SITE VISIT: DIKSHA PATNA CENTER

VISITED BY: GAURAV NANDA   DATE: 3rd July, 2012

Project Overview:

Diksha seeks to rejuvenate the education system in India. Education & training programs within India are often under-represented by those from poorer sections of the society and those living in rural areas. Through supporting access to learning opportunities, Diksha encourages the linking of communities within India. KHEL (Knowledge Hubs for Education and Learning) Patna came into operation on December 2010.The project is a joint initiative of Alok Charitable Trust and Diksha Foundation. The project is funded by individual donors, philanthropists, family and friends. The beneficiaries of this project are either school drop-outs or children who have never been to school. The project mainly caters to children between 6 to 14 years of age who belong to underprivileged communities. Activities within KHEL involve basic literacy and numeric classes, cultural activities such as music, dance and drama, sports practices and teams, education regarding child rights with more subject specific learning. In order to mainstream these children the project has been striving with its designed set of programs. The use of mass media such as radio and television, written materials like news sheets and comics, may act as the key instrument in teaching-learning process. Non-Formal education Under KHEL shall lead to either mainstreaming of school drop-outs into the formal education system and/or enrollment into skill enhancement program for industry placements/trainings depending on the need and orientation of the student.

ASHA Purdue Chapter has funded $3350 to Diksha's Patna center for putting up a computer lab. The funds were disbursed in March 2012 and the purchase of equipments has been done. The details of the project and related documents (proposals, bills etc.) are also available on ASHA website @ http://www.ashanet.org/projects/project-view.php?p=1138.

Site Visit Observations:

Overall, I was satisfied with the Diksha center, it is small but was neat and clean and children were being taught in a very involved manner. I visited the center around 10 AM; during that time children for the morning shift were present. I talked to them about what they were studying and how did they like the center. Children were happy to come to the center and spend time. With the new computer lab, children loved spending time on the computer, and their favorite application was Microsoft paint, they created drawings on MS paint.

At Diksha center, they are planning to follow the Microsoft computer education course guideline. **They want help from ASHA in researching and designing the computer education ideas for children of age 6-14.** The pictures below were taken during the site visit capturing different activities at the Diksha center.

Children singing in the prayer line:

Children studying in the classroom:

Computers bought for DIKSHA Center with support from ASHA Purdue:

Children in the computer lab:

Children using MS Paint to draw:

Diksha is participating in Dr Kalam's initiate National Innovation Foundation – Young Scientist competition to collect innovative ideas from children. (Ref- http://www.nif.org.in/). In picture below, one of the videos of how they are collecting entries from the government schools is being shown.
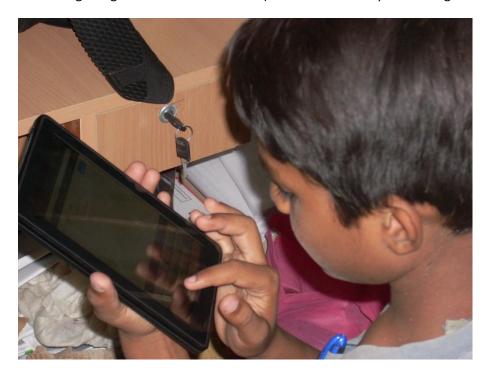
Gautam's mother teaching children in a playful manner: (She has been teaching in DAV School for about 30 years and served as Principal also for couple of years)

Student schedule for accessing computer on the Computer Lab notice board:

A kid doing Google search on Kindle Fire: (Diksha center is experimenting with tablet education)

Diksha Center Building with ASHA's banner for Computer Training Center:

Outside Diksha Center with staff members: