



# Vedanta sets up 500<sup>th</sup> Nand Ghar; Reaches out to over 17,000 children

## My Day – My Nand Ghar

The green fields start to show timidly under the enchanting sun, cool breeze, sound of the cattle and the hustle-bustle from the houses that marks a beautiful day at a typical Indian village. At the local *chowk* there is a rush of young children, with their mothers, grandmothers, excitedly walking towards the *Nand Ghar*, the model Anganwadi by Vedanta. There is joy in the air as the Anganwadi didi welcomes the groups of children. Taking care of the children as her own, she makes sure that they are ready and wearing the Nand Ghar uniform. All along the Anganwadi Sahayika is ensuring that the children wash hands, and then the Morning Prayer starts, where the children imbibe social values.

Next, the television is switched on, and the children take in the lesson of the day, helped along by the Anganwadi didi. They also learn writing and drawing on the BaLa (Building as Learning Aid) elements of the Nand Ghar, and play with the puzzles and assisted activities from the Smart Kit.

As the fans whirr, powered by the rooftop solar panels, the children huddle in a circle, completing the final lesson of the day or go outside, playing on the swings and slides. The Sahayika then helps the children use the washroom and wash hands in the washbasin. Then hygienic and nutritious meal is served with clean drinking water to the children and after this, the children head home, longing to come back the next day to their *Nand Ghar*.

Further, the community also benefits from the Mobile Health Vans which come to the Nand Ghars every week, providing 'doctor at doorstep' who provide free consultations, tests and medicines. In the afternoon, local women undergo skills training that aims to empower them financially.

## Early Childhood Development

According to UNICEF (2013), "Early years of childhood form the basis of intelligence, personality and social behaviour, and capacity to learn and nurture oneself as an adult. There is significant evidence that links the circumstances of

adversity and habits formed in early years to the non-communicable diseases of adulthood." Early childhood development (ECD) includes elements critical to a child's cognitive, social and emotional development. These comprise learning, health, nutrition, play and overall care.

Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) is the government's flagship programme for ECD. Launched in 1975, ICDS provides a range of services across ECD and maternal and child health including pre-school non formal education, supplementary nutrition, health related awareness, immunization, health checkup and referral services. These are provided through a network of 14 lakh Anganwadis run by approximately 13 lakh Anganwadi workers and 12 lakh Anganwadis helpers, catering to approximately 8.5 crore children under the age of six years (Ministry of WCD, GoI).

While ICDS is a strong system, having unprecedented scale, strong policy frameworks and large funding outlays; it also faces significant impediments in the form of uneven service delivery and inconsistent quality of infrastructure.

## Nand Ghar Initiative

In recent years there is an emerging understanding in the development community of the role private philanthropy can play in taking several government initiatives to the next level. One of the more effective ways of doing the same is to create a demonstration effect. Through the Nand Ghar initiative, Vedanta has created a demonstration model at scale, which addresses some of the core challenges of ICDS.

Through the Nand Ghar initiative it is intended to create a 'model Anganwadi', not

**"Before Nand Ghar was built, there was no Anganwadi in our village. Now, our children have a safe place to go, get a nutritious meal and they also learn with TV, puzzles just like children from cities".**

— says Soyati, whose two grandchildren attend Nand Ghar in Barmer.

## ABOUT VEDANTA LTD:

Vedanta Limited, a subsidiary of Vedanta Resources Limited, is one of the world's leading diversified natural resource companies with business operations in India, South Africa, Namibia and Australia.

Vedanta is a leading producer of Oil & Gas, Zinc, Lead, Silver, Copper, Iron Ore, Aluminium, Steel and Commercial Power.

Governance and Sustainable Development are at the core of Vedanta's strategy, with a strong focus on health, safety and environment and on enhancing lives of the local communities. The company is conferred with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) 'Sustainable Plus Platinum label', ranking among the top 10 most sustainable companies in India.

Vedanta Limited is listed on the Bombay Stock Exchange and the National Stock Exchange in India and has ADRs listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

only in terms of infrastructure or services, but also how the community interacts and engages with the anganwadi eco system. This is the first such initiative with such a large scale and geographic distribution.

