

The Knowledge Corners for the future of our India

Sometimes, meaningful change begins with a simple conversation. At Ashlesha School, Jalna, an idea by Samruddhi foundation has now taken shape as a space that promises to nurture curiosity, confidence, and a love for reading among young learners.

On 7th of December, a special interaction session was held with students of the 8th, 9th, and 10th standards at Ashlesha School. The dialogue by our President of **Samruddhi Foundation Pawan Mundhe** was aimed to understand the students' academic needs, everyday challenges, and aspirations for better learning. What began as an open conversation soon turned into an inspiring example of how listening to students can lead to real and positive change.

During the discussion, several students openly shared their desire for a dedicated place where they could read peacefully. They spoke about the lack of regular access to books, newspapers, and magazines, and how such resources could help them improve not only in academics but also in overall personality development. The idea of creating a **Reading Corner** emerged directly from the students themselves reflecting their genuine motivation to grow and learn beyond textbooks.

Teachers and facilitators present during the session quickly recognised the importance of this demand. The discussion highlighted a larger concern: the gradual decline of reading habits among young students. With increasing dependence on digital content and exam-oriented learning, the need for a structured reading environment in schools has become more important than ever. The Reading Corner was seen as a simple yet powerful step towards reviving this habit.

What made this initiative stand out was the speed of action. Taking the students' enthusiasm seriously, the school and facilitators decided to set up the Reading Corner without delay. Within just two days, planning was completed resources were identified, materials were arranged, and a suitable space within the school was finalised. Books, newspapers, educational magazines, and motivational reading material were carefully organised to ensure variety and relevance.

The Reading Corner was soon inaugurated at Ashlesha School in an atmosphere filled with excitement. Students actively participated in arranging books and

setting up the space, giving them a sense of ownership from the very beginning. Teachers welcomed the initiative and appreciated the collaborative effort, expressing confidence that the Reading Corner would have a lasting positive impact on student learning.

The vision behind the Reading Corner goes beyond simply providing books. Its core objective is to cultivate a daily reading habit among students. By offering access to general knowledge, current affairs, inspirational stories, and life lessons, the initiative aims to widen students' horizons. More importantly, it seeks to create a space where students can think independently, ask questions, and build confidence through knowledge.

Early responses from students suggest a strong and encouraging impact. Since the idea came from them, students feel personally connected to the Reading Corner. It promotes self-learning, discipline, and curiosity, while also helping improve language skills, comprehension, and awareness of the world around them. For many students, it has become a quiet corner where learning feels enjoyable rather than forced.

At its heart, this initiative is a direct outcome of meaningful dialogue. It demonstrates how student voices, when sincerely heard, can lead to practical and effective educational reforms. The Reading Corner stands as an example of what can be achieved through listening, collaboration, and timely action.

Looking ahead, there are plans to expand the Reading Corner with more books and learning resources. Weekly reading sessions, student-led book reviews, and group discussions are also being considered to make reading more interactive. Under the guidance of the **Samruddhi Foundation**, there is a vision to replicate this model in other schools across the Jalna district.

The Reading Corner at Ashlesha School is more than just a physical space it is a reminder that when students are encouraged to speak and adults are willing to listen; education becomes truly empowering.

By – Zain Pathan