

SSRVS Site Visit Report



September 10 | Aditi Anand (Asha for Education – Purdue chapter volunteer)

Foundation Year: 2014

Medium of Instructions: English

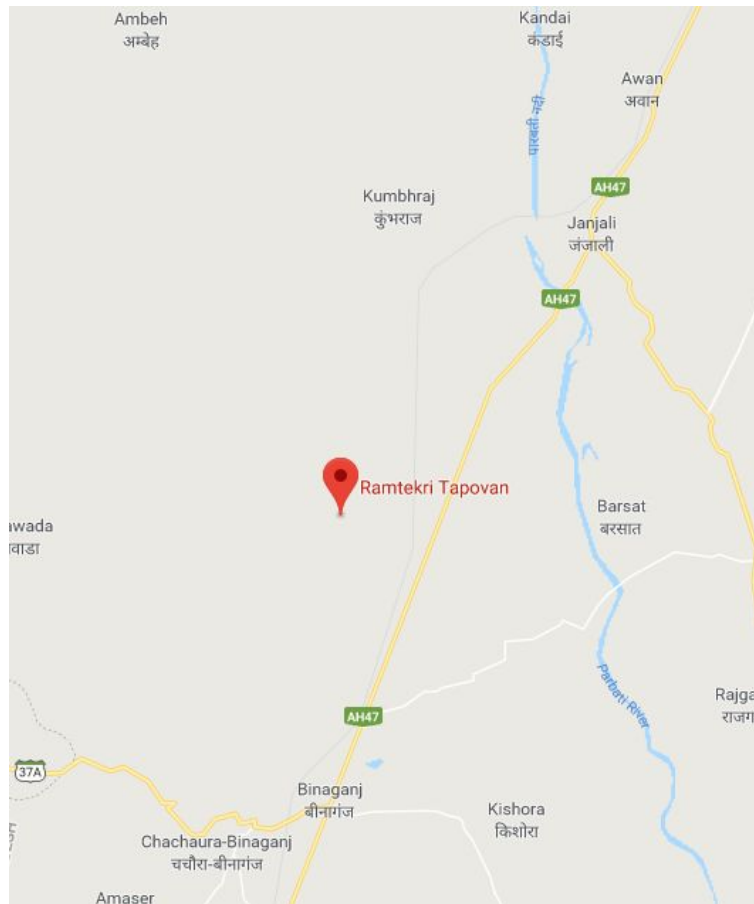
Affiliation: CBSE

Total Number of Students:

Students: Around 600

School Category: Co-education

Total Number of Teachers & Administrative staff: 30



Shree Swami Ramanand Vidya Sankul (SSRVS) located in Ramtekri Tapovan, Guna district, near Kumbhraj, Madhya Pradesh. SSRVS is situated in the remote rural area few kilometers away from Kumbhraj. The school was established by Shree Swami Ramanand Shiksha Evam Parmarthik Samiti trust in March 2014.

There are several rural villages neighboring Kumbhraj. The literacy rate around this is lower than the national average. The people reside in this area are from Meena and Lodha community and most of them are uneducated farmers and laborers. Due to many reasons like ignorance of education, poverty, lack of awareness and being a rural location, there are not many schools situated in this area.

Trust goals/objectives

- Education
- Rural Development
- Hospital

The school was able to secure CBSE standard in 2016. It is the only CBSE and English medium school within 25 km radius. The only other CBSE school known as JP is around 30 km from Kumbhraj. The area is dominated by Meena and Lodha communities, caste SC/ST. Majority of them support themselves by farming and others are workers.

My Site Visit

I started my journey from Indore, MP. Kumbhraj is around 250 km from Indore. I visited SSRVS last month on September 10th, 2018. I reached Kumbhraj a day before my visit to the school. I stayed at Gaurav's place, he is one of the people who helped establish the school. He is also the part of the Shree Swami Ramanand Shiksha Evam Parmarthik Samiti trust. The school hours are from 7:30 - 3:00 pm on two different shifts.

I started my visit by meeting School principal and some other teachers. I started visiting different classes. I began with students from 6th class and visited classes in random order. The teachers in the class introduced themselves and gave me a brief description of the topic they have been teaching. After that, I introduced myself and asked them some simple questions to students and teachers like

- Which is your favorite subject and why?
- What do they want to do in the future?
- What projects they are working on?
- Are they interested in coming to the US for studying?

I also gave them some time to ask any of the queries they have and they were shy at first but most of them had curious questions and concerns. I was very impressed with the enthusiasm they showed towards asking questions & future prospects.

Many students seem to be struggling with educating in English because they were initially studying in Hindi medium schools. However many of them are improving. In one of the class, I randomly asked what book they are reading and one of the girls shared the entire story of the book she has been reading in English. That was impressive.

I slowly moved to higher classes, the school have Commerce and Science for the 11th and 12th class. The classes were very small in size. However, They had many questions about career options and should we

pursue our passion etc. I also went to the computer lab and science lab where teachers showed me student's work for different classes.

Also, attended assembly for the second shift students from nursery to 4th class. The assembly lasted for around 20 minutes. In the assembly, the kids recited several shlokas and led to their class by teachers.

Major Problems for the school

- Recruiting teachers, since it is a remote area and it is difficult to find well-educated professionals around that area. If they are successful in finding one it is a major problem to retain them
- Kids do not have the opportunity to interact in the English language after school
- Keeping teachers for long-term, most of the teachers are traveling long distances to teach at the school. Most of the teachers want to live in the area close to the school to avoid the commute.
- Transportation is one of the big problems because the school provides around 8 vehicles, which includes buses, minivans etc.
 - These vehicles pick up kids from 5 to 25 km radius
 - Vehicles maintenance is difficult as well because of the lack of decent roads in the villages.

Need for the Hostel

- Transportation cost is high
- Some Kids live far away from the school, commute time is significantly high
- Teachers commute time is also significantly high
- Some students need extra help, it is difficult to provide extra classes to them since they live far/ no facilities are available on campus
- Kids are better off in a hostel, compared to living in the community where alcohol is common in households
- Most of the parents could not help these kids with their education because of illiteracy
- Road conditions and transportation with buses is very difficult (When I was visiting the school, it took us 20 min to get cows off the road and this happened at least 5-6 times while I was traveling from Indore to Guna district)

Teachers thought about the Hostel

I talked to some teachers individually about educational background and the need for the hostel and how it is going to benefit kids. Most of them said it is important for kids to live in the hostel so they can study in the right environment for good education standing because parents are not able to help them with the studies.

Land for the Hostel

Currently, the land is provided by the trust for 35 years of the lease.

Pictures

























We Visited a couple of government school near Kumbhraj and neighboring villages



