

Khokhra Umar GP: A tribal village Sarpanch enables students to go beyond 10th Standard education

Khokhra Umar Gram Panchayat (population as per 2011 Census: total 1,810, females 901, males 909) of Dediapada Block is located in Narmada district in the state of Gujarat, India. The village is located at about 48 KM from Rajpipla (district headquarters), and 3 KM from Dediapada, the nearest town and the block headquarters. Children's population below 6 years includes a total of 224 (female 102, male 122). The village is populated mainly by tribal people, and others include only 34 persons (9 females, 25 males).

Governance: Mr. Dineshbhai has been Sarpanch since 2015. His motivation is to do such work in the GP that the people always remember him. GPDP is prepared every year. Gram Sabha has a presence of 60 to 70 people, and at least 2 Gram Sabhas are held in a year. There are many committees, including PESA committees, but not active.

Child Nutrition: There are 4 to 5 malnourished children in the GP. The village has 3 Anganwadi Centres. Earlier the focus of the AWCs was only meals. With the supportive monitoring of the Sarpanch and Ward members, now the AWC is also providing services such as early childhood education and playing.

Education: The GP has 1 Primary School with 1-8 Standards, and there are also 2 Ashram Shalas with 9 to 10 Standards. There are a total of 13 teachers and 285 students in all these institutions. The children in 10th and 12th standards used to fail in exams, followed by dropping out, which indicated poor quality of school education. So the Sarpanch introduced tuition classes in Science, Maths and English subjects for the children in the 9th standard. As a result, all the children are now passing in 10th standard, and enrolling in 11th standard.

Mr. Dineshbhai also set up a library in his village for all the children in 2015. It was supported by AKRSP by providing funds for computers and electricity.

Leadership: Mr. Dineshbhai is enthusiastic and has a vision of improving education in the village. AKRSP has also been supporting the Gram Panchayat in preparation and implementation of GPDP. The GP receives Rs. 30 lakh grant from the Finance Commission per year. MGNREGA grant is Rs. 60 lakh. There are also other state and central government schemes with grants. The GP has an income of Rs. 1.5 lakh from house and sanitation tax. The GP human resources include Talati, Peon and VCE.