

Muskaan site visit March 5th 2023

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I visited the school on March 5th. It was close to Holi, so few hostel kids had left for home and few day scholars were also absent. I met Shivani who is the director and our contact as project partner. Brajesh, who is a schoolteacher, works closely with Shivani and a few other teachers who were taking classes.

I discussed with Shivani and Brajesh about Kanjar and Pardhi community who are denotified tribes and Muskaan is trying to give them a platform to make them aware of their rights and get education. These denotified tribes are mostly concentrated on Bairasiya block of Bhopal. Girls are not given any education in these communities. Men make alcohol at home, and it is sold by women and girls. Men usually do not step out of the house due to fear of being arrested by the police. Police are still committing atrocities on these communities and demand money from their families. When the girls from denotified tribes leave the school premises, school makes sure that someone is picking them up from the bus stop or they are being dropped off at their home directly.

Even though there is stigma associated with these communities, Muskaan is working with youth to make them aware of their rights. *Mazal* is an organization registered as non-profit which is a group led by Pardhi community youths. It was created with the help of Muskaan. This group complains with higher authorities against police atrocities. Politicians don't help, they only give assurances.

In relation to caste certificate issue, it was taken to the tribal minister by providing documents, but it needs to be implemented by central government. Denotified tribes are put under general category specifically in 3 districts Bhopal, Sehore and Raisen. They ~~need~~ land proof as a evidence for being the tribal community~~s~~.

I did the tour of the following classes and some of the classes were combined since many students were absent owing to Holi around the corner. The school building is made of mud and bamboo, and ~~it~~ which keeps it cool during summers. Girl's hostel is in school campus and Boy's hostel is 8Kms away.

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5th class tour

- 5th and 8th ~~are~~ appear for Board exams under MP board.
- 3rd and 4th classes were taken together since lot of students were absent due to Holi
- Teacher was Ms Megha whom I see every year during site visit
- Only 3 students were present in 5th class
- Shailaja and Jiya are in girls hostel.
- Found the kids confident and expressive during the interaction
- 27th March ~~is~~ was the exam date – students mentioned their preparation is going well.
- In person classes are more beneficial for students as they can ~~be focused~~ focus more.
- The students who couldn't come that day – assignments were given for home.



10th class Tour

- Subjects are different for kids in NIOS (National Institute of open school)
- Books are sent from the board exam center.
- 10th class student's forms submitted for about 45 – some are remote.
- Muskaan staff went to rural places and provided counselling for the students - organized community fairs. Some are studying on their own and reach to the center for help.
- Some students do partial self-study, some study in the evening part time.
- Teacher go in the community to teach, there are 3 locations – Nehru Nagar and other 2 places.
- Learning together creates a good learning environment.
- Students Name – Arin , Babli , Tanu, Karuna – 10th Grade students name.
- Karuna is from Harda – she belongs to Padhi community and came to Muskaan center for studying. Karuna wants to motivate others as well to as continue education, some students from Harda are also motivated to join.
- About 80 students are provided guidance
- Karuna stays in Hostel. Suman comes from Gautam Nagar.
- Fellow teachers are also helping Fellow teachers and inspire others.
- Education is creating more confidence in the students and they are able to communicate with reasoning to with their parents.

- There are bunch of norms and traditions in small village for ~~an~~ example women cannot go to terrace.
- Students are thinking more critically about education.
- Arin's father is mostly travelling and since Arin is in Hostel, he is able to focus more, he is retaking some subject which he was not able to clear in first attempt.
- For the students taking exams for the first time, they are kind of still learning ~~how to take exam~~ the examination process.
- Jeenu , Preeti, Sandeep – Bihar agency trained students . Theater group for creating awareness for multiple issues.
- Theater group classes are conducted after school. ~~the~~ Theater creates confidence in students.
- Lot of kids are interested in Frisbee. I interacted with few of them who are part of the Frisbee team. 5 students went to Assam for learning Frisbee. Muskaan group is a national level Frisbee team. 70/80 students play Frisbee. Jiya and Suman are part of the Frisbee team.



Next class Tour (7th and 8th combined class)

- Some teachers went to Eklavya conference.
- The network teachers community is very strong. Shivani and other coordinators try to involve Muskaan in multiple cultural events/activities.
- Students participated in the poem concert (Kavita ~~sa~~ sammelan) for an example.
- 7th and 8th classes were combined
- Exam preparation ~~is were~~ going goodwell, most students ~~favourite~~ favorite subject is English.
- There are 35 girls in hostel
- Hostel needs more resources to accommodate more students. There are more students willing to come to Hostel.
- Bairasiya Government school situation is not good: teachers are not sincere – one teacher went drunk to school. Teachers get very late to school and the situation is ~~not at all good~~ disturbing.
- Funding is reduced (more detail ?)
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- Tata/Wipro and other bigger institutes are funding more on improving government school and not on independent organizations like Muskaan.

- Muskaan team is going to the nearby corporate companies [to ask](#) for funding. They are talking to different people for [more fundingsame](#).







