STL

STORIES OF CHANGE

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Tranforming everyday living by delivering smarter networks

Impacting Lives
Beyond Tomorrow

THE GLOBAL GOALS
For Sustainable Development

At STL, we believe in leveraging our core competencies to develop communities around our operations. By delivering smarter networks through technology, data and collaborations, we have consistently focused on transforming everyday living for each of our beneficiaries.

Since 2018, the company has been committed to the UN Global Compact corporate responsibility initiative and its principles in the areas of human rights, labour, the environment and anti-corruption. Of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we have integrated 15 into our CSR and Sustainability programmes. This has allowed us to strategically design high-impact initiatives that battle fundamental crisis ubiquitous in society today, such as environmental degradation, patriarchy and illiteracy, to name a few.

And after 15 years of striving to promote inclusive growth, we have not only transformed everyday living for over 1.43 million beneficiaries, but have also been developing conscientious and socially aware leaders through volunteering.

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WE SUPPORT

UN GLOBAL COMPACT

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Pune, Maharashtra

Through the various roles women play, they have the ability to bring about change that spans across generations. We hence started the Jeewan Jyoti Women Empowerment Programme in 2014 to help women in rural Pune overcome existing patriarchal traditions and take control of their lives.

Through the programme, we have created a holistic environment that not only equips these women with livelihood skills but also confidence and self-belief. All of these are essential for them to step out of the shadows, earn and become financially independent, as well as spread the need for change.

Today, these women have proved their resilience and commitment. They have not only inspired and motivated other women in the region to study and live their dreams, but also encouraged the menfolk to support their daughters and wives to learn and earn.

Achievements:

- Transformed everyday living for over **3,500+** women
- Covered students across **over 100 villages** in Bhor, Velhe and Haveli Talukas
- Vocational education provided in nursing, computers, tailoring, fashion designing and beauty culture
- **100 self-help groups** comprising of over **1200 women set up across 18 villages**

Partners:

MAVIM

MSBVEE

amazon Saheli

rangsutra

SDG Accomplishments

- **Income**
- **Employment**
- **Equal opportunities**
- **Decision-making**
- **Vocational skilling**

Subhani Kiran Despande, a resident of Dhangawadi village, always dreamt of completing her education and becoming an independent woman. However, conservative families, both before and after marriage did not permit her to do so.

After 14 years of marriage and two children, Subhani was still determined to change her fate. However, now she faced a very different issue – she did not have the relevant skills to get employed. But this time she was resolute to fight the odds. She finally convinced her family and enrolled herself for the Data Entry Course at Jeewan Jyoti.

The competitive environment at the centre brought out the best in her and constant motivation from teachers helped her excel. Her passion to become self-reliant along with her skills and acumen helped her land a job as a Data Entry Operator at the Gram Panchayat Office. Now earning a monthly income of INR 8000 (USD 115), she contributes to her family's income, assists her husband on their farm, and makes sure her children receive quality education.

Subhani proudly says, **"To me, Jeewan Jyoti is synonymous with opportunity. It helped me fulfil my dream!"**

SUBHANI KIRAN DESPANDE
A resident of Dhangawadi village

SDG Accomplishments

- **Digital empowerment**
- **Equal opportunities**
- **Community change agent**
- **Economic growth**
- **Decent work opportunities for women**

Swati Shilimkar, the Sarpanch of Kurungwadi Gram Panchayat has been leading women in her village by walking the talk.

She set up 11 self-help groups (SHGs) that enhanced women's participation in the village's economic development. However, lack of digital knowledge restricted them to traditional accounting, inventory, sales and marketing techniques. This proved to be a huge drawback for expansion. Swati, however, did not let this become a hurdle. Instead, she broke stereotypes and enrolled not just herself, but also her daughter for the MS Office computer course at the Jeewan Jyoti Women Empowerment Programme.

The course did not just help them learn the skills they needed to strengthen the SHGs, but also gave them immense exposure to various situations, building their confidence to use their newly acquired abilities. **"Jeewan Jyoti has given me financial freedom. With digital literacy, I can help women in my village manage the SHGs better."** says Swati.

Today, she not only manages all the accounting work for the SHGs, but also consistently spreads the importance of digital literacy. Her vitality and motivation continue to inspire other women of her village to become self-sufficient, digitally aware and empowered.

