

### Training of Primary School Teachers on Interactive Teaching Practices and Tools

**A** two-day long teachers' training was held for 15 assistant teachers from 15 primary schools in Sonbhadra, Uttar Pradesh. We organised this training under the Holistic Rural Initiative for Development Action and Yield (HRIDAY) project, which is supported by LIC Housing Finance Limited, to promote and enhance the quality of education in government schools.

The training focused on interactive practices and tools that can be used while teaching primary classes to enhance participation of students and make learning easy for them.

On the first day of the training, a library was inaugurated by Mr Abhishek John, CSR Department, Northern Zone, LIC Housing Finance Limited in a primary school of Chanchikhurd Village, Sonbhadra district, Uttar Pradesh. The library houses books that will help students build the habit of reading. As part of the HRIDAY Project, we are setting up libraries in five more schools in the Sonbhadra district.

The reasons for imparting the training to teachers were that during our recent visit to the schools, teachers raised the issue of lower attendance in primary classes and non-completion of homework by students.

The teachers found the training helpful for their day-to-day classroom teaching. The training started with an introduction session of the participants and setting the ground for discussion and learnings for the following two days. It was followed by sessions on storytelling, a discussion on interactive activities in classroom using library books, a discussion on Big Books and accordion books, use of wordless or picture books, discussion on *Kamiya aur salah*, identifying issues and potential solutions for teaching practices, using origami for teaching, and setting up of a library in schools and its sustainability. The trainings were conducted either in the form of group discussions or live demonstration by a facilitator Ms Seema from Eklavya Foundation.

In the storytelling session, for instance, all the teachers were asked to read a book from the library and present it in the form of a story to other participating teachers. They were also guided to mimic voices of characters, perform actions by hand and legs, use facial expressions, and ask questions in between to keep children engaged in the story.



Teachers attending the workshop

The facilitator also introduced a few activities that can be conducted in classrooms to keep students involved and make them feel enthusiastic to attend schools regularly. In the session *Kamiya aur Salah*, teachers identified current issues that they are facing and their potential solutions. They identified that parents pay less attention to children's studies, for which they decided to take the help of the School Management Committee.

Participating teachers appreciated the activities conducted around library books and conveyed that they never thought these books can be used to enhance participation in classrooms.