

Site Visit Report

Sabuj Sangha - Natun Aalo

Supporting Asha chapter	Asha Zurich
Visit done by	Anju Das Kanungo for Asha Zurich
Project partner	Sabuj Sangha
Visit facilitator	Arunabha Das and Ansuman Das
Location	Nandakumarpur village in Sundarbans (3 hours from Kolkata)
Date of visit	15-17 February 2020
Asha Zurich's funding	started from June 2016

Project brief: As per Asha page. Asha supports a residential school for 35 underprivileged boys. The boys learn traditional reading, writing, arithmetic. They also learn cleanliness, morality, community services, proper behavior and other skills that are not taught in a regular school.

Project description as per Asha page:

- To provide residence and meals to the boys
- To prepare boys for formal school or vocational education.
- To monitor the quality of the teachers.
- To provide school books and stationery to the boys.
- To provide toiletries.
- To provide medical support.
- To provide casual and winter dress.
- To provide school uniforms.
- To maintain all areas of the residential school.

The visit was divided into 4 parts

- Interaction with the boys in the dormitory.
- Individual assessment of basic learning skills.
- Looking at the accounting books.
- Meeting with the staff members.

1. Interaction with the boys in the dormitory.

There are four rooms for the boys to live. Rooms have many windows and good air circulation. There is a big balcony at the front. The balcony is used for studying and playing. Each boy has separate bed. The balcony is covered with railing. The floor has multiple toilets and shower areas. Cleaning is supervised by house mother. A daily timetable and a set of dormitory rules are pasted

on the wall of each room. They talk softly. No shouting is heard by me during visit. The boys seemed to be happy there. They greeted me. Some boys performed acting, singing, dancing. That was very encouraging. They also invited me for next year. They were asked to write their names in Bengali and English

2. Individual assessment of basic learning skills

Boys are asked to do some arithmetic and simple English sentence. 50% boys can do it. I discussed with the supervisor about this. He will take care about it. Not much improvement found from last year. An English tutor also comes twice a week for the boys. More care is required.

3. Looking at the accounting books

I talked with accountant. He showed me the accounting books. Notun Alo has a separate cost center from where the project expenses can be tracked easily. For food, stationary and medical items they have fixed vendors.

4. Meeting with the staff members

I met with all the staff members of Notun Alo. I collected their feedback and have summarized below

[Amar Kumar Giri - Superintendent](#)

Staying here for 6 years. Looks after upper primary boys (class VI—X)

1. Has seen improvement in education
2. Boys are generally disciplined and obey him.
3. He proposed for indoor games like carom and table tennis.

[Ranjana Chakraborty - House mother](#)

She is here for 3 years. She looks after lower primary boys. (class I—V)

1. Boys love her and obey her. She is very affectionate to them.
2. She looks after their regular cleanliness.
3. Separate lockers will be useful to keep their belongings and will not mix with others.

[Palan Kumar Paik - Project coordinator](#)

He is the overall supervisor. He said some more computer sets(old) will help the boys to practice in leisure time.

[Bakul Shashmal - Head cook](#)

He has two lady assistants

1. Boys get fish in 5 days per week and meat once in a week.
2. They do not get any milk or fruit.
3. One cup milk per day will be more nutritious for the young boys.

My feedback

I visited the project second time. Overall the boys are happy and most of them are in a jovial mood. The new boys are also happy with the arrangement. Boys do not want to go to their parental house occasionally. They go only during summer and puja holidays.

Some boys draw and paint pictures good. Some are interested in acting, singing, dancing, sports etc. But the basic knowledge of English and mathematics is poor in most of the boys. General knowledge is also not up to the mark. I told superintendent about this.

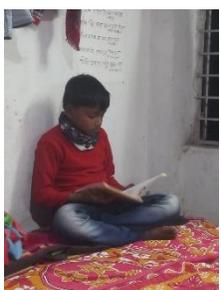
Summary

To conclude I am satisfied with the Notun Alo project of Sabuj Sangha. Most of the boys came from very poor family. All the staffs are very sympathetic to the boys and try to improve them both in education and to become a good citizen. At present there are 33 boys. Arunabha told 2 boys are selected for the project but they are yet to come shortly. So, I recommend funding for another year. I also request Asha Zurich to enhance their aid so that a cup of milk per day can be added to the boys.

Photos

Some photos are given below:







More photos can be found under:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/17dgm0ea0ktu9dk/AABc8X-V8fixHCg4Aorn_k27a?dl=0