SWATI SHILIMKAR
The Sarpanch of Kurungwadi village in Pune

JALDOOT

Aurangabad, Maharashtra

Jaldoot aimed at not just providing farmers in Aurangabad with access to water for drinking and agriculture, but also sought to inculcate in them the need to use this precious resource in a sustainable manner.

Community ownership through non-monetary contributions was a crucial element that helped us ensure the farmers were not just beneficiaries but partners in the programme. This shared value approach allowed us to create quality infrastructure for the villagers while ensuring maintenance that enhanced the groundwater capacity in these villages.

Achievements:

- **Over 7,85,000 cubic meters** of water replenished
- **20 water storage structures redeveloped** across **11 villages**
- More than **2,200+ farmers** and **28,800 villagers** benefitted
- Over **16,000 villagers** given access to **clean drinking water**
- **20% increase** in the annual income of farmers

SDG Accomplishments

- **Access to clean and safe drinking water**
- **Sustainable use of water**
- **Income growth**
- **Economic inclusion**
- **Increased productivity**

"We used to have some rainfall, but the dams were so shallow that water used to flow out of them. Nothing percolated into the ground for use after the rains", recalls Ravsaheb Dandage, a small farmer from Warud village in Aurangabad.

Water scarcity and security are major issues in the region with limited water for both drinking and agriculture. Additionally, with more than 250 farmers across Chikalthana and Warud dependent on traditional farming methods, overuse of water is rampant.

But today, Ravsaheb Dandage no longer has these qualms. He cheerfully says, **"Things changed after Jaldoot. The deepening and widening of the nearby dams increased the amount of groundwater in the area. My well is nearby and I realized the difference within a few days. Earlier, I could only grow pearl millet, sorghum and cotton. But now I can grow different vegetables too."**

Along with other farmers, Ravsaheb now desilts the dams in the village annually after the monsoons as they were shown during the implementation of Jaldoot. The silt removed is used as manure, reducing their input costs. However, most importantly, the significant increase in groundwater levels have dramatically improved Ravsaheb's crop productivity. Not only has his income increased from INR 30,000 (~ USD 420) to over INR 40,000 (~ USD 550), but he was able to reap an excellent harvest even in 2019 – a year when Aurangabad was declared a drought region.

RAVSAHEB DANDAGE
A small farmer from Warud village in Aurangabad

SDG Accomplishments

- **Sustainable use of water**
- **Income growth**
- **Economic inclusion**
- **Increased productivity**
- **Leadership**
- **Use of modern farming techniques**

As you enter Malkapur village, a lush green field sprinkled with red pomegranates greets you. As you go a little further, sweet lime trees are spread across the remainder of the field.

Kushivarta Keshavrao Mandalik, a small farmer, reminisces how managing all of this a few years back was next to impossible. *"The dam was filled with shrubs which we used as fodder for our cattle. It was not cleaned and was full of silt deposited over the years."* The unavailability of water forced Kushivarta to replace her sweet lime farms with cotton and millet crops. Even after constructing a pond and a well to harvest rainwater, her farm's situation did not improve. However, after Jaldoot, the landscape transformed to reveal its true potential.

Kushivarta observes, **"The dam after Jaldoot was cleaner, deeper and wider than ever before. It took several showers of rain to fill it, and after a very long time, we saw so much water in our village! It helped improve the level of groundwater in our village. We all contributed along with STL to make this possible, and we will continue maintaining the dams".**

Now, she not only cultivates cotton and millet but has pomegranate, sweet lime and vegetable farms. As Kushivarta's income increased year-on-year over 25%, she started investing in better farming techniques that help save water. Today, all her farms have drip irrigation systems allowing her to use the water saved in moderation, thereby making it available for use long after the monsoons.

KUSHIVARTA KESHAVRAO MANDALIK
A small farmer from Malkapur village in Aurangabad

MOBILE MEDICAL UNIT

Silvassa, Dadra & Nagar Haveli

Started in 2006, the Mobile Medical Unit continues to provide tribals in Silvassa with primary healthcare at their doorsteps every week.

Even today, a majority of tribal villages in Silvassa do not have basic healthcare facilities within a radius of 5 to 10 kilometres. Healthcare is thus not only unavailable but also very costly. Due to the remoteness of these villages, travelling to the city hospital requires transport arrangements to be made. The unwell family member needs to be accompanied by another person. As most of the tribals are daily wage earners, this means a loss of a day's wage.

The Mobile Medical Unit has not just helped mitigate these issues, but also created awareness about general well-being and health. Integration of technology that works even in low to no internet coverage areas along with data has helped us identify and help patients that need advanced medical treatment, as well as plan health camps, thus facilitating sustainable communities capable of progressing and growing economically.

