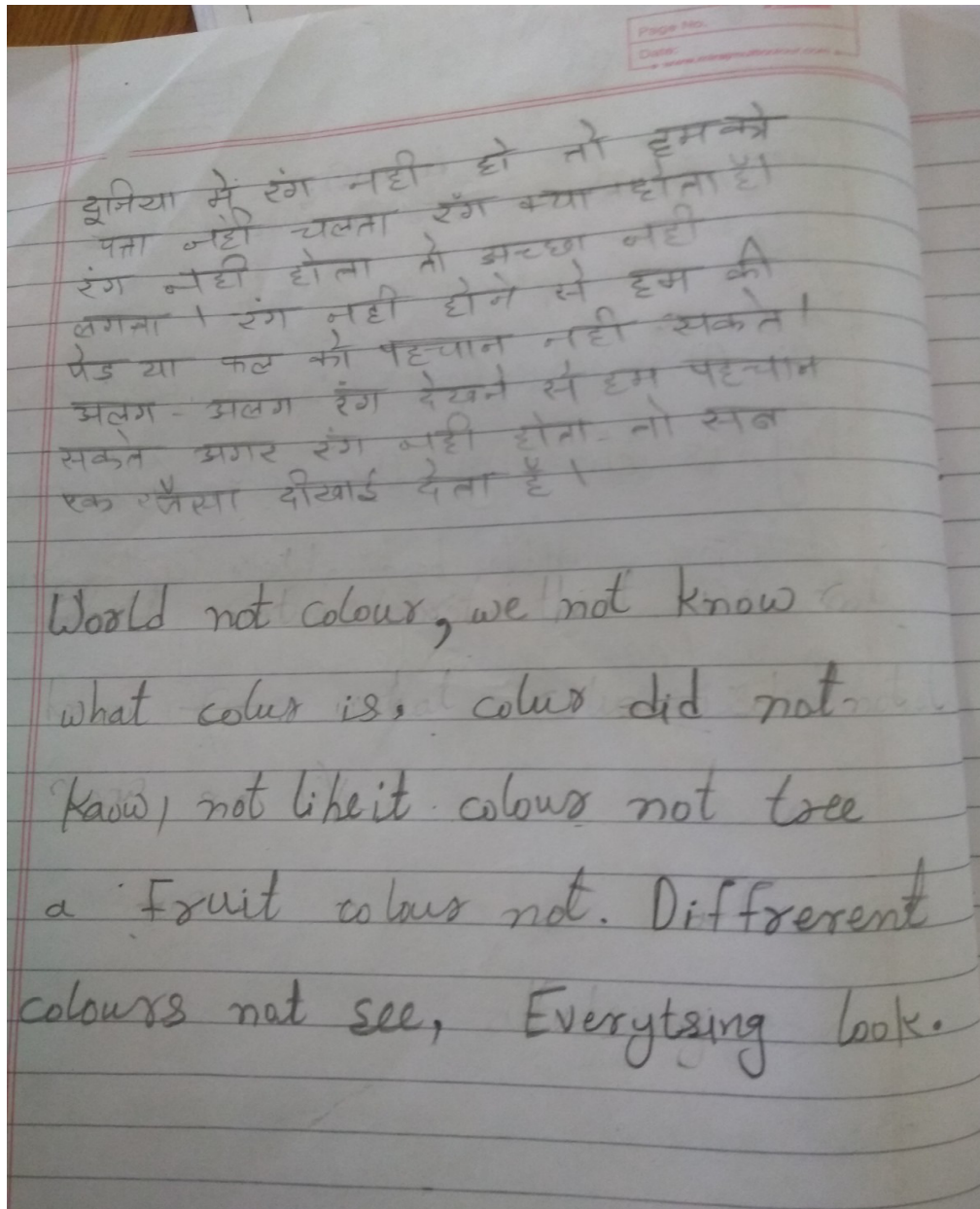


Kesarwanti Meena



I know Kesarwanti, since I joined this school. While working with her on her project works for classes VII and VIII, I noticed that she was weak in reading and writing and was facing difficulties in the same in English. Moreover, I found the student to be extremely silent in class and not giving any replies to questions posed. May be this was due to lack in confidence. Kesarwanti hesitated in asking questions to teachers. She had trouble both at the letter and word level. Some of the challenges that she faced were in writing English alphabets. She used to reverse letters while writing. For example she used to write b for d and vice-e-versa, make mistakes while copying from the blackboard, etc. She would also omit an unknown word in a text or substitute it with a different word that she can pronounce

Kesarwanti started overcoming the challenges above and made a lot of progress in the previous summer camp in reading and writing. We worked at different levels with her, read out stories to her in English and then translated it in Hindi, used bilingual text to facilitate English language learning, we also did a lot of guided reading of texts. Soon she picked up the pace and could read words like ‘flapping’. She would read ‘pig’ for ‘big’, ‘barkness’ for ‘darkness’, ‘sald’ for ‘said’, ‘was’ as ‘saw’. We were working together on different aspects of letter sounds and the symbols, like to remember which is ‘b’ and which is ‘d’, we used gestures using our hands to depict ‘b’ and ‘d’ to help her remember the difference. All these helped the child a lot. Her writing samples in the camp:



In the last few months, Kesarwanti also started comprehending a text. Another change that was noticed in the child was a decrease in anxiety towards her studies. Now she answers questions orally and is also open to come to the blackboard to solve questions in front of the class which is a stark contrast from her earlier shyness. Her difficulty at the alphabet level has also decreased. In a word, her performance in English has improved and she has performed better than in the previous classes.

Kesarwanti now states her challenges and asks for help to overcome them. She is no longer scared to request the teacher to repeat a concept that she has not understood in the first instance. She no longer commits mistakes at the letter level. Using the worksheets and the knowledge acquired in the summer camp, Kesarwanti has learnt to translate a text written in English into Hindi. Such activities in the worksheets have helped her. She has further learnt to comprehend a question and answer it accordingly. This was seen in her replies to reading comprehension questions. There were some tasks (e.g., voices, narration and paragraph writing) where we had to put in an extra effort. But when we worked on these topics with Kesarwanti individually she started responding and worked better on them.

The positive changes in Kesarwanti are due to the efforts of her subject teachers, the FP and the teachers who worked with her in the summer camp. Her progress was also aided by worksheets and Deskwork provided by Vidya Bhawan and the work done with her in the camps and extra classes in which Kesarwanti was a diligent student.