

Gramya Sansthan Site Visit Report – April 2015

Date of Visit : 14 – 15 April 2015

Site visit done by Ankit Chopra

Centres Visited : Laltapur, Amdaha, Jhumaria, Basauli Schools in Naugarh (approx. 110 Kms. from Varanasi)

Purpose Of Visit :

- To see the progress of educational projects done by Gramya
- To ensure proper utilization of fund
- To identify weakness, if any.

This year I got an opportunity to visit the study centres run by Gramya Sansthan in Naugarh Village approx. 110 Kms. from Varanasi. I reached Varanasi, PM Modi's Lok Sabha Constituency, on 14th morning. After having breakfast with Bindu ji, Surendra ji, Neetu ji and Sandhya ji we left for Naugarh. It was about 3 hrs drive from the Gramya office, Varanasi. On the way to Naugarh I was briefed about the works Gramya does in the field of education and women empowerment. Neetu ji also spoke about this year's Bal Mahotsav celebrations.

Laltapur :



14th April, celebrated as Ambedkar Jayanti, is a public holiday across India. But because of my visit, the children and the education team were asked to come to school. Had I been at their place, I would have definitely cursed the visitor for spoiling my off, but it really looked like they were eager to meet me. We reached Laltapur school by around 12 PM. It was almost lunch time for the kids, but to my surprise they were fully fresh and active. There were 6 classrooms – 4 concrete rooms (brick mortar walls) and 2 mud rooms (mud walls). There are 343 students (183 Boys, 160 Girls) enrolled at the Laltapur School. All the classrooms were fully occupied, infact one of the class was conducted in the open verandah. All the kids were in the school uniform (sky blue shirt and Navy blue trousers/skirt) sitting politely in their respective classrooms. I visted all the classrooms, interacted with the students. When I asked them to show their talent, the students showed me their drawing and music skills. I must say, all of them are great singers, and the credit goes to Ganesh Sir, an ex-Gramya student who currently teaches at Gramya. The Laltapur centre has a huge open area which is used as P.T. ground, playground and also the venue for the Bal Mahotsav. The classroom walls were covered with charts and drawings made by the kids. The higher grade children showed me few drills using dumbles and rings made out of the bamboo sticks and wood obtained from the nearby jungle.



Then I had an interaction session with the teachers and the core education team. I could see that most of the teachers had been associated with Gramya for about 8 – 10 years and some even more than that. Four of the teachers were ex-Gramya students who later went on to complete their high education from Banaras Hindu University and then joined Gramya and helped it support the cause. The teachers showed me the Admission Register, Plan Register and the Progress Report Register. In the Admission register I could see that children from different caste and religion were studying in this school – some were hindu, some were muslim, some belonged to schedule caste and the backward classes, some belonged to the Dalit community, and some belonged to the Musahar community. The best part was that I could not make out this difference of caste and religion in the

classroom. The Plan Register had both month wise and subject wise plan for each grades. The Progress report register had the progress report of each student month wise which was duly signed by their parents – clearly showing that the progress of each student was shared with his/her parents.

Area Of Improvement:



One thing which I could not find in the school was washrooms. There was a half built structure which was named as Toilet but unfortunately it didn't have anything except the four walls. When I asked the teachers they confirmed that it wasn't actually used as a toilet.

Success Stories:



Gramya not only encourages its students but also its teachers to study. Four of the teachers who were once Gramya students joined Gramya Schools as teachers after completing their Class 12th or graduation degree. These teachers later on completed their graduation and post graduation and also the NTT (Nursery Teachers Training) course along with their work.

1. Ganesh Kumar- Ganesh belongs to the Musahar community. He joined Gramya in 2003 after completing his class 11th education. Currently he has completed his graduation B.A. and the NTT course. He is adept at singing and conducting puppet shows.
2. Rajesh Kumar- Rajesh belongs to the backward community. He joined Gramya in 2010 after completing his class 12th education. Currently he has also completed his graduation B.A. and the NTT course.
3. Naveen Kumar- Naveen belongs to the Dalit community. He joined Gramya in 2012 after completing B.A. 1st year. Currently he has completed his graduation and he is preparing for MA final year exams.

4. Mahesh Kumar- Mahesh belongs to the backward community. He joined Gramya in 2013 after completing his graduation (B.A). Currently he has also completed his masters.

All four of them were very thankful to Gramya for educating them and helping them live a better life. They really liked the work Gramya did and decided to give it back to Gramya so they joined Gramya as teachers and help Gramya in achieving its goal.

