

Snapshot of Site Visit:

(Jan 5th, 2015)

By Dr. Padmanava Sen (Asha Atlanta and Central Project Team member)

- Visited all 4 centers (120 kids). Interacted with kids from all classes
- Asked the subject they fear most, they love most. Figured out how many students they have in class and their levels from my experiences.
- Talked to teachers in the centers and the methods they follow to overcome the challenges of first generation learners. Met Ritadi who has played a pivotal role to close the illegal bar and transformed that place into a coaching center.
- Asked them to read in Bengali, English; asked simple English words; tested their phonics skills, math skills for logic, operations, tables etc
- Gave some problems to solve to very enthusiastic students in all centers.
- In the 3rd and 4th centers with Urdu and Bengali medium students, asked them how the Government school teachers conduct class with a strength of 150-230. Few go to Private schools as well for this reason (around 1000 Rs yearly fee, less students in class). Some of Urdu medium students get Madrasa scholarship if they get more than 65%, so can go to private schools with that 1000 Rs/yr scholarship money. Bengali medium students are all in Government schools.
- INSPIRATION gives priorities to old students and their siblings. But the need is more.
- Saw one parent coming to his center to get his son enrolled but they could not take him as it is already 30+.
- Some of them shared their personal stories with me. One girl stayed back and I was asking her about her family etc. she mentioned she never thought she could go to school, now after 3 years in INSPIRATION, she wants to be a doctor or policewoman (the girl on my right).



Padmanava at centers 1 & 2



Padmanava at centers 3 & 4