

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

By Payal Tiwari (Asha Chicago volunteer, payal.tiwari1986@gmail.com)

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 centearid, not suitable 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 one teacher that teaches class 1 to 5 simultaneously
2. There are no toilets
3. Outside is an open space with a 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 career 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 Mahotsav games and is focusing only on studies. He was worried that their school would not win competitions. This behavior tells how excited students are for Baal Mahotsav and regardless of the 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 had a hard time but succeeded at the end, which was good to see that they do not give up easily and are eager to learn.

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

4. In the end, they asked me for a written feedback, which I liked. 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 underdeveloped in education and other sectors. There are 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 centers.

In the morning we went to Laltapur School

1. They recited prayers, and at the end of the prayer, they have general knowledge session in the open for all the kids and a thought of the day.
2. After this, senior students demonstrated P.T, and a student showed exceptional skills with a cycle.



3. I watched a 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 in elections and not to accept a 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

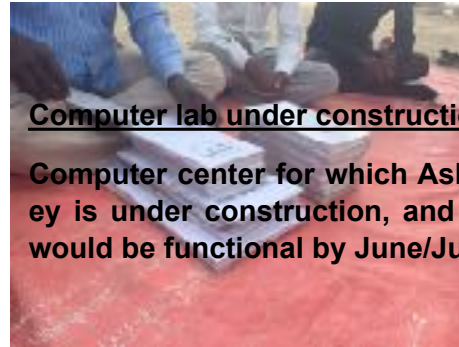


Group photo with boys after a volleyball game





Group meeting with all teachers and staff



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

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 a projector for computer center so that many kids can learn from two computers at one time. The second was exposure trip for students to the 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 for bringing water filled buckets from a very nearby water source and keep it full for future use. This teamwork teaches students 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 students their names and ambition. Then we discussed which schools they are planning to go for higher studies and what are their career plans. Students recited English poems and regional songs which they have prepared for Bal Mahotsav. Last year a new toilet was constructed here with Asha funds.

Basauli Center:



One of the villagers has offered school space, and the teacher helped in building this room. Students decorated the walls with drawing charts. But there is no roof for regular studies. The young kids were doing some artwork. The center is not reachable in a four wheeler. The kids showed yoga and also played kabaddi. Teachers were encouraging girl students to play kabaddi as well which I found very encouraging.



Ganga Ghaat



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

Thanks!

Payal Tiwari