

In MP, teacher ferries children to school in 'jugaad' cart

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Bhopal: A school teacher in Singrauli district using 'jugaad' technique developed a bike cart that is handy to ferry kids to and from the school. Teacher Jitendra Kumar Vaishya came up with the idea after finding that poor children staying far away could not afford to commute by auto and dropped out.

Vaishya, a government school teacher, told TOI, "I teach in Government Primary School of Ghinha gaon, block Bevsar in Singrauli district. Two years ago, I realized there were children who wanted to attend school but as they lived four to five km away and their parents could not afford to hire an auto for them, they were dropping out of school. So, I decided to help them.

Then more parents approached me asking to take their children to school, too. As I also hail from a lower middle-class family, I decided to find a



The cart, which is used to ferry kids, is also used for carrying material for teacher Jitendra Kumar Vaishya's school garden in Singrauli

way to help the children reach school," said Vaishya.

After a lot of brainstorming, he bought a garbage cart from the civic body for Rs 5,000 and got it fixed to the frame of his motorcycle.

"There are about 15 children who stay 4-5 km away from school. They all sit in my cart and I take them to school and drop them off," he said.

When asked about the children's safety, Vaishya said, "Children's safety is my priority and I ride very slowly.

I know my invention is not fool-proof and so I have to be extra careful," he added.

Armed with a Master's degree in music Vaishya is teaching about 80 kids harmonium and tabla. He said, "I am trying to pass on the knowledge that I gained to these children." The cart attached to Vaishya's bike is also used for carrying other stuff like saplings and soil for his school garden. The teacher claims to have planted more than 500 plants in his village so far.