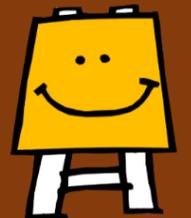


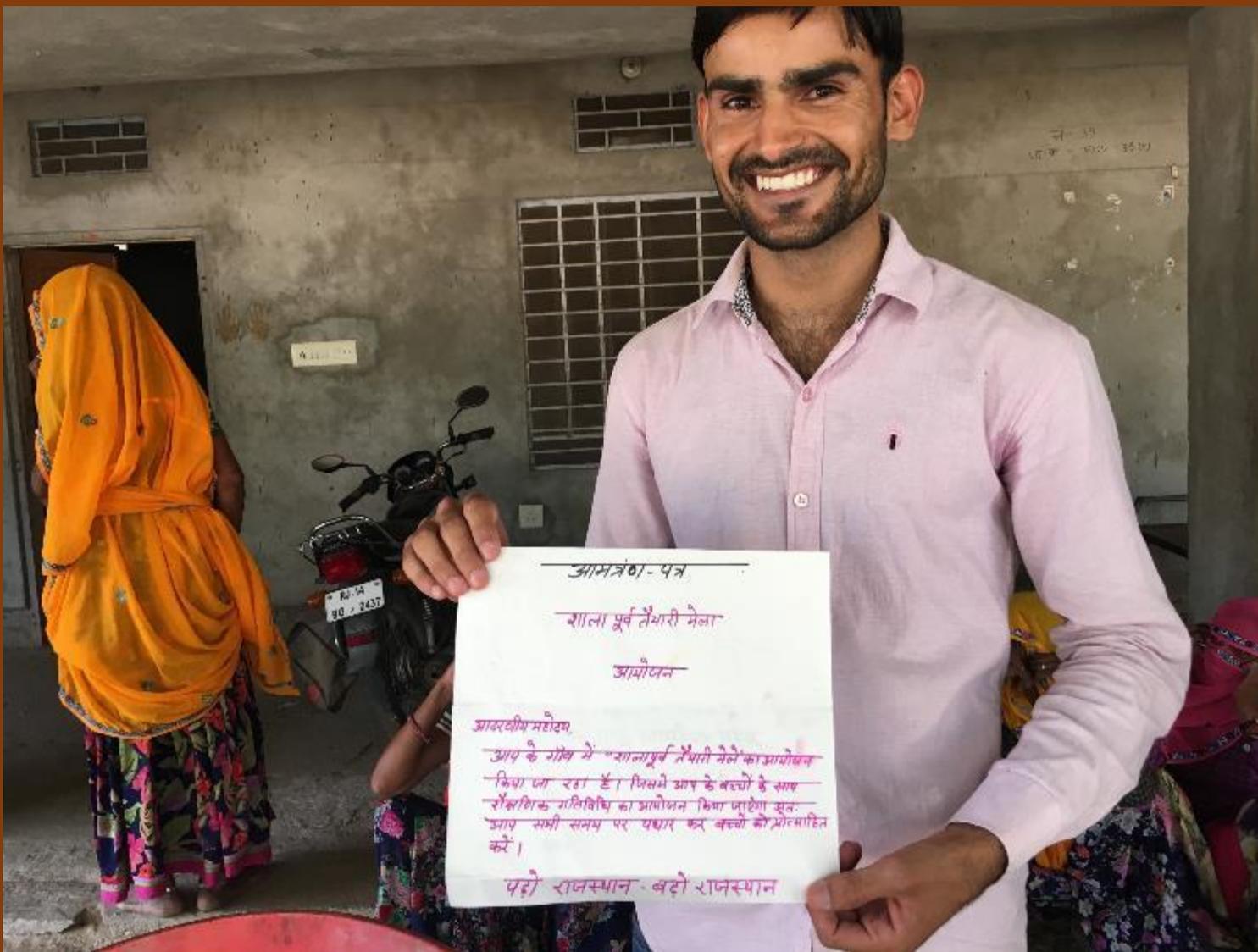


COME
LET US GET
“READY”
TO GO TO
SCHOOL

An afternoon in a village
with Pratham
Dausa, Rajasthan

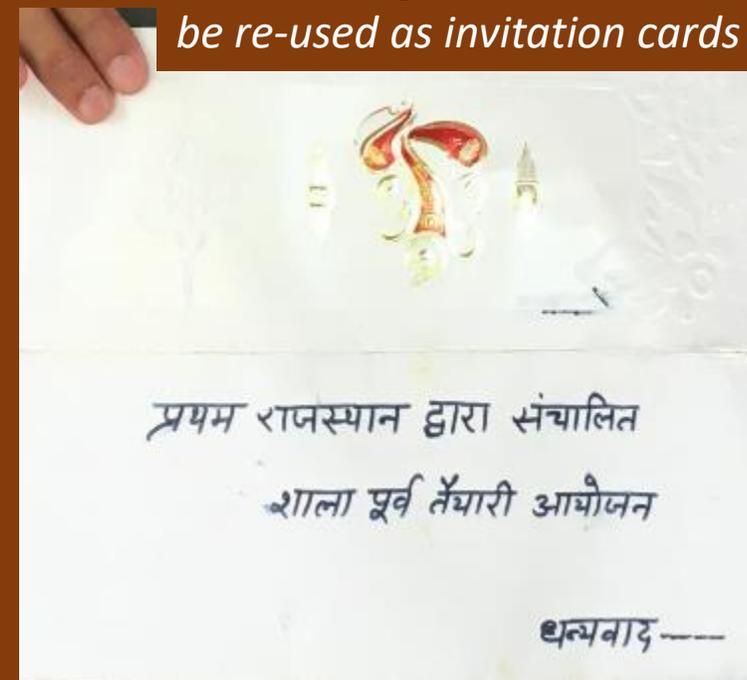


Pratham



Come join us this afternoon for a mela in a village in Dausa – Rajasthan.

Old wedding cards are saved to be re-used as invitation cards



Come let us get children ready for starting their first year in school. Melas (fairs) are being organized in village after village.

Who can participate? Only the child who is going to go to Class 1 and his/her mother.

Come let us see what they can do together for “getting ready” for school.



The sarpanch's house has a long verandah. That's where the mela is being set up. Volunteers are getting ready. There are counters for different activities. One volunteer at each counter. Now everyone is waiting for mothers and children to arrive.





The first mother has arrived. She is with her child at the first “registration” desk.

A colourful report card will be filled out with all the details of the child.

Mom and child will go from one counter to another. Lots of activities. Lots of helpers.

At the first desk here, the child’s height and weight will be measured by the enthusiastic young volunteers standing behind the desk.

Now more and more mothers are arriving with their children. Older brothers and sisters have also come along. Lots of people are coming to see what is going on.

Sarpanch ji (man in pink turban) is taking an active role. He is a busy man. And in the wedding season, he has to attend so many marriages in his panchayat. But he decided to get the mela going before he goes.





Next activity station: Can you walk on a curvy line? Do you need help? Sarpanch-ji is happy to help too.





Here is the counter for paper folding activities. What can you make with this piece of newspaper?



Mother and child are both paying close attention.



Here is the table with the sorting, arranging and categorising table.

Can you sort different types of things – the onions in one place and the potatoes in one place and how about the tinda?

Can you arrange the stones from the biggest to the smallest? Or make a figure with the stones?



Although the focus is on the child who will go to Class 1, the excitement is shared by all. That's what melas are all about.

At the colouring counter, you get to do colouring of shapes. Some like to do it on the table and some others prefer the floor.





So many things to do here. Name the animals and birds, play with letter and tabs. But shall I eat some biscuits first? Then there are shapes to name, straws to count and numbers to recognize.





All activities are done.
Report card is filled.

Now each child will get a
small kit to take home.

This is our first mother
and child team who
completed all activities
this afternoon.

Mother and child can
continue to do activities
together for the next
month until school
opens.

We may even have
another mela just as the
vacations get over.



But wait wait wait.....
before going home, Grandmother
also wants to make sure she
understands what is in the kit !!

See you in a month or so just before
schools open.

