I visited Nagapur Asha Darshan Academy as part of a volunteer programme with Asha Darshan.

The school was established in 2005 and has two streams of students, one being taught in Assamese and the other in Bodo. There are 215 students in Nursery through Class 9. Approximately 15% of students who start in the Nursery Class finish Class 9. There are 13 teachers, all with education through Class 8. The 6 teachers who are paid by Asha Darshan are paid monthly and the remaining 7 are paid yearly through school fund raising projects. These projects include raising rice, vegetables, beetle nuts, coconuts and fish. The school has a market from which it gets rent. When I visited several boys who have finished Class 9 were working in the school’s fields, earning Rs. 50 per day.

The Assam Government provides school supplies. Until this past December there was a lunch provided to the students. That has stopped due to lack of funds. A Health Clinic visits every few months and the school has medicine for children with malaria.

The school has many needs. The principal puts a new building of brick or concrete at the top of the school wish list. (The present bamboo structure leaks when it rains). I would add proper toilets to that list. The present facilities are most unsanitary, with no proper drainage. I would also add a proper water supply. The school uses a well which is dry part of the year. Finally, I would like to see a small school library with colourful story books to encourage children to read for pleasure.
A Visit to Satyanarayanpur M.V.Asha Darshan Academy, May 5, 2010

I am a volunteer at Asha Darshan for a few weeks and as part of my programme I visited Satyanarayanpur M.V.Asha Darshan Academy. There are 427 students from Pre Primary through Class 7. There are eight teachers. The teaching medium is Assamese. The Pre Primary class is the largest with 113 students to one teacher. Class 7 is the smallest with 20 students. 15 to 20% of the students who start at the school finish class 7.

There is a well on the school property, built by the Assam Government. The school has no lunch programme, no toilets, no playground, no visits from a medical clinic and no malaria medicine at school, even though the area is a malaria area.

The first priority for the principal and teachers is a new concrete school building for Class 5 through Class 7. The present structure for these classes is weak bamboo. They would also like a playground with balls, bats and wooden blocks for the small children. There is land behind the school which could be used for an open space play area. They also would like a lunch programme, toilets and a bathroom. The teachers have not been paid since November 2009; they would very much like to be paid the salary owing. In view of inflation they think a raise to Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 5,000 is reasonable.
A Visit to Devinagar Asha Darshan Academy, May 5, 2010

I am a volunteer at Asha Darshan for a few weeks and as part of my programme I visited Devinagar Asha Darshan Academy. There are 95 students from Pre Primary through Class 4. There are two teachers using two class rooms. The teaching medium is Assamese. 10% of the students who start at the school finish class 4.

A well is being built on the school property by the Assam Government. The school has no lunch programme, no toilets, no visits from a medical clinic and no malaria medicine at school, even though the area is a malaria area.

The first priority for the principal and the teacher is payment of their back salary (they have not been paid since November 2009) and a raise to Rs. 4,000 or Rs. 5,000 in view of inflation. They would also like a new brick school building with space for an office and a library. They have a good playground space but would like sports equipment and wooden blocks for the small children. They also would like toilets and a latrine.
Visit to Santipur Asha Darshan Academy, May 5, 2010-06-05

I am a volunteer at Asha Darshan for a few weeks and as part of my programme I visited Santipur Asha Darshan Academy. There are 159 students who attend, 60% are girls and 40% are boys. Classes are from Pre Primary through Class 4. About 50% of those who start at the school finish Class 4. The teaching medium is Assamese. There are three teachers who work in two classrooms. They have not been paid since November 2009. There are no visits by a medical clinic, no malaria medicine available in the school (although the area is a malaria area), and no lunch programme. There are no toilets. There is a near by well with water year round.

The first priority of the for the principle and teachers is a new school building built of brick and furniture for it. The furniture should have five class rooms, toilets, a store room, office and library. They would also like two more teachers. They would like a tape recorder or CD player and a well on school property. The teachers would like a raise; they think at least Rs. 4,000 would be fair in view of inflation.
A Visit to Lakshinarayanpur Asha Darshan Academy, May 7, 2010

I am currently a volunteer with Asha Darshan and as part of my programme I visited Lakshinarayanpur Asha Darshan Academy. There are two sections, separated by a large grass area. Class 1 through Class 4 is in one large room, Class 5 and Class 6 have a class room each of bamboo construction. Class 7 is in a concrete class room. The Pre Primary children sit outdoors; when it rains they can use a nearby community hall. There are 141 children in the lower classes and 140 in the upper. There are six teachers. 80% of the children who start in Pre Primary finish Class 7. There is no water and one toilet for both sections. Every month the Assam Government medical clinic visits the school. There is no malaria medicine for children who need it and no lunch programme. There is a large grass play area and one ball.

The teachers would like a concrete school building with six rooms, a toilet, library with book shelves, and a store room. They would like additional desks and benches, a well, play equipment, connection to power and a computer. They would also like a lunch programme and to have their back salaries paid. (The last pay they have received was for October and November, 2009).
A Visit to Angarkata Hajong Basti Asha Darshan Academy, May 7, 2010

I am currently a volunteer with Asha Darshan and as part of my programme I visited the Assamese medium Angarkata Hajong Basti Asha Darshan Academy. The school is in a government building and the government runs the programme for Classes 1 to 4. The Pre Primary Class is run by Asha Darshan. There are 53 students, 17 boys and 36 girls, and two teachers. All five classes are in one big room. There is a well for water on the school property and it has water year round. There is a toilet for the government classes and the Pre Primary children can also use it. The SSB doctors examined the children on March 29, 2010. Last year the school had malaria medicine to give to children who needed it, but the supply is now too old to use. There is no lunch programme.

The teachers would like a separate brick Pre Primary building containing one class room and a store room, library and staff room. They would like a toilet of their own and a better water supply (the well water sometimes is quite low and unwholesome). Finally they would like play materials.
A Visit to Singramari Asha Darshan Academy, May 7, 2010

I am currently a volunteer with Asha Darshan and as part of my programme I visited Singramari Asha Darshan Academy. It has 78 students in Pre Primary through Class 4 and two teachers. All the students are in one bamboo class room. 70% of the students who start Pre Primary finish Class 4. There is no drinking water and no toilet. A medical clinic visits two or three times a year. The school has no malaria medicine for children who need it and no lunch programme. There is a large grass play area.

The teachers would like a concrete school of five class rooms, a toilet, an office, a store room and a library. One more teacher is essential. The school needs a well, play equipment and four more black boards. (They have two now, but one is in poor condition)
I am currently a volunteer with Asha Darshan and as part of my programme I visited Danswrang Asha Darshan Academy. This Bodo medium school has 114 students, 65 boys and 49 girls, in classes Pre Primary through Class 4 and three teachers. All students meet in one large bamboo classroom. There is a small attached office. The school has a well, but only a temporary toilet. Asha Darshan provided one medical clinic last year. There was malaria medicine for children needing it last year, but it is now out of date. Last year’s lunch programme was discontinued last November due to lack of funds.

The teachers would like a three room concrete school building, one room for Pre Primary, one for Classes 1 and 2, and one for Classes 3 and 4. They would like a store room and library, two toilets (one for each sex), two more teachers and the lunch programme reestablished. Play equipment and musical instruments (drums and a harmonium) would be useful.
A Visit to Simliguri Asha Darshan Academy, May 8, 2010

I am currently a volunteer with Asha Darshan and as part of my programme I visited Simliguri Asha Darshan Academy. This Bodo medium school has 58 students, 33 boys and 25 girls, the school offers Class 5 and Class 6 and there are two teachers. All students in Class 5 go on to complete Class 6. The school consists of two bamboo class rooms and an office. The School has no water supply, only a temporary toilet, and no lunch programme now. They did until last November when the funds dried up. A Government medical clinic visits two or three times a year. They currently have no malaria medicine to give children needing it. They did last year, but the medicine is now out of date.

The teachers would like a three room concrete school building, the third room to be used as a store room and library. They would also like a well, a proper toilet, electrical connection and play equipment.
A Visit to #1 Garughatu Asha Darshan Academy, May 12, 2010

I am a volunteer with Asha Darshan and as part of my programme I visited #1 Garughatu Asha Darshan Academy. The Assamese medium school has 96 students, 28 boys and 68 girls from Pre Primary through Class 4. There is one teacher. The school consists on one large room in a brick building (built through the influence of B.T.C.) 80% of the children who start Pre Primary finish Class 4. The school has a large grass play area and a water pump, but no toilet or lunch programme. (There is an open-sided kitchen on the grounds, used last year when there was money for a lunch programme.) There was malaria medicine at the school last year, but it is no longer effective. The children receive vaccinations in the village from the Assam government.

The teacher would like 5 windows and 2 doors put in the present building and a veranda (the roof blew off the earlier one). He would like three more class rooms (the present one can be divided in half to serve two classes), an office and library, and two tables, one chair, and six small benches and tables for the Pre Primary students, who now sit on the floor. The school has a power connection, but needs light fixtures and a fan. The teacher would also like the kitchen walled in, a toilet, and play equipment.
A Visit to Namati Asha Darshan Academy, May 13, 2010

I am a volunteer at Asha Darshan and as part of my programme I visited Namati Asha Darshan Academy. The Assamese medium school has 158 students, 83 boys and 78 girls, housed in one long bamboo room. The room has only three walls and one of them has a hole big enough to walk through. When I visited the rains had left the school on an island with the play area greatly reduced. The school has no furniture; the children sit on mats brought from home. There are two black boards for the five classes (Pre Primary through Class 4) There is no drinking water and no toilet. There has been no lunch programme since December 2009. There is no medical clinic and one child is in serious need of seeing an eye clinic (I was told he is blind in his right eye since he had typhoid fever.) There are three teachers and they say that 30% of the students who start in Pre Primary finish Class 4.

The teachers want a concrete building of five rooms, with desks and benches, a toilet and a well, and three new black boards. They would like a library/staff room equipped with book shelves. They would like an electrical connection, light fixtures, and fans. They would also like the lunch programme back and an open-sided kitchen. Finally they would like board games and a bat and balls.

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