These Nand Ghars, built through pre-fab technology, are equipped with rooftop solar panels for providing 24x7 electricity, water purifiers, TV for delivering interactive learning, and clean toilets. Further, apart from education and nutrition provided to the children, Nand Ghars also provide community health services through a Mobile Health Van, and provide skilling services to local women as well.

In a milestone achievement, Vedanta Group, diversified Natural Resources Company, recently announced the completion of its' 500<sup>th</sup> Nand Ghar at Chaksu Block in Jaipur.

Speaking on the occasion, Anil Agarwal, Founder and Chairman, Vedanta Group, said, "We strongly believe that a nation can only progress by investing in the future of women and children. In line with this ideology, Vedanta Group in collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, is creating 4,000 Nand Ghars across the country, which would eventually lead to the transformation of 14 lakh Anganwadis, thus impacting 8.5 Crore children and 2 Crore women."

He further added, "Our primary focus is to start at the grass root level with the holistic development of children and women, who form the future of our nation. The initiative addresses issues relating to pre-primary education, healthcare, nutrition for children, and economic empowerment for women in rural India".

Today, 502 operational Nand Ghars across Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh are a testimony to the commitment to transform the Anganwadi landscape of India. It is delivering impact at scale with more than 17,000 children availing *pre-school learning* through advanced teaching methodologies, and a scientific curriculum, with more than 11,000 of them being served nutritious meals every day.

*Health* initiatives have benefitted more than 15,000 community members by more than 20 health services provided through Mobile Health Vans. More than 8,000 women have obtained trade based skill training. The skill program has facilitated financial inclusion of women by linking with government schemes to disburse credit amounting to INR 23 Lakh/-. The gainfully employed women have received an average monthly incremental income of INR 3,510/-.

This impact is being sustained through close hand holding and capacity building of Anganwadi *didis* and *sahayikas*, near-real time digital monitoring; all enhanced through deep community engagement.

Vedanta has planned an outlay of ₹ 800 crore for setting up 4,000 Nand Ghars across India over next few years with the intent of transforming the Anganwadi ecosystem of the country.

**Fun filled and activity based education provided at Nand Ghar has changed the way children perceive education. They find Nand Ghar a friendly and welcoming place and have seen that learning is fun and not tough.**

—Baby Devi, Anganwadi worker and mother of two children attending Nand Ghar in Jaipur, Rajasthan



An **IMPACT** Feature



## TANVEER, Thattar Colony, Jaipur

Tanveer is a 5 year old girl whose parents work in the handloom industry. She was enrolled at Nand Ghar in Thattar Colony, Jaipur in 2017. A shy and gawky child who has transformed to being socially more affable through her learning in Nand Ghar. Her parents are delighted that Nand Ghar brought out this transformational change and are overwhelmed when they see their

child writing and speaking English and Hindi alphabets along with counting numbers.

"We got a valuable gift with Nand Ghar being constructed in our village for which we are thankful to Vedanta" her parents shared. Tanveer not only comes to Nand Ghar on time but also motivates her friends to come along. Her Anganwadi *Didi* applauds her enthusiasm and adds that she has shown a considerable improvement in co-curricular activities.



## BABITA DEVI, Kakaraiya Village, Varanasi

37-year-old Babita Devi has three children. Her husband is a small farmer who runs the family on his meagre income. Babita always wanted to do something on her own and joining the skilling program offered at Nand Ghar was a first step towards this journey. Babita was a keen learner throughout the program and got the chance to ask questions

regarding the opportunities open to her on completion of the program.

While she was interested in joining the local village grocery shop, she also tried to build her own knowledge about the market by visiting the wholesale market of Varanasi. Having gathered information on the product prices, she compared these with the local market rates in the village keeping in consideration the overhead costs, village needs, etc. and subsequently opened her own shop and started selling low-cost products such as washing powder and handstitched bags. The Nand Ghar program facilitated linkage with the wholesale market as well as other vendors delivering to her village, which helped strengthen her business.

Today she earns ₹ 6,000 per month and plans to extend her shop to include more products

