

Apno Gaon 2018

(Our village)

Our aim is to create a greater awareness for the Sustainable Development Goals in the communities neighboring our school. We are trying to tackle the issues of ignorance towards basic hygiene, conflict-resolution and the lack of opportunities for locals to implement the SDGs in this region. We did this by conducting a quiz for the village school students on the SDGs.

Our Team



Head of Project:
Vedika Giridhar Mandapati

Head of Service:
Lavanya Guha

Head of Communication:
Yukti Mahato

Head of Logistics:
Sarthak Gupta

Project advisor: Ms.
Smita Gangola

"I loved that we could wear ethnic clothes for a small price and help educate someone less fortunate."

- Rhea Kapoor (Arts and Culture Secretary, Grade 10 student)

"I've been talking to the village schools and they're excited to attend another cultural event at our school."

- Mr. Sunil Bhardwaj (Community, Service and Action coordinator)



Highlight! Breaking social barriers

For the first time in the history of this event (which has run independent from the SDGs for over 10 years) we created an infrastructure of supportive and enthusiastic school students who took on responsibility in various sectors of interaction. For example, we assigned each visiting school a student guide that stayed with them throughout the event and participated in all the activities with them.

Some of the activities included making Rangolis (artworks typically made on the ground with powdered colors. They mark festive occasions) and Antakshari (a friendly singing competition). These served as icebreakers between the guests and the hosts and it was the first step towards cementing many of the friendships that formed that day.

Another way we broke social barriers was by taking on leadership roles and assigning duties to student who would serve our support staff (security, catering, horticulture etc.). In India, such an action is symbolic of true respect and acceptance due to the lack of social interaction between members of different "economic classes".

Funds required	Method of obtaining them
Total funds required: 211, 400 INR. (approximately 3000 USD)	
Venue	Free venue – on school premises.
Décor	Handmade in art classes or purchased at a discount.
Transport and logistics	Combination of funds from school board and ethnic fundraiser.
Materials used for activities	Purchased at a discount or borrowed from school.
Ingredients and cutlery for meal	Combination of funds from school board and ethnic fundraiser.
Prizes for SDG quizzes for village school students	Made by 'green-o-tech' with recycled materials.
We presented the school board with a proposal for the event. They agreed to provide a certain amount of funds (161,400 INR) contingent on the success of a fundraiser to raise 50, 000 INR. We did this by encouraging students to wear ethnic clothes for the event and charging them a nominal amount for the same.	

We gave the winners of the quizzes eco-friendly gifts which they continue to use in their classrooms.

We served approximately 250 students and teachers from the village school, exactly 441 members of support staff, around 200 teachers and 1127 of our own students.

Knowledge Gained Through this Project:

Demographics surrounding our school:

Villages that were part of our event: Akhlimpur, Tikli, Gairatpur bass, Haryahera, Prakashpuri, Sakatpur, Palara, Badhsahpur (122101)

How to draft a proposal and budget

Details about the school infrastructure such as the maximum seating capacity and evacuation procedures.

Targets of the SDGs:

Village schools around us:

- 4 Senior Secondary Schools - equivalent to high school (Government)
- 3 Middle Schools (government)
- 1 Boys' School (government)
- 1 Girl's Primary school (government)
- 2 Private Schools – one foundation and one private)

Figures of authority that were invited:

- The village Panchayat (refers to a system of local self-governance in India also known as a council.)
- The local police department

Quality education: (Target 4.4) PWS students learned about responsibility, reporting to leaders and time – management while “one duty” for the event. Furthermore, the leadership team learned skills for work (mentioned below). *The village school students were quizzed on their knowledge of the SDGs two weeks after the workshop to ensure that they made the best use of their knowledge.*

(Target 4.7) Village students were taught implementation of SDGs in local areas, including how to make their communities more sustainable.

Clean water and sanitation: (Target 6.2) The students were taught the importance of hygiene and sanitation as well as how to engage in hygienic practices such as brushing teeth and washing hands. Some of the gifts we gave out to the winners of the sustainable development goal quiz were sanitary products.

Peace, justice and strong institutions: (Target 16.1) Students were taught peaceful conflict resolution methods as well as the negative impacts of violence on a community

(Target 16.7) Students were taught how to participate in school decisions about violence, bullying and other intolerance in the capacity of bystander and victims.

Skills Acquired by our Team:

Due to the fact that the event was largely student run, we developed the following skills;

- Managerial skills
- Official documentation
- Communication (large student body)
- Planning long terms and short-term assignments

Last minute details!



Briefing Grade 9 and 10

Participant role	Rating (out of 10)	Reasoning
Welcoming team	9/10	We got to interact with students of the village schools all day, it was so much fun!
Food serving team	7/10	It was back breaking work, but it was for a good cause.
Cultural activity team	8/10	We were at one station for the whole, but we were always engaged.
Shoe stall team	6/10	It was a little crowded and we think the stalls will need more space next year.
Hand wash team	7/10	We managed the crowd well.

Success

and

Failures

We incorporated the SDGs as an annual feature to our event.

Maximum Utilization of Space. We managed to fit all the cultural activities and feed over 2000 people!

Breaking Social Barriers. We hosted a successful meal with people from different “economic classes” eating together. Read more on Pg. 1!

Students retaining information well. All students that were given a duty had detailed plans to follow, which were carried out effectively under the supervision of student leaders.

Visible Evacuation plan. The plan was not visible to the students and we hadn't conducted a drill in an outdoors scenario yet.

Last minute entries. Miscommunication with village schools resulted in more people than we expected.