Asha Darshan Virtual Site Visit June 14th, 2023 (By Robin Gupta – robingupta91@gmail.com)

Attendees: Vishal Kathuria, Vijay Poduri, Pankil Patel, Abhinav, Medha, Krishna Pagadala, Robin Gupta + Project Partner (Biju Borbaruah)

Link to Virtual Site Visit:
https://wiki.ashanet.org/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=125609092

Meeting minutes:

- Biju Didi project partner joined
- Project is in Guwahati in Assam
  - running informal schools due to lack of formal schools
  - 9 schools are operational in Tamalpur district.
  - Biju ji is supporting the projects from more than last 20 years.
- What is the difference between community schools and government run school?
  - Due to un-availability of government schools, community used to start a school but due to insufficient funds the schools used to close then Asha Darshan revived them. These were very locations where community schools were present but some of the villages never had a community school as well. The school structures used to be in very bad condition.
- What is the population split between Assamese and Bodo Speaking?
  - 20-25% Bodo, 70-75% Assamese
- How many schools have Bodo medium?
  - Only 3 schools have both Bodo and Assamese medium.
- How is the division being made between which medium is being taught in which school?
  - Specific localities speak specific language, so schools are divided based on that.
- Beside education, what other areas Asha Darshan operates in?
  - Women Empowerment, Awareness and Protection against women violence
- New Initiatives taken by Asha Darshan
  - Library program to instill morality and values in kids. Leadership program to build next generation leaders, children rights, at home storytelling, outside environment exposure like camps at police station, other schools, outdoor cultural events etc.
  - Lots of work being done in improving the quality of food. Lot of challenges faced because of ground water level is very low. Most of the rainwater gets washed off.
  - Organizational development committee recommended to give provident fund to teachers

Overall Conclusion:

Asha Darshan has been doing very quality work in the area, and the results of their efforts can be easily seen in various domains. We should continue to support them going forward.
Some of the Photos: