

## UNSPECTED EDUCATION TRAVALLING

6 September 2023, from Hon. Block Education Officer Panchayat Samiti Shahapur received a message thatgoto Zilla Parishad School Khokrichiwadiand should be taught started immediately at zero teacher school on transfer process teachet take as per theteconiveartschoolso same school beacause zero teacher Therefore, in order do not to harm the students stadies in these schools, subject expert experts were appointed for teaching in these schools. Zilla Parishad School Khokrichiwadi is one such school in zero teacher school.

On the next day in 7th September 2023, I reached Zilla Parishad School Khokrichiwadi at 10.15 am. Khokrichiwadi is a small wadi situated in the lap of Sahyadri. The wadi was surrounded by the Sahyadri mountain range and numerous streams flowing from this mountain flowed from one side of the village. Many beautiful waterfalls were formed on these hills near the village as it was a rainy day and the mountains were covered with clouds. Therefore, the waterfalls falling on the mountains seemed to be falling from the heavens to the earth. At first glance, it was an enchanting wadi with a very natural environment.



**(natural environment of Khokarichiwadi)**

The school was filled with children as they know that the teacher had arrived. Those children, who was very cheerful, welcomed me with grass and flowers with great enthusiasm. The children were excited to learn new things from the new teachers. During the day, I and the children bonded well. As children feel that they and me are bound from so many year The members of the school management committee as well as the elders of the wadi also met when they came to know that the new teacher had come to their school. Although Khokarichiwadi is a remote wadi of the tribal community, the interest of education was evident among the children. Every day all children come to school with new enthusiasm. I don't understand how three-four days passed in the children's chatter.



One such day, I stayed late at school as I had to submit the school information to the office. It was evening. Because Guruji is there, the children also crawled in the school playground under the pretext of playing something. I came out after hearing the screams. A herd of goats was passing in front of the school. Seeing that herd, the children were rioting. An eleven-twelve-year-old girl was driving the herd with a small stick in her hand. The boys crowded around the girl and urged her to sing. Then that boy also showed two or three poems to the children in his melodious voice. I was fascinated by her voice. I called out to her. But in order not to miss the goats that had gone ahead, she said, "Guruji, I will come tomorrow," and she hurried in the direction where the goats had gone. When I inquired about the girl with the boys, the boys said that she is Meenal Ganu Khodka. Last year, she was studying in the fourth standard in her own school. She was a school monitor. She was ranked first in the fourth. Not only all the poems from the first to the fourth but also many other songs were recited by her. She was a very favorite student of the teacher. She has a great passion for education. But the village does not have a fifth class and she has to help her family with housework and goat grazing, so she dropped out of school this year. The children were talking a lot and Minal's life was unfolding in front of me. It was too late, so I asked the children to go home. Even after going home, the thought of Minal did not leave his head. It seemed like something had to be done for these girls or a girl's life would be ruined. Finally made up her mind and decided to meet her parents the next day

The next day, during the afternoon break, Minal waited for her home with four or five children. The president of the school management committee was also told to come there. On the way, children were asking different questions and telling some kind of information. However, there were

many doubts in my mind. Will Meenal be in the house? Will her parents be home? Aren't they addicts? What problems will they have? Will they understand what you say? Will they send her to school? If it is ready, what to do next? There were many such questions. There was no doubt that all my knowledge would be needed today. On reaching Minal's house, she realized the situation at home. Pots for four needs. A mud stove, a thatched wall, a tarp roof, a land spread with dung, and a place. After a while of silence, he started talking. All this testified to the ancestral poverty. I called from outside. With that, Minal came out, she must have just come home with the goats. Her father also came out immediately, he must have just come from the forest. He was very happy to see the teacher come home. He requested to sit inside. Gave a small chair to sit on. I sat on it and began to ponder. After discussing about rain, agriculture, forest, I touched the main topic i.e. Minal's education. Minal's father, who was happily chatting all this time, became completely silent. His face looked sad. They must have no idea what to say. After a while of silence, he started talking. "Guruji, tell me how you will send her to school, if she is asked to go to school, how will she get textbooks, notebooks and materials for school. There is such poverty at home. It is difficult to get two meals a day. Then how to meet the expenses of her education. How until there was a school in the village. But it was going on. How can she afford the expenses of traveling outside the village. She goes to graze goats, so she runs away from home. If she goes to school, who will graze the goats....."

Minal's father faced the monster of poverty with one or more such questions. I didn't know what to say. At this time, I felt some movement behind me and looked back, and saw Minal, who had been playing among the children all this time, come and sit. After realizing that Guruji had come to her house for her education and that he was talking to her father, Hoti secretly sat

back and listened to everything. What will Guruji say now? Will they succeed in convincing the father? Will your education car start again? Many such questions were clearly visible on her face. Optimism was awakened in her mind. The innocence on her face was evident. Seeing that, I got a new look again. Then I informed Minal's father about the various schemes of the government. Imagine how much the government helps in girls' education. Along with this, information was also given about how various charitable organizations, philanthropists help children's education. Guaranteed to get all the expenses required for education from the government, organizations and philanthropists. But now Minal's father's tone of denial had subsided somewhat. However, the problem of housework and maintenance of goats was still faced. "I will go to feed the goats early in the morning. Then go to school." said Minal who was silent for so long. Seeing her self-confidence, her father's opposition eventually subsided and he allowed her to study. Minal's face was overflowing with happiness. Meanwhile, Minal's mother gave tea made from goat's milk. Taking that amrit like tea, I left for school. Half the battle was won but there was still half to be done. Money and material required for Minal's education...

The next day, the teachers of Dehane, a nearby upper primary school, were contacted and asked to take Minal to school. In the morning Mr. Thackeray sir came along with me to take Minal to school. Minal was ready. When she went to school, the children welcomed her. Thackeray sir gave her books. She was very happy. An organization called Navjeevan gave her notebooks, compasses, notebooks and other school materials.

Now Minal goes to school everyday. Mr.Thakare sir has completed her previous studies. She is the leader of the school choir team. She wants the school to win prizes in singing competitions.



Yogesh Dhanaji Gage

B.R.C PANCHAYAT SAMITI SHAHAPUR