

Ans. To Ques. – 2002
BTS/PB/Q & A(I)/2002

Q1. Patha Bhavan is till class 5. What happens to the school kids after class 5, i.e. they finish studying at Patha Bhavan ? Do all of them join the govt school ? Any statistics about how many people have dropped out and how many people have continued in Govt schools ? Which govt schools do these kids go to, besides the one in Baikunthapur ?

1.—Very gladly we can tell (as per records we maintain) you the success of our team-effort that no kid stops studies after they finish their classes in Path Bhavan.

-- They finish 4th class studing at Path Bhavan, usually they get admission into 5th class in the Govt. schools one in Baikunthapur (BHS) & the other B/Ambikanagar (Ambikanagar Haripriya High School).

Q2. How well is the agro-equipment project funded by PPI going ? What are the long term goals of this project ? Has there been any major improvements/changes in the agricultural sector of the area to talk about ? Are there specific examples of people who have been profited through this project ? How is the health care project going ?

2. – AES (Agro-Equip Support) Project funded by PPI is going very well. 6 FRC(Ferma-Resource Club) involving 104 nos. of poor, marginal farmers. They are getting Agro-Equipment supports at the actual cost-price cheaper than the local market-price. Besides this, 84 nos. of local farmers have been taking this facilities from the AES project unit (KSK).

-- Long term goals of the project is to improve farm yields utilizing agro-equipments (one powertiller, 2 pumpsets & 5 paddy thrasher) to ensure good nutrition & economic stability for 100 marginal farmers of Baikunthapur, an island in the Sunderbans of the ganges delta.

-- Following are the changes/impacts have been followed up in the agricultural sector in the area :-

- Importance of money -lenders for money-lending process is being reduced.
- **Area of cultivation along with double-cropping efforts have been enhanced.**
- Production of foodgrains & vegetable has been increased.

-- Buddhiswar Kayal, Keshab Kayal, Dulal Midda, Mantu Mondal, Ram Shee, Kamal Maiti are the specific examples of people who have been profitted through this project.

-- Health care Project :

- Village clinic has been started working with two qualified doctors – Dr. A. Dutta – MBBS, DGO, MD & DR. S. MISHRA – MBBS, MS, FRCOG.
- Formation of 50 PSS(Parivar Swastha Sangha) involving 20 families in each PSS has been completed.

- Preparing to purchase a Mobile Medical Boat but in need of Rs.2.5 Lakh extra to open it for patients' transportation.

We are now about to have a mobile medicare boat ...but we still need to collect/raise a sum of Rs. 1,00,000 and recurring cost for initial one year a sum of Rs.2,50,000 (cost of one Driver, one Machineman ,one Helper,initial fuels , arrangement of beds ,oxygen cylinder, and installation of Telephone in the boat for emergency communication and reaching to the island boarder to avail a serious patient towards transportation...again one/two trolly van)....this is very very urgent.

- Preparing towards distribution of FHC(Family Health Cards).

Q3. Is BTS looking towards government/other sources of funding for construction of a road, for solar electricity ?

3. BTS is still looking towards govt./other sources of funding for construction of a road/for solar electricity, but there is no scope of funding from Govt. level though only a scope of some subsidies can be had regarding solar electricity (of Rs.6,000 per set against a total cost of Rs.18,000 for a street light but Rs.3,000 against 12,000 for a domestic light)

Q4. Has BTS thought about microcredit schemes among women or among the villagers ? Has BTS undertaken any project which involves the community people working together ? We know that BTS regularly holds parent's meeting at Patha Bhavan .

4.—Yes, BTS has thought about micro-credit and started savings & credit program service 2000-2001. More details in annual report.

-- BTS has undertaken many **community efforts** involving community people to work together like **repairing of bad roads, roadside afforestation, Dharmagola (Grain Bank as Co-operative).**

Q5. How about sustainability of the entire venture ? Where does BTS see itself 5 years from now in terms of funding ? Are they trying to arrange for funding from other sources ? For example, are they trying to get government aid for the Patha Bhavan ? One suggestion which we received was that BTS could try making Patha Bhavan a government aided school overseen by the community ? Is it possible to do this ?

5.—BTS has been trying to run the project sustainably. So, BTS has been taking careful initiatives towards the entire venture. Different ventures like local fund raising from trusts & foundations through 80G(E) of ITA, 1961, collecting local contributions through donations, subscriptions & service charges as to form **project to project Corpus Fund. We are in search of onetime donation/funding for corpus fund.** Besides these, BTS has been in the mood of initiating some Income Generating efforts like pond fishery, farming & gardening, poultry, greeting card-making & clay & toy making etc.

-- Actually we need funding for BTS efforts in Path Bhavan, community Healthcare, Agriculture etc. generally for 5 years from now in terms of funding and would like to see **BTS a Sustainable Development Project.**

-- Obviously BTS is trying to arrange for funding from other sources as per needs of efforts for the cause & care of the poor suffering community people as we like to serve them with an integrated approach ...and need your full co-operation in this respect.....!

-- BTS will try to have a **Model Education Centre at Path Bhavan** and try to motivate the same learning process/efforts in the govt. aided schools. So BTS needs to set up such 9 model schools in 9 Gram Panchayets in Kultali Dev. Block. Meantime, we will try to run the same in a sustainable way as it is quite tough to have Govt. aids and run them as govt. aided school. But let us try if situation comes (where political intervention is a must...!)