Amdaha :



Next we went to Amdaha school. There was just one classroom, infact a one room mud house which was used a classroom. Adjacent to this room was an semi closed area with half build mud walls on 3 sides and roof made out of dry leaves. There were another bunch of students studying in an open area with just CGI sheets over their head to protect them from sun and rain. I could also see a bunch of students studying under the tree. There were 3 teachers handling these 4 classes. There are 92 students (46 Boys, 46 Girls) enrolled at this centre.





Here I could see the walls of the classroom covered with posters of Mother Teresa, Mahatma Gandhi and many more. I could also see charts containing information about Gram Panchayat and District level. There were also charts showing number tables and year, months, weeks conversion tables. The kids out here were very active. Few sang songs, few narrated poems.

Here I also got an opportunity to speak to the parents of the children studying in this school. The parents were happy to send their kids to school. These people also helped Gramya in setting up the semi closed classroom structure from the materials that they could gather. The only concern they had was that on rainy days one classroom (mud house) was not enough to accommodate 92 students. So the students were sent back home. Thus the classes were not regular during the rainy season.

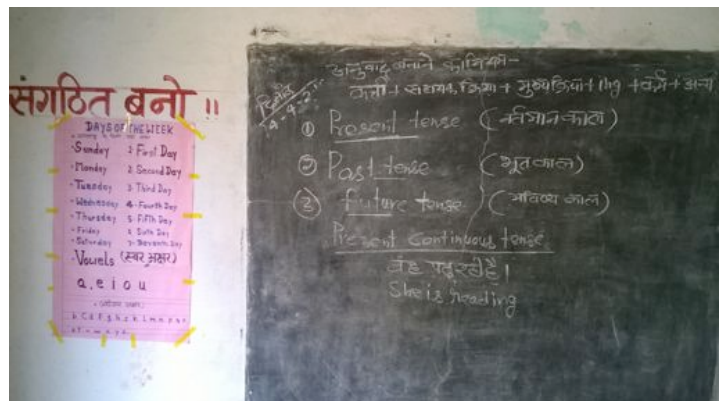
Area Of Improvement:

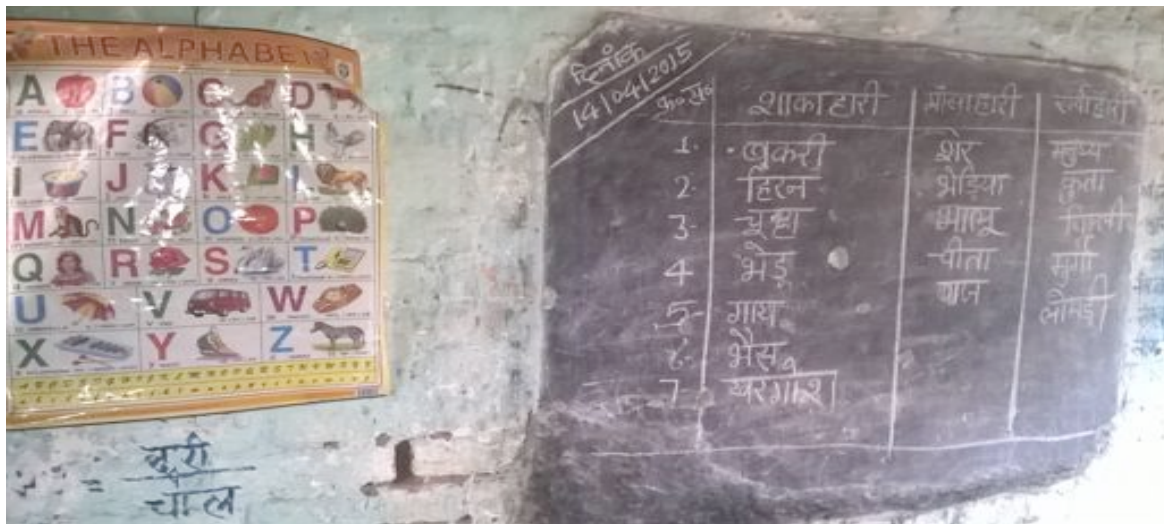
Needless to say, there was no washroom. But at this centre I feel pukka rooms (classrooms) are more needed than washroom.

Success Stories :

I really like the teaching methodologies. The children were not only taught the bookish stuff but were also taught about their locality, village, panchayat and district.

Jhumaria :

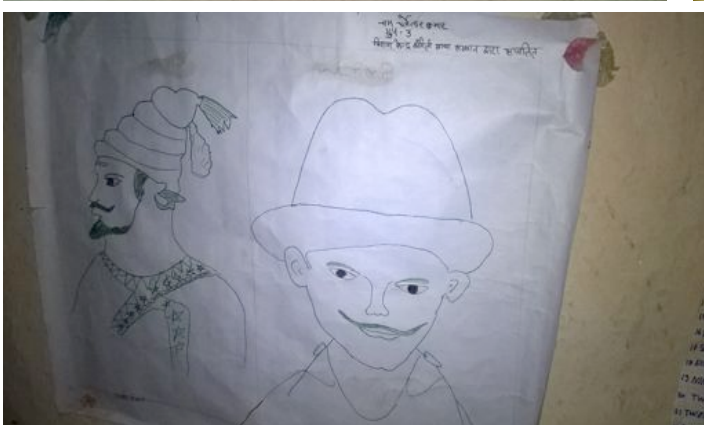




Our next pit stop was Jhumaria. It was almost 4PM by the time we reached there. It had also started raining. In terms of infrastructure this was a much better centre than Amdaha. There were 2 fully constructed rooms, huge enough to accommodate around 25-30 students in each room. There were also 2 additional properly built mud rooms which could accommodate around 30 students. There were 83 students (51 boys, 32 girls) enrolled at this centre. There were mostly 6th, 7th and 8th grade students at this centre.

Over here also I could see the walls covered with charts – Days of week, Tenses, Alphabets, Maps Numerical Multiplication Tables and Drawings. Most of these charts were made by the students. I could also see strong messages about education painted on the walls that motivated these kids to study and showed them the importance of education.

Basauli :



At last we went to the Basauli centre. We had to cross a dead runnel and walk through the jungle to reach the school. This centre was built in the community of Kol tribes. It was just a one room mud house used as a classroom.

Since it was late evening so we preferred to sit outside. The students and their parents were very happy to meet me. The children narrated poems and songs in their local language.



I still remember that boy, Akhilesh, he almost sounded like the CM of Uttar Pradesh (Akhilesh Yadav). He had answers to every question asked. Infact we had to beg him to keep quiet and let the other kids speak. I also interacted with the parents. They were so poor that they could not afford to spend Rs 100 fee to send their children to the big mission school. So they preferred to send their children to Gramya School and they were happy about it.

Next day I visited the offices of Gramya at Varanasi. I also spoke to couple of staff members. Sandhya and Neetu ji showed me the pictures and videos of this year's Bal Mahotsav. They also briefed me about Gramya's other areas of work. I also went through last year's fund (released by Asha) utilisation statement (copy attached).

| ASHA FOR EDUCATION Utilisation Statement Period: April, 2014 to March, 2015 | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Sl. No. | Particulars | Budget Amount | Utilised Amount | Left Budget |
| 1 | Honorarium | | | |
| i | 12 Teacher @ 3000/-PM Naugam | 432000 | 492000 | 0 |
| ii | 4 Teacher @ 2500/-PM for Chakya | 120000 | 120000 | 0 |
| iii | Community Mobilizer @ 6000/-PM | 72000 | 72000 | 0 |
| iv | Education Facilitator @ 6000/-PM | 72000 | 72000 | 0 |
| v | Health Facilitator @ 6000/-PM | 72000 | 72000 | 0 |
| vi | Programme Coordinator @ 11000/-PM | 132000 | 132000 | 0 |
| vii | Women Coordinator @ 6000/-PM | 72000 | 72000 | 0 |
| viii | Accountant @ 7500/-PM | 90000 | 90000 | 0 |
| 2 | Education Material | 115000 | 114500 | 500 |
| 3 | Playing Material | 20000 | 20000 | 0 |
| 4 | Administrative Exp. | | | |
| i | Printing & Stationery | 14400 | 14500 | -100 |
| ii | Postage, Telephone & Xerox | 21600 | 21747 | -147 |
| iii | Travel & Conveyance | 48000 | 47500 | 500 |
| iv | Office Rent | 42000 | 42000 | 0 |
| v | Audit Fee | 5500 | 0 | 5500 |
| 5 | Bal Mahotsav | 51000 | 51729 | -729 |
| 6 | Teachers Training | 20000 | 20520 | -520 |
| 7 | Taat Patti | 10000 | 9988 | 12 |
| 8 | Misc. Exp. | 8000 | 7700 | 300 |
| 9 | Health Mela | 17000 | 16900 | 100 |
| 10 | Creative WorkShop with Youth | 17000 | 16850 | 150 |
| 11 | Women Day | 17000 | 17250 | -250 |
| | TOTAL | 1468500 | 1463184 | 5316 |
| RECEIPT | | | | |
| | Opening Balance | 19688.41 | | |
| | Fund Received 2014-15 | 1469000 | | |
| | Bank Interest | 12766 | | |
| | Total | 1501454.41 | | |
| | Less: Expenses 2014-2015 | 1463184.00 | | |
| | Audit fee Payable | 5600.00 | | |
| | Balance Cash & Bank | 32770.41 | | |