Achievements:

Over 220,000 lives
impacted till date

36 locations
covered weekly

Over 50% of patients comprise
of children and the elderly

Partners:

Indian Red Cross Society
Healthcare partner of the Govt. of Dadra and Nagar Haveli

सत्यमेव जयते
Government of Dadra and Nagar Haveli

SDG Accomplishments

- **Access to quality healthcare**
- **Provision of medicines**
- **Social inclusion**

Old age brings along with it more than a few health concerns, and residing in a remote tribal village in Silvassa increases the older citizens' dependency on their families. But what about those with no families to care for them? With no primary health facilities nearby or even adequate public transport, going to the city to visit a doctor or for medication, becomes almost impossible due to high costs.

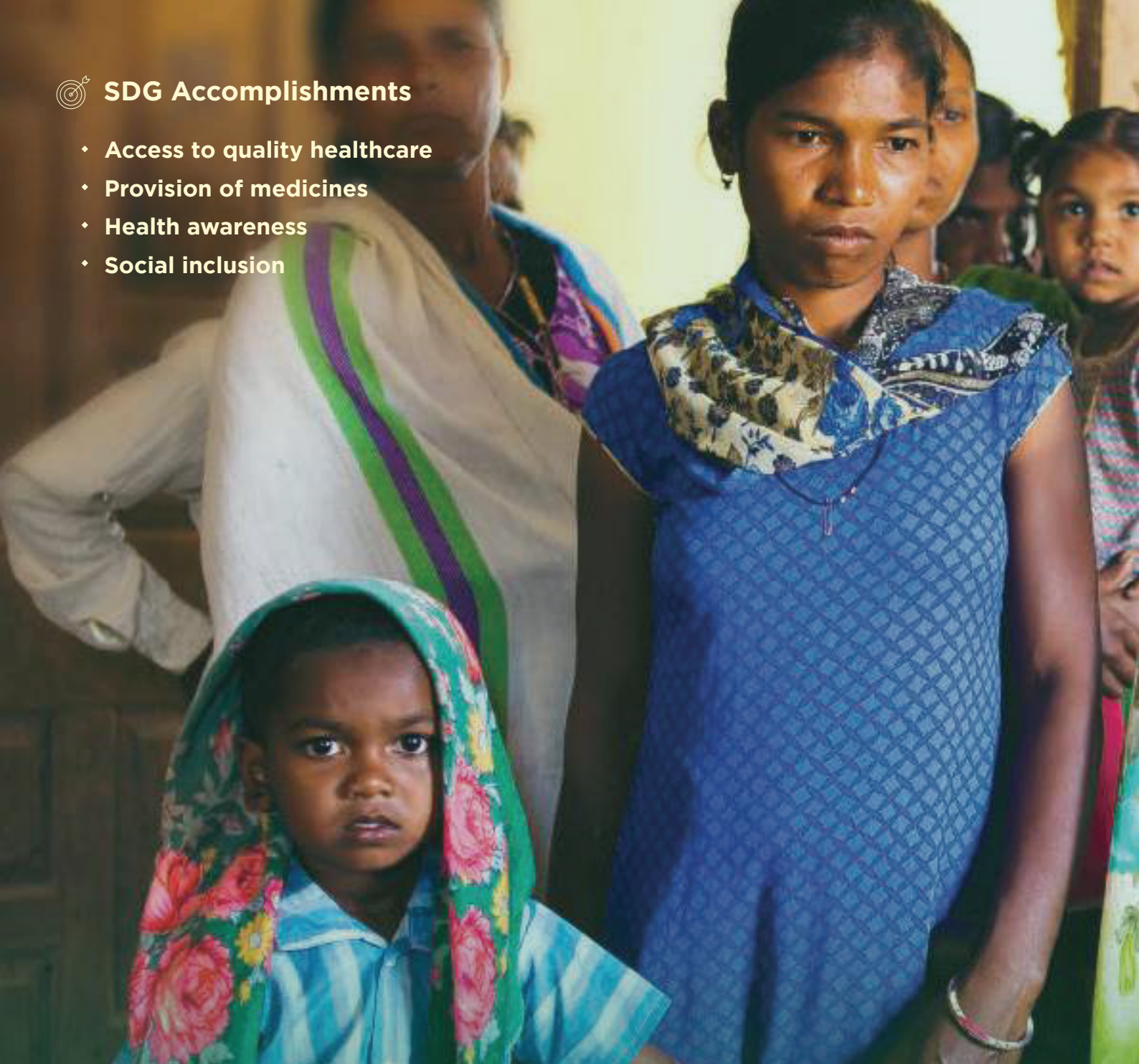
A widow with no children or relatives to care for her, Navasu Bhadhya Pacholkar's health kept deteriorating. She used food from ration stores and income from government schemes to sustain herself. But as she got older, her health worsened. Her income was insufficient for both, food and medication. Joint pains, inability to move around and seasonal illnesses were a regular part of her life.

