Impact of refurbishment in Salavad, Karauli District

Anganwadi centre named Salavad 2\textsuperscript{nd} in Todabhim block, Karauli District was one of the hundred Anganwadi centres refurbished under Phase 1 of the ‘Making It Happen’ program. Salavad village has two Anganwadi centres providing health and nutrition services to the residents.

Salavad 2\textsuperscript{nd} caters to a population of 1635. Currently, the registered beneficiaries per target group is as follows- 147 children in the age group of 0 to 3 years, 62 children in the age group of 3 to 6 years, 9 pregnant and 21 lactating mothers.

Of the 62 eligible to avail pre-school services provided by the Anganwadi centre, only 27 were availing in before the initiation of our program. However, after handing over the refurbished centres in September-October, the enrolment numbers hiked to 35. As per Ms. Santoshi Sain, the Anganwadi worker, there has been significant changes in attendance after the refurbishment of the center. Infact, the children from the other Anganwadi center, Salavad 1\textsuperscript{st} are also being pulled to the refurbished one. The children are attracted to the colourful surroundings, the interior wall practice boards and the ECE materials. These children not only attend regularly but also spend far longer in the centre than they used to. A month after handing over the centre our DPO Mr. Srikanta Senapati visited the centre on 28\textsuperscript{th} November 2018. He was surprised to find nearly 30 children aged 3-6 sitting in the centre studying ECE materials, well beyond the centre time.

Looking at the children, the Anganwadi worker herself has gotten more motivated and inspired to work better. She is driven to make her Anganwadi centre the best where the children enjoy coming and learn. She is also looking for opportunities to make the facilities at her centre better. For example, she sourced an adult weighing scale from the annual department maintenance fund as the one at the centre was not functional. Earlier, there was so much to change, she didn’t know where to start. But now she believes that with the basic materials in place and the improvement in beneficiaries’ enrolment and utilization of
the services, she can take self-driven initiatives to make her centre's facilities better and also sustain the changes.