

Samagra Shiksha, Telangana
Reading Challenge in KGBVs

As part of Foundation Programme- 2020-21, via distance learning mode.



The main objective of the Reading Challenge Programme has been to enhance the reading and speaking abilities of students of classes (7-8) in the subjects English, Science, Telugu and Social through distance learning mode. The NEP emphasizes the increased need for focus on Foundational Literacy and generally activities that include Reading, Writing, Speaking, Counting, Arithmetic and Mathematical through middle school curriculum (NEP 2020, Pg.no 42: 2.1). In lieu of the ongoing pandemic, synchronous and asynchronous formats have been explored to ensure continuity in learning. At the KGBVs of Telangana, 91% of the students have access to whatsapp on their phones. Taking this into consideration, an ‘audio practice’ activity was designed to improve foundational Literacy for Middle School (classes 6-8) and improving learning outcomes for classes 9-10 were conducted through distance mode- via WhatsApp and mobile phone.

An ‘audio-practice’ activity that was feasible in distance learning mode in an asynchronous learning format was taken up, focused on Reading.

Reading Challenge (Reading Improvement Activities for KGBVs)

Importance of Reading:

- Reading with fluency and comprehension is an integral aspect and a pre-requisite for learning. Therefore, ‘Reading Improvement Activity for KGBVs’ was proposed with an objective to improve the skill of reading.
- Reading with fluency includes- reading accurately, at an appropriate rate, in meaningful chunks, with expression (stress, pause and intonation).

Method:

- i. Core Resource Group was formed which consisted of Resource Persons with language fluency.
- ii. The core resource group would facilitate ‘Read- Aloud’ sessions and coach the attendees on what are the key concepts required to enhance the Reading Fluency of the Students.
- iii. These sessions were conducted on zoom and the attendees included CRTs of schools of the subjects: English, Science, Telugu and Social Science.

The session included:

(a) Key Words/Concept Words/Vocabulary:

- Presentation and Model Reading: Pronunciation of Key words/Vocabulary, Concept words identified by the Core Resource Person.

(b) Reading in Meaningful chunks:

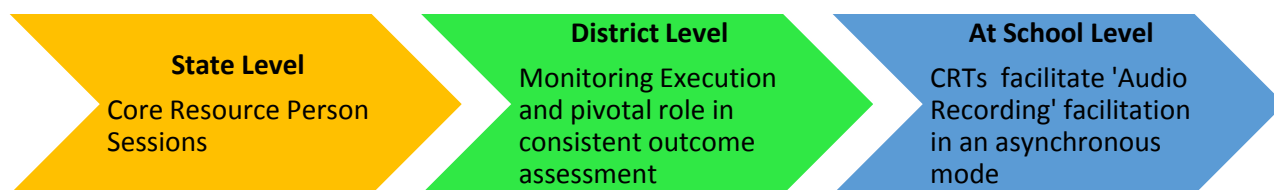
- Chunking is the grouping of words in a sentence into short meaningful phrases (usually three to five words). This process prevents word-by-word reading, which can cause lack of comprehension, since students forget the beginning of a sentence before they get to the end (Casteel, 1988).

(c) Method of Implementation:

- Each day, it is important that students read for 15-20 minutes. For distance learning, the mode of facilitation was discussed and decided upon.

After the orientation to the English CRTs, an Incharge to the whole programme is nominated, Smt.Rajani Vandana, the then gender coordinator of a district and an English teacher herself. Another Special officer of KGBV assisted her.

Method of Implementation:



1. State Level:

- At the State Level, Zoom Sessions were facilitated by Core Resource Persons who facilitated 'Read- Aloud' demonstration sessions and also spoke about key concepts that enable efficiency in Reading Fluency.
- In charge of the programme was nominated – Smt. Rajani Vandana, a district gender coordinator.
- A timetable was scheduled for the subjects English, Science, Telugu and Social Science.
- A state level whatsapp group was created with the gender coordinators of the districts to have consistent interaction amongst the districts with respect to the reading challenge.
- Each day the best 'audio-recording' from each of the districts was shared in this group.
- The best 'audio-recording' is then selected from all the recordings received and acknowledged.

READING CHALLENGE SCHEDULE (17-05-2021 to 27-06-2021)							
SLNo	DISTRICT	WEEK -1	WEEK-2	WEEK-3	WEEK-4	WEEK-5	WEEK-6
1	ADILABAD	ENGLISH	SOCIAL SCIENCE	TELUGU	SCIENCE	ENGLISH	SOCIAL SCIENCE
2	BHADRADRI	ENGLISH	SOCIAL SCIENCE	TELUGU	SCIENCE	ENGLISH	SOCIAL SCIENCE
3	HYDERABAD	ENGLISH	SOCIAL SCIENCE	TELUGU	SCIENCE	ENGLISH	SOCIAL SCIENCE
4	JAGTIAL	ENGLISH	SOCIAL SCIENCE	TELUGU	SCIENCE	ENGLISH	SOCIAL SCIENCE
5	JANGAON	ENGLISH	SOCIAL SCIENCE	TELUGU	SCIENCE	ENGLISH	SOCIAL SCIENCE
6	JAYASHANKAR	ENGLISH	SOCIAL SCIENCE	TELUGU	SCIENCE	ENGLISH	SOCIAL SCIENCE
7	JOGULAMBA	ENGLISH	SOCIAL SCIENCE	TELUGU	SCIENCE	ENGLISH	SOCIAL SCIENCE
8	KAMAREDDY	ENGLISH	SOCIAL SCIENCE	TELUGU	SCIENCE	ENGLISH	SOCIAL SCIENCE

A snapshot of the timetable

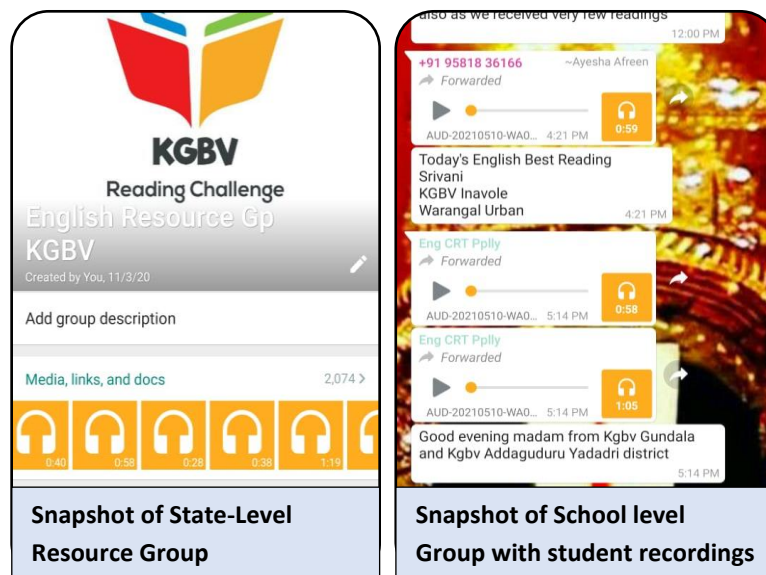
2. District Level:

- The Special Officers of the KGBVs were members in the district level whatsapp group that was created.
- Each day the best 'audio-recording' from each of the KGBVs was shared in their respective district group.
- The best audio recording from all the recordings received is then forwarded to the state group.

3. School Level:

- Each day, the CRTs post an 'audio-recording' on whatsapp according to the timetable, which is then accessed by the students at the school level.
- These audio-recordings are model 'voice- messages' created by the CRTs from one paragraph of the prescribed student textbook. The voice-message would also contain the relevant page and paragraph numbers and key concepts reiteration.
- The students would model the audio-recording shared by the CRT and in case of doubts will refer back to the recording.
- The students learn the enunciation and post a voice recording of them speaking the same paragraph that was shared by the CRT on audio in the school level group.
- The CRTs, listen to each of the voice recordings of the students and give feedback.
- The best audio-recording from each school is then decided upon and shared at the district level.

