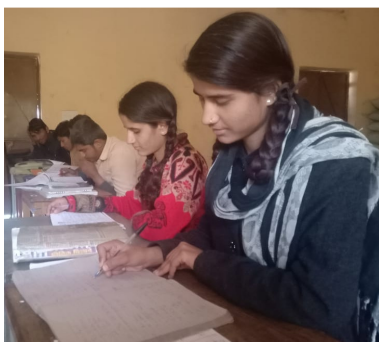


## Rinku Meghwal



I am Rinku. Rinku Meghwal. My father, Amra Lal Meghwal, works as a *mazdoor*; my mother Sugna Devi is a housewife. You can imagine how difficult it is for us to make both ends meet given that I have two sisters and a brother; we are thus a family of six. Yet our parents encouraged us all to study and I am now in Class 12 at the Ajoliyo ka Kheda (Chittor) school. I attended the Residential Summer Camp for Class 12 students held in Udaipur during May 15 to June 15, 2019 under SSP. The primary objective of the camp was to help us understand the basic concepts of Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Mathematics, along with improving our comprehension and writing abilities. In addition to the academic sessions, several co-curricular activities were also organized in the Camp on a regular basis. These among others included Music, Games, Theatre and drawing classes. I loved the Theatre classes most.

It was Rajnish Sir of the Shiksha Sambal Project, who inspired me to think about the Vidya Bhawan Society in Udaipur and the summer camps organized there for Class 10 and 12 students. I always wondered whether I'd ever be able to attend these camps and whether my parents would allow me to go to Udaipur for so many days. I was very happy when I could finally make it. I thought I would get an opportunity to learn several concepts from different teachers and do well in the Board examinations.

After receiving information about the camp, I conveyed the same to my parents. They were optimistic that I would be educationally benefitted; get to learn new things. However, my father initially would not allow me to attend the camp. This was because I had never been away from home and because my parents were apprehensive as to how I would go about expressing my difficulties. I shared my parents' apprehensions with Sir – who in turn gave further information about the camp to my parents. He mentioned that in the camp, I would be able to clear my doubts and be able to study more than what I would have done, if I were to

study on my own during the holidays. My parents after speaking to Rajnish sir agreed to send me to the camp.

In the beginning, I did not like the camp. Everything seemed strange. I badly missed my family and friends and wanted to return home. I conveyed my feelings to my friends who went ahead and informed about my thoughts to Yashodhara (we called her Yashoda) Mam. Yashoda Mam asked me why I did not like the camp, and persuaded me to stay in the camp for ten days. She assured me that she would drop me off at my house herself if I did not like the camp after ten days. I agreed to her proposal– assuming that I would stay in the camp for ten more days before could I leave for my house. But after this, I gradually started liking the camp. Different teachers used to teach us in groups. The groups were not fixed and I got the opportunity to sit in different groups and learn from my new friends. They all helped me to ask questions and also in my studies. This helped me enjoy the subject and also understand concepts easily. I started answering questions on my own and got to learn how to study on my own and by peer learning in situations where there was no teacher in school. I realized that peer learning could help me to earn several things. Food in the camp was very good and care used to taken about it. I was so happy to participate in a Mime performance during the closing ceremony of the camp.

I wish all my friends can come to similar camps. Shiksha Sambal should continue...



Pic- Rinku Participating in Theater Class  
during Residential Summer Camp, Class 12