

Site visit report of middle and high school students, Corporation school, Kottur(Nov 16 th 2017)

By Usha Bhaskar

I am voluntarily teaching English and Maths to classes 6th to 9th in Corporation School, Kottur from October 2015 onwards. I and Geeta Natarajan sit in the benches in the corridor outside the classroom and teach the children. Construction activity is on in the school and classrooms are congested. The playground is also cordoned off. SSA team conducts assessment of the gypsy children on a regular basis and I too document the progress made by children.

Interaction and assessment of 6TH TO 9TH CLASS STUDENTS in BRIEF:

General:

- All are interested to learn English. Learning levels are vary widely.
- All are attending school from Monday to Thursday. Friday attendance is thin and show up only if persuaded.
- Require individual attention to learn.
- Playful in a group and difficult to manage them as a big group.

Class VI students

There are 4 gypsy students - Santhosh, Durga, Nameetha and Sathish in VIth standard. Last year they were taught by ASHA Foundation teachers in Vth grade. They have progressed and are able to read and write in Tamil. They know English letters and are able to read small words. Along with improving their literacy skills, they have to be familiarized with school curriculum. Mrs. Geetha and I teach English and math fundamentals and also school subjects alternatively, so that they are able to align with the rest of the class students. Santhosh and Nameetha are conforming children. They are willing to learn and apply themselves. Durga and Sathish are a bit rebellious and distracted. We often have discussions with them on how to behave with teachers and other students and counsel them. Teachers share their problems related to learning and other issues and we focus on those issues. Unlike other gypsy children this group comes to school regularly and we see progress in learning. They are taking time to get settled in class and adjust to school curriculum. This additional support given to them is helping to adjust and continue their education.

Class VII students

One student Parthiban is in VIIth standard. He has learning difficulties and has come to middle school without learning the basics at primary. We are trying to teach him basic letters in Tamil and English from last year. Progress is very slow and he is also irregular to school.

Class VIII students

There are 5 students Sneha, Sundar, Manikandan, Suji and Durai raj in VIIIth standard. Sneha and Suji are putting effort to study. They know to read and write Tamil. They are able to study the subjects. In maths, they are learning graph and Geometry. Mrs. Geetha is giving attention to and teaching them the concepts in the curriculum. Sundar has good IQ. He is able to read and write Tamil. He is able to identify words in English. But his attention span is very less. Always playful. When alone he focuses and learns well. In a group, he distracts the others. We have to spend a lot of time to bring about change in his attitude. Manikandan is very obedient. He tries to put in effort and the way to go is very long. Durai raj is irregular.

Class IX students

2 students namely Simran and Durgappa are in IXth standard. Simran joined school after 3 years gap seeing the other children going to school from their colony. She is attending school regularly. She does not mind being the eldest in the class. She likes to be in school and not get caught in household duties. She knows Tamil well and she is able to follow the class lessons. Geetha and I help her with doubts. She requires help in maths and English and we help her one on one basis for 2 days a week. Remaining time she stays in the class. Mrs. Geetha provided her with English guide so that it is easy for her to study. Durgappa is eager to learn English. We are trying to reinforce Tamil reading. Because of poor Tamil reading ability, he is unable to perform in other subjects also. He is good in painting and we are encouraging him to pursue the same. In adolescent ages, they are distracted and irregular and take on work of the family.

Class X students

There are 2 boys and 2 girls in Xth std namely Jothika, Nisha, Vallarasu and Veera. Mrs. Geetha has worked continuously with them during last year in IXth std. They passed and this year they are in class X. At the beginning of academic year all of them stopped coming to school abruptly and boys were working. The seriousness of 10th exams had not sunk in them. The project followed them up in the colony persuaded them to attempt 10th. This is the first time in recent years that four gypsy students have come up to 10th std level in Kottur. They show potential and if they put in effort they can pass. Teachers and school Principal are encouraging them and trying their best to make this batch of gypsy children pass. They have good IQ and are able to study when individual attention is given. Nisha and Veera are able to learn and retain the lessons and are able to fair well in the class.

exams. In 10th their schedules are tight with classes, tests and special classes. We are not able to pull them and give attention during school hours. Mrs. Geetha is trying to find gaps and is able to give special attention whenever there is free time during their class schedule. The project follows them up in the colony whenever they are absent. Jothika and Vallarasu need more attention and they are taught sometimes on Saturdays and on holidays. We have provided comprehensive question and answer guides for the 4 students. Ms. Saraswati has given simplified English notes and gives special attention on English coaching for Class X students on weekly basis.

Mrs. Geetha has constant interaction with all teachers to get the feedback and focus on their study requirements. We can see their confidence building up as they get ready for half yearly exams.

Site visit to Primary school, Corporation school. Kottur on Nov 2017

I visit Primary school whenever one of the teachers is on leave to help the teachers and to assess the children's learning ability and capability.

I spent a full day with the children. General observation is that they are very friendly, affectionate and very eager to learn new things. They enjoy coming to school and learning. I find teachers Ms. Uma and Ms. Sridurga very dedicated and giving utmost attention and motivating the children to learn in interesting ways. They extensively use computer in the afternoons to play rhymes, lesson related videos interactive formats. The children are enjoying and learning.

I std

Vaidehi, Bharath.

They are able to identify English capital letters and read Tamil letters and small words. They are able to write numbers. They are able to identify colors and talk without fear when I interacted. They enjoyed playing with picture puzzles.

II std & III std

Ramya, Usha, Manikandan, Sivaraj

All 3 children are very interactive except Sivaraj. Ramya, Usha, Manikandan have learnt Tamil well. They are able to read and write well. Manikandan has shown a lot of improvement from last year to this year. They know phonetics of English letters. They are able to read and write small words. They are interested in reading and listening to story telling. They are able to tell and write numerals 1 to 100. They are able to do addition. They are happy listening to English rhymes played in computer. They are able to sing along with them. They are friendly and helping

each other. I have observed Ms.Uma interacting and imparting good habits on day to day basis. They are very interested in drawing and painting. They are able to draw and color them. During interaction, they like quiz and are able to participate and answer with confidence.

IV and V standard:

Subbulakshmi, Nila, Harikrishnan, Vignesh, Vennila.

Vignesh and Vennila are highly motivated children. Ms. Sridurga have taught them Tamil, English and maths well. They are able to read and write Tamil well. They are able to talk small sentences in English. In maths they are able to do division, fraction. Computer interactive songs help them learn English and Maths also. They are bold and willing to answer every question. They use worksheets but are studying the school lessons also periodically. Subbulakshmi and Nila are irregular and have a lot of catching up to do. Harikrishnan sometimes bullys others and distracts them. They are happy to do puzzles and painting in the afternoon.