The program commenced in November 2020 and culminated in September 2021:

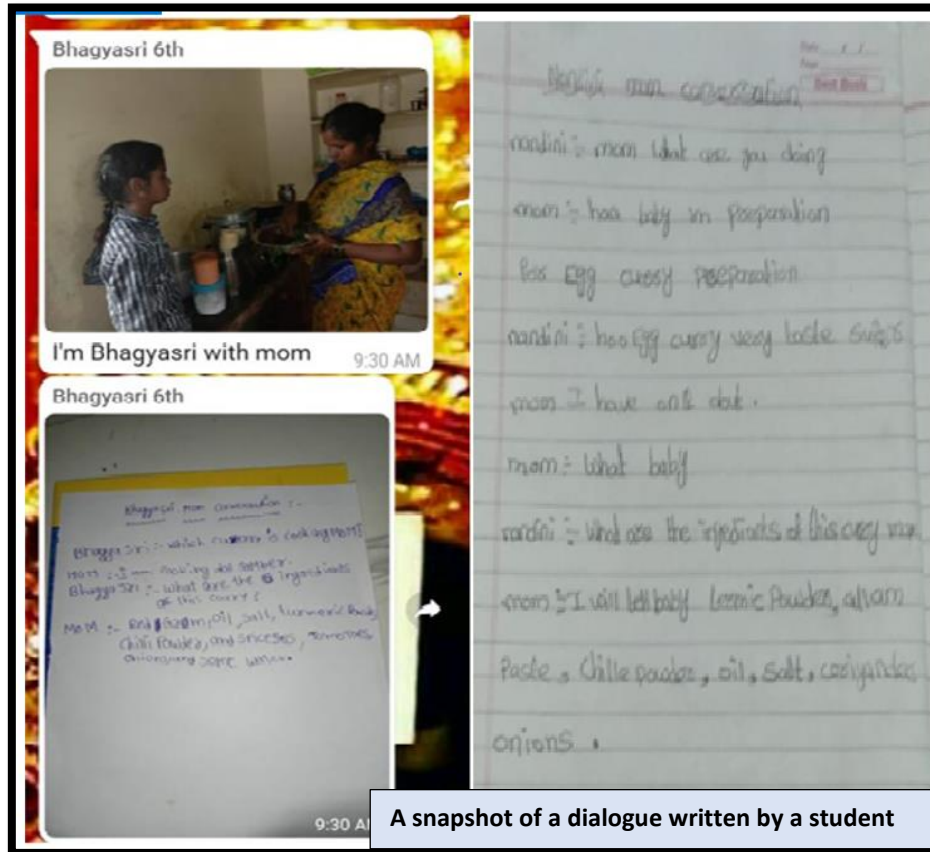


Outcomes:

- Students have learnt to read in meaningful chunks, with proper stress, pause and intonation. There has been a consistent improvement in their comprehension.
- In spite of the pandemic conditions, this activity has ensured that students are consistently acquainted with the terms and terminologies of the textbooks.

Best Practices:

- The program was initially focused on enhancing reading fluency. However, in due course, due to consistent perseverance, zeal and effort by the students and the teachers, the students were able to 'apply' the terms, techniques in their everyday life.
- The students were able to improve on the Bloom's taxonomy scale from 'remember' to 'apply'.



Testimonials (In the words of the stakeholders):

“Now I am able to read with confidence, I can read all my text books with ease now. I have also started reading poems and other reading material now. I read Kamla Bhasin’s poem, Because I am a girl, I must study which I loved”.

- N.Shivani, KGBV Anthergaon, Peddapally district, Telangana.

“After starting reading challenge, I noticed great improvement in the reading skills of students. They started reading in meaningful chunks, which helped in their comprehension. The reading challenge also helped them in acquiring vocabulary, improved spellings, made them excel academically. This has also awakened their interest in reading books.”

- Shalini Teresa, Special Officer, KGBV Krishna, Narayanpet.

“Reading challenge has improved their spelling, pronunciation and even writing skill. As they became well acquainted with the text, they started writing correctly, they started reading new text also with ease. This has helped the students connect with their teachers during pandemic”.

- Rajani Vandana, Ex-Gender Coordinator, Jayashankar Bhupalapalli.

“When we have conceptualized Reading Challenge, we were apprehensive about how long we can sustain the interests of students and teachers. But the participation and enthusiasm is increasing and we are not able to stop the programme. Initially what was thought of as a 3 month programme is still continuing. As the state group has English CRTs of KGBVs from all districts and also some subject experts, this group is also helping in the continuous professional development of the CRTs. We wish to conclude it with a state level reading challenge virtual event in June, 2021”

- Dr.Hazari Shirisha, State KGBV Coordinator, Samagra Shiksha.