

Jivi



Jivi (changed name) is in her thirties and has two children. She and her husband works as laborers. She also works on their agriculture-farm when there is no labor work. She has been sending both of her children to Balwadi (Pre-School Center) for past two years. She says-“Before I had to carry my children wherever I would go. It was difficult at times. But now I am not worried about my children when I go for labor work or go for bathing at village-lake. My children play and learn so many things and the Sanchalika looks after them very well”.

Her four-year-old son has learnt to wash his hands before eating. When the Sanchalika (the woman who runs the Balwadi) rings the bell in the morning when she opens the Balwadi Jivi’s son asks his mother to clean him and get him ready for the Balwadi.

In the beginning Jivi’s children would not go to Balwadi regularly because they were too shy to speak. Gradually they learnt to interact with other children and started coming out of their shells. Jivi says- “Now both of my children come home and imitate what they learn in Balwadi. My husband feels so happy to see both of them reciting poems and singing songs”. Many relatives of Jivi are also amazed at her children’s performance.

Jivi’s eldest daughter would turn six very soon. Therefore the Sanchalika has been encouraging Jivi to admit her daughter to the school. She is extremely happy with her daughter’s performance and has made her mind to send her to the school this year.