

Door Step School visit 28 Dec 2015

I visited DSS (Door Step School) on December 28 and December 29 2015. December 28 i visited their Kothrud office and i met Mrs. Rajaniji Paranjape and the other staff members who work from Kothrud office, Rajaniji gave me the overview of how DSS works and their overall organization structure and did show me the records and current activity information. I also witnessed other donors from different countries visiting the DSS office and i discussed with them the kind of support they and their organization providing and how satisfied they are with DSS and looks all positive from their view which i believe is much more scrutinized.

Rajaniji introduced to me to Mrs. Kulkarni (I forgot the name) she then took over and gave me detailed information about the different programs that DSS is running

1. DSS School on the wheel

- This program is basically run for providing the education to the students on the remote location or construction sites where the school is not easily accessible or setting up construction site is not easy.
- School on Wheel is fully equipped bus which goes around all the identified sites and spends 2 to 4 hrs and teacher in the bus helps student do their homework or teach them.
- Most of these students are enrolled in nearby school and do not go school regularly but then they attend the school on wheel bus sessions
- They also provide books from their library to the kids to motivate them and learn
- On December 29 i visited one of the construction site where the School on wheel bus was parked in morning hrs and i saw there were 15 20 kids studying and they are having very good response from these kids.
- Bus was well maintained and clean and when i asked kids they said they felt wonderful being on the bus
(Refer pictures and Video to know more about the bus)

2. Educational activity center

These are the temporary school sites setup by DSS to teach the students from the construction sites. Most of these kids are moving all the time with their parents who work as construction workers on different projects, so they never settle down at one place hence their education is disrupted. DSS with help of the Project builder they have setup temporary place where until they project is going on (usually 2 to 3 years) the school can run for these kids.

I visited one of the such construction site on December 29 in Aundh / Baner area. (See pictures and Videos attached to get feel of how they are)

Workers drop their kids every morning and pick up back in the evening. I spent couple hrs there and spoke to kids about how they feel being in this school and how do they like staying back and response was positive.

DSS has full time teacher as well as one full time care taker for the kids who are of age 7 or below. Most of the time workers don't send their kids since they have younger siblings

to take care of so DSS allows those siblings to come with them and attend these sessions.

- Teachers knew what they are doing and how to teach these kids
- Care taker was responsible enough with hygiene and cleaning
- DSS provided them all the books and required educational material and they were utilized appropriately
- The teacher did show me the register with attendance and different project work the kids have done.

3. Books / Library

Given these kids who keep on migrating and not having consistent education, DSS realized they need custom tailored books which will keep the kids interested in learning and have the right content for them. So as i was told, DSS started making these books on their own and are distributed and circled through School on Wheel, construction site school and other DSS projects.

I saw some of the books and they seem to be very appropriate for the audience.

After i was done visiting the school i met with Mrs. Bhavana Kulkarni in DSS Aundh office where she gave me overview of how the DSS works and how they receive funds and how they are distributed, Since Bhavanaji was busy that day but she still could get 20 minutes slot to talk to me and explain.

Also she thanked to Asha Foundation for the help they are getting with and are looking forward for this years funds too.

Please let me know if you need any more information which you need from my visit to DSS and think not covered above.

Videos are recorded in native marathi language as the teachers and kids were comfortable talking with, Let me know if need help with Translation

Thanks!

Neilesh C.