

## Saugaht Site Visit (Virtual) Report May 2023

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[Site Visit questionnaire](#)

[Site Visit Guidelines](#)

**Visit Date: 05.08.2023**

**Attendees:** Manu Mogadali, Ramya, Srini, Aditi, Sushmita, Gautam, Ritika

[Recording](#)

We met with Mr Pandey (Project Coordinator), Saugaht Project on 5.8.23 via a google meetup meeting.

### School Premises

The visit started with a tour of the school premises. Currently the school is being run in a neighbor's house. The school is a four room facility, there are 41 students present today and a few parents with teachers and staff. Two rooms are for classrooms, one for the kitchen and one storeroom (to store monthly supply items for students). People were working in the storeroom making packets for monthly supply.

### Other Information

Admissions are done till May 15th.

Staff: 1 project coordinator, 1 doctor, 2 teachers, 2 kitchen staff, part time accountant.

All the staff is local. The school is run in one of the cook's houses.

Currently no toilet facility.

School operates for 6 days of the week, Sunday is a day off. School is also closed for the hottest days of the year (15 days of the year). The school has no electricity so no facility for fans.

School timings: 9am-2pm, summer timings 7-11am

Kids walk to govt school. 99% kids go to Govt school on graduation from Saugaht, 1% an exception- migration, other circumstances

Poorest kids get preference for admissions at Saugaht

### Food

We were able to see the children eating biscuits that morning. This led to a tour of the kitchen facilities and a discussion on food and the menu. Food was being prepared as we toured. There is a fixed weekly menu (Mondays is eggs; Tuesday is aalo puri; (though the day of the site visit there was a change and there was dal, rice and vegetables; Thursday kheer is served)

### Background of students and Curriculum

Kids are from age of 3 to 5.5 years old, after that age they are admitted to the govt school. This year 10 students were admitted to a Government school. Kids usually commute to govt school by foot. Kids are taught basic alphabets, numbers, and hygiene. And so are the parents.

Number of boys: 22

Number of girls: 28

Students are split into 2 classes, size of 25. New students and young ones are in one class, the older ones are in the other class.

Initial goal is to acclimate the small kids to come to school regularly. The older kids are taught math, english.

### **Community:**

Nearest govt school is 3 kms away. This is the only pre primary school in the area.

Number of families in the area: 250. The school is in the main center of the local area.

With the current facilities they are not able to serve the entire community, in fact the school has to refuse students. The teachers also visit the homes of students regularly.

Local villagers know about the school and usually approach the school to admit their kids.

Saugaht keeps in touch with families 2-3 years after school.

### **2. Teachers / Staff:**

We met teachers Priyanka and Kusum who have been there since the start of Saugaht. There has been no teacher turnover. One of the teachers is a BA graduate, and the other is metric pass. Teachers visit kids houses if required in case kids are not attending

*Priyanka:* We discussed her experience during Covid and she mentioned she had to visit kids near their homes to teach them. She said most kids are healthy since and things have normalized. She teaches students English and Hindi alphabets, basic Math, Hindi poems. She teaches the older batch. We asked her about the shortcomings of the school to which she responded that lack of toilets is a shortcoming. In addition, she believes it will be helpful to have more teaching devices for the kids. She had training when she first started at Saugaht. When asked how sick kids are taken care of, she explained that the private doctor who conducts health checkups at Saugaht tends to the sick children.

*Kusum:* We met with the second teacher, Kusum who teaches younger kids. The teachers use food (biscuits), snacks and toys to help kids settle down. She teaches younger kids with play. She mentioned that the summer timings are from 7-11am. She also meets parents on Sundays or when kids haven't been to school for a few days the teachers visit the homes. She doesn't see any current issues with the school. She is looking forward to new school building.

### **Students**

We interacted with four students. Excerpts of the conversation are listed below.

Ranjan. Age: 5 years old. He enjoys coming to school.

- Asked what he does at school? -- studies, bat ball
- He recited a hindi poem and recited the English alphabet.

Shivam Kumar: Age 4 years old; recited Hindi poem.

Prince Kumar: 4 years old.

Reena Kumari: 5 years old; recited a hindi poem.

## **Parents**

We met three parents:

Sushila Devi:

- 2 of her kids, almost 3 yr old girl and 5 year old boy
- Housewife, and husband works at a plant outside the village
- What are her thoughts about the school? -- She is happy, kids learn a lot in school and even at home.
- Parents are taught about cleanliness and hygiene of the kids
- She plans to send her kids to government school
- Kids are served a set menu, including breakfast and lunch.

Sarita Devi:

- Housewife, husband lives away from home.
- 3 kids, one is in Saugaht 3 year old girl, 5 and 8 year old in government school (Saugaht graduates)
- Her thoughts on the school? --she likes it,
- Her older school adjusted to the government school after graduating from Saugaht. Her kids picked up basic alphabets and counting skills.

Sunita Devi

- 3 kids, her 3 year old daughter is currently in school. Her 10 yr, boy 7 yr old Saugaht graduates.
- She is happy that her kids graduated with basic alphabet knowledge, improved hindi skills
- She looks forward to educating her kids

## **Project coordinator**

We met the project coordinator Mr Pradip Sinha. He has been with Saugaht for 2 years. He runs the school per Asha guidelines and creates awareness for education.

## **New school site**

Mr Pandey gave us a tour of the site under construction. This property will have 4 - 5 rooms. Mr Pandey showed us classrooms, office/storeroom, kitchen, veranda (roof made of asbestos). Toilet not being constructed, need tank, plumbing. We saw the newly dug borewell for regular water supply. The school is expected to complete by the end of May. There is an open area for kids to play. Water is transported from the borewell at the current school site. Electricity provisioning is there however still to decide on whose name to purchase the electricity connection. They would like to install a toilet but didn't want to overload Asha.

## **Recommendations**

It would be helpful to have a toilet built at the new school site. Teachers and staff also mentioned how it would be helpful especially with the younger children.

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