly joined the LRC. Despite juggling responsibilities, her commitment to study increased gradually. Recognizing the importance of repeated home visits and counseling, especially concerning the benefits of education and the LRC program, Priyanka's family now actively encourages her to continue her education.

