

'Inspiration' Site Visit Report

Date - 13th February, 2020

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Visit Summary

- Met Uttam and Poulami on Graham road near Sagardutta hospital
- The locations have changed from last visit for logistics (as last areas were used for mid day meals for nearby schools and other activities so it was causing problems). The new location is used for up to 100 students. It is in the vicinity of previous location and within 10 minutes walking from Sagardutta hospital
- Currently Inspiration has combined 4 centers in this location and the other two are located near Israel Colony.
- There are close to 30 students in the center and Uttam has mentioned that there are primarily higher class students coming last few weeks for upcoming Madhyamik exam (Class 10, starting from 18th February). Out of 20 students, there are 5 students appearing in Madhyamik, 5 class 10 students will appear next year and rest are Class 8 and class 9. There were 4 teachers assisting the students
- Most of the students I have seen before. I spent time with close to 15 students talking to them in small groups. Among the Bengali medium groups, most fear Math and history, and comfortable with language subjects. Among the Urdu medium groups, math and physical science were the problematic subjects. I asked them to read English books and most could read well. Also, the paragraphs not covered yet, they could read and understand.
- I have interacted in non academic domains as well. I asked them to tell about their 3 strengths and one weakness. They were confident about answers. Most of them have access to internet but mostly used for whatsapp, tiktok and pubG games. Some do use for google or academic games. I think there is a need to create interest in internet since data is almost free and they will need that for future. I also asked some students in Class 10 about their future plans and they mentioned teacher, lawyer etc.
- They seem healthy. Also, inspiration checks once a year and if they see any major health problem, they talk to the parents.

- I spent more than one hour with the students, talked to inspiration members before leaving the center.

Discussion summary with Inspiration and plans

- It seems securing CSR funds is almost impossible given the small size of the NGO. Most CSR efforts require NGOs above 5 crore yearly expense which they are not. Few CSR funds are only one time and hence will not work in this case.
- Regarding back up coaching, they will send a 3 year plan from 2020-2023 with reducing students every year. They would not take any new students and will focus more on higher classes and make sure current Class 7/8 students can give Madhyamik. This will ensure a smooth transition rather than an abrupt one. Also, it will make sure the current students benefit and secure good marks in Class 10. For 2020-2021, there will be a carry forward due to the late transfer from RTP chapter. Along with that and reduced Atlanta support in 2020-2021, they can continue the problem. They are not giving meal support any more and slowly reducing the number of younger students considering the funding limitations
- Regarding gender sensitivity training, it is ongoing. However, the focus is more on bringing up the teachers of the centers so that they can work with the students in regular basis. They expect the program to transit in a more support audit mode in 2020-2021 and can end in 2021 March where the current teachers of the centers can take it forward involving the community. Inspiration team is also trying to involve the school teachers where these students are going.



Pictures taken during Visit