

Gramya Sansthan Visit – Asha for Education – February 13-14, 2017

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Summary of visits:

- On February 13th 2017^h,
 - I have visited the Ganeshpur center before reaching Naugarh. (noon am to 2pm)
 - I have visited Amdaha center next in after lunch at Gramya office of Naugarh (2 - 4pm)
- On February 14th 2017th
 - Visited Laltapur School from 9 am to noon time
 - Went to Basauli center (noon to 2 pm)
 - Late afternoon, I have visited Jhumaria – Class 6 to 8 students

Detailed Visit Report:

Ganeshpur Center: I joined Bindu Singh, Surendra ji and Neetu ji in Varanasi on 19th September morning and we went directly to the Ganeshpur center. This center is the most recent addition to Gramya sans than education centers. The area is very dry, not good for farming and income comes primarily from breaking and selling mountains rocks.



School Building



Classes 1 to 2 including precursory kids

1. There is only teacher that teaches class 1 to 5 simultaneously
2. There are no toilets
3. Outside is an open space with roof for small kids.
4. There is only one room for students 3 to 5
5. When I visited it was cloudy and dark inside with no electricity.
6. However, in spite of all these adverse conditions teacher and students were very enthusiastic and bright. Upon asking for future plans one student named Rahul said he wants to be an IAS officer.

7. Baal Mahotsav: Students recited poems and songs they have prepared for Baal Mahotsav. One kid also complained that teacher is not letting them practice for baal mahotsav games and is focusing only on studies. He was worried that their school will loose in various competitions. This tells how excited students are for Baal Mahotsav and regardless of lack of resources they want to compete and succeed.



Classroom for classes 3 to 5

Naugarh: After that we went to the Naugarh area and our first stop was Amdaha center:

1. There are six classes mostly based on age group but also considering child ability to learn



Pre-nursery kids: learning to count through colorful beads



Class 1: Learning to draw



Class 2: Solving basic math questions



Class 2: Class participation is really good



Class 3: Students can write their names in English.



Class 4: Students studying social science



Class 5: Students reciting english poems



Class 5: Students displaying the charts



Outside class 5: Teachers



Teachers showing all the documents related to students attendance, syllabus, students progress reports

2. Only one mud building for class 6th. I felt the room is a bit dark to read books. Students can recite english poems. However their pronunciation is not up to mark because of the strong accent they have due to regional dialect. The class also has a world map where I asked students to locate India, Uttar-Pradesh, USA and Chicago. They were having hard time but they find out which was really good to see that they do not give up easily and are eager to learn.

3. In total, there are three teachers for these 6 classes. These teachers are all Gramya ex students. They showed me all the documents official files. This include attendants, individual report of students, syllabus etc.

4. In the end, they asked me for a written feedback, which I really liked. This showed that they these teachers are very enthusiastic and are eager to learn and improve.

5. There is no toilet yet due to water shortage but is planning to bring water supply soon

Gramya Office: We then went to Gramya office which is at the center of Naugarh market on the 1st floor of a building. They have rented five rooms. The whole naugarh area is under developed in education and other sectors. There is 6-10 hrs of daily electricity.



Gramya office has kitchen and all the sleeping arrangements for guests and site visitors :)

Day 2: Laltapur center



Water is life: Due to water, irrigation facilities and agriculture this is the most prosperous area among all other villages and also one of the most developed Gramya Sansthan education center.

In the morning we went to to Laltapur School

1. They recited prayers and at the end of prayer they have general knowledge session in open for all the kids which was very impressive. And they end the prayer with a thought of the day.



2. After this senior students demonstrated P.T and after that a student demonstrated special skills with cycle.
3. I watched puppet show performed by teachers and students as a team. They use this as a means of communication to educate villagers. For example, at present they were spreading awareness on voting for elections and not to accept bribe in return of voting. Students also recited songs on social issues and spreading awareness against dowry and child marriage.



Puppets shows performed by students and teachers to spread



Class 5th studying science



Group photo with girls after a volleyball game



Group photo with boys after a volleyball game



Computer lab under construction:

Computer center for which Asha donated money is under construction and they said that it will be functional by June/July.



Group meeting with all teachers and staff



Teachers showed me all the documents

4. In the end I met with all the teachers and gave them my feedback. They also presented their requirements and needs. One of them was projector for computer center so that many kids can learn from two computers at one time. Second was exposure trip for students to city. Most of these students have not stepped out of this village and have not seen city, train or movies and don't have TV at home.

5. **There are four bathrooms.** Students are responsible to bring water filled buckets from a very nearby water source and keep it full for future use. This also teaches students were team-work and responsibility.



In the end one of the teacher invited us to his house for delicious lunch!

Jhumaria center:



School building



Toilet behind the school building



Then I went to Jhumaria where Class 6-8 kids were there. I asked Class 6 kids their names and ambition. Then we discussed which schools they are planning to go for higher studies and what are their future plans. Students recited english poems and local songs which they have prepared for Bal Mahotsav. Last year a new toilet was constructed here with Asha funds.

Basauli Center:



The space is offered by one of villagers and teacher helped in building this room. Its decorated with students drawing charts. But there is no roof for regular studies. The young kids were doing some art work. The center is not reachable in a four wheeler. The kids showed yoga and also



Ganga Ghaat



played kabbadi. Teachers were encouraging girl students to play kabbadi as well which I found very encouraging.

From Basauli center I left to catch train with all the beautiful memories and delicious home cooked Aaloo-paranthan.

Thanks!

Payal Tiwari