Muskaan, Bhopal virtual site visit 7th December 2021

Organized by Asha Seattle steward Kriti Agrawal

Attendees- Kriti, Geetha, Sridhar (Asha Seattle volunteers) and Shivani Taneja (Muskaan founder)

Muskaan started out in 1997 as an effort to provide meaningful education to 20 children from deprived backgrounds in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. Muskaan officially registered with the government in Dec 1998. In the year 2020 & 2021, Muskaan had about 2300 students across their *Basti center* schools & residential school called *Jeevan Shiksha pahal* in Bhopal.

Snapshot of Zoom call where we see Shivaniji, the founder along with Mr. Pallav who manages the residential premises that hosts about 40 students (30 girls, 10 boys) in the year 2021.

In the below picture, we see a bunch of 5th standard students in conversation with Asha volunteers. We talked about their experience in school & subjects they learn. They also recited us a poem from their Hindi book.

Below picture captures our conversation with 2 of the teachers who teach Hindi, Math in the school. On the right is the snapshot from our conversation with Madhu – a former Muskaan student who was visiting Muskaan. She ended up going to college and is pursuing music/singing career. She was very grateful to Muskaan for giving her opportunity to study for 14 years of her life.

Kids are also taght to grown some of their own vegetables in the kitchen garden we saw below.

Muskaan has self-published books of stories of their students. They are illustrated by some of its former students.

We’re grateful & excited about supporting Muskaan in its endeavors to help students from under privileged backgrounds.