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)
  o Total students – 19 (present). Breakdown – 4 each in Class III-VI, 2 in Class VII and 1 in Class VIII
  o 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.
  o I started with quick icebreakers knowing their names, their ambitions and their favourite subjects. I made a circle around for the hour long interaction.
  o Their English reading was good. However, the sentence construction is limited to “I go to school”, “I eat rice” even at higher classes.
  o They all can do addition and subtraction. However the removal concept is not there in terms of subtraction.
  o Simple divisions, they can do. However 8181 divided by 9 nobody could give 909, everyone gave 99.
  o A Class III student is very enthusiastic and he could do big subtraction easily.
  o All except 1 know the tables of 1-9. Most can tell till 12.
  o They know simple words and their spellings.
  o 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.
  o 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)
  o 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
  o Children talked more freely (hindi) compared to other center. The room was more spacious at the Ghausia Islahi club.
  o 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.
  o 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)](image1.jpg)

![Picture taken in Urdu medium center (with me)](image2.jpg)