Q6. Has the bee-keeping training been done ? The teacher's training was to be done at Vikramshila over the Puja vacations, has that been done ?

6.—No. Beekeeping training has not been done but the same will be done in this year, probably in the month of Dec/Jan.

-- We have made contacts with Vikramshila. They are trying to conduct it probably in the months of Dec, Jan & Feb (for 3 phases of 5 days each). Regarding this, we need your support financially as it would be quite expensive one (because they are asking 1,500/day as trainers fees excluding food & stay if we arrange it at BTS-otherwise we are to pay a heavy amount including all)

Q7. Has the duplicating machines been bought or paddle presses ? We thought BTS had considered buying paddle-presses instead of duplicating machines at one time . Not very important, but we just wanted to know .

7. We have made an advance payment for a sum of Rs. 10,000 towards purchasing a paddle-press instead of duplicating machine. Within this financial year 2002-2003 the same will be bought and set up.

Q8. Does BTS have tutorial-centers functioning in the other six villages ? Do any kids from other villages come to Patha Bhavan ?

8. – No. BTS has no tutorial centre functioning in the six villages but we are really eager to start them soon for the well being of the poor school children... for this, funding is of greater need!

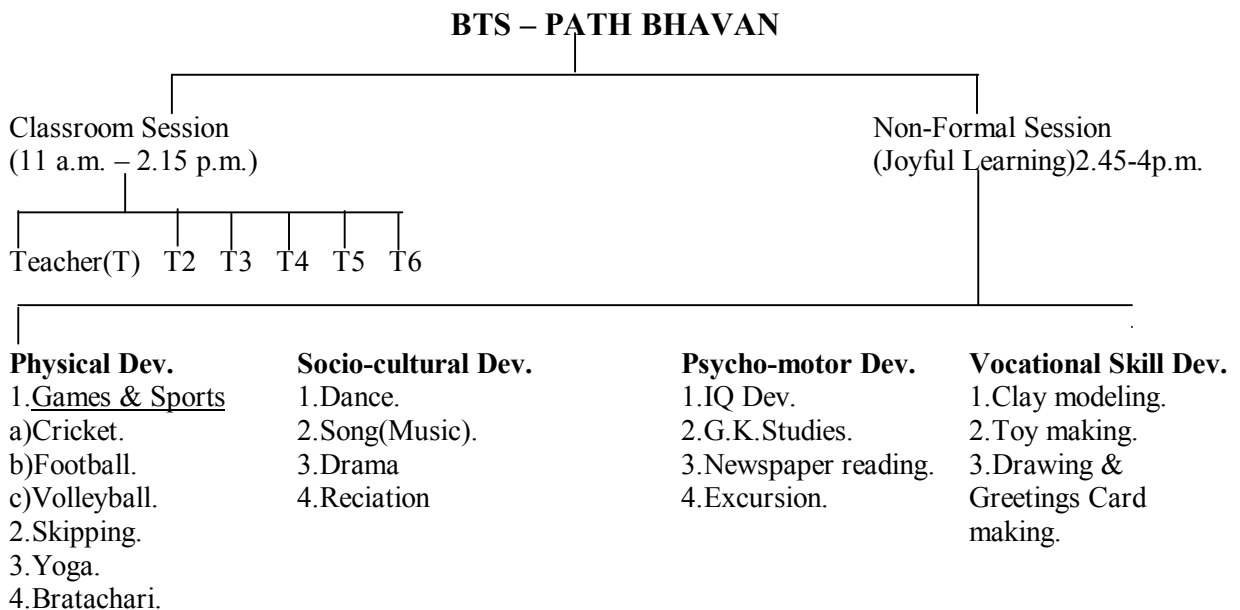
-- Yes, kids from other neighbouring villages come to Path Bhavan.

Q9. What is the lunch that is being provided to the kids now ? Is it being cooked ?

9.—Just nutritional foods like egg & breads, fruits & sweets etc. are being provided to the kids...though every sort of arrangements have been done and very soon the kids will be provided cooked food (it may start in this month of November,02).

Q10. What are the basket-activities which are being taught to the students now ? Susanta-da had probably mentioned that all of the ones listed could not be taught earlier because of lack of space .

10. **Basket (Group) activities being initiated as follows :**



Q11. This is a question about the new proposal . The proposal mentions Rs 6000 overall for teaching aids . Exactly what teaching aids have been bought ? Voulnteers in Asha are very interested about educational aids and new ways of teaching . We would love to learn from your experiences . It would be great if some teacher could write to us, in Bengali, about his/her experiences and methods in teaching .

11.-- Teaching Aids like different chart & posters, Globes & Maps, drawing materials, Games & sports, materials, Models etc. have been introduced in our school teaching- process.

--Within a few days one/two of our teachers will obviously send their teaching experiences and methods in teaching.

Q12. There was also a suggestion that the Rs 40,000 listed under educational excursions , seem to be a little high if BTS is just organising trips to Calcutta and nearby. Maybe you could detail on this ? Or try diverting some of these funds to midday meal, for instance ?

12. We agree with you that the sum of Rs. 40,000/- for education tours is quite high. For this, we will definitely try to divert an amount of around Rs. 10,000/- and add to Mid-day meal efforts.