

Site Visit Report Project:

JOSH (Joint Operation for Social Help) – Delhi

Date:

06/30/2021

Project Steward:

Shaibal Dutta

Project Zoom recording:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1C-FJS-NSAIVKFu5IZQLp9Vc7YLYL2W-w/view?usp=sharing>

We conducted the virtual site visit of JOSH during our chapter meeting. JOSH currently operates in Trilok puri area of New Delhi. This is primarily the residence of the economically weaker section and rely on day to day income. JOSH is in the mission to help the families and children with following interventions.

1. Help in Governance of school SMC to improve the quality of education in Delhi MCD schools.
2. Helping EWS students and parents to get admission in local private schools.
3. Mobilizing volunteers to provide tuition to students to reduce the dropout rate during online classes.
4. Empower girls who passed out high school to join the workforce by providing them vocational training and job interview preparation.
5. Help women to cope up with domestic violence which is on the rise due to lock down and pandemic by awareness of rights and legal support to reach settlement.

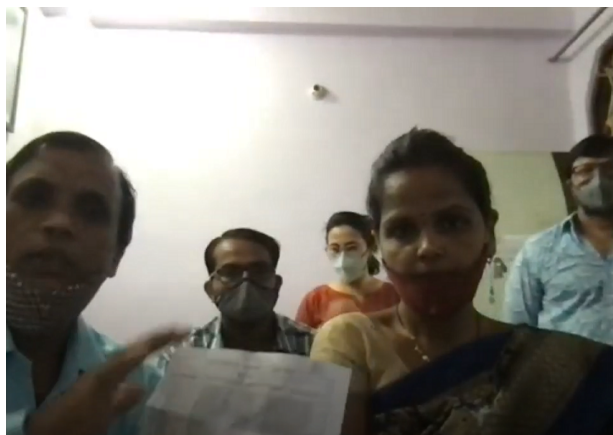
We got a chance to meet the volunteers who are working in all the above mentioned aspects. JOSH volunteers were present during the site visit, most of them are girls and seemed to be proud of and excited to talk about the work they are doing under the able guidance of Saurab



and Aheli.

First we talked with some members of SMC (school management committee), they explained about components of SMC and how the SMC is contributing to improve quality of education by

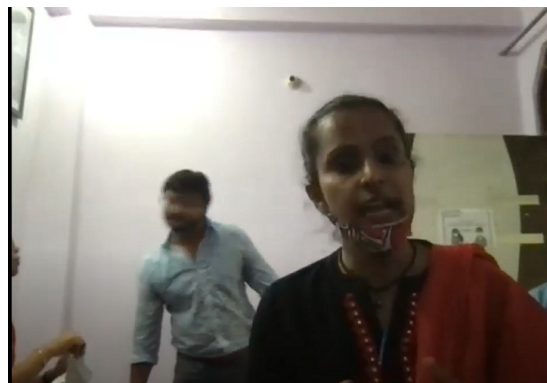
increasing transparency, conducting various programs and enforcing answerability. SMC has sixteen members, twelve of them are parents, two members are school teacher and principal,



one member is local MLA and last one is member of JOSH. We learned how they are helping in raising the awareness in the families in the area about the importance of education, especially the girls, who are more prone to drop out due to family pressure. SMC meetings plays a key role in deciding the timeline of the projects, track the timeline as well as resolving the hurdle by calling upon all the stake holders e.g. MLA, contractors, government employees overseeing the permits and facilitation etc.

One of the volunteers, Joyti, is involved with EWS students and helps their parents to arrange the documents, fill up the application forms and represent them in the admission process. So far 200+ registration forms have been filled out of which 47 students have got the admission in local private schools under EWS category. We also met the parents whose children got the admissions with the intervention from JOSH volunteers.

During the lockdown and now, all the schools are online and the students have to attend the classes via smartphones and tablets. Due to the economic situation and lack of work during the pandemic the parents can't afford good smartphones and data plans. The dropout rates of the students started rising. JOSH initiated a campaign so that people donate their old unused smartphones and also mobilized



volunteers to provide tuition in small groups. JOSH volunteer Anduradha, who is in-charge of this initiative, provided the details of this intervention. Over 300 students are getting help from over 45 volunteers. We also met the tutor volunteers whose main challenges are - different classes, base not strong, try to cope up with current class curriculum. We also met some of the students who are getting help by the tutors.

During the pandemic and lock down, families got stuck in small quarters and the economic situation got worse due to lack of jobs. This condition induced a surge in domestic violence. Rukhsana, who is the in-charge of this initiative explained about how they educate women about their rights and help them and their family members with counseling and if needed, take the help of police as well as help in

filing FIR and pro bono lawyer to represent the victims in the court, in case needed. We have also met a few ladies who got the help from JOSH in settling the family dispute and how they are feeling



after the case has been settled and their condition is now stable. JOSH also helps women in getting the information about various Govt economic help e.g. family pension etc and completing the formalities in case they are eligible for the benefit.

JOSH volunteer Shabnam talked about how they are helping the girls of a particular community to come out of their home and help them with awareness of education and self dependence. She described the programs of finishing schooling of 10th or 12 grade or at home and appearing in NIOS exams to get the

certificate. Arranging vocational training e.g. English speaking, computer training, interview preparation and arranging job interviews.

We were all delighted to meet all the volunteers for the first time and know about the great work they are doing to create a positive impact on the lives of the people who need the help and to change their lives for the better.