



Door Step School, Pune

Site Visit Report

Feb 2023

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Organization: Society of Door Step Schools, Pune



Type of Project: Non-formal Education Centers



Goal of the site visit:



To get an overview of the day-to-day working of an Education Activity Center



To interact with the project staff, supervisors, teachers, and children to help understand their experiences



DSS site:
Kalpataru Jade, Baner, Pune

Summary:

The site visit started with a meeting with the co-founder Mrs. Rajani Paranjpe at the headquarters of Door Step School, Pune. The dynamic and indefatigable Rajani Tai was her usual self – articulate, passionate, inspiring, and modest to a fault

She gave us an overview of **Project Foundation** – the flagship project of DSS. It comprises of Educational Activity centers at construction sites for the children (0 to 14 years) of migrant laborers. This program reaches 7000 to 9000 children annually. Asha Silicon Valley sponsors 11-13 such sites (Education Activity Centers) under this project and has impacted the lives of 705 children



I visited one of the EAC sites called “Kalpataru Jade” located in Baner area in Pune. I was accompanied by Col. Ashutosh Kulkarni (Assistant Director), Gauri Katkar (site coordinator), and 3 friends (retired teachers/ prospective volunteers).

The project site was located at an active construction site. The location of the classroom was close to the living quarters of the construction workers. The living area was clean, clear of any debris and had toilets and washing area with running water. A separate bathroom was assigned for the teachers.

However, the walk to and from the school/ living quarters was through the active construction site. The walking path – which the school going children use daily - was dusty, muddy & surrounded by hazardous work/ equipment.



Bathrooms, living area, taps with running water

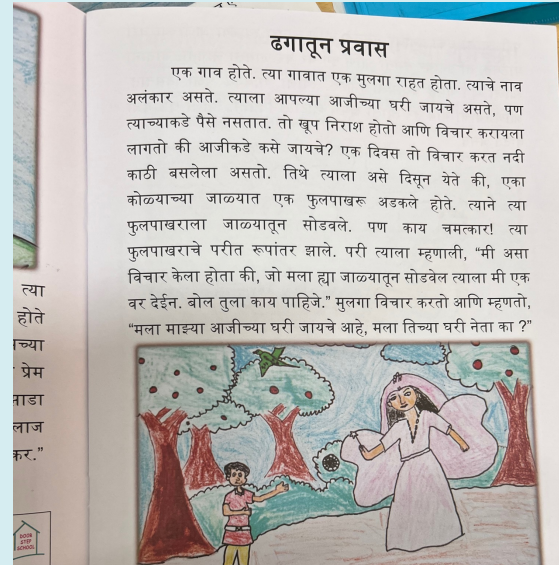
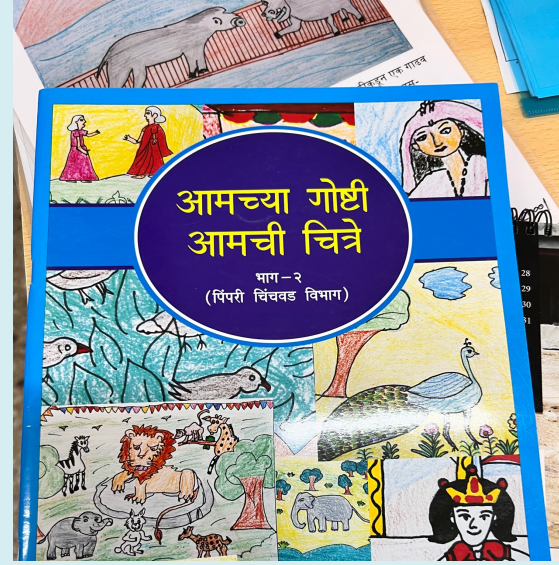


The classroom was a large, clean, well-lit, roomy tin shed with cement flooring. Two large windows kept the room bright and cheerful. The floor area was covered in mats for the teachers and children to sit on. There were multiple ceiling fans, a large black board and lots of student artwork and decorations on the walls of the classroom.

The children were split into 2 main sections. The crèche and the balwadi (pre-school) in one area, and a mixed grade classroom with school-going children in the other section. We reached the classroom during the transition period when the students were getting ready to leave to attend their afternoon batch at the municipal school. Students from the morning batch were expected to arrive in the classroom.

The school age children were studying and doing their homework with the help of the teachers. They showed us their writing and their current projects in environmental science and geography. Most children were able to read and write in Marathi.

The balwadi teacher was teaching the young children, poems in Marathi language in a song format with actions and movement. The children got to learn names of animals and birds in a fun and interactive way. The youngest children were also watching and absorbing information in this positive and cheerful environment.



Printed books with stories written by the students

केबुवाशी = २०२३

डोअर स्टेप स्कूल हजेरी पत्रक

कामाचे दिवस :

वर्ग	नाम	दिनांक	१	२	३	४	५	६	७	८	९	१०	११	१२	१३	१४	१५	१६	१७	१८
१	बंदू	M ४	A	A	A	A		A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A					
२	वमी	M १३	A	A	A	A		A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A					
३	शेखर सतनामी	F १	A	A	A	A		A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A					
४	श. यादव.	M २	A	A	A	A		A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A					
५	पटेल.	F २	A	A	A	A		A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A					
६	श. यादव.	M २	A	A	A	A		A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A					
७	निषाद.	F २	A	A	A	A		A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A					
८	नेषाद.	F १	A	A	A	A		A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A					
९	श. यादव.	M १	A	A	A	A		A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A					
१०	विश्वकर्मा	M १	A	A	A	A		A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A					
११	श्रीर. यादव.	F २	A	A	A	A		A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A					
१२	यादव.	F २	A	A	A	A		A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A					
१३	पतनामी	M १	A	A	A	A		A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A					
१४	सिंग	F २	A	A	A	A		A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A					
१५	तनामी	F १	A	A	A	A		A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A					
१६	ली.	M २	A	A	A	A		A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A					
१७		M २	A	A	A	A		A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A					
१८	निषाद.	F १	A	A	A	A		A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A					
१९		M २	A	A	A	A		A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A					
२०	निषाद.	F १	A	A	A	A		A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A					
२१		M २	A	A	A	A		A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A					
२२	निषाद.	F १	A	A	A	A		A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A					
२३		M २	A	A	A	A		A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A					
२४	निषाद.	F १	A	A	A	A		A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A					
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हजर मुले

एकूण मुले

मागे नावे आहेत.

Attendance Ledger

The retired teachers who accompanied me were very impressed by the classroom material and teaching methods. They were inspired to help and were considering volunteering their time to help tutor students online.

It was very heartwarming to see the devotion and involvement of all the members of DSS. They are making an extremely valuable contribution to the society by bridging the gap in education. The innovative outreach programs run by DSS are making a practical difference in the lives of these children. These programs are teaching them the value and usefulness of literacy, giving them exposure and opportunities to learning - on par with the society, and raising their self-esteem along the way.

I am proud that Asha Silicon Valley gets to contribute to this fine endeavor.

