

## Site Visit Report – INSPIRATION Centers visit (West Bengal, supported by Atlanta)

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### Details:

- Visited the new centers (two of them) near Creig St, Kamarhati. Spent one hour in each center (5 to 6 pm and 6 to 7 pm). These centers are close to the Friends Club center. They get tiffins after the class.
- **Center 1 (Bengali Medium)**
  - Total students – 19 (present). Breakdown – 4 each in Class III-VI, 2 in Class VII and 1 in Class VIII
  - Children were a bit shy because I went there first time for such long interaction. Last time, I just went to take a photo. I spoke to them in Bengali.
  - I started with quick icebreakers knowing their names, their ambitions and their favourite subjects. I made a circle around for the hour long interaction.
  - Their English reading was good. However, the sentence construction is limited to “I go to school”, “I eat rice” even at higher classes.
  - They all can do addition and subtraction. However the removal concept is not there in terms of subtraction.
  - Simple divisions, they can do. However 8181 divided by 9 nobody could give 909, everyone gave 99.
  - A Class III student is very enthusiastic and he could do big subtraction easily.
  - All except 1 know the tables of 1-9. Most can tell till 12.
  - They know simple words and their spellings.
  - I asked about planets and they could name them. I asked about what will happen if there is no SUN and they could logically answers regarding Oxygen, carbon dioxide.
  - Most of them said the Govt school teachers come in time except 1/2. Few of them had a spat in their schools that day and were in a bad mood. However they eased up during the photo session as I showed kids how to take photos in DSLR and most of them did a good job.
- **Center 2 (Urdu medium)**
  - Total students – 24 (present). Breakdown – 3 in Class IV, 10 in Class V, 5 in Class VI, 3 in Class VII and 3 in Class VIII
  - Children talked more freely (hindi) compared to other center. The room was more spacious at the Ghousia Islahi club.
  - The levels were similar to the other center however they could not name the planets. Here also, they failed to divide 8181 correctly by 9.
  - They mentioned their schools have computers and students in higher classes (7-8) get access to computers once a month. Half of students used smart-

phones at least once. They used mostly for translation (urdu to English), some used to check information at Google.

- I spent some time discussing the need of the two subject most of them expressed their difficulty about – Math and English. They could explain clearly why it is needed (for better jobs, better business, higher studies)
- **Overall impression** - Both these centers are running for almost a year now. The children are comfortable. The blackboards were quite small to write (something to improve). It will be important to analyze their abilities to speak/write English sentences, identify mathematical operations and general knowledge over time.



Picture taken in Bengali medium center (with teacher, most enthusiastic kid standing)



Picture taken in Urdu medium center (with me)