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Gujarat's 'Super 200' trains dalits for govt jobs

AHMEDABAD: When Babasaheb Ambedkar visited Mithikuyi village in Dholka near Ahmedabad in 1956, he was pained to see that Dalit children were not allowed to join schools and exhorted locals to build a dedicated educational institute for Dalit students to end this discrimination.

Over four decades after the Sidhartha Hostel was built on Ambedkar's call, the place has become a cradle for another revolution. Seven Dalit youths have joined hands and resources to provide training and facilities to Scheduled Caste youths gratis to crack entrance exams and bag government jobs. For the past four months, 200 Dalit students — most of them graduates and some class 12 pass — have been going through syllabuses and guides to prepare for government exams for constables, police inspectors, clerks and teachers.

Training them are Sagar Jadeja, Brijesh Sonara, Navinchandra T Chauhan, Bharat Jhala and Dipak Sonara — all Dalit youths who are already into government jobs. Lawyer Hitesh Gohil and Hitesh Jadhav, an police inspector aspirant complete the group of teachers cum volunteers.

The seven youths have collected funds through donations from the community and run the Spardhatmak Pariksha Abhyaskram Vartul (SPAV) or Competitive Exam Syllabus Circle.

Primary teacher Sagar Jadeja says they were impressed by the 'Super 30' initiative in Bihar where poor students are coached free for the IITs. "Ours is 'Super 200' aiming to help Dalit youths crack government jobs," said Jadeja. Youths believe their camp becomes more relevant after the pledge taken by thousands of Dalits to shun animal carcass disposal and other menial work post-Una brutalities.

"This initiative will help Dalits get an equal status in society," said lawyer Hitesh Gohil. Students at the institute follow a regular routine which includes coaching for entrance exams, drills for physical fitness and mock interviews.

Dhiru Parmar, a student from Halvad in Surendranagar, is studying for the exam held for recruitment of police sub-inspectors. His father is a daily wage labourer. "If Dalits get into police and administration, they can be helpful in raising voice against atrocities," Parmar said.