

**Site Visit Report (Asha for Education) – Lok Chetana Samiti, Varanasi - 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017**  
**(Dr Padmanava Sen, AfE Bangalore volunteer and AfE fellowship coordinator – [padmanava.sen@gmail.com](mailto:padmanava.sen@gmail.com))**

**Details:**

- On 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017, I reached Lok Chetana Samiti (LCS) office on my own around 3 pm. The office is located close to the Chiraigaon block office on the Varanasi – Gorakhpur highway (Ashapur – Chaubepur auto route).
- I visited the office and the hostel space with Ranju Singh, Secretary of LCS. I noticed the changes in the building since my last visit. I met other Lok Chetana Samiti members (some of them I met last year in a different event on women empowerment issues). The space downstairs is used for staffs (cuibcles) and the hostel arrangements are there on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. The rooms have good beds and individual lockers for girls. There is one separate room if someone becomes sick. There is a common space for teaching/activity. I saw the kitchen area too. The overall hostel looks spacious for the given number of girl students.
- The students started returning from their school and I recognized some of them from the 2016 visit. I met the residential teacher and the sister who take care of the kids. 24 girls were present. They mostly come from different villages of UP.
- The kids had planned a program for me. They sang different songs and danced in some known songs. Some songs are in Bhojpuri (local language). Some younger kids recited poems. The kids look very comfortable in the hostel.
- I spent one more hour talking to the kids and played a memory game like last year. I also asked few academic questions and promised to play “guriya kabbadi” with them next time. As I started around 5-15 pm, the kids were playing after some snacks.
- **Overall impression** – A major improvement in the hostel infrastructure compared to what I saw in 2016. The number of children also increased. The new kids are quite comfortable and happy in this hostel. They all go to neighbouring Government school but was given additional help in the hostel by the residential teachers.



**The beds and the individual lockers**



**The children performing in the hostel**



**Children with Lok Chetana Samity members**



**Me (Padmanava Sen) posing with the kids**