UJIYARI PANCHAYAT
GALVANISING PANCHAYATS TOWARDS
100% RETENTION OF CHILDREN IN SCHOOLS

What is an Ujiyari Panchayat?
A panchayat where….

- Children between ages 3–6 are enrolled in Anganwadi Centres (AWCs)

- All children identified as out-of-school/dropout during household surveys are mainstreamed into age-appropriate grades

- All children between five to six years of age are transferred from AWCs to the nearest primary school, along with those identified as out-of-school/dropout in this age group

- All children who have remained absent from school for more than 45 days are re-admitted to age-appropriate grades

- All students who have achieved grade proficiency are regularly attending school

- All students who have appeared for/passed exams are promoted to subsequent grades, including those that have taken the board exams for Classes 5, 8 or 10

What are the key steps for creating an Ujiyari Panchayat?

STEP 1: Household survey in the gram panchayat to determine the status of out-of-school children between 3–18 years of age

- A team of 2–3 teachers and an Anganwadi Worker (AWW) collect ward-wise data
- A team of teachers ensures data quality by cross-checking a random selection of survey data
- Data on the number of children in the panchayat and the number of never enrolled and dropout children during previous years is collated in a survey register
- Data is uploaded on the Management Information System (MIS) portal (Shala Darshan) to enable monitoring by higher administrative officials.

The **Panchayat Elementary Education Officer (PEEO)** plays a crucial role in turning his panchayat into an Ujiyari Panchayat. He is instrumental in strategising and implementing the household survey. He also plays an active role in planning admission activities to ensure enrolment of out-of-school and dropout children.

The PEEO is the key person responsible for compiling all the records and preparing the application for Ujiyari Panchayat status. S/he is also a member of district and block level verification committees, which ensure that applications meet all the criteria set in the Ujiyari Guidelines.

STEP 2: Awareness building of the community about Ujiyari Panchayat. Planning of Admission Mahotsav and enrolment drives during the admission period, to ensure enrolment of out-of-school or dropout children in local schools and their mainstreaming into age-appropriate classes

- Rallies organised by schools, with students and teachers chanting slogans about literacy, enrolment and the importance of schooling
- Pamphlets distributed to highlight the facilities available at local government schools
- School Open Houses organised
- Parents invited to visit local schools to survey their facilities and attend information sessions
- Local Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) leaders talk about the merits of schooling and the Ujiyari programme
- Panchayat meetings held to encourage the wider community to support teachers during the enrolment drive

STEP 3: Mainstreaming of out-of-school and dropout children to ensure their retention in schools through bridge curriculum, additional classes, extra lessons and separate classes

- Bridge curriculum developed by the State Education Department for newly enrolled students
- Additional classes organised for up to 45 days to bring newly enrolled students at par with the others
- In cases where the number of newly enrolled students is more than 15, a new section started to ensure that they catch up with mainstreamed students
- Extra lessons for newly admitted students who had to attend regular classes with other students
- Provision made to hire either a Basic School Teaching Certificate (B.S.T.C.) or Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) trainee teacher to teach the bridge course

How is an Ujiyari Panchayat declared?
A formal application is prepared for declaring the panchayat as an 'Ujiyari Panchayat'.

Application authorised by the Sarpanch, PEEO, Panchayat Secretary and Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Lady Superintendent	Applications made by gram panchayats to declare themselves as Ujiyari	Data entry in Shala Darshan and Shala Darpan* portals	Verification of Ujiyari Panchayat applications by block and district level verification committees	Verification report submitted to Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) officials at the state level	Applications meeting criteria set by the Shiksha Parishad at the state level declared Ujiyari Panchayats, and PEEOs and Sarpanchs of such panchayats felicitated during Teachers' Day celebrations on September 5

* An online portal for government school teachers in Rajasthan