But now, her neighbours always find her healthy and cheerful. Weekly visits to her village Luhari, made by STL's Mobile Medical Unit ensure that she has regular health checkups and receives free medicines. Today, this 65-year-old lady smiles and says, **"I do not need anyone to stay healthy. The Mobile Medical Unit ensures that I receive my medication on time and can take care of myself".**

NAVASU BHADHYA PACHOLKAR
A tribal from Luhari village in Silvassa

SDG Accomplishments

- **Access to quality healthcare**
- **Provision of medicines**
- **Health awareness**
- **Social inclusion**



A majority of Silvassa's tribals are daily wage earners. This means, a day away from work and they do not receive any payment to take care of their family's food, education and health.

Both of Suman Jagdish Dhumela's parents are workers and make their living through wages earned on a daily basis. So, when Suman was unable to eat due to a swelling on his upper and lower lips which was accompanied by a high fever, it put his parents in a quandary.

Their child was a priority, but losing out on a day's income to take him to a doctor at the city hospital meant a substantial financial loss for an impoverished family like them.

Fortunately, STL's Mobile Medical Unit was scheduled to visit Luhari, their village, the very next morning around 9:30 AM. The doctor identified the swelling to be the result of an insect bite. After prescribing and providing free medication, the team also explained to his mother what precautions need to be taken to avoid such insect bites. This timely visit not only healed the inflammation and helped other patients there understand how to avoid similar situations, but also saved Suman's parents an expensive trip to the city hospital and loss of a day's earnings.

SUMAN JAGDISH DHUMELA
A tribal child from Luhari village in Silvassa

SMART NANDGHARS

Silvassa, Dadra & Nagar Haveli

STL's Smart Nandghars programme focuses on pre-schooling. Playschool is not a widely known concept even today in Silvassa's villages. Children are usually put into school much later. Learning hence becomes more of a tedious task for them rather than something they enjoy.

We, therefore, undertook the Smart Nandghars programme to provide these tribal children with playschool facilities at par with what children in urban India have access to. Vibrant infrastructure and interiors, toys and play gyms that help improve their motor and cognitive skills have all been integrated into making these nandghars a place the children look forward to coming to. Visual aids and games help them learn while enjoying themselves and develops in them the love for learning right from a young age.

Achievements:

8 nandghars redeveloped

Over 600 toddlers now enjoy going to playschool

Partners:

सत्यमेव जयते

Government of Dadra and Nagar Haveli

SDG Accomplishments

- **Access to free, quality pre-primary education**
- **Early childhood development**
- **Upgraded education facilities**
- **Effective learning environment**
- **Social inclusion**

At 10:00 AM every morning, Zada, a 65-year-old grandmother is among the first few to reach the Smart Nandghar with her 4-year-old granddaughter Munni.

Zada was never allowed to attend school when she was young. Marriage and the toil of raising nine children left her with no time to cherish the schooling years of her own children. It is only now with Munni that she gets a chance to watch the little girl learn new words, make sentences, write and play.

“Munni’s elder brother who attended playschool before the Nandghar was transformed, never liked going to school. **Munni loves to come here now that there are wonderful toys to play with, and a television through which they learn songs and dance. Even the building is so colourful! The children no longer make a fuss. They are up every morning, all excited to go to school”.**

Every evening, Munni excitedly shares with Zada what she learns, and tells her about the games they play. Seeing her granddaughter enjoy learning gives Zada the satisfaction that future generations, and especially the girls in her family will receive a good education.

ZADA
A tribal from Kadupada, Velugam in Silvassa

SDG Accomplishments

- **Access to free, quality pre-primary education**
- **Early childhood development**
- **Upgraded education facilities**
- **Effective learning environment**
- **Social inclusion**
- **Equal opportunities**

Even though primarily a tribal engaged in agriculture, Amru is conscious of the importance of a good education for her children to progress. Therefore, she drops and picks up Bhavna, her 5-year-old, from school daily between her farm chores with utmost sincerity and joy.

Since her childhood, Amru's education was never given enough importance in comparison to her brothers. She managed to complete her 10th grade only after her marriage. Her husband, too, is not well educated and is a skill-based worker. Lack of education is the main reason Amru feels both of them have to struggle to find well-paying jobs.

Therefore, seeing her daughter delighted every morning to attend school makes her tremendously happy. "Not only do the teachers take utmost care, but the new toys, technology, nutritious food, colourful and cheerful environment help the children learn and understand concepts better. For her, every day is just as exciting as the last. **The Nandghar has not only helped with the development of our children, but is also creating hope in the community. I love to see boys and girls studying together here as equals. It is as if someone weaved my dream into reality. It makes me feel hopeful about the future".**

AMRU
A tribal from Patelpada, Velugam in Silvassa

ED-TECH PROGRAMMES

Pragyan, Jaipur

Virtual Classrooms, Mumbai

Through our Virtual Classrooms and Pragyan Programmes, STL has helped ensure quality education is accessible to children from low-income families, who do not have the means to educate them in private schools.

Using technology, these programmes have reached out to schools in semi-rural and even slum areas. The location of the school is thus no longer a constraint to having quality teachers. Experts deliver live interactive lectures through the Virtual Classroom Programme, whereas teachers are trained on using technology to make teaching interesting and fun through Pragyan.

Both these programmes have ensured that children who want to learn but lack the means to do so, receive their education from professionals who help them learn concepts in a way that stays with them throughout their lives.

Achievements:

Over 4,45,000 students from low-income families benefitted

More than 2,200 faculty equipped with teaching and facilitation skills

500 schools covered

Partners:

सत्यमेव जयते
राजस्थान सरकार

बृहन्मुंबई महानगरपालिका
Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai

SDG Accomplishments

- **Access to quality primary & secondary education**
- **Equal opportunities**
- **Sustainable development**
- **Technology to promote learning**
- **Teacher training**
- **Inclusive & effective learning environment**

Earlier, school simply meant books and long lectures. And it did not just result in a declining interest to study, but also kept widening the inequalities gap among children who studied in government and private schools. Pragyan helped mitigate these issues by leveraging technology to deliver lessons and make learning enjoyable.

Today, Shakuntala, the Government Upper Primary School headmistress is delighted to see the dramatic turnaround. **"The educational videos have transformed the environment of our classrooms. Students learn concepts and even the subject quicker"**, she beams.

She makes sure she, as well as her entire staff, go through the lesson plans shared on the Pragyan mobile app daily. The teachers and students vocabulary and pronunciations have improved tremendously. The app, smart television and mobile device ensure that the teacher is able to guide the class on correct diction and topics that were otherwise unavailable to them.

The transformation in the children's learning ability and their improving grades have helped Shakuntala prove to worried parents that technology is crucial to help these children reach their potential and progress.

SHAKUNTALA
Headmistress at the Government Upper Primary School,
Narsinghpura Mahal, Jaipur

SDG Accomplishments

- **Access to quality primary & secondary education**
- **Equal opportunities**
- **Sustainable development of children**
- **Technology to promote learning**
- **Teacher training**
- **Capacity building**
- **Inclusive & effective learning environment**

For Sushila Dhabai, a Maths teacher at Sindhi Sanganer School, a typical day meant simply teaching her students from textbooks and explaining concepts verbally. This not only made learning tedious for her students, but also made teaching a monotonous and repetitive task for her. It was not something she enjoyed doing.

But now, she's excited about teaching. Her students have responded fabulously to the tech-based teaching mechanisms her school has adopted through Pragyan. It is not just interesting for them, but for her too. She was initially sceptical on how technology would make a difference. Now, she is not only convinced of its importance, but also contributes by creating videos of her own classroom practices and shares them with the Pragyan team for feedback.

She shares, "Earlier, I could never assess whether the students understood the concepts I taught. But now through the smart classroom, I can use simple animation videos that help me simplify complicated topics. For instance, in a class on division, I simply choose the video based on easy ideas like dividing chocolates among students. **This has allowed me the space to do what I have always wanted to do - try newer ways of teaching and share what works well with others. It is also helping my students visually understand concepts, enhancing their recall ability."**

SUSHILA DHABAI
Maths teacher at Sindhi Sanganer School, Jaipur

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