

SITE VISIT REPORT FOR FUNDING BY ASHA SILLICON.

This site visit to Kondhwa was done on August 20th 2011 where I was accompanied by Ms. Ankita Yadav, the Assistant Project Manager for Doorstep School. Out of the 8 Site schools mentioned by Ankita, we had managed to visit 4 schools in the following construction sites on the day:

- 1) Sobha Carnation
- 2) R Euphoria
- 3) Sunflower
- 4) Kumar Surabhi (Located in Swargate)

All these sites have classes divided in the following categories:

- A) EAC/ NFE (Non Formal Education)
- B) Balwadi
- C) Study Classes
- D) Creche

Being a Saturday, the students were not being taught that day. Saturdays are reserved for awareness of Hygiene, Story telling and other activities. In 2 sites, teachers were observed assisting the students with cutting their nails. Also, the teachers take up one theme every month and Saturdays are reserved for working on this theme. The theme for August was Monsoon-plantation and Water conservation. The students, with the help of the teachers on the site first site we visited (Sobha Carnation) have also put up a small garden at the entrance of the class where marigold, Fenugreek, and some more plants were planted:



Kids are excited about the plants growing in their little campus and monitor the plants now and then. This is definitely a great initiative taken by the teachers towards making the students environment aware.

All these Construction sites are about 2-4 Kms away from the Sant Ghadge School. This is where most of the students from the study class go to school. The students in EFA or the previously called Non Formal Education Classes are taught the Mulakshar , barakhadi, (the alphabet) and jodakshar (Words formed out of alphabet) depending on their proficiency. (viz. can recognize the alphabet, but cannot join alphabets to form words). Apart from the study material provided by DSS like books specially designed for various proficiency levels of Marathi, a lot of other teaching aids are used by the teachers, some created by themselves. Some photos of some of the interesting teaching aids like charts, puzzles,



(For the alphabet)



(For cutting skills)



(A question and answer activity created by the

class teacher)

The students of the site R Euphoria were busy making collages:



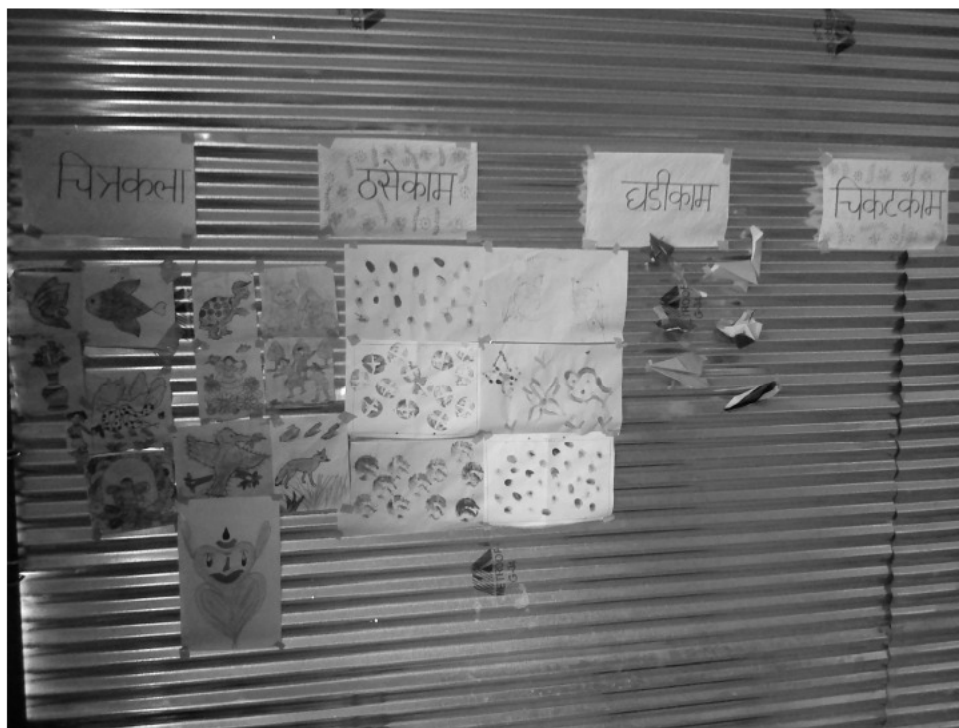
After which the teacher suggested that they sing a song so the kids sang and danced and some even came forward for individually reciting poems:



The Walls of the school at the R Euphoria Site were very creatively decorated with various charts (most made by the teacher as a teaching aid and some by the students) and they in fact also had one wall for

displaying the artwork by the children of the class; a part of the wall reserved for drawings, one part for “Thasekaam” (could be translated to imprinting), origami, “Chikatkaam” (I would translate it to artwork using adhesive) and clay art. I found the teacher of this class particularly very creative. Some pictures of how clean and creative the classroom looked:





Clay Art 😊

Following the visit to R Euphoria we went to “Sunflower”. Ankita informed me that this is one of the places where the constructors are not really willing to co operate. They have been allocated one very small room for conducting the classes. However, since all the students at this site cannot be fitted into this room, they have borrowed a room from one of the construction labourer actually staying there.



This is the room provided by the site owners where the teacher was narrating a story to the children with the help of picture cards. This room is reserved for the Balwadi and Crèche.



This is a borrowed room which is occupied by one of the workers. The children have to sit amidst the belongings of the family which puts up in this room.

After this we visited the school at Kumar Surabhi Construction site in Swargate. The students here were enjoying the stories narrated by the teacher with the help of Picture cards. Followed by this, all the students sang songs individually or narrated poems and then eventually it was lunch time. After saying their prayers they were picked up by the parents for lunch.



Rakhis made by the kids on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan.

A comprehensive documentation on attendance, dropouts owing to parents who have shifted to another construction site as well as documentation to track the progress of each child maintained by the teachers was impressive. Each class had an average strength of about 8-10 students in the study class, 16-17 students in Balwadi, and 5-6 students in EAC/ NFE classes.

The site visit completed with the children from Kumar Surabhi distributing Prasad given by the nearby temple and then dispersing for their lunches with parents.