Summary of Asha Darshan Trust Visit (November 9th -16th, 2016)

By Padmanava Sen (Asha Bangalore Volunteer and Asha Central Team member-padmanava.sen@gmail.com)

The visit snapshot is given below –

- Visit of Shantipur1 Lower Primary, Satyanarayanpur Lower Primary and Satyanarayanpur Middle Elementary school (November 9th)
- Visit of Nagapur LP and ME schools – Assamese and Boro Medium (November 10th)
- Discussion about Computer training and meeting with Teachers from all schools (November 11th)
- Visit of Shantipur2 Lower Primary, Debinagar Lower Primary and Simliguri (Boro Medium) Middle Elementary school (November 12th)
- Singing and Dance competition at Bogajuli (acted as Judge and did tally as well) –November 13th
- Children’s day program at Bogajuli – November 14th
- Visit to Sonmani LP school and English teaching at Satyanarayanpur ME school – November 16th
  - Tried to stress on the importance of correct pronunciation so that every spelling does not need to be remembered. Gave many examples asking words starting with letters.
  - Demonstrated the action verbs to teachers and how they can make simple sentences
  - Many students from Government primary school do not know alphabets and for them, different goals are discussed with teacher.
- Things checked during school visits
  - The reading standards of Assamese (Assamese medium), English and Hindi (Boro medium)
  - Checking the alphabet, vocabulary and spelling in English
  - Checking addition, subtraction and multiplication skills based on standards
  - Confidence while writing name
  - Every student is asked
  - In most classes brought to the board for Math
  - Books from different classes are used for reading
  - Academic games are played like word antakshari, Math table games, chain math with real life buying examples in market.
- Misc items
  - Attending Asha US-India call on November 12th with Biju
  - Checking the condition of current Asha Darshan building construction status at Tamulpur
  - Checking the vocational and computer training center at Bogajuli
  - Checking the weaving center at Tamulpur
  - Collecting the results of Class 10 Nagapur school students
  - Discussed the areas of improvements in Teaching and Asha US funding
- Promised from my end
  - Providing English teaching materials for LP (like flash cards with pictures)
  - After discussions with teachers, set a rough goal for English standard in the highest classes of LP and ME school based on my survey across students and my teaching experience
  - Additional guidance in English for teaching via simple phonics, action verbs, common nouns
- Short term Action items
- Release of GF of 12500 USD for Asha Darshan building completion
- Providing the teaching materials of English
- Get them in touch a Government led group in Guwahati (SLAC) who work for employability training and assistance for students Class 9 onwards
- One time support for building of permanent walls in some school buildings

- Long term Action items
  - Working with the teachers to improve English and Mathematics knowledge of Kids (Use an ASER test midterm)
  - **Sending Asha US funds in a systematic matter at the start of the financial year (April)**
  - Priority 1- Revisit the salaries of teachers and coordinators to match local salary standards
  - Priority 2- Track the students after ME school and if possible start a support a child initiative of Asha students as sometimes they drop out for as little as 3000 INR.
  - Priority 3- Requests are coming from some villages where there is no ME school (e.g. Paharpur near Bhutan border)
With students from Nagapur School

With students from Satyanarayanpur ME school