Asha Darshan Oct 06 Site Visit Report
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Vallabbhai, Govind, and Ranjana (Asha Varanasi) visited A-D during Oct 06 and send Asha – Silicon Valley the following progress report (http://www.ashanet.org/projects-new/documents/284/Site_visit_budget_detailed_06_detail_hindi.pdf). All the centers were visited during the trip and following is an English translation of the report we received in Hindi. (Note: this translation only covers the most important issues related to the education aspect of the report. The issues related to travel and other details of the trip have been omitted. )

Education Overview:
A-D operations (education and other social welfare activities) are spread over 50 villages across 40 KM and runs the following 11 centers

1. **Namati Education center:**
   - school is 12x20 ft shed made of tin and bamboo
   - Started 4 years ago
   - 43/166 children present (18/43 girls )
   - Low attendance due to Laksmi Pujan week long vacation
   - 20 kids go to Middle school (not A-D run) is 6 Km away
   - Mid day meal (MDM) scheme run from Nov 06 to June 06 – provided Rice, milk and Jaggery. MDM had resulted in better attendance.
   - Army opening new center to be used for the school
   - Village has water problems so filter has been provided

2. **Shantipur Education Center**
   - Started recently in april 06
   - Local population: Bengali, Dalit and Nepali
   - 82/145 children present(36/82 girls). Usually 120 children come (82%)
   - Middle school is 3km away
   - No MDM here yet.
   - School is new so children were found struggling.
   - One more teacher required. Teachers need better training

3. **Satyanarayanpur Education Center:**
   - Local population of Benagli, Assamese, Nepali and Bodo ~1300
   - Well established center till 5th std. Now starting 6th & 7th as secondary school is very far
   - 152/250 children present
   - MDM provided till June 06. Attendance increased during that time.
   - Villagers very satisfied and education level is good. Local MLA donated 50k to the school

4. **Pahadpur Education Center:**
   - Started in April 06
   - Local population: Bengali, nepali, santhal, bodo
   - 4/36 present due to festival time
   - No MDM given here
5. **Nagapur Education Center**:
- Started 4-5 years ago
- Bodo region
- 0/57 present. Most students go to government school. Schools closed due to durga pooja
- Proposal: Move school to other end of village where students are willing to come

6. **Sigramari Education Center**:
- Bodo and senthal
- 46/61 present (21/46 girls)
- MDM given till June 06. Beneficial
- Teaching and learning was satisfactory

7. **Lakinarayanpur Education Center**:
- Local population is Bengali and Nepali (1000)
- 65/122 present
- MDM till June 06
- Venture school nearby has class 5,6 and 7 classes
- Government school is 4km away. *What kind of school? What is the use of it?*
- Teaching level is satisfactory

8. **Hajongbasti Education Center**:
- Started 4 years ago
- Local population Hanjong and Benagli
- 32/155 present (19/32 girls)
- Venture school for older kids. Government school close by has no teachers.
- Student learning was average

9. **Khumguri Education Center**:
- 18/50 present (7/18 girls)
- Venture school in village center. A-D school is too far. Villagers want both schools/resources merged
- Level of education not good
- MDM provided till June 06
- Village has lot of water problems and diseases (malaria)

10. **Amaliguri Education Center**:
- Started 4 years ago
- 22/35 present (11/22 girls)
- Government school is very close by. Not much use of A-D school
- **No supervision from A-D as school is very remote**
- Suggestion: Close the center or relocate it to Dansang village

11. **Anthaibari Education Center**:
- School is closed as teacher got married in Oct 06
- Venture school is present and operational.
- Decision on school to be made based on discussion with villagers, ABSU (All Bodo Students Union), A-D and venture school
- **No supervision from A-D as school is very remote**

**Mid Day Meal Overview:**
- Started in villages that did not have government schools (as government schools were providing meals – stopped in Jan 06). From Nov 05
- Stopped June 06
- Teachers of the respective centers handle the transport of items.
- Rice, milk and Jaggery of value Rs 5 was provided
- Lead to increased attendance and performance. Villagers very happy
- Not possible to provide cooked food for the near future

**Venture School Overview:**
- unique community effort in assam started 20-25 years back
- teachers were the most learned persons of the village
- Only the schools with political connections got converted to government schools rest of the 15k schools remained venture schools
- State of VS is not good. Teachers going through hardships

**Other updates:**
- Bought motorcycles for travel worth 43k using loan from Savika Niketan
- Visited land allocated to A-D to develop center @ tamalpur. It is not developed yet. Funds of Rs 2.75 lacs allocated from WAH 2005
- Problems in working with Bodo regions as local population is heavily influenced by ABSU
- A-D opened a shop (rented) in Tamalpur sell SHG items
- 10 A-D children died due to diseases
- Village Garughutu needs funds for its venture school
- Pranab a new member of Asha Darshan and will provide reports to Asha SV

**Suggestions:**
- More teacher training required. Separate for bodo teachers
- Nagapur, pahadpur, anthaiburi and Amaiguri centers be given more attention
- Run MDM in all centers
- Children should be given regular health checkups and vaccination.
- Self Help groups should help in A-D schools.
- Get a list of Assamese text books to create library at the center
- A-D should send regular reports and Asha SV should also keep regular contact with A-D

**Budget for